

For Official Release
PR 001-04302023
Office of the Governor
Utulei, American Samoa
April 30, 2023



American Samoa Delegation Joins Sunday Worship at the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church



Left-Right: Reverend Tautua Amosa, First Lady Ella Mauga, Honorable Lemanu P. S. Mauga

On April 30, 2023, the Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, First Lady Ella Mauga, and the entire American Samoa Delegation attended a joint Sunday worship service at the First Samoan Congregational Christian Church - DMV, *Tafatolu mo Keriso*. Reverend Tautua Amosa and Faletua Tofaifaleula Amosa, along with Pastor Faitafa Burrell of Samoan Congregational Church Joint Base Myer, welcomed the A.S. delegation. The Honorable Governor Lemanu conveyed his contentment and gratitude to both churches for promoting and perpetuating the

Samoan language and culture, bringing together service families and students studying abroad of Samoan descent in the Nation's capital region.

Church board members of DMV are Chairman Vaueli P. Taala (AF), Vice Chairman Novema G. Jackson (TK), Secretary Matuanalua Oloie L. Alaimalo (TK), and Treasurer Isapela L. Coggins (TK). Matuanalua Oloie Lloyd Alaimalo, the spokesman for the DC, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV) CCCAS, is an active-duty service member and will retire the following month. The DMV CCCAS is supported by service members and their families.

The service opened with a call to worship, wherein the A.S. delegation was invited to join and form a combined choir with the congregation and extol in honor of the service. The American Samoa Young Ambassador performed a spiritual number before the sermon. The second phase of the program was the To'ona'i hosted by the congregation, which is a Samoan customary practice carried out to greet and receive new guests. To show appreciation, Honorable Governor Lemanu and the entire A.S. delegation presented the congregation with cases of Wahoo as well as pecuniary contributions intended for the church's leadership.

The young ambassador of American Samoa showcased their Summit performance at the To'ona'i. To culminate the reception, Honorable Governor delivered an appreciative discourse emphasizing the significance of fostering, conserving and steering the development of the Samoan language. The promotion of our Samoan customs and language globally holds significant importance. While English is a widely understood global language, the knowledge and familiarity with Samoan language remains limited to only a small portion. A comprehension of our indigenous tongue signifies an in-depth understanding of our people as well.

The service and reception ended on a high note with the anticipation of coming back next year for the annual summit.

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(Photo Credit: Leia Fiatamaita'i Tasi)







