



**FFA**

19 February 2009

Dear Nancy Burney,

**Late Dave G. Burney: Condolence Message**

We are deeply shocked to learn of the untimely passing away of a great friend and colleague of the Pacific Islands and your beloved husband, David G. Burney, on Tuesday 17 February 2009 (U.S. local time) following a short family holiday break in the Deer Valley, USA.

Dave was very well known and liked by his many colleagues and friends in the Pacific Islands and the Forum Fisheries Agency. We will always remember him for his immense contributions to the development of tuna industry in the region. He was one of the architects of the *Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America*, which is still operating since 1988 when it first came into force. The Treaty has operated for more than 20 years now and it will be in operation for a total of 25 years in 2013 when the current extended arrangements will lapse. The Treaty provides an important forum for consultation between the Pacific Island States and the United States of America not only on fisheries matters but also on other common interests between the Parties, and Dave's contributions will be long remembered by the Parties. It is a lasting legacy to his foresight and contribution to the region.

Dave was a man of integrity and a good operator. He was a true friend of the Pacific Islands in the tuna sector. His understanding of the requirements of the Pacific Islands during his involvement in the earlier negotiations for the Treaty has made possible for the successful conclusion of the Treaty. His leadership of the American Tuna Association, whose vessels fish under the Treaty, made the implementation of the Treaty a remarkable achievement in the multilateral relationship between the United States and Pacific Islands. His vision of the Treaty and how this should translate to capture the dynamics of fisheries in the region has made the Treaty what it is today – a model for multilateral cooperation in fisheries between a diverse group of countries, however small or big they are. Dave's great achievements will long be remembered in our region.

On behalf of the FFA Secretariat, the entire membership of the FFA and the Pacific Island Parties to the Treaty, we extend to you – Nancy – and Dave's close family, our deepest sorrow and sympathy for the loss not only of a Statesman, but also an Ambassador to the tuna industry and fisheries sector of the Pacific Islands.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time. We pray that his soul will rest in peace.

Yours sincerely,

**DR TRANSFORM AQORAU  
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL**