

**TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

3RD REGULAR Session, 2025 Y.C. Comm. Res. No. 20- 02

A YOUTH CONGRESS COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION

To honor the life, legacy, and public service of the late
Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, 10th Governor of
the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
and to extend the deepest condolences of the CNMI
Youth Congress to his family and loved ones.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Congress, as the official youth-led legislative body
2 of the Commonwealth, joins the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in
3 mourning the passing of the Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, who departed
4 this life on July 23, 2025, on the island of Guam; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios was born on
6 August 22, 1955, on the island of Saipan, to the late Dr. Francisco Taman Palacios
7 and the late Maria Indalecio, and was raised with a strong foundation of humility,
8 service, and respect—values that shaped the remarkable life he would go on to lead;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, upon graduating from Mount Carmel School, he enrolled at
11 Portland State University in Oregon, where after receiving a bachelor of science
12 degree in Business Administration/Management. Subsequently, he returned home

1 and embarked on a career that would help to advance the future of the
2 Commonwealth; and

3 **WHEREAS**, prior to elected service, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio
4 Palacios worked diligently in the public sector, which included time served as the
5 Director for the Division of Fish & Wildlife under the Department of Lands &
6 Natural Resources; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios's career in
8 elected office began in 2002 when he was elected to a seat in the House of
9 Representatives of the 13th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, where
10 he represented the people of Election District 3 until 2010; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during his time in the lower house, the late Honorable Arnold
12 Indalecio Palacios served in many capacities, which culminated in him being
13 elected Speaker of the House of Representatives during the 16th Legislature; and

14 **WHEREAS**, upon leaving office, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio
15 Palacios returned to private life, but ultimately returned to public service in 2012
16 when he was nominated and confirmed to be the Secretary of the Department of
17 Lands & Natural Resources, a position he held for three years; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios made
19 a return to elected service when he was chosen to serve the Third Senatorial District
20 (Saipan/Northern Islands) in the Senate for the 19th and 20th Northern Marianas
21 Commonwealth Legislatures, ultimately becoming President of the Senate in the
22 last two years of his term; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in his time as both a representative and a senator, the late
2 Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios championed legislation and policies on
3 natural resources, environmental conservation, economic development, and federal
4 relations, also serving as a member of the Governor’s Section 902 consultation team
5 in 2016, assisting in forming the Commonwealth’s stance on labor, immigration,
6 and the US military buildup; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, he was elected as the 12th Lieutenant Governor of
8 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, alongside Governor Ralph
9 DLG. Torres, a seat he previously sought in 2009; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as lieutenant governor, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio
11 Palacios was instrumental in overseeing the Office of Planning & Development,
12 which was established through Public Law 20-20, a state clearinghouse aimed at
13 establishing development objectives, standards, and principles for the CNMI's
14 desired land use for residential, recreational, agricultural, commercial, and
15 industrial needs; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 2022, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios made
17 history by becoming the first independent candidate to be elected Governor of the
18 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and was sworn in on January 9,
19 2023 as the CNMI’s tenth chief executive; and

20 **WHEREAS**, with becoming governor, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio
21 Palacios made history by becoming the first person in Commonwealth history to

1 hold the offices of House Speaker, Senate President, Lt. Governor, and Governor;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, alongside his lieutenant governor, the Honorable David
4 Mundo Apatang, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios worked with all
5 branches of the government and community stakeholders to address many critical
6 issues affecting the Commonwealth; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios was not only a
8 statesman but a mentor and advocate for young people, continuously encouraging
9 youth involvement in public policy, education, environmental stewardship, and
10 cultural preservation, always encouraging them to live up to their potential, and
11 offering areas of advancement through scholarships, internships and youth
12 leadership initiatives; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios regularly
14 emphasized the importance of youth voice in shaping the future of the CNMI, and
15 stood as a strong supporter of the CNMI Youth Congress and the broader youth
16 community, reminding us that our ideas matter and that our leadership begins now,
17 not later; and

18 **WHEREAS**, aside from being a leader and statesman, the late Honorable
19 Arnold Indalecio Palacios was a devoted family man, a loving husband to the First
20 Lady Maria (Wella) Cabrera Sablan, a kind and caring father to Arnold Gerard,
21 Tiana, Nicole, and Eric; and a doting and giving grandfather; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in his passing, the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios
2 leaves behind a legacy of public service rooted in integrity, compassion, and an
3 unwavering dedication to our islands and its people; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the life of the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios
5 exemplified the highest ideals of public service—honesty, accountability, and
6 humility—and his legacy will forever inspire generations of youth to serve with
7 pride and purpose;

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Twentieth
9 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, that the Youth
10 Congress hereby commemorates and honors the life and legacy of the late
11 Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, 10th Governor of the Commonwealth of the
12 Northern Mariana Islands; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Youth Congress expresses its
14 most heartfelt condolences to First Lady Maria (Wella) Palacios, their children,
15 grandchildren, and the entire Palacios family during this time of loss, while also
16 expressing gratitude for sharing Governor Palacios with the people of the Marianas;
17 and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
19 designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original
20 copy of this Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution to Mrs. Maria (Wella)
21 Sablan Palacios, widow of the late Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
2 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
3 adoption of this commemorative resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified
4 copy to the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); the
6 Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President of the Senate (24th Northern Marianas
7 Commonwealth Legislature); the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the
8 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Honorable Kimberlyn
9 King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (119th United States
10 Congress).

Date: 08/16/2025

Introduced by: 
Sen. Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan