

Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2006 Chapter Rating

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



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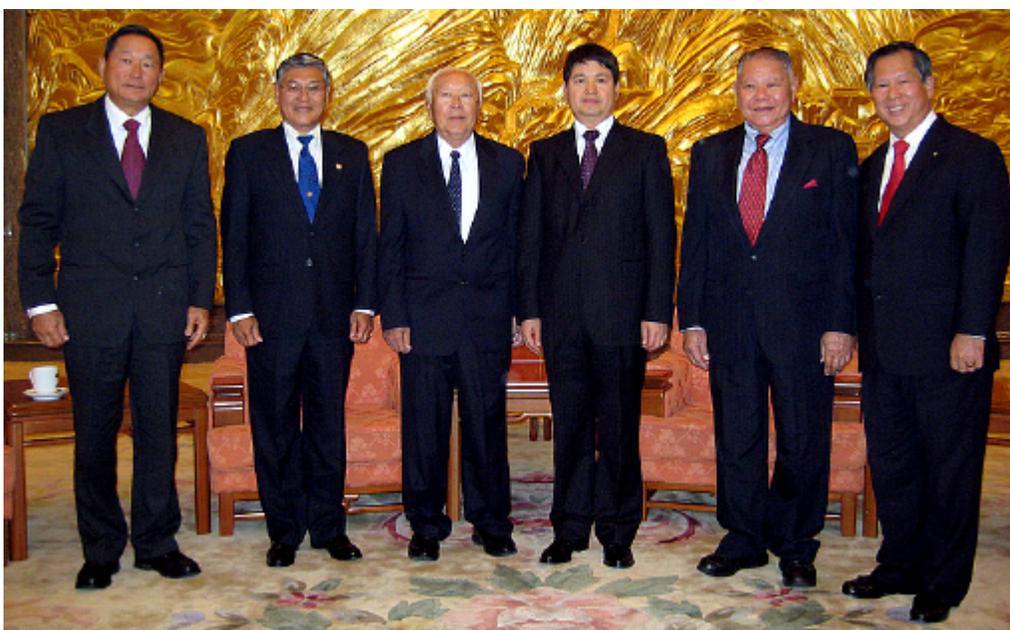
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!



Hawaii Veterans Invited To Visit China

In November, 2007, a small, select delegation of retired Hawaii veterans, who are also members of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and spouses were invited as guests by the China Association of Friendly International Contact (CAIFC) on a VIP tour to visit China and promote a closer friendship between the United States and China. The delegation was the first military group hosted by the CAIFC to visit China. The invitation was extended through the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, who helped to organize the tour in coordination with the CAIFC.

See China Trip Page 2



BG Haruo Shigezawa; MG Calvin Lau; LTG Allen Ono; Xin Yunming, 1VP, CAIFC; COL Richard Wong; and COL Wesley Fong at the Great Hall of the People, Tiananmen Square, Beijing

Christmas Caroling At VA Center For Aging

Twenty Chapter members and spouses made the effort to bring Christmas spirit and cheers to the many veterans residing in the Veterans Administration's Center For Aging (CFA) located on the grounds of the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) on Thursday, December 13, 2007. After gathering in the lobby of the CFA, and led by **Rose Baysa**, the group

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China Trip (continued from front page)

The CAIFC is a people-to-people organization devoted to the work of external friendly exchanges. Its purpose is to promote international non-governmental exchanges and cooperation for world peace and development. It has developed friendly relations with over 60 countries and regions in the world. Its Council is composed of retired and incumbent senior government officials, diplomats, entrepreneurs, educators, artists and scholars. It maintains a close relationship with governmental agencies and non-governmental institutions in China.

This **Hawaii Veterans Goodwill Delegation** was led by COL (retired) **Wesley Fong** (Aloha Chapter), who is a past president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, and included LTG (retired) **Allen Ono** (Aloha Chapter), MG (retired) **Calvin Lau** (Aloha Chapter), BG (retired) **Haruo Shigezawa** (Aloha Chapter), and Colonel (retired) **Richard Wong** (Hawaii Chapter).

The delegation visited Beijing, Luoyang and Shanghai. In Beijing, besides climbing the Great Wall and visiting the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, and the Summer Palace, the delegation was the first U.S. military and the first



COL Richard Wong, BG Haruo Shigezawa, LTG Allen Ono, LTG Liu Zhengqi, PLA, MG Calvin Lau, and COL Wesley Fong at the Office Tower of the People's Liberation Army, BaYi Building, Beijing

foreigners to visit the Beijing Military Museum. They also paid a courtesy call on LTG **Liu Zhenqi** of the People's Liberation Army at the PLA Tower, BaYi Building (comparable to the U.S. Pentagon). Another highlight was being hosted at a banquet at

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Christmas Caroling (continued)

strolled through the corridors singing several Christmas songs, stopping by assembled groups and opened doors of rooms of bedridden veterans.

This annual Community Services Committee project, coordinated by its Chairman, **Sam Heard**, was well received by the veterans and staff at



Deck the Halls! The **Rose Baysa** leading the procession of carolers down the corridors of the VA Center For Aging.

Evelyn Ono, spent several hours in November making miniature Christmas wreaths to pass on to them as visible evidence and remembrances of the chapter's outreach-ing visit and of the Christmas season.

See Christmas Caroling Page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| January 25, 2008 (Friday) | Golf Outing, Barbers Point GC |
| January 27, 2008 (Sunday) | 1:00 PM, Party Bridge, Fahrni Realty. Hosts: Bill and Trudi Ernst |

Notice

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



*Experience Our Paradise
at the Hale Koa Hotel*

*The Hale Koa Hotel would like to extend
our wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.*

*May the Spirit of Aloha
Bring Joy & Happiness to you
this Holiday Season.*

Happy Holidays from the Hale Koa 'Ohana

HALE KOA HOTEL

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

Christmas Carolers (continued from Page 2)

Chapter members and spouses who volunteered their time and participated in this event were **Bert & Rose Baysa, Norman & Alice Fujiwara, Les & Shirley Ihara, Bob & Mazie Kozuki, Ken & Grace Munechika, Allen & Evelyn Ono, Hal & Esther Takenaka, Fred & Betty Usui, Vernon & Marion Von, Sam Heard, and Mark Webster.**



*Aloha Chapter Christmas Carolers, December 13, 2007, at the
Veteran Administration's Center For Aging*

Merrie Ladies to Visit Keoki's Lau Lau factory

To begin 2008, the Merrie Ladies and friends will visit Keoki's Lau Lau factory in Kalihi on Monday, February 11th. There is no charge for the tour. We will not only see how lau lau are made, but learn about other products the company makes. The tour will begin at 9:30 AM and will last about 45 minutes. Because parking is limited, it is recommended we carpool. If you are interested in doing so, please call **Shirley Todd** at 373-1229. **Shirley** is our point of contact for this event. After the tour, we are free to fellowship over lunch at a restaurant of our choice. Hope to see you at this event.

**Add these Websites to your
"Favorites"**

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

<http://www.moaa.org>

China Trip (continued from Page 2)

the Great Hall of the People in Tiananmen Square by Mr. **Xin Yunming**, Vice President of the CAIFC.

Next stop was Luoyang, the seat of Zen Buddhism, which was founded during the Wei Dynasty in 600 A.D. They visited the White Horse Temple and the famous Longman Grotto where a giant sculpture of Buddha along with over 2,400 other statues of Buddha are carved out of a mountain. Their visit to Luoyang ended with learning kung fu at the famous Shaolin Temple, where kung fu began.

Upon arriving in Shanghai they marveled at the contrast of old Beijing and ancient Luoyang with modern Shanghai with its tall modern designed skyscrapers filled with European designer shops. They visited the famous the Shanghai Museum, Yu Gardens and cruised the Bund at night by ship and saw the lights of the newly developed area of Pudong. The final farewell dinner was hosted by

CAIFC with LTG (retired) **Lui Ren Xian**, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee of Shanghai's People's Congress at JinJiang Grand Hall, where President **Richard Nixon** and Chairman **Mao Zedong** signed the famous U.S./China Accord. A quick ride on the new Shanghai bullet train, traveling at 340 km/hour, took the delegation to Shanghai Airport and their flight home.

"We were greatly honored to be the first military delegation hosted by the CAIFC to visit China. As warriors we, too, believe that friendship is very important. It can help prevent wars and preserve peace. We thank the CAIFC for the invitation and congratulate them on their continued success in fostering a closer friendship and a better understanding between the United States and China," said COL **Wesley Fong**.



— NOTICE —

The 2008 edition of the annual Aloha Chapter Directory will be published in February. Pursuant to several requests, it will have the added information of each chapter member's known e-mail address.

If any member would like to ensure that his/her correct e-mail address is included or, conversely, if they don't want their e-mail address published, please advise the publisher, Mark Webster, in January at the latest at Markster96816@gmail.com.

Scholarship Fund Report

The Aloha Chapter Scholarship Fund MOAA announced that fifty-six donors so far have contributed over \$5150 to the Academic Year 2008-2009 scholarship fund. The scholarship committee expresses their appreciation for the generous donations received to date.

As a reminder to members who have not had the opportunity to forward their contributions, the scholarship committee advised donations will continue to be accepted and appreciated.



Leaving the Military?

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- 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: Troops to Teachers at 586-4054
 Neighbor Islands call 1-800-420-3688
 E-mail: hawaiiitt@notes.k12.hi.us
 Or go to www.proudtoserveagain.com



Troops to Teachers



Aloha Chapter Party Bridge

The Annual Christmas Bridge session was held at the residence of **Les & Shirley Ihara** on Sunday, December 16th. The evening began with refreshments and pupus, a short business meeting followed by a complete dinner with main entrees Chicken Devine and Pot Roast prepared by **Shirley**.

The business meeting included the presentation of the **Aloha Chapter, MOAA Bridge Player of The Year for 2007**, a perpetual trophy, to **Les Ihara**. (**Les** scored the highest points, 104, followed closely by **Lois Luehring** with 103.5.) Also, copies of the Programs Rules were handed out with a request that all participants review them and submit suggestions for improvements to the Program's Coordinating Committee.

The evening's play concluded with **Les Ihara** continuing as the highest scorer followed in descending order by **Anna Blackwell**, **Phyllis Williams**, **Bobbi Carlson**, and **Lois Luehring** who all shared in assessment distributions. Others who participated included **Dayle Carlson**, **Bill & Trudi Ernst**, **Sam Heard**, **Helen Hubbell**, **Shirley Ihara**, **Gary & Bev Jensen**, **David Luehring**, and **Vernon & Marion Von**.



Seated, left to right, Anna Blackwell, Bobbi Carlson, Phyllis Williams, and Lois Luehring.

Standing are hosts Shirley & Les Ihara.

The next bridge session, hosted by **Bill & Trudi Ernst**, will be held at the Fahrni Realty in Aiea on Sunday, January 27, 2008, beginning at 1 PM. Those who haven't signed up yet are asked to contact **Bill** or **Trudy** at 625-2545 or bt Ernst@hawaii.rr.com not later than Monday, January 21st.

MOUNTAIN COTTAGES & RESORT
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 On-line reservations at www.kmc-volcano.com.

Congress Punts Again

All year long, members of Congress have known they'd have to do something by the end of the year to stop the 9.9% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors scheduled to happen in January 2008 if Congress didn't change the law.

But they also knew that coming up with the money to pay for that fix was going to be a problem. They thought they might cut payments to insurance companies that run Medicare, HMOs and several other kinds of providers that some contend are over-reimbursed. But those potential groups all have their own lobbyists fighting to keep their ox from being gored.

By waiting until right before Christmas to approve a payment fix, Hill leaders thought that legislators anxious to get home for the holidays might be pressured into accepting a deal to stop the cuts for at least another year. But that strategy didn't work out very well.

In timely football terms, the best Congress could
See Congress Page 7



Norm Fujiwara

December Golf Report

December 21st was the Aloha Chapter's Aloha to the 2007 golf season and it was held on Aloha Friday. The weather looked really nice here in Mililani when my day began. It was just beautiful; however as we

approached Pearl City, I had to turn on my windshield wipers—an ominous sign. But, thankfully, at the Navy-Marine Golf course the weather was ideal for our Aloha golf game.

There were 24 players signed up to play but **Leroy Perry** indicated that his guest was unable to make it so we had twenty-three players, three of which were wahine players. What a delight after a nada female player for a couple of months. Rather than starting with the mega jackpot winners, the following are players who invested in the jackpot and were eligible to win a portion of it: **Mert Agena, Leroy Perry, Ken Yamada, Ken Munechika, John Holmes, Paul Yamashige** (Gordon Cho's uncle and guest), **Stan Furukawa, Vernon Von, Gordon Cho, Dick Towne, Joe Kuroda, Hal Okita, Ira and Marilyn Tagawa, John Seely, Walt Kinoshita, Bob Kozuki, Mel Soong, Eddie Lee, Alice** and yours truly with our son **Nelson** and his wife **Kerri** as our guests. Now for those lucky ones who shared the mega jackpot, there was a tie for third and fourth place so a tie breaker

was applied and the fourth place pair was **Stan Furukawa** and yours truly, the third place tie breaker winner was the pair of **Mert Agena** and **Ken Munechika**, in second place by one stroke was **Leroy Perry** and **Ken Yamada**, and our grand prize super jackpot winner was the pair of **Hal Okita** and **Ira Tagawa**. I wish to thank all the participants in today's golf outing for being available during the busy holiday period.

Join us next year for at great time at our fun-filled monthly golf outings. Our first one is on January 25th at the Barbers Point Golf Club.

Now for our thought of the day: "The man who claims he never made a mistake in his life generally has a wife who did."

Thank you to all of you golfers who have supported me and the Aloha Chapter golf program. Also, mahalo to all of you non-golfers who have been very complimentary about my thought of the day.

Happy New Year!
Norm



Member Deployed

Our fellow Aloha Chapter member, **Frank P. Belen, Jr.**, MAJ, ANG, was called up on active duty and deployed in December to Afghanistan with a group consisting of fourteen Hawaii National Guardsmen and two Army Reservists.

Our chapter extends best wishes to Major **Belen** and his team for a safe tour of duty in Afghanistan and a return to Paradise as quickly as possible. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.



Recruit A New Member!

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 at least one new member in 2008. Cut out the Membership Application on Page 7 to give to a prospective member..



Go Warriors!

Congress (continued from Page 5)

do before adjourning for the year amounted to a 20-yard punt out of bounds.

Instead of a 9.9% payment cut in January, Medicare and TRICARE doctors will see a 1% increase — for 6 months.

But if Congress doesn't find the money to extend the fix during the first half of next year (which won't be any easier in an election year than it was in 2007), an 11% payment cut will kick in on July 1.

Kicking this political football out of bounds may not technically be a foul. But it's a huge potential penalty for military and Medicare beneficiaries who could find their doctors turning them away if Congress keeps flirting with these big payment cuts.

**Military Benefits
“Unfair to Taxpayers”**



The DoD Task Force on the Future of Military Health Care released its final report on December 20, and the results were pretty much as expected.

The report said the relatively low health fees paid by military retirees vs. the growing cost of military health benefits are "out of step with overall trends in the U.S. health care system" and "unfair to the U.S. taxpayer."

The task force, co-chaired by Gen. **John D.W. Corley**, USAF, Commander of Air Combat Command, and economist Dr. **Gail Wilensky**, recom-

mended retiree fee increases that were patterned generally after those recommended by the Department of Defense for the past two years.

Under the task force's plan, fees would be stratified in three tiers, based on the amount of the member's military retired pay. Most retired officers with families covered under TRICARE Prime would pay an annual enrollment fee of \$780 for 2008, with the fee rising steeply to \$1,800 a year by 2011.

Those in TRICARE Standard would end up paying about \$1,100 a year in enrollment fees and deductibles.

Medicare-eligibles would have to pay an annual enrollment fee of \$120 per year by 2011. Any beneficiary who didn't pay the enrollment fee also wouldn't be allowed to use military pharmacies.

As for pharmacy coverage, the task force recommended raising co-payments for retail pharmacy use from the current \$3 (generic), \$9 (brand-name formulary), and \$22 (non-formulary) to \$15, \$25, and \$45, respectively - significantly greater increases than previously proposed by the Pentagon.

MOAA's first-blush reaction to the proposals is that (a) they impose means-tested premiums that don't apply to other federal health benefits and (b) they focus almost exclusively on DoD costs and very little on what level of benefit career military people earn by virtue of their decades of

service and sacrifice. In other words, focusing only on cash fees ignores that military people pay far larger premiums than any civilian—but pay them up front and in-kind. When asked that question directly, one of the commissioners answered, "That's for Congress to decide."



Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Membership Application Form

Enroll me as a Regular Member: Each year of membership = \$15. Five Years = \$60. (One year FREE!)

Enroll me as a Life Member: Membership rates: Age 71 & older=\$85; 61-70=\$135; 51-60=\$195; 50 & under=\$235.

Enroll me as an Auxiliary Member (i.e., spouse of a U. S. military officer, surviving spouse of a deceased officer)

ALX: Each year of membership = \$10. Life Membership = \$75

Name Last, First, Middle-Initial(s) (PLEASE PRINT) DOB MM/DD/YYYY _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip _____ Spouse's Name _____

H B C

Telephone Numbers H=Home-B=Business-C=Cell _____ E-mail _____

Applicant's Signature _____

Recruiter/Sponsor's Name _____

Mail Application Form and Membership Dues Check to
Aloha Chapter, MOAA
P. O. Box 1926
Honolulu, HI 96817-0267

CHECK APPLICABLE BOXES

<input type="checkbox"/> Active	<input type="checkbox"/> US Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Reserve	<input type="checkbox"/> USAF
<input type="checkbox"/> National Guard	<input type="checkbox"/> US Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from AD	<input type="checkbox"/> USCG
<input type="checkbox"/> Retired from Res.	<input type="checkbox"/> USMC
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> USPHS
<input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary (indicate Rank and Service of Spouse)	<input type="checkbox"/> NOAA

National MOAA Member:

MOAA No. _____

Revised: January 2007. All prior forms obsolete.

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



MOAA Seal

Aloha Chapter



Awards

- * 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
- * 2005 Winner-Cat VII "Give Me 10" Recruitment Campaign
- * 2005 5-Star Chapter
- * **2006 4-Star Chapter**

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