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“Ua Tu Mālie le Lau”

Governor Lemanu delivers special remarks at the Tafuna High School Graduation Ceremony



The Honorable Lemanu P. S. Mauga, Governor of American Samoa delivered his special remarks at the Tafuna High School Commencement Ceremony on Friday, June 16, 2023 at the school’s gymnasium:

“Today marks a momentous occasion, a once-in-a-lifetime event that you have eagerly awaited. We have gathered here, together with your parents, families, your spiritual parents, church and village leaders, to celebrate your incredible journey. Twelve years of hard work, determination, and growth; this has been no easy feat. Each and every one of you has reached a significant milestone, and for that, I offer my heartfelt congratulations.

As you stand on the precipice of this moment, ready to step out into the world, I pose a question to you: Are you ready? Are you prepared for what lies ahead? The world beckons with its vast opportunities where the metaphorical milk and honey flow. But to seize these opportunities, to thrive and flourish, a warrior must always be ready. Remember that you are a warrior; you must always be ready.

Your future adversities will not always be easy, but they must always be faced and conquered. I encourage you to have much faith because God, your family and community have prepared you all of your life for these challenges you will face.

I have four encouragements to leave with you today:

First and foremost, remember who you are and where you're from. Each one of you is a unique creation, crafted by the hands of God. Embrace your individuality, your values, and your principles. Do not conform to the standards of the world, but rather let your character and integrity shine through. Remember your roots, for they have molded you into the extraordinary individuals you are today.

Secondly, work hard. A warrior is never lazy. Success does not come to those who idly wait for it. It is achieved through perseverance, determination, and unwavering effort. Embrace challenges and setbacks as opportunities for growth and improvement. Strive for excellence in all that you do, knowing that hard work is the foundation of success.

Dream big. Let your imagination soar and set audacious goals for yourselves. Don't be afraid to chase after your dreams, even if they seem impossible at first. Hold onto your aspirations tightly and let them guide you. Never lose sight of what you want to achieve, and let your dreams inspire and motivate you along your journey.

Lastly, I want to challenge the notion that winners must always finish first. We live in a world that often emphasizes competition and individual success. However, I encourage you to redefine what it means to be a winner. True winners are not those who solely seek personal glory but are those who uplift and bring others along on their journey. As you achieve your goals, extend a helping hand to those around you. Lift others up, empower them, and together, create a society where everyone can thrive.

Congratulations to each and every one of you on this remarkable milestone. As you step forward into the unknown future, remember to take a moment and reflect on your journey, the tapestry of experiences, lessons, and relationships that have already woven into the paths of your lives. May you carry the spirit of a warrior, ready to face the challenges that lie ahead. Believe in yourselves, embrace the opportunities that come your way, and make a lasting impact on the world.

Congratulations once again.”

Governor Lemanu offered heartfelt congratulations and touched upon the collective efforts of the parents, faculty and staff, church leaders and community leaders, upon the students. During the ceremony, four graduates were awarded Valedictorians: Jenny Iulio, Savannah Savali, Siaea Jr. Osa, and Rylanio Urahono. The Salutatorian award was given to Tauva Launiu.

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