

HAWAII VETERAN

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

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State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Summer 1993

vet news

Korean Conflict POW leave pay

Prisoners of War (POWs) during the Korean Conflict may be entitled to a payment of \$300 or more under federal legislation (P.L. 102-190) authorizing the Department of Defense to compensate them for unused leave accrued during captivity.

Eligible POWs are entitled to an immediate minimum payment of \$300 and can request a higher amount based on actual lost leave. Applicants must provide records documenting the dates of their POW period, the highest grade held during that period and the amount of lost leave.

Military departments must make at least the minimum payment by Sept. 30, 1993. Payment is not authorized for deceased individuals.

For more information and a claim form, write to: Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Kansas City Center, Dept. Management Division, Claims Branch (FYC) -- Korean POW, Kansas City, Mo. 64197-0001.

Part-time work available for VA students

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is offering part-time work for students enrolled at least 3/4-time in one of the following VA programs: Montgom-
(continued on page 6)



Nancy S. Chappell

An active Army rifle squad member clears his weapon before loading it onto the Hawaii National Guard's C-26 aircraft for transport to Kauai. The rifle squad was flown to Kauai by the Hawaii National Guard to participate in a veteran's burial service, April 27.

Neighbor island burial detail takes off

By Nancy S. Chappell

The Hawaii National Guard (HING), in conjunction with the active military, established its neighbor island burial detail service, March 22. The first burial detail was flown to Kauai aboard the Hawaii Air National Guard's (HIANG) C-130 aircraft, April 7.

The burial detail was initiated by Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, to ensure that veterans of all services who are entitled to military burials receive those honors when requested by their next of kin.

In the past, a lack of funds for air transportation limited the active component support for neighbor island burials. The new program uses the Hawaii Army National Guard's 15-passenger C-26 aircraft and the HIANG's 50-passenger C-130 to move active duty troops from Oahu

to provide the traditional 21-gun salute and taps.

The services are available Tuesdays through Thursdays, giving priority to Maui on Tuesday, Kauai on Wednesday, and the Big Island on Thursday.

"The burial detail is part of our ongoing efforts to serve Hawaii's veterans and an example of the joint Army/Air Guard operations we are conducting in our department and with the active military," said Richardson.

Requests for military honor details are made through civilian mortuaries which pass them on to the veteran's active service mortuary affairs office. That office then forwards the request to the HING state army aviation officer. The process requires four calendar days notice to coordinate the honors.

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



**Larry Lee, director
Office of Veterans Services**

At the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Convention, the Honorable Jesse Brown established his role as an advocate for, and not an adversary of, veterans. Brown, who has devoted his entire adult life to serving his country and veterans, said he could think of no greater honor than to be selected as "the Secretary for Veterans Affairs, and not a Secretary of Veterans Affairs."

A frequent visitor to our annual national conventions, Brown keeps us informed on Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) activities. He improved communications between the DVA and military troops as the Executive Director of the Disabled American Veterans from 1966 to 1973 and constantly challenged DVA on untimely responses to veterans needs. He also championed an effort that overturned a disgraceful section of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 that eliminated compensation payments to certain incompetent veterans.

Brown spoke on homeless veterans, exclaiming, "It is a disgrace to see men or women who served their country sleeping on a steam grate ... These veterans who risked dying for America are now facing the possibility of freezing to death because they have nowhere to go. We can and we must do more."

With respect to health care, Brown received assurances from Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton that the DVA would be

a part of every decision-making process of her task force. To this end, DVA is actively represented in every major sub-committee of the health care reform task force.

The most powerful statement issued by Brown with regard to health care (and this was stated for the record) was that there would be no non-veterans in the DVA hospitals!

In a speech to the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Little Rock, Arkansas, long before Brown was nominated to be our Secretary, he read a poem that truly moved all in attendance. Immediately upon his confirmation as the Veterans Secretary, I wrote and asked him to make this poem mandatory reading and a guide for DVA's nearly 250,000 employees in their every day dealings with veterans. I share this poem, which takes the form of a series of letters written by a soldier and his parents:

Dear Mom and Dad, the war is done,
My task is through,
and, Mom, there is something
I must ask you.

I have a friend, Oh such a friend,
He has no home you see,
and so, Mom, I would really like to
bring him home with me.

Dear Son, we don't mind
If someone comes home with you.
I am sure he could stay
perhaps a week or two.

Dear Mom and Dad, there is
something you must know.
Now please don't be alarmed,
My friend in battle was recently shot,
And now he has no arm.

Dear Son, do not be afraid
to bring him home with you.
Perhaps he could stay a day or two.

Dear Mom and Dad, but Mom, he is
not just a friend.
He is like a brother, too.

That is why I want him home with
us,
and like a son to you.

Before you give your answer, Mom,
I really don't want to beg,
But my friend in battle was recently
wounded,
And also lost his leg.

Dear Son, it hurts me so much to
say, the answer must be no.
For Dad and I have no time for a boy
who is crippled so.

So months went by and a letter
came,
It said their son had died.
When they read the cause of death,
The shock was suicide.

Days later when the casket came,
Draped in the Army's flag.
They saw their son lying there
...without an arm
...without a leg.

Secretary Brown best summed up this poem with this statement: "Clearly, this poem is a tragedy. It grabs your heart and expresses a gross error in human judgement that you and I never want to make."

I charge each and everyone of us, to make a vow to ourselves, that we will never allow such a tragedy to occur in our dealings with family, friends, or even strangers.

Correction

It was inaccurately stated in the last issue of the *Hawaii Veteran* that Ms. Shirley Cavanaugh is employed by Hill and Knowlton Communications Pacific. Ms. Cavanaugh left Hill and Knowlton in 1992 and is now the public information officer for the State Department of Accounting and General Services.

Memorial Day commemorated throughout islands



2nd Lt. Steve C. Lai

HONORING OUR WARRIORS -- Kaye Stang, Ladies Auxiliary Fleet, Unit 46 of Fleet Reserve Association, carries her unit colors to the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery Flag Plaza during Memorial Day ceremonies, May 31.

Hawaii remembered its fallen comrades in Memorial Day ceremonies throughout the islands, May 31. Veterans and military gathered together to pay tribute to the warriors who gave their lives for their country. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts placed flower leis made by school children and flags next to each grave at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Family and friends brought flowers, food and small mementos to place at the graves of those they lost.

At the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, keynote speaker, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Shirley Cavanaugh, praised the heroes by saying, "These brave warriors are the reason why our nation has existed for more than 200 years, because at their expense America's freedom remains intact, preserved for future generations."

The ceremony began with music from the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Army Band, as veterans from several organizations posted their flags and a joint services color guard presented the colors. Adding Hawaiian tradition to the program, the Pu'a Mana Hula Studio danced a hula rendition of the Lord's Prayer, and performed several other dances as part of the musical interlude. A wreath laying ceremony was led by Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, Judith Worobe of the State Advisory Board of Veterans Services, and Rachael Worden, a Girl Scout. The ceremony ended with sounds of thunder from a battery of cannons firing a 21-gun salute in honor of the dead.

On Maui, the MIA-POW flag was raised at the Wailuku State Building. Services were also held at the Makawao Memorial Cemetery on Maui, Kaunakakai Memorial Park on Molokai, Hawaii County Veterans Cemetery in Hilo, and Waikiki Natatorium and Schofield Barracks on Oahu.

During a morning ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 Eagles flew in a missing man formation over Punchbowl Crater.



2nd Lt. Steve C. Lai

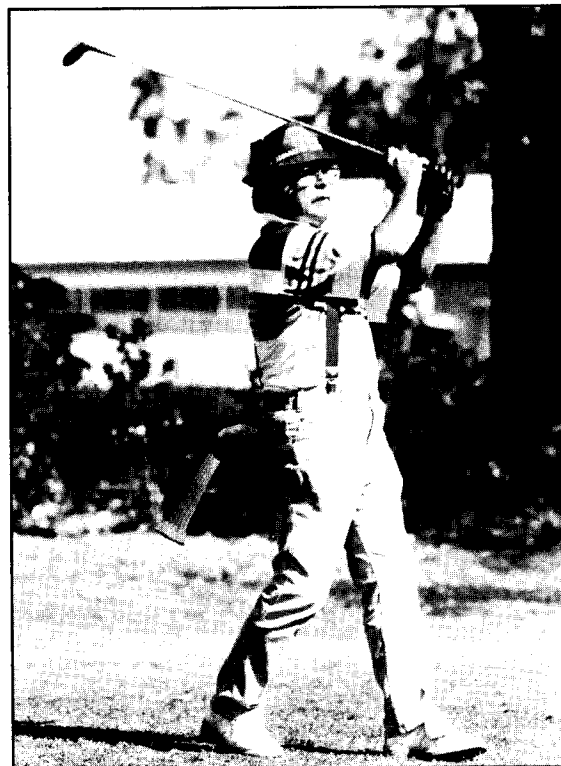
COLORS FORWARD -- A Joint Services Color Guard presents the colors to start the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, May 31.

Japanese-American heroes celeb



Nancy S. Chappell

Georges Henry (left), mayor of Biffontaine, grasps the hand of Ron Oba, president of Club 442, over the French flag and a memorial presented to the veterans of the 442nd at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), March 28. In the rear are (from left to right) Roger Pierrot, general counsel of Biffontaine, Jean Bianchetti, memorial sponsor, and Michel Rupp, representing the mayor of Bruyeres.



(Right) Tsuka Murakami, a 442nd veteran from Kauai, follows through on a shot at Leilehua Golf Course, March 25, during one of four golf tournaments held as part of the 442nd's 50th anniversary celebration.

Stephen M. Lum

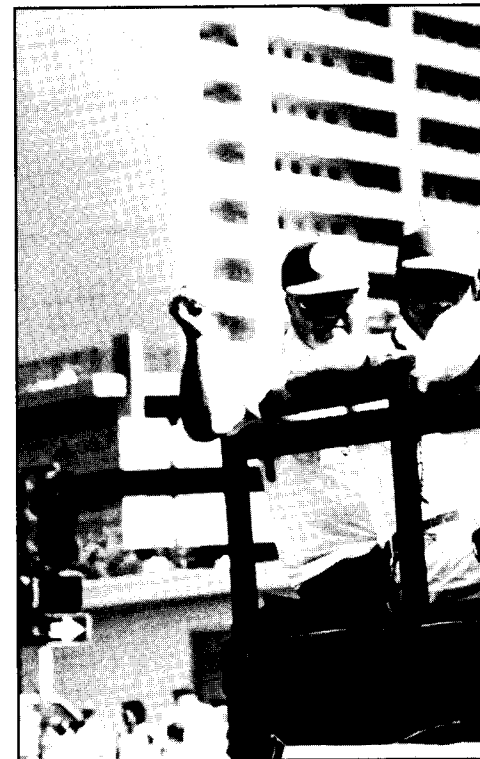
More than 1,500 veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team gathered in Honolulu to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their unit's formation, March 24-28.

They came quietly and modestly, primarily concerned with enjoying and remembering old friendships rather than past glories.

"He's a hero," offered one proud wife whose husband, a Silver Star and Purple Heart awardee, was reluctant to boast of his own accomplishments.

The 442nd was created as an all-Japanese-American unit in March 1943, with 4,500 men -- 3,000 from Hawaii. After training at Camp Shelby, Miss., it went on to absorb its predecessor, the 100th Battalion, on the Italian front. (The 100th Battalion, formed in 1942, was made up of Japanese-American draftees and former members of the Hawaii National Guard's 298th and 299th regiments.)

The soldiers of the 442nd earned the gratitude and respect of many for their heroic efforts on the battlefield and elsewhere during and after World War II.



Veterans of the 442nd Regimental truck during their 50th anniversary

ate 50th anniversary

Aware that they were fighting for a higher ideal, they responded with honor rather than anger to a country that discriminated against them and confined their families in relocation camps.

On the battlefield, they fought with valor and heroism, proving their loyalty and becoming one of the most decorated units in United States Army history. 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.

Upon their return from the battlefield, members of the 442nd became prominent members of Hawaii's business and political communities, breaking down barriers and opening doors for generations to follow.

The 442nd's 50th anniversary commemorative activities began March 23 as Gov. John Waihee proclaimed March 24 "442nd Regimental Combat Team Day in Hawaii" and the week of March 22 to March 28 "442nd Regimental Combat Team Week in Hawaii."

The reunion involved more than 3,000

veterans, family members and other participants from Hawaii, the mainland, Europe and Japan. These included the mayor of Biffontaine and representatives from Bruyeres, as well as members of the 34th and 36th Division (the "Lost Battalion") from Texas.

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a combat-wounded veteran of the 442nd, addressed the veterans at the Aloha banquet, March 24, and during a memorial service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), March 28.

Representatives of local schools, the military, veterans' organizations and the community turned out to support the veterans during their anniversary parade, March 27. Many of the 442nd vets marched the entire parade route, which stretched from Ala Moana Park to Kapiolani Park.

Other activities included golf tournaments at Hickam, Leilehua, Kaneohe and Mililani golf courses, a fashion show, individual chapter reunions and a Sayonara Banquet held in the evening of March 27. Army Chief of Staff Gordon Sullivan spoke at the Sayonara Banquet.



Nancy S. Chappell

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a combat-wounded veteran of the 442nd, addresses fellow veterans at the unit's 50th anniversary Aloha Banquet, March 24.



Combat Team ride along Kalakaua Avenue in a two-and-a-half-ton Army parade, March 27.

Nancy S. Chappell



442nd veterans, Shigeo "Doc" Kawamoto (right), and Shigeru Goto salute their fallen comrades, during a wreath laying ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, March 28.

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

I am a veteran receiving benefits under the Department of Veterans Affairs' (DVA) Improved Pension. I am supporting two of my grandchildren who live with me and my wife. May I claim my two grandchildren as dependents for pension purposes?

No. But it would be possible if you adopted your grandchildren.

If I am convicted of a felony, will it affect my VA compensation benefits?

Yes. Compensation benefits may not be paid in excess of certain amounts for anyone incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal institution for conviction of a felony. Beginning on the 61st day of incarceration, veterans rated 20-percent or more are limited to 10 percent and veterans rated less than 20 percent are limited to 5 percent. Dependents may have the right to an apportionment while the beneficiary is incarcerated. Apportionments will be discontinued, and full benefits restored, upon release or upon participation in a work-release or half-way house program.

May a surviving spouse's pension benefits be terminated based on an "inferred marriage," even though the state in which the spouse resides does not recognize "common law" marriages?

Yes.

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.

Vets Hall moves closer to reality

Thanks to the efforts of the U.S. Navy and the state, including Keith Ahue, director, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, a vision of building a veterans hall for the use of all Hawaii's veterans may have solid ground on which to sit.

The Navy transferred ownership of 10 acres of land along Pearl Harbor from McGrew Point to Aiea Stream to the Department of Land and Natural Resources in a ceremony at the site, May 25.

The land will be used by the state for construction of the Aiea Bay State Rec-

reational Area. Phase I of the project will include a picnic area, restrooms and landscaping.

Although plans for phase II of the project have not yet been finalized, strong support exists among members of the state government, including State Senator Norman K. Mizuguchi, and the Oahu Veterans Council for placing a proposed veterans hall on the site.

Gen. Richardson has worked closely with Rear Admirals William A. Earner and William A. Retz over the years to secure the site and continues to work with state legislators to move the project forward.

vet news -- continued

ery GI Bill (chapter 30 or 106), Vocational Rehabilitation (chapter 31), VEAP (chapter 32), or Dependents/Survivors (chapter 35). For more information call 541-1000 or visit the nearest DVA office.

March 25 named National Medal of Honor Day

The U.S. Congress has designated March 25 as 'National Medal of Honor Day.' The Medal of Honor is the highest of all U.S. military decorations. It is awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, in a conflict against an enemy of the United States.

The first Medals of Honor were approved under President Lincoln in 1861. The Roll of Honor now consists of 3,399 recipients, 204 of whom are still living.

Two Medal of Honor recipients reside in Hawaii -- Army retirees, Command Sgt. Maj. Delbert O. Jennings and Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg.

New psychiatric ward at Tripler

The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) dedicated an interim 19-bed psychiatric ward at Tripler Army Medical Center, April 26.

The ward is a joint DVA/Department of the Army project intended to provide service to Hawaii's veterans until the Spark Matsunaga VA Medical Center is built.

The Matsunaga Center is scheduled for

completion in 1998. Once completed, the interim ward may be turned back over to the Department of the Army, which runs Tripler.

Brig. Gen. James Hastings, commanding general of Tripler and Barry Raff, regional VA director, were present at the dedication of the facility. Raff said he anticipates more joint ventures from DVA and the Department of Defense as they are both forced to meet their demands with fewer resources.

VA Benefits Handbook

The 1993 edition of the Department of Veterans Affairs publication "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is now available.

The 105-page handbook describes federal benefits for veterans and family members such as medical care, education, disability compensation, pension, life insurance, home loans, vocational rehabilitation and burial assistance. It also explains eligibility requirements and outlines claims procedures. The addresses and phone numbers of all VA offices, medical centers, national cemeteries, veterans counseling centers and other VA facilities are listed by state.

To order, request GPO stock number 051-000-00-200-8 from the superintendent of documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, and enclose a check or money order for \$3.25 per copy. To order with Visa or Mastercard, call (202) 783-3238.

29th Infantry Brigade remembers '68 call-up

By Stephen M. Lum

Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard, activated in 1968 during the Vietnam conflict, reunited in Hilo for the 25th anniversary of the call-up, May 15. Also, 12 soldiers assembled at the Vietnam memorial at the Brigade's headquarters on Oahu to salute their fallen comrades, May 13.

More than 260 soldiers, loved ones and guests gathered at Hilo's Wailoa State Park to recall old times, renew friendships with fellow comrades and honor those who died during the 1968 call-up.

Maj. Gen. John R. D'Araujo Jr., director of the Army National Guard, was the keynote speaker at the reunion. D'Araujo served nine months in Vietnam as commander of a mobile advisory team and, later, as an operations advisor.

An emotional retired Sgt. Maj. Robert Y.H. Ko, read the names of the 29

soldiers from the Brigade and the Army Reserve's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry (which was assigned to the Brigade's as its third battalion), who died during the Brigade's activation.

Earlier in the week, 12 present and former members of the 29th held a quiet ceremony at the Brigade's Vietnam memorial.

The Department of Defense called 24,500 National Guard members and Army Reservists to federal active duty for the first time in 28 years, April 11, 1968.

More than 4,120 soldiers from the 29th and the 100th Battalion were placed on active duty that day. The soldiers underwent intensive training before serving tours in Vietnam, on the mainland or at Schofield Barracks. The 29th was not sent as a whole to Vietnam. Instead, 1,200 of its members were "levied" to serve as replacements for other units.



Spc. J. Tanimoto

LONG TIME, NO SEE -- Retirees, Capt. Noriyasu "Cisco" Matsumura (left) and Staff Sgt. Tsutomu "Bullet" Ueno, share a warm embrace. Both were among the first to go to Vietnam from the 29th Infantry Brigade.



Stephen M. Lum

NEVER FORGET -- Lt. Col. John K. Hao and Command Sgt. Maj. James M. Reis place a wreath at the base of the 29th Infantry Brigade's Vietnam memorial, May 13. Hao, Reis and 10 other past and present Hawaii Army National Guard soldiers of the May 1968 call-up remember their fallen comrades.

Funding for neighbor island cemeteries on track

Funding for neighbor island veterans cemeteries moved forward in April as state and county legislatures, at the urging of State Senator Ann Kobayashi and Representative Calvin Say, pooled their resources to match federal dollars.

In March, the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) approved federal funds of \$1.9 million for Hawaii's cemeteries based on planned county and state matching appropriations.

Maui County and the state appropriated \$300,000 for design and construction of the Lanai Veterans Cemetery to match DVA's \$300,000 contribution. For the Makawao Veterans Cemetery on Maui, the state and county committed \$200,000 to match the \$200,000 federal commitment.

For the Hoolehua Veterans Cemetery on Molokai, the state appropriated \$75,000 to match an equal amount in federal dollars.

The state and county of Hawaii appropriated \$975,000 to match an equal amount in federal funds for the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery.

Also on the Big Island, the state matched the federal government's \$150,000 for the Hawaii Veterans Cemetery in Hilo (#1 and #2).

Kauai county and the state committed \$210,000 to match the federal contribution for the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe.

calendar/notices

June 13

Reserve Officers Association of the United States Conference '93 - McCoy Pavilion, Ala Moana Park. Contact: Maj. Virginia Respicio, 672-3321.

June 24-26

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

July 8-10

Military Intelligence Service 50th anniversary celebration--Pagoda Hotel, Honolulu. Contact: Hakobu Kumagai, 536-4339.

July 9

Military Retiree Golf Tournament--Hickam Golf Course. For more information, call 449-9896.

July 20

China-Burma-India Veterans Association quarterly luncheon meeting--China House restaurant, 11:45 a.m. Contact Ernest P. Hourigan, 734-0964.

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 submission deadline for the Fall (Sept.15) issue is Aug. 24.

August 21-25

National LSM Association Reunion, Charleston, S.C. Contact Frank Slocum, 696-3374 (Oahu).

September

USS Bremerton reunion-- St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Robert F. Polanowski, Rd. 1, Box 430, Belfast, NY 14711, (716)365-2316.

September 1-6

104th Infantry Division (TIMBERWOLF) 48th reunion -- Scottsdale, Ariz. Contact: Leo Oren, 13421 North 43rd Ave., Apt. 1113, Phoenix, Ariz, 85029, (602)843-9557.

September 3-6

Four Stack APB (WWII) reunion--Portland, Ore.. Contact: Dr. La Roy E. Miller, 21095 SW Old Pacific Hwy West, Sherwood, Ore. 97140-8813, (503)538-9860.

September 17-18

4th annual Old Soldiers reunion -- Kiluea Military Camp, Hawaii. Contact: Noble Kila, (Hilo) 967-8333 or Manuel P. Kabral, (Oahu) 488-7126.

September 22-26

VPB-117 (WWII) reunion--New Orleans, La. Contact: William A. Swink, 87128 Golf Club Dr., Diamondhead, Miss. 39525, (601)255-3738.



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