A RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Nitijela to extend the official recognition to, and sincere gratitude and appreciation on behalf of the People and Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler for her many years of outstanding services and dedication as a public servant, and her pioneering efforts in promoting political, cultural and gender empowerment in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler, was born in Kosrae on July 19, 1939 to parents, Alex Milne and Neri Langrine Milne, three older sisters, Rhoda Mawilong, May Gideon, Adelma Samuel, a younger sister, Josephine Capelle, and one brother, John Melion Milne; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler graduated from Pacific Islands Central School (PICS), the third Marshallese woman to graduate from high school, and went on to attend the University of Hawaii where she graduated with a BA degree in Anthropology, the first Marshallese woman to receive a bachelor’s degree; and

WHEREAS, on December 28, 1973 Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler married Noel Bigler and had three children, a daughter, Carol B. Wase, sons Edward Baron Milne Bigler and Joseph Alexander Milne Bigler and 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler ran for one of the Marshall Islands representative seat for the Congress of Micronesia, and successfully elected from 1974-1976 as the first and only woman ever to serve in that body until it dissolved; and
WHEREAS, while serving as a Congresswoman, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler was invited by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the U.S. Visitor Program Service where she observed government institutions, economic development program and exchanged views with American women in government, including giving a speech as the Lady of the Month at a Department of Interior Ceremony in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler served RMI Government with distinction, and in the 40 years she served, she was prominent in public service, cultural and historic preservation, education and women’s affairs in the Marshalls Islands,

WHEREAS, in public service, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler was the first woman to hold the position of District Director when she assumed that role for the Department of Public Affairs under the Trust Territory Government, a position which she held until she became Secretary of Interior and Outer Island Affairs under the independent RMI Constitutional Government in 1978; the first woman to assume such high civil servant position in the RMI government since then; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler became the Consular Officer for the office of the Marshall Islands Consulate in Honolulu in 1989; and

WHEREAS, complimenting her public services posts, Mrs. Carmen Milne Bigler also held posts on numerous boards, committees and task forces during the T.T. Government including T.T. Board of Education, T.T. Vocational Education Advisory Council and, under the RMI government, she chaired the Political Education Task Force which was charged with educating the public about the Compact of Free Association before the 1978 Plebiscite; chaired the Task Force on Health, and served
on the Task Force for Federal Programs, served as vice-Chairperson for the Pacific-
Wide Pacific Broadcasting Training and Development Project, chaired the RMI
Population Council and member of the Task Force on Education during President
Amata Kabua’s Administration; and

WHEREAS, in cultural affairs Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler dedicated time
and valuable efforts towards preserving and building pride in the Marshallese culture
and Marshallese identity through her foundational work and fund raising efforts for the
building of the Alele Museum, later serving as Chairperson of the Alele Museum
Board of Trustees, as well as complimentary work in advisory capacity to the Historic
Preservation Office; and

WHEREAS, in women affairs, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler was one of the
early advocates of women empowerment in the private sector and promoted the vital
role that grassroots organizations, including women’s organization, play in sustainable
human development; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler has co-founded a number of
women clubs including the Jined Ilo Kobo and served as consultant to other women’s
clubs such as Limaajera, the first Mejedik Club and the Neijokko Club, assisted with
the drafting of the charter for the Marshall Islands Women’s Association, and one of
the founders of Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), the premier
women’s organization in the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, having paved the way for Marshallese women to take positions of
leadership in government, to participate and have a voice in the decision-making
process, Mrs. Carmen Milne Bigler advocated for political and economic
empowerment for women and served as a role model for young Marshallese women in
achieving higher level of education, a key to gender empowerment; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of Mrs. Carmen Milne Bigler’s political “pioneer”
and her contribution to the improvement of Marshallese lives in general and women in
particular, she was selected to represent Marshallese women at the International
Conference of Women held in Texas in 1978; and

WHEREAS, the People of the Marshall Islands wish to join together on this
date to pay tribute to a pioneering Marshallese woman, for the long years of distinguish
services to the People and Government of the Marshall Islands; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the People of the Marshall Islands through their
Nitijela at its 36th Constitutional Regular Session, 2015, that the Nitijela express its
most sincere gratitude and appreciation and a tribute to Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne
Bigler, in recognition of her long years of dedication, devotion and pioneering efforts
in public services and in promoting cultural, political and gender empowerment in the
Marshall Islands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be
transmitted by the Clerk of the Nitijela to Mrs. Carmen Alice Milne Bigler after
certification.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:
1. That Nitijela Resolution No: 67 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 30th day of September, 2015; and

2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Resolution No: 67 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 2nd day of October, 2015.

Attest:

Hon. Donald F. Capelle
Speaker
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Lena E. Tiobech
Clerk
Nitijela of the Marshall Islands