



Governor's Memorial Day Ceremonies

By Jayme Sato

This year's Memorial Day Ceremony had clear blue skies. For the past three to four weeks Oahu had been blanketed with a hazy fog. We were happily granted clear weather for Memorial Day.

At the start of the ceremony our Office of Veterans Services' Dir. Mark Moses gave our veterans a little history lesson about Memorial Day. How the great Gen. Logan issued general orders to his veteran's organization.

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country...

Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. It is a day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service. In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in other wars were also honored.

This year's theme was "Honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice." Both Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the adjutant general and Gov. Linda Lingle thanked the service men and women who fought for our freedom.

The ceremony included a



The sounding of TAPS played during the helicopter flyover.



Gov. Linda Lingle gives thanks to our servicemen & women.

Photos by Jayme Sato

parade of flags, the veterans' organizations presentation of floral leis, gun salute and helicopter flyover. Our special guest singer was Jonathan Kaina from the Society of Seven.

Thank you to the veterans, current servicemen and civilians for attending this year's Memorial Day services. You have honored us with your patriotism and with your presence.

VA Pacific Islands Health Care System Health Advice Line

Telephone Linked Care (TLC) is going strong in the Pacific Islands, and was implemented specifically for our enrolled veteran patients. The line is answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by a Registered Nurse (RN).

When a veteran calls this number from:
Oahu (808) 433-0852 (or)
Neighbor Islands, Guam and American Samoa (800) 214-1306

The nurse will interview them and provide them with immediate advice according to VA procedures. During the week, the

TLC Line is answered by a Registered Nurse on Oahu. After clinic hours, the line is answered by a Registered Nurse on the mainland. Whenever an enrolled veteran patient calls, the nurse manning the care line will have access to your medical records and utilizes the same procedures to give advice. A notation is made in your record and forwarded to your primary care provider regarding the call.

During the week, all calls requesting advice and/or appointments from Oahu and the Neighbor Islands are channeled to the TLC RN. The purpose of this is to provide consistent

VA response to the call. On Oahu, the nurse will make an appropriate appointment if necessary. On the Neighbor Islands, the nurse will forward the note regarding the call to the CBOC, and staff there will contact the veteran with appointment information if needed. For emergency situations, the veteran is instructed to call 911 if they

know they are experiencing an emergency and bypass the TLC process. If the nurse on the TLC line believes the veteran is describing an emergency situation, they will advise the veteran to call 911.

If a veteran walks into a clinic without a scheduled appointment and needs assistance, every effort is made to assess the

veteran's needs at the clinic, and he or she be given an appointment or treated based on health status. When the clinic is closed and on weekends and holidays, veterans who need assistance are asked to call the Telephone Advice Line. The RN will assess the situation and either work to

obtain a timely appointment or advise the veteran to call 911 based on the severity of the problem.

This use of the Telephone Linked Care is providing increased access to professional care for our patients. We encourage our patients to use this system before coming to the clinic to allow the clinics to better and more expeditiously address their problems.

Office of Veterans Services
State of Hawaii
459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room 1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522

**VA Health Advice Line
Oahu (808) 433-0852
(or)
Neighbor Islands, Guam
and American Samoa
(800) 214-1306**



Director's Message

**Maj. (Ret.) Mark S. Moses, U.S. Marine Corps
Director, State Office of Veterans Services**

It was just a year ago on June 15, 2007 when Gov. Lingle appointed me as Dir. of the Office of Veteran's Services (OVS). This was and

remains a great honor for me, because I truly believe in our motto "Proud to serve those who served our country." I believe OVS has accomplished many great and innovative things over this past year to better serve Hawaii's veterans statewide.

We started by establishing a strategic plan to use as a compass in steering the direction of OVS. This plan addressed providing increased outreach to and information for all Hawaii's veterans, creating an environment where veterans would feel safe to request assistance. And implementing procedures to better assist veterans with services and benefits made available through the OVS and other state or federal agencies.

Public Hearings

This past January, we held public hearings with veterans on each island statewide to discuss the OVS rules, veteran's needs and how OVS might help to address them. We also assessed the Veteran Cemeteries on Kauai, Maui, Lanai, Molokai and the three on the Big Island (East Hawaii I and II, and West Hawaii).

Each Veteran who honorably served is entitled to a final resting place in a shrine complete with perpetual care. To help attain this goal we are providing burial vaults for each veteran and for their dependants to protect the casket and help prevent the settling of the grave. Veterans buried at Punchbowl cemetery already receive this burial vault and I believe that we should treat all veterans the same. The purpose of a burial vault is to maintain the integrity of the gravesite from the effects of settling and outside forces of water or excess weight from cemetery machinery. This in turn allows for better maintenance of the lawn and safe walking for our visitors. Most importantly, their use greatly increases our ability to maintain veteran cemeteries as fitting final resting place in which to honor our veterans with the lasting tribute that com-

memorates their service to our Nation.

By law, the Neighbor Island counties are required to fund, operate and to maintain the cemeteries within their respective jurisdictions. OVS has oversight of these Veteran Cemeteries to ensure adherence with the Veterans Administration and State guidelines.

Briefing the Counties

This spring, in order to make certain each county received a thorough debriefing of our findings compiled during the January assessments, was familiar with VA National Cemetery Standards, and understood the expectations desired for the condition of each cemetery; we met with and briefed the Mayors and responsible departments (Parks and Recreation or Public Works) of Kauai, Maui and Hawaii. We also briefed the full Kauai Council in a special Hearing and the Maui Council Public Works Committee. We believe these positive meetings will produce great improvements to the condition of the cemeteries.

For example, after our meetings, Kauai County decided to use remaining Fiscal Year 08 (FY08) funding for the purchase of



Public Hearing in Hilo, on the left Maj. Neal Mitsuyoshi, DOD Engineer, Mark Moses, OVS Dir. and Caz Ross, Veterans Service Coordinator.

a casket lowering device, and other items to enhance the burial accommodations at the gravesite, to include a canopy, seating and artificial turf. They also funded the purchase of duplicate organizational flags

for local veterans' organizations for display at the Cemetery during events.

For FY09, Kauai funded for an additional groundskeeper (\$32,980), purchase of a lawnmower (\$16,000), purchase of a Chevy 2500 pickup truck (\$35,000), and floated a \$350,000 bond for road, flagpole, and pavilion repairs.

State Projects

In addition, OVS has begun state actions including scoping for CIP projects for Kauai and columbaria projects including three for Kauai, one each for Lanai and Molokai and nine for East Hawaii. We have also launched efforts to expand the acreage at Kauai and Maui Cemeteries.

During May, I attended all but one of Representative Cindy Evans statewide meetings. The consensus from the veterans at these meetings was that OVS is doing a good job in supporting veterans. However, an observation was that we could use ad-

ditional counselors because our increased outreach has resulted in more clients seeking service.

Some other state projects include Capitol Improvements (new construction) through federal grants for West Hawaii Cemetery. Phase IIB, completed at the end of March, added 260 double-depth burial plots. This doubled the size of the existing cemetery. I have just received approval from the VA National Cemetery Administration, State Cemetery Grant Director to go to bid for West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery Phase IIC. The final design for Phase IIC includes building a committal service shelter, additional plots for urn ground burials, columbaria to receive urns, a scattering garden, memorial walk, additional flagpoles, service medallions, access road, equipment storage facility, maintenance shelter and restrooms. The project is in the \$3 to \$4 million range. We envision having bid opening in late July 2008 and construction starting in Jan. 2009.

At the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, repairs and CIP projects have begun in June and will continue through the end of the year. Some of the repair and maintenance projects include: repainting the Administration building interior and exterior, waterproofing the roof, repairing the down spouts, the automatic double glass doors, the plaza masonry, the flagpoles, and performing electrical and plumbing repairs where necessary. We are also surveying to locate those grave placement benchmarks covered by soil runoff.

Staff Update

We bid aloha to our cemetery manager, Miles Okamura who had done an outstanding job for us and gained the attention of a private funeral home.

We have in place a new Cemetery Operations Manager, Wilfred "Willy" Hirokane, and Cemetery Operations Assistant Lydia "Mamo" Miha. Another personnel addition is a new Office Assistant Kelly Barun for our Kauai office.

I appreciate the comments I receive from each of you. Your input is essential in determining what services you desire, and how best to deliver them.

I remain dedicated and proud to serve those who served our country.

Correction from Hawaii Veteran Newsletter Vol. 12, No. 1

In the last issue of Hawaii Veteran, Cynthia Stine was not in the U.S. Navy, she was in the U.S. Air Force. Luis Parker was incorrectly credited as being the founder and current president of Vietnam Veterans of America. Luis is one of the original members, along with several dozen other Vietnam Veterans, who formed V.V.A. Oahu Chapter 858 in 2000. He is the fifth and current chapter president. Luis served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam from 1967 to 1969 and later retired from the U.S. Air Force after twenty-two years total service.

Cut out and mail responses in a stamped envelope to:

**Office of Veterans Services
ATTN: HAWAII VETERAN NEWSLETTER
459 Patterson Road
E-Wing, Room 1-A103
Honolulu, HI 96819-1522**

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

Yes, I would enjoy a FREE copy of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter. Please add me to your mailing list.

Update information, change my old address to my new address

No thanks, Please remove me from your mailing list.

Old Address

New Address

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_____	_____
_____	_____

Maui Veterans Councils Highest Honor

By Rogelio Evangelista
President Maui County Veterans Council

Dr. Richard MacDonald, Veterans Administration (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, was presented the Maui County Veterans Council's "President Award." The award was presented by Council President Rogelio G. Evangelista, Vice President Danny Kanahale, and Yuki Lei Sugimura, Maui Field Representative for U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka. Senator Akaka also sent a congratulatory message to Dr. MacDonald for his excellent service to the Veterans.

Dr. MacDonald received the Council's highest honor for having so positively changed the lives of more than 250 of Maui, Molokai and Lanai's Vietnam, Korean and World War II veterans still suffering from chronic, severe Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other service-connected disabilities. Dr. MacDonald utilizes the VA's Chapter 31 Independent Living services, in close collaboration with Maui Community Outpatient Clinic's health care professionals, to provide these veterans with the means to better utilize their time, skills and interests helping others. By doing so, these veterans are empowered to find more social connection and purpose



From left to right Danny Kanahale, Dr. Richard MacDonald, Yuki Lei Sugimura and Rogelio Evangelista

Photo by Maui County Veterans Council

in their lives thereby benefiting their families, friends, the VA and their communities in significant ways never before possible.

Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

American Samoa Post 3391 takes great pleasure in announcing the appointment of one of our Past Post Commanders, Ret. Army Lt. Col. Mapu S. Jamias as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. The honor was conferred on him by Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon Commanding Gen. U.S. Army, Pacific (USARPAC) on Thur., 27th of Mar. in an official ceremony in Hon., Hawaii.

The other guest of honor in attendance was his wife Alohalani and State of Hawaii Maj. Gen. Robert G.F Lee, the adjutant general.

Mapu Jamias was our Post Commander from 2005-06 during which time Post 3391 was received the distinction as an All American Post.



Lt. Gen. Benjamin R. Mixon presented Ret. Army Lt. Col. Mapu S. Jamias the Civilian Aide Certificate.

Jamias was born in American Samoa, raised in Hawaii where he graduated from Punahou High School and UH Manoa. His career in the Army included attending the Command General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth Kansas, a tour in Korea and twice assigned to American Samoa where he was instrumental in establishing the Army Reserve Center and bringing new Army units to American Samoa, he was also a Senior Army ROTC Instructor at the University of Southern California.

He has honorably served his country in the Army and continues to serve the people of

American Samoa through his involvement in the National Olympic Committee as the Pres. of the Boxing Federation and investing personal time and wealth in promotion of Amateur Wrestling in the Territory.

We are proud of our past Post Commander and know that the Secretary couldn't have chosen a better person for the position as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. He will continue to serve his country and people with honor and distinction. Congratulations to Lt. Col. Mapu S. Jamias.



In attendance is Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the adjutant general on the left and Jamias's wife Alohalani in the middle and Ret. Army Lt. Col. Mapu S. Jamias.

Photos courtesy of American Samoa Post 3391



Hawaii Veteran

State of Hawaii Department of Defense

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If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Hawaii Veteran newsletter please mail your address to OVS at 459 Patterson Rd., E-Wing, Room 1-A103, Honolulu, HI 96819-1522 or email ovs@ovs.hawaii.gov. For any change of address please include both old address and new address.

News From Kauai

Memorial Day Ceremony

"A Lasting tribute" for our fallen comrades. Lest we forget, Memorial Day was a day to remember those who gave their lives in our nation's wars. On the Garden Island, the Veterans Council's "A Lasting Tribute" was an honorably way to remember those who gave their lives in our nation's wars.

Besides a lei and American flag, a floral arrangement was placed on each grave site courtesy of the community members. The guest speaker was David Iha, a veteran and former Chancellor of the Kauai Community College.

A MIA ceremony was added and conducted by Tony Elliot from the Office of Veterans Services. The family of missing in action Sgt. Sidney Kauai was present. Sgt. Kauai was declared missing on Dec. 2, 1950 during the Korean War. The family was finally given the official military funeral honors. The American flag was presented to his sister, Elsie Kaui Pahida by an active Army noncommissioned officer who had flown in from the 25th Infantry Div. on Oahu.

The highlight came at the conclusion of the ceremonies. Instead of a missing man flyby, a helicopter flew overhead and on five separate passes, dropped floral petals.

Miss Kauai Veteran

The council is soliciting applications from individuals for Miss Kauai Veteran, 2007-2008. The applicant must be a relative of a veteran and high school senior during the school year starting this fall. She will be crowned during the ceremonies fol-

lowing the Veterans Day parade in November. For information, call Aida Cruz at 246-1135.

New Executive Board

During the May monthly meeting, the Kaua'i Veterans Council elected a new Executive Board. The elected officers are William Honjiyo, Commander; Richard Kashiwabara, Vice-Commander; Charlene Dorsey, Adjutant and Tony Hubahib, Treasurer. The newly elected officers will assume their duties on July 1st.

Veteran named outstanding American

During a luncheon at the governor's mansion on May 22, Richard "Soupbone" Kashiwabara was honored as the outstanding male older American for the Garden Island. Kashiwabara, a retired electrician, has volunteered his expertise to many organizations to include the Veterans Council, Kaua'i Hospice, the Farm Bureau and the Okinawan club. On almost every weekend and frequently during midweek, he is a volunteer member providing honor guard services during a burial of a veteran. He is also the Vice-Commander of the Veterans Council.

After serving 15 years with the active Army and National Guard, he joined the Air Guard and retired in 1996 with more than 40 years of military service. He was activated with the guard in 1969 and deployed to Vietnam. An interesting note is that he left behind his wife and nine children. This is the period when the only means of communications was through the mail.



Organizational Commanders at Memorial Day ceremonies.



Incoming Kaua'i Veterans Council Officers. Anthony Hubahib (Treasurer), Charlene Dorsey (Adj.), Richard Kashiwabara (Vice-Commander), William Honjiyo (Commander).



Outstanding senior older American Richard Kashiwabara.

Photos by Johnny Rabasa

Hilo and HSVC Memorial Day Ceremonies



Our OVS counselor Joe Flores placing leis on the headstones at Hilo I Veterans Cemetery.

Photos courtesy of Hilo OVS



Mr. Jonathan Kaina from the Society of Seven sang the National Anthem and Hawai'i Pono'i at HSVC.



Photos by Jayme Sato