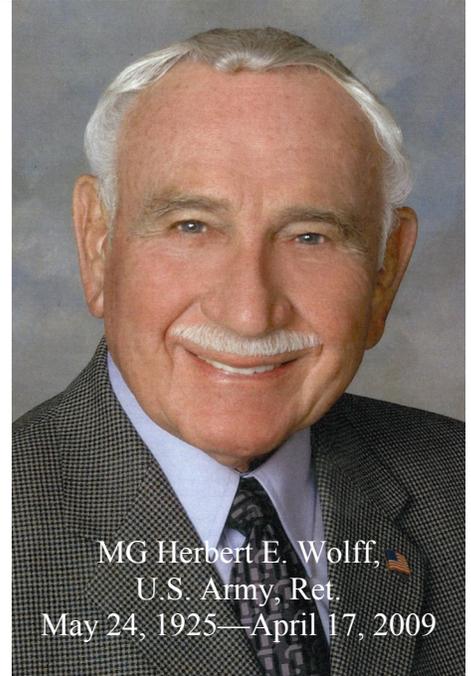
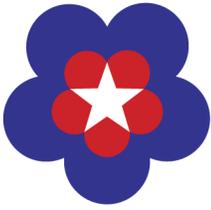


# NEWSLETTER OF THE HAWAII' I ARMY MUSEUM SOCIETY

JULY 2009



MG Herbert E. Wolff,  
U.S. Army, Ret.  
May 24, 1925—April 17, 2009

There has been a great deal of activity in HAMS and at your Hawaii Army Museum. Your last “double” issue of our newsletter arrived in your mailboxes in January. We developed a new web page and the store is online at: [www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org](http://www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org) We have served lunch & dinner to the volunteers of the Aviation Brigade who replaced the rotor on the Apache helicopter that is so prominently displayed on the roof of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Seven Hawaii connected soldiers and DSC recipients were inducted into the Gallery of Heroes with family and friends as proud attendees. With more active duty soldiers demonstrating their equipment on the front lawn of the Museum, our Living History Day drew record crowds. And the HAMS 28th Annual Golf Tournament was held on 27 June 2009. We are very happy with the success of these events.

The origination of the majority of these activities was due to the extraordinary imagination and drive of one man, MG Herbert E. Wolff. Many just called him, THE GENERAL, because he was a man who truly led by example and his energy and imagination knew no bounds.

Our Board and the military and civilian communities deeply mourn the loss of one of HAMS founders and its long serving President Emeritus, MG Herbert E. Wolff, U.S. Army, Ret. Many of those who loved and admired him were able to attend one or more of the three services dedicated to a celebration of his life. Two months before his death, and with the General and his son, Rick, in attendance, the Museum staff named the rotating gallery in his honor, the MG Herbert E. Wolff, U.S. Army, Ret., Rotating Gallery. Appropriately, the gallery currently displays memories of the General's life and his role in the saving of Ft. DeRussy and the founding of the U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii.

Our “columnists” Bobbee Mills Diaz and Stanley B. Snodgrass have again contributed articles for this issue of your newsletter.

On April 1, 2009 the U. S. Army Museum of the Pacific came under the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. Welcome to its director, Mr. Len Housley, and DPTMS onsite representative, LTC Mike Ferrill.

While this Spring issue has slipped into the summertime, it will be quickly followed by a Summer issue with in depth news of the 2009 Gallery of Heroes ceremony, Living History Day, and the 28th Annual HAMS Golf Tournament. There will also be an announcement of a new benefit for HAMS members.

Mahalo! for your continuing support and interest in the U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii and the Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS). We look forward to saying Aloha! to you, your family, and friends when you visit to the museum, our store, and the HAMS office in 2009.

*Victoria (Vicki) W. Olson*  
Executive Director, HAMS

### ***Major General Herbert E. Wolff, U.S. Army, Ret.***

Major General Herbert E. Wolff, U.S. Army (Retired), died Friday, April 17, 2009. He was 83. Born in Cologne, Germany in 1925, he immigrated to the United States in 1939. He spent his teenage years in New York until he was called to serve in the Army for World War II.

As a Private First Class, he distinguished himself by gallantry in action as an Infantryman in New Guinea and the Philippines, earning a Silver Star and a Battlefield Commission by which he became a Second Lieutenant at the early age of 19. He served with the famed Alamo Scouts and was part of the daring raid behind Japanese lines to liberate the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp, a story celebrated in book and film. He rose rapidly through the ranks with positions of increasing responsibility and again distinguished himself by gallantry as an Infantryman in the Korean War. He was the last American officer off the beach at the evacuation of Hungnam on Christmas Eve 1950. As a result of his demonstrated leadership and bravery under fire, he was selected to command a rifle battalion in combat, despite being junior in rank.

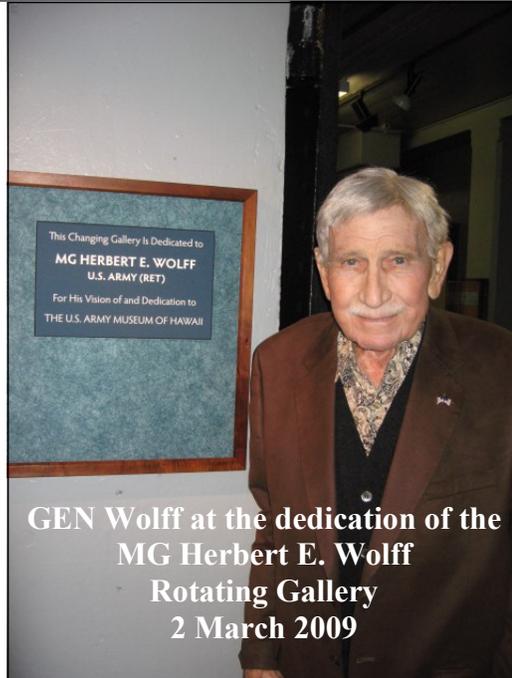
He was a full Colonel in command of a Brigade at the age of 36 and a Brigadier General at the age of 42. He served two combat tours in Viet Nam, followed by his first assignment in Hawaii when he commanded the Army Security Agency, Pacific, at Helemano from 1970 to 1972. After two assignments away from Hawaii at the National Security Agency and in Germany, he was welcomed back in 1977 when he took command of the U.S. Army Pacific, then known as U.S. Army Support Command Hawaii and later reorganized into the U.S. Army Western Command. After 38 years of service, he retired from the Army in 1981 and happily made Hawaii his permanent home.

He became Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary of First Hawaiian Bank, a position he held until 2000. He was Honorary Consul of Malaysia and active in the Consular Corps of Hawaii. He loved Hawaii, and for more than 25 years he proved untiring in his generosity and personal commitment to community service. He led the way in saving historic Battery Randolph at Fort DeRussy for use as an Army Museum and in establishing a community organization to help support it. Indeed, for many years he served as President of the Hawaii Army Museum Society and was indispensable to the Society's success and the Museum's esteemed stature. He was active and engaged in many charitable organizations including, among others, the Boy Scouts Aloha Council, the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii, the USO, the Armed Services YMCA, the March of Dimes, the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council, and the Honolulu Rotary Club. He loved to travel, and his command of multiple languages made him comfortable in many different countries, enthusiastically sharing his knowledge with all who accompanied him. He was a longtime member of Waialae Country Club and he loved golf, primarily for the friends with whom he shared a cart or a tee box, though also for the challenge and the score. He always knew the score.

Herb Wolff loved life and those around him. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Billy and daughter Karen. He is survived by his sons Rick and Allen, and eight grandchildren: Karen's children Andrea and David; Rick's children Chris, Eric, and Sarah; Allen's children Kelly, Kevin, and Patrick; and by our beloved Harriet Aoki. The family requests that donations be made to the Hawaii Army Museum Society at PO Box 8064, Honolulu, Hawaii 96830.

Burial was at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) with full military honors.

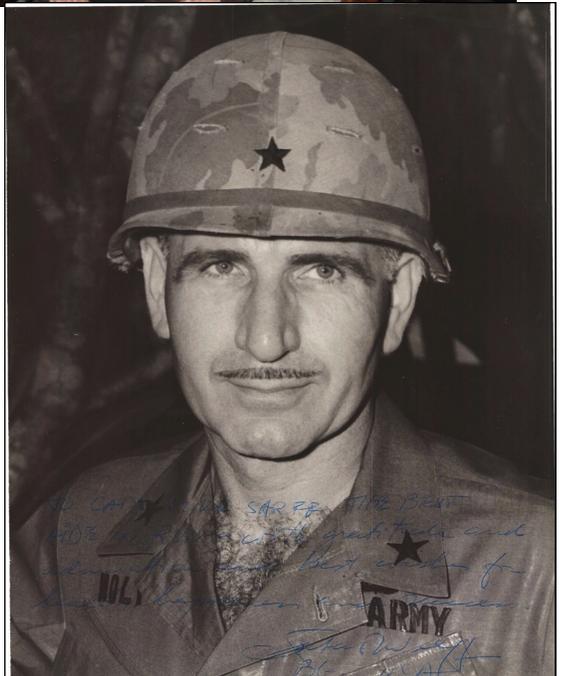
**Vicki Olson, Dorian Travers, Gen Wolff,  
Maude Williams, & Judi Bowman**



**GEN Wolff at the dedication of the  
MG Herbert E. Wolff  
Rotating Gallery  
2 March 2009**



**Helping a wounded soldier**



**As a commander in the  
1st Infantry Division**

**These three photographs  
are part of the  
exhibit dedicated to  
GEN Wolff.**



**Directing Combat  
Operations**

Our Museum provides *A TRIBUTE TO HAWAIIAN TRADITION* ...

Churches in ancient Hawaii were much different from those of today. When you enter the Hawaiian Room at the Museum, your attention is drawn to a rather dark display against the rear wall. This is a model of what would compare to our churches ... pretty different, isn't it? Yet this was the *wahi pana*, or sacred place, where awesome rituals were performed to recognize, placate or request guidance from the gods. For there were many gods for the ancient Hawaiian, governing their various activities.



The model here is of Pu'u Kohola, the *heiau* which sits on a hill overlooking the port of Kawaihae on the Big Island. The model was constructed by the local artist, Tony Maiava, especially for the Museum. Pu'u Kohola itself is a comparatively recent structure, compared to other *heiau* in the islands, having been completed by Kamehameha I in about 1791. Its purpose was to consecrate his campaign to unite the Hawaiian islands, and it was dedicated to the god of war, Ku. The *heiau* is of the *luakini* type and to be properly utilized, it involved human sacrifice in its rituals. William Ellis, the English missionary who stopped here on his way back from Tahiti to London, journeyed around the Big Island in 1823. He estimated Pu'u Kohola to be 224 feet long and 100 feet wide. Over the years the size has doubtless changed due to earthquakes and human desecration. However the *heiau* is now part of the National Park Service and so is properly protected and maintained.

Pu‘u Kohola is terraced and built of thousands of stones carefully fitted together. It is said that a human chain starting in North Kohala passed the stones from man to man to build the walls of Pu‘u Kohola. Today those walls are 10 to 16 feet high and 26 feet wide at the base. The inner parts of the *heiau* are paved with smooth stones.

The ground plan of the inner temple varied from *heiau* to *heiau*, depending on the architect chosen by the chief. A unique feature of the Hawaiian temple was the *anu‘u* or oracle tower, built of strong timbers, probably ‘*ohia*, and covered with white *kapa*. It was here that the *kahuna*, or priest, and the high chief communed with the gods. This structure is on the right side of our *heiau*, and fronting it are representations of different gods. (The carving of the main god for this *heiau* is at the other end, standing between the two houses there.) In front of this group is the *ahu* or altar (also called *lele*), the stand for offerings, in this case of humans, as this is a *luakini* temple.

To the left, on a raised terrace, stand the house for the priest with the image of Ku fronting it. Also on the terrace are two other houses, one for the chief and the other for storing the huge temple drums.

Traditionally, only men could participate in the rituals within the *heiau*, but some authors mention a “Hale o Papa,” which was a house built outside the temple walls where women could worship Papa, the wife of Wakea, mythical ancestor of all Hawaiians.

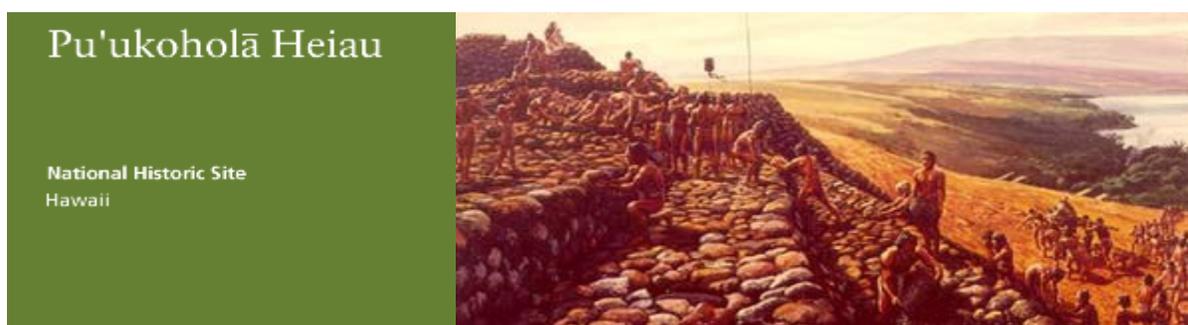
There were three more major gods in the Hawaiian tradition ... Kane, Lono and Kaneloa. Of these the only one to whom temples were built was Lono, god of peaceful pursuits and agriculture. Lono was also the presiding god of the Makahiki, the celebration which occurred in the fall, where all warring ceased, the *kapu* was lifted and the people competed in all kinds of games.

Each activity had its own special patron ... fishing, hula, *kapa* beating, canoe building and others. Smaller shrines would be built for these gods and goddesses.

One major difference of the *heiau* from our churches is that the *heiau* was consecrated for a special occasion and following that, it could lie idle until another occasion demanded that the *heiau* be re-decorated. It was not utilized every week.

We hope you’ll take a moment one day and come to the Museum to see our special recognition of ancient Hawaiian tradition. If you’re interested in the resources used for this column, please let me know at: [bobbie@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:bobbie@hawaii.rr.com).

Aloha ...  
Bobbie Mills Diaz



**A small but dangerous “forest” fire broke out on Friday, March 20, 2009 on the front lawn of the U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii. A king palm was smoldering near its top when high winds contributed to the quick spread of the fire to an adjacent palm. The fire rapidly spread up the second palm tree and ignited a collection of dried palm fronds.**

**Thanks to the professional firefighters of Honolulu, the fire was extinguished without further destruction. The Hale Koa groundskeepers were immediately on the scene to clean up the debris and groom the grounds.**

**Police and firemen suspect a bird was attempting to use a smoldering cigarette butt to build a nest in the king palm.**



**Bob Silvia, a contractor working on the creation of the Museum Audio Tour for HAMS, rushes out to save bushes around the base of the burning palms.**



# Voluntarily Speaking

By

Stanley B. Snodgrass

## A Day in the Life of the Museum—March 31, 2009

I am using this format to highlight the volunteers who man the museum’s reception desk. And since our workweek begins on Tuesday, I present to you our Tuesday Volunteers:

The AM shift ...Drum roll... DON CRABTREE:

Don is a Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, Retired who was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. Having joined the Navy in 1949, Don graduated as a Navy pilot in Pensacola, FL in 1954. He flew missions in Viet Nam for two years and retired in 1970.

Asked why he volunteers, Don said “You can take the boy out of the military but you can’t take the military out of the boy. I am glad to still be of service.”



The PM shift....Drum roll.... RUSSELL OSHIRO:

“I was born on the island of Lanai, many, many years ago. I grew up with an older brother and sister and a younger brother. My parents worked in a store in which they had a partnership, so my older brother lived with friends and my sister lived with our grandparents.

My younger brother and I would join 3 to 5 other boys and disappear all day. We didn’t know we were living a “Tom sawyer” life. We would go bare-footed for miles carrying water, snacks, and knives to cut up pineapples . We also ate raw fruit.



The city , at the center of the island and too far from the ocean to walk there. The population at the time was about 4,000 and pineapple was king. The one school covered elementary through high school. There were only two blocks with sidewalks that ran in front of our school and no traffic lights.

The fire engine was parked in an open-sided garage and all the firemen were volunteers. The police station closed down at night. There was one small hotel, The Lanai Inn, a wooden single story structure.

We moved to Honolulu when I was in elementary school. After graduating from high school, I worked here and there. In 1966, I joined the Army Reserves. In 1969 I got called up with the 29th Infantry Brigade of the National Guard. In 1971 I joined the Police Force. Most of my career was served in patrol covering Honolulu to Kailua and Waimanalo. I retired after 28 years.”

Asked why he volunteers, Russell said, “I had always been a history buff so when I heard the museum had an opening for a volunteer, I did something I had learned never to do —I volunteered!”

Today, March 31, 2009 is a typical March day. The temperature will range from 71 to 80 and be partly cloudy with gusty winds. Attendance at the Museum totaled 298 including a couple visiting from Switzerland.

Salam Aleykum (Peace Be with you),

*Stan*

# HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM SOCIETY

HOME VISIT EXHIBITS EVENTS CALENDAR EDUCATION COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH SUPPORT HAMS MUSEUM STORE 

## WHAT'S NEW

### Phase II of the Rotating Gallery Exhibit now open

Phase II of the Rotating Gallery Exhibit now open dedicated to MG (Ret) Herbert E Wolff and the 33rd Anniversary of the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Open to the Public.

## VISIT THE MUSEUM



Special JULY & AUGUST Hours  
Closed - Sunday & Monday  
Open To Public: 9:00 am -5:00 pm  
Daily from Tuesday to Saturday.

### MAP & DIRECTIONS



## EXHIBITS



### The General Eric K. Shinseki Exhibit

This popular and permanent display is the only exhibit of its kind, showcasing General Shinseki's decorated military career. Originally from the island of

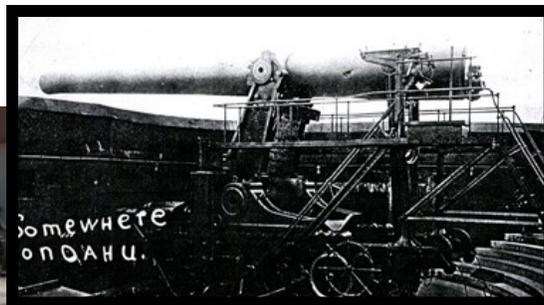
Kaua'i, General Shinseki is the first Japanese-American soldier to become the Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

Click these links to find out more about the Exhibit and General Shinseki's Biography, A new book exclusively available at the Hawai'i Army Museum.

### The Gallery of Heroes

Set apart from the other exhibits, the Gallery of Heroes exhibit solemnly honors the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. To find out more about this exhibit, click Gallery of Heroes Exhibit.

## VIDEO INTRODUCTION



### Visit the U.S. Army Museum Hawaii

Here at the U.S. Army Museum Hawaii the biggest artifact is the building itself. The museum is housed in Battery Randolph a massive reinforced concrete emplacement with roofs as much as 12 feet thick. The battery was built around 1911 for two 14 inch guns that could fire projectiles as far as 14 miles. It was part of a coastal defense system that was to protect Honolulu Harbor from invasion.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### Living History Day

May 16, 2009 at 10 AM - 3 PM  
Open to the public on Museum Lawn

[View our Events Calendar »](#)

## HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM IN THE NEWS

### Gallery of Heroes Induction

Thursday April 30, 2009



 The Honolulu Advertiser

 Starbulletin.com

[Click here to Read the Articles »](#)

## MEMBERSHIP



Your membership helps preserve the military history of Hawai'i and perpetuates the education of the general public on the honor, valor, and sacrifice of America's fighting men and women in the defense of freedom.

[Learn More & Join Today!](#)

**Soldiers from B/Co. 209th Aviation Support Command replacing the warped cobra main rotary blades on Monday, 6 April 2009**



**The soldiers replaced our damaged AH-1S (MOD) Attack Cobra Helicopter main rotary blades. The helicopter's greatest peacetime enemy is the unrelenting assault by intense sun and salty sea breezes. Displayed atop the museum since 1994, the helicopter has been the museum's center piece, drawing in visitors from all over the world. This will be the second time 25 AVN was called upon to rescue the helicopter. In 2004 the landing skids were so corroded that the helicopter was listing to one side. Company C, 25 AVN Rgt came to the rescue and replaced the skids.**



# Museum Store News

## Museum Store News

By Sheldon Tyau, Store Manager



### ***The “Shemagh” has arrived at the Museum Store!***

The Shemagh is currently among the Top Deployment Gear items that soldiers buy for their deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan. For some years, the wearing of the “*keffiyeh*” has been ubiquitous amongst British soldiers, who now almost exclusively refer to them as “*shemaghs*”. their use by some units and formations of military and police forces of the British Empire and subsequent Commonwealth dates back to before the Second World War.

Since the beginning of the War on terror, these keffiyeh, usually in cotton and in military olive drab or khaki with black stitching, have been adopted by U.S. troops as well. Their practicality in an arid environment, as in Iraq, explains their constant popularity with U.S., Australian, and British soldiers. Our HAMS museum store has

shemaghs in 100% cotton and in olive and tan colors. Great for gusty days on the Nuuanu Pali lookout or at the summit of Haleakala!

Come in and purchase them for \$18.00 and get your 15% membership discount.



### ***Vietnam style, color and patterned “Boonie Hats”***

Also recently arrived are high quality “Boonie Hats”, in the style of the original hats issued during the Vietnam conflict. These hats are great to keep the sun off your neck and shoulders and would make good walking or golf hats. One of the patterns of the boonie hats is the original Vietnam “tiger stripe” pattern, as well as olive green and camouflage tan.

Sizes are Small (7), Medium (7 1/4) and Large 7 1/2). The price for these hats is \$14.95.

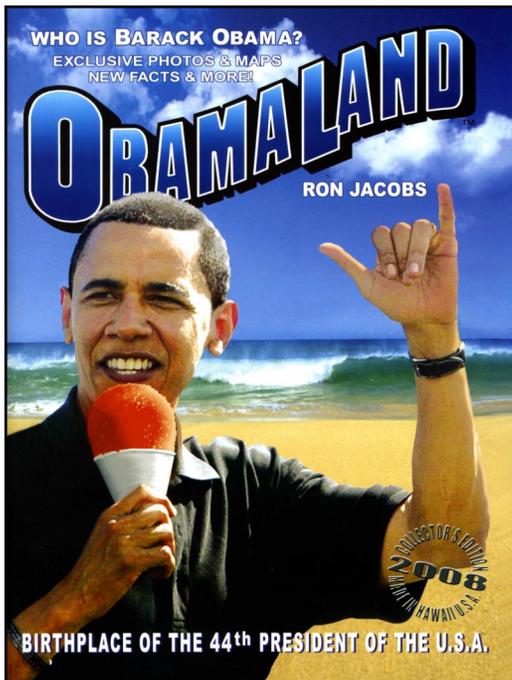
### ***Compact Camo Binoculars (8 X 21) for \$20.00***

- THE PERFECT COMPANION FOR THE OUTDOORSMAN OR THE TOURIST
- SO COMPACT IT CAN FIT IN YOUR JACKET POCKET
- 8" X 21" CF CAMOUFLAGED COMPACT ROOF PRISM
- FOLD DOWN RUBBER EYECUPS
- FIELD OF VIEW 372 FT AT 1,000 YDS
- WEIGHT 210G CARRYING CASE



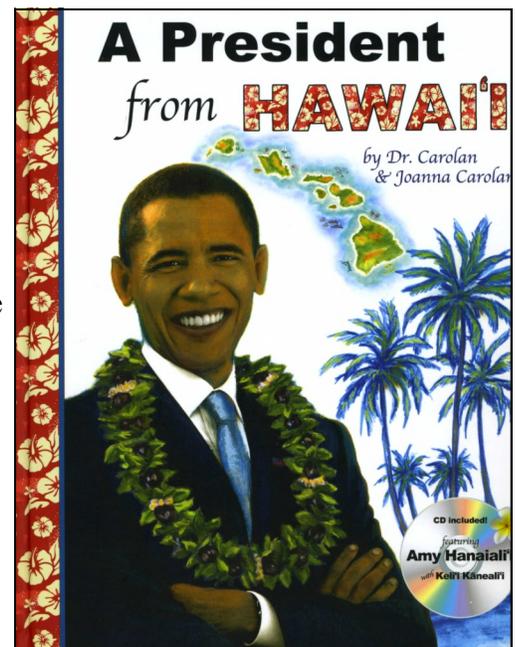
*Two New “Island Style” books on President Barack Obama:*

Our two new books are must buys for those who are interested in the early years of our President, Barack Obama. The President and his family come “home” for their vacations and always visit a few of the “old haunts”. The first book, “Obamaland” is geared toward adults and “A President from Hawaii” is a great book for the keiki. Both books are locally published and detail the Hawaii that our President fondly remembers and loves to introduce to his daughters and friends.



*“Obamaland”* by Ron Jacobs features a look at Obama’s parents and grandparents in Hawaii, his Punahou school education, and favorite spots to hang out in from teenager to presidential candidate to president. The book is full of historic anecdotes and nostalgic memories of Hawaii in the ‘70s and ‘80s. \$22.95

*“A President from Hawaii”* by Dr. Carolan & Joanna Carolan, is a children’s book with a whimsical look at the cultural icons of the island state that Barack Obama grew up in. Included in the book are meanings of the Hawaiian words kama’aina (resident), ohana (family), and aina (land) as they applied to Obama’s childhood. A generous dose of Hawaiian history is an integral part of the book. A CD featuring Amy Hanaiali’i is included. \$22.95



*Hawai'i Army Museum Society*



P. O. 8064  
Honolulu, HI 96830-0064

**TO:**

**HAMS OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES -**

**CALENDAR OF HAMS EVENTS for 2009**

**PRESIDENT EMERITUS:**

Herbert E. Wolff

**PRESIDENT:**

David A. Bramlett

**1st VICE PRESIDENT:**

Jimmie R. Lackey

**INTERNAL AUDITOR:**

David M. Shanahan

**SECRETARY:**

Edward B. Keyes

**TREASURER:**

Ronald T. Y. Choo

**VICE PRESIDENTS:**

Resource Development:

Mildred M. Courtney

Membership: Francis I. Mossman

Museum Store: John F. Nielsen

Golf Chair: Harold K. Okita

Special Events: Walter M. Ozawa

Publicity: Gerry Silva

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Victoria W. Olson

**MUSEUM STORE MANAGER:**

Sheldon H. S. Tyau

*Living History Day* -  
May 2010

*Golf Tournament* -  
June 25, 2010

*The Award Breakfast* -  
Tentative Date—mid November 2009

**HAMS Board of Trustees Meetings:**  
10/26/2009

**HAMS Executive Committee Meetings:**  
8/17/2009, 9/21/2009, 10/19/2009,  
11/16/2009, 12/21/2009

*Meetings are held at noon at the  
Waialae Country Club*