

## Sailors, families share Thanksgiving at "OPERATION ALOHA"



**Continued from A-1**

Rear Adm. T.G. Alexander, commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, helped serve food to needy families during the event. He wished those in attendance a happy Thanksgiving and offered remarks on things for which he is thankful.

"I am thankful for a great many things. What I am most grateful for is for the lady wearing the blue shirt in the back of the room who agreed to marry me 23 years ago," he told those gathered.

"As I drove up here from Pearl Harbor this morning, I was thinking about how thankful I am to be in such a beautiful place with such tremendous people. It's really an honor to be serving here in Hawai'i," he continued.

We have such tremendous people who

serve the people of Hawai'i and the state of Hawai'i," he said as he introduced Mazie Hirono, U.S. Representative for Hawai'i's Second District, and Michael Magaoay, state representative for Hawai'i's 46th District.

"I'm thankful that we have absolutely the finest young men and women who are hearing the call to serve and are stepping forward

wearing the cloth of our nation. I can guarantee you that our country is in very good hands as us old guys go out to pasture. There are a lot of extremely talented young folks [serving our country]," Alexander said.

Information Systems Technician 2nd Class (IT2) Maria Ramos from NCTAMSPAC, who helped in the kitchen during the dinner, said, "It was nice to help out many of our neighbors who had nowhere else to go." She added that many of them may not have had a Thanksgiving dinner if not for the Operation Aloha team.

IT2 Tara Alston, an NCTAMSPAC Sailor who has supported three Operation Aloha events, said that she believes in helping people less fortunate.

To start the Thanksgiving Day celebration, a local motorcycle group from New Hope Church Riding Club escorted four trucks carrying cooked turkeys from the Turtle Bay Resort kitchen. The group is a non-profit organization that does volunteer work around the island for the needy. Additionally, the club provided miniature American flags to all in

attendance.

Entertainment included a hula dancing group, Hula Halau by Na Lei Nani O Waialua; music by Waialua Community Center's Worship Choir; and guitar music by NCTAMSPAC Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Norris.

Norris, who has participated this year and in the last two Operation Aloha events, noted that the

event is a "necessary and purposeful lift for the community, an event of sharing and caring for our neighbors."

Those in attendance waved American flags as Chenise Blalock closed the event with a touching rendition of "God Bless America."

Last but definitely not least, Santa Claus made a surprise appearance to share in the hospitality.

Many of the guests left the event with tears in their eyes and thanked the Navy and community volunteers for their time and effort in making their Thanksgiving Day a special one.

ITCM Donald Hair from NCTAMSPAC, who was part of the Operation Aloha organizing team, explained, "My family and I love to support those less fortunate than we are."



# Window on Pearl Harbor

Karen S. Spangler, Editor

karen.spangler@navy.mil



## 'Tis the season...and I'm not ready

**Karen S. Spangler**

*Editor*

All of a sudden, the holiday season has crept up and caught me off guard. It seems like it was just yesterday that we were celebrating Halloween and even though the stores were beginning to "look a lot like Christmas," I was ignoring the whole issue.

But now – amid the tinkling bells of Salvation Army volunteers manning their kettles, holiday music floating from local radio stations, and houses already framed with hanging icicles of colored lights – I have to face the facts. Christmas – which despite all of the admonitions to be "politically correct" is still Christmas to me – is only 24 short days away.

So here I am – the tree isn't up and decorated, I haven't done a bit of shopping (I find those of you who are organized enough to begin their shopping for the yule season in July totally annoying), and sad to say, I'm not at all in the spirit of the season – not yet.

Don't get me wrong – I love the holiday season and once I get into the spirit of things, there's no stopping me. But correct me if I'm wrong, it's hard to deal with something that just sort of sneaks up on you without any warning. After all, it seems like it was just a few short months ago that I took down my Christmas tree and put away the holiday music.

Maybe a little chilly weather and snow would help. After wading through snow from November to

March in northwestern Pennsylvania where I grew up, and sliding around on slippery roads on the stuff, I'm not a very fond proponent of snow. But I think that just a few flakes during the holiday season – and especially on Christmas Eve – would be a nice touch. However, that isn't going to happen.

Now that all of my children are grown up, Christmas has undergone some changes. We still hold to the cherished family traditions and have all of our memories of past yules.

But some things have changed. For example, no one at our house believes in Santa Claus anymore. Some of the Christmas magic is gone – along with the days when we left out cookies and milk for the jolly old man and some oatmeal for his faithful reindeer team. It isn't quite as much fun watching the "kids" unwrap their presents – now that they know that it really was mom who brought them.

But I still have a great time picking out those special gifts and watching the smiles on their faces when they undo the wrapping paper.

Admittedly, I miss those days when there were Barbies and tea sets and trains and games and we spent Christmas Day watching the kids play with their new toys or even sitting down on the floor, pretending that we were children for just a while, and joining in the fun. It's a little harder to do that these days – since the presents consist of clothes



(which aren't my size or style), video games (I admit to being uncoordinated), and CDs (usually music that I don't listen to and can't understand).

These days, I leave most of the tree trimming and decorating to my children. And we still have the old traditions, but with some fresh, new ideas. Blending the old with the new is a nice touch to the festivities.

One of the new traditions that we started a few years ago was attending the Nutcracker Ballet. We love the production, the costumes and the music and it just seems to set the tone for the holiday season.

So...with just 24 days left to go, I need to get started. I'll turn up the Christmas music, get into the shopping hustle with other frenzied shoppers, and throw myself into the preparations of the holiday season.

It will all come together – just in time – as it does every year. And as my family unwraps their presents – mischievously tagged with "from Santa" by jolly old mom – and we share in the food, the music and the joy of the season, I'll find myself wishing that it could all last just a little longer. But not to worry...Christmas will be here again in the blink of an eye....and I won't be ready.

Mele Kalikimaka!

# Hope Award recognizes selfless service to service members

**Jim Garamone**

*American Forces Press Service*

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard each honored one of their own at a Pentagon ceremony held Nov. 19 with an award named for actor-comedian Bob Hope.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. George W. Casey Jr. hosted the Spirit of Hope Awards ceremony.

The award honors Hope's values of duty, honor, courage, loyalty, commitment, integrity and selfless dedication, said Michael Kagin, the award's originator. It recognizes individuals or organizations who have "selflessly contributed an extraordinary amount of time, talent or resources to significantly enhance the quality of life of service members around the world," he said.

Bob Hope traveled the world under the United Service Organizations (USO) banner to entertain American service members wherever they were stationed. His first USO show was at March Field, Calif. in 1941 and his last USO tour entertained forces in the Persian Gulf War in 1990. The U.S. Congress recognized Hope at an honorary veteran of the U.S. armed forces. He died in 2003, two months after his 100th birthday.

The Army recognized retired Chaplain (Col.) Lyle Metzler for his lifelong contributions. Metzler served two tours in Vietnam as a Special Forces officer. He retired from the military and became a chaplain, where he became dedicated to working with Soldiers and their families. In 2005, he volunteered to serve as chaplain for the 145th Medical Battalion and its five associated units as it deployed to Afghanistan. He

served as a personal mentor and counselor to several Soldiers and their families.

The Navy honored James W. Carrier for his efforts to improve the lives of veterans and for aid to wounded warriors. Carrier helped to raise \$40 million for the Center for the Intrepid wounded warrior rehabilitation facility at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and for the Fisher House Foundation, which builds housing so the relatives of wounded service members can visit them as they recover. He also raised money for the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund.

Air Force Master Sgt. Louis D. Pell received the award for a lifetime of outreach to Airmen and veterans. Assigned to Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., Pell coordinated and participated in many volunteer efforts, including blood drives, muscular dystrophy fundraising and reading to elementary school students.

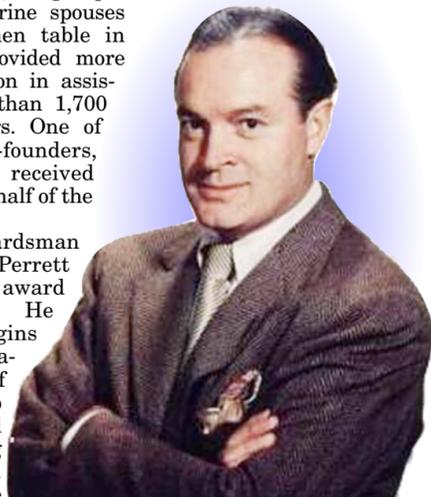
The Marine Corps recognized the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund for its efforts to provide financial assistance to Marines injured in combat or training. With the generosity and support of the American people, the group – founded by Marine spouses around a kitchen table in 2004 – has provided more than \$9.4 million in assistance to more than 1,700 service members. One of the group's co-founders, Wendy Lethin, received the award on behalf of the fund.

Coast Guardsman Marvin J. Perrett received his award posthumously. He piloted a Higgins boat in the invasions of Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II. After the war, he

returned to his native New Orleans and became a leader in establishing the National World War II Museum there. Perrett traveled the country telling a new generation the Coast Guard's story.

Casey recalled that Bob Hope received the Sylvanus Thayer Award in 1968 at West Point. In his speech, the comedian said that "living in America is a great privilege. The only thing greater is that wonderful feeling in your heart when you know that you deserve that privilege, that you have paid for your little slice of freedom."

Casey said that much has changed since 1968, when the West Point class was ready to deploy to Vietnam. "We're fighting a different war, we're fighting a different enemy, but what America stands for – life liberty and the pursuit of happiness – has remained constant," Casey said. "And our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and their families are bearing a heavy burden now after six years of war. (The honorees') efforts are especially worthy of note and recognition. They epitomize the values of Bob Hope."



## Oahu's first tree lighting ceremony kicks off at Tripler Army Medical Center

Story and photo by  
Tripler Army Medical  
Center Public Affairs

On behalf of Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC), Commanding General Maj. Gen. Carla Hawley-Bowland invites the public to attend Tripler's holiday tree lighting ceremony. The

event will be held at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 3 next to the oceanside entrance of Tripler.

The ceremony will include entertainment by the Voices of Tripler and other local performers, remarks by the commanding general and presentation of awards for the best designed holiday card, and the presentation of the command and colors.

The commanding general and a pre-selected volunteer will do the honors of lighting the tree. Then holiday caroling will begin to let Santa know it's time for his arrival.

In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be at the Kyser Auditorium, located just inside the oceanside entrance of Tripler.

Tripler's tree lighting ceremony lights up the skies over Oahu during last year's tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 4, 2006. Tripler's annual tree lighting ceremony is the first tree lighting ceremony on Oahu, signaling the holiday season is in full swing.

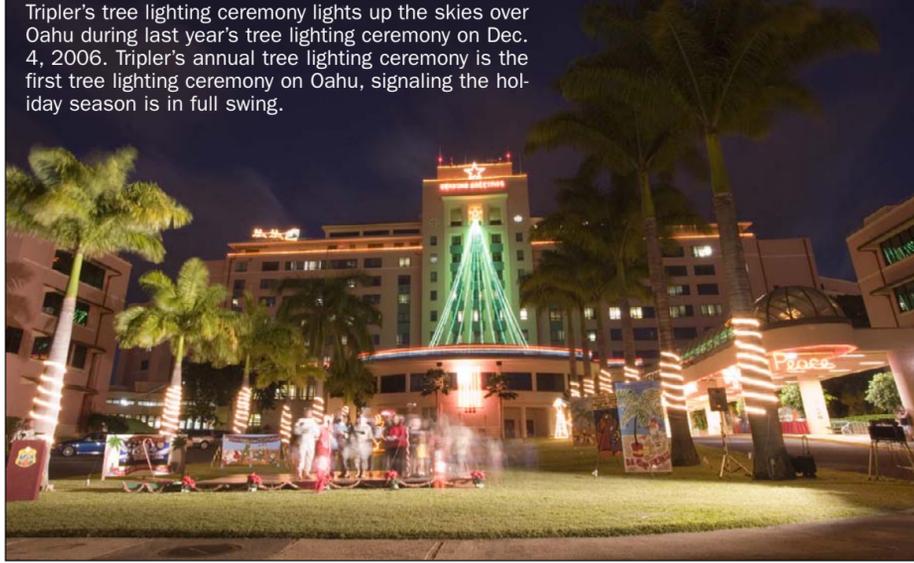


Photo courtesy of Pacific Aviation Museum

Lt. Col. Dick Cole, Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot on the daring Doolittle Raid, will give an after-hours presentation at the Pacific Aviation Museum on historic Ford Island.

## Doolittle's co-pilot to speak at PAM

Pacific Aviation Museum  
Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Dick Cole, Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot on the daring Doolittle Raid, will give an after-hours presentation at the Pacific Aviation Museum on historic Ford Island at 7 p.m. Dec. 7. Reservations are required. Call 441-1000.

The museum will be open for extended hours from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Dec. 7.

Cole will be available for a book signing along with Gen. Doolittle's granddaughter, Jonna Doolittle Hoppes,

author of "Calculated Risk," from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 8-9 at the museum.

Admission to the museum is free for museum members and military in uniform on Dec. 8-9.

Visitors to the museum can experience history where it was made and learn about it from those who made it.

For more information about Lt Col. Dick Cole's and Jonna Doolittle Hoppes' visit and the Pacific Aviation Museum-Pearl Harbor, visit [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org) or call 441-1000.



Lt. Col. Dick Cole

# Skylark CENTRAL

## Find these 41 words that mean **Evaluate**

WORD SEARCH

- |           |              |             |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| ANALYZE   | BRACKET      | COLLATE     |
| CRITICIZE | ESTIMATE     | GRADE       |
| MEASURE   | RANK         | STUDY       |
| ANNOTATE  | CALCULATE    | COMPARE     |
| CRITIQUE  | EXAMINE      | GUESSTIMATE |
| OPPOSE    | RATE         | SURVEY      |
| APPRAISE  | CATEGORIZE   | CONSIDER    |
| DEEM      | FIGURE       | JUDGE       |
| ORDER     | RECKON       | VALUE       |
| ASSAY     | CHARACTERIZE | CONTRAST    |
| DISCUSS   | FORECAST     | JUXTAPOSE   |
| PERCEIVE  | REGARD       | WEIGH       |
| ASSESS    | CLASS        | CORRELATE   |
| EQUATE    | GAUGE        |             |
| PRICE     | REVIEW       |             |

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

## Who said it?

“Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway.”



## Answer to last week's **WHO SAID IT?**

“LEADERSHIP IS A POTENT COMBINATION OF STRATEGY AND CHARACTER. BUT IF YOU MUST BE WITHOUT ONE, BE WITHOUT THE STRATEGY.”

*Norman Schwarzkopf*

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

## Find these 14 words for *Thanksgiving*

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| Thanksgiving | Feast          |
| Turkey       | Corn           |
| Cranberries  | Harvest        |
| Stuffing     | Horn of Plenty |
| Pilgrims     | Mayflower      |
| Indians      | November       |
| Colonies     | Plymouth       |

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

## Q. Who was the first U.S. naval officer?

**Last week's question...**  
 What was the name of the Japanese destroyer that sank PT-109, commanded by Lt. John F. Kennedy, on Aug. 2, 1943?

**Answer...** Amigiri

# Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

Morale Welfare & Recreation



## WINTER SPORTS CAMPS

A variety of weekly winter sports camps will be offered from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, 2008. Parents can sign up their children for basketball (ages six to 12), tennis (ages six to 17) and hockey (ages 10 to 14). Registration will be from Nov. 26-Dec. 7 at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) youth sports office, building 3456 at 620 Main St. The camps are open to all family members of active duty and Department of Defense personnel. Cost and dates vary. FMI: call 474-3501 or visit [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com).

## CYBER CAMP

Parents can sign up their children for Cyber Camp, a high tech camp which will teach the fundamentals of how to design Web sites and games and the essentials of digital photography. Registration will be on a first come, first served basis through Dec. 12 at Catlin Clubhouse and will close when full. There are two sessions to choose from – Jan. 2-5 for ages 13 to 17 years old will focus on Web design and game design. Week two from Jan. 7-11 for ages 7 to 12 years old will focus on digital photography and graphic design. Camps will be held at the Richardson Training Center, just above Richardson Pool. Camps are open to all eligible Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) patrons. FMI: 421-1556 or visit [www.greatlifehawaii.com](http://www.greatlifehawaii.com).

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

Community Calendar

## November

**Today** - Community flu shots will be available for non-active duty military beneficiaries from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Navy Exchange at Pearl Harbor. All TRICARE beneficiaries with Department of Defense-issued identification cards are encouraged to receive the flu shots. Additional dates have been scheduled for December.



## December

**7, 8, 9** - Lt. Col. Dick Cole, Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot during the Doolittle Raid, will speak at Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island at 7 p.m. Dec. 7. Reservations are required for the after-hours presentation. Cole and Jonna Doolittle Hoppes, Doolittle's granddaughter and author of "Calculated Risk," will be available for book signings from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dec. 8-9 at the museum. There will be free admission for museum members and military in uniform on Dec. 8-9. FMI: 441-1000.

Sharkey Showtimes



## Gone Baby Gone (R)

Two young private detectives are hired to take a closer look at the mysterious disappearance of a little girl and soon discover that nothing is what it seems. Ultimately, they will have to risk everything – their relationship, their sanity and even their lives – to find a little girl-lost.

### TODAY

7:00 PM Rendition (R)

### SATURDAY

2:30 PM The Seeker: The Dark is Rising (PG)

4:45 PM Dan in Real Life (PG 13)

7:00 PM Tyler Perry's

Why Did I Get Married (PG 13)

### SUNDAY

2:30 PM The Seeker: The Dark is Rising (PG)

4:45 PM Elizabeth: The Golden Age (PG 13)

7:15 PM Michael Clayton (R)

### THURSDAY

7:00 PM Gone Baby Gone (R)

