

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025**

**SEN. COMMEMORATIVE RES. NO. 24-05**

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**A SENATE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION**

To recognize and commend the Northern Marianas Football Association for its steadfast contributions to the sports community of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on occasion of the association's 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

1           **WHEREAS**, the members of the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
2 Commonwealth Legislature are pleased to acknowledge and honor associations within the  
3 Commonwealth that remain devoted to promoting sports and physical wellbeing for the  
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA) came  
6 from humble beginnings with a story that is built on the passion and commitment from  
7 dedicated individuals behind the association to provide and nurture a thriving soccer  
8 community for the CNMI; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the NMIFA's mission is to foster a positive sports culture and way of  
10 life in the Northern Mariana Islands by providing a professionally structured football  
11 organization that welcomes and supports players of all skill levels, age, and genders. The  
12 association's vision is to use soccer's influence in the CNMI to encourage people of all  
13 ages to lead healthier lifestyles, ultimately making the Northern Mariana Islands a better  
14 place to live, learn, and play. From grassroots programs to elite player development,  
15 NMIFA's approach is not only to enhance players' talents and skills, but also to deliver  
16 valuable life lessons beyond the field, breaking down barriers and inspiring every player  
17 to pursue their dreams; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the NMIFA was established in 2005 as a non-profit organization to  
19 serve as the sole organizer of soccer in the CNMI. Before the formation of NMIFA, soccer

1 was played loosely by approximately 100 youth and men. Starting with over 250  
2 registrations in its first season catered for youth players, the NMIFA quickly expanded and  
3 began its women's and men's leagues. By 2007, the NMIFA became an Associate Member  
4 of the East Asian Football Federation (EAFF). In 2008, the NMIFA received full  
5 membership to the EAFF, and continued to widen its reach by starting an Interscholastic  
6 Soccer League for elementary students. Every year, the NMIFA sent teams to international  
7 EAFF sanctioned competitions. In 2009, the NMIFA became an Associate Member of the  
8 Asian Football Confederation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Boys U15 National Team won the CNMI's first national  
10 team victory in an international competition at the EAFF U15 Youth Tournament against  
11 Macau. The NMIFA's teams continued to hone their skills and participated in multiple AFC  
12 and EAFF events. In 2013, the Boys U14 claimed the CNMI's first AFC win. In 2014, the  
13 NMI Men's and Women's National Teams recorded double victories against Macau in the  
14 EAFF East Asian Cup Preliminary Round; and

15 **WHEREAS**, after years of active participation as an Associate Member, the  
16 NMIFA was admitted into the AFC as an Ordinary Member in 2020. The NMIFA  
17 continues to work closely with the AFC to develop soccer and involve new segments of  
18 players in the CNMI; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, the NMI Soccer Training Center opened its doors to the  
20 community, offering two pitches, spectator seating, evening access, and offices and  
21 training rooms. In 2022, an additional full-sized pitch was added to the facility. In 2025,  
22 the NMIFA completed additions to the facility, a training room, a changing room, and a  
23 conference room; and

24 **WHEREAS**, local referees and coaches were regularly trained to raise the technical  
25 skills in the program. The NMIFA undertakes licensing training for soccer coaches and  
26 referees. It offers coaches with local clinics, workshops, and educational courses locally  
27 and during international events, producing 205 licensed coaches so far. The NMIFA  
28 conducts multiple referee courses throughout the year focusing on both certification and

1 refresher training to develop and maintain its officiating standards, while providing  
2 opportunities for advancement and career development; and

3       **WHEREAS**, the NMIFA has developed skilled players to form the NMI National  
4 Teams that embody the passion and determination of the islands through rigorous year-  
5 round training and competitions. The NMIFA has hosted or participated in total 139 local  
6 and international competitions in the span of 20 years. The association’s National Teams  
7 have proudly carried the NMI flag in these competitions held in 23 countries and 44 cities  
8 globally. NMIFA is proud to record a total of 20 wins and 10 draws in competitions for  
9 youth and adults; and

10       **WHEREAS**, since 2005, NMIFA's total registered players have consistently  
11 grown, and today, there are over 1,500 registered male and female players ranging from  
12 youth to veterans—making soccer the largest organized sport in the CNMI and since the  
13 beginning, the NMIFA has remained committed to growing women’s participation by  
14 providing equal opportunities in all aspects of the sport; and

15       **WHEREAS**, NMIFA’s commitment to high standards in youth soccer was  
16 reaffirmed through the renewal of its AFC Grassroots Charter Bronze Membership. This  
17 prestigious recognition validates the association’s systematic and inclusive approach to  
18 grassroots development. This renewal reflects its dedication to not only growing in  
19 numbers but also in quality, structure, and long-term impact. In 2025, the NMIFA was  
20 recognized for its work in developing its grassroots program by being shortlisted in the  
21 prestigious AFC President’s Recognition Award for Grassroots Football in the Bronze  
22 Category; and

23       **WHEREAS**, the NMIFA values the importance of social responsibility and  
24 contributing positively to the community that has embraced us through the years. The  
25 NMIFA has developed strong partnership with the CNMI Public School System in  
26 managing the Interscholastic Soccer League and providing coaching clinics through the PE  
27 Support Program. Every year, the NMIFA also participates in the Marianas March Against  
28 Cancer to help in their fundraising efforts; and

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1           **WHEREAS**, the NMIFA’s 20<sup>th</sup> Year anniversary in 2025 is a celebration of 20  
2 years of passion, purpose and promise to continue making the Marianas a better place to  
3 live, learn, and play;

4           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth  
5 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature hereby joins the people of the  
6 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in recognizing the Northern Mariana  
7 Islands Football Association for its unrelenting acts of service to the Commonwealth sports  
8 community on occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary; and

9           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall certify and  
10 the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution, and  
11 thereafter the Senate Clerk shall transmit certified copies to the Northern Mariana Islands  
12 Football Association; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the CNMI; the  
13 Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and the  
14 Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives  
15 Washington, 119<sup>th</sup> United States Congress.

Date: 11/06/2025

Introduced By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Senator Karl R. King-Nabors