

V HAWAII VETERAN

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

Vol. 2 No. 1

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Spring 1993

vet news

Persian Gulf War Registry

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is establishing a registry of individuals who served in the Persian Gulf War and (1) apply for health care services from DVA based on disabilities associated with Persian Gulf service, (2) die and are survived by a spouse, child, or parent who files a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation, or (3) request a DVA or Department of Defense health examination and inclusion in the registry.

The registry will provide DVA with baseline health data on veterans with health concerns related to the Gulf War and allow DVA to respond to those concerns.

Persian Gulf veterans who wish to receive a health examination are urged to visit their local DVA facility to be registered.

New pharmacy co-payment law

Recent changes in the Medical Care Cost Recovery Program allow DVA to charge veterans a \$2 co-payment for prescriptions from clinic pharmacies. The charge applies to medication for nonservice-connected conditions of those with nonservice-connected or service-connected disabilities rated less than 50 percent.



Russell Ho

Admiral Charles Larson and Governor John Waihee display a commemorative flag presented to the State of Hawaii, marking the state's designation as a World War II Commemorative Community, Dec. 28.

Hawaii designated World War II Commemorative Community

The State of Hawaii was designated a World War II (WWII) Commemorative Community by the U. S. Department of Defense, in a Dec. 28 ceremony at the Governor's Office.

During the ceremony, Adm. Charles Larson, commander in chief, Pacific Command, presented Gov. John Waihee with a WWII Commemorative Community flag, a certificate of designation and lapel pins for Hawaii's WWII Commemorative Committee.

The WWII Commemorative Community program encourages communities, state and federal agencies, military installations and other organizations to develop activities to mark the 50th anniversary of WWII. The program also provides a chance to study WWII history and the lessons it provides.

As a commemorative community, Ha-

waii will be expected to host three or more events honoring the contributions of those who served in WWII, during each of the five years spanning the war's 50th anniversary. The state was also chosen to host the final celebration, in 1995, commemorating the end of the war.

Hawaii's commemorative committee includes Bob Fishman, Governor's Office; Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general; Mufi Hannemann, director, State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; Larry Lee, director, Office of Veterans Services; William Kaneko, planning and policy analyst, Office of State Planning; Donald Magee, superintendent, USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center; and Gene Castagnetti, director, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



A message from the Adjutant General

Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson
State Adjutant General

Last July, we began publishing the *Hawaii Veteran* as part of our ongoing efforts to better serve and inform our veterans and their families.

Since then, the readership for our quarterly newsletter has skyrocketed from fewer than 1,000 to more than 6,000 copies mailed to individuals and organizations.

We are very encouraged by this enthusiastic response. However, I want to emphasize that this newsletter belongs to you -- Hawaii's veterans -- and is designed to serve as a link between our department, veterans, veterans' organizations and veterans' service agencies. We want you to take full advantage

of its statewide distribution and use it as a means to communicate with us or amongst yourselves.

One of my priorities as the state adjutant general is to enhance and strengthen veterans' services and facilities throughout the state. With Governor John Waihee's full support, the State of Hawaii Department of Defense, through the Office of Veterans Services, has worked very hard to bring about completion of veterans' projects such as the opening of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, selection of a design for a memorial to our veterans of

Korea and Vietnam and planning and coordination with the active military for an honor detail for burials at neighbor island veterans cemeteries.

We continue to work toward construction of the Korean-Vietnam Veterans Memorial, implementation of the burial detail, upgrading our neighbor island cemeteries and assisting the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) in opening an in-patient post traumatic stress disorder facility on the Big Island and the planned VA hospital at Tripler Army Medical Center.

But our work is far from being completed. In order for us to achieve our goals, we must strive to include as many veterans as possible in these important initiatives and provide them a forum to communicate their ideas, proposals and specific needs. At the same time, we want you to be able to communicate with each other in order to maintain a vital and unified voice in our community.

I encourage your comments and active participation in submitting items for publication in the *Hawaii Veteran*. Mail or fax your submissions to the address listed on page 8 of this issue.

With your help we will continue to provide and improve services to all of Hawaii's veterans.

Advisory Board on Veterans Services vacancies filled

Appointments to fill two vacant seats on the State of Hawaii Advisory Board on Veterans Services were announced by the Governor's Office, Feb. 17. Appointments are subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The Advisory Board advises the director of the Office of Veterans Services in the identification of issues and alternative approaches to solutions, in the development of position statements and papers, in advocacy and legislative actions and in program development and operations.

New board member, **Louis Baldovi**, served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1956. His military awards include the combat infantryman's badge, U.S. presidential unit citation, Korean presidential unit citation and Korean War medal.

Baldovi worked for the state Department of Education for 29 years and retired after 14 years as a principal. He now works part-time at the Windward District School for Adults.

Prior to his appointment, Baldovi served as a member of the Memorials Review Board, which was formed to monitor the proceedings of the Ko-

rea-Vietnam Memorials Commission and approve its selection of a memorial design.

Ms. Shirley R. Cavanaugh, one of the first women from Hawaii to enter Officers Training School, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1974 to 1990 and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Her military awards include three Air Force commendation medals, three Air Force meritorious service medals and the defense meritorious service medal.

Cavanaugh is now a public relations consultant for Hill and Knowlton Communications-Pacific and a member of the YWCA's fund-raising committee.

Pacific Center opens new headquarters

By Nancy S. Williams

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) celebrated the opening of its new Pacific Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) headquarters with an open house, Feb. 26.

The Pacific Center, authorized and funded by Congress in 1991, is the latest addition to the PTSD care system in Hawaii. Its new headquarters are at the First Hawaiian Tower, 1132 Bishop St.

Post traumatic stress disorder

PTSD is an emotional and physiological disorder experienced by survivors of severely traumatic events, such as war, natural disasters and child abuse. Trauma survivors normally exhibit symptoms ranging from angry outbursts to depression and sleeplessness. PTSD is a specific combination of symptoms: reexperiencing the trauma

through recurrent memories, dreams and/or flashbacks; persistent avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma; and physical arousal such as adrenaline rushes and increased alertness.

Pacific Center director, Dr. Raymond Scurfield, DSW, characterizes the central dynamic of PTSD as the "push-pull" paradox of trying to forget the unforgettable. "On the one hand, a traumatic event is so powerful that it is unforgettable. On the other, it is too painful to remember."

The Pacific Center

Under Dr. Scurfield, the Pacific Center is working to provide clinical care for PTSD sufferers and conduct PTSD education and research. Much of its work will be performed through its PTSD Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) and PTSD Clinical Team (PCT).

The Pacific Center will collaborate in its research, treatment and education efforts with the University of Hawaii, the VA inpatient psychiatry ward at Tripler Army Medical Center and other existing DVA facilities such as neighbor island Veterans Centers and Primary Care Clinics (PCCs).

Scurfield outlines four goals for Pa-

cific Center treatment programs. First is to restore pride and self confidence. Trauma survivors often blame themselves for surviving when others did not. Through a peer group approach, veterans are provided "forgiveness" by their peers and gain a feeling of self worth as a vital member of the group.

The second goal is to help veterans coexist with the memories of their traumatic experiences. This is done, in part, by bringing suppressed memories to the surface, desensitizing survivors to what triggers those memories and creating positive associations to stimuli that normally produce negative reactions.

A third goal is to help veterans make peace with their significant others and a government and society they believe have caused or compounded their trauma.

And the fourth is to help veterans learn to enjoy life. Dr. Scurfield notes that many veterans are extremely serious and have a hard time reconciling joy and laughter with the experiences they have had.

The Center will employ 39 staff members, 20 of whom will run the PRRP. Seven Oahu-based staff (*continued on page 5*)

Spark M. Matsunaga VA Hospital schedule

Completion of the Matsunaga VA Medical Center, which will include a 105-bed hospital, an outpatient clinic and a 60-bed nursing home, is scheduled as follows.

June 1993

Complete preliminary design.

July 1993

Begin design development (room by room).

June 1994

Complete design.

July 1994

Begin construction documents.

April 1995

Complete construction documents.

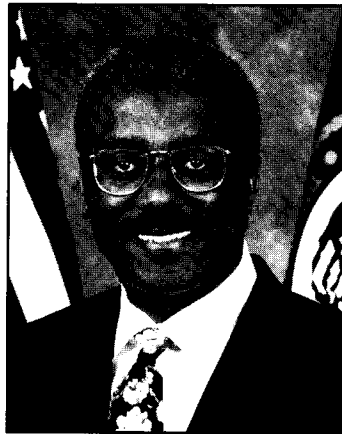
September 1995

Begin construction.

September 1998

Complete construction.

New Veterans Affairs secretary sworn in



Jesse Brown

Jesse Brown, President William Clinton's choice for secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), was sworn in, Jan. 22.

Brown enlisted in the Marines in 1963 and was wounded in Vietnam. In 1966 he began working for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

in Chicago as a national service officer.

In 1973 he moved to Washington D.C. and served as supervisor of the National Appeals Office and deputy national service director, before becoming DAV executive director in 1988.

"He knows Washington, he knows all of us, he's been in the business. That's a real plus," said U.S. Representative G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Born in Detroit, Brown grew up in Chicago and graduated from Chicago City College. He also attended Roosevelt University in Chicago and Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Brown has served as chairman of the Vietnam Civic Committee and was a member of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals and the Chicago Mayor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.

Plaques placed at Big Island Vets Memorial

Story and photos by
Nancy S. Williams

Veterans, families, friends and more than 100 U.S. Marines gathered under a blue sky to dedicate 50 plaques -- one for each Big Island service member killed or missing in action in Vietnam -- at the Hawaii County Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Wailoa State Park in Hilo, Feb. 27.

The event was organized by Julieann Day and the "Hyatt Hui," a group of Hyatt employees dedicated to public service. The Hui recruited individuals and businesses to pay for the plaques and enlisted the help of the Marines to place them at the memorial. In 1991, the Hui organized a similar event to plant 50 palm trees at the site.

Marines from the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines and 1st Battalion, 12th Marines arrived at the park at 8 a.m. Some went to work on the memorial, pulling weeds, trimming grass and shrubs and digging ten-inch holes for the plaques. Others fanned out across the park to

paint buildings and bridges, clear debris and perform other repair work.

Soon veterans and other volunteers came to help. The memorial's newly repainted gold inscriptions began to shine from freshly polished black granite, and, one by one, bronze plaques were placed in front of each palm tree.

The dedication included posting of the colors, a 21-gun salute, taps, an invocation by Pastor Henry K. Kahalehili and an address by Big Island Mayor Steve Yamashiro. Each name on the memorial was read as a lei was draped over the corresponding plaque. A Marine stood by each plaque, turning to salute as the lei was placed.

The ceremony came to a colorful end as two Huey H-1 helicopters from the Hawaii National Guard's Army Aviation Support Facility, based in Hilo, rained thousands of flower petals over the crowd.

The veterans memorial, designed by Vietnam veteran, Clifton Une, was dedicated in 1988. Fair Contracting,



Vietnam vet, Joel K. Lindsey, came all the way from Kona to help lay a plaque at the veterans memorial in Hilo for his brother, James, who was killed in Vietnam.

owned by Henry Otani of Hilo, donated all materials and labor for the memorial's construction. Otani also financed construction of the plaques while sponsors were recruited.



Vietnam vets, John Roddy (left) and Melvin Tiogangco repaint the inscriptions on the Hawaii County Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Feb. 27.



A palm shades a newly laid plaque at the veterans memorial in Hilo.

Maui vets honor law enforcement officers

From The Maui News

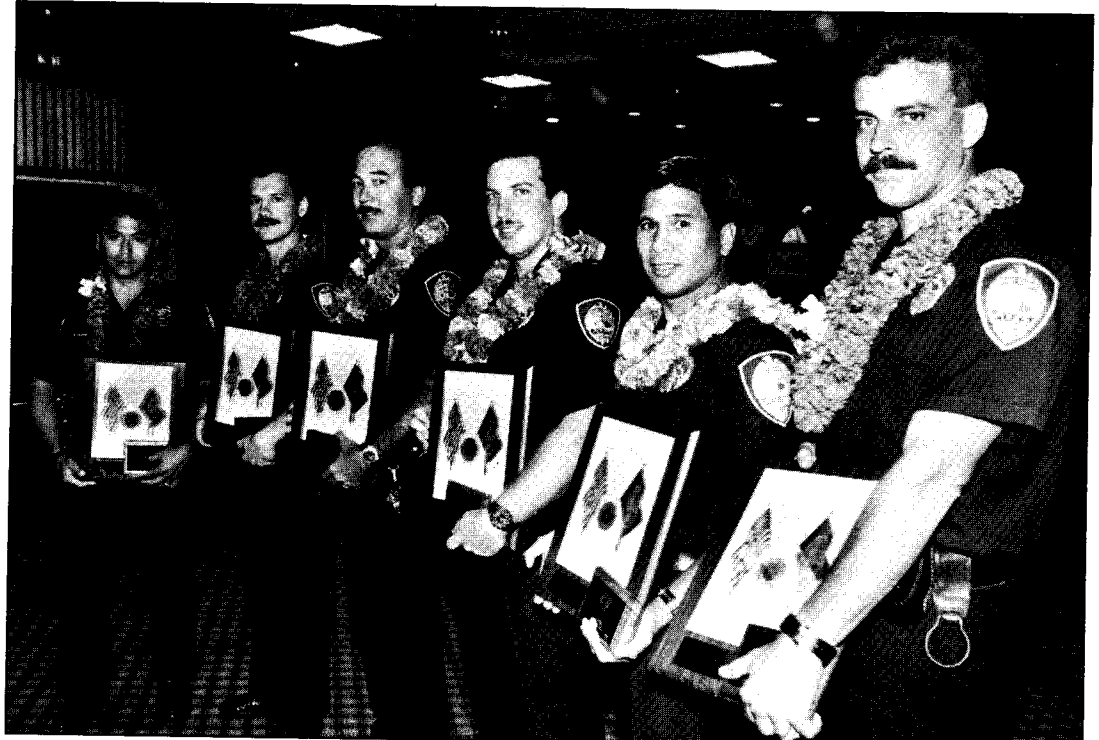
Six Maui police officers were honored by veterans organizations during a lunch at the Maui Beach Hotel, Feb. 19.

The American Legion, post 61, of Wailuku, spearheaded the first annual event. Kualii Oliver, post commander, said vets who took on the responsibility for protecting our country wanted to honor the officers who protect the community.

Officers receiving the awards were selected by their superiors on the basis of outstanding work performance. Each received a plaque and engraved paperweight.

Richard Staszyn, 30, of the Wailuku Patrol Division, was praised as an officer who makes sound decisions and is a reliable beat partner. He is one of the top two performers on his watch in the area of traffic enforcement.

Wayne Ibarra, 24, of the Wailuku Patrol Division, was named outstanding recruit of his class five years ago. He has since maintained his high level of performance and is particularly outstanding in the area of traffic enforcement.



Matthew Thayer/The Maui News

Maui police officers honored Feb. 19 by veterans organizations are (from left) Wayne Ibarra, Richard Staszyn, James Fletcher, Ernest Soares, Eugene Santiago and Donald Simpson.

Ernest Soares, 23, a police officer for two years, was honored for his instrumental role in solving a rash of burglaries at the Hotel Hana-Maui and car break-ins in Hana.

Eugene Santiago, 34, an 11-year veteran of the Maui Police, was the award recipi-

ent for the Molokai District. Santiago was praised for his work performance and involvement in community events.

Donald Simpson, 31, of the Lanai District, was praised as a very positive force in the community. He is very well-respected throughout the

community and by his peers.

James Fletcher, 40, a Lahaina patrol officer, is a six-year veteran of the Maui Police. On two occasions, Fletcher, who conducted surveillance of trouble spots on his own initiative, caught thieves breaking into cars.

Pacific Center (from page 3)

and ten PRRP staff have been hired so far.

PTSD Residential Rehab Program

The PRRP will be an in-state, 16-bed residential treatment facility. Until now, veterans from the Pacific Basin requiring an in-patient program have had to travel to Washington or California.

The ten-week program, directed by Rick Sonnenberg, MSW, a Vietnam vet who was raised in Kailua, will combine intensive rehabilitation with peer group support and an ethnocultural emphasis.

The PRRP has experienced some community resistance to its planned place-

ment in a residential setting. Scurfield stresses the importance of such a setting for treatment and emphasizes that patients are carefully screened before admittance. All already function within a community before entering the program. At the PRRP they are required to pass random drug tests, may leave only with a pass and are removed at any sign of trouble. Scurfield notes that there has never been a negative incident in any similar program throughout the country.

PTSD Clinical Team

The PCT is the Pacific Center's outpatient treatment branch. The program consists of groups, psychoeducational classes and individual therapy. Veterans referred to the program assist

in planning their own treatment with one of the PCT clinicians.

The PCT also provides education and consultation to the community and other treatment agencies regarding PTSD and related disorders.

Neighbor Island Services

The PRRP will be open to residents of all islands. Until it is ready for occupancy, its staff is implementing a series of interim intensive outpatient PTSD programs, in collaboration with neighbor island Veterans Centers.

Some resources of the Pacific Center will be deployed to various neighbor islands, on a visitation basis, to provide treatment and other services for vets with PTSD and associated conditions.

Q&A:**Department of Veterans Affairs**

My GI Insurance term policy lapsed more than six months ago. How many premium payments must I make up in order to be reinstated? .

You must make two payments: one for the month in which the policy lapsed and one for the month in which it is reinstated. You also must supply evidence of good health. The necessary application, VA form 29-352, can be obtained from your nearest Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) office.

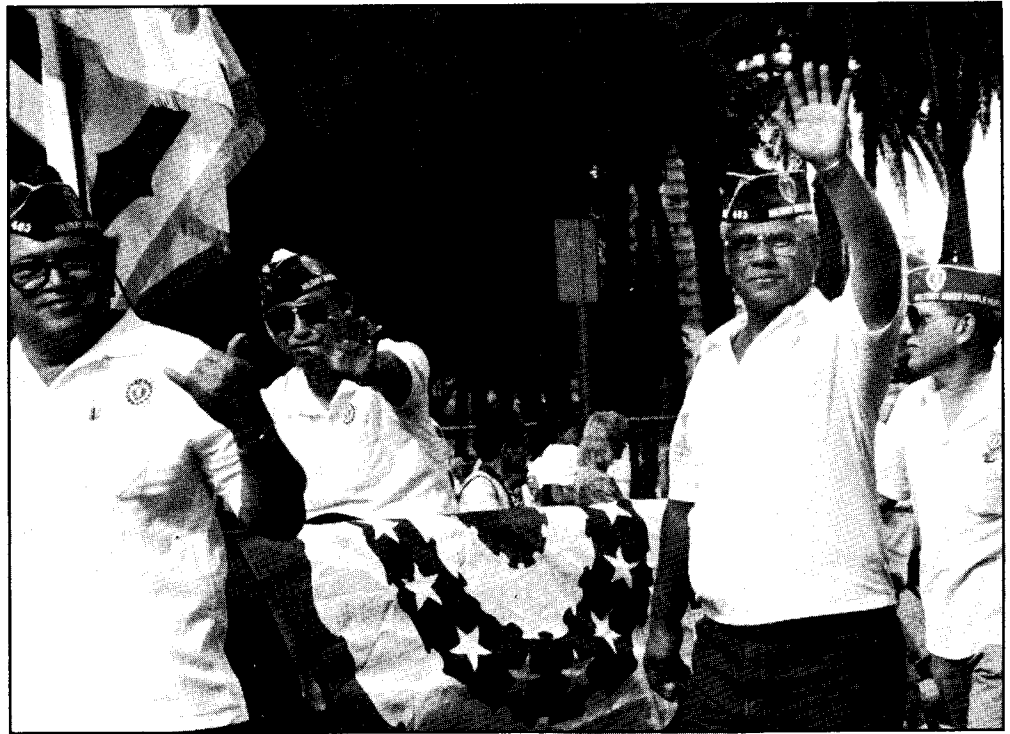
Does DVA offer mortgage insurance for VA home loans?

The only mortgage insurance offered by DVA is Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI). VMLI coverage is available to those disabled veterans who have received grants for the purchase of specially adapted housing. Such grants are available to certain severely disabled veterans who are entitled to compensation for service-connected permanent and total disability.

I am a World War II veteran. I was injured during the war, but never filed a disability compensation claim. Is it now too late for me to file?

No. There is no time limit for filing a disability compensation claim for a service-related condition.

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



Gaye S. Sakamoto

HEART OF THE PARADE -- (Left to right) James Akee, Thomas Tanaka, Robert Freitas and Donald Cook, of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, march in a parade honoring Martin Luther King Jr. on Kalakaua Avenue in Honolulu, Jan. 18.

vet news -- continued**DVA seeking volunteers**

DVA is seeking Vietnam veterans of Hawaiian and Japanese ancestry to participate in a post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) validation study. Participants will be paid \$50. To volunteer, contact Dr. Samuel Apuna, 541-3648.

DVA to test schizophrenia drug

DVA is embarking on a two-year study of the economic impact of Clozaril, a drug used to treat schizophrenia, in 15 of its hospitals nationwide.

The \$4 million project has been called a "breakthrough" study in that it will focus on economics rather than the efficacy of the drug.

The cost of Clozaril is at least \$4,000 annually for the drug itself, plus \$16,000 in laboratory and doctors' fees. The DVA study will look at whether the expense will significantly improve the quality of life for those who have not responded to traditional medicines and compare the cost of the out-patient drug treatments to hospital care.

The study will be "double blind," with neither doctor nor patient knowing who is getting Clozaril and who is getting the traditional medication, Haldol.

Gravemarkers available to reservists

Recent federal legislation extends eligibility for government headstones, gravemarkers and burial flags to military reservists who have completed at least 20 years of qualifying reserve duty.

Previously, veterans honorably discharged from active duty were eligible for a government-provided headstone or gravemarker and burial flag. Many reservists already meet this requirement because of active duty during periods such as the Vietnam Conflict and Persian Gulf War.

For more information, contact the nearest DVA Regional Office or write to Director, Office of Memorial Programs (403), National Cemetery System, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420.

442nd to celebrate 50th anniversary

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its formation, March 24-28.

The 442nd was created as an all-Japanese unit in March 1943, with 4,500 men -- 3,000 from Hawaii. In the face of racial prejudice and doubt, the 442nd fought heroically, earning so many awards during World War II that it was unofficially dubbed, "The Army's Most Decorated Unit."

The 442nd is best known for its fierce fighting in France, where it liberated the towns of Bruyeres and Biffontaine and rescued the "Lost Battalion," a Texas unit isolated behind enemy lines.

Both Bruyeres and Biffontaine have erected monuments in honor of the 442nd. The mayors of both towns as well as representatives of the "Lost Battalion" will attend the anniversary ceremonies.

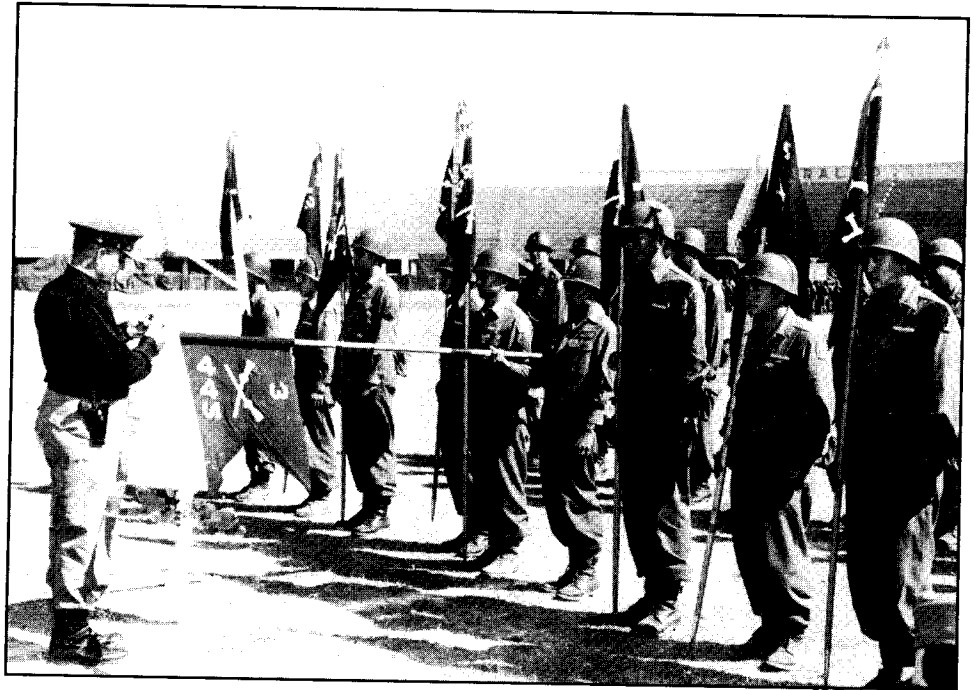
Anniversary plans include addresses by U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a decorated veteran of the 442nd, and Army Chief of Staff Gordon Sullivan. Inouye is scheduled to speak at the Aloha Banquet, March 24, and Sullivan at the Sayonara Banquet, March 28. Plans also include a parade from Ala Moana Park to Kapiolani Park, March 27.

For more information, contact George Nakasato, 949-7997, or Arnold T. Hiura, 945-3512.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post 1540, is now selling copies of *I Can Never Forget* by Thelma Chang, a book about the unique contributions of Japanese American soldiers during World War II.

The book explores the rescue of the "Lost Battalion," the liberation of Dachau's death camps and how the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion became two of the most decorated units in the U.S. Army.

The cost of the book is \$25.00. A limited number of autographed copies are available. To order, contact Gary I. Masumoto, post quartermaster, 734-7491.



U.S. Army Photo

Lt. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, commander, U.S. Fifth Army, ties the Presidential Citation ribbon, awarded for the courageous rescue of the "Lost Battalion," on the guidon of the 442nd Infantry Regiment's 3rd Battalion, during ceremonies in Leghorn, Italy, Sep. 4, 1945.

DAV award presented to Larry T. Manes



Capt. Larry T. Manes in 1972

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Commander's award for outstanding local veterans employment representative (LVER) was presented to Larry T. Manes of Hilo, Aug. 2.

Manes is a full-time LVER in the Hilo office of the Hawaii State Employment Service, where he plans

and conducts staff training in veterans' services and methods for service improvement.

Manes is very active in promoting the hiring and training of veterans throughout the community. He provides training opportunities and information at job fairs, the Veterans Center in Hilo, in rural areas and to local publications and radio stations.

His work also includes intense individual counseling to prepare veterans for employment.

Manes served with the U.S. Army's Special Forces for thirteen years, with tours in Southeast Asia and Vietnam. His military honors include three Silver Stars for valor and 30 other awards and decorations.

A distinguished veteran, Manes is an active member of the DAV, Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council, Veteran Center Advisory Committee and other veterans' groups.

calendar/notices

March 24-28

442nd Regimental Combat Team 50th anniversary celebration--Honolulu. Contact: George Nakasato, 949-7997, or Arnold T. Hiura, 945-3512.

April 15-18

USS Macon (WWII & Korea) reunion--Macon, Ga. Contact: John Amicone, 588 Gallivan Blvd., Dorchester, MA 02124, (617)436-7202.

April 20

China-Burma-India Veterans Association Aloha Basha quarterly luncheon/meeting--China House Restaurant, Honolulu, 11:45 a.m. Contact: Ernest P. Hourigan, 734-0964.

April 16

Military Retiree Golf Tournament--Kaneohe Marine Corps Golf Course. For more information, call 449-9896.

May 10-16

Hawaii Military Week--sponsored by the Military Affairs Council, Hawaii Chamber of Commerce.

May 15

29th Infantry Brigade 25th anniversary of 1968 call-up--Wailoa State Park, Hilo.

May 28-30

LCI (G) (WWII) reunion--Columbus, Ohio. Contact: Donald G. Lux, 1181 Sunny Hill Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43221, (614)451-7154.

May 30

Memorial Day -- state and federal holiday, observed May 31.

June 3-7

USS Kankakee (1942-68) reunion--Reno, Nev. Contact: Roy E. Stewart, 523 Mockingbird, Long Beach, Miss. 39560, (601)864-3010.

June 24-26

VP5 Mad Foxes (WWII) reunion--Pensacola, Fla. Contact: Gayle N. Cooper, POB 10119, Pensacola, Fla. 32524, (904)477-9663.

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. The revised submission deadline for the Summer (June 15) issue is May 24.

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