

---

A RESOLUTION

Expressing the heartfelt sadness and condolences of the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia at the passing of Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug of the State of Yap.

1           WHEREAS, the late Master Navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug was  
2 born in 1932 and was 78 years old when he passed away on July 13,  
3 2010; and

4           WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was a native of the  
5 wonderful island of Satawal in the State of Yap; and

6           WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was chosen at a young  
7 age by his grandfather, a master navigator himself, to be a  
8 navigator for the island of Satawal; and

9           WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug began his formal  
10 training in traditional, non-instrumental, wayfinding methods for  
11 blue water voyaging early in his life, and at the age of 18, Mau  
12 Piailug was made a *palu* or master navigator; and

13           WHEREAS, in 1976, Master Navigator Mau Piailug stepped  
14 forward to captain the *H•k•le'a*, a traditional sailing canoe, on a  
15 2,500 mile voyage from Hawaii to Tahiti, using only the stars,  
16 sun, wind, birds and ocean currents to guide the crew; and

17           WHEREAS, the now famous 1976 expedition was organized by the  
18 Polynesian Voyaging Society to test the possibility of ancient  
19 seafarers' ability to travel that way through open ocean; and

20           WHEREAS, the success of the *H•k•le'a* expedition provided  
21 insight to those in academia studying Micronesian-Polynesian

---

1 culture and migration hypotheses, and reignited a strong interest  
2 in preserving traditional wayfaring navigation skills; and

3           WHEREAS, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was considered  
4 one of the last masters of traditional wayfaring navigational  
5 skills, and became a renowned and esteemed teacher of these skills  
6 in an effort to preserve the knowledge of traditional wayfaring  
7 from extinction; and

8           WHEREAS, in 1999, an Hawaiian nonprofit organization, *Nā*  
9 *Kalai Wa'a Moku*, started by two of his students, arranged for the  
10 expedition of a 54-foot voyaging canoe named *Makali'i* to  
11 become the first Hawaiian voyaging canoe to visit Micronesia; and

12           WHEREAS, the *Makali'i* voyage to Sawatal was named  
13 *E Mau/Sailing the Master Home*; the voyage was arranged to pay  
14 homage to Master Navigator Mau Piailug, and Mau Piailug sailed home  
15 aboard *Makali'i* as their honored guest in his last great ocean  
16 crossing; and

17           WHEREAS, in 2000, Master Navigator Mau Piailug was honored  
18 by the Smithsonian Institute at the National Museum of Natural  
19 History where the Smithsonian Secretary aptly summarized that "The  
20 rebirth of non-instrument navigation came about largely due to  
21 this man, Mau Piailug;" and

22           WHEREAS, in appreciation and recognition of Master Navigator  
23 Mau Piailug's contributions to teaching and preserving traditional  
24 wayfaring skills, in 2007 the people of Hawaii presented him with  
25 a double-hulled canoe, the *Alingano Maisu*; the *Alingano Maisu* was

---

1 sailed to Sawatal with the *H•k•le'a* in a voyage named *Ku Holo*  
2 *Mau/Sail On, Sail Always, Sail Forever*; and

3 WHEREAS, because of Master Navigator Mau Pailug's efforts  
4 and commitment, his significant and impressive knowledge and  
5 skills in traditional navigation will not vanish with his passing,  
6 but will continue to be found in the many students he taught and  
7 mentored, and the considerable legacy he leaves behind; now,  
8 therefore,

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the Sixteenth Congress of the Federated  
10 States of Micronesia, Fifth Regular Session, 2010, that the  
11 Congress hereby expresses its recognition of, and appreciation  
12 for, the many contributions made to Micronesian culture by Master  
13 Navigator Pius "Mau" Pialug during his lifetime; and

14 BE IN FURTHER RESOLVED that the Congress, on behalf of the  
15 people of the Federated States of Micronesia, wishes to express to  
16 the family and friends of the late Master Navigator Pius "Mau"  
17 Pialug, and to the people of Yap, its heartfelt sadness and  
18 condolences at his passing; and

19

20

21

22

23

24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

1 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated  
2 States of Micronesia, the Governor of the State of Yap and the  
3 family of the late Master Navigator Pius Mau Piailug.

4

5 Date: 9/20/10

Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir

Isaac V. Figir

6

7

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal

8

Joseph J. Urusemal

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24