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Thinning of the Ranks

Penny Penterman died of stomach cancer on 29 March and was buried at the State Veterans Cemetery on 7 April. Penny was an auxiliary member and a regular member of the Chapter Bridge Group.

Binnacle List

We wish a speedy recovery to our sick:

Lillian Vasey is undergoing chemotherapy at the Arcadia Retirement Residences.

Nancy Callahan is recovering from hip surgery at the Rehab Hospital of the Pacific.

Bill McGarry is recovering from a stroke at the Aloha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kaneohe.

Are You Enrolled in TAMC TRICARE PLUS?

Unofficial, but worthy of passing on is the following tidbit picked up at a recent TAMC TRICARE Hawaii Regional Beneficiary Advisory Council/Health Consumer Committee meeting: A reminder that those who are in the TRICARE PLUS Program are to see their Primary Care Physician at least once a year. This is one of the ways the program can confirm your continued interest as a member of the program. TAMC resources have been strained to provide services since many medical staff have been ordered to support deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. Thus, those patients who fail to check in with their Primary Care Physicians may find themselves being dropped from the program. (PAC, Bruce Smith)

Volume 19, No. 5-6 Pau Hana Koa

**Published monthly by: Hawaii Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 1185
Kailua, Hawaii 96734-1185**

**Subscription included in annual chapter dues.
Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.**

BRIDGE CORNER by Robbie Gee



They say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, but you'd never have known it at the MOAA Party Bridge Group, hosted by Wally Barker and bridge partner Beverly Willms at Bob and Robbie Gee's condo at The Esplanade in Hawaii Kai on Saturday, 27 March 2004. There were some rip-roaring scores and the winner for the evening was no less than Les Ihara, who was joined by his wife, Shirley, in second place. Robbie Gee took third place, and the "booby" prize winner shall remain nameless.

Also striving to be "lion tamers" were members Robbie Gee, John and Joan Peters, Judith Breitwieser, Marian Davis, Bud and Peg Hurless, hosts Wally Barker and Beverly Willms, and Doris Rechsteiner.

Remember to call me at 255-4558 not later than the weekend beforehand to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Nonsmoking players of all abilities are welcome with or without a partner. This is a FUN bunch who enjoy another opportunity to socialize with their TROA/MOAA friends and who don't take their bridge too seriously! The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 7pm 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.

Important Local Government Contacts

- ★ RAO Schofield Barracks: 655-5384
- ★ RAO Pearl Harbor Naval Station: 473-4222 Ext. 231
- ★ RAO Hickam Air Force Base: 449-0674
- ★ Family Svc Ctr MCBH (No USMC RAO): 257-7777/7790
- ★ Funeral Clerk MCBH (for outer island deaths): 257-7712
- ★ VA: 433-1000 or Gerry.Vincent@vba.va.gov or HIROSS@vba.va.gov
- ★ SSA: 1-800=722-1213
- ★ Retiree Liaison TAMC: Terri.Cloud@amedd.army.mil

Giving a Gift That Counts by Captain Rico Tudor, USN (Retired)

How many times do you open an item in the mail asking you to give to a worthy cause? I think we would all like to make a donation, but there are our daily budgets to look after and then, of course, there are questions about the background of the charity that made the request. But, I am sure each one of us would respond to a charitable request that requires no out of pocket costs and only forty-five minutes of our time. Further, if that gift was assured of saving possibly three lives and making lives less fortunate than our own whole and healthy again, we would make an immediate donation. There is such a gift and that gift is the donation of blood.

The donation of blood knows no upper age limits and right now our military Blood Donor Center at Tripler Hospital is facing a crisis. Why? Because most of the Tripler blood donors have been mobilized and now find themselves in Iraq or Afghanistan. These same donors also find out when they return because of their deployment conditions that they will be unable to donate blood for up to three years.

I did not think much about the Tripler Blood Donor Center until a well informed friend apprised me of the current situation. I also learned that the Blood Bank of Hawaii which I have been giving to religiously over the years does not routinely ship in blood to the military facility and that the Blood Bank of Hawaii is a separate and

independent donor system apart from the military. I also learned that Tripler can only accept blood donations from federal government employees and military ID holders.

For that reason I now find my donation every two months going to Tripler Blood Donor Center and I hope we can encourage other MOAA members to do the same. We have set up a special register at Tripler to record the number of donations that our members give and if you arrive at the blood donation center and advise them you are a member of the MOAA your name will be placed on the register.

To get to the Donation Center go to the ocean side elevators of Tripler Hospital, get off at the 2nd floor, and walk straight ahead under the EXIT sign to Room 2A 207. You will find LTC Karen Burmeister, Mary Talon, Rachael Duran and Bernard Cockerham ready to assist you and will take down simple information. The actual donation process takes less than 10 minutes and you are up and ready to go after having a nice juice replacement drink and some cookies to replace that precious pint donation. The Tripler Blood Donation Center number is 433-6195/6148. Your donation is a gift that takes less than an hour of time out of your day and a "gift of life" that will bring true satisfaction to your soul. Lets make MOAA an important part of our support to the military community by these donations.



SIGN UP FOR THE CHAPTER JUNE SOCIAL

All Aboard for a Sunset Dinner Sail

Only at sea do you see the Green Flash!! Here is your chance!

- When:** Friday, June 18th Boarding 5:00 P.M.; Sailing 5:30 P. M.; Return 7:45 P.M.
- Where:** Aboard the "Alii Kai" Pier 5, Aloha Tower, Honolulu Harbor
- What:** A two hour sunset sail, dinner, one drink and Polynesian Revue show
- Cost:** \$40.00 per person (a good deal) – send check to reserve seats by June 2, 2004.

Mail to: Judith Breitwieser, 1403 Onioni St., Kailua, HI 96734.
Please make checks payable to Hawaii Chapter, MOAA.

Tickets provided at boarding by Judith (Pier 5) @ \$40.00 each: \$ _____
Names of those attending: _____

Donation to General or Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____



May 29th 2004 Social Programme – A tribute to Nelson Shreve
The Lanikai Mortgage Players Present
“1600 Pennsylvania Avenue” -or-
“How John Barleycorn Lost His Grip on the White House”
A MELODRAMA IN TWO ACTS

6:30 p.m. – Chapter Pupu Party – Bring your own pupus to share and BYOB
Tickets - set ups – ice - soft drinks – popcorn - paper products provided
8:00 p.m. – Curtain Call

Location: The Lanikai Community Center, Kailua (A’alapapa & Kai’olena Drives)

Tickets – Only 48 tickets available at a cost of \$10 each for a grand Saturday evening event. Send your checks made out to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA to Judith Breitwieser, 1403 Onioni Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734. Call Judith at 262-7953 for details. Buy early!!! Don’t miss out on this two act Melodrama – it will be fun!!!

Adopt-A-Platoon Chapter Project is Underway!!

The Tropic Lightning Band was very grateful for our support but is no longer deploying as a unit to the Middle East and requested that we adopt another unit. We have adopted the Forward Artillery Detachment (responsible for the Q-37 radars with 37 soldiers) operating in Iraq near Kirkuk. Please note the point of contact and address:

Captain Adam Wojcik, USA
25th FAD, 2-11 FA
2BCT, 25th ID(L)
APO AE 09347-9998

Mail, as expected under moving combat conditions, often lags behind. Our troops must carry or consume any goodies. Please make your packages about shoebox size. The mailing restrictions to Muslim countries are no pork products or the ingredients to make alcoholic drinks. The following Chapter members have volunteered to start the flow of “care” packages on dates indicated: 12 April – Jack & Carita Miller (sent), 19 April – George and Joan Montague, 26 April - Judith Breitwieser, 3 May - George and Roberta Sullivan, 10 May - Kathy and Richard DeLong. Members may seek reimbursement of mailing costs by sending the treasurer, Joanne Hauge, their postal receipts. Please sign up with Roxy, the Chapter coordinator, with your proposed mailing dates anytime May through September.

Suggestions of gift items to consider for mailing in your small box:

Personal letters, cards, and pictures; thin paperbacks; moist wipes and lens cleaners; lip balm; sweat bands; small baby powder; pens and small pads; playing cards; gum, candy mints, lifesavers, dried fruits or nuts in bags; disposable cameras; packages of Sweetened Kool-aid.

When we get feedback from our platoon, we will share the information. Send any ideas or suggestions to Roxy. On behalf of all the Chapter, thank you for your support of our Adopted Platoon. Your love for our Troops and our great nation is never in doubt. You may contact me by phone 488-0185 or by e-mail at: roxyhawaii@verizon.net.

Mahalo nui loa, Roxy

TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)

This month, as promised, I will tell you a bit about my beta testing of Windows XP SP2 (that's service pack 2). I'm not sure how MS intends to distribute this, but I am relatively sure it will be a free fix, except perhaps, for a small fee if you want a CD as opposed to a download. This might be well worth it, even for those with a fast (Cable, DSL, etc.) connection, the SP2 release candidate I'm now running is very, very big! There are lots of improvements in this SP. It's almost a whole new OS, but not to worry, it is meant to be an update, so you should be able to keep everything you now have, but don't forget, just in case, to do a backup before installing it! MS is aiming for early summer to release this, so it should be available soon.

The main changes in this SP involve automatic updates, windows firewall, wireless networking controls, and a pop-up blocker for Internet Explorer

Full-Automatic Updates— With the beta of Windows XP SP2, Microsoft is also testing Version 5 of its automatic update. The first screen you see after installing SP2 and rebooting is a blue warning page that asks you to turn on Automatic Updates. You have two choices:

1. Yes, help me protect my PC by automatically downloading and installing updates (strongly recommended)
2. Ask me again later.

The properties screen that controls Automatic Updates settings has been changed. There are now four radio button options (it's really the same number of options presented differently), and the first is the most automatic option; the same one that Microsoft calls "strongly recommended." In general the changes to Automatic Updates are a good idea.

Workable Windows Firewall— What used to be called Internet Connection Firewall has been upgraded and rechristened "Windows Firewall." There are several minor changes, but the biggest and best change is that, according to Microsoft, XP's firewall should work much better with applications. In part, that should be brought about by the new default "On" setting that's something like a medium level of protection. There's also an "On with no exceptions" setting that provides a high security level (similar to the only level of security provided by default in Internet Connection Firewall). This works a lot like zone alarm but is a lot easier to setup!

Easier Wireless Networking? — Since most of you are not into wireless the 802.xx protocols, I will skip this aspect, except to say another type of wireless, Bluetooth, also receives an update with SP2. Microsoft says the point of the update is to provide support for a wider range of the latest Bluetooth devices, including wireless keyboards, mice, and connections with cell phones and PDAs, which I know some of you have.

Security— There are some significant areas of security improvement that are invisible in SP2, but they represent some of the more important changes. Windows Messenger Service, the network messaging feature (not to be confused with Windows Messenger, the instant-messaging client), is turned off by default in SP2. The Windows Messenger Service has been the target of spam pop-ups for more than a year. More recently, it has been identified as a possible area of exploit by hackers and malware. The window that you use to block pop-ups has several choices and allows you to also list pages you want to allow pop-ups on. This feature has worked very well for me during the testing.

If you use Outlook Express or Windows Messenger instant-messaging client, MS is implementing some security fixes in these products. File attachments to emails or files passed with Windows Messenger will be looked at a lot closer by default. Attachments will only be able to open and execute after you are queried in detail. OE will also no longer download external content (such as graphics) in HTML mail by default — so the preview window won't be such a gotcha area. Additionally, Windows XP SP2 will deliver the latest versions of Windows Media Player 9 and DirectX 9.0b, both of which have numerous security tweaks.

Some functionality is still being added to this very big service pack release, but a lot of it is in place. SP2 is kinda like Microsoft's response to the MS Blaster worm. More and more PC users have always-on broadband connections, and leaving their PCs on. Many of those PCs may not be protected well enough. Microsoft is taking the lead to ensure that users are protected with a built-in firewall and automatic updates. Given that worms and Trojans not only infect unprotected PCs, but use them as staging areas to infect other PCs, this is an important step for Microsoft to take. Of course, some may feel that MS is playing big brother again, but only until the first virus gets them!

All in all, SP2 is a pretty solid, stable set of improvements and everything about it is aimed at "security."

Finally, here's a tip for you "frequent shippers"...I would credit the source, but unfortunately forgot to copy it when I saved the tip! Have you ever dropped off a package at FedEx and wondered if you could have gotten a better deal at UPS or the U.S. Post Office? Those businesses do post their prices on the Internet, but you have to surf to each Web site and note the prices. You can stop surfing, because everything is consolidated at the Intershipper Quick Quote. Enter the weight, your ZIP code and the destination ZIP code. You'll receive a list of vendors and prices. You can also compare the differences in prices between standard and priority overnight, two-day, three-day and ground. TO VISIT THIS SITE, GO HERE: <http://www.intershipper.com/Shipping/Intershipper/Website/MainPage.jsp>

That's it for now. Until next time, happy computing. Come see us at one of our upcoming meetings; visit: www.the_tug.homestead.com for schedules and driving directions. lou

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Personal Affairs

CONCURRENT RECEIPT

Captain Jerry Lesperance, USCG (Retired)

SOME DEFINITIONS: Starting about 1999 "Concurrent Receipt" referred to programs that would allow 20-year retirees receiving VA disability compensation to be able to receive their full military retired pay AND the VA disability compensation. Several years ago the term "Concurrent Receipt" began to be used to identify a specific program relating to a 20-year or more retiree with a 50% or greater combined VA disability rating regardless whether the disability was "combat-related" or not. Recently DOD started calling this program "Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)" which is the term that will be used in this article.

A separate program came on board shortly after the CRDP was established. This program is called "Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). It superceded an earlier program called "Special Compensation for Severely Disabled Retirees (SCSD) because CRDP has more generous payments. A retiree cannot receive CRDP as well as CRSC.

CRDP: On 2 February 2004 CRDP payment was made by DOD to nearly 150,000 qualified 20-year or greater retirees who had a combined VA disability rating of at least 50%. Payments to apparently eligible retirees who have significant complications in their retiree accounts (such as former spouse divisions or those who receive retired pay based on the extent of their disability as opposed to their length of service.) may be delayed until their account can be manually reviewed, but the payments will be retroactive. Applications for CRDP are neither required nor accepted. However retirees who have not yet received payment by 1 April 2004, but believe they are qualified, should contact their Military Department or DFAS to determine the reason for non-payment. CRDP benefits are taxable.

CRSC: On 1 January 2004 this program was expanded to compensate 20-year retirees of any combined percentage rating for combat-related disabilities compensated by VA. This benefit applies to any otherwise qualified members who receive Reserve retired pay (paid at age 60 based on points for Reserve participants with 20 "good" years.) To receive CRSC benefits a retiree must apply with their Branch of Service on a DD Form 2860. The service will then make the decision. The form can be downloaded at <http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860T.pdf> or contact Jerry Lesperance. The rules for CRSC eligibility are currently under review by DOD but "combat-related" will be given a broad definition including disabilities resulting from armed conflict, special hazardous duty, training exercises that simulate war, caused by an instrumentality of war, hazardous duty, and certain exposures such as Agent Orange. The reverse side of DD Form 2860 gives more details on qualifying disabilities. CRSC payments will be tax exempt.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION at URLs/e-mail addresses

Army: <http://www.crsc.army.mil/>

Navy & Marine Corps:

<http://www.hq.navy.mil/ncph/CRSCB/combatrelated.htm>

Air Force:

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/disability/CRSC/CRSCnew.htm>

DOD: <http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/crsc.html>

CG: Contact Jerry at jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com or 488-5205

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MOAA Recognizes Hawaii Chapter
with its
Four-Star Excellence Award—2003

ATTENTION:
Lanikai Mortgage Players
Happy Hour (1830) Showtime (2000)
29 May 2004
Lanakai Community Center, Kailua
E-MAIL :
info@moaa-hawaii.org

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 ____ / ____ / ____

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.

Home Phone: _____ Office Phone: _____ Fax _____

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 \$ _____ for Ben Porter Leadership Award, scholarships, USO, etc.

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