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Acting Governor Talauega Attends Major Events Over the Weekend



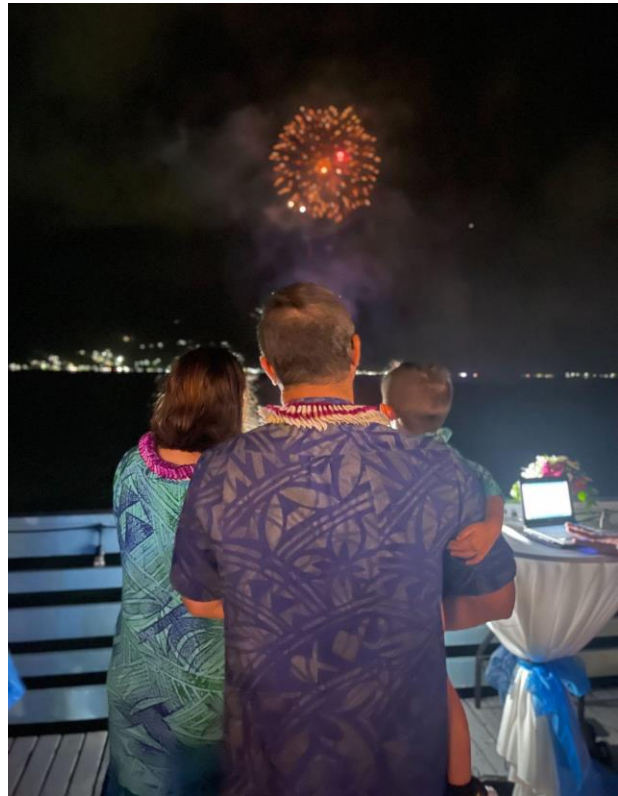
On **Friday, September 23, 2022**, the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center held its Service Awards Banquet at the Governor Rex. E. Lee Auditorium. The theme of the evening was "Celebrating You."

"You all have played a critical role in ensuring the wellbeing of every life here in American Samoa by providing high-quality care," stated Acting Governor Talauega in his special remarks. He continued, "We are here to celebrate all your efforts and hard work -no matter the circumstance, it has aided in the protection of our beloved people. Our frontline healthcare heroes and your families deserve our deepest gratitude for all your sacrifices to fulfill this calling."

Highlighted this evening where all the employees that have served American Samoa faithfully in the past thirty years, forty years, and fifty years. Concluding the evening was awarding the special award to Ms. Judith Payes, who has served the territory for the last fifty-five years.

On **Saturday, September 24, 2022**, the Department of Commerce concluded the Jubilee Celebration commemorating 50 years since the signing of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). In partnership with Bluesky American Samoa, a countdown event and dinner cocktail was held at the DDW Cafe Restaurant, recognizing the partnerships with the American Samoa Government and private business owners.

Acting Governor, Honorable Talauega E. V. Ale delivered the special remarks prior to the countdown of the fireworks. "Since the COVID-19 outbreak in our communities earlier in the year, along with Code Red restrictions and many other mitigation measures imposed at the time, the private sector was a critical factor in the defense of American Samoa. Tonight's event is a token of how much we have overcome together as a people," said Acting Governor Talauega.



Acting Governor Talauega also remarked on the Administration's vision for the government-private sector relationship, "Governor Lemanu and I are committed to ensuring private businesses are able to operate and be successful in American Samoa. On behalf of Governor Lemanu, we express our sincerest gratitude to all the private businesses for your services in helping the people of American Samoa. I join CEO Justin Tuiasosopo in wishing you all a beautiful evening."

Shortly after, Bluesky launched a fifteen-minute firework show that could be seen all along the Pago Pago Bay area.

On **Sunday, September 25, 2022**, the Department of Health opened up the month-long Women's Health Island-Wide Campaign with a church service held at the Ave Fetu Ao Methodist Church located in Fagaima.

"During the Women's Health Month, and the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October), we stand with our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends, and we recognize all the Women's Health services provided for American Samoa," remarked Acting Governor Talauega. He



continued, “Women play a vital role as the foundation of our families, our communities, and our Territory. Oftentimes the decisions and the well-being of our families are made by women, however, oftentimes women do not give the same attention to their own health and needs. This is an opportunity for women of all ages, ethnicities, and economic circumstances to take simple everyday steps to embrace healthier lifestyles.”

Pictured left: Good Lady Marian Tiare McGuire and S.O.F.I.A.S. Miss Aruni Talaifaga (Picture Credit: Society Of Fa’afafine in American Samoa)

The Women’s Health Island-Wide Campaign this year will be comprised of the following activities:

- September 26: Awareness Wave | Utulei Suigaula Park
- September 30: Wellness Fair | Utulei Suigaula Park
- October 15: Village Screening | this will continue until June 30, 2023
- October 3-December 9: Womens Mosooi Cricket Tournament | Fagaalu Park
- October 31: Cancer Run | Tafuna/Pago DYWA
- Jan 2023: Women’s Softball Tournament | Solaita Field

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