

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF YAP
Third Regular Session
2025

(*Calendar*)

Resolution No. 11-117

A RESOLUTION

Expressing the deepest appreciation and gratitude of the people and government of the State of Yap to Isaac V. Figir for the exceptionally distinguished government services and valuable contributions to the State of Yap.

1 WHEREAS, for at least five decades Isaac V. Figir has
2 continuously contributed economically, socially and
3 politically to the development of the State of Yap and the
4 Federated States of Micronesia as an elected public servant,
5 as a statesman, and as a citizen of the State of Yap; and

6 WHEREAS, the distinguished public career of Isaac V.
7 Figir are too numerous to be individually listed herein,
8 however they include, but not limited to, his work with
9 Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, working with and
10 representation on the Commission on the Future Political
11 Status Transition of the Micronesian Islands, and serving for
12 more than forty years in the Congress of the Federated States
13 of Micronesia; and

14 WHEREAS, Isaac V. Figir, a native and son of Yap
15 completed his primary and secondary education in his home
16 before pursuing higher education abroad where he graduated
17 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guam
18 in 1972 and earned a Master of Arts in Community Development

1 from Southern Illinois University in 1975, becoming one of the
2 first individuals from Yap to achieve this academic milestone;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Isaac V. Figir, upon completion of his studies,
5 returned to Yap and joined the Micronesian Legal Services
6 Corporation (MLSC) as a legal researcher where his dedication
7 and practical insights led to his promotion as a legal
8 counselor, and as he was recognized for his talents, he was
9 later hired as a legal researcher by the Commission on the
10 Future Political Status Transition of the Micronesian Islands,
11 and by 1979, Isaac V. Figir became a member of the historic
12 Commission, playing a key role in shaping the FSM's journey
13 toward sovereignty and independence—a precursor to his
14 remarkable political career; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1983, Isaac V. Figir entered the FSM Congress
16 at the age of 36 as the two-year representative from Yap and,
17 since then, he has been consistently re-elected, demonstrating
18 an unwavering commitment to his constituents. During his early
19 years in Congress, he chaired the Committee on External
20 Affairs and held memberships on the Committees on Health,
21 Education, and Social Affairs, as well as Resources and
22 Development, and over the years, he has continued to lead key
23 committees, including Judiciary and Governmental Operations

1 and Ways and Means, while contributing to nation-building
2 efforts across various domains; and

3 WHEREAS, as a seasoned legislator, Isaac V. Figir has led
4 the FSM Congress to numerous regional and international
5 conferences as he is a strong advocate for environmental
6 protection, and he participated in the 1994 Conference on
7 Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in
8 Barbados, the 1995 Asia Pacific Leaders Conference on Climate
9 Change in Manila, and led the FSM delegation to the first ever
10 Climate Change Convention of the Parties (COP I) in Berlin and
11 subsequent COPs, and further as a co-author of FSM's landmark
12 Climate Change Act, Figir was instrumental in garnering
13 international recognition for the nation's proactive
14 environmental policies, and in 2014, the FSM Congress was
15 honored by GLOBE (Global Legislators Organization for a
16 Balanced Environment) for its Climate Change law – a statute
17 championed by Senator Figir, and he recently co-sponsored the
18 successful 2023 amendment to the FSM Constitution, declaring
19 every citizen's right to a healthy environment; and

20 WHEREAS, under his leadership as Chairman of the Ways and
21 Means Committee, Isaac V. Figir continued to demonstrate
22 exceptional fiscal management and visionary leadership and
23 when in 2015, with the FSM Trust Fund valued at approximately

1 \$54 million, and Figir, through his sharp wit and strategic
2 persuasion, played a leading role in Congress' direct
3 appropriations of millions of dollars into the FSM Trust Fund,
4 and his unwavering focus on financial sustainability and
5 resourcefulness led to the FSM Trust Fund's unprecedented
6 growth, exceeding half a billion dollars by 2025: Isaac V.
7 Figir often referred to the Trust Fund as "an investment for
8 the future generation of Micronesians," underscoring his
9 dedication to securing the nation's long-term economic
10 stability; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Figir's pride in FSM's sovereignty and
12 his unwavering commitment to economic independence have been
13 central themes throughout his career from the FSM's transition
14 as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under U.S.
15 administration to a constitutional government, and he played
16 a pivotal role in shaping the nation's identity and was
17 instrumental in the negotiations and implementation of the
18 Compact of Free Association with the United States, inclusive
19 of the two Amendments thereof in the last twenty years, and to
20 further demonstrate his abilities as a skilled politician, he
21 co-sponsored a resolution calling for the termination of the
22 second Compact, strategically sparking nation-wide discussions
23 and leading to the creation of the Joint Committee on Compact

1 Review and Planning, with this decisive action ensuring the
2 FSM's sovereignty and interests were vigorously represented,
3 and moreover, through his legislative efforts, Isaac V. Figir
4 consistently championed reducing reliance on external aid
5 while fostering economic independence, solidifying his legacy
6 as a leader dedicated to the FSM's progress as a strong, self-
7 reliant nation and exemplifying his cultural roots as a true
8 son of the State of Yap with his foremost principle of self-
9 sufficiency; and

10 WHEREAS, the members of this Legislature recognize and
11 appreciate Isaac V. Figir's distinguished, dedicated and
12 unselfish contributions to the governments of the State of Yap
13 and the Federated States of Micronesia, to the Yapese society
14 and the Yapese people, both as a statesman and a son of the
15 State of Yap; and

16 WHEREAS, it is the sense of the members of the
17 Legislature of the State of Yap that Isaac V. Figir is
18 deserving of the utmost sincere gratitude, praise and
19 appreciation for his numerous contributions to the development
20 of the State of Yap; now, therefore,

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eleventh Legislature of the State
22 of Yap, Third Regular Session, 2025, that the Legislature
23 hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and gratitude of the

1 people and government of the State of Yap to Isaac V. Figir
2 for the exceptionally distinguished government services and
3 valuable contributions to the State of Yap; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to Isaac V. Figir; the Speaker of
6 the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia; the
7 Chairman of the Yap Congressional Delegation, the Governor of
8 the State of Yap; the Chief Justice of the State of Yap; the
9 Chairman of the Council of Pilung; and the Chairman of the
10 Council of Tamol.

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Date: 4.30.25

Introduced by: 
Nicholas Figirlaarwon