

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 1987

AN ACT

To establish a monument to enshrine the memory of those of the Commonwealth, who have been lost at sea and whose bodies have not been found, and to establish a Commonwealth Day of Observance of the HA'ANEN NAFTAN I TASI, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title, Findings and Purpose.

(a) Short Title. This Act may be cited as the "Bodies Lost to the Sea Memorial Act of 1987."

(b) Findings. Many men and women have been lost while at sea in the waters surrounding the Northern Mariana Islands, and in several cases the victim's body has not been recovered and properly interned by our sacred customs and faith.

(c) Purpose. While the loss of a loved one is a deeply mournful agony to the family under any circumstance, it is particularly heart-rendering, when the body cannot be recovered and interned in holy ground; where there is not identifiable resting place of the body, where bereaved family members and friends can gather to offer their prayers. It is therefore the intent and purpose of this Act to consecrate a plot of land on the island of Saipan as the final resting place of all those

lost at sea and whose bodies have not been recovered, and on the plot of land to erect a monument bearing the names of the lost ones, thus providing a shrine for their souls, to be known as "NAFTAN I TASI" (Tomb Of The Sea); and to provide a specific day of observance of their memory, a day when all the people of the Commonwealth would unite in prayer at this tomb or shrine for these relatives and friends.

Section 2. Establishment. There is hereby established a monument in memory of those beloved ones who were lost at sea surrounding the Northern Marianas and whose bodies were not recovered.

Section 3. Location and Real Estate.

(a) Location of the monument shall be at the Agingan Point, Saipan, and in full view of the sea.

(b) The Marianas Public Land Corporation shall, pursuant to its authority by Article XI of the Commonwealth Constitution and 2 CMC, Section 4113, provided to the custody of the Office of Indigenous Affairs a plot of land and access thereto, the size of which will be determined, when monument layout and design has been finalized.

Section 4. Custodial Agency.

(a) The Office of Indigenous Affairs shall have the responsibility of designing the monument, construction and preparation of grounds and access, up-keep, repairs

and maintenance of the facility for as long as this agency exists, or as provided in Section 4(b).

(b) Should at some point in the time it be deemed necessary to assign custodial responsibility to another department or agency of the government, the Governor in consultation with the Legislative may so order.

Section 5. Longevity. The Tomb Of The Sea shall be considered a Commonwealth sacred shrine and shall be maintained in perpetuity.

Section 6. Name. The official name of the monument shall be "NAFTAN I TASI".

Section 7. Enshrinment of Souls. Within 60 days of the date of the declaration of a person lost at sea as officially deceased, the custodial agency shall cause the name of the deceased to be inscribed on the monument and unveil that name with a solemn ceremony. No name may be inscribed on the monument over the objections of a deceased's most immediate family.

Section 8. Annual Day of Observance. November 2nd of each year is hereby declared HA'ANEN NAFTAN I TASI. The custodial agency shall announce and conduct a solemn non-denominational memorial service at the monument and is empowered to request such assistance from other departments and agencies as may be deemed necessary and appropriate. The Governor shall grant administrative leave to such government employees, who wish to attend HA'ANEN NAFTAN I TASI CEREMONIES.

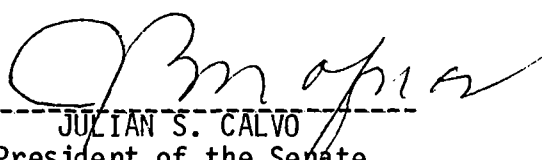
Section 9. Funding. Funds for the design, construction and inauguration ceremonies of NAFTAN I TASI monument shall be obligated

1 upon the submittal by the custodial agency of final cost estimates.

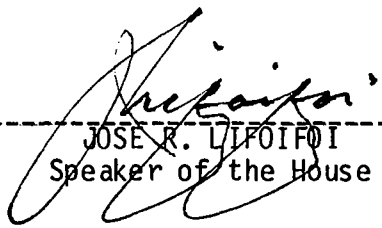
2 Section 10. Annual Budget Request. The custodian agency shall
3 submit its annual request of funding for maintenance of the monument,
4 cost of additional enshrinements and observances as a line of item
5 of the agency's annual request. Said line item may not be
6 reprogrammed.

7 Section 11. Severability. If any provision of this act or
8 regulation thereunder shall be found to be invalid by any court of
9 competent jurisdiction the remainder of the act or regulation shall
10 not be affected thereby.

11 Section 12. Effective Date. This Act shall become effective
12 upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without
13 such approval.



JULIAN S. CALVO
President of the Senate
Acting

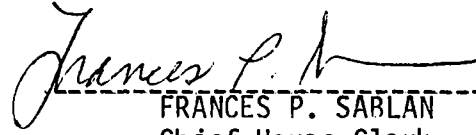


JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Speaker of the House

ATTEST:

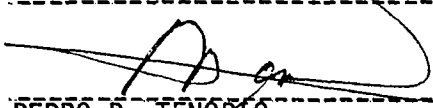


MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ
Senate Legislative Secretary



FRANCES P. SABLAN
Chief House Clerk


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PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands