



Newsletter

Winter 2015

Inside This Issue:

2015 *Ihe Award* Breakfast

- Honoree: Senator Daniel K. Akaka
 - Senator Akaka's Bio
 - Sponsors & Donors List
- Page 2-3

- Event Photos
- Page 4-6

Arcadia Visit

Page 7

The Museum Store

Page 7

HAMS News

- Officer/Board List
 - Schedule of Events
 - Museum Store Info
- Page 8

From the Executive Director: Vicki Olson

Aloha!

During the fall of 2015, HAMS has continued to expand its Education Program for Hawaii's JROTC Cadets by hosting both Aiea and Kahuku JROTC programs for a tour, a history scavenger hunt, a viewing of the film "Unknown Warriors of WWII", and lunch. In December, we hosted cadets from the Youth Challenge Academy.



On November 13th, the 18th Annual *Ihe Award* Ceremony was held at the Ala Moana Hotel. Close to 200 people were up bright and early to celebrate the contributions of Senator Daniel K. Akaka. Read more about this annual event and view the photos in this issue.

Ginny Clarke and Eric Yonamine continue to bring in new and exciting merchandise to our Museum Store. Please think of the store as you shop for those special people in your life and remember that your membership gives you a 15% discount on all merchandise. You can also visit our store online at: www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org.

The Board of Trustees of the Hawaii Army Museum Society wishes all our members and supporters Happy Holidays and our very Best Wishes for 2016!

Happy Holidays

Aloha,
Vicki Olson

Our HAMS table guests (left). At right, Senator Akaka shares a smile with Senator Mazie Hirono at the Ihe Awards Breakfast.





Our 2015 *The Award* Honoree: Senator Daniel K. Akaka

In ancient Hawai'i, the warrior who was honored by service to the Chief kept himself in readiness to meet every challenge. Perfect physical condition and mental alertness allowed him to respond quickly to any demand. One symbol of this readiness was the spear, or *Ihe*, which was always at the warrior's side.

The Hawai'i Army Museum Society presented this year's *The Award* to Senator Daniel K. Akaka for his contributions to the military and civilian communities and continued dedicated service to the people of Hawai'i. The Award Breakfast event was held on Friday, November 13, 2015 at the Ala Moana Hotel's Hibiscus Ballroom.

When the Senator was growing up, each morning the deeply spiritual Akaka household would begin with a prayer, recitation of Psalm 23 in Hawaiian, a Scripture recitation by each child, and hymn singing. The routine was repeated at the close of the day. Though the Akaka family was poor, they often looked after and provided shelter for disadvantaged children. Young Daniel was at the bottom of the line for hand-me-downs from his six older siblings: Annie, Phoebe, John Edward, Abraham Kahikina, Susan, and Joseph. Young Daniel never wore shoes until he attended Intermediate School and he was troubled by the number of patches on his clothing. Daniel's mother, Annie, would tell him not to worry because his clothes were always clean. His brother, Rev. Abraham Akaka, later served as Kahu of the historic Kawaiaha'o Church in Honolulu for close to three decades. Daniel Akaka served as the church choir director for seventeen years.



*HAMS President GEN David Bramlet with
The Honoree Senator Akaka*

A student at Kamehameha School for Boys, Daniel Akaka watched the attack on Pearl Harbor from the school hillside. Graduating from Kamehameha School for Boys in 1942, he served as a civilian welder in the Army Corps of Engineers (1943-45). He then entered active duty, achieving the rank of Corporal in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a welder-mechanic (1945-47) including service on Saipan and Tinian. In 1948, Daniel Akaka was first Mate on the missionary schooner, Morning Star VI. In 1948, he married Mary Mildred Chong (Millie).

A strong believer in the power of education, Daniel Akaka entered the University of Hawaii, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Education (1952), and later earning a Professional Certificate in Secondary Education (1953). He subsequently obtained a Professional Certificate in School Administration (1961) and a Master of Arts in Education

(1966). He began his career in education as a teacher (1953-60), subsequently a Vice-Principal (1960-63), later a Principal (1963-68), and finally the Department of Education's Chief Program Planner (1969-71).

Daniel Akaka's interests moved into the policy and political arena when he became the Director, Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity (1971-74). He served as a Special Assistant for Human Resources Hawaii, Office of the Governor (1975-76) and the Director of the Progressive Neighborhoods Program (1975-76). Elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-Fifth U.S. House of Representatives in 1976 from Hawaii's 2nd district, Congressman Akaka was then elected to the six succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1977 - May 16, 1990).

He resigned from the House on April 30, 1990 to accept the appointment by Governor John Waihee to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Spark Masayuki Matsunaga. Beginning his term on May 16, 1990, U.S. Senator Daniel Kahikina Akaka was America's first Senator of Native Hawaiian



Among his proudest achievements is his work on veterans' issues, including passage of a "21st Century" GI Bill to help veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, expansion of veterans' services, and changes to how the veterans' health care system is funded.

The Senator gives credit to his wife, Millie, for helping him greet constituents, keeping him apprised of news back home, making him lunch and keeping him focused while he served in Congress. In their active retired life, he and Millie, their five children (Milannie K.A. Mattson, Daniel K. Akaka, Jr., Gerard K. Akaka, Alan L. Akaka, and Nicholas K. Akaka), 15 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren are enjoying more family time.

Before dropping the gavel for the last time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Daniel K. Akaka declared, "It is with much aloha that I say to you now, 'A hui hou - see you again.'" His retirement from government service has not meant retirement from continued service to the military and civilian communities of Hawai'i.

Between 1990 until the Senator's retirement on January 3, 2013, his committee assignments included:

- Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs (Chairman)
- Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
- Senate Committee on Armed Services (4 Subcommittees)
- Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs (3 Subcommittees)
- Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (3 Subcommittees)
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs (4 Subcommittees)
- Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Chairman)
- Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs - Ranking Minority Member
- Congressional Task Force on Native Hawaiian Issues (Chairman)

The first *Ihe Award* was presented in 1998. Past *Ihe* awardees include: Dr. Richard Kelley, Outrigger Hotels (2000), the late GEN Fred C. Weyand, USA, Ret., Former Chief of Staff of the Army (2003), Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu, DDS, FADG (2009), Linda Coble and Kirk Matthews (2010), Alan S. Hayashi, and last year's awardee, The Military Affairs Council (MAC) of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, just to name a few.

A special *Mahalo* is extended to the HAMS Special Events Committee chaired by COL (Ret) Walter M. Ozawa and to COL (Ret) Gerry Silva for his work with Don Kozono of the University of Hawaii Journalism Department who produced the video honoring Senator Daniel K. Akaka.

We also extend our thanks to Bill Comstock, Candace Fujioka and the staff of the Ala Moana Hotel for their excellent support and service.

Congratulations again to our 2015 *Ihe Award* Honoree, Senator Daniel K. Akaka!



Mahalo to Our Sponsors and Donors

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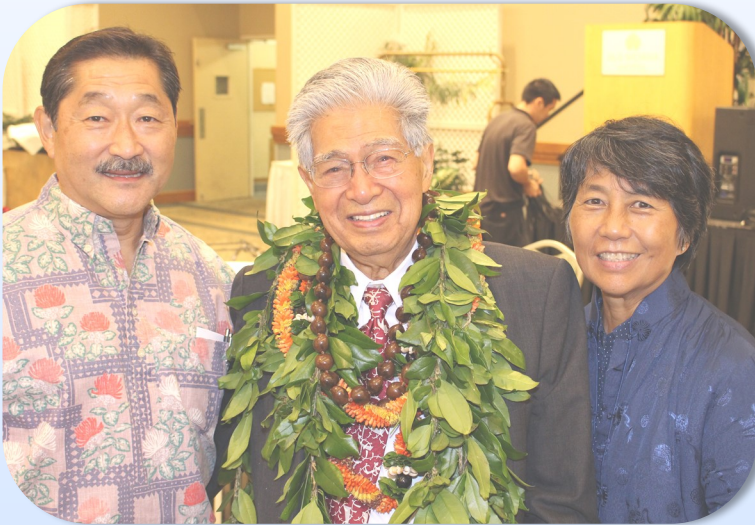
Photos from the Ihe Award Breakfast



Senator Akaka & GEN David Bramlett with the Ihe Award



HAMS President GEN David A. Bramlett, HAMS Executive Director Vicki Olson, Senator Daniel K. Akaka, and HAMS 1st VP COL Jim Lackey



Mike Kitamura & Senator Akaka with his daughter Milannie Matson



Mrs. Millie Akaka & Elaine Ota



Kamehameha Alumni Glee Club perform



GEN David Bramlett gives the opening remarks & introduces video presentation on Senator Akaka



BG Edward Y. Hirata & Senator Akaka



In attendance at the breakfast were one serving & three former Adjutant Generals of the State of Hawaii—MG Darryll Wong, MG Joe Logan, MG Rick Richardson (also Senator Akaka's Kamehameha classmate) & MG Bob Lee



HAMS Trustee Emeritus Bill Paty with Linda Coble

Artist Umi Kai, shown here with the 'o'o Ihe Award he created, made of native Hawaiian koa wood. The 'o'o, an ancient farming tool, symbolizes the care and nurturing of the 'aina (land) and its people. The 'o'o is supported by a block of 'ohi'a wood, also unique to Hawaii 'i.



A smiling Senator Akaka and his family and friends listen to the event's opening remarks





More Photos of Our Ihe Award Breakfast Guests



Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii guests



Allen Hoe and Bill Paty



Kamehameha Class of 1952 and friends



Hawaii Pacific University guests



Outrigger Enterprises guests



University of Hawaii ROTC guests



Arcadia Residents Visit HAMS

Residents of Arcadia Retirement Residence paid a visit to the US Army Museum of Hawaii on November 25th. The tour was arranged by resident CW4 (Ret) Howard S. Okada. Howard had served as the Hawaii Army Museum society's Executive Director for several years and is very familiar with the early years of HAMS. Two of the other residents attending were HAMS Trustee, COL (Ret) Burt Turner and his wife, Vonnice.

Upon arrival at the museum, the visitors were greeted by their neighbor and longtime museum volunteer, Whitey Yamamoto. After a tour of the museum led by COL (Ret) Walter Ozawa, the group viewed the film "Unknown Warriors of World War II" about the role of Nisei soldiers during the war. This excellent film has been provided to HAMS in a partnership with the group: "Universal Values for a Democratic Society – Nisei Veterans Endowed Forum Series" (Nisei Forum) at UH. We hope the group from Arcadia will choose to return in 2016!



The Museum Store

Doing some last minute holiday shopping? Why not stop by the Museum Store and pick up that unique gift! There are new items coming in all the time and under Ginny's and Eric's keen watch, sales have grown significantly. And remember, HAMS members receive 15% discount off your entire purchase, whether you shop in person or online at www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org. Eric (left) hard at work stocking our new .50 caliber corkscrew opener (inset). Ginny (right) is buried under our latest arrival of t-shirts and handy camouflage tote bags (inset).





Hawaii Army Museum Society

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To:

Hawaii Army Museum Society (HAMS) News

HAMS' 2015 Officers and Board of Trustees

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HAMS Schedule of Events

Meetings for 2016

Future Events

Golf Tournament

17 June 2016

The Award Breakfast

Mid-November 2016

(date to be

announced)

HAMS Board of Trustees

20 January

20 April

20 July

19 October

HAMS Executive Committee

17 February

16 March

18 May

15 June

17 August

21 September

16 November

The U. S. Army Museum of Hawaii hours:

Tuesday through Saturday

9:00 AM until 4:15 PM

The Museum Store will be OPEN

Tuesday through Saturday

9:00 AM until 4:00 PM

CLOSED Christmas & New Year's Day

Phone: 808-955-9552

Manager: Ginny Clark

Website: www.hiarmymuseumsoc.org