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## REGIONAL NEWS

# Kosrae celebrates 2017 FSM Culture Day

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By Ashley Meredith & Alister Tolenoa - For Variety



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**TOFOL, Kosrae** — This year’s Culture Day in Kosrae was a two-day celebration with the theme, “Pahtok Ohiyac Mahtuh Wo in Ahkkweye Kasracsr” or “Promote our Customs and Traditions to Strengthen Our Economy.”

Culture Day 2017 was graciously supported by the Congress of FSM through Sen. Alik Alik’s office. It was organized by the Council of Customs and Traditions chaired by Alister Tolenoa. This council serves the Office of the Governor. Everyone was invited to gather and participate in the festivities at the Moses Mackwelung Gymnasium.



Dr. Tulensru Wakuk, director of education, was the keynote speaker for the event while Wilson Allen, chairman of the Council of Senior Citizens, presented the opening remarks for Culture Day 2017.

The day was devoted to a dance performance by school children, a presentation of artifacts by the Historic Preservation Office Museum, culinary prowess, traditional medicine, chants, singing, and elders who generously donated their time to show their craft to Kosraeans and visitors.

On the second day, Alister Tolenoa delivered his remarks to the day’s parade participants. The parade included floats representing many of the otah, or hamlets, from each municipalities. Each of the floats focused on the strengths of their community and heritage.

Participants included students, teachers, parents, youth groups, senior citizens, government employees and church groups.

At the conclusion of the Culture Day celebrations on Kosrae, the winning float was announced: Tafunsak Young Christian Endeavor.

On behalf of the State of Kosrae, we appreciate everyone who participated and attended Culture Day 2017.

Ashley Meredith is the Kosrae State cultural anthropologist.

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