



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT

PROCLAMATION

**“NOVEMBER 2022 ALZHEIMER’S AWARENESS MONTH”**

**WHEREAS,** Alzheimer’s disease is an irreversible and progressive brain disease that slowly erodes precious memories, thinking skills, and the ability to perform simple tasks; and,

**WHEREAS,** every 65 seconds an individual develops Alzheimer’s disease costing approximately \$355 billion to the U.S. health care system making it the most expensive disease. By 2050, costs are expected to be more than \$1.1 trillion; and,

**WHEREAS,** worldwide, nearly 50 million people are living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias; American Samoa’s Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) has an enrollment of forty-four (44) members of the senior community who are reportedly showing signs of dementia, an increase of seven from the previous year; and,

**WHEREAS,** there are more than 6 million Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease and unless a cure is found it is estimated that as many as 16 million will have the disease by 2050; and,

**WHEREAS,** Alzheimer’s disease increases one’s vulnerability of becoming victim to the consequences of neglect, self-neglect and/or financial exploitation; and,

**WHEREAS,** Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia deaths have increased by 16% during the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government also recognizes that the responsibilities, duties and sacrifices made by those caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias take an enormous toll on family members who often suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than caregivers of those with other illnesses; and,

**WHEREAS,** Alzheimer’s is the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States killing more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined; and

**WHEREAS,** the American Samoa Government recognizes the efforts of community organizations such as the Agency for Better Living Endeavors and Hope House who have provided awareness and care for our respected elders. However, more resources are needed to support residents living with Alzheimer’s disease. It is also an opportunity to promote and join the global conversation about the brain and Alzheimer’s disease as being a public health crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, on October 20, 2022, under A.S.C.A. 4.0111 and 4.0302, I established the “Dementia-Friendly American Samoa Action Team” for the territory. This team, chaired by the First Lady, will promote the Dementia-Friendly America Network. Furthermore, I will continue to honor and recognize the stories, strengths, compassion and efforts of the individuals, families, friends, and caregivers impacted by Alzheimer’s disease, as well as the tireless work of the researchers who are seeking a cause and cure.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA**, Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the month of November as “*Alzheimer’s Awareness Month*” in the Territory of American Samoa, with this year’s national theme of, “*Know Dementia Know Alzheimer’s*,” and call upon its citizens to learn more about Alzheimer’s disease and to support the individuals living with this disease and their caregivers by supporting and appreciating our loved ones with Alzheimer’s.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of my office on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two.



**LEMANU P. S. MAUGA**

Governor