

HAWAII COMMANDERY
MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS
**COMMANDERY
NEWS**



DECEMBER 2019

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Cover Photo: The Courtyard of Heroes in the Pacific Air Forces headquarters building dedicated to the servicemembers who lost their lives during the Dec. 7, 1941 surprise Japanese attack on military installations on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

Photo by COL, Ret. Arthur Tulak, Editor, Commandery News
If you have patriotic photos you'd like to share, submit them for consideration for the cover of our next issue!

Commander's Comments.

*Aloha
Companions!*



Season's Greetings Companions and Friends,

The Hawaii Commandery completed a very productive year of service to our Veterans and our community culminating with our participation and leadership in three significant Veteran's Day events, at the Punchbowl, at the War Memorial, and at the Oahu Veterans Center. Please see the complete reports in this edition.

As my two year tenure as commander concludes I would like to express a few words of thanks. First, thank you for the distinct honor to serve in a leadership capacity in our distinguished military order. Second, thank you for your volunteering your time and energy to support our many programs.

Thirdly, Hawaii Commandery officers, thank you for your leadership and active participation ensuring the success of our commandery. I would like to note special recognition and appreciation to Manny and Arthur, for serving as acting commander during my six month overseas duty and for serving in several commandery leadership roles, respectively.

As we reflect on 2019 and prepare for 2020 I ask that each of you consider three things: Increase your active support to our commandery; support the new slate of officers, and recruit one new member.

"Deus et Libertas"

COL, Ret. Chris Spear
Commander



From the Secretary

Our current Officer Slate is nearing the end of their terms of office. Elections are required to formally establish the Officer slate for the next 2-year term of office. In accordance with the Commandery Constitution and By-Laws Officers hold office until their successors are duly elected. Companions are invited to self-nominate, or nominate others (who may accept or decline the nomination). Send nominations to the Commandery Secretary, Straus Scantlin.

Annual dues are also specified in our Constitution and bylaws as being due by January 31st each year. Please send your \$35 dues to Commandery Secretary at our official address at the Oahu Veterans Center.



Chaplains Corner

By Dr. Fred Staedel, Th.D.

A new year is approaching. And making resolutions for one's personal improvement is the custom. And there is nothing wrong of course in improving oneself; especially when it comes to one's health, one's dealing with family, and even how we can better ourselves in interfacing with friends. So are there other categories for improvement that one could opt for in a personal resolution? No doubt there are a myriad of ways we all can resolve to improve.

But this author's intention is directed at proposing a new direction or a new approach to "New Year's Resolutions;" namely, to give more of oneself to others. Firstly, the custom is not limited to just one resolution per year. So secondly, let us consider multiple resolutions each year with an emphasis towards a sense of inclusion of how we treat others; be they friends or strangers. Some examples: When it is a matter of political opposites, let us resolve to give our respect. When it is a matter of a "culture clash," let us resolve to give our respect. When it appears as racial conflict, let us resolve to give our respect. When it happens to be a lifestyle choice, let us resolve to give and show our respect.

In human interaction, no doubt the list of human differences is long and the polarization of beliefs and attitudes are prolific. So maybe we can consider a new "New Years Resolution" arena which heralds inclusion by rendering respect to others that hold other truths than our own and other perspectives than our own. It is indeed unfortunate that our nation is evolving into a new state of polarization and the level of respect for others seems to be diminishing. We may be different religions, different genders, different races, different cultures, and even different generations, but we all can "resolve" to celebrate and respect these differences.

"... may [God] fulfill every resolve for good."
(2nd Thessalonians 1:11)

Fred



Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency & U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Honorable Carry Ceremony.

Sr. Vice Commander Manchester represented the Commandery at a The remains of at least 22 servicemen, killed during the battle of Tarawa in World War II, were being returned to the United States in an “Honorable Carry Ceremony” at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, July 17. The ceremony took place in Hangar 19. The remains were recently recovered from the Republic of Kiribati by History Flight, a DPAA partner organization, and will be accessioned into DPAA's laboratory facility in Hawaii to begin the identification process in support of DPAA's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation. Teams from the U.S. Army Graves Registration Service returned after the war to exhume and repatriate the remains, but could not locate over 500 servicemen. In 1949, the Army Quartermaster General's Office declared the missing servicemen “unrecoverable,” and informed hundreds of families that their loved ones had been “buried at sea” or as “unknowns” in Hawaii.

For over seven decades, few Americans — including families of the missing — were aware that over 500 Marines (and a small number of Navy and Army personnel) remained buried on or near Betio, the largest island in the Tarawa atoll.

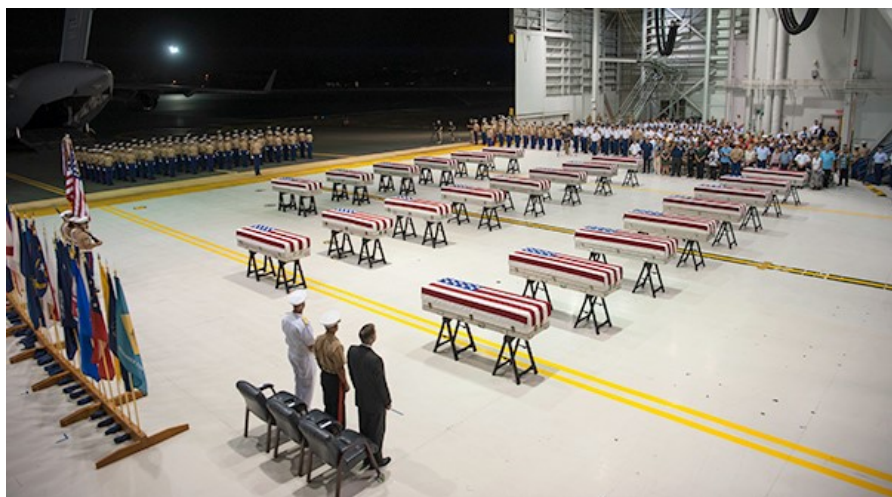


Photo Left: U.S. service members from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, and guests stand as "Taps" is played during an honorable carry for the possible remains of unidentified service members lost in the Battle of Tarawa during World War II. Photo by Marine Corps photographer Sgt. Jacqueline Clifford. **Photo Right:** Companion Manchester with Veterans from the Special Forces Assn. and Vietnam Veterans of America.

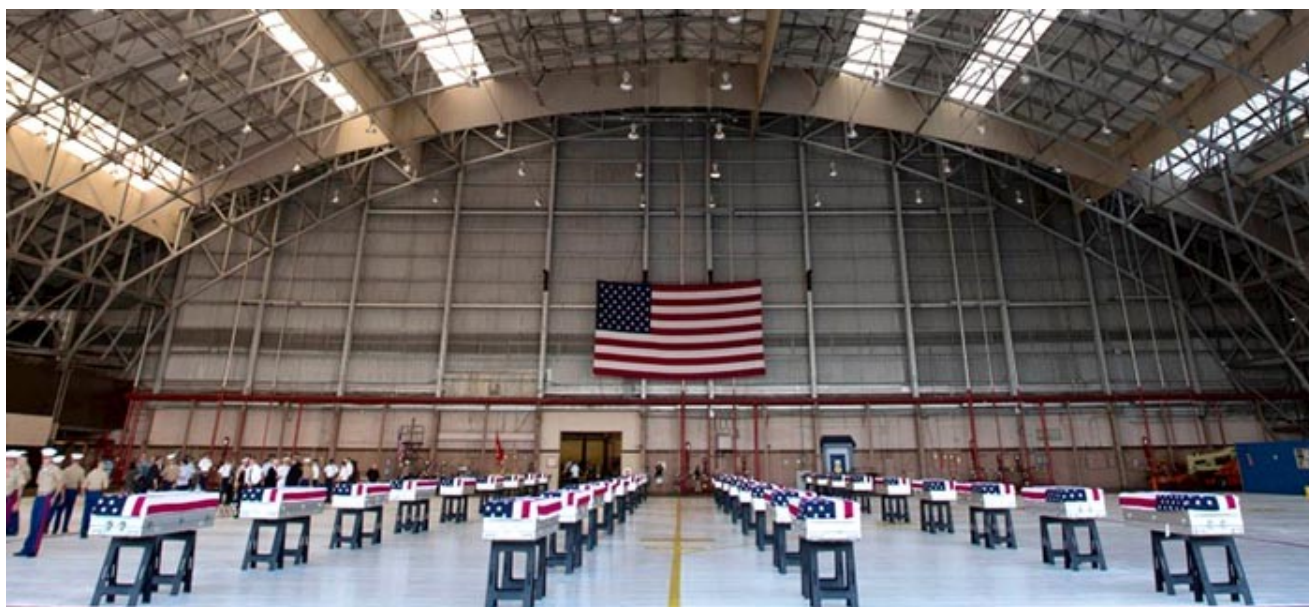


Photo bottom: Caskets containing remains of Marines recovered by History Flight, newly arrived at Hickam from Tarawa, awaiting final identification at the DPAA forensic lab. Photo by DPAA

Hawaii Commandery Awards Civil Air Patrol Cadets



The Hawaii Commandery recognizes top Cadets from the Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Companion, Major Larry Dicks, U.S. Air Force, represented the Hawaii Commandery presenting Leadership Excellence Medals to one Cadet from each of the Cadet Squadrons at an awards ceremony conducted on the evening of Saturday, 7 September 2019 at the Professional Military Education Building Hickam AB. Co-presenting with Major Dicks is Wing Commander, Col Chantel Loneragan. Cadets receiving this honor included: 1st Lt. Gabriel Ballesteros; 1st Lt. Riku Iwai-King; Maj. Olivia Ornellas; Lt. Col. Francisco Cornejo; 2nd Lt. Adam Thatcher; 1st Lt. Peter Herrington, and; 2nd Lt. Jared Antonio. The presiding officer was Lt. Col., Lt Col Anthony M. Ferrara, CAP Hawaii Wing Chief of Staff, and Wheeler Squadron Commander. Companion Fred Staedel completed the presentation to Cadet Iwai-King at the weekly Cadet Squadron 77 meeting at St. Louis School on 22 November.



Photo Above and Bottom Left: Companion Dicks presenting the leadership medals to (Left-to-Right) C/1LT Herrington; C/2LT Antonio; C/2LT Thatcher, and; C/1LT Ballesteros. **Photo Bottom Right:** Companion Staedel presents the MOFW leadership medal to C/1LT Iwai-King.



Congratulations to these outstanding Cadets!

Hawaii WWI Centennial Volunteer Recognition



Companion Tulak continued the effort to recognize the volunteers of the Hawaii WWI Centennial Commemoration who planned and carried out 44 events during the official WWI Centennial Commemoration period. To reach those volunteers who could not attend the closing ceremony on June 28, 2019 (covered in the September 2019 Commandery News), Officers of the Task Force, and Officers of member organizations of the Task Force, are taking the award presentation to these individuals whose contributions were critical to the success of the overall commemoration.

On Monday, September 8, 2019, Task Force Chairman, Companion Arthur Tulak, and TF Events Chairman, Ms. Catherine Miloni, conducted a presentation ceremony at the Tripler Army Medical Clinic for volunteers from the State Office of Veterans Services, VA Benefits Honolulu Office, the Sparks Matsunaga VA Clinic, and Tripler Army Medical Center.



Presenting the medals are COL, Ret. Tulak at left and COL Nelson, TAMC at right. Receiving the medals and certificates are: Col, USAF, Ret. Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services, Ms. Yolanda Ehre, OVS, Mr. John Condello, VBA Honolulu; SFC, Ret. Schoen U. Safotu, Chief Voluntary Service, VA, and; MAJ Rosemary Baugh, Tripler Army Medical Center.

While the National WWI Centennial Commemoration continues, the Hawaii commemoration is wrapping up. Commemoration partner organizations will continue to run the signature events held at the War Memorial and Natatorium at Waikiki on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Veterans Day coverage in this issue highlights some of those partner efforts. Companion Tulak continues to assist that effort as the liaison for military support, and invitation management. Hawaii Commandery Companions will continue this outreach effort until all volunteers are properly recognized by the State Department of Defense with medals and certificates signed by Honorary MOFW Companion, Major General Joe Logan.

Veterans Day 2019 Reporting

Ceremony at the Punchbowl

Companions Chris Spear and Arthur Tulak represented the Commandery at Ceremonies hosted by the Oahu Veterans Council at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), posting the Commandery flag, and presenting a lei alongside the many Veteran and civic organizations, Consular Corps, City and State leaders, and the Admirals and Generals of the local military commands. The Hawaii Commandery Flag was the first to be posted and held a prominent position throughout the ceremony at the right side of the VIP seating area. In accordance with new guidance for 2019, Veterans Organizations presented Lei instead of wreaths. The Oahu Veterans Center provided bus transportation to all member organizations of the Oahu Veterans Council. In addition, the VIP seating deliberately interspersed Veterans representing Veteran organizations among the Senior military and political leaders and diplomats. Cadets from the HI National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, Kahaku and Punahou JROTC Navy Sea Cadets, and Junior Marines supported.

The ceremony included a three-volley rifle salute and F-22 flyover. The keynote speaker was Adm. Phil Davidson, the 25th commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, who discussed his vision for a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” which he explained is threatened “by malicious actors like the Communist Party of China seek to redefine the international order through corruption, malign cyber activities, intellectual property theft, restriction of individual liberties, military coercion and attempts to override other nations’ sovereignty.” He elaborated on recent Chinese Communist aggression, coercion, and oppression, explaining that “these are threats to the idea of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific... from the crackdown on those protesting the erosion of their liberties in Hong Kong, to the enslavement of Uighurs in Xinjiang... and on to other threats like the predations of ISIS in East Asia in the Philippines, to the danger of ballistic missile attacks from North Korea... it is easy to understand how the defense of civil liberties, religious freedom, indeed, the very preservation of “life” and “liberty” are as necessary today as any time in our history.” Governor David Ige, as the hosting official, reflected on his father and father-in-law’s service during World War Two: “The veterans of these fear-some battles returned home more committed than ever to build the dream of a more perfect nation described in our constitution,” Ige said. “We are here because of their courage and sacrifice.”



Photo: ADM Davidson addresses the distinguished guests and Veterans at the NMCP. Photo by U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Clint Davis



Photo Left: Companions Chris Spear and Arthur Tulak by the Commandery flag after posting it in the stands designated for Veterans and Civic Organizations.



Photo Center: Official OVC 2019 Veterans Day Poster



Photo Right: F-22 “missing man” fly-over

Veterans Day Reporting —

Ceremonies at the War Memorial and Natatorium in Waikiki.

Companions Manny Manchester, Straus Scantlin, and Brenda Reichel attend this event, representing the Commandery in the presentation of a floral wreath, and distributing poppies to participants for wear. Co-hosted by American Legion Post 17, VFW Post 8616, and the Friends of the Natatorium, this was the 23rd annual iteration of this event that honors in particular, WWI Veterans. This year marked 101 years since the armistice was declared on the Western Front, although American Doughboys continued to fight Communists in Russia as part of the American Expeditionary Force Siberia (AEF-S) and AEF North Russia (also known as the Polar Bear Expedition). These forces did not return home until April 1920 and August 1919, respectively. Companion Manchester was an invited speaker, representing the Hawaii WWI Centennial Commemoration, and addressed the sacrifices of these WWI Soldiers and the challenges faced by Veterans returning from the Western Front to the homeland in 1919, as well as those stateside who were also demobilized. The keynote speaker was Marine Sgt. Maj. Charles E. Wells, a veteran of deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan and now base sergeant major at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Cmd Sgt. Maj. Charles Wells' remarks were poignant and captured the commitment to duty that characterizes the United States Military: ***"Every day that you serve in the cloth of your nation, you subordinate your own interests for the good of our nation. You put the nation's good in front of your own good."*** Companion Tulak supported this event in the planning phases, by coordinating active-duty military support with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and managing the invitations and RSVPs.

Military organizations providing support for this year's event included the Navy's Pacific Fleet Band, the Celtic Kula Pipe Band of Hawai'i, a color guard from U.S. Army Pacific. Bruce Mayes from Vintage Aviation performed a ceremonial flyover in a vintage military propeller-driven aircraft in honor of the WWI Veterans for whom the memorial was constructed.



Photo: Brenda Reichel and Manny Manchester pause for a photo at the Poppy Appeal table at the War Memorial



Photo : Companion Manchester addresses the crowd representing the HI WWI Centennial Commemoration which concludes in 2019.

Veterans Day —

First Annual Veterans Ho'olaule'a 2019,

by Jr. Vice Commander Peter Hirai.

I helped to pull together the first annual Veterans Ho'olaule'a to celebrate members of Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) on Monday, November 11, 2019. The event was co-sponsored by the Oahu Veterans Council and the Oahu Veterans Center and provided free games, activities, food, entertainment, and door prizes to VSO that are members of the Council. Co-chairing the event was RADM(R) Alma Grocke. We had been planning this event since July 2019, making sure it was coordinated with the Veterans Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Puowaina.

When the ceremony participants got off the bus at the Oahu Veterans Center, they were greeted by a hula performance by a halau from King Intermediate School. That was followed by a delicious lunch by two caterers, Guieb's Catering and Hiro's Island Catering. Entertaining us was Mr. Victor Tangonan and Friends with singing and music; there was a bounce house and games for the kids and a lot of door prizes given away.

Castle High School's hula halau also performed, and we had a really nice tribute honoring BG(R) Irwin Cockett who was only one of three Army Soldiers awarded a Navy Silver Star, Jennifer Gutowski of the Veterans Affairs Pacific Islands Health Care System, and COL(R) Ed Cruickshank of the Oahu Veterans Council.

Special thanks to the Oahu Veterans Center team, i.e. Claire Levinson, Joy Ring-Gaddow, and Vanessa Zimmerman. The three of them worked tirelessly to pull a thousand loose ends together to smoothly execute the event, and ensured everything looked patriotic and beautiful. They also set up the POW/MIA table and created all the table centerpieces.

Other volunteers to thank include Gary Chamberlin, Gary Littlefield, Ed Cruickshank, Steve Abe, Royce Hirai, Loryn Hirai, and singer Alani Claire. Also the following organizations helped immensely: Punahou JROTC, Sea Cadets, Young Marines.

Everyone had a great time and a lot folks won door prizes! The OVC hopes to continue this tradition every year.



Photo Left: MG Suzanne Vares-Lum, Chief of Staff, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, with Companion Hirai



Photo: Right Hardworking volunteers at the OVC setting up for the Ho'olaule'a (L-R): Gary Littlefield, Gary Chamberlin, Peter Hirai, Steve Abe, Loryn Hirai, Royce Hirai

Great Power Competition in the Pacific —

Peacetime competition in 1889 between the U.S.A. and Imperial Germany.

By COL, Ret. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D.

The U.S. National Defense Strategy heralds the return of Great Power Competition, which, “is now the primary concern in U.S. national security.”¹ DoD describes great power competition as “when large nations vie for the greatest power and influence — not just in their own parts of the world, but also farther out.”² Explaining how great power competition lies at the heart of our new defense strategy, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis specifically labelled China and Russia “revisionist powers” that “seek to create a world consistent with their authoritarian models.”³ At the close of the 19th Century, Great Power Competition was playing out across the globe with imperial powers and the United States competing for spheres of influence. Although his work was not published until 1890, naval strategist Alfred Thayer Mahan’s idea that control of the sea was vital to a nation’s economic prosperity and security was already influencing national policy decisions.⁴ In the great power competition of the late 1800s, the United States sought out coaling stations Mahan would later claim were necessary for maritime sea control and support of ocean-going fleets. In the Pacific, access and use of the islands of Samoa were an important objective to the major powers of England, Germany and the U.S.A. The U.S. had secured access rights to a naval base in Pago Pago Harbor on the island of Tutuila in 1878, where sailors and whalers would pull in to port for supplies and rest. Britain and Germany decided to follow suit and were actively engaged in securing similar guarantees, if not control.⁵

Trade with Samoa brought businessmen eager to develop the islands to supply the raw materials needed by the West. The German interest in Samoa focused on its most important crops of rubber, cacao, and coconut., German companies established plantations and ran the processing businesses for coconut. Tensions rose as a result of the differing interests of these German firms and various American and British business interests, leading to the first Samoan Civil War, which was fought roughly between 1886 and 1894⁶ Most of the combatants in this war were Samoans, although Germany occasionally intervened militarily – which was opposed by the United States and Britain.

In 1889, the U.S. Navy and the Imperial German Navy were in a standoff, after tensions between the two countries had climbed to a breaking point. “The crews of three German and three American men-of-war were glowering at each other over loaded guns. Hostilities might well have started then and there, had not a frightfully hurricane wrecked all but one of the warships in Apia harbor.”⁷

After a second civil war in the late 1890s, the three powers agreed to divide Samoa between them. Germany and the U.S. divided the islands west and east of the 171 longitude, leaving Germany in control of the western islands, and the U.S. the eastern. German control of the islands was well accepted by the Samoans, who note that under German rule, the islands modernized rapidly and increased its plantation operations.⁸

The four islands of Manono, Apolima, Savai’i, and Upolu formed the protectorate of the German Empire, granted to Germany under the Tripartite Convention of 1899, signed at Washington on 2 December 1899 with ratifications exchanged on February 16, 1900 with the United Kingdom receiving compensation with other territories in the Pacific and West Africa. The four islands of German Samoa are now part of the independent republic of Samoa.⁹ During its status as a German protectorate, the Imperial German Navy assigned the small gunboat SMS Geier, and the unarmed survey ship Planet, with duty to the so-called “Australian Station” which encompassed all German South Seas protectorates.¹⁰

At the request of Great Britain the colony was invaded unopposed on the morning of 29 August 1914 by troops of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.¹¹ New Zealand remained the island's administrator until 1962, when Samoa became an independent country.¹² New Zealand's response was swift. Led by Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Logan, the 1400-strong Samoa Advance Party of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force landed at Apia on 29 August. There was no resistance from German officials or the general population.

The day after the seizure, LTCOL Logan proclaimed a New Zealand-run British military occupation of German Samoa. All buildings and properties belonging to the previous administration (police stations, post offices, meeting halls, etc.) were seized. In the presence of officers, troops and 'leading Native chiefs', the British flag was raised outside the government building in Apia.¹³ This was the second German territory, after Togoland in Africa, to fall to the Allies in the First World War.¹⁴ The takeover of Samoa was New Zealand's first military action in World War I.



Post Office sign of the type taken down by New Zealand troops. This example is found in the Australian War Museum and was taken in the Australian assault and capture of Papa New Guinea. (Photo by Arthur Tulak).

New Zealand troops land in German Samoa . Source: New Zealand History, Capture of German Samoa" <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/capture-of-samoa>

¹ Summary of the 2018 National Defense Strategy, Secretary of Defense, the Pentagon, Washington D.C., p. 1. Retrieved from <https://dod.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2018-National-Defense-Strategy-Summary.pdf>

² C. Todd Lopez, Great Power Competition's Resurgence, March 21, 2019, Dept. of Defense. Retrieved from <https://www.defense.gov/explore/story/Article/1792014/great-power-competitions-resurgence/> |

³ Idrees Ali, "U.S. military puts 'great power competition' at heart of strategy: Mattis," January 19, 2018, Reuters. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-military-china-russia-idUSKBN1F81TR>

⁴ Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Seapower Upon History, 1660-1783, 1890*, Boston, Little, Brown and Co.

⁵ Thomas A. Bailey, 1956, *The American Pageant*, D.C. Heath and Company, Boston, p. 613

⁶ Totally History, "German Samoa." Retrieved from: <http://totallyhistory.com/german-samoa/>

⁷ Thomas A. Bailey, 1956, *op. cit.*, p. 613, See also Alan C. Collins, *The Story of America in Pictures, "The Samoan Incident,"* Doubleday Company Inc., Garden City New York, p. 266

⁸ Totally History, "German Samoa." *op. cit.*

⁹ Military Wikia, "German Samoa," Retrieved from: https://military.wikia.org/wiki/German_Samoa

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Capture of German Samoa, New Zealand History, First World War History, <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/capture-of-samoa>

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

Military History in the Pacific —

Flash Point in the USA/Japan Great Power Competition in 1937

By COL, Ret. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D.

December 12, 2019 will mark the 82nd anniversary of the sinking of the U.S.S Panay in an unprovoked attack by Japanese fighters in the Yangtze River on December 12, 1937. A flat-bottomed craft built in Shanghai specifically for river duty, USS Panay served as part of the U.S. Navy's Yangtze Patrol in the Asiatic Fleet, which was responsible for patrolling the Yangtze River to protect American lives and property.¹ At the time of the attack, the USS Panay was operating alongside gunboats of the Royal Navy's Yangtze River Patrol. These ships were evacuating American civilians from Nanking, and ferrying them upriver away from the Japanese attacking the city.²

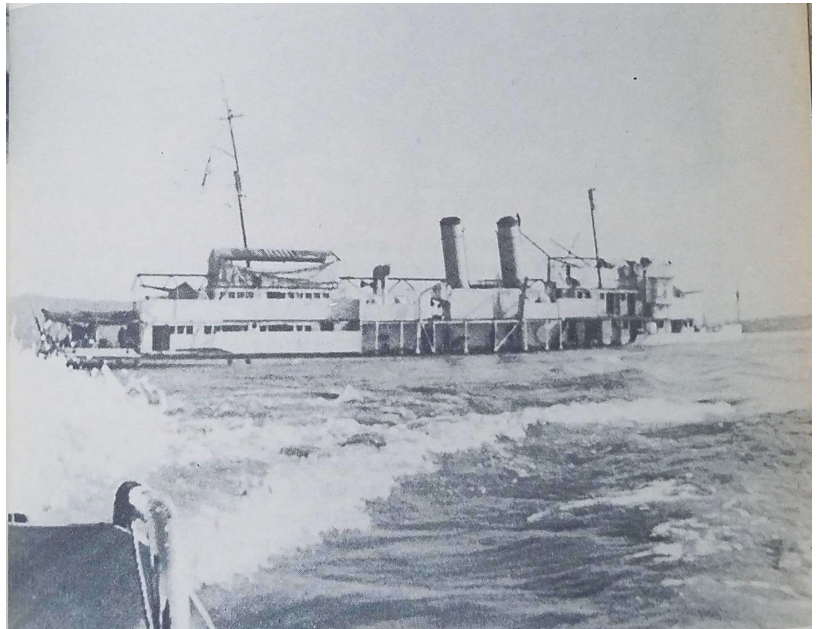


Photo of the gun boat USS Panay, taken by News correspondent Norman Alley, after evacuating from the sinking vessel.

The sinking caused the death of one American sailor and 15 WIA, leading to a serious break in U.S. –Japanese diplomatic relations.³ The U.S. sent an immediate and firm demand to the Japanese government, for an accounting of the incident, which elicited a official apology and offer of reparations. While the State Dept. considered the matter closed, newsreels showing the actual bombing were shown across the nation in theaters, resulting in an outpouring of indignation among the American people that Japanese business interests in the U.S. were seriously affected. Modern historians have researched the attack, and many are of the opinion that the attack was intentional, as the Japanese saw these ships as interfering in the Sino-Japanese War. According to John Prados, Navy cryptographers had intercepted and decrypted traffic relating to the attacking planes which clearly indicated that they were under orders during the attack.

Launched in 1928, the USS Panay was one of five shallow draft river gunboats built to protect American interests along the Yangtze River during the Chinese civil war. The USS Panay was the first ship command of ADM Chester W. Nimitz, who would end the war as Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Known as the “Sorry” incident in the U.S., it is another example of the dangers of actual fighting breaking out during “peacetime” great power competition now taking place between the U.S and the PRC navies in the Pacific.



Americans took deep offense to the attack of neutral ships, the Panay and 2 British ships, attempting to evacuate Western nationals from the siege of Nanking.

1. Trevor K. Plante, Japanese Expressions of Sympathy and Regret in the Wake of the Panay Incident, Summer 2001, Vol. 33, No. 2, National Archives.
2. P. E. Matt, “The Panay Incident,” April 12, 2015. <https://pacific eagles.net/the-panay-incident/>

Update: 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War

By COL, Ret. Arthur N. Tulak, 50th Vietnam War Committee Chair



The Commandery's Vietnam War Cadet Essay Contest has been updated this year with a new category that will encourage students to look for an ancestor or living relative who served during the war, and tell their story of service. The scope of the program has also expanded for 2020 to include students of the Farrington High School Engineering Academy, who will be submitting their essays alongside their JROTC cadets. Farrington High School JROTC has actively participated in this program since its inception and conducts its own 50th commemoration activities as well.

The Commandery's Vietnam Veteran Recognition Program continues as Companions work with other Veteran and military professional organizations to identify candidates for the award of the Vietnam Veteran Volunteer recognition medal. Currently, we have invited the Fleet Reserve Assn., Marine Corps League, American Legion Post 17, and the Daedalian Society to submit nominations. Hawaii Companions are encouraged to reach out to such organizations with the program information letter and application to solicit qualified nominations for this medal.

Next year, the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 858, will host a National Vietnam Veterans Day on Sunday, March 29, 2020, at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, which the Commandery will support.

Veteran's Creed

Building on the Army's Soldiers Creed and NCO Creed, eleven major veterans' organizations developed and adopted a Veteran's Creed last June 14, in Washington, D.C.

GEN George W. Casey Jr., former Army Chief of Staff, supported adoption of the veterans creed saying "I believe the Veteran's Creed could remind veterans of what they miss about their service and encourage them to continue to make a difference in their communities and across our country," he said. "We need their talents."

The eight-point Veteran's Creed is:

1. I am an American Veteran
2. I proudly served my country
3. I live the values I learned in the military
4. I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans
5. I maintain my physical and mental discipline
6. I continue to lead and improve
7. I make a difference
8. I honor and remember my fallen comrades

The creed was developed and adopted by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, HillVets, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Reserve Officers Association, Student Veterans of America, Team Rubicon Global, VFW, and Wounded Warrior Project.

The above is a summary of an article that appeared on the VFW website in 2018 <https://www.vfw.org/media-and-events/latest-releases/archives/2018/6/veterans-organizations-establish-veterans-creed>

Companion News—

Companion Staedel represented the Commandery at a Veterans recognition banquet hosted by the Elks Club, Chapter 616, on Veterans Day, 2019 commemorating veterans of all U.S. Services. All veterans and a guest were given a buffet dinner free of charge and other club members were welcome to attend at a cost. Over 150 people were in attendance with entertainment and dancing after dinner. The Pledge of Alliance and an invocation was held along with the singing of America the Beautiful. The songs of each service were played as the respective veterans by service branch stood to be recognized. The Elks organization are known for their support for veterans who have served our country!



Photo: Fred at the BPOE Lodge 616 Veterans Dinner.

Companion Hirai Companion Peter Hirai recently switched his full-time employment and is now "back home" with the Army. He spent the last two years since retiring from the City and County of Honolulu at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard, where he was a Radiological Emergency Planner. As of July 2019 Peter is now with United States Army Pacific as an Emergency Management Program Coordinator. In his new position, Peter is responsible for ensuring program requirements, plans, and exercises are executed at all units and garrisons in the Asia and Pacific. Peter is already immersed in his new work...within the first three months he has already completed the Civilians Foundation Course (required of all new GS employees), the Army Basic Emergency Management Course in Blanding, FL, and has applied for Level 1 Army Emergency Management Certification (he is already one of the first Certified Emergency Managers from the State of Hawaii). All this while he taught part-time as an adjunct professor at Hawaii Pacific University!

Companion Tulak travelled to Rhode Island, where he linked up with John Duchesneau, Jr. Vice Commander of the RI Commandery, and visited the Rhode Island VA Cemetery, in Exeter RI, where the RI Commandery has erected a beautiful memorial honoring Veterans of America's Foreign Wars. The RI MOWF Commandery monument is one of the first that visitors see when they enter the grounds. The visit provided an opportunity to compare strategy notes on recruiting, civic engagement, and mission of service in support the community.



Photo Left: Companions Tulak and Duchesneau comparing notes on Commandery operations and engagement strategy.



Photo Right: Companion Tulak at the RI MOWF Memorial at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter RI.

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

Commandery Meetings

The Commandery's November meeting was held on the evening of Friday the 8th at the Monterey Cannery Restaurant. The Executive Committee reviewed plans for execution of multiple events taking place on Veterans Day to ensure all was prepared. Revisions to the 50th Vietnam Essay Contest were approved, and plans made for outreach to other Veterans and Civic organizations to continue the Commandery's Vietnam Veteran Volunteer Recognition Program. Elections were also discussed. Just as important as the official agenda was the great camaraderie enjoyed over a great meal. The next Commandery Meeting is scheduled for January—see the upcoming events section at the end of this issue.



Photo - clockwise from left: Commander Spear, Companions Staedel, Hirai and Tulak.

From the Cover

This issue features another Military Memorial on Oahu, the Courtyard of Heroes, which is located in the Headquarters of Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF). Built in 1995, the large granite memorial pylons surround an eternal flame as the centerpiece. In 1991, the year of the 50th anniversary of the Japanese 7 December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Gen. Jimmie Adams approved a project to put historical photos and story boards in the foyer of PACAF Headquarters, which is historically considered the start of the effort to establish the Courtyard of Heroes. The memorial and its "eternal flame" was finalized on 23 Aug 95, and the garden was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of V-J day. The large granite monument with the "eternal flame" in the center was designed to memorialize those men and women who lost their lives in the three wars in the Pacific - World War II, Korea and Vietnam (Southwest Asia). Each of the black granite triangular pylons has a plaque addressing the sacrifices of Airmen from one of these three wars. In the center of these pylons sits a white granite column that explains the monument. Two smaller monuments in the courtyard are memorials to those who lost their lives in this building and on Hickam Field during the 1941 attack.

Also standing in the courtyard is the "In Defense of the Nation" memorial, a Wall of Valor, and in the foyer entry behind glass, the original U.S. flag that was flying over Hickam Field on the Dec 7, 1941 attack by Japanese forces.



Upcoming events:

- **4 DEC — Wreaths Across America in Hawaii**, at the Korean-Vietnam Memorial located at the State Capitol at 1100 hrs. Following the Capitol Ceremony, the WAA-Texas volunteer team will place another ceremonial wreath at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific ("Punchbowl" Crater) at 1400 hrs.
- **7 DEC — 77th Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**, Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, 0700 hrs.
- **7 DEC — Wreaths Across America in Hawaii**, at Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration Ceremony 0745 hrs
- **8 DEC — Pearl Harbor Day** Ceremony honoring those who fought at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa Field at 10am
- **12 DEC — Youth Challenge Graduation and Awards Ceremony**
- **14 DEC — Combined Brunch with Military Order of the World Wars**, Monterey Cannery Restaurant, 1000 - 1300 hrs
- **23 DEC — Vietnam Veterans Memorial Gathering** at Korea/Vietnam Memorial, 2300 hrs. This will be the twenty-fifth year for this low-key, un-sponsored event. Parking provided at the Capitol Underground Garage.
- **27 DEC — 125th Anniversary of the founding of the MOFW**
- **17 JAN — Hawaii MOFW Commandery Meeting** at Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M. Smith, 1700 hrs.
- **20 MAR — 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 — National Vietnam War Veterans Day** at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, hosted by Chapter 858 of the Vietnam Veterans Association.
- **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.
- **TBD APR — 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 organizations, such as ours, who have provided support to the Cadets over the academic year.
- **Mid APR to early MAY — 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.



Hawaii Commandery, Military Order of Foreign Wars
A non-profit 501 (c) 3 Veterans Organization
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