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“You May Have to Fight a Battle More Than Once to Win It”

Governor Lemanu delivers special remarks at the Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School Graduation



The Honorable Lemanu P. S. Mauga, Governor of American Samoa delivered his special remarks at the Nu'uuli Vocational Technical High School Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at the school's gymnasium:

“Graduation marks a significant milestone in your lives—a milestone that symbolizes both an ending and a beginning. It is an ending to your high school journey, where you have created lasting friendships, overcome challenges, and gained knowledge that will shape your future. But it is also the beginning of a new adventure—a chapter filled with endless possibilities and opportunities.

The world you are about to enter is evolving rapidly, characterized by technological advancements, global interconnectedness, and complex societal issues. You will be faced with challenges that previous generations could not have imagined. It will not be easy. You may have to fight a battle more than once before you find success, but do not let that stop you. Remember your purpose and take courage in the people that are rooting for you, encouraging you, and cheering you on from the sidelines.

The world will define success by wealth or material possessions, but true success lies in making a positive impact on the lives of others and contributing to the betterment of society. Each one of you has a unique set of talents, passions, and perspectives. Embrace them and use them to make a difference in your families, churches, villages and communities. Whatever path you choose in life, let your actions be guided by integrity, compassion, and a commitment to doing the right thing even when no one is watching.

Life is a series of ups and downs. It throws unexpected curveballs, tests our resilience, and pushes us to our limits. But it is during those moments of struggle and adversity that we truly discover our strength and potential. It is easy to dream big and set lofty goals, but the true test lies in our ability to stay committed when the going gets tough. To help you, keep your faith in God, who goes ahead of us and fights our battles. When you choose to trust in Him, like David's trust in God's strength, you will defeat many Goliaths in your lifetime.

As you move forward, never forget your culture and the values instilled in you by your parents, teachers, spiritual leaders and mentors. Cherish the importance of empathy, kindness, and respect for others. Seek out opportunities to serve your communities and lend a helping hand to those in need. Remember that the greatest joy in life comes not from personal achievements alone but from the impact you have on the lives of others.

Take a moment to reflect on the unconditional support you have received from your families, friends, coaches and teachers. Their encouragement and guidance have been instrumental in your journey. Thank them for their love, sacrifices, and the belief they have had in your abilities. Take pride in your achievements, but always remember that you did not reach this milestone alone.

In closing, I want to reiterate my heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2023. As you step into the world, may God's greatest blessings be upon you and your worthy endeavors. Celebrate this remarkable achievement today. Carry with you the unwavering spirit of perseverance. Embrace the challenges that lie ahead with open hearts and unyielding determination. Refuse to give up on your dreams, for it is in the face of adversity that your true character is revealed especially when you have to fight a challenge more than once.

Congratulations to each and every one of you. Go forth from this moment with the belief that within you lies the power to achieve greatness. God bless.”

Governor Lemanu offered heartfelt congratulations and touched upon the collective efforts of the parents, faculty and staff, church leaders and community leaders, upon the students. During the ceremony, graduate Falesoa Tufi was awarded the Valedictorian for the highest achievement; and two graduates were awarded Salutatorian: Mariah Ioane and Etuale Sefita.

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