

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Regular Session, 2026**

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**H. J. R. 24-15**

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**A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

To sincerely recognize and express deepest appreciation to Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur, honoring his extraordinary life, his unwavering dedication to preserving traditional Micronesian navigation, and his lasting contributions to the cultural heritage of the people of Micronesia, and to extend heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

1           **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body acknowledges the indelible impact of  
2 individuals who have committed their lives to the enthusiastic preservation and  
3 transmission of cultural and traditional practices, enriching the lives of the people  
4 of our Commonwealth; and

5           **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body, representing the people of the  
6 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, pays tribute to the late Master  
7 Navigator Sesario Sewralur, who devoted his life to preserving, practicing, and  
8 passing on the sacred traditions of Micronesian navigation, ensuring that the  
9 ancestral knowledge entrusted to him will continue to guide future generations; and

10           **WHEREAS**, under the guidance and mentorship of his father, the  
11 renowned †Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug, Sesario Sewralur embraced the

1 responsibility of safeguarding one of Micronesia's most treasured cultural traditions  
2 and faithfully carried that responsibility throughout his life; and

3       **WHEREAS**, †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur was lovingly married to  
4 Florentina Laurseram, a devoted father to his children Skylynn I. Ifelbuch, Natalie  
5 L. Sewralur, Melodylynn Sewralur, Landon Keonie Moss Sewralur, Trudy Marie  
6 Sewralur, and Dylan Sewralur, and a doting grandfather to his grandchildren  
7 Edangel Amirah Schmidt, Alani Mae Shantell Sesario, Aiden-Lewis Ifelbuch,  
8 Austin Liam Taiwerbush, Harlee Ann Laiyomai Olopai, and Opdulia Aria Teklou  
9 Helacio; and

10       **WHEREAS**, in 2007, †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur sailed the 56-  
11 foot double-hulled sailing canoe Alingano Maisu, leading its inaugural voyage  
12 from Hawaii to Satawal and then sailing to Palau for the first time the same year.  
13 The vessel was gifted to his father, †Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug, as a  
14 token of appreciation for teaching Hawaiians traditional navigation and guiding the  
15 Hokule'a on its inaugural voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti in 1976; and

16       **WHEREAS**, through his dedication to traditional wayfinding, canoe  
17 voyaging, and cultural education †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur inspired  
18 countless students, navigators, and community members to honor and preserve the  
19 wisdom, values, and skills of their ancestors; and

20       **WHEREAS**, †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur taught courses in  
21 traditional wayfinding and non-instrument navigation under an agreement between

1 the Micronesian Voyaging Society and Palau Community College, bestowing  
2 cultural and traditional knowledge and enriching student lives for over 19 years;  
3 and

4       **WHEREAS**, his leadership and lifelong commitment strengthened the  
5 revival and continued practice of traditional navigation throughout Micronesia,  
6 helping ensure that these invaluable cultural teachings remain alive for generations  
7 to come; and

8       **WHEREAS**, †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur reminded us that the vast  
9 Pacific Ocean is not a barrier between islands, but a pathway that unites the people  
10 of Micronesia through shared history, culture, family, and tradition; and

11       **WHEREAS**, the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature also extends its  
12 sincere appreciation to the Micronesian Voyaging Society for its continued  
13 partnership and steadfast commitment to preserving, promoting, and strengthening  
14 the traditions of Micronesian navigation and cultural heritage throughout the  
15 Pacific, and the traditional navigators, teachers, and cultural practitioners who  
16 continue to perpetuate these important practices today; and

17       **WHEREAS**, †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur's humility, wisdom,  
18 generosity, and dedication to cultural preservation have left an enduring legacy that  
19 will continue to inspire the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
20 Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and communities throughout the  
21 Pacific; and

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of  
2 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
3 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the Northern Mariana Islands Legislature  
4 sincerely recognize and express deepest appreciation to Master Navigator Sesario  
5 Sewralur, honoring his extraordinary life, his unwavering dedication to preserving  
6 traditional Micronesian navigation, and his lasting contributions to the cultural  
7 heritage of the people of Micronesia and to extend heartfelt condolences to his  
8 family and friends; and

9           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of  
10 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk  
11 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint  
12 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to the family of  
13 †Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur; the Micronesian Voyaging Society; Felix R.  
14 Nogis, Executive Assistant, Carolinian Affairs Office for the Commonwealth of the  
15 Northern Marianas Islands; His Excellency Wesley W. Simina, President, the  
16 Federated States of Micronesia; Honorable Surangel Whipps Jr., President,  
17 Republic of Palau; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth  
18 of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI  
19 Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, 119th United States Congress; and  
20 the Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, Senate President, 24th Northern Marianas  
21 Commonwealth Legislature.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-15

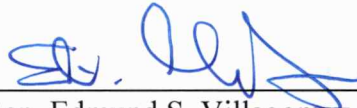
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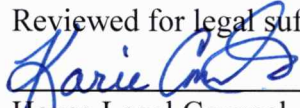
Prefiled: 07.27.2024

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 7-22-26