Honoring my Father and the Korean War Veterans

By Col. Ed Toy
J3/Dir. of Operations & Military Support

The 60th Anniversary of the Korean War marked a special occasion for the Toy Family – with 7 generations of family serving in the U.S. military, a legacy that dates back to the Revolutionary War, my son PFC Shaun Toy and I are both members of the Hawaii Army National Guard. We attended a ceremony hosted by the Office of Veterans Services at the invitation of the Dir. Col. Ronald Han (RET). This intimate ceremony was held at Tripler Army Hospital on May 25th, this was a touching event with many Korean War Veterans in attendance.

My father served in WWII, Korea and was stationed at Fleet Intelligence Center Pacific on Ford Island during the Vietnam War. He served as an Aerial Combat Photographer, Senior Chief Stanley Toy Sr. (USN RET) was assigned to the USS Valley Forge, an aircraft carrier that remained on station on the Korean Peninsula throughout the entire war. I recall my father who currently lives in Pensacola Florida, saying on combat missions he would collect aerial footage of the enemy positions leading up to the invasion of Inchon was perhaps the most dangerous time of the war. Between manning 40mm guns to the seemingly endless carrier take-offs and landing, the operational tempo was at an all time high.

For PFC Shaun Toy the grandson of Senior Chief Stanley Toy Sr., he was especially inspired by the ceremony. As sort of a military history buff himself, my son was especially moved to see so many of our nation’s Korean War veterans in one setting. “I was proud to be present at the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War ceremony and I am proud to be a part of a legacy of nation’s warriors.” Shaun is preparing to deploy to the Southern Philippines in June as part of an on-going mission the Hawaii Army National Guard conducts in support of OEF-P.

With a lasting impression forever in our hearts, the Korean War was an instrumental part of ensuring we maintain peace and freedom in this region of the world. Like my father, and my son, we are a proud family whose call to military service is a family tradition. My son and I were in full dress military uniform and we were proud to be at this ceremony, surrounded by Korean veterans and their family members. We were there to pay tribute to my father Senior Chief Toy but to also take the time to personally meet all of the Korean War heroes attending the ceremony. I will cherish this moment and convey to my father the warm and kind remarks I received from all the veterans I talked to.

Senior Chief Stanley Toy, now 85 years old was recently honored by the Republic of China, Taiwan Minister of Defense for his service in Formosa and the China Sea in WWII. A ceremony in Dec. 2011 was held on Ford Island where Senior Chief Toy was presented the China War Medal.

Three generations of military service. From left to right: Shaun Toy, Nathan Toy, Stanley E. Toy Sr. and Ed Toy

Photos by the Toy Family
Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony

Thank you to the Saint Louis Middle School students for cleaning the cemetery.  

Photos by Jayme Sato
Update your information for the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter

Cut out and mail responses in a stamped envelope to:

Office of Veterans Services
ATTN: HI VETERAN NEWSLETTER
459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room J-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522

Or email us at:
jsato@ovs.hawaii.gov

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Memorial Day Ceremony at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery

Photos by Eric Yamashige

Private First Class Anthony Thomas Kaho’ohanohano Medal of Honor recipient during the Korean War. The grave stone is at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery.

Photo by David Fukuda

Memorial Day at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery

Photo by John Grogan

Photo by Hawaii Gathering Eagles WHVC
60th Anniversary of the Korean War at Tripler

In recognition of honorable service during the Korean War in defense of Democracy and Freedom. Through your selfless sacrifice, the tide of communism on the Korean Peninsula was halted and liberty triumphed over tyranny. The Dept of Defense and the people of America and Korea are forever grateful.

*Photos by Jayme Sato*
Adding Albert K. Kuewa to the Vietnam War Memorial

Thank you to the Kuewa Family

Photos by Jayme Sato
Adding Frank Rocha to the Korean War Memorial