NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
42ND CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2021

Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 54

A RESOLUTION conveying the deepest and most profound condolences, and sincere appreciation of the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their Nitijela, to the family and friends of H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner, who served as Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Japan and as non-resident Ambassador to countries in Asia, before his passing, following many years of exemplary service to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and her people.

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was appointed as the Republic's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan on April 2021 and was later cross accredited as Non-resident Ambassador to countries in Asia under the administration of President Christopher J. Loeak, where he served with distinction and dedication until his passing; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was born in Likiep on August 29, 1945, and was married to Mrs. Shako Kijiner; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner attended Marshall Islands High School in 1962-1965 and studied General Education at the University of Guam (1965-1966) and the University of Hawaii (1972-1973); and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was instrumental in the Republic's school system, where he served as the Principal for Ebeye Elementary School (1967-1968), Principal of Tokan Ebon Elementary School (1968-1971), and Principal of Likiep Elementary School (1971-1973); and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was one of the Republic's founding fathers who advocated for the Republic of the Marshall Islands' independence and sovereignty in 1979

when the Republic's Constitution was ratified and was elected as a member of District 1 into the Republic's first *Nitijela* as Senator of Likiep under the leadership of the late found President Amata Kabua; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was appointed as the first Minister of Education (1979-1985), Minister of Finance (1985-1987), and Minister of Foreign Affairs (1987-1994), respectively, under the administration of President Amata Kabua, while serving as Senator of Likiep; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was the architect behind the formalization of diplomatic ties between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Japan, one of the Republic's major development partners that has provided significant and meaningful assistance to the People and Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of late President Imata Kabua, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner held the portfolio of the Minister of Health and Environment (1994-1999); and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner served as Ambassador-at-Large from 2007-2009; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his exemplary service, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner also served on the Marshall Islands Scholarship Board of Directors, Air Marshall Islands Board of Directors, the Marshall Islands Social Security Board of Directors, and the Marshall Islands Development Bank Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, with profound sadness, on the 12th of September 2021, His Excellency Thomas D. Kijiner was called to eternal rest in the early hours of Sunday, 12 of September 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. He passed away peacefully and was surrounded by his wife, family, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner is survived by his wife, Madame Shako Rithen Kijiner, and their children, Tommy, Jane, Bradley, Lina, Catalino, and Theresa, 35 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Thomas D. Kijiner was predeceased by his son, the late Bruce Kijiner, who served as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade for a number of years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their *Nitijela* at its 42nd Constitutional Regular Session, that the *Nitijela* does hereby accordingly conveys, its deepest and profound condolences and sincere appreciation, to the family and friends of His Excellency Thomas D. Kijiner, Ambassador

Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Japan, in tribute to this exemplary service to the nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an original counterpart of this Resolution be delivered to the family of His Excellency Thomas D. Kijiner by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
42ND CONSTITUTIONAL REGULAR SESSION, 2021

RESOLUTION 54

SIGNATURES

DATE: 10/13/21 **INTRODUCED BY** David Kabua _____
Print Name *Signature*

DATE: _____ **INTRODUCED BY** Carsten Nemra _____
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