

7/1/90
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L.R. No. 116-25

A PROPOSAL FOR A RESOLUTION

Honoring a life and expressing heartfelt condolences of the Eleventh Pohnpei Legislature, on behalf of and for the people of Pohnpei, for the passing of the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl.

1 **WHEREAS**, on August 01, 2025, approximately, sixteen days prior
2 to his 82nd birthday, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl answered the
3 beckoning of our almighty Heavenly Father and laid down to his final and
4 eternal resting place at his home in U, next to his predeceased wife, the late
5 Judy N. Sohl; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl is deeply missed
7 by his surviving five children: Julie, Willy, Kenray, Charlie and Amanda
8 Sohl, and a number of grandchildren; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl has departed this
10 world leaving a legacy that will forever be reminisced and respected by the
11 people of Pohnpei, and most especially in the education community; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl's educational
13 background took flight in a pivotal era after World War II, in the early
14 1950's, when he attended elementary school at the Our Lady of Mercy
15 before venturing off to Chuuk to attend Xavier High School, where he
16 graduated in 1964 before moving forward to Guam where he studied at the
17 University of Guam for a year and decided to return home in 1965; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1966, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl focused
19 his outstanding and iconic career at the Department of Education starting
20 off as a teacher at the Sokehs Powe Elementary School and later became an
21 Education Specialist where he taught and coordinated Adult Basic
22 Education classes and activities; and

23 **WHEREAS**, in 1970, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl changed
24 direction and became an Education Specialist in Micronesian Language
25 Development where he embraced a keen interest in the development of our

1 education in terms of Pohnpeian language and studies and it was at this
2 time that he decided to return to school where he attended the University of
3 Hawaii where he conducted language research and developed the very first
4 Pohnpeian English Dictionary and finally graduated in 1975, earning his
5 Bachelor of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and Linguistics; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 1976, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl returned
7 to the Department of Education where he coordinated the development of
8 the activities in the public school system and developed a Pohnpeian
9 language curriculum material for a language project called Micronesian
10 Culture and Language (MICAL); and

11 **WHEREAS**, 1979 marked the momentous year, when the first ever
12 Pohnpeian English Dictionary was published which was co-authored by
13 none other than the iconic educational figure, the late Honorable Damian
14 G. Sohl; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 1980, the late Damian G. Sohl took another leap in
16 public service when he was elected and became one of the three
17 representatives of Sokehs in the Pohnpei State Legislature, and during his
18 tenure as a Senator in the spring of 1982, the late Honorable Damian G.
19 Sohl attended a semester at the California State University in Sacramento,
20 studying Applied Anthropology; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 1983, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl was
22 appointed and received the consent of the Legislature and took the
23 stewardship position of the Director of the Department of Education where
24 he manned and guided this Department for two consecutive administrative
25 terms from 1983 to 1992; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in the following Administration, the late Honorable
2 Damian G. Sohl was appointed and also received the consent of the
3 Legislature and became the Director of the Department of Health from
4 1992 to 1995; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl was once
6 again appointed, this time by Governor Del S. Pangelinan, and received the
7 blessing of the Pohnpei Legislature to once again become the Director of
8 the Department of Education, placing him as the longest serving Director
9 for the Department, having served three Administrative terms; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in his remaining years before retirement, the late
11 Honorable Damian G. Sohl shifted gears from directorships in the Pohnpei
12 Government to become a Coordinator at the College of Micronesia; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his governmental and academic
14 positions, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl was also actively involved in
15 policy making bodies and non-governmental instrumentalities where he
16 served on numerous Boards such as the Pohnpei Tourist Commission, the
17 Cape Board, also known as Center for the Advancement of Public
18 Education, a member of PREL (Pacific Region Educational Laboratories),
19 and the College of Micronesia Board of Regents; and

20 **WHEREAS**, fully committed to the promotion and development of
21 self-government in our islands, the Late Honorable Damian G. Sohl was
22 elected to and served as an at-large delegate in the first Pohnpeian
23 Constitution Convention and also served as delegate of the first Sokehs
24 Constitution Convention; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl may no longer be

1 physically with us today, but he has left a legacy in governmental circles
2 and the education community defined by dedication, humility, and a deep
3 love for the betterment of the education of our children, the health of our
4 people and the principles of democratic governance; now, therefore,


5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Eleventh Pohnpei Legislature, Fourth
6 Regular Session, 2025, that this Legislature honors the life of the late
7 Honorable Damian G. Sohl and expresses heartfelt condolences of the
8 Eleventh Pohnpei Legislature on behalf of and for the people of Pohnpei
9 for the passing of the late Honorable Damian G. Sohl to his family, and
10 further inscribing into the annals of our history, this distinguished
11 statesman's iconic and noteworthy contributions to his Municipality, to his
12 State, and to his Nation; and

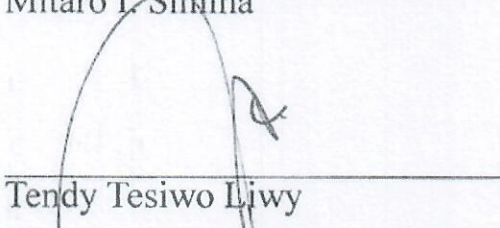
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of the of this
14 resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Pohnpei, to the
15 Chief Justice of the Pohnpei Supreme Court, to the Chief Magistrate of
16 the Sokehs Municipal Government, to the President of the College of
17 Micronesia-FSM, and to the surviving family of the late Honorable
18 Damian G. Sohl.

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20 Date: 10/10/25

Introduced by:


Aisek Artui


Mitaro L. Simina


Tedy Tesiwo Liwy

Francisco Simram