

# V HAWAII VETERAN

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

Vol. 5 No. 1

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Spring-Summer 1996



Sgt. 1st Class Wayne T. Iha

**THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE--(L to R) Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano, U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, commander in chief U.S. Pacific; Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, his wife Celila; and Walter Ozawa, Office of Veterans Services director; stand at attention for the playing of the National Anthem.**

## Memorial Day across Hawaii

By Deborah Murray

Whether they were gathering at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, the Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium or the Eternal Flame, veterans showed up in full-force for Memorial Day observances to visit grave sites in honor of comrades who died serving their country.

At the Natatorium Sunday, May 26, a group that included some World War I veterans well in their 90s, gathered to pay tribute to soldiers who died in this war. The guest speaker for the

event was Brig. Gen. Irwin Cockett.

On Sunday evening, at the Memorial Day Eve Candlelight Ceremony at Punchbowl, sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Post 10583 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars a crowd heard guest speaker Lt. Col. (retired) Orson Swindle.

By tradition many Vietnam veterans traveled to the ceremony in a motorcycle convoy.

The highlight of the program was a helicopter flyover reminiscent of those that flew over Vietnam to drop supplies or pick-up troops to take

them to another location. The UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter was flown by the U.S. Army's Company C, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment.

Carswell Ross, veterans service coordinator for the Office of Veterans Services (OVS) said that the flyover brought back memories for many of the veterans in attendance who had experienced Vietnam firsthand.

On Monday morning, a large crowd gathered at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl to hear Mayor Jermery Harris emphasize, "Each day we

must never forget the price of freedom."

The Hawaii Air National Guard conducted a Missing-man Flyover for this ceremony.

The Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery was decorated with flags and flower leis for Memorial Day with the help of local girl scouts.

At 1:30 p.m. Monday, May 27, a record crowd attended the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony at HSVC, Kaneohe, hosted by Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano. The crowd heard opening remarks from Walter M. Ozawa, director, OVS, and a welcome address from Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general.

Cayetano, the keynote speaker for the event, stressed, "It is fitting that we remember those who left their homes and loved ones and defended liberty at the cost of their very lives. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten."

The ceremony also featured appearances from Admiral Joseph W. Prueher, commander in chief, U.S. Pacific and U.S. Representative Neil Abercrombie, a guest speaker.

The music for the occasion was provided by the Hawaii Army National Guard's 111th Army Band.

Veterans' Day ceremonies were also held on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai

(continued on page 7)

# Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



## **Meet Walter Ozawa: director of the Office of Veterans Services**

**By Deborah M. Sanders Murray**

It has been about 5 months since Walter M. Ozawa, was appointed as the director of the Office of Veterans Services. The 28-year member of the U.S. Army Reserve says that he is doing what comes naturally for him: looking out for the needs of his comrades.

His comrades are the estimated 120,000 veterans who reside in Hawaii.

"I see my role as providing a stronger link between our veterans and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) so they (veterans) receive the quality of services and benefits they rightfully deserve," said Ozawa.

Ozawa replaced Robert C. Viduya, as OVS' director, Feb 1.

Prior to going to the OVS, Ozawa

was the deputy director for administration for the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and formerly served as the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City and County of Honolulu. As deputy director of administration for DPS he was responsible for overseeing the administrative functions of one of the largest state agencies, with an annual budget of about \$100 million and supervising about 2,200 employees.

I'm excited and honored to serve as director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS). I know that I will be fully-challenged in filling this position after Bob Viduya's great work, and that of Larry Lee before him.

He spent his first few months in office visiting with the veterans' councils on the Big Island of Hawaii, Maui and Kauai.

"I'm trying to get out there and learn as quickly as possible," he said adding that the purpose of his visits with the Veterans Councils

on each island is to determine the veterans' needs."

OVS provides a vital link between the VA and the individual veteran.

"We provide: advocacy, information and referral services to veterans, National Guard, Reservists, and their families; link our clients with appropriate federal, State and community agencies, represent veterans at VA appeal hearings; counsel about available benefits; provide outreach and network services to veterans; expedite claims for financially disadvantaged and homeless veterans; obtain State documents at no charge; and work with veterans to obtain State or federal health care," he said.

Some major issues facing veterans in Hawaii are the quality of services (health-care and long-term care options) available for its aging veteran population; in the midst of budget cuts, the future maintenance of the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery; and developing a plan of action to maintain the State's 49 monument sites, which are not on federal land.

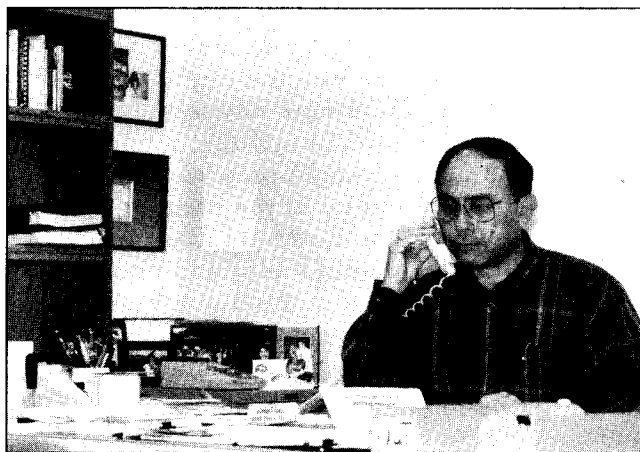
"The condition of our monuments reflect how we honor our veterans," Ozawa said.

Working under the direction of Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, Ozawa is tasked with serving as an advocate who monitors federal and state programs to make sure that veterans are receiving the benefits that they are entitled.

"I'm really excited about this work, so many of my friends are veterans. You have served our nation well. The Office of Veterans Services was created by the State of Hawaii in recognition of your service, and to ensure that our nation answers your call, just as you answered its call, willingly and honorably," he stressed.

### **OZAWA AT WORK-**

Walter M. Ozawa is facing many challenges as director of the Office of Veterans Services. He replaced Robert C. Viduya, who is currently working as the deputy director of the Department of Public Safety.



# DACOWITS focuses on key issues related to military readiness and quality of life

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

It has been two years since Jackie Young was selected as a member of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS).

Since then, she has traveled across the United States and to several foreign countries to discuss issues related to sexual harassment, the employment of women veterans and quality of life issues related to women veterans.

As a member of DACOWITS she works closely with the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Management Policy to provide advice and recommendations on matters and policies related to women in the Armed Forces.

Young, who recently spoke at the State's Advisory Board on Veterans Services board meeting, stressed that since women are an integral part of U.S. military deployments, when women experience obstacles such as sexual harassment military readiness suffers.

"Such issues are barriers to military readiness," she said.

The vision of DACOWITS is to foster a climate that results in the full utilization of women's talents and abilities; emphasizing the contributions that qualified and committed women bring to readiness; and continuously



Young

improving the committee procedures so that it may provide relevant, resourceful, and realistic recommendations to U.S. Defense Secretary William F. Perry.

The committee's 1996 goals include: 1.) Vigorously supporting and implementing the current law and policy that requires equal treatment of women in the military. This includes pressing for change when prejudicial behavior, to include negative comments in the workplace about the role and presence of women in the military, adversely affects the full utilization of women; 2.) Developing baseline data as a benchmark to measure and monitor career progression and retention of women in the military, specifically those career fields newly opened since 1993. In conjunction with the ongoing data collection and analysis, the committee hopes to lay the groundwork for opening additional career fields presently closed to women; 3.) Work with DOD to ensure that active steps are taken to address the overall persistent problems with women's uniforms, from the design phase to distribution; and lastly, they want to increase the number and maximize the effectiveness of the committee's installation visits to ensure accurate and focused recommendations to the Secretary of Defense.

Individuals interested in suggesting topics for DACOWITS to address can send correspondence to: OASD (FMP) DACOWITS, Room 3D769, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

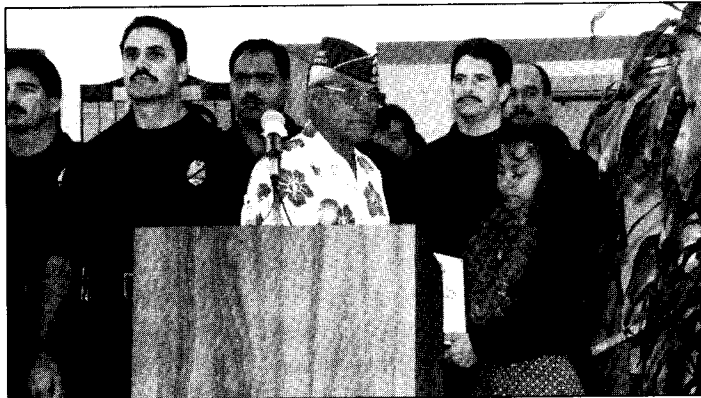
## Purple Heart vets honor local heroes

By Deborah M.S. Murray

Veterans who once earned the Purple Heart for being wounded in the line of fire, took time to pay their respects to four heroes in the fields of fire fighting and law enforcement.

Bob C. Freitas, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Inc. (MOPH), honored Peter A. Crown, Honolulu Fire Department; Bryant B.O. Bayne and Tate D. Kahakai, Honolulu Police Department, posthumously, for heroic acts exemplified when searching for a lost hiker near Sacred Falls. The three men died July 21, 1995, when their helicopter crashed during the search and rescue mission.

Peter A. Crown's citation



was accepted by his widow, Lori Crown, of Bakersfield, Calif. The widow of Bryant Bayne, Renise Bayne, attended the luncheon to accept his award and the daughter of Tate Kahakai, Kelly Ann Kahakai, received the award from Freitas on behalf of her father.

Hawaii County Police Officer Jason Y. Shinoda, who was injured while risking his life during a stand-off with a Hawaii County man was also cited. He was honored for bravery shown when trying to disarm a man with a rifle. Officer Shinoda was shot in the back when he tried to

**IN HONOR OF HER FATHER--Kelly Ann Kahakai received a citation from Bob C. Freitas, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, in honor of her father, Tate D. Kahakai, one of the Honolulu Police officers who died in a helicopter crash, July 21, 1995.**

take the rifle away. The suspect was shot when other officers intervened.

The idea for the ceremony came about after Freitas heard about the crash in which Bayne, Crown and Kahakai died and brought up the idea to honor them to MOPH members.

# Meet the Advisory Board on Veterans Services

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

The Advisory Board on Veterans Services meets on the first Friday of each month to discuss issues related to the state's 120,000 veterans. The advisory board consists of seven official members and five ex-officio members. The members are Shirley R. Farineau, Alfred Los Banos, Louis Kaiwi, Toy Grice, Edward M. Kawamura, Roger Evangelista and the newest member Dania S. Krawac; and five ex-officio members: Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general; Ernie Acopan, of the Department of Human Services; Barry Raff, Department of Veterans Affairs; Dayton Nakanelua, Department of Labor & Industrial Relations; and Morris Tokushi, Department of Health.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. **Shirley R. Farineau**, serves as the chair of the advisory board. She received a four-year gubernatorial appointment in June 1993. Most recently she served as the Public Information



**Farineau**

Officer for the State Department of Accounting and General Services.

Farineau served 23 years in the Air Force as a personnel and public affairs officer. She recently received her accreditation in public relations from the Public Relations Society of America, and currently does freelance and consulting work in the field.

Her term expires in June 1997.

**Alfred S. Los Banos** has been a member of the board since July 1989. He is known statewide and nationwide

as an advocate for veterans. In 1994, President Clinton appointed him to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

A combat-wounded veteran, Los Banos served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, from 1944-46. He served with the 5th Regimental Combat Team from 1948 to 1951, during the Korean Conflict.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and two Combat Infantry Badges.

He is the founder of the local chapter of Military Order of the Purple Heart. His term on the advisory board expires in July 1997.

**Louis Kaiwi** is serving his second term on the advisory board.

He recently retired as an adult corrections officer with the Kulani Correctional Facility in Hilo, Hawaii.

The Hilo native is very active in the veteran community. He is the former commander of Disabled American Veterans, Department of Hawaii, and the American Legion, Post 3. A former veteran, he served with the U.S. Army Reserve, 100th Battalion, 442 Infantry.

While all issues affecting Hawaii's veterans concern Kaiwi, he had been especially concerned about the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) former



**Los Banos**



**Kaiwi**

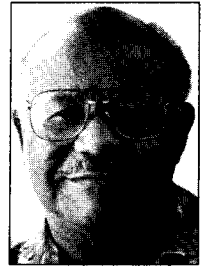
plans to move its local adjudication branch to offices on the mainland. "This move would have had a great impact on neighbor island veterans," Kaiwi said explaining that veterans would only have a half day to call to handle VA business because of time differences in Hawaii and mainland time zones. Because of local opposition, the VA de-

ecided to change its plans keeping Hawaii's adjudication division in place. His term on the board expires in June 1997.

**Toy Grice**, who has lived in Hawaii for almost 30 years, have been dealing with veterans issues for most of his professional life. Grice is an Air Force retiree, who most recently retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Honolulu office, where he worked as veterans services chief. He was employed with the VA for 20 years.

"I have been working with veterans and veterans-related programs for all of my adult life and have a good insight of services and benefits for veterans." His term expires in June 1999.

**Edward M. Kawamura** is a retired U.S. Army veteran and the current president of his family business, M. Kawamura Farm Enterprises, Inc., and served in the



**Grice**



**Kawamura**

## Goals of the Advisory Board on Veterans Services:

- To support the efforts for the Spark M. Matsunaga Veterans Affairs Medical Center to become a reality.
- To work closer with appropriate state agencies to establish veterans' long-term care facilities on the neighbor islands.
- To support efforts to enhance the services of the primary care clinics and vet centers throughout the state.
- To make a concerted effort to reach out more to women veterans, estimated at 3,000 statewide.
- To instill more public awareness of the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services and its purpose of serving the interests of the more than 120,000 veterans statewide.



Capt. Charles J. Anthony

**GROUNDBREAKING AND BLESSING HELD AT LANAI CEMETERY--** State Adjutant General Maj. General Edward V. Richardson joins (left to right) Sol Kaopuiki, Henry Oliva, Robert Donovan and Sol Kaho'ohalahala to turn over the first soil for the construction of the Lanai Veterans Cemetery, May 17. Construction began on the project in July. It is expected to provide sufficient capacity for at least 20 years.

Army with the 4th All-Hawaiian Company. He was active in the veteran's community during his tenure as State Commander of Disabled American Veterans, Department of Hawaii.



Evangelista

He is also the president of the Kauai Veterans Council. He was appointed to the board in June 1995. His term expires in July 1999.

**Roger Evangelista** is a veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force.

An employee of Hawaiian Telephone, he is very active in the veteran community.

He has held numerous positions as a member of the Maui County Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, and currently serves as the organization's commander. He was appointed to the board in June 1995. His term expires in the year 2000.

The newest member of the board is **Dania S. Krawec**, Vietnam era veter-

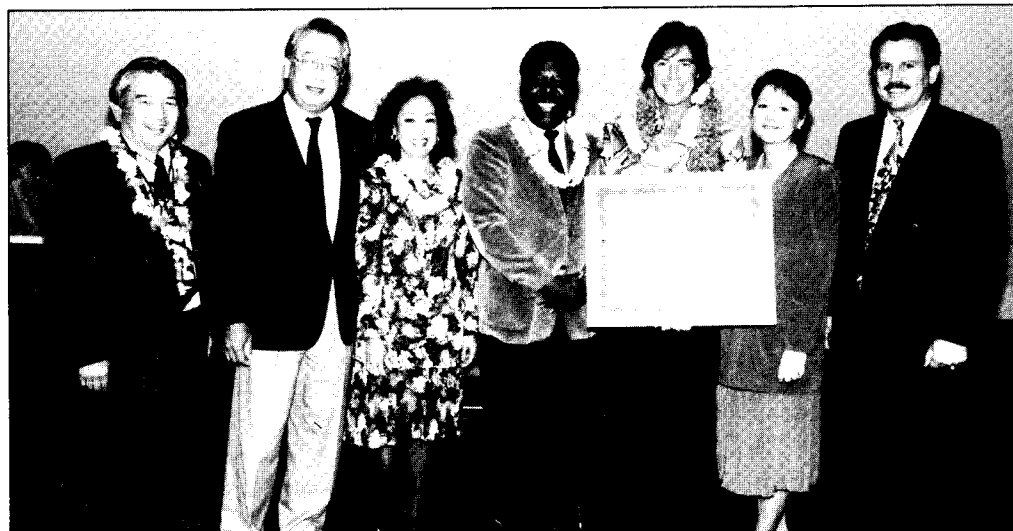
an who served in the U.S. Navy. She replaces **Judith Worobe**, a nurse and former veteran who served on the advisory board for seven years.

During a recent election Farineau was selected to

serve another term as chair of the board. The new vice-chair is Grice. He succeeds Kaoiwi.



Krawec



Deborah M. Sanders Murray

**FROM HOMELESS TO ENTREPRENEUR--** Mitch Skaggerberg, a Vietnam veteran, (with plaque), poses with Senators (l to r) Cal Kawamoto; Joe Tanaka; Roz Baker; and Avery Chumbley and Shirley Farineau, OVS advisory board chair; and Carswell Ross, OVS services coordinator (with leis). Skaggerberg was selected Hawaii's first Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) disabled veteran of the year. The OVS played a role in his recovery.

## Q & A:

### Department of Veterans Affairs

#### **Are any veterans still entitled to receive educational payments under the Vietnam era GI Bill?**

No, not under that authority, known as Chapter 34. However, some veterans from that period may be eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill.

**I am a Gulf-deployed reservist who was in good health when I came to the VA a year ago for the special health examination. Now, I am starting to feel joint pain and tiredness, but, I feel like I've missed the opportunity to have these symptoms considered under the Persian Gulf Registry program?**

VA welcomes past registrants to return for a follow-up registry health examination under the special program if their health changes or new concerns arise. Further, the registry database is updated by the VA health-care provider when a new diagnosis is made. In addition, if you subsequently receive care outside the VA and a non-VA physician makes a diagnosis, please ask him or her to send a letter to the local VA medical center's "veterans's registry physician" so that this information can be reviewed and added, as necessary, to the VA database.

**For more information, contact any DVA office. In Honolulu, call 566-1000 or 1 (800) 827-1000 or write: VA Medical and Regional Office, P.O. Box 50188, Honolulu, HI 96850.**

## Vet news

### **Volunteers needed to keep war memorials maintained**

The Korean and Vietnam Memorials on the ewa side of the State Capitol need volunteers to keep the monuments clean and maintained. Groups of at least four individuals are needed to work a month of Thursdays from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

To assist the effort the Office of Veterans Services is providing materials, training and parking passes.

For more information, contact Carswell Ross at 587-3000.

### **VA clinic offers extended hours for veterans services**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has extended its hours to 8p.m. every Tuesday to better meet the needs of veterans who cannot use the VA's services during the normal working hours.

Veterans interested in using the clinic during extended hours on Tuesday should call for an appointment.

For appointments at the Medical Clinic call 566-1598; Mental Health, 566-1412; PTSD Clinic, 566-1555; and the Benefits Counselors, 566-1000.

The federal building parking lot will be open for your use while visiting the VA's extended hours clinic from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entrance to the parking lot will be through the Punchbowl and Halekauwila streets. The handicap ramp on Punchbowl street will be open for easy access to the Lanai and entry into the building.

### **Calling All Cam Ranh Bay Vietnam Vets**

*(Editors note: I received the following letter from Vance Fowler, of Salem, Oregon. I hope someone out there can assist him. -- dmsm)*

I've been working for about three years on a project to honor a former

veteran who spent three years in Vietnam. I'm trying to locate a photograph of a cave that was converted into a drinking bar and entertainment establishment for the military and civilians at a military complex at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. It was located on the south end of the peninsula among large boulders and was wired, plumbed, and had a bar built into it with volleyball nets and barbecues outside for rest and relaxation. My friend has spent untold hours reflecting on the nostalgic memories associated with this bar that was called the "Grotto." I suppose around a quarter of a million veterans passed through there, so someone must have taken a picture of it. I will pay \$50 for the photograph. For more information write him at: Vance Fowler, 4090 Brush College Road, N.W., Salem, OR 97304, or call him toll-free, 1-800-298-8506.

### **Attention Combat Vietnam Veterans**

Vietnam combat veterans are needed to participate in a federally-funded research project investigating the psychological effects of combat. Researchers are seeking Vietnam veterans whose primary ethnic background is Filipino or Japanese. Paid participation involves 3-4 hours of private interviews and the filling out of questionnaires.

For additional information, call 566-1934 for a telephone screening and to set-up an appointment.

### **Adjudication division at Honolulu VA will remain on Oahu**

The Honolulu Veterans Administration (VA) Adjudication Division will remain in Honolulu, largely because of the support of Hawaii veterans who fought moving the office to Salt Lake City, Utah and Phoenix, Arizona.

Continued-- from page 1

and Maui.

The ceremony on the island of Hawaii was held at the Hawaii County Veterans's Cemetery, in Hilo. It was sponsored by the American Legion Hilo Post #3 and Auxiliary Unit #3. The keynote address was given by Lt. Col. Lloyd Mues of Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA).

On Kauai, services were held at Kauai Veterans' Cemetery in Hanapepe, Sunday, May 26.

Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Air Control Squadron provided the 21-gun salute at the event sponsored by the Kauai Veterans Council.

On Maui, the Maui American's of Japanese Ancestry (AJA), Inc., and the Maui County Veterans Council sponsored a Memorial Day Service at

## Memorial Day scenes



Walter Ozawa, Office of Veterans Services (OVS) director and Ed Kawamura, a member of the Advisory Board on Veteran's Services and president of the Kauai Veterans Council, are joined by Kauai veterans' to present a memorial wreath during a Memorial Day ceremony.

Makawao Veterans Cemetery, Monday, May 27. This ceremony included participation from numerous veterans' organizations with Senator Daniel Inouye delivering the keynote address.



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi

Retired Brig. Gen. Irwin Cockett speaks to the crowd at the Memorial Day ceremony held at the Waikiki Natatorium World War I Memorial, May 26. The ceremony was sponsored by the Friends of the Natatorium.



Deborah M. Sanders Murray

MISSING MAN FLYOVER--F-15s from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 199th Fighter Squadron perform the Missing Man Flyover during the Mayor's Memorial Day Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, May 27.

## calendar/notices

### August 9, Friday

Advisory Board on Veterans Services monthly meeting, 9 a.m., 919 Ala Monana Blvd. The meeting is held in the conference room on the first floor, room 103. Meetings are held monthly on the first Friday.

### August 16, Friday

Admission Day, state holiday

### August 17, Saturday

Oahu Veterans' Council meets 9 a.m. at the Fleet Reserve Association Building, 891 Valkenburgh Street. The council meets monthly on the third Saturday.

### August 24, Saturday

Veterans' March in Washington, sponsored by BRAVO. For additional information contact John H. Rogers Jr., at (808) 621-2412.

### September 2, Monday

Labor Day, state and federal holiday.

### September 20-21

A Korean War veterans reunion on the island of Kauai. The event will be held at the Kauai Coconut Beach Resort, Coconut Plantation. For more information contact Bob Hamakawa (Honolulu) (808) 734-4005, Louis Baldovi (Kaneohe) (808) 247-0747, or Royce Ebesu (Kauai) (808) 822-4341.

### September 27-29

The 7th Annual Old Soldiers Reunion, "Na Koa Ikaika 'O Monterey", will be held in at the Monterey Beach Hotel. For additional information contact Jim Suzuki, (408) 384-8493.

### October 14, Monday

Discoverers' Day, federal holiday.

### November 5, Tuesday

Election Day, state holiday

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, 733-4236 (fax), or call 733-4241. The submission deadline for the Fall '96 (September 13) issue is Aug. 31.



## V HAWAII VETERAN

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**Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson**

The Adjutant General

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**Capt. Charles J. Anthony**

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