

STATE OF YAP

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2025

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
2 has continuously contributed economically, socially and
3 politically to the development of the State of Yap and
4 the Federated States of Micronesia as an elected public
5 servant, as a statesman, and as a citizen of the State of
6 Yap; and

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

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

1 University of Guam in 1972 and earned a Master of Arts in
2 Community Development from Southern Illinois University
3 in 1975, becoming one of the first individuals from Yap
4 to achieve this academic milestone; and

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

17 WHEREAS, in 1983, Isaac V. Figir entered the FSM
18 Congress at the age of 36 as the two-year representative
19 from Yap and, since then, he has been consistently re-
20 elected, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his
21 constituents. During his early years in Congress, he
22 chaired the Committee on External Affairs and held

1 memberships on the Committees on Health, Education, and
2 Social Affairs, as well as Resources and Development, and
3 over the years, he has continued to lead key committees,
4 including Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Ways
5 and Means, while contributing to nation-building efforts
6 across various domains; and

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

1 he recently co-sponsored the successful 2023 amendment to
2 the FSM Constitution, declaring every citizen's right to
3 a healthy environment; and

4 WHEREAS, under his leadership as Chairman of the
5 Ways and Means Committee, Isaac V. Figir continued to
6 demonstrate exceptional fiscal management and visionary
7 leadership and when in 2015, with the FSM Trust Fund
8 valued at approximately \$54 million, and Figir, through
9 his sharp wit and strategic persuasion, played a leading
10 role in Congress' direct appropriations of millions of
11 dollars into the FSM Trust Fund, and his unwavering focus
12 on financial sustainability and resourcefulness led to
13 the FSM Trust Fund's unprecedented growth, exceeding half
14 a billion dollars by 2025: Isaac V. Figir often referred
15 to the Trust Fund as "an investment for the future
16 generation of Micronesians," underscoring his dedication
17 to securing the nation's long-term economic stability;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Figir's pride in FSM's sovereignty
20 and his unwavering commitment to economic independence
21 have been central themes throughout his career from the
22 FSM's transition as the Trust Territory of the Pacific

1 Islands under U.S. administration to a constitutional
2 government, and he played a pivotal role in shaping the
3 nation's identity and was instrumental in the
4 negotiations and implementation of the Compact of Free
5 Association with the United States, inclusive of the two
6 Amendments thereof in the last twenty years, and to
7 further demonstrate his abilities as a skilled
8 politician, he co-sponsored a resolution calling for the
9 termination of the second Compact, strategically sparking
10 nation-wide discussions and leading to the creation of
11 the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning, with
12 this decisive action ensuring the FSM's sovereignty and
13 interests were vigorously represented, and moreover,
14 through his legislative efforts, Isaac V. Figir
15 consistently championed reducing reliance on external aid
16 while fostering economic independence, solidifying his
17 legacy as a leader dedicated to the FSM's progress as a
18 strong, self-reliant nation and exemplifying his cultural
19 roots as a true son of the State of Yap with his foremost
20 principle of self-sufficiency; and

21 WHEREAS, the members of this Legislature recognize
22 and appreciate Isaac V. Figir's distinguished, dedicated

1 and unselfish contributions to the governments of the
2 State of Yap and the Federated States of Micronesia, to
3 the Yapese society and the Yapese people, both as a
4 statesman and a son of the State of Yap; and

5 WHEREAS, it is the sense of the members of the
6 Legislature of the State of Yap that Isaac V. Figir is
7 deserving of the utmost sincere gratitude, praise and
8 appreciation for his numerous contributions to the
9 development of the State of Yap; now, therefore,

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eleventh Legislature of the
11 State of Yap, Third Regular Session, 2025, that the
12 Legislature hereby expresses its deepest appreciation and
13 gratitude of the people and government of the State of
14 Yap to Isaac V. Figir for the exceptionally distinguished
15 government services and valuable contributions to the
16 State of Yap; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to Isaac V. Figir; the Speaker
19 of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;
20 the Chairman of the Yap Congressional Delegation, the
21 Governor of the State of Yap; the Chief Justice of the
22 State of Yap; the Chairman of the Council of Pilung; and

1 the Chairman of the Council of Tamol.

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3 **Adopted:** April 30, 2025

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11 **Attested to:**

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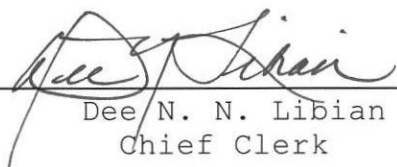
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Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker



Date



Dee N. N. Libian
Chief Clerk