



Speaker Isaac V. Figir

CURRENT SUMMARY

Two-year representative
State of Yap
DOB: August 20, 1949
1972, B.A. (UOG)
1975, M.S. (SIU)
Since 1983, Member of FSM Congress

CURRENT COMMITTEES

- ~ External Affairs
- ~ Judiciary and Governmental Operation
- ~ Ways & Means

SPEAKER Isaac V. Figir is the two-year representative of the State of Yap to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. On May 11 2007, he was seated as the Speaker of the Fifteenth FSM Congress.

He becomes the fourth person seated for the Speakership of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Speaker Figir is a senior member of the FSM Congress and is well respected among his colleagues for his realistic views and often candid approach to issues of national interest.

Speaker Figir completed his primary and secondary education in his home state and furthered his education abroad. In 1972 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Guam and went on to the Southern Illinois University where 1975 he earned his Master of Arts degree in Community Development.

Completing his educational quest, Figir returned home and was hired by the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) as a legal researcher. Aided by his practical views and realistic approach to issues, Figir quickly became acclimated to the Micronesia legal system and was promoted to a legal counselor for the Corporation. An industrious employee, his efforts were noticed by the Commission on the Future Political Status Transition of the Micronesian Islands and hired as a legal researcher for the Commission. In 1979, Figir was elected as a member of the historic Commission blazing the trail for sovereignty and independence of the Micronesian islands - it was to be the prelude of his political career. Four years later, he was elected to the national legislative body.

Speaker Figir entered the political arena at the young age of 36 when he was elected to the Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia in 1983. He was the two-year representative from the State of Yap, and has since then been consistently re-elected as the State's two-year representative to the subsequent Congresses.

As a freshman senator, Figir Chaired the Committee on External Affairs and held concurrent membership on the Committee on Health, Education and Social Affairs and the Committee on Resources and Development. Throughout his tenure in the FSM Congress, Figir has consistently maintained Chairmanship of the powerful congressional committees of External Affairs, Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Committee on Ways and Means. His membership is however broadened to the various nation building committees: Resources and Development; Health, Education and Social Affairs; Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure and maintained membership in External Affairs, J&GO and Ways and Means.

Speaker Figir has represented the FSM Congress on numerous regional and international conferences including the 1994 Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Islands Development States in Barbados. A staunch environmentalist, Figir was at the 1995 Asia Pacific Leaders Conferences on Climate Change in Manila. He later Headed FSM's delegation to the Climate Change Convention of the Parties (COP I) in Berlin, Germany.

While his political career began in his mid-thirty's, Speaker Figir's public career however began as early as his high school years during which he held various part-time employments with the Office of Public Affairs under the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He held odd jobs for the Yap Community Development Agency and also spent time as a radio announcer.

He is married to former Mary Berungun of Yap and they have four children.