

HAWAII COMMANDERY COMMANDERY NEWS

MARCH, 2019

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Cover Photo: World War II Flyers Memorial, a monumental bronze P40 (dedicated on December 7, 2003) in front of the Wing HQs visible in the background.

Photo by COL, Ret. Arthur Tulak. Editor

If you have patriotic photos you'd like to share, submit them for consideration for the cover of our next issue!

Commander's Comments.



Greetings fellow Companions and Happy New Year. I look forward to executing another active year of service with you.

The next few months will be the year's busiest period for our Commandery with several important programs and events. Two great near-term opportunities are the cadet essay contests and JROTC Cadet Award ceremonies. The first opportunity is to serve an evaluator/grader of cadet essay submissions for the 50th Vietnam War essay contest and/or World War One essay contest in March. The second referenced opportunity, JROTC Cadet Awards, will require participation at many high school award ceremonies from mid-April through May. Both of these programs align directly with our Order's purposes and are very significant and rewarding experiences for the cadets and our Companions. Please see additional details regarding these programs in the associated articles in this programs in the associated articles in this Commandery News issue. I ask that every Companion support at least one program or event in support of our Order's purposes.

To ensure we can continue to support current programs and to expand our service I challenge each Companion to recruit at least one new member this year. We all know eligible candidates; tell them about our Order, invite them to join, and help them complete the application. We must continue to integrate new Companions to ensure the strength of our Commandery.

Thank you for your continued support and service.

"Deus et Libertas"

COL, Ret. Chris Spear Commander



Secretary Update.

It is past time for the Commandery's dues cycle. Mahalo to those who have already paid their dues, and to those who added additional year-end donations to continue funding for our important awards programs.

We have seven (7) members with outstanding dues. Showing your support by paying your annual dues of \$35.00 allows the Commandery to carry out many activities and proves we play above our weight class when compared to other service organizations. So please, send in your checks for the annual dues.

LTC Straus Scantlin Commandery Secretary



Chaplains Corner

By Dr. Fred Staedel, ThD

I have been asked to write this issue's "Chaplain's Corner." It is an honor to do so. No, I have not been a military chaplain; albeit, in Vietnam I was asked by my denomination to conduct Sunday Services which it was my pleasure and privilege to do so in the Base Chapel on the DaNang Air Base. After five years of active duty with the Air Force, I returned to civilian life and never pursued formal religious studies but remained active in my local church and enjoyed teaching Sunday school at the high school and college level. It wasn't until 2006 that I was led to enroll in a seminary and achieve my doctorate in theology.

Often when friends and acquaintances find out that I served in Vietnam they would ask, "Were you scared?" My answer would always be the same, "No, not most of the time; but I did experience some fear during a nearby rocket attack soon after my arrival on the mountain I was stationed and a bit more fear during the only real battle I was accidently in while flying as a waist gunner in a Huey gunship. But interestingly, the fear from the battle did not hit me until the battle was over and I was safely back on the ground near the DMZ where I was TDY. While lying in a bunk in the officer's lounge my whole body began to shake after I became very conscious of how close to death I had come. (My chopper was hit six times and all four of us were missed by inches.)

Oddly enough that is when fear overtook me. But I remembered St. John's admonition, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love casts out fear." (I John 4:18) So what brand of love was required in this situation? Well Jesus Christ gave us that answer; namely, "love thy enemies." Wow, this is a pretty strong admonition; especially when one is at war. Yes, my government had declared the North Vietnamese my enemy and it asked me to serve in the combat area, but did that mean I had to hate those that were fighting for what was their perception of the freedom to unify their country? Hate is a very strong emotion, but "love" is even a stronger and more powerful emotion.

As a Christian was I suppose to actually "love" the North Vietnamese? Well, when I thought of St. John's declaration that "perfect love casts out fear," I had to admit that I stopped shaking and a calm came over me when lying in that bunk. So yes, spiritually we need to get to the point that we don't accept "enemies" in our lives. Life is too short to carry such hate in our hearts. If initially our attempts to convert perceived enemies into lovable friends does not seem to work, can we mentally forgive and thus try to declare within ourselves that the true nature of all of God's children are reflections of Him? And when a supposed enemy's behavior doesn't seem to reflect his/her God's birthright, can we carry in our hearts God's given birthright for our enemies? In other words, can we implement Jesus' "Golden Rule" to even apply it to our perceived enemies? Not easy, but do we try?

I understand from my fellow Vietnam veterans who have visited Vietnam these many decades later that the Vietnamese people, to quote these veterans, "They just love Americans." And another quote I have heard: "All is forgiven and forgotten." No doubt these are very Pollyanna quotes, but there is some truth to such expressions. In 2011 Mr. Fajiko Signs gave a religious lecture in Australia and it was entitled, "Divine Love is the liberator." Yes, dear reader, spiritually based love can liberate us from hate and fear. Fred

Youth ChalleNGe Academy Awards and Graduation

LTC, Ret. Les Bise represented both the Military Order of Foreign Wars (MOFW) and the Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), presenting awards to cadets of the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Class 18-1 (49) at the Pearl City Cultural Center on December 16, 2018.



Photos: LEFT, CDT Alfred Damas receives the MOFW Bronze Medal. RIGHT, CDT Toilolo-Santos receives the Sliver Academics Medal. In the photos, the Honor party flanking the cadets from L-R: YCA Class 16 graduate Mr. Boyd Carson, Deputy Director, Ms. Sina Atanoa, BG Ret. Bruce Olivera, MOFW Companion MG Logan, LTC Ret. Les Bise.

2019 Schedule for Cadet Awards Ceremonies

Companions are asked to sign up for presenting awards beginning April 6th for the Schools in Hawaii. Please check the schedule and sign up with the Cadet Awards Committee Chairman, Companion Arthur Tulak.

APR 6— Roosevelt H.S. JROTC Apr 17— Radford H.S. AFJROTC APR 18— Kahuku H.S. JROTC APR 18— Waipahu H.S. JROTC APR 26— Kaiser H.S. AFJROTC APR 26— Aiea H.S. AFJROTC APR 27— Hilo H.S. JROTC (Island of Hawaii) APR 27—Kapaa H.S. JROTC (Island of Kauai) APR TBD—University of Guam Army ROTC APR TBD — Mathew C. Perry H.S. MCJROTC, Iwakuni Japan MAY 15— Mililani H.S. JROTC APR TBD— Kubasaki H.S. MCJROTC, Okinawa Japan MAY TBD— Leilehua H.S. JROTC MAY 1 — University of Hawaii Army and Air Force ROTC MAY 1— Kealakehe H.S. JROTC (Island of Hawaii) May 1— Kapolei H.S. MCJROTC MAY 2 — McKinley H.S. JROTC MAY 2— Kalaheo H.S. NJROTC

MAY 3— Baldwin H.S. ROTC MAY 4— Konawaena H.S. ROTC (Island of Hawaii) MAY 7— Farrington H.S. JROTC MAY 7—St. Louis H.S. JROTC MAY 8— Moanalua H.S. AFJROTC MAY 8— Punahou H.S. JROTC MAY 9— Campbell H.S. NJROTC MAY 10- Nanakuli H.S. JROTC MAY 10- Kallua H.S. AFJROTC MAY 16- Waianae H.S. JROTC MAY 17— Kaimuki H.S. JROTC MAY 17— Waimea H.S. JROTC (Island of Maui) TBD— Nile C. Kinnick H.S. NJROTC, Yokusaka Japan JUN 14 (T) - National Guard Youth Challenge SEP (TBD) - Civil Air Patrol Cadet Wing DEC 13 (T) - National Guard Youth Challenge

Commandery Operations: Commandery Activities and Projects

The Commandery leadership gathered at the Sunset Lanai for camaraderie and official business. At this meeting the Commandery made initial plans for support to the 2019 Cadet Awards Ceremony schedule, commitment to the memorials in April and May, and discussed plans and objectives for 2019.



Photo: From Front left clockwise, Companions Larry Dicks, Straus Scantlin, Fred Staedel, and Chris Spear enjoy the view and food before getting to business matters.



Oahu Veterans Council News, By COL, Ret. Peter Hirai

On Saturday morning, February 23, 2019, Peter Hirai represented the MOFW Hawaii Commandery at the monthly meeting of the Oahu Veterans Council. the Council affords the opportunity to network with other Veterans organizations and to share information and resources with each other.

Some of the important information gleaned from the meeting:

Puowaina's National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is ahead of schedule in building new columbarium; there will be thousands of new spaces.

Veterans Administration is reviewing and adjudicating cases nationwide, transferring cases between regions based on workload. Thus, cases may not be adjudicated locally but that just means they will be decided faster.

Vietnam War Veterans Celebration Day: Friday, March 29, 2019; join our comrades in the Vietnam Veterans Associa tion (VVA) at Honolulu Hale for Mayoral Proclamation.

Veterans Day Ceremony and Celebration on November 11 2019 will be a combined Mayor-Governor Ceremony at Puowaina Crater for those that have passed, and a Celebration for living. Veterans and Families will be invited after ward for a meal at the Oahu Veterans Center. Looking for volunteers to assist in planning both.

MOFW Hawaii Commandery is signed up for a table at the State Veterans Summit.

HI MOFW Companions serving as Essay Judges for 50th Vietnam Essay and World War One Centennial Essay Contests

The Hawaii Commandery of the Military Order of Foreign Wars (MOFW) is carrying out the fifth year of its essay contest for Cadets in Hawaii Schools JROTC units and the Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The HI Commandery is a DoD Commemorative Partner for the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War and is conducting this contest as part of that commemoration.

The purpose of the essays is to challenge the JROTC Cadets and CAP Cadets to appreciate the sacrifices made by Vietnam Veterans who served their country in an unpopular war, and to discern lessons of citizenship, loyalty to country, and commitment to duty and service. This effort will encourage the Cadets to identify and share these lessons with their own generation, while simultaneously honoring the Vietnam Veterans who continue to serve their local community, and who fill the ranks of many Veterans and Civic organizations in Hawaii, and the nation at large.

The Commandery will recognize the top-performing essayists, with cash awards: \$100 for 1st place; \$75 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place. Winning essays will be submitted to the National 50th Vietnam War Commemoration, and submitted for publication to various Veteran magazines. See last year's 1st place essay, by Cadet Emily Wu, of Punahou High School, published on-line by AUSA at https://www.ausa.org/news/vietnam-war-essay-winner-honored-lanpac and by MOFW at https://issuu.com/arthur82/docs/ hawaii commandery mofw news jun 201

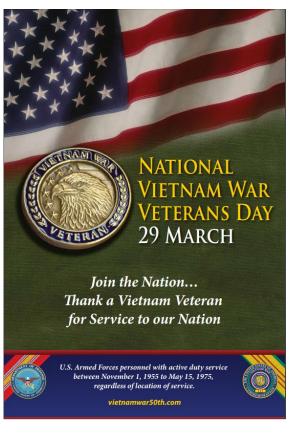
For the WWI Cadet Essay Contest, this is the last iteration and each participating Unit will select the best essayist for recognition with the Hawaii WWI Centennial Medal. MOFW presenters will have the opportunity to present this medal to Essay contest winners at the annual Spring Cadet Awards ceremonies.

Vietnam War Veterans Day

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump, signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, desig– nating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

National Vietnam Veterans Day falls on the last Friday of March this year, and reminds us that we need to rededicate ourselves and the Commandery to fulfilling our goals for presenting the 50th Vietnam Commemorative Medal to deserving Vietnam Veterans here in Hawaii who have distinguished themselves through volunteering in their community. At our last two meetings the Commandery reviewed the plan for 2019 and Companions are tasked to coordinate with Veteran,, Civic, and military professional organizations for worthy candidates.

The 50th Vietnam War Commemoration period will end May 15, 2025, and we have plenty of work to do to thank our Vietnam Veterans for their Service, and honor those who represent the many contributions Vietnam Veterans continue to make in our society every day as patriotic citizens.





Commander-General Military Order of Foreign Wars Of the United States

Dear Companions and Fellow Members,

Based on discussions conducted at the 53rd Convention of the Order in Arlington, Virginia in 2017, it was determined and approved by the convention that the Order's leadership would begin holding Conventions at different locations in the United States in order to afford members a greater opportunity to attend.

Additionally, it was announced at the conclusion of the 53rd Convention that the 54th Convention of the MOFW-US would be held in Daytona Beach, Florida. However, while initial planning was conducted to make this happen, the Order subsequently learned that the selected hotel had been sold and our initial reservations cancelled.

Fortunately, the leadership of the Order was able to secure a better financial opportunity at a substantially better location in Orlando, Florida on the same dates. The new venue is the Avanti Palms Resort and Conference Center, located at 6515 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819 (<u>www.AvantiResort.com</u>). This Resort is located on the same street as many of the Disney attractions and the Resort has transports to and from.

MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS

Members of the MOFW-US may begin making their individual reservations at the Avanti Palms Resort upon receipt of these instruction by calling the Resort and providing the information that is requested in paragraph 1 of the attached Advance Reservation Form. Please attend to this at your earliest convenience.

When you have made your reservations and receive confirmation of those arrangements, you will then fill out the remainder of the Advance Reservation Form (attached) and forward this to Acting Secretary General Chuck Trombetta with your separate check for the

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM



54th CONVENTION OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

2 to 5 May 2019

PART 1. HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND MOFW MEMBER DATA:

- 1. MAKE YOUR LODGING RESERVATION WITH: Avanti Palms Resort, 6515 International Drive, Orlando, Florida.
 - **RESERVATION PHONE NUMBER: 866-994-3157** •
 - HOTEL PHONE NUMBER: 407-299-0392 •
 - RESERVATION GROUP NAME: Military Order of Foreign Wars (Code#960934) •
 - GROUP RATE: \$75.00 per night for room, plus tax (Individuals pay own Room & Tax) (Rate is for room not per person).
 - ARRIVAL DATE: Thursday, May 2, 2019 (Evening National Council Meeting at 1900 hrs-directions to meeting will be contained in welcome package).
 - DEPARTURE DATE: Sunday, May 5, 2019 (NLT 1200 Noon), unless you extend.
 - RESERVATION CUT-OFF DATE: April 2, 2019
 - PARKING FEES: None

NOTE: If you wish to arrive 3 days earlier or stay 3 days later than the scheduled Convention, or both, the rate will remain the same, but you must make this known when you book your room. Room rates remain the same for entire time and are for the room, not per person.

N O T E: Please fill out this form and send copies to Acting Secretary General-Chuck Trombetta by email as soon as your reservations are made (otrombetta@aol.com)

□ Yes, I've made my reservation at the MOFW Hotel:

Yes, I will be attending, but staying elsewhere (However, we encourage you to stay at this hotel as we have a minimum number of rooms to meet to guarantee our fees:

Other:

2. MY MOFW COMMANDERY IS:

I register as a (check one):

National Officer

National Delegate Commandery Delegate

□ Past Commander-Gen.

Proxy for which Commandery_ My Printed Name, Tel # and E-Mail Address:

3. DAY OF ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE (for meals): Arrive: NLT 1700 Hrs on Thursday, 2 May. Depart: NLT 1200 Hrs on 5 May. (However, you may arrive 3 days early/stay 3 days later or both at the same daily rate of \$75/night for the room (not per person).



ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

54th CONVENTION OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

2 to 5 May 2019

PART 2. MOFW CONVENTION RESERVATIONS:

 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE (CHECK/MONEY ORDER): Conference Registration Fee is \$240.00 per MOFW attendee. This fee is separate and distinct from your room rates (which you will pay separately). This fee covers all of the items listed below. See last bullet item below for Guests for Formal Banquet Fees.
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "MOFW" and mail them to: Secretary-General Chuck Trombetta, 11805 Wolf Run Lane, Clifton, VA 20124. Include a copy of this Advance

Reservation Form.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE includes:

- BREAKFAST BUFFET: On Friday, Saturday and Sunday Morning.
- LUNCHEON BUFFET: On Friday, and Saturday during full-day MOFW Convention Meeting.
- MID-Morning and MID-Afternoon Refreshment Breaks: On Friday and Saturday.
- SUNRISE BREAKFAST BUFFET: On Sunday Morning prior to departure.
- FORMAL BANQUET: On Saturday evening which includes:
 - o Reception: 1900-2000 Hrs
 - o Dinner: 2000-2200 Hrs (Beef Tenderloin or Grilled Salmon-See Para 5).
 - Dress: Formal Military Uniform/Tuxedo with military miniatures, with MOFW Neck Decoration. Appropriate formal dress for male/female guests.
- All associated Room Rental Fees/Expenses
- GUEST(S): If you add a guest (Spouse, Significant-other, children, or another couple), please add an additional \$75/person and provide these funds as outlined in paragraph 4 above <u>and</u> PLEASE PROVIDE ALL NAMES AND APPROPRIATE DATA ON ALL GUESTS AT ITEM 5 BELOW.

5. <u>SPECIAL FOOD REQUIREMENTS/ALLERGIES</u>: Please select your preferred Banquet meal(s):

Banquet Meal Selection: Beef Tenderloin, Grilled Salmon, Vegan, Gluten Free (*enter number of each type of meal*). If there are any allergies, please note them. NAME/RANK OF GUEST(S) *use rear for additional guests or use additional sheet of paper (Please Print Clearly)*:

Companion News-

Companion David Terrinoni retired last year after 31+ years in the Air Force, on 1 July 2018. Chaplain, Major General Dondi Costin (USAF Chief of Chaplains), was the presiding officer for the retirement ceremony. David's bride of 35 years, Vicki, are now transitioning to service to country as retirees. Companion Terrinoni 's final position at retirement was as the Joint Base Senior Chaplain for Langley Air Force Base and Fort Eustis, Virginia. The flag of the United States presented to the Terrinonis was flown over the National Capital and presented by the Fort Eustis Chapel team in recognition of over three decades of faithful service. David and Vicki are now settled in Central Illinois where David looks forward to his grandfather duties, and to remain a productive servant of God, and a responsible citizen. Companion Terrinoni sends his greetings to fellow companions.



Photos: LEFT: MajGen Costin, presiding officer, presents the Certificate of Retirement, and Legion of Merit to Companion Terrinoni as his wife Vicki looks on. RIGHT: Companion Terrinoni receives the flag as a symbol of the gratitude of the Nation for his long an honorable service.

Feeling left out? Share your news with your fellow Companions!!

Hickam Officers' Spouses Club is 2019 Sponsor!

Once again the Hickam Officers ' Spouses Club (HOSC) has provided a grant to the Commandery in support of our Annual Cadet Awards program, which has grown to become the largest in the State, and expands all the way out to Guam and Japan. The HOSC's grant allowed us to keep the same level of support to all 26 JROTC units in Hawaii, 3 in Japan, 3 Sr,. ROTC programs at University of Hawaii and University of Guam, 2 graduating classes of the Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Program and the 9 Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadrons.

The medals and certificate holders arrived in February from the QM General, and certificates have been prepared. All the medals, certificates, and certificate holders going out to the Sr. ROTC programs and the JROTC

programs in Japan have been shipped, and the remainder are to be delivered to the Hawaii Multiple Schools Unit for distribution with the first ceremony scheduled for April 6th with Roosevelt High School.



Hawaii Veterans Summit

Mark your calendars. The State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services is proud to announce the Inaugural Hawai'i Veterans Summit, to be held in Honolulu on June 21-22, 2019.

Junior Vice Commander Peter Hirai has reserved a table for the MOFW to participate in this event to connect with Veterans who may be interested in our organization and its mission of service.

For those who participated in the Poppy Appeal table on the Centenary of the Armistice on November 11th last year, this will be another opportunity for us to connect with other Veterans organizations to work jointly on projects of mutual interest.

Please consult your calendar to see if you will be available to fill a shift at the table to represent the Commandery at this inaugural event.

Hawai`i VETERANS Summit

SAVE THE DATE June 21 & 22, 2019

Hawai`i Convention Center

More information to follow 2019summitinfo@email.com



Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Court Ruling

by Jr. Vice Commander, COL, Ret. Peter Hirai

Attention Vietnam Era Veterans! If you were denied a VA claim for Agent Orange because you were a *Blue Water Vietnam Vet*, you need to resubmit your claim. In January of 2019 a Federal Appeals Court overturned a ruling that just because they

were too far offshore, Blue Water Vietnam War Veterans could not have been affected by Agent Orange. A court majority said "Congress clearly intended to extend benefits to sailors who were stationed in the territorial seas and are known as "blue water" Navy veterans."

Blue Water Veterans served off the coastal waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. They are distinguished from the Brown Water Navy, which served in the rivers and inland waterways. Brown Water Veterans already are presumptively eligible for Agent Orange benefits if they have eligible ailments.

The lawsuit was brought by plaintiffs, one of whom has diabetes and prostate cancer. These are some of the ailments linked to the widely used herbicide Agent Orange, which was used as a defoliant in Vietnam. Veterans who served offshore or in coastal waters "will now be presumed eligible for disability benefits if they have one of the diseases that is linked to the herbicide."

If you think you may be eligible for Veterans benefits but were denied because they claimed you were too far offshore, resubmit your claim now!

Information extracted from http://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/2019/01/



Upcoming events:

- 19 MARCH Judging of Cadet 50th Vietnam War Essay contest entries. MOFW Companions will judge the essays submitted by JROTC Cadets to determine the top three essays, and runners-up that achieve "best of category" essays not selected for the cash prizes for 1st through 3rd place. Last iteration of the WWI Cadet Essay Contest.
- **29 MAR** Vietnam War Veterans Day. Be ready to volunteer to observe this new holiday, established by President Trump in 2017.
- 10 APR Hawaii MOFW Commandery Meeting at Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M. Smith, 1700 hrs.
- **25 APR** ANZAC Day Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, hosted by the Consulates of Australia and New Zealand, 1000 hrs. Uniform is Class B/Summer White/Blue Dress Delta/Blues.
- **25 APRIL** JROTC Governor's Parade, Fort Shafter. MOFW Companions show their support for the Cadets who conduct a Pass-in-Review for the Governor and the presiding General Officer. The ceremony also recognizes or-ganizations, such as ours, who have provided support to the Cadets over the academic year.
- Starting 6 APR JROTC Cadet Awards Ceremonies. Companions are asked to volunteer to present MOFW medals and Prizes for the WWI and 50th Vietnam War Essay contests, as commemoration partners.
- **26 MAY— Hawaii WWI Centennial Memorial Day Observance.** This event is now a 30-year tradition and this iteration is the last major military holiday that will take place before the close of the U.S. WWI Centennial Commemoration period that ends on 28 JUN 2019. Companions are invited to attend and present a lei in remembrance of the 116,516 Americans who died in active service during WWI.
- **27 MAY Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony.** 0900 hrs at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Companions are requested to volunteer to present a wreath on behalf of the Commandery in honor of our War Dead.
- **27 MAY Governor's Memorial Day Ceremony.** 1300 hrs at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. Companions are requested to volunteer to march with Youth Challenge Cadets with the HI Commandery Flag during the Parade of Flags, and to present lei in honor of those who died in active service during war.
- **21-22 JUN—Hawaii Veterans Summit, Hawaii Convention Center.** Companions are requested to volunteer to man our table.



Hawaii Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars A non-profit 501 (c) 3 Veterans Organization Oahu Veterans Center, 1298 Kukila St. Honolulu Hawaii, 96818

