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GOVERNOR

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TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

September 28, 2021

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 154 – 21

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, Presidents and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: 12th Anniversary of 2009 Tsunami (Territorial moment of remembrance)

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009 our Territory was devastated by the South Pacific Tsunami that resulted in wide-spread devastation and claimed 34 lives in our Territory. We will never forget the horrors that transpired that day. This date serves as a remembrance of the lives we lost on that September morning. More than ever, we committed to moving our Territory towards greater resilience in the face of future events. May we all continue to be vigilant in our preparations of natural disasters.

While we remember those we lost and recall the devastation of that tragic day, may we never forget that in moments of crisis and uncertainty, there is always hope. In memory and honor of those who lost their lives in the 2009 tsunami, the American Samoa Government will observe the following on **September 29, 2021**:

- Flags of the United States and American Samoa will be flown at half-staff
- All ASG departments, agencies, and authorities are encouraged to hold a prayer service
- American Samoa Government will observe a half day

On behalf of Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale and our families, we thank our first responders and all the heroes who tirelessly strengthen our Territory's ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, and recover from natural disasters. We thank you for your commitment to serve our Territory. As we reflect upon this tragedy, the lives lost, and the impacts on the affected survivors, let us each take a moment to be grateful for the Lord's enduring protection and blessings on our Territory.

May God Bless our beloved Territory of American Samoa!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lemaniu P. S. Mauga", is written over a horizontal line.

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor