August 22, 1955 - July 23, 2025



# +Arnold Indalecio PALACIOS

10th Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

# *In Memoriam* **The Honorable**

## Arnold Indalecio Palacios

Tenth Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands August 22, 1955 - July 23, 2025



### He now joins his:

### Parents:

†Dr. Francisco T. & †Maria I. Palacios

#### Parents-in-Law:

†Felipe C. & †Joaquina C. Sablan

### His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: First Lady Maria (Wella) S. Palacios

### **Children & Grandchildren:**

Arnold Gerard S. Palacios & Nichole Benitez (Naiyah, Michael, Rogelio, Audibella, Hilda) Nicole P. & Billy King (Carter, Capri, Calista)

Tiana P. & Jayvan Tarkong (Aleiyah & Eli) Eric S. Palacios & Edward Concepcion (Oaklee)

### **Reared Daughter:**

Donna M. & Mark W. Flores & Family

He will also be missed by numerous family members & close friends.

### **Brothers, Sisters, & In-Laws:**

†Rex I. Palacios & Family
Mark I. & Bernadita C. Palacios & Family
†Lars I. & Rose Palacios & Family
Lambert I. & Rita S. Palacios & Family
Allen I. Palacios & Family
†Raymond I. Palacios & Ruby R. Baker & Family
Frank I. & Claudia P. Palacios & Family
Mary Ann P. & Fernando Soto & Family
Thomasa P. & †James M. Mendiola & Family
†John Paul I. Palacios & Esther Manglona & Family
Eva I. Palacios & Family
Octavius I. Palacios
Alexander I. Palacios
Albert & Agnes Taitano

Manuel C. & Margarita G. Sablan †Dolores S. & John G. Moore & Family Nieves S. & Jose C. Tomokane & Family Lourdes C. Sablan & Family Asuncion S. & Joaquin T. Quitugua & Family Felipe C. & Rebecca K. Sablan & Family Trinidad S. & Juan D. Diaz & Family

#### **Aunt:**

Thomasa P. & Milton Coleman & Family

This booklet is a tribute to the life and legacy of Governor Arnold I. Palacios, whose leadership and service touched the lives of many across the Marianas and beyond.

# A Message from the Family of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

On behalf of our entire family, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has reached out with prayers, condolences, and reflections on the life and legacy of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and brother, Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

Your kindness and support during this difficult time have brought us comfort and strength. We were especially moved by the residents who lined the roadways to offer their quiet farewells as Arnold's remains made their way to the funeral home on Saturday. Your presence reminded us of the deep connection he shared with the people of these islands.

We are especially thankful to Governor David Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis Mendiola for their steady leadership and support during this time of transition. We also extend our appreciation to Governor Lou Leon Guerrero and Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio of Guam; the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and Joint Region Marianas; the medical teams at Guam Regional Medical City and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation; and all who have provided care, comfort, and support.

We also wish to express our sincere thanks to all CNMI government agencies and personnel who played a role in honoring Arnold's memory and assisting our family. Your coordination, dedication, and respect have meant so much to us during this time.

Arnold dedicated his life to serving the Commonwealth. While he championed many policies and initiatives, it was his deep and personal connection with people across the Marianas that truly defined his legacy. He cared deeply, listened intently, and worked tirelessly to make a difference in the lives of others.

From the bottom of our hearts—Si Yu'us Ma'ase', Ghilisow, and thank you.

With Love and Appreciation,

First Lady Wella Palacios & the Family of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

































### In Honor of Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios





The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios served as the 10th Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, serving alongside Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang from January 2023 – July 2025.

He previously served as the 12th Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, serving alongside Governor Ralph DLG. Torres from January 2019 to January 2023. As Lt. Governor, he oversaw the Office of Planning and Development, the Office of Grants Management, and the CNMI's permitting agencies and led policy initiatives on government efficiency, business permitting processes, and regulatory functions. He also played an active role in the CNMI's relationship with the Federal Government with discussions on labor viability and proposed military projects in the Marianas.

Governor Palacios also served as the Senate President during the 20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature from January 2017 to January 2019 and as Senate Vice President during the 19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature from January 2015 to January 2017. He has served four terms in the House of Representatives and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives during the 16th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature from January 2008 to January 2010. He also served as the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources from February 2012 to January 2015.

During his time in the Legislature, he championed legislation and policies on natural resources, environmental conservation, economic development, and federal relations. He was a member of the Governor's Section 902 Consultation team in 2016, when he helped articulate the CNMI's position on labor, immigration, and US military buildup proposals. As Senate President, he created the Office of Planning and Development, which establishes development objectives, standards, and principles for the CNMI's desired land use for residential, recreational, agricultural, commercial, and industrial needs.

Born on August 22, 1955, Lt. Governor Palacios was born on Saipan and attended Mt. Carmel School. He attended Portland State University in Oregon and earned his bachelor of science degree in Business Administration/Management.



### Commonwealth State Funeral

In Honor of the Late Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios

Saturday - August 2, 2025 Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center

9:00 AM - Ceremony Commences

Presentation of Colors – NMI Commonwealth Color Guard U.S. National & CNMI Anthems

Department of Public Safety Choir

**Solemn Mourning Remarks on Behalf of the People** 

Honorable Governor David M. Apatang

## Memorial Tributes Presented to First Lady Wella Sablan Palacios & Family

- · Governor David M. Apatang & Lt. Governor Dennis S. Mendiola
- Guam Governor Lou Leon Guerrero
- CNMI Delegate Kimberlyn King-Hinds
- DOI Assistant Secretary for Insular and Int'l Affairs Angel A. Demapan
- United States Navy Rear Admiral Josh Lasky Commander, Joint Task Force-Micronesia
- Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors & Senators
- House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez & Representatives
- Chief Justice Alex C. Castro & Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja NMI Supreme & Superior Courts
- · Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona U.S. District Court for the NMI
- Saipan Mayor & Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council
- Tinian Mayor & Municipal Council
- Rota Mayor & Municipal Council
- Northern Islands Mayor
- Lion's Club International District 204
- CNMI Youth Congress

Retiring of Colors
Adjournment



### Commonwealth State Funeral

In Honor of the Late Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios

Saturday - August 2, 2025

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center

8:00 AM

Reception of †Governor Arnold I. Palacios at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center

9:00 AM

**Ceremony Commences** 

10:15 AM

Procession to Mt. Carmel Cathedral

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Risponso Followed by Public Viewing & Last Respects

3:00 PM

Mass of Christian Burial

4:30 PM

Motorcade and procession to Marpi Public Cemetery for interment, with 21-gun salute honors













July 30, 2025

Mrs. Maria Palacios Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

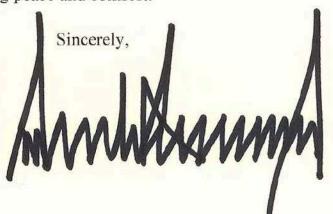
Dear Wella,

The First Lady and I were saddened to learn of the loss of your incredible husband, Arnold, and send our deepest condolences.

Your husband truly embodied the very best of the American spirit through his determination, impact on his community, and love for our Nation. Throughout his life, he positively influenced the lives of countless individuals. His love for you, your wonderful children, and the people of the Northern Marianas will forever endure.

While no words can provide comfort during this terrible time, please know that your entire family will remain in our prayers.

May God hold Arnold in his loving arms, and may His grace grant you and your family abiding peace and comfort.





With heavy hearts and solemn reverence, we dedicate our joint memorial tribute in lasting memory of the Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios—a steadfast public servant, a visionary leader, and a beloved son of the Northern Mariana Islands. We are immensely privileged to have known a man who dedicated his life for his islands and people he so loved.

Governor Palacios unequivocally devoted his life to uplifting our people, always grounded in humility, guided by principle, and driven by an unshakable belief in the promise of a better tomorrow for every family in Luta, Tini'an, Sa'ipan, and the Northern Islands. His decades of service—beginning in the Department of Natural Resources, the Commonwealth Legislature in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, and most recently the Office of the Governor—were anchored by his quiet strength and courage in the face of adversity and desire to improve the quality of life of the people he committed to serve and our Commonwealth as a whole. Vivid in our mind is his unquestioned integrity and true love for his people, whom he considered a lifetime privilege to serve. His long public service is a testament to the belief he held that public office was a public trust entrusted in him to lift the lives of everyone and not just a select few. We will remember him for this profound legacy.

Though he left us too soon, his legacy endures in the vision he labored hard to set and achieve, the policies he shaped, the bridges he built, and the undying hope of a better quality of life he inspired across generations. He faithfully lived by his parents' teaching to uplift one's life no matter the challenges to unselfishly help and be charitable to others. He carried the voices of our people to every table he sat at and told their lifetime stories of successes and challenges and asked for more all for the purpose of making our people's lives easier. He continued his people's fight in protecting and preserving their self-determination as one people of the Marianas for our current and future generations.

First Lady Wella Sablan Palacios and Family, we extend our deepest sympathies and boundless gratitude for sharing the love of your life—Arnold—with the people of the Northern Marianas. We, along with our entire Commonwealth, mourn and stand with you in this very difficult time of loss. May the late Governor Palacios eternally rest in the House of our Lord God.

Taddung na Rispetu, Ginefli'i', yan Guinaya,

David M. Apatang Denniz C. Mendiola Governor Lt. Governor

#### KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

### TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### Congress of the United States Bouse of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-5201

#### **VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEACTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

#### SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX; AND CAPITAL ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONTRACTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

August 2, 2025

Dear family, friends, and loved ones of our late Governor Arnold I. Palacios,

I join you and so many across our community in mourning the loss of Governor Arnold Palacios. The depth of this sorrow speaks to the depth of his presence in our lives. For generations of Commonwealth residents, he was not just a public servant but a steady and familiar figure whose life's work touched every corner of these islands. Even those who never met him have felt the impact of his leadership.

In this time of reflection, many will rightly celebrate his contributions to public life and the quiet strength he brought to government. But we must also hold space for the personal grief of the family who knew him first and best, not as a governor but as a husband, father, brother, and grandfather. His public service was rooted in the support and love he drew from them.

To his siblings, to his children Arnold, Nicole, Tiana, and Eric, and most especially to his wife Wella and his grandchildren, I cannot truly understand your loss, but I hold you in my heart. Your grace and devotion through the years made his service possible, and for that we owe you our deepest gratitude.

As we remember his life, let us also recommit ourselves to the values he carried with him — humility, steadiness, and service to something greater than ourselves. Governor Palacios's spirit will remain with us, and within the story of these islands. May we honor him not only in memory but through our continued efforts to care for this place he so loved.

With deepest sympathy,

Kimberlyn King-Hinds Member of Congress



On this solemn occasion, the Members of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature join the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to pay humble tribute to the life and legacy of †Honorable Amold Indalecio Palacios—a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, a former President of the Senate, a former Lieutenant Governor, and the tenth Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

During his twelve years in the Legislature, †Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios was not only a dedicated public servant but also a sought-after mentor for advice and guidance on critical issues facing the Legislature. His straightforwardness and candid demeanor left a significant impact, earninghim the admiration and respect of his colleagues. His firm leadership, witty humor, and passionate commitment to serving his people will resonate in the minds of legislators and staff who served alongside him, and his memories will carry on within the halls of the Legislature. He was a true statesman who laid the groundwork for fellow legislators and future leaders of the Commonwealth.

On behalf of the Members of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, we extend our deepest gratitude to First Lady Wella, their children and their families: Arnold Gerard "AG" and Nichole, and their children: Naiyah, Michael, Rogelio, Audibella, and Hilda; Billy and Nicole, and their children: Carter, Capri, and Calista; Jayvan and Tiana, and their children: Aleiyah and Eli; and Eric and Edward and their child Oaklee, for their unwavering support of their husband, father, and grandfather, which allowed him to serve the people of the Commonwealth.

As Members of the Legislature, we recognize the genuine sacrifices your family has made over the years. May you find solace in the lasting legacy he has left behind as a humble, respected, and faithful son of the Marianas, whose memories will guide us as we continue to navigate ourislands on the journey ahead.

May the soul of our late Governor, †Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, rest in peace.

Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez Speaker of the House of Representatives Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors

President of the Senate





## In Memory of the Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios



It is with profound sorrow and heartfelt respect that I join the people of Saipan and the entire Commonwealth in honoring the life and legacy of the late Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios. On behalf of my wife, Delia M. Camacho, our children, grandchildren, and the entire Office of the Municipality of Saipan, I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, our First Lady, Mrs. Maria "Wella" Sablan Palacios, his children, grandchildren, and the entire family.

Governor Arnold I. Palacios was a true statesman-steadfast, principled, and deeply devoted to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. His public service was not simply a career, but a lifelong commitment to the wellbeing of our people.

He led with humility and purpose, always grounded in the values of respect, integrity, and compassion.

Whether as a legislator, Senate President, Lieutenant Governor, or Governor, our late Governor Palacios brought wisdom and clarity to every role he fulfilled. He never wavered in his dedication to building a better future for the CNMI, especially for our children and grandchildren. His leadership reflected his deep love for our islands-its culture, its land, and most of all, its people.

To his family, please know that your loss is shared by an entire community. As we mourn the passing of a great leader, we also celebrate the life of a man who gave so much of himself to all of us. His legacy will forever be etched in the hearts of the people he served. He will be deeply missed.

May he rest in eternal peace, and may God grant comfort and strength to all who grieve.



Ramon "RB" Jose Blas Camacho Mayor, Office of the Municipality of Saipan



Edwin P. Aldan Mayor



Mayor Edwin Palacios Aldan Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan

### Message of Condolence to the Family and the People of the Commonwealth

On behalf of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, I extend our deepest condolences to the family of the late Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios and to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Governor Palacios was more than a leader—he was a dedicated public servant, a cultural advocate, and a unifying voice for the people of our islands. His legacy is one of humility, strength, and enduring commitment to the wellbeing of the Commonwealth and its future generations.

He did so much for the CNMI and for each of our islands—working with heart, with purpose, and with deep respect for our people and our way of life. Through his years of service, he helped the people of the CNMI with a deep sense of compassion and integrity, always striving to move our islands forward.

Throughout his distinguished career, Governor Palacios worked to promote good governance, protect our environment and heritage, and uplift every community across the Marianas. His leadership brought people together and strengthened the foundation of our Commonwealth.

As we reflect on his life and service, we honor his contributions and the example he set. His memory will continue to inspire us as we work together for a stronger, more united CNMI.

With sincere gratitude for his service and legacy, we say farewell and thank you for your exemplary leadership.

Edwin P. Aldan

Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan



### **Tribute Message**

On behalf of the Leadership and People of Rota, we extend our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of the late Governor, the Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios.

Governor Palacios was man of vision, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. His leadership was marked by a deep sense of gratitude, humility, and commitment to public service. He led not only with his words but his actions – always prioritizing the well-being of our people, the efficient use of our resources, and our ability to work and come together to ensure a Commonwealth fitting for our future generations.

Governor Palacios was a dedicated public servant whose leadership, wisdom, and love for the people of the CNMI left a permanent mark on our islands. His years of service—as a legislator, lieutenant governor, and ultimately as governor—were a testament to his enduring commitment to building a better future for all.

As we mourn his loss, we also honor his legacy – a legacy of resilience, unity, and hope. May we continue to build upon the foundation he helped lay, and may his memory forever be a guiding light for all wo serve.

Rest in Eternal Peace, your leadership and love for our people will never be forgotten.

With heartfelt sympathy,

Aubry M. Hocog Mayor of Rota







# In Memory of the Late + Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios

On behalf of my wife, our children, and the Northern Islands communities, we offer our prayers and sympathies to First Lady Maria "Wella" S. Palacios, their children, and the Palacios family. With heartfelt sympathy and prayerful hope, I extend my deepest condolences on the passing of +Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

+Governor Palacios was a devoted public servant and a man of faith whose life reflected the virtues of humility, compassion, and service. His leadership was not only rooted in civic duty but also in his moral compass, which he upheld with quiet strength and unwavering conviction. His enduring legacy as a servant-leader, grounded in faith and compassion, will continue to inspire our Commonwealth and guide future generations.

Let us remember +Governor Palacios not only as a leader, but as a faithful servant who walked humbly with God. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

VALENTINO N. TAISACAN JR. Mayor, Northern Islands



July 28, 2025

First Lady Wella S. Palacios c/o Office of the Governor P.O. Box 10007 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Condolences from the Judiciary on the Passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

Dear First Lady Palacios:

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition to serving as Governor, he dedicated decades of public service to the people of the Commonwealth, as Lieutenant Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, and as a long-standing advocate for good governance.

Throughout his years in public service, Governor Palacios was a leader and statesman whose life was dedicated to the well-being of the Commonwealth and its people. Governor Palacios worked closely with the Judiciary to ensure that the court's operations continued and people had access to justice. He recognized the vital role of an independent and functioning judicial branch. Governor Palacios met with Judiciary leadership, working to balance fiscal responsibility with the operational needs. His willingness to listen and collaborate allowed the courts to maintain essential services and retain key personnel during uncertain times. His partnership during these challenges reflected his respect for the separation of powers and his commitment to good governance.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to you, your family, and all those whose lives he impacted through his lifelong commitment to public service.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

Alexandro C. Castro CHIEF JUSTICE

John A. Manglona ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Roberto C. Naraja

Kenneth L. Govendo
ASSOCIATE DIDGE

)

PRESIDING JUDGE

Teresa K. Kim-Tenorio ASSOCIATE JUDGE Joseph N. Camacho ASSQOIATE JUDGE

Perry B. Inos

Lyfian A. Tenorio
ASSOCIATE JUDGE





The 20th Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress is deeply saddened by the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios. On behalf of all the youth of our islands, we would like to send our heartfelt condolences and prayers to First Lady Wella Palacios, their children, grandchildren, and the entire Palacios family during this very difficult time.

Governor Palacios was someone many of us looked up to—not just because of the position he held, but because of the kind of person he was. He always encouraged young people to speak up, get involved, and take pride in our identity as islanders. His leadership inspired us, and his legacy will live on in the future he helped build for the youth of the CNMI.

At the same time, we would also like to extend our warmest support and best wishes to Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis C. Mendiola as they now step into their roles to lead the Commonwealth. We know these are challenging times, but we believe in your leadership and your hearts for the people.

The Youth Congress remains committed to working with all our leaders to build a brighter, stronger future for our islands. We honor Governor Palacios' memory by continuing the work he believed in—and we stand ready to support the leaders who now carry that torch.

Sen. Vinnie Juan Q. Sablan Speaker of the Youth Congress



#### In Memory of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

A legacy that unites us all.

Governor Arnold I. Palacios made a lasting impact on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his vision, dedication, and deep commitment to our people. He was a champion for progress, always focused on building a brighter future for our islands.

A key part of his legacy was his drive to modernize our infrastructure—especially in the digital space. Governor Palacios recognized that strong connectivity was vital for economic growth, education, and opportunity in the CNMI. Early in his term, he created the Broadband Policy and Development Office (BPD), guiding our efforts to ensure every resident and business could access the digital world.

He worked closely with partners like Google and federal agencies to secure over \$200 million for broadband projects—laying fiber-to-the-home networks, launching workforce programs, boosting cybersecurity, and building new facilities to make the CNMI a digital hub for the Pacific. His leadership brought world-class connectivity to our islands and earning us recognition as the place where "America's Internet Begins."

Governor Palacios' vision was about more than technology—it was about empowering people and creating new opportunities for all. His leadership leaves a legacy of innovation, resilience, and hope for future generations.

The BPD extends our deepest condolences to his family and all who mourn his loss. We are committed to carrying forward his mission with honor and gratitude.

May Governor Palacios rest in peace. His vision for a connected CNMI will continue to guide us.

With respect and gratitude,

Broadband Policy and Development Office Office of the Governor (CNMI)















(O) cnmi\_bpd





Amidst the shock and disbelief over the sudden passing of the Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios on July 23, 2025 in Guam, and the grieve, sorrow and pouring tributes that followed the day after, we join hands with our municipal leadership colleagues in Tinian and Rota, united in silent meditation, reflection and prayer of strength, consolation, and peace to First Lady Maria "Wella" Sablan Palacios and children Arnold, Nicole, Tiana, and Eric, as the family process the passing and loss of a husband, father, and grandfather—a loss to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands! A loss of a leader that is also felt throughout our sister island of Guahan; our neighboring Pacific region; our partners in Asia; and throughout the corridors of power in the United States of America.

Today, we stand in solidarity with Lt. Governor Apatang, now tasked as governor in completing the administration's mission in "a clarion call to right the ship of state" outlined in Governor Palacios' January 8, 2023 inaugural speech at the multipurpose center in Susupe, Saipan.

Amidst the shock and disbelief over the sudden passing of the Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios on July 23, 2025 in Guam, and the grieve, sorrow and pouring tributes that followed the day after, we join hands with our municipal leadership colleagues in Tinian and Rota, united in silent meditation, reflection and prayer of strength, consolation, and peace to First Lady Maria "Wella" Sablan Palacios and children Arnold, Nicole, Tiana, and Eric, as the family process the passing and loss of a husband, father, and grandfather--a loss to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands! A loss of a leader that is also felt throughout our sister island of Guahan; our neighboring Pacific region; our partners in Asia; and throughout the corridors of power in the United States of America.

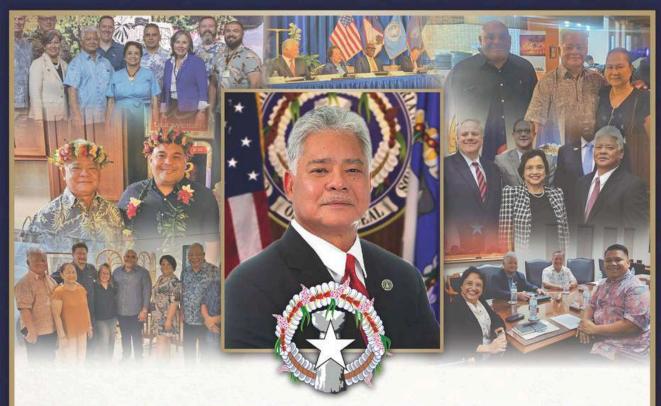
Today, we stand in solidarity with Lt. Governor Apatang, now tasked as governor in completing the administration's mission in "a clarion call to right the ship of state" outlined in Governor Palacios' January 8, 2023 inaugural speech at the multipurpose center in Susupe, Saipan.

Today, we also reflect on valued moments in shared legacy with Governor Palacios and Lt. Governor Apatang manifested in the historic iconic Municipality of Saipan complex ground breaking ceremony at the Saipan municipal administration property, a place where the longest-serving Saipan Mayor Vicente D. "Kilili" Sablan and past municipal councils delivered municipal services from Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. Today's modern municipal complex when completed will remain within walking connecting distances with the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku Courtyard, the United States Postal Services, and accessible to residents in the Saipan capital village of Chalan Kanoa and public service provided by elected municipality leaders and precinct two legislative representatives.

Together with Governor Palacios and Lt. Governor Apatang, the municipal leadership also initiated partnership with the Palacios-Apatang administration to transform the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku courtyard estate as the first public facility fully energized with non-fossilized power, and praised the governor and lt. governor as stewards of the environment, citing their support of the council's effort to make the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku courtyard estate be a model solarized public facility that could serve as a prototype in insular communities to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, reduce fossilized fuel dependence, and curb the expenditures of remote island territories on imported fossil fuels.

Finally, the municipality leadership dialogued with the Palacios-Apatang administration to enable a permanent commemorative memorial court of honor for the Marianas Marine Scouts and the Navajo Code Talkers ("code talkers", "true whispers"), in appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice by these two groups in The Battle of Saipan Operation Forager on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June to the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 1944, a project which gathered an assembly of community volunteers in former Governor Juan N. Babauta, former Rep. Juan Liling Reyes and local architect Herman B. Cabrera, among others.

Today, we share this platform in commemorative remembrance and tribute In Memoriam, and express Un Dunkulo Na Si Yuus Maase, Ghillisow Reemi, and Thank You, Honorable Servant Leader Arnold Indalecio Palacios and First Lady Wella and children for the support and sacrifices of public service by your husband and father.



A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE ON THE PASSING OF

# Governor Arnold J. Palacios

From Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero and Lieutenant Governor Joshua F. Tenorio

With heavy hearts, we offer our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios. Arnold was not only a respected leader and trusted partner, but he was a dear friend to Guam and a champion for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. He dedicated his life to public service, always placing the needs of his people above all else. His leadership was rooted in compassion, guided by integrity, and driven by a sincere desire to uplift every corner of his island.

Governor Palacios shared a lifelong connection with Guam as a proud graduate of Father Dueñas Memorial School Class of 1974. That connection shaped a relationship built on mutual respect, cultural pride, and a shared vision for the future of the Marianas. He was a unifying force who believed deeply in the power of partnership and always sought solutions that reflected our shared values. Through his work, he strengthened the bonds between our islands and left a legacy of leadership that will not be forgotten.

To First Lady Wella, their children, and the people of the CNMI, we extend our love, our prayers, and our full support during this time of sorrow. Governor Palacios leaves behind a legacy of service and a spirit of unity that will continue to inspire us all. Guam mourns with you, and we will forever honor the life and leadership of a true son of the Marianas.

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero

Maga'hågan Guåhan Governor of Guam John J. Omn Joshua F. Tenorio

Sigundo Maga låhen Guåhan Lieutenant Governor of Guam JAMES C. MOYLAN

228 Cawson House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-5301 (202) 225-1188

330 HERMAN CORTEZ AVENUE, SUITE 300 HAGATIA, GUAM 96910 (671) 922-6673

# Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-5301

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

July 29, 2025

To the Family of Governor Palacios & Our Brothers & Sisters in the CNMI.

It is with a heavy heart that I extend my deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Palacios, a true statesman, a devoted public servant, and a trusted friend to many.

Our islands, the CNMI and Guam, are bound by more than just a shared geography. We are connected by common values and a collective vision for our people's future. Governor Palacios embodied that connection. He was a champion for unity in the Pacific, never missing an opportunity to advocate for what was right, even when it wasn't easy. He reminded us that true leadership isn't about seeking the spotlight, but about showing up, doing the work, and always putting our people first.

He was a quiet force: steady, principled, and full of heart. I was honored to work alongside him, and even more honored to call him a friend.

As we mourn the loss of Governor Palacios, we also reflect on the example of leadership he leaves behind: one marked

by integrity and heart. His love for his community shaped every decision he made, and his legacy of service will continue to inspire generations to come. He was a true son of the islands, whose quiet strength and steady vision will continue to guide us forward.

To Arnold's family, may you find comfort in knowing the lasting impact he had on so many across our region and beyond.

Rest well, my friend. May your spirit live on in the people and the islands you loved so deeply.

Respectfully,

James C. Moylan Member of Congress





38<sup>TH</sup> GUAM LEGISLATURE – *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • Tel: (671) 969-6456, (671) 969-0628, (671) 969-6023 • email: speakerblas@guamlegislature.gov

July 28, 2025

### Mrs. Wella Palacios and Family Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands

### Dear First Lady and Family,

It is with deep sorrow and profound respect that I extend heartfelt condolences to you and your entire family on the passing of your beloved husband, the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios on behalf of the Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature.

We were truly saddened to learn of your husband and father's passing. His loss is not only a personal one for your family but is also felt deeply across the Marianas and among the many people whose lives he impacted through decades of public service. His calm yet determined presence, his unwavering sense of duty, and his compassionate leadership made him a respected figure throughout our region. He led with humility and conviction, always putting the people of the Commonwealth first and doing so with grace and dignity.

I had the privilege of knowing Governor Arnold as a statesman, but more importantly, as a man grounded in faith, integrity, and love for his family. He was never one to seek attention or accolades, but his accomplishments speak volumes about his commitment to building a better future for his people. From his time as a legislator to his service as Lieutenant Governor and Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands, your husband embodied the true spirit of servant leadership. He faced challenges with courage and embraced opportunities with a sense of hope and purpose that inspired those around him.

First Lady, we know that words offer little solace in moments such as these, but please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this incredibly difficult time. May you find strength in the cherished memories you built together, in the love that surrounds you now, and in the knowledge that Governor Arnold's spirit lives on through all those he touched. As you mourn the loss of a devoted husband, father, and leader, may you find comfort in celebrating the life he lived, and the enduring impact he made on all. We join the people of the Marianas in honoring his memory and in expressing our deepest sympathy for your loss.

May God bless you and your family and may Governor Arnold rest in eternal peace.

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.

Speaker

JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR KE KIA'ĀINA



July 28, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

To the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Jaime and I send our deepest condolences and warmest aloha to the family, friends and constituents of Governor Arnold Palacios, of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), who passed suddenly in Guam while receiving emergency medical treatment.

As an island Governor and longtime leader in government, he handled many of the same issues we deal with daily in Hawai'i, including environmental conservation, stewardship of our natural resources, economic development and federal and military relations. Well beyond welcoming the CNMI to FestPAC last year, our islands have been tied together for generations, and we share in our island neighbors' grief.

With aloha,

Josh Green, M.D.

Governor, State of Hawai'i

oh Green M.D.



July 28, 2025

The Honorable Governor David Apatang Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Apatang:

On behalf of the State of Arkansas, I am writing to express my sincere condolences for the death of Governor Arnold Palacios.

Governor Palacios' career was defined by service – first in the Commonwealth Legislature, then as Lieutenant Governor, and finally as Governor. Throughout his time in the public light, he made the interests of his constituents and his Commonwealth his top priority.

As Governor of Arkansas, I have come to know our state's Pacific Islander communities – one of the largest in the South – and learned about the cultural touchpoints many in that community share. I know it is a region that values community, tradition, and above all else, family. I can only imagine that, as a friend and colleague of the former Governor, you have felt his sudden death strongly.

I pray that in this time, you find comfort in your memories of Governor Palacios, and I ask that you remember the words that Jesus shared in his Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Our state is thinking of you and everyone who knew and loved Governor Palacios in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Huckabee Sanders Governor of Arkansas



### STATE OF GEORGIA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp GOVERNOR Marty A. Kemp FIRST LADY

July 29, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Apatang,

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the recent passing of Governor Arnold Palacios. We join you and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in mourning the loss of a dedicated and distinguished public servant.

Governor Palacios' resilience as a leader over the past three decades has certainly established an honorable legacy that will endure for the years to come.

Please share our condolences with former First Lady Wella Palacios and the rest of the Palacios family. They, along with the entire Commonwealth, will remain in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

God 3/245

Brian P. Kemp

Marty A. Kemp



### J. Kevin Stitt Office of the Governor State of Oklahoma

To the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

On behalf of the State of Oklahoma, we send our deepest condolences following the passing of Governor Arnold Palacios. Governor Palacios loved his people, he loved his home, and he gave so much of himself to both.

As fellow Americans, Oklahomans stand with you to honor his inspiring legacy. We pray for Governor Palacios' family, for the leaders carrying on his work, and for every citizen feeling the weight of this loss.

40

J. Kevin Stitt Governor



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LARRY RHODEN | GOVERNOR

July 31, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor David Apatang,

We offer our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Arnold Palacios. His time with us was too short, but his impact was immeasurable. It was my honor to see him at the Western Governor's Association event this year. I know he will be deeply missed.

We are wishing you strength and comfort through this time – especially as you step into this new role. Please know that we are here if you ever need anything.

During times like these, we are reminded of Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

We will continue to keep you and the rest of the Northern Mariana Islands in our thoughts and prayers.

Our deepest sympathy,

Larry Rhoden

Governor

Sandy Rhoden

First Lady



### REPUBLIC OF PALAU OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P.O. Box 6051, Palau, PW 96940 Tel. (680) 767-2403/2828 Fax. (680) 767-2424/1662 Email: president@palaupresident.info

July 29, 2025

To the Palacios Family & People of CNMI,

Governor Arnold Palacios was a dedicated statesman and a steadfast advocate for indigenous rights, reflecting the shared vision we hold across the Pacific.

The CNMI and Palau have walked parallel paths through history. Similar to our efforts in Palau, Governor Palacios was committed to uplifting indigenous voices and ensuring that our communities have a meaningful role in shaping local and regional futures. His dedication to sustainable fishing practices and marine resource management stood as a powerful example, echoing the values we deeply cherish in Palau. Governor Palacios believed, as I do, that our oceans and natural resources are a legacy and responsibility that we must protect with wisdom, unity, and foresight for generations to come.

Beyond our shared advocacies, he understood the essential balance between honoring cultural heritage and engaging meaningfully with regional partnerships and global challenges. His leadership was guided by a deep understanding: that our islands must be active participants on the world stage, while remaining rooted in the well-being and values of our people.

On behalf of the people of Palau, and from my wife Valerie, and our family, I extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Palacios. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to his beloved wife Wella, their children, and the entire Palacios family, as well as to the people of the CNMI. You have lost a dedicated leader, but a father, husband, and friend. Our hearts go out to you all.

Governor Palacios will be remembered not only for his leadership, but for his spirit of collaboration and his enduring belief that, together, our islands can safeguard our heritage. May his legacy continue to inspire us to strive for a more just, prosperous, and sustainable Pacific.

Surangel S. Whipps, In.
President of the Republic of Palau



### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT

KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941 TEL: (691) 320-2235/2204 FAX: (691) 320-2505

Stevenson A. Joseph Governor Herolyn S. Movick Lt. Governor

July 23, 2025

It is with deep sorrow and solemn respect that I, together with the Honorable Herolyn S. Movick, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Pohnpei, join leaders throughout the Marianas and across Micronesia in mourning the passing of the Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

On behalf of the people and government of the State of Pohnpei, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, First Lady Wella Palacios, to their family, and to the people of the CNMI as they grieve the loss of a devoted husband, father, and public servant.

Governor Palacios was a man of wisdom, integrity, and vision. His leadership in the Northern Marianas and across our region was marked by humility, principle, and an unwavering commitment to service. I first had the privilege of meeting him at the 26th Micronesian Islands Forum in Guam, where his voice helped shape important regional dialogue. More recently, in May of this year, I had the honor of calling on him at his office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. His warmth, hospitality, and dedication to unity in Micronesia left a lasting impression on me.

Governor Palacios's legacy will endure through the many lives he touched and the future he helped guide. His passing is a tremendous loss not only to the people of the CNMI, but to the Micronesian region as a whole.

Lieutenant Governor Movick and I join in prayer for strength, peace, and comfort for the Palacios family and all who mourn his passing.

With deepest sympathy.

Stevenson A. Joseph Governor of the State of Pohnpei



25 July 2025

Dear Acting Governor Apatang,

It was with deep sympathy to learn of the passing of Governor Arnold Palacios. On behalf of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, I extend our heartfelt condolences to you, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the family of Governor Palacios.

Governor Palacios dedicated his life to the service of the Commonwealth, demonstrating unwavering leadership and a deep commitment to the well-being of its citizens. His vision and dedication were instrumental in strengthening the bonds between our nations and fostering a spirit of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

The U.S. Pacific Fleet deeply valued our partnership with Governor Palacios and his administration. We recognize his contributions to regional security and stability, and we will remember his commitment to a prosperous and secure future for the Commonwealth.

During this time of mourning, please know that the thoughts and prayers of the men and women of the U.S. Pacific Fleet are with you and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

S. T. KOEHLER Admiral, U.S. Navy

Mr. David Apatang Acting Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building 12296 Pagan Loop Capitol Hill, Saipan

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950



### COMMANDER NAVAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

July 25, 2025

Office of the Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Dear People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

It is with great sorrow that Judy and I offer our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios. Our hearts go out to the entire CNMI community during this profound time of loss.

During my time as Commander of Joint Region Marianas and Joint Task Force Micronesia, I had the honor of working closely with Governor Palacios. His leadership, dedication to his people, and unwavering commitment to public service were always apparent. Governor Palacios approached every challenge with resolve and compassion, qualities that not only made him an exemplary leader but also a trusted partner in our shared work.

He was a man of integrity, vision, and strength, and his legacy will continue to resonate throughout the CNMI for generations to come. Judy and I both consider ourselves fortunate to have known him professionally and personally. His impact on the community, his guidance, and his friendship will never be forgotten.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. We stand with you in your grief, and we hope that you find strength in one another and in the remarkable example that Governor Palacios set in life.

Heartfelt condolences,

G. C. HUFFMAN

mm 6 /1/2

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy



### RDML Michael B. DeVore Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE

July 29, 2025

Palacios Family

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Palacios Family,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Governor. I join the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and all those whose lives he touched, in mourning the loss of a devoted leader and tireless public servant. I was privileged to have known him!

During my time as Commander of Joint Region Marianas, I had the honor of working alongside Governor Palacios. His unwavering support for the Department of Defense and our military personnel was matched only by his steadfast commitment to the people of the CNMI. He understood the unique balance between national security and community well-being, and he worked tirelessly to strengthen both.

Governor Palacios was a man of integrity, vision, and compassion. His partnership with the military services in the region helped build enduring bonds rooted in mutual respect and shared purpose. We are forever grateful for his leadership and his legacy of cooperation.

Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Governor Palacios' contributions will not be forgotten.

With deepest sympathy and respect,

Brent DeVore

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy

Former Commander, Joint Region Marianas



### **Commander, Joint Region Marianas**

29 July 2025

Dear Wella and Family,

It is with deepest sympathy that I write this letter to express my condolences to you on the passing of your Husband. I hope that during this sad time, you will find comfort in knowing that many friends are holding your family and you close in their prayers.

On behalf of all the men and women of Joint Region Marianas, please know we share in your grief.

If there is anything I can do to assist, please let me know. I will continue to keep you and your family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

1

B. W. MIETUS

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy



#### UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP BLAZ PSC 488 BOX 105 FPO AP 96537-0149

On behalf of the Marines, Sailors, and civilian personnel of Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, I extend our deepest condolences to First Lady Wella, the family, and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the passing of Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios.

Governor Palacios was a steadfast friend to our military community and a champion for the people of the CNMI. His leadership and vision helped strengthen the enduring partnership between our base and the Commonwealth during this historic period of our establishment on Guam.

We will always remember Governor Palacios' generous spirit and commitment to our shared community, particularly his enthusiastic support of our annual Toys 4 Tots campaigns. His participation, through First Lady Wella's Foundation, in these events exemplified his dedication to the children and families of the CNMI, and his presence brought joy and hope during the holiday seasons. His willingness to join our Marines in spreading holiday cheer to local families demonstrated the collaborative spirit that defines the relationship between our military community and the people of the Commonwealth.

Governor Palacios' legacy of service, compassion, and partnership will continue to inspire us as we work together to build a stronger, more prosperous future for all who call these islands home.

The Marines and Sailors of Camp Blaz stand with the people of the CNMI during this difficult time. Semper Fidelis.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Marshall Jr.

Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz



### THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR WASHINGTON

July 29, 2025

Mrs. Palacios,

On behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior and with a heavy heart, please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of your beloved husband, Governor Arnold Palacios. His leadership, service and dedication to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands left a lasting mark – not only on the lives of those he served, but on all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

It was wonderful getting to know Governor Palacios through our shared work. We most recently spent time together at the Intergovernmental Group on Insular Areas in Washington, D.C. and Western Governors Association in Santa Fe, NM. I was always struck by his grace, conviction and thoughtful engagement – traits that reflected a deep commitment to public service and a clear vision for the future of the CNMI.

Governor Palacios was a true public servant. His unwavering commitment to the people of the CNMI, his advocacy for island sustainability and economic resilience, and his reverence for cultural heritage reflected a profound love for his home and community. In meetings and correspondence, his voice carried humility and hope – qualities that made him a respected partner and a force for good.

In this time of deep grief, please know that you and your children and grandchildren are in our thoughts. May the legacy of your husband's service continue to inspire future generations of leaders in the CNMI.

With deepest sympathy and respect,

Doug Burgur

Secretary



### United States Department of the Interior

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY Washington, DC 20240

JUL 24 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Apatang:

With profound sorrow, we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

Governor Palacios served the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with dedication, vision, and heart. His commitment to public service and his deep love for the islands were evident in every aspect of his leadership—as a legislator, lieutenant governor, and ultimately as governor. He was a thoughtful and steady voice on behalf of the CNMI, and his collaborative spirit left a lasting impact on our shared work to strengthen the well-being of the insular areas.

We are grateful for his partnership and leadership, and we mourn his loss alongside his family, especially his wife, Wella, their children and grandchildren, and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Please know that our thoughts are with you during this difficult time. May you all find comfort in his memory and in the legacy of service he leaves behind.

With deepest sympathy,

William W. Hague
William "Bill" Hague

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs

Angel A. Demapan

Deputy Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs



#### **REGION 9 ADMINISTRATOR**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105

July 25, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang Governor Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

Håfa Adai, Governor Apatang:

We want to extend our deepest condolences to you and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the heartbreaking loss of Governor Arnold Palacios. This news has deeply saddened us, and we share in your grief during this incredibly difficult time.

We have lost a remarkable leader in the Pacific Islands community, a dedicated public servant, and an advocate for environmental stewardship. Governor Palacios held a special place in our own hearts, and his commitment to our shared priorities to benefit the people of the Marianas Islands was noteworthy. His absence will leave an immeasurable void, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to First Lady Wella Palacios, their family, and the people of CNMI. Governor Palacios's family is in our thoughts, hearts, and prayers.

Si Yu'us en fan binendise. With our deepest sympathy from all of us at EPA Region 9.

Sincerely.

Josh F.W. Cook

Regional Administrator

Cheree Peterson

**Deputy Regional Administrator** 

Chuse Petersa

Cc:

Floyd Masga, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Kevin Watson, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Mariano Iglecias, Office of Planning and Development Ray Yumul, Department of Public Works



Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council

July 28, 2025

The family of Governor Arnold I. Palacios Caller Box 10007

Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mrs. Palacios and Family,

It is with deep sadness that the members, advisors, and staff of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Honorable Governor Arnold Palacios. We join the entire Pacific community in mourning this tremendous loss and send our deepest sympathies to you and the Palacios family during this difficult time.

Many of us say we "grew up" in the Council, and Arnold was no exception. Beginning in 1983, he served as a representative for the Commonwealth and remained dedicated to the Council's work throughout his life. Whether leading the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, or serving in the House, Senate, as Lieutenant Governor, or Governor, Arnold was a consistent advocate for CNMI's fisheries and the Council's mission. Even during visits to Arizona to "spend time with the grands," he made time for fishery calls—a testament to his deep love for the people and the ocean.

From those early days, Arnold steadily advanced from Council member to government-appointed representative and was named Council Chairman in 2013. For more than four decades, he gave his time, energy, and heart to the Council and the people of the CNMI.

Besides being a Council Chair, he is one of the few people who held Speaker, President of the Senate and Governor for any Pacific territory or state government. Only Governor Lutali accomplished this for American Samoa.

Our entire Pacific community will miss Arnold as a good man, a visionary leader, with a huge sense of fairness and love for his people. His passing leaves a significant void in our process and in our lives. We will miss him not only as a colleague, but as a dear friend. He treated the Council like family, and we consider him part of ours.

Will Sword, Chair

Sylvan Igisomar, CNMI Vice Chair

Roger Dang, Hawaii Vice Chair

With our deepest sympathies,

Kitty Simonds, Executive Director

Judith Guthertz, Guam Vice Chair

Archie Soliai, American Samoa Vice Chair



### CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAGATNA, GUAM

July 30, 2025

To Mrs. Wella Sablan Palacios

On the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios, the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Hagatna and I would like to express our deepest sympathy to you and your family. I am most saddened at the loss of this distinguished Governor who cared and protected the wellbeing of Korean nationals living in CNMI and contributed so much to futhering the friendly relationship between Korea and CNMI. When I met with Governor Palacios during my visit to Saipan in May, I was impressed by his keen mind and was able to envision a bright future of CNMI under his leadership. The Korean nationals will continue to remember him with a sense of abiding appreciation. My thoughts are with you and your family in this time of profound sorrow and once again express my deep condolences to such tragedy.

Sincerely,

Chun Young Kin

Consul General



**SPC Headquarters** 

BP D5 98848 Noumea Cedex New Caledonia

Telephone: +687 26 20 00 Fax: +687 26 38 18 Siège de la CPS

BP D5 98848 Nouméa Cedex Nouvelle-Calédonie

Téléphone : +687 26 20 00 Télécopieur : +687 26 38 18

SPC file no.: MCT 15/1

28 July 2025

Honorable David M. Apatang Governor Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building Capital Hill, Saipan COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Dear Governor Apatang,

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the untimely passing of the late Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) the Honorable Arnold Indalecio Palacios.

I write on behalf of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

I had the honour of meeting Governor Palacios during my visit to Saipan in 2024, and his warmth, leadership, and deep commitment to his people left a lasting impression.

On this note, I wish to inform you that Mr William Kostka, SPC Director for the Micronesia Regional Office will represent SPC at the funeral service.

Our thoughts are with the First Lady Wella Palacios, their children and extended family as well as the people of CNMI during this time of loss.

With sincere regrets,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Stuart Minchin Director-General

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea (New Caledonia). Regional offices: Suva (Fiji); Micronesia Regional Office: Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia); Melanesia Regional Office: Port Vila (Vanuatu); Polynesia Regional Office: Nuku'alofa (Tonga)

www.spc.int spc@spc.int

Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antenne régionale : Suva (Fidji) ; Bureau régional pour la Micronésie : Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Bureau régional pour la Mélanésie : Port-Vila (Vanuatu) ; Bureau régional pour la Polynésie : Nuku'alofa (Tonga).



To the People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,

On behalf of Ken Corporation, we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

Governor Palacios was a distinguished leader whose vision, dedication, and genuine care for the people of the CNMI left a lasting impact not only within the Commonwealth but also across the broader Pacific region. His warmth, integrity, and steadfast commitment to public service earned the admiration and respect of all who had the privilege of working with him.

We at Ken Corporation were honored to have had the opportunity to collaborate with Governor Palacios. His sincere engagement and thoughtful dialogue made a deep impression on us. He will be remembered not only as a leader, but also as a friend who cared deeply about building meaningful relationships between the CNMI and Japan.

Please know that our thoughts are with Governor Palacios's family, the CNMI government, and the people he so proudly served. May his legacy continue to inspire future generations.

With heartfelt sympathy,

### **Ken Corporation**

Shigeru Sato, Chairman

### Keidanren

3-2, OTEMACHI 1-CHOME, CHIYODA-KU, TOKYO 100-8188, JAPAN

July 29, 2025

Mr. Glen Hunter Special Assistant to the Governor Broadband Policy and Development Office Office of the Governor Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Glen Hunter:

On behalf of Keidanren (Japan Business Federation), please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). We are deeply saddened to hear the news.

Governor Palacios greatly valued the friendship between us. His decades of devoted public service, unwavering dedication to the people of the Commonwealth, and outstanding leadership were truly admirable and will be long remembered.

It was a great honor to engage in a productive dialogue with him on June 18, and we were deeply impressed by his warmth, vision, and sincerity. His passing is a tremendous loss not only for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, but also for all who have the privilege of working with him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, the people and staff of CNMI.

Sincerely yours,

Chairs, Committee on U.S. Affairs, Keidanren

Manha Tabayle Minh

Yuji Akasaka

Director, Chairperson

Japan Airlines Co., Ltd.

Takayuki Morita

President and CEO

NEC Corporation



July 24, 2025

In Memory of Governor Mr. Palacios,

We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

Governor Palacios held a special place in our hearts. He consistently showed sincere care for our company and worked tirelessly for the growth and well-being of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In every conversation we shared, we felt that he truly listened—sometimes aligning closely with our thoughts, and other times offering different perspectives. But what remained unwavering was his clear dedication to the state and his desire to build a stronger future for all.

We are especially grateful for the continued support and encouragement he extended to us over the years. His leadership, openness to dialogue, and thoughtful engagement left a lasting impression on our team and contributed meaningfully to our shared goals.

We extend our sincerest condolences and sympathy to the First Lady, Wella Palacios, and the family of Governor Palacios. We join you and the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands community in mourning the loss of an outstanding leader, and we will remember him with deep respect and gratitude.

E. Beekins

KIM, E-Bae

CEO, Jeju Air Co., Ltd.



台北市105八德路二段424號 424, Sec. 2, Ba De Rd., Taipei 105, Taiwan, R.O.C. Tel 886-2-2771-8151 http://www.tahsda.org.tw

Date: July 24, 2025

To:

Dr. Esther L. Muña Chief Executive Officer Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Saipan, CNMI

Cc:

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam (TECO Guam)

Subject: Heartfelt Condolences on the Passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

Dear Dr. Muña,

On behalf of Taiwan Adventist Hospital, I extend our deepest condolences on the passing of The Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

Governor Palacios was a visionary leader whose dedication to building a more accessible and integrated healthcare system for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands was truly inspiring. His visit to Taiwan in November 2023, including his time at our hospital, served as a meaningful milestone in deepening mutual understanding and goodwill between our communities.

Our conversations with Governor Palacios and your legislative leaders left a lasting impression, reinforcing our commitment to furthering the collaborative spirit he so passionately championed—particularly in strengthening medical referral partnerships with CHCC.

Please accept our heartfelt sympathies, and kindly convey them to Governor Palacios's family, the CHCC staff, and the people of the CNMI during this time of mourning.

With deepest respect and sympathy,

Sincerely,

Dr. Shin-Hong Chen

Taiwan Adventis Hospital















# In Loving Memory

### The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios

Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Matson extends its deepest condolences to the family of Governor Arnold I. Palacios and to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

We honor Governor Palacios for his lifetime of dedicated public service and principled leadership. His steadfast commitment to the people and progress of the CNMI leaves a legacy that will continue to guide and inspire future generations.

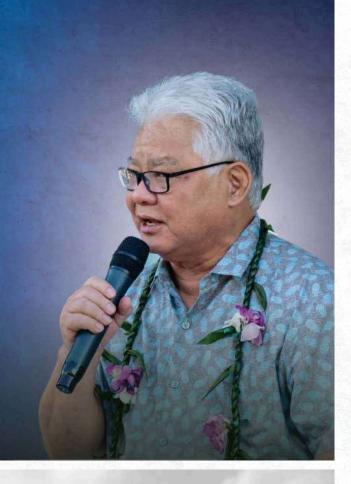


# Rest in Peace Governor Arnold I. Palacios

Today, we join our community in mourning the loss of a remarkable leader and beloved member of our community, Honorable Governor Arnold Palacios. His unwavering commitment to our island and its people touched countless lives, and his legacy will live on in our hearts.

With deepest sympathy, Atkins Kroll Family







### †GOVERNOR ARNOLD INDALECIO PALACIOS

Bridge Capital wants to pay tribute to the memory of Governor Arnold I. Palacios, a true servant and champion of the Northern Mariana Islands. Governor Palacios led the people of the NMI with courage, wisdom and deep devotion. He leaves behind a legacy of progress, compassion, and tireless advocacy for the public good. His leadership helped shape a stronger, more unified NMI, and his memory and legacy will continue to live onwards.

Rest in Peace



### Honorable Governor

### Arnold I. Palacios

A Leader, Visionary, and Servant of the People





With deepest respect





GOVERNOR
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

The Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), along with its Board of Directors, Management, and Staff, wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios. We collectively mourn the loss of his remarkable presence and extend our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. May he rest in peace in Paradise.

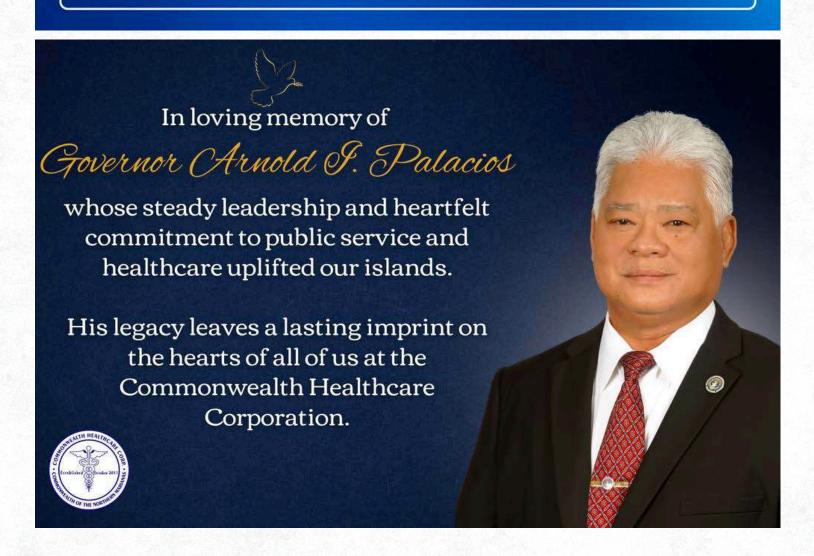
The late Governor Palacios's humble leadership and unwavering commitment to enhancing our economy, along with his profound dedication to the well-being of the people of the CNMI, have left an indelible mark on our community. His advocacy for investment incentives played a crucial role in attracting a myriad of investors to our region.



Management & Staff

The late Governor was a staunch supporter of economic development and was a great partner to CEDA. His leadership and support are greatly appreciated.

As we remember his legacy, let us unite in our commitment to advance toward a prosperous future with confidence and hope.





### IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE GOVERNOR Arnold I. Palacios

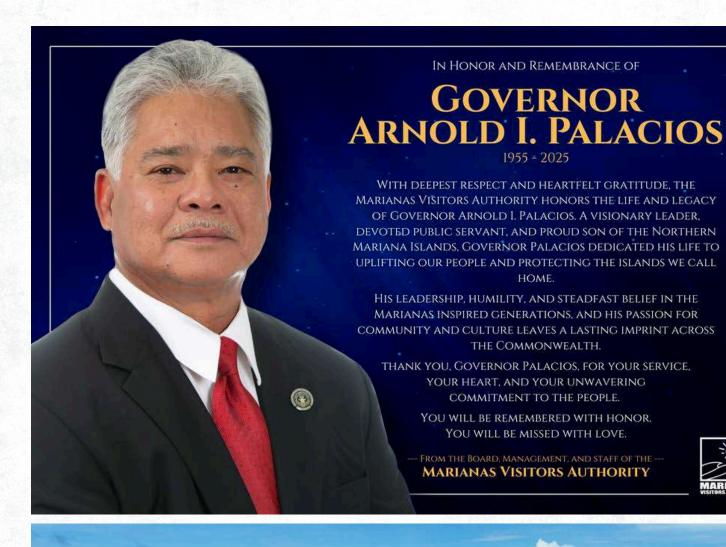
1955-2025

A true statesman, a humble servant, and a pillar of our Commonwealth.

We, at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), extend our heartfelt condolences to First Lady Wella Palacios, their children, family, and friends. Governor Palacios's enduring leadership, integrity, and dedication to the people of the CNMI will forever be remembered and cherished.

May his legacy of service and compassion continue to guide us all.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY,
Board of Directors, Management, and Staff
COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
CNMI





"Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace."



In Celebration of His New Life

### 4 Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios

The Mount Carmel School family joins the Commonwealth in mourning the passing of our beloved Governor, the Honorable PArnold Indalecio Palacios. A proud member of the Class of 1974 and our 2022 AlumKnight of the Year, he lived a life of service grounded in faith, humility, and compassion.

Through decades of leadership, †Governor Palacios embodied our mission "to see with Christ's eyes" by serving our people with grace and vision.

We offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to First Lady Wella Palacios and the entire Palacios family. May God grant them comfort and peace.

~ Mount Carmel School

### SI YU'US MA'ÅSI' YAN GHILISOW

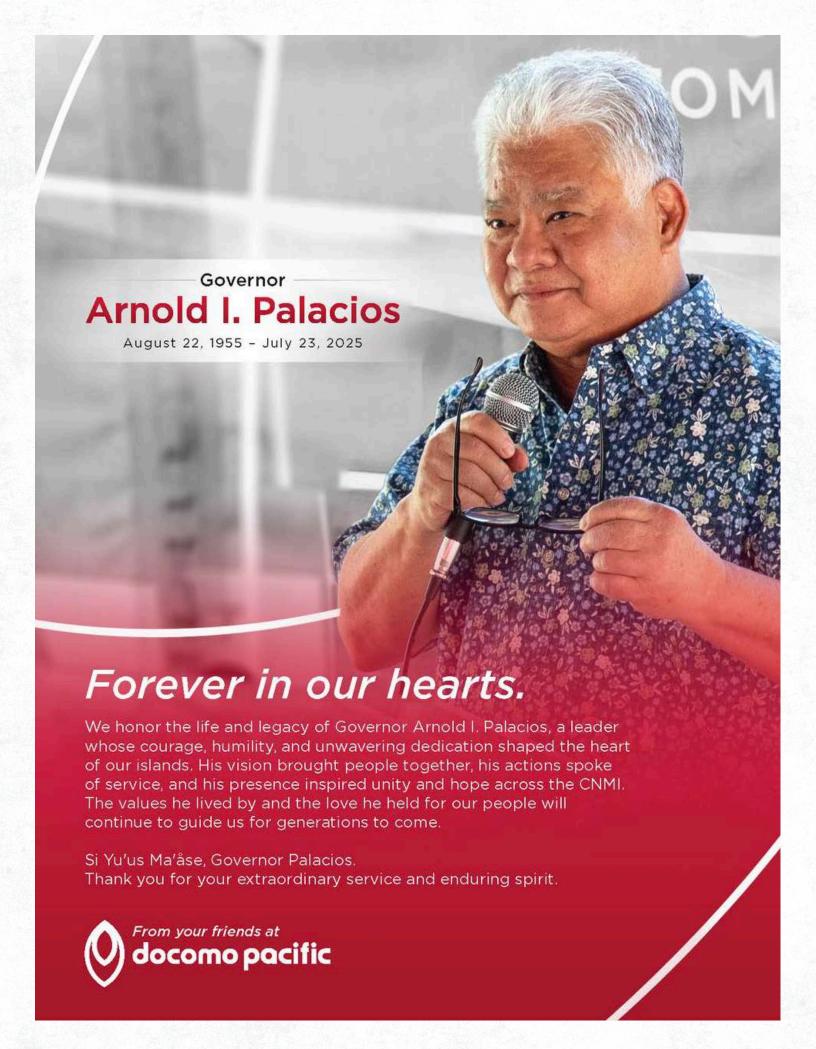
### Governor Arnold I. Palacios

August 22, 1955 - July 23, 2025

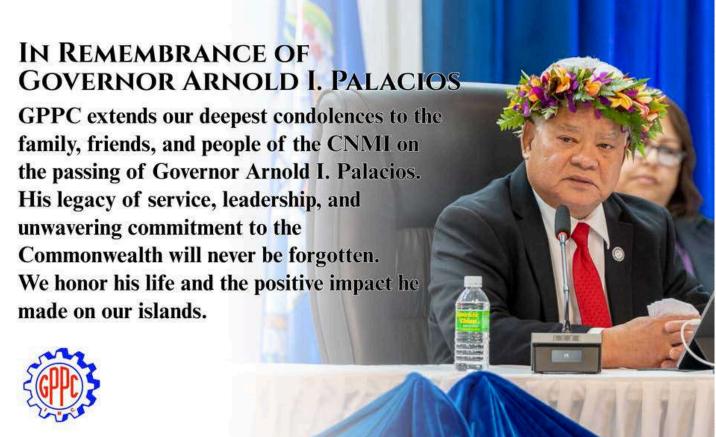
Naked Fish Bar & Grill joins the CNMI in mourning the passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios, a leader who served with heart, wisdom, and purpose. We honor his legacy and extend our deepest condolences to First Lady Wella, their children, and families.

+Governor Palacios, we appreciate your lasting impact and dedicated service to our people. We will miss you.











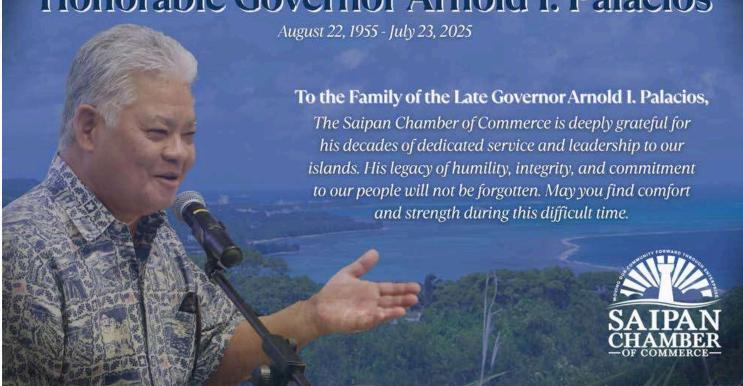
### Condolences on the Passing of Governor Arnold I. Palacios

On behalf of the Pan Family, Management, and Staff of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc., we extend our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios. His leadership, vision, and commitment to the community have left a lasting impression, and we are profoundly grateful for his service. May his memory continue to inspire, and may his family find strength and comfort during this difficult time.

With heartfelt sympathy, The Pan Family, Management, and Staff Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.

> PO Box 500002 5040 Chalan Tun Herman Pan Saipan, MP 96950 (670)234-1726 sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com

### Si Yu'us ma'åsi' yan ghilisow Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios



### SI YU'US MA'ÅSI' YAN GHILISOW

### Governor Arnold I. Palacios

AUGUST 22, 1955 - JULY 23, 2025

Transcends joins the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in honoring the life and legacy of Governor Arnold I. Palacios. His dedication, vision, and service to our community will always be remembered.

We extend our deepest condolences to First Lady Wella, their children, and families.





## Si Yu'us Ma'ase' yan Ghilisow, Governor Palacios

Northern Marianas College joins the entire Commonwealth in mourning the loss of Governor Arnold I. Palacios, a true friend of the College and a dedicated public servant whose leadership, vision, and compassion will be deeply missed.

Throughout his decades of service—as a legislator, speaker of the house, senator, lieutenant governor, and most recently as governor—Governor Palacios consistently championed initiatives that uplifted our people and strengthened our institutions. At every stage of his career, he advocated for education, economic development, cultural preservation, and good governance.

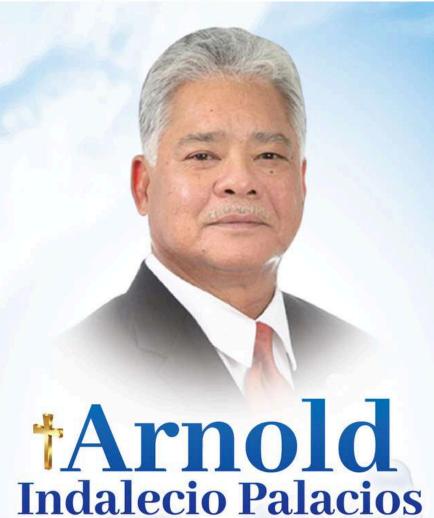
Governor Palacios believed in the power of education and was a steadfast supporter of Northern Marianas College. He worked to ensure that students in the Marianas had access to affordable, high-quality educational opportunities, and he supported efforts to rebuild and expand NMC's campus facilities in the aftermath of natural disasters. Under his leadership, the Commonwealth moved forward with plans that will positively impact generations of students to come.

He was also a strong advocate for environmental sustainability and climate resilience. Through his Green Growth Initiative, Governor Palacios emphasized the need for long-term stewardship of our islands' natural resources—an effort that aligns closely with NMC's mission of "stewardship through scholarship." His leadership reminded us that investing in education, the environment, and public trust are essential to the future of the Commonwealth.

Governor Palacios brought a steady hand and a unifying spirit to the highest office in our Commonwealth. His legacy of integrity, service, and humility will continue to guide and inspire us all.

To the First Lady, Wella Palacios, and to the entire Palacios family, we extend our heartfelt condolences. Governor Palacios leaves behind a lasting impact on our islands and in the hearts of all who had the honor of working with him.

Thank you, Governor Palacios, for your unwavering commitment to the people of the Marianas—and to the future of Northern Marianas College.



August 22, 1955 - July 23, 2025

The Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios was a dedicated public servant, having served many key government agencies in various capacities. Throughout his career in government service, Governor Palacios showed leadership and integrity, guiding and uplifting the people of the Commonwealth and serving them with honesty and principles.

Our sincerest condolences and heartfelt prayers to the family of Governor Palacios. We may have lost a guiding force in the CNMI, but the legacy and impact of his leadership will remain in the community he selflessly served for decades.

Un Dångkalu na Si Yu'us Ma'åse, Governor.



Tan Siu Lin Foundation

"We must keep our cultures strong, our values as people of Micronesia, and our friendships with each other."

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios

Transportation Management Group honors the life of a true leader, guided by compassion, humility, and an unwavering commitment to the people of the Marianas.

Governor Palacios believed in a brighter future — and helped shape it through vision and integrity.

His spirit will live on in the hearts of those he inspired.

With deepest sympathy

To his beloved family and the people of the CNMI!





### **Heartfelt Condolences**

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Commonwealth Ports
Authority, we extend our deepest condolences on the passing of our Honorable Governor
+Arnold Indalecio Palacios.

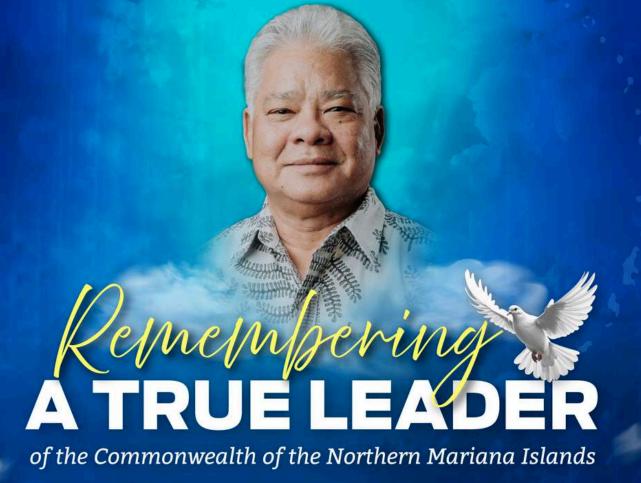
We are profoundly grateful for his unwavering support, timely interventions, and steadfast commitment to the development and efficiency of our transportation infrastructure. Over his distinguished public service career spanning more than 30 years, the Governor demonstrated exceptional leadership and a genuine dedication to the progress of our seaports and airports-ensuring they remained vital gateways for growth and prosperity.

His legacy will endure in the many lives he touched and the systems he helped strengthen.

May his memory continue to inspire public service rooted in vision, compassion, and integrity.

May his soul rest in peace.

Thank you Governor Palacios



+Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios

The entire Triple J family extends our deepest condolences and prayers to First Lady Wella, the Palacios family, and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

With heavy hearts, we join our community in mourning the passing of a beloved son of the Marianas.

+Governor Arnold I. Palacios was a devoted public servant whose life was defined by humility, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the people he so deeply loved. His visionary leadership and kind spirit touched the lives of so many, and his legacy of unity and service will continue to inspire us and future generations to come.

May we honor his memory by living the values he held dear - deep love for family, selfless dedication to community, and a heartfelt devotion to these islands we call home.

One Marianas, One Love.

With heartfelt sympathy and prayers, The Triple J Enterprises Family

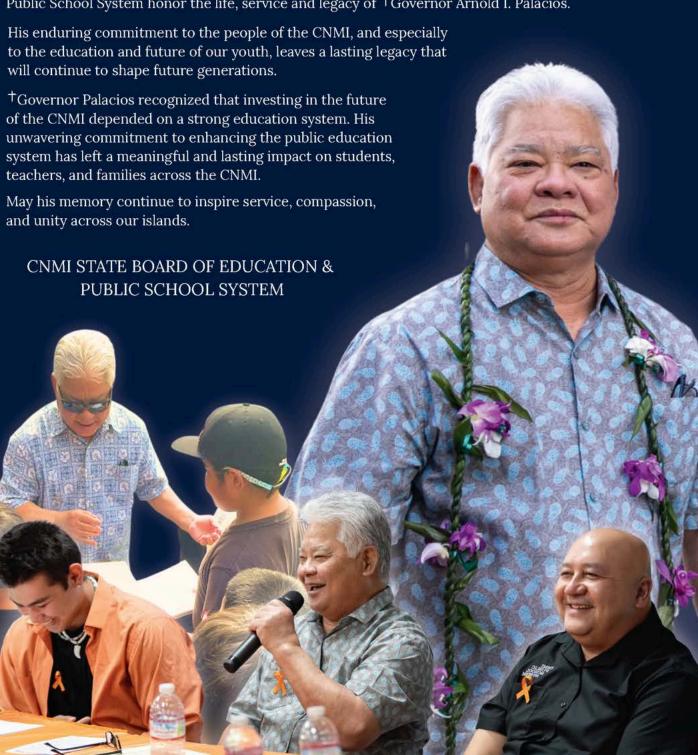




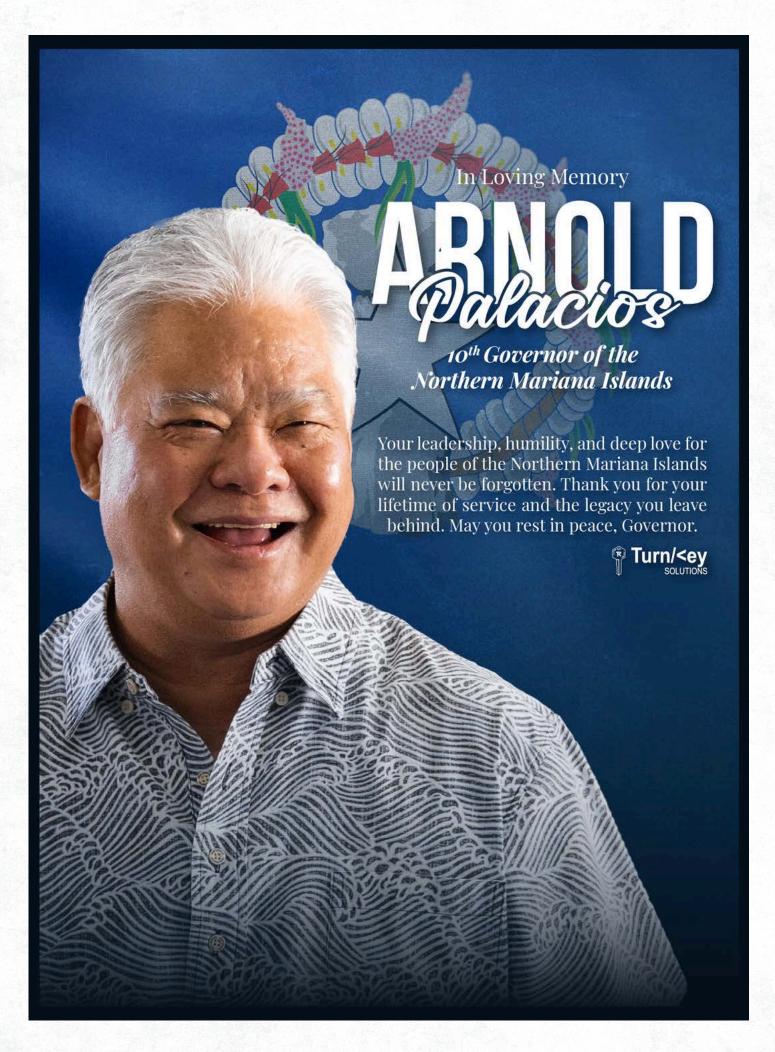


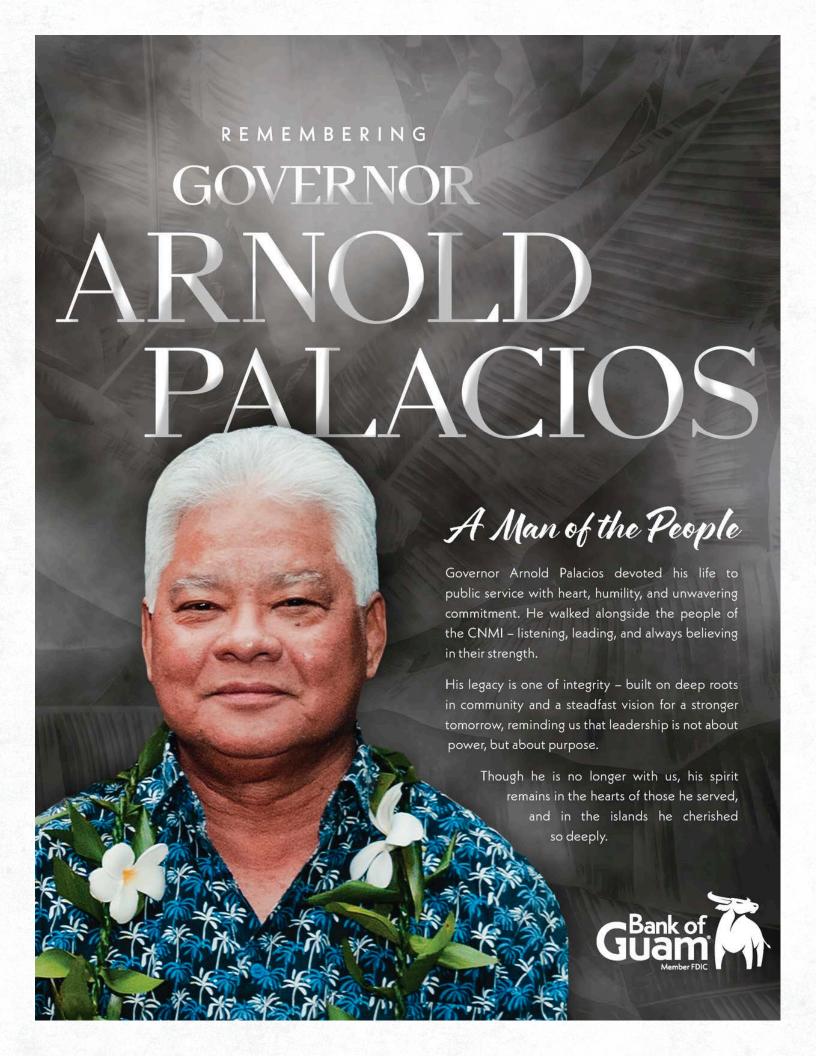


With profound respect and heartfelt gratitude, the CNMI State Board of Education and the CNMI Public School System honor the life, service and legacy of †Governor Arnold I. Palacios.



"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." - John F. Kennedy







# Arnold Indalecio Palacios

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Governor Palacios. A visionary leader and devoted public servant, Governor Palacios leaves behind a legacy of progress, connection, and hope for the Commonwealth. We extend our heartfelt support to his family and loved ones during this time of profound loss.























"He led with humility, lived with purpose, and loved his islands deeply. May his memory be the light that guides us forward."

Scan the QR code to view the full memorial booklet, including photos and tributes honoring the late Governor Arnold I. Palacios.

