

**TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2018

H. Res. 20- **21**

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To honor †Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for his unwavering dedication and relentless services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing.

1 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was born on
2 September 18, 1933 to proud parents †Vidal Palacios Camacho and †Maria Borja
3 Aguon; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was baptized and
5 confirmed by Father Jose Maria Tardio at Bithen del Carmen at Garapan, Saipan
6 on September 22, 1933; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho graduated from
8 Chalan Kanoa Elementary School on June 1948; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho entered Father
10 Duenas Memorial School as a seminarian on September 1948; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho graduated from
12 Father Duenas Memorial School in 1953, the first person from Saipan to graduate
13 from such a distinguished school; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho, with much strength
2 and reassurance from his father to serve the public and to preach the teachings of
3 the Holy Bible, left for Saint Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California on
4 August 1955 to pursue philosophical and theological studies; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was ordained sub-
6 deacon on Guam on June 24, 1960 and a couple of months later was ordained to
7 the Diaconate on August 22, 1960, by the Most Reverend Appolinaris W.
8 Baumgartner; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was then ordained to
10 the Priesthood on June 14, 1961 by Most Reverend Appolinaris W. Baumgartner
11 at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho held his First Solemn
13 Mass at Mount Carmel Church on June 18, 1961, attended by his ailing father
14 who was chaperoned by hospital staff; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho later became
16 Assistant Pastor at the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam from 1961 to
17 1968; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was then assigned as
19 the Pastor at San Francisco de Borja Parish in Rota from 1968 to 1970; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho then served as the
21 Pastor for Saint William’s Church in Tumon, Guam from 1970 to 1972, then as
22 Pastor at Saint Joseph’s Church in Inarajan, Guam from 1972 to 1974; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was an instructor at
2 Notre Dame High School from 1972 to 1974; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was Rector of Dulce
4 Nombre de Maria Cathedral in Guam from 1974 to 1976; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was appointed as a
6 Monsignor (Prelate of Honor) by Pope Paul VI on June 15, 1974; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho returned back to his
8 native Saipan as Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on June 1, 1976;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was an instructor at
11 Mount Carmel School from 1976 to 1983; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho was appointed as
13 Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Marianas on February 1, 1979; and

14 **WHEREAS**, on November 8, 1984, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A.
15 Camacho was elected as the First Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by His
16 Holiness Pope John Paul II; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on January 13, 1985, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho
18 was ordained as the First Bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by Archbishop
19 Felixberto Flores of Guam (main consecrator), Bishop Martin Joseph Neylon of
20 Marshall and Caroline Islands (co-consecrator) and Auxiliary Bishop Anthony
21 Apuron of Guam (co-consecrator); and

22 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho has translated most
23 of the liturgical books and the New Testament Bible into the Chamorro Language

1 and The Bible and the liturgical books are widely used and read in Chamorro
2 liturgies in the CNMI, Guam, and elsewhere; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho, the first bishop of
4 and from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has served the
5 public for many years as the head of the Roman Catholic Church in the CNMI
6 and has seen the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa grow to become what is now 13
7 parishes spread across the CNMI, since taking over the post in January 1985; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in keeping with canon law, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A.
9 Camacho offered his resignation to Pope Benedict VXI after turning 75 on
10 September 18, 2008; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho, as the head of the
12 Catholic faith, took it upon himself as his responsibility to preach and lead by
13 example instilling values and morals of what is right to the people of this great
14 Commonwealth; and

15 **WHEREAS**, on March 5th, 2018, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho
16 was called into eternal rest; and

17 **WHEREAS**, although gone from this earth, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A.
18 Camacho's legacy will remain in our hearts today and for the years to come, and
19 he will be deeply missed by all those who knew him and loved him; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands wishes
21 to honor the legacy of Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho, that will serve as a
22 model of integrity and devotion to the Catholic Church; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho will forever be
2 remembered for his warm smile and his lifelong commitment in strengthening the
3 faith of the people of our great Commonwealth; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Members of the House of Representatives of the
5 Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature are honored to honor
6 Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho for his unwavering dedication and
7 relentless services to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands up until his passing;

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
10 Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
11 that the House hereby honors †Tomas A. Camacho, Bishop Emeritus of the
12 Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for his unwavering dedication and relentless services to
13 the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend
14 our sincere condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing; and

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of
17 this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
18 bereaved family of Bishop Emeritus †Tomas A. Camacho; the Most Reverend
19 Ryan P. Jiminez, Bishop, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; the Most Reverend Michael
20 J. Byrnes, Archbishop, Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agana, Guam; His Holiness
21 Pope Francis; Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor, Commonwealth of the
22 Northern Mariana Islands; and Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President,
23 Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

