



*The President*  
*Palikir, Pohnpei*  
*Federated States of Micronesia*

**PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION**  
**IN HONOR OF THE LATE FORMER SPEAKER OF CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF**  
**MICRONESIA, THE HONORABLE BETHWEL HENRY**

WHEREAS, it is with profound sadness that I announce officially and formally the passing of a founding father and a distinguished leader of this Nation, the former Speaker of the FSM Congress Bethwel Henry;

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry served the full duration of the Congress of Micronesia from 1964 to 1979, served one session as Floor Leader in the First Session of the House of the Representatives, as Speaker of the House in the Second Session in 1966, and was reelected every two years thereafter;

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry served the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia as its first Speaker from May 1979 up to May 1987, and served the 1990 FSM Constitutional Convention as Chairman of the Committee of Judiciary and Governmental Functions;

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry also served in numerous capacities at State and Municipal levels of government, including Speaker, Vice Speaker, Chairman of the Political Committee and Chairman of the Legislative Charter Revision Committee of the Ponape District Legislature, Vice Chairman of the Pohnpei State Constitutional Convention, Vice Chairman of Pohnpei Housing Authority, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Kolonia Town Constitutional Convention, and Vice Chairman of Kolonia Development Authority;

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry served as a board member and chairman of the FSM Social Security Administration, a former FSM Post Master General from 1988 up to 2007, and up to the date of his passing, a member of the Joint Committee on Compact Review and Planning (JCRP);

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry was active in the church and his community, having served as President of Pohnpei State Christian Endeavor Society, an Ordained Minister and Senior Pastor of Kolonia-Kapinle UCC Church, and President of Pohnpei State Citizens Association;

WHEREAS, the late former Speaker Henry attended Mwoakilloa Elementary School, Pohnpei Intermediate School, Mid-Pacific Institute in Honolulu, Lahainaluna Technical High School in Maui, and the University of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, it is without hesitation that the late former Speaker Henry served this Nation with unquestionable leadership, loyalty and integrity, and he shall be remembered for his important role in the founding of our constitutional government; and

WHEREAS, this Proclamation bears the heartfelt condolences and a sense of gratitude of the people of the entire nation to the family, relatives, friends and colleagues of the late former Speaker Henry whose memory reflects not only his great accomplishments as one of our nation's founding fathers and as a national leader, but also his kindness, compassion and dedication to fellow citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, I, David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, do hereby proclaim a national mourning period in honor of the late former Speaker Bethwel Henry. The National Flag of the Federated States of Micronesia shall be displayed at half-mast following this official proclamation for three consecutive days or up to the day of the State Funeral whichever occurs later. The date and details for the State Funeral will be announced officially once available.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand on this 17 day of December 2020, in Palikir, Pohnpei.

David W. Panuelo  
President