

Aloha HSVC Partners!

My name is Rob and I have come on board the HSVC staff as the new Operations Manager effective 01 Feb 21.

As a local boy raised in Kaneohe and a 36-year USAF retiree, I accepted the kuleana to continue to serve our military communities by honoring our fallen heroes and their ohana with the highest degree of respect and dignity. You are all a vital part of the deliverance of expressing to our fallen heroes and their ohana, that on behalf of our grateful nation we convey our deep appreciation for the sacrifices made in defending our freedoms that we enjoy today.

In the spirit of ensuring we here at HSVC meet all the expectations of our families and communities, I would like to provide a gentle reminder of our guidelines (changes shown as *italicized and underlined*) that were established and enforced to meet those high expectations while conducting our committal services, such as:

- Families should not arrive any earlier than 15 minutes prior to their scheduled Committal Service time. Upon arrival please have the attendees proceed directly to the Committal grounds parking lot fronting the Committal Shelter.
- If a Committal Service does not start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time of the service due to the negligence of the family, the Committal Service may not take place and will have to be rescheduled for another date/time.
- **IMPORTANT:** *Due to the concerns regarding the community spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and mandates provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each Committal Service is limited to no more than ten (10) family members and friends to attend within the entire Committal Shelter grounds which includes the Committal Shelter and Parking lot.
 - The following are not counted within the allotted 10 attendees:
 - Military Service Honor Guard Teams
 - Clergy
 - HSVC Staff

Face coverings are mandatory and as such, if a family member or attendee refuses to follow safety measures at the committal shelter grounds, the HSVC will not conduct the committal service or allow the witnessing of the internment. Distribution of food items or drinks within the Cemetery Grounds which includes the Committal Grounds is prohibited. Children should not treat the hallowed grounds of the HSVC as a playground and should be chaperoned by their parent or guardian.

- Please be aware that the HSVC committal service (which is not to be confused with a celebration of life service that is conducted under the guidance of the assigned funeral home at their designated venue) is provided as a 10 minute last prayer service for family and friends. Please advise the Minister.
- Due to time constraints, eulogies, words of remembrance and guest book signing are done at the Mortuary Chapel service prior to arriving for the committal service.

- The request for Military Honors/Flag Fold is the sole responsibility of the servicing Mortuary. Any questions or concerns will be referred to the Mortuary.
- Cameras and video recording are allowed. The use of drones is strictly prohibited within the confines of the HSVC.
- HSVC will only permit the immediate family to offer incense for a Buddhist Service.
- Families wishing to display floral arrangements at the committal service may do so, however, all handling, placement and removal of arrangements must be done by funeral home personnel or the family. Floral arrangement will not be transported by the cemetery personnel to the gravesite at the time of internment. Families may place floral arrangement any time after 4:30pm on the day of the internment or anytime thereafter.
- Family and friends are asked to leave the Cemetery after each service. This is to ensure completion of the burial is accomplished in a timely manner. This will provide cemetery staff adequate time to clean and set up for the next Committal Service. After leaving the cemetery, you may return in two (2) hours to visit the gravesite.
- No one is allowed at the gravesite while it is open for burial due to safety precautions.
- There is a possibility that graves may settle over time.
- The chain from the permanent flower vase will be removed for proper maintenance of the grave.
- Grave markers will take one (1) to two (2) months for delivery and approximately one (1) month for the Columbarium niche markers.
- For Information concerning VA benefits and reimbursements, please call the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

*Information subject to change based on CDC's changes to their guidance.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have an awesome day!

E mālama pono,

Rob

Rob Lee, CCMSgt/USAF (ret)

Operations Manager

Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery

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"The world will turn to Hawai'i as they search for world peace because Hawai'i has the key....and that key is Aloha!" ~ Auntie Pilahi Paki