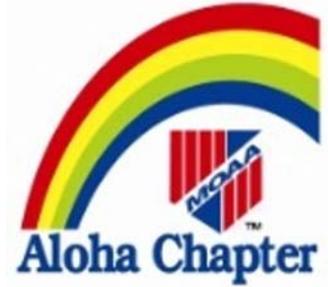


Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2004 Chapter Rating



Chartered January 27, 2000

*Newsletter of the Aloha Chapter,
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

Volume No. 6, Issue No. 10

Web Site: <http://www.aloha-moaa.org>

November 2005

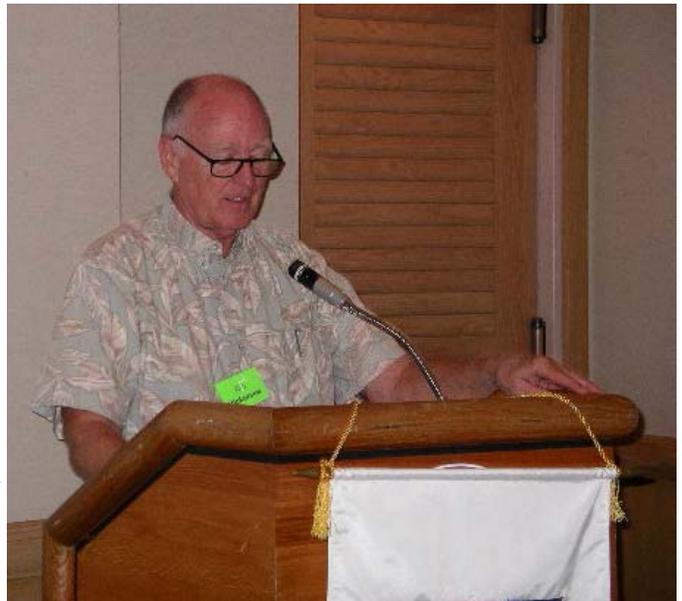
God, Country and Fellow Prisoner...

Former POW Inspirational at Chapter Luncheon

Our speaker for the luncheon held on October 19th was a prisoner of war for more than 5 years during the Vietnam War. The speaker was Jim Hickerson, retired Navy Captain. He related an event in his life which he could not express to anyone, without that person actually being there to experience the horror and fear which gripped him and all of his fellow prisoners. It was not a very comfortable situation to be in after being shot down in his attack plane over Vietnam.

Communication was difficult among fellow prisoners and tapping on the walls was the only way some could communicate with each other. Jim cited three things which particularly helped in his survival -- God, Country and Fellow Prisoners. His belief and faith in God was crucial to his survival during those horrifying years. He always believed that his Country, the USA, would never let them down, no matter what the circumstances were. His fellow prisoners supported each other by tapping code on adjoining walls of their prison which helped to bolster their belief in one another.

All in all, he feels that he was very fortunate to survive and considers himself lucky to be alive and that the support given by his Country makes him thankful everyday for his being alive and well. Everyone in the room was so intent on everything he said that you could hear a pin drop during his presentation. At the end, we all got up and gave him a standing ovation. It was quite a presentation and we are indeed fortunate in having patriots like Jim Hickerson willing to endure unimaginable hardships to defend our Country.



Aloha Chapter Scholarship Fund Needs Your Kokua!

BUILDING HAWAII – SUPPORT OUR YOUTH is the motto adopted by the Aloha Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund Trustees as they begin preparations for a new cycle of scholarship awards to be granted next year.

Who can forget the recognition dinner we held for this year's four winners in June, and the inspirational remarks given by Dr. Doris Ching of the University of Hawaii? All who attended must surely have felt proud that our Chapter has a worthy cause and a heart for our youth as exemplified by the smart and financially needy winners who were selected this year. They truly represent the best in our next generation and are deserving of our support. (continued as "Scholarship Drive" on page 2)

President's Message

By Vernon Von



What's the big celebration that we associate with the month of November? Thanksgiving celebration is the correct answer. And what's next? New Year's resolutions, of course. So plan now and resolve to get involved in our activities (such as our "Give Me 10" membership drive) and community service projects. We need volunteers to chair and serve on committees. On the back of this newsletter are the names of committee chairs and members of the Executive Committee. Contact any one of them to offer your help and encouragement.

Now that I have your attention, I did not forget that Christmas is sandwiched in between Thanksgiving and the New Year celebrations. Our Christmas party this year is special because the Scholarship Fund Committee will be planning and implementing it. They need our help to plan, set up decorations and host the party. Give Tak Yoshihara (836-3120) or Howard Okada (737-2362) a call to volunteer your support.

Did you know that:

- Active duty members, Reserve and Guard personnel, and academy cadets and midshipmen are assured a 3.1 percent pay raise in January 2006.
- The COLA for 2006 will be 4.1 percent for retired pay, SBP annuities, Social Security and veterans disability compensation effective December 1, 2005 and will be seen in the January 15, 2006 paycheck.
- The Secretary of Veteran Affairs, R. James Nicholson has selected Dr. James Hastings to serve as the next Director, VA Pacific Islands Health Care System (VAPIHCS).

Dr. Hastings will begin his tenure on October 30, 2005.

Finally, you know you're getting along in years when you have to ask yourself what body parts will work before you get out of bed every morning!

ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION!

mahalo,
vern

("Scholarship Drive" continued from page 1)

A drop in the bucket? Sure, but what better investment, and what better way to do our part in building Hawaii than by supporting our youth? We have taken one small step in creating a scholarship program in which more lives can be impacted by our efforts. But we need your KOKUA NOW!

Please consider making a personal donation now to keep this program going. Ongoing Chapter fundraising activities are unable to sustain this program without designated contributions by members, and we need your help. The Chapter has designated this year's Christmas party to be an opportunity for all of us to give generously to this cause.

Those attending the party can add a donation to the dinner charge on the reservation form (see page 6). Those not attending are urged to send a donation directly by writing a check made out to the Aloha Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund and mailed to the Chapter address noted on page 6.

How much to give? That is, of course, up to you, but one suggestion is to consider an amount equal to what you might spend on a dinner for two at your favorite restaurant.

Thanks for your generosity! From the Board of Trustees of the Aloha Chapter MOAA Scholarship Fund.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|--|
| November 17
(Thursday) | --- | Chapter Election Night – Club 14,
Coast Guard Station, Sand Island,
6:00pm |
| November 18
(Friday) | — | Aloha Chapter Golf Outing
Barber's Point Golf Course |
| December 8
(Thursday) | — | Christmas Caroling, VA Center
for the Aging, Tripler |
| December 16
(Friday) | — | Aloha Chapter Golf Outing
Leilehua Golf Course |
| December 17
(Saturday) | --- | Chapter Christmas Party at Hale Koa
Hotel, 6:00pm, sponsored by
Aloha Chapter Scholarship
Committee |

Notice

This Newsletter is published monthly as an official publication of Aloha Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 19267, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817-8267. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.

Chapter Elections Nov 17th

The next chapter meeting on **November 17, Thursday, at the Coast Guard Station on Sand Island**, is an important one as you will vote for some of next year's Board members. Their terms are staggered so that not all Board members come up for election every year. This year, we apologize for the late submission of the slate of Board members to be elected, but due to unforeseen circumstances, we were unable to get nominations earlier.

The following Board Members have been nominated:

Jerry Lesperance, CAPT, USCG, Ret.

Jack Bohman, LTC, USA, Ret.

Please note that they have agreed to serve. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the November meeting.

Please make your reservation, in spite of this late notice, as your vote is important. In addition, enjoy the Ohana spirit with other chapter members. We also will have some door prizes to give away. Look forward to seeing you there. (Reservation form found on page 7)

"Give Me 10 Campaign" In Full Swing

The Aloha Chapter's efforts to support the national MOAA recruiting drive, the "Give Me 10 Campaign" is going well. To date, 10 Aloha Chapter members renewed their memberships with National MOAA. This qualifies us to receive a recruitment incentive bonus from MOAA!

To those of you who received an application and have not yet made the commitment to renew your membership are asked to please consider doing so during the recruitment drive. Doing so will allow you to receive two years membership for the price of one! If anyone needs an application form or know of someone who might be interested in joining the National chapter of MOAA, please contact me. You'll also find an application form on page 7 of this newsletter.

Remember, our local chapter bylaws do not require membership in the National Chapter, but is strongly suggested that you maintain membership in both. Also be careful which application form you submit. We have published applications for both membership in the Aloha Chapter and National MOAA.

Gordon Cho, Membership Chair

Phone: 484-2400

<mailto:gcho440443@aol.com>

LTG Ono Assumes Chair of Scholarship Committee



At its meeting on October 12, 2005, Lt. Gen. Allen Ono joined the Board of the Trustees of the Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Scholarship Fund, and was elected Chairman, succeeding Tak Yoshihara, who assumed the duties of Vice-Chair. Other trustees include Ben Acohido (Treasurer), Lou Crompton (Secretary), Lois McCartney, and Howard Okada.

KMC SALUTES YOU!

As we celebrate our 89th Birthday, Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) extends its warmest "Aloha and Mahalo" for your ongoing support.

On your next visit, please join us for the following:



MOUNTAIN COTTAGES & RESORT
KILAUEA VOLCANO
KMC - A JOINT SERVICES RECREATION CENTER

KMC 89th Birthday Spectacular & Military Appreciation Day

Saturday, November 19 ~ 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ~ KMC Front Lawn

Join us as KMC honors all the great men and women of America's Armed Forces with a grand celebration!

Exhibits ★ Door Prizes ★ Games ★ Entertainment ★ ITR Fair

FREE Performance of "Peter and the Wolf" ★ And More

All Active and Retired Military will receive \$10 in KMC dollars to spend throughout the camp that day.

KMC 89th Birthday Open House

November 17 ~ 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. ~ Koa Room

View timeless KMC relics and photographs dating from as early as 1916. There will be cake and punch for everyone!



\$89* FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER ONLY
TOUR PACKAGE

FOUR great island tours for TWO...
ALL for just \$89!

Fall Special

\$10* Three Meals A Day

For \$10 more per person a day at KMC, you can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner!

*For specific details, availability and restrictions, please call KMC Marketing at (808) 967-8370.

Kilauea Military Camp is open to all Active and Retired Armed Forces, Reserve/National Guard, Dependents, Other Uniformed Services, Current and Retired Department of Defense Civilians, and Sponsored Guests. For more information, please call KMC Marketing at (808) 967-8370. Park entrance fees apply.

A Little Rain, A Lot of Sun and Fun For Aloha Chapter Golfers

Since I don't know the rest of the song that begins with "Give me some men, some stout hearted men ..." I am not sure what these men were supposed to do. However, I do know what the stout-hearted men of the Aloha Chapter want and will do. On September 23rd, these stout hearted men came to Kaneohe and ignoring the soggy fairways, harassing rain and threatening skies and the decision that we'll take a rain check for the day. These stout-hearted men led by Allen Ono, Bob Kozuki, Ken Munechika and Vernon Von went out and played 18 holes of golf. Somewhat less stout-hearted Cedric Chong played only nine holes. The rest of us timid-hearted players decided on the inclement weather schedule and went to the Marine Post Exchange.

After some persistent rain here in the Mililani area, I was a little concerned about our outing for October since we did take a "rain check" at Kaneohe in September. However, with all of my skepticism it turned out to be a beautiful day and as Arlene Bohman puts it "how in the world did you pick such a beautiful day for golfing". I told her it was just the right timing.

The primary "talk stories" that went on today, the absence of Allen Ono and we all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

As for our golf event, we had fifteen players, with two guests, Donald Conknight, Gordon Cho's guest and the other is not a real guest, although this was his first outing with the Aloha Chapter Golf group. Muggs Kittaoka is a member of the Aloha Chapter, he just happens to reside on the Big Island. As for the participants in October, I'll cover the "also-rans" first: Bob Kozuki, Jack and Arlene Bohman, Vernon Von, Joe Kuroda, Yoshi Nakamura, Alice Fujiwara and yours truly. The recipients of the mega jack pot included: in third place, Gordon Cho and Hal Okita with a net score of 152; in second place was Ken Yamada with a net score of 146
(Golf, continued on next page)

Our Annual Autumn Harvest Celebration on Thanksgiving Day

The Hale Koa Hotel offers a variety of ways to give thanks and celebrate with us on Thanksgiving Day. From the elegance of the Hale Koa Room, to our spectacular Thanksgiving Day Buffet in the Banyan Tree Showroom, and special menu selections at Bibas and Koko Cafe, we're sure you'll find the perfect way to celebrate the Fall Season and get into the spirit of the upcoming holidays with us.

Reservations for the Hale Koa Room
and the Banyan Tree Showroom begin October 24

Please call the Activities Desk for Reservations or more information
at (808)955-0555 ext. 546



FORT DERUSSY ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER
2055 KALIA RD, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815
(808)955-0555 www.halekoa.com

The Hale Koa Hotel welcomes all active duty and retired military, Reserve/National Guard members and dependents, current and retired DoD civilians and sponsored guests.

("Golf" continued from previous page)

since he was his own partner; and the first place winners were Cedric Chong and Ira Tagawa, with a 144. Ira shot a 69—nice shooting, Ira.

Next month's golf outing for Aloha chapter will be on November 18th (Friday) at Barbers Point Golf Course. Please make note of the following: the staff there have moved into their new club house, however, their telephone line has not been hooked up and they are not sure when it will be hooked up, therefore they are unable to accept credit cards for payment of green fees and golf carts. So remember to bring enough cash to cover these costs. Secondly, the bathroom near the 7th Puka is being renovated so they have a "port a john" and a "port a jill" there. I'll be sending an e-mail for sign up soon.

Until then, a hui hou kako, Norm

Newest Life Member: LTC(R) Sam Heard!

Yet another Aloha Chapter member has taken the long term view. Welcome, LTC(R) Sam Heard, who has converted to Life Member.

What are you waiting for? Fill in the form on page 7 for MOAA National, and then be sure to let Gordon Cho know you want to become a Chapter Life Member, too!

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program to Move from Hilo to Honolulu

The VA Pacific Island Health Care System will soon relocate their residential Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program from Hilo to Oahu. In a letter to our Chapter, the Acting Director, Brian J. O'Neill, M.D. stated that, "...this move will increase the mental health care for veterans throughout the Pacific Islands and will certainly enable us to better treat our newest veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Moving the PTSD from Hilo will in no way diminish mental health care programs for Hawaii veterans; nothing is lost."

The relocation of the program should take place in December 2005 and should be open for business in early 2006. Additionally, Dr. O'Neill states that you may contact Fred Ballard, at 808 433-0049 or email him at fred.ballard@med.va.gov, if you have concerns or questions.



It takes
a friend
to lead
the way.

Your leadership and
commitment to help
secure the world will make
a difference in the lives of
other people. No matter
who those people are, that
difference is their freedom.

 Pentagon Federal
Credit Union
Superior Rates. Proven Service.™

www.PenFed.org
1-800-247-5626

Help Wanted: YOU! As the Next Editor of this Award-Winning Newsletter!

Have you wanted to make a big contribution to the Aloha Chapter, but don't have the ability or time to participate in the group activities? Now's your chance! The Aloha Chapter newsletter, Na Leo O Na Koa, is searching for a new editor to relieve Dell Epperson starting with the January 2006 edition.

The main skill required is the ability to work with Microsoft Publisher or a similar newsletter software program. Chapter Officers and members send you articles and photos via email, and then you use your talents to pull it all together into an eye-catching format, send it electronically to the printer, then drop it in the mail. Label making software is provided, as is the membership data base.

The Editor also updates the chapter website monthly. Never been a webmaster? Don't worry—it takes only a few minutes and very basic computer skills to learn. You'll be a pro in no time.

For more information, contact Dell at dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com, or Vern Von at 732-3908.



RESERVATION FORM



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 17, 2005, 6:00pm
Hale Koa Hotel, Laulima Rooms

Member: _____ Spouse: _____ Tel No _____

Guest: _____

Need Transportation: _____ (Please check, if needed)

Christmas Party - \$25.25 per person _____ x \$25.25 = \$ _____

Donation to Scholarship Fund - Tax Deductible \$ _____

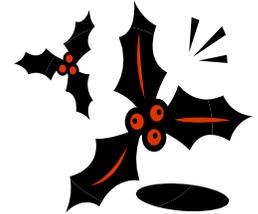
Total Remittance \$ _____

Please make **one check** payable to: **Aloha Chapter, Scholarship Fund, MOAA** and mail to **Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1927, Aiea, Hawaii 96701**

Note: You may also make reservations via e-mail - harold@hele.net or by phone - 373-4400

This Christmas Party is sponsored by the our chapter's Scholarship Committee

Building Hawaii - Support Our Youth



Leaving the Military?

Continue to Make a Difference

Become a Teacher

- Go to "doe-jobs.k12.hi.us"
- Click on: Troops to Teachers icon
- You may be qualified to receive a
 *\$5,000 Stipend or *\$10,000 Bonus
* Pending availability of funds

Contact: Hawaii Troops to Teachers at 587-5580 ext 409
 Neighbor Islands: call 1-800-420-3688 email: hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
 Or go to: www.proudtoserveagain.com



Troops to Teachers



Party Bridge Draws 12 to the Colonnade

Twelve bridge players gathered at The Colonnade on the Green 's recreation room on the afternoon of October 16th for the month's bridge session hosted by Sam Heard. The top 4 high scorers were: Dick Towne, Trudy Ernst, Mel Kuwamoto and Les Ihara. Others participating were, Anna Blackwell, Bill Ernst, Helen Hubble, Shirley Ihara, Edy Kuwamoto, Charleen Towne, and guest Gertrude Sakamoto. Host Sam Heard was recruited by Shirley Ihara as a chapter member last year through the chapter's Party Bridge Program, and since he enjoys playing in it so much, he recently became a Life Member of Aloha Chapter.

Next month's bridge session will be held on Sunday, November 20th beginning at 1 pm at The Colonnade's recreation room.

Program Coordinator Shirley Ihara announced that her Party Bridge Committee has prepared a draft of the Program's Rules and Regulations which will be distributed to all chapter members who have (See "Bridge" on page 7)

RESERVATION FORM**ELECTION NIGHT DINNER****Thursday, November 17, 2005, 6:00pm****Coast Guard Station, Sand Island**

Member: _____ Spouse _____ Tel No. _____

Guest: _____

Need Transportation _____ (Please check, if needed)

Enclosed is a check -- \$12.50 per person ____ x \$12.50 = \$ _____

Please send in your check and reservation by **November 11, 2005 to:****Aloha Chapter, P. O. Box 19267, Honolulu, HI 96817****Note: You may also make your reservation via:****e-mail – harold@hele.net or by phone – 373-4400****(please pay at the door)****("Bridge", continued from page 6)**

played in the first year's program for comments and suggestions. She hopes to have the approval of the majority at the November session since the "Party Bridge Year" will begin in December and end the following November.

She added that chapter members and/or spouses who have not yet participated in this program should contact her so that they can be added to the players roster. She can be contacted by calling 239-7947, or by e-mail to: smi@hawaii.rr.com.

Medicare, TRICARE Payment Cuts Update

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley's (R-IA) proposed budget package includes reversal of significant cuts in 2006 Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors. Under current law, those payments will be reduced 4.3%, starting in January. Grassley's plan would substitute a 1% payment increase. Please visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/> to send your legislators a MOAA message.

Membership Application

Name _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank _____

Retired Active Former

Reserve National Guard Auxiliary*

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Chapter Name Aloha Chapter, HI

Chapter Recruiter _____

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to MILITARY OFFICER magazine.

Two Years for \$24**SPECIAL HALF-PRICE OFFER:****Method of Payment**

Check (please make payable to MOAA)

VISA Discover MasterCard AMEX

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Note: Send completed forms with payment to:**COL(Ret) Gordon W. Cho****"Give Me 10 Campaign"****98-856 Laelua Place****Aiea, HI 96701**

(I will consolidate our applications and keep track of how many we have signed up. Any winnings will be donated to the Chapter Treasury.)

Aloha Chapter
 Military Officers Association
 Of America
 P.O. Box 19267
 Honolulu HI 96817-8267



MOAA Seal

Aloha Chapter



Awards

- ◆ 2000 Outstanding Chapter Runner-Up
- ◆ 2000 3-Membership Recruiting Awards
- ◆ 2001 Outstanding Chapter
- ◆ 2001 Membership Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2002 5-Star Chapter
- ◆ 2002 Excellence in Recruiting Award
- ◆ 2003 Honorable Mention Newsletter
- ◆ 2003 4-Star Chapter
- ◆ **2004 Winner Best Website**
- ◆ **2004 2nd Runner-Up Electronic Newsletter**
- ◆ **2004 4-Star Chapter**

Nonprofit Org
 US Postage Paid
 Honolulu HI

Permit No. 930

2005 Aloha Chapter Leadership

Board of Directors

Edward Hirata, USA, Chair	247-3138	edhirata@hawaii.rr.com
Jerry Lesperance, USCG, Vice	488-5205	jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com
Clarence Agena, USA	677-4103	cmagenal@verizon.net
Anna Blackwell, AUX	739-9164	annagram2@aol.com
Jack Bohman, USA	235-8078	jbohman59@hawaii.rr.com
Dell Epperson, USN	484-2057	dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com
Joseph Magaldi, Jr., USMC	222-2013	magaldij001@hawaii.rr.com
Charles Ota, USAF	486-9640	Charles@cochawaii.org

Officers/Executive Committee

President-Vernon Von, USAF	732-3908	vvon777@earthlink.net
Vice Pres.-Harold Kuwahara	373-4400	harold@hele.net
Secretary-Gordon Cho	484-2400	gcho440443@aol.com
Treasurer-Art Yamamoto	833-3111	aty@verizon.net

Committee Chairs

Community Services: Mark Webster, 734-5994, markster@hawaii.rr.com

Fundraising: Herbert Nakagawa Jr., 271-1172, shibikoherb@hotmail.com

Govt/Legislative Affairs: Kelley Roberson, 732-2988, kellyroberson@hawaii.rr.com

Historical Activities: Nari Hamlin, 486-7150, narivee@aol.com

Membership: Gordon Cho, 484-2400, gcho440443@aol.com

Personal Affairs: Bob Kozuki, 693-8965, kozukir001@hawaii.rr.com

Program: Harold Kuwahara, 373-4400, Harold@hele.net

Publications/Pub. Rel.: Dell Epperson, 484-2057, dellnjan@hawaii.rr.com

ROTC/Veteran Affairs: Wes Fong, 595-6127, wesleyf.fong@verizon.net