

MUSEUM NEWS YOU CAN USE



Summer 2006

JUNE 2006 ISSUE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

U.S. ARMY

JUNE 14th is the date we celebrate the official birthday of the United States Army!

Congratulations to all the men and women who have served in various Army units worldwide, from the 1940s thru today's War on Terrorism. Mahalo for your service to our Army and to our great country.

HUNDREDS ENJOY LIVING HISTORY DAY



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It was a perfect weekend day on May 20th as the Hawaii Army Museum Society hosted its annual Living History Day on the grounds fronting the Fort DeRussy museum. Families enjoyed displays of military weapons and settings, old vehicles from as far back as World War II, volunteers dressed in historic Army uniforms and even an authentic Scottish bagpipe band.



MUSEUM STORE BREAKS RETAIL SALES RECORDS

The HAMS Museum store did over \$200,000 in sales during 2005, up nearly 5% over the previous year. Under the leadership of Executive Director Sheldon Tyau the popular retail outlet provides all sorts of items for visitors to purchase.

Number one selling item comes from the wide range of Tee Shirts, featuring such popular designs as the USS ARIZONA and USS MISSOURI battleships; Hawaii Army Museum logo; 25th Infantry Division logo; and shirts with prints showing tanks and other Army equipment. The second most popular items are books, especially those about World War II and other military topics; and then those about Hawaiian. A newly popular book is the one about General Eric Shinseki, the Kauai-born officer who, in the late 1990s, became the first Japanese-American to serve as Army Chief of Staff. The HAMS Museum Store is the only Waikiki bookshop that has the Shinseki book available.

Other popular selling store items include hatpins and replica patches from various military units. Also, many parents and grandparents purchase models of military aircraft, vehicles, ships and tanks for their children or grandkids. These model kits, mostly all plastic and easily assembled, feature equipment from World War I right up to today's F-18 fighter jet.

A new feature offered by the Museum Store is that all its merchandise is now available for sale on the HAMS website. That internet address is: www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org.



After a slow start to the new year caused by the month-long rains of February and March, the store is back on track and ahead of its own 2005 record sales. Sheldon and his assistant store manager Eric Yonamine must be doing things right, since the Army Museum Accreditation team last year said our Waikiki store was: “one of the finest museum stores in the Army Museum system.” That evaluation boosted our facility from Gift Shop to full Museum Store rating. B.Z., Sheldon and Eric!

LEO KERLICK NAMED HAMS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



A former U.S. Army Artillery Officer, Leo Kerlick served in the Korean War as a forward observer and during the cold war he was an instructor of Anti-Aircraft Artillery & Guided Missile Systems. Leo continued to serve his country for the next 31 years as an instructor and field engineer at the Defense & Space Training Center, while employed by Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Originally from Oklahoma, Leo has called Hawaii his second home since 1964. He became a devoted member of the Army Museum volunteer staff in 2001. Leo's military background and sincere hospitality is an asset to the Hawaii Army Museum. Visitors are warmly greeted and he always shares a wealth of information with them. Mahalo, Leo!

ANNUAL HAMS GOLF TOURNEY SET FOR JUNE 23RD

One of the highlights of the year is the annual golf tournament, this year our 25th in a row. Golfers will have the opportunity to enjoy a day of golf on the beautiful Leilehua Golf Club near Wahiawa, prizes for all, lunch and dinner, and a program of entertainment that will be emceed by popular local radio and TV celebrities Kirk Matthews and Linda Coble, Mr. and Mrs. Personality!

The date to put on your calendar is Friday, June 23rd. Check-in will be available from 10 am to noon; lunch is served from 11 am to noon; and the tournament will begin at 12:30 pm with a shotgun start. Up to 144 golfers can be accommodated, but sign up today if you want to play!

Tournament sponsorships are available in four different levels of financial support:

TITLE and GOLD TEE BOX Sponsors \$2,000.00. Includes entering 8 golfers in tourney, your organization's name prominently displayed on a tee box and included in all HAMS publications.

SILVER TEE BOX Sponsor \$1,000.00. Includes entering 4 golfers in tourney, with benefits similar to GOLD Sponsors.

BRONZE TEE BOX Sponsor \$600.00. Includes entering 2 golfers in the tourney and your organization's name included in all HAMS publications.

If you desire to participate as an individual player, the cost is \$140, and you will be paired up with other non-sponsor players.



All tournament entrants will be provided with lunch and cold drinks on the course, a guaranteed door prize, a chance at a lucky draw prize, awards for the winners and a delicious buffet dinner banquet to close out the event. Kirk and Linda will emcee the awards ceremony, and a special visit from a very well known former U.S. Army general, not Herb Wolff or David Bramlett, will also take place.

All proceeds from this tournament go to supporting the Hawaii Army Museum at Fort DeRussy. The museum is now and always will be improving its exhibits, facilities and services to its visitors. The Hawaii Army Museum Society, host of this golf tournament, is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization, and \$100 of the golfers \$140 entry fee is fully tax deductible.

RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE BY CALLING SHELDON TYAU AT 955-9552 and MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN MONDAY JUNE 19th.

HAMS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2006

President: Herbert E. Wolff (To be relieved by David Bramlett in July)

Vice Presidents: John F. Nielson, Museum Store; Walter M. Ozawa, Special Events;

Edward Y. Hirata, Budget & Bylaws; David A. Bramlett, Membership;

William F. Bigelow, Public Affairs & Newsletter Editor.

Secretary: Edward B. Keyes, Treasurer: Ronald T.Y. Choo,

Executive Director: Sheldon H.S. Tyau, Internal Auditor: Philip M. Whitney.

FOUR NEW INDUCTEES TO MUSEUM'S



A large crowd of military and civilians alike turned out for the ceremony, all staying dry under the cover of two large tents.

Guests at left stand for the invocations prior to the formal induction of the four Distinguished Service Medal recipients.

GALLERY OF HEROES CEREMONY IMPRESSIVE

Four World War II veterans were inducted before a crowd of about 100 civilian and Army guests. Remarks about the museum's history were made by HAMS President Herb Wolff, and the keynote address was delivered by Brigadier General Francis Wiercinski, the Deputy Commanding General of the 25th Infantry Division. The following are excerpts from the citations honoring the four heroes.

Pfc Irving M. Akahoshi, deceased, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action on 16 May 1944 near Cisterna, Italy. Private first class Akahoshi voluntarily accompanied an officer on a patrol to secure information about enemy units and their locations in a vital sector of the front line. Pfc Akahoshi and the officer infiltrated about 800 yards through enemy lines to discover the German outposts ahead of them. After observing a large enemy group in a forward area, Akahoshi and the officer, in broad daylight, crawled 250 yards ahead, across an open field, exposed to enemy observation from the Germans located on a command ridge to their rear, and arrived at a point near the forward outpost. They surprised two German soldiers armed with machine pistols, who were providing security at the time. After participating in the capture of these two prisoners, Pfc Akahoshi retraced his perilous route, successfully by-passing two German listening posts, and got back to his own unit behind the front lines. His daring accomplishment provided vital information and identification of enemy units in a critical front sector to not only the U.S. Army but to allied efforts in the area.

Ms. Corine Akahoshi, daughter of the honoree, is greeted by BGEN Wiercinski after the ceremonies. She lives in Mission Viejo, California.



GALLERY OF HEROES



Technician third grade Hoichi Kubo, deceased, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action on the island of Saipan, on 26 July 1944. While acting as an interpreter for an infantry assault company, Technician Kubo voluntarily descended a 100 foot high cliff and entered a cave in an attempt to gain the release of a number of civilians who were being held by a group of Japanese soldiers. Dressed in his own U.S. Army uniform and armed with only a concealed pistol, he performed this act with the full knowledge that he could not be protected by our own troops, and that the enemy soldiers had threatened to kill the civilians if they tried to

surrender to the Americans. Technician Kubo remained in the cave with a number of armed Japanese soldiers for nearly two hours and even joined them in their noonday meal.

He finally succeeded in persuading the enemy soldiers to release over 100 civilians and to surrender themselves to him. Kubo's heroism prevented casualties among our troops and undoubtedly saved the lives of the civilians who would have died had it been necessary to dynamite the cave.

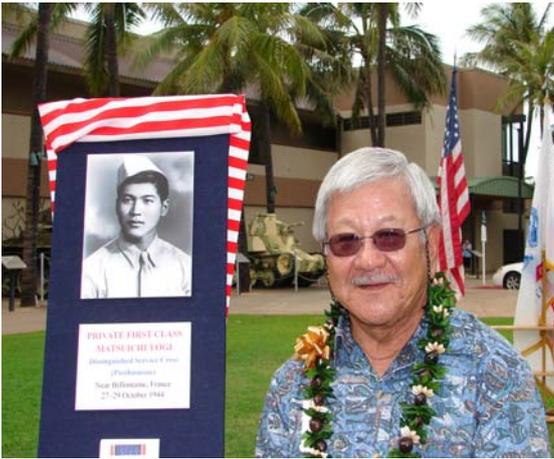
Retired U.S. Navy Chaplain, Captain Timothy Morita of Oahu, shown above with BGEN Wiercinski, is a nephew of the honoree and attended the event.

Sergeant Larry T. Tanimoto, deceased, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, as an acting platoon leader for Company I, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, on 29 and 31 October 1944, and again on 3 November 1944, during action on what was known as *Suicide Hill* in southern France. He forced the surrender of two enemy gunners while making himself the sole target for another machine gun, some 50 yards away.

On the second occasion, he successfully led a heavily armed patrol in dispersing a numerically superior enemy mine-laying detail. and in the third cited patrol, while leading another U.S. Army group, an enemy machine gun wounded the scout and pinned the rest of the men to the ground. Sergeant Tanimoto rose to his feet and killed two of the enemy gun crew, giving his men an opportunity to outflank the machine gun nest. He was killed in that action. His heroic courage in the face of great danger was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army.

Sgt. Tanimoto's sister, Mrs. Fujiko Okamura of Aiea, represented the family at the service.





The final soldier to be honored at the ceremony was Private first class Matsuichi Yogi, deceased. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, as a member of Company K, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, from 27 to 29 October 1944, in France. During an enemy counterattack Pfc Yogi, using his bazooka, knocked out a German Mark 4 tank. Disregarding constant enemy sniper fire he eliminated one of two German bazookas with his own weapon and knocked out the other with accurate rifle fire. On the second day, he scored a near hit on an enemy machine gun nest which enabled his platoon to overrun and capture the position. He was killed in that action. Pfc Yogi's fighting spirit and intrepid gallantry were above and beyond the call of duty, and add living glory to the highest traditions of the armed forces of the united States.

Pfc Yogi's brother, Mr. Larry Yogi of Pearl City, shown above, represented his late brother at the Gallery of Heroes induction ceremony.

NEW RACK CARD PROMOTES MUSEUM TO VISITORS

A new two-color four by nine inch rack card promoting the Hawaii Army Museum is now on display at tour centers and concierge desks at several Waikiki hotels. The card, designed and produced at no cost to the museum by Milici Valenti Ng Pack Advertising of Honolulu, shows photos of various museum exhibits as well as the exterior of the facility, and the copy talks about what the visitor will see during his or her visit. It also promotes the fact that the museum is free to the public, gives its days and hours of operation, location in proximity to most Waikiki hotels, and lets tourists know there is parking right across from the museum.

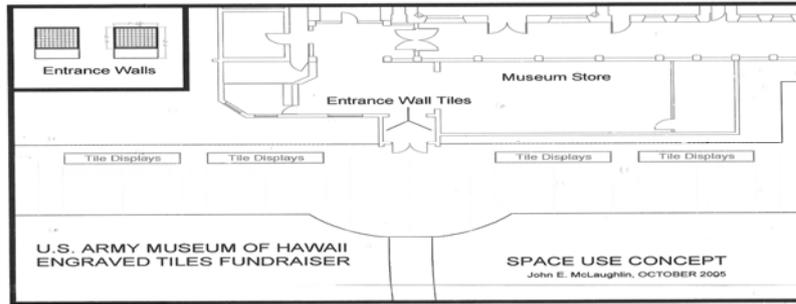
The new advertising vehicle is available at the following hotels: Hilton Hawaiian Village, Hale Koa; Halekulani, Sheraton Waikiki, Royal Hawaiian, Moana-Surfrider, Princess Kaiulani, New Otani Kaimana Beach, and Radisson Prince Kuhio. More hotels will be added in the weeks ahead.

It is also available in a larger full color display kiosk at the new Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, adjacent to the USS ARIZONA and USS BOWFIN Memorials at Halawa Landing.

The display was designed by Dorian Travers of the Museum staff, and is made of original Hawaiian koa wood. It three sides include color photos of various Army Museum attractions, directions on how to get to the museum, and details about parking, hours of operation and the best part, that the museum admission is manuahi as they say in Hawaiian, which means FREE!



The Museum Society Board has approved a new program that should please a lot of members, our visitors and several people in Hawaii's general public as well. Effective immediately, a new fund raising campaign will offer anyone the opportunity to honor a family



member or other person who was or is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States.

A permanent display will be set up at the entrance to the Museum which will hold memorial tiles honoring individuals or simply expressing support for our military men and women. The tiles will be made of half-inch thick porcelain, and will be offered in four different sizes. The inscriptions on the tiles can recognize individuals by their name and rank, branch of service, specific command, dates of service or other pertinent copy. The name of the person or company who took part in the fund raising event may also be included, if space allows.

One of the nicest things about this program is that not only is it a tax-deductible contribution to the Hawaii Army Museum Society, but the person or organization purchasing the tiles will also get a one year individual or executive membership to HAMS. Here are the specifics and sizes of the various tiles:

TILE SIZE	LINES OF COPY & No. of Characters per line	CONTRIBUTION
4" by 4"	Three/16	\$75.00
4" by 8"	Four/16	\$150.00
6" by 6"	Four/20	\$250.00
8" by 8"	Four/20	\$500.00 (Individual) \$1,000.00 (Corp.)

To participate in this great new fund-raising and veteran recognition/military support project, please fill out the form below with the information you wish to include, remembering the limited number of characters per line, and then with your check made out to: **HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM-SOCIETY** send this form to: **HAMS; P.O. Box 8064; Honolulu, HI 96830-0064.**

LINE 1: _____

LINE 2 _____

LINE 3 _____

LINE 4 _____

SGT. THOMAS A. BROWN

KAILUA, OAHU, HAWAII

U.S. ARMY, 25th INF.

IRAQ, 2004 to 2005

ALOHA TO VETERAN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOBBIE MILLS

After more than 25 years of active service to HAMS, Barbara 'Bobbie' Mills has become an Emeritus member of the Board. Health reasons last year precluded her continuing the schedule she had pursued with the Society since General Herb Wolff appointed her to the Board back in 1980. At that time she was a key staff head at the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, and represented the HVB on the Museum board. In late 1999 she assumed additional duties as Executive Director of the Society.

Looking back over the quarter century of service she says: "I think putting together the Shinseki Exhibit was the highlight of my years with HAMS. He was such a great guy and being able to honor him was most rewarding."

Bobbie Mills was responsible for creating the Ihe Awards, and loved working on the Gallery of Heroes Awards Ceremonies every year.



According to HAMS President Herb Wolff: "Bobbie Mills is a great and uncommonly gifted lady who loves the Army Museum, and all of us associated with HAMS love her." She reports that she's feeling great again, and is looking forward to many more years of service to HAMS...now in her new Emeritus position. Active or emeritus, we know we can always count on Bobbie Mills.

Mahalo plenty!

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