

**Presidential Proclamation No. 09-03**  
**Declaring May 5<sup>th</sup> as Senior Citizens Day**

Today I join with all the residents of Palau in celebrating Senior Citizens Day. Palau is unique in that it may be the only country in the world that proclaims and celebrates a national holiday to honor its Senior Citizens.

It is particularly fitting and proper that we solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledge with one heart and voice our Senior Citizens. Honoring and paying respect to our elders is an integral part of our culture and tradition and has been so since Palauans began to walk upon the earth. In honoring our Senior Citizens we foster the preservation of our cultural values, particularly the importance of giving due recognition to our elders.

We honor our Senior Citizens not simply because they are advanced in years, but because they possess knowledge and wisdom of our history and tradition, and that it was through their sacrifices we are what we are today.

To the younger generation of Palauans I say, let us take time to meet and talk with your parents and grandparents, with your aunts and uncles, and remember that there is so much more to each one of them than just the number of their years that they have been with us.

Our Senior Citizens have walked down roads you have yet to travel upon. Remember that your elders deserve your honor and respect because they have earned it. Indeed we can learn invaluable lessons of life from their experience.

To our Senior Citizens as you advance in years, you deserve more and more than we can offer. Thank you.

May God Bless you all and kom kmal mesulang!

I proclaim May 5, 2009 as being Senior Citizens Day.

"A rengalk a kot el mekreous el kloklel Belau; ea re mechuodel a omsengelel a meringel el chad el telengtengil a Kle-Belau er kid."

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/s/  
Johnson Toribiong