

**Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Session, 2011

H. Res. 17-05

**A HOUSE RESOLUTION**

To recognize the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and his public services in the Commonwealth Legislature and the Executive Branch.

1           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was born on April 21,  
2           1959, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to proud parents † Roman  
3           Manahane Benavente and † Dolores Tenorio Benavente; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente married his best friend  
5           Victoria Iriarte Benavente and through their union, he and his wife were blessed with four  
6           wonderful children namely: Jacob, Diana, James and Dolores; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente is a loving husband, father,  
8           grandfather, brother, uncle, but most importantly a friend to his neighbors and colleagues;  
9           and

10          **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente, a man with great work  
11          ethic understood that in order to make a living, one must be dedicated and determined as  
12          he began working at an early age in the family business; and

13          **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente graduated from Mount  
14          Carmel High School in 1977 and subsequently continued his education at the College of  
15          Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho in the field of electrical engineering; and

1           **WHEREAS**, upon his return from Idaho, the Honorable Diego Tenorio  
2 Benavente followed in his father's footsteps and started his business in Diego's Mart, Inc.  
3 which he ran from 1983 – 2001; and

4           **WHEREAS**, from January 8, 1990 to January 12, 1992, the Honorable Diego  
5 Tenorio Benavente began his career as an elected official for Saipan Election District II as  
6 a member of the Seventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature House of  
7 Representatives, where he served as: Chairperson for Federal and Foreign Relations; Vice  
8 Chairperson for Natural Resources; and a member of the Commerce and Tourism,  
9 Judiciary and Governmental Operations, and Ways and Means Committees of the House  
10 of Representatives; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the people of Election District II continued their support for the  
12 Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente and elected him as their voice in the Halls of  
13 Congress for ten more years; and

14           **WHEREAS**, from January 13, 1992 to January 9, 1994, the Honorable Diego  
15 Tenorio Benavente served as the Vice Speaker of the Eighth Northern Marianas  
16 Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives; the Vice Chairperson for Natural  
17 Resources; and a member of the Federal and Foreign Relations and Public Utilities,  
18 Transportation and Communications Committees for the House of Representatives; and

19           **WHEREAS**, from January 10, 1994 to January 9, 2000, the Honorable Diego  
20 Tenorio Benavente served as the Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Ninth,  
21 Tenth, and Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and

1           **WHEREAS**, from January 10, 2000 to January 13, 2002, the Honorable Diego  
2     Tenorio Benavente also served as a member of the Twelfth Northern Marianas  
3     Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives; and

4           **WHEREAS**, from January 14, 2002 to January 9, 2006, the Honorable Benavente  
5     served as Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
6     (CNMI) under the Administration of Governor Juan N. Babauta; and

7           **WHEREAS**, from January 14, 2008 to January 10, 2010, the Honorable Diego  
8     Tenorio Benavente was elected by Saipan Election District I for the Sixteenth Northern  
9     Marianas Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives, and served as  
10    Chairperson for United States and Foreign Relations; Vice Chairperson for Judiciary and  
11    Governmental Operations; Vice Chairperson for Natural Resources; and a member of the  
12    Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was again given the vote  
14    of confidence by the people of Election District I to serve in the Seventeenth Northern  
15    Marianas Commonwealth Legislature House of Representatives, where he was chosen by  
16    his colleagues to represent them as Minority Leader from January 11, 2010 to July 16,  
17    2011; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was also a Member and  
19    former Chairman of the Board of Governors & Member of the Board of Directors of the  
20    Pacific Islands Development Bank from 2000 – July 2011, which he was an integral part  
21    in getting its recognition with international investments in the world banks; and

1           **WHEREAS**, on July 16, 2011, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente officially  
2 retired from his career as a lawmaker, after over nineteen years of service to his  
3 community; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the people of the Commonwealth will forever be grateful to the  
5 Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his services as a lawmaker, his commitment and  
6 dedication to the welfare of the Commonwealth of the Northern Islands and its people;  
7 and

8           **WHEREAS**, it would be extremely difficult to find a person with similar  
9 compassion and devotion to public service, like that of the Honorable Diego Tenorio  
10 Benavente, a man who dedicated his life to his family and to the residents of this Great  
11 Commonwealth, contributing with all generosity and unselfish dedication of his precious  
12 time; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente's hard work and  
14 contributions did not go unrecognized as he was awarded by Mt. Carmel School with the  
15 Distinguished Graduate Award in 2002; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was recognized by the  
17 PEW Foundation with the Shark Defender Award for his continued fight of  
18 environmental resources most especially for marine life; and

19           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente's resilience in the  
20 protection of marine life, particularly sharks triggered a regional and international  
21 phenomenon that has many jurisdictions around the world adopting and legislating the  
22 protection of sharks;

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives of  
2 the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House  
3 recognizes the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his contributions to the people of  
4 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island and his public services in the  
5 Commonwealth Legislature and the Executive Branch; and

6           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the House congratulates the Honorable  
7 Diego Tenorio Benavente on his retirement and extends its well wishes to the former  
8 Vice Speaker, Speaker, Lieutenant Governor and Minority Leader in his future endeavors  
9 and continued support in building our Commonwealth; and

10           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this  
12 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable  
13 Diego Tenorio Benavente; the Honorable Paul A. Manglona, President of the Senate; and  
14 the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
15 Mariana Islands.

Intro: 8/10/11  
Prefiled: 8/10/11

Date: Aug 10, 2011 Introduced By: Rep. Joseph P. Deleón Guerrero

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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