

Presidential Proclamation No. 11-58

Honoring the late Rubasch Santos Olikong of Koror State and Ideseiar Santos Olikong of Peleliu State and Directing that Flags Be Flown at Half-Mast in his Memory

WHEREAS, on December 07, 2011, Rubasch Santos Olikong was called to his eternal rest; and

WHEREAS, the late Rubasch Santos Olikong was born on September 28, 1938 to Adelbai Saridel and Omisaol Ibuuch Ngirusong of Koror state. He was then adopted by Ebukel of Melekeok and Ngchesar and Olikong Dekei of Peleliu state; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong began his education attending Melekeok Elementary School then transferred to Koror Elementary School where he graduated. He then attended Mindszenty High School then moved to Guam to attend George Washington High School in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong attended College of Guam from 1959 to 1961 where he graduated; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong began his career as a bank teller, bookkeeper, and installment and commercial loan clerk for the Bank of Hawaii, Koror Branch from 1961 to 1968. He then later received managerial training in Guam and Honolulu and returned to become branch manager of the Bank of Hawaii, Koror Branch from 1969 to 1973, and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong began his long and illustrious career in public service in 1962 when he was elected to serve in the First Palau District Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong subsequently was elected to serve in the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Palau District Legislatures representing the Koror Municipal Government; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Santos Olikong became one of the Palau Delegates to the Micronesian Constitutional Convention and also participated in drafting the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia which then included Palau and the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong was actively involved in the status negotiations between Palau and the United States from 1977 to 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Santos Olikong was elected to the Seventh Palau District Legislature where he served as Vice-Speaker while also serving as a member of the First Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong was then successfully elected to the First Olbiil Era Kelulau in 1981 serving as a Delegate for the State of Koror; and

WHEREAS, Santos Olikong was also elected to the Second Olbiil Era Kelulau where he served as Speaker for the House of Delegates; and

WHEREAS, during his term as Speaker for the House of Delegates, Santos Olikong also served as the President for the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, on behalf of the APIL, Santos Olikong helped form the Pacific Island Development Bank in Guam and went on to serve as its President, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chairman of the Board of Directors from 1989 to 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1987 he was bestowed the chiefly title of Rubasch of Koror and Ideseiar of Peleliu, and

WHEREAS, Rubasch Santos Olikong served as a member of the Koror State Constitutional Convention in 1992; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 under the Etpison Administration, Rubasch Santos Olikong was appointed as Minister of State. He served in this capacity until he was elected to the Fourth and Fifth Olbiil Era Kelulau representing the 2nd Senatorial District (Koror State); and

WHEREAS, from 2002 to 2004 Rubasch Santos Olikong served as Ambassador of the Republic of Palau to the Government of Japan; and

WHEREAS, Rubasch Santos Olikong is survived by his wife, Alfonsa Merar; his children Deikola, Lucien, Valencia, Clifton and Bieb; and numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and to them I extend on behalf of the people of Palau, our deepest condolences and sympathies.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, and by provision 1 PNC 503(c) and Executive Order No. 24, I, Johnson Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that as a display of the respect his country and his fellow citizens have for the late Rubasch Santos Olikong, all flags regularly flown within the jurisdiction of Palau, and all flags of the Republic of Palau flown at the Embassies and Consulates of Palau in other countries, shall be hoisted at half-mast for a period of 5 day(s), commencing on December 16 , 2011.

SO PROCLAIMED this 12th day of December 2011 at the National Capitol, Republic of Palau.

/s/
Johnson Toribiong
President of the Republic of Palau