

For Official Release  
PR 001-04182024  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
April 18, 2024



## American Samoa's 124th Flag Day Celebration



On April 17, 2024, the main event of American Samoa's 124th Flag Day Celebration commenced at the Veteran's Memorial Stadium in Tafuna. The malae was crowded with marching groups, including High School JROTCs, elementary schools, High School National Honor Societies, church groups, the US Marine Band, the Royal Samoa Police Band, American Samoa Government Departments and Agencies, local businesses, Robert Louis Stevenson Primary School, and the EFKS Faaotia youth groups of Samoa. Distinguished guests from off-island, esteemed local leaders, and the public gathered in the grandstands to join the celebration.

Upon Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga's arrival at the stadium, he conducted his inspection of the honor guard. Tofā To'oto'o Tauese V. Sunia served as the Master of Ceremony and offered the welcoming remarks. Susuga Toeaina Faamao Asalele gave the invocation and shared a brief spiritual message.

The members of the American Samoa Department of Public Safety raised the US and American flags while the US Marine Band and the Samoa Royal Police Band played the United States Anthem and the Samoa Anthem.

Following the raising of the flags, Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga delivered his Flag day address. He first reflected on the ancestors who have paved the way for our generations. Governor Lemanu acknowledged our forefathers and expounded on the Flag Day theme. "*Ia Mamalu ma Aloa* is a profound aspiration for American Samoa, echoing the sentiments of Hymn 352 from the Ekalesia Fa'apopotoga Kerisiano o Amerika Samoa. Rooted in the cultural richness of the Samoan people, this theme embodies a collective desire to promote our American Samoa's status with not only the Pacific region but on the global stage. It acknowledges the connection between the nation's identity and its values of respect, kindness, humility, and love, symbolized by the concept of *atunu'u*, embracing culture, traditions, and core values and beliefs." He added that, "At the heart of *Ia Mamalu ma Aloa*, lies a commitment to live up to these cherished values in all aspects of society, from leaders to youth. It calls for governance guided by righteousness and adherence to the law, mirroring the divine guidance sought from above. By fostering these principles within its people, American Samoa strives not merely for recognition but for honesty, respect, and dignity."

Governor Lemanu thanked the distinguished guests once again for their presence and shared his deep gratitude to the Lord for honoring and blessing American Samoa.

The ceremony then transitioned into the pass in review, with the Department of Public Safety and its Honor Guard leading the parade. It was a great display of respect and unity as local schools, government departments and agencies, businesses, and community members came together to pay respect to the flag and the values it represents. The pass in review lasted close to two hours due to the significant turnout of people showing their support.

The event proceeded with remarkable traditional performances by Falelima i Manu'a Tele, Falelima i Sasa'e- Afioaga o Masefau, and Falelima i Sisifo- Afioaga o Leone. Each group displayed their creativity with stunning traditional dances and songs, adding to the cultural richness of American Samoa. It was a beautiful sight to witness children and the youth showing pride in their village and their culture.

After the performances, there was an award ceremony for the women's and men's cricket teams. The Aoa Women's team claimed victory, while the Poloa Men's team secured first place. Additionally, the village beautification awards were presented, with the Vailoa village earning first place.

Lt. Governor La'apui Talauega E.V. Ale gave the closing remarks to conclude the event. He expressed gratitude to special guests, community members, and all participants for their contributions to the Flag Day celebrations. Following the closing remarks, Susuga Toeaina Faamao Asalele offered the closing prayer.

###









































