

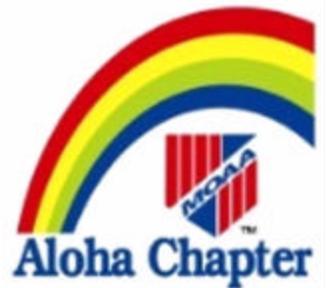
Nā Leo O Nā Koa

(Voices of Warriors)



2004 Chapter Rating

Newsletter of
the Aloha



Chartered January 27, 2000

Chapter,
An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America

Volume No. 7, Issue No. 4

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

April 2006

Bridge Bunch Trumps March Madness

The month of March had record rainfall on Oahu. However, a total of 16 party bridge players, including one guest player, didn't let the unrelenting heavy rain on Sunday, March 19th prevent them from getting to Farhni Realty for the monthly bridge session.

The high scorers who were rewarded with prizes were: 1st - **Helen Hubbell**; 2nd - **Edy Kuwamoto**; 3rd - **Shirley Ihara**; 4th - **Bev Jensen**; 5th - **Mitzi Austin**. **Shirley Ihara** and **Bob Deibler** were also rewarded for bidding and making a Small Slam.

Other bridge players participating were: **Anna Blackwell**, **Mimi Deibler**, **Les Ihara**, **Gary Jensen**, **Mel Kuwamoto**, Hosts **Ken** and **Lillian Patterson**, **Dick** and **Charlene Towne**, and guest substitute **Gertrude**.



Seated from left to right are Bob Deibler, Ken Patterson, and Dick Towne during a break between rounds.



Checking their scores after playing a hand of bridge are, left to right, guest Gertrude, Lillian Patterson, Charlene Towne, and Anna Blackwell.



Playing bridge at one of the 4 tables were left to right, Shirley Ihara, Helen Hubbell, Edy Kuwamoto, and Bev Jensen.

The next party bridge session will be hosted by **Les and Shirley Ihara** at their Kaneohe residence on Sunday, April 9th, beginning at 1 pm. Those who want to play on that date and have not yet signed up must contact the **Les** or **Shirley** ASAP at 239-7947, or e-mail to: lsi@hawaii.rr.com.



President's Message

By **Vernon Von**

March was for mud and Makua Valley—had we gone there. The Army had to cancel our tour as they had to reschedule their controlled burning activity to the day we were to go there.

April is for spring flowers and our annual BBQ chicken sale and May is for lei day and our memorial clean-up.

Let's resolve now to put maximum effort in selling chickens and sushi and also spending time on the Sunday when members pick up their chickens and we sell to the public. It's good time for us to get together and socialize. Lunch and drinks are provided – pot-luck style. **Herb Nakagawa** is our leader for this effort and he can use your help.

Be courageous and turn out for the annual cleaning of the Korean/Vietnam War Memorial in May. Many hands make work light and the fellowship that follows is awesome. Details for the April and May activities are in this and future newsletters or you can call **Hal Kuwahara**, if you have questions.

We can also use your help in serving as our Membership Committee chair. Our secretary, **Gordon Cho**, has been doing double duty in serving in this position also. Please let me know if you are willing volunteer. Furthermore, if you are a shopper with “connections”, we could use your help in purchasing tee shirts (with collar) and mugs with our logo on them. Call me if you can help.

We thank **Larry Enomoto** for helping **Mark Webster** in publishing our Membership Directory and annual reports for 2005. They should be done in April.

We look forward to seeing you at our chapter functions.



Makua Valley Tour Cancellation

We received word that the Army had to cancel our tour on March 23rd as they had to reschedule their controlled burning activity due to the weather. It happened that their rescheduled date was on the very day we were to tour the facility.

We have asked them to reschedule our tour to the month of August, as we have scheduled chapter activities every month until then. We will keep you informed once we get a firm date from the Army.

Thanks to those who signed up for the original tour and hope you can make it for the next one, details to follow in later newsletters.



Ladies Only May Outing

On Monday, May 8, 2006, the Ladies of the Aloha Chapter will tour The Advertiser Production Facility in Kapolei.

The tour of the plant will begin at 9:30 AM and last approximately one hour. Lunch will follow at a place to be announced later. We will meet in the Advertiser lobby.

Call **Mary Cho** @ 484-2400 for more details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
| April 9, 2006 — (Sunday) | Bridge Group meets at the home of Les Shirley Ihara, Kaneohe |
| April 28, 2006 — (Friday) | Golf Outing, Klipper Golf Club, Kaneohe Marine Base |
| April 30, 2006 — (Sunday) | Annual BBQ Chicken Sale and Donations to Institute for Human Services |
| May 3, 10, 17 & 24 (Wednesdays) | Annual Cleanup of Korean/Vietnam War Memorials |
| May 8, 2006 — (Monday) | Ladies' Tour of The Advertiser Production Facility, Kapolei |
| May 12, 2006 — (Friday) | UH Army ROTC Alumni Golf Tournament and Reunion, Hickam AFB |

Notice

This Newsletter is published monthly as an official publication of Aloha Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 19267, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96817-8267. Views expressed herein are not necessarily chapter policy.

Experience our Paradise at the Hale Koa Hotel. . .

As We Celebrate

Month of The Military Child



Every Tuesday during the month of April at our Special Magic in Paradise Dinner Shows starring Mark Allan Mauricio. Keiki will enjoy:



- Games
- Prizes
- Giveaways
- Special Guests

For more information or to purchase tickets, Please Call the Activities Desk at (808)955-0555 ext. 546



FORT DERUSSY ARMED FORCES RECREATION CENTER
2055 KALIA ROAD, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96815 - 1998
(808)955-0555 • www.halekoa.com

Show your appreciation and join the Hale Koa Hotel as we Honor your Secretary at our Special Secretaries' Day Luncheon April 28, 2006 - 11:00 a.m.

Back by popular demand, the Tradewinds will blast you back to the past with songs from the Temptations, Four Platters, and more. Combine that with an extensive buffet, and both you and your secretary will be blown away with some Hip Hop & Soul!



For reservations, or more information Please Call The Activities Desk at (808)955-0555 ext.546

UH Army ROTC Alumni Chapter Golf Tournament and Reunion

The UH Army ROTC Alumni Chapter is hosting a reunion for all alumni classes from 1700-2000, Friday, May 12, at the Hickam AFB Community Center located near the shoppette/theater on McChord St. Cost is \$15/person for a buffet-style dinner. Major General Robert Lee will be the guest speaker.

Please RSVP by calling **Bob Takao** at 258-4285 or tommy-bono@aol.com NLT May 1.

This event is open to all UH Army ROTC Alumni, friends, and guests.

Prior to the dinner, a golf tournament will be held at Hickam Par 3. See the application form to the left for details.

Encourage your friends to come out and enjoy the fellowship.

Also, please note another article regarding Major General Robert Lee on page 4.



University of Hawaii
Army ROTC Alumni Association

18-Hole Golf Tournament, Hickam Par 3
May 12, 2006
1200 Hours
(Limited to first 40 applicants)

Cost: \$25 Retired/Active Duty
\$30 Civ w/Mil affiliation
\$35 Civ
(All proceeds to benefit the Army ROTC program)

Rules: Individual medal play with full handicap or assigned callaway system handicap. *Max 6 clubs!* Top 3 awarded prizes. Closest to the pin on selected holes (TBA);

APPLICATION

Name: _____
Last First

My Handicap is _____

No Handicap _____

Status: Active Ret DAC Civ

Phone _____

- ★ Please make checks payable to:
Ed Gayagas
- ★ Mail NLT 1 May, 2006 to:

Address _____

Ed Gayagas
98-1807 Ipuala Place
Aiea, HI 96701



Aloha Chapter members Nari Hamlin, left, and Wesley Fong, right, making a charitable donation to a member of the Tripler AMC Chapel staff

Community Service

By Wesley Fong

In March Nari Hamlin and Wesley Fong purchased and delivered food items and diapers to the Tripler AMC Chapel as part of Aloha Chapter's donations to a military charitable institution.

Chapel staff were there to accept their donation with great appreciation.



Save TRICARE From Fee Hikes!

Your March 2006 edition of *Military Officer* has a postcard coverwrap with pre-addressed postcards to our three Hawaii Congressional legislators. This magazine wrapper also has a detailed explanation of the DoD-proposed hikes in military retiree health fees.

MOAA and your chapter encourage all members to mail in these postcards in a concerted effort to keep DoD and Congress from making the blunder of increasing TRICARE fees.

UH Alumni Association Honors Major General Robert Lee

Major General Robert Lee, an Aloha Chapter member and a UH AROTC Alumni Chapter member, will receive a UH Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni award at a banquet at 1750-2030 on May 18, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hawaii Ballroom.

The UH Army ROTC Alumni Chapter has five seats available to fill a table of ten. If you are interested in joining the group, the cost is \$80 per UHAA members or \$130 per non-UHAA member.

Contact **Bob Takao** at 258-4285 to RSVP.

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: Hawaii Troops to Teachers at 587-5580 ext 409
Neighbor Islands: call 1-800-420-3688 email: hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
Or go to: www.proudtoserveagain.com



Troops to Teachers



Tips For Your Personal Affairs

Robert Kozuki, Personal Affairs Chairman

The current Jan-Apr 2006 issue of *Army Echoes*, *The Bulletin For The Retired Soldier*, has a number of articles of interest to the Retiree members of the Aloha Chapter, MOAA.

1. Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), open season is from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. For more information, go to: <http://www.armygl.army.mil/retiree>, or the Retirement Service Officer(RSO), Schofield Barracks, 808 655 1514. For the Reserve Component call 1 800 318 5298.

2. Defense Finance & Accounting Services (DFAS) Retired & Annuitant Pay Center, advises when a retiree dies the pay for the part of the month the retiree was alive is owed to the retiree's beneficiary. This is called "Arrears of Pay (AOP)" and the beneficiary must apply for it. If you have questions call DFAS at 1 800 321 1080.

3. Permanent ID cards for eligible family members age 75 or older. Beneficiary with a valid ID card should get the permanent ID card within 90 days of their card's expiration. If your card is not due to expire for at least another year, you do not need to apply for the new ID card until your card is within 90 days of expiring.

The surviving family member must update their personal information in DEERS when the retired sponsor dies. DEERS can be reached at 1 800 538 9552.



MOAA Storm Hill

MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from the 50 states and Puerto Rico, accompanied by members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, swarmed Capitol Hill on March 29 to visit representatives' and senators' offices on key MOAA legislative initiatives.

Experience
From April 1 - May 25, 2006

Spring Fling Savings

Get 4 Nights for the Price of 3!
PLUS! 50% off per person for one KMC Tour!

Spring into KMC and save! Book a 4 night stay between April 1 - May 25, 2006 and pay for a 3 night stay. Save with an additional 50% off per person, on any one of our exciting KMC Tours! Make your reservations today for a great getaway!

Offer applicable only for reservations booked through April 30 and must be at least 10 days prior to arrival. Not valid with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply.


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KMC - A JOINT SERVICES RECREATION CENTER

All cottages and apartments feature a fireplace and numerous amenities. Select units include a kitchen and/or Jacuzzi. Rates start at \$73 and up per night. Call (808) 967-8333 or direct dial from Oahu at 438-6707. On-line reservations also available through our website at www.kmc-volcano.com.

Kilauea Military Camp is open to all Active and Retired Armed Forces, Reserve, National Guard, Dependents and Other Uniformed Services. Also Current and Retired Department of Defense (DOD) Civilian Employees including Coast Guard (CG) Civilian Employees, and Sponsored Guests.

This year, the "Hill stormers" focused on two main issues, supporting legislation to:

- *Prevent large TRICARE fee increases proposed by the Department of Defense, and

- *Fix Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) inequities that impose major financial penalties on survivors of members who died of service-connected causes and "Greatest Generation" retirees who enrolled in SBP in the early 1970s.

The MOAA representatives carried a wealth of information supporting those goals, including information brochures outlining the problems and the needed fixes.

These brochures are available on MOAA's web site in a new format that lets you view and flip pages as if you were actually holding the paper copy. Just click on the "curl" at the bottom right corner to flip to the next page. Check them out at:

TRICARE: [TRICARE Fees](#)

SBP: [Undue Sacrifice](#)



Golf Report for March

By Norm Fujiwara

Who ever wrote the song *What A Difference A Day Makes* must have been referring to the weather we just experienced: a gully washer on Sunday followed on Monday, March 20, by blue skies, limited clouds and a whole lot of sunshine. What a beautiful day for golf! It was such that even working on one's lawn could have been enjoyable. However, being on the golf course on a day like today can make a person smile whether three putting a hole or having one's drive go astray into the bushes.

I started with twenty-one potential golfers but two had problems getting to the islands because of airline problems. Also, one regular golfer was not up to playing and sat it out.

We were able to welcome several first time and "been a long while" players. The first-

timers included **Neil** and **Nancy Lee**, the guest of **Gordon Cho**, **Rose Vinsons** the guest of **Honeyjean Katsarsky**, who was also **Len Katsarsky's** replacement. As for the "been a long while" players they were **Robert Takeo** and his son **Tommy**.

The format for the day was somewhat different, although we have played it once or twice in the past. It is called the 1, 2, & 3 format. Each player is assigned their appropriate handicap for each hole. Thus, after each hole the players score is posted less the player's handicap for that hole or the player's net score. On the first hole the team's lowest net score becomes the team's score. On the next hole, the two low net is the team's score, on the third hole the low three net score is recorded, then the cycle is repeated for 18 holes.

The generous contributors to today's pot included **Gordon Cho** and his guests, **Joe Kuroda**, **Yoshi Nakamura**, **Ken Yamada**; actually, we all contributed but they were the good guys who paid but did not receive any compensation. The big prize winners were, in third place, **Jack Bohman**, **Don Dismuke**, **Honeyjean Katsarsky**, **Rose Vinsons** and, in second place, **Robert Takeo**, his son and **Alice** and yours truly. The winners of the mega jackpot in first place were **Allen Ono**, **Bob Kozuki**, **Ken Munechika** and **Dick Towne**.

Thank you golfers for participating in our version of March Madness.

Our next outing will be on the 28th of April at Klipper Golf Course in Kaneohe. 

Recruit A New Member in 2006!

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 one new member in 2006. For more info, contact Gordon Cho, Vernon Von or any chapter officer.



It takes
a friend
to lead
the way.

Your leadership and commitment to help secure the world will make a difference in the lives of other people. No matter who those people are, that difference is their freedom.



www.PenFed.org
1-800-247-5626

Saluting

A letter follows from retired Army Major General Vern Lewis regarding saluting. You may wish to pass it on to your retired military friends:

"I gathered some 16 of my old military friends who agreed to sponsor a movement for Veterans to salute rather than place their hands over their heart when honoring the flag, fallen comrades, and/or the country. I have some from each of the four principal services. Three of them were former Vice Chiefs or Assistant Commandants of their services, and several were former CINC's.

"We refer to saluting when we do the pledge to the flag, when the National Colors pass or are presented, when the National Anthem or honors are played, or when taps are played and firing squads or guns render honors. We got MOAA magazine to ask veterans what they preferred, hand over the heart or saluting. When last I looked, some 583 veteran respondents had voted 81% in favor of the salute. In addition, my e-mail address was in the questionnaire and I've had about 150 responses, with all but a dozen or so in favor of the salute. Obviously, an overwhelming majority of the veterans want to salute.

"There are no regulations telling us veterans what we can and can't do in this matter. If we decide we want to salute, who will dare to tell us 'no'? It is a matter of personal choice. We've earned the right to render a salute. Now the challenge is to get the word out. I believe the unit and branch associations are the best way.... If we can get this started, it will take on a life of its own. Those who object can continue the hand over the heart thing. Gradually, the custom will change, as well it should.

"Just imagine thousands of fans saluting at football, basketball, and baseball games when the National Anthem is played. It will telegraph a patriotic message to all others of how many have served this country in the Armed Forces." 

MOAA "GIVE ME 10" CAMPAIGN FINAL REPORT

Gordon Cho, Membership Chair

MOAA National finalized the 2005 "Give Me 10" membership recruiting campaign in February 2006 by issuing out bonus awards to the winning chapters. Your **Aloha Chapter** received a check for \$1270.00 from national headquarters. The money included \$1000.00 for having the highest number of new members for our chapter size; \$100.00 for recruiting 10 or more new members; and \$10.00 for each of the 17 new members recruited (\$170.00). A huge **Mahalo** goes out to all those **Aloha Chapter** members who renewed their lapsed national memberships and those new national members who signed up during the campaign.

While the 2006 campaign fell short of national MOAA's goals it was still deemed a great success. It is national MOAA's intention to continue the recruiting campaign in 2006. There will more information to follow on those specifics. So please start beating the bushes for new members to both the **Aloha Chapter** and MOAA national. Contact

Col. GORDON W. CHO, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, 484-2400, or EMAIL: GCHO440443@AOL.COM for further information.

Membership Application

Name _____

Branch of Service _____

Rank _____

Retired Active Former

Reserve National Guard Auxiliary*

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Date of Birth _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Chapter Name Aloha Chapter, HI

Chapter Recruiter _____

*Surviving spouse of eligible officer.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal tax purposes. Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to MILITARY OFFICER magazine.

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



MOAA Seal

Aloha Chapter



Awards

- * 2000 Outstanding Chapter Runner-Up
- * 2000 3-Membership Recruiting Awards
- * 2001 Outstanding Chapter
- * 2001 Membership Recruiting Award
- * 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" Re-
 cruitment Campaign**

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Clarence Agena, USA	677-4103	cmagena1@verizon.net
Anna Blackwell, AUX	739-9164	annagram2@aol.com
Jack Bohman, USA	235-8078	jbohman59@hawaii.rr.com
Joseph Magaldi, Jr., USMC	222-2013	magaldij001@hawaii.rr.com

Officers/Executive Committee

President-Vernon Von, USAF	732-3908	vvon777@earthlink.net
Vice Pres.-Harold Kuwahara	373-4400	harold@hele.net
Secretary-Gordon Cho	484-2400	gcho440443@aol.com
Treasurer-Art Yamamoto	833-3111	aty@verizon.net

Committee Chairs

Community Services: Sam Heard, 488-8897

Fundraising: Herbert Nakagawa Jr., 271-1172, shibikoherb@hotmail.com

Govt/Legislative Affairs: Kelley Roberson, 732-2988, kelleYROBerson@hawaii.rr.com

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ROTC/Veteran Affairs: Wes Fong, 595-6127, wesleyf.fong@verizon.net