

# Nā Leo O Nā Koa

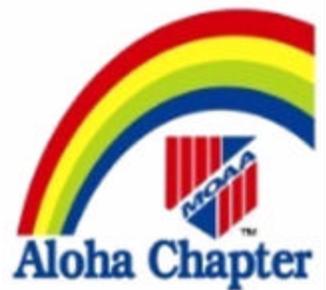
(Voices of Warriors)



2004 Chapter Rating

Chapter,

Newsletter of  
the Aloha



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March 2006

## The Aloha Chapter Ladies Only Valentine's Day Tea

On Monday, February 13, 2006, sixteen women attended a Valentine's Day Tea held at the Waoli Tea Room in Manoa Valley. **Nari Hamlin** did an outstanding job in planning this lovely event and it was a wonderful time of good food, fun, and fellowship.



Font row L-R *May Von (guest), Taffy Wells, Mazie Kozuki, Alice Fujimura, Nari Hamlin, Helene Webster*

Second row L-R *Marion Von, Joan Lee, Shirley Todd, Jean Yamamoto, Martha Brenenstahl, Mary Cho, Anna Blackwell, Evelyn Ono, Rowena Okita, Esther Takenaka*



Grand Prize Winner – *Taffy Wells with Nari Hamlin*

Our next *ladies only* event is scheduled for the second Monday in May. As the time draws near, details will be announced in our newsletters and at our Aloha Chapter meetings.

If you haven't attended one of our *ladies only* events and would like to join us, please call **Shirley Ihara** – 239-7947 or **Mary Cho** –484-2400. We look forward to seeing more ladies at these quarterly get togethers. This is a great way to get to know one another better. Marion



### Winners of "Find Your Lover" game

*Shirley Todd (wife of new member Ronald Todd) and May Von (guest) with organizer Nari Hamlin*



*Joan Lee with newcomer Shirley Todd (seated), May Von (guest), Helene Webster and Marion Von (standing)*

## President's Message

By Vernon Von

Here it is March and it seems as if I had just finished my notes for the last newsletter. Nevertheless, I am grateful for this opportunity to once again thank all of you for your participation and support in our programs and activities. Of particular note is that two of our members (at different times) went on vacation and used the services of the MOAA Vacations travel agency. This resulted in the travel agency's rebate of \$100 for each traveler to our Scholarship Fund. If you are planning a vacation, you may want to check with MOAA Vacations for your particular needs. Their address is 6600 College Blvd., Suite 130, Overland Park, KS 66211. Their e-mail address is [www.MOAAvacations.com](http://www.MOAAvacations.com).

Another occasion for celebration is that, in our Give-Me-10 membership drive, our chapter placed FIRST in the "membership size" category. Many thanks to Gordon Cho, our membership committee chair, who provided leadership for this campaign. He will have more to say on this at a later date.

Our chapter needs your talent and energy and we urge you to help by serving on committees and volunteering to chair our Membership or Historical Activities Committee.

In the last newsletter, we asked you to inform us of the number of hours you volunteered at DoD facilities. We still need this information so call or e-mail this information to me as soon as you can. We also need your help if you are younger than 65 and are willing to talk to the news media regarding the DoD's proposal to raise TRICARE fees for military retirees under age 65. Please call me at 732-3908 if you are willing to volunteer for this request.

The use of cell phones is becoming more popular and may cause problems if you drive while using your cell phone. All three services, Army, Air Force and Navy, have issued regulations restricting (or prohibiting) the holding and using of a cell phone while driving. The best advice is to park the car if you must use the cell phone while in the car.

Have a happy March: the 1<sup>st</sup> is Ash Wednesday, the 3<sup>rd</sup> is Girls Day, the 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day, the 21<sup>st</sup> is the First Day of Spring, and the 27<sup>th</sup> is Prince Kuhio Day.  
Vern



## Recognition and Dedication Ceremony of the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials Sign

By Nari Hamlin



On January 27, 2006, approximately 150 persons from various veterans' organizations which help maintain the memorials throughout the year were invited to Washington Place to participate in the ceremony.

Playing key roles in the ceremony were Aloha Chapter members **Nari Hamlin** and **Hal & Esther Takenaka**; Major General Robert Lee, State Adjutant General; and Edward Cruickshank, Director, Office of Veterans Services. Governor Linda Lingle thanked the veterans for their military service and helping to maintain the war memorials and surrounding grounds in excellent condition.

*Nari Hamlin, Governor Linda Lingle, and Hal and Esther Takenaka*



### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 19, 2006** — Bridge Group meets at the Fahrni Realty Building in Aiea (Sunday)
- March 20, 2006** — Golf Outing, Mamamla Bat Golf Club, Hickam AFB (Monday)
- March 23, 2006** — Makua Valley Tour; 9:30 to 11:30 (Thursday) Parking Lot at Entrance to Makua
- April 30, 2006** — Annual BBQ Chicken Sale

### 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.*

# Month of The Military Child

April 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Join us every Tuesday evening in April as we celebrate the

## Month of the Military Child

at our Special Magic in Paradise Dinner Shows  
in the Banyan Tree Showroom at 6pm.

Hawaii's most outrageous Magician, Mark Allen Mauricio,  
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## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED

**By Allen Ono, Scholarship Fund Board Chairman**

Good news! Aloha Chapter Scholarship applications have started to be distributed to applicants and school administrators. We expect to complete our scholarship selections in the next months and introduce the awardees to you at a chapter luncheon in June.

Aloha Chapter scholarships are targeted to build a better Hawaii by supporting students studying to become teachers, nurses or U.S. armed forces officers at Hawaii schools of higher education.

Details on scholarship eligibility and copies of applications are available by contacting **Howard Okada**, our dedicated Scholarship Fund Vice Chairman, at 523-9026 (work phone), or [hokada@lava.net](mailto:hokada@lava.net) (e-mail) or PO Box 1927, Aiea HI 96701 (mail).

Every organization depends on a Howard to be successful. He is the energetic, creative



and responsible officer that holds the Scholarship Fund together and guides it to higher levels.

We are proud of Howard, a retired Army chief warrant officer with 30 years of military service. He served on the personal staff of numerous generals. He was posted in Hawaii, Korea, Japan, Germany, Thailand, Vietnam, the Pentagon and several mainland locations.

His awards include three Legion of Merit medals and the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Joint Service Commendation and Army Commendation medals. He worked as an Army civilian after retirement and earned the Meritorious Civilian Service, Superior Civilian Service and Civilian Achievement Medals.

He is currently the administrative assistant to Retired Army Chief of Staff, General Fred Weyand. He is also active with the Hawaii Army Museum, Fort DeRussy, and frequently participates in our chapter golf outings. Allen

### Contributions continue to be accepted

Please make your checks payable to Aloha Chapter (MOAA) Scholarship Fund and mail them to Aloha Chapter (MOAA) Scholarship Fund, PO Box 1927, Aiea HI 96701.

## Aloha Chapter Bridge Program By Les Ihara

There were 4 tables of bridge played on Sunday afternoon, February 19th, at the home of **Anna Blackwell** high on the slopes of Waiālae Iki overlooking Diamond Head and the Kahala area. Enjoying the view and having fun playing party bridge were 16 players, including a visiting guest. They were: Hostess **Anna Blackwell**, **Len & Helen Fahrni**, **Sam Heard**, **Helen Hubbell**, **Les & Shirley Ihara**, **Gary & Bev Jensen**, **Mel & Edy Kuwamoto**, **Ken & Lillian Patterson**, **Vernon & Marion Von**, and guest **Dottie Long**.

The top scorer for February was Program Coordinator **Shirley Ihara**, followed in order by guest **Dottie Long**, **Gary Jensen**, **Sam Heard**, and **Bev Jensen**.

The March bridge session will be held at the Fahrni Realty building in Aiea on Sunday, March 19th, hosted by **Ken & Lillian Patterson**. Those desiring to play



### High Scorers for February's Bridge Session

*Left to right, Bev Jensen, 5th place, Gary Jensen, 3rd place, Sam Heard, 4th place, Shirley Ihara, top scorer, and guest Dottie Long, 2nd place.*

on that date need to commit to **Ken** or **Lillian** by telephone at 531-8813 or via e-mail to: [kilu25@msn.com](mailto:kilu25@msn.com) not later than Sunday, March 12th. Les

**Add this Website to your "Favorites"**

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



### One of the 4 bridge tables in February

*Left to Right: Ken Patterson, Gary Jensen, Hostess Anna Blackwell, and Helen Hubbell.*

## Anna Blackwell Being Honored

**Anna Derby Blackwell**, Auxiliary member, ardent bridge player (in above group photo), and a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors, is being honored by the **Hawaii Vocal Arts Ensemble** with a dinner and silent auction fundraiser, **Crescendo! 2006**, on Saturday evening, March 4th at the Pacific Club in Honolulu. **Anna** is being recognized by the **Hawaii Vocal Arts Ensemble**, local organization of musicians and vocal groups, for her outstanding support to the community's arts and culture, enriching the lives of those who call Hawaii their home, especially the lovers of sacred and Hawaiian music.

The dinner and silent auction is being held at the Pacific Club on Saturday March 4th with buffet dinner and entertainment planned from 6 to 9 pm. Cost of individual tickets is \$75 per person. Those interested in attending and supporting **Anna** are asked to contact Les Ihara at 239-7947 or e-mail to [lsi@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lsi@hawaii.rr.com) NLT March 1st.

## 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](mailto:hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us)

Or go to: [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)



## Troops to Teachers



## Personal Affairs

### By Robert Kozuki

There are many informative books and pamphlets available for free for the MOAA member

Reap the benefits of membership when you use the MOAA information exchange—your most reliable resource on maximizing your hard earned military benefits. Call 1 800 234 6622 for available resources including:

1. Financial Planning Guide
2. Your Personal Financial Expert
3. Seven Steps to a better Military Retirement
4. Survivor Benefit Plan: Security for your Survivors
5. SBP Made easy: Active Duty Guide to the Survivor Benefit Plan
6. Security on Call: Survivor Benefits for Guard & Reserve
7. Military Entitlements: Benefits for Guard & Reserves
8. Help Your Survivors now: A Guide to Planning Ahead
9. Survivor's Checklist:—First Step for Turning the Corner: Moving On
10. Surviving the Loss of a Loved One
11. Tricare Pharmacy Brochure.

## Base Cell-Phone Policies

### By Jerry Lesperance

#### Be Advised

Effective March 1, 2006, vehicle operators on all PACAF installations will not use cell phones unless the vehicle is safely parked or they are using a hands-free device. Violation of this policy will result in the loss of on-base driving privileges for 30 days.

This policy applies to all uniformed military personnel, DoD civilians, contractors, family members, and any other non-DoD drivers operating a motor vehicle on all PACAF installations.

This Air Force directive is not as tough as the local Army policy which bans all cell phone use, including hands-free devices while driving. According to the February 15<sup>th</sup> Honolulu Star Bulletin, the Navy and Marines are still thinking about it.

Jerry



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# Spring Fling Savings

**Get 4 Nights for the Price of 3!**  
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## MOAA Briefs Hill Staffers

CDR John Class, USN-Ret., MOAA Deputy Director of Government Relations, conducted a special Capitol Hill briefing for U.S. representatives' staffers on February 24 to provide MOAA's perspective on DoD's proposal to increase military retiree health care fees.

The briefing outlined the specifics of the Pentagon plan to increase retiree health fees by 50% to 270%, depending on grade, and explained why MOAA believes this is the wrong approach. The briefing also addressed improvements that need to be made in TRICARE and a list of alternative options the Defense Department could pursue to reduce military health program costs without penalizing beneficiaries.

Staffers from 50 congressional offices attended. MOAA president Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., and the entire government relations staff were also on hand to answer questions.

"This is the major item on MOAA's legislative agenda this year," said Ryan. "With recruiting in trouble and retention at risk, the last thing we should be doing is cutting military retirement benefits by as much as \$1,000 a year. Why give already over-stressed mid-career service members and families another reason to reconsider their military career decisions?"

## February's Golf Report

### By Norm Fujiwara



Our February Aloha Chapter Golf Outing was held as scheduled at the Leilehua Golf Club on Monday, February 27.

After our disastrous golf program in January, I really had to hold my breath wondering what the weather will be like for this month's golf outing. We were scheduled to play at the Leilehua Golf Course, and the weather here in nearby Mililani-Mauka is generally similar to that at the Leilehua Golf Course. Lately, it has been raining quite a bit here in Mililani-Mauka. So, between crossing my fingers and holding my breath, there was some concern in the last couple of days that February's outing would be a wash-out, too.



Fortunately, it was a beautiful day at the Leilehua Golf Course, even if it was overcast skies most of the day, no sign at all of any moisture dropping from above. The weather was not the only problem for me; the drop-out rate of players had me concerned also. I was feeling great on Friday when I had seventeen players signed up, but shortly thereafter **Cedric** and **Barbara Chong**, then **Arlene Bohman** had to cancel out. Shortly thereafter an e-mail from **Gordon Cho** indicating he hurt his back working on his lawn. So I lost 50% of our wahine golfers in a matter of a couple of days.

So my plan for a format for four-player teams just bit the dust, and it was back to the standby 2 player blind partners for the group's mega-jackpot.

By Monday morning we had fourteen players scheduled to play; however, one player, who will remain anonymous, didn't show up, so there were thirteen players at Leilehua Golf Course for our 2006 season opener. We had the good fortune to have **Stan** and **Phyllis Yasumoto**, who happened to be here in the islands, join us today. The winners of the mega jackpot in third place was the team of **Joe Kuroda** and **Yoshi Nakamura** and in second place, with a score of 10 strokes better, was the team of **Stan Yasumoto** and **Jack Bohman**. The Grand Champions, with a 9-stroke advantage over the second place team, were **Bob Kozuki** and **Vernon Von**. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The rest of us—who played like the US Hockey team at the Olympic games—included **Allen Ono**, **John Seeley**, **Phyllis Yasumoto**, **Alice Fujiwara**, **Don Dismuke** and yours truly, the also ran group.

I would like to give a great Mahalo for all the participants who came out to play; even if you left with a lighter wallet, I hope you all had a great time. Norm



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### Recruit A New Member in 2006!

Your Aloha Chapter is always looking for new members—active duty, retirees, and auxiliary members, all are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of the Aloha Chapter. Make it your goal to recruit one new member in 2006. For more info, contact Gordon Cho, Vernon Von or any chapter officer.

## Makua Valley Tour Thursday, March 23, 2006

Arrangements have been made so that Aloha Chapter members and their spouses and guests can tour the Army's Makua Valley Range in Waianae on **Thursday, March 23, 2006**. Details are as follows:

All attendees are to meet at the entry parking lot of Makua Valley on Farrington Highway. You must go past Makaha and head toward Kaena Point;

Time: 9:30AM;

Tour will take approximately two (2) hours.

Wear comfortable clothing with appropriate shoes. Range and Cultural Resource people will be there. There is no charge for the tour. We can have lunch at the Waianae Army Recreation Club after the tour.

We would like to thank the Garrison Hawaii office for coordinating this tour. In particular, we like to thank Col Howard Killian, who talked to us at our February luncheon meeting and his secretary, Debbie Chambrella, who coordinated this activity for us. Mr. Tom Piskel will be our host at the site. Please make your reservation by **Friday, March 17, 2006** to take part in this rare opportunity. Harold



### RESERVATION FORM MAKUA VALLEY TOUR THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006

Report at Entrance to Makua Valley, Waianae  
9:30 AM

Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: None

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Need Transportation \_\_\_ (Please check, if needed)

Please send in your reservation by Friday,  
March 17, 2006 to:

Aloha Chapter, MOAA  
P. O. Box 19267  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Note: You may also make your reservation  
via: e-mail – [harold@hele.net](mailto:harold@hele.net)  
or by phone – 944-4010

#### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Active Former

Reserve National Guard Auxiliary\*

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dress \_\_\_\_\_

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.

#### Add this Website to your "Favorites"

<http://www.moaa.org>

(MOAA is in the process of upgrading its membership database to include new login procedures. Starting March 7, you will need an e-mail address to log into MOAA's Web Base.)

Aloha Chapter  
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 Of America  
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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**

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## 2006 Aloha Chapter Leadership

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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

### 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:** Sam Heard, 488-8897

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

**Govt/Legislative Affairs:** Kelley Roberson, 732-2988, kelleYROBerson@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/Webmaster:** Mark Webster, 734-5994, Markster@hawaii.rr.com

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