



HAWAII VETERAN

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

Vol. 7, No. 1

State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Summer-Fall 1998

Historic ceremony held to commemorate the end of World War II

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

Commemorating the 53rd Anniversary of the end of World War II, Sept. 2, 1998, over 1200 World War II veterans crowded the USS Missouri, affectionately referred to

as the "Mighty Mo", to pay tribute to the historic moment when the surrender document was signed aboard the ship in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

The "Mighty Mo" officially arrived in Hawaii Sunday, June 21, after being towed from the mainland to its new home on Ford Island about 300 yards from the USS Arizona Memorial.

"Together at last," said U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, the keynote speaker for the event, referring to the USS Ari-

zona Memorial and the USS Missouri.

"From pain to pride . . . the circle is complete," added Inouye, who served with distinction and was wounded during WWII as a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"It is an honor for me to stand on this great battleship," said Hawaii Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano, explaining that the presence of the "Mighty Mo" in Hawaii will help enrich the State's

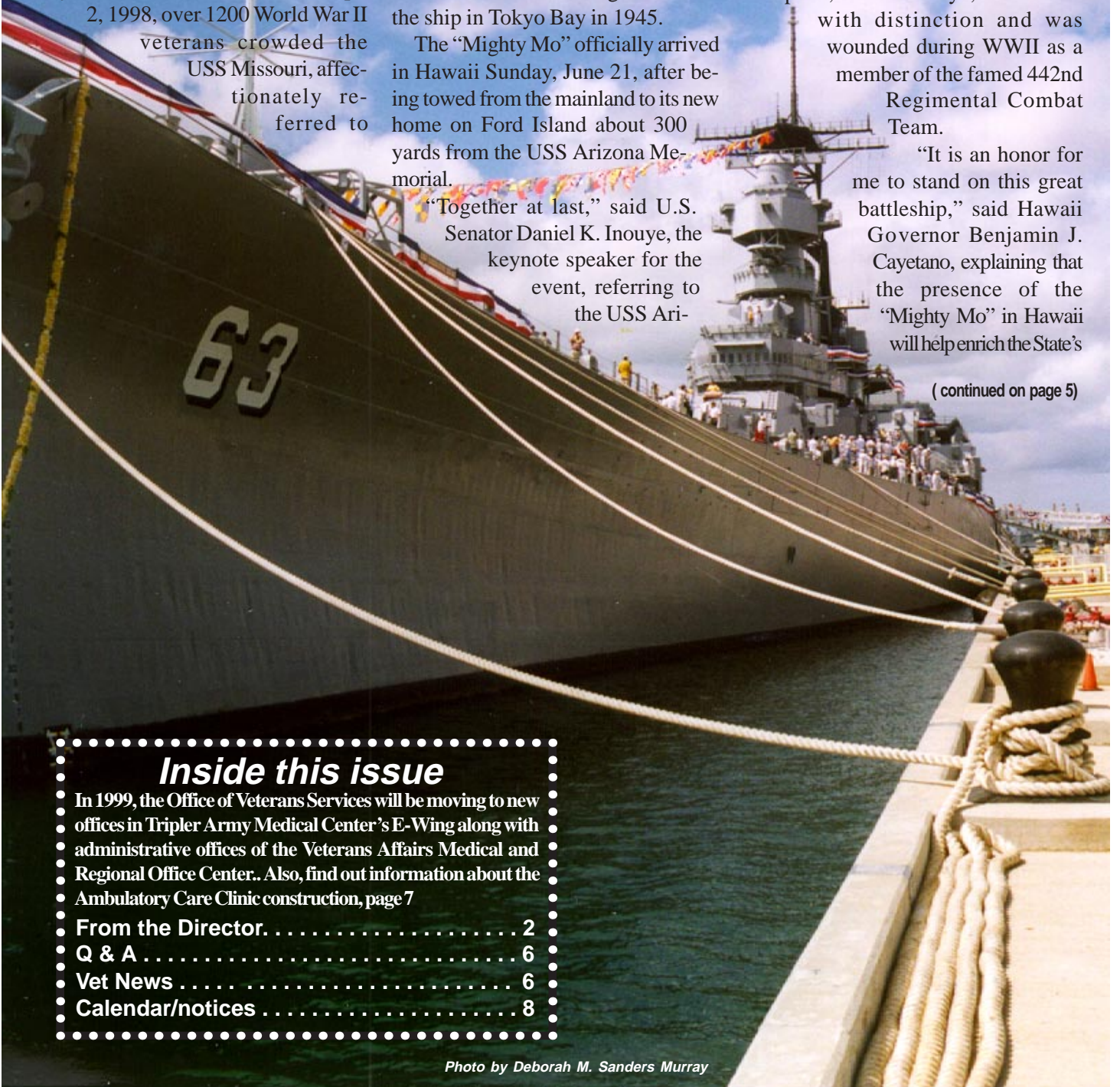
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In 1999, the Office of Veterans Services will be moving to new offices in Tripler Army Medical Center's E-Wing along with administrative offices of the Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center. Also, find out information about the Ambulatory Care Clinic construction, page 7

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Photo by Deborah M. Sanders Murray



Office of Veterans Services



State of Hawaii Department of Defense

See this feature on the Internet at: <http://www.dod.state.hi.us/ovs/message.htm>

Freedom isn't free. . . veterans paid the price

**From the Director
Walter M. Ozawa**

Aloha,

This issue of *Hawaii Veteran* comes to you in time for Veterans Day and closely coincides with Election Day, which brings to mind that this democratic activity, with its many candidates and issues to be voted on, came at a price. The freedom of choice we have, to choose who will govern our State and Nation, has been paid, and continues to be paid, by those who served and now serve in uniform.

Unlike many places in the world, our military truly serves to ensure governance by a free people rather than to enforce governance over people. Sadly, for too many Americans, Veterans Day is just another holiday. This should not be the case in Hawaii where there are 115,000 veterans, or one in every ten residents are veterans.

How many take the time to seriously, even if briefly, talk to their loved ones about their military service and what it has meant to them personally, as well as to our State and nation? Veterans Day, Election Day, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July, among others, are American celebrations of our freedom for which our armed forces have fought. As our military shrinks and the perceived threats to peace diminish, there is less and less who ponder on how we achieved so much as a Nation and State. Veterans Day, es-

pecially, reminds America that it is because of our veterans we have come to be the greatest nation on Earth.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the appointment of H. David Burge, Jr., as the director of the Honolulu Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC). Originally from Honolulu, he is a 1963 graduate of Kamehameha Schools. He received his bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and his master's degree in public administration from the University of California at Los Angeles. He is currently director of the National Center for Veteran Analysis & Statistics with the VA and will be starting his new job in early November. We look forward to welcoming him home and working with him to support and assist our Hawaii veterans.

I recently attended a statewide gathering of Korean War veterans on the Big Island and noted that,

after almost 50 years since the end of that conflict, veterans are getting organized to discover the history of that era. This is important, as the U.S. will be commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War from June 25, 2000 through 2003, with national recognition by the President beginning with Memorial Day 1999 at Arlington National Cemetery. If you are a Korean War veteran and would like to meet or join other Korean War veterans, please call OVS at, 587-3000.

Finally, Veterans Day, November 11, 1998, will be commemorated throughout the State by various organizations. It is a time for veterans to gather, to pause to remember and to honor those who gave their lives in service to America. Originally known in 1938 as Armistice Day, the name and purpose have changed over the years. What has remained constant is that it is a day to recall the sacrifices of war as well as the contributions in peace by our Armed Services. War is the result of a failure to maintain peace, and, thus, those who serve during time of peace are expected to accept the torch to safeguard the freedoms for which our heroes have died. It is a solemn obligation that

all Americans must take up to honor our fallen comrades-in-arms.

The movie, "Saving Private Ryan" painfully, depicts the devastating price our veterans must pay. Surely, as Capt. Miller in the movie admonishes Private Ryan to "Earn this...", we must remind ourselves that we, too, must earn the benefits of peace gained through the ultimate price paid by so many.

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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 Hawaii's 120,000 veterans.

The board consists of seven board members and five ex-officio members. The board members are: Edward M. Kawamura, Roger Evangelista, Dania Krawec, Toy Grice, Bob Montague, Ed Mina, and Sami Botelho.

The ex-official members are Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant



Kawamura

general; Harry Akamine, of the Department of Human Services; Gabriel Perez, of the Department of Veterans Affairs; Don Sparks, of the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations; Colleen Minami, Department of Health; and Gil Hough, director, U.S. Department of Labor.

In July, elections were held and **Edward M. Kawamura**, the board's representative from Kauai, was selected as chairman, replacing Grice. **Roger Evangelista**, who represents Maui County, is the board's vice-chairman.

Kawamura is a retired U.S. Army veteran and the president of his family business, M. Kawamura Farm

Enterprises, Inc. His military experience includes service in the U.S. Army with the 4th All-Hawaiian Company. He is the past president of the Kauai Veterans Council and past state commander of Disabled American Veterans. He is a member of the Kauai Veterans Club, Kauai Vietnam Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. His term expires June 30, 1999.

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 was appointed to the board in June 1995. His term expires in the year 2000.

Dania Krawec is a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the U.S. Navy. Since joining the Advisory Board on Veterans Services in 1996, she

has worked to increase awareness for women veterans.

"I am involved in trying to identify the women veterans in Hawaii to inform them of what is available to them at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Center, and other offices that are ca-



Evangelista



Krawec

pable of dealing with the special needs of women veterans."

Her term expires on June 30, 2000.

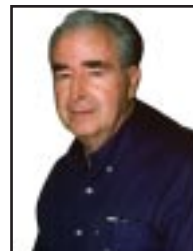
Toy Grice has lived in Hawaii for almost 30 years and has been dealing with veterans issues for most of his professional life. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Honolulu office, where he worked as a veterans services chief. His term on the board expires June 30, 1999.

Bob Montague retired from the U.S. Army at the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1971. He joined the board in 1997 as the Hilo, Hawaii, representative. During the 23-year period, Montague worked his way from a recruit to the rank of lieutenant colonel serving in both Korea and Vietnam. During his retirement, he has been successful in establishing and selling a number of profitable businesses.

He is active in numerous community and veterans organizations such as the



Grice



Montague

Disabled American Veterans Chapter #6, Hawaii Island Veterans Memorial, Inc., and the Hilo Boys Club. His term on the board expires June 30, 2001.

Eduardo C. Mina represents Oahu and has been instrumental in lobbying for legislation to assist Filipino veterans. He is the president and chairman of the Filipino American Veterans. His term on the board expires June 30, 2001.

Sami Botelho is the newest member on the Advisory Board on Veterans Services. She was appointed in July. A Vietnam-era veteran, Botelho served in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years, before retiring in 1995. She is currently employed at Aloha Airlines. Her community activities include serving as the editor of Ma'ili Kai Kukini. Her term on the board expires June 30, 2001.



Mina



Botelho

Hawaii Veteran E-mail

If you would like to have your issue of the Hawaii Veteran delivered by E-mail with links to the key features on the OVS website, please e-mail:

dmurray@dod.state.hi.us

5th RCT remember fallen Hawaii soldiers

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

It has been 48 years since the 5th Regimental Combat Team departed Hawaii by boat to travel to South Korea.

In commemoration of this journey, members of the unit held a program July 20, at the Korean-Vietnam Memorials, to pay homage to the forty-nine members of the unit who died in combat fighting for freedom.

Pink and yellow flower petals decorated the polished black granite pedestals



where the names of the forty-nine 5th RCT members are engraved.

When Tsutomu Ozawa, 74, arrived at the ceremony, he said one of the first things he did was find the stone made in memory of his late buddy, Kenichi Nishiyama.

Nishiyama was lost in an ambush in April 1951 after his company, the heavy mortar company, exited a 3-1/4-ton truck to defend themselves. Ozawa said the soldiers were told to split up. He ran for cover near a rice paddy. Nishiyama went in the opposite direction and perished.

Cast Corpuz was age 22 when he went to Korea with the 5th RCT. He was in Company G. "I could not believe it, we did not know what to expect," he said referring to his initial reaction 48 years ago after finding out he was going to fight a war.

In his keynote speech, Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, took the opportunity to reminisce about what Hawaii was like in the 1950s when the 5th RCT went to battle and



Deborah M. Sanders Murray photos

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 5TH RCT-- Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, speaks to the crowd attending the ceremony at the Korean Memorial on the State Capital lawn commemorating the day when the Hawaii troops of the 5th Regimental Combat Team departed from Schofield Barracks to join troops fighting in the Korean War.

also praised the unit for its bravery.

"In a more personal view, "*Mona Lisa*" by Nat King Cole and the Les Baxter orchestra was number one on the Lucky Strike Hit Parade. The leading Hawaiian entertainers were Bill Lincoln, Alfred Apaka, George Kaainapau, and Napua Stevens. If you had a date, you could really splurge by going to the Halekulani Hotel, Moana Surf Rider Hotel, or Lau Yee Chai for dinner," Richardson said.

"The 3,100 soldiers of the 5th RCT — half of them "local boys" from Hawaii — were rounded up and hastily shipped off to Korea. Snatched from their idyllic island life, our boys did not yet realize that they would soon see some of the bloodiest fighting of the three-year war," he said.

"The 5th RCT has left an impressive legacy of unit and individual achievement. They left Hawaii ill-prepared for battle because of the shortsightedness of our political and military leaders. But they gathered their wits, used the strong leaders that they had within their organization, worked closely as

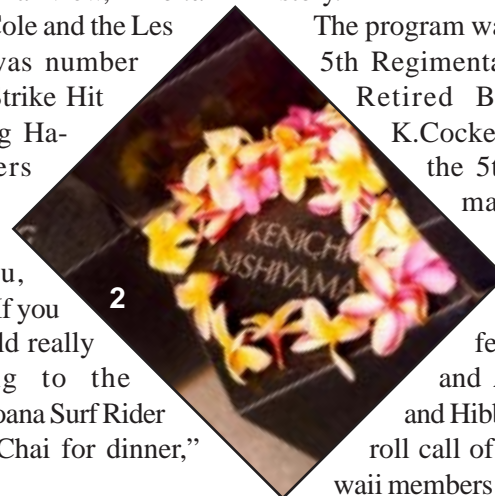
a team, and bravely fought their way into history."

The program was sponsored by the 5th Regimental Combat Team .

Retired Brig. Gen. Irwin K. Cockett Jr., president of the 5th RCT, served as master of ceremony for the program.

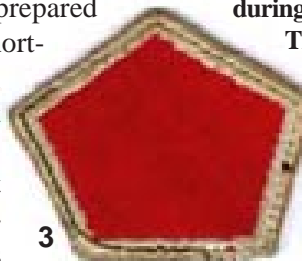
Chaplain James J. DeCaires Sr. offered the invocation and Anthony DeCenzo and Hibbert Manley read the

roll call of honor for the Hawaii members of the 5th RCT who died during the Korean War. After each name, Alfred "Freddy" Los Banos rang a bell in honor of the soldiers.



1- REMEMBERING A FRIEND—Tsutomu Ozawa, 74, a 5th Regimental Combat Team member who served in the Korean War with the heavy mortar company remembers his friend, Kenichi Nishiyama, who died during an ambush. **2-** The granite stone of Kenichi Nishiyama, a soldier who died during an ambush in the Korean War.

The Korean-Vietnam Memorials are located near the corner of Richards and Beretania Streets, on the west lawn of the State Capitol.



3- The 5th RCT insignia.

Plans on the way to honor Korean War veterans

By Deborah M. Sanders Murray

When the nation comes together to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, from May 30, 1999 to Nov. 11, 2003, Hawaii will join the celebration in full military style.

Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano has committed to honoring Hawaii's Korean War veterans, a point that has been reiterated by Maj. Gen. Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general.

"The State of Hawaii Department of Defense will support Hawaii's veterans in any way possible," Richardson said, stressing the DOD will make facilities available for planning meetings and strive to offer assistance needed by the veterans.

The 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration will give the nation the opportunity to officially honor Korean War veterans for their courage and valor. Korean War veterans were not honored with ticker tape parades and fanfare like World War II veterans.

History reveals that 54,000 Americans lost their lives during the Korean War and 456 men from Hawaii.

The DOD, most specifically the Hawaii National Guard, and the Office of Veterans Services (OVS), will play a key role during the commemoration. Gov. Cayetano's vision is to recapture the same spirit of the 1995 50th Anniversary of World War II commemoration.

The purpose of the commemoration will be to:

- Identify, thank, and honor the veterans of the Korean War, their families, especially those who lost loved ones.
- Recognize and remember the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

- Recognize the contributions of women and minorities to their Nation during the Korean War.
- Provide the American public with a clearer understanding and appreciation of the lesson, history, and legacy of the Korean War.
- Inform future generations of the United States military's contributions to the Nation in maintaining world peace and freedom through preparedness and involvement.
- Demonstrate the benefits of United Nations forces engaged in preserving the peace, freedom, and prosperity of the Republic of Korea.
- Ensure commemorative events strengthen and unify the bonds of friendship and relationship throughout the world.

For additional information, contact the Office of Veterans Services at 587-3000.

Governor welcomes the USS Missouri



Sgt. Lance M. Kamisugi photo

Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano was among the many speakers who welcomed the USS Missouri to its new home in a ceremony at Magic Island, June 21.

HISTORIC 'MIGHTY MO' — continued from page 1



Deborah M. Sanders Murray photo

More than 800 family members of veterans who served on the "Mighty Mo" attended the 53rd anniversary of the end of WWII at Ford Island, Sept. 2.

World War II history.

World War II veterans were recognized as special guests during the ceremony by retired Lt. Gen. Thomas Rienzi, U.S. Army; Mr. David Graham, president, American Battleship Association; and, retired Brig. Gen. Frances Mossman, U.S. Air Force.

Three Hawaii Air National Guard F-15 Eagles conducted a flyby during the ceremony.

The Office of Veterans Services, which is administratively attached to the State of Hawaii Department of Defense, played a huge role in coordinating with the state's veterans organizations to get the word out to World War II veterans and other veterans interested in attending the historic ceremony. The OVS also coordinated rides for veterans who were in need of transportation to the event.

The USS Missouri Memorial Association, Inc., which sponsored the ceremony, decided to seat all WWII veterans on the ship for the historic occasion. Other veterans and USS Missouri family members were seated on the docks in view of the ceremony.

Q & A:

Department of Veterans Affairs

Does a veteran automatically become eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pension on his or her 65th birthday?

No. Although the VA at one time did concede "permanent and total disability" at age 65 for this program aimed at lower-income veterans, any claim for pension filed after Oct. 31, 1990, now must include medical evidence to document that the veteran is permanently and totally disabled by mental or physical disability.

My wife and I are divorced, but still good friends. Can she be buried in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemetery?

No. Once divorced, she cannot be buried in a VA national cemetery unless she is a veteran herself or she marries another veteran.

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

See this feature on the Internet at: <http://www.dod.state.hi.us/ovs/q&a.htm>

vet news

See *Vet news* on the Internet at: <http://www.dod.state.hi.us/ovs/vetnews.htm>

Federal grant will fund job training for veterans

As of July 1, 1998, \$308,613 in federal funding became available to assist Vietnam War veterans with services such as individual job counseling, skills upgrading and retraining, and placement services.

"The federal funds. . . will go far to help many of our veterans, welfare-to-work recipients, immigrants, and the most vulnerable living in our rural communities," said Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano.

Gov. Cayetano was joined by Daaiyah Gonzalez, a local Vietnam-era veteran who was assisted through the Department of Labor's Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Title IVC. The program is called Veterans Employment and Training Program. It provides assistance to veterans who are: 1) recently separated from the military, 2) Vietnam-era veterans, or 3) disabled.

For additional information, call Robert Uyeda, of the State of Hawaii's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, workforce development division, at (808) 586-8815.

VA appoints Cavanaugh to Minority Veterans Advisory Committee

Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Shirley R. Cavanaugh, APR, was appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, replacing Thomas Kaulukukui.

Cavanaugh, a veteran, served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years. From June 1993 to June 1997, she served on the Advisory Board for Veterans Services.

"Split Enrollment" now available to TRICARE Prime families living apart

TRICARE Prime now offers a solution to families living apart. It's called "split enroll-

ment", and it means that retired family members living apart, such as college students or children living with a service member's former spouse, can enroll together and pay only one annual fee.

Enrollment portability is available to all prime families. Because today's families often live apart, TRICARE places no limitations on the number of family members using the portability benefit. This means, as a retiree, you'll never pay more than the family enrollment fee of \$460, no matter how many family members enroll. Active duty families pay no enrollment fee.

For example, a retired prime member lives in San Diego, but has two college-age children living in other areas where the TRICARE Prime is available. One attends college in Phoenix and the other in Florida. Under split enrollment, the parent will only pay \$460 a year to enroll, and the college children are covered.

Split enrollment is just one of several benefits offered under what is called Enrollment Portability. Certain restrictions apply. Ask your TRICARE service center for details, 1 (800) 242-6788.

Asian American Vietnam veterans Race-related Study (AVRS)

Under the direction of Dr. Chalsa Loo, the Pacific Islands Division, National Center for PTSD, is conducting a study to determine what experiences Asian Americans had in Vietnam and what impact these experiences had on them since leaving Vietnam.

Asian Americans who served during the war are needed to participate in the study.

After screening, those eligible to participate will be asked to fill out a questionnaire and be interviewed. All information gathered during interview session will be kept confidential and used only for research purposes. Participants will be paid \$50 for their time.

If you would like to participate, contact your neighbor island Vet Center or Dennis Wong, on Oahu, at (808) 566-1688.

Facilities at Tripler will benefit veterans

Story and photos by
Deborah M. Sanders Murray

One stop shopping

When the new Ambulatory Care Center and the E-wing of Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) are opened next year, veterans will not have to travel beyond the TAMC facility to take care of their medical and other veterans-related business. What's more, VA visitors will not have a hard time finding parking.

In 1999, the Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center (VAMROC) is scheduled to move its administrative offices from the Prince Jonah Kuhio Federal Building on Ala Moana Boulevard to Tripler's E-wing, and all of its medical services to the new Ambulatory Care Clinic, currently under construction.

Ambulatory Care Clinic

The three-story Ambulatory Care Clinic will feature a glass atrium designed to promote an open and friendly environment. All clinical outpatient services such as internal medicine, eye care, dental, mental health, pharmacy, radiology, women's health, laboratory, prosthetics, and sensory aids will move to the Ambulatory Care Clinic. It is scheduled for completion in the Summer of 1999.

Renovation of E-wing

"Construction on the E-wing project is well ahead of schedule," said Dewey Brown Jr., senior resident engineer. The project, which involved gutting the 89,400-square foot facility and renovating the entire wing with structural upgrades, new



NEW VA VETERANS CLINIC SLATED FOR HAWAII—The Ambulatory Care Clinic, which is being constructed on the mountainside of Tripler Army Medical Center, should be completed sometime in Summer 1999.

utilities and features, should be finished in the Spring of 1999, Brown added. Construction on the E-wing began in July 1997, after a \$12,283,985 construction contract was awarded to Bodell Construction Company of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Great care has been taken to maintain the building's historical appearance, according to Worcester P. Bong, VAMROC staff engineer, adding that all of the original lanais were retained.

Along with VA administrative offices, the four story facility will also house the Pacific Division-National Center for PTSD Research and Education at 1132 Bishop Street, and the Office of Veterans Services (OVS) located at 919 Ala Moana Boulevard. Offices for local veterans organizations will also be co-located in the facility.

Additional parking

Visitors to the VA facilities will have ample parking with 601 spaces available in the VA parking structure, located on the mountainside, plus an additional 100 spaces available near the Ambulatory Care Clinic and 46 spaces that became available after the expansion of the oceanside parking lot near the E-wing.



E-WING RENOVATION - Two different views of the E-Wing at Tripler Army Medical Center. The administrative offices for the Veterans Affairs Medical and Regional Office Center will be housed on this site along with new offices for the State Office of Veterans Services.

calendar/notices

See the calendar/notices on the Internet at:
<http://www.dod.state.hi.us/ovs/ovscal.htm>

November 3, 1998

Election Day, state holiday.

November 7, 1998

Kauai Veterans Day Parade.

November 11, 1998

Veterans Day, state and federal holiday.

Ceremonies

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), 10 a.m., Maj. General Edward V. Richardson, state adjutant general, will be a guest speaker. The theme is: Pillars of Freedom: Our Veterans and Armed Services.

Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery, 1 p.m., Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Hilo

Veterans Day ceremony at Hawaii County Veterans

Cemetery #1, 11 a.m.

Maui

Veterans Day ceremony at the War Memorial, 11 a.m.

Kauai

Veterans Day ceremony at the Kauai Veterans cemetery, 11 a.m.

December 7, 1998

The National Park service is sponsoring its annual USS Arizona Memorial Park ceremony Dec. 7th, 8 a.m.

A ceremony will be held to honor minority sailors who were lost on Dec. 7, 1941. The ceremony is scheduled for 9 a.m. at the USS Arizona Memorial Park. It is sponsored by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Coalition, Coalition for Human Rights Education, the Nearby History Corporation, the Golden Vision Enterprises, and the National Parks Service. For information, call 395-4612.

If you have a story idea or want to list an event for veterans in the *Hawaii Veteran* newsletter or on the *Internet*, 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 next issue of the *Hawaii Veteran* is **December 4, 1998**.



V HAWAII VETERAN

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