

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. U9-04

Declaring June 16, 2009 as a national day of mourning in respect for the tragic and untimely death of Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur, who lost his life while honorably serving the United States Army in Afghanistan.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur was killed on June 1, 2009 while in combat in Nerkh, Afghanistan when a homemade bomb exploded near his vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur is survived by his father Demei Obakrairur, the former Speaker of the Ngardmau Legislature, and his mother, Florence Kambalang, his beloved younger sister Jamie and many other grieving family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur was born and raised in Palau, graduating from Ibobang High School in 2000 before going on to attend the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur joined the United States Army in March of 2004 and quickly became a leader in the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) from Fort Drum, New York; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur was on his second deployment to Afghanistan at the time of his death, having been previously deployed there from January 2006 to May 2007; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur was highly decorated, having received numerous awards and decorations including the Army Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal and Combat Infantry Badge and having graduated from Combat Life Savers Course and Warrior Leader Course, among others; and

WHEREAS, the death of Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur is a loss not for his family and loved ones, but for our entire Republic, and

WHEREAS, the people and the Government of the Republic of Palau mourn and pay tribute to the passing of this brave Palauan soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against terrorism which threatens regional and international peace and security.

WHEREAS, the people and the Government of the Republic of Palau wish to extend their heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur's family and loved ones; and

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and by virtue of the provisions of 1 PNC § 503 and Executive Order No. 24, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that a state of national mourning exists throughout the Republic of Palau as a tribute to the bravery and service of Sergeant Jasper Obakrairur, and that to properly observe the occasion of the death of this brave Palauan citizen and soldier, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau and flags of the Republic of Palau flown at the embassies and consulates of Palau in other countries shall be hoisted at half mast on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SO PROCLAIMED this 11th day of June, 2009 at Ngerulmud, Melekeok State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Johnson Toribiong
President
Republic of Palau