



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 19 No. 2

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

February 2004

MIGHTY MO VOUNTEERS HELP KEEP WATCH OVER BATTLESHIP'S FUTURE

(Article courtesy of the USS Missouri Memorial Association)

887 feet long, 209 feet high, plated with 13-17.5 inches of steel armor on all sides, equipped with nine 16-inch main guns and twelve 5-inch anti-aircraft guns ... these are some of the easier-to-find facts about the world-famous Battleship Missouri.

What is often harder to measure, count or quantify are the hours of hard work provided by the Mighty Mo's devoted army of volunteers, each of whom have contributed to the ship's continuing refurbishment.

"I don't know where we would be without our volunteers," said Don Hess, president and chief operating officer of the non-profit USS Missouri Memorial Association, the Missouri's designated caretaker. When asked, he estimates the size of that army to be in the range of



40,000, but he admits this is a conservative estimate.

"We were awestruck by the amount of help we received from the public when the Missouri first arrived in Hawaii," Hess said. "The local community especially has been incredible. It shows just how much the USS Missouri ... and what she represents ... means to the community. The Mighty Mo is in good

hands here in the Islands."

The decommissioned Battleship Missouri, America's last battleship, was towed to Hawaii on Father's Day, June 22, 1998, and berthed on Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor. The Missouri arrived rusting and deteriorating from the wear and tear of spending six years in mothballs at the Navy's Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Washington.

With faded and splotchy paint, a hull marred with black scrape marks, and teakwood decks that were cracked and damaged, the great battleship was a shadow of its former glory. It was on its decks that General Douglas MacArthur and the Allied Forces accepted Japan's
(Continued on Page 2)

FEBRUARY

10 Feb (Tue) LAVA Mtg., Hickam O'Club (1130)

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

20 Feb (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1200)

21 Feb (Sat) Battleship MO Tour & Box Lunch (1130)

21 Feb (Sat) Hilo Satellite Mtg, Café 100 (1200)

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

MARCH

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

6 Mar (Sat) Kona Satellite Mtg (1100)
Regency-at-Hualalai, Kailua-Kona

8 Mar (Mon) PAC Mtg, Hickam O'Club (1130)

9 Mar (Tue) LAVA Mtg., Hickam O'Club (1130)

19 Mar (Fri) Excom Mtg, MCBH O'Club (1200)

19 Mar (Fri) Mardi Gras Time (1800)
Banyan Club, Pearl Harbor Naval Base

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Commander Jack Miller, USN (Ret.)



Anne Deschene, CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Hawaii, spoke on the subject "Identity Theft" at the Chapter January lunch meeting at the Sea Breeze restaurant. The talk was interesting and informative and we thank Anne for the presentation and Judith for making the arrangements. Identity theft is a growing problem. Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal information and your good credit to open new credit accounts so they can run up large bills in your name. The bottom line is to be stingy and cautious in giving out your personal information and to know who you are doing business with.

It is hard to believe that the new acronym "MOAA" only replaced "TROA" one year ago this month. Now MOAA is rolling off our lips without a stutter. I guess you can teach an old dog a new trick. The Chapter team continues to work hard on recruiting new members, getting the Pau Hana Koa on the street, the Chapter Directory published, keeping the data base accurate on the members, helping members that are ill or have a death in the family, supporting the ROTC and providing interesting programs. We also have bridge, computer training and the Luana Koa retirement community. The Chapter is alive and well through the energy of member support to make it happen. We do make mistakes, and feedback, whether criticism or a compliment are always welcome.

"Don't miss the boat." On Saturday, February 21st, Kathy DeLong has arranged with Chapter member Captain Don Hess a special walking tour of the USS Missouri. The cost with a box lunch is \$6.00. This is a wonderful opportunity and a bargain that you do not want to miss. Speaking of missing the boat, be advised that all forty of the Chapter tickets for the Mardi Gras Follies on March 19th have been sold. If you still would like to catch the dinner show, you may call the Box Office direct at 473-1703.

Aloha, Jack

MIGHTY MO (Continued)
unconditional surrender in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945, ending World War II. The USS Missouri also protected United Nations forces in the Korean War and again, four decades later, in Desert Storm.

Now that another six years has passed, the hull and bulkheads shine with a fresh coat of haze gray paint, the decks have been cleaned, and the extensive detail work from bow to stern has brought the ship back to life.

"Volunteers account for more than 95 percent of the refurbishment work on the Missouri," Hess said. "This largely consists of painting what adds up to three acres of vertical steel surfaces, one acre of horizontal steel surfaces, grooming 53,000 sq. ft. of teakwood decks, and replacing nearly 25,000 deck plugs."

Volunteers came to the Missouri from all walks of life: business professionals, college students, retirees, active duty and retired military personnel, housewives, tourists, and the physically challenged. While construction of the Missouri took three years and more than 3 million man-

days, the requirements to refurbish and maintain the ship have no ceiling because operating and maintaining a battleship, even a stationary one, never ends.

Fortunately, volunteers continue to come to the Missouri. Carlos Avila recently made his fourth trip to Hawaii as a volunteer last



November. Though he is a resident of Santa Clara, Calif., he has been traveling to Hawaii over three years as part of the Elderhostel organization's Battleship Missouri volunteer program. This time, Avila was once again back at work on the decks, removing, cleaning and replacing the circular "bung plugs" that hold the long rectangular pieces of teak wood in place.

"I've always been a history buff, and that's why I volunteer each year for the Elderhostel's Battleship Missouri program,"

Avila said. "It's one thing to read about history, and its another to experience it." Before he begins work, Avila always takes a picture so that he has "before" and "after" shots. "It's nice to see how we are contributing to the preservation of a piece of history," he explained.

The Missouri also relies on volunteers to serve as tour guides for the hundreds of thousands of visitors that walk the ships each day. Today, more than 30 volunteers are actively serving as tour guides, but the Missouri can always use more.

"We owe our volunteers a great debt of gratitude," Hess said. "Because of their help, the Battleship Missouri and the story of her heroic crews will be preserved for future generations. Under the watch of its volunteers, the Mighty Mo's battleship-gray hull will never tarnish."

The Mighty Mo welcomes those interested in working on the ship or becoming a volunteer crewmember tour guide. For more information, call the USS Missouri Memorial Association at (808) 423-2263 or visit www.ussmissouri.org.

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- CAPT George Sullivan USN

Thinning of the Ranks

MG Ben Sternberg, USA (Ret), died 2 January. He is survived by his wife, Elsie, and son, Ben Sternberg, Jr.

Binnacle List

COL Frank Ceccarelli, USA (Ret) is On 5-C-2 at TAMC after suffering a massive heart attack on 6 January.

LTC Bill McGarry, AUS (Ret) continues rehabilitation in the Aloha Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Kaneohe, Room 125.

Bumper Sticker of the Year?

*"If you can read this, thank a teacher . . .
And since it's in English, thank a soldier."*

**DONATIONS COUPON
Hawaii Chapter, MOAA**

The Chapter Honor Roll recognition is given based on total contributions by a member for the Calendar Year. Categories: Bronze over \$25; Silver over \$50; Gold over \$100. Please help the Chapter carry out our ROTC and Community Service projects by making a generous donation. Mail this form with your donation to: Hawaii Chapter MOAA, P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734.

Donations may be earmarked as follows:

- Ben Porter ROTC Leadership Award \$ _____**
- JROTC Scholarships \$ _____**
- USO \$ _____**
- Community Service General Fund \$ _____**

MAHALO!!

Luana Koa Moves Forward

by CAPT Ralph Niesz, USCG (Ret.)



CAPT Robert Deibler USN (Ret) and his wife, Mimi, have signed up on the Luana Koa Priority Reservation List

On 6 December 2003 a Holiday Picnic at Lanikohonua by the Sea was held for the Luana Koa priority members and their guests. There were approximately 100 in attendance. Especially memorable was the setting and the entertainment. Nancy Schoocraft, CEO of Hawaii Village Associates, Inc. (HVA), the developer of Luana Koa announced that HVA has signed a letter of intent with a large mainland retirement community operator/developer. The retirement community company is from Medford, Oregon, and plans are in the works for Pacific Retirement Services, Inc. (PRS) to take over the project. At this time, both parties are working on details for a more binding contract.

An independent consulting company will be in Hawaii to hold meetings of focus groups for the Luana Koa project on Wednesday, 4 February 2004. The meetings will be held at the Laulima Room in the Campbell Estate Building in Kapolei. Focus group discussions will concentrate primarily on the concept and design of Luana Koa. The developers want your participation in this event. Remember, you can have a say in how this project will be developed. Refreshments will be provided.

Call me at (808) 373-3619 for more information.

ARE YOU DELINQUENT??

Please check the date which appears above your name on the mailing label. If that date is earlier than today's date, your chapter membership dues are past due. Send your check to Hawaii Chapter MOAA, PO Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734-1185

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Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA) Captain George E. Sullivan USN (Ret.)



SBP Reform Measure

Legislation to reform the Survivor Benefit Plan has been talked about for a number of years but little has been accomplished. Certainly there has been no progress in moving any bill through the Congress that will eliminate, or even reduce, the social security offset which occurs when the surviving spouse reaches the age of 62. The social security offset effectively reduces the SBP payment by one-third (1/3) and that penalty cannot be supported by logic. The service member has paid for both social security and survivor benefit payments, as most workers have - including civilian government, yet only the military plan has a reduction in benefits when social security payments begin. Along with this reduction, the retired member is paying a premium that is now over 20% higher, as a percentage of the total premium (81% vs. 60%), than planned when SBP came into being. Stated another way, the government's contribution has dropped from 40% to 19%. SBP has now become a questionable investment for many service members retiring today. In most cases the member can provide a far better annuity for the spouse using private insurance or other investment plans. This program needs to be fixed now.

Hawaii Chapter MOAA will be working with our Congressional delegation during this year to educate them on the major faults in the SBP and soliciting their help in fixing the program. Your President, Jack Miller and I plan to meet with each Senator and Representative when they are home during congressional recesses. Jack will also talk with our delegation on this subject when he goes to Washington in the spring. We will continue to press upon MOAA National to give this reform effort their complete attention and support. In addition we will be working with other veteran organizations, VFW, Fleet Reserve Associations, NAUS, etc., to help enlist the support of the Military Coalition in Washington in educating all congressmen. The support of every MOAA member will be necessary to bring changes to the Survivor Benefit Plan and we will be asking you to send letters, original letters, to your individual representatives throughout the course of the year. Remember this is an election year. Our elected officials seem to be more receptive to being educated on voters' positions during an election year. Suggestions and information, such as above will be provided to assist in writing these letters. Let's make 2004 the year SBP is changed.

Attention Korean War Veterans

The Freedom League USA, an association of Citizens of Korean descent, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart will host a ceremony at 10:00 a.m., Sunday, February 22, 2004 at Punchbowl. The League will present a Bronze Medallion to eligible Korean War Veterans. (You must have been "in Theatre" during the war.) Should you wish to receive this Medallion, please contact George Sullivan at 623-2243 or alohasully@earthlink.net certifying eligibility. You do not have to attend this ceremony. Medallions for MOAA members will be presented to a Hawaii Chapter MOAA representative.

Parade Salute to World War II Veterans

The World War II Veterans Committee and the World War II Parade Task Force has invited MOAA to participate in the upcoming "Parade Salute to World War II Veterans."

This historic event will take place on Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC on Memorial Day, 31 May 2004. The parade will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 11:00 a.m. The dedication of the National World War II Memorial is on 29 May 2004. If any members would like to participate, please respond to Nancy Carr in the MOAA PR Office 1-800-395-2036 or see the website: <http://www.worldwar2parade.com>.

A REMINDER

Meeting days have changed for some Hawaii Chapter recurring functions. LAVA will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Pikake Room, Hickam O'Club. The Excom will meet on the 3rd Friday of each month in the Legarie Room at MCBH O'Club. PAC meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov, and Jan in the Pikake Room, Hickam O'Club.

WALKING TOUR OF THE USS MISSOURI

WHEN: Saturday, 21 February 2004
 TIME: 1130—Abbreviated Tour
 1200 — Box Lunch in the Ship’s Galley



Guest Speaker: Captain Don Hess, USN (Ret), President & CEO, USS Missouri Memorial Association will speak to us about the ship and the ongoing restoration efforts.

Parking: There is ample parking on Ford Island near the ship. There is a drive-thru drop-off in the parking lot nearest the ship.

COST: \$6.00 per person

————— Clip below and mail by 13 February 2004 —————

Saturday, 21 February 2004 — WALKING TOUR OF THE USS MISSOURI

Number in party planning to attend: _____ @ \$6.00 per person

Program cost _____
 Donations _____
Total Enclosed _____

Name tags to read: _____

Mail reservations of Judith Breitweiser, 1403 Onioni Street, Kailua, HI 96734

MARDI GRAS TIME - 19 MARCH 2004

**ONLY FORTY TICKETS WERE PURCHASED AND
 AS WE GO TO PRESS, ALL HAVE BEEN SOLD**

If you still would like to catch the dinner show, call the Box Office direct at 473-1703.

ATTENTION CHAPTER MEMBERS ON THE BIG ISLAND

A special Kailua-Kona luncheon meeting will be held on Saturday, 6 March 2004 at the Regency-at-Hualalai, Kailua-Kona from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Please call in your reservations to LtCol Ed Tessien at 329-8334 or you may send Ed an e-mail at: pc70@cornell.edu. Hawaii Chapter President Jack Miller will speak on the topic “MOAA and You!” Diane Duran has organized the event, so plan to attend and bring a prospective member with you. You are guaranteed pleasant company with common interests, a gourmet meal at a bargain price, and a good time. We do need a head count so call Ed today! There is no February meeting scheduled for the Kailua-Kona Satellite.

TAX HELP FOR CHAPTER MEMBERS

The time is fast approaching for filing 2003 taxes. Fortunately there are three willing Chapter members that work with AARP in assisting seniors in tax preparations. You may contact the members preferably by e-mail for further information on when and where they are doing taxes. We salute and thank the members for their generous offer to help.

Mililani area – George Sullivan: alohasully@earthlink.net, Phone: 623-2243
 Aiea area – Jerry Lesperance: jlesperance@hawaii.rr.com, Phone: 488-5205
 Windward area – Randy Jaycox: Phone: 261-2936

TUG by Col Lou Torraca, USAF (Ret.)

Thanks to all our members who attended the Jan meeting and were bombarded with Intel's presentation on their Pentium 4 hyperthreading technology. You were a great audience! Thanks also to Ralph and Muriel Nietze for their super support in '03. Their daughter, our own favorite "instructor" Andrea Neal was also a key player in keeping the books in order. And a big TUG-Welcome to our new Secretary-Treasurer, Polly Leigh.

For this month's column, I thought I'd focus on all the new gadgets and goodies our technology gurus are serving up. January is the month they all gather in Las Vegas (about 110,000 of them) for the International Consumer Electronics Show, and this year's event kicked off with the latest installment in Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates's vision of the wired future. That future will play out in a seamless assortment of connected PCs, TVs and a host of other electronics devices -- a digital entertainment system with the computer as its central nervous system, Gates said in his opening keynote. And in a familiar refrain, Gates wants Microsoft to be the market leader.

The tech press, naturally, was on the scene: "Microsoft sees its software as the key to this trend, and Gates' speech affirmed Microsoft's bid to make Windows an indispensable feature of such devices as televisions and video players," The San Francisco Chronicle reported. The San Jose Mercury News noted that Gates's speech shows that Microsoft is continuing to look for new markets to exploit especially as the market for the good old personal computer shrinks. Gates "showed off a handheld video player the company plans to market later this year as part of its ambitious drive into the world of digital entertainment. Microsoft will launch the new Portable Media Center in a bid to challenge rival Apple Computer and boost its credentials in the consumer electronics arena," The Merc wrote. "Microsoft, like leading computer makers and Santa Clara chip maker Intel, is moving aggressively into the market for digital home entertainment at a time when its traditional PC-based business is slowing."

Home Computing Is Here, Now What? While PC makers and other companies may be on board with digital computing, consumers may have a harder time getting their arms around the trend. Washington Post technology reporter Leslie Walker wrote about the gadget overload related to home entertainment at the CES expo. "The long-promised dream of digital home entertainment networks seems closer to reality than ever at the annual gadget extravaganza known as the Consumer Electronics Show, which kicked off yesterday with a dazzling lineup of new contraptions. American computer makers and Asian electronics giants touted rival visions of how people might manage libraries of digital music and movies, and their products make it clear that innovation is back in style after a three-year slump," Walker said. "The new gear on display seems so diverse that consumers are likely to be overwhelmed. Change is roiling the electronics industry so fast that folks who buy today may kick themselves when rival products reach stores months later."

So, I guess we need to be prepared to be "overwhelmed" if you believe Leslie. I do agree with her premise about buying today and kicking myself a few months later...sound familiar? {-:-)

For those of you who keep score and are interested in the complete lineup at the CES, visit http://www.cnet.com/4520-7912_1-5112003-1.html for CNET's full coverage. Speaking of CNET, they do a pretty good job of testing all the new "toys" for us "kids" and just to prove it, here's what they say about the 2003 crop:

The year 2003 for CNET was a lot like any other: there were a lot of tech products tested, a lot of hype, and a lot of products that couldn't live up to the hype. But when a product meets or exceeds our expectations, that's reason to celebrate. From desktops to cell phones and more, see the tech gear that our editors believe really stood out from the crowd this year in our roundup of the top 100 products of 2003.

To see what desktops, notebooks, cell phones, handhelds, software, storage, digital music, peripherals, digital cameras, camcorders, and home entertainment systems they picked, visit http://www.cnet.com/4520-6022_1-102337-1.html

Finally, here's a neat tip from Kim Komando on Icons for Internet Explorer links:

Q. I put a link to your Tip of the Day on my Internet Explorer toolbar. It has the Internet Explorer logo beside it. Can I replace the logo with your picture? A. Yes, you can. But first, let's take a step back and explain for the rest of the audience what you're doing. Every day, we post a Tip of the Day on our Web site (it is a different tip than the one that arrives in this newsletter). The daily online tip can be found here: <http://www.komando.com/tips.asp> So, in this case, the reader created a link to that page on my site on his Internet Explorer toolbar. He did that by going to the page in Internet Explorer, then clicking the Favorites button. Next, he clicked Add to Favorites. In the next window, he highlighted Links to select it and clicked OK. That put the page on my site on the Links toolbar near the top of Internet Explorer. My picture should have been added automatically. If it was there once and vanished, that happens when you erase the browser's history and temporary files. The way to get the picture back is to put the site back on the Favorites list. This could also happen if there are too many temporary Internet files. To fix that, go to Tools>Internet Options. On the General tab, click Delete Files. This could take awhile. Jillions of these things accumulate over time. Deleting them should have little or no effect on your surfing.

Once the temporary Internet files are deleted, right-click the Komando Tip and select Delete. Re-establish the link as before. When it appears on the toolbar, it may still have the Internet Explorer logo. If so, close all Internet Explorer windows. Reopen Internet Explorer. If you're in a state of grace, the picture should be there. If you have a Web site, you can make it possible for others to use your logo or picture when they create links to your site. You must create a 16x16 pixel file called favicon.ico. The logo or picture is created from a bitmap or GIF, both of which are types of graphics. Once you create it, call the file favicon .ico. You can use IconForge (http://www.cursorarts.com/ca_prod.html, \$38) for that. Put the favicon.ico file in the same folder as your Index file.

For this to work, those who link to your site must be using Internet Explorer 5 or later. When they create the link, Internet Explorer will search for favicon.ico. It should install it. If the installation fails, they probably need to delete their temporary Internet files, as explained above.

That's it for February, don't forget Valentine's Day the 14th. Come see us at one of our future meetings, visit www.the_tug.homestead.com for schedule and driving directions.

Until next month, happy computing. lou

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The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass,
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.
Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My church have you been true?

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No Lord, I guess I ain't,
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint,
I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough,
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny
That wasn't mine to keep . . .
Though I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills got just too steep,
And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear,
I know I don't deserve a place
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.

If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be grand,
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

There was silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod,
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.
"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well,
Walk peacefully on Heaven's street,
You've done your time in Hell."
— Anonymous

Letter to the Editor - -

Sorry I have not been able to get to your meetings. As a Life Member, age 97, just wanted to make a small donation. My husband was a 30-year man retiring in 1953. We were here in 1941, he with the 14th Coast Artillery, with quarters at Fort DeRussy. 15 years of that 30 were here in Hawaii. It has been a good life, but he passed away in 1980. He would now be 102 years old. I used to enjoy your meetings years ago. - - Anna Walder, Honolulu

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

ATTENTION:
Luncheon Meeting
21 February 2004, 1130
Walking Tour Battleship Missouri

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. **Grace period at the old rates of \$9 and \$36 until 31 March 2004.**

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