



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
Municipality of Rota

Proclamation No. 2019-006

PROCLAIMING AUGUST 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 AS  
**ALUF LUTA (ROTA WAVE) WEEK**

*WHEREAS*, During Rota Hand Wave Month, the people of Rota celebrate the custom and tradition of our ancestors that have long been practiced as a kind gesture to welcome our visitors and our people alike.

*WHEREAS*, After World War II, when the Americans liberated the people of the Mariana Islands from Japanese rule, the feeling of joy and relief overshadowed our people to shift from bowing to hand-waving signifying the end of the Japanese era.

*WHEREAS*, the people of Rota began and have continued the tradition of hand-waving signifying a time of happiness after enduring oppression and tyranny which has transformed today to a symbol of harmony.

*WHEREAS*, this marks the third year to officially honor and celebrate hand-waving that contributes to our identity as the “World’s Friendliest Island” that promotes our economic, social, and cultural development.

*WHEREAS*, our people have throughout our history, welcomed all other ethnic cultures that diversify our island population and together have created a community that has commonalities in exhibiting values of respect, family, hospitality, benevolence, and tranquility.

*WHEREAS*, Hand-waving signifies a salutation for all visitors, brethren from our neighboring islands or from foreign lands, and our local people encouraging them to enjoy our island’s beautiful sceneries, history, culture, and food.

*WHEREAS*, when our people wave to visitors from near and far, they are expressing a sense of welcoming and the Hafa Adai Spirit.

*WHEREAS*, by doing this, the people of Rota build a sense of pride and honor in our island that generates peace and love and instills a sense of belonging amongst our community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EFRAIM M. ATALIG**, Mayor of Rota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Covenant and Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, do hereby proclaim August 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 as ALUF LUTA (Rota Hand Wave) Week.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have here unto set my hand this 19<sup>ST</sup> day of **August**, in the year **Two Thousand Nineteen**.

HONORABLE EFRAIM M. ATALIG  
MAYOR OF ROTA