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Manu'a 120th Cession Day July 16th, 2024

The Malaetele Avaloa, Ta'ū held the final day of celebrations for Manu'a's 120th Cession Day. As is customary, an ava ceremony was carried out by the 'aumaga (untitled men) of Manu'a District to formally welcome esteemed leaders and guests. Reverend Elder Iosefa Autele led the sermon giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for his love that has made it possible for Manu'a to celebrate 120 years since signing the Deed of Cession with the United States.

A parade was conducted where departments of the government, businesses and local communities took part in to show their appreciation of Manu'a's flag day. The raising of flags followed. The United States, American Samoa, and the Manu'atele flags were raised while the anthems were sung by the attendees.

Honorable Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga in his special remarks said "It has been 120 years since the Tui Manu'a signed the Deed of Cession with the United States, and that is why we are here to celebrate this historic and iconic occasion." Honorable Governor reflected on how the world is at war but we are at peace, and this is a testament of how much we are blessed by God. Furthermore, Honorable Governor said "I urge each and everyone here today, to learn the words of the Manu'a anthem that was written by Tauili'ili, because if you sing these words, you are from this land, the land of Manu'atele," Governor was referring to the humble people of Manu'atele who are celebrating their 120th flag day. Honorable Governor concluded his special address by reciting the parting words of Tui Manu'a "*Ia Samoa outou, Ia Samoa foi matou*" which translates "You are all Samoans, and we are also Samoans".

Misaalefua Hudson the Manu'a District Governor and Police Commissioner HTC Lefiti Falelailii Pese who are proud sons of Manu'a spoke on behalf of the district to express their gratitude to Honorable Governor, the ASG and everyone who has made the Manu'a 120th Cession Day memorable. Secretary of Samoan Affairs Afioga le Ma'oputasi Mauga Tasi Asuega

added on to the special occasion by saying he is lost for words on how proud he is to be present in celebrating 120 years flag day for Manu'a.

Reverend Elder Autele said the final prayer to officially close the Manu'atele 120th Cession Day.

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