

SWAINS ISLAND PRESS RELEASE: Manino Reed - March 24, 2025.

SWAINS ISLAND’S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AND FIRST VOTE IN THE FONO

This is truly a remarkable and momentous milestone! The recognition of Swains Island’s 100 year anniversary of becoming part of Tutuila and Manu’a, and the first official vote in the Fono on March 21, 2025 for the Swains Delegate after 65 years. This is a testament to the perseverance and strength of the people of American Samoa and Swains Island. It speaks volumes about the enduring fight for equity, representation, and the principles of democracy that empower self-determination.



Su'a Alexander Eli Jennings submits Swains Island's first official vote on March 21, 2025 - recognized by a brief applause in the House Chamber. (Photo Courtesy of Hon. Manumaua W. Wilson)

On March 4, 1925, Congress passed HJR 294, making Swains Island a part of American Samoa. On May 13, 1925, the United States Navy Raised the U.S. Flag on Swains Island, declaring it a part of American Samoa. Marking these historical events—both the right to vote in the Fono and the centennial anniversary of becoming part of Tutuila and Manu’a—reminds us how deeply interconnected history, progress, and identity are. These reflections beautifully capture not only the importance



Alexander Eli Jennings I, Capt. Edward Hanson USN – Governor of American Samoa, and AS Fitafita Guard on Swains Island May 13, 1939 (Photo Courtesy of Historical Preservation)

of this victory for democracy but also the resilience and unity that has driven this journey.

As May 13 approaches, the significance of our Flag Day will hold even more meaning this year for the people of American Samoa and Swains Island. May this victory continue to inspire progress, hope, and justice. Truly, God has blessed American Samoa and Swains Island!

If you would like to help in preparing for our commemorative Flag Day events—speeches, songs, dances, or even sharing your story further—please contact Danielle Pualau at danielle.pualau@gmail.com or Manino Reed at maninoreed@gmail.com, or reach us at our facebook page: Swains Island 100 Years & Beyond.