

Ceremony honors former POWs, MIAs

Story and photo by
MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii's
Public Affairs

In honor of National Former POW (Prisoner of War) Remembrance Day, 41 former prisoners of war (POWs) visited the USS Arizona Memorial and the Pacific Aviation Museum on April 7.

The former POWs made the ninth annual trip to Honolulu to observe National Former POW Remembrance Day and participate in the POW/missing in action (MIA) recognition ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on April 9.

"The former POWs always look forward to the opportunity to visit the different memorials at Pearl Harbor," said Tommy Tahara, director of events for the recognition ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl).

While at the USS Arizona Memorial, the former POWs held a moment of silence to pay tribute to the Sailors and Marines who perished during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

"The sacrifices that the Sailors and Marines made



Photo illustration

Former Vietnam prisoners of war (POW) view the names of perished Sailors and Marines in the shrine room of the USS Arizona Memorial during a tour of historic Pearl Harbor. Forty-one former POWs made the ninth annual trip to Honolulu to observe National Former POW Remembrance Day and participate in the POW/missing in action recognition ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on April 9.

during the attacks is a very important part of the United States' history and they deserve to be honored with dignity and respect," said William Norwood, a former POW from the Korean War.

During the tour, the veterans observed vari-

ous historic sites including the USS Utah Memorial and the Battleship Missouri Memorial.

"All the Sailors and Marines who perished made a remarkable contribution during the attacks and they will be

honored by fellow service members forever," said Lee Jenks, a former World War II prisoner of war.

Each year, April 9 is set aside to honor the commitment and the sacrifices made by POWs. The date commemorates

when the largest number of Americans were captured in the Conquest of Bataan during World War II.

"The POWs have given so much to our country. They have traveled to Hawaii from all over the country to honor and pay

their respects to their fellow service members who are no longer among us," said Tahara. "Many of them have known each other for years and it's a good opportunity for them to reminisce about the memories that they have."



Groundbreaking launches Kauai Veterans Eternal Memorial

(Above) From left to right, Kawaiho'onani Patrick, Phillip Kahue, Turk Tokita, U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), Aletha Kaohi, Capt. Aaron Cudnohufsky, Rear Adm. Joe Horn and Riki Ellison break the earth in a ceremony dedicated to the construction of the Kauai Veterans Eternal Memorial and Missile Defense Viewing Site at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii. The memorial and viewing site will both honor Kauai's veterans and serve as a suitable site to observe missile defense testing events. (Below) Debra Ruiz, an employee at the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, Kauai, Hawaii, performs the hula of Kawaiho'onani during the ground-breaking ceremony.

U.S. Navy photos by MC2 Jay C. Pugh



Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor, and Julie Smith, chairman for Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor's Boutiki Gift Shop, present KT Budde-Jones, educational director for the Pacific Aviation Museum, with a charitable donation check during a donation ceremony at the Boutiki Gift Shop onboard NAVSTA Pearl Harbor.

Boutiki Gift Shop gives \$35,000 to the community

Story and photo by
MC3 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii's
Public Affairs

The Boutiki Gift Shop onboard Naval Station (NAVSTA) Pearl Harbor showed its generosity by donating a total of more than \$35,000 to 39 organizations throughout the Hawaii region during a donation ceremony at the shop on April 12.

Boutiki presented donation checks to help support the different organizations that are directly involved with the U.S. military in Hawaii.

"Boutiki is a non-profit gift shop and all of the money that is made goes directly to different organizations within the community," said Julie Smith, chairman for Boutiki.

Capt. Richard Kitchens, commanding officer of

NAVSTA Pearl Harbor, gave the opening remarks during the ceremony.

"We are truly grateful to have a great gift shop with a group of people who put in countless hours of hard work, making it possible to donate all of this money to organizations in need," said Kitchens.

Joan Couillard, vice chairman for Boutiki, noted the importance of having many volunteers at the gift shop.

"We depend a lot on our volunteers. Without them, Boutiki would not run as smoothly as it does right now," said Couillard. "They give so much of their time to help make Boutiki successful."

Members of the various organizations who received money from Boutiki were very thankful for the charitable donations.

"We greatly appreciate the donations that we received from Boutiki," said Deb

Kaahanui, American Red Cross station coordinator for NAVSTA Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base. "It is just unbelievable that they are donating this much money to us and the other organizations and we are truly thankful for their generosity."

Smith reflected on the importance of giving back to the community and the military.

"It is important to support these different organizations because they are all involved with the military in some way," said Smith. "Our service members give so much to our country that we want to be able to make their lives better through donating to all of the organizations that support our military."

Boutiki opened in 1973 and has since donated more than \$667,167 to various charitable organizations throughout the Hawaii region.



Burial at sea ceremony honors Pearl Harbor survivor from Hawaii See page A-2



Easter Sunrise Service held aboard Battleship Missouri See page A-2



COMPACFLT keeps perfect season alive See page A-8



Springtime in Japan See page B-1



U.S. Navy photos by MC3 Michael A. Lantron / Photo illustration

Burial at sea ceremony honors Pearl Harbor survivor from Hawai'i

Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

A scattering of ashes ceremony was held for 91-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor and local Hawai'i resident, Capt. Demetrius John Vellis, on April 8 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Vellis, who died in August 2007, was a 25-year-old gunnery officer aboard USS Dale (DD-353) during the Pearl Harbor attacks.

The ceremony included a short religious service, the scattering of ashes and a three-volley rifle salute, provided by a Navy Region Hawai'i ceremonial guard. A Navy bugler was also on hand to sound "Taps" as a Sailor presented the American flag to Vellis' wife, Coralie.

More than 40 family members and local friends attended the ceremony that honored Vellis, who had been a long-time Hawai'i resident. Close family and friends were also invited to share loving memories of their "beloved Jimmy" during the ceremony.

Granddaughter Koren Henning, who is autistic and wheelchair-bound, had written a brief eulogy for her grandfather which her

mother, Thalia, read.

"He was sweet and wonderful and always made me feel accepted," she said in the passage. "I will be grieving for him forever."

Henning also noted how much she respected her grandfather's years of service and commitment to his country.

"Destiny took our men very far away from freedom and they were our great heroes who sacrificed for you and me," she said. "[As Americans] we treasure our freedom now, but real men died here on Dec. 7, 1941. I am proud that my grandfather gave his whole heart to this country."

Born in San Francisco in June 1916, Vellis graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, class of 1940.

Upon graduation, he was assigned to USS Colorado (BB-45) and later transferred to USS Dale, where he served as a gunnery and communications officer when the Japanese launched surprise attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

During his 25-year naval career, Vellis served in three wars, including World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and served as executive officer aboard



Capt. Demetrius John Vellis (DD-498) and USS Rochester (CA-124).

During his Navy career, Vellis earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal and many other service and campaign medals.

His notable shore assignments included the Naval Academy, where he was head of the foreign language department, Chief of Naval Operations staff (OpNav) and Commander, Pacific Fleet (CinCPacFlt). He was serving as commanding officer of the Naval Communications Station in Honolulu when he retired in July 1965.

In retirement, Vellis was active in community and church projects, as well as serving as a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

Vellis and his wife of 64 years, Coralie, met while he was stationed at Pearl

Harbor. The couple had two children and eventually relocated to Hawai'i toward the end of Vellis' naval career in the early 1960s.

Vellis' son, Jack, who is also a retired captain in the U.S. Navy, said his father inspired him to follow in his footsteps.

"They say the biggest honor you can give your father is to follow in his footsteps," said Vellis, who retired after 26 years in the Navy. "Whether you serve three years or 30 years, those who serve in the military understand that we do it out of the love for our country, out of a sense of duty, and as an opportunity to pay our country back."

Coralie Vellis, a Hawai'i native, said she thought having her husband's ashes scattered at the USS Utah Memorial was a fitting tribute to her husband, who was not only a Pearl Harbor survivor, but also had adopted the island as his home residence for more than 40 years.

"The service was absolutely beautiful," she said after the ceremony. "He would have been so thankful and pleased because he was such a patriot. He loved this harbor. This was home to him."

Easter Sunrise Service held aboard Battleship Missouri

Story and photo by MC3 (AW) Eric J. Cutright

Naval Public Affairs Support Element West Det. Hawai'i

Navy and Army chaplains hosted a special Easter Sunrise Service aboard the USS Missouri Memorial on April 12.

The Easter service was delivered by Navy chaplain Capt. Douglas Waite, command chaplain for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, and Army Capt. Nate McLean, Army chaplain.

More than 800 guests were in attendance.

"Several years back, the Navy and the Army combined together to do an Easter Sunrise Service on the battleship Missouri," said Waite. "For some reason, they decided that the



Capt. Douglas Waite, command chaplain for Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, delivers a sermon during the Easter Sunrise Service held aboard the USS Missouri Memorial on April 12. The Easter service was co-hosted with the Army. More than 800 people were in attendance.

Missouri would be a great venue for having the Easter Sunrise Service and what a beautiful place it is with the sun coming up and being out here on the water."

Also during the service, music was played by the Navy and Army praise

bands with a special song, "I Will Rise," sung by Grace Faichney along with Army Lt. Col. Aaron Zook.

"I think the song has a good message that we're all going to rise and be with Christ," said Faichney, a military family member.

"Jesus died on the cross for us so that we could rise again and be with him in Heaven."

Easter is commonly celebrated among Christians as the day Jesus Christ was resurrected.

Apart from the religious aspects of the service, Lt. Col. Alan Woodard said having the event held aboard the USS Missouri Memorial was special by itself.

"It means a lot especially to me because my family is from Missouri," said Woodard. "My grandfather served in the Navy during World War II aboard an aircraft carrier, and I called my grandmother this morning and told her I was standing on the deck of the Missouri so it means a lot for my family back home to do this."

Waite delivered the benediction to close the service. Afterward, a continental breakfast was provided for those in attendance.

Hawai'i Navy News Editorial

Operation Prepare campaign encourages Sailors and their families to be disaster ready

Commander, Navy Installations Command

Everyone is concerned about the economy. Most of us have seen our assets shrink and are trying to be thrifty. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters don't wait for good times.

Keeping yourself and your family ready for emergencies is as important as ever. If you haven't done it yet, here are some steps you can take to protect your most precious assets, your loved ones.

The good news is that it doesn't take a lot of time or money. Since 2007, the Navy's Operation Prepare campaign has been encouraging personnel and their families to take three simple steps to disaster preparedness: Be informed. Have a plan. Make a kit.

The free part

Getting and staying informed takes only a little time. You can probably do it all online at your convenience. First, identify the hazards most likely to affect you and your family. Is your area subject to extreme weather events like hurricanes, tornadoes or winter storms? Is it flood-prone? Are hazardous materials stored nearby? Is a new strain of flu virus making news?

Your installation emergency management program and other local

sources can help identify area hazards, as well as warning systems if there is an emergency and the recommended actions.

It is also essential—and free—to make plans as a family for reacting to various emergencies. Discuss where your children will go if they are in school at the time of the emergency, and make sure they understand where you intend to be. Take into account any members of your family with special needs and what you will do with pets.

An important part of this plan is having a system to get and stay in touch if you're separated. Make a wallet card with all the phone numbers and information every family member may need, including an in-case-of-emergency name and number of local and out-of-state contacts. Make sure everyone has a copy, and file a copy with the command ombudsman and the command.

Economical emergency supply kits

Finally, make an emergency supply kit to keep at home, and be sure every family member knows where it is. You can keep your kit in one or two portable containers and have them ready to go if you suddenly have to take shelter or evacuate. Keeping smaller, specialized kits at work and in your car is also a great idea.

In building your emergency kits, consider area hazards and the special needs of family members and pets. In addition to basics like a first aid kit, personal sanitation supplies, dust masks, a battery-power or hand-crank radio, flashlight, extra batteries, maps and your family communications plan, include enough non-perishable food and at least one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days.

Pre-assembled kits are available at discount stores for around \$100, but you can probably make one for considerably less. More than likely, you already have many of the items around the house. Also, you don't have to get everything at once - just add items each week until you have enough. Rethink your family needs every year, and refresh food and water supplies periodically. Who can't afford added family security at that cost?

Operation Prepare: It's your duty

Your family emergency plan and emergency preparedness kit are the cornerstones of Operation Prepare. For more information, visit the Operation Prepare information posted on CNIC's Web site at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil>.

Remember: It's your duty to be prepared. Be informed. Have a plan. Make a kit.

Operation Prepare

Visit Operation Prepare's Web site at <https://www.cnic.navy.mil>. Explore the following sections within the Web site to help you and your family be disaster ready:

Be informed

For detailed information on the range of hazards you and your family may face and the various emergency actions to take, click on the link "Be Informed."

Have a plan

Obtain detailed planning tips and develop action and communication plans for emergencies by using the Family Emergency Plan template found on the link "Have a Plan."

Make a kit

Download a list of recommended emergency supplies to include in your kit, and print a list of links for additional resources from the link "Make a Kit."



U.S. Navy photo by MCI Tiffini M. Jones

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead departs the U.S. Embassy after meeting with Charge d'Affairs Helen La Llime in Pretoria, South Africa. As the first CNO to visit South Africa, Roughead met with senior leadership to continue to build coalition partnerships and discuss training and maritime security cooperation in the region.

Navy releases new CNO Leadership Page

MC2 (SW) Rebekah Blowers

Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Gary Roughead released a revised leadership page on the Navy's Web site, Navy.mil.

The new page features the latest photos and videos, top stories, transcripts, podcasts and information about CNO's priorities. The

revised leadership page is a one-stop shop for the fleet to keep informed of the Navy's senior leader and is a compilation of multimedia that is already available on Navy.mil.

To receive CNO's RSS Feed, please subscribe at www.navy.mil/cno/storyRSS.xml.

To visit the new leadership page or for more news from the Chief of Naval Operations, visit www.navy.mil/local/cno/.



Kamikaze about to hit USS Missouri

Official U.S. Navy photograph, now in the collections of the National Archives

Kamikaze plane attacks USS Missouri



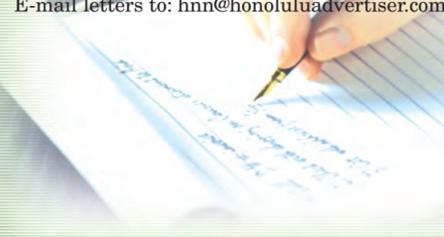
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Hawai'i Navy News

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USS Hopper celebrates Women's History Month

Ensign Katie Burkhardt

USS Hopper (DDG 70)
Public Affairs

The Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i-based Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) concluded its month-long celebration of Women's History Month recently with a ceremony commemorating the history of women in the Navy.

During the month of March, the multi-cultural committee aboard Hopper led the celebrated Women's History Month by putting notes in the plan of the day, posting fliers picturing famous women in history, and sponsoring a special history month celebration meal.

Hopper ended the month by getting underway from



U.S. Navy photo by ISI Michael Cobbs

Boatswain's Mate Seaman Brooke Suchy, master helmsman, drives the ship while Ensign Kate Hobbs observes as helm safety officer during USS Hopper's (DDG 70) transit out of Busan Harbor. Suchy and Hobbs were part of an all-female bridge team that safely guided Hopper (SSG 70) out of Busan, Republic of Korea, as part of the ship's Women's History Month celebration.

Busan, South Korea with an all-female bridge team, from master helmsman and boatswain's mate of the watch to officer of the deck and conning officer. The multi-cultural committee (MCC) organizes

events monthly in celebration or remembrance of designated groups or events. "Our goal is to diversify the ship and organize events to promote education," said Operations Specialist 1st Class Lorenzo Ellis, MCC chairman.

Hopper is the only warship in commission named after a woman from the Navy's own ranks, Rear Adm. Grace Murray Hopper. With this special connection to a resounding figure in naval history, the MCC chose to focus their ending ceremony on the "History of Women in the Navy." The guest speaker was Lt. Cmdr. Jana Vavasour, executive officer and the highest ranking female stationed on Hopper.

Vavasour sought to reit-

erate the ship's motto and famous words of Grace Hopper – "Dare and Do" – in her speech to the crew. "I'm pretty sure that all the famous women in history are famous because what they did was not centered on the fact that they were women," said Vavasour. "Their fame is centered on their resolve to do great things."

The ceremony also included a timeline presentation on the history of women in the Navy, a poem entitled "To Be a Woman" written by a Hopper Sailor, and musical performances from two talented females.

"We are lucky in the Navy that it is so diversified that it doesn't affect us as much," said Sonar Technician 3rd Class Rachel Blomstrom, one of the musical performers.

"Women's History Month is a good reminder of the hard-working women who brought us this far and the women who still work hard every day to not be noticed as a woman in the work place, but as a capable co-worker," she said.

Hopper is assigned to Destroyer Squadron 31 and is currently on routine deployment to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. Operating in the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean, the U.S. 7th Fleet is the largest of the forward-deployed U.S. fleets, covering 48 million square miles, with approximately 60-70 ships, 200-300 aircraft and 40,000 Sailors and Marines assigned at any time.

Find more information on Hopper by visiting its Web site at www.hopper.navy.mil.

Hopper distributes Project Handclasp materials to Busan, ROK orphanage

Ensign Katie Burkhardt

USS Hopper (DDG 70) Public Affairs

Sailors from the Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i-based, Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Hopper (DDG 70) recently visited the city of Busan, South Korea to distribute Project Handclasp materials to the children at Hee Rak Won Orphanage.

Hee Rak Won is a social welfare foundation for approximately 70 children, ages four-18, whose parents are no longer able to support them. Hee Rak Won was started during the Korean War when a Korean woman took pity on a group of children who had been left without families due to brutalities of war. She and the children were given shelter by Soldiers at a U.S. Army Base and more children were brought to her care.

In 1950, the U.S. Army donated financing and manpower to build the Hee Rak Won Orphanage in a simple two-story

building. After the war ended, the same woman continued to get support from the U.S. Army as she turned the shelter into an orphanage for more than 200 children.

"As the orphanage director told the story, I was touched," said Senior Chief Electronic Technician Edlene Burgess. "There was deep meaning in our group of Sailors visiting and helping out this group of children."

The group of 11 Sailors were greeted with a percussion performance by the children. Using pots, pans, kitchen utensils and an occasional drum, the children performed an elaborate show. "The show was awesome!" said Yeoman 3rd Class John Tetreau. Recently, the children of Hee Rak Won have been competing at performing arts festivals and are expected to appear at the Busan Performing Arts Festival in May.

After meeting the children and thanking them for the show, the Sailors unpacked gifts of



U.S. Navy photo by Ensign Kate Hobbs

The children and teachers of Hee Rok Won pose with USS Hopper (DDG 70) Sailors who delivered needed hygienic and medical supplies to the Republic of Korea (ROK) orphanage during a recent port visit to Busan, ROK.

medical and hygienic supplies for the orphanage. The materials were distributed as part of Project Handclasp, an official U.S. Navy program which coordinates delivery of donated humanitarian, educational and goodwill material to less fortunate citizens in foreign coun-

tries. Established in 1962, the materials are transported overseas on Navy ships and distributed by Sailors as part of community relations activities.

"They were overjoyed to receive the boxes of supplies that we brought," said Ensign Kate Hobbs. "The expression on

their face was priceless when we revealed the pile of materials we gifted to them."

Sailors spent the remainder of the day helping to clean the most recent renovations to the boys' dormitory. Sailors removed rubble and debris left over from the construction project, as well as dug ditches as a foundation for a produce field.

All renovations and projects are financed through two mediums: 75 percent is subsidized by the government and 25 percent is covered through private donors. The U.S. military also provides constant financial and personal support to Hee Rak Won.

The appreciation of the children and teachers was obvious as they waved enthusiastically as the Sailors departed. And just as the teachers appreciated the Sailors hard work, the Sailors appreciated the unique and intimate experience that the teachers and the children of Hee Rak Won shared with each one of them on that day.

Pearl Harbor Highlights



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Robert Stirrup

KT Budde-Jones, education director at the Pacific Aviation Museum, shows a map of the different areas that were attacked on Dec. 7, 1941 to former prisoners of war (POW) and their families at the Pacific Aviation Museum on historic Ford Island. Forty-one former POWs made the ninth annual trip to Honolulu to observe National Former POW Remembrance Day and participate in the POW/missing in action recognition ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on April 9.



(Left) A Naval Station Pearl Harbor flag detail properly folds an American flag during an ashes scattering ceremony for Pearl Harbor Survivor Capt. (Ret.) Demetrius Vellis at the USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island on April 8. Vellis, who retired after 25 years of naval service, was stationed on USS Dale (DD 353) during the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. More than 40 friends and family members who attended the ceremony paid their respects by dropping flower petals off the edge of the memorial after Vellis' ashes were laid to rest at sea.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Michael A. Lantron



U.S. Navy photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Gas Turbine System (Mechanical) Fireman Patrick Schneider, a goalkeeper on USS Reuben James (FFG 57) soccer team, blocks a header from Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Jay Reynard of Command U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) during an intramural game at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 11. COMPACFLT defeated Reuben James, 2-1, in a battle of unbeaten teams. COMPACFLT increased its record to 4-0, while Reuben James dropped to 3-1.



U.S. Navy photo by CTR1 Jennifer Schooley

The Easter Bunny made an appearance at Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii's 2nd Annual Bunny Hop on April 3. The bunny handed out candy to the keiki after they completed the egg hunt on the command softball field. Approximately 60 children and their parents attended the event which included a barbecue, face-painting and crafts.

(Below) Lt. Corey Thornton, command chaplain for the guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (CG 65), delivers a blessing at a burial-at-sea ceremony for Pearl Harbor survivor retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Joseph W. "J.W." Thornton at the USS Utah Memorial. Thornton was stationed aboard the seaplane tender USS Curtiss (AV 4) during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. The Sailors assigned to Pearl Harbor's honor guard rendered final honors as Thornton's family returned his ashes into the harbor in accordance with his wishes.

U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Paul D. Hornick



Former USS Curtiss Sailor laid to rest in Pearl Harbor

Story and photos by
MC2 Paul D. Honnick

Navy Public Affairs
Support Element West Det.
Hawaii

A Pearl Harbor survivor was laid to rest with his shipmates April 9 during a burial-at-sea ceremony at the USS Utah Memorial on Naval Station Pearl Harbor.

The family of retired Senior Chief Petty Officer Joseph W. "J.W." Thornton scattered his ashes into the harbor in accordance with his wishes as the Navy Region Hawai'i ceremonial guard members rendered final honors.

In attendance were his daughter Maureen Rojas and her fiancé Michael McManamom, daughter Cathy Wyatt and son-in-law Jeff Wyatt, and grandchildren Andrew, Spencer and Abby Wyatt.

Unable to attend was Thornton's sister-in-law Thelma Thornton.

"I speak for the entire family when I thank the Navy and everyone here today for the honor of this great tribute to J.W. and for the opportunity for our family to have this special time to honor him," said Jeff Wyatt.



The ceremony opened up with a brief introduction by Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison for Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i, followed by a bell ringing presentation by the Fleet Reserve Association and a eulogy written by Thornton's daughters, Maureen and Cathy, and read by son-in-law Jeff Wyatt.

Lt. Corey Thornton, com-

mand chaplain for the guided missile cruiser USS Chosin (DG 65), offered a blessing to Thornton's memory and the family proceeded to the end of the pier where Andrew Wyatt scattered his grandfather's ashes into the water next to the capsized ship.

"It was an honor because my aunt and my mom, I expected them to do it. They let me dump the whole

thing because we were like best friends," said Andrew Wyatt. "He was pretty much like a second father to me, so losing him was just like losing a part of myself."

As his ashes drifted by USS Utah, the ceremonial guard performed a 21-gun salute followed by the playing of Taps by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

Thornton enlisted in the Navy on Sept. 23, 1940,

shortly after graduating from high school. His family said joining the Navy was his boyhood dream.

"The Navy was probably the love of his life with the exception of my mother," said Maureen Rojas. "That is what he wanted to do, he loved every second of it and if he didn't have to leave, he wouldn't have."

He was stationed aboard the seaplane tender USS Curtiss (AV 4), tied up to mooring buoys at the mouth of Middle Loch, when Japanese bombers began their attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

The ship was immediately called to general quarters when the Japanese began hitting their high-priority airfield and battleship targets shortly before 8 a.m.

"He said they always did emergency precautions in case something happened; he said, 'oh, here comes another bell, we have to do our safety inspection,' and then he felt a hit to the ship," said Andrew Wyatt.

Curtiss took fire from enemy planes and a midjet submarine. A crippled dive bomber crashed into the ship's topside crane and exploded, causing minor damage.

The ship suffered heavy

damage and casualties when a bomb penetrated the superstructure down into the hanger and exploded, blowing holes in the main and second decks, damaging the engine room, destroying several shops and setting intense fires within the ship.

By the end of the day, Curtiss had lost 20 of its crew members.

Andrew said the most difficult moment for his grandfather after the attack was when he had to help identify the ship's casualties, which included his best friend.

"He was strong about it; he's the strongest person I know," said Andrew Wyatt.

Thornton went on to serve almost 26 years in the Navy, serving throughout WWII, and in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He retired on May 5, 1964 and returned to his hometown of Beverly, Mass. to take care of his wife Elizabeth and raise his two daughters.

He passed away Jan. 9, 2009.

"He loved his daughters and his grandchildren very much, but the sea has always been his home and today his finally comes home. We love you J.W.," said Jeff Wyatt.

Agent/ designation requests will be routed through PSD

Lt. James M. Carroll

Naval Station Pearl Harbor

Beginning April 15, all Navy agent/designation requests that were once submitted to the commissary/Navy Exchange (NEX) for approval will now be routed through the Personnel Support Detachment (PSD).

Authorized NEX/commissary/pharmacy patrons may request the designation of an individual to make purchases on their behalf or to accompany them shopping in certain situations.

This designation applies only to facilities under the cognizance of the commanding officer, Naval Station Pearl Harbor Hawai'i.

Requests, along with all required documentation, should be given to the customer service desk at PSD for processing.

Blank requests and supporting document information are available on the PSD Web site at www.psdph.navy.mil.

For more information or inquiries, call Lt. James Carroll at 471-2405, ext. 5001.

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New PATCH program offers respite care for EFMP families

Story and photo by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) partnered with the U.S. Navy earlier this month to launch a new program that will provide respite care to Navy families with children with special needs.

The NACCRRA and Navy Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care program serves Navy families based in Hawai'i.

People Attentive to Children (PATCH) is the local agency handling the program for NACCRRA and will be responsible for administering EFMP respite care to Navy families who have family members with exceptional needs.

"Navy families lead a stressful lifestyle to begin with and that stress can be increased when caring for a special needs child," said Jill Marini, Oahu family child care recruiter at PATCH. "This program offers not only care, but quality care."

The new respite care program allows parents of EFMP children up to 40 hours of respite care a month.



Navy spouse Patricia Van Sickle and her daughters play outside their home on Ford Island. The Van Sickle family takes advantage of the Navy Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Respite Care program, which offers up to 40 hours a month of respite care for families with special needs children.

According to Marini, specially trained providers are paired up with EFMP families, based on the individual needs of each family, to offer respite care not only for the EFMP child, but also for his or her siblings.

"[The program] allows the parent to leave their child, knowing that the provider is equipped to deal with their child's particular needs, and allows them some much needed time to take for themselves," said Marini.

Patricia Van Sickle said

her family was recently matched up with a respite care provider and already she has seen a dramatic difference in her family, which includes four daughters under the age of 10.

"It has been a week and a half now and I [already] call her my miracle worker," said Van Sickle, who has one autistic daughter. "She is so helpful and I am able to get a break and enjoy my kids a lot more. The other day I was able to get a haircut for the first time [in months] and

go to my mom's groups where I can socialize and advocate for my causes," she added.

Van Sickle, whose husband is currently deployed with USS Chung Hoon (DDG-93), said that every month she checks her calendar and budgets her allotted hours around school meetings, running errands or other social activities.

"This program is a huge stress reliever for me because not only am I getting a break from the kids, they are getting a break

from me," she explained. "It is not only hard to find a [babysitter] for an evening, but also one who understands the challenges that surround a child with special needs. Jessica [the provider] not only knows what to expect, but I feel comfortable leaving all my kids in her care," she added.

Jessica Sells, respite care provider for the Van Sickle family, said she felt compelled to offer her services and give back to the military community by participating in this new program.

"I wanted to give back to children with disabilities and help families dealing with a parent or family member who is gone [on deployments]," she said. "A lot of military families don't want to admit or accept help because they are used to doing everything on their own. [But] with kids, sometimes, you can't do everything on your own and you have to take any kind of help you can get," she added.

Sells also noted that as a Navy spouse, she personally understands the plight of the military family.

"I have worked with [other] children with autism before and with large [military] families so I know how hard it is to have a family member

gone and still [look after] children with disabilities," she said. "Because of my military background, I understand the [stress] of military [lifestyle] can have on your family."

Marini said all respite care providers have experience with special needs children and undergo extensive fingerprinting and background checks as well as have special training and certifications, such as CPR and first aid.

To be eligible for the respite care program, Navy families must be enrolled in the EFMP program, have a child up to 18 years of age who is designated as category IV or V, which includes being diagnosed with a long-term chronic medical, psychological or educational disability.

Families who are interested in the respite care program should contact NACCRRA at 800-424-2246 or visit <http://www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/navy.php>. NACCRRA will complete all approval forms and forward them to the PATCH program in Hawai'i for them to contact the approved family and begin the local intake process.

For more information about the EFMP respite care program, visit www.naccrra.org/MilitaryPrograms/NavyEFMP/.



Aviation Electronics Technician Antonio Martinez of the Command U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) soccer team tries to get off a shot on goal during an intramural game against Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57) at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 11.

COMPACFLT keeps perfect season alive

Story and photo by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer



The Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMPACFLT) soccer squad increased its unblemished record to 4-0 after it beat Sailors from USS Reuben James (FFG 57), 2-1, in an intramural battle of unbeaten teams that took place at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on April 11.

In the hard-fought contest, COMPACFLT got all the goals it needed, when Aviation Electronics Technician Antonio Martinez scored the first tally on a breakaway in the closing minutes of the first half, before Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Jay Reynard knocked in the team's second score on a header immediately after the break.

"They got mixed up and confused out there, and I

ended up pretty wide open," said Martinez about his goal. "I was looking for the ball and came in real quick off the fly. I got a great pass and I think we caught them off-guard."

Meanwhile, Reynard scored the team's second goal after he received a perfect pass off the foot of Martinez, who was mirroring his teammate on the right wing.

Reynard explained that he knew what was coming right away and got into position for the goal as soon as he got the signal from Martinez.

"After our midfielder gave him (Martinez) the ball, we just looked at each other and I just filled the lane," stated Reynard, who is in his third season on the COMPACFLT squad. "He was dragging

the defense with him and then, all of sudden, he crossed it over and it was in the back of the net."

Ship's Serviceman Seaman Jesse Smith, who is the starting goalkeeper for Reuben James, noted that both scores came as a result of COMPACFLT having more players at the goal.

"Basically, we just weren't getting back on defense," said Smith. "I'll take some of the responsibility for not coming out and attacking the ball, but they (COMPACFLT) were just getting past us and beating us to the goal."

Even down by two, Reuben James fought back and managed to come within one goal, when Damage

Controlman 3rd Class Jacob Estrada booted one in from straight away.

However, the score came too late in the game, as COMPACFLT would run out the clock and hold on for the victory.

Estrada pointed out that the game might have had a different outcome if members of Reuben James were able get out to practice more often.

"Most of us get off work after it's dark and when we're at work, we're out at sea," said Estrada. "The last time we touched a soccer ball was in our last game. And in the last two weeks, we came together twice."

Martinez stated he felt that the lack of playing time might have affected Reuben James. Not only

did COMPACFLT appear quicker to the ball, but he said it also seemed that Reuben James was out of sync.

"They definitely didn't have a lot of communication going on with each other, so it looked like a lack of practice to me," said Martinez. "We outplayed them in every way. They got a goal in, but other than that, I think we dominated."

Following the game, Reynard said that the win puts COMPACFLT in good position to claim its second league title in a row.

As one of only three unbeaten teams left in the regular season, Reynard added that the team wouldn't give up until it is the only remaining squad standing at the top.

"We want to be the only undefeated team," he said. "We are the defending champs and we want to come out here and let everybody know it."

In agreeing with his teammate, Martinez sounded just as confident as Reynard in saying, "We're very good. We're going to take it all the way."

COMPACFLT will put its undefeated record on the line when it goes up against USS Port Royal (CG 73) on April 18. Port Royal will be out to try and win its first game of the season.

For a complete listing of intramural soccer games, visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Web site at www.greatlifehawaii.com.

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Children and parents scurry around the softball field at Naval Information Operations Command Hawai'i hunting for Easter eggs during the 2nd Annual NIOC Hawai'i Bunny Hop Event on April 3. More than 700 eggs were hidden for children to find, including a dozen golden eggs that held gift certificates for various local vendors.

NIOC Hawai'i hosts 2nd Annual Bunny Hop for command's children

Story and photo by
CTI1 Jennifer Schooley

Naval Information
Operations Command
Hawai'i

Naval Information Operations Command, Hawai'i families celebrated together at its 2nd Annual Bunny Hop on April 3.

The event, sponsored primarily by the family readiness group (FRG), brought more than 60 chil-

dren to Kunia's pavilion where they ate hamburgers and hot dogs, enjoyed arts and crafts, went on an Easter egg hunt, and met the Easter bunny.

Felicia Fernandez, NIOC FRG president, said "The FRG hosted the Bunny Hop last year. We have established this annual event in addition to our annual Halloween Trunk or Treat."

Approximately 700 candy-filled eggs were hidden all over the softball

field area as children were on the hunt for prize-winning golden eggs. Running in all directions, 12 lucky children found themselves the proud winners of golden eggs filled with prizes.

After the egg hunt, the Easter Bunny made his debut at the party, handing out candy and taking pictures with the children.

The Bunny Hop was a success due to the collaborative efforts from the command FRG, the chiefs' mess, the First Class Petty

Officers Association and the Junior Enlisted Organization.

Capt. Jim Hagy, commanding officer of NIOC Hawai'i, shared his thoughts on the activity. "I think it is important to celebrate the Bunny Hop because it gives families a chance to get together and have fun in a safe setting. The large turnout tells me my Sailors feel comfortable sharing their precious family time with the command," he said.



U.S. Navy photo by IT3 Jai Pellerin

Storekeeper 1st Class Nicki Garcia helped organize a shoe drive at Naval Information Operations Command Hawai'i that donated shoes for those in need in Waianae. The command collects shoes and donates them quarterly.

NIOC Sailors help people get 'back on their feet'

CTI2 Theresa M.
Buitron

Naval Information
Operations Command
Hawai'i

Once a quarter, the Naval Information Operations Command, Hawai'i's (NIOC-H) First Class Petty Officer's Association places empty boxes around the command and at the quarterdeck to collect 'gently used shoes.'

The shoes are then donated to people staying at Pai'olu Kaiaulu, a state emergency transition center in Waianae, Hawai'i.

When asked about the decision to begin this effort, Storekeeper 1st Class Nicki Garcia said "We, the First Class Petty Officer Association [FCPOA], wanted to do more to give back to our community. We saw the poverty in the Waianae area and we wanted to help." Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Amie Arizmendi, FCPOA president, found

the transition center online and decided to hold a shoe drive in order to donate shoes to those living at the center. "We wanted to help them to get back on their feet, literally," said Arizmendi.

Why shoes? She explained, "Shoes are very expensive to buy. Clothes can be easily and cheaply sewn or have patches added to keep using them. Shoes are a lot less easy to repair."

"When shoes are worn for so long, it is hard to reuse them. Shoes are a necessity - everyone needs them to go to school, go to work and to protect children's feet," she continued.

The NIOC Hawai'i First Class Association has been involved in numerous other projects in addition to the shoe drive. They have helped clean up the campus of Aliamanu Elementary School, participated in the clean-up at Waipahu Creek, and are active with Adopt-A-Highway.

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Hawaii Navy News



Fourteen students from Navy Region Hawai'i recently graduated from the Bearings Course at the Center for Personal and Professional Development, Learning Site Pearl Harbor.

Students graduate from Bearings Course

Story and photo by
ICCS Joseph Cantwell

Center for Personal and Professional Development, Learning Site, Pearl Harbor

Fourteen students from Navy Region Hawai'i recently graduated from the Bearings Course at the Center for Personal and Professional Development, Learning Site Pearl Harbor.

Bearings is a two-week course designed to provide junior Sailors with tools

that promote personal development and improve personal readiness, ultimately optimizing the Navy's readiness.

Various guest speakers are utilized throughout the course, including the Navy College Office, Fleet and Family Support Center, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Legal, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, career counselors, selected brig prisoners, and a command drug and alcohol advisor.

In addition, the Sailors attend a two-day Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operations (CREDO) seminar and a historical VIP tour from the Commander Pacific Fleet boathouse.

The curriculum in the Bearings Course includes topics such as developing and building trust, physical fitness and nutrition, personal vision, responsible living, making changes, problem solving and managing conflict.

Seabees complete land navigation training



U.S. Navy photo by SK2 (AW) Deanna Love

Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 Det at Naval Station Pearl Harbor recently completed land navigation training at Bellows Air Force Station in Waimanalo. The unit split into fire team size groups, each navigating a series of five checkpoints in the thick brush and undergrowth, using just a compass and a map. The training was accomplished in order to hone military field skills and focused on small unit leadership. "I think that team building and small unit leadership within the groups was important to the success of the training and invaluable to the growth of the future leaders within our unit," said Engineering Aide 2nd Class Marshall Gault, who organized the training event.