

A RESOLUTION

Expressing the sincere gratitude and appreciation of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to Father Francis X. Hezel, SJ for the spiritual guidance, intellectual challenges and knowledge he has shared with others in the Federated States of Micronesia for the past 50 years.

1 WHEREAS, Father Francis X. Hezel, SJ first came to what was
2 then Truk district in the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific
3 Islands in 1963 to teach at Xavier High School as part of his
4 regency; and

5 WHEREAS, Father Hezel served at Xavier High School from 1969
6 to 1982 in various capacities, including teacher, department
7 chairman, principal and director; and

8 WHEREAS, while leading Xavier High School, Father Hezel was
9 responsible for the introduction of alumni organizations, a Board
10 of Directors, a major revision of the school's curriculum and
11 instituted popular retreats for junior and senior students; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1972 Father Hezel was instrumental in the
13 formation of the Micronesian Seminar, first at Xavier High School
14 and then later in Pohnpei and served as its director until 2012
15 and while director curated for and expanded the Micronesian
16 Seminar library, a specialized collection of 24,000 title on the
17 region with particular strengths in history and anthropology, and
18 organized as part of the library a photo collection of 80,000
19 historical images and a collection of over 700 films and videos on
20 Micronesia, and composed case studies on an almost yearly basis

1 for adult education programs in the villages on themes of
2 political status, economic development and family issues; and

3 WHEREAS, while serving on Chuuk, Father Hezel also ministered
4 to his congregation as Assistant Pastor for Weno, Chuuk From 1983
5 to 1992; and

6 WHEREAS, from 1987 until 1992 Father Hezel served as director
7 of St. Cecelia's School on Weno; and

8 WHEREAS, from 1992 until 1998 Father Hezel served as Regional
9 Superior for the Jesuits in the Caroline and Marshall Islands; and

10 WHEREAS, from 1999 until 2010 Father Hezel served as the Local
11 Superior of Jesuits on Pohnpei; and

12 WHEREAS, Father Hezel has written 12 books on the Micronesia
13 region, his latest being published by the University of Hawaii
14 Press in 2013, and has written scores of major monographs and
15 articles in popular and scholarly journals, which has helped
16 Micronesians to better understand their history and the challenges
17 faced by contemporary societies; and

18 WHEREAS, Father Hezel has been recognized for his scholarly
19 achievements by being awarded honorary doctorate degrees from the
20 University of Guam and Fordham University, where he earned his
21 bachelor's and master's degrees, along with bachelor's and
22 master's degrees from Woodstock College; and

23 WHEREAS, as a teacher, principal, director and priest, Father
24 Hezel has provided intellectual and spiritual guidance to many
25 generations of leaders from the Federated States of Micronesia,
26 Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and other

1 Pacific nations and territories; now, therefore,

2 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighteenth Congress of the Federated
3 States of Micronesia First Regular Session, 2013, that Congress
4 expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Father Francis
5 X. Hezel, SJ for the spiritual guidance, intellectual challenges
6 and knowledge that he has shared with others in the Federated
7 States of Micronesia for the past 50 years; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
9 resolution be transmitted to Francis X. Hezel.

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11 Date: 5/24/13

Introduced by: _____

Joseph J. Urusemal

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