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American Samoa Honors Veterans in Grand Finale of Two-Day Commemoration

The second and final day of the Veterans Commemoration event, held on November 11, 2023, unfolded with a heartwarming Family Fun Day in the afternoon, bringing together the Veteran community and their families for a day of camaraderie and celebration.



Towards the evening, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga led a special tour of the historical bunkers behind the Veterans Monument, offering Deputy Prime Minister Tuala Ponifasio and Samoa's Return Services Association Vice President Peter Antonius Jensen, a poignant glimpse into the region's wartime history. The bunkers were a part of the historical Tafuna Airfield built by the U. S. Marine and Navy Seabees to support the military and store ammunition during the World War II era.



The prayer service began with Reverend Mathew Failauga, a Navy Veteran, who delivered a moving invocation during the evening program, emphasizing the profound truth that freedom is not free. He continued to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans in safeguarding the liberties enjoyed today.

Following the invocation, the Veterans Day Concert, hosted by Galoia Upuese Faamasino and Adrianna Princess Auvaa, showcased a lineup of esteemed performers. The audience was treated to powerful performances by the SAFF of the American Samoa Community College, Nato Penei of the Nato Brothers, and Mr. Cowboy Sam Choo Koon. A special opening performance by Paul Ieti set the tone for the event. Mr. Ieti is a US Army veteran, a native of American Samoa from the villages of Aoa and Sailele, and is popularly known for being a finalist in the 2014 America's Got Talent national competition.

The Office of the Governor and the American Samoa Veterans Affairs Office express sincere gratitude to all who contributed to the success of this commemoration, including generous donors and the supportive community of veterans in American Samoa. The event was a fitting tribute to those who have served the United States and its territories, we extend heartfelt thanks to veterans for their dedicated service.

As the Veterans Commemoration event concludes, American Samoa stands united in honoring the legacy of its veterans and expressing gratitude for their selfless contributions to our nation.

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