

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2010

HSE. COM. RES. NO. 17-1

A HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION

Honoring and commending the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on his Silver Episcopal Anniversary and for his dedication and service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

- 1 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was born on September 18,
2 1933 to proud parents Vidal Palacios Camacho and Maria Borja Aguon; and
3 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was baptized and confirmed
4 by Father Jose Maria Tardio at Bithen del Carmen at Garapan, Saipan on September 22,
5 1933; and
6 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho graduated from Chalan
7 Kanoa Elementary School on June 1948; and
8 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho entered Father Duenas
9 Memorial School as a seminarian on September 1948; and
10 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho graduated from Father
11 Duenas Memorial School in 1953, the first person from Saipan to graduate from such a
12 distinguished school; and
13 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho, with much strength and
14 reassurance from his father to serve the public and to preach the teachings of the Holy
15 Bible, left for Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California on August 1955 to
16 pursue philosophical and theological studies; and
17 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was ordained sub-deacon on
18 Guam on June 24, 1960 and a couple of months later was ordained to the Diaconate on
19 August 22, 1960, by the Most Reverend Appolinaris W. Baumgartner; and

HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 17-1

1 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was then ordained to the
2 Priesthood on June 14, 1961 by Most Reverend Appolinaris W. Baumgartner at the Dulce
3 Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam; and

4 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho held his First Solemn Mass
5 at Mount Carmel Church on June 18, 1961, attended by his ailing father who was
6 chaperoned by hospital staff; and

7 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho later became Assistant
8 Pastor at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam from 1961 to 1968; and

9 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was then assigned as the
10 Pastor at San Francisco de Borja Parish in Rota from 1968 to 1970; and

11 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho then served as the Pastor for
12 Saint William's Church in Tumon, Guam from 1970 to 1972, then as Pastor at Saint
13 Joseph's Church in Inarajan, Guam from 1972 to 1974; and

14 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was an instructor at Notre
15 Dame High School from 1972 to 1974; and

16 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was Rector of Dulce
17 Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam from 1974 to 1976; and

18 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was appointed as a
19 Monsignor (Prelate of Honor) by Pope Paul VI on June 15, 1974; and

20 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho returned back to his native
21 Saipan as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on June 1, 1976; and

22 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was an instructor at Mount
23 Carmel School from 1976 to 1983; and

24 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was appointed as Episcopal
25 Vicar for the Northern Marianas on February 1, 1979; and

26 WHEREAS, on November 8, 1984, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was
27 elected as the First Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by His Holiness Pope John
28 Paul II; and

29 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1985, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho was
30 ordained as the First Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by Archbishop Felixberto

HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 17-1

1 Flores of Guam (main consecrator), Bishop Martin Joseph Neylon of Marshall and
2 Caroline Islands (co-consecrator) and Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Apuron of Guam (co-
3 consecrator); and

4 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho has translated most of the
5 liturgical books and the New Testament Bible into the Chamorro Language and The Bible
6 and the liturgical books are widely used and read in Chamorro liturgies in the CNMI,
7 Guam, and elsewhere; and

8 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, the first bishop of
9 and from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has served the public for
10 many years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church in the CNMI and has seen the
11 Diocese of Chalan Kanoa grow to become what is now 13 parishes spread across the
12 CNMI, since taking over the post in January 1985; and

13 WHEREAS, in keeping with canon law, the Most Reverend Bishop Tomas A.
14 Camacho has offered his resignation to Pope Benedict VXI after turning 75 on September
15 18, 2008; and

16 WHEREAS, the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho, as the head of the Catholic
17 faith, took it upon himself as his responsibility to preach and lead by example instilling
18 values and morals of what is right to the people of this great Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, the Members of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth
20 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature are honored to recognize and commend
21 the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho on his Silver Episcopal Anniversary and for his
22 dedication in preaching the word of God and for his untiring services to the people of the
23 Marianas;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House hereby
26 recognizes and commends the Most Reverend Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop of the Diocese
27 of Chalan Kanoa on his Silver Episcopal Anniversary, for his exceptional commitment to
28 preaching the word of Christ and for his dedication and service to the People of the
29 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

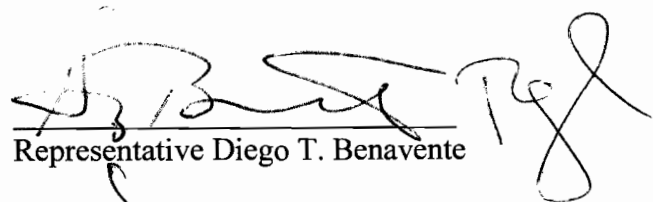
HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 17-1

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution and
3 thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Most Reverend Tomas A.
4 Camacho, Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, to His Excellency, the Most Reverend
5 Anthony Sablan Apuron, the Archbishop of Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana, Guam,
6 His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, and the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the
7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

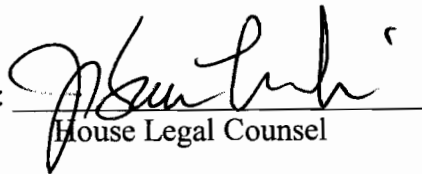
Prefiled 1/27/2010

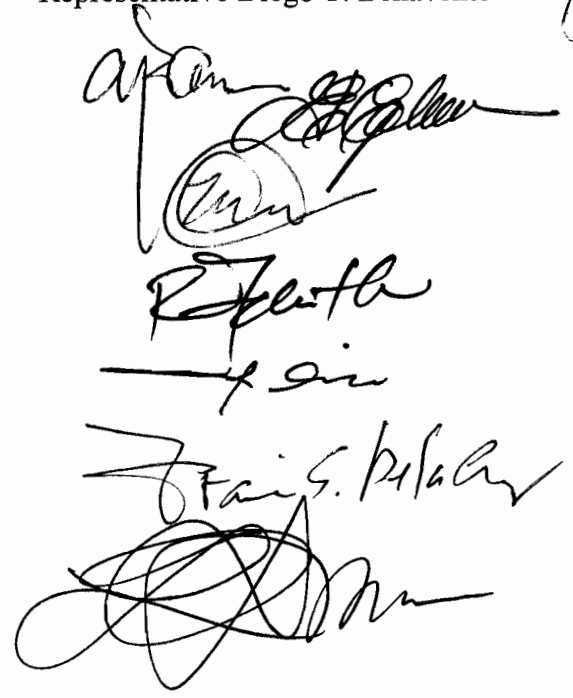
Date: 1/22/10

Introduced By:


Representative Diego T. Benavente

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel


A vertical stack of several handwritten signatures, including one that appears to be 'Francis Sablan'.