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Hawaii Task Force Leading State Efforts to Commemorate the Centennial of the First World War

Article by Arthur N. Tulak, COL, USA, Ret.

In 2013, the United States Congress established the National World War One Centennial Commission to oversee America's commemoration of the "War to end all Wars." In H.R. 6364, the 112th Congress established a commission known as the "World War I Centennial Commission Act." The Bill H.R. 6364

makes one of the following findings: *"more than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War I, among them two (2) future presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two million individuals from the United States served overseas during World War I, including 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas. The*

United States suffered 375,000 casualties during World War I, including 116,516 deaths."

World War One was the first time in United States history that America's fighting men "went abroad in defense of liberty against foreign aggression," and this effort is widely acknowledge as marking the beginning of "The

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Photo from Hawaii National Guard Public Affairs

Members of the Hawaii World War One Centennial Task Force at the conclusion of a successful planning meeting on March 31, 2016. From left to right: Arthur Tulak (Chairman), Lt. Col. Chuck Anthony, Schoen Safotu, Brendan Bliss, Dir. Ronald Han (Advisor), Anita Manning, Ron Wright, Mercy Martin, Donna Ching, Stan Fernandez, and Ben Acohido.



THE UNITED STATES WORLD WAR ONE CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Director's Message

Col.-R Ronald P. Han, Jr.

Director State Office of Veterans' Services



Aloha!
We are already half way through 2016 and it has been a

very productive last six months with the completion of the State legislative session and numerous Veteran recognition events throughout the State.

At the onset of the new State Fiscal Year on July 1, 2016, and with the full endorsement of Governor David Ige, MG Joe Logan, BG Kenneth Hara and the State Legislature, \$25M has been appropriated for a State Match to build the Second State Veterans Home in Hawaii. A feasibility study and the pre-application award grant have gone forward to the Department for Veterans Affairs (VA) in order for Hawaii to compete for federal matching funds for a 120 bed skilled nursing facility on Oahu.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

The State Legislature appropriated funding for the 75th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack and the commem-

orative events planned from 1-11 Dec 2016 as well as for the 50th Commemorative Anniversary of the Vietnam War with events planned from 23-28 May 2017 (please see article in this newsletter).

Additionally, appropriated funding was also provided to complete the refurbishment of the Committal Shelter at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

Furthermore, measures passed providing Republic of Korea Veterans who fought in the Korean War and who are Hawaii residents to receive Veterans

designation on their State licenses and to add another Veterans Services Counselor for the Office of Veterans' Ser-

vices (OVS) with a specialization in Women's Military and Veterans issues.

Numerous Veteran related resolutions were also passed from renaming a section of Kapule Highway in the County of Kauai as the Kauai Veterans Memorial Highway, recognizing the Executive Office of Aging in supporting Veterans under the No Wrong Door System approach, supporting the flying of the POW/MIA flag on the State



Photo by Clay Park

50th Anniversary Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans on Molokai on March 29, 2016.



Photo by Willie Hirokane

Thank you to the Air Force Sergeants Association for their great support to HSVC for several years. They pulled individual grave flags (close to 10,000), bundled and boxed them for next year in the rain.



Photo by Jayme Nagamine

Memorial Day at HSVC in Kaneohe May 30, 2016. Veteran organizations lining up for the Parade of Flags and the Presentation of Floral Leis.

Capitol grounds, requesting Congress to amend existing laws to allow qualified WWII Filipino American Veterans to have their remains transported to the Philippines for funeral and burial services and designating June 27, 2016 as Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day just to name a few.

In partnership with the VA here in Hawaii and at the Regional level, the Multi-Service Center Projects on Maui and Kauai are developing momentum with site selection and design planning on the immediate horizon. These projects are already fully funded by the VA and will co-locate the VA's Vet Center and Community Based Out-Patient Clinic and the State OVS.

Thanks to the VA, OVS will also have a permanent presence at Kalaeloa when the ALOHA Center is constructed. Veterans on the island of Hawaii continue to make progress with their respective Veterans facility projects in Hilo and Kona. For the next legislative session, the Gulf War Memorial and modifying existing language in current laws to help more 100% disabled Veterans obtain vehicle car registration exemption are worthy measures that will be addressed.

On behalf of the entire OVS, thank you for allowing us to serve you and for your support and kokua of our Veterans and their loved ones! Mahalo and A Hui Hou!

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 1-A103
 Honolulu, HI 96819-1522

Or email us at:
 ovs@hawaii.gov

Email Address: _____

Yes, I would enjoy a **FREE** copy of the Hawaii Veteran Newsletter. Please add me to your email or mailing list. *You do not need to send this portion in if you are currently receiving the newsletter.*

Update information, change my old address to my new address

No thanks, Please remove me from your mailing list.

Old Address

New Address

Spread the Purple Campaign - Honoring Service Members and Veterans in Hawaii



Judge Ed Kubo is a State Circuit Court Judge who handles criminal felony cases in Honolulu. He is also the presiding judge for the successful Hawaii Veterans Treatment Court.

Mr. Joe Sosky was moved by the story of a service member that came to his dealership with mobility complications. The service member inspired Joe to create a special parking space for Service Members and Veterans.

Photo from VA Pacific Islands Health Care System

Judge Ed Kubo (on the left) ribbon cutting with Joe Sosky from the Honolulu Ford Dealership.

Memorial Day Service at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery



Far right picture - Rep. Cindy Evans sitting next to Dr. Earl Bakken - inventor of the external battery operated pacemaker. He is a WWII Air Force veteran and donated generously in the purchase of six portable Sunsetter awnings that provided about 960 square ft of shade.

Behind Sen. Mazie Hirono is the boot display in memory of the 43 Big Islanders killed in combat in all wars.

Photos by Ron Cole

Commemorate the Centennial of WWI

Continued from the front page

American Century.”

The National WWI Centennial Commission's objectives are to:

1. Educate the country's citizens about the causes, courses and consequences of the war;
2. To honor the heroism and sacrifice of those Americans who served; and
3. To commemorate through public programs and initiatives the centennial of this global event.

The National WWI Centennial Commission is actively executing its State Outreach Program *“to help states and volunteers establish state commemorative bodies and organizations for the centennial of the First World War.”*

Each of the 50 States and Territories are encouraged to establish their own Commemoration organization to car-



Photo by Cpl Timm, MARFORPAC Combat Camera

Task Force members COL Arthur Tulak (Ret, USA), Chairman; and CCMSgt. Stan Fernandez (Ret, USAF), Civil Air Patrol, and VFW (Previous State Commander) placed a wreath on behalf of the Hawaii WWI Centennial Task Force at the memorial stone at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, 25 April 2016.

ry out these objectives. Responding to the call, in April 2015, Governor Ige directed the formation of a Centennial Task Force (CTF) to plan Hawaii's Commemoration of the First World War, as part of the National WWI Centennial Commemoration program.

Initial efforts to form Hawaii's WWI CTF began in August of 2015, with the History Education Hawaii, Inc., publishing a call for volunteers from the community of history educators in Hawaii. With an initial small group, the CTF held its first kick-off meeting on 23 September 2015, and has been steadily developing the State plan for Hawaii's World War One Commemoration.

WWI Centennial Task Force

The CTF is composed of representatives from Academia, the Hawaii business community, the Hawaii National Guard, the Veterans Administration, and our Veterans Community. Of the seventeen members serving as volunteers on the Hawaii WWI CTF, ten are Veterans. Several of the Nationally-recognized Veterans Organizations active in Hawaii are represented in the leadership of the CTF, to include:

1. The Military Order of Foreign Wars (founded 1894);
2. Veterans of Foreign Wars (founded 1899);
3. Military Order of World Wars (founded 1919), and;
4. American Legion (founded 1919).

The Military Order of World Wars and the American Legion were both founded by Veterans of WWI. The CTF membership also boasts one Civilian Advisor to the Secretary of the Army, and representatives of Hawaii's Veterans Administration. It is right and proper that this commemoration effort is led by Veterans, as we honor our fellow veterans from the generations who preceded us, and remember their honorable service to our Nation.



The HI WWI CTF will be planning and organizing commemoration events, and there will be many volunteer opportunities for Hawaii's Veterans to contribute to this important mission. The CTF is already reaching out to our WWI Allies, via the Consulate-Generals, to commemorate shared historical events. In the spirit of that Alliance partnership, members of the HI WWI CTF participated in their first official event on ANZAC Day, 25 April 2016, laying a wreath on behalf of the CTF to honor the sacrifices of the Australia New Zealand Army Corps, which fought on the shores of Gallipoli in WWI 101 years ago.

For more information on the WWI Centennial, visit the National Centennial Commission web page <http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/> and look for the “Participate” tab for the Hawaii page that will be coming soon, with a timeline of events commemorating Hawaii's experiences during the War.

The Governor's Memorial Day at the HSVC



*Photos by
Jayme Nagamine*



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50th Anniversary of Vietnam Commemorative Committee Building Veterans Database

Media Release provided by
Charles J. Anthony, Lt. Col., HIANG

Hawaii's 50th Anniversary of Vietnam Commemorative Committee is compiling a database of Hawaii-based Vietnam-era veterans.

The committee is leading the State's efforts to honor the service and sacrifice of Vietnam-era veterans, from 2015 through 2017.

There are an estimated 36,000 Vietnam-era veterans living in Hawaii.

The committee is attempting to collect contact information on all Vietnam-era veterans to ensure that they are invited to upcoming events and that they receive the honors to which they are entitled. The committee's mission will be complete when all Vietnam War Veterans have been thanked and

honored for their service, valor, and sacrifice. This includes their families, especially families who lost loved ones during the Vietnam War.

To register for the 50th Anniversary of Vietnam database, veterans, or their family members, are encouraged to click on

<<http://dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/50th-anniversary-vietnam/register-for-more-information-about-the-50th-anniversary-of-vietnam/>>

Or visit the Office of Veterans' Services website (www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs) and click on the link to the 50th Anniversary website.

(vietnam50years.org)

Information entered into the database will be kept confidential and will



not be shared with any other organizations, agencies or sales representatives.