

Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



Chartered January 27, 2000



2007 Chapter Rating

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

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January 2009



Hawaii Veterans Invited Again to China

On 21 November 2008, a second select group of Hawaii veterans were invited to visit China by the China Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC), which is a people to people non-government organization whose purpose is to promote international non-government exchanges and cooperation for world peace and development. Included in the group representing veterans from four armed services were: ADM and Mrs. **Ronald Hays**, U.S. Navy; BG and Mrs. **Jerome Hagan**, U.S. Marine Corps; BG **Dwight Kealoha**, U.S. Air Force; BG and Mrs. **James Hirai**; and COL and Mrs. **Wesley Fong**, U.S. Army and delegation leader and past president of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii.



*Hawaii Veterans Delegation with Secretary General **Chen Zuming**, CAIFC, at Great Hall of the People, Beijing*

The invitation was extended through the Chamber, who helped to organize and coordinate the

See Trip to China Page 4

2008 Scholarship Fund Report

The 2008 Aloha Chapter Scholarship Fund campaign totaled \$9,120, reported **Allen Ono**, chairman of the Scholarship Board of Trustees.

Donations from individual chapter members and one non-member came to \$6,620. Three local corporate foundations made contributions – Servco (\$1,000), Queens Health Systems (\$1,000) and Alexander and Baldwin (\$500.00).

Ono attributed the success to the Scholarship Fund's sharp and consistent local focus of supporting Hawaii's major priorities by providing support to Hawaii students enrolled in teaching and nursing majors with a total of four \$1,000 tuition scholarships.

Two \$500 tuition scholarships were awarded to outstanding Army and Air Force University of Hawaii advanced ROTC cadets.

Ono was elated with the success of our chapter's 2008 Scholarship fundraising campaign. He thanked the contributors for their support and generous donations despite problems in the national and state economy.

Allen



Inside January Issue

Bridge Report	5
Calendar	2
Chairman's Corner	2
Chapter Leaders	8
Christmas Party	5
Golf Report	6
Membership Application	7
<i>Merrie Ladies</i>	3
President's Message	2
Reservation Form	7
Tour of JPAC	2
VA to Refund Money	7



President's Message by Robert Kozuki

Aloha! We begin 2009 with your President and the Executive Committee completing their planning of activities for the coming year.

First of all, I wish to thank **Joe Magaldi, Jr.**, the outgoing Chairman of the Board and the President of the Executive Committee, and the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for the year 2008, for their dedicated service and participation in promoting our Aloha Chapter events during 2008.

It is an honor to serve as your new President of the Executive Committee, Aloha Chapter, MOAA, for the 2009 year. For 2009, I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, Executive committee and the general membership in having your participation in chapter events to better serve the chapter and our well being as a vibrant organization. I will be seeking your active participation in our organizational activities in the coming months.

As a brief introduction, I was born and raised in Hilo, retired from the Army/the State of Washington, and returned to Hawaii in October 1999. My life status is, "retired, retired" and enjoy living in Hawaii...once again.



Chairman's Corner Members are Our Greatest Asset by Allen Ono, Chairman of the Board

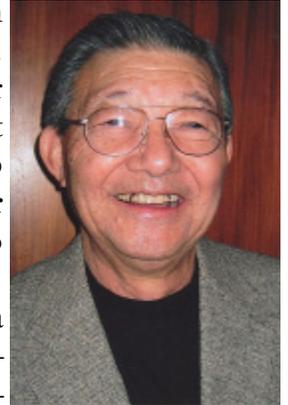
What is the Aloha Chapter? It is the best veterans group in Hawaii made up of friends who enjoy each other, chat about their common experiences of military service as officers, and share hints to improve our life style in Hawaii using our hard-earned government benefits and privileges.

Our identity is found in our members, our

greatest asset and strength. It is for this reason that I asked to publish a regular column in this newsletter with brief personal profiles of members to get to know each other better and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

We begin this series with **Harold Takenaka**, a life and founding member, former chapter treasurer and current treasurer of the Scholarship Fund. He and wife **Esther** can always be counted on to help at chapter activities.

Early years. Born in Haleiwa on North Shore. Attended Waiialua Elementary and High. Graduated from St. Louis High School.



Hal Takenaka

College. Bachelor's Degree in Education from University of Hawaii, Master of Science Degree in Systems Management from University of Southern California, and Master of Business Administration Degree from Hawaii Pacific University.

Military service. 28 years of active Army service. Retired as lieutenant colonel.

Best assignments. With joint unified command headquarters in Europe, Hawaii and Japan.

Recent memorable experience. Esther and Hal were honored by their children at a surprise

See Chairman Page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 15, 2009 (Thursday)	11:30 AM, Annual Installation of Officers Buffet Luncheon, Hale Ikena
Jan. 18, 2009 (Sunday)	1:00 PM, Bridge Bunch Party Bridge Fahrni Realty Classroom, Aiea
Jan. 22, 2009 (Thursday)	9:30 – 11:30 AM, Free Tour of JPAC, Hickam AFB (Call 262-1165 to sign up)
Jan. 23, 2009 (Friday)	Golf Outing, Barbers Point Golf Course
Feb. 6, 2009 (Friday)	11 AM, Merrie Ladies Heart to Heart Luncheon, Pacific Beach Oceanarium

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.

Happy New Year from the Hale Koa Hotel

The Hale Koa Hotel Ohana would like to take the opportunity to wish all our Armed Forces families a safe and Happy New Year.

We invite you to Experience Our New Paradise

- Come and experience an evening of exciting entertainment in our newly renovated Banyan Tree Showroom Magic in Paradise Dinner Show with Mark Mauricio Tuesday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.
- Experience Aloha Cocktail Show with Nohelani Cypriano Wednesday Evenings at 6:45 p.m.
- The long awaited reopening of Warriors Lounge is finally here! Enjoy your favorite cocktail with a brand new line up of nightly entertainment



HALE KOA HOTEL

Fort DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center
2055 Kalia Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
(808) 955 - 0555 • www.halekoa.com

Chairman (from Page 2)

50th Wedding Anniversary party in Las Vegas. One son is a retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel in intelligence. A second is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel navigator. A third is an Air Force colonel in the acquisition field.

Dream as a youth. To become a teacher.

How you met Esther. In UH speech class for future teachers.

Best local restaurant. Gyotaku in Aiea with its excellent Japanese dishes.

Best travel destination. Europe with wide range of cultures to explore.

What most people don't know. Been an AARP volunteer in tax aide program for 10 years. Still helps people with their tax at H&R

Block and has been with them for 14 years and counting. Enjoys the challenges, constant tax code changes and camaraderie of fellow workers. 



Aloha Chapter Christmas Carolers at VA Center for Aging, l. to r., Esther Takenaka, Grace and Ken Munechika, Bob Kozuki, Hal Takenaka, Norberto Baysa (hiding), Mark Webster, Nari Hamlin, Rosa Baysa (kneeling), and Vernon and Marion Von

Merrie Ladies' Heart to Heart February Luncheon

On February 6, 2008, the Merrie Ladies will celebrate an early Valentine's Day with a "Heart to Heart" luncheon at the Pacific Beach Oceanarium Restaurant. The special buffet lunch will begin at 11 AM and the cost is \$9.50 per person (plus tax and a 15 percent gratuity charge). Space is limited, so make your reservations early. Call Charlene Towne at 623-9731 or Linda Fong at 595-6127 to reserve a place. **Marion** 

official visit. Last year the first official Hawaii veterans' delegation was invited by CAIFC to China.

First stop was Beijing where the delegation visited the famous sites of the Great Wall, Temple of Heaven, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and 2008 Olympic venues. They were also hosted at the China Aviation Museum by Senior COL **Qi Xian-de**, Director of the museum and also toured the Beijing Military Museum. They paid a courtesy call on GEN **Liu Zhenqi** of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) at the PLA Tower, Ba Yi Building. The group was also hosted by Secretary General of the CAIFC, **Chen Zuming** at a fabulous banquet at the Great Hall of the People located next to Tiananmen Square and a peking-duck dinner at the oldest and most famous Quanjude Qianmen Restaurant, hosted by China Travel Service.

Next stop was Nanjing, the old capitol of

China, where they climbed the Sun Yat-sen Memorial, and cruised the canal near the Confucius Temple. On to beautiful Suzhou, where they toured the Nanjing Museum, was serenaded on a cruise on the grand Suzhou canal and a visited one of the five most beautiful gardens of Suzhou, Master Nets Garden (a UNESCO site).

Finally arriving in Shanghai, the "Paris of the Orient," the delegation walked the famous Bund, toured the world-renowned Shanghai Museum and saw the future Shanghai city at the Shanghai Planning Museum. Added to the tour was the Shanghai Children's Palace filled with the future young musicians and artists of China. The delegation was again hosted at another fabulous banquet hosted by LTG **Liu Lun Xian**, Vice President of the Shanghai CAIFC and Deputy Chairman of the Shanghai People's Congress at Ying Bin Guang, the State Guest House.

The PLA's military newspaper noted GEN **Liu** as saying that the delegation members continue to contribute to developing relations between China and the United States and their militaries even after their military retirement.

ADM **Hays** said of the goodwill visit: "Resolution of disputes by means other than war is the course of action preferred by military people. We often refer to this approach as 'soft power.' During this recent visit to China, I found that the Chinese are of the same mind and that there is an official organization dedicated to the concept only it is referred to as 'friendly contact.' China is serious in their pursuit of 'friendly contact.' The potential benefit is goodwill and improved relations between our two countries. We thank the China Association for International Friendly Contact for this opportunity to promote this friendship and goodwill." **Wes**

ADM Ronald Hays and GEN Liu Zhenqi, PLA, at Office of PLA, Ba Yi Building, Beijing



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



Troops to Teachers



Aloha Chapter Party Bridge

The annual December dinner and party bridge session was again held at the Ihara residence on Sunday, December 14th. Hosts **Les** and **Shirley Ihara** had wine and other drinks, and savory pupus for everyone, after which they served a buffet dinner before play began.

This session kicked off the 2009 season, this time with a different set of high scorers. With 3 tables of bridge being played, the top scorer was a guest player, **Hal Lee**, followed by **Trudi Ernst**, **Phyllis William**, and **Jane Miller**. The other lesser scorers besides the hosts were **Bill Ernst**, **Helen Fahrni**, **Vernon & Marion Von**, and guests **Amy Carter** and **Gerri Lee**.



Seated, l. to r., Jane Miller, Phyllis Williams and Trudi Ernst and ,standing, Harold Lee, Shirley Ihara and Les Ihara

Besides honoring the high scorers for the evening named above, Program Coordinator **Shirley Ihara** >> presented her husband **Les** the Aloha Chapter, MOAA, Bridge Player of the Year Award for 2008, a perpetual Clock Trophy. Out of 30 chapter bridge players playing in 2008, and counting only the top 7 monthly scores for the year, **Les** was able to amass a total of 113 points. Coming in 2nd for the 2nd year in a row was **Lois Luehring** with 104.5 points.

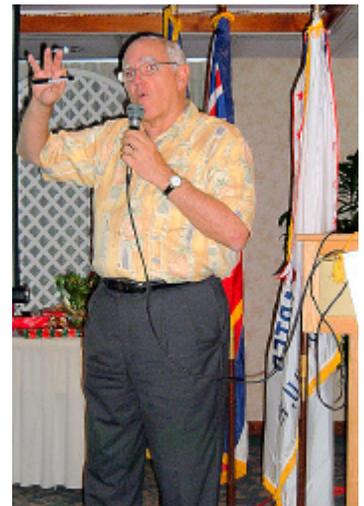


The next bridge session will be held on Sunday, January 18th at the Fahrni Realty Classroom in Aiea, hosted by **Vernon & Marion Von**. Play will begin at 1 PM. Interested chapter members and spouses are asked to contact the Vons at 732-3908, or e-mail to: vvon777@gmail.com not later than Wednesday, January 14th. **Shirley**

Annual Christmas Party

Fifty Aloha Chapter members, spouses and guests attended our annual Christmas party on December 10th in the Laulima Rooms of the Hale Koa Hotel. After an hour of socializing, everyone enjoyed a sit-down dinner of many courses of very satisfying Hawaiian luau. The evening's festivities concluded with a gift exchange and everyone singing Christmas carols.

Jim Van Epps, our eloquent guest speaker at our Christmas dinner party, is the project manager for the multi-billion dollar fixed-rail transit system recently approved for Oahu. He gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the planned steel-on-steel train.





Norm Fujiwara

December Golf Report

The Aloha Chapter's Aloha 2008 Golf Season was held at the Barbers Point Golf Course on the 19th of December 2008. We had a very small group who signed up but every one of the players who signed up

arrived on time and ready to play at our designated 9:00 AM tee time. The only down side for the day was the fact that we had zero, nada wahine golfers present.

The players were led punctually by **Allen Ono**, **Mert Agena**, **Howard Okada** and **Kelly Lau**; they were followed by a threesome of **Jack Bohman**, **Larry Enomoto**, and **Ken Munechika**; the third group was also a threesome, with **Joe Kuroda**, **Dick Towne** and **John Holmes**; this

group was followed by the final four: walking players **Leroy Perry**, **Ira Tagawa**, **Ken Yamada** and yours truly.

We had our usual drawing for the "blind partner" mega jackpot. In third place were the pairs of **Joe Kuroda** and **Mert Agena**, in second place by six strokes were the partners of **Ira Tagawa** and **Kelly Lau**, and the grand prize partners of the mega jackpot were the partners of **Ken Yamada** and **Allen Ono**. Congratulations to all our winners, now for the winners who did not receive any compensation **John Holmes**, **Larry Enomoto**, **Howard Okada**, **Jack Bohman**, **Dick Towne**, **Leroy Perry**, **Ken Munechika** and yours truly.

I would like send a great Mahalo to all who came out to close out our monthly golf season.

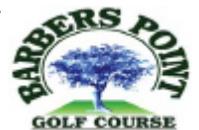
Now for the thought of the day, "There is no pleasure in having nothing to do; the fun is having a lot to do and not doing it."

A wish for a joyous holidays to all the players as well as to those non-players who have been reading this column and providing such positive responses.

Our opening of the 2009 golf season will be at Barbers Point GC on Friday, January 23rd. If anyone has not received the 2009 Golf Schedule, please contact me via my new e-mail, nfujiwara@hawaiiintel.net, or in person.

Aloha,

Norm



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You know how to
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Pentagon Federal Credit Union (PenFed) is MOAA's preferred financial provider. **As a MOAA member, you and your family are automatically eligible to join PenFed.** When you join, you'll have access to the same low loan rates and high savings yields that all PenFed members enjoy. Join Today!

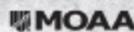


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Find us online at PenFed.org/MOAA, or call 800-616-6600. Visit our branch on Ft. Shafter, Building 553



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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 of this newsletter to give to a prospective member.

Add these Websites to your "Favorites"

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

<http://www.moaa.org>

VA to Refund Money to Survivors

In 1996 Congress passed a law directing that the VA provide a deceased veteran's full compensation benefit to the spouse on the month of the veteran's death, but due to an error, the department has continued to demand money back from the survivors.

Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. **Daniel Akaka**, (D-HI) was recently made aware of the problem by one of his constituents, and he asked the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to look into and fix the problem.

Secretary **Jim Peake** has set up a special task force is to review VA payment records for veterans who died after Dec. 31, 1996, and are survived by a spouse. The review

will identify those to whom VA owes retroactive benefits for the month of the veteran's death. Current address information is being obtained for as many of these beneficiaries as possible.

According to VA, retroactive payments to eligible surviving spouses will begin by the end of December. Payments will continue to be issued as additional unpaid beneficiaries are identified.

A special Survivors' Call Center has been established for spouses who believe they may be entitled to this retroactive month-of-death benefit. Surviving spouses are encouraged to contact the Call Center (toll-free) at (800) 749-8387. Call Center agents will assist surviving spouses in providing VA with the information needed to determine their eligibility.

The Call Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Central Time. **MOAA** 

Aloha Chapter, MOAA RESERVATION FORM

Annual Installation of Chapter Officers
Presiding Officer: MG Vernon Miyagi, Aloha Chapter
Buffet Luncheon
11:30 AM. Thursday, January 15, 2009
Hale Ikena
Bldg 711, Morton Drive, Ft. Shapter 96858

Member: _____ Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____ Transportation __ (Check if needed)

Cost = \$15.00 per person. _____ x \$15.00 = Total \$ _____

Please send in your reservation ASAP to arrive NLT **Mon, Jan 12, 2009** to:

Checks Payable to: Aloha Chapter, MOAA
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 19287
Honolulu, HI 96817

Call Mark Webster at 734-5994 for more information, if needed

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=\$185.; 50 & under=\$235.
 Enroll me as an Auxiliary Member (i.e., spouse of a U. S. military officer, surviving spouse of a deceased officer)
 AUX: 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 19267
Honolulu, HI 96817-0267

CHECK APPLICABLE BOXES

STATUS	RANK	SERVICE
<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



Aloha Chapter



Awards

- * 2002 5-Star Chapter
- * 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
- * **2007 2nd Runner-Up Print Newsletter**
- * **2007 5-Star Chapter**

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2009 Aloha Chapter Leadership

Directors

Chairman—Allen Ono, USA
 536-6043 onoa002@hawaii.rr.com

President—Robert Kozuki, USA
 942-4047 kozukir@hawaii.rr.com

Vice Pres.—Norman Fujiwara, USA
 626-4630 nfujiwara@hawaiiantel.net

Treasurer—Vernon Von, USAF
 732-3908 vvon777@gmail.com

Secretary—Vernon Von, USAF
 732-3908 vvon777@gmail.com

Mitzi Austin, AUX 486-0900

Lawrence Enomoto, USAF 685-1521 lawrence.enomoto@gmail.com

Jerry O. Lesperance, USCG 488-5205 jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com

Joe Magaldi, Jr., USMC 589-1390 italiahawaii@hotmail.com

Mark Webster, USNR 734-5994 markster96816@gmail.com

Officers and Committee Chairs

President: Robert Kozuki, USA
 942-4047 kozukir001@hawaii.rr.com

Immediate Past President: Joe Magaldi, Jr., USMC
 589-1390 italiahawaii@hotmail.com

Vice President: Norman Fujiwara, USA
 626-4630 nfujiwara@earthlink.net

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

Personal Affairs: Robert Kozuki, USA
 942-4047 kozukir001@hawaii.rr.com

Programs: Robert Kozuki, USA
 942-4047 kozukir001@hawaii.rr.com

Publications/PR: Mark Webster, USNR
 734-5994 markster96816@gmail.com

ROTC/Veteran Affairs: Wesley Fong, USA
 595-6127 wesleyf.fong@hawaiiantel.net

Fundraising: Herb Nakagawa, USAF
 271-1172 shibikoherb@yahoo.com

Historian: Nari Hamlin, USA
 306-2290 narivee@aol.com