



HAWAII VETERAN

Lawelawe i nā koa kahiko me ka ha'aheo: "Serving veterans with pride"

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vet news

Neighbor island doctor visits

A pilot program to bring a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) doctor to the neighbor islands began in August. Dr. Phillip Reyes, a University of Hawaii graduate who completed a residency program with the DVA, has been visiting the Kauai primary care clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the Hilo clinic on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program will eventually be expanded to include visits to Kona and Maui. Interested veterans on Kauai and in Hilo can call their island primary care clinics to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers needed

Vietnam veterans are needed for a joint University of Hawaii/Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Vietnam combat stress treatment study. The study is funded by the National Institutes of Health and will be conducted in collaboration with the Stress Disorders Laboratory at the Honolulu Veterans Administration. For more information, call Kristin Rusnak, R.N., Department of Veterans Affairs, at 541-1553.

Memorial design selected

By Nancy S. Williams

After months of public meetings, followed by a whirlwind finish, the long-awaited design for the Korean-Vietnam veterans memorial was selected by the state Commission on Memorials for Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts Sept. 28. The design, by 30-year old architect and former Army reservist Paul Medley, consists of two winding walls -- one for each war -- of terraced granite blocks inscribed with the names of those missing or killed in action. According to Medley, the structure is designed to allow visitors to touch the names and adorn them with

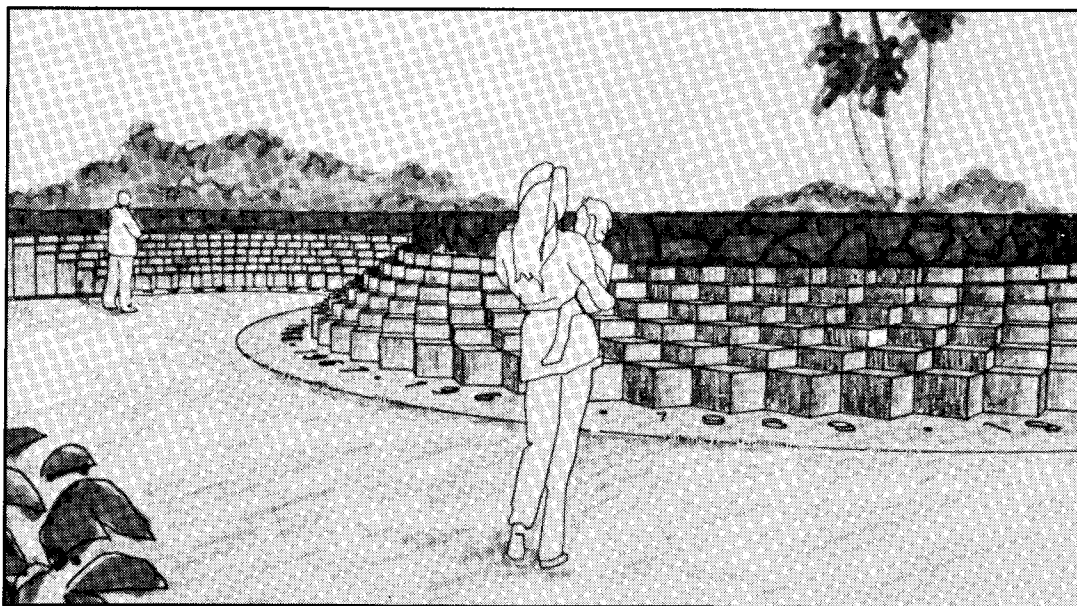
flowers on special holidays.

The memorial design competition was reopened by the state legislature after some veterans groups expressed discontent over a lack of input in the initial selection process. House Bill 3658, which became law without Gov. Waihee's signature July 7, gave the nine-member Memorials Commission only 90 days to solicit entries, receive public input and select a design.

Shortly after passage of the new law, six members of the original Commission resigned in protest, delaying the selection process until new members could be ap-

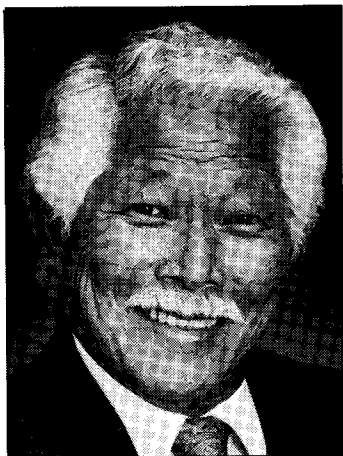
pointed. Five appointments were announced Aug. 18. Ken Kupchak, Pat Hammon and John Ching, the three remaining members of the original Commission, were joined by Allan Kellogg Jr., Ellsworth "Breezer" Bush, Norbert K. Enos, Kurt E. Johnson and John A. Parrish Jr. The Commission went straight to work, electing Kupchak as chairman, Kellogg as vice chair and Hammon as secretary. In early September, Herbert S. Kondo became the sixth new appointee to the Commission.

Criteria for design entries were announced Aug. 20 and
(continued on page 4)



Architect Paul Medley's design, chosen for construction as a memorial to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars, consists of two winding granite block walls inscribed with the names of those missing or killed in action.

Director's Corner



Larry S. K. Lee
*Director, Office of
Veterans Services*

In a few days, you and I will be called upon, once again, to contribute to the shaping of the future of our state and country. You and I will be called upon to exercise that precious right which we so honorably and unselfishly defended -- the

right to vote. You and I will be called upon to ensure that only candidates who believe in, respect, practice and exemplify the highest traditions of our national heritage are elected to the offices they seek.

During the past few months, we have been inundated with an incredible media blitz -- radio, television, newsprint and direct mail -- from all political candidates. Have there been any serious references to veterans? Has anyone seriously considered the needs, concerns and promises made to veterans? Is the veteran and his or her survivors considered a top priority when budgets are discussed? From time to time, we hear unrelated comments about veterans and how we need to fulfill the nation's promises to them. But that is all they

are -- unrelated comments.

There are more than 27 million veterans nationwide, and 119,000 living in Hawaii. These are astounding numbers. In Hawaii we make up more than 10 percent of the total population. We are a formidable force in determining the future of Hawaii and our country and we need to make our presence known and felt. To ensure that our needs and benefits are not compromised, we need to let each and every candidate, whether for local or national office, know exactly what we expect.

Locally, we need continued support by way of funding for our veterans cemetery on Oahu; funding for upgrading the cemeteries on Hawaii, Kauai, Maui and Molokai; funding for new cemeteries on Lanai and in Kona; matching funds for

education, handicapped access, and operation of the Office of Veterans Services.

Nationally, we need to join with the remaining 27 million veterans to ensure that neither the President nor Congress violate the promise made to us -- that we would be cared for in exchange for our sacrifices.

I charge each of you to make a personal and sincere effort to study the issues being discussed, to hear and digest what the candidates are saying, to evaluate objectively their comments and to ask questions. If the candidate is pro-veteran and unequivocally dedicated to service to the nation in strict compliance with our Constitution and Bill of Rights, consider that candidate a possible recipient of your precious vote.

Don't leave it to your buddy, get out and vote!

From the Governor

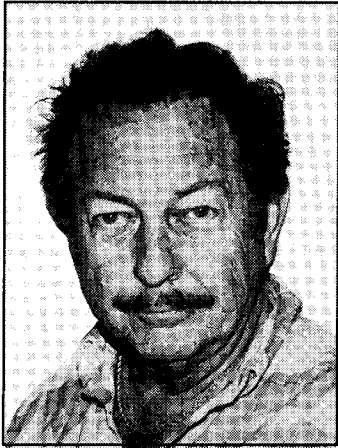
On August 28, 1992, Gov. Waihee, citing numerous events organized by the POW/MIA Committee of the American Legion to remind the public of "the fate of our heroes who remain unaccounted for or missing," proclaimed Sept. 14 through 18, 1992 to be POW/MIA Recognition Week and Sept. 18, 1992 to be POW/MIA Recognition Day.

From Hawaii's Senators

Amendments to the funding legislation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), introduced by Senators Inouye and Akaka, became law on Oct. 6, 1992. The amendments establish a five-year pilot program to make it easier for native Americans, including Hawaiians, to obtain mortgages on trust lands (banks have been reluctant to issue such mortgages because trust lands are problematic as collateral); extend eligibility for DVA home loan guarantees to members of the Reserve and National Guard; and recommend \$18 million in design funding for the Spark Matsunaga VA Medical Center.

Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) Staff

Dedicated July 2, 1992, the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) has been operating since August 1991. Since its opening, the HSVC staff has overseen nearly 400 burials.

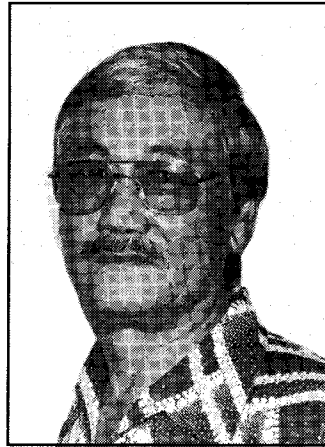


William E. Rodgers Jr.
Operations Manager

William E. Rodgers Jr., HSVC operations manager, comes to HSVC with extensive experience in cemetery operations. From 1980 to 1989 he served first as deputy director and then as administrator of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Most recently, he served as director of the Arizona National Cemetery in Phoenix. He has also held top positions at National Cemeteries in California.

Rodgers served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1972. In his free time he enjoys singing, playing golf and swimming. He is married with five children.

Richard Yoneyama, cemetery operations coordinator, worked for six years as caretaker of the National Me-



Richard Yoneyama
Operations Coordinator

morial Cemetery of the Pacific before coming to HSVC. Prior to that, he was employed by the VA Regional Office in Honolulu as a purchasing agent. Yoneyama served in the military from 1953 to 1974.



Geraldine Oka
Secretary

Geraldine Oka, HSVC secretary, worked for the Department of Agriculture for ten years before coming to HSVC. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, sewing, gardening and reading. She has two sons and is active in Cub Scouts.



HSVC maintenance staff (left to right): Gary Watanabe, Donald Ah Nee, Roland Ledward and Wendall Keliinui.

Calling Oahu vets

Oahu veterans are needed to help build and support the Honolulu County Veterans Council. The Council will allow Oahu veterans to speak with a single voice to the Governor's Advisory Board and provide an effective conduit of information to and from veterans organizations. It will include a legislative committee to advise on and lobby for legislation regarding veterans rights and benefits. Currently, all other counties have such organizations and are represented on the Advisory Board.

Acting council president Mick McMurdo, acting secretary Michael McCloskey and acting rules chairman Jack Smyth are currently in the process of recruiting members and drawing up the Council's bylaws.

"We want all organizations represented and we want all veterans to feel welcome to come to these meetings," says Smyth.

Meetings are held at the DAV office in the Morimoto Building at Keehi Lagoon. For information on upcoming meetings and how to join, please contact McCloskey at 541-1562 or Smyth at 836-2141.

Memorial (continued from page1)

a Sept. 16 deadline was set for submission of entries. Despite the quick turnaround time, the response was overwhelming. Fifty-one entries were received, with designs ranging from simple engraved walls to complex and detailed forms. Several designers drew inspiration from Hawaiian culture and tradition. Others incorporated features such as fountains, reflecting pools, flames, helmets, bayonets and human figures.

Assisted by the state Department of Defense and Office of Veterans Services, the Commission put together a rigorous six-day schedule to show the entries throughout the state. Seven locations were selected on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. Veterans and members of the Hawaii National Guard were recruited to help transport and oversee the displays during the 10-hour days. When Hurricane Iniki intervened, reducing the available National Guard support and forcing cancellation of display plans for Kauai, National Guard family support groups stepped in to help staff the sites.

Commission members visited each location to hear what veterans, their

families and friends had to say about the entries and the competition itself. Commission member Kurt Johnson explained that talking to people about their ideas for a memorial gave him a new way of looking at the entries.

The displays evoked emotion and generally positive comments from those who came to see them. Warren Guyer, a Vietnam vet from Hilo, said, "I think they should keep it (the memorial) simple and try to make a point, so we don't have to make any more."

"It's good that we have a choice," said Korean vet James Y. C. Lee, also of Hilo.

A comment card, designed by Jim Dannemiller of SMS Research, encouraged visitors to put their views in writing. More than 1,000 cards were filled out. Dr. Gene Kassebaum of the University of Hawaii made arrangements to tabulate them in order to give the Commission a better idea of which designs generated the most enthusiasm.

The Memorials Review Board was required to approve or disapprove of the Commission's design selection within seven days. The Review Board was established under the same act

that reopened the design competition to ensure that the design selection proceeded fairly and according to the law. The Medley design was approved by the Board Oct. 8. The Department of Accounting and General Services will now solicit bids for the memorial's construction.



Nancy S. Williams

Korean and Vietnam veteran, Jack Smyth, welcomes a fellow vet to the downtown Oahu display site.



Michelle A. Yu

Korean vet Kenneth Kekona Sr. (right) and Vietnam vet Joseph U. Kamaka Sr. examine a design at the Hawaii National Guard's armory in Wailuku, Maui.



Nancy S. Williams

Vietnam vets Rod Evangelista (left) and Lance Benevides monitor comment card collection in Hilo.

Memorials Commission



Commission members (clockwise from top left): Herbert Kondo, Norbert Enos, Kurt Johnson, John Ching, Ellsworth "Breezer" Bush, Allan Kellogg Jr., Ken Kupchak, Pat Hammon, and John Parrish Jr.

The state Commission on Memorials for Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts selected the winning design for a memorial to commemorate the Korean and Vietnam wars Sept. 28.

Ken Kupchak, chairman, served in Vietnam as a briefing officer and forecaster for the Commander of the Seventh Air Force. He completed his service in 1970 as a captain, having been a Scabbard and Blade member and an Arnold Air Society military honoree. Kupchak is a partner in the law firm of Damon Key Bocken Leong Kupchak.

Allan Kellogg, vice chairman, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960 to 1990 and retired as a Sergeant Major. His military awards include the Medal of Honor, the Bronze Star with "V" device, three Purple Hearts and the Legion of Merit.

Secretary Pat Hammon served as the Emergency Room and triage Head Nurse at the 24th

EVAC Hospital in Vietnam and, later, as the ICU charge nurse at the VA Hospital in Washington, D.C. She now is co-owner of The Fine Arts Associates in Honolulu.

Ellsworth "Breezer" Bush is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1955 and in the Hawaii Army National Guard from 1957 to 1982. He is now corporate secretary for Theo H. Davies & Co., Ltd.

John Ching served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1983. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Norbert Enos served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1984, earning the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Enos has also served in leadership positions for of the Hawaii VFW and the American Legion and is a

member of the Retired Enlisted Association.

Herbert Kondo served in the Marine Corps from 1951 to 1979 and is a Korea and Vietnam veteran. A Navy Fighter Weapons

School (Top Gun) graduate, he flew 288 combat missions over North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Kondo is also an experienced arbitrator.

Kurt Johnson served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951 to 1955 and in the Hawaii Air National Guard from 1955 to 1985. He shot down a Soviet MIG in Korea and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

John Parrish Jr. served in the U.S. Air Force from 1948 to 1983 retiring as a colonel. He earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal and Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He is now a Civil Air Patrol Commander.

Memorials Review Board



The Memorials Review Board was established to review the work of the Memorials Commission and to approve or disapprove the Commission's final design selection. Pictured from left to right, Michael Leineweber (chairman), Lester Higa, Alvin Au, Louis Baldovi, and David Gushi-Clementson.

Garden Isle vets travel to Washington

Three members of the Kauai Veterans Council met with Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, adjutant general for Hawaii, U.S. Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, and officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) on a recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Veterans Ed Kawamura, Hiroshi Hino and Floyd Fitzgerald traveled to Washington in September to visit the Vietnam War memorial and to emphasize the importance of veterans issues to the people of Hawaii.

In particular, they sought DVA support for neighbor

island medical care and for long-term care of vets throughout the state. The veterans also met with Barry Raff, Hawaii DVA director, who was there at the same time.

Later, they attended a Hawaiian-theme dinner, hosted by Gen. Richardson and the state Department of Defense. (Richardson was in Washington visiting the National Guard Bureau.) At the dinner, they spent some time talking with Congressman Montgomery.

A highlight of the trip was the veterans' visit to the Vietnam War Memorial where they laid flowers and traced the names of loved ones lost in the war.



Kauai veterans Hiroshi Hino (left center) and Ed Kawamura, flanked by Gen. Richardson (left) and U.S. Rep. Sonny Montgomery (right).

Hurricane relief: vets give and receive

(Below) When Hurricane Iniki swept away their 50th anniversary celebration plans, World War II veterans Michael Sheehan, Victor Olney, Michael Guiry, and Joseph Rourke, of the "Fighting" 69th Infantry, stepped in to help with National Guard relief efforts by cooking and serving food to hurricane victims.



Staff Sgt. Stephen M. Lum



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi

(Above) Filipino World War II veterans temporarily housed at the Philippine Consulate prepare to move to shelter with the help of Hawaii National Guard Sgt. William B. Moore II of the 29th Infantry Brigade. The vets came to Hawaii recently seeking recognition under a federal law that makes certain Filipino WW II vets eligible for citizenship.

PTSD clinic planned for Hilo

Development of a comprehensive treatment, education and clinical research center for Pacific Basin veterans is underway. Once opened, the Pacific Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and War-Related Disorders at the St. Joseph Catholic Convent in Hilo will serve war veterans of all eras (i.e. Gulf, Vietnam, Korea and World War II). A pilot phase of the treatment program is planned for November. It will operate near Hilo State Hospital as an outpatient clinic, and serve as a transition to the full 16-bed facility scheduled to open in the summer of 1993.

Congressional hearings over the past years indicate a strong need for specialized PTSD treatment services in Hawaii. Relying on West Coast treatment programs is not feasible for many Pacific Basin veterans because of distance, family separation and culturally unspecific assessment and treatment.

The core of the center's program will be an 11-week residential program emphasizing peer group counseling, ethnocultural awareness, and the Hawaiian tradition of *ohana*, or family. Treatment groups will be "closed membership," which means group members will return to their communities together.

The center will be directed by Dr. Raymond Scurfield. Scurfield previously served as the director of the nationally acclaimed Post-Traumatic Stress Treatment Program at the American Lake

VA Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash. There he helped provide extensive outreach to native American veterans and pioneered integration of native healing and cultural activities with PTSD treatment. He also co-led the first veterans therapy group on a return trip to Vietnam and recently worked with Operation Desert Storm veterans.

Scurfield will oversee a staff of 20 professionals. He anticipates that 60 percent of the staff will be veterans

and is making an effort to hire local residents.

The center, funded at \$2 million per year by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), will be the first of its kind in the DVA system to operate within a community, instead of being located in a DVA hospital. In addition to the residential care program in Hilo, plans include an Oahu administrative center and education, training and research facility. The Oahu program, located in the 1st Hawaiian Tower,

downtown, will support an outpatient team and coordinate its work with the psychiatric and acute inpatient programs at Tripler Army Medical Center.

Services will be available to any American war vet for whom earlier outpatient and/or acute inpatient treatment have been insufficient. The Center will work closely with vet centers and other DVA, Department of Defense and community resources to provide comprehensive care for veterans.



Spec. Janis T. Tanimoto

Kona Veterans Reunion/Family Day

World War II and Korea vet, Herbert K. Ohia Sr. of Kona, has his blood pressure taken by Hilo Community College nursing student, Meg Kaaiahili, at the Kona Veterans Reunion and Family Day. The event was sponsored by the Kona Veterans Advisory Board, Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), and Big Island community. DVA representatives were on hand to provide information and referrals on legal matters, veterans benefits, health screening and community services.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 17

Retired Enlisted Association's social security seminar -- CPO Club, Pearl Harbor, 10 a.m. to noon. Light lunch for a small charge. Contact Bill Farias, 668-2444, Bob Hussey, 672-9892, or Alex McKeague, 672-3429.

Sunday, Nov. 8

American Legion/Disabled American Veterans 2nd Annual Veterans Picnic (1 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and town meeting (10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) -- DAV Memorial Hall picnic area. Sponsored by National Order of Trench Rats, Dugout 248 and Voiture 305, 40-8. Food and non-alcoholic beverages. Send check for \$5 to: NOTR Dugout 248, 2333 Amoomoo St., Pearl City, HI 96782.

Aug. 5 - 9, 1993

72nd Naval Construction Battalion, WWII Reunion -- Buffalo, NY. Contact Joe Beruan, 72nd NCB, 2209 Via Acalones, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274, (310) 378-3218.

If you want to list an event for veterans or veterans organizations in the *Hawaii Veteran*, please forward the information to the State Department of Defense Public Affairs Office, 734-8527 (FAX), or call 732-1711.

Q&A:

I am a World War II veteran and would like to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I was told that only certain veterans are eligible to be buried there. What are the requirements?

Arlington National Cemetery, which is under the jurisdiction of the Army -- not VA, has a more limited eligibility policy than other national cemeteries. For more information, write to: Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA 22211, or call (703) 695-3250.

My husband died from an illness that was related to his military service. Does VA pay for burial expenses?

If a veteran's death is service-connected, DVA will pay a burial allowance up to \$1,500. DVA also will pay for transporting the remains of a service-disabled veteran to the national cemetery with available grave space nearest his or her home. The person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement.

For more information, contact any DVA Office. In Honolulu, call 541-1000 or 1(800)827-1000 or write to: VA Medical and Regional Office, P.O. Box 50188, Honolulu, HI 96850.



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