



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 004 – 2024

125th FLAG DAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 6 and Section 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, §4.0111 (b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, on April 17, 1900, the United States Flag was raised on Sogelau Hill in Fagatogo following the signing of the Deed of Cession by the traditional leaders of Tutuila and Aunu'u;

WHEREAS, this flag raising was a significant event in the history of American Samoa as it marked the entry of Tutuila and Aunu'u into the American Family and the beginning of American administration;

WHEREAS, April 17 has been observed each year by the people of American Samoa as Flag Day, a holiday celebrating this event and the wisdom of our Forefathers in making the decision to sign the Deed;

WHEREAS, April 17, 2025 will mark the 125th anniversary of this momentous raising of the United States Flag;

WHEREAS, such a significant anniversary deserves an equally well prepared and presented celebration mindful of our heritage, our history, and the significant contributions to the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a 125th Flag Day Celebration Commission will provide for focused development and coordinated execution of an enhanced observance of this anniversary;

NOW THEREFORE, I LEMANU P.S. MAUGA, Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, hereby execute this order.

Section 3: Establishment of the 125th Flag Day Celebration Commission

There is hereby established, within the Executive Branch of ASG, the 125th Flag Day Celebration Commission. The commission is comprised of the Governor’s Designee Mr. Robert Schaffer, who will serve as Executive Director, and the Director or Director’s designee of:

- a) American Samoa Community College (ASCC)
- b) American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities (ASCACH)
- c) American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC)
- d) American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE)
- e) American Samoa Department of Parks & Recreation (ASDPR)
- f) American Samoa Historical Preservation Office (ASHPO)
- g) American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB)
- h) Feleti Barstow Public Library (FBPL)
- i) Jean P Haydon Museum (Museum)
- j) Office of Archives and Records Management (Archives)
- k) Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA)

Members shall serve for the duration of the Commission’s existence.

Section 4: Commission Duties and Responsibilities

A. The Commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 1. meet within 30 days of the issuance of this Executive order and thereafter as often as necessary to carry out its duties under this order;
- 2. develop an initial plan and submit it to the Governor within 90 days of this Order.
- 3. research, plan, coordinate, review, and promote programs, events and activities throughout the Territory to celebrate the 125th Flag Day and to foster knowledge and understanding of this formative period of our history and how it has shaped and continues to shape who we are as a people and a territory;
- 4. collaborate and engage with all necessary and willing stakeholders in the development of proposals and plans, including the United States Federal Government and U.S. Armed Forces, local civic, historical, educational, economic, arts and other government and non-government organizations throughout the Territory to organize and participate in programs, events and activities in observance of the 125th Flag Day;
- 5. complete its work and submit a final report following conclusion of all its activities and events but no later than June 30, 2025. This report shall be maintained with the

Territorial Office of Archives and Records Management to be available for preparations for future celebrations. Upon submission of that report, the Commission shall be dissolved.

B. The Commission may solicit and accept funding, donations, and gifts to support the goals and purposes of the Commission.

Section 5: Support for the Commission


A. The Office of the Governor shall provide administrative and technical support to the Commission.

B. All executive agencies should cooperate and support the goals and purposes of this Commission.

Section 6: Effective Date

This order shall take effect immediately and will remain in effect until the Commission submits its final report pursuant to Section 4(A)(5). Upon submission of that report and dissolution of the Commission, this order shall be rescinded.

27 April, 2024
Date:


LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor of American Samoa