

USS Port Royal celebrates African-American Heritage Month

Story and photos by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

February marks the national annual observance of African-American Heritage Month, a time when a grateful nation celebrates the many notable contributions made by African-American leaders, activists and service members.

Today, roughly 72,000 African-American officers and enlisted Sailors and civilians serve in the U.S. Navy. About 94,000 African-Americans serve in Navy's total force. The African-American Sailors of USS Port Royal (CG-73) are among the many dedicated Sailors committed not only to their work but also to serving their country.

After enlisting in the Navy on November 2008 at 32 years old, Logistics Specialist 3rd Class Namon Richardson said becoming a Sailor "later in life" has proven to be a very beneficial move for both his family and potential naval career.

"To be honest, 10 years ago, I never thought I would have joined any type of military service, but the Navy has been very good to me and my family," said the South Carolina native. "I was looking down the road and knew I wanted job security and benefits in order to provide for my family. The Navy gave us all of that."

Richardson said as an "older" junior enlisted Sailor he appreciates the opportunities and diversity the Navy offers to Sailors.

"The Navy's diversity is one thing I really appreciated when I joined," he said. "I've always had an open mind to other races and cultures, but in my hometown there have been times where I have experienced racial tension. For example, they still fly a Confederate flag over the state capital. But you keep a positive attitude and move past it. You don't let the small stuff bother you."

"I do more mentoring than the average young Sailor does," he said. "A lot of people in my pay grade are 19 or 20 years old, so I spend a lot of time sharing my personal experiences with them and keeping them motivated. I honestly believe your Navy experience is what you make out of it. You should always keep a positive attitude know certain things are beyond your control."

Operation Specialist 1st Class (SW) Dakeish Oribello said being both a minority and a female in a male-dominat-

ed career field has posed unique challenges during her 16-year naval career.

"As an African-American female, I recognize that my struggle has been a little harder because I am a minority in a male-dominated career field," said the New Jersey native. "Since I was an E-4, I've always been in a leadership position and I've had to work twice as hard as my male counterparts. It makes me think of all of the African-American women that have gone before me and keeps me grounded. I know that although my struggle is hard, it is nothing compared to those in the past," she added.

Gunner's Mate Chief (SW) Jaye Bell said his grandfather, a Navy veteran, gave him a unique perspective of being an African-American during WWII.

"My grandfather used to always say that the biggest conflict he had was fighting for a country that he felt did not appreciate him," recalled the Georgia native. "He struggled with doing even the mundane things like colors because he wanted to feel that sense of patriotism like the guy next to him. But after years of mistreatment, there was that voice of doubt."

As a Navy chief, Bell said he is grateful for the sacrifices made by his predecessors, such as his grandfather and other Sailors who served before him.

"The Navy has given me the greatest opportunity ever, period," he said. "I don't have the doubt my grandfather had when he served. I can appreciate every aspect of my career and now feel a sense of pride helping my Sailors get their sea legs, mature and advance in rank. Especially after the Obama election, we know there is no limit to what African-Americans or any race can achieve," he added.

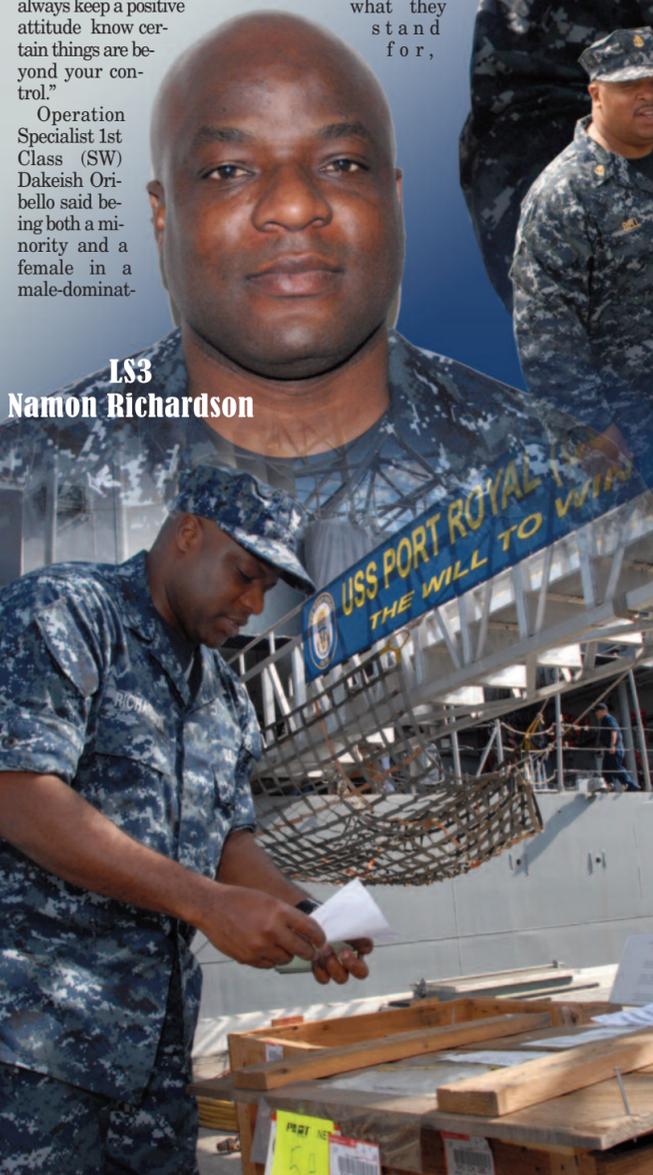
According to Command Master Chief (SW) Mack Ellis, the beauty of the U.S. Navy is that everyone is given the same opportunities despite their race.

"In the Navy, we do not look at someone's race; we look at the person," he said. "We are looking at everyone for what they stand for,

their worth and merit. As a command master chief, I have had to work with all kinds of commanding officers and have managed to have great working relationships with every one of them. We never talked about our cultural differences; we talk about one another and our families," he added.

Namon said, ultimately, America is comprised of all races whose historical contributions have sustained it as one of the greatest countries in the world.

"At the end of the day, we [as Sailors] may be different colors, but we all bleed red," he said. "We are on the same team and fighting for one cause. We are the red, white and blue."



IS3 Namon Richardson



OS1 (SW) Dakeish Oribello

GMC (SW) Jaye Bell

CMC Mack Ellis

Naval Station ends Seabees' Cinderella run

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

After capturing the ashore intramural flag football regular-season championship with an outstanding 13-1 record, Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA) kept its run to the base title alive and well by stopping the Seabees, 28-0, in the finals of league playoffs at Ward Field, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, on Jan. 28.

NAVSTA will square off against the winner of the Afloat League playoffs, which is being rescheduled by Morale, Welfare and Recreation after the games were canceled on Jan. 30 due to rain.

While NAVSTA's entry into the ashore championship game took no one by surprise, the Seabees, which rode into the playoffs as the eighth and final seed, raised quite a few eyebrows when they beat Joint Intelligence Operation Center (JIOC), the league's No. 3 seed, before winning in the semi-finals over Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii (NIOC), who finished the regular season in second place behind NAVSTA.

The Seabees struggled early in the year and were about to pull out of the league before an influx of free-agent players at mid-season breathed life back into the squad.

Ensign Doug Hawk, who started off the season as a member of NAVSTA, was among the players who helped resurrect the Seabees, which, with Hawk at QB, slowly turned the tide heading into the playoffs.

However, in the title fi-

nale, the Seabees' quest for a fairy-tale ending came to a screeching halt as NAVSTA unleashed a torrid attack on both sides of the ball to earn a mercy-rule victory.

Navy News Sports

Although quarterback Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Jackson had an ominous beginning by throwing an interception on his second pass of the game, the elusive signal-caller quickly put NAVSTA back on track by coming up with two big third-down conversions enroute to the team's first TD of the game.

"We got off to a slow start, but getting those conversions kept the momentum going for the game," admitted Jackson. "Once we got those, it was downhill from there."

The drive, which started on NAVSTA's own 27-yard line, culminated with Jackson taking it in from 10 yards out. The team converted its point after touchdown to take an early 7-0 lead.

With NAVSTA's offense coming around, it was the defense's turn to shine as Chief Fire Controlman Ryan York immediately got the ball back by picking off a Hawk pass to set up first down at the Seabees' 30-yard line.

Three plays later, Jackson tossed a one-yard pass to Ensign Rod Smith for a touchdown – giving NAVSTA a 13-0 advantage at half-time.

NAVSTA continued to roll in the second half and even benefited when the Seabees came up



with a big play.

With NAVSTA at the Seabees' one-yard line, Jackson's pass was batted at the line of scrimmage by defensive lineman Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Robert Stirrup – another late-season addition to the Seabees – only to have the ball ricochet back into the hands of Jackson, who calmly threw the ball to Smith for a touchdown.

While the Seabees argued that the play was an illegal forward pass, the game's referees threw no flag.

Throughout the game, the Seabees struggled to gain ground on offense against an active NAVSTA defense, which used a strong pass rush from Operations Specialist 2nd Class Donte East and an airtight secondary led by York.

"We just play disciplined and stay at home," explained York about NAVSTA's defense, which held the Seabees without a first down until 40 seconds remained in the first half. "We're not doing anything fancy. It's just basic defense."

Jackson stated that while the dominating performance should give NAVSTA a huge boost as they await the outcome of the Afloat playoffs, he and his teammates realize that there is still one more game to win.

"I've been here before and never won it," said Jackson. "I'm taking nothing for granted. We got to finish strong."

Master-at-Arms Seaman Brandon Thomason of Naval Station Pearl Harbor stretches out to haul in a pass during the team's showdown against the Seabees in the Afloat Intramural Flag Football League championship game at Ward Field, Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Jan. 28.



Photo courtesy of Navy Hale Keiki School

Attendees admire art pieces during Navy Hale Keiki School's fundraising auction in 2009. This year's event will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Koolau Ballrooms at the Koolau Golf Course.

Navy Hale Keiki School will host annual auction

Navy Hale Keiki School

Navy Hale Keiki School will host its 17th annual auction from 6 to 10 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Koolau Ballrooms in Kaneohe.

Come explore the adventures of 'Under the Sea' in the "glass room" with 180-degree panoramic views. Dinner includes a full buffet as well as a full cash bar. There will be silent auction baskets, many items from local vendors, items from the mainland such as pro football paraphernalia, and dessert items.

Local artists, painter Gary Reed, known for his Hawaiian landscapes, and photographer Glenn Poulin, who 'brings Hawaii's exquisite scenic and aquatic life into your home or business,' will both discuss inspirations to their art and will be avail-

able to sign auctioned pieces.

The proceeds will assist Navy Hale Keiki School as they grow to purchase an additional modular building to house a fourth grade class as well as an extended library/computer room. The auction is open to the public.

Please contact Laura Chivers at alohachivers@hawaii.rr.com or Valerie Manoa at Curriculum-StudentAdv@NHKS.org with any questions.

Navy Hale Keiki (house of children) School was organized and established in 1946 as a non-profit organization serving the military and civilian community. The school operates through a use agreement with the United States Navy, Pearl Harbor, and is governed by a board of governors.

'Singing Valentines' serenade island sweethearts

Story and photo by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

For those not interested in the usual confectionary and flower Valentine gifts, members of the local barbershop chorus chapter, known as the 'Singing Valentines,' are offering their own unique musical twist on the romantic holiday.

According to Hank Drayton, a retired Navy captain and co-chairman of Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus (SOA), giving the gift of a 'singing valentine' is a unique heartfelt approach to a sentimental holiday.

"It seems to bring out the best in both the sender and the recipient," he said. "It also brings such a range of responses. When I'm asked what the 'typical' reaction is, I say both smiles and tears."

The Singing Valentines have been an annual fundraiser for the SOA Barbershop Chorus for the last 20 years and offers a creative way to deliver special valentine messages to local residents, business people and military families living on Oahu.

Founded in 1947, the SOA chapter was created to entertain local and mainland audiences with its unique sounds, offbeat humor and heartfelt presentation. Out of the 70-plus SOA members, there are 40 active performers



Courtesy photo

The Singing Valentines are comprised of active duty and retired service members from the Navy and other military services, as well as members from the civilian community.

who have performed in competitions all over the world.

Barbershop quartets came into popularity in the 1940s and are best known for their signature cappella delivery and four-part harmonies, which include lead, tenor, bass and baritone vocals.

Don Raymond, who lends bass vocals to the barbershop quartet, said he has enjoyed serenading sweethearts for the past 20 years as a Singing Valentine.

Throughout the years, Raymond has sung hundreds of valentines in many interesting locations, including military bases, schools, home residences and hospitals.

"The most amazing thing is the cross section of people who request these valentines," said Raymond.

"For example, one day we delivered a singing valentine to a dinner party at a swanky estate and then immediately visited a young Sailor, his wife and baby at their small studio apartment in Waikiki."

Raymond said throughout his years as a Singing Valentine, he has especially enjoyed his interactions with the military community.

"The military [valentines] can be especially touching because typically the recipient can be the spouse of a deployed Soldier," he said. "One gig that sticks out was when we went to a dinner cruise a couple of years ago and sang for about a dozen spouses of deployed Marines. Their husbands had also written a letter to their wives that we delivered to them. It was a

wonderful surprise and very emotional for everyone there," he recalled.

The Singing Valentines quartet will travel upon request from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during Feb. 12, 13 and 14 to a variety of locations all over Oahu. The group will perform two to three barbershop-style songs as well as present a card and silk rose to the recipient.

Drayton said for the past several years, the Singing Valentines average about 100 or more requests every Valentine season. Since this year's Feb. 14 falls on a Sunday, he is hoping to accommodate requests for office environments by adding an additional day of valentine delivery.

"This year we are delivering on three days instead of the usual two, so that we can deliver on a week day (Friday) for those who want their delivery to take place at the recipient's workplace," he added.

The cost of singing deliveries is a donation that goes toward the group's various fees, including rental of rehearsal halls and traveling expenses. For more information about the 'Singing Valentines,' visit

www.262song.com. For those interested in joining the chorus or for more information about the Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus, visit www.soundsofaloaha.org.

NEX shuttle ends its service to Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe

Stephanie Lau

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Customer Relation Manger

The Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) shuttle bus

made its final pick up of customers at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe on Jan. 31.

Command Master Chief Donald Krampert and Frank Ilderton, NEX operations manager, decided to not ex-

tend the 60-day pilot program due to lack of participation. The program was intended to provide a convenient, free transportation service to the uniform shop and NEX Mall at Pearl Harbor.

With the rollout of the

Navy working uniform (NWU) and the holiday shopping season, there were high hopes for shuttle participation. The highest level of participation was 11 passengers on the first weekend of the service (Dec. 5). After that,

ridership declined to an average of four passengers each weekend.

The NEX will continue to provide free round-trip service to active duty military, family members and military retirees along its normal

route throughout the Pearl Harbor area with stops at various key locations around base.

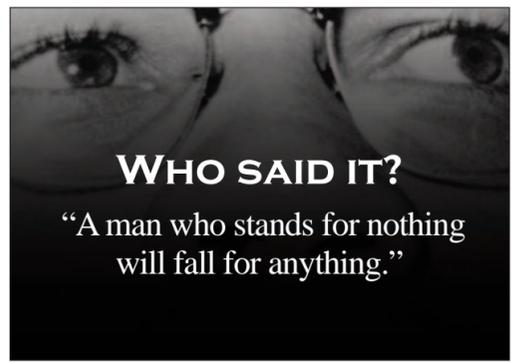
For more information on the NEX shuttle servicing the Pearl Harbor area, call 423-3344.

Skylark CENTRAL

WORD SEARCH

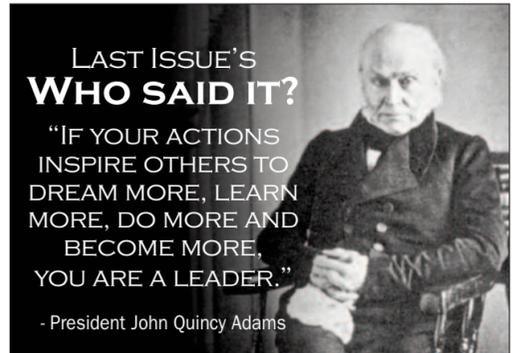
Find these 39 ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTS

BASS CLARINET	TUBA	C N A L O I V N A D F O T B E P B S O
DOUBLE BASS	CELLO	O A O Y E A V I O L I N S L B R L T O
TAMBOURINE	OBOE	N A S A A O U U B P I U G L L A W E E
BASS DRUM	VIBRAPHONE	T A M T A M B O U R I N E U B H E N T
ENGLISH HORN	CHIMES	R T L L A L C O R G A N A M I E O I U
TENOR DRUM	ORGAN	A B U C E N R T R I G P Y P B B E R G
BASS TROMBONE	VIOLA	B O I B B I E O R L U C H I M E S A M
FLUTE	CLARINET	A S A T A S P T I E L G G O R I G L U
TENOR TROMBONE	PIANO	S S E M S B A S S C L A R I N E T C R
BASSOON	VIOLIN	S E L U S B H G N S O T N P O E C T D
FRENCH HORN	CONGAS	O N N R O H H C N E R F N L G E E M S
TIMPANI	PICCOLO	O O A D O G T E N O K O E C L M L A S
BONGOS	WHIP	N H O R N N S G N L C C S L W O E O A
GLOCKENSPIEL	CONTRABASSOON	I P N O E U A E N O B M O R T S S A B
TRIANGLE	SNARE DRUM	K O M N N D T I I C E H G L G D T A R
CASTANETS	WOOD BLOCK	T L A E O U R L P C L B N B G A A A C
GUIRO	CYMBALS	N Y O T L E R U E I W O O D B L O C K
TRUMPET	TAM-TAM	O X U F T T R U M P E T B E I A L S M
CELESTA	XYLOPHONE	
HARP		



WHO SAID IT?

“A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything.”



LAST ISSUE'S WHO SAID IT?

“IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.”

- President John Quincy Adams

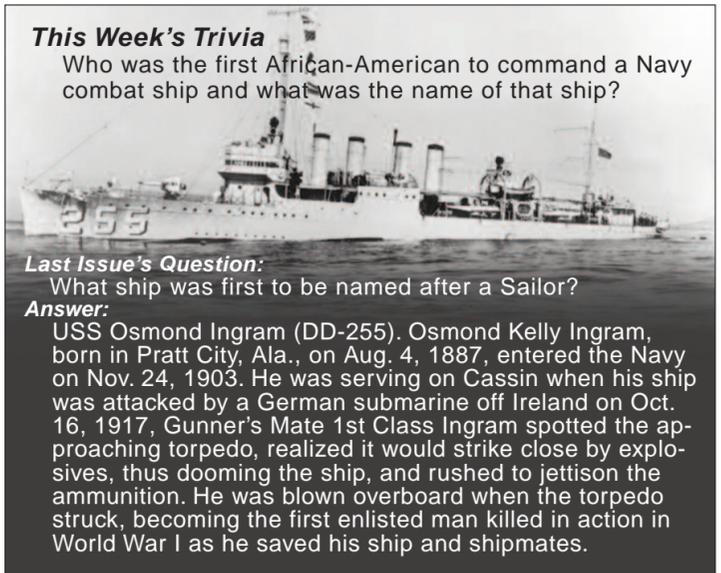
WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

Find these 36 english words of AFRICAN ORIGIN

AARDVARK	BOOGIE-WOOGIE	H S E T O T M E I B M O Z B
DIK-DIK	JUKE	O E D O S S P A T R J M O A
MARIMBA	TANGO	O G O O B E R O O N H O G A
AARDWOLF	CHIGGER	D A I T A T E A A K G K K G
GOOBER	KUDU	O I J N E S A B M I R A M N
MOJO	TOTE	O B M I L E I N E B I P A O
APARTHEID	CHIMPANZEE	D B J O S F A W G D S I O C
GUMBO	KWANZAA	O U M A J L O H T O L K H H
MUMBO JUMBO	TSETSE	O B M U J O B M U M G I D I
BANANA	COLA	V B E W G W K T I A M H W G
HOODOO	LIMBO	A M E I E D W R R P O S I G
OKAPI	VOODOO	D I E H T R A P A B M A M E
BANJO	CONGA	I R K I A A N N O V L D P R
IMPALA	MACAQUE	K E U R O A Z A A O D G A M
OKRA	WILDEBEEST	D U J U J E A A C N O R L E
BASENJI	DASHIKI	I A D I E O A E U Q A C A M
JUJU	MAMBA	K R K U M K A E A A E B O A
SAMBA	ZOMBIE	

This Week's Trivia

Who was the first African-American to command a Navy combat ship and what was the name of that ship?



Last Issue's Question:
What ship was first to be named after a Sailor?

Answer:
USS Osmond Ingram (DD-255). Osmond Kelly Ingram, born in Pratt City, Ala., on Aug. 4, 1887, entered the Navy on Nov. 24, 1903. He was serving on Cassin when his ship was attacked by a German submarine off Ireland on Oct. 16, 1917. Gunner's Mate 1st Class Ingram spotted the approaching torpedo, realized it would strike close by explosives, thus dooming the ship, and rushed to jettison the ammunition. He was blown overboard when the torpedo struck, becoming the first enlisted man killed in action in World War I as he saved his ship and shipmates.

Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

Morale Welfare & Recreation

❖ SUPER GARAGE SALE AND CRAFT FAIR
 Pearl Harbor Morale, Welfare and Recreation will hold a Super Garage Sale and Craft Fair from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Richardson Field on Kamehameha Highway across from Aloha Stadium. Common items for sale normally include fitness and outdoor recreation equipment, furniture, toys, books, and clothing (especially for children). FMI: 473-0606 or www.greatlifehawaii.com.

❖ GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR ADOLESCENT AND TEEN
 Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) will offer a class on "Good Communication with your Adolescent and Teen" (ages 11-18) from 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 8 at the Moanalua Navy Services Center, 4827 Bougainville Drive, Honolulu, near the Navy Exchange and Navy-Marine Golf Course. The class will feature tips on reflective listening, effective communication skills and how to be an "approachable" parent. The class is free and open to active duty, reserve, retired personnel, family members and Department of Defense employees. FMI: 474-1999.

❖ SEATTLE SEA GALS SWEETHEART BARBECUE
 The Seattle Seagals will host a free meet and greet event on Feb. 12 at Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station with a lunchtime barbecue at the Wahiawa Annex. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. There will be a sweetheart Hawaiian luau at Liberty in Paradise at 5:30 p.m. The event is open to all single Sailors and their sponsored guests 18 and older. FMI: 473-4279.

❖ FREE YOUTH NFL AND CHEERLEADING CLINIC
 There will be a free youth NFL and cheerleading clinic from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at Kapiolani Park. Military youth ages nine to 18 years old are welcome to participate in these free clinics with NFL players and cheerleaders giving tips, discussions and directions. Space is limited and registration is via the Web site online. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com or 474-3501.

❖ HAWAII ALL-NAVY BOWLING TRYOUTS
 Play six games per day against other Navy bowlers in the All-Navy Bowling Tryouts from Feb. 17 to 19 starting at 10 a.m. at the Naval Station Bowling Center. The top six males and top four females will advance to the Hawaii All-Military Bowling Tournament in April. The cost is \$12 per person each day. Spectators are welcome to cheer for their Navy team. FMI: 473-2574.

For more information on Navy Region Hawaii MWR events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

❖ February

❖ 5-12 ~ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) will host 'furlough Friday' events on these dates from noon to 2 p.m. Visit the new Navy Exchange reading area (located next to the second floor near the main check out) for this free event. Participants will be able to make and take their own Valentines cards with no purchase necessary. FMI: 423-3287.

❖ 12 ~ The deadline is Feb. 12 to sign up for the Marine Corps Community Service Hawaii and Combat Logistics Battalion-3 (CLB-3) Swamp Romp which will be held on Feb. 20. CLB-3 Swamp Romp is an obstacle course six-person teams go through that includes mud, crawling, jumping and swinging. The event is open to active duty members of all military branches and their family members. Hawaii's dirtiest footrace begins at the Boondocker building, neighboring the Marine Corps Exchange Annex parking lot. FMI: Capt. Dennis Hansen at 471-9476 or email at dennis.m.hansen@navy.mil.

❖ 12, 13, 14 ~ Lovers may send their sweethearts a unique Valentine, performed by a barbershop quartet on Feb. 12, 13 and 14 from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on other days (limited) for special events. Quartets will present a card, silk rose and two songs at any location including restaurants, workplaces, residences and hospitals. To reserve a time or FMI: call 262-SONG (7664), or visit www.262-SONG.com or www.HawaiiSingingValentines.com

❖ Now

Joint Services Hawaii presents "Feel Like A Million," an online health improvement program to help you maximize energy using a fun-interactive game show theme. The program is a motivating competition where participants learn stress-reducing and energy-producing activities like exercise, eating healthy and a wellness plan. The program is free and open to all adult military community members including all branches and active duty, family, civilians and retirees. Team and individual registration began Jan. 25 and competition starts Feb. 15. To register, visit <http://hickam.ifeellikeamillion.com>. FMI: Hickam H-PARC at 448-6170.

Sharkey Showtimes



Sherlock Holmes (PG 13)

In a dynamic new portrayal of Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous characters, Sherlock Holmes and his stalwart partner Watson embark on their latest challenge. Revealing fighting skills as lethal as his legendary intellect, Holmes battles as never before to bring down a new nemesis and unravel a deadly plot that could destroy the country.

TODAY
 7:00 PM Avatar (PG 13)

SATURDAY
 2:30 PM Alvin and the Chipmunks:
 Squeakquel (PG)
 4:45 PM Nine (PG 13)
 7:15 PM It's Complicated (R)

SUNDAY
 2:30 PM Alvin and the Chipmunks:
 Squeakquel (PG)
 4:45 PM Did You Hear About
 the Morgans (PG 13)
 7:00 PM Sherlock Holmes (PG 13)

THURSDAY
 7:00 PM Precious (R)

