



West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery Update

By John Grogan

The West Hawaii Veterans' Cemetery Development and Expansion Association (WHVCDEA) has been a very active community participant in the maintenance of the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery. Although the County of Hawaii is responsible for maintaining the cemetery, the commitment and dedication of the WHVCDEA's members provide a community based relationship that has allowed the cemetery to achieve more. In cooperation with the County of Hawaii the WHVCDEA helps maintain the cemetery grounds and the support of burial services.

Since its formation, the WHVCDEA has been instrumental in obtaining grants and donations from a number of government, community groups and businesses. The funds are used to fence 62 acres and implement a reforestation plan that has turned the area into a green oasis as a result of hundreds of community volunteers planting several thousand donated plants. A recent project included building an irrigated greenhouse for new plants and installing brass flower vases on grave/columbarium sites. The reforestation effort recently garnered the U.S. Dept. of Interior's coveted "Take Pride in America Award" with similar recognition from both the Kohala/Kona Chamber of Commerce and the Kona Outdoor Circle. The cemetery's recognition extends to Washington D.C. as the Chief of our Nation's Natural Resources came to our cemetery this past Earth Day to participate in a tree planting project.

While there are many in the West Hawaii Community to thank for the transition of the cemetery including a number of elected representatives, perhaps the cemetery's most valuable benefactor is its resort neighbor, Kukio Resorts.

Kukio not only donates work crews and equipment on a regular

basis but also provides the one element the cemetery needs most – water. Without Kukio's commitment, any expansion of the cemetery would be improbable.

The cemetery has a new image, which has caused the cemetery to fill at an ever increasing rate. Such that it is now nearly completely filled. In anticipation of reaching capacity, the State, Dept. of Defense and OVS secured State and Federal funding to complete Phase IIB of the project to construct the expansion of a new burial area and add an additional 300 burial plots to cemetery. Phase IIB also included approved change orders requested by the Kona Veterans and the County to save an ancient Lama tree, and provide a rock landscaped border which was completed in Mar. of this year.



OVS gained approval from the VA to save the ancient lama tree.

With regard to future expansion lead by the State of Hawaii, discussions are currently ongoing between State and Federal government agencies to secure those additional funds needed to complete Phase IIC. This final phase of the project will include a Committal Shelter, restroom, maintenance building, a new columbarium area, a cremains burial section, scattering garden, roadways, walking paths, a septic tank/leaching field sewer system, a non-potable water system, an irrigation system, and additional landscaping, providing infrastructure, facilities, and burial capacity to the cemetery for the next 25 years. The cemetery has also been master planned for expansion in future years.

Currently, the WHVCDEA is also working with the State and County towards the common goal of acquiring a long-term water source. The cemeteries improvements are scheduled to be completed in time for Labor Day 2009.

The WHVCDEA are very hopeful that our vision of the "Arlington of the Pacific" will soon become a reality.



Overview of the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery

Photos by Jayme Sato

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center gets grant

On Feb. 25, in Wailuku, Maui the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) received a grant from the State. Brig. Gen. Gary Ishikawa, Lt. Gov. James "Duke" Aiona and retired Maj. (Ret.) Mark S. Moses director of the Office of Veterans' Services presented a grant check for \$750,000. Mr. Hiroshi Arisumi received the check on behalf of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. Arisumi is the president of the NVMC and is also a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The monies will be used to complete the second phase of the center. This phase includes construction of an education center and the extension of the play area for adult day care and preschool operations. The education center is where the majority of the money will be used to build a classroom for student seminars and archives. The archives will be fully air conditioned

to preserve all of the items that have been donated by veterans and their families. The archive will include historic materials such as documents, photographs, medals and achievements from the Nisei veterans of WWII. The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center will honor and commemorate the men of the 100th Infantry, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.

For more information about NVMC, check out their web site, www.nvmc.org.

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Photo By Nisei Veterans Memorial Center



Director's Message

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

Aloha my fellow veterans and your family members. During the intervening months since the publication of the last Hawaii

Veteran Newsletter, your Office of Veterans' Services has been working hard on various issues that affect the services provided.

New Counselors

I am happy to report that we have hired two new counselors to better serve you. Joseph Flores, Veterans Services Counselor Hawaii County and Tamickco Jackson, Veterans Services Counselor Maui County are filling these temporary appointments. We are waiting for authorization from the Department of Human Resources Development to fill the positions permanently. Mr. Flores is an Army retiree who provided transition assistance services to Guard members prior to accepting the appointment to work with veterans.



**Joseph Flores
Veterans Services
Counselor**

Mrs. Jackson is an Air Force retiree, who was a Human Relations specialist with a private company before she accepted the position on Maui. Both are in training and want to help veterans. We are indeed fortunate to have these individuals join the staff of OVS.

Miles Okamura, our Cemetery Operations Manager at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery has accepted a position with a private cemetery. Mr. Okamura has served as the Operations Manager for nearly eight years and did a fantastic job. He faced many challenges and developed strategies to mitigate our settling grave problem. We wish him and his wife, Trish, good fortune in their future activities.



**Tamickco Jackson
Maui Veterans Services
Counselor**

Presentations

Then on Feb. 8th, Adj. Gen. Robert Lee and I made a grant presentation to the Pacific Aviation Museum of \$500,000 to continue the development and construction of the Museum and National historic site on Ford Island.

On Mar. 4th, my staff and I provided a power point briefing to Mayor Baptise and

his staff on the maintenance and repairs of the Kauai Veterans Cemetery. In addition to Mayor Baptise, Bill Honjiyo, Advisory Board on Veterans Services Kauai representative, Richard Kashiwabara, Veterans Council's Cemetery Committee Chairman and Tony Elliott, OVS Veterans Services Counselor were present at the meeting. The meeting was a success with Mayor Baptise, he was able to better understand the county's responsibilities for the Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

We have continued working with the Molokai Veterans Caring for Veterans group for an upcoming grant release of \$250,000 for the construction of a veteran's center.

Our Veteran's organizations continue to take great pride in cleaning the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials located on the State Capitol grounds. However, we found that these veterans, many of whom are in their 70's and 80's find it increasingly difficult to rake and bag leaves, and to drag the hose to wash down the area surrounding the Memorials. We also heard about them picking up hypodermic needles found in the area, and of course it is dangerous for the veterans to try to pick up and dispose of them. I discussed this issue with our Comptroller, Russ Saito, at the beginning of March. I am happy to inform you that as of Tues., Mar. 18, 2008, DAGS has begun to have contractors clean the granite slabs and State grounds keepers will police the area and maintain the landscaping.

Make your plans now to join us at the Governors Annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery on Mon., May 26th at 1:15 PM. Uniform for the event - Aloha. Hope to see you there.

Shizuya "Cesar" Hayashi

On a sad note for Hawaii, we lost one of our Medal of Honor recipients, Mr. Shizuya Hayashi, on Mar. 12, 2008. Shizuya Hayashi was a Private in the U.S. Army, Company A, 100th Battalion stationed in Cerasuolo, Italy.



Medal of Honor Recipient Shizuya "Cesar" Hayashi

Photo by HomeOfHeroes.com

During a flank assault on high ground held by the enemy Private Hayashi rose alone in the face of grenade, rifle, and machine gun fire. Firing his automatic rifle from the hip, he charged and overtook an enemy machine gun position, killing seven men in the nest and two more as they fled.

After his platoon advanced 200 yards from this point, an enemy anti-aircraft gun opened fire on the men. Private Hayashi returned fire at the hostile position, killing nine of the enemy, taking four prisoners and forcing the remainder of the force to withdraw from the hill.

Private Hayashi's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

Advisory Board Members



Mr. Honjiyo is a retired LTC. U.S. Army. He is the former President of the Kauai Veterans Council.

**William Honjiyo
Kauai Board Member**



Mr. Lum is our newest OVS Advisory Board member. He served in the U.S. Marine Corp. and is a Korean War Veteran.

**Herbert Lum
Kona Board Member**



Mr. Sodetani was the past 29th Infantry Brig. Com. for the HI Army National Guard. He is currently the Pres. for the Maui Realty Co. Inc.

**Lloyd Sodetani
Maui Board Member**



Ms. Stine is the Chair person for the OVS Advisory Board. She served in the U.S. Navy and is an active member in the veteran community.

**Cynthia Stine
Oahu Board Member**



Mr. Kalua is retired from the HI Army National Guard and is presently employed with the Dept of Transportation in Hilo.

**Herring Kalua Sr.
Hilo Board Member**



Mr. Parker is our newest OVS Advisory Board Member. He is an active member and founder of the Vietnam Veterans' of America.

**Luis Parker
Oahu Board Member**



Ms. Stevens served as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard. She also served in the House of Representatives for Waikiki Ala Moana and Kaka'ako area.

**Anne Stevens
Oahu Board Member**



Ms. Wieland retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve and is the VA Volunteer Service Manager. She is the Commander of several DAV Auxiliaries.

**Patricia Wieland
Oahu Board Member**

News From Kauai

The following is a glimpse of other happenings on the Garden Island.

Real Property tax credit

A special end of the year bill was introduced by Council member Mel Rapozo and passed in December 2007. The bill provided a one time tax credit of a war veteran or widow's property tax assessment of up to \$1500.00 on their primary residence. The veterans must have served in a combat or hazardous duty zone in any conflict or area. Veterans should have filed for the credit by Feb. 1, 2008.

The second part of the bill provides a full tax exemption for those subsequently assigned to a combat zone after calendar year 2007. The exemption form must be filed by July 1, 2009. The bill initially proposed a yearly tax credit, but was amended at the final hearing. According to Rapozo, a permanent yearly tax exemption will be proposed during tax reform discussions for the Garden Island.

Korean War veterans golf tournament

The Kauai Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) will host the association's annual statewide reunion on July 25-26, 2008. The KWVA will be observing the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. As a fundraiser for this event, there will be a golf tournament at the Wailua Golf Course on May 24. The deadline for registration is May 17.



The Korean War Veterans Kauai Chapter will be hosting the statewide reunion of the Korean War veterans in July and will be observing the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice.

The association asks for supporters by sponsoring a Tee, a monetary or prize contribution, or being a participant in the tournament. Entry fee to the shotgun start tournament is \$75.00 and it includes a cart, green fees and an awards luncheon following the tournament. Those who prefer may attend only the luncheon at the Kauai Veterans Center at a cost of 10 dollars per person. For information, contact after 5 PM, Royce Ebesu at 822-4341 or Bob Hiraoka at 822-5516.

Kauai Veterans Center

The Kauai Veterans Center is under new management. Individuals are asked to confirm or cancel any reservation made prior to September 2007. Advance reservations can be made up to and including calendar year 2009. The center is available to the community for rentals of the hall or conference rooms for smaller size meetings. The proceeds are used for the maintenance of the center and to subsidize veteran activities sponsored by the Kauai Veterans Council, a non profit organization. The office hours are Monday to Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. For information, visit the center on Kapule Highway or call Aida Padilla-Cruz at 246-1135.

Veteran's Texas Hold Em tournament

The Kauai Veterans Club (KVC) is considering hosting periodic Texas Hold Em tournaments for veteran members of any Kauai organization. Non members may join the KVC, which is open to any honorably discharged veteran. Annual dues are 12 dollars. There will be an entry fee which will be returned in its entirety as prizes to participants. A survey is being taken to determine if there is sufficient interest. Email Johnny at kauaiveterans@aol.com or call him at 245-1625.



The Kauai Honor Guard at the Veterans Cemetery. Upon request, the honor guard will render traditional honors to all veterans, which can include the playing of "Taps."

*Photos By
Johnny Rabasa*

Senator Inouye selects Walter Kaneakua as New Executive Assistant for Military affairs

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye is pleased to announce the appointment of retired Air Force Col. Walter Kaneakua as his new Honolulu-based executive assistant for Military Affairs, Feb. 7

Kaneakua, an Air Force command pilot, retired after 27 years of active duty service with both the U.S. Air Force and the Hawaii Air National Guard. He commanded the 9th Airborne Command and Control Squadron and the start-up 203rd Air Refueling KC-135 Squadron. His last assignment was as Vice Wing Commander for the 154th Wing at Hickam Air Force Base. Most recently, Kaneakua flew for Aloha Airlines.

Kaneakua replaces retired Army Maj. Gen. Alexis T. Lum, who faithfully served as the Senator's executive assistant for Military Affairs from 1991 to 2007; he retired to spend more time with his family. Prior to his service with Senator Inouye, Lum served as the adjutant general for the State of Hawaii. He retired from that position in 1991 with more than 43 years of decorated service to the U.S. Army and the Hawaii National Guard.

Senator Inouye said: "Alex Lum is a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. He is a decorated warrior. He represented me well with the military and veterans throughout Hawaii. He was an advocate of service members and their families. Alex provided me with wise counsel and guidance on matters of importance to the military, veterans and civilian communities. I am happy that he is relaxing and spending more time with his lovely wife, Momi, and his family."

The Senator continued: "I am pleased to welcome Walt Kaneakua to my team. Walt will carry on where Alex Lum left off as a working liaison to the armed services in Hawaii. I have also asked Walt to reach out to both the military and members of our Native Hawaiian community in an effort to find compromise and common ground. Walt will also be responsible for civil defense, veterans affairs, and homeland security matters. I have a robust agenda for which I have no doubt Walt will add insight and wisdom to our collective efforts for the benefit of the people of Hawaii."

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, Rm. 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.



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A Korean Veteran receives a generous gift



By Jayme Sato

Capt. Hyung-Kyu Joo from the Defense Attache to Hawaii, Korean Consulate Gen. called Dir. Mark Moses at the beginning of Dec. Capt. Joo had extra funds available for a donation. Capt. Joo wanted to give the money to a deserving Korean veteran. Depending on the Korean Consulate's funds, Capt. Joo hopes to do this every year.

Moses contacted James Ward, President of the Aloha Chapter, The Chosin Few. Ward recommended a man by the name of Pansobila M. Sandobal. Pansobila is also known as Sandy, he served in Korea in 1950-1951. He was assigned in the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion D company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Regiment, 1st Marine Div.

Sandy's brother, Albino Sandobal is

Pansobila M. Sandobal "Sandy" shows us pictures of his brother and family members.

Missing In Action (MIA) and has not been accounted for to this date. A memorial stone is placed in the Korean War Memorial on the Hawaiian State Capitol grounds in his honor.



Greg Reed, Dir. Mark Moses, Capt. Hyung-Kyu Joo Defense Attache, Pansobila M. Sandobal.

Photos by Jayme Sato

Sandy's wife, Jane had a massive stroke and has had to be cared for 24 hours a day. It is very hard on Sandy, emotionally and financially. It has been especially difficult for Sandy's family. Therefore it is with great honor, we recommended Sandy for the Korean Consulate General's generous monetary gift. Congratulations Sandy! We hope this monetary gift will help.

Internal Revenue Service Media Relations Office

For Immediate Release
From: Clay Sanford

Millions of people who receive certain veterans' benefits who don't normally file a tax return will need to do so this year in order to receive a stimulus payment. For those who don't normally need to file, the IRS released a special version of Form 1040A that highlights the simple, specific sections of the return that can be filled out by people who can qualify for a stimulus payment.

In most cases, the payment will equal the amount of tax liability on the tax return, with a maximum amount of \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for married couples who file a joint return).

The IRS reminds taxpayers when they file their 2007 tax return to use direct deposit, which is the fastest way to get both regular refunds and stimulus payments.

Qualifying income includes Social Security benefits, certain veterans' benefits and

earned income, such as income from wages, salaries, tips and self-employment. For taxpayers filing joint tax returns, only a total of \$3,000 of qualifying income from both spouses is required to be eligible for a payment.

The Form 1040A illustration on IRS.gov shows the limited number of lines that will need to be filled. A key line is reporting their 2007 benefits on Line 14a of Form 1040A. The IRS reminds taxpayers they can also use Line 20a on Form 1040 to report these same benefits. In addition, taxpayers in these groups should write the words "Stimulus Payment" at the top of the 1040A or 1040.

For now, taxpayers in this group filing a tax return can only file a paper copy of the Form 1040 or Form 1040A.

The IRS also reminded taxpayers with

Social Security, Railroad Retirement or veterans' benefits who have already filed but did not report their qualifying benefits on either Line 14a of Form 1040A or Line 20a of Form 1040 that they may need to file an amended return in some situations to receive a larger stimulus payment.

Taxpayers who already have filed but did not report these benefits can file an amended return by using Form 1040X, which can only be filed with a paper form. The IRS reminded taxpayers who don't have any other requirement to file a tax return that submitting a tax return to qualify for the economic stimulus payments does not create any additional tax or trigger a tax bill. In addition, the stimulus payments will not have any effect on eligibility for federal benefits.

The payment will equal the amount of tax liability on the tax return, with a maximum amount of \$600 for individuals (\$1,200 for married couples who file a joint return).

New CT Scanner 100th Infantry Battalion

The VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VA PIHCS) recently dedicated a new 64-slice Computed Tomography (CT) scan, the newest generation in CT scan technology. It has the ability to do cardiac studies and angiograms without the need to hospitalize patients for arterial catheter placements. The 64 "slices" refer to the number of images that are gathered at one time. Original CT scanners used only one detector to gather information, modern scanners use multiple detectors to create images of the body. This technology can create more detailed images in a shorter amount of time. The CT scanner is a large

donut-shaped x-ray machine that takes x-ray images at many different angles around the body. In each of these images the body is seen as an x-ray slice, which is recorded digitally. Imagine the body as a loaf of bread and you are looking at one end of the loaf. As you remove each slice of bread, you can see the entire surface of that slice from the crust to the center. The body is seen on CT scan slices in a similar fashion from the skin to the central part of the body being examined. When these levels are further added together, a three-dimensional picture of an organ or body structure can be obtained. That picture can then

be rotated and viewed from all different angles. VA PIHCS's new CT Scan is only one of two located in the Hawaiian Islands, and is another example of providing the best health care anywhere for our Pacific island veterans.



Photo by Fred Ballard



Amanda Stevens, Office Manager for the 100th Battalion Veterans, Mark Moses, OVS Dir., Robert Arakaki, Pres. of the 100th Battalion Veterans, and Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the Adjutant General.

Photo by Stephen Lum

On Feb. 4th, The 100th Infantry Battalion received \$1 million from a grant in aid request to the Legislature. Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, the Adjutant General and our OVS Dir. Mark S. Moses presented the check to the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization.

On hand to receive the check was Robert Arakaki, the Pres. of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans' and office manager Amanda Stevens.

The purpose of the grant is to fund the construction of an education and resource center. One of the projects being implemented is documenting the oral histories from the 100th Infantry Battalion soldiers.