



## HAWAII DAV DEPARTMENT NEWS

December 15, 2010



“Building better lives for all of our nation’s disabled veterans and their families.”

*Regulation 10: National Constitution Bylaws and Regulations*

Priority: To help veterans, focus on resolution.

### Holiday Greetings

The Department DAV and DAVA wish all a very pleasant and joyful holiday season, and prosperous New Year. The multi cultural state of Hawaii is unique. Many celebrations are celebrated at different times, affording many opportunities to learn about, meet, and visit with new friends.

It is a good time to be mindful of our fellow veterans that are unable to get out and participate in many of the festivities. We should take this opportunity to take the holiday season to them through visitation.

### Department

The Department of Hawaii DAV participated in the December 7<sup>th</sup> 69<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day ceremony and the opening of the new Visitors Center at the Arizona Memorial. An estimated 100 Pearl Harbor Survivors attended, plus an additional 100 WW II veterans were also present. The ceremony was appropriately Hawaiian with the highest respect and honor to the military. To be in the presences of a gathering of such honorable veterans including a Medal of Honor recipient is a privilege and a humbling experience. Attendance was estimated to be more than 2500.

The National Commander’s Award Program accepted three nominees for a special award. The National Commander's Employment Awards represent individuals and employers who have outstanding job placement programs that help disabled veterans find suitable employment - lending dignity and providing hope for a productive future.



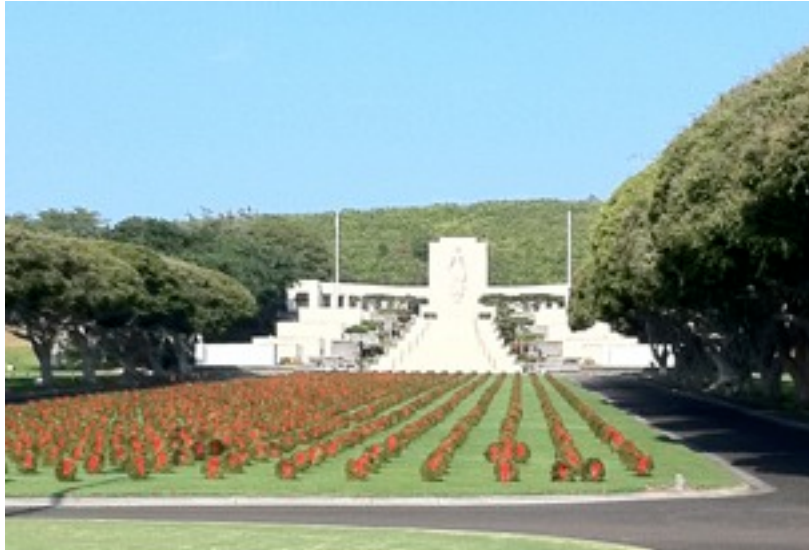
L to R Larry L Thornton, Allen Sumitomo (receiving for Gene E Castagnetti) James E Messner recipients of the National Commanders Award.

The special awards were presented to three staff members of National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, (Punchbowl) Tuesday December 14<sup>th</sup> by Department Adjutant Joseph Penn and PIO Robert Kent, for Commander Keoho. Recipients are Larry Thornton, James Messner, and Gene Castagnetti. for meritorious service in the furtherance of the DAV mission; “building better lives for all our nations’ disabled veterans and

their families” with their extended efforts to recruit and assist their fellow veterans in participating in and being productive in the staffing and maintaining the National Cemetery. In addition to the award are thanks for a job well done, and best wishes for James Messner as he enters retirement.

## Hospital Service and Transportation Coordinator

HSTC Nalu Perez continues to expand the transportation program and is in need of more drivers. Nalu has coordinated with Chapter 7 and Chapter 4 and has submitted requests for new vans to be delivered in 2011, for Oahu and the Big Island. There is a great need for ALL Chapters to support this program through fund raisers. Some of the vans in service are nearing the end of their service life and must be replaced.



Center Section of "Wreaths Across America" display at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

## Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America™, a non profit 501-c3 organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester in 1992 with the donation and laying of 5000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. The wreath laying is now held annually on the second Saturday of December. December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America™ Day". Wreaths Across America™ would not be successful without the help of the volunteers, many active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry.

WAA also reaches out to thousands of children with the message of **Remember, Honor and Teach**. The importance of honoring each fallen serviceman as an individual is stressed.

We collectively thank our military and their families for "Our Freedom"! For more information: [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/)

## Cleaning for a Reason (Nation wide)

This is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning for any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy. The service provides housecleaning service once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help

these women.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

## Convention

**60TH DAV STATE CONVENTION, June 10, 11, 12, 2011 at the Pagoda Hotel in Honolulu.** The convention address and contact: 60TH DAV State Convention; Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 860945, Wahiawa HI 96786, Phone 808-621-8888 FAX 808-839-5376, Convention Chairman: Willie James Howard [phatcow99@AOL.Com](mailto:phatcow99@AOL.Com).

**OFFICE HOURS:** The DAV Headquarters will be staffed 1000-1400 Mondays & Wednesdays.

*Please give us your feedback and/or offer of assistance, PLEASE, on this newsletter; 808 833-3746 / Fax 808-839-5376; or [Hlwebmaster@davfrat.org](mailto:Hlwebmaster@davfrat.org)*

Edward K Keoho, Sr.

Commander, Department of Hawaii DAV