

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2019

H. Res. 21-19

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Dedication of Our
Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral

1 WHEREAS, since the arrival of Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores in the
2 Marianas, our people embraced the Catholic faith brought by the missionaries that
3 came; and

4 WHEREAS, as the Catholic faith grew in our islands, places of worship
5 began to be established in our villages and dedicated to various saints, one of them
6 in particular being Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Garapan; and

7 WHEREAS, during the destruction brought upon by World War II, many
8 structures throughout Saipan were damaged and destroyed, including the original
9 Mt. Carmel Church; and

10 WHEREAS, despite the hardships brought upon by the war's aftermath, our
11 people's faith in God was not shaken but strengthened, even during the years of
12 confinement in the internment camps they lived, worked and prayed in; and

13 WHEREAS, after the gates of Camp Susupe and Camp Chalan Kanoa were
14 opened, our elders took to the task of rebuilding their lives post-war, which included

1 some original parishioners of Mt. Carmel Church moving their families south to
2 the village of Chalan Kanoa; and

3 WHEREAS, through their determination and the guidance of their spiritual
4 leaders, our elders decided that they needed a new center of faith, one mirroring the
5 holiness and spirituality of their former parish church; and

6 WHEREAS, construction on the new church began on June 7, 1947, and
7 hand by hand and brick by brick, these individuals toiled in the hot sun to build this
8 new church from the ground up for two years, facing logistical and financial
9 difficulties during the construction; and

10 WHEREAS, despite the adversity they experienced, the laborers and the
11 community continued to work to complete the church, and on December 14, 1949
12 the new church was dedicated and entrusted to the care of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
13 by the late Bishop Apollinaris William Baumgartner; and

14 WHEREAS, since its dedication, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church played
15 host to many important moments, both religious and historic, and has seen many of
16 our islands' residents receive their sacraments and diplomas within its holy walls;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, in 1984 after the separation of the Northern Marianas from the
19 newly established Archdiocese of Agana, Guam and the establishment of the new
20 Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by the late Pope John Paul II, the church was elevated to
21 the status of "cathedral"; and

1 WHEREAS, since its elevation, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral has
2 served as the venue for weddings, baptisms, funerals, confirmations and holy
3 communion receptions, and most notably been the site of both diaconate, sacerdotal
4 and two episcopal ordinations, the final taking of vows of our Diocese's religious
5 sisters, the inaugurations of our government leaders, and the resting place of the
6 Diocese's first bishop, the late Tomas Aguon Camacho; and

7 WHEREAS, in its seven-decade history, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral
8 has withstood natural disasters, changes in political administrations, and turbulent
9 times in our Commonwealth's history, and through it all has remained a pillar of
10 faith to not just its parishioners but the people of the Diocese as whole; and

11 WHEREAS, in celebration of its many years of being our "mother church",
12 a place of prayer, refuge and worship for the people of the Marianas, the Legislature
13 finds this important milestone worthy of honor and recognition; and

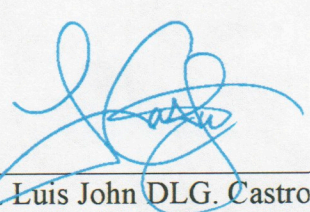
14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
15 Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth
16 Legislature that we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
17 and recognize it for being a pillar of faith for our Commonwealth for the last seven
18 decades; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
20 designee of the Speaker of the House shall present a certified original copy of this
21 House Resolution to the Most Reverend Ryan Pagente Jimenez, Bishop of the
22 Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; and

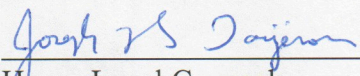
1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this
3 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
4 Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres; Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I.
5 Palacios; Honorable Congressman Gregorio Kilihi Camacho Sablan; Hon. Senate
6 President Victor B. Hocog; Hon. David M. Apatang, Mayor of the Municipality of
7 Saipan; Hon. Vicente Santos, Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; the 15th Saipan
8 and Northern Islands Municipal Council; Hon. Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the
9 Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan; the 17th Tinian Municipal Council; Hon.
10 Efraim M. Atalig, Mayor of the Municipality of Rota; the 17th Rota Municipal
11 Council; the Mayors Council of Guam and the Most Reverend Michael Jude
12 Byrnes, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agana, Guam.

Prefiled 11/26/19

Date: 11/26/19

Introduced by: 
Rep. Luis John DLG. Castro

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel