

**HAWAII COMMANDERY
MILITARY ORDER OF FOREIGN WARS
MARCH 2021**



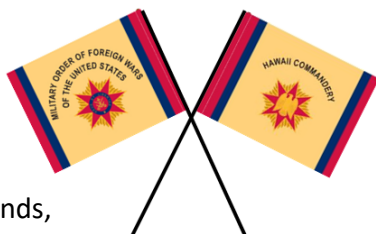
**COMMANDERY
NEWS**

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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 and Friends,

It's time to begin a serious recruitment drive to continue to grow the Hawai'i Commandery as a few companions have left the islands. Companion Arthur Tulak and I have been busy recruiting and we have several people applying to become companions of the order, but we need a greater effort to really have the impact in our community as described in the purposes of the Order. Please remember we can recruit not only U.S. Veteran officers with deployments overseas, but also Allied officers who have served alongside the U.S. in current or past conflicts, and the descendants of qualified U.S. and Allied officers as well.

While the pandemic remains we can still be socially connected and make a difference in the programs of our order in responsibly engaging our efforts to serve veterans communities, provide awards and mentorship for cadets and youth leaders, and engaging in remembrance events while staying physically distanced in compliance with the most current pandemic protocols.

As we do this we have also been able to incorporate physically distanced memorials and other command-

recommendations. Over the year we have held smaller events at separate locations as a part larger commandery effort for of the commemoration of ANZAC Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day. These were either conducted individually at home (such as the vigil for ANZAC day as part of a larger virtual commemoration), or as a small organized events such as the presentation of wreath at Schofield Barracks, and at the World War One, Natatorium War Memorial, in Waikiki where I was masked and maintained physical distance from the small group of participants. Cadet awards have continued in many JROTC programs and the Hawai'i State National Guard's Youth Challenge through virtual and private small group awards ceremonies. Please let us know if you have opportunities, or ideas for responsible ways to continue the MOFW mission during the pandemic.

Looking towards our future, it is a great opportunity to identify the collaborative, recruiting, and inclusive technologies we have learned from the pandemic into the steady state capabilities of our Commandery. Let's make it a goal to offer attendance at meetings, ceremonies, memorials, and other commandery events through collaborative technologies such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and social media options. This will allow companions of our order, their families, and those interested in joining our order to attend key events.

We are currently planning a small physically present but "social distanced" meeting at the Sunset Lanai on Camp Smith that will also allow companions of the order and potential recruits to the commandery to attend by phone or an online collaboration application. This is planned for the 26th of March and is dependent on both the State of Hawai'i and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command rules for gatherings at the time, so please find your MOFW hats, shirts, and insignia to be ready for the event. For now we plan on less than 10 members on site sitting on two tables at six feet apart with masks, others may tune in from home as they wish.

Please reach out to me and other companions if you need anything or just want to talk, these can be difficult times but we will all get through this together.



"Deus et Libertas"

Curtis "Manny" Manchester III
 LTC, USA Ret.
 Commander

Chaplains Corner, By Dr., Fred Staedel, Th.D.

As I write this offering in February for the March newsletter, we all don't know what March will bring. Will we go to Tier 3? Will we go back to Tier 1? Will we be able to get our vaccine shots? Will we be able to then report for our second shot? Will the governor open up the economy? And will the "men" in charge make the right decisions? But the one thing, dear reader, that we can all count on that is a constant in one's human life is one's "faith." There is a wonderful citation in the Bible that addresses this. "That your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Human faith is tricky because we have to direct our faith in the men and women who have the authority and who are in charge of decisions that directly affect our daily lives. But one's faith in one's God is not tricky because such a faith relies on the absolute truth that one's spiritual identity and one's path through life is guided by what Corinthians tells us; namely, the "power of God." And we are covered because the book of "Romans" in the Bible tells us that "Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." (Romans 13:1)

Wow, read that Bible citation again! Yes, "those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." No, we don't have to interpret this citation too literally, but I submit we can rely on an interpretation of this citation that those who have authority over us can be energized by the "power of God" and will make the right and righteous decisions for all of us. Therefore, our job is to simply have faith, the faith that God's glory will be glorified and expressed by our leaders and the right decisions will be made for us all.

"Now all glory to God, who is able through His mighty power at work within us, accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." (Ephesians 3:20) **Fred**

Navy to Start its ROTC Program at University of Hawaii in 2021



On August 25, 2020, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa signed a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Navy to establish a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) unit at the Manoa campus. The new program will see its first midshipmen begin training students in the fall of 2021. The Hawaii State delegation to the U.S. Congress played an important role in this accomplishment. Captain Donald Nisbett, a naval aviator, will serve as the unit's first commanding officer. Nisbett previously commanded the Oregon State University NROTC unit and served as the deputy commander for NROTC Operations at Naval Service Training Command (NSTC). Starting in 2022, we should be presenting the MOFW Bronze Leadership and Silver Academics medals to Navy ROTC Midshipmen. The medals for the Army and Air Force ROTC programs for this year have already been delivered to the Army PMS, LTC Jerrod E. Melander, who recently assumed this new post.

Judges needed for the annual 50th Vietnam War Cadet Essay Contest.

This year is the eighth year of this essay contest for Cadets in Hawaii Schools JROTC units and the Hawaii Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. We have introduced a new topic this year that should provide some stories about the home front: "What lessons can we learn about duty to country from the families at the home front, who waited for their service members to return from War?" Essays are due to the Commandery not later than March 31st, and the judging should be completed by April 15th, in time for preparation of certificates from our co-sponsors, the Association of the United States Army, and the Reserve Officers Assn. Dept. of Hawaii. Furthermore, the AUSA Landpower in the Pacific (LANPAC) Conference was cancelled for 2021, which was our presentation venue for the winning essayists. Please inform Companion Tulak, the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Committee Chairman if you are willing to serve in this capacity. For companions who live outside of the Hawaiian Islands, this is a great way to team up with fellow Companions for this important event.



Oahu Veterans Council Report

by Sr. Vice Commander Peter Hirai, and Secretary Arthur Tulak



Companion Hirai attended the 23 JAN 2021 meeting of the Council, at which OVC President Col. Ret. Ed Cruickshank confirmed the plan to have a virtual Veterans Day again for 2021, with a small ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. It is likely that the restrictions on assembly will have lessened by then, but the support requests for this event are usually submitted very early. OVC President Col. Ret. Ed Cruickshank confirmed that Memorial Day and Veterans Day in-person ceremonies are cancelled for 2021. This means that the Commandery will need to plan its own observance, or work with other Veterans organizations for an alternate event that satisfies our mission and purpose to ensure proper commemorations are held. As with the last Veterans Day, we can certainly count on the WWI Memorial at Waikiki, and plan to attend. Col., USAF, Ret. Ron Han, Director of the Office of Veterans Services, Hawaii State Dept. of Defense, announced that the National Association of Letter Carriers has agreed to full funding of the WWII Memorial at the intersection of Punchbowl St. and King St. in downtown Honolulu, including the memorial plaque, pedestal, and installation. This is the same memorial that was on the cover of the March 2020 issue of the *Commandery News*. Related to memorials, Col. Han a report will soon be published by the 2020 Triennial Review of Veteran Memorials and Monuments across the State of Hawaii.

MAJ Sarah Thompson from the 25th Infantry detailed a plan that the Division will carry out to connect with Veterans, that will be in partnership with the OVC. One of the goals of the partnership will be to help the soldiers of the division to connect with the community. MAJ Thompson explained that such a relationship could benefit both Veterans and active duty soldiers. Among the activities contemplated to include Veterans in this partnership are tours of the 3rd Brigade 25th Division HW, the Jungle Training Academy, and the 25th Division Museum, as well as an invitation to veterans to participate in the 25th's Readiness Week. Additionally, social events to connect Veterans and soldiers are seen as a way to help each community better understand the needs of the other. VFW Post 970 is coordinating with the OVC to establish flag drop off box at the Center, for ceremonial and respectful disposal of unserviceable flags.

Companion Tulak attended the February 27th meeting of the Council, where the leaders of the member organizations provided a SITREP on the health of their organizations, and how they were carrying out meetings and other business. Representing the Hawaii Commandery, Arthur reported that we have carried out both live and virtual meetings during the pandemic. One of the Veteran organizations reported having no meetings or activities, live or virtual, since February 2020, so we can see that we are doing comparatively well in sustaining our operations. The OVC has also confirmed that it will present its \$500 JROTC scholarships again this year, despite lack of income to the Center from room rentals. Member organizations are sometimes asked to present these scholarships on behalf of the Council at the JROTC awards ceremonies.



50th Vietnam War Commemoration

National Vietnam Veterans Day is March 29th. Chapter 858 of the Vietnam Veterans of America has teamed up with the 8th Theater Sustainment Command at Fort Shafter, HI to carry out a virtual ceremony that will be broadcast on local TV and YouTube. Vietnam Veterans are invited to send photos of themselves showing "Then and Now" to be included in the on-line presentation. VVA Chapter 858 needs to have the entire program completed and 'ready to go' NLT Friday, March 19, 2021, CPT Rona Adams, VVA Chapter 858 President needs to have pictures within the next 2 weeks. Please contact CPT Adams at ronaadams@hawaii.rr.com or vva858oahuhi@gmail.com As reported at the last Commandery meeting, the Vietnam Veteran Recognition program has been put on pause, due to the difficulty of coordinating with local Veterans organizations to identify candidates. Commandery Volunteers are needed to follow-up on past contacts to develop these nominations, so that our recognition efforts may resume.

American Veteran History Series

Cooties, Sad Sacks, Devil Dogs, Trench Rats and other amusing Veterans Sub-Organizations

By Arthur N. Tulak

Many of the established Military Orders and Veterans Organizations (VSO) have auxiliaries, youth organizations, and other various subordinate organizations, but some have secret, or at least curious, sub-organizations that aim for more whimsy than can be found at the meetings of the regular parent organization. In many cases they are considered the "Honor Society" of the parent organization. In most cases, there is a strong charitable mission associated with the sub-organization. The tradition for most of these organizations is that membership is not automatic, and is determined by those already admitted. Commonly the initiation of new members is probationary, and newly initiated members are obliged to prove their worthiness. This article will examine some of these organizations that are still in operation today.

La Societé des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (The Society of 40 Men and 8 Horses)¹

The 40 and 8 was formed in March of 1920 by Joseph W. Breen, a member of the newly formed American Legion and an officer of Breen-McCracken American Legion Post 297. Breen met in Philadelphia with fifteen other prominent Legionnaires who together developed the concept of The Forty and Eight organization. These Legionnaires sought to create an elite organization for membership and camaraderie for the leaders of the American Legion. The society's name comes from the marking on the boxcars of the French narrow-gauge railway system that transported American doughboys to the Front. The stenciled 40/8 marking certified the cars as being capable of carrying 40 men and 8 horses.² The boxcars (Voitures) that were half the size of American boxcars. Trains and box cars became the symbol of the new organization, and the railroad theme carried over in the titles of leadership in the organization. Its members wear a traditional garrison cap, chapeau, with the color denoting level of membership. The basic member chapeau is "French horizon blue" in color.

Membership in the society was by invitation only, and offered only to Legionnaires who had provided exemplary service. Member of the 40 and 8 were called *Voyageurs Militaire* (military travelers) and candidates for membership were called *Prisonniers de Guerre* (Prisoners of War), and Initiation into the society is known as being wrecked (as in train-wrecked). The "French horizon blue" color, was chosen for the symbols of the society. State level meetings of the 40 and 8 were known as Promenade, with the first being held in June 1920, following the American Legion's 2nd annual convention in Pennsylvania. After the society grew across the American Legion, their national meetings were known as *Promenades Nationale*. The Headquarters for the 40 & 8, the *Voiture Nationale*, is located in Indianapolis, Indiana. State or regional organizations are called, *Grande Voitures*. A *Voiture Locale* and can be established when ten Legionnaires submit an application for a Charter. The 40 and 8 has its own auxiliary known as the *La Société De Femme* whose annual national meetings are known as *Rendezvous Nationale*.³ The first 40 & 8 Commander, Joseph Breen was elected *Chef de Chemin de Fer* (Chief of the Railroad [literally translated as path of iron]). Other titles for the organization included:^{4,5}



Insignia of the *La Société de Femme*, a 40 & 8 Ladies' Auxiliary

Chef de Gare – Commander

Chef de Train –First Vice Commander

Correspondant – Adjutant

Commissaire-Intendant – Finance Officer

Garde de la Porte – Sergeant-at-Arms

Aumonier – Chaplain

Avocat – Staff Judge Advocate

Voyageur-Militaire – Member

Prisonnier de Guerre – Candidate

Historien –Historian

The Forty and Eight severed ties with the American Legion and became an independent organization, but maintained the requirement that a prerequisite of membership in the society was being a member in good standing of the American Legion. from its earliest days it has been committed to charitable aims. In 2014, the society's constitution committed to supporting projects relating to the welfare of the children of America; healthcare in the form of fostering a nurses training program; and other selected charitable endeavors.⁶

The Military Order of the Cootie (MOC) of the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization organized September 17, 1920 at the Oxford Hotel in Washington D.C.⁷ The Order is known as "The Honor Degree of the VFW" and its members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is seen as a recognition of outstanding service in the VFW. The MOC were officially recognized by the VFW on Sep. 24, 1921.⁸



The MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. The Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Ancillary unit within the organization. Cooties work on VFW projects while "adding to it the frivolity known as Military Humor to the serious work of our parent organization." The VFW National Home for Children (really a campus of homes), located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, started out as a project of the MOC. The MOC places a great importance and priority to the task of caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces, raising millions of dollars to support the children at the home.⁷

Since World War II, Cooties have entertained hospitalized troops and veterans during their confinement and rehabilitation at Veterans Administration facilities throughout the country. Today, Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time at Veterans Affairs Hospitals and domiciliaries throughout the United States. Cooties wear a distinctive red garrison hat with tassels that is worn perpendicular to the normal wear of a garrison cap, presenting an amusing appearance intended to put a smile on the faces of those its members serve. Members wear a small pin on their shirt collars that resembles a louse. Membership is open only to VFW members, and MOC membership is contingent on remaining and active member of the VFW. A local unit of the MOC is known as a "Pup Tent." A State (Department) is called a "Grand Pup Tent," and the National Organization is called the "Supreme Pup Tent." MOC officers designated as Shavetails. The meetings of the MOC are known as "Scratches" and the national convention is the "Supreme Scratch." The MOC has 7 regional districts covering the U.S.A. and foreign lands. The MOC also has an auxiliary organization, the MOCA.



Military Order of the Devil Dogs⁹ is an honor society nested within the Marine Corps League (MCL) and typically comprises the more enthusiastic, spirited and jovial members. They work to simultaneously be the spirit as well as the entertainment of a regular league chapter. The **MODD was formed** at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston during the 1939 Convention of the MCL, and granted a charter by the MCL in 1940.¹⁰ It was created as a secret fraternal society within the MCL "to provide relaxation to those hard-working Leaguers who have been selected for membership by the Devil Dogs" as "membership is by invitation only through the sponsorship of a full-fledged Devil Dog."¹¹ MCL members are not eligible for consideration of full membership in the MODD for the first two years of membership in the league. Before that time, candidates may be initiated as "Mongrels" in the local MODD unit, known as a "Pound" (Detachment, the local level organization).

The national level structure of the Order is the "Kennel" and the Department or State level organization is a "Pack." There are three different degrees in the Order. The lowest degree is that of a Pup. The next highest level is that of a Devil Dog (DD). The highest level is that of a Pedigreed Devil Dog (PDD). All Dogs wear a dog collar (ribbon) around their neck with a Dog Tag attached that is inscribed with the Dog Pound Number, and the member's dog license number.¹² A Pup wears a black ribbon, a Devil Dog wears a red ribbon, and a Pedigreed Devil Dog wears a gold ribbon.¹³ Meetings are known as "Growls" with the national convention meeting called "the Grand Growl," and the meeting place is referred to as a "Dog House." Members at-large without a pound or pack affiliation are known as Strays. The officer duty titles reflect the aim of having a bit of fun, with "Dog" being part of every title, and the level of organization preceding the title:

Chief Devil Dog – National Commandant
Pack Leader – Department level leader
Pound Keeper – Detachment Commandant
Barking Dog – Public Relations
Dog Robber – Adjutant/Paymaster

Dog Trainer – Chaplain
Mad Dog – Initiation Officer
Smart Dog – Judge Advocate
Watch Dog Asst. – Sgt-At-Arms



The National Order of Trench Rats was founded in 1924 as an organization for disabled World War I veterans who were patients in the United States Public Health Service Hospital No. 54. located at Arrowhead Springs, California.¹⁴ Some of the patients were members of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV, founded in 1920). The hospital was isolated and there were no activities for the patients to pass the time, the majority of whom were ambulatory. A few members of this DAV Chapter conceived the idea of organizing a group of the most active members as a secret, fraternal society. The name "Trench Rats" was adopted as it is symbolic of the rats which the World War I veterans encountered in the trenches in France.

The N.O.T.R. started as a secret, fraternal and honor organization limiting its membership by selection only to those who showed their devotion and meritorious service to the DAV and the welfare of the disabled veterans, his widow and orphans. The founders devised an initiation ceremony for fun and amusement and invited for membership only those DAV members who were most active in the Chapter. As a result of this, most of the patients became members of the DAV and its delegates to the National Convention in Salt Lake City in 1924 were able to get the N.O.T.R. officially recognized as an Auxiliary of the DAV.

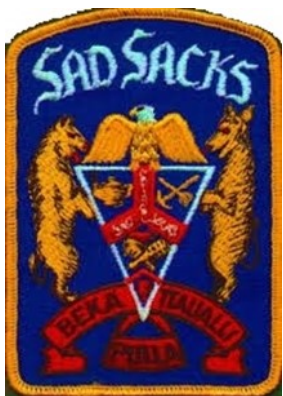
Members of the N.O.T.R. wear as their official headgear several different styles of fezzes, all prominently displaying a trench rat, with the color of the fez denoting rank of the wearer. The local organization is known as a “Dugout,” and its member wear a purple fez. The N.O.T.R. established a ladies’ auxiliary, The National Order of Alley Cats, which supports the N.O.T.R. in providing charity and support to veterans through the DAV organization. Local bodies of the auxiliary are known as “Rat Traps,” making reference to the idea that the women have “trapped” the men of the local “Dugout” of the Trench Rats. The group was founded in 1943 and still operates today. The presiding officer is titled the “Golden Cat” with members being referred to as “Sister Cats.”¹⁵



Membership in the DAV, is a prerequisite for membership in the N.O.T.R. Since the Trench Rats formed, all members have been male disabled veterans – until the beginning of 2010. Membership is by invitation only, “One does not ask to become a Trench Rat, rather, one must wait to be asked.”¹⁶ The HQ is in MALABAR, FL, which oversees the 63 currently active Dugouts spread across AZ, CA, FL, ID, IL, KY, LA, MD, MA, MI, MO, NV, NE, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, PA, VA, SC, WI, the DC, and Territory of PR.¹⁷ The national leader of the N.O.T.R. carries the title of the “Imperial Golden Rodent.” As with our similar organizations, the titles of the Officer and Duty positions convey the humorous aspects of the society:¹⁸

- Imperial Golden Rodent (IG.R)** – head and chief executive.
- Imperial Silver Rodent (IS.R)** – the Senior Vice-Commander
- Imperial Blue Rodent (IB.R)** – the Junior Vice-Commander and asst. to the Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer.
- Imperial Turquoise Rodent (IT.R)** – the 2nd Junior Vice-Commander.
- Imperial Bubonic (IB.R) & Imperial Black Plagues (IBL.R)** – Master of Ceremonies at all initiations.
- Imperial Hole-Y Rat (IH.R)** – Chaplain.
- Imperial Bench Rat (IBe.R)** – Judge Advocate. He will be the Advisor of the By-Laws Committee.
- Imperial Iron Claw (II.C)** – Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Imperial Red Eyed Gnawer (IR.E.G.)** – Adjutant (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Imperial Executive Rat (IE.R)** – represents each Sector of the Disabled American Veterans.

AMVETS Sad Sacks of American Veterans.



A fun-making and honor organization comprised of AMVETS members, the Sad Sacks (who derive their name from the famous cartoon character of World War II) provide, as their chief community service project, scholarships for nurses. Sad Sacks was the first Auxiliary organization of AMVETS, and was established on September 25th 1945 in the University club in Los Angeles, CA. by AMVETS leader Jack Hardy. While preparing for a program for the first AMVETS State Convention Hardy suggested that the AMVETS should have a Fun and Honor organization similar to those of other Veterans' Organizations. WWII Cartoonist George Baker, who died in combat on June 17, 1942 during the Allied advance on Rome, created his “Sad Sack” cartoon strip to provide humor to the troops.¹⁹ This character



George Baker's Sad Sack cartoon character

was chosen as the namesake of the organization.²⁰ The AMVETS Sad Sacks has its own Constitution and By-Laws, and membership is limited to members in good standing of the AMVETS.

The headgear for Sad Sacks today is a traditional garrison cap with lettering denoting organization and position held. The color of the cap signifies the level of organization of the wearer. The blue cap is for the local level officers and members, red for state level officers and gold for national level officers. A new member is referred to as a “Yard Bird.” As with similar honor organizations, the Sad Sack Officer’s titles convey a sense of whimsy.²²

Saddest – Commander
Almost, Not Quite – Vice Cdr
Feathers – Adjutant
Money Bags – Finance Officer

Hoosegow – Provost Marshal
Squire – Judge Advocate
Solemnest – Chaplain
Nosiest – Public Relations

Worm – Historian
Wailer – Cry Baby

The Sad Sacks also established a National Ladies Auxiliary, and the auxiliary created its own Honor and Fun Organization of the AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary, known as the “**Sackettes**.” Like their counterparts, the Sackettes adopted whimsical titles for the officers, known as “Ossifers.”²³



Snappiest – President
Snappier – Vice President
Savingest – Treasurer

Serious – Chaplain
Stubbornest – Sgt-at-Arms
Hustler – Ways & Means

The Sackettes offer a National Nursing Scholarship for students pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing, who are enrolled at a Nursing School, and in at least his or her second year of nursing at an accredited school or college of nursing.

The histories and functions of the fun and honor sub organizations reviewed above demonstrates the importance of having fun while doing important service to our Veterans and military communities. The MOFW does not have an analogous fun organization, as it is our intent to have fun in our regular meetings. These organizations form an interesting body of volunteerism that is the hallmark of all VSOs and comprise an interesting chapter of American Veteran history.

End Notes:

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Restoring the Naval Air Station Barbers Point Memorial

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

The cover of this edition of the Commandery News features a photo of the Naval Air Station Barbers Point (NAS BP) memorial taken on May 3, 2015, by Richard E. Flagg. The Navy erected the monument near the intersection of Midway Rd. and Lexington St., across the street of the base HQ in 1999 before the based closed, to commemorate the many tenant units of the Naval Air Station Barbers Point's 57 years of fleet service from 1942 to 1999. Its placement there was thought to be permanent. The iconic P3 Orion aircraft model honored the various units that contributed to the Anti-Submarine Maritime Patrol Mission. The cover photo shows the memorial in its better days before it was unceremoniously ripped out of the ground on March 3, 2018 at the direction of the American Renaissance Academy, who had leased the grounds upon which the memorial was situated. ARA's lease for the property was with the Hunt Corporation, which took possession of several parcels of lands from the Navy after its closure.

NAS BP had its origins in the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Ewa Field, which saw action in downing Japanese fighters and fighter bombers attacking Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.¹ Both bases were being built-up at the time of America's entry into WWII, but the priority for construction was to MCAS, which had just become operational. The priority for funding did not shift to NAS BP until 1942. During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, training and support activity surged. Airborne early-warning missions were conducted for seven years during the height of the Cold War and Anti-submarine patrol squadrons conducted maritime patrols continuously for almost 50 years.² In 1952, the MCAS Ewa air wing command was inactivated and the base went through a base realignment and closure process ending that year with MCAS Ewa Field being absorbed into NAS BP.³ The Marines transferred aircraft over to the newly recommissioned MCAS Kaneohe which had formerly been NAS Kaneohe. During its heyday, Barbers Point was the largest naval air station in the Pacific, with 6, 500 military, family members and civilians. Dubbed "the crossroads of the Pacific" the base had six P-3 Orion sub-hunter squadrons and around 50 of the propeller aircraft. In 1999, following a Congressionally mandated Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, the base was closed. With the closure, the remaining units still operating were transferred to Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay, which saw approximately 2, 300 Navy personnel, 29 P-3s and nine SH-60 Seahawk helicopters transferred.⁴

The 2018 deconstruction and removal of the NAS BP memorial caused great uproar among the Veteran and historian communities, who were caught unawares.⁵ At the time, two separate groups were both working to find a permanent home for the memorial, and unfortunately, these two groups were not coordinated, nor able to work together. The Navy offered to take custodianship of the remnants of the Memorial for safe-keeping at MCB Kaneohe, until such time that the actual construction work would start. However, the permits for re-establishing the memorial on the grounds of the Kalaeloa Airport expired at the end of 2020. In December 2020, the Hawaii Department of American Veterans (AMVETS) established a new committee to restore the memorial, chaired by Col, USMC, Ret. Jason Seal. This committee has completed a new Memorandum of Agreement with the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Airports Division, and submitted a new plan to reconstruct and re-erect the memorial near the Kalaeloa air tower inside the airport.

The State of Hawaii provided land inside the perimeter fencing of the airfield. While this will ensure the memorial is safe from vandalism, the general public will be required to obtain access passes to the airfield to visit the Memorial. The DOT-A has assured the committee that reasonable procedures will be put into place to accommodate visitors to the memorial. The new committee is conducting outreach to various Community, Veterans and Civic organizations to brief them on the renewed effort, which is anticipated to achieve the restoration of the bronze information tablets, wall with lettering, and the P3 Orion replica on a standing mount in 2021. A re-dedication ceremony will be planned, with invitations going out to those organizations who join in support. The first of the outreach efforts was the Kapolei Neighborhood Board #34, which has been intimately involved with the restoration effort for several years. Construction of the bases for the pedestal signs was completed on February 27, 2021.

The Committee invites other Veterans Organizations to lend their support by volunteering, and by helping to raise funds for this important project. The Phase One funding goal is \$15,000, and Phase 2 (reconstruction of the rock wall) is \$26,000. Donations can be made on-line at <https://www.facebook.com/donate/888074188667895/3448588265196114/> or by mail to AMVETS Hawaii, PO Box 2865, Ewa Beach, Hawaii (USA) 96706, with an annotation in the memo section of any check or money order to denote that the donation is for the NAS BP Memorial. The Hawaii AMVETS Service Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization is managing the donations, which are tax-deductible.



March 3, 2108, a group of volunteers remove the P3 and stand, bronze tablets, and the letters on the rock wall, surprising the Veterans and historian communities.



December 19, 2109, the rock wall is destroyed, with usable lava rock sent off to the island of Laie for private use.

End Notes:

1. John Bond, (2019), "Video Documentary 75th Anniversary and Commemoration at historic Ewa Field, NAS Barbers Point." <http://barbers-point.blogspot.com/2019/>
2. William Cole, (4 Jan 2020), "Plans Move Forward to Rebuild the Old P-3 Orion Monument on Hawaii," The Honolulu Star-Advertiser <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/01/04/plans-move-forward-rebuild-old-p-3-orion-monument-hawaii.html>
3. Bond, (2019).
4. Cole, (2020).
5. Casey Lund, (July 14, 2018), "Hawaii veterans work to rebuild, find a home for Barbers Point memorial," <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/38647320/veterans-work-to-rebuild-barbers-point-memorial/>

Companion News—

Companion Matt Bowdish serves as a volunteer for the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, which is for descendants of Revolutionary War officers. Matt is also an active member of the Aztec Club of 1847 (for descendants of officers in the Mexican-American War), and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US (MOLLUS an organization for those who descend from Union Army & Navy officers during the Civil War). Matt currently serves at the Surgeon for the California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, and the California Mayflower Society. Matt serves on the SAR's Medical Committee and which has produced a series of challenge coins recognizing Revolutionary War physicians and surgeons from each of the 13 original colonies as well as a French representative. Matt contributes to his society newsletters with a medical advice column.

Companion Sumner Hunnewell completes his two-year leadership terms of office of three national hereditary societies over the next two months (President General, Order of the First Families of Maine 1604-1652; Postmaster General, Descendants of Early Postmasters 1607-1900; President General, National Society Descendants of Colonial Indentured Servants). Late last year, he finished editing The **1812 War Cry** (magazine of the General Society War of 1812), which included his article "Two Fraternal Organizations...with War of 1812 Connections." The first part of his "Bombardment of Falmouth, Maine, October 17, 1775" was published in the latest **Sons Drumbeat** (General Society Sons of the Revolution). As Department Commander, he continues committee work for the 2021 National Encampment, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, which will be held in St. Louis in August.

Companion Peter Hirai was recently accepted to the Certification Commission for the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). He will serve as a commissioner, reviewing candidate applications for the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) and Associate Emergency Manager (AEM) credentials. His commissioner term runs from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. As a commissioner he will be assigned 12-15 applications every other month, and examine each candidate's qualifications to earn their CEM or AEM. CEM is the highest certification awarded to emergency managers. Volunteer time on the commission takes an average of 18-20 hours per month, including quarterly meetings.

Companion John Gobrick, MOFW Companion since Feb 2014, COL Gobrick is serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) at Fort Bragg North Carolina and sends his best wishes to all companions in his last written correspondence to the Commandery sent on 22 January.

Companion Arthur Tulak was appointed Vice Chairman of the Naval Air Station Barbers Point Memorial Restoration Committee. His latest article, "General Logan's Vision of the Military Education System for America," was published in the *Historical Journal of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States*, <http://suvchw.org/mollus/journal/2020-77-4-Winter.pdf>

Is your news MIA? Share your news with your fellow Companions!!

Secretary's Corner— Focusing on Companionship

I would like to thank all Companions who sent in their annual dues on time. Membership cards reflecting your paid-up status will be going out in the mail. We are now processing one Allied Officer application, and working with a few candidates to complete their applications for Companionship. As the Commander highlighted in his remarks, every Companion of the Hawaii Commandery, living in Hawaii, on the Mainland, or overseas, should be doing his or her best to bring in a new Companion to the Order in 2021.

There are four categories of Companionship: 1) Veteran; 2) Allied; 3) Hereditary (by proving clear lineage to a Veteran U.S. or Allied Officer), and; 4) **Junior Companion**. Section 4 of Article III: (Companionship) of the National Constitution of the Order spells out the eligibility requirements for Junior Companions, which are essentially hereditary companions. Section 4 states: ***These shall be minors who fulfill the requirements of Hereditary Companions as required by Section 3. During their minority such companions shall not be entitled to vote or to hold office. Upon such Companion becoming the age of twenty-one, he shall automatically become an Hereditary Companion with all the privileges pertaining thereto.*** Historically, Junior Companions have been for the most part the sons and daughters of current Companions, but this membership category may also include those who can prove lineage to a qualifying officer. Junior Companions who are members of JROTC and CAP may wear the MOFW ribbon on their Cadet uniforms. **This status is quite unique, and we must do a better job of promoting it!**

Arthur N. Tulak
Arthur N. Tulak
COL, USA Ret.



Welcome New Companion — LTC Daniel J. Curtis

Compatriot LTC Dan Curtis was admitted into the Order on November 12, 2020. He is an Army active-duty Officer, who currently serves at HQ, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) at Camp H.M. Smith, in the J82 Division. Dan began his military career as an enlisted infantryman in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, and later received his Officer's Commission on June, 3, 1995, through ROTC at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Dan served as an Infantry Officer for 2 years on active duty before transitioning to the Quartermaster Corps. Upon his promotion to Major, he was assigned the career field designation of Army Force Management officer. Since being designated an Army Force Manager, Dan has exclusively served on the General Staff of major commands at the 1-star through 4 Star level. Dan's primary regional area of expertise is the Pacific. Dan's qualifying service for Veteran Companionship in the Order is his tour of duty with 3rd Brigade (Stryker), 2d Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in Mosul, Iraq, at Forward Operating Bases Marez and Anaconda from 28 March - 27 September 2004. He also completed operational tours in the Republic of Korea with U.S. Forces Korea, and in Taszar Hungary in NATO's Operation Joint Guard. Dan has an exceptional record of volunteerism, and currently serves as the Vice President of the Hawaii Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, which he joined based on his line of descent from his 4th Great Grandfather, Lieutenant John Dent who served within Major Taylor's Company of the 9th Virginia Regiment during the American Revolution. His other military ancestors include his 2d Great Grandfather, Private Thomas Brooks, who served in Company I, 53th Infantry Regiment North Carolina, Confederate States Army during the War between the States. Dan holds a Master of Science Degree in Logistics Management from Florida Institute of Technology at Melbourne, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from King's College, Wilkes-Barre PA. Dan and his wife Nubia have a son, Kenneth and daughter Kallie.



2021 Cadet Awards

By Arthur N. Tulak



This year's Cadet Awards ceremonies are once again being planned under COVID-19 pandemic restrictions on assembly. Presently, only Punahou plans to hold a live in-person event (date not set) and just a few units have committed to conduct virtual ceremonies, namely, the units at Aiea, Kaiser Mililani, and Waipahu High Schools. Only Mililani Army JROTC, has set a date, and will hold their ceremony on-line, 8 May at 1730 hrs. Each school unit has been contacted to verify whether the MOFW medals will be awarded this year. One consequence of the pandemic is that the distribution procedures to get the medals to the schools is now being handled at Schofield Barracks, for centralized distribution, or by direct mailing at the cost to the organizations providing the medals. We will have to prepare school-specific packages of medals and certificates for each school, in response to their requests. So far, 15 of the 26 Hawaii-based JROTC units have reported their intentions. Some schools are reducing the number of awards being presented this year, and are reducing or cancelling the requirement for awards from the supporting Veterans Organizations this year. Kailua, for example, is requesting only the Silver Academic medal this year. Radford, Waianae, Kailua, and Kapa'a will not conduct any ceremony or issue of awards to cadets this year.

Regarding the Sr. ROTC units at University of Hawaii and University of Guam, the Army ROTC Warrior Battalion and Air Force ROTC Detachment 175, will conduct the 2021 ROTC Joint Awards Ceremony on May 6th, Thursday, at 0900 over Zoom. The medals and certificates for the Sr. ROTC programs at University of Hawaii were delivered in-person on 13 February. The medals to UoG are yet to be mailed, as we await another shipment from MOFW National. We will still need volunteers, and with the ceremonies moving to a virtual format, we should be able to cover all ceremonies held.

New Veterans Center Opens in West Oahu!

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

A new Veterans Center has been opened by AMVETS Department of Hawaii. on West Oahu in the former club that served the military community at the Naval Magazine West Loch, and the Iroquois Point Navy Housing Community. The Dept. of Hawaii Commander, Donovan Lazarus knew that the old club facility was wasting away and serving no purpose, and that his organization that was authorized the use of Military Facilities, and so developed the concept of transforming the dilapidated building into a center to serve Veterans on the West end of the Island of Oahu.



Sign outside the center on Iroquois Rd.

The new Veterans Center in West Oahu provides an inviting place for Veterans to gather, and supports any veteran and any Veteran organization wanting to use its facility. As Hawaii AMVETS Commander Lazarus explained: *"It is more convenient for veterans on the west side to be able to meet; we needed another location to offer similar assistance and services - we don't charge, and we don't require anyone to be a member."* The center provides free-of-charge recreational activities/therapy to veterans, service members and their families, to include resume work shops for transitioning military, and Veterans who have already left the service.

In January 2018, AMVETS Commander Lazarus contacted Navy Facility Hawaii (NAVFAC HI), Asset Management Branch via e-mail to inform them that AMVETS Hawaii was interested in leasing the vacant facility, Building 612 A, at West Loch Annex, Ewa Beach, on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH). This was followed by the submission of a formal letter of request addressed to the JBPHH Commander, along with Navy Space Allocation Form. The letter explained that AMVETS Hawaii sought to open a West Oahu Veterans Center to provide a gathering place for its members and other Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs), to conduct workshops, training, post meetings and other activities for Veterans, Active and Reserve Service members, and their families. The request was approved during JBPHH Fiscal Year 2019 4th Quarter Facility Board meeting, and shortly thereafter, AMVETS Hawaii received the official approval letter. On August 15, 2020, AMVETS received the real-estate agreement of the facility to accept it on an "As Is" basis. AMVETS would obtain the use of an area of over 3,030 square feet, consisting of Building 612A (450 sq. ft.), a portion of Building 612 (2580 sq. ft.), and a covered outdoor patio area (Bldg 614) to be dedicated to serving Veterans and VSOs.



Photo: Flags flying proudly at the newly opened AMVETS West Oahu Veterans Center Nov. 3, 2020, photo by Author

AMVETS took possession of the facility and began the hard process of renovation to make it safe for use. The building itself was in terrible shape, and initial tasks to be performed included the removal of an enormous amount of termite infestation in the interior, wasp nests outside the building, and significant mold damage inside and outside of the buildings, and significant damage to the door frames, bar countertops and sections of the wooden floors in Building 612A. The air conditioning system had long since stopped working and AMVETS raised over \$22 thou-

sand dollars just to replace it. All of this hard work was done during the global pandemic, that gripped the world after it started in Communist China in November of 2019. Getting the work done under these conditions required dedicated volunteers, as well as paid workers. The Habitat for Humanity (H4H) Leeward Oahu provided volunteers who helped to paint the interior of the gazebo/pavilion, and tiling of the kitchen floor, which H4H also donated. Another 19 volunteers came from the local AMVETS organizations on Oahu: AMVETS USS Arizona Post (2); Ewa Battlefield Post (2); Pearl Harbor Post (2); West Loch Post (3), AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary (5), and the Department (5). Working long days and weekends Commander Lazarus toiled to get the project completed quickly, to be able to open the Center for business in 2020.

The Center officially opened for business, on November 7, 2020, and has hosted over 30 events since, to include: various Veteran Organizations' meetings, fundraisers, career workshops, and VA Home Loan seminars; a 2020 Veterans' Day Celebration, Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K-Run and Thanksgiving Day Dinner for 25 Veterans in need/homeless, Veterans Motorcycle Club (MC) Poker Runs, and the Bikers United 46th Annual Toy-Drop Run in support of the USMC Toys4Tots. The very first event was the USMC Birthday Celebration and Cake Cutting Ceremony with the USMC Leathernecks Motorcycle Club held on November 6, 2020 with members of the Green Beret Special Forces Motorcycle Club celebrating the USMC Birthday. The feedback from numerous Veterans organizations has been positive, and appreciative of the support AMVETS is providing for their Veterans organization to be able to use the facilities.

The center is located at 5001 Iroquois Avenue, in Building 612 on the West Loch Annex of Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, and is manned by volunteers from the Hawaii AMVETS Department, Hawaii AMVETS Service Foundation and the West Loch AMVETS Post. Contemplating the future possibilities for the center, Commander Lazarus remarked that "The center will be known for improving the lives of veterans, service members and their families, a place known for inspiring our youth to find their purpose."



ANZAC DAY 2021

ANZAC Day is observed annually on April 25th, the anniversary of the Dardanelles Campaign Landing in 1915, and traditionally includes commemorations across both Australia and New Zealand at dedicated war memorials, and in community level events run by the Returned and Services League (RSL) in Australia and in New Zealand by the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association (RSA). In the United States, the embassies and consulates of Australia and New Zealand carry out remembrance services, to which representatives of the Federal, State and local government and military services are invited. Many live events are being planned to be held in Australia and New Zealand this year. The ANZAC Day commemoration in Hawaii has for many years included a ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, which the Commandery has supported. Last year, due to global Corona Virus pandemic, all in-person events in Hawaii were cancelled, and the Commandery participated in the 'Light up the Dawn' campaign.

That campaign, was a resounding success in 2020, and the RSL Australia has rolled out again this year <https://rslqld.org/News/Latest-News/Light-up-the-dawn>, and the RSA has provided DIY (do it yourself) instructions on their website for 2021 <https://www.rsa.org.nz/remembrance>. The Hawaii Commandery also issued resolutions of support to the Australian and New Zealand Consulates in 2020, which were both very well-received. The VA has already cancelled the ANZAC day service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (a.k.a. Punchbowl). So far, all AUS and NZL consular events in Hawaii for 2021 have been virtual.

The Commandery should make an even greater effort to participation in the Light up the Dawn commemoration. The Australian Returned and Services League also recommended other ways for individuals to commemorate this year, which included "visiting a local war memorial at any time of the day, other than dawn, within social distancing conditions." Accordingly, we can conduct our own event at an appropriate location in MOFW attire. The ceremony is unique, and includes the recitation of the Ode:

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.***

Upcoming events:

- **26 MAR — Commandery Meeting** at the Sunset Lanai, Camp H.M. Smith, 1700 hrs.
- **29 MAR to 02 APR — 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. Essay judging in cooperation with The Assn. of the United States Army, Military Order of World Wars, and the Reserve Officers Assn.
- **29 MAR — National Vietnam War Veterans Day.** This is normally held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, but will be a virtual event carried out by the VVA Chapter 858, the 8th TSC and other partners.
- **6 APR — Army Day** first celebrated on May 1, 1928. That date was chosen in hopes of dampening Communists' celebration of Workers' Day, which also occurs on May 1st. In 1929, Army Day was changed to April 6, the anniversary date of the United States' entry into World War One.
- **9 APR — National Former POW Recognition Day**
- **25 APR — ANZAC Day** Commandery to plan its own observance, as the VA has cancelled all events. ††
- **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. ††
- **1 MAY— Loyalty Day** As specified by an Act of Congress, Loyalty Day is a special day for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom, timed to counter the insidious global and American-based Communist movements.
- **6 MAY— National Day of Prayer** observed in accordance with our motto “God and Liberty”
- **15 MAY—Peace Officers Memorial Day**
- **15 MAY— Armed Forces Day** On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days.
- **31 MAY— Memorial Day.** This is normally held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and no events are authorized there. Stand by for updates††
- **27 & 28 MAY— Poppy Appeal** at Camp H.M. Smith. ††

†† If permitted with State COVID-19 measures in-place.



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

Mahalo to our 2021 Sponsors:



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