



## OPERATION MAKE-A-WISH: CAPTAIN JAX TAKES COMMAND

Story and photos by  
Ensign David T. Gardner

USS Decatur (DDG 73)  
Public Affairs Officer

As the young boy approached the largest ship he'd ever seen, the ship's announcing system rang out with four bells and "Jackson Hatfield, arriving." Immediately the boy beamed as he looked up at his mom and she said, "That's for you, Jax, all this is for you."

During a port visit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the crew of the San Diego-based, Arleigh Burke-class, guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur (DDG 73) had the pleasure

of hosting Jackson Hatfield and his family on June 11 as part of a request by the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Eight-year-old Jackson was diagnosed with leukemia two years ago and has since been forced to endure extended hospital stays, a constant barrage of chemotherapy, and days when his illness doesn't even allow him out of bed. For this day, however, thanks to a talented medical staff, the love and encouragement of friends and family, and Make-a-Wish, his illness was momentarily forgotten.

Ever since Jackson remembers, he has always loved the Navy. When the Make-a-Wish Foundation asked him for his one wish, the answer was easy: "I want to visit a Navy ship and also would like to shake hands with lots of Navy officers and Sailors." The efforts of Make-a-Wish allowed Jackson, his parents Timothy and Katherine, and his five-year-old sister, Emma, to fly from Chicago to Hawaii for an unforgettable experience.

As Jackson approached Decatur's quarterdeck, Cmdr. John Steinberger, the ship's commanding officer, welcomed the young man and his family aboard. Steinberger presented Jackson with a set of custom-made coveralls - the very uniform naval officers wear every day aboard ship - complete with his name and ship's patch, a Decatur ball cap, and Decatur belt buckle so that Jax could be in proper uniform throughout the day.

"My friends are going to be so jealous," Jackson said to his mom after being handed the uniform.

From the

quarterdeck, Jax was escorted to the embarked commander's stateroom where he donned his new uniform and then proceeded to the wardroom to meet the officers of Decatur. Lt. Cmdr. Steve Lee, executive officer, presented Jax with an engraved gold surface warfare officer insignia and pronounced him an honorary surface warfare officer.

Once properly attired and fully qualified, Jax was given a VIP tour of the ship and familiarized with its systems and capabilities. His first stop: Driving one of Decatur's rigid hull inflatable boats around Pearl Harbor in the shadow of the historic USS Missouri.

"Jax was a natural driver," said boat officer Senior Chief Electrician's Mate (SW) Christopher McLean, adding, "He bragged about getting to drive his dad's boat back home sometimes, but he admitted this was way better because his dad's boat doesn't have guns."

Once back aboard Decatur, Jackson and his family were treated to demonstrations and static displays of virtually all of the ship's systems, including the gun mounts, the ship's helm and the Combat Information Center, where he put the Aegis weapon system to the test assisting the tactical action officer during a missile defense scenario by launching missiles at "multiple inbound enemy contacts."

Throughout the tour, Decatur's Sailors snapped to attention and saluted "Captain Jax" as he passed by. Finally, Jax and his family joined the officers in the wardroom for a special lunch in the family's honor.

After lunch, as the officers assembled on the quarterdeck for Jackson's



departure, the executive officer, assisted by Command Master Chief Joseph Murphy Jr., presented several mementos to Jackson and his family. These included an American flag flown over Decatur on the day of his visit and presented to Jackson in a shadow box, engraved to commemorate the occasion, and a ship's plaque, given to the Hatfield family in honor of their visit.

Finally, Chief Boatswain's Mate (SW) James Nobles piped "Captain Jax" off the ship with full honors and ceremonies and one final salute from Decatur's officers.

"Jackson could have asked Make-a-Wish for just about anything in the world and he asked to tour a Navy vessel and meet our Sailors," said Steinberger. He continued, "I was honored to welcome Jax and his family aboard and as much as Jax won't forget his time with us, I don't believe the Sailors aboard Decatur or I will ever forget him either."

As the Hatfield family walked together down the pier toward their car, once again four bells rang over Decatur's loudspeaker, announcing, "Jackson Hatfield, departing."

Decatur, a proud and decorated ship in Destroyer Squadron Seven, is homeported at San Diego.



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Michael A. Lantron  
(Right, bottom right) Cleveland, Ohio natives, Nathaniel Allen, 11, and his eight-year-old brother Matthew, learn about the attack on USS Missouri (BB 63) during the invasion of Okinawa during a private tour June 19, also sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. During the tour, Nathaniel and his family also visited the Pacific Aviation Museum, USS Arizona Memorial, USS Utah Memorial, and Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

## MWR announces annual Fourth of July bash

Story and photo by Sara Mizushima

Navy Region Hawai'i Fleet and Family Readiness, Marketing

Celebrate our country's freedom and independence with live local entertainment and one of the biggest fireworks show on the island from 2-9 p.m. at the Pearl Harbor July 4 Block Party and Fireworks Spectacular.

Navy Region Hawai'i, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host this event, complete with activities for everyone, a wide variety of food, and an awe inspiring 20-minute fireworks extravaganza by the famous Grucci family. The site for all of these festivities will be at Naval Station Pearl Harbor near Merry Point. Admission is free and open to all active duty, military-affiliated personnel, Department of Defense employees, family members and sponsored guests.

Deborah Lee Carter and her family, long-time residents of Hawai'i, have attended this event for the past seven years and she said that the event gets better and better with each year. "The fireworks are always wonderful and there is a great assortment of food. I like local food and there is a whole bunch to choose from," said Carter.

For Kelly McAlexander, a Navy spouse, her family plans to attend the Pearl Harbor Block Party for the first time. "It will be the first time in four years that we will be in Hawai'i for the Fourth of July. We are looking forward to going and have heard great things about the event."

Event goers will have the opportunity to groove to a long-time local favorite band, "Kapena," who is a Na Hoku Hanohano Award (Hawai'i's version of the Grammy Awards) winner. "Society of Seven LV," Waikiki's premier



Navy Region Hawai'i, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will host the Pearl Harbor July 4 Block Party and Fireworks Spectacular from 2-9 p.m. There will be activities for everyone, a wide variety of food, and a 20-minute fireworks extravaganza by the famous Grucci family.

showmen, will present a high-energy show of Broadway show tunes, Las Vegas-style numbers, celebrity impersonations and comedy sketches. The "King Pins," donning bowling shirts and shoes, will bring its listeners back to the good old days with its retro rock music.

For other entertainment, a display of automobiles will line the street at the Show 'N Shine and JN Chevrolet's Exotic Car Display. A military static vehicle display will showcase souped-up patrol cars, boats and more.

Wrestlers from the National World Alliance Hawai'i Wrestling will offer two separate action-packed performances. Island Illusions will show off their talents in dance, gymnastics, baton twirling and cheerleading.

Families can enjoy quality time together with free life-sized monster games of Jenga, basketball and bowling. Kids can ride ponies, go on the Xpress train, and make friends at the petting zoo. Event goers can experience the newest form of personal transportation on a Segway or get in a cage and compete one-on-one in a paintball snapshot. Those who want to test their luck in Texas Hold'em can enter the

Patriotic Poker Tournament for free.

Food will be served from a variety of vendors. Dig into roasted corn, steak, shrimp or one of the freshly-cooked barbecued meals. A wide variety of beverages will be available. Event goers can also browse and shop at the Crafter's Alley where unique hand-made crafts are sold.

Attendees at the event can register for one of the prize giveaways. One lucky winner will receive an air and room package for two to Las Vegas and another winner will win an air and room package for two to Kilauea Military Camp.

To top off the festivities, at the end of the night, a fireworks display will be shown accompanied by patriotic music. This 20-minute show will fill the sky, paying tribute to our nation's independence and unity.

Ample parking will be available throughout the base, with event signage directing drivers. To create the safest atmosphere for all participants, barbecues, coolers, animals, tents and outside food and beverages are not permitted. All activities are subject to change without notice. For the most current information, visit [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com).



Photo by Navy Exchange Marketing

Newt Gingrich (right), former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, historian and best-selling author, shakes hands with a fan during a book signing at the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange on May 27. William R. Forstchen (left), American science fiction author and co-author with Gingrich on several active history novels, autographs one of his books.

## Newt Gingrich visits NEX Pearl Harbor

Scheherezade Roundtree

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Marketing

Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, historian and bestselling author, Newton Leroy Gingrich, Ph.D. (also known as "The Speaker"), visited the Navy Exchange (NEX) at Pearl Harbor on May 27. Gingrich was there to promote his latest published work and New York Times bestseller, "Pearl Harbor: A Novel of the Pacific War Series."

The NEX hosted a book signing for Gingrich and his colleague and American science fiction author, William R. Forstchen - best known for his critically acclaimed

novels, "Lost Regiment" and "We Look Like Men of War."

Since 1995, Gingrich and Forstchen have co-authored several "active history" novels such as "1945" and American Civil War trilogy, "Gettysburg: A Novel of the Civil War," "Grant Comes East" and "Never Call Retreat: Lee and Grant—The Final Victory." Their trademark approach challenges readers to consider an alternative sequence of events that perpetuates a change in the course of American history.

Gingrich, brought up in a military family, was impressed with the NEX Pearl Harbor facility and said that he appreciated having the opportunity to meet members of the military community. "We're defi-

nately going to make this a place to come back to," he said. When asked if the next installment was in the works and when readers can expect to see it in stores, Forstchen explained, "That's been a major topic of conversation...a lot of stories are still set here in Pearl and the wars off of the outer Hawaiian Islands. So we've been doing research even while we're working and we're excited to get to writing that soon. That book will be out about this time next year and we want to come back here to this store."

For more information about Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen, access their Web sites at [www.newt.org](http://www.newt.org), and <http://shadowboxent.brinkster.net/Forstchen/home.html>.

# NEX Pearl Harbor announces million dollar inventory explosion

**Scheherezade Roundtree**

*Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor Marketing*

Navy Exchange (NEX) Pearl Harbor is gearing up for one of its most spectacular clearance sales. The Million Dollar Inventory Explosion, which will run from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. June 29-July 8, will be the largest tent sale in NEX Pearl Harbor's history. It is anticipated that over \$1 million worth of merchandise will go on sale.

NEX patrons can expect savings of up to 70 percent on select appliances, electronics, household goods, toys, sporting goods, furniture, hardware and more. "The excitement generated by this colossal tent event is growing daily. The Navy Exchange is known for its grand tent sales events and

this promises to be as phenomenal as Black Friday," said Beverly Borges, NEX Pearl Harbor marketing manager.

The main store, working in conjunction with the NEX Pearl Harbor Distribution Center, is coordinating 1,000 pallets of merchandise for this massive event. The distribution center has exceeded its full capacity and is currently in the process of "re-racking" existing merchandise. This enables the NEX to make merchandise more readily accessible for retail departments in which to better accommodate customers' needs.

"The goal of the re-racking is to improve storage capacity and material handling efficiencies. This will also decrease cost of operation and the improved efficiencies will positively impact the quality of service," said

Gaylene Vedder, NEX Pearl Harbor district logistics manager.

Joy Oshiro, NEX Pearl Harbor store manager, explained that this is a district-wide effort to support the NEX Pearl Harbor DC re-racking project. "The benefit for our customers is replenishment efficiency," said Oshiro. This will allow the NEX Pearl Harbor DC to replenish shelves in all locations more rapidly and efficiently. She added, "The tent sale will save patrons hundreds of dollars across the board."

The Million Dollar Inventory Explosion event marks the beginning of other projected ventures. The Navy Exchange at Pearl Harbor continues to demonstrate commitment to its mission in providing patrons quality goods and services at a savings every day.



Photo courtesy of Navy Exchange Pearl Harbor Marketing

**Hawaii Navy News Online**  
[www.hawaii.navy.mil](http://www.hawaii.navy.mil)

# Skylark Central

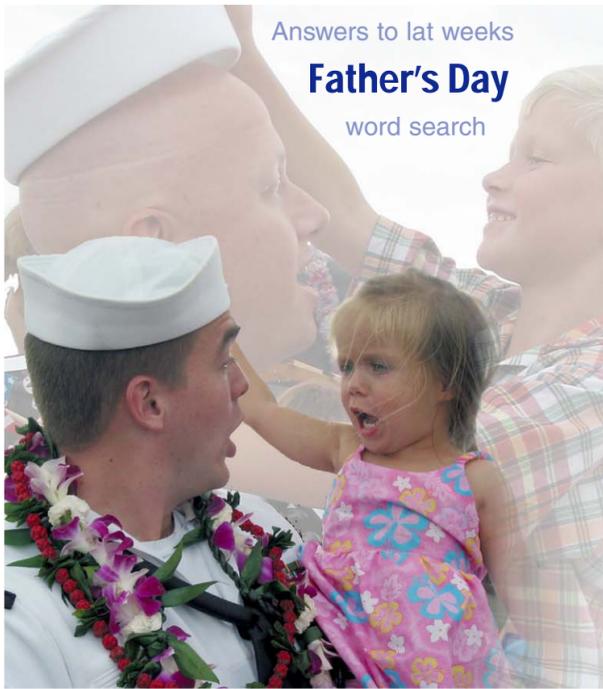


## EARLY ASTRONAUTS

|             |           |                |     |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|-----|
| ALDRIN      | BORMAN    | SCHWEICKART    | LLO |
| CONRAD      | GLENN     | ATNSLDNDON     | PCG |
| MCDIVITT    | SHEPARD   | NDARNOCAONCNS  |     |
| ANDERS      | CARPENTER | INMFSIRDDBHDM  |     |
| COOPER      | GORDON    | SERCFRREPOOCC  |     |
| SCHIRRA     | STAFFORD  | OEORIOADYIDNR  |     |
| ARMSTRONG   | CERNAN    | LTBHGNGRELIRGE |     |
| CUNNINGHAM  | GRISSOM   | TOCEMAMDVARTT  |     |
| SCHWEICKART | WHITE     | ASVLPHSIPIIWN  |     |
| BEAN        | COLLINS   | ANDERSTASHCGE  |     |
| EISELE      | LOVELL    | OBHSLTRSWNLAP  |     |
| SCOTT       | YOUNG     | ISNILLOCIEBHR  |     |
|             |           | RISEVMNANRECA  |     |
|             |           | GAHMAHGNINNUC  |     |

**Who said it?**  
 "A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service is not likely to have what it takes to make a living."

**Answer to last week's WHO SAID IT?**  
 "Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people."  
 - Adm. Hyman G. Rickover



Answers to last weeks  
**Father's Day**  
 word search

R S O A D V E N T U R O U S E  
 E G N I V O L U B R S B Q H N  
 D A D V I S O R E F M A S E C  
 I D G A R D F H L E A D E R O  
 V H N R D F C G N O R T S O U  
 O C I T S A I S U H T N E I R  
 R A R C E S U O R E N E G C A  
 P O A T D A D D Y L A Y O L G  
 R C C C N R B R A V E S E J E  
 S U P E R K A T Y N N U F B R

|                     |                       |                        |                         |
|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <del>DAD</del>      | <del>LOYAL</del>      | <del>STRONG</del>      | <del>ENTHUSIASTIC</del> |
| <del>TEACHER</del>  | <del>LOVING</del>     | <del>COACH</del>       | <del>BRAVE</del>        |
| <del>GENEROUS</del> | <del>ENCOURAGER</del> | <del>LEADER</del>      | <del>DADDY</del>        |
| <del>HEROIC</del>   | <del>PROVIDER</del>   | <del>ADVENTUROUS</del> |                         |
| <del>ADVISOR</del>  | <del>CARING</del>     | <del>FUNNY</del>       |                         |

**Q. USS Kearsarge sank what ship off the coast of France?**  
**Last week's question...**  
 How many inactive U.S. aircraft carriers are currently serving as or are on hold to be museums?  
**Answer...**  
 Yorktown (Hull #10) was established as a floating museum in Charleston, S.C.  
 Intrepid (Hull #11) was established as a floating museum in New York, N.Y.  
 Hornet (Hull #12) was donated to the Aircraft Carrier Hornet Foundation for use as a museum  
 Lexington (Hull #16) was established as a floating museum in Corpus Christi, Texas.  
 Midway (Hull #41) will soon be established as a floating museum in San Diego.  
 Forrestal (Hull #59) is on hold as museum donation at the Naval Education and Training Center, Newport, R.I.

# Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

LEISURE

## Morale Welfare & Recreation

### H LIBERTY LUAU

Poor Boy BBQ Fusion will present a free Liberty Luau for single Sailors from 6-8:30 p.m. June 25 at Liberty in Paradise. Enjoy free food, special entertainment by the Polynesian Paradise Dancers, and root beer. Compete in one of the many contests and win prizes. FMI: 473-4279.



### H BELLY FLOP AND WATER POLO

A belly flop competition and water polo match for single Sailors will be held at 5 p.m. June 27 at Scott Pool. Jump in to see who makes the biggest splash in the belly flop competition. Then the competition will heat up in the water polo match. The event is free. FMI: 473-4279.

### H DEEP SEA FISHING

Single Sailors can enjoy deep sea fishing on "Coreene C" as the boat casts off at 6:30 a.m. June 28 at Rainbow Bay Marina. The cost is \$120 per person and the boat takes a maximum of six people. The deadline to sign up is June 26. FMI: 473-4279.

### H ADVANCED SCREENING AT SHARKEY

Sharkey Theater at Naval Station Pearl Harbor will host a free advanced screening of a major motion picture at 3 p.m. June 30. Only the first 450 MWR eligible patrons will be seated so come early. FMI: Sharkey Theater Hotline at 473-0726.

For more information on Navy Region Hawai'i MWR events, visit [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com)

## Community Calendar

### N June

**N 29-30, July 1** - Bayfest 2007 kicks off at 5 p.m. June 29 at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe. Three Days Grace, Gretchen Wilson and Alan Jackson will be featured performers. The three-day event will include such activities as carnival rides, military static displays, strong man competition, hot dog eating contest, games, food booths, an island lifestyle expo, and more. Bayfest hours are 5 p.m.-1 a.m. June 29, noon-1 a.m. June 30 and noon-midnight on July 1. Fireworks by Grucci will be featured each evening at 10 p.m. FMI: 254-7563 or



[www.bayfesthawaii.com](http://www.bayfesthawaii.com).

### N At a glance

**N** Pacific Aviation Museum-Pearl Harbor needs volunteers to share Hawai'i's aviation and military history with visitors to historic Ford Island. Volunteer opportunities are available as tour docents, education program docents, greeters and theater operations, etc. Training and instructional manual are provided. Orientation and continuing education for volunteers will be at 3 p.m. the third Saturday of every month at the museum. FMI: 441-1012 or email [kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org](mailto:kt@pacificaviationmuseum.org).

## Sharkey Showtimes



### Vacancy (R)

When David and Amy's car breaks down in the middle of nowhere, they are forced to spend the night at the only motel around, with only the TV to entertain them... until they discover that the low-budget slasher movies they're watching were all filmed in the very room they're sitting in. With hidden cameras now aimed at them... trapping them in rooms, crawlspaces, underground tunnels... and filming their every move, David and Amy must struggle to get out alive before whomever is watching them can finish their latest masterpiece.

**TODAY**  
7:00 PM Fracture (R)

**SATURDAY**  
2:30 PM Lucky You (PG 13)  
6:00 PM Spider Man 3 (PG 13)

**SUNDAY**  
2:30 PM The Invisible (PG 13)  
4:45 PM Georgia Rule (R)  
7:00 PM 28 Weeks Later (R)

**MONDAY**  
2:30 PM Vacancy (R)

