



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

The Retired Officers Association P.O. Box 1185 Kailua Hawaii 96734

Volume 16 No 3

WEBSITE <http://home.att.net/~troa-hi>

March 2001

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN VISIT HAWAII

History of the Tuskegee Airmen

Due to the rigid pattern of segregation that prevailed in the United States during World War II, the training of 996 Black military aviators was concentrated at an isolated specially constructed Army Airfield near Tuskegee, Alabama and at Tuskegee Institute. The first contingent of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, (later designated as Fighter Squadron) was a group of enlisted technical and administrative specialists and five Aviation Cadets, all of whom were trained at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Illinois, the U. S. Army Air Corps Technical Training School. These individuals established a grade point average as a group, never equalled before or after during their training period April to November 1941.

Four hundred and fifty black fighter pilots under command of Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (later to become the USAF's first black Lieutenant General), fought the aerial war over North Africa, Sicily, Italy, southern France, and Europe flying P-40 P-39 P-47 and P-51 aircraft. These gallant men flew 15,553 sorties and completed 1,578 combat missions while assigned to the U. S. Army's XII (Tactical) and XV (Strategic) Air Forces. The 99th Fighter Squadron, already distinguished by its impressive combat record in North Africa, Sicily, and over Anzio beachhead, was joined by the 100th, 301st and 302nd Fighter Squadrons, comprising the 332nd Fighter Group.

This Group was labeled and recognized as the "Schwarze Vogelmenscheit (Black Birdmen) by the Luftwaffe. The American bomber crews called the 332nd the "Red Tails" because of the identity brightly painted red tail assemblies. The



Tuskegee Airmen Richard Ceasar, Leslie Williams, and Woodie Spears with President John Peters

332nd earned an unequalled record for never having lost a single bomber under its escort cover, to enemy air action, during the en route, penetration and withdrawal phases of strategic bombardment operations all over the European continent. The Group flew four squadrons, each providing 16 aircraft plus two spares, totaling 72 fighters, an awesome force. Its combat achievement record comprises destruction of enemy aircraft in the air and on the ground, airfields, rail traffic and facilities, oil refineries, ammunition depots, barges, one destroyer and many assigned military targets. The Black aviators were awarded 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, many more Air Medals and Clusters, Legions of Merit, the Red Star of Yugoslavia and the Presidential Unit Citation. Not to be forgotten are the contributions of skilled dedicated mechanics, armories, ordnance, and seldom mentioned technical and administrative personnel who made this impressive combat record possible. Other Black pilots, navigators, bombardiers, gunners and maintenance personnel were trained

and groomed as the 477th Mebun (B-25) Bombardment Group, comprising the 616th, 617th, 618th and 619th Squadrons. The surrender of Germany and Japan precluded their commitment to combat, so they were never deployed overseas. However, they fought an equally important war in the States where hatred, prejudice and discrimination had grown to incredible levels during the greatest war ever experienced by mankind. Their stubborn and unrelenting resistance to demoralizing segregation by high military and political officials spearheaded the first action to smash armed forces discrimination and later led to the follow-on civil rights movements. Their success was marked by the elevation of three pioneers to flag rank : the late General Daniel "Chappie" James to four-star general; Lieutenant General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. (retired) to three-star level*, and Major General Lucius D. Theus (retired) to two-star level.

Major achievements are attributable to Tuskegee Airmen, who returned to civilian life and there again demonstrated their will to progress and succeed, earning prestigious positions of importance and respect as corporate executives, judges, lawyers, doctors, surgeons, engineers, educators, scientists, and political and religious leaders. The anonymity of the Tuskegee Airmen ended in August 1973 when, in Washington, D.C., the body voted and installed its first slate of National Officers and divided the continental U.S. into three functioning regions - Eastern, Central, and Western Regions respectively.

Executive Committee**Elected Officers**

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vacant

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am pleased again to provide a message to every member of the Hawaii Chapter of TROA. I hope you have been attending our meetings and have enjoyed the great programs arranged by Jack Miller. Two winners out of two is a good, no, a great start in 2001. A really inspirational American Gerry Coffee honored us with a talk at the January meeting. Followed in February by a very pleasant event as we met with the Aloha Chapter for Brunch at K-Bay to hear Mike Nelson our National TROA President. I hope you know you missed two great events if you failed to attend. Let me echo Mike Nelson, who pointed out that the Pau Hana Koa is a great Newsletter. We all owe Duke Frey our thanks for editing and publishing it for us. Following that meeting it was my great pleasure to accompany Mike Nelson on a visit to COL Steer at his home. His memory and accomplishments during his first 100 years is remarkable. TROA presented him with Life Membership, which I trust will be good for many more years.

Our March program is the usual Navy Charity fund raising event "Mardi Gras." Whether you like such a show or not, please join me in supporting this very worthwhile cause which provides most of the support for MWR.

In April you will meet the new Commander of the Pacific Fleet Submarine force and have an opportunity to hear his thoughts for the Force at a Dinner at the USS BOWFIN Submarine Museum.

May is the month for Military Appreciation and Armed Forces Day. RADM Paul Lacy is the Chairman of the selection committee to determine the winner of the year 2001 DOLEMAN Award. Nominate the Member you consider most deserving of this Award from the Hawaii Chapter. The details are in this Pau Hana Koa. Please help ensure the BEST Retired Officer wins by NOMINATING HIM.

My next theme is Membership, Recruiting and Retention. I am gratified by the response to my letter to those who did not renew in December and welcome you in 2001. I urge every Member to ask every Retired Officer you know whether he or she is a Member of TROA and to please join if not. Membership dues are what keep our Hawaii Chapter alive. Our ROTC Award and Scholarship programs directly depend on dues income. I want to thank Chris Nintzel for his service in the ROTC programs. Work pressure has forced Chris to step down, and I thank Hank Heyenga for temporarily taking over ROTC. We need a volunteer interested in the ROTC program to step forward. Every one of us is a Volunteer, working hard for YOU. Please help in any way you can to ensure that the Hawaii Chapter is fun, effective, and run as it should be. A job for all of us. If you have any suggestions or ideas for improvement, tell a member of the Board or an Officer. YOU ARE TROA! YOU ARE APPRECIATED. I hope you choose to be active and participate. Aloha John P.

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Member of the Month
Hawaii Chapter recognizes Lt Col Shirley Cavanaugh
Member of the Month for March

Shirley graduated from Bakwin High School in Wailuku, Maui, in 1961. After receiving a bachelor's degree in secondary speech education from Washington State University in 1965, she taught at Mount Tahoma High School in Tacoma, Wash.

She received her commission through Officers Training School in November 1967 and served as a personnel officer before retraining into the public affairs field. She held various PAO positions in Texas, Ohio, Japan, and Maryland. Her last two active duty assignments were with U.S. Forces Korea/United Nations Command, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul, and at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, Peterson AFB.



While on active duty, she received her master of arts in communication from the University of Northern Colorado.

She currently is a public information officer at the University of Hawaii 'i, where she is the speechwriter for President Kenneth Mortimer. Shirley is on the TROA Hawaii 'i Chapter's board of directors and also is the chapter's publicity chair. She also volunteers at her church, First Presbyterian Church; the Hawaii 'i International Film Festival; and the Hawaii 'i Theatre Center. Her interests include traveling, Alpine (snow) skiing, and spending time with her daughter, Kimberly, a freshman at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

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CAPT George Sullivan USN

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Coming Events

**13 Mar (Tues) - LAVA Meeting - Pikake Room
Hickam O-Club**

13 Mar (Tues) - Kona Satellite Meeting—Kona Inn

**14 Mar (Wed) - PAC Meeting - Pikake Room
Hickam O-Club**

**16 Mar (Fri) - Executive Committee—Lahaula Room
Hickam O-Club**

**17 Mar (Sat) - Hilo Satellite Meeting -Sandalwood Room
Naniloa Hotel**

22 March Thursday, Mardi Gras -

Banyans—Pearl Harbor

**31 Mar (Sat) - Party Bridge -Reservation -Call Robbie
255-4558**

7 Apr (Sat) - TUG Meeting - Bishop Museum

**10 Apr (Tues) - LAVA Meeting - Pikake Room
Hickam O-Club**

**20 Apr (Fri) - Executive Committee—Lahaula Room
Hickam O-Club**

20 April (Friday) - USS BOWFIN

MUSEUM

**21 Apr (Sat) - Hilo Meeting - Sandalwood Room
Naniloa Hotel**

**28 Apr (Sat) - Party Bridge -Reservation -Call Robbie
255-4558**

17 May (Thurs) - Armed Forces Week

Kick OFF - Hickam O-Club

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 newsletter are not necessarily Hawaii Chapter policy.

Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)

Captain George Sullivan USN

TROA President Announces

Top Legislative Priorities for 2001

LTGEN Mike Nelson announced that increasing the age-62 Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Annuity and authorizing Concurrent Receipt of retired pay and VA disability compensation were the top legislative matters for TROA during this congressional session. The number one priority remains to ensure that TRICARE For Life is fully funded for FY 2002, the first year of implementation, and the only year not funded by the "trust fund" established by Congress.

As for the SBP, Rep. Joe Scarborough (R-FL) has renewed his call to increase the age-62 annuity by introducing H.R. 548 that would raise the minimum SBP annuity from the current 35% to 40% immediately, then to 45% by October 1, 2004 and to 55% no later than October 1, 2011. Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC) has introduced a companion bill, S. 145, in the Senate. Sen. Daniel Inouye is a cosponsor. On January 25, Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), joined by Sen. Inouye as a cosponsor, introduced S.170, a bill to authorize full Concurrent Receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

Earlier we reported that a similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R-FL).

Col. Bud Day Wins Appeal

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled February 8 in Washington D.C., that two retired Air Force officers are entitled to damages because the government broke its promise of free lifetime health care to military retirees. The plaintiffs' lawyer, retired Air Force Col. George "Bud" Day, said he plans to seek a class-action status that would apply the decision to about three million retirees who joined the service before June 7, 1956. Damages sought include the costs of Medicare fees, supplemental insurance, and other medical expenses incurred by such retirees. The limit would be \$10,000 each member. The federal government may appeal the decision.

Colonel Day and the Class Act Group supporting the lawsuit are seeking contributions to their litigation fund. Information about this case can be obtained by contacting the Class Act Group, 32 Beal Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548.

"Promises Made, Promises Kept"

The Western District Federal Court in San Antonio, Texas is currently hearing a similar case to Col. Day's effort which represents all those retirees on active duty prior to 1995. With the new ammunition provided by the Appellate Court's decision in Col. Day's case, the plaintiffs are hopeful that the end of the battle for free medical care for life will soon be over and a "Promise (finally) Kept". Individuals wishing to be named in the class action should contact the Coalition of Retired Military Veterans c/o Campbell & Jones, Attorneys at Law, 126 East Main Plaza, San Antonio, Texas 78205

Hawaii Legislature

Tom Smyth reported on a number of State bills at the February LAVA meeting. Included among those is SB 204, a bill to provide additional funding to reduce animal quarantine fees. It is USCINCPAC's desire to reduce the out-of-pocket costs to our active duty personnel to less than \$400. Tom reported that there is a good chance that this objective will be satisfied when the bills finally passes.

Warning to TRICARE for Life Beneficiaries

Two dubious solicitations have been circulating concerning TRICARE for Life, which is scheduled to begin for Medicare-eligible military retirees and spouses on October 1. One group is offering to help enroll eligible beneficiaries for a fee of \$50. This is unnecessary because the only requirement to enroll in TRICARE for Life is to be a military retiree or spouse enrolled in Medicare Part B.

The other solicitation implies that TRICARE for Life lacks the funding needed to commence on October 1, and that persons contacted should join the group to help them fight for this.

Pharmacy Benefits April 1st

Before you receive your next copy of Pau Hana Koa, TRICARE Senior Pharmacy will be available to those retirees 65 and older. Be sure to read the literature that DOD is sending to all eligible beneficiaries. If you have not received correspondence, you should check with DEERS or the office that issued your military or dependent ID card or call 1-877-363-6337.

(continued on Page 5)

Doleman Award Nominations

It is time to submit nominations for the 2001 Doleman Award. We present this award annually - it's named in honor of the late LTG Edgar Doleman, US Army, Retired, one of our own. General Doleman received the award in 1995, LTG Tom Rienzi, US Army, Retired, received it in 1996; LtCol Gayle Gardner, USAF, Retired, received it in 1997, General Fred Weyand, US Army, Retired, received it in 1998, RADM Joe Vasey, US Navy, Retired, received it in 1999, LCOL Louis Crompton, USAF, Retired, received it in 2000.

The criteria for the award are simple and straightforward

Be a Retired Officer

Be a Member of National TROA, and

Have made significant voluntary contributions to the local community since retiring.

The Doleman Award presentation is a significant event and the Award will be presented at the annual Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Week Keynote Luncheon.

Please submit your nominations to: **RADM Paul Lacy, USN, Retired**
2930-A Park Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1159

Admiral Lacy's Nomination Committee includes

RADM Paul Lacy, USN (retired)	595-3133
CAPT Bob Morrison USN (retired)	254-2920
CAPT Ralph Niesz USCG (retired)	373-3619
COL Louis Torraca USAF (retired)	254-3286
BGEN Dick Vercauteren USMC (retired)	377-1894
LTC George Vickers USA (retired)	623-9992

Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2001.

(continued from Page 4 –LAVA)

“Catastrophic Cap” Implementation Coming

The FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act that gave us TRICARE for Life included a provision that reduces the annual limit on out-of-pocket expenses for retired beneficiaries using TRICARE Standard from \$7,500 to \$3,000 per year per family. This new provision, by law, was effective October 30, 2000. However, it may be made retroactive to October 1. DoD's implementing guidelines probably will not be published before mid-summer. A retired TRICARE Standard beneficiary who experiences out-of-pocket expenses above \$3,000 should keep copies of any TRICARE Explanation of Benefits (EOB) forms indicating that more than \$3,000 has been credited toward their catastrophic cap since October 1, 2000.

The 107th Congress

The Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman will be Sen. John Warner (R-VA.). Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson (R-TX) will be the Chairman, Personnel Subcommittee. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) is ranking member of the Readiness and Management

Support Sub-committee. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) will be the Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Rep. Bob Stump (R-AZ) was selected to chair the House Armed Services Committee. Rep. Stump, a World War II veteran, previously served as chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee. Rep. Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.) was selected to chair the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Meeting with Secretary Principi

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi met with veterans groups this month and spoke about reducing the backlog of VA claims and keeping doors open to quality healthcare for veterans. He hopes to forge a working relationship with the Department of Defense on issues that affect veterans, active duty and retired personnel. The Secretary also commented on the national cemeteries and efforts to help the nation's vast population of homeless veterans.

LAVA Committee Meeting

The LAVA Committee meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be March 13th.

TRICARE Hawaii Regional Beneficiary Advisory Council/ Health Consumer Committee

The Health Consumer Committee met on 31 January. The Tricare-for-life program that becomes effective 1 October 2001 was a major item of discussion. General Adams had recently returned from meetings in Washington and at this time, there is no guidance and no funding from DoD or Congress on the implementation of the program. (Details of Tricare-for-life are covered in the December and January Retired Officer Magazines.) People are calling TAMC for information on enrolling in the program. There are no enrollment procedures as such. The enrollment should be automatic if the eligible are enrolled in Medicare with Part B and their information in DEERS is current. TAMC is currently operating at maximum capacity, and Tricare-for-life will not make more service at TAMC available. The major benefit will be that the use of civilian medical services should be at little or no cost, with Tricare as secondary payer to Medicare. Medigap insurance (such as TROA's Mediplus) should be continued in force until the Tricare-for-life is up and running. There may continue to be a need for Medigap insurance after 1 October 2001 for some medical procedures.

The new pharmacy benefit effective 1 April 2001 is the number one DoD priority for now. We will be able to continue our current use of the Tripler Pharmacy. The major benefit will be the availability of using the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) and civilian pharmacies with much reduced costs. (Details are in the December Retired Officer Magazine.)

Pacific Warrior is a major medical exercise in progress involving 1500 active and reserve personnel from all the services. Local medical units have been joined by others from as far away as Alaska and Maine. Exercise locations are on Oahu and Hawaii, with a number of surgeries to be performed in a field hospital erected on Hawaii.

Flu shots are now available for all eligible. Tripler has published a new slick covered 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 inch information booklet that is available at both hospital entries and at military clinics on Oahu.

Tripler is seeking someone to fill a paid position in the Red Cross office. Interested parties can call 433-6631.

Dr. Ray de Hay, LCDR, MC, USNR Ret was introduced as the new TROA Navy representative on the committee.

UPDATE ON LUANA KOA CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT RESORT

The members of The Retired Officers Association (TROA) Continuing Care Retirement/Resort Community (CCRC) Committee met on February 7th to learn the details of the financing possibilities for the new Phase I (Patriots Village) military retirement community, being planned to be built by 2004 in the new city of Kapolei.

Nancy Schoocraft and Jack Blanton, principles of HVA, Inc., developers of the project, met on the mainland with investors and investment bankers during the last week in January. They met with five different entities and found each very interested and different in their scope of talents and financial capabilities. All were enthusiastic and Nancy and Jack are currently studying each possibility to decide which entity will best serve the project.

What became more apparent to Nancy and Jack was the great opportunity which lies only in Hawaii to not just do another CCRC, but to create a world class aging community lifestyle with advanced state of the art health care and research centers within our State, the nation and the world, never done before. They believe they can effectively bring together private, state, federal and international amenities for their retired residents. Hawaii's appeal will draw from a wide variety of markets from the local, state, national and international areas. The vision is that 10 years from now, the city of Kapolei will be viewed as the most desirable retirement center in the world because of its multi ethnic, diverse culture and psychological sensitivity approach to human aging and healthful longevity.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR 2001

Our chapter will be continuing the long-standing college scholarship program this year. Subject to the generosity of our chapter membership through donations, we plan to offer grants of \$1000 each for high school seniors enrolling in a four-year college curriculum for the Fall 2001, and grants of \$500 each for high school seniors enrolling in a community college or trade school for the Fall. MG Sternberg and others, as in years past have set the Platinum Standard for this effort, but every donation helps, no matter the amount. So—if you are so inclined, put this subject on your front burner — as we will use to determine the number of total scholarships offered. Of special note to our TROA members, eligibility for these scholarships is also extended to dependent children or grandchildren of a Hawaii Chapter member. The deadline for applying is April 20, 2001. Detailed information can be obtained from Hank Heyenga (254-3301/ heyenga@aol.com), Interim Chair of the ROTC and Scholarship Awards Committee.

BRIDGE CORNER

The 24 Feb 2001 meeting of the TROA Party Bridge group was hosted by Bob and Robbie Gee at their residence at The Esplanade in Hawaii Kai. Attending were: Les and Shirley Ihara, Bill and Debby Martin, Joan and John Peters, Bob and Robbie Gee, Judith Breitwieser, and Marian Davis. Taking firstplace was Wally Barker with a score of 4280, second place went to Beverly Williams, and third place went to Bill Martin at 3740 points. It's a new year and great opportunities for regular attendees to win their share of the \$100.00 annual prize for the top seven months' scores. This allows for players' periodic absences due to travel or other commitments and gives everyone a fair chance to win a prize. All nonsmoking current Hawaii TROA Chapter members are welcome to join, and no partner is necessary. For further information call Robbie Gee at 255-4558 after 7pm.

IT'S PARTY TIME !!
COME TO THE MARDI GRAS

WHEN: Thursday, March 22, 2001

TIME: 6:30 PM. Dinner
7:45 PM "Showtime"

WHERE: "The Banyans" Pearl Harbor Naval Station
COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON (RSVP by March 5, 2001)
SEATS: RESERVED FIRST TWO ROW OF TABLES

----- Clip, Detach and Mail -----

SIGN UP TODAY!!!!!!

I (we) will see you there!! Guests are most welcome! I enclose a check payable to Hawaii Chapter, TROA at the rate of \$ 40.00 per person.

Please reserve _____ places. Name Tags to read:

Mail by March 5, 2001 to: Jack Miller, 135 Palapu Street, Kailua, HI 96734
 Jack may be contacted at 261-4100 or e-mail: carita@pixi.com

THE SILENT SERVICE SPEAKS

REAR ADMIRAL JOHN PADGETT
COMMANDER, U.S. SUBMARINE FORCES, PACIFIC

WHEN: Friday, April 20, 2001

TIME: 6:00 -7:00 p.m. Museum and Bowfin Open for tours
7:00 -8:00 p.m. Buffet on the Lanai
8:15 p.m. Program

WHERE: USS BOWFIN SUBMARINE MUSEUM & PARK
11 Arizona Memorial Drive
Pearl Harbor - next to the Arizona Memorial

COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON (Includes all beverages & gratuity)

RSVP: BY APRIL 9, 2001 OR EARLIER. WE ARE LIMITED TO
88 SEATS. FIRST ORDER, FIRST RESERVE!

----- Clip, Detach and Mail -----

I(we) will see you there!! Guests are most welcome! I enclose a check payable to Hawaii Chapter, TROA at the rate of \$25.00 per person.

Please reserve _____ places. Name Tags to read:

Mail not later than April 9, 2001 to: **Jack Miller**
135 Palapu Street
Kailua, HI 96734
 Jack may be contacted at 261-4100 or e-mail: carita@pixi.com

Dr. Marvin Baum, L/C, USAF Retired
Optometrist
Eye Exams/Contact Lenses
Tricare Prime Accepted
Fashion Eyeware (at PX prices)
Laser Vision Correction
Phone 422-9411

Amount Enclosed _____ Make Check Payable to Hawaii Chapter TROA P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734
ROT C Scholarship 2001 Donation _____

Name: _____ Last _____ First _____ MI _____ Rank _____ Mr _____ Mrs _____ Ms _____ Other _____
Status: Active Duty _____ Ret _____ Former Officer _____ Reserve _____ National Guard _____ Aux _____
Your Rank or if Auxiliary, Spouse Rank _____ Service _____ Birth Date ____/____/____ Soc Sec Act _____
Spouse's First Name: _____ Spouse Last Name, If different _____
Address: _____ Number and Street _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____
Mailing Address (If Different) _____ Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____
Office Phone Number _____ Fax Number _____
National; TROA Membership No. _____ Years Retired _____
Rotational Date (If on AD) _____ Optional: Interests in Chapter activities or Committees. Please indicate
Personal Affairs _____ Legislative Affairs/Merans Affairs _____ Public Affairs _____ Program/Social
Newsletter _____ Membership _____ Finance _____ ROTC Scholarship & Award _____ Fund Raising _____
Community Service _____ TUG(Computers) _____ Party Bridge _____ Golf _____ Tennis _____ Photography _____
Other Programs/Activities you'd like considered, or Chapter Office or Committee you'd consider serving in: _____

Date: _____
New Member _____ Renewal _____ Hawaii Chapter, Retired Officers Association _____
Membership Application _____
Annual Dues: Reg-14; Aux - 8; 2-3Yrs=No yrs x 14
(8 Aux); 5yrs=4x14; Life: Reg. Members - age 71+ =
125.00; 61-70=200; 51-60 = 250; 50 under=300

Detach and Save for Renewal and/or Give to a Prospective New Member

ATTENTION
Chapter E-Mail Address
TROA-HI@world.att.net
Social Programs
22 Mar - Mardi Gras -Pearl Harbor Banyans
20 Apr - USS Bowfin Dinner Program
17 May - Armed Forces Week Kick Off