

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**NOVEMBER 25, 2025**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025**

**H. Res. 24-17**

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**A HOUSE RESOLUTION**

To honor, commend, and memorialize the life and legacy of the late Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his distinguished public service, steadfast leadership, athletic and maritime accomplishments, and enduring contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to extend the Legislature's deepest condolences and prayers to his wife, children, grandchildren, friends, and the entire Benavente family.

1           **WHEREAS**, the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was born on April 21,  
2           1959, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to proud parents  
3           †Roman Manahane Benavente and †Dolores Tenorio Benavente; and

4           **WHEREAS**, he was a proud graduate of Mount Carmel School, where he  
5           first developed the values of faith, service, and community that shaped his  
6           exemplary life; and in 2002, his alma mater honored him with the Distinguished  
7           Graduate Award in recognition of his achievements and continued support for  
8           Catholic education; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente dedicated his life  
10          to serving the people of the Commonwealth with integrity, humility, and

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1     unwavering commitment, earning the respect and admiration of generations of  
2     public servants; and

3             **WHEREAS**, his distinguished public service began with his election in 1990  
4     to the Seventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, representing Saipan  
5     Election District II, and continued through the Twelfth Legislature; during this  
6     time, he served as Vice Speaker of the Eighth Legislature and as Speaker of the  
7     Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Legislatures, guiding landmark measures that  
8     strengthened the Commonwealth’s economy, infrastructure, and education; and

9             **WHEREAS**, in 2002 he was elected Lieutenant Governor of the  
10    Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, serving honorably under  
11    Governor Juan N. Babauta until 2006; and afterwards returned to the House of  
12    Representatives as a member of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Legislatures, where  
13    he chaired key committees and served as Minority Leader; and

14            **WHEREAS**, upon his retirement from the Legislature on July 16, 2011, after  
15    more than nineteen years of elected service, Mr. Benavente was widely recognized  
16    as one of the Commonwealth’s most experienced and respected statesmen; and

17            **WHEREAS**, his public service extended beyond the Commonwealth into  
18    regional affairs, including his service as Honorary Consul of the Federated States  
19    of Micronesia to the CNMI beginning in 2018, his role in establishing the Pacific  
20    Islands Development Bank (PIDB), and his long-standing involvement with the  
21    Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), through which he strengthened

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1 inter-island cooperation and championed Pacific-led growth and good governance;  
2 and

3       **WHEREAS**, a passionate advocate for environmental stewardship, he  
4 championed marine conservation and authored the Commonwealth’s landmark  
5 shark-protection legislation, earning regional and international recognition,  
6 including acknowledgment by the PEW Environment Group for his leadership in  
7 advancing shark preservation in the Pacific; and

8       **WHEREAS**, beyond public office, Mr. Benavente was one of the  
9 Commonwealth’s most accomplished athletes, a baseball catcher and nine-time  
10 consecutive All-Star, as well as an avid golfer whose sportsmanship and dedication  
11 inspired many; and

12       **WHEREAS**, he was also a long-time member of the Saipan Fishermen’s  
13 Association and a two-time Grand Champion of the Saipan International Fishing  
14 Tournament, reflecting his deep connection to the sea and the community of  
15 fishermen who shared in his passion; and

16       **WHEREAS**, in every capacity—as a public official, athlete, fisherman,  
17 husband, father, grandfather, and friend—the late Diego T. Benavente embodied  
18 humility, service, perseverance, and devotion to the people he loved and served;  
19 and

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1           **WHEREAS**, on November 20, 2025, the Commonwealth of the Northern  
2 Mariana Islands mourned the loss of this extraordinary leader whose life of service  
3 leaves a profound and lasting legacy; and

4           **WHEREAS**, he is survived by his beloved wife, Vicky; his children, his  
5 cherished grandchildren; and his extended family, who carry forward his values,  
6 his spirit of service, and the love he so generously shared; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives recognizes the deep grief felt  
8 throughout the Commonwealth and joins the community in extending heartfelt  
9 condolences to the Benavente family during this time of loss; and

10           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of  
11 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
12 Legislature hereby honors, commends, and memorializes the late Honorable Diego  
13 Tenorio Benavente for his lifetime of distinguished public service, athletic  
14 achievement, maritime contributions, and the immeasurable impact he has left upon  
15 the Commonwealth; and

16           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the House of Representatives extends  
17 its collective prayers, sympathy, and deepest condolences to his wife Vicky, his  
18 children, grandchildren, and the entire Benavente family, in recognition of his  
19 extraordinary life, courage, and devotion to the people of the Commonwealth; and

20           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this

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1 Resolution and thereafter, the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the  
2 Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente and Family; the Honorable David M.  
3 Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the  
4 Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth Northern  
5 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds,  
6 CNMI Delegate to the 119th United States Congress; the Honorable Ramon “RB”  
7 B. Camacho, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan; the Honorable Edwin P. Aldan,  
8 Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan; the Honorable Aubry M.  
9 Hocog, Mayor of the Municipality of Rota; the Honorable Valentino N. Taisacan,  
10 Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; and to the members of the Twenty-Fourth  
11 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Prefiled: 11/6/2025

Date: 11/05/2025

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Roy C.A. Ada  
/s/ Rep. Julie M.A. Ogo  
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. Aldan  
/s/ Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr.  
/s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao  
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente  
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores  
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores  
/s/ Rep. Thomas J. DLC. Manglona  
/s/ Rep. Malcolm J. Omar  
/s/ Rep. Raymond U. Palacios  
/s/ Rep. Elias J.M. Rangamar  
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

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/s/ Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas

/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.

House Legal Counsel

Date: \_\_\_\_\_