



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

November 10, 2023

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 314 – 23

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: Veteran's Day Event

The Office of Veteran's Affairs in partnership with the Office of the Governor will hold a two-day event in honor of the brave men and women who selflessly served and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces.

All Cabinet members and Acting Directors are encouraged to attend both events. Please refer to the attached program for specific details. Please plan to arrive 30 minutes early.

Let us come together to pay tribute to these brave men and women who have made sacrifices so that our freedoms and way of life may be preserved.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing all of you.

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor



American Samoa Government
Veterans Affairs Office

*Thank you
Veterans
for your service*

VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

SERVICE

— Thank a Veteran under the stars —
FAMILY DAY - 11AM TO 4PM

MR. COWBOY

FEATURING PAUL IETI & NATO PENEI

CONCERT: 6PM TO 9PM



SAUNDERS, NOVEMBER 11th, 2023 | VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT, LIONS PARK, TAFUNA



American Samoa Government
Veterans Affairs Office

Veterans Day 2023

"Service"

Thank a Veteran under the Stars

Candlelight Vigil

6:00am | Nov. | FRIDAY
to | 11th | 2023
9:00pm

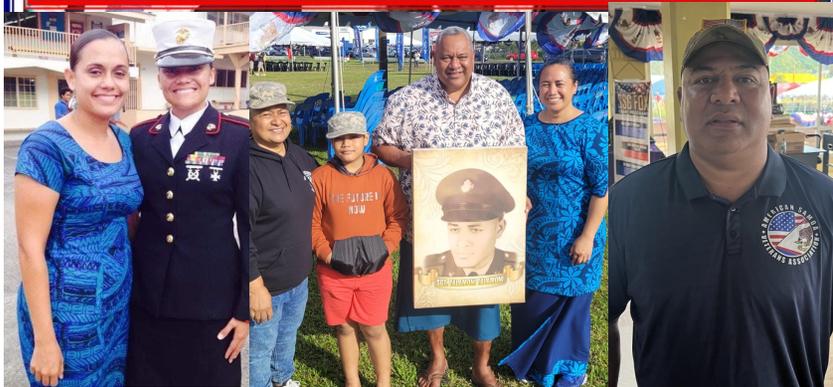
Veterans Memorial Monument,
Lions Park, Tafuna.

Friday, November 10th, 2023
Candlelight Vigil order of events:

- 6:00pm: Welcoming Remarks Master of Ceremony
Lauti Fa'afetai Lauti
- 6:05pm: Opening Hymn:
CCCAS "Ola Fou" Choir Matu'u & Faganeanea
Invocation: Rev. Elder Fouvale Asiata (Chaplain Retired, CPT)
- 6:15pm: Posting of the Colors by Fagaitua High School JROTC
Singing of the National Anthems: Paul Ieti
(Army Veteran)
POW-MIA Ceremony
Candle lighting
Playing of Taps* (Army Reserve Soldier)
- 6:30pm: Special Remarks by:
Honorable Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga
- 6:40pm: Guest Speaker:
Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa:
Afioga Tuala Iosefo Ponifasio
- 7:00pm: Closing Remarks:
Master of Ceremony Lauti Fa'afetai Lauti
Musical Selection: CCCAS "Ola Fou Choir"
Matu'u & Faganeanea
Benediction:
Rev. Elder Fouvale Asiata (Chaplain Retired, CPT)

Reception will immediately follow, sponsored by SOPAC & Veterans Affairs Office
Thank you for joining us this evening. God Bless our Veterans, God Bless the United
States of America, and God Bless American Samoa.





Hon. Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio Deputy Prime Minister of Samoa

Deputy Prime Minister, the Honorable Tuala Tevaga Iosefo Ponifasio, is our distinguished guest from our sister island, the Independent State of Samoa. Having served 12 years in the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, he is a fellow veteran, a comrade who shares the common bond of sacrifice, resilience, and the enduring spirit of service. Veterans understand that service extends beyond the confines of duty; demonstrating unwavering commitment to a cause greater than themselves. As there is no greater bond than that between brothers in arms, the Deputy Prime Minister Tuala joins us, in solidarity, to pay tribute to all servicemembers, past and present, whose selflessness, bravery, and dedicated service secures freedom we enjoy – upholding the tenets of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

Veterans Day
November 11, 2023
Message from the Governor

The United States Armed Forces stand as the guardians of our cherished way of life. Every uniformed service member has chosen the path to uphold our democracy's core principles and ideals, bravely carrying our proud military legacy forward. Veterans Day is a sacred occasion, dedicated to honoring the sacrifices made by our brave men and women; it is a day for us to reflect, show our deep respect, and reaffirm our commitment to the values they have defended so valiantly.

Throughout the centuries, our service members have safeguarded our sovereignty in the skies, on land, and at sea. Today, and every day, we salute each and every one of you— our Airmen, Coast Guardsmen, Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, and Space Force Guardians. You are the brave souls our country calls upon in times of crisis. Regardless of your branch or rank, you are the face of our beloved Territory.

The innate urge to serve has been ingrained in countless generations of American Samoans, and I have the distinct honor of paying tribute to all the sons and daughters of our Territory who have devoted themselves to the service of our great nation. Today, we pay special homage to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We can never fully repay the debt we owe to the veterans who cannot be with us today. May the memory of these heroes and their valorous deeds continue to inspire us as we confront the challenges of our time.

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Talauega, our families, and our entire community, we honor and commemorate the sacrifices and selfless dedication of all Veterans – both past and present. We also extend our gratitude to their family members, whose steadfast support empowers them to serve our nation with such dedication.

Thank you, **VETERANS**, for your dedicated service.

Happy Veterans Day, and may the Lord continue to bless America and our beloved Territory!


LEMA'U P. S. MAUGA
Governor



