



Pau Hana Koa

Retired Warriors

Hawaii Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Vol. 19 No. 9

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

September 2004

Battles of Saipan & Tinian - 60th Anniversary

(Ed. Note: In June my wife and I and many others traveled to Saipan and Tinian for ceremonies commemorating the 60th anniversary of the battles for those islands. The following are excerpts from the quarterly publication of the Arizona Memorial Museum Association Remembrance written by Ray Sandla and printed here with the permission of the Association. Edited for space and clarity. GES.) (Picture: Saipan with Tinian in background.)



Twenty-four veterans had made the trip and I wanted to try to see the island through their eyes. It had been 60 years since the islands of Saipan and Tinian had been attacked by a United States military seeking strategic airfields and bases in the Pacific. The men I sat with on the tour bus had been among the eventual 60,000 or so responsible for the success of those operations.

There were men from amphibious tractor battalions and mortar companies; there was a medic and a pharmacist mate; an aircraft nose artist and a Navajo code-talker. All remembered the events of the invasion as if they had just received their orders.

Saipan had been a thriving Japanese possession since 1914, important strategically and industrially to the home islands. While the indigenous population, Chamorro and Carolinian, was considered a second-class minority to the eventual 42,000 imported Japanese, Okinawan, and Korean workers, they did not suffer the torture and terror inflicted by the Japanese on the Chamorros of Guam.

Most people in Saipan view the American occupation in 1944 as the first step in their eventual release from decades of imperialism and exploitation. But they still remember the days and nights of shelling that destroyed entire towns in the necessarily violent and indiscriminate pre-invasion bombardment.

The veterans themselves had expressed doubts about how they would be received. Some declined to come at all for their own, understandable reasons.

The commemoration proved to be a remarkable homecoming for the veterans however, as they were greeted by the Saipanese with overwhelming appreciation and respect. Stan Bader said upon his return home to Cape Coral, Florida, "That ribbon [60th Anniversary ribbon identifying visitors as VIP veterans] was not only the key to the city, it was the key to the island," he remarked in an interview with a local paper. "If you were wearing it, you couldn't do anything wrong. You couldn't pay for anything. You had everybody from little kids to old grandfathers running up and shaking your hand...It was unbelievable. The way we were treated and the attitude of the people - every guy there was treated like a rock star."

The stories were told. Melvin Dieter of Maple Hill, Kansas, a medic with the 2d Div. 8th Marine Reg., 2d Battalion, E-Company, stands looking out at Lake Susupe, a small body of water behind the old Japanese sugar refinery. Dieter's Company advanced southeast after landing at beach Green 2. "I was here 27 days, but the days...time went so fast." As with most of the men I spoke to, Dieter will talk about his experiences up to a point. They'll tell you how hot it was, the treacherous landing beaches, the buddies that were lost. None ever speak with any added sense of drama, or with any trace of self-importance. (con't on page 2)

September

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

14 Sep (Tue) LAVA Mtg., Hickam O'Club (1130)

17 Sep (Fri) Luncheon, Kaneohe MCBH O'Club (1130)
Joint monthly meeting of Members, Personnel Affairs
Committee and the Executive Committee.

Speaker—see page 5 for details

MOAA Party Bridge NONE

October

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

3 October (Sun) OKTOBERFEST Hale Koa (1800)

LAVA Meeting Cancelled

15 Oct (Fri) Excom Mtg, Kaneohe MCBH O'Club (1130)

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



President's Message

by Chapter Acting President, John Harms

Exercise your right to VOTE

Our President, Jack Miller, is on vacation on the mainland, so I will be filling in for him for this issue. It is that time again; people who seemed always to agree with each other, now sometimes hit the "confrontation button." It is VOTING time again in our great country, and I for one get a bit discouraged when candidates at every level stray so far from the issues, and seem to just load their sling shots with gooey mud. I recall when as a member of the military it was common to "stay out of politics", be apolitical for our votes mean so little in the scope of things.

Well fortunately our young servicemen and women do not accept this logic (?) anymore and have a strong voting record. This year YOUR vote is very critical when we just look at the issues both State and National. On the State side of things, we have land use issue for our military training which must be safeguarded. Certain other important issues will arise. When you talk to the candidates, ask them where they stand on these issues and vote for those who stand strongly for our nation's security. Whenever the State has a financial crunch, which occurs it appears most of the time, the old nemesis of a State income tax on retired pay comes up for consideration. In my opinion this is not going away, especially since Hawaii has the third largest growing senior citizen group in America. As this growing group of non-State income tax paying citizens impacts the State tax base, you can see the graffiti on the wall.

On the national scene there are many issues that directly affect the military retirement community. The passage of legislative bills, e.g., the "widow tax" or Survivor Benefit Offset, is on the front burner. Many of us have experienced the great TriCare for Life medical benefits. This is a statutory program that can only be modified or eliminated by Congress, but we still have to keep watch on this for it is interesting what sometimes appears at the end of a lengthy Congressional legislative bill. Fortunately our National MOAA keeps a good eye on this. The whole state of our military forces can/will be impacted by the results of the Federal election. Recall that Thomas Jefferson was elected by only one vote to become our third President over Aaron Burr. Keep focused on the issues and VOTE. The "grey community" has and is continuing to develop a lot of political clout, but can only continue to do so when we take an active role in our American political process. John, President/Acting.

Saipan - Tinian (continued)

Mr. Dieter spoke about the bullets that seem to rain down from the enemy. "They were up in the hills over there, "he said pointing to the east, "It felt like they were always shooting down on us."

"I'll tell you something we learned pretty quick out here. As soon as a mortar round exploded, we'd all go jump in the hole it made. They never aimed at the same place twice."

Others spoke like Myron Kampfer of Oceanside, California who commanded a mortar company with the 4th Division, 23rd Reg, 3d Bn. and landed on Blue Beach 1. The amphibious tractor ride in to the beach was almost as dangerous as the landing itself. "I remember we were standing on live ammunition as we made our way to shore," he recalled as he spoke into the crackling PA system on the bus. But that wasn't the thing he had risen to say. The bus grew quiet as Mr. Kampfer shifted nervously, bringing the mike up again while putting his left hand in his pocket. "It was on June 15, 1944. I got hit on the first day...still got the watch I was wearing, blood still inside of it. I lost two of my squad members; they got killed some time during the battle. I thought maybe it was my fault." Spontaneously, hands reached out to Mr. Kampfer as he made his way back to his seat, grasping an arm, or a hand. Many on the bus knew the guilt of living while others' had died.

And locals told their stories too. "My name is Raphaella," said the woman shyly as she spoke into the microphone. "I was a brand new baby when the Americans came to Saipan. I didn't even have a name yet."

"We hid in the mountains and were terribly frightened because of the stories the Japanese had told us about Americans. An American Marine found us and was very kind. All we know is that his first name was Raphael. I tried for many years to find out who this Marine was but was never able to get any information about him; so I would like to say to all of you," she said as she looked at the assembled Saipan veterans, "Thank you all very much for what you have done for us."

(For a subscription to *Remembrance*, send an E-mail to Ray Sandla - rscott@hawaii.rr.com)

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Thinning of the Ranks

Virginia O. Melvin died August 16, 2004 at age 88. She was buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Donations may be made to the Kailua Public Library, the Nature Conservancy, or St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in her name.

Binnacle List

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

The Luana Koa Senior Community

There was much learned at the Harvard Seminar in Cambridge Massachusetts in June. Pacific Atelier, our local architect, attended as well as the developers. The topic was PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR A NEW GENERATION OF SENIORS: A Focused Look at Retirement. One of the three faculty that presented was Maria Dwight, President of Gerontological Services, Inc. She also performed the feasibility study and marketing studies to date for Luana Koa. Some of the trends for the future include the following:

- More university based programs within the CCRC campus,
 - Larger independent living units,
 - More emphasis on wellness,
 - More technological advances,
 - Today's older retirement community residents are interested in unusual activities,
 - In home care is the wave of the future. Skilled nursing facilities will have fewer residents in the future,
 - Culture and arts are terribly important to the overall program,
 - Assisted living units in the future will house both spouses, and
 - A variety of restaurants will be offered on the senior campus.
- The Luana Koa Senior Community will be meeting in the fall with priority residents and others interested to present more. Look for the date in the October Pau Hana Koa.

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BRIDGE CORNER by Robbie Gee



Back: Robbie Gee, Gary Jensen, Judith Breitwieser and Ginny Fine. Front: Marian Davis, Shirley Ihara, and Bev Jensen
 Photo by Les Ihara

The 24 August 2004 meeting of the MOAA Party Bridge Group was hosted by Wally Barker and Beverly Willms at The Esplanade condo in Hawaii Kai. Despite very warm and humid weather discomforts that evening, a new club high score record was set by Bridge Chair Robbie Gee who, along with second place record breaker Les Ihara, couldn't seem to do anything wrong.

Among those who were waiting for some decent cards were Wally Barker and Beverly Willms, Shirley Ihara, Bob Gee, Marian Davis, and Judith Breitwieser.

NOTE: Due to numerous members' travel absences there will be no bridge meeting in September. The next meeting will be on 30 October 2004 at 1900 hours.

Remember to call me at 255-4558 not later than the weekend beforehand to reserve your seat at the bridge table. Nonsmoking players of all abilities are welcome with or without a partner. This is a FUN bunch who enjoy another opportunity to socialize with their TROA/MOAA friends and who don't take their bridge too seriously! The group usually meets on the last Saturday of the month at 1900 at various locations around the island on a rotation basis, but watch your Pau Hana Koa each month for the dates, as exceptions do occur.

Coming Events

Annual Meeting

November 13, 2004 @ Kaneohe MCBH O'Club 1130

Guest speaker: Jerry Coffee

Annual Christmas Party

December 7, 2004 @ Hale Koa

Legislative Affairs Veterans Affairs (LAVA)

Captain George E. Sullivan, USN (Ret.)



Survivor Benefit Plan

Senator Akaka assigned to House/Senate Conference Committee

The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) revisions are now contained in the FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act. As we wrote in the July-August edition of the Pau Hana Koa, the House and Senate have passed different versions of the NDAA. The **House version** of the bill contains provisions that eliminate the "widow tax" in **3 1/2 years** where the Senate version eliminates the "tax" in 10 years. The bill must now go to a House/Senate conference where a committee of the two houses will vote out an agreed upon bill. The Senate has named Senator Daniel Akaka to this conference committee.

The following is a DRAFT letter to Senator Akaka asking him to support the House version of the SBP contained in the FY 2005 NDAA. We need all members of Hawaii Chapter MOAA to send this or a similar letter to the Senator. Receiving 700 letters on this subject should have a significant impact on Senator Akaka's vote in committee. You can send the letter by mail or by E-mail but please write. If anyone would like this DRAFT sent to them by E-mail, send an E-mail to alohasully@earthlink.net

Dear Senator Akaka,

I am writing to urge your support to retain the House-passed Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) provision in the final FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

You are in a significant position of leadership with your assignment as a member of the NDAA House/Senate Conference Committee. As a resident of Hawaii and (retired military) (military widow) I am asking you to exercise your leadership in the conference committee and include the House version of the Survivor Benefit Plan in the bill when you complete work on the NDAA.

The House provision would end the SBP age-62 annuity reduction in 3 1/2 years. Ending this "widow's tax" will provide long-overdue relief to the 255,000 survivors now drawing the benefit. The House bill also would offer an open season allowing retirees not enrolled in SBP to join the program by paying increased premiums based on how long they have been retired.

The Senate version would take 10 years to end the age-62 benefit cut and make retirees who want to enroll pay full back premiums plus interest from their date of retirement.

"Greatest Generation" widows can't wait 10 years for relief, and we need to encourage retirees to enroll in SBP and protect their survivors, rather than discouraging them with requirements for huge lump-sum payments.

I am particularly shocked that the Office of the Secretary of Defense is trying to justify continuing the widow's tax or merely delaying its imposition until age 65.

I urge you to reject alternative proposals and honor our nation's commitment to military widows by exerting your leadership to retain the House SBP provision in the final Defense Bill.



Senator Daniel K. Akaka

E-mail: senator@akaka.senate.gov

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Honolulu, HI 96813

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Social Events September - October

Hawaii Chapter

“Forty-Five Years Serving the Officers of Hawaii”

You are cordially invited to join the Hawaii Chapter, MOAA, for lunch at Kaneohe MCBH O’Club

Friday, September 17, 2004 at 1130 in the Legarie Room

Make your own stir fry for \$7:50 or order off the menu. No reservations required.

HANA HOU engagement by

Capt. Peter Huchthausen USN-Ret.

noted author and speaker

Peter Huchthausen served aboard navy destroyers involved in anti-submarine operations, search and rescue operations for the lost submarine USS Thresher and participated in the Cuban blockade and forced a Soviet submarine to surface in the height of the missile crisis. He served as Chief Engineer aboard the destroyer USS Orleck and operated off the coast of Vietnam. He commanded a River unit of ten river patrol boats, in combat on the Mekong River. He served as a Soviet naval submarine analyst and in anti-submarine warfare positions on the staffs of Naval Forces Europe, the U.S. First and Third Fleets, and the Commander in Chief Pacific. He was assigned as the senior U.S. Naval Attaché to Yugoslavia and Romania and subsequently became the chief of attaché and human intelligence collection operations in Western Europe for the Defense Intelligence Agency. He served three years in Moscow as the senior U.S. Naval Attaché to the USSR during the years immediately preceding the fall of the Soviet Union. After retirement he returned to Moscow and opened the Moscow office of an American firm and began his research and writing career. He lives in Hiram, Maine.

His recent books are: [K-19 The Widowmaker](#) was published by [National Geographic](#) in July 2002 and is the companion to the movie by the same name starring **Harrison Ford** and **Liam Neeson**; [October Fury](#), which is about the Soviet submarine challenge to the U.S. blockade of Cuba in 1962, was also released in July 2002 by [John Wiley and Sons](#); and [America's Splendid Little Wars, A Short History of U.S Military Engagements 1975-2000](#), was published by [Viking](#) in July 2003.

OKTOBERFEST

1800 Sunday OCTOBER 3, 2004

HALE KOA

JUDITH BREITWIESER HAS ONLY 50 TICKETS. RESERVE NOW!!

Wear your Dirndl and Lederhosen and come and let’s do a

‘PROSIT ZU DER GEMUTLICHKEIT’

Admission price is \$6.00. Menu A la Carte. Food and drink paid separately.

Send your check to Judith and she will provide the tickets. Tel: 262-7953

Judith Breitwieser

1403 Onioni Street

Kailua, HI 96734

PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL IN YOUR RSVP

I (we) will see you there!! Guests are most welcome. Tickets \$6.00 each.

Checks made payable to **Hawaii Chapter MOAA**

\$6.00 X () = \$ _____ Donation: ROTC/JROTC Programs & Scholarship \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Names: _____



TUG by Col Lou Torraca, USAF (Retired)

My faithful readers {-} will recall I covered the subject of recording/watching TV on computers in my July/August column. If you are like me, you have probably wondered about the terms widely tossed around these days; High Definition TV and Digital TV. Let me leave the tech stuff for later; first, lets look at what kinds of TV sets are out there right now.

The kind most of us have, I suspect, is called "direct view" -- the image is displayed directly from a picture tube (CRT) behind the glass- same as the big, heavy PC monitors many folks continue to use. Size-wise they go to about 40" and some models now come with digital technology.

Projection TVs offer bigger screen sizes. Rear projection sets range from 40-inch up to 80-inch screen sizes with widescreens ideal for HDTV and for widescreen DVDs. Front projection systems, like those on aircraft, project images on a separate video screen of up to 100 inches.

Many new technologies including Digital Light Processing (DLP), Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCOS) and Digital Light Amplification (DLA) are on the newer projection sets. In addition to spectacular pictures, these technologies allow for much thinner and lighter sets.

Plasma displays (PDP) and Liquid Crystal Displays (LCD) are exceptionally thin (4" - 6") and can be hung on a wall like a picture frame or placed on a table. There are even flat screen wireless TVs that allow users to move the set from room to room. Some of the newer media oriented tablet-type laptops work this way. Both plasma and LCD have sharp, clear pictures. Until recently plasma screens were the only choice in very large flat panels, but LCD TVs have caught up and now come in 40-inch widescreens and larger.

So, what kind of TV set should I buy?

Obviously, it depends on individual budgets, and personal preferences.

Direct view sets are still the most popular offering a great picture and the lowest prices. For larger screen sizes you'll need front or rear projection, and if you want to hang it on the wall, you'll need LCD or plasma. With an HDTV signal, any one will give a terrific picture.

Finally, for the techie stuff: what is Digital Display Technology? The terms "Digital Television" (DTV) and "High Definition Television" (HDTV) are often used interchangeably, but they are NOT the same thing. Digital Television refers to a TV signal that is transmitted digitally as opposed to an analog signal. Digital Television can be broadcast in several different formats. Of these formats, two are considered to be "high definition". The term high definition implies that the resolution of the digital television signal is very high. For example, the 1080i standard is considered high definition and has a resolution approximately twice that of regular, analog NTSC television. In the past most TVs have employed traditional analog displays, but with its advanced capabilities and lifelike video, Digital Display Technology (DDT) is beginning to replace analog. Digital displays work like this: video and audio signals are converted into computer code, creating very clear video and sound. The new technology enables wide screen and wall mountable flat panel TVs, more compact projection TVs and computer monitor screens with picture quality five or more times as good as analog sets. That's pretty impressive!

Why would I want a digital display on my television set? A digital display dramatically enhances the clarity and brightness of the TV screen. If you have watched TV on your computer, you know what I mean. You get distortion-free images, especially at the corners and edges of the screen. Digital displays look lots better in both darkened and well-lit rooms. No doubt about it, a digital display set receiving an HDTV signal delivers the best picture available today.

So, is my current TV set obsolete? Heck no! Most traditional direct view TV sets, still provide good value and good picture quality even while new display types are emerging.

The Bottom Line!!

I'm still in the wait and see mode, specially with regard to the price! DTV sales passed 10 million units earlier this year. While many of these digital sets are expensive, the average price has dropped from \$2,000 in 2002 to \$1,500 in 2004. Today you can even find digital TVs for under \$1,000.

That's it for September. Come see us at one of our regular meetings. We have no family membership category. If a husband and wife were to join, it would constitute two memberships at \$15 per year. Both would receive a newsletter and be eligible for our monthly giveaways. If only one of them wanted to join, the membership would be \$15 but the other half of that relationship would not get the newsletter and would not be eligible for the drawings. Our membership categories are 1-year, 3-years and 5-years. \$15.00; \$40.00 and \$60.00 respectively. Thus endeth the commercial! Visit

www.the_tug.homestead.com for schedules and directions. Until next time, Happy Computing, and TV viewing {-}

Lou

Personal Affairs

The Last Detail

By
Col. John Harms USMC (ret)



The substance for this article was written by Neil Duane and published in the 2d Marine Division Association Newsletter "Follow Me". He has since passed away and his widow gave me permission to use his article in completing this story for our Newsletter. Once we hit the "golden age" that is our health is fairly good and we have the financial means to do most of what we would like to do, time seems to go so rapidly that entry into the "brass age" occurs so quickly that we now reflect about our life accomplishments as time is running out for our stay on this earthly world. Reflection is good for the soul, but detailed planning for our eventual passing is paramount to alleviate a lot of emotional as well as financial difficulty on the surviving spouse and/or family. In the past I have written about the major items, notifying DFAS, Survivors Benefit issues, new military ID cards, Wills, revocable trusts, DD-214's etc., but this article deals with some nitty gritty issues that we sometime overlook.

Select a funeral home and discuss your wishes and make appropriate arrangements with the Director. I'll always remember the detailed planning my mother went through on the impending death of my father, but when all was said and done, at his death and cremation the funeral director asked about his burial urn. She had forgotten that, so \$600 was expended for this item. Imagine her anger and surprise when she saw a similar urn in the furniture area of Kohl's discount store for \$25. She bought hers then and there and during her travels between her children's homes during the last part of her life always reminded us "my urn is in the closet, don't spend anymore money". The same with a casket, pre purchase one with an agency not associated with the Funeral Home such as "Affordable Casket Outlet" (not an endorsement). Termites like any type of wood, so why \$10,000 for a mahogany, silk and brass special. The aluminum government casket is NOT available for retired personnel. What jewelry do you want buried with you if any? Have it written down in your "In case of death instructions". Leave a copy with your spouse, lawyer and pastor/priest or rabbi.

If you are having a religious burial service talk to your Pastor, Priest or Rabbi and give them the details you desire in the service. Where do you want the service held? What Bible or Torah passages, songs, flowers or not so that this event can be a very personal touch that reflects who you were to family and friends. My key song is "Eternal Father" with the Marine Corps verse included. You are entitled a free burial in a National Cemetery or a State Veterans Cemetery. Punchbowl – National Cemetery of the Pacific is full except for cremations. Hawaii Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe is available for full burials. Call 1-800-827-1000 for other locations throughout the United States. You rate a flag for the coffin, an engraved headstone or marker and a concrete grave liner. There is no fee for opening and closing a grave in a national or state veterans cemetery as there is in private ones. A military service representative, with a rifle salute and taps is available for Hawaii and most other veteran cemeteries. Your spouse can also be buried with you whether or not she precedes you in death. Her name will join yours on the marker. Write out your obituary, sounds morbid, but it sure alleviates a major emotional strain on the remaining spouse and/or family. What does he/she want to be remembered for? No! the party at the O'Club when he/she retired is not an item. What clothing do you want to be buried in? I am afraid my dress blue uniform will not make the rounds anymore so a simple grey suit is my choice. So as the Marine I took the information for this article states in his final paragraph "I'll be reporting for guard duty, just in case the Army and Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes." It is the details in planning that count so very much, so handle "The Last Detail".

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ATTENTION:
LUNCHEON @ Kaneohe MCBH O'Club
Friday, 17 September @ 1130

Oktoberfest @ Hale Koa
Sunday, 3 October @ 1800

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.

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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.

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