Nā Leo O Nā Koa (Voices of Warriors)

Newsletter of the Hawaii Aloha Chapter, Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America,

a nonpartisan, nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commit-ments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

Hawaii State Chapter — Chartered **23 July 1959**; Aloha Chapter — Chartered **27 January 2000** Hawaii Aloha Chapter — Established **1 May 2015**

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2017 & 2020 Chapter Rating Hawaii Aloha Chapter



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March, 2023

Boat Excursion and a Luncheon

February Meeting Report Submitted by Mike Fricano

Last summer, I stopped by the COMPACFLT Boathouse to reserve their Special Remembrance Barge for a Tour around Ford Island and to USS ARI-ZONA. They were just starting to re-open from the COVID shutdown and told me to call back in September for an October tour. In September, I called and made a reservation for 12

October. We were all set to go, but on 11 October, they called me to say the boat had a maintenance problem and we'd have to reschedule. I was disappointed. As our meetings were scheduled for the next three months, I waited, and, in January, I made the reservation for 21 February

Then, as we got closer to the event, Joint Base Protocol called me to tell me that we were being bumped from our requested 2 PM tour up to 1 PM to accommodate a higher

Please see February Tour Page 3



The Hawaii Aloha Chapter Boat People at the Pearl Harbor Boat House

March Luncheon

On 24 March—not 17 March as previously scheduled—we will assemble at the Oahu Veterans' Center at 1115. chapter VP and unsurpassed Program Chairman, Mike Fricano, has arranged a very timely and vitally relevant event for our March meeting.

The topic to be discussed is Oahu's aquafer and the Red Hill fuel-storage facility and the pollution in November, 2021, and potential future pollution of our primary water supply. The Navy is supposed to be expeditiously defueling this facility, as ordered by Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense.

Please See March Meeting Page 3

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Chapter,



We say "Aloha" to our dedicated past president Mark Webster, who has steadfastly served our MOAA chapter the past years while facing interruptions due to COVID as well as personal medical challenges. Even during COVID he kept serving even if, as he light-heartedly said, "I went bumpity, bumpity, bumpity, bump down 14 stairs at home breaking my pelvis!" We are so grateful to Mark as he kept going serving our chapter; even as Mark faced recent medical complications. And we renew our gratitude for Mark's ongoing award-winning efforts as editor/publisher of our chapter's monthly newsletter. We bless you Mark and we thank you.

I had the privilege of representing our chapter at the Annual MOAA Chapter President's Meeting as well as the Monthly Chapter Leaders Roundtable; both via the Internet. I was able to learn and appreciate our MOAA organization on the national level and the extensive programs that MOAA sponsors and facilitates.

Our Vice President, Mike Fricano, has volunteered to attend and represent our chapter at the annual Advocacy in Action AiA) campaign and the Council President's Seminar in Washington D.C. in April. Thank you Mike!

And finally, 13 chapter members and guests enjoyed a wonderful "Day on the Bay!" Traveling Pearl Harbor around Ford Island on the "Admiral's Barge Tour," history of the Pearl Harbor attack was narrated along with a previous tour of the inhouse museum with narration by a sailor and then a 23 minute video was shown featuring the attack with vintage film footage. The weather held and we all enjoyed a wonderful event that illustrated the sacrifice that sailors and soldiers performed in defense of our nation. Afterwards, thirteen of us went onto lunch at the Lanai on Mamala Bay Restaurant on Hickam Air Force Base.

Add these Websites to your "Bookmarks"

http://www.moaa.org
http://takeaction.moaa.org
http://www.moaa-hawaii.org

The Trivia Question

. So many coins circulating today. I used to know what a quarter looked like... today there are State quarters out there and even some other places such as American Samoa and islands in the Caribbean... so hard to keep track. And then we have other coins such as the Susan B Anthony dollar... yikes, collectors are paying over \$1,000 for a Susan B Anthony dollar coin. So I was wondering, this month of honoring Women in History,- what does the B stand for?

See Trivia Answer Page 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

20 Mar 2023 0900, Golf Outing, Leilehua Golf Course, 99 Leilehua Golf Course Road, Wahiawa (Monday) 24 Mar 2023 1115, Membership Meeting/Luncheon; Oahu Veterans' Center; Guest Speakers: (Friday) Ernest Y. W. Lau, Manager and Chief Engineer, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and Kathleen Pahinui, BWS Spokesperson; Topic: Our Aquifer and Red Hill 28 Mar 2023 1630, Ceremony begins followed by Parade at 1800 from Kuroda Field, Ft. DeRussy, Celebrating National Vietnam Veterans Day 21 Apr 2023 1100, Lunch, Highway Inn, 94-830 Moloalo (Friday) Street, Waipahu; Tour of Plantation Village, 94-695 Waipahu Street, Waipahu 24 Apr 2023 0830, Golf Outing, Barbers Point Golf Course, 92-2219 Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave., Kapolei (Monday) 19 May 2023 1115, Membership Meeting/Luncheon; (Friday) Guest Speaker: Dennis Hwang; Topic: Hurricane Preparedness in Hawaii

NOTICE

This newsletter, my 207th issue of Nā Leo O Nā Koa, is an official publication of Hawaii Aloha Chapter, Military Officers' Association of America, P.O. Box 201441, Honolulu, Hawaii 96820. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.

February Tour *from Front Page*

priority Distinguished Visitor tour (more on that later). Weather was uncooperative that week and I received several phone calls and emails asking if the event was still on. But, as the Hawaii Aloha Chapter President, Chaplain Fred Staedel, told me, "the Lord was on your side when it came to weather." It turned out to be a gorgeous day for a boat trip around Ford Island.

The Boathouse staff offered our group of 22 members and guests a tour of the boat house, a talk in the photo and model museum, a 23 minute historical video, and then a narrated tour on the Remembrance Barge that goes out and around Ford Island, stopping at the overturned hull of USS UTAH, and then at Hospital Point, where USS NEVADA beached itself to avoid blocking the harbor entrance. The Barge then went past USS MIS-SOURI and docked at the Arizona Memorial. for about 20 minutes before returning to the boathouse, passing by the submarine, USS BOWFIN, on the way.

Unfortunately, even though the Boathouse gave us 35 slots on the Barge, only 22 showed up. After the tour, only 13 of the group went to a late lunch at The Lanai at Mamala Bay at Hickam Beach. The food and the service were great, and we got to watch airlanes take off (go Air Force!).

Oh, yes, about the DV's who bumped us. Turns out it was Senator Rand Paul, and the 4th richest man in the world (\$110.9B) and the owner of Lanai, Larry Ellison! We all agreed that we were more important!!!

March Meeting from Front Page

We will have nobody more qualified to discuss this topic with us than Ernest Lau, the Manager and Chief Engineer of Honolulu's Board of Water Supply and Kathleen M. Elliott-Pahinui, the BWS Information Officer.



As manager, Lau is responsible for the overall strategic direction and management of the BWS, with a focus on further-

Ernest Lau ing the department's mission to provide a safe, dependable, and affordable water supply, now and into the future.

Lau previously worked as Deputy Director of the State Commission on Water Resource Management, Department of Land and Natural Resources where he worked collaboratively with the Commission members to set policies and make decisions in accordance with the State Water Code. Lau also served as the Manager and Chief Engineer of the Kauai Department of Water from 1996 to 2003 and as Deputy Manager from 1995 1996. Prior to that position, he worked for the Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu for more than 14

years as an engineer in Long Range Planning and Water Systems Planning.

Originally from Chicago and a graduate of the University of



Kathleen Elliott-Pahinui

Illinois at Chicago, Kathleen Pahinui moved to Hawaii in the late 1980's. She has worked in sales, advertising, marketing, publishing, and man-

aged a few restaurants.

At the Board of Water Supply, she brings a wealth of marketing experience that has facilitated the agency in expanding their reach and message including rendering the agency more transparent and accessible to the customer. She manages a sharp team of marketing professionals with skills in strategic planning, social media, website creation and management, video production, and writing.

She is dedicated to the North Shore community and has been involved in many efforts to preserve open space, promote agriculture and provide solutions for the homeless community.

Let's have an impressive turnout for this prescient presentation; submit the Reservation Form on page 7 ASAP.

Recruiting

Your Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, is always looking for new members—active duty and retired officers and surviving spouse members. All are welcome and will enjoy the camaraderie of our chapter. Make it your goal to recruit at least two new members this year. Cut out the Application for Membership Form on page 7 and carry it with you to be readily available whenever an opportunity for recruiting arises.



★ Saturday, March 18, 2023 - 7:00pm ★ The Hawaii Theatre • One Night Only! • Reserve Tickets Now

unforgettable live event. Featuring... Stunning Cinematography, Live Music/Choir,

Historic Film & Eyewitness Interviews.

innovative storytelling.

SEE, HEAR, and EXPERIENCE their incredible heroics through this masterpiece of

www.DefiningCourageShow.com

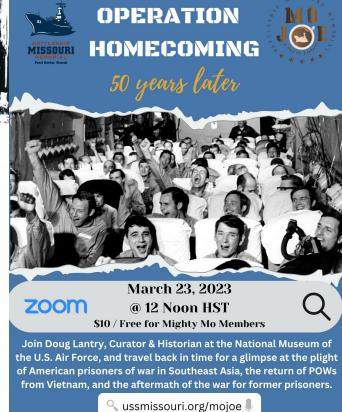
Lone Eagle Honor Flight

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization comprised of independent hubs working together to achieve the Honor Flight mission of celebrating America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials in Washington, D. C. – giving them a hero's welcome every step of the way. In furtherance of this common goal, we have the enormous privilege of showing our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve.

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Honored veterans always travel free of charge, thanks to generous donations to our organization. Alaska Airlines has donated round-trip flights from Honolulu.

Honor Flight Network currently honors those who served during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and veterans of any service era who are critically ill.

There is now an easy ONLINE way to apply as a veteran. The form is easy to use. Check out <u>HonorFlight.org</u> and, since Hawaii is not a regularly scheduled hub for these flights, <u>LoneEagleHonorFlight.org</u>.



Operation Homecoming

The Vietnam War - lasting nearly 20 years, came to a close with the Paris Peace Accords of 1973 which included provisions for exchanging prisoners of war. The plan to return these American prisoners become known as OPERATION HOMECOMING.

Throughout February and March 1973, OPERATION HOMECOMING returned 591 POWs to American soil. Those rescued included 325 Air Force personnel, 77 Army, 138 Navy, 26 Marines and 25 civilians. A devoted 80% of the POWs would go on to continue to their military careers.

Join Doug Lantry, Curator & Historian at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, and travel back in time for a glimpse at the plight of American prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, the return of POWs from Vietnam, and the aftermath of the war for former prisoners.



Chaplain's Corner By Dr. Fred P. Staedel

Are we anxious about what we see happening to our nation and to our world? Times are changing, social norms seem to be

changing, political movements seem to be changing. Such changes often appear ominous. So, what aspect of human nature can soothe such anxiety? We often want answers and we want changes and we often want them now leading to one's anxiety. So, what is the answer? The Holy Bible once again gives us that answer: "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience." (Romans 8:25)

Being patient is a virtue that is based on prayer. We pray for an answer and patience is often required to see and experience that answer. And then often there is the additional anxiety and frustration that can come from fellow friends and even family members. Again, the Bible gives us a solid suggestion of what other mindful behaviors coupled with patience can do to solve one's anxieties and frustrations with those who seem to create such mental discord:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience." (Colossians 3:12).

And Philippians 4:6 goes on to state: "Don't be anxious about anything, rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks."

Yes, one's compassion and kindness coupled with patience trumps anxiety and can lead to peace and comfort. One may ask, "Is that all it takes to quill anxiety and being perpetually upset about changes and behaviors that we abhor? And the answer is no. The big finish to handling anxiety and human frustration comes to us in Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

2023 National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade



2023 National Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade Kuroda Field, Ft DeRussy Wednesday, March 29th, 2023

1630 – Ceremony begins on Kuroda Field at Ft DeRussy.

1800 – Parade begins at Kalakaua Ave & Saratoga St and ends at Kapi'olani Park at Monserrat Street. Of course, spectators along the parade route are most welcome.

Limited parking available at Kapi'olani Park by the band stand, shuttle will run from 1450 to 1630.

Dress, respectful aloha.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact Earl Hurrey at earl@historicprograms.org/808-425-2908 Please send emails and tell me how many will attend the ceremony and if you will be walking or riding in the parade. We will provide one Honolulu Trolley for Purple Heart and other wounded warriors.

If you want to use a vehicle in the parade, Earl will need the make and model and all driver's names for the HPD.

Claire Levenson, Executive Director, Oahu Veterans' Center. 808-422-4000, needs all of this information to her by March 10th, 2023.

Trivia Answer

No not Betsy, B stands for Brownell

December Golf Report

HAMOAA Golf News



Leslie Bise Director of Golf (DOG)

On Friday, 24 February, 21 Hawaii Aloha Chapter, MOAA, golfers braved the showers and brisk windy weather at Mamala Bay Golf Course. Not bad weather for golf, it keeps you cool while playing between the roar of F22s taking off, the sound of freedom. We reserve 7 tee times for each of the golf

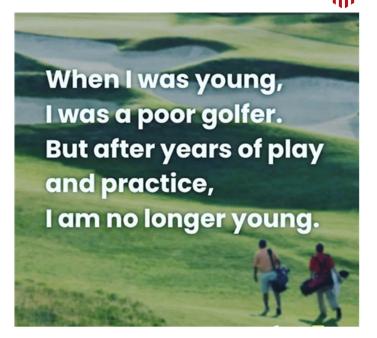
courses we play, which means we can accommodate 28 players, so please join the outing if you have the golfing itch.

Our team placement with the blind draw for 24 February 2023:

1st Place: Russ Grocki / **Bob Nagao**2nd Place: **Gary Hamada** / Steve Koyama
3rd Place: **Peter Ching** / **Ira Tagawa**

Our next outing is scheduled for Leilehua Golf Course on Monday, 20 March, first tee at 09:00. MOAA members and guests are invited to join our golf outings. Please contact **Les Bise**, <u>bisel001@hawaii.rr.com</u>; 808-227-1462.

Just so you do not miss any of our future golf outings, check out our web site, http://www.moaa-hawaii.org/ and print the golf schedule.



Hau'oli lā hānau

Partial List of Known March Babies

Mimi Deibler	3/01	Richard Towne	3/18
Soot Jew	3/02	Edward Gall 98!)	3/19
Curtis Lee	3/04	John Mihlbauer	3/19
Gordon Severson	3/05	Michael Feighny	3/20
James Chang (96)	3/06	Gary Veblin	3/22
Raymond Engle	3/08	James Schoocraft	3/23
Ruth Stepulis	3/10	Joe Kuroda (96)	3/24
Thomas Kalus (97!)	3/13	Gladys Skinner	3/25
Christopher Mann	3/15	Warren Ho	3/30



Best Wishes for many, many more Birthdays!

Taps



Life Member Les S. Ihara, COL, USA, Ret., 94, of Kahaluu, Oahu, died peacefully on 3 February at Castle Memorial Hospital surrounded by his family. Les was born in Hilo on 1 May

1928, graduated from Hilo High and the University of Hawaii and then served in the U.S. Army for the nest 30 years. His peripatetic career took him from Hawaii to California, Germany, Vietnam, Kansas, Washington, D.C., and South Korea. After retiring in 1981, Les returned to Hawaii where he was a legislative aid, community service volunteer and an avid golfer and tennis player, as well as a frequent cruise-ship passenger and Las Vegas visitor along with his wife of 72 years, Shirley, who died at age 92 just last September. Les founded the Aloha Chapter, MOAA, in January, 2000, and was its Chairman of the Board and President in 2007. Les is survived by 3 sons and 3 daughters, 14 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren. A Celebration of Life was held at 1100 on 2 March at the Trousdale Chapel, Valley of the Temples. He was buried at the Kaneohe Veterans' Cemetery.



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(Term Expires Year Indicated)

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