

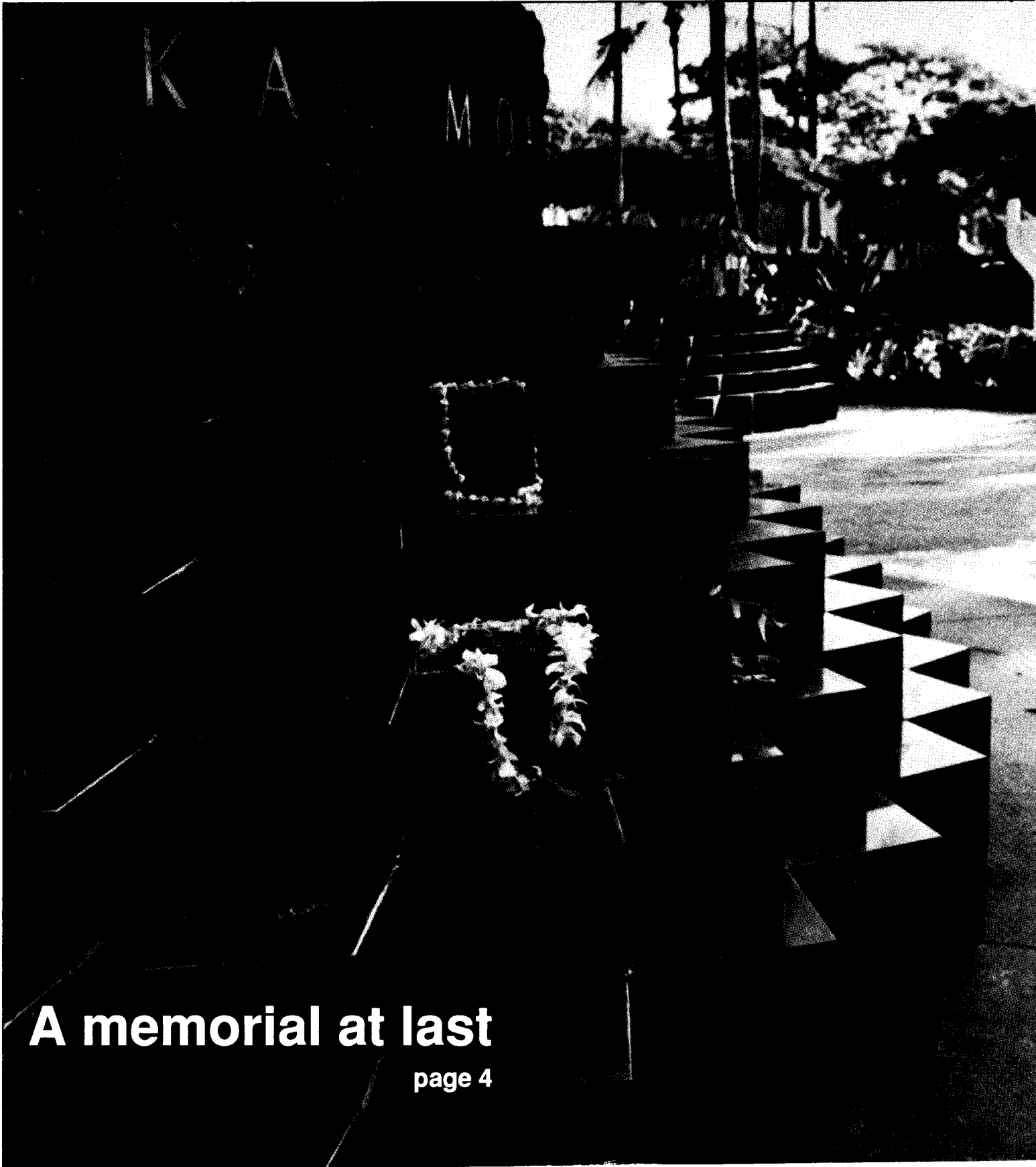
HAWAII VETERAN

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

Vol. 3 No. 3

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Fall 1994

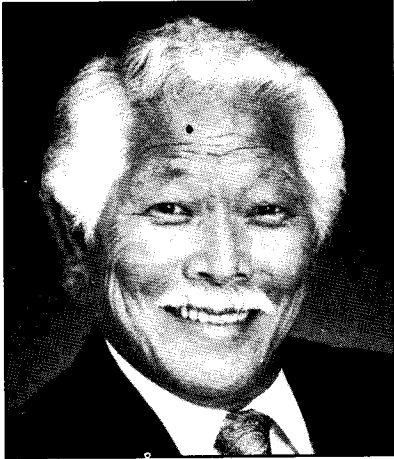


A memorial at last

page 4

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



Hawaii's veterans are informed and concerned

*From the Director
Larry Lee*

OVS opens satellite office

The Office of Veterans Services opened a satellite office in the Federal Building Aug. 2. The office is located within the Department of Veterans Affairs regional office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 2306A. Its hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staff can be reached at 566-1640.

HSVC Avenue of Flags

Many families of deceased veterans have asked about donating the flag presented to them on behalf of the president at the veterans' internment to the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC). HSVC will accept the flags and use them to form an "Avenue of Flags" along its main roads during certain holidays. A letter and certificate will be presented to the donor, and the names of the donor and veteran will be placed on a plaque in the administration building lobby.

The cemetery has also created a donation fund for the continued beautification of the cemetery. For more information, call 235-1596.

HSVC is three years old

The Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery was three years old on Aug. 1. In its 1,095 days of operation, the cemetery has seen 1,133 burials.

As an attendee at the recently concluded state conventions of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, I was touched by the camaraderie, interest and concern of so many veterans, not only for veterans' benefits, but for our nation as a whole. I was especially touched and proud because I met so many veterans who are once again willing to do their share and have made it their personal responsibility to be a part of the mechanism to help fix the "system." Far too often, we hear derogatory remarks, from those who never attend any of these conventions or meetings, that the only reason veterans get together is to "tip the bottle." I can assure you that nothing is further from the truth.

In my observation of the attendees at the conventions, I saw veterans, young and old, male and female, who were there because they cared enough and wanted to contribute their share. They were there because they were concerned as to what is happening, both at the local and national

level. They were there because they heard that the current backlog of claims at VA regional offices is estimated at some 600,000 cases, with an average of over 200 days required for a decision to be made. They were there because they heard that only seven percent of the Members of Congress born in 1950 or later have had any military experience, compared with 49 percent of the congressional membership born before 1950. They were concerned because the concurrent receipt issue continues to be pigeonholed in Congress. They were deeply concerned about national health care reform and what it would do to VA's role in the total package. They were concerned because Hawaii is still waiting for the Spark M. Matsunaga Veterans Medical Center to become a reality and, as I looked out at the audience, I shared their concern as the majority of the membership was senior citizens.

In my brief remarks made to the attendees at each of the conventions, I appealed to the audience to not allow the convention to end with the falling of the gavel, but to consider that falling to be the start of their efforts to ensure that every resolution considered and passed at their convention be followed through and enacted by their respective national headquarters. I charged each member to make it his or her personal responsibility to continue to be active and to monitor the work of their organization, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Congress at it pertains to veterans' issues and our national defense. Upon leaving each convention, I felt that the message had been heard and that Hawaii's veterans will once again be at the forefront of working to ensure a better America and Hawaii for all citizens.

Federal funds granted for state cemetery

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a \$3.4 million grant to the State of Hawaii to expand and improve the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery (HSVC) in Kaneohe.

The grant, covering one-half of the estimated cost of the cemetery's phase IV, will be used to construct a columbarium to hold 684 urns and an amphitheater for ceremonial functions. Plans also include landscaping and roadways to complement the new structures. The 114-acre cemetery is being constructed in five phases.

VA's state cemetery grants program has helped to develop, expand or improve 29 state veterans cemeteries by providing matching funds on a 50-50 basis. The state cemeteries complement the VA's National Cemetery System. Since 1980, VA has awarded 75 grants to 18 states and the Territory of Guam for a total of more than \$37 million.

Hawaii's job training funds for vets increased

Hawaii will receive a six-fold increase in federal funding for a veterans job training program this year under a new grant system that targets money to states with the greatest need.

For the year beginning Aug. 1, the Hawaii Veterans Employment and Training Program will receive \$338,000 in federal funds to provide job training and related assistance to as many as 364 disabled veterans, Vietnam-era veterans, or veterans who have been separated from military service within the past four years.

Last year, the state received \$55,000 which, when matched with an equal amount of state monies, served some 110 veterans. Hawaii is one of 14 states to receive such funding.

John Giannelli, regional administrator of the U.S. Labor Department Veterans Employment and Training Ser-

vice in San Francisco, said the new competitive funding process allows the department to better target monies.

"By reviewing proposals and putting the money where the need is greatest," said Giannelli, "we're able to help states serve more clients."

The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) will administer the grant. Training will take place mostly in existing community college courses, with additional classes in commercial driving being arranged by DLIR. The plan includes provisions to pay employers to provide on-the-job training for a limited number of applicants. The grant also provides funds to cover support services and basic living subsidies.

The federal funds are provided under Title IV-C of the Job Training and Partnership Act. For more information, call Ray Ogawa at 586-9916.

D-Day commemoration

Los Banos meets President Clinton

Hawaii veteran Alfred "Freddy" Los Banos, a member of President Clinton's American Battle Monuments Commission, met with the president and first lady while in Europe to tour American military cemeteries in Italy and France and attend ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, June 6.

"It was an honor," Los Banos said of meeting the president and first lady, "They are a very gracious couple."

Los Banos was impressed by both the commemoration ceremony he witnessed in Normandy and by the historical aura of the site.

"Seeing what these people had done (during the invasion)," he said, "made me proud to be an American."

Los Banos described the cemeteries he visited in Europe, with their rows of white crosses perfectly aligned from all angles, as "beautiful."

The American Battle Monuments Commission will have its first official meeting in Washington, D.C. Sept. 28.

President Bill Clinton greets Korean War veteran Alfred "Freddy" Los Banos at the D-Day commemoration activities held in Normandy, France, June 6.



Akaka named legislator of the year by Vietnam Veterans

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka has been selected as the 1994 Legislator of the Year by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA).

According to VVA President James Brazee Jr., Akaka was awarded the honor for his initiatives in the area of mental health services, post traumatic stress disorder and delivery of primary care. Brazee also noted that Akaka's concern for minority veterans parallels the VVA's agenda.

The VVA is the only national Vietnam veterans organization chartered

by Congress and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. It has over 480 chapters and 42,000 members.

"Bearing in mind everything the men and women of the Vietnam Veterans of America and all their comrades-in-arms have been through," said Akaka, "I am truly humbled to be accorded this tribute."

The legislation that Akaka has supported includes: burial benefits for career Guard and Reserve per-

sonnel; designation of a Chief Minority Affairs Officer within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); VA home loans for Native Americans and certain National Guard and Reserve personnel; establishment of the Pacific Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in Hawaii; improved services for women veterans; and improved benefits for veterans' survivors.

Akaka was also recently instrumental in blocking an attempt to delete funding for Hawaii's VA hospital from the FY 1995 VA funding bill.

Thousands help dedicate Korean and Vietnam

By 1st Lt. Charles J. Anthony

An estimated 3,500 invited guests, veterans and well-wishers packed the ewa side of the State Capitol grounds Sunday, July 24, to dedicate Hawaii's long-awaited Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

It was an emotional event for the family members of and veterans who served with the 766 men whose names are inscribed in the black granite pedestals of the memorials.

"It was something I will never forget," said Korean War veteran Louis Baldovi, who was able to reflect near the linked pedestals of three of his lost buddies. "I feel a sense of accomplishment and well-being."

"The ceremony brought back a flood of memories," said Lt. Col. John Hao, who was a sergeant with the 29th Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard, when called for duty in 1968, "I could feel myself back in an APC (armored personnel carrier) and see us slogging through the mud. A lot of us had friends that died. I feel satisfied that they have now been appropriately recognized."

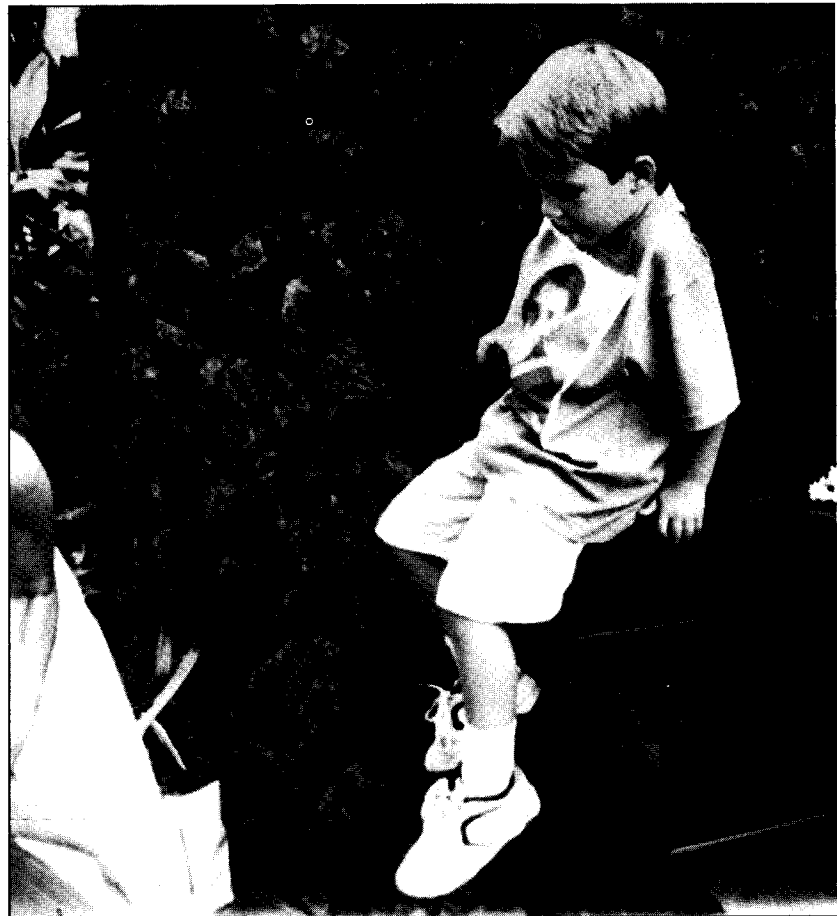
"These memorials will forever be a source of pride, understanding, reconciliation, healing, peace and remembrance to all who come here," said Gov. John Waihee.

The dedication ceremony was arranged by a committee of representatives from veterans organizations, the State of Hawaii Department of Defense and the Department of Accounting and General Services. Retired Army Gen. Irwin Cocket chaired the committee, and retired Navy Capt. Gerald Coffee, 7-year prisoner of war in Vietnam, was master of ceremonies. While the attendees filed past the memorials after the ceremony, veterans and their family members read the names of each service member listed on the pedestals.

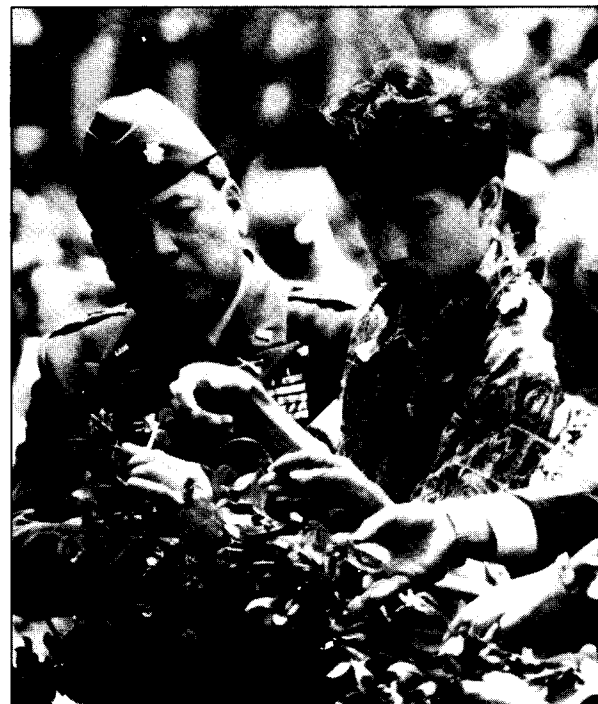
The Hawaii Guard's 111th Army Band provided music for the dedication, and four F-15s from the Hawaii Air Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron performed a missing man flyover. Two UH-1 "Huey" and one AH-1S Cobra Vietnam-era helicopters from the Army's 25th Infantry Division also provided an airborne tribute.

"It was a sad moment when we, as a nation, did not welcome home our returning warriors with a parade," said Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general. "To all of those who gallantly served: welcome home. This is your parade."

Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, welcomes the gathering at the State Capitol lawn.



"ON BEHALF OF THEIR COUNTRY, THEIR CHILDREN, THE DILL, 5, wearing a picture of his grandfather, Army Capt. Kenne, sits on his grandfather's pedestal within the Memorials to Veterans of the Vietnam War and the Korean War."



...dedicate Korean and Vietnam memorials

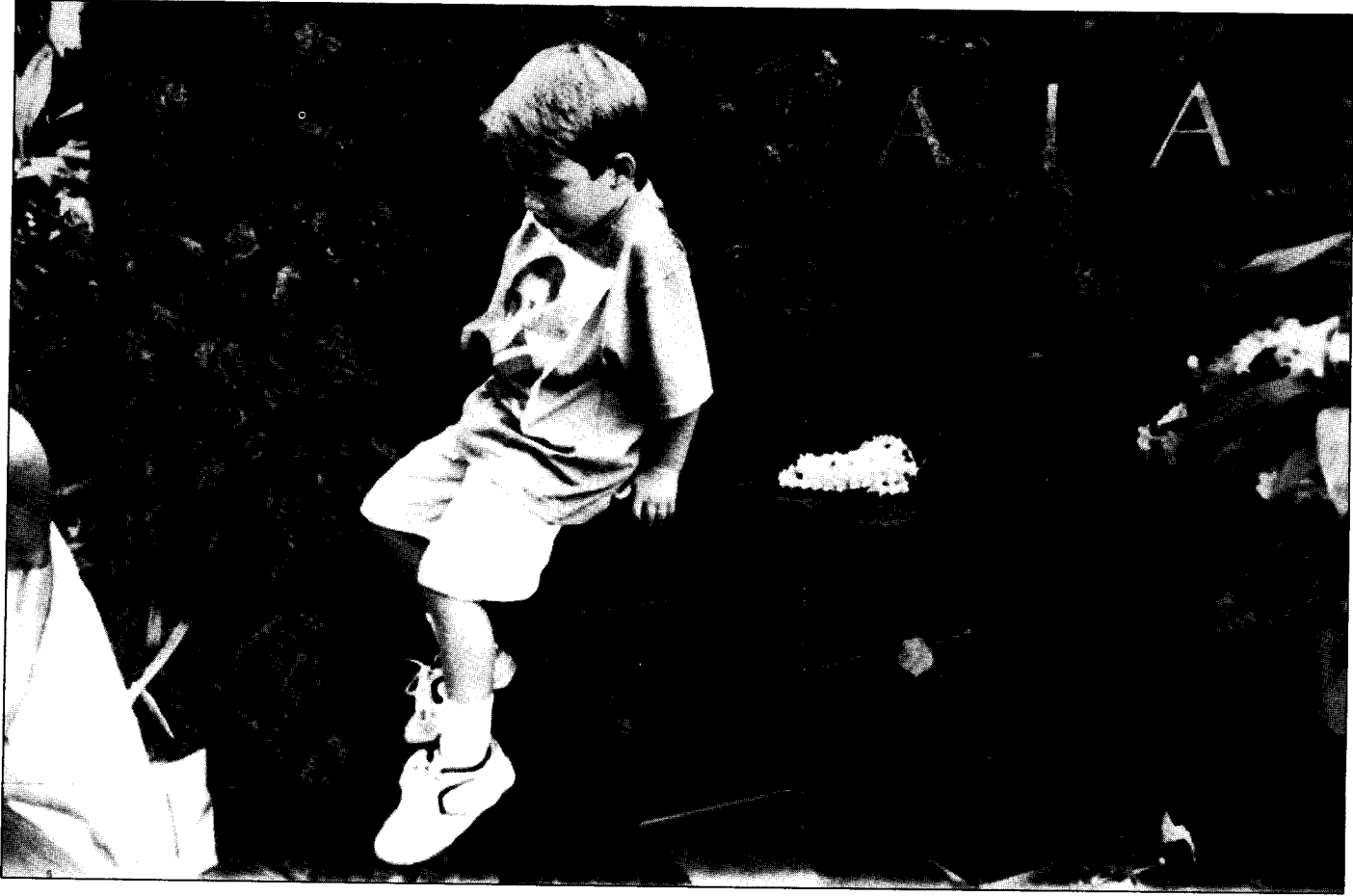
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"ON BEHALF OF THEIR COUNTRY, THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR ALTARS, THEIR HEARTHS" -- Kenneth Dill, 5, wearing a picture of his grandfather, Army Capt. Kenneth Newlon Good, on his chest, sits near his grandfather's pedestal within the Memorials to Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars.



**(Left) Fa
War casu
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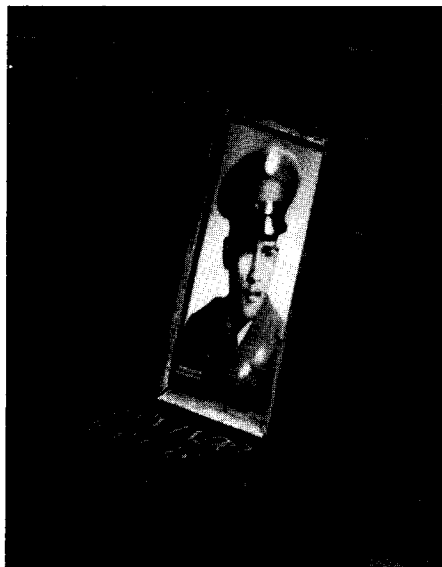
Vietnam memorials at State Capitol



"ALTARS, THEIR HEARTHS" -- Kenneth Newlon Good, on his chest, sits near his Korean and Vietnam wars.



Medal of Honor recipient, retired Sgt. Maj. Allan Kellogg, USMC, and Chief Master Sgt. Jack Uhrig, Hawaii Air National Guard, salute their fallen comrades after placing a wreath in their honor at the site of the Korean and Vietnam memorials.



(Left) Families and friends left photographs, flowers, letters and other memorabilia honoring their loved ones at the memorial.

(Left) Family members of the first Korean War casualty, Sgt. Jose Balalong, and first Vietnam War casualty, Spec. 5 James Gabriel Jr., untie a maile lei to open the dedication ceremony. Assisting are Lt. Col Don Arakaki (left) and Master Sgt. Timothy B. Galbiso, Hawaii Army National Guard, and Gov. John Waihee.

Q & A:**Department of Veterans Affairs****Is it true that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has made Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) renewable?**

Yes. Effective Dec. 1, 1992, VGLI is renewable for all policyholders. VGLI is five-year term coverage for veterans to convert their Servicemen's Group Life Insurance after separating from the military. It also is available to some disabled reservists and members of the Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard.

Who is eligible for Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI)?

Veterans who have received a grant from VA's Specially Adapted Housing Grants Program can get VMLI protection of their home to a maximum of \$90,000.

I have just been rated zero percent by VA for service-connected disability. I understand VA has a life insurance program for service-connected veterans. Does that apply to veterans rated at zero percent?

Veterans separated from service on or after April 25, 1951, who are granted a service-connected disability but are otherwise in good health may apply to VA for up to \$10,000 in life insurance within two years from the date the veteran is notified that the disability has been rated as service-connected. This applies even if your rating is zero percent.

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.

vet news**VA health care reform strategy**

The majority of veterans who choose a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health plan under President Clinton's proposed Health Security Act will receive an expansion of preventive and outpatient care benefits and elimination of medication copayment requirements. Certain eligible veterans -- service-connected disabled, low-income, and other special categories including former prisoners of war and World War I veterans -- will receive the care package with no premiums, copayments or deductibles and no-cost supplemental benefits.

VA's implementation strategy includes: a managed care system emphasizing accessibility to primary care; health plans that meet or exceed customer expectations; decentralized managed care; contingency support to the Department of Defense; emergency medical preparedness for disasters; participation with states that have their own health care initiatives; and marketing the plan to veterans.

Fisher House open for Tripler patients' families

Families of seriously ill service members may now stay in Tripler Army Medical Center's (TAMC) recently completed Fisher House for \$22 per night.

Fisher House can house up to seven families with all the comforts of home -- a laundry room, a kitchen, cable TV, telephones and air conditioning. It was donated by Zachary and Elisabeth Fisher who have built more than 18 similar facilities.

Each family will have a social worker assigned to help them through their crisis. The staff is looking for part-time volunteers to help with property maintenance and guest services and donations such as cash, cleaning supplies, toys, reading materials, video tapes and games. For more information, contact Betty Uyema, 839-2336.

Mustard gas and Lewisite rule

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has ruled that veterans who were exposed to mustard gas during military service and suffer squamous cell carcinomas of the skin; scar formation of the skin; nonlymphocytic leukemia; and nasopharyngeal, laryngeal and lung cancers are

eligible for disability compensation.

Those exposed to Lewisite who suffer chronic laryngitis, bronchitis, emphysema or asthma and those exposed to either chemical suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are also eligible.

The previous regulation applied only to those with full-body exposure during tests of protective equipment during World War II.

Persian Gulf Registry Hotline

If you need information or have health problems related to your Persian Gulf military service, call the Department of Veterans Affairs' Persian Gulf Hotline at 1(800)796-9699.

Chosin Few Aloha Chapter

The Chosin Few, Inc., an international organization of Korean War veterans, has formed a Hawaii or "Aloha" chapter.

Interested Korean War veterans who served as a part of or in support of the X Corps during the Chosin Reservoir Battle in North Korea in November and December of 1950 should contact one of the following officers for membership information: Tom Kalus, president, 486-5004; Allen Ray, vice-president, 488-0600; Bob Talmadge, treasurer, 247-5070; Charles "Davey" Crockett, secretary, 488-2842; or Al Tagupa, membership chairman, 923-7592.

VA benefits for WWII civilians

Members of two civilian groups that supported U.S. military efforts during World War II have been granted veteran status and are eligible for VA benefits.

U.S. civilian flight crew and aviation ground support employees of Northwest Airlines who served under the airline's contract with the Air Transport Command from Dec. 14, 1941, through Aug. 14, 1945, and U.S. civilian female employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps who served in Bataan and Corregidor from Jan. 2, 1942, to Feb. 3, 1945 are eligible.

A discharge certificate is needed as proof of service. To obtain a certificate, applicants must fill out DD form 2168, available from the U.S. Air Force or by calling a VA regional office at 1(800)827-1000 (541-1000 on Oahu). Send the completed form to HQ AFMPC/DPMARS2, Randolp, Tex. 78150-6001.

Guard commemorates WWII, sends three students to D.C.

By Nancy S. Chappell

The Hawaii National Guard awarded three Hawaii high school students a trip to Washington, D.C., July 4, for their first place finishes in its World War II (WWII) commemorative essay contest.

The awards were presented during a ceremony at Ala Moana Shopping Center that capped off a weekend of activities organized by the Guard to commemorate the war's 50th anniversary. Set up under the Department of Defense's nationwide commemorative program, the Hawaii Guard's WWII commemorative committee will sponsor three events during each year of the anniversary.

More than 370 students entered the contest. The D.C. trip and a \$200 U.S. savings bond went to first place finishers in each of three categories. The winners, Erika Hartle-Schutte of Waiakea High School, Ryan Imamoto of Kaiser High School, and Katy Stenger of St. Joseph School visited Washington July 18-22.

Second prize was a \$150 savings bond and a two-night stay at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

The Guard's 111th Army Band provided WWII era music prior to the ceremony and also performed July 2-3. Displays throughout the weekend in-



U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie and Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, were on hand to congratulate the winners of the Hawaii National Guard's World War II essay contest at Ala Moana Shopping Center July 4.

cluded authentic WWII uniforms and equipment, modern Guard equipment, a blood pressure check station, WWII posters, exhibits from the 442nd veterans organization, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Hawaii Army Museum and the U.S.S. Bowfin museum, and the winning WWII essays.

As awards ceremony keynote speaker, U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye remarked on the confidence he had as a soldier during the war in the work of his fellow Americans who built equipment for those

on the front lines. He said that those who worked at home in factories, gave blood and made bandages should be honored along with those who fought.

U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie and Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson also spoke. Richardson cited three reasons for holding the contest, "to pay tribute to our veterans of WWII ... to remind ourselves of the incredible feats that are possible when a nation pulls together and focuses on a common goal ... and to perpetuate the lessons learned during WWII by educating the future leaders of our nation."

Ben and Gloria Tamashiro, Bank of Hawaii's "Harry and Myra," were masters of ceremonies. Ben Tamashiro is a veteran of WWII's famed 100th Battalion. Robert Kinzler and Edward Gehring, of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, were color bearers.

Prizes were made available by donations from American Airlines, American Life and Casualty Insurance, Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, the Hawaii National Guard Enlisted and Officers Associations, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaiian Electric Industries, Hilton Hawaiian Village, McDonalds Restaurants, Oceanic Cable Vision and SATO Travel. Nishi Catering, Kaneohe Bakery and A to Z rental provided refreshments for a pre-ceremony reception.



Ben Tamashiro talks with members of the Hawaii Historic Arms Association who are modeling authentic WWII uniforms.

calendar/notices

Sept. 19

Honolulu Vet Center open house for women -- 1680 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu, 1p.m. - 6 p.m. Contact Ann Fisher or Marlene Coach, 566-1764.

Sept. 26-30

M.S.S. Alnitah AK - 127 5th annual reunion -- Minneapolis, Minn. Contact: Dick West (206) 537-7469.

Sept. 29

Women and chemical dependence seminar -- Pacific Center for PTSD, 1132 Bishop St., Honolulu, 3rd floor conference room, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Contact: Anne Mabery, 566-1412.

Oct. 7-9

163rd General Hospital (WWII) reunion -- Best Western Landmark Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach, S.C. Contact: Rowland D. Garver, (317) 473-7184.

Oct. 22-23

Air Expo -- Barbers Point Naval Air Station.

Oct. 26-30

Air Weather Service (AWS) reunion (all eras) -- Holiday Inn Palo Verde, Tucson, Ariz. Contact: John Collens, (916) 677-2100.

Nov. 6-12

National Women Veterans Recognition Week.

Nov. 8

Election Day -- state holiday.

Nov. 11

Veterans Day -- state and federal holiday.

Nov. 24

Thanksgiving -- state and federal holiday.

Nov. 29- Dec. 3

International Chosin Few Reunion -- Hyatt Regency Hotel, Miami, Fla. Special tribute to the 15 men who received the Medal of Honor during the Chosin Campaign. Contact: Rod McDonald, 1222 Huntcliff Way, Clinton Miss., (601) 924-1204.

If you have a story idea or want to list an event for veterans 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 Winter '94 (Dec. 15) issue is Nov. 29.



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