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State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services

Apr-Jul 2006

Memorial Day Ceremony Pays Tribute to Veterans

By 1st Lt. Regina Berry

This year's Memorial Day could not have been a more beautiful day. Blue skies, a slight breeze and green rolling hills covered with thousands of flowers laid respectfully across headstones.

Hundreds of military members and civilians gathered at the Hawai'i State Veterans Cemetery in Kane'ohe for the Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony May 29, to pay tribute and honor to the thousands of Soldiers, Airman, Sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen who lost their lives in present and past wars and conflicts.

"There are over 6,700 Veterans and their families resting here in peace...6,700 heroes...6,700 individual stories," said Gov. Linda Lingle. "They're not with us today but we remember them and we honor them and thank them with deep gratitude."

The ceremony included a parade of flags, presentation of lei, a Hawaiian chant, gun salute and helicopter



We Salute You-- Governor Linda Lingle and Maj. Gen. Robert Lee pay tribute to all fallen soldiers at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Iha photo

Story Continued on page 8 Additional photos on pages 4 and 5

USO Salutes Our Troops: Past and Present

By 1st Lt. Regina Berry



OVS Advisory Board Member Cynthia Stine poses with a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Brigade Combat Team at Kapiolani Park.

Hundreds of Veterans from past wars and conflicts led the way for thousands of military members in the United Service Organization's Salute to the Troop's Parade May 6 in Waikiki.

Veterans riding on trolleys, buses, cars and even on foot were given the respect they deserved for contributions in wars past. They proudly exhibited their organizations by displaying banners and waving flags while thousands of community members cheered in appreciation.

"I was so glad to see all the people lining the parade route and the festivities at the park were wonderful," said retired Tech. Sgt. Cynthia L. Stine and American Legion Post 32 commander. Tech. Sgt. Stine served from May 1979 to June 1999 with the United States Air Force and currently serves on the State Advisory Board on Veterans Services. "I thought the parade was excellent," said Tech. Sgt. Stine.

Although the military appreciation was in full force, many can remember the days when it wasn't always so.

"It's great because for a long time there was nothing, something like an emptiness I felt after the Vietnam war because it was so unpopular, and then maybe the last ten, twenty years things have changed a lot and people appreciate the military a lot more than back in the 60s," said retired Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Byron Ogata. We're from the older generations, all my brothers served their time in Vietnam and Iraq, said retired Senior Master Sgt. Ogata.

With the return of the Hawaii Army National Guard's 29th Brigade Combat Team the number of Veterans in the State of Hawaii has increased considerably. In fact more than 80 percent of the HIARNG members are Veterans.

Story Continued on page 7

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Hawaii Veteran newsletter please mail your address to OVS at 459 Patterson Rd., E-Wing, Rm. 1-A103 Honolulu, HI 96819-1522. For any change of address please include both old address and new address.

Director's Message

Col. Edward R. Cruickshank, U.S. Army (Ret.) Director, State Office of Veterans Services

As we end the fiscal year for 2006, we all have a lot to be thankful for. The majority of our troops returned

home from Iraq and Afghanistan, and I truly congratulate them for a wonderful job in fighting the war on terrorism. Our Office has been able to finalize projects not only here on Oahu but for the neighboring Islands as well. Additional funds have also been secured for some of these projects. Our Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery has improved tremendously, thanks to our Cemetery Operations Manager, Miles Okamura and Herring Kalua, General Labor Supervisor. Polyguard casket liners for burial caskets and a much-improved burial process, have, for the most part, stopped the settling gravesite problem we had at Kaneohe. I would like to thank Representative Ken Ito, for his continued support for our cemetery; and would also like to thank Senator Norman Sakamoto, and Representative Bertha Kawakami, for their tireless efforts in securing the \$50,000 for fiscal year 2007 for our newsletter. This will enable us to send out 20,000 veterans' newsletters on a quarterly basis. With this newsletter we are able to provide up to date information on veteran's benefits to our aging veteran population, and to our new veterans that have just returned home.

The veteran's parade we had on May 6, 2006 was a great success, thanks to my secretary Jennifer Aina. Most of all I would like to thank the veterans for their cooperation in making the parade a huge success. It was great to see thousands of Hawaii residents show their appreciation to our Veterans, young and old, and I can truly tell you that it touched all who graced the streets of Waikiki. As I watched the 29th Infantry Brigade march by, I could see tears in our young soldiers eyes. Our soldiers never, in their wildest dreams, thought that they were appreciated to the degree shown that day. Yes, we truly have a great State, with the most patriotic citizens in the nation.

The Annual Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony held on May 29, 2006 was another great success. We had well over 700 in attendance. The Governor gave the Veterans Day address; Major

General Robert Lee gave the welcoming remarks, with the many other volunteers coming from both the active and Guard forces in making our ceremony outstanding. We certainly cannot forget the Youth Challenge Academy, who once again did a wonderful job putting up the tents, and escorting and helping our veterans groups carry their flags and colors. The recommendation came from Al Streck, and it was a wonderful idea. Singers Jimmy Borges and Karen Keawehawaii provided the entertainment. There wasn't a dry eye in the audience, when Jimmy sang the National Anthem. Mr. Robert Fishman provided Master of Ceremonies, with Father Rubie's offering of the Invocation and Benediction, and Ray Ganotise kicking off the ceremony with the Hawaiian Oli (chant). Our many Veteran Organizations once again did a wonderful job in displaying their colors, and honoring our fallen comrades. Not to mention the wonderful refreshments, which were provided by the Fleet Reserve Association, Branch #46, and the Women's Auxiliary.

Words cannot express how thankful I am personally along with my entire office for the total support we have received from the Legislature this past year. We look forward to their continued support, in taking care of their veteran community, and honoring our fallen warriors. God Bless all of you, and the United States of America.

Veterans Affairs News Updates

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM HAS RELOCATED TO TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER AND IS UP AND RUNNING

The Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) was moved from Hilo, Hawaii in late 2005. The program provides a residential setting with length of stays up to 10 weeks. It is now co-located with the Traumatic Stress Recovery Outpatient Program with expanded day treatment services at Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) thanks to a joint agreement with Tripler-and the-U-S-Army.

This relocation to Oahu optimizes VA's ability to provide PTSD services for veterans with both acute and chronic PTSD. It will significantly improve VA's capabilities in the Pacific Island region to meet the needs of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hilo has not been forgotten. A new outpatient mental health program that includes a full-time psychiatrist along with a psychiatric treatment team is located in Hilo to provide continuity and follow up to patients. Hilo veterans will get expanded general outpatient mental health care, as well as specialty substance abuse and PTSD treatment. This model of enhancing mental health care at the Community Based Outpatient Clinics is part of the Department of Veterans Affairs strategic plan.

The location at Tripler hopefully is an interim solution. VA Pacific Islands Health Care System has applied for construction funding for a new building to house the PTSD programs. It is hoped that the construction can be funded in the next fiscal year, and located on the Tripler campus. This program would allow VA PTSD specialists to collocate with Army specialists.



A member of the 29th Brigade waves to the crowd from a humvee during the USO Parade. Shelly Ichishita photo

We're looking for old photos to publish in our newsletter!

If you have memories of service that you'd like to share, please email an electronic copy (at least 200KB) to webmaster@dod.hawaii.gov, or mail a hard copy to the Office of Veterans Services.



Hawaii Veteran

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VA News Updates

VETERANS PREFERENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT INCLUDES VETERANS FROM IRAQI FREEDOM

The Defense Authorization Act for FY 2006 expanded the federal government's definition of "veteran," changing eligibility requirements for veterans' preference. The first provision gives preference to those who served on active duty during the period beginning Sept. 11, 2001 and ending at the close of Operation Iraqi Freedom, provided they meet other conditions. The provision also expands the number of individuals who may be entitled to Veterans Preference. Operation Enduring Freedom participants would be eligible for veterans preference (assuming they meet all other criteria). So, the bottom line is that anyone who served on active duty for a period of more than 180 consecutive days, any part of which occurred during this period of time, regardless of location, is entitled to veterans' preference if otherwise eligible. This applies not only to candidates seeking employment, but to federal employees that are qualifying veterans who may be affected by reduction-in-force as well. For further information, the Office of Personnel Managements' Vetguide is available at http:// www.opm.gov/employ/veterans/html/ vetguide.asp#2

IF YOU ARE PLANNING AN OVERSEAS VACATION OR RELOCATION SOON, THE VA IS THERE FOR YOU.

VA will pay for medical services for the treatment of service-connected disabilities and related conditions or for medical services needed as part of a vocational rehabilitation program for veterans traveling or living outside the U.S. Before using the program, veterans living in Canada should register with the VA Center in White River Junction, VT 05009-0001, USA, phone 802-296-6379. Those living in the Philippines should register with the U.S. VA office in Pasay City, phone 011-632-833-4566. All other veterans living outside the U.S. should register with the Denver Foreign Medical Program office, P.O. Box 65021, Denver, CO 80206-9021, phone 303-331-7590. Veterans traveling or living in Germany, Panama, Australia, Italy, United Kingdom, Japan and Spain can call toll free 877-345-8179. Veterans in Mexico or Costa Rico can use the same number but must first dial the United States country code.

VA monetary benefits, including compensation, pension, educational assistance and burial allowances, generally are payable overseas. Some programs in foreign jurisdictions are restricted. Home loan guaranties are available only in the United States and selected U.S. territories and possessions. Educational benefits are limited to approved degree-granting programs in institutions of higher learning. Beneficiaries residing in foreign countries should contact the nearest American embassy or consulate for information and claims assistance. In Canada, veterans should contact an office of Veterans Affairs Canada. Additional information on benefits and services available outside the United States can be found on the Internet: (http://vba.va.gov/bin/21/foreign/ index.htm).

You can also obtain more information by calling the Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center at 433-0600 for medical questions and the VA Honolulu Regional Office at (808) 827-1000 for benefit information.

NEW VETERANS HOUSING AND BENEFITS BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

Legislation to help servicemembers and veterans with their housing and other benefit needs was signed into law June 15th by President Bush. Among its many provisions is one which authorizes VA to make grants available to assist with housing adaptations at a family member's home in which a severely disabled servicemember is temporarily residing. The grants range from between \$2,000 and \$14,000. Previously, severely disabled veterans had to own their homes to qualify for adapted housing grant assistance from VA. Many may live with their parents after sustaining life-altering injuries. The legislation also allows servicemembers, those who have been legally determined to be totally disabled at the time of their separation from the military, to have up to two years from their separation date to apply for premium-free Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage. Even more importantly, the legislation will enable them to convert their coverage to Veterans' Group Life Insurance, or an individual plan or policy, during the same two-year period. Taking advantage of the conversion option is especially critical for totally disabled servicemembers who, because of their disabilities, may not be insurable at competitive commercial rates after military service. For more information on the new housing benefit, contact the VA Honolulu Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000.

VA IS DOING SOMETHING ABOUT TWO NATIONAL CONCERNS, OBESITY AND DIABETES

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a national registration campaign to let veterans and their families tailor their diets and exercise programs into a healthful lifestyle. The new health care assessment is part of a campaign called MOVE - Managing Obesity/Overweight for Veterans Everywhere – which is part of the HealthierUS Veterans program sponsored by the VA's Health and Human Services to reduce obesity and diabetes, a disease often associated with being overweight. Patients enrolled in VA's health care program can complete an interactive on-line questionnaire about their health status, nutrition and exercise. Based on their information, veterans and family members receive a custom report with health information and instructions for follow up with our medical center staff.

People not enrolled in VA's health care program can log into www.move.va.gov/more23 and answer 23 questions. They will receive an individualized report giving them suggestions about making changes in their eating and physical activity and referring them to materials on the Web site. VA estimates that 70% of its patients are overweight, compared to 64% of the U.S. population. Diabetes also affects a greater percentage of veterans in VA's health care than the general U.S. population.

VA APPROVES NEW COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

To provide world-class health care closer to where more veterans live, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recently announced plans to open 25 new community-based clinics in 17 states and American Samoa. The exact schedule for the opening of the clinic has not been determined, but VA hopes it will be taking care of patients by April 2007.

With 156 hospitals and more than 700 community-based clinics, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest integrated health care system in the country. VA's health care budget of nearly \$30 billion this year will provide health care to about 5.4 million people during nearly 600,000 hospitalizations and 55 million outpatient visits. "Community-based medicine enhances preventative care, allows for closer doctor-patient relationships and makes it easier for follow-up for people with chronic problems," said Dr. Jonathan B. Perlin, VA's Under Secretary for Health.

Other approved clinics include So. Orange County in California, Fallon Nevada, Miami-Globe, northwest Tucson, southeast Tucson in Arizona, and Canyon County in Idaho.

VA LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

VA's Voluntary Service is the largest volunteer program in the federal government. Some volunteers bring special skills and knowledge, while others bring a desire to explore and learn. Voluntary Service matches the volunteer to the assignment, provides orientation and training for volunteers and maintains an awards program to recognize volunteer service. Over the past 58 years, VA volunteers have donated more than 663.5 million hours of service worth an estimated \$11.4 billion. The value of the VA volunteers' contributions in dollars and cents is only a small part of their total worth. Their dedication to this nation's veterans is priceless.

The Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center needs your help to care for Hawaii's veterans, whether it's a few hours a day or an hour a week. Your time and effort will help improve the quality of life for our veterans. You can get connected as a VA volunteer by calling the Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center at 433-0109 and speak to Pat Wieland on how you can help. For further information on the VA Voluntary Service program, log on to our web site www.va.gov/volunteer.

VA ASSISTS SMALL VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES

VA does staff a Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization office that helps small businesses obtain information on acquisition opportunities with VA. Like other federal offices, VA is required to place a portion of its contracts and purchases with small and disadvantaged businesses. For information, write the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OOSB), 810 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20420-0001, call toll-free 1-800-949-8387 or visit: http://www.va.gov/osdbu.

In addition, the Center for Veterans Enterprise (CVE) helps veterans interested in forming or expanding small businesses. The CVE helps VA contracting offices identify veteran-owned small businesses and works with the Small Business Administration's Veterans Business Development Officers and Small Business Development Centers nationwide regarding veterans' business financing, management and technical assistance needs. For more information, write the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (OOVE) at the above address, call toll-free 1-966-584-2344 or visit the web site: http://www.vetbiz.gov.





Lei Tribute to Returning 100th Bn/442nd Soldiers

By Joy Teraoka

On July 20, 2006 at 10:30 a.m., the 100th/442nd veterans of World War II paid honor to the soldiers of Companies D and HHC of the 100/442 who returned from the current war in Iraq. The stately color guard led over 60 troops into Turner Hall for the ceremony as the old veterans, wives, and friends sat with pride along the side walls. Doris Kimura sang the "Star Spangled Banner" and "Hawai'i Pono'i."

The orange "Ilima" lei which many of the 100th and 442nd wives made under the direction of Drusilla Tanaka for this special occasion were

placed upon each returning soldier by one of the World War II veterans.

Bert Kuioka served as Master of Ceremonies, Lt Col. Colbert addressed the audience for his men, and Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee also praised the soldiers for upholding the honorable traditions of the 100th Infantry Battalion. The young men then sang their "442 Fight Song."

Skip Tomiyama led the audience in singing "Hawai'i Aloha." In Hawaii, our celebrations end with a wonderful feast, and so the soldiers, the vets, families and friends gathered together to enjoy the bounty of food and fellowship that followed.







Courtesy photo

Veterans Organizations recruit at Project Gratitude

By 1st Lt. Regina Berry

Fourteen Veterans related organizations and clubs dedicated their time Sat. July 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall to participate in the Hawaii National Guard hosted Project Gratitude event.

Project Gratitude was held to thank members of the Guard and Reserve for their service by providing them with free food, activities and most importantly information on their benefits, retirement, Veterans organizations and even job opportunities.

The Veteran's Adminstration Regional Office; Office of Veteran's Services; American Legion, Hawaii Chapter; Combat Infantrymen's Association, Hawaii; Oahu Veteran's Council; Disabled American Veterans; Military Order of the Purple Heart; Military Intelligence Service Veteran; Veteran's of Foreign Wars, Post 10276; Department of Veterans Affairs, Pacific Island

Healthcare System; VA National Center for PTSD; National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific; and the Honolulu Veterans Center set up booths at Project Gratitude. The Veterans organizations were well received by many of the new Veterans and younger generations of service men and women. The organizations were able to provide the attendees with information on not only what the organization can do for them but also on what they can do for the organization.



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USO Parade Story

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"What they put together for the military that got deployed and everybody else in the service is very impressive," said Maj. Leif Fautanu, whose wife and four kids were waiting for him at the end of the parade. Maj. Fautanu, 487th Field Artillery, was one of the 2300 soldiers who returned from deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait.

"It's a definite moral booster for everybody, not only for the military, but also the civilians to get involved and see their family members marching," said Senior Airman Priscilla Bastatas, a single mom and member of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Security Forces. With only one deployment under her belt, Senior Airman Bastatas says she's ready to go again if called upon. "It's whatever the unit asks from us," said Senior Airman Bastatas.

The parade ended at Kapiolani Park where they were greeted by family, friends, entertainment and loads of food.



The Makaha Sons of Niihau take the stage at the USO Salute to the Troops. At the end of the USO parade there was food provided by various restaurants and, popular entertainers like the Makaha Sons and Grammy winner John Legend. Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Iha photo



The crowd mills around the Veterans of Foreign Wars tent at the USO Salute to the Troops. Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Iha photo



People gather to learn more about the Hawaii Army National Guard after the parade from Ft. DeRussy. Sgt 1st Class Wayne Iha photo

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary at the USO Parade

By Shelly Ichishita

Participants in the USO Parade held on May 6, 2006 were greeted at the end of the 1.2 mile route not only by family and friends, but by various organizations whose purpose is to offer support and resources to veterans. One such organization was the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Veterans must fulfill three requirements for inclusion into the VFW. The VFW website (www.vfw.org) lists the requirements for membership

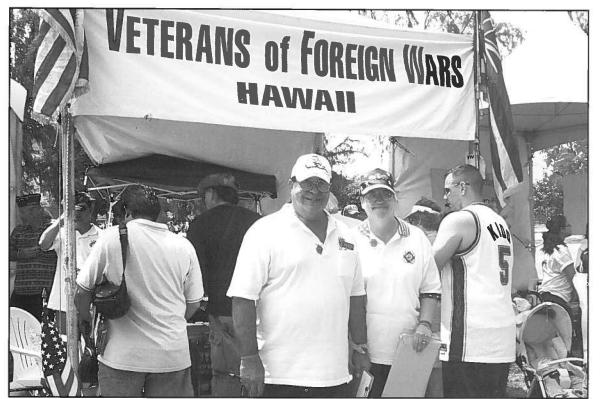
as: (1) Citzenship; (2) Honorable service in the armed forces of the United States; and, (3) Service entitling the applicant to the award of a recognized campaign medal or as set forth in the Congressional Charter and By-Laws and Manual of Procedure and Ritual.

The main goal of the men and women manning the VFW booth was to get information out to the soldiers, especially the new veterans from the Hawaii National Guard. Bobby Enos, a VFW member, explained: "Num-

ber one, we answer questions about any benefits that they may have. We're especially concerned with the National Guard cause they have a lot of questions about jobs. And they have lots of questions about their benefits now that they're back. They have lots of questions about—you name it—you know, from the job market to how to get their job back if they lost their job. Benefits is also a big thing. And if they ask to join we'll sign them up if they want. Priority is about information number one, number two is signing them up."

The VFW also has a Ladies Auxiliary made up of immediate female family members of eligible VFW members. According to Jeri Enos, "the Ladies Auxiliary is right there benefiting and helping out the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We're doing what we can to help VFW along with their families." One of the many resources they make available is the National Home for Children, which was established in 1925 to care for the families of our nation's veterans.

Before lunch Bobby and Jeri had signed up two women and several men to join the VFW and were anticipating recruiting many new faces to help in the VFW mission. The phone number for the VFW of Hawaii is (808) 946-7250.



Bobby and Jeri Enos stand in front of the Veterans of Foreign Wars booth at Kapiolani Park after the USO Parade. Shelly Ichishita photo

IN TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" WAYNE DAVES

By Jennifer Aina, OVS



William "Bill" Wayne Daves was first appointed by the Governor of Hawaii, to the Advisory Board on Veterans Services September 21, 2000 to complete the term of another member. He was subsequently reappointed on July 1, 2001 for a full term and recently reappointed to his second and final term on July 1, 2005. During his tenure he served as the Chair of the Advisory Board for two consecutive years. In July 2005 he was nominated and elected as Vice Chair.

Bill was very active and joined several different veterans organizations. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Fleet Reserve Association, Life Member of Army, Navy, Air Force Veterans of Canada and United States Division. He was also a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel.

His most outstanding accomplishment occurred while he was president of the Oahu Veterans Council. He and his comrade Fred Ballard led his group of veterans in establishing and constructing the Oahu Veterans Center which is today located in Foster Village. Years of lobbying and testifying in front of the Legislature finally paid off in the construction of a beautiful facility dedicated to all veterans. This Center was built and dedicated to all veterans on Oahu.

Bill died on May 31, 2006, at Queens Hospital. Even though he experienced many medical problems during his last year of life, he was truly a fighter and a person who believed in the words "veterans helping veterans." His compassion and involvement in veterans' issues and concerns will leave a legacy showing his love for life and what he believed in. We, at the Office of Veterans Services and those who came to know him and call him shipmate, will continue to miss this gallant sea warrior. Bill leaves behind his most cherished wife Deanne, his two daughters and three beautiful grandchildren.

We miss you Bill, you will be remembered by many as the guy who brought the mail to the Office of Veterans Services, who stopped and chatted whenever you had time to spare, and the person who helped set up the tables and coffee for our monthly Advisory Board meetings.

A hui' hoa aku Bill!



Memorial Day Ceremony

Continued from page one

flyover. "Clearly our State knows how to show appreciation for those who serve in uniform, especially to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice," said Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, Hawaii State Adjutant General.

The veterans, current servicemen and women, and civilians in attendance was a testament to the effect that these past patriots have had

on our country. The veterans especially showed their respect for the brothers and sisters in arms by marching before the columbarium with their colors.

Originally called Decorations Day, Memorial Day was established in 1868 to commemorate the soldiers that died in the American Civil War. Memorial Day now serves as a day of remembrance for all who have died in our nation's service.

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