

House Calendar No. 208

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 443

[Report No. 106-582]

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the centennial of the raising of the United States flag in American Samoa.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2000

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. JOHN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

APRIL 13, 2000

Additional sponsors: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE

APRIL 13, 2000

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the centennial of the raising of the United States flag in American Samoa.

- 1 Whereas the people of American Samoa have inhabited
- 2 *Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands for at least 4,000*

1 years and developed a unique and autonomous sea-
2 faring and agrarian culture, governing themselves
3 through their own form of government;

4 Whereas in 1722, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen be-
5 came the first European to sight—but not land on—
6 the shores of the Samoan Islands, islands which re-
7 mained isolated for another 46 years because
8 Roggeveen miscalculated their location;

9 Whereas in 1768, French explorer Louis Antoine de Bou-
10 gainville, the second European to sight the Samoan
11 islands, became so impressed with the sailing skills of
12 the natives he named the islands “L’Archipel des
13 Navigateurs,” and for generations thereafter the en-
14 tire Samoan island group was known to the Western
15 World as the “Navigator Islands”;

16 Whereas in 1787, Frenchman Jean Francois La Perouse
17 landed on the shores of these islands and thus began
18 the “opening” of Samoa to the West, with American
19 whalers as the principal group to engage the people
20 of Samoa in trade and commerce, followed from 1830
21 on by English missionaries;

22 Whereas in 1839, as part of a congressionally authorized
23 trip to the Pacific, United States Navy commander
24 Charles Wilkes visited the island of Tutuila and later
25 reported favorably in support of establishing a struc-

1 tured relationship between the island and the United
2 States;

3 Whereas on March 2, 1872, Richard Meade, commander
4 of the U.S.S. Narragansett, visited Pago Pago, and,
5 on his own responsibility, made an agreement with
6 High Chief Mauga entitled “Commercial Regulations,
7 etc.,” which was submitted to, but never ratified by,
8 the Senate;

9 Whereas on February 13, 1878, a “treaty of friendship
10 and commerce with the people of Samoa” was pro-
11 claimed ratified;

12 Whereas on May 21, 1890, a treaty between the United
13 States, Germany, and Great Britain, and assented to
14 by the Samoan Government, “to provide for the secu-
15 rity of the life, property and trade of the citizens and
16 subjects of their respective Governments residing in,
17 or having commercial relations with the Islands of
18 Samoa,” was proclaimed ratified;

19 Whereas the treaties of 1878 and 1890 were annulled by
20 a treaty of December 2, 1899, between the United
21 States, Germany, and Great Britain;

22 Whereas on April 17, 1900, the traditional chiefs of the
23 South Pacific Islands of Tutuila and Aunu’u agreed
24 to become a part of the United States, and the United

1 States flag was raised on what is now known as the
2 United States Territory of American Samoa;

3 Whereas since that time, the residents of American Samoa
4 have been proud of their affiliation with this great Na-
5 tion and have demonstrated their loyalty and patriot-
6 ism in countless ways;

7 Whereas April 17 is known as Flag Day in American
8 Samoa and is the biggest holiday in the territory, and
9 is celebrated not only in American Samoa, but
10 throughout the United States wherever there is a siz-
11 able Samoan community;

12 Whereas American Samoans in Hawaii, California, Ne-
13 vada, Utah, Alaska, Washington, and other parts of
14 the United States pause each year on this important
15 date to celebrate this monumental occasion in Amer-
16 ican Samoa's history;

17 Whereas the per capita rate of enlistment in the Armed
18 Forces is as high for American Samoa as for any
19 State or territory, with hundreds of American
20 Samoans enlisting annually;

21 Whereas for decades American Samoa served as a Naval
22 coaling station for United States ships in the Pacific,
23 providing the Nation with what is commonly referred
24 to as the best deep-water harbor in the entire Pa-
25 cific—a harbor where American ships are protected

1 from severe and sudden tropical storms by natural,
2 high, sloping mountains—a harbor which, in the Na-
3 tion’s youth, served as a critical and crucial refueling
4 and replenishing port for military and commercial in-
5 terests, enabling the United States to pursue its for-
6 eign and commercial policies, logistically unrestrained,
7 throughout the Asian Pacific region;

8 Whereas during World War II, American Samoa was the
9 staging point for 30,000 United States Marines in-
10 volved in the Pacific theater, with American Samoans
11 serving both as hosts and as fellow soldiers to these
12 Marines via the revered Fita Fita Guard;

13 Whereas American Samoa was the first land astronauts
14 from numerous Apollo missions came to upon return-
15 ing to Earth—including astronauts from Apollo 10,
16 Apollo 12, Apollo 13, Apollo 14, and Apollo 17;

17 Whereas American Samoa produces more National Foot-
18 ball League players per capita than any other State
19 or territory of the United States, with approximately
20 18 Samoans currently playing professionally;

21 Whereas April 17, 2000, will mark the 100th anniversary
22 of American Samoa joining in political, military, and
23 economic union with the United States;

1 Whereas local government leaders in American Samoa
2 have been preparing for this centennial celebration for
3 the last three years; and

4 Whereas although 100 years have elapsed since the forma-
5 tion of this mutually beneficial relationship, American
6 Samoans today—as did their forebears in 1900—re-
7 main deeply thankful and appreciative of the benefits
8 they have received and continue to receive as a result
9 of the unique relationship American Samoa shares
10 with this great Republic; and they are proud that in
11 return for the benefits received under this relation-
12 ship, they actively contribute economically, militarily,
13 and culturally to the health and well-being of this
14 great Nation: Now, therefore, be it

15 *Whereas the people of American Samoa have inhabited*
16 *Tutuila and the Manu'a Islands for at least 3,000 years*
17 *and developed a unique and autonomous seafaring and*
18 *agrarian culture, governing themselves through their*
19 *own form of government;*

20 *Whereas in 1722, Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen became*
21 *the first European to sight—but not land on—the*
22 *shores of the Samoan Islands, islands which remained*
23 *isolated for another 46 years because Roggeveen miscal-*
24 *culated their location;*

1 *Whereas in 1768, French explorer Louis Antoine de Bou-*
2 *gainville, the second European to sight the Samoan is-*
3 *lands, became so impressed with the sailing skills of*
4 *the natives he named the islands “L’Archipel des*
5 *Navigateurs,” and for generations thereafter the entire*
6 *Samoan island group was known to the Western World*
7 *as the “Navigator Islands”;*

8 *Whereas in 1787, Frenchman Jean Francois La Perouse*
9 *landed on the shores of these islands and thus began*
10 *the “opening” of Samoa to the West, with American*
11 *whalers as the principal group to engage the people of*
12 *Samoa in trade and commerce, followed from 1830 on*
13 *by English missionaries;*

14 *Whereas in 1839, as part of a congressionally authorized*
15 *trip to the Pacific, United States Navy commander*
16 *Charles Wilkes visited the island of Tutuila and later*
17 *reported favorably in support of establishing a struc-*
18 *tured relationship between the island and the United*
19 *States;*

20 *Whereas on March 2, 1872, Richard Meade, commander of*
21 *the U.S.S. Narragansett, visited Pago Pago, and, on*
22 *his own responsibility, made an agreement with High*
23 *Chief Mauga entitled “Commercial Regulations, etc.,”*
24 *which was submitted to, but never ratified by, the Sen-*
25 *ate;*

1 *Whereas on February 13, 1878, a “treaty of friendship and*
2 *commerce with the people of Samoa” was proclaimed*
3 *ratified;*

4 *Whereas on June 14, 1889, a treaty known as the General*
5 *Act of 1889, between the United States, Germany, and*
6 *Great Britain, and assented to by the Samoan Govern-*
7 *ment, “to provide for the security of the life, property*
8 *and trade of the citizens and subjects of their respective*
9 *Governments residing in, or having commercial rela-*
10 *tions with the Islands of Samoa,” was concluded and*
11 *later ratified;*

12 *Whereas on December 2, 1899, a tripartite treaty between*
13 *the United States, Germany, and Great Britain, which*
14 *provided for the division of the several islands of*
15 *Samoa, was signed by the three parties in Washington,*
16 *D.C.;*

17 *Whereas on April 17, 1900, by treaty of cession, the tradi-*
18 *tional chiefs of the South Pacific Islands of Tutuila and*
19 *Aunu’u agreed to become a part of the United States*
20 *in return for protection of their land and culture, and*
21 *the United States flag was raised on what is now*
22 *known as the United States Territory of American*
23 *Samoa;*

24 *Whereas on July 14, 1904, by treaty of cession, His Majesty*
25 *the King of Manu’a and his traditional chiefs from the*

1 *Islands of Ta'u, Ofu, and Olosega, agreed to become*
2 *part of the United States in return for the protection*
3 *of their land and culture;*

4 *Whereas since that time, the residents of American Samoa*
5 *have been proud of their affiliation with this great Na-*
6 *tion and have demonstrated their loyalty and patriot-*
7 *ism in countless ways;*

8 *Whereas April 17 is known as Flag Day in American*
9 *Samoa and is the biggest holiday in the territory, and*
10 *is celebrated not only in American Samoa, but through-*
11 *out the United States wherever there is a sizable Sa-*
12 *moan community;*

13 *Whereas American Samoans in Hawaii, California, Ne-*
14 *vada, Utah, Alaska, Washington, and other parts of the*
15 *United States pause each year on this important date*
16 *to celebrate this monumental occasion in American Sa-*
17 *moa's history;*

18 *Whereas the per capita rate of enlistment in the Armed*
19 *Forces among American Samoans is among the highest*
20 *in the United States, with hundreds of American*
21 *Samoans enlisting annually;*

22 *Whereas for decades American Samoa served as a Naval*
23 *coaling station for United States ships in the Pacific,*
24 *providing the Nation with what is commonly referred*
25 *to as the best deep-water harbor in the entire Pacific—*

1 *a harbor where American ships are protected from se-*
2 *vere and sudden tropical storms by natural, high, slop-*
3 *ing mountains—a harbor which, in the Nation’s youth,*
4 *served as a critical and crucial refueling and replen-*
5 *ishing port for military and commercial interests, ena-*
6 *bling the United States to pursue its foreign and com-*
7 *mercial policies, logistically unrestrained, throughout*
8 *the Asian Pacific region;*

9 *Whereas during World War II, American Samoa was the*
10 *staging point for 30,000 United States Marines in-*
11 *volved in the Pacific theater, with American Samoans*
12 *serving both as hosts and as fellow soldiers to these Ma-*
13 *rines via the revered Fita Fita Guard;*

14 *Whereas American Samoa was the first land astronauts*
15 *from numerous Apollo missions came to upon returning*
16 *to Earth—including astronauts from Apollo 10, Apollo*
17 *12, Apollo 13, Apollo 14, and Apollo 17;*

18 *Whereas American Samoa produces more National Football*
19 *League players per capita than any other State or ter-*
20 *ritory of the United States, with approximately 15*
21 *Samoans currently playing professionally;*

22 *Whereas April 17, 2000, will mark the 100th anniversary*
23 *of American Samoa joining in political, military, and*
24 *economic union with the United States;*

1 *Whereas local government leaders in American Samoa have*
2 *been preparing for this centennial celebration for the*
3 *last three years; and*

4 *Whereas although 100 years have elapsed since the forma-*
5 *tion of this mutually beneficial relationship, American*
6 *Samoans today—as did their forebears in 1900—re-*
7 *main deeply thankful and appreciative of the benefits*
8 *they have received and continue to receive as a result*
9 *of the unique relationship American Samoa shares with*
10 *this great Republic, and they are proud that in return*
11 *for the benefits received under this relationship, they*
12 *actively contribute economically, militarily, and cul-*
13 *turally to the health and well-being of this great Na-*
14 *tion: Now, therefore, be it*

15 *Resolved, That the House of Representatives—*

16 (1) recognizes the historical significance of the
17 centennial of the raising of the American flag over
18 the United States Territory of American Samoa;

19 (2) acknowledges 100 years of American Sa-
20 moa’s loyalty and service to the United States; and

21 (3) reaffirms its commitment to the United
22 States citizens and nationals of American Samoa for
23 improved self-governance, economic development,
24 and the expansion of domestic commerce, consistent
25 with the desires of the people of American Samoa.

House Calendar No. 208

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 443

[Report No. 106-582]

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with regard to the centennial of the raising of the United States flag in American Samoa.

APRIL 13, 2000

Reported with an amendment, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed