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6/11/2020

TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 11, 2020

Third Spe SESSION, 2020

H. Res. 21- 70

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To honor and commemorate the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi for his outstanding accomplishments and exceptional contributions to the economic and political development of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing.

1           **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality and  
2 character of life in this great Commonwealth is indelibly enriched by  
3 the noble and selfless efforts of those exceptional individuals who  
4 would devote their time to public service, especially in the economic and political  
5 development of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

6           **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body, representing the people of the  
7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is moved this day to pay just  
8 tribute to the life and distinguished career of the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog  
9 Lifoifoi; and

10           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was born on  
11 October 26, 1936 to proud parents †Alfonso Camacho Lifoifoi and †Adela Selepeo  
12 Lifoifoi; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi's life was happily  
2 shared with his first wife, †Amalia Taisacan Lifoifoi, and will forever live in the  
3 hearts of his present loving wife, Cecilia H. Lifoifoi, and his children along with  
4 their families: Joseph T. & Risha Lifoifoi, Remedio L. Pangelinan, Ignacia L. &  
5 Manny Evangelista, †Josephine L. & Sebastian Tajibmai, Angel S. Hocog, Alfred  
6 John Taisacan, and Paterno & Elizabeth Hocog; and

7           **WHEREAS**, late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi's educational  
8 experience began at an early age during the control of the Japanese Administration,  
9 until life suddenly came to a complete halt when the island of Saipan was attacked  
10 as he once recalled the image of war ships along the horizon; and

11           **WHEREAS**, due to such an occurrence, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog  
12 Lifoifoi and his family immediately collected all their personal belongings and  
13 walked along the familiar grounds to the north side of Marpi in search for shelter  
14 in the caves along the back side of the mountain until the day they, along with other  
15 families, were found by military personnel and transported to Camp Susupe where  
16 they stayed until being released to return to their family land in Tanapag; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi began his formal  
18 education at the Saipan Elementary School in 1948 and continued on at the Saipan  
19 Intermediate School until 1952; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was determined to  
21 further his education at a time when leaving the island of Saipan was difficult  
22 without a sponsor; and

1           **WHEREAS**, with the help of some close friends and the support of his  
2 family, he was sponsored by the late Ms. Rita Mettao, who was residing on the  
3 neighboring island of Guam; and

4           **WHEREAS**, despite the excruciating hardships and challenging living  
5 conditions on Guam, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi appreciated the  
6 financial sacrifices being made by his family with his dad working rigorously for  
7 16 cents an hour for him to pursue his educational endeavors, which motivated him  
8 to complete Tumon High School and eventually attend the College of Guam in  
9 1960; and

10           **WHEREAS**, life took a turn when his father was injured on the job and  
11 unable to work; and

12           **WHEREAS**, being the oldest among his siblings and raised with the  
13 customary Carolinian practices of working to provide for his family, the late  
14 Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was forced to quit school and returned home to  
15 take his father's place as the family provider, where he worked for Procurement  
16 and Supply for 36 cents an hour under the Naval Administration; and

17           **WHEREAS**, during the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) in  
18 1963, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi began working as a Budget  
19 Analyst for the Government Headquarters and diligently improved his skills and  
20 knowledge to move up and soon after became the Treasurer of the Saipan Credit  
21 Union from 1966-1969; and

1           **WHEREAS**, when the Mariana Islands Housing Authority was established,  
2 the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was selected by the Small Business  
3 Administration from Honolulu to serve as the Credit Analyst, from 1970-1972, for  
4 \$1.35 an hour; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was transferred  
6 back to the TTPI Government Headquarters to serve as the Housing Officer, from  
7 1973-1977, during which time, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was also  
8 appointed to serve as a member of the Health Planning Council; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was recognized in  
10 the Carolinian community as an intelligent advocate who fought hard for the future  
11 of the Northern Mariana Islands. His selfless devotion to the people motivated  
12 others to encourage him to run for public office for the First Northern Marinas  
13 Commonwealth Legislature where he successfully gained the overwhelming  
14 support of his beloved people in Election District 4 and humbly served in the House  
15 of Representatives from 1978-1979 as the Chairman for Resources and  
16 Development; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi won the vote of  
18 confidence of his community for an additional three consecutive legislative terms  
19 and served as the Chairman for Resources and Development of the Third Northern  
20 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature from 1982-1983; a member of the Fourth  
21 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature from 1984-1985; and garnered the  
22 recognition and respect of his legislative colleagues when he served as the Speaker

1 of the House of Representatives of the Fifth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
2 Legislature from 1986-1987; and

3           **WHEREAS**, after serving in the Naval Administration of the Trust  
4 Territory of the Pacific Islands and the initial stages of our great Commonwealth,  
5 the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi made his transition into the private  
6 sector when he was invited by his dear friend, Larry Hillblom, to serve as a Director  
7 for the United Micronesia Development Association (UMDA) in 1988.

8           **WHEREAS**, the UMDA is a Saipan-based investment firm established  
9 during the Trust Territory and owned by over 1,200 Micronesian shareholders,  
10 whose goal is to support and improve communities through investments made in  
11 the tourism, telecommunications, and airline industries of Micronesia

12           **WHEREAS**, during his tenure at UMDA, the late Honorable Jose  
13 Rebuenog Lifoifoi also served as the Vice President of Government Relations from  
14 1998-February 2007; and in March 2007, he became the UMDA Chairman, which  
15 he continued to serve until his untimely passing on May 18, 2020; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi's love for the  
17 Commonwealth remained close to heart when he served during the Third CNMI  
18 Constitution Convention in 1995 as Chairman for Land and Personal Rights; and

19           **WHEREAS**, from 1995-2000, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi  
20 served as a Senior Advisor for both the CNMI and Micronesia to Guam Governor  
21 Carl T. Guterrez (1995-2000) and CNMI Governor Pedro Tenorio (1998-2000);  
22 and

1           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi occupied  
2 numerous pivotal community roles in the Commonwealth and throughout  
3 Micronesia such as: Saipan Chamber of Commerce Treasurer (1969-1971);  
4 Whispering Palms Country Club Treasurer (1972-1974); Member of the Covenant  
5 Section 902 Consultations (1972-1974); Micro Pacific Inc. Board of Director  
6 (1990-1996); Marianas Cable Vision Board of Director (1991-2003); Pacific  
7 Marine and Industrial Corporation President (1991-2002); Island Cable TV- Chuuk  
8 Board of Director (1992-1998); Santa Remedios Parish Church Renovation  
9 Chairman (1992-1996); Bank of Saipan Board of Director (1995-2000); Triple L  
10 Corporation Chairman (1997-2013); Liquidating Trust of the Estate of Larry  
11 Hillblom (2000-2002); Bank of Saipan Board of Director (2002-2003); and Palau's  
12 Honorary Consul General to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
13 (October 2001-May 2020); and

14           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi was appointed to  
15 serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors for a total of 16  
16 years of which he served 14 years as the Chairman of the Board of Directors from  
17 May 2002-January 2006 and from March 2008-January 2019 where he played an  
18 instrumental role in the infrastructural development and service enhancement of the  
19 Commonwealth Ports Authority at a critical time when airline services became a  
20 huge challenge to and from the Commonwealth; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the life of the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi is a  
2           testament of exemplary accomplishments that have and continue to shape our entire  
3           Commonwealth as a whole; and

4           **WHEREAS**, throughout his over fifty (50) years of public service to the  
5           CNMI and various island nations of the Micronesian Region, the late Honorable  
6           Jose Rebuenog Lifoifoi established himself as a relentless public servant, a highly  
7           respected leader, and as a man of great perseverance; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the legacy and memory of late Honorable Jose Rebuenog  
9           Lifoifoi will continue to live on through his family, friends, and former colleagues  
10          and will serve as a beacon of light for current and future generations to come; and

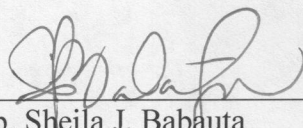
11          **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of  
12          Representatives of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
13          Legislature that the House honors and commemorates the late Honorable Jose  
14          Rebuenog Lifoifoi for his outstanding accomplishments and exceptional  
15          contributions to the economic and political development of the Commonwealth of  
16          the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to his  
17          bereaved family on his untimely passing; and

18          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
19          Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this  
20          resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Mrs.  
21          Cecilia H. Lifoifoi and the bereaved family of the late Honorable Jose Rebuenog  
22          Lifoifoi; Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern

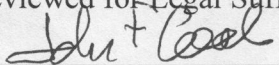
1 Mariana Islands; Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Senate President, Twenty-First  
2 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and the Honorable Gregorio  
3 “Kilili” Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives, 116th  
4 United States Congress.

Prefiled 6/11/2020

Date: 6/11/2020

Introduced by:   
Rep. Sheila J. Babauta

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel