

Presidential Proclamation No. 14-122

To rename John F. Kennedy Elementary School as the Palau-Japan Friendship Elementary School and to honor and commemorate the friendship, support, and assistance of the Government of Japan to the People of the Republic of Palau.

WHEREAS, the establishment of a school and implementation of formal education began in what was then known as the Kayangel Municipality, Palau District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, shortly after the end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, the first school constructed in Kayangel Municipality was built with remnants of WWII Quonset huts from the Peleliu Municipality; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960's, under the guidance of the government of the Palau District, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the construction of a solid and more suitable school building began in Kayangel Municipality; and

WHEREAS, In November 1963, just as construction of the new school building was nearing its end, U.S. President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in honor and commemoration of the benefaction of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the United States Government, the new school was aptly named *John F. Kennedy Elementary School*; and

WHEREAS, for the past 50 years, over than 500 students have studied and graduated from *John F. Kennedy Elementary School* to become successful contributing citizens of Palau; and

WHEREAS, on November 07, 2013, John F. Kennedy Elementary School completely destroyed by the onslaught of Super Typhoon Haiyan; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Haiyan the students and teachers of *John F. Kennedy Elementary School* had to be relocated to Koror State for schooling and work; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2013 an application for Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects to build a new school building that would also serve as a shelter during natural disasters was submitted to the Embassy of Japan in Palau; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2013, just 35 days after Super Typhoon Haiyan hit Palau, the Government of Japan, through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects awarded *John F. Kennedy Elementary School* and the Ministry of Education a grant in the amount \$422,722.00 to a construct a new school building; and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2014, construction of the new school began; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2014, a handover and ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted on the grounds of the new school to mark the completion of a new “typhoon-proof” school building, which may also serve as a typhoon shelter for the community, and the official handover of the completed building to the Palau Ministry of Education and the Government of Palau; and

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Constitution, Laws, and Rules and Regulations of the Republic of Palau, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, hereby proclaim that the newly built school in Kayangel State shall henceforth be known as:

Palau-Japan Friendship Elementary School

SO PROCLAIMED on this 27th day of August, 2014 in Koror, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President
Republic of Palau