

V HAWAII VETERAN

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

Vol. 5 No. 2

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Fall 1996

vet news

VA proposes Windward clinic

The Honolulu Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center is submitting a proposal to the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) to establish a community-based outpatient clinic in Windward Oahu.

If the proposal is approved by VISN, the VA is hoping to provide primary medical care, mental health services, and counseling to over 12,000 veterans living in Kanoeha and Kailua, and other communities up and down the Windward coast of Oahu.

Plans call for the lease of clinic space in a convenient location such as an existing medical office building, shopping center,

(continued on page 6)



File photo

Veterans Day programs scheduled across Hawaii

**By Deborah M. Sanders
Murray**

Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano will be the keynote speaker for the Veterans Day ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kanoeha, Monday, Nov. 11.

The ceremony is scheduled at 1:30 p.m., with preliminary music by the Hawaii National Guard's 111th Army Band, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Other ceremonies on Oahu include the annual Massing of the Colors at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. F-15 Fighters from the Hawaii Air National Guard will provide the missing-man flyover for the ceremony.

On Saturday, Nov. 9, BRAVO Hawaii will sponsor a parade at 10 a.m. from Fort DeRussy through Waikiki to Kapiolani Park, ending with a

"stand down" for homeless veterans. For additional information, contact John Rogers, of BRAVO Hawaii, at 621-2412.

On the Island of Hawaii, the Big Island Veterans Association is sponsoring a number of Veterans Day events. The day begins with a presentation of flowers at Kalakaua Park at 10:15 a.m. At 11 a.m., the annual Veterans Day program is scheduled at the Hawaii County Veterans Cemetery (Area 1).

U.S. Army retired Lt. Gen. Allen Ono will deliver the Veterans Day address. The Hawaii Air National Guard's 291st Combat Communications Squadron will provide color guard and honor guard support during the program.

Music will be rendered by the Hawaii County Band, under the direction of Wayne Kawakami.

On Kauai the annual Vet-

Veterans will attend ceremonies and events all across Hawaii, Nov. 9-11, to pay tribute to relatives, friends and loved ones.

erans Day Parade begins at 10 a.m., in Kapaa. Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, will serve as the reviewing officer for this event. On Nov. 11, at 7 a.m., a sunrise service is scheduled at the Hanapepe Veterans Cemetery.

Veterans Day activities on the island of Maui include the re-dedication of the Makawao Veterans Cemetery, at 10 a.m., Nov. 9th. The same evening at 6 p.m., the Maui Stingrays have invited veterans to participate in a pregame parade of military units and colors. On Sunday, Nov. 10th, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a Veterans Day luau is sponsored by the Maui Chapter of the 442nd Americans of Japanese Ancestry and Hawaiian Tel. The cost of the luau and entertainment is \$15 per person.

Other activities on Maui include a beautification project to plant trees at the Veterans memorial located at the former Camp Maui, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m..

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense



Hawaii veterans are making a difference

**From the Director
Walter M. Ozawa**

Aloha! I recently returned from the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs annual conference held this year in Scottsdale, Ariz. There are some 54 state veterans agencies in the U.S., including Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands. All, but a handful, attended the conference as it was an excellent opportunity to interact face-to-face with fellow directors and to learn from the experiences of the other states.

I was surprised to learn that Hawaii has the distinction of having more veterans cemeteries than any other state, with eight; Oahu (2), Kauai, Maui, Lanai, Molokai, and Hawaii (2).

With the support and assistance of the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, under the direction of Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, we have been successful in garnering \$14.5 million in 50 percent federal matching funds to establish three new cemeteries and significantly improve four others in the past five years. Our newest cemeteries, in Kona and on Lanai, are well underway.

In the past several months that I have been on the job, I am impressed with the amount of activities among the many veterans organizations we have in Hawaii. I truly appreciate your many invitations to participate in reunions, get-togethers, and ceremonies, not only on Oahu, but on the neighbor islands as well. We have almost 120,000 veterans in Hawaii, and it is obvious that you are en-

ergetic, active, and committed to continuing to serve our community and nation. I especially want to thank the veterans organizations who have stepped forward to volunteer to clean and maintain our Korean and Vietnam War Memorials on the grounds of our State Capitol, as well as our monuments throughout the state. I constantly hear of veterans who, on behalf of their organizations, volunteer in our schools, offering not only financial help, but who are actively involved with programs for students.

I encourage you to call or write to keep in touch with us. If you know of anyone who is not receiving our *Hawaii Veteran* newsletter, please tell him or her to call us at 587-3000, so that we can place them on our mailing list. We are here to serve.

Information from local women veterans needed to fill database

The Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation, Inc. broke ground at its Arlington National Cemetery site on July 22, 1995. The Memorial honors and pays tribute to the nearly two million women who have served in our nation's defense, beginning with the American Revolution and continuing through today. As construction continues, and planning begins for dedication on Oct. 18, 1997, the drive to locate and register women veterans and active duty servicewomen intensifies.

The goal of the registration drive is to document the stories of women's

deeds, sacrifices and service. Each registration submission includes a photo, military history, a personal memories of a servicewoman. These stories will be displayed on the memorial's computerized database and will be accessible to the public.

Of the 7,400 women veterans in Hawaii, only 500 have registered so far.

If you are a woman who served in the U.S. armed forces, or are currently serving, or know of a woman you would like to register, please call 1-800-4-SALUTE (472-5888) or write to the Women's Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, D.C. 20042-0560.

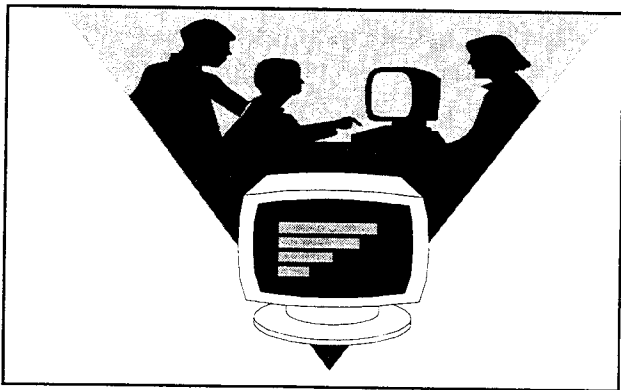
Vets on the internet's World Wide Web

By Deborah M. S. Murray

Whether you're a veteran searching for employment leads, a student searching for comprehensive information about the military history; or a World War II veteran trying to track down a comrade enrolled in a veterans organization in North Carolina, the Internet's World Wide Web is the ideal place to start your search.

Prospective web surfers don't even have to spend money to purchase a computer. Most recently the Hawaii State Public Library has made surfing the internet as easy as going to your nearest library and reserving a computer. Just by having a library card you are entitled to 50 free minutes a week on the internet. Computer time, however, must be reserved in advance. Call 586-3617 to make reservations at the main library.

After you're connected on-line you can conduct an internet search using a tool called a search engine. By plugging in key words in a search engine and narrowing down your topic, you are bound to find the re-



Web Search Engines

<http://altavista.digital.com>
<http://www.excite.com>
<http://www.hotbot.com>
<http://www.lycos.com>
<http://webcrawler.com>
<http://www.wwwomen.com>
<http://www.yahoo.com>

sources you are seeking.

Most recently I conducted a search on the Korean War and discovered a "heart gripping" site developed by Hal Barker titled the Korean War Project.

This site features color photographs, and first hand accounts of various battles fought during the Korean War. The page also has information about Korean War history, Korean War casualty lists, a place to track down comrades from military units that were de-

ployed during the war, photographs and other historical data.

There are an endless number of resources for veterans on the World Wide Web. Another informative site is the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) site at: <http://www.va.gov>

It contains information about VA services and benefits, press releases, answers to commonly-asked VA questions and other information.

The State of Hawaii, Department of Defense is currently working on developing its WWW site located at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov> with a comprehensive series of pages for the Office of Veterans Services. This site currently has a functional calendar of events database at <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/ovscal.htm> and eventually will feature an on-line version of the *Hawaii Veteran*. The database makes it possible for veterans organizations to submit information about upcoming events, reunions, ceremonies, conferences and programs in advance for use in DOD newsletters and other publications.

The database will hopefully serve as a "clearinghouse" type resource to keep the local veteran community informed about future events, eliminating situations where numerous major events are scheduled on the same day and at the same time.

For additional information about the OVS World Wide Web page, soon to be located at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs> or how your veterans' organization can get involved, contact Deborah Murray, or the Public Affairs Office at 733-4241 or 733-4258.

Veteran sites of note

Hawaii Vietnam Tribute -- <http://www.onramp.net/~barker/kia-hi-v.htm>

Vietnam Veterans Home Page -- <http://grunt.space.swri.edu/>

PTSD-- <http://www.long-beach.va.gov/ptsd/stress.html>

Reunions -- <http://grunt.space.swri.edu/reunion.htm>

Construction moving ahead for VA's nursing facility and parking complex

Story and photos by Deborah M. S. Murray

If you have been in the vicinity of Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) you have probably noticed the construction of two facilities: a Veterans Affairs (VA) parking structure and the VA Center for the Aging, a 60-bed nursing home facility for local veterans.

It has been more than a year since the groundbreaking ceremony was held to bless the construction of the VA Center for the Aging. Dewey Brown, Jr., senior resident engineer on the project, recently confirmed that the 60-bed facility is expected to be completed by April 1997.

The buildings the surrounded the old banyan tree have been demolished to make way for the new construction. Special care is being taken to preserve the banyan tree so that it will grace the courtyard of the new facility. So far it's prognosis is good.

"I'm glad this one is going to make it," he added.

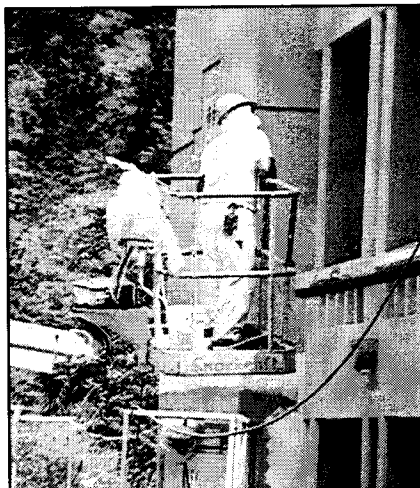
Brown praised the contractors work on the projects explaining that before construction began partnership/stakeholder sessions with all parties involved in the project in an attempt build a cohesive teamwork atmosphere.

These sessions will be followed up with tune-up sessions to clear up any misunderstandings or problems that anyone may have concerning the projects.

The partnership concept is a very successful way of doing business, Brown said explaining that projects constructed under this concept usually generates less claims and the contractors and engineers work together better.

Brown gave the *Hawaii Veteran* a tour of the facility while contractors were installing ducts for the air conditioning unit.

Brown stresses that the facility will



A worker applies the traditional Tripler pink finish on the back of the VA's new parking structure.

have more therapy areas. The main purpose of the building is to provide rehabilitation assistance. Forty-five of the beds will be for the nursing home and 15 will be reserved for neuro-psych geriatric patients. Most of the rooms in the facility will hold two patients, with a few private rooms available. It will also have a pharmacy. The nursing facility, as well as the parking structure, will fea-

ture the traditional pink exterior that has made TAMC famous.

The new four-story parking structure will have 601 parking stalls, and 26 parking stalls for the physically-challenged.

Construction on the project was originally delayed by environmental concerns. Site engineers were tasked with relocating a colony of damselflies. A team of engineers accomplished this by creating an environment identical to the flies former environment including ponds, and the colony was relocated where it could continue to thrive.

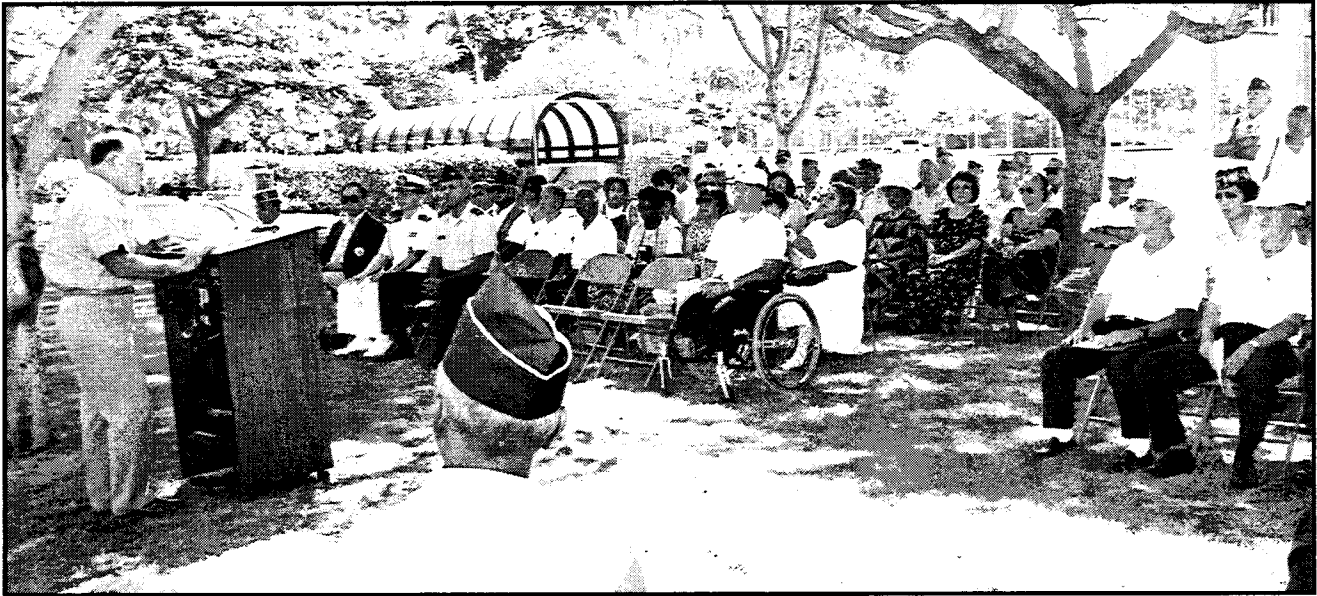
"Our job was to make sure that our construction did not wipe them out," Brown said.

Currently the parking structure is 95 percent complete.

The reason for building the parking structure first is to make way for the construction of the new Ambulatory Care facility, which will displace a number of parking spaces at Tripler, according to Marie Manning, public affairs officer for the Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center (VAMROC).



OH BANYAN TREE -- This tree will grace the courtyard of the Veterans Affairs Center for the Aging currently under construction. The 60-bed facility has an expected completion date of April 1997.



K.C. Chung

A TRIBUTE TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS — Approximately 100 people attended a ceremony at the Korean-Vietnam Memorials on the Hawaii State Capitol lawn, July 27, to show respect for those who died during the Korean War. Retired Brig. Gen. Irvin Cockett was the guest speaker for the event.

Ceremony remembers fallen soldiers

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

Although historically the Korean War is referred to as the “forgotten war” members of the Korean War Veterans Association, Hawaii Chapter #1, are involved in an ongoing effort to make sure that Hawaii Korean War heroes are never forgotten.

In observance of National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, July 27, they held a special program where more than 450 names of the Korean War soldiers were read aloud.

The ceremony was held as a result of President Clinton signing an order proclaiming July 27, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day up until the year 2003.

“Here in Hawaii we hope we can continue

observing this day far beyond the year of 2003,” said Floranio Castillo, the master of ceremony for the program held on the State Capitol grounds.

The State of Hawaii, Department of Defense worked closely with the Korean War Veterans Association to ensure the success of the program by providing equipment and chairs and DOD maintenance personnel to set up for the ceremony.

The keynote speaker for the event was retired Brig. Gen. Irvin Cockett who moved the audience as he told them about his personal experiences as a soldier in Korea 46 years ago sailing to Pusan, Korea, to meet the forces of the Korean People’s Army.

“I was 18 years old and scared stiff,” he said

adding, “off we went to war, no time or place to stop or get ready to go.”

Cockett said that it did not take him long to learn that, “young soldiers grow old very quickly under fire.”

The war ended after three years and 32 days after 18 documents were signed, according to Cockett.

“They (the soldiers) waited patiently and prayed for peace,” he stressed.

Korean War survivors like Ted Miyamoto were among the 100 former Korean War veterans and guests attending the ceremony. He took a bouquet of mums and greenery that he made with care out of flowers he picked from his back yard, and placed it on Nobumi Shibao’s black granite stone. Shibao was his childhood friend.

“I grew up with him, we used to call him Tarzan,” Miyamoto said adding that Shibao, a former member of the 5th Regimental Combat Team, was a very tall in stature.

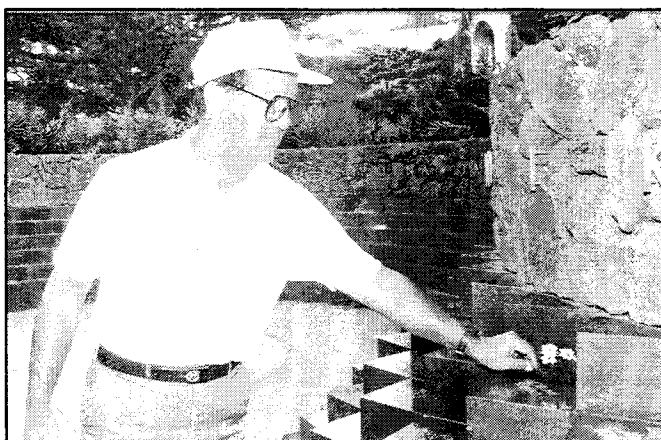
“But he did not make it,” he said with sympathy.

Miyamoto fought in the Korean War as a member of the 24th Division.

His comrade was one of the 38,000 men who died in the Korean War conflict out of the 5.7 million involved.

To date, there are still 8,000 listed as Missing in Action from that war.

HONORING A FRIEND -- Ted Miyamoto places a bouquet of mums and greenery on his friend’s, Nobumi Shibao, granite stone at the Korean-Vietnam Memorials, July 27. Miyamoto was one of the many local veterans who visited the site to pay tribute to Korean War heroes.



--Photo by Deborah Murray

Q & A:

Department of Veterans Affairs

What can I do to upgrade my bad conduct discharge, if possible?

Call the Veterans Benefits Administration's toll-free number at 1-800-827-1000 to request that you be sent DD Form 293. This will provide information on how to appeal your discharge status. If more than 15 years have passed since discharge, DD Form 149 should be used.

What type of burial benefits are available to veterans?

When a veteran meets the specific requirements, they may be eligible for a flag, headstone/marker, or interment in a national cemetery. A VA counselor can furnish the eligibility information for each specific benefit.

How do I obtain copies of my records?

You should send a written request to the VA regional office maintaining your records. Request only the records needed and be sure to specify the types of records you are requesting. As with all correspondence, please include your VA file number or other identifying information.

For more information, contact any VA 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 -- continued from page 1

or other suitable space with adequate parking and convenient access.

The primary purpose for establishing an outpatient clinic in this area is to improve access to care for current VA patients, especially those who are elderly or disabled. Reports indicate that nearly 30 percent of VA patients living in this area are over the age of 65, and that 60 percent of them have service-connected disabilities.

Depending on the space selected and the renovations necessary to operate a medical clinic, activation could take place in as little as 90 days from approval.

MIS and other local veterans may be eligible for awards

United States Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI) announced that officials representing the U.S. Army Military Awards Branch will hold informational briefings and discussions in Hawaii with veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), and representatives of Hawaii's veteran organizations. Attending will be Maj. Terry Mintz, chief military awards branch, Department of the Army and Dr. James McNaughton, command historian, defense language institute. The meetings are to discuss sections 523 and 524, Public Law 104-106, authored by Akaka, which gives MIS and Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) veterans the opportunity to receive reconsideration for military awards for which they may have been overlooked.

Section 523, PL 104-106, provides a temporary, one-year period for former MIS personnel, who served on active duty during the period of Jan. 1, 1940 to Dec. 31, 1990, to apply for appropriate awards or decorations for which they were never officially recognized due to the covert nature of their activities. The provision specifically waives any statutory or administrative time limits that would otherwise apply to such awards.

Section 524, PL 104-106, directs the military to review all Distinguished Service Cross awards given to Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders who served during World War II to determine whether any of these cases merit an upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

Health education series

The Women Veterans Health Clinic at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center, in Honolulu, announces a new Women Veterans Health Education series. Carol Ann Graham, R.D. will be presenting a program Nov. 13, called "Healthy Hearts for Women and How to Get Through the Holidays Wearing the Same Dress Size."

On Dec. 11, Mary McEldowney, R.N., M.S., will feature a program called: "How not to Sing the Holiday Blues."

Both programs will be held from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. at the Honolulu VA Medical Clinic, 2nd floor, room 2204, (Employee Health unit conference room). For more information, call 566-1719.

DAV Transportation Network is on the road

By Deborah M. Sanders
Murray

The DAV Transportation Network is on the road assisting local veterans with transportation to medical appointments.

The DAV Transportation Network consists of experienced van drivers who specialize in transporting veterans receiving authorized medical care and benefit services at the VA Medical and Regional Office Center, TAMC and community medical providers.

The program has been in operation for over a year. Monthly, it serves approximately 60 veterans and logs about 2,186 miles, according to statistics provided by program officials.

State veterans contributed 178 volunteer hours in September, according to the DAV's Hospital Service Coordinator, Ed Wise.

Craig Oswald, volunteer coordinator for the VA, applauded the DAV for running the transportation network saying it provides a valuable link for veteran patients traveling from distant locations on Oahu and on



MAKING A STOP AT THE VA—Dana Krawec, Advisory Board on Veterans Services member and Ed Wise, Disabled American Veterans's Hospital Service Coordinator, arrive at the Federal Building on a recent run.

occasion the neighbor islands.

The van is routed weekly on Mondays to the Waiialua/Wahiawa; Tuesdays to Honolulu areas such as TAMC, Honolulu Airport, VA Outpatient Clinic; on Wednesdays to Leeward Oahu such as Ewa Beach, Makakilo, Waianae, and Wahiawa; on Thursdays to Kailua, Kanoeha and Hauula on Windward Oahu and Friday to Honolulu again following Tuesday's route.

Although the van does not have special modifications for the handicapped, veterans say they like riding it because of its fast service. Wise said that the service is

faster in most cases, because the van travels shorter and more direct routes compared to other local transportation services.

Gary K. Nakamura, the National Service Officer for the DAV, wants to increase the number of veterans served by the program on Oahu as well as receive input from neighbor island veterans about whether a van program is needed on the other islands.

"We have a feeling that they need it but, no one is saying anything," said Nakamura. "It can be a reality, but we need to know."

Wise stressed that he is also looking for individuals

to volunteer to drive the van. This point was also recently emphasized by Craig Oswald, VA volunteer coordinator.

Volunteers are eligible to receive passes for the purchase of meals in the cafeteria, located in the Federal Building at Punchbowl and Ala Moana.

To serve as a van driver applicants must have a valid Hawaii drivers license, a good driving record and a flexible schedule.

For more information or to volunteer to be a van driver, call Ed Wise at 433-2477 or Craig Oswald at the VA at 566-1433.

Korean War veterans hold reunion

By Louis Baldovi

The Kauai County Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association hosted a reunion of the state's Korean War veterans on Kauai, Sept. 20-21, 1996. Over 150 veterans and their spouses attended the event.

The reunion began Friday morning with golfers teeing off at Wailua Golf Course and non-golfers taking a cruise up the Wailua River. In the evening, the attendees enjoyed heavy pupus and a buffet dinner at the Wailua Marina Restaurant.

Saturday morning activities included golfing at Kiele Golf Course and a six-hour tour of the Garden isle.

A highlight of the reunion occurred when Kauai Mayor Marianna Kusaka presented Royce Ebesu, the association's

Kauai County Chapter president, with a proclamation honoring the services of Hawaii's Korean War Veterans.

Walter Ozawa, director of the Office of Veterans Services, was the keynote speaker for the evening.

calendar/notices

*This calendar is located on the internet at:
<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/ovscal.htm>*

Veterans Day Observances

November 9, Saturday

Maui--Rededication of Makawao Veterans Cemetery, 10 a.m.

Maui--Stingrays pregame veterans parade, 6 p.m.

Kauai--Kauai Veterans Day Parade, 10 a.m.

Oahu--Veterans Parade through Waikiki and stand down for homeless veterans at Kaipiolani Park, 10 a.m.

Contact John Rogers, of BRAVO for more information, 621-2412.

November 10, Sunday

Maui--Veterans Day Luau, sponsored by Maui Americans of Japanese Ancestry, Hawaiian Tel and the Maui County Veterans Council. Cost \$15.

November 11, Monday

Veterans Day, state and federal holiday.

Maui--Veterans volunteer to plant trees at the former Camp Maui, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Big Island--Presentation of bouquets at Kalakaua Park, 10:15 a.m.

Big Island--Veterans Day Ceremony, Hawaii County Veterans Cemetery (Area 1), 11 a.m.

Oahu--Annual Massing of the Colors, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, 10 a.m.

Oahu--Governor's Veterans Day Ceremony, Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery; musical prelude, 1 p.m., program begins, 1:30 p.m.

November 28, Thursday

Thanksgiving Day, state and federal 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 Winter '96 (Jan. 17) issue is Dec. 6.**



V HAWAII VETERAN

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