

Afuvai Temukisa Malae

October 11, 1952 ~ February 6, 2021

“Aunty Temu”

Afuvai Temukisa Malae of Aua, American Samoa completed her journey here on earth and joined our Father in Heaven on February 6, 2021, in Odgen, Utah. Temukisa was born to U'ulopaimoana Afuvai of Aua, American Samoa and Afuvai Tu’ipapa Siafolau Le'iato of Avaio & Fagaitua, American Samoa on October 11, 1952, in Fagaalu, American Samoa.

Temukisa was a graduate of McKinley High School in Honolulu, HI. She continued her education at American Samoa Community College where she received her associate degree. Her career began at the Attorney General's office in American Samoa before transferring to the High Court where she worked for 30+ years as a Court Clerk. She served her community with distinction and made some of her best friends while working at the High Court.

Temukisa was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and in the Aua, 1st Ward, Pago Stake in American Samoa. She served in the Young Women Auxiliary most of her life and held various callings in the Young Women program. This is where she became an Aunty to many through the love, support, and knowledge of the gospel that she so openly shared with others.

Her hobbies included singing and playing sports. She was a member of multiple choirs and sang lead alto. She had a beautiful voice and would sing at various functions, performing alongside her best friends. She also played multiple sports growing up. Temukisa especially had a love for softball, where she received multiple MVP awards. She was very athletic like her brothers, Sigafili, Filiki, and Kuni.

But more than anything, Temu loved to spend time with her mom and dad. She was a beloved daughter and cared for her parents until their passing. She especially loved their Sunday drives around the island, and they would never miss the chance to get ice cream in town. With the passing of her Father, Afuvai Siafolau Le’iato in 2017, Afuvai Temukisa Malae was named the Matai or Chief of her clan. She was first woman to hold the Matai title in the Afuvai Family. Afuvai Temukisa represented and served her Family honorably through strength, dignity, and love throughout her tenure.

Aunty Temu was heavily involved in her nieces/nephews' lives and became a second mom to all of us. We were blessed to learn many invaluable lessons during her 69 years here on earth. Of which was her favorite scripture from the Sermon on the Mount; Matthew 5:48 - “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” An Aunty to many, she adamantly taught her nieces and nephews to strive for perfection and to do their best in everything. She taught us that although we may fall short, Christ will be pleased with our true efforts and we will one day reach perfection through our love of the Lord and by keeping His commandments.

Aunty Temu was a gift to all of us. She inspired us to become better people. She taught us to be a fighter like she was. She comforted us. She took the time to understand us. Most of all, Aunty Temu loved us unconditionally. Her greatest gift was her ability to make us feel that love every second she was with us. Aunty Temu's love of Christ was evident in the way she loved her family. We know her love will transcend the veil and continue to bless each of our lives.

She is preceded in death by her maternal grandparents Li'ava'a Mauga Afuvai (Aua & Pago Pago, AS) & Fa'asalataiaopo Noa Alo (Fagasa & Asili, AS), paternal grandparents Sala Pio Le'iato (Avaio & Fagaitua, AS) & Valelei Pa'au (Fitiuta, Manu'a). Her parents Afuvai Siafolau Le'iato & U'Ulopaimoana Afuvai- Le'iato (Aua, AS), brother Sigafili (Maraia) Malae Le'iato (Aua, AS), niece Tammy Malae (Aua, AS), nephew Tafe Ma'ae Jr (Ogden, UT), and niece Telesia Temukisa Uhatafe (Sandy, UT) and various aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her sister Eseta (Colin) Steadman (UT), brother Filiki Malae (UT), brother Kuni (Aremenda) Le'iato Jr (AS), brother Lasi (Malaefono) Le'iato (WA), brother Mati (Priscilla) Le'iato (WA), and Uncle Ma'i (Cheryl) Afuvai (HI).

All her nieces & nephews oldest to youngest: Rosie (Harry) Akeripa (UT), Sene (Chrissy) Ma'ae (UT), Leone Miller (GA), Eileen (Tai) Tyrell (WA), Marcus Ma'ae (UT), Jason Ma'ae (UT), Bethany (Robert) Toelupe (AS), Vincent (Uilani) Ma'ae (UT), Alan Malae (UT), Edward Ma'ae (UT), Tyson (Mysti) Malae (UT), Alayna (Brandon) Cressall (UT), Heather (Siaosi) Uhatafe (UT), Ashley (Alex) Nelson (UT), Dominic Le'iato (UT), Chantz Malae (UT), Charity Malae (OK), Patrick Le'iato (UT), Felagolagoma'i Le'iato (UT), Pio Le'iato (UT), Angellailah Le'iato (WA), Bryannah Le'iato (WA), Maximus Le'iato, (wa), Matthias Le'iato (wa), Matteus Le'iato (WA),Valelei Le'iato (AS).

Services will be held at Larkin Sunset Gardens, 1950 E. Dimple Dell Rod. (10600 S.), Sandy, UT 84092 on Saturday, February 27, 2021 from 11am-12pm. Interment to follow directly after service at the same location.

We respectfully request that all who are in attendance wear protective face coverings, maintain social distancing when possible, and please stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to someone who is. Thank you

To view previously held services please visit
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aVbr-fHZqj3ndApuTeZz5028IzdET-te-C3dq8kB-_6buMnWbORulQza4HmAmfaC.DYV