

HESA

A RESOLUTION

To express the wishes of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and to request and urge the President of the Federated States of Micronesia to investigate and explore possible solutions with the Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of Interior, for the decentralization of the administration of the Prior Service Benefits Program to appropriate local administrative authorities and the distribution of the Prior Service Benefits Trust Fund into separate Trust Funds under the Boards of those authorities.

1 WHEREAS, section 109 of title 73 of the Trust Territory Code
2 established a Prior Service Benefits Program to supplement
3 regular social security benefits; and

4 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior, United States
5 Department of Interior (hereinafter "Secretary"), in a Trust
6 Agreement approved by the Governments of the Federated States of
7 Micronesia ("FSM"), the Republic of the Marshall Islands
8 ("RMI"), the Republic of Palau ("ROP") and the Commonwealth of
9 the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI") established the Prior
10 Service Benefits Trust Fund to pay benefits under the Prior
11 Service Benefits Program after the dissolution of the Trust
12 Territory; and

13 WHEREAS, under United States Public Law 99-349, the Urgent
14 Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1986, the United States
15 Congress provided \$8 million for initial capitalization of the
16 Prior Service Benefits Trust Fund to fund the payment of
17 benefits and administrative costs under the Prior Service
18 Benefits Program; and

19 WHEREAS, the Prior Service Benefits Program as of this day
20 has always been administered by the Prior Service Trust Fund
21 Administration located in Saipan, CNMI; and

22 WHEREAS, any FSM citizen who has at least 5 years of service
23 with the United States Navy or Trust Territory Government
24 between the year 1944 and the year 1968 is or should be eligible
25 to receive benefits under the Prior Service Benefits Program;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, some FSM citizens who are or should be eligible for
3 benefits from the Prior Service Benefits Program as of this day
4 have not had their names added to the certified list of persons
5 eligible for those benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, some FSM citizens who were or should have been
7 eligible for benefits from the Prior Service Benefits Program
8 already have passed away without receiving any of those
9 benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, the certified list including FSM citizens eligible
11 for benefits from the Prior Service Benefits Program has not
12 been finalized despite six years of operation of the Prior
13 Service Trust Fund Administration; and

14 WHEREAS, the delays in obtaining and processing of required
15 documentation by the Prior Service Trust Fund Administration has
16 prevented and will continue to prevent eligible FSM citizens
17 from receiving the benefits to which they are rightfully
18 entitled; and

19 WHEREAS, the FSM Social Security Administration is willing
20 to assume the responsibility of administering the Prior Service
21 Benefits Program as it relates to FSM citizens, including the
22 completion of the certification of those citizens eligible for
23 benefits, thereby expediting the distribution of benefits to
24 those citizens; now, therefore,

25 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eighth Congress of the Federated

1 States of Micronesia, Second Regular Session, 1993, that it is
2 the wish of the Congress that the administration of the Prior
3 Service Benefits Program be decentralized to appropriate local
4 administrative authorities of the Federated States of Micronesia
5 ("FSM"), the Republic of the Marshall Islands ("RMI"), the
6 Republic of Palau ("ROP") and the Commonwealth of the Northern
7 Mariana Islands ("CNMI"); and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the FSM Social Security
9 Administration be the local administrative authority for FSM
10 citizens entitled to benefits from the Prior Service Benefits
11 Program; and

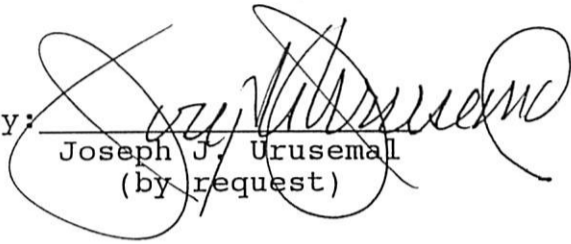
12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of the Prior Service
13 Benefits Trust Fund attributable to FSM citizens entitled to
14 benefits from the Prior Service Benefits Program be transferred
15 to a separate Trust Fund under the authority of the Board of the
16 FSM Social Security Administration; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Federated
18 States of Micronesia shall investigate and explore solutions
19 with the Secretary to accomplish this decentralization of the
20 Prior Service Benefits Program and thereby provide a more
21 expeditious distribution of benefits to the eligible citizens of
22 the Federated States of Micronesia; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 resolution be transmitted to the President of the Federated
 3 States of Micronesia, the Secretary of the United States
 4 Department of Interior and the Chairman of the Prior Service
 5 Trust Fund Administration Board.

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 7 Date: 11/08/93

Introduced by: 
 Joseph J. Urusemal
 (by request)

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