



Springing into fun

at Hickam Arts and Crafts Center fair

Story and photos by
Chris Aguinaldo

Contributing writer

With live music, sizzling food, horse rides for keiki and more, the Hickam Arts and Crafts Center spring fair brought smiles to shoppers and

families on May 7.

"We came out to check out the crafts, get outside and spend time with friends," said Phaedra Tretter, whose kids enjoyed the horse rides. "I wish we had more things like this at Hickam."

"I loved the horsies," shared 4-year-old Elaina Fike, who also danced along to the live music

played by Island Storm. The band played a variety of tunes, from classic rock to '50s pop and even country-style line dancing that Elaina and mom Joliene enjoyed grooving along to.

"It's our first time at the fair," Joliene said. "I love that it's right here. It's a good family atmosphere."

Crafts at the 35th annual fair included stained glass, jewelry, specialty items and more. Also popular were food booths, with patrons picking up guava chicken, steak plates, hot dogs, shave ice and other tasty treats.

Throughout the day, Island Storm jammed on stage — pausing for lunch and for the

prize giveaways.

The center was also open, offering demonstrations. The center has ceramics, engraving, frame and wood shops in addition to offering classes from sewing to woodworking.

For more information about the center, including hours and classes, call 448-9907.

(Clockwise from horse rider) Garin Tretter enjoys a horse ride. Marilyn Paguirigan of Aloha Glitter Tattoos decorates the face of Aaliyah Limon. Mitsy Royster, stained glass artist, displays her artwork. Elaina Fike dances with mom Joliene. Shaved ice was a big hit at the spring fair. Val Vasquez of Island Storm breaks into a solo.



Hickam Thrift Shop holds grand re-opening



Photos courtesy of Tammy Hilburn, HOSC president

Hickam Thrift Shop is located at 540 Kuntz Ave. The shop recently celebrated its grand re-opening.

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Hickam Thrift Shop held its grand re-opening May 2, and the shop features many new items, its manager said. After being closed for a few weeks the space has been reconfigured and volunteers have completed their spring cleaning. Items available for sale include books, eating utensils, clothes, sporting goods, electronics and home furnishings.

The Hickam Thrift Shop is sponsored by the Hickam Officers' Spouses' Club (HOSC).

The thrift shop is run totally on donations. "We're always looking for volun-

teers. We need the help," said Coleen Cornell, the new shop manager.

The Hickam Thrift Shop is located at building 1723, 540 Kuntz Ave., on the Hickam side of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The thrift shop's mission states that the group is dedicated to saving the environment, re-purposing old items, giving value for the dollar, and helping people find that special treasure. All ranks, active, reserve and Guard, and retirees can shop and volunteer in the store.

Tammy Hilburn, HOSC president, said, "Women's clothing is our biggest seller." The shop now features a reorganized interior showcasing its furniture

selection, she added.

"It just flows better," Hilburn declared.

The thrift shop is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday as well as the second Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., closed only on federal and state holidays. During inclement weather watches and warnings, call ahead.

Donations are accepted 24 hours a day at donation sheds, which are located in front of the building. Donations are under 24 hour monitoring for security purposes.

Do not leave furniture or any other donations outside of the sheds. Large items can be donated during regular business hours.

All profits from the Hickam Thrift Shop support the Air Force and island-wide military charities and programs, military dependent scholarships, and local Hawaii charities.

E-mail hickamthriftshop@yahoo.com, call 449-6603 or visit the website <http://www.hickamosc.com/4.html> or check Facebook.

Celebration marks ASYMCA support for military families

Don Robbins

Assistant Editor

Highlighting Military Family Month and the 150th anniversary of Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA), preschool children and flag spouses gathered for a celebration at the Navy College on the morning of May 10. The event served as a way to thank ASYMCA for its support of enlisted families.

As a part of the event, preschoolers created posters to celebrate Military Family Month, explained Elizabeth Bynum, education director at ASYMCA.

The children showed their posters to Andy Walsh, wife of Rear Adm. Patrick Walsh, and several other flag spouses. Spouses handed out treats to the children.

"Andy Walsh is on the board of the ASYMCA and the event served as great exposure for base families," Bynum said.

The preschool is part of the ASYMCA, which is a small, nonprofit organization, she emphasized. She said it's wonderful that "a board member and military wife went to visit our kids, give them treats and let them know how special their school is."

Later in the program, the participants walked through the Navy College parking lot to stand in the grassy area, in front of Makalapa Gate to show incoming traffic their support.

In 2011, the ASYMCA is celebrating 150 years of



Photo courtesy of ASYMCA

Janessa Decker, parent participation preschool teacher at the ASYMCA, and the children in her class show off the posters that they made for the 150th anniversary celebration of ASYMCA on May 10. They are standing in front of Makalapa Gate at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

support to the military. According to a historical account from ASYMCA, during the Civil War in April 1861, a handful of YMCA members sought voluntarily to provide helpful services, by whatever means they could, to men in uniform.

This initial group of YMCA volunteers aided the Soldiers in nearby encampments, where they were stationed temporarily on their way to the front. Later, growing numbers of volunteers accompanied them to the battlefields.

The Armed Services YMCA's initial form was as the United States Christian Commission, whose purpose was to provide spiritual and physical comfort to Soldiers. During its four years of operation, the commission recruited 5,000 volunteer "delegates" who served without pay in every

theater of the war. It was the nation's first large-scale civilian volunteer service corps.

Relief agencies such as the Red Cross had not yet been created, and the military chaplaincy was in its infancy. Therefore, volunteers were recruited from many fields. They served as surgeons, nurses, chaplains and chaplains' assistants. Others distributed emergency medical supplies, food and clothing, noted the historical account.

They served on the battlefields with horse-drawn canteens, built and operated special diet kitchens in hospitals, brought books and prefabricated chapels to Soldiers and Sailors, taught enlisted men to read and write, maintained a hotel for Soldiers on furlough, and provided free meals.

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Security holds on to beat We Fix Ships

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

The Security slow-pitch softball team exploded for five runs in the top of the sixth inning to take an eight-run lead, then held on to defeat We Fix Ships (WFS), 11-7, in an Ashore Intramural Softball League game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 3.

In a battle between two middle-of-the-pack teams, Security scored one run in the top of the first, two in the third and three in the fourth, before putting the game away for good with its five-run rally in the sixth.

WFS, a team comprised of shipyard Navy divers, paired runs in the bottom of the sixth and seventh to narrow the margin, but the tallies were too little and too late.

"We've been in a slump the last couple of games, so it was nice to break out of that," said Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Ryan Silva, who drove in the team's first run with a triple. "If we continue to hit like that, we'll be all right."

Silva said that the early lead was a welcome relief and did wonders to keep him and his teammates focused and locked in.

"For the first time this season, we actually led in the early part of the game,"



Navy Diver 2nd Class Will Crampton of the We Fix Ships (WFS) softball team slides safely into second base, as Security infielder Master Chief Master-at-Arms Jacob Thomas moves off the bag during an Ashore Intramural Softball League game at Millican Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 3. Security used a five-run fifth inning to beat WFS by a score of 11-7.

he pointed out. "It felt good. Everybody got relaxed and we just played our game."

Security's top of the batting order was especially tough, as the team's top-three hitters got on base 10 out of 12 times.

Leadoff hitter Aviation Structural Mechanic 3rd Class Roshawn Thomas drove in two runs and was

a perfect four-for-four with three singles and a double.

Silva, who batted second, added a single and a walk to his first-inning triple, and drove in three runs, while second baseman Master Chief Master-at-Arms Jacob Thomas went two-for-four with three RBI from the third spot in the order.

"We were in rhythm,"

Thomas said. "Everybody was hitting the ball really well. This is slow-pitch softball. You got to hit the ball to get on base."

Security hitters went on one final tear in the sixth inning by stroking seven base hits to score the team's last five runs. A clutch bases-loaded single by Thomas scored two runs and sparked

Security's big inning.

While Security batters were having an easy time in finding the open spots, the same couldn't be said of WFS, as the dive-team hitters got off to a fast start but struggled in the middle frames.

WFS scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning to take a 2-1 lead, but the team went down in

order in the next two frames and fell behind by a score of 6-2.

Navy Diver 2nd Class PJ O'Dell, pitcher for WFS, said that Security's victory came as a result of its defense and clutch hitting.

"Their infield played great. It didn't make mistakes and made a lot of plays that we weren't expecting," said O'Dell, who added that he tried to make adjustments on the mound, but still couldn't get Security hitters out. "They were just placing the ball where we weren't. It was just good batting on their part. Honestly, they just outplayed us."

After opening the season by losing two out of its first three games, Thomas said that it was satisfying to finally see the team put together a solid effort at the plate and on the field.

Thomas said that with so many new players on the squad, he wasn't surprised the team got off to such a slow start.

However, with the win over WFS, Thomas said he feels that the team may have turned the corner.

"This is not the same team that we had last year," said the master chief. "There are a lot of new folks, but I think that we're finally jelling right now. We got a solid team.

If we can discipline ourselves and let the bat and glove do the talking, we'll go a long way."

HQ PACAF keeps 56 ACOMS winless again

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor

Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF) scored all of its five runs in the top of the fourth inning and Department of Defense civilian Rod Cline tossed six shutout innings, as HQ PACAF defeated 56th Air and Space Communications Squadron (56 ACOMS), 5-1, in a Hickam Tuesday Division intramural softball game at Hickam Fourplex, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 10.

The victory raised the record of HQ PACAF to 5-2, while the hard-luck streak of the 56 ACOMS continued, as the team dropped its fifth straight loss without a win.

In its matchup versus HQ PACAF, 56 ACOMS pitcher Tech. Sgt. Mark Beecroft helped his team get off to a great start, as the right-handed hurler retired the first eight batters he faced in throwing three shutout innings.

However, in his only bad outing of the game, Beecroft's effective string came to a halt in the fourth, when HQ PACAF batters finally broke through to smack three singles and two triples to overtake the 56 with five runs.

Maj. Grant Sharpe singled to drive in the game-tying run, before Cline helped his own cause by crushing a Beecroft pitch over the head of the 56 ACOMS center fielder for a two-run triple.

Later in the inning, Cline was driven in for the team's



Headquarters Pacific Air Forces (HQ PACAF) first baseman Randi Damron dives for the bag to nail 56th Air and Space Communications Squadron (56 ACOMS) pitcher Tech. Sgt. Mark Beecroft for an out, as HQ PACAF pitcher Rod Cline comes over for support during a Hickam Tuesday Division intramural softball game at Hickam Fourplex, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 10.

fourth run on a single by HQ PACAF first baseman Randi Damron, a military spouse.

"We just started hitting the ball and it's contagious," said Cline about the team's big inning. "I was just trying to get a hold of it and hit it out of the infield. I was looking to get it over the second baseman's head and into the outfield."

Beecroft, who settled down to close out the game with three more shutout innings, said that even

though he pitched effectively for most of the game, it's hard to keep a good-hitting team like HQ PACAF down forever.

"I was missing my pitches and this is a hitting team," said Beecroft about his opponent's five-run explosion. "They weren't playing to their normal capabilities and they just decided to hit that inning."

While Beecroft was mowing down HQ PACAF hitters, Cline was even more effective

in keeping 56 ACOMS players away from home plate.

In going the distance, Cline allowed nine singles and no extra bases, while giving up only a single run in the bottom of the second inning.

"I just tried to get a first-pitch strike and then go up a little bit to make it harder for them to hit," explained Cline about his strategy to attack 56 ACOMS batters.

Although the 56 ACOMS is still searching for its first victory, Beecroft insists that

the team is far better than is indicated by its record.

The team's biggest problem, said Beecroft, is its inconsistency at the plate.

"We're not an 0-5 team," Beecroft noted. "We've had only one game where we hit the ball consistently. Tonight, we were hitting them right at people. We tend to do that a lot, but you can't fault anyone. We lost three people early in the season and that hurt us. We just need to have the same

people coming out."

Like his counterparts over at the 56 ACOMS, Cline admitted that HQ PACAF was also a bit shorthanded.

Considering that the team was without a few of its starters, said Cline, the win speaks well about the overall level of talent on the HQ PACAF squad.

"We're missing a lot of our key guys tonight," Cline admitted. "This is pretty much a lot of our backup guys that were playing tonight."

Boutiki makes largest donation ever to charities

US Navy photo by DC Smith

Julie Smith, chairman of the Boutiki Gift Shop located on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), presented a donation check to Deb Kaahanui, JBPHH American Red Cross service station coordinator, and Karen Murphy, chairman of volunteers of the American Red Cross JBPHH Chapter, on April 8. This year the Boutiki Gift Shop donated more than \$46,000, the largest amount since opening in 1973, to 44 military and local organizations. Boutiki is a shop featuring gifts, jewelry and home accessories from local and international artisans. For more information, call 422-6662 or visit the Boutiki during shop hours of Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1 to 6 p.m.



Keiki fishing applications due by May 18

Applications for "keiki fishing" are due no later than May 18. Applications are available for download on the 15th Wing website at www.15wing.af.mil.

Completed applications can be faxed, emailed, or hand delivered to the 15th Wing Public Affairs office. Registration is limited to the first 250 Air Force dependents, ages 5-12 years old. The Friends of Hickam is hosting the 12th Annual Keiki Fishing Tournament on June 1. The tournament will be held at the Hoomaluhia Botanical Gardens.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Mike Meares

A child enjoys last year's Keiki Fishing Tournament. Applications for this year's event are due by May 18.

Children must have an accompanying parent, guardian or escort and a signed liability waiver.

Mandatory bus transportation will be provided from the Hickam Burger King parking lot for all participants and adult escorts.

PACFLT band marches in Merrie Monarch



Photo courtesy of MIU2 Selina Gentkowski

Members of the Pacific Fleet Band perform while on their trip to the Big Island for the Merrie Monarch Festival.

WHO SAID IT?

"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."



Last Week's

WHO SAID IT?

"Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point."

C.S. Lewis

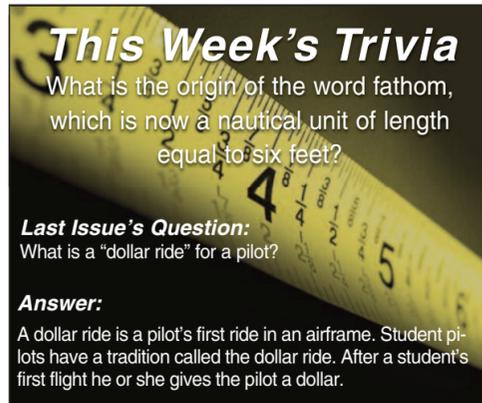


This Week's Trivia

What is the origin of the word fathom, which is now a nautical unit of length equal to six feet?

Last Issue's Question:
What is a "dollar ride" for a pilot?

Answer:
A dollar ride is a pilot's first ride in an airframe. Student pilots have a tradition called the dollar ride. After a student's first flight he or she gives the pilot a dollar.



HO'OKELE Online

<http://www.hookelenews.com/> or visit <https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/Hawaii/index.htm>



PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM **Maniawa Nanea** LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

🎪 SUPER GARAGE SALE

Pearl Harbor Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will host the Super Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday on Richardson Field. Admission is free. FMI: 449-3354.

🎨 OIL PAINTING WITH MAX GOMES

Learn the basic methods of oil painting at the Hickam Arts and Crafts Center. The class is from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, May 17 to June 14, or Wednesdays 10 a.m. to noon May 18 to June 15. Cost is \$50 plus the cost of supplies for ages 16 and older. Students will paint still lifes, Hawaiian landscapes, seascapes and tropical flowers. Beginners are welcome. Those ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. FMI: 448-9907.

🎬 THE WAYANS BROTHERS

A free meet and greet with the Wayans Brothers will be held at 4 p.m. May 18 at Club Pearl. Marlon and Shawn Wayans, stars of the films "Scary Movie 1 and 2" and "White Chicks," will arrive at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to see their military fans. Bring your camera as the Wayans Brothers will be signing autographs and posing for pictures. The Wayans Brothers will present a live comedy performance on May 19 at the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Tickets are \$45 and are available at all MWR Information, Tickets & Travel offices. FMI: 473-0792.

🍹 LIBERTY LUAU

Partake in a free Hawaiian feast on base at 6:30 p.m. May 19 at Beeman Center. If you need a ride, catch the shuttle from Liberty Express at 5:15 p.m., from Airman Center at 6:15 p.m., or from Instant Liberty at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to single service members only. FMI: 473-2583.

🎪 MENTALIST CRAIG KARGES

Mentalist Craig Karges will perform a free show at 7:30 p.m. May 20 at Sharkey Theater. Tables float, minds are read, metal bends and imagination is challenged in this show. First come, first served seating with doors and snack bar opening at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. No tickets are necessary. The event is open to all military-affiliated personnel, including Department of Defense ID card holders and their guests. The show is not appropriate for children under 10 years of age. FMI: 473-2431.

🎪 ARMED FORCES KIDS RUN

The 2011 America's Armed Forces Kids Run will be held at 8 a.m. May 21 at Quick Field. The free event is open to military youth ages 5 to 13. Parents are welcome to run with their child. Free T-shirts will be given to the first 115 participants who register. Registration will be taken through May 20 at www.americaskidsrun.org. FMI: 474-3501.

For more information on events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

🌸 May

🌸 13 ~ Hickam's annual Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) graduation ceremony is scheduled at 10 a.m. at the Hickam Officers Club lanai. FMI: Timothy Smith at timothy.smith2@hickam.af.mil.

🌸 18 ~ Asian Pacific American Heritage Month will be celebrated from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. May 18 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Memorial Chapel, building 1600. Guest speaker is Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom (U.S. Army, commanding officer of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command) who will speak on this year's theme: "Diversity, Leadership, Empowerment and Beyond." Attendees must be seated 10 minutes before the start of the program. The event is sponsored by Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. FMI: 471-0232 or e-mail Thomas.labelle1@navy.mil.

🌸 21 ~ As part of Military Appreciation Month in Hawaii, military bands from around the Pacific will meet again this year for the Combined Military Band Concert at 7 p.m. May 21 at Hawaii Theater. This year's theme will be "A Salute to Military Aviation," and highlights the Centennial of Naval Aviation among other significant events in military aviation. Free tickets will be available through the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. Participants include members from the 25th Infantry Division Army Band, U.S. Marine Forces Pacific Band, U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet Band, U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific, and the 111th Hawaii Army National Guard Band. FMI: www.cochawaii.com.

🌸 21 ~ The Kizuna (Bonds of Friendship) 5K Run/Walk for Japan will be held beginning at 7 a.m. May 21 on Ford Island. The donation amount is \$15. All monies raised will be given to the Red Cross Japanese Earthquake/ Pacific Tsunami Relief Fund. The event start will be just west of the Pacific Aviation Museum's parking lot. All active duty, Department of Defense (DoD) employees and retirees may attend. Sign up is accepted on the same day as the event. FMI: raceforjapan@hotmail.com.

🌸 28 ~ The Sesame Street/USO Experience for Military Families will arrive at Oahu military bases in May, including at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The festivities will be held at 2 and 5 p.m. at Hickam Fitness Center building 1120 on May 28. FMI: www.sesameworkshop.org/TLC and www.uso.org.

Movie Showtimes



Hop (PG)

E.B., the Easter Bunny's teenage son, heads to Hollywood, determined to become a drummer in a rock 'n' roll band. In LA, he's taken in by Fred after the out-of-work slacker hits E.B. with his car.

SHARKEY MOVIE THEATER

TODAY
7:00 PM Limitless (PG-13)

SATURDAY
2:30 PM Hop (PG)
4:45 PM Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG)
7:00 PM Paul (R)

SUNDAY
2:30 PM Hop (PG)
4:45 PM Source Code (PG-13)
7:00 PM Red Riding Hood (PG-13)

HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY
6:00 PM Hop (PG)
8:30 PM Limitless (PG-13)

SATURDAY
4:00 PM Hop (PG)
7:00 PM Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG)

SUNDAY
2:00 PM Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (PG)



Navy Exchange System marks its 65th anniversary of serving



Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange

The Navy Exchange System recently celebrated its 65th anniversary. Over the past 65 years, the NEX has supported Sailors and their families around the world.

"The Navy Exchange System has changed over the years, but the one thing that hasn't changed is our mission to serve our military service members and their families," said Rear Adm. (Sel) Glenn Robillard, commander, Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM). "We are part of the Navy and proudly serve alongside our service members wherever we're needed. We have been an important benefit for the past 65 years and will continue to be for many years to come."

History of NEX from NEXCOM

NEXs have come a long way since the days when bumboats sold their wares to Sailors aboard naval vessels in the 1800s. Back then, Sailors had to depend on these unreliable boats to get their personal items while aboard ship. Unfortunately, goods sold by the bumboats were typically inferior and sold at very high prices.

As an alternate to bumboats, many Navy ships operated canteens so that the money spent by the crew members stayed on the boat to improve the quality of the food served by the general mess. The first canteen opened on board USS Indiana in 1896.

By 1909, the Naval Appropriations Act established the first official resale activity, the ships stores and commissary stores. The act allowed the Navy to procure and sell merchandise to Navy and Marine Corps officer and enlisted men and to civilian employees at naval stations outside the continental United States and Alaska.

In 1925, the Ships Service was created to provide Navy crew members nearly any legal article of merchandise without the profit restrictions placed on the ships store. However, these Ships Services had no foundation in law.

It became clear by 1942 that there was no need or space for two ships service type stores aboard Navy ships. A recommendation was made to the Chief of Naval Operations by the supply officer, U.S. Atlantic Fleet to merge the two stores into one official ships store operation. The recom-

mendation was accepted and by 1944, the Secretary of the Navy made the establishment of the merged stores mandatory on all ships that had a supply officer and permissive on all naval activities.

Ships Service stores ashore also began steps toward centralization in 1945 when a committee was formed to study the resale activities. The recommendation of the committee, headed by Capt. Wheelock H. Bingham, USNR, was that all resale activities be operated like a large chain of retail stores and that a central office be established to oversee the operation of the Navy resale system. The new central office for the Navy Ships Store office was established in Brooklyn, N.Y. on April 1, 1946. This office was later renamed NEXCOM and relocated to Virginia Beach, Va. in 1993.

Today, NEXCOM provides oversight for 102 NEX complexes with nearly 300 stores, as well as Navy Lodges, ship's stores and the Uniform Program Management Office. Worldwide, the Navy Exchange System employs over 14,000 associates, 27 percent of whom are military family members.

Mokulele Elementary School celebrates 50 years of education

Story and photo by MC1 Katherine Brooks

Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

Mokulele Elementary School welcomed alumni, retired staff, and Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH) VIPs during a day of celebration marking the school's 50th year of educating military children on May 5. Students performed traditional Hawaiian songs and dances, and various period dances from the last 50 years.

Planning began early in the school year due to the efforts of Dale Tanouye, former Mokulele vice principal, and continued on with the students, faculty and staff members, fondly referred to as the Mokulele ohana (family).

"Today was filled with Mokulele pride. Everyone came together to commemorate 50 years. It's been an honor serving," said Tanouye.

The celebration began with honors to Joint Base and Mokulele service members by the presentation of a plaque and the students performing a special dance to patriotic songs. Bart Nakamoto, Mokulele principal, shared his enthusiasm on the day's events.



Jonah Archer, Mokulele student, and his educational assistant, Julia Shiira, present a recognition award to deputy commander of the 647th Air Base Group, Lt. Col. Rex Vanderwood, to honor troops carrying out humanitarian missions and protecting the country during Mokulele Elementary School's 50th anniversary celebration May 5.

"Today was fantastic. It was great to give support to the military during our celebration. The most touching moment was when Col. Vanderwood was able to receive the appreciation award from of our students" said Nakamoto. Lt. Col. Rex Vanderwood is the acting deputy commander for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The children's hard work did not go unnoticed. Janna Arakaki Hawaiian studies teacher, (Kumu Kehaulani) was proud of her students, especially the fourth graders performance of a traditional hula "Mele Inoa No Kalakaua."

"The whole day was a group effort. The entire ohana worked so hard," said Arakaki.

To the roar of applause, the day's celebration ended with the presentation of a commemorative Mokulele flag and the release of rainbow pigeons.

Nakamoto summed up the day for the ohana.

"It was also great to see our past and present generations coming together for our future," said Nakamoto.