

# Palau's first Olympians get kudos from Senate

THE historic participation of Team Palau to the XXVII Olympiad Games in Sydney, Australia, last September 15<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> has been officially commended by the Senate.

In its Joint Resolution No. 5-164 dated last November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Senate congratulated the first ever Palauans to compete in the prestigious sports contest: Peoria Koshiba, Christopher Silas Adolf, Annloyd Samuel, Nicole Isau Hayes, and Valerie Pedro. The five Olympians "demonstrated the true spirit of competition and friendship which embody the Olympic movement at the Sydney Games," the Senate stated.

The Senate resolution further noted that: Koshiba, born on June 27, 1979 and daughter of Senator Joshua Koshiba and Viviana Ucherbelau, is from Ngerbeched Hamlet in Koror and competed in the 100

meter dash for women on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Adolf, born on April 16, 1976 and son of Adolf Tarkong and Anna Adolf, is from Ngarchelong State and competed in the 100 meter dash for men also on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Samuel, born on October 31, 1980 and son of Jesse Sumor and Celeste Sumor, is from Hatohebei State and competed in the 50 meter freestyle swim on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Hayes, born on April 5, 1984 and daughter of Addison L. Hayes and Glancy August Hayes, is from Melekeok State and competed in the 100 meter freestyle swim on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Pedro, born on November 16, 1973 and daughter of Mario Pedro and Saturnina Pedro, is from Sonsorol State and competed in the 69 kilogram weightlifting category on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Senate also made mention of those who assisted the Palau Olympians as follows: Pelefoti Cooper, weightlifting coach; Steven Patris, weightlifting assistant coach; Bismarck Brell, swimming coach; Miki Irisawa, swimming assistant coach; Laura Mangham, athletics coach; Mitsuri Shiga, athletics assistant coach; Sally Techitong, media journalist; Heather Ketebengang, Palau representative to the Olympic Youth Camp; Senator Alexander Merep, PNOC president; Baklai Temengil, PNOC secretary-general; William Kaldermans, Team Palau chief of mission; and Marcy Andrew, PNOC administrative assistant.

Team Palau joined with thousands of athletes from over 186 countries around the world to participate in the Summer Olympic Games. #