

From 1900 to 1951, the U.S., through the Department of the Navy, appointed military officers to govern the affairs of the islands. According to the 1921 Codification of the Regulations and Orders of the Government of American Samoa, on May 1, 1900 Commander Benjamin Tilley, the first naval commandant of Tutuila and Manua, declared that the Governor, for the time being, of American Samoa is the head of the Government. For fifty-one years, this self-made regulation governed American Samoans course with one appointed Naval Governor after another acting as the maker of all laws and appointments with little regard for the will of the people. During this period of martial law there were no elected leaders.

With the transfer of power in 1951 to the Department of the Interior, American Samoa experienced little more than a transition from military to civilian rule. Civilian-appointed governors still had full authority over island affairs. In the 1960s a territorial constitution was drafted and there began to be some involvement from the Samoan Legislature. One unintended consequence of the law passed in 1984 requiring Congressional approval of amendments to the American Samoa constitution is that, whereas between 1960 and 1984 our local leaders had extensive practice at constitution-writing, after the law was passed this practice ceased. To date, the final steps toward some measure of self-government were taken when in 1977 the first Governor was elected by popular vote and in 1980 when American Samoa elected its first Delegate to the U.S. Congress.

Given this background and history of our political relationship with the United States, Faleomavaega offered the following recommendations. First, Tutuila and Manua must officially declare a union as one political entity or governing body, thereby sanctioning its authority to deal with the United States as we negotiate our future status. This would address one of the major shortcomings of the separately negotiated Deeds of Cession.

Second, I would recommend that a national convention be called to deliberate the specific provisions of the 1900 and 1904 Deeds of Cession. As I mentioned, these Deeds do not provide any real protection for our communal lands and culture as our forefathers intended. I believe we need to formulate a statement of principles underlining our desire to either amend certain provisions of the two deeds or establish an entirely new agreement with the United States. The provisions of any such agreement should define our political relationship with the United States, whether it is a covenant status like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, free association status like the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands, commonwealth status like Puerto Rico, or even an Organic Act such as the one governing Guams relationship with the United States.

Third, once we have defined what American Samoans relationship should be with the United States under the terms of an agreement that is agreeable to both sides, the leadership of Samoa should then call a constitutional convention and organize a government based upon the terms and conditions outlined in the agreement, not the U.S. Constitution. Moreover, I believe this must be done as soon as possible the longer this uncertainty surrounding these two Deeds remains, the further we drift from our forefathers treaty intentions and risk the erosion of our culture, of becoming less Samoan and more American or, in other words, Americans of Samoan ancestry. As it stands, we cannot claim loyalty to the United States and at the same time refuse to apply federal standards that are incompatible with our local traditions and land-tenure system.

To summarize, Faleomavaega said, what I asked of the esteemed members of the Political Status Study Commission is that, before they become too deeply involved in examining all possible future options, they focus first on clarifying the original sources of authority underpinning our current political relationship with the United States, the two Deeds of Cession, as a foundation for a unified approach to determining our political future.

The full text of the Treaties/Deeds of Cession, in English and Samoan, as well as the 1929 and 1983 laws discussed in the Congressmans statement are available on Congressman Faleomavaega's website at www.house.gov/faleomavaega/historical.shtml

[Press Release, May 24, 2007]

**FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS STUDY COMMISSION
REPORT NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that a copy of the Future Political Status Study Commission Report is now available online for the public and particularly members of the Samoan community all around the world to read.

"Many people in our Samoan community, especially those residing outside of American Samoa, have contacted my office to request copies of or to find out how to obtain a copy of the Future Political Status Study Commission Report," Faleomavaega said. "So, I am pleased to inform everyone that a copy of the report is now available online on my website and on the American Samoa Governor's website for anyone to read."

"I want to congratulate and thank The Honorable Tufele Li'amatua—Chairman, The Honorable Tualo Fruean—Vice Chairman, High Talking Chief Pofu Sunia—Executive Director, and all the Commissioners and staff of the Future Political Status Study Commission for the tremendous work they did in completing this report."

"Now that we have the report, everyone concerned should take time to thoroughly review the Commission's recommendations, especially our Fono and the Administration. As I have stated before, I believe the next logical step in this important process is for the Fono to conduct hearings to discuss the different recommendations made by the Commission. Only after such a careful review and discussion I feel we should proceed to the next steps or implementation," Faleomavaega concluded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on December 1, 2014, I missed two recorded votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 532 and YEA on Roll Call 533.

**RECOGNIZING THE TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF HOPE**

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Hispanas Organized for

Political Equality, or HOPE, on the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary. On December 4, 2014, HOPE will celebrate a quarter-century of success in championing the full participation of Latinas in America's democracy and economy. HOPE's efforts have benefited not just Latinas, but men and women of all backgrounds throughout our nation.

A cross-section of Latinas from business, political, and social backgrounds came together to found HOPE in 1989, the same year the first Latina was elected to Congress. Since that time, HOPE has been a valuable partner to Latinas who have pushed political limits, broken barriers, and defined what it means to be a leader. HOPE has directly served more than 50,000 Latinas throughout the state of California, as well as millions more through advocacy efforts. HOPE's achievements include:

The HOPE Leadership Institute (HLI), California's only statewide leadership program specifically designed to train Latina leaders in vital leadership and advocacy skills. More than ninety percent of HLI alumnae have attained leadership positions in their careers or communities, and thirty percent have gone on to serve on a local or statewide commission.

The HOPE Youth Leadership Program (HYLP), which has prepared hundreds of low-income Latina high school students for college, and trained them in civic participation. Eighty-seven percent of HYLP participants have enrolled in college after graduation.

HOPE's Latina Action Day and Latina History Day, which inspire and empower over 1,300 attendees each year to succeed and take responsibility to ensure the prosperity of their communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I salute HOPE, its Board, and its supporters. They have played a vital role in inspiring, empowering, and supporting so many of California's leaders over the last twenty-five years. California, and the entire United States, are stronger for their leadership. I wish HOPE continued success as it continues its mission to ensure political and economic parity for Latinas.

**CONGRATULATING CASSIDY
NUSSMAN FOR HONORABLE MENTION
SELECTION**

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cassidy Nussman for being named an honorable mention selection on the Under Armour Girls High School All-America Team by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). Nussman is a senior at Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. This award recognizes Nussman's outstanding athletic achievements.

She is among an elite group of high school athletes, joining a list of 150 high school All-American honorable mentions. After this season, Nussman will go on to compete at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics at Northwestern University.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Cassidy Nussman for

being selected as an honorable mention on the Under Armour Girls High School All-American Team. We look forward to her continued success both on and off the court.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF U.S.
TREASURY \$20.4 MILLION STIMULUS
PAYOUT TO QUALIFYING
RESIDENTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information about the U.S. Treasury's \$20.4 million stimulus payout to qualifying residents in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Apr. 28, 2008]

U.S. TREASURY SENDING \$20.4 MILLION TO
ASG TO PAY OUT ECONOMIC STIMULUS PAYMENTS
TO QUALIFYING RESIDENTS

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that the American Samoa Government will receive \$20.4 million from the U.S. Department of Treasury to be paid out to qualifying residents as part of the Economic Stimulus Package that was signed into law to jumpstart the economy.

Faleomavaega and Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo urged the Leadership of the House and Senate to include the Territories in the stimulus package and make child tax credits and tax rebates available to qualifying residents. The Members were successful in their efforts and, prior to the bill being signed into law, in a letter dated January 29, 2008, Faleomavaega informed Governor Togiola and the Fono that, for American Samoa, the U.S. Treasury would send a check of an estimated amount and ASG must have a plan approved promptly to disburse the money quickly.

In a joint letter dated February 15, 2008 to Secretary Henry M. Paulson of the Department of Treasury, Faleomavaega along with Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo, Congresswoman Donna Christensen, and Resident Commissioner Luis Fortuno also urged the Secretary to implement an arrangement that will provide for the funds to be transferred in advance of the actual payouts of the rebates.

"Today, Secretary Paulson has honored our request and I thank him for informing my office that he has accepted ASG's plan for distributing stimulus payments to residents of American Samoa, and that ASG will receive a check for \$20.4 million in order to payout tax rebates and child tax credits to those who qualify," Faleomavaega said. "This payment is in accordance of the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 that was signed by the President on February 13, 2008."

"The stimulus package was easily passed by both the House and Senate and I, again, thank Chairman Charles Rangel of the House Committee on Ways and Means and Chairman Max Baucus of the Senate Finance Committee for supporting our request to include the territories in the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008."

"I also commend Governor Togiola and our local Tax Office for acting quickly and submitting a plan that has been approved by the U.S. Treasury. I am especially pleased that the people of American Samoa will benefit from these rebates which will help bolster our local economy," Faleomavaega concluded.

The full text of Secretary Paulson's letter of April 28 informing Governor Togiola of the

approval of ASG's Distribution Plan was forwarded to Faleomavaega's office by the U.S. Department of Treasury and follows:

Dear Governor Tulafono:

Thank you for your letter of April 23, 2008, submitting the Distribution Plan for the Recovery Rebates (the Plan) in American Samoa. The Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, P.L. 110-185 (the Act), requires that I approve American Samoa's plan for distributing stimulus payments to residents of American Samoa. The Act also requires that once such a plan is approved, the Treasury Department make a payment to American Samoa in an amount estimated as being equal to the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa by reason of the amendments made to the Internal Revenue Code by section 101(c) of the Act if a "mirror code" tax system had been in effect in American Samoa.

In accordance with the Act, I approve the Plan, a copy of which is enclosed. Also, we have estimated the aggregate benefits that would have been provided to residents of American Samoa by reason of section 101(c) of the Act if a mirror code tax system had been in effect in American Samoa at \$20.4 million. A payment in this amount will be made by the Treasury Department to American Samoa to fund the prompt distribution of stimulus payments to resident of American Samoa pursuant to the Plan.

Sincerely,

Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF DR. JERI PHEIFER

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable public service of Dr. Jeri Pheifer as she retires from her position as Superintendent of the Everman Independent School District.

Dr. Pheifer was appointed Superintendent of Schools in 2004, after serving the Venus and Albany Independent School Districts. Under her tenure with Everman Schools, the district has thrived and provided quality education for the thousands of children who attend class each day. Most notably, under Dr. Pheifer's leadership the Everman Joe C. Bean High School Graduation Class of 2013 achieved a one hundred percent graduation rate. Her tireless work to improve and strengthen Everman schools has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this year Dr. Pheifer worked with Tarrant County College to open its newest Early College High School. Partnerships like these work to provide students, who likely would not otherwise consider attending college, an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree at the same time.

Over the past 35 years, Dr. Pheifer has worked tirelessly in the field of education. She has served as a teacher and administrator for public and private schools, serving students from pre-Kindergarten through the university level. These positions exemplify Dr. Pheifer's dedication to not only the community she currently serves, but to the State of Texas and its citizens. Dr. Pheifer received her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees from Abilene Christian University and her Doctor of Education degree from Texas Tech University.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Pheifer on the occasion of her retirement from over three

decades of contributions to Texas communities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in recognizing Dr. Jeri Pheifer's dedicated service to the Everman Independent School District and the State of Texas.

IN RECOGNITION OF ALLAN
ALIFANO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Allan Alifano, a retiring member of the Half Moon Bay City Council. Allan Alifano has served the people of Half Moon Bay with distinction through eight years on the city's planning commission and since 2009 on the city council.

Councilman Alifano has also served his community through countless meetings of the Local Agency Formation Commission and as a member of the local wastewater treatment board. While on the board during our period of intense drought, he supported recycling water from the treatment plant to meet local landscaping and golf course requirements.

During his time on the council, Half Moon Bay underwent tremendous challenges including the historic recession and consequent reductions in sales tax receipts, as well as a legal judgment involving land use decisions. The combined impact of these events placed the city's finances in great peril. Councilman Alifano was committed to seeing his community pull through despite the odds. Ultimately, Half Moon Bay emerged with essential services intact and a renewed commitment to community betterment.

Councilman Alifano is the proud owner of Alifano Technologies in Half Moon Bay. Among many offerings, it specializes in computer support, complex IT design and customer service through the provision of needed supplies. The company is a prominent business on Main Street, a location that demonstrates the commitment of Councilman Alifano and his family to Half Moon Bay's historic business district. Alifano Technologies is also philanthropic, with the proceeds of e-waste recycling going towards the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastside.

Mr. Speaker, serving on a city council is a challenging form of public service. Neighbors may have your phone number or buttonhole you in the store. You are privy to the most optimistic projections about the future of your town, and to some of the biggest challenges to continued prosperity. Allan Alifano handled his responsibilities with aplomb, enthusiasm and decisiveness. Half Moon Bay is a better community because he offered his services on behalf of its future. Please join me in congratulating Allan Alifano on his service to the outstanding community of Half Moon Bay as he returns to private life in a city that was guided by his hopes for its future and by his service to all.