



HAWAII VETERAN

Lawelawe i na kōa kahiko me ka ha 'aheo: "Serving veterans with pride"

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State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Spring 1997

Veterans Cemetery dedicated on Lanai



DEDICATING A RESTING PLACE FOR LANAI VETERANS -- Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, Tom Hoadley, of the Lanai Company, Lanai councilmember Sol Kaho'ohalahala and Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle untie the maile lei to dedicate the Lanai Veterans Cemetery, March 31.

**Story and photo by
Capt. Charles J. Anthony**

The State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, which includes the Office of Veterans Services, led the dedication of the new Lanai Veterans Cemetery, March 31. About 150 veterans, including several dozen from Maui, and other well-wishers, attended the dedication.

"With the dedication of this cemetery, now all major islands of our state have at least one cemetery for veterans and their families," said Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, the adjutant general.

"Lanai is, and always has been, a very close-knit community. So when a soldier died in war, the whole island felt the loss, not just the immediate family."

(Lanai — continued on page 4)

POWs remembered in Punchbowl ceremony

**Story and photo by
Deborah M.S. Murray**

There wasn't a rain cloud in sight at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) as approximately 100 people gathered on April 9 to remember veterans who were captured, becoming prisoners of war in battles ranging from World War II to the Persian Gulf War.

For the proud Ex-Prisoners of War draped in leis, there was no escaping the parching sun. This discomfort, however, was far less brutal than the turmoil and pain that they endured at the hands of the enemy.

In remembrance of their comrades



Ex-Prisoners of War were recognized with a traditional Hawaiian Lei greeting before the April 9th ceremony.

who were not lucky enough to make it back home, they shed consoling tears and traded war stories at the Punchbowl gathering.

William E. "Sonny" Mottern, American Ex-Prisoners of War national commander, thanked the wives of the POW for supporting their spouses.

"If it wasn't for these angels, a lot of us would not be here," he said as the audience applauded.

The keynote speaker for the event was Brig. Gen. James L. Campbell, U.S. Army, Commander, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting.

The music and 21-Gun Salute for the event were provided by the U.S. Marine Corps. Mr. Al Frumkin, commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Hawaii Chapter, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Office of Veterans Services

State of Hawaii Department of Defense

See this feature on the OVS web page at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/message.htm>



Serving Hawaii's veterans with Pride!!

*From the Director
Walter M. Ozawa*

Aloha!

I joined the Office of Veterans Services about a year ago, and in that short time have come to appreciate the invaluable resource veterans offer to our communities. Your commitment to improving the quality of life for your fellow veterans, especially those in need is, of course, commendable.

However, you've reached beyond your comrades and sisters to be involved in the improvement of the greater community through continued volunteer service. I have seen and experienced this through your programs for youth, the elderly, and especially those who are less fortunate.

This includes participatory leadership support with the Boy Scouts, Junior ROTC, food drives, Toys For Tots, sports leagues, and many others. It has been great trying to keep up with you!

In early 1996, we participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for our newest

and smallest veterans cemetery on the island of Lanai. On March 31, we held a dedication ceremony with 150 participants from Honolulu, Maui and Lanai. Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle, Councilmember Sol Kaho`ohalahala and Adjutant General Edward V. Richardson, representing Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano, were keynote speakers.

The cemetery is located on a very special site, donated by the Lanai Company, and overlooks the picturesque area near the famous Lodge at Ko`ele resort.

Our new veterans cemetery in West Hawaii at Kona is currently on track, with Phase I construction on road improvements, curbing, mass grading, irrigation, and limited landscaping near completion.

Phase II construction, including a

new committal shelter, a perimeter road to further expand the cemetery, a maintenance building and more burial sites is expected to start this summer. At our other veterans cemeteries, Phase I improvements for Hilo, Maui and Molokai are also anticipated this year.

During the past calendar year, we were able to serve approximately 27,000 veterans and their family members. While most required only basic assistance such as information and referral, many took advantage of our proactive and dedicated counselors in filing for benefits, appeals of federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) decisions, information and referral assistance with the various services and benefits available from local, State, county, and private non-profit programs.

With the very serious shortfall in revenues projected for the State of Hawaii, we have closely followed our State Legislature during this 19th Session for programs which affect veterans.

These included special license plates for veterans, funding of burial assistance for Filipino-American veterans, retirement benefits for veterans belonging to the State Employee Retirement System, expanding opportunities for cemetery development, and inspections of memorials and monuments.

We have also followed the 105th Congress, carefully monitoring legislation which may affect benefits and programs for our veterans.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs contributes about \$153 million to Hawaii's economy through our veterans.

New later hours at VA Clinic



Since January, the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center has offered new hours at the VA Clinic located in the Prince Kuhio Federal Building.

Medical and mental health clinicians are available until 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for scheduled appointments.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment call the VA medical services office at 566-1598.

VA Secretary talks to women veterans**Services available for sexual trauma victims****By Deborah M.S. Murray**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is dedicated to meeting the needs of some 12 million women veterans who answered the call to serve their country.

Early this year, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown wrote letters to women veterans encouraging those who may have experienced sexual trauma or harassment while in the military to seek counseling and services at a network of 203 Vet Centers across the country.

"If you have been a victim of sexual assault or harassment while you were in the military, I want to tell you how much I regret that such an incident could have occurred. It is wrong for it to happen to any woman while she is in service to her country. It is wrong for any woman to undergo such a devastating experience."

Janis Cruce, who directs programs for women veterans at the Honolulu Veterans Affairs Medical & Regional Office Center stressed that the center has many services available to women veterans. The goals of the Women Veterans Health are to provide quality, comprehensive, holistic health care to include preventative health screening, education, and referral

services for all eligible women veterans.

Services are available through the Women's Primary Care Clinic, which provides care for acute illness and general health care needs; and the Women's Health Clinic, which provides specialized care for women, to include pap smears, breast exams and annual Well Women Examinations. Sexual trauma counseling and treatment information are available by telephone at 1-800-827-1000, for neighbor island, and 566-1000, for Oahu.

Services are offered on Oahu at the Federal Building, Suite 2204. The hours of the Women's Primary Care Clinic are from Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Services are available at the Women's Health Clinic the 1st and 4th Tuesday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; and the 2nd and 3rd Thursday of each month from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Each Friday, the Women's Health Clinic is open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On the 4th Tuesday of each month, extended hours are observed from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Appointments can be made by calling, 566-1906 or 566-1907.

DAV is involved in a membership drive

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Department of Hawaii, is recruiting for new members.

Veterans with the following qualifications are eligible to join the DAV:

- Veterans who served in the Armed Forces during a period of war under conditions simulating war.

- Veterans who are wounded, disabled to any degree, or a former Prisoner of War (POW).

- Veterans who were discharged or retired from military service under honorable conditions.

- Current active duty members of the Armed Services are also eligible provid-

ing they meet the first two requirements.

If you are currently a DAV member "at large", you may join one of Oahu's active chapters.

For further information about how you can become a member of the DAV contact: Mike Gott, 261-1173; Art Forcier, 734-8590; or Jim Santos, 638-9642.

Veterans Affairs**Service offers transportation to East Big Island residents****Deborah M.S. Murray**

Four agencies are working together to provide veterans with transportation to authorized Department of Veterans Affairs medical appointments.

The Department of Veterans Affairs East Hawaii Transportation Network resulted from collaboration between the Office of Veterans Services, Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA), Senior Community Service Employment Program and service organizations. The network officially began operating March 1, according to Craig Oswald, VA volunteer coordinator.

The DVA East Hawaii Transportation Network is being coordinated by Tom Mizuno, a senior employment participant. The ser-

vice is available to ambulatory veterans receiving medical care and who are unable to defray the cost of public or private transportation when traveling for approved VA care. Currently, the service is available in four regions of East Hawaii from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Monday, the van travels to Pahoa; Tuesday to Pepeekeo; Wednesday to

Hilo; Thursday to Mountain View and Friday to Hilo.

If a veteran is in need of transportation through the DVA East Hawaii Transportation Network, he or she is asked to schedule and confirm any medical or mental health appointments around the van's schedule by calling to make a reservation at least 72 hours in advance at 933-1061 (Hilo).



Photos by Spc. William J. Faust



May We Never Forget • • •

Leis were placed in Pearl Harbor to remember those who died Dec. 7, 1941 when the Imperial Japanese Navy bombed Pearl Harbor. The ceremony took place at the USS Arizona Memorial (above). The Memorial spans the sunken hull of the Arizona where the bodies of more than 1,100 men are still entombed.



Deborah M. Sanders Murray

IN TRIBUTE -- Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano is flanked by Medal of Honor awardee Allan Kellogg Jr.; and Alfred Los Banos, a member of the governor's Advisory Board on Veterans Services, after placing a wreath, Nov. 11, at Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, in Kaneohe.



OVS photo

SERVING WITH PRIDE -- The Office of Veterans Services sponsored an informational workshop for the Filipino-American Veterans in an effort to inform them and answer any questions they have about benefits.

LANA'I -- continued from page 1

Maui County Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle spoke of how Lanai suffered wartime casualties in greater proportion than the national average.

An oli (Hawaiian chant) was given by Lanai Councilmember Sol Kaho'ohalahala, the invocation and blessing were given by Rev. Mike Komatsu of Lanai Baptist Church and Bill Staton, Maui veterans services counselor for OVS, led the singing of the National and State Anthems. OVS Director, Walter Ozawa, was master of ceremonies. The Hawaii Army National Guard provided Honor and Color Guards, and bugler who played Taps.

Eligibility period extended

Regulation change benefits Gulf War Vets

President Clinton recently approved a request by Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Jesse Brown to extend the eligibility period for compensation for Persian Gulf War veterans with undiagnosed illnesses.

Brown recommended that VA extend through Dec. 31, 2001, the period in which Gulf War veterans' undiagnosed illnesses must become manifest in order to be presumed related to their service in the Gulf and thus qualify them for VA compensation benefits.

"Gulf War veterans who fell ill as a result of service to their country should receive the compensation they earned, even if science cannot yet pinpoint the cause of their illnesses," President Clinton said. "I

will not stop until we have done everything in our power to provide the care and find the answers our Gulf War veterans so badly need and deserve."

Brown meets with vets

Secretary Brown added, "Gulf War veterans served honorably, and some are now suffering. It will take time for us to find all the answers, but until we do, we must provide them with the disability compensation they deserve. In recent days, I have met with Gulf War veterans across the country who contributed to the decision to extend the presumptive period through 2001. Their message is clear: 'All we are asking is that you not forget us and our families. This decision, as well as our continuing

research and medical treatments efforts, reflect our commitment to doing just that," Brown said.

Of the 84,000 veterans claiming a disability related to Gulf service, about 65,000 have already been approved by VA under conventional criteria. Only 660 have been service-connected to date under the undiagnosed-illness regulation, but thousands of new claimants may become eligible as a result of the change in compensation regulations. After the regulations become final, approximately 5,000 claims that were denied because they did not meet the current two-year presumptive pension will be readjudicated.

Where an illness or injury is shown by service medical records or other evidentiary standards to have occurred before discharge, a

veteran of any war or peacetime era of service can be service-connected and compensated based on the degree of disability.

Additional benefits available

Additional benefits available

Persian Gulf War veterans have the additional benefit covering undiagnosed illnesses. There is no general requirement under VA regulations that a Persian Gulf veteran prove a particular exposure of cause-and-effect.

The current regulation generally provided for compensation on the basis of symptoms alone, provided they have persisted for at least six months, cannot be attributed to a diagnosable medical condition, and become at least 10 percent disabling not later than two years after

the veteran left the Gulf. With this change, an undiagnosed illness that appears at any time before Dec. 31, 2001, now will be presumed to be related to service in the Persian Gulf.

The year 2001 extension will not go into effect until implementing regulations are adopted and published in the Federal Register, which is expected later this year.

VA will take public comment during the period before the regulations are final and may further adjust the benefit provisions.

VA Medical care available for Gulf War related illnesses

Gulf War veterans currently have access to VA medical care which includes comprehensive health examination, follow-up care and treatment, excluding only those whose illnesses are determined not to be attributable to Gulf service.

Information and registry helpline

Veterans who are in need of medical care, who wish to take advantage of the protocol physical examination under the Persian Gulf Registry, or who have general questions about the Persian Gulf experience, environmental factors, or VA medical policies, may receive information from their local VA medical center or the Persian Gulf Information Helpline at 1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387).

Approximately 63,700 Persian Gulf veterans already have received the Registry health examination, but not all are symptomatic; healthy, concerned veterans are encouraged to participate in the health exam program as well.

Active-duty service members who were deployed to the Gulf War may receive a protocol health examination through military treatment facilities by calling 1-800-796-9699.

"Gulf War veterans who fell ill as a result of service to their country should receive the compensation they earned, even if science cannot yet pinpoint the cause of their illnesses."

— President Clinton

Q & A:

Department of Veterans Affairs

I have heard that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan program described by a military recruiter as being one of those few benefits that an honorably discharged service member can use over and over. What does that mean?

When certain conditions are met, eligible veterans can move up to better homes or to different locations through their lifetime by repeatedly selling their homes and buying new ones with part of the mortgage guaranteed by the government. In some cases, a veteran's current amount may be less than the maximum guaranty benefit, meaning he or she has some dollar value of "remaining entitlements" that can be applied to the next home purchase. Also, the benefit can be restored to the full, maximum level for some subsequent purchases by simply paying in full the VA loan used to purchase the property and selling the property, or through other steps.

My wife is very ill. We have decided long ago that we both wanted to be buried in a national cemetery here. Can she be buried there if she dies before I do?

Yes. The spouse of an eligible veteran is also eligible for burial in national cemetery even if he or she dies before the veteran.

(Editor's note: In Hawaii, the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) has only limited space for burials. An exception exists if the predeceased veteran or spouse is already buried at Punchbowl. In this case, upon the eligible family member's death, his or her remains can be joined in the same grave site. Space is available at Punchbowl to accommodate cremated remains in above ground columbariums.)

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.

See this feature on the OVS web page at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/q&a.htm>

Vet news

See the Vet news on the Internet at:
<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/vetnews.htm>

Disabled vets to receive more benefits

Beneficiaries of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation and pension programs will see an increase of 2.9 percent in their monthly payments beginning with January benefits checks. The cost-of-living adjustments affect those on VA's rolls as of Dec. 1.

President Clinton signed legislation that set the 1997 disability compensation increase to the same level as Social Security, placing all the major VA benefit programs, including pension and survivor's benefits, at the same 2.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment.

Educator seeks information from Women Nisei Vets

Brenda L. Moore, an associate professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, is interested in interviewing Japanese-American women, who served in the Women Army Corps during World War II.

Moore is conducting the research for a book she is writing to tell the story about the lives of the Japanese American WAC veterans before they entered the military, during their tour in the military and after they returned to civilian society.

Her research shows that 25 Nisei women entered the military with a contingent of 59 WACs from the Hawaiian Islands.

"It is my hope that you will help me locate some of these women who may still be living in Hawaii," Moore said.

If you know of any Nisei WACs who served during WW II who are willing to speak about their experi-

ences, have them contact Brenda L. Moore at (716) 645-2417 Ext. 454, or e-mail: socbrend@acsu.buffalo.edu

Army counter intelligence corps seeking members

The Army Counter Intelligence Corps is conducting a national membership drive.

If you served honorably in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps, Ed Simmons, national membership chairman, is searching for you.

You can write Ed Simmons at: 5319 S.W. 15th Street, Topeka, Kansas, 66604-2403.

He can be reached by telephone at: (913) 272-1609.

Internet site features veterans' events

The State of Hawaii, Department of Defense's World Wide Web (W3) site at: <http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/ovscal.htm> features a calendar of events database designed to keep local veterans more informed about events taking place around the islands.

"The site was designed to serve local veterans by providing them with an alternative method to disseminate information to the public," according to Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general.

"The internet is a viable resource that allows us to provide virtual instantaneous information to our customers," he added.

For information about the internet site, call 733-4258 or 733-4241. The e-mail address for OVS is: ovs@dod.hawaii.gov

MOPH pays tribute to veterans service providers, law enforcement officers

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

Each year, members of the local military organization, Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), take the time to pay tribute to individuals in the community who have gone far beyond the call of duty and even risked their own lives, in some cases, to get their jobs accomplished.

Five individuals were recognized, Feb. 22, 1997, at a program held at the Disabled American Veterans Keehi Lagoon Memorial Building.

They were the former director of the Office of Veterans Services (OVS) retired Army Col. Robert "Bob" Viduya; Pat Pavao, Hawaii (Big Island) veterans services counselor; Tommy Kakesako; Kay Kajiwara, a volunteer with the Disabled American Veterans; and two Honolulu Police Department officers, Theodore Merrill and Scott Toyama.

Two local police officers were honored for responding to an emergency call December 1995 for help at Hale O Hawaii, an elderly home, which was engulfed in flames. Honolulu Police Officers **Theodore Merrill** and **Scott Toyama** were credited with evacuating residents from the facility.

Robert Viduya, the former director of the Office of Veterans Services,

was honored for his devotion and concern shown to combat-wounded veterans. Viduya, a retired colonel with the U.S. Army, served as OVS director from January 1995 to December 1996, before becoming the Deputy Director of Public Safety for Administration.

Pat A. Pavao, was recognized for his outstanding service to the veterans of Hawaii. Pavao, was cited by Sebastian Buster Kahakua, of Pahoa, Hawaii, for "providing the veterans and their families "concerned compassion, love and understanding above and beyond the duties of his office." A specific example given by Kahakua explains that he arranged for the



Viduya

National Guard to provide the burial honor guard for a fallen combat buddy after the Navy refused to perform a similar service.

Tommy Kakesako,

chairman of the Keehi Lagoon Memorial Management Committee, Disabled American Veterans, was honored for providing the MOPH with a place to hold its meetings and activities, as well as using the Keehi Lagoon facility to assist other non-profit organizations that needed a place to meet for recreation and training.

Kay Kajiwara, the caretaker of the Keehi Lagoon Memorial facility, was honored for devotion that exceeded her job description.

She is known for opening up the facilities in adverse weather, providing additional comforts and even making follow-up visits to assure that the veterans were safe.

Three chapters of the Military Order of the Purple Heart exist in the State. Honolulu's Rainbow Chapter 483, was installed on Dec. 7, 1982. Robert "Bob" Freitas is the commander of this chapter. Kobe Shoji is the commander of Honolulu's Alii Chapter 7442 and John K. Iwamoto is the commander of the Moki-hana-Kauai Chapter 489.

The Purple Heart is awarded to veterans who have been combat-wounded while serving as members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The medal is the oldest military decoration in the United States. It originally was designed by Gen. George Washington as an award for the common soldier during the American Revolution. It was lost – or misfiled – among War Department records for nearly 150 years before it was discovered during a search for Washington's papers prior to the celebration of his Bicentennial in 1932. It was revived on Feb. 22, 1932.



Patrick Pavao, of OVS, is presented a recognition award by Robert "Bob" Freitas, commander of Honolulu's Military Order of the Purple Heart Rainbow Chapter 483.

Photo by Deborah M. Sanders Murray

calendar/notices

See us on the Internet at:

<http://www.dod.hawaii.gov/ovs/ovscal.htm>

Saturday, May 24, 1997

Memorial Day Parade through Waikiki, and picnic for homeless veterans. Contact BRAVO Gen. John Rogers, (808) 621-2412.

Monday, May 26, 1997

Memorial Day, state and federal holiday.

Memorial Day Activities

Sunset Memorial Service, May 25--Armed Forces Eternal Flame, 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Fort Shafter Post 10276 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Memorial Day Eve Candlelight Ceremony, May 25--National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), 6:15 p.m. Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Post 10583 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Mayor's Memorial Day Service, May 26--National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, 8:30 a.m.

Governor's Memorial Day Service, May 26--Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, Kaneohe--1:15 p.m.

Sunrise Memorial Services, May 26, Kauai Veterans Cemetery--7 a.m.

Memorial Day Services Kauai Veterans Cemetery, May 26--10 a.m.

Candlelight Ceremony, War Memorial Center Gym, May 25, Wailuku, Maui--7 p.m.

Makawao Veterans Cemetery, May 26, Maui, 11 a.m.

Hilo Veterans Cemetery # 1, May 26, Hilo, 9:45 a.m.

Dedication/Burial/Memorial Day Services, May 26, Central Kona Union Church Cemetery. Contact Ted Fujii for additional information, at (808) 323-3629.

Friends of the Natatorium, June 1--Waikiki War Memorial Natatorium, 10 a.m.

June 13-15

Disabled American Veteran's, Department of Hawaii, will hold its 1997 State Convention in Maui, at the Maui Beach Hotel. Contact Antonio Paresa, of Maui, for additional information, at (808) 572-0193.

June 20-22, 1997

The 100th Infantry Battalion (Club 100) veterans will be sponsoring its 55th Anniversary Reunion celebration at various sites around Oahu. Call, 946-0272.

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 Summer '97 (June 20) issue is May 23.**



V HAWAII VETERAN

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The Adjutant General

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