HAWAII ARMY MUSEUM SOCIETY ww.hiarmymuseumsoc.org

Newsletter

Summer 2014

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From the Executive Director: Vicki Olson

Aloha! Immediately after the publication of our Spring newsletter, the US Army Museum of Hawaii closed for 2.5 months to allow for refurbishment of columns throughout the museum. Subsequently, the hallway was also painted. While there were no changes to exhibits, the work was much needed.

At the very same time we bid farewell to Mike Egami who who retired from federal service. In July, the HAMS Board of Trustees elected Mike Egami to its Board and he will assist Education Chair Les Bise with Educational Outreach.

HAMS held the MG Herbert E. Wolff Memorial Golf Tournament on 20 June at Leilehua Golf Course. Our 33rd annual tournament was a great success and we owe a huge thank you to all our sponsors, players and volunteers. This year 52 soldiers were sponsored for the day.

On 15 July, HAMS hosted over 40 JROTC instructors from all over the state to a visit to the museum. As part of our expanding education program, these key leaders are looking at how they can incorporate the museum and the stories it tells into their JROTC program. Mahalo to COL (Ret) Jim Lackey and COL (Ret) Walter Ozawa for giving the tour of the museum and explaining the mission and role of HAMS.

Our store completed much needed renovations and is looking great. We installed LED lighting which is not only energy efficient but far more attractive than the 30 year old ones they replaced! New shelving was installed and departments were relocated and consolidated. Sheldon and Eric have introduced new inventory and sales are strong. We are also redesigning our store website to make it more user friendly.

On 23 July, we held our first partnership program between HAMS and the Universal Values for a Democratic Society - Nisei Veterans Endowed Forum Series (Nisei Forum). The films “Unknown Warrior” and “Varsity Victory Volunteers” were shown in the multi-purpose room in the Diamond Head parapet with a question and answer period after each showing. The UH Foundation had made a generous donation to HAMS which was used to install a projector, screen and sound system for the multi-purpose room.

Aloha, Vicki Olson

Hawaii Army Museum Society 2014 Golf Tournament

Mahalo to our Title Sponsor Tawani Foundation, Pritzker Military Library for their continued support!

Harriet Aoki and Rick Wolff ready for another great tournament

We held our 33rd Annual General Herbert E. Wolff Memorial Golf Tournament on June 20, 2014 at the Leilehua Golf Course. 144 players, including 52 Patriot sponsored soldiers enjoyed a great day of golf, food, prizes, food and more prizes. Mahalo to all our wonderful volunteers—many of whom are members of the Aloha Chapter of MOAA.

Here's a list of our prize winners:

Closet to the Pin:

Hole #2	Bill Pieler, 13' 8"
Hole #5	Barry Muranaka, 10'
Hole #12	Ron Hee, 9' 11.5"
Hole #17	Wyatt Mayes, 12' 1.5"

Putting Contest:

1st	Mark Kartsarsky
2nd	Eddie Lee
3rd	William McInnis

Longest Drive:

Male Winner: Michael Lugardi
Female Winner: Judy Fray

Samsung Galaxy winner drawn from hitting the green on #3, #5, #12, or #17:
Pat Nelson

Team Prizes
Flight A:

1st Barry Muranaka & Tanner Ho, net 57
2nd Dean Matsuoka & John Shreve, net 59
3rd Dennis Li & Deron Jyo, net 60

Flight B:

1st Paul Lister & Ed Lee, net 60
2nd Chris Kuramoto & Wes Ishihara, net 61
3rd Gavin Sugihara & Justin Yamauchi, net 61

Flight Patriot:

1st Marc Britos & Cipriano Herrera net 55
2nd Kidwell & Homen net 56
3rd Mike Korkay & William McInnis net 58

Grand Prize #1: Bill MacDonald
Grand Prize #2: Justin Fuertes

Congratulations to all our prize winners!

All smiles—CSM Henry Lee, Judy Fray, Nora Bramlett, and GEN Bramlett hit the course

MAHALO to our Generous Golf Tournament Sponsors & Donors!

Title Sponsor:
Tawani Foundation

Dinner & Lunch Sponsor:
Island Palms Communities, LLC

SILVER SPONSORS:

David & Nora Bramlett
First Hawaiian Bank
Carole Kai Charities, Inc.-Great Aloha Run
HEW Limited Partnership
Insynergy Engineering, Inc.
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Meadow Gold Dairies—Hawaii
Mokulele Hawaii
Pacific Waterfeatures, Inc.

BRONZE SPONSORS:

Aloun Farms
Clinton R. Churchill
JN Automotive Group

PATRIOT SPONSORS:

Harriet Aoki (HIARNG)
Dr. Ann Carroll & Dr. Miguel Vasquez (WTB)
First Canoe Strategies & Consulting, Inc. (WTB)
Group 70 International (2-27 INF, 25th ID)
Alan Hayashi (WTB, Schofield)
HEW Limited Partnership (1-14 INF, 25th ID)
Ed & Leilani Keough (Aviation BDE, 25th ID)
Henry & Rose Lee (2-35 INF, 25th ID—2 teams)
Pasha Hawaii (3rd BDE, 25th ID)
Charles B. Salmon, Jr. (HIARNG)
David & Sue Shanahan (1-21 INF, 25th ID)
United Laundry Services, Inc. (2nd BDE, 25ID)

DONORS:

Joan S. Bellinger
Mary Ceccarelli
BG (Ret) Paul Y. Chinen
COL (Ret) & Mrs. Gordon W. Cho
Bobbee Mills Diaz & John Diaz
Mr. & Mrs. Lyle M. Du Pont
ADM (Ret) Thomas B. Fargo
Donald G. Hasenyager
COL (Ret) & Mrs. Les S. Ihara
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CW4 (Ret) Howard S. Okada
COL (Ret) Hal K. Okita, Jr.
COL (Ret) Walter M. Ozawa
COL (Ret) John B. Seely
COL (Ret) Albert F. Turner
Glen Winterbottom

MAHALO to:
Emcees Linda Coble & Kirk Matthews
Volunteer Group MOAA, Aloha Chapter
Leilehua Golf Club Staff
Our Dedicated Golf Committee, Chaired by Les Bise

MAHALO to our Prize Donors!

☆ ☆

GRAND PRIZE:
Airfare for Two on Mokulele Hawaii
A Two Night Stay at Westin Maui Resort & Spa
Two Rounds of Golf at Kapalua Golf, Lahaina, Maui

Mr. & Mrs. Christian R. Beddow
Big Island Candies
Castle Resorts & Hotels
Robert J. Clancey, LTD
Dole Food Company, Hawaii
COL (Ret) Edward Gayagas
COSTCO Wholesale Waipio
Germaine's Luau Hawaii
Hawaii Kai Golf Course
Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort
Honolulu Country Club
Kapalua Golf, Maui
Ko Olina Golf Club
Kapalua Bay Course, Maui
LTC (Ret) Leonard G. Katsarsky
Maj (Ret) & Mrs. Rodney Kimura
KOP Distributors, LLC
Le Bistro
Makaha Art Gallery
Maui Divers Jewelry
McDonald's Restaurants of HI, Inc.
McKinley Motor Services, Inc.
Michele's at the Colony Surf
Mid-Pacific Country Club
BrgiGen (Ret) Frances I. Mossman
Outrigger Enterprise Group
Outrigger On the Beach
Paradise Beverages, Inc.
Poipu Bay Golf Course
Puakea Golf Course, Kauai
James D. Swoish, Inc.
Tanaka of Tokyo Restaurants, Ltd.
The Islander Group
The Willows
USAA
U.S. Army Garrison Golf Courses
Waikoloa Beach & Golf Resort
Zippy's Restaurant

Ed Chang, Carolyn Young & Jean Azama

Dickson & GEN Ma with Susie & ADM Macke

More Photos from the 2014 Golf Tournament...

The Island Palms Teams

Three Patriot Teams

Our Volunteers: Les & Shirley Ihara (top), Vernon, Marion & Harold (above), and Mililani High School JROTC (left)

More Golf Photos...

Mark & Lenny Katsarsky with Linda Coble & Kirk Matthews

Ed Oei, Katherine Okazaki, Harriet Aoki & Rick Wolff

Save the Date for Next Year's Golf Tournament 19 June 2015!

Golden Age Team Hawaii

It All Started With An Autograph Book

By Vicki Olson

According to an exhibit in the US Army Museum of Hawaii, "The Women's Army Corps (WAC) was created in July 1943, with the same benefits, rights and restrictions as male soldiers. They were given six weeks of basic training, without combat skills, and went on to specialized training, such as Clerk, Language, and Medic School. About 100,000 WACs served in every theater of operation."

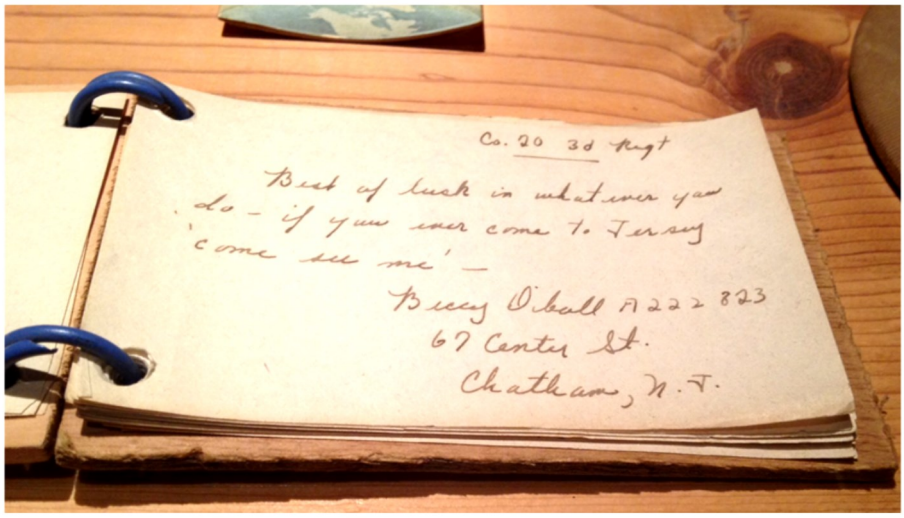
In the gallery dedicated to *World War II Hawaii on the Offense* is an autograph book donated by Beatrice Bender. When the autograph book was donated to the US Army Museum of Hawaii, MAJ Bender stated that some of the ladies in her company had signed her autograph book prior to her departing Ft. Des Moines in May of 1945.

In 2009, Robert Ogburn and his family visited the US Army Museum of Hawaii. According to Robert, "I was transferring from Seoul to Baghdad and (son) Cal was finishing his freshman year at GWU in DC, where he was also doing Army ROTC at Georgetown University's Hoya Battalion. Cal was a few steps ahead of us in the Museum and said, "Dad, isn't Grandma's maiden name Diboll, and didn't she live in Chatham, New Jersey?" I said, "Yes, why are you asking?" He replied, "Well, take a look at this." My wife and I couldn't believe it, and I called my mom back in New Jersey. She couldn't recall writing a postcard to anyone with that name--and now that makes sense, that it was an autograph book that was probably passed around, rather than a postcard to someone whom she would have known well."

The page on display reads:

"Co. 20 3rd Regt.
Best of luck in whatever you do – if you ever come to Jersey 'come see me.'
– Beccy Diboll"

She then gives her former address in Chatham, NJ where she had graduated from high school in 1937.



Beatrice Bender's autograph book on display in the museum

During the second week of July 2014, Robert returned to the museum with his mother, Rebecca Diboll Ogburn, who confirmed that it was indeed her signature. Sixty nine years ago, while stationed at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa, Beccy signed the book of WAC Beatrice Bender of Company 20, 3rd Regiment.

"Mom was really thrilled when I took her to the Museum earlier this month to see the exhibit for herself and to look at the autograph book. She is 95 now but still has an active mind and talks a lot about life in the WACS and later, as a civilian contractor, in support of the US Army immediately

Rebecca Diboll Ogburn views her autograph from 1945

about life in the WACS and later, as a civilian contractor, in support of the US Army immediately after the liberation of Korea in 1945."

Robert continues, "My mom and dad adopted me from a Korean orphanage in 1960. My dad, Harold Ogburn, was born in the Texarkana area and was also an Army vet who served in Asia. They had been in Asia more off than on since 1945 and thought it would be especially meaningful to adopt a child from Korea, which was very poor and still recovering from the long-term effects of the war. I have been a commissioned Foreign Service Officer since 1987 and have served in DC, Cairo, Tunis, Seoul, Ho Chi Minh City, Daegu (Korea), and Baghdad. My rank is FS-OC, equivalent to 07 in the military. My wife, Thu-hang, is an accountant and left Vietnam in 1975 in the wake of the fall of Saigon. My daughter Calista will enter the 10th grade this fall when I start my new job at the US Embassy in Seoul. Mom will continue to live with us in Seoul at Yongsan Army Garrison after having lived with us in HCMC, Vietnam 2011-2014."

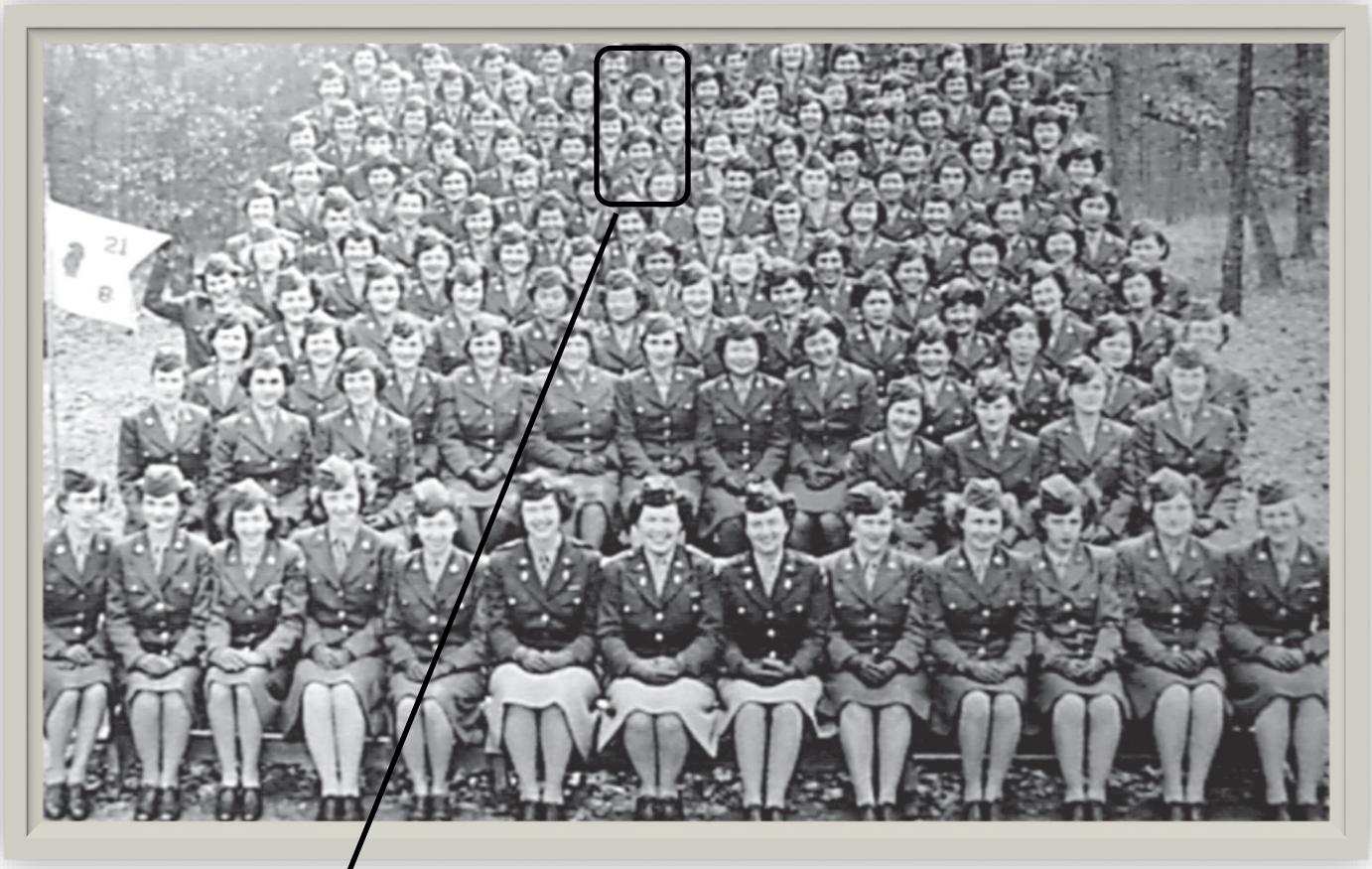
"Cal is now active duty and has just finished his first Army tour at Camp Casey in Korea serving in the 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He is heading to Fort Carson as a Fire Support Officer for his next job."

"In an effort to confirm that the pictures I had discovered were of WAC Beatrice Bender, several curious coincidences occurred."

Now the rest of the story…. Sadly, Beatrice Bender of Pearl City passed away in Sept of 2003 at the age of 84. One of eleven children, she had retired from the US Army as a major and had served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. She is buried in the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. In an effort to confirm that the pictures I had discovered were of WAC Beatrice Bender, several curious coincidences occurred.

I made several calls to Benders who were listed in the Hawaii phone book. One was to a Christine Bender whose husband may be distantly related to Beatrice through his father's side. Christine, a retired Army LTC, and her husband Michael had served at West Point while my husband was the Commandant of Cadets. She had a "millennial baby" and my husband had written her a letter which she has hanging in her home.

Next, I spoke with the niece of Beatrice Bender, Annette Hartman who not only was able to confirm the information about her Aunt but also spoke of having visited the museum and seeing her aunt's face in the exhibit photograph.



"Hawai'i's women were not allowed to enlist until October 1944; most island women were doing essential war work. The 59 local girls who did join were sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, for basic training, then on to specialty schools, such as Fort Des Moines, Iowa."

Sheldon Tyau's aunt, Genevieve Hoe

WAC Beatrice Eleanor Bender originally from Kauai

Vicki Olson continues…

When I asked Sheldon Tyau, our HAMS store manager, whether he thought that Beatrice was the WAC in the close up of the group photo, he told me that the woman directly above Beatrice was his aunt, Genevieve Hoe.

Working for HAMS and interacting with visitors to the museum makes our days both enjoyable and fascinating!

Beatrice Bender of WAC Company 8, 21st Regiment at Third WAC Training Center, Ft. Oglethrope, GA

Mike Egami Retires

HAMS President David Bramlett with the Man of the Hour, Mike Egami

On April 10, 2014, the Hawaii Army Museum Society hosted a farewell breakfast in honor of Mike Egami's retirement from government service. The room was packed with volunteers, SOCPAC personnel, and HAMS Board members who paid tribute to his government service.

All in attendance appreciated the extra effort he put into the volunteer program, Living History Day and other special events, outreach to a broader community through tours and education. Mike and his wife, Judy, have also been volunteers for the past two years at the HAMS' Golf tournament.

HAMS is also pleased to announce that Mike was voted in as the newest Trustee on the HAMS' board. Mahalo! Mike for all you did and continue to do and best wishes in your "retirement"!

2013 Holiday & Volunteer Thank You Party

Every year the Hawaii Army Museum Society hosts a holiday party to thank those who volunteer at the US Army Museum of Hawaii. The party hosted by HAMS, Mike Egami and Marie Ea was well attended. The event was held at the Outrigger Reef Hotel and the repeat visits to the enormous buffet line spoke volumes about the quality of the food! HAMS also provides a gift for every volunteer along with additional prizes. Congratulations to our volunteer of the year, 442nd IN BN veteran, Whitey Yamamoto!

We thank all our wonderful volunteers who attended: Marty (& guest Lynn), Warren, Bill, Nancy, Mary, Russell, Stan, Megan, Leo, Maude, Taemin, Haejin, Jackie, and Pierre Moulin. Also in attendance were HAMS Staff and Trustees: Vicki Olson, Sheldon and Erin Tyau, Eric Yonamine, Marie Ea, Mike and Judy Egami, Walter Ozawa, Mildred Courtney, Francis Mossman, Jimmie Lackey, Bert Turner, Jerry Silva, Dave Shanahan, and David Bramlett.

Hawaii Army Museum Society
P. O. 8064
Honolulu, HI 96830-0064

To:

Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS) News

HAMS' 2014 Officers and Board of Trustees

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HAMS Schedule of Events

Future Events

Ihe Award
14 November 2014

Golf Tournament
19 June 2015

Meetings for 2014

HAMS Board of Trustees

15 October

HAMS Executive Committee

20 August
17 September
19 November
17 December

The U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii hours:
Tuesday through Saturday
9 AM until 5 PM

The Museum Store will be OPEN
Tuesday through Saturday
9:00 AM until 4:45 PM

Phone: 808-955-9552
Manager: Sheldon Tyau
Website: www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org