



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors - Hawaii State Chapter
Retired, Former, Active Duty & Reserve Warriors
Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 23 No. 1

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

January 2008

"He is the Man" by Bob Popp

For decades, the United States Navy Department has determined the names for its Navy ships based on certain criteria. Destroyers and frigates usually carried the names of Navy and Marine Corps heroes; many names were familiar but others were relatively unknown but to a few. Of the latter was the frigate USS Meyerkord (FF-1058). Who or what was a Meyerkord?

Harold Dale Meyerkord was born in St. Louis, Missouri. In high school and at the University of Missouri his moniker was "aggressive". In 1960, Ensign Meyerkord graduated from Officers' Candidate School and a few years later, told his new bride that he wanted to go to Vietnam because, "...A lot is going on there that will eventually change the world". After six months of training and language school, LT Meyerkord arrived in Vietnam as an advisor to the Vietnamese Navy. In June 1964, in the Mekong Delta river town of Vinh Long, 65 miles south of Saigon, LT Meyerkord assumed duties as Senior Advisor to River Assault Group 23. It did not take very long for Meyerkord to make a distinct imprint as a leader and became revered by Vietnamese

Naval officers and men. A short while later, while on patrol on the Co Chien River, an apparition suddenly appeared on Meyerkord's



commandement, a French-built patrol boat. Wearing horned rimmed glasses and an Australian bush hat with a raspy, Marine Corps-like voice, Dickie Chappelle was a combat correspondent/photographer who had already established herself as a living legend with Marine Corps forces in Vietnam. She was now going to meet

another living legend, Dale Meyerkord. They soon became kindred spirits and later Dickie described Dale as "the man" in her 1966 article in National Geographic articles, "Water War in Vietnam".

Like Chappelle, Meyerkord wore an Australian bush hat. When challenged about wearing the hat into battle, Meyerkord called it his, "fighting hat". It wasn't long before he took his fighting hat into battle. While on patrol on the Co Chien River, he received a radio message that two Vietnamese Ranger companies were in contact with a superior Viet Cong force. Never the shrinking violet, Meyerkord advised his Vietnamese officers to proceed up a narrow canal to support the Rangers. The Viet Cong gunners were waiting. Bullets were coming from every direction and the din was deafening in the confined waterway.

Three months earlier, Meyerkord has forecast his own death. He said that it would be on patrol in the Mekong. On that day, Dale Meyerkord heroic life came to an end. Dickie Chappelle would write, "the audacious, ebullient Lieutenant

(Cont'd on Page 4)

Coming Events January 2008

- 5 Jan (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000 Computer Training, Oahu Veterans Center
- 14 Jan (Mon) PAC Mtg, Time and Place TBD
- 18 Jan (Fri) Excom Mtg., MCBH O'Club 1000
- 18 Jan (Fri) Ni'ihau Pictorial Presentation, 1130 MCBH O'Club, w/Allan Lloyd

Coming Events February

- 2 Feb (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000 Computer Training, Oahu Veterans Center
- Monthly Social Activity, See Page 3 Date, Time and Place TBD
- 15 Feb (Fri) Excom Mtg., MCBH O'Club 1115



PERSPECTIVES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

by LCDR Tom Marzec - USN (Ret.)

Aloha me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!

As we open a great and promising 2008, let me discuss my reasons for taking the helm from John Harms, introduce myself and chart out a strategic direction for MOAA in Hawaii.

First, congratulations are in order to Bruce Smith, John Harms and all of the other Directors and Officers for the superb job they have done for the three previous years. The continued service, giving and professionalism of our members is truly impressive.

After many many duty stations, Hawaii became my home in December 1995. Unique from the moment of first stepping off the airplane, enjoying the tropical airport and riding to the Hale Koa open reservation desk, Hawaii will always be near and dear to my heart. I bet every one of us vividly remembers that magical moment of first arriving in Hawaii. I cherish the aloha, the diversity, the mix of cultures, the tasty foods, the harmonious music, the incredible mountains and ocean, the sailing and astronomy, the distinct neighbor islands, and the many other wonderful things here, including the history and our part in defending Hawaii. Participating in the December 7th ceremonies this year, and witnessing the honor and respect rightfully bestowed upon the dwindling Pearl Harbor veterans, reinforced how the military and Hawaii are inextricably linked in the past, and how Hawaii will be a critical crossroads militarily and economically in the future.

Making Hawaii my home resulted in a high level of commitment to community involvement -- in a way I never experienced in any previous place. Hawaii, in becoming my community, also inspired my civic duty. While active in animal quarantine and judiciary issues, the Legislature, and various organizations, I met a fellow officer at a Senator Ihara sponsored Sunshine event at a local news station. He had a Hawaii Chapter membership application in his wallet, encouraged me to sign up and I did.

The saying: "A'ohe hana nui ka alu'ia" is translated as "No task is too big when done together." My hands, in helping to accomplish the goals of this Chapter, are just one of many, and I encourage you to add your hands to our tasks so that all of our goals can be accomplished together.

My background starts with both of my parents leaving Poland after WWII to escape Communism. My father was an officer in the Polish Resistance Home Army and a POW, my mother experienced the war front move through her village several times. My father became a dentist, my mother a graduate agricultural expert, and they came to America for liberty, freedom, opportunity and economic prosperity.

I went to the Naval Academy, graduated in 1987, went submarines, served on the USS PENNSYLVANIA (SSBN 735), taught ROTC at the University of Pennsylvania and completed a Wharton MBA. Navigator on the USS LOUISVILLE (SSN 724) brought me to Hawaii, and I served on COMSUBPAC and COMPACFLT staffs.

Two years as President will bring us to our 50th anniversary in 2009, and our goals include:

- Growing our membership by an overall 2% a year (12 overall additional members each year). Just as a member recruited me, carry a membership application, reach out to other members-in-waiting, and encourage them to join.
• Raising more J/ROTC scholarship monies (\$10K in 2009 and beyond), exploring funding scholarship awards in perpetuity, pursuing additional funding streams, and improving the visibility of our services.
• Creating more varied social and civic events to promote camaraderie and just plain fun! Feedback your ideas and let us know what we can do for you.
• Collaborating as extensively as possible with our fellow Aloha Chapter (of which I am a member), so we can enjoy what each Chapter brings to the table, mix socially and benefit from each other's strengths.
• Expanding our web site functionality, usage and content, to support our goals and increase our visibility.
• Celebrating our 50th anniversary with a memorable 2009, and even more fellowship, unity and service.

Of course, our great work will continue at Personal Affairs, Auxiliaries, Legislative & Veteran Affairs, the PHK, The computer Users Group, and our various other services and resources.

I resolve to provide you with my best, as we march forward and accomplish our goals together.

-- CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS --

THIS MONTH --

**NI'HAU, THE FORBIDDEN ISLAND
A PICTORIAL PRESENTATION**
BY Allan Lloyd, Historian of the USS Missouri
Date: 18 January
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: MCBH Officers Club
For details and reservation form see Page 4

**PLANNED FEBRUARY EVENT --
FOCUS ON CROSS CULTURAL AGING
CENTENARIAN STUDY**
by Dr. Craig Wilcox
Professor of International Health/Welfare
and Gerontology
Okinawa International University
Date, Time and Place TBD

IN MARCH -- TBD

Thinning of the Ranks

Maj Juanita D. Schiltz, USAF (Ret) died 25 November. She is survived only by her many friends.
LtCol William S. Cope, USAF (Ret) died 25 November. He is survived by two daughters.
CAPT Meredith C. (Rip) Riddle, USN (Ret) died 29 November. He is survived by his wife, Dolores.

Binnacle List

Mary Jo Bezanson Bobbie Harms
Stanley K. Nicholls Ronald S. Bezanson

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Volume 23, No. 1 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.

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"He Is the Man" Cont'd from Page 1)

Mayerkord - husband, father, leader of men – dead of bullet in the brain on the bank of a muddy canal". Hours after the battle, the Vietnamese commandement moored at Vinh Long. Two Vietnamese sailors lifted a litter from the deck and moved it reverently ashore. On the litter, at the man's feet, was an Australian bush hat. The first American Naval officer had been killed in South Vietnam. Two years later, the USS Meyerkord was commissioned into the United States Navy.

A year after Dale Meyerkord's death in 1965, on a high school football field renamed the Dale Meyerkord Memorial Field, Secretary of the Navy, Paul H. Nitze presented the Navy Cross medal to Dale's widow. That same year, while accompanying a Marine Corps patrol near Chu Lai, a Marine officer tripped a booby trap throwing deadly shrapnel in a wide arc. Dickie Chapelle was mortally wounded. As corpsmen worked unsuccessfully to save her life, she was heard to say, "I guess it was bound to happen". Dickie Chapelle became the first women correspondent ever to die in action.



Kindred spirits, a man and a woman whose lights shone brightly for too short a time, demonstrated the courage, dedication, and aggressiveness that serve as examples to the rest of us.

Attribution: Brown Water, Black Berets by Thomas J. Cutler



NI'HAU THE FORBIDDEN ISLAND - A PICTORIAL PRESENTATION



By Allan Lloyd – Historian of the USS Missouri
Mr. Lloyd will also be providing some insights and pictures of the USS Ward sinking of the Japanese Mini Sub – Dec. 7, 1941

DATE: 18 January 2008
PLACE: Marine Corps Officers Club, Kaneohe Bay
TIME: 11:30 A.M.
COST: \$9.50 for Pasta Buffet (Wide selection of items).

Name: _____ No. of Guests: _____

Donation: Educational Scholarship \$ _____ Community Service \$ _____

For Donations please make check out to Hawaii State Chapter MOAA and send to Neil Carmody at 387 Kaelepulu Drive, Apt G, Kailua, HI 96734.

For reservations send this to: Jim Gebhard at 107 Kailuana Place, Kailua, HI 96734.

If you do not have a base entry decal please check here _____ so your name can be given to sentry on the MAIN gate (H3).

**PLEASE SEND IN A RESERVATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES
EVEN THOUGH NO MONIES ARE REQUIRED**





CHAPTER DONATIONS FOR 2008

Last year was exceptional for the donations that you as our Chapter members contributed for JROTC Educational Scholarships, ROTC Educational Awards, and Community Service Projects. We have increased our Scholarships to \$6,000 this year, with a goal of \$10,000 for our 50th Anniversary year in 2009. Community Service now includes the Armed Services YMCA.

GOLD AWARDS (\$100 plus)

Albert Turner, Regina Kirchner, Bruce Smith, and Myrl Noggle, John Peters

SILVER AWARDS (\$50 to \$99)

William Moore, Stanley DeRieux, Ralph Cook

BRONZE AWARD (\$25 to \$49)

Darrell Large, Jack Miller, Robert Popp, William Quirk, Gary Veblen

Note: If you have donated in these areas and do not see your name contact John Harms at 261-2282 or JandBHarms@aol.com

CHAPTER EXPENSES AND INCOME (OR DUES)

Santa has gone, but our Chapter Finance Committee has been going over the books, checking them twice to ensure we balance the books of expenses and income. After a lot of discussion we have recommended to the Board of Directors and they have approved a dues increase effective 1 March 2008. This new structure will be as follows:

Regular Members – Annual dues will be \$18 a year, 5 year dues will be \$72, Life Membership: Age 50 and under \$360, Age 51-60 \$300, Age 61-70 \$270, Age 71-89 \$120, Age 90 and over Free.

Auxiliary Members – Annual dues will be \$12 a year, 5 year dues will be \$48, Age 50 and under \$180, Age 51-60 \$ 150.00, Age 61-70 \$120, Age 71-89 \$60, and Age 90 and older free. For those who attended our November Annual meeting you received the 2007 Annual Report which included a financial statement. The updated (to 31 Dec 07) Annual Report will be part of the 2008 Directory.



ADVERTISERS NEEDED!!

It is time to lineup advertisers for our 2008 Directory. As many know has been the primary funding for our Educational Scholarships and Community Service donations over the years. We took in over \$2000 in profits from Directory Advertisers last year. So PLEASE if you know anyone who would place an advertisement in our very professional Directory that is distributed to about 700 persons please contact Jack Miller at 261-2282 or email jackmiller@hawaii.rr.com. Costs are minimal, \$300 for a full page, \$150 for a half page, and \$400 for one of the two inside covers. DON'T please just call or email Jack with a group of Companies that should be advertising, but establish a point of contact yourself, explain the cost structure (Corporate credit card can be used), how many people will receive Directory's then give Jack all this information so he and I can follow up with a formal request letter. Art

work, supplied by the advertiser, is too be sent to John Peters by the end of January 2008. This and other details will be in a solicitation letter. Come aboard and help your Chapter enhance these programs of Community Service and Educational Scholarships.

Coast Guard Memorial Fund

Contributions are still urgently needed to complete the installation on 18 January 2008 of the Coast Guard Memorial on the Memorial Walk at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, in Honolulu. Go to: www.CGPacificVeteransMemorial.org if you want to donate online or send your check to "CG Pacific Veterans Memorial Fund" and mail to Coast Guard Pacific War Veterans Memorial Fund, c/o Hawaiian Islands CPOA, USCG ISC, 400 Sand Island Parkway, Honolulu, HI 96819.



TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)
Happy 2008! Somebody Tell Me Where 2007 Went!!

I was surprised at the number of calls/e-mails I got about the list I did for Christmas...almost everyone had some they thought I should add, but of course, I explained I couldn't do that as my next column would be in January '08. Guess what...I got some pretty logical advice from 2 ladies who know what they are talking about. They are champion shoppers...at least one is as I get to see the bills. {-} So, what was that sage advice? I quote: "How many people do you see in line at the various places you shop, waiting for an exchange or refund starting the 2nd of January?" I of course mumbled a bit, but the message was clear...do another list so people will get ideas about what to exchange theirs for or buy another one with their refund. Keep in mind, this is a very abbreviated version of my full column which will be posted the 1st or 2nd of January at: <http://tinyurl.com/363qew> where you will find a full description of each item, along with price and where to buy it. So, with that in mind and a tip of the hat to Matt Shumate, here is my exchange/refund list of nifty goodies for your consideration:

Open It!: The ultimate Wrap Rage Cure.

mStation Tower: Seems like everyone has an iPod and is looking for more enhancements. That's obviously the reason for this listing and a few others further on. Rock out with this powerful speaker docking system.

i1155: 8.5" Portable Multimedia Player for your iPod and DVDs - Just the right touch for watching videos and more. When you're on the move, you shouldn't have to strain your eyes to watch a video on a small screen.

USB Beverage Chiller: I actually gave one of these away last month because it worked too well. My wife determined I was spending too much time in front of the PC as I didn't have to get up and replenish my ice cubes!

mStation mophie juice pack: Sounds a bit pricey, but I suppose if you are in fact a fanatic...it's worth the bucks. The juice pack battery extender gives iPhone fanatics extra time to talk, rock, surf, and send. www.mophie.com

mStation Orb: What can I say, except I agree: it's definitely funky! The Orb boasts superior sound in a funky iPod docking station.

Überclock: I'm not a gamer so I can't say much about this one. It offers gamers what they've been demanding for years.

Boynq Alibi: This fashionable multifunctional computer speaker and web cam connects you to the new era of visual internet communication! FYI, I have a speaker only version of this one and it is super!

Vuzix iWear AV920: This one is on my list of stuff to see/try while I am at the Consumer Electronics show starting the 7th of January in Las Vegas. The AV920 from Vuzix features our best mobile experience yet; a wearable virtual 62" big screen compatible with almost any audio/video device.

Luv i222 Bluetooth Back Phone Headset: So far, I haven't been tempted to do much with my cell-phone except make and receive an occasional call. My phone does have Bluetooth capability so perhaps I'll give it a try.

The iMep: This one looks really nifty. Perfect for the holidays, this ultimate mobile entertainment player by 3P Electronics will be on any media lover's wish list.

Piano Wizard: Looks like a solution to getting the kids to practice their piano! A PC & Mac based video game that teaches anyone how to play piano in minutes.

iPhone Accessories by XtremeMac: Need some stocking stuffers for an iPhone owner, XtremeMac has you covered with its line of cases and a car charge to help accessorize the hottest gadget of the year.

I Can Play Guitar: Probably more fun than the piano. {-}

Mophie Bevy: I guess if you have knots, you need one of these! The Bevy is the first product brought to life by the Illuminator project. Made of a sleek crystal-clear polycarbonate with a stainless steel insert, the Bevy is designed to add multiple functions to the Shuffle.

SmartShopper: I need one of these. My scribbled lists on shopping day are a challenge to decipher!

Solio from Better Energy Systems: Neat idea for folks with all those gadgets.

Plug into the Sun and never get stuck again without power! Solio, a palm sized device, can be charged by solar energy or main electricity to power any hand held device at home, at work or on the move.

Swann Digital Private Eye: If you need pics of everyone that shows up at your front door...here yah go! Swann's latest DIY surveillance system that automatically records images onto an SD Memory Card upon detecting motion.

That does it for now...next time I hope to tell you about some really cutting edge consumer electronic gear I get to see at the huge Consumer Electronics Show; in the meantime, be careful out there while you enjoy all the fun stuff.

Come see us at one of our regular meetings; info at: www.the-tug.org. Aloha, *Lou*

VETERAN CHARITIES UPDATE

Submitted by Jack Miller, Source: FDVA News Clips 13 Dec 07

The American Institute of Philanthropy (AIP), a leading charity watchdog, issued a report card this month for 29 veterans and military charities. Letter grades were based largely on the charities' fundraising costs and the percentage of money raised that was spent on charitable activities. Following is an alphabetical summary of charities and grade assigned:

Air Force Aid Society (A+)
 American Ex-Prisoners of War
 Service Foundation (F)
 American Veterans Coalition (F)
 American Veterans Relief Foundation (F)
 AMVETS National Service Foundation (F)
 Armed Services YMCA of the USA (A-)
 Army Emergency Relief (A+)
 Blinded Veterans Association (D)
 Disabled American Veterans (D)
 Disabled Veterans Association (F)
 Fisher House Foundation (A+)
 Freedom Alliance (F)

Help Hospitalized Veterans/Coalition
 to Salute America's Heroes (F)
 Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund (A+)
 Military Order of the Purple Heart
 Service Foundation (F)
 National Military Family Association (A)
 National Veterans Services Fund (F)
 National Vietnam Veterans Committee (D)
 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (A+)
 NCOA National Defense Foundation (F)
 Paralyzed Veterans of America (F)
 Soldiers' Angels (D)
 United Spinal Association's
 Wounded Warrior Project (D)
 USO (United Service Organization) (C+)
 Veterans of Foreign Wars and foundation (C-)
 Veterans of the Vietnam War &
 the Veterans Coalition (D)
 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (D)
 VietNow National Headquarters (F)
 World War II Veterans Committee (D)

WHAT IS A VET?

By Father Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC
 Submitted by Jim Gehhard

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg -- or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's alloy forged in the refinery of adversity.

Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking. What is a vet?

- He is a cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.
- He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown fratboy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.
- She - or her - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.
- He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back AT ALL.
- He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat - but saved countless lives by turning slouch, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and

teaching them to watch each other's backs.

- He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.
- He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.
- He is the three anonymous heroes in the Tomb of the Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's bottomless deep.
- He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and agonizingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.
- He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being - a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.
- He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

