



Pau Hana Koa

Mele Kalikimaka



Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 20 No. 12

WEBSITE <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org>

December 2005

A Christmas Dinner to Remember

by Cdr. Bob Popp USN (Ret.)



It was Christmas Eve and events were not going well for Private Joe Tatman and his fellow squad members from the 9th Armored Division. It was bitterly cold – a hodgepodge of snow, blizzard, fog and sleet; the coldest winter in memory. A command decision had been made the previous September to keep ammunition, weapons, food, and replacements moving forward at the expense of winter clothing. Everyone knew the war would be over by Christmas.

Freezing, sleep deprived, and running out of food, Tatman and his

fellow soldiers might have thought of soldiers of an earlier era who suffered through a bitter winter at a place called Valley Forge. Those soldiers too were hungry, poorly clothed, and badly housed...yet they persevered and eventually were victorious.

Tatman and his band of brothers had taken refuge in a hayloft on a farm outside the Belgian town of Bastogne. They were inside German lines and trapped. After the war, Tatman related that, “we talked about Christmas and home and never giving up our hopes”. It was the late afternoon of December 24, 1944 when German troops found Tatman’s group and forced them to surrender. The German captain who took charge of the surrender had been a lawyer in New York. He explained that he had returned to his homeland to settle his father’s estate and got caught up in the war. He took the prisoners into the kitchen of the farmhouse where German

cooks were preparing for a Christmas party. The German officer gave his American prisoners milk and donuts and talked and joked about the war. He hoped it would end soon so that everyone would go home. He also gave them hot water, towels and shaving materials and invited them to join the Christmas party. The Belgian farm owners had set a beautiful table in the dining room with all sorts of food and drink. After the dinner, the two sides joined in singing. The American prisoners sang, “Silent Night” in English while their captors sang it in German.

The captain offered a toast of good luck to the prisoners. He explained that he and his men wanted to give the party because they realized that in the morning, Christmas Day, the GI’s would begin their journey to “hell”, a German POW Camp. The Battle of the Bulge was in full swing but Joe Tatman’s war was over.

Reference: Citizen Soldiers by Stephen Ambrose

Coming Events **December**

3 Dec (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

13 Dec (Tue) Christmas Party 1800 Hale Koa

16 Dec (Fri) Excom Mtg, Oahu Veterans Cntr. 1130

17 Dec (Sat) MOAA Party Bridge 1900
For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558

Coming Events **January**

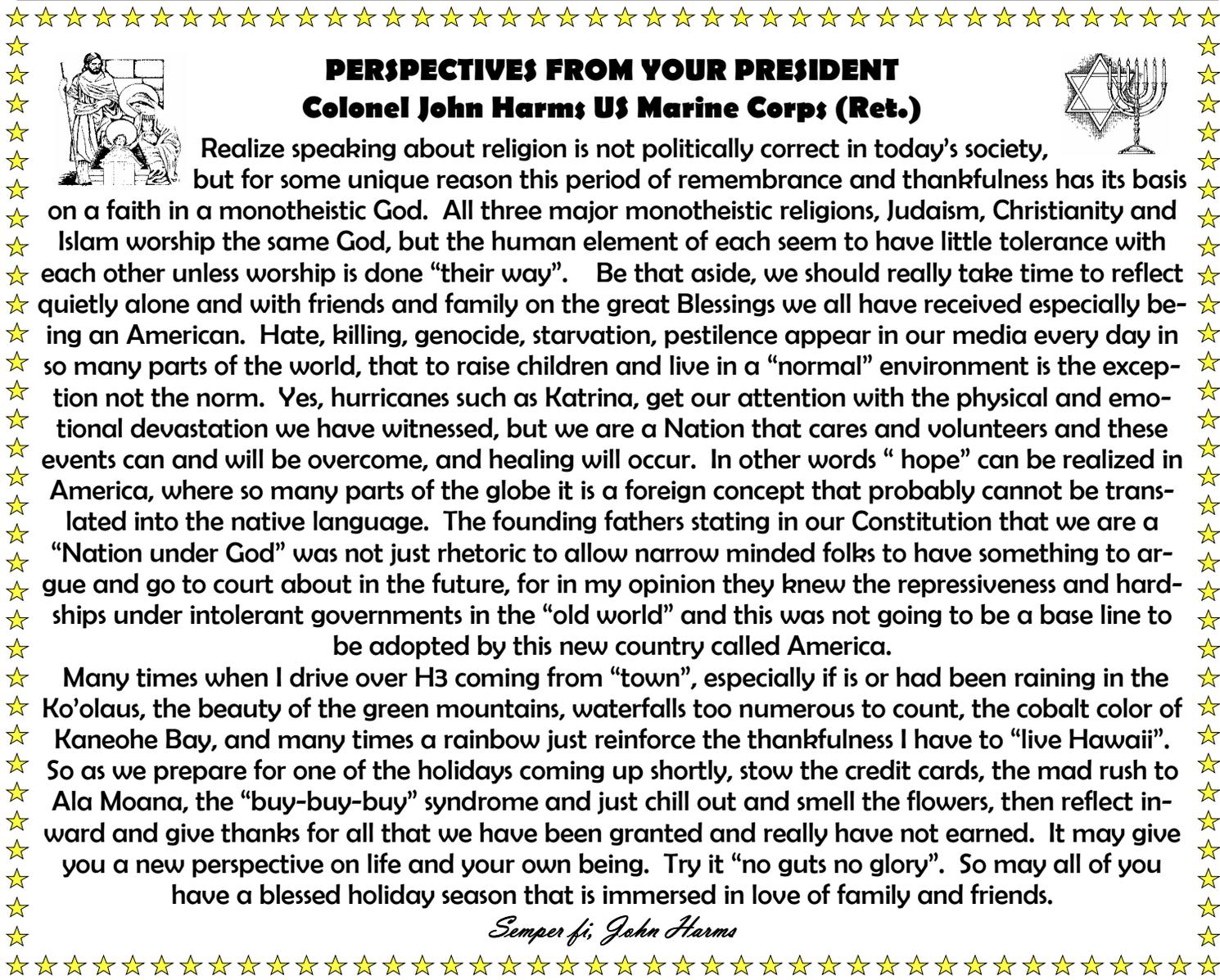
7 Jan (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000
Computer Training, Bishop Museum, Paki Bldg.

9 Jan (Mon) PAC Meeting 1200 (Location TBD)

17 Jan (Tue) Lunch and Tour
New UH Medical School at Kakaako 1100

20 Jan (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O’Club 1130

28 Jan (Sat) MOAA Party Bridge 1900
For reservations call Robbie Gee at 255-4558



PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT Colonel John Harms, US Marine Corps (Ret.)



Realize speaking about religion is not politically correct in today's society, but for some unique reason this period of remembrance and thankfulness has its basis on a faith in a monotheistic God. All three major monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam worship the same God, but the human element of each seem to have little tolerance with each other unless worship is done "their way". Be that aside, we should really take time to reflect quietly alone and with friends and family on the great Blessings we all have received especially being an American. Hate, killing, genocide, starvation, pestilence appear in our media every day in so many parts of the world, that to raise children and live in a "normal" environment is the exception not the norm. Yes, hurricanes such as Katrina, get our attention with the physical and emotional devastation we have witnessed, but we are a Nation that cares and volunteers and these events can and will be overcome, and healing will occur. In other words "hope" can be realized in America, where so many parts of the globe it is a foreign concept that probably cannot be translated into the native language. The founding fathers stating in our Constitution that we are a "Nation under God" was not just rhetoric to allow narrow minded folks to have something to argue and go to court about in the future, for in my opinion they knew the repressiveness and hardships under intolerant governments in the "old world" and this was not going to be a base line to be adopted by this new country called America.

Many times when I drive over H3 coming from "town", especially if it is or had been raining in the Ko'olaus, the beauty of the green mountains, waterfalls too numerous to count, the cobalt color of Kaneohe Bay, and many times a rainbow just reinforce the thankfulness I have to "live Hawaii". So as we prepare for one of the holidays coming up shortly, stow the credit cards, the mad rush to Ala Moana, the "buy-buy-buy" syndrome and just chill out and smell the flowers, then reflect inward and give thanks for all that we have been granted and really have not earned. It may give you a new perspective on life and your own being. Try it "no guts no glory". So may all of you have a blessed holiday season that is immersed in love of family and friends.

Semper p[ro]p[ri]e, John Harms

The 2005 Hawaii Chapter ROTC/JROTC Program and Scholarship Program

by LTC Hank Heyenga USA (Ret.)



At the beginning of the second semester, the ROTC/JROTC units at the University of Hawaii and the High Schools start planning for their annual award ceremonies and selection of nominees for the multiple awards.

Upon receipt of the scheduled dates, times, and locations from the Office of the DOE JROTC Program Manager at Ft Shafter, the Hawaii Chapter ROTC/Awards committee ordered medals and certificates for 5 ROTC University of Hawaii and 30 JROTC high school cadets.

The 30 JROTC medals/certificates were distributed to 25 Hawaii schools and 5 to American Samoa schools. The schools in American Samoa were Samoana, Leona, Tafina, Fagaitua, and Manu'a, where school principals or others made the presentations.

The chapter-sponsored Ben Porter \$500 Scholarship Awards were presented to University of Hawaii senior

ROTC cadets Kacey Jane Davis (AF), and Nancy I. Cortez (Army) by Col. Ralph Hiatt.

The following Chapter members assisted in presenting the JROTC awards at the high Schools on Oahu: LtCol Lou W. Crompton; Capt. William Burgess; LtCol Gale Gardner; Col Ralph Hiatt; Cdr Jack Miller; Col Michael O'Neal, USMC (active duty); Cdr Bob Allard; LtCol Bob Frye; Capt. George Sullivan; Cdr. Roger Hill and RADM C. Bruce Smith. On the island of Hawaii LtCol Ed Tessien of the Kona Satellite Chapter officiated at both Kona schools.

One \$1000 scholarship grant was awarded to Kalaheo HS cadet George Aubuchon. He had accumulated over 57 achievement awards, placed on the National Honor Roll, and was recognized in "Who's Who Among High School Students," one of less than 5% of all students of our 24,000 US high schools.

Board of Directors

Chair, RADM C Bruce Smith USN
 Judith Breitwieser
 LtCol Louis Crompton USAF
 COL John Harms USMC
 Maj George Montague USAF
 LTC HANK Heyenga USA
 CDR Jack Miller USN
 CAPT John Peters USN
 CAPT George Sullivan USN

Thinning of the Ranks

LTC Harold E. Strong Sr. USA (Ret.), 84, of Kanehoe died Oct. 26. Survived by his wife Lois.
 LtCol. Kenneth F. Perske USAF, 80, of Mililani died Nov. 22. Survived by his wife Lucille.

Binnacle List

LtCol. Lou Compton USA (Ret.) is recuperating at home from surgery.
 Col. John Harms USMC (Ret.) recovering at home from back surgery.
 Col. Jay Larue USMC (Ret.) at Tripler.

January Social

Tour the new University of Hawaii Medical School at Kakaako

Tuesday, 17 Jan 2006 @ 1100
 Kaka'ako Waterfront Campus
 651 Ilalo Street, Medical Education Building. Meet at the Medical Education Building Lobby
 Lunch: cafeteria style, \$5-\$6, followed by a free tour
 Special arrangements for handicapped parking
 If interested, call Bill Quirk at 625-7862.

NOTICE

Pearl Harbor "Mardi Gras Follies" will be at the Hawaii Theater on 2,3 & 4 February. Prices are \$27, \$37, and \$47. (A decision to attend as a MOAA event has not been made.)

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The Bridge Corner

By Robbie Gee

The goblins were out and ready to party at the festive home of Carita and Jack Miller who hosted the October 22 meeting of the MOAA Party Bridge group. Gary Jensen spooked the group by taking top prize for high score, haunted closely by his wife Bev in second place. Third place was taken by Joan Peters, and fourth place went to Peg Hurlless. Other spirits joining in the fun were Clyde and Darnelle Friar, Shirley and Les Ihara, John Peters, Robbie Gee, Bud Hurlless, Beverly Willms, Wally Barker, and Ginny Fine.

Due to the UH Football schedule of games enjoyed by many of our group's members, we are able to provide early results of the November 19 meeting hosted by John and Joan Peters at the Hawaii Kai home of Bob and Robbie Gee. Fall was in the air and invigorated Carita Miller who was high scorer for the evening. Second place went to guest Judith Breitwieser, followed by Jack Miller in third place. Others enjoying the evening were Bob and Robbie Gee, Ginny Fine, Gary and Bev Jensen, Beverly Willms, Wally Barker, and Joan and John Peters.

We're looking for new members so even if you haven't played for a while, it's okay. Brush aside the cobwebs and jump in with both feet! It's good mental exercise and, as they say, "Use it or lose it".

Remember to call me at 255-4558 not later than the weekend beforehand to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Non-smoking players of all abilities are welcome, with or without a partner. This is a FUN bunch who enjoy another opportunity to socialize with their MOAA friends and who don't take their bridge too seriously! The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 1900 at various locations around the island on a rotation basis, but watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates, as exceptions do occur, especially during UH Football season.



TOP FOUR: Joan Peters, Gary & Ben Jensen, Peg Hurlless



A SALUTE TO SOME OF OUR CHAPTER MEMBERS

By Col. John Harms USMC (Ret.)



We are all familiar with the old adage that people make up an organization, but participating people make up a great organization. Well fortunately we have a great Chapter and it is made up of many very active and participating members. The point in question is the superb speakers we had at our Annual meeting in November, their professionalism and flexibility as evident when there was too much light to use their prepared Power Point presentations, so ditch technology and extemporize for they were "masters" in the field they were discussing. The first one out of the gate being



George Sullivan Board Chairman, Arizona Memorial Museum Association presenting the background and current status of the USS Arizona Memorial Visitor Center multi million dollar redesign and building project. This valuable historic and tourist site is rapidly sinking back into Pearl Harbor so it is "start it over again guys, but this time bigger and better". **Jerry Hofwolt** who presented the USS Bowfin and Submarine museum story, and the difficulties these crews encountered especially during the beginning of the Pacific campaign when most of their torpedoes were defective and would not detonate.



Don Hess President of the USS Missouri Association relating the yeoman's task of restoring this magnificent battleship with thousands of hours of volunteer time and effort. The Association's plans for the future as the other "book end" to the World War II in the Pacific along with the USS Arizona. Then the newest addition to World War II Pacific Campaign, **Allan Palmer** who provided details of the approved and funded new Pacific Aviation Museum under construction on Ford Island. For those in the world that want to touch the Pacific campaign of WW II, Pearl Harbor will be a primary destination site to have this true experience. Gentlemen, thank you for your extraordinary work and dedication to insure those future generations can remember, for sometimes memories seem so short. I was sorry that my recent back surgery prevented me attending this meeting, but members voiced their appreciation and praise to each of you for your presentations.



CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



We would like to continue to recognize those special Chapter members who have recently donated to the JROTC Scholarship Program. Up to five deserving Cadets will receive a \$1000 university/college scholarship by the end of this school year.

Complete report on the Chapters ROTC/JROTC program for 2005 Chaired by LTC Hank Heyenga is on Page 2.

Gold Award - \$100 or more

Mrs. Ellen K. Chang in memory of her husband Kwan You Chang

George and Roberta Sullivan

Silver Award - \$50 to \$99

Jack and Carita Miller

Bronze Award - \$25 to \$49

John and Ruth Stepulis in memory of David Moffatt

NEW MEMBERS



"GIVE ME 10" CAMPAIGN

LTC Dan Tompkins, USA (Ret.) Recruited by John Harms

Lt. Ardis B. Dennis, USANC (Ret.) Recruited by Bob Said

Capt. Cheryl A. Janus USN (Ret.) Recruited by Bill Quirk

LCdr. Steve Marx USN Recruited by Jack Miller

Capt. Jerry Hofwolt USN (Ret.) Recruited by Geo. Sullivan

That is \$50.00 more toward our Scholarship Fund – Keep Trucken

Proposed Chapter Bylaws Changes



The Executive Committee and the Board of Director have discussed certain changes to the Chapter Bylaws to improve the operation of the Chapter. Changes to the Chapter Bylaws requires a minimum 10 day notification to the membership prior to voting on changes at a meeting of the membership. It is anticipated that the following changes will be submitted to the membership in the next few months.

The Board of Directors recommends the following changes to the Chapter Bylaws:

- (1) "The establishment of the position of Third Vice President"

It is envisioned by the President that this position will be filled by an active duty officer or a reserve officer whose duties are to recruit active duty and reserve officers and to act as the liaison between the Chapter and the active duty and reserve community.

- (2) "The Chapter annual budget shall be approved by the Board of Directors."

Currently the Executive Committee drafts and approves the annual budget. This change will require the budget to be submitted to the Board for final approval which will better enable the Board to carry out its duties as established in the bylaws: "The Board of Directors...bears ultimate responsibility for Chapter policy and decisions affecting Chapter policy."

A copy of the Bylaws with the above changes incorporated will be available to the membership at the next two meetings of the Chapter.

Chapter Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13th at 1800 hours

(Please note the reservation deadline is December 5th for the Christmas Party)

Once again the Chapter will host a lively fun evening at the Waikiki Ballroom, Hale Koa Hotel, featuring two bands and a \$1000 donation to the recreation fund of the local U. S. Coast Guard.



The Marine Forces Pacific band will play pre-dinner music from 1800 to 1900 so plan to arrive on time.

After dinner, a swing band will entertain so get out your festive Christmas clothes – jackets suggested without ties – and your dancing shoes. So round up your friends,

organize a table of ten, car pool and have some fun. There will be assigned seats so please note on your reservation any particular friends you wish to join at your table.

Clip and mail to Bill Quirk by December 5, 2005. Call Bill or John Harms 261-2282 with questions.

I (we) will attend the Christmas Party Dec. 13 at Hale Koa. Cost: \$30.00 each

Dinner choice: Fillet Mignon (#) _____ Vegetarian Fettuccine (#) _____

Dinner Cost: \$ 30.00 x () = \$ _____ Scholarship Donations \$ _____

Total ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Name Tags to Read: _____ / _____

Make Checks payable to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA

Mail Checks and reservations to: Bill Quirk, 95-219 Aua Place, Mililani, Hawaii 96789

TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)



SHOPPING — Online Shopping

Since this is the December column, I figured it was time to review online shopping! I started getting lots of e-mail promos from some well-known retailers like Gap, CompUSA, BestBuy, Eddie Bauer, CircuitCity and Nieman Marcus, just to name a few, early in Oct! These folks are spending millions to beef up their Web presence, and price-comparison sites like shopping.com and price-grabber.com have been adding search options, products and speed—some studies now show they can help consumers save more than 20 cents on the dollar. (They're also attracting corporate buyers of their own: eBay just bought Shopping.com.) BTW, a by-product of all this is a flurry of activity by a consortium of states who want their share of the market via sales taxes! So far, I haven't seen any big moves from Hawaii, although, as you probably know, those companies who sell online and have a physical presence here, do charge our tax for their items. So how do you make the most of online shopping, this year?

Figure out what you want. Don't expect to find the best research and the best prices at the same sites. Read professional reviews at consumer-search.com and personal reviews at epinions.com and amazon.com. Sure, it's possible that some ("This is the best toaster ever!!!") are plants. But you can check a reviewer's other reports, and pick up good information about items that have lots of reviews.

How to hunt for bargains. Go to several comparison-shopping sites for each item, because not every price-comparison site features every product or store or feature. Some of the biggest, like Shopping and PriceGrabber, get their info from the merchants that supply them. Others, like froogle.com and newcomer fatlens.com, search the Web on their own to uncover deals. Both kinds can find great prices. Make sure you're comparing like products (some retailers hide key phrases like "factory reconconditioned" or "attachment kit separate" so they won't get picked up by the search software. I bought a printer at a ridiculously low price because it came with no cartridges! I knew this however, and since it was a replacement for the same model that had died on me, I had the cartridges already. I knew all this as I did read the fine print, but could have been surprised if I hadn't. Compare prices that include the cost of shipping to Hawaii. This is a biggie here as few of the sellers treat us fairly!! Usually when it says, free or really low cost shipping, it has an exception for Alaska and Hawaii. I make it a practice to complain about this discrimination, and always point out that in most cases, the postage from wherever to Hawaii would be the same as postage to anywhere on the mainland if they offered USPS as an option instead of 2-day FEDEX or UPS. Surprise, sometimes they actually respond with an ok, we will ship it via USPS! I've found that Amazon usually does include Hawaii on their free or low cost shipping options, but you will also find that Amazon merchants, accessed via Amazon.com, don't always.

Be careful out there! What good is the best price if the seller doesn't actually have the Xbox 360 to ship when you need it? Look at sites like shopzilla.com and shopping .com, which certify sellers they know have good records of shipping honestly and quickly and handling returns well. One site, buysafeshopping.com, buys insurance so it can guarantee all purchases against fraud. Tryout the fancy stuff. New features and sites are promising more, so take 'em for a spin. Smarter.com will text-message you the lowest price for the thing you just gotta have. PriceGrabber puts coupons and rebates on its site, along with prices. Dealio.com downloads to your computer and hunts for bargains while you work.

Rebates. Before you click "buy," do one last check at payback sites like ebates.com, upromise.com and butterflymall.com. They offer rebates if you click through to your chosen retailer through them. It doesn't always work out. Sometimes the rebates simply steer you to higher-priced items. Be sure and keep track of your rebates...some take a long while to arrive and so I keep a separate file and look at it periodically to see if I have marked the rebate copy received. Most rebates can now be checked online to see what the status is. Read the form you send in to get the URL.

Ok, now that you're in the Christmas mood, how about this:

CHANGE THE LOOK OF YOUR FOLDERS

I get so tired of looking at the same old folder icon in Windows Explorer, that yellow picture of a paper folder. I get bored with it after a short time and it's that much harder to locate a specific file. So now I change the folder icon that's easier for me to look at. Here's how.

Right-click on the Start button and then left-click on Explore. Locate the folder whose icon you want to change, right-click on the folder, and then click on Properties.

Click on the Customize tab and in the resulting dialog box click Change Icon. Browse your hard drive, it will default to a set of MS icons, but you can use any icons you have, so go to the file where you have them saved and select a new icon, and then click OK. Click OK on the Customize tab. Close Explorer. When you restart Explorer you'll see your folder's new icon.

You can find a whole set of Christmas icons for download at: <http://www.cstone.net/~bry-back/holidayfun/xmasicons.html>

Have fun and remember to be careful out there with your shopping and with your computing.
Come see us at one of our scheduled meetings, visit www.the_tug.hoomestead.com for more info.

Mele Kalikimaka, Lou

Executive Committee

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VACANT

2d Vice President
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3d Vice President
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Legislative Affairs

The Senate passed the FY2006 Defense Authorization Bill (S. 1042) which included amendments to implement 30-year paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage and end the deduction of VA survivor benefits from SBP annuities when the member's death is caused by military service. Both provisions would take effect Oct 1, 2005. An additional amendment provides full, immediate concurrent receipt for disabled retirees rated "unemployable" by the VA, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005. It also authorizes permanent, premium-based TRICARE coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members (and their families) who agree to continue in Selected Reserve status.

The House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders must convene a conference committee to hammer out a compromise on hundreds of provisions that differ between the two bills. Your help is needed for these changes to be favorably voted on by the conference committee. Please visit MOAA's Web site at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/> and click on the "Retain Key Issues in Defense Bill" link to send your legislators a MOAA-suggested message. You may also call our Hawaii delegation and ask them to support this important legislation. Many of our Chapter members will be making three (3) year of extra SBP monthly payments if this legislation does not pass. Let's correct this inequity now.

Hawaii Chapter Scholarship Program

Award Criteria

A graduating high school senior who is a resident of the State of Hawaii, an American citizen and is either:

- a. Enrolled in the Junior Reserve Training Corps (JROTC) or
- b. A son, daughter or family member of a Hawaii Chapter MOAA member in good standing.

To Qualify

Applicant must be enrolling in the freshman year of a four-year college or university. The institution must be accredited with the American Council of Education and may not be a U. S. Government Military Academy. Applications available on request. Call Hank Heyenga.

The editorial Staff of the Pau Hana Koa extends a Very Merry Christmas, a Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year to all its readers. Remember Christmas and the beginning of Hanukkah fall on the same day this year. GES.

Pictures by Carl Hankwitz



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HO HO HO

**Christmas Party Dec. 13
at
Hale Koa**

(see page 5 for details and reservations)

**HAWAII CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
New Membership Application and/or Current Member Dues Payment**

Name: _____ Male Female
Last First MI

New Member Application **Currently a Regular Member** **Currently an Auxiliary Member**

New members: Complete next items and Regular or Auxiliary Member section. Enter remittance at bottom.

Current members: Complete any items that have changed and enter your remittance amount at bottom of form.

Address: _____ Email: _____

Date of birth: _____ National MOAA membership No. _____ SSN ____/____/____

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Fax _____

Regular Members: Active duty, retired, or former military officers are eligible for regular membership.
Service _____ Rank _____ Active Duty Retired Reserve National Guard Former Officer
Dues: \$15 per year; 5 years for \$60. Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$300; 51-60 \$250; 61-70 \$200; 71-89 \$100; 90 and older is free.

Auxiliary Members: Widows or widowers are eligible for membership whose spouses were regular members or were eligible for regular membership. Rank of spouse: _____ Service of spouse: _____
Dues: \$10 per year; 5 years for \$40; Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$150; 51-60 \$125; 61-70 \$100; 71-89 \$50; 90 and older is free.

If married, spouse's first name: _____ Last name, if different than yours: _____

Indicate interest in any of the following Chapter activities or Committees:

Personal Affairs Legislative Affairs/Veterans Affairs Public Affairs Program/Social Newsletter Membership Finance
ROTC Scholarship & Awards Fund Raising Community Service TUG(Computers) Party Bridge Golf Tennis

Dues Enclosed \$ _____ Optional Donation: Scholarships \$ _____ Community Services \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____ Make check to Hawaii Chapter MOAA, PO Box 1185, Kailua HI 96734-1185