



# TWENTY-THIRD CONGRESS

## Federated States of Micronesia

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## Senator Isaac V. Figir

### SUMMARY

State of Yap: 2-yr | ED.1

DOB: August 20, 1947

1975, M.A. (Southern Illinois University)

Elected to 3<sup>rd</sup> CFSM (1983 - )

Speakership 15CFSM - (2007 - 2013)

### COMMITTEES

Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means

Member: Judiciary & Governmental Operations; Resources & Development

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**The Honorable Isaac V. Figir**, is the two-year representative of the State of Yap to the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. He is the Chairman of the Congressional Standing Committee on Ways and Means with membership on the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Committee on Resources and Development. Figir holds the rank of the most senior member having been consecutively elected to the Third Congress of the FSM in 1983 and has since maintained his seat in the national body.

For over 30 years Senator Figir has represented the State of Yap to the National Body and on May 11, 2007 during the reorganization of the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress, he became the fourth person seated to the Speakership of the National Body. He maintained his role thru the subsequent Congress from the 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, from 2007 to 2013.

Senator Figir is among the most senior members of the FSM Congress and has gained the respect of his colleagues for his realistic views and candid approach to issues of national interest. He completed his primary and secondary education in his home state and went abroad to complete his tertiary education. In 1972, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guam and went on to the Southern Illinois University where in 1975 he earned his Master of Arts degree in Community Development.

Completing his educational quest, Senator Figir returned home and was hired by the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) as a legal researcher. Aided by his practical views and realistic approach to issues, Figir quickly became acclimated to the

Micronesia legal system and was promoted to a legal counselor for the Corporation. An industrious employee, his efforts were noticed by the Commission on the Future Political Status Transition of the Micronesian Islands and hired as a legal researcher for the Commission. In 1979, Figir was elected as a member of the historic Commission blazing the trail for sovereignty and independence of the Micronesian islands - it was a prelude of his future career. Four years later, he was elected to the national legislative body.

Senator Figir entered the political arena at the young age of 36 when he was elected to the Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia in 1983. He was the two-year representative from the State of Yap, and has since then been consistently re-elected as the State's two-year representative to the subsequent Congresses.

During his freshman year, Figir chaired the Committee on External Affairs and held concurrent memberships on the Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs and the Committee on Resources and Development. Throughout his tenure in the FSM Congress, Figir has consistently maintained chairmanship of the powerhouse committees of External Affairs, Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Committee on Ways and Means. His membership is however broadened to the various nation building committees: Resources and Development; Health, Education and Social Affairs; Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure and maintained membership in External Affairs, J&GO and Ways and Means.

Senator Figir has represented the FSM Congress on numerous regional and international conferences including the 1994 Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Islands Development States in Barbados. A staunch environmentalist, Figir was at the 1995 Asia Pacific Leaders Conferences on Climate Change in Manila, headed FSM's delegation to the Climate Change Convention of the Parties (COP I) in Berlin, Germany.

A champion of climate change, Figir co-authored the FSM's landmark Climate Change Act that led to its recognition by the world's parliaments. In 2014, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Summit of Legislators in Mexico, the FSM Congress was recognized by the summit and awarded by GLOBE (Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment) for the Nation's Climate Change law - a statute championed by Figir.

Figir is married to Mary Berungun and they have four children.