

For Official Release  
PR 002-05162023  
Office of the Governor  
Utulei, American Samoa  
May 16, 2023



## LBJ Nursing Services Award Ceremony 2023

*“We see your commitment, and we ask that you continue giving the same devotion and care to our people. May God bless each of you for the sacrifices you have made.”*

On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale attended the Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center (LBJ-TMC) 2023 Nursing Service Award Ceremony held at the DDW Beach Cafe in Utulei. Lt. Governor Ale delivered the keynote speech during the ceremony.

“On behalf of Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, I congratulate each and every one of you for overcoming the many obstacles and challenges you have faced; it has not been easy,” remarked Lt. Governor Ale. He further added, “We see your commitment, and we ask that you continue giving the same devotion and care to our people. May God bless each of you for the sacrifices you have made.” Lt. Governor Ale also expressed his gratitude for the attention he received when he was recently admitted to the Medical Ward.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Dr. Akapusi Ledua, Director of Nursing Simamao Tuato’o also delivered remarks. The Ceremony was conducted by Elaine Maulupe, BSN, RN, and Reverend Petaia Tumau, Chaplain of LBJ-TMC, delivered both the Invocation and Benediction.

These are the individual awards that were presented today:

### **Nurse of the Year**

Luao Wasko, RN

### **50 Years of Service**

Faatigafua Valusaga, LPN

### **40 Years of Service**

Simamao Tuato’o, RN (Director of Nursing)

Tufanua Tupua, CCHT

**20 Years of Service**

Tuaotala Faalilo, RN

Monika Iosefa, RN

Miriama Ioka, CNA

Peggy Uiki, CNA

Dorothy Coffin, WC

Fei Itamua, Nsg. Adm. Coordinator

**Unit Manager of the Year**

Uluulufau S. Avegalio, RN

**Best Unit**

Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

**Best Clinic**

Pediatric Clinic

Other recognitions acknowledged during the ceremony were those who recently passed the NCLEX Exam and Wound Care Certification Program:

**NCLEX Registered Nurse**

Faletuese Tafiti-Leiato

Ria Yola

Mautumua Bryanna Maulupe

Min Chul Shin

Cierra Semo

Jennifer Ypil Bancod

Eric Ypil

**NCLEX Licensed Practical Nurse**

Debbie Afalava

Lafoaina Wendt

Chesiah Javier

Danielle Taiula

Laulauga Misa

Jaelyn Keil

Emele Iosefa

**Wound Care Certification**

Shane Chen, RN

Meli Manulo, RN

Ma Moya Bejer, RN

Siaifo Tafiti, RN

Uluulufau Avegalio, RN  
Janet Ursolino, LPN  
Stella Thompson, LPN  
Mark Espiritu, LPN  
July Tuvale, LPN  
Denise Allen, CNA  
Asofausia Paulo, CNA  
Esmerelda Iese, CNA









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