TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS

2ND SPECIAL Session, 2026 Y.C. Res. No. 20-16

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

To honor and commemorate the life, legacy, and distinguished contributions of the late Dr. Marifi A. Doculan, 2026 CNMI State Teacher of the Year, for her dedicated service to public education, and her lasting impact on the students and people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to extend the deepest condolences and gratitude of the Twentieth CNMI Youth Congress to her family, loved ones, colleagues, and students.

WHEREAS, the Twentieth Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress joins the students of Marianas High School and the people of the CNMI in mourning the passing of the late Dr. Marifi A. Doculan, a dedicated teacher who went beyond her teaching duties, turning her classroom into a home for many and instilling hope in public education throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan's dedication to her work inspired students to follow their dreams, stay curious, and remain "down to earth." Through her work, she introduced students to an abundance of STEM opportunities in the classroom, and the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan taught science at Marianas High School on Saipan, including chemistry, Advanced Placement chemistry, and Advanced Placement Physics 1. She stayed after school every single day for her

robotics team, her NASA TechRise team, and to help her students understand science and its applicability in the real world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan began teaching at Marianas High School in 2018 and spent approximately eight years helping students grow and succeed. During that time, she supported students in their education and encouraged them to explore opportunities in college, science, and other career fields; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan worked hard to continue her own education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of the Philippines, pursuing graduate studies in education, curriculum and instruction, and STEM education, and earning a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, specializing in Curriculum and Teaching, from Northcentral University in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan's dedication to teaching was recognized when she received the 2026 CNMI State Teacher of the Year award. This honor recognized her commitment to her students and the important work she did in public education; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan also received recognition for her work, including being named a finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2023, receiving the Distinguished STEM Educator Award from Teachers College, Columbia University, and receiving the Research Distinction Award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Endeavor Program for STEM Educators; and

WHEREAS, beyond her duties as a teacher, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan cared for every student she taught, transforming her classroom from a place for learning and preparing for the future into a home where students could grow as people and take chances they might never have taken without her encouragement. She cultivated hardworking, student-led teams in VEX World Robotics, the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, the NASA TechRise Student Challenge, and the Real World Design Challenge. Through these experiences, students worked together to solve problems and explore opportunities beyond their comfort zone; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan also advised several student organizations, including the Dolphins Robotics Club, Math Club, Coding Club, and STEM Opportunities and Readiness (SOAR) Club. Through these clubs, she helped students build their confidence, develop new skills, work as a team, and discover their interests; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan believed in encouraging students to ask questions, think for themselves, and understand how science connects to their everyday lives and culture. She helped students see that they could become scientists, inventors, and leaders if they continued to learn and work toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan possessed an extraordinary capacity to guide students through their daunting academic challenges, fostering a culture where academic struggle was not met with judgment, but with patience,

constructive guidance, and most especially encouragement that shaped how students approached learning; and

WHEREAS, through her unwavering dedication to her NASA TechRise, Dolphin Robotics, CNMI Rocketry, and Congressional App Teams, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan opened doors for students, regardless of prior experiences, taking time to mentor each student individually, unlocking their potential, and inspiring them to pursue ambitious careers in fields such as Aerospace Engineering, Energy Engineering, Education, and many others; and

WHEREAS, during times of communal hardship, including the aftermath of Super Typhoon Sinlaku, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan went above and beyond her duties as an educator, serving as a maternal figure who provided food, essential supplies, and steady emotional support, turning classrooms and extracurricular teams into a big safe, welcoming family; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan's profound personal investment in her students demonstrated the transformative power of a single educator, leaving a powerful legacy that inspires her former students to champion accessible public education and carry forward her spirit of selfless service; and

WHEREAS, through her work in science education and student mentorship, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan helped create opportunities for CNMI students to take part in STEM activities and competitions beyond the classroom, allowing them to learn from others and share their knowledge and skills with students from other places; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan showed how much of a difference a teacher can make in a community. By sharing her knowledge and helping students believe in their abilities, she helped prepare the next generation to face challenges, find solutions, and contribute to the future of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Dr. Marifi A. Doculan on October 12, 2026, represented a great loss to her family, loved ones, colleagues, students, the Marianas High School community, and the entire CNMI public education system; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Marifi A. Doculan's legacy will live on through the students she taught and mentored, the lessons she shared, and the curiosity and love of learning she encouraged. Her life reminds us that a teacher's impact does not end when a class is over, but continues through the lives of the students that teacher helps shape; and

WHEREAS, the Twentieth CNMI Youth Congress recognizes that teachers play an important role in shaping the future of our islands. By honoring Dr. Marifi A. Doculan, the Youth Congress also recognizes the importance of education, supporting young people, encouraging scientific discovery, and helping the next generation reach its goals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Twentieth Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress that the Youth Congress honors and remembers the life and legacy of Dr. Marifi A. Doculan, the 2026 CNMI State Teacher of the Year, for her passion in teaching, her contributions

to science education, and the difference she made in the lives of students throughout the Commonwealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth Congress extends its deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Dr. Marifi A. Doculan, as well as to her colleagues, students, and the entire Marianas High School community. The Youth Congress is grateful for the time, care, and dedication she gave to her students and the people of the Commonwealth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth Congress recognizes Dr. Marifi A. Doculan's efforts to encourage students to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and encourages young people throughout the CNMI to keep learning, asking questions, discovering new things, and working toward their goals while remembering the example she set; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original copy of this Youth Congress Resolution to the family of Dr. Marifi A. Doculan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President of the Senate (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); the

Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (119th United States Congress); the Honorable Maisie B. Tenorio, Chairwoman, 19th CNMI State Board of Education; and Mrs. Melanie S. Rdiall, Principal of Marianas High School.

Date: 11/14/2026 Introduced by: Montrey Germance
Senator Montrey T. Germance