

MUSEUM NEWS YOU CAN USE

LIVING HISTORY DAY SET FOR MAY 19th ON MUSEUM LAWN

The popular annual Living History Day will this year feature even more attractions and groups than in past years. The events get underway at 10 am and run through 3 pm that afternoon, and will include an 11 am performance by the U.S. Army's "Old Guard" Fife and Drum Corps. The famous group, from Washington, D.C. has 22 members, all dressed in Revolutionary War uniforms, performing music of that and other eras.



Kids from 8 to 80 will love seeing the display of vintage Army trucks, Jeeps and even ambulances, as shown below, not to mention several members of the Hawaii Military Vehicle Preservation Association, the group that maintains those vehicles, standing by to talk story about them, and dressed in historic uniforms from various past war periods. There will be plenty of local food and cold drinks, and several static displays by the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division, and the Hawaii Historic Arms Association. Special showings of classic films will be in the newly renovated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pacific Regional Visitor Center on the second floor of the museum. This center highlights the work of the Army Corps of Engineers in Hawaii and the entire Pacific region. Both static and interactive displays tells the engineers' story.



Living history day is free to the public and specially priced validated parking is available across the road from the museum. Mark your calendar now to both attend this special day of activities and exhibits, and also to visit all the new displays and galleries inside your Hawaii Army Museum.

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.

FOUR RECIPIENTS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES HONORED AT MARCH GALLERY OF HEROES CEREMONY

The Hawaii Army Museum Society sponsored its most recent ceremony honoring four deceased recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross on March 8th. Under cloudy skies that held off rain until after the ceremony, military and civilians greeted each other and talked story before and after the event. The U.S. Army Band from Schofield Barracks performed patriotic music and the National Anthem. Army Chaplain Major Kevin P. Stroop delivered the invocation and benediction, and Garrison Hawaii commander, Colonel Howard J. Killian, was the keynote speaker.



Active duty and retired military and civilians were on hand for the early afternoon ceremony on the Museum Lawn.



HAMS conducts at least one of these ceremonies each year and since the program began in 1980, there have been 51 DSC recipients and 21 men awarded the Medal of Honor recognized in the museum's Gallery of Heroes, located on the second deck of the facility. The latest Medal of Honor recipient, Captain "Rocky" Versace was inducted into the Gallery last fall.

HAMS President Emeritus Major General Herb Wolff kicked off the event by telling the audience about the history of the Museum Society, and how over the past 30 years it has raised over a million dollars to help Army charities and to support new exhibits and galleries in the museum itself. General Wolff, a veteran of over 38 years in the Army, spent 30 years as head of the society and the effort behind most of the displays and projects performed at the museum.

Herb's successor, General David Bramlett, then introduced each of the Gallery of Heroes recipients and read the citations issued by the Army when the DSC was presented to each man (Staff Sergeant Sasaoka's award was made posthumously). First to be honored for heroism while killed in action was PFC Kiichi Koda. "In a bloody battle near Castellina, Italy on 9 July 1944 his squad had been ordered to flank and guard a castle, the objective of an adjacent U.S. Army company. The enemy opened fire on the platoon with machine guns. Sensing the danger of a possible German attack, PFC Koda requested permission from his platoon leader to capture the castle. Instructing his comrades to cover his approach, he moved forward to a point five yards from the castle. Spotting an open window, he tossed a grenade into the building; then crept to each successive window, repeating the operation until he had completely circled the structure. Rejoining his squad, PFC Koda led his comrades, with fixed bayonets, into the castle. In the ensuing fight PFC Koda was mortally wounded by an enemy hand grenade. As a result of his intrepid performance, three prisoners were captured, ten Germans killed, and five machine guns and four machine pistols taken."



HAMS President Gen. David Bramlett reads from citations for heroes awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

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Next to be honored was Private First Class Robert H. Yasutake. He was represented by his daughter, Ms. Eileen Bali, right, who lives in Honolulu. Reading from the citation, Gen. Bramlett said: "PFC Yasutake is cited for extraordinary heroism in action on 2 June 1944 near Lanuvio, Italy. PFC Yasutake served as an automatic rifleman for his squad. When they and the unit to his right were pinned down by heavy fire, he crawled to a position from which he opened fire and neutralized a hostile machine gun nest. Sensing enemy machine gun fire coming from a nearby deep gully, PFC Yasutake moved to the edge of the ravine, located the enemy position, and engaged the hostile crew with his automatic rifle and grenades, wounding seven Germans. The enemy threw hand grenades at him and attempted to infiltrate his position. When the Germans were within twenty yards of his dugout, he opened fire with his automatic rifle, killing them all. Private Yasutake's heroic and determined stand made it possible for his platoon to come abreast of him and continue the attack."



Next to be honored was Staff Sergeant Isumu Sasaoka, deceased, represented by his niece Mrs. Esther Costa of Aiea. Sergeant Sasaoka is cited for extraordinary heroism in action on 22 October 1944 near Belmont, France. He was assigned as a machine gunner on the last tank of a task force during the execution of a daring thrust through enemy held terrain in an effort to relieve a friendly unit which had been surrounded and cut off by the enemy. As the task force advanced over a mountain trail, the enemy opened fire from well dug in positions on both sides of the trail. Although seriously wounded by the first burst of gunfire, Sergeant Sasaoka, displaying a disdain for personal safety seldom surpassed, clung to his machine gun and directed a hail of bullets into

the enemy in a last desperate attempt to prevent other members of the platoon from being subjected to the lethal enemy cross fire. Finally, unable to hang on any longer due to his weakened condition, Sergeant Sasaoka fell from the lurching tank. His magnificent courage and devotion to duty were in large measure responsible for saving the lives of many of his comrades."

The final hero recognized was Corporal Masaru Suehiro, who was represented by his son Alan of San Diego. The corporal was cited for "extraordinary heroism in action on 29 November 1943, near Cerasuolo, Italy. After taking its objective, Corporal Suehiro's company was subjected to an enemy counterattack, supported by machine gun and mortar fire. Corporal Suehiro, leader of a 60 mm mortar squad, moved forward in the face of intense enemy fire to an exposed position in order to direct his return fire. His position, although almost untenable because of heavy enemy mortar and machine gun fire, afforded an excellent observation point. From that superb but hazardous post, he directed accurate fire on an enemy machine gun nest, destroying the weapon and depriving the enemy of essential supporting fire. Observing an enemy group forming for an assault, he started to adjust his fire but was seriously wounded by shell fragments. He remained in his position and continued to direct such effective fire that the enemy counterattack was successfully repulsed. Corporal Suehiro's determined courage and steadfast devotion to duty contributed materially to the defense of his company."



THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSEUM MESSAGE

By: Bill Bigelow

When you think of a man in charge of education, learning displays, exhibits and all things educational, you probably see a professorial person in an office surrounded by shelves overflowing with books. Such is not the case with the man who runs all the educational programs for the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Dorian Travers is not a professor, or a doctor of academic letters. He isn't called teacher, but what he has done to prepare the various exhibits and galleries at the museum is nothing short of remarkable.

Dorian is officially listed as an Army Museum Specialist, and he's been at the Fort DeRussy facility since September of 1995. What he has brought to his job is a combination of book learning, practical job experience and a sense of creativity and history all rolled into one presentation for the museum visitor.



Born in Richmond, Virginia, and raised in a Philadelphia suburb, Dorian had a sense of exploration from his earliest days. He came to Hawaii in 1966, to study marine biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and fell in love with the islands and the people. He's a 1971 graduate. During college he became a part time employee with the Bishop Museum aboard the *S/V Falls of Clyde*, near Aloha Tower in downtown Honolulu. He became a fulltime employee after graduation, and did all types of work on the former Matson cargo ship, shown in photo at left. In 1973 he joined a three-masted schooner named *Star of Peace*, doing repair to the steel hull, work on the rigging and even serving as a cook during the ship's seven month cruise from Hong Kong, throughout Southeast Asia and ultimately into Singapore.

Having enough of life at sea as a bachelor, Dorian's wife Erlinda joined him in Perth, Australia, and for the next three years they toured the country in a Jeep, and worked in several towns up and down the west coast of Australia, he as a rigger at various mining companies and she as a nurse. The couple returned to Hawaii in late 1978, after traveling the long way around the world, via Asia, India, the Middle East and Europe, to get here.

From this point on, Dorian's career became fully directed to education and learning. He re-joined the *Falls of Clyde* as its curator, and later education director, from 1979 to 1993. He returned to his alma matter at Manoa and in 1994 got his Masters Degree in Education. Before joining the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii, he spent over a year as the education coordinator for the U-H's Sea Grant Extension Service's Hanauma Bay Education Program.

Now with almost 30 years in Hawaii, and a wealth of practical experience in all things nautical and educational, Dorian Travers was set to bring his talents to the challenges that awaited him at the Army museum. Among his first major projects was to research and create the 100th Anniversary of the U.S. Army in Hawaii in 1998, followed by the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War Exhibit in 2000, and then the 60th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack in 2001. That was followed closely with the major effort that produced the General Erik Shinseki Exhibit in 2003, and its ultimate permanent status as a full gallery, dedicated by General Shinseki himself. "The best part of being with our museum here is that you have time to do things correctly, research and make exhibits as good as humanly possible. It's very rewarding work," he says of his current job. "And one of the nicest things is that the public holds our museum in high regard. As museum professionals we want to make sure we maintain that trust through historical accuracy, quality customer service, and engaging displays."



The Shinseki Gallery, after formal opening in 2006.



Dorian, at right, with a Vinyl 'dummy' model of a young Korean used in the 2000 exhibit about the Korean War



Always willing to play along with the game, Dorian, at right, in a Spanish-American War Uniform.

What's ahead for museum patrons? "We are about to begin working on a new exhibit depicting locally commissioned units, including the 32^d Infantry Regiment. It was formed back in the late 1800s during the reign of Queen Liliuokalani and was known as "The Queen's Own," Dorian says.

"Another thing I'm looking forward to producing is PowerPoint presentations of some of our past exhibits, not now on display but in our files. I believe they would be a great addition as Soldier and teacher resources and for our website. This would be super for local school kids." Other exhibits that would lend themselves to such digital media might include the Korean and Vietnam war exhibits, and the Shinseki exhibit," Travers added. He also pointed out that the current website needs upgrading, and such PowerPoint presentations would be an excellent way to begin the improvement of the site.

I asked Dorian if there was any one person who left a lasting impression on him, and after thinking for a moment he said: "Probably Tom Fairfull, the Museum Director when I came here in 1995. Tom was very supportive of me, saw my potential and had a very subtle way of pulling that potential out of me.



The Hawaii Army Museum, school room for Dorian Travers.

He kind of pushed me into the water, so to speak."

Today Dorian works with current Museum Director Gail Fuller and Museum Curator Judi Bowman as well as leaders of the Hawaii Army Museum Society management including Sheldon Tyau and Toshi Nakano. Of the society he says: "HAMS has been very supportive of the museum over the years. The current Gallery of Heroes was provided for totally by HAMS, as well as the entrance awning, the roadside sign, the Cobra helicopter preservation program, and numerous other less obvious ways. I'm very impressed with the quality of people in their organization."

How does our museum compare with others in similar fields? According to Travers: "We are a feather in the Army's museum system cap. I'm very proud of our efforts and they show on the comment sheets left by our visitors. I like to put my personal touches on all the exhibits I work on and hopefully my efforts have improved what has been a great museum since 1976."



And of all the world's museums, big and small, which one sticks out in your mind as offering the most unusual or most impressive exhibits: "That's a tough one," he says. "Actually, for a military museum guy I think the display of knight's armor at the Philadelphia Museum of Fine Arts is my favorite exhibit. It is just awesome, and unlike anything I've ever seen before."

Dorian and his wife Erlinda have two sons, 26 year old Dorian who works in the restaurant business in Costa Mesa, CA, and 23 year old Jordan who is a Las Vegas police officer, hoping to go on to become an FBI special agent. With his family shown above left, Dad says he still has plenty to accomplish at the Army museum and will need at least eight more years to complete his tasks. Then, he'll consider retirement from his 20 years of government civil service.

And, will there be a life after the museum? "You bet," he says. "I haven't decided yet but our lives may include missionary work for our church, the First Assembly of God. Dorian now teaches an Adult Sunday School class and is on the board of directors of both the church and its school. And where might that missionary travel take them. "Perhaps Japan, the Philippines or even Africa." And he adds, "we'd both like to go back to Nepal."



Erlinda & Dorian in Nepal prior to Returning to Hawaii in 1978.

Keep up the good work, Dorian, we all appreciate it. Your drive and dedication to your job are evidenced daily in the quality of exhibits in our museum and the research that you do to ensure interesting, well detailed and visitor-pleasing displays. It is people like you who make the Hawaii Army Museum the feather you mentioned in the Army's museum system cap. Mahalo plenty.

ANNUAL HAMS GOLF TOURNEY SET FOR JUNE 22nd

The Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS) has announced its annual golf tournament, this year its 26th in a row. Golfers will have the opportunity to enjoy a day of golf on the beautiful Leilehua Golf Club near Wahiawa. 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; a delicious buffet dinner banquet; and a program of entertainment to be emceed by local radio and TV celebrities Linda Coble and Kirk Matthews!



To get to Leilehua, take Exit #7 off the H-2 Freeway, then turn into the first left drive after exiting freeway. Check-in will be from 10 am to noon; lunch is from 11 am to noon; and the tournament will begin at 12:30 pm with a shotgun start. Only 144 golfers can be accommodated. Reservations are required!

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



A foursome of golfers from Outrigger Hotels at the HAMS Golf Tournament a few years ago. Remember any of these guys?

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.

PATRIOT TEE BOX Sponsor \$600.00. Includes entering 4 Active Duty Military 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 \$150, and you will be paired up with other non sponsor players.

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 each golfer's \$150 entry fee if fully tax deductible.

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, AND MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN MONDAY JUNE 18th. CALL SHELDON TYAU AT:

955-9552



Good Golf, Good Food, Good Prizes, Good Nite!

MUSEUM STORE OFFERS NEW CHOICES & HAMS DISCOUNT

Your museum store has been re-supplied with all sorts of new merchandise for the spring and summer shopper. Retail Director Sheldon Tyau, that good-looking guy at the right, is recently back from the Museum Store Association convention in Denver, and he's added to the store's inventory several new books about World War II and Vietnam to join the large collection already available for history buffs. There are also popular model airplane kits for children who are interested in aviation history, plus insignia from various military units and ships. And, the best thing is that members of the Hawaii Army Museum Society will get a 15 percent discount off everything in the store, always.



"One thing a lot of people don't know, but should always look for when they come to our store, is that we offer special discounts on certain merchandise that run from 20 to 40 percent off the regular sticker price," Sheldon adds. "These are unadvertised specials, we always have them, but the customer must look for them...they're not posted.



Among the other items that are big sellers in the Museum Store are T-shirts of all types, including museum logo, 25th Infantry Division, Pearl Harbor and 'Rosie the Riveter' designs. The very popular military themed Aloha shirts include aircraft, ships and helicopter motifs. Military baseball caps are available with veterans and other designs, especially for people wanting to avoid the hot Hawaiian sunshine. Next time you're in Waikiki, visit the Museum Store and stock up on gifts for family and friends. As they say, 'the early bird gets the worm.' After all, it's just a few months until Christmas!

MUSEUM SOCIETY UNDERTAKES MAJOR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Hawaii's best kept secret is no longer that. The U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii is soon to be a well known major Waikiki attraction, thanks to several factors. First is the near completion of the Outrigger Hotel chain's renovations on Lewers Street and the addition of both an Embassy Resorts and Trump luxury vacation hotel just across the road from our museum. With planned exposure to visitors of those 'neighbor' hotels, plus being within walking distance of them and guests from both the Hilton Hawaiian Village and Hale Koa Hotels, we expect our daily and monthly attendance to be markedly higher by summer.

And, under the leadership of HAMS this summer to renew current members rate and individual. The schedule of categories follows, INDIVIDUALS below left and BUSINESSES/CORPORATIONS and



Trustee Vicki Olson, a new drive will begin and attract new memberships, both corporations follows, INDIVIDUALS below left PATRIOTIC GROUPS below at right:

___ Brigade Member \$1,000.

___ Battalion Member \$500.

___ Company Member \$250.

___ Platoon Member \$100.

___ Squad Member \$50.

___ G. I. Member \$25.

___ Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower \$5,000.

___ Gen. George C. Marshall \$1,000.

___ Gen. Omar N. Bradley \$500.

By Credit Card: ___ Master Card ___ VISA Amount: _____

Card # _____ Expires: _____

Name Shown on Card _____

Please mail either check made out Your Signature _____

to HAMS, or Credit Card info at right to: **HAMS, P.O. Box 8064, Honolulu, HI 96830-0064**

HAMS CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

19 MAY: LIVING HISTORY DAY; 10 am to 3 pm, Museum Lawn
22 JUNE: ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT, 11 am to 6 pm, Leilehua Golf Club
23 JULY: HAMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES Meeting; Noon, Waialae Country Club

HAMS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2007

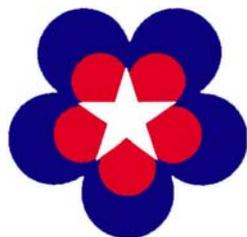
President: David A. Bramlett; President Emeritus: Herbert E. Wolff

First Vice President and Internal Auditor: Philip M. Whitney

Vice Presidents & Standing Committee Chairpersons: John F. Nielsen, Museum Store; Walter M. Ozawa, Special Events; Edward Y. Hirata, Budget & Bylaws; Victoria Olson, Membership; Mildred Courtney, Resource Development; William F. Bigelow, Public Affairs & Newsletter Editor.

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

Executive Director: Sheldon H.S. Tyau



MUSEUM NEWS YOU CAN USE

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