

PRESS RELEASE



TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Office of the High Commissioner

Saipan, Mariana Islands

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FOUR COMPLETE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

Marianas

Truk

Ponape

Marshall

Palau

Four Trust Territory students returned home on July 27 after completing their senior year in high school on Mainland USA under the American Field Service Scholarship Program. Kohne Ramon of Ponape graduated from Iroquois Central High School, Elma, New York. Martin Yinug of Yap graduated from North Haven High School, North Haven, Connecticut. Ramon G. Villagomez of Saipan, graduate from Whitehall Memorial High School, Whitehall, Wisconsin. Felix Ayuyu, also of Saipan, graduated from Joplin High School, Joplin, Missouri.

Another group of six Trust Territory students are leaving Guam on August 2 to start their senior year in high school on the Mainland as follows: John Hagilelgam of Ulithi, Yap, to attend Beaverton High School, Beaverton, Oregon; John Uolai also of Ulithi, Yap, to attend Port Washington High School, Port Washington, Wisconsin; Julita Tellei of Palau, to attend Nordhoff High School, Ojai, California; Antonia Meltel, also of Palau, to attend Valley-New Kensington Campus High School, New Kensington, Pennsylvania; Francisca Taro of Saipan, to attend Chester F. Awalt High School,

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Mountain View, California; and Juan R. Sablan, also of Saipan, to attend Miramonte High School in Orinda, California.

The American Field Service is a non-profit, private educational organization and has no political or religious affiliations. Its objective is to grant to young students from numerous countries a one school year experience in the United States to learn about the United States, and on the student's return home, to share this knowledge and experience with their family and friends. While attending school in the United States, these students may let people in the United States know more about their own countries. AFS students are of school age (16 to 18) and attend secondary schools, not colleges, in the United States. The recipient of this award is required to return home at the end of his one-year education and is required not to return to the U.S. for at least two years afterward. (In case of the Trust Territory, however, our returning AFS students are allowed to go to Guam or Hawaii for the purpose of obtaining higher education. This dispensation has been granted since there is no institution for higher education available in the Trust Territory). AFS students, while studying in the United States, live with American families who belong to the AFS community. The community, to be eligible to belong to this organization, is required to raise the necessary funds, primarily the \$750 participating contribution to the AFS organization for each student.

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The Trust Territory Government contributes to this program in the form of round-trip transportation from the district to San Francisco and return, and grants \$100 clothing allowance to each American Field Service student from the Trust Territory.

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