



Western Pacific Maritime Academy

# Biography



## **DIEGO T. BENAVENTE, TRUSTEE**

### **Politician, Community Leader**

Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was born on April 21, 1959 in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Son of Roman Manahane Benavente and Dolores (Tenorio). Diego and his wife Victoria live on Saipan where they raised two sons and two daughters. All of his children are now grown and pursuing families and careers of their own.

Benavente, a Republican, served as the Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands under former Governor Juan Babauta from January 14, 2002, to January 9, 2006. Benavente first ran for election in 1987, when he narrowly lost his bid for election to the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives in Precinct II by just six votes. However, Benavente was elected to the House in his second campaign in 1989. He served in the House for six consecutive terms, including three terms as the Speaker of the House. He left the House to run for Lieutenant Governor in 2001. Benavente was elected Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands as the running mate of Juan Babauta in the 2001 gubernatorial election.

Diego graduate, Northern Mariana Islands Police Academy, 1977 and served in the police force until attending university as a student, College of S. Idaho. Diego Tenorio Benavente has been listed as a noteworthy territorial legislator, lieutenant governor by Marquis Who's Who.

Diego's interests include pursuing the welfare of the maritime community through involvement in the Saipan Boaters Association and the Fisherman's Association. He is a community leader and maintains an active presence in various political and philanthropic community organizations.

Benavente understands that the Northern Mariana Island people have a unique maritime heritage as western pacific seafaring people, and that there is a need for world class maritime training in the CNMI. Diego agreed to join the Academy as a Trustee not only because of his respected connections within the community, but also because he is keenly interested in ensuring the success of Western Pacific Maritime Academy as a maritime training institution of excellence.