



**TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO**  
*Governor*

**FAOA A. SUNIA**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
American Samoa

Telephone: (684) 633-4116

Fax: (684) 633-2269

go@americansamoa.gov

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.: 015 -2010

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC PARK IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2009 EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DISASTER IN THE TERRITORY

Section 1. **Authority**

This Executive Order is issued under the authority granted to the Governor in Article IV, Section 7, American Samoa Revised Constitution and ASCA Section 4.0111.

Section 2. **Preamble**

Whereas, at 6:48 a.m. on September 29, 2009, a magnitude 8.3 earthquake occurred off the coast of Tonga, resulting shortly thereafter in tsunami waves that inundated all coasts of American Samoa with high seas and destructive waves; and

Whereas, the earthquake and the resultant tsunami were responsible for the loss of thirty-four lives; and

Whereas, the tsunami was also responsible for damaged and destroyed homes, businesses, sea-going vessels, vehicles and real and personal property of American Samoa's residents, government and businesses; and

Whereas, the earthquake and resultant tsunami also damaged critical infrastructure providing electricity and potable water to homes and businesses; and

Whereas, debris, in the form of concrete, appliances and furniture from destroyed homes, destroyed vehicles, uprooted trees and brush, and personal property littered the inland coasts as well as the shorelines of American Samoa; and

Whereas, in the wake of the overwhelming destruction and carnage of that fateful day, American Samoans came to the aid of each other showing absolute resolve and support for one another and their fellow man; and

Whereas, the United States of America rushed to the aid of the Territory with a swift Federal presence in the Territory the very next day, bringing much needed resources to help American Samoans in their time of need; and

Whereas, the global community reached out to American Samoa with heartfelt condolences and well-wishes, monetary donations, donated resources, volunteer services and information about loved ones and relatives in the Territory; and

Whereas, throughout the ordeal of the earthquake and tsunami of September 29, 2009, the People of the Territory of American Samoa, and even almost one year later, continue to survive and also to thrive in spite of the devastating losses incurred; and

Whereas, it is right to take pause to remember those whose lives were lost as a result of this tragic disaster, and to share a solemn day paying respect and honor to their memories.

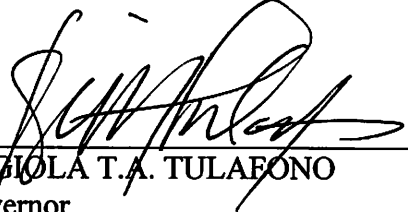
**Section 3. Order**

NOW THEREFORE, I, TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO, Governor of American Samoa, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and statutes passed pursuant thereto, do hereby establish the September 29, 2010 Memorial Park, also known as the 9/29 Memorial Park, in the village of Vaitogi in honor of all of the Territory's survivors of the worst natural disaster in our history, and to honor those whose lives were lost as a result of this tragic event.

**Section 4: Effective Date**

This order shall take effect immediately.

Dated: September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO  
Governor

cc: Per Standard List