



CHIEF STOREKEEPER (RET.)  
*Willie "Delbert" Kilgore*

USS LEXINGTON (CV-2)  
*"Lady Lex"*

## WWII VETERAN Celebrates 90TH Birthday AT PEARL HARBOR



Story and photos by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

World War II veteran Willie "Delbert" Kilgore, who retired from the Navy as a chief storekeeper, enjoyed a day of sightseeing and fanfare from visitors at USS Arizona Memorial while celebrating his 90th birthday during a Sept. 14 tour of Pearl Harbor and Ford Island.

Donning his former chief's uniform, Kilgore, who turned 90 on Sept. 13, received a guided tour from Capt. Melvin Lee, chief of staff for Commander Navy Region Hawaii. He also participated in a special flag raising ceremony at USS Arizona Memorial where he laid a wreath inside the memorial's shrine room.

"I am completely honored I get an opportunity to do this," Lee said before the tour. "The Pearl Harbor survivors and [WWII veterans] are some of the most notable heroes in our heritage and to have them here at our base is an outstanding opportunity to meet them, greet them, and to show our gratitude."

Kilgore's visit to Pearl Harbor marked his first trip back to Hawaii since 1948. Also in attendance were family members visiting from Huntsville, Ala., including his daughter, son-in-law and two great-granddaughters.

Kilgore said he was a young 22-year-old Sailor aboard the USS Lexington (CV-2) during the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. However, his ship, which was normally moored at Pearl Harbor, was underway with Task Force 12, carrying Marine aircraft to reinforce Midway when the attacks happened.

According to Kilgore, the ship left the day before the first wave of Japanese planes hit Pearl Harbor.

"When we left [Pearl Harbor], I remember everything being so clear and peaceful," recalled the Alabama native. "We went out 50 miles and by 7 a.m. the next morning, we got word that Pearl Harbor was being attacked by Japanese bombs, fighter [planes] and torpedoes."

Lexington was immediately ordered to launch search planes to hunt for the Japanese fleet and meet up with other task forces to scour the borders of Oahu, looking for the enemy. According to Navy records, the ship did not return to Pearl Harbor until Dec. 13 where the young Sailor said he witnessed "total destruction."

"By the time we got back, the whole harbor was [still] on fire," Kilgore said. "The canal was still burning, ships were still burning. I mean there was still fire everywhere...it was devastating."

With the country now at war, Kilgore said his ship quickly reloaded and refueled and was underway within two days to assist in the war efforts. Kilgore would remain on the ship for another year, even surviving enemy torpedoes that eventually sunk the ship on May 8, 1942 in the Coral Sea.

Kilgore's daughter, Starla "Darlene" Morton, recalled that during the attack her father had sustained serious injuries and was given a seat on one of the few lifeboats left from the initial blasts.

"A lot of life boats were destroyed [during the bombing] so getting on one was very crucial," she said. "However, my dad gave up his seat for someone he noticed looked even more injured

than him. We later found out, that because of his efforts, the man's life was saved."

Morton said after the lifeboats left, her father ended up treading water with his other shipmates before being picked up by another ship several hours later.

During his 21-year Navy career, Kilgore said he saw 44 action combat battles and even survived another ship sinking due to enemy fire.

Despite seeing a lot of action in military combat, Kilgore said he never received all of his combat decorations for his service in the war. "Surviving what I did during the war, I think I earned those medals," he said flatly. "I don't know why I never got them."

However, during a surprise birthday celebration aboard a Navy vessel at Pearl Harbor during his recent visit, Kilgore was presented with nearly a dozen decorations, including the Combat Action Ribbon and WWII Victory medal. The touching gesture brought tears to the veteran's eyes.

"This is an unbelievable sight," he said as Lee began pinning the medals to his uniform. "I never thought I would ever receive this [kind of] blessing in my life. I nearly lost my life several different times while fighting for my country, but to be [alive] here today and receive this kind of recognition...it just makes it all worth it."

Nearly four decades after retiring from service, the veteran had finally received the tribute he had always wanted. "You will never know what this means to me," he said holding some of his newfound medals in his hand. "I will remember this moment until my last dying breath."



# Lake Erie shoots down Golden Eagles

Story and photo by  
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Chris Robinson hauled in three passes for touchdowns as USS Lake Erie (CG 70) successfully began the defense of its Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Flag Football League title by grounding the Golden Eagles of Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9), 33-12, in an afloat division season opener at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12.

Robinson torched the Golden Eagles' secondary on scoring catches of 50, 20 and 47 yards in leading Lake Erie's potent vertical attack, which also added two more long-distance touchdowns in gaining the decisive victory.

"They (Golden Eagles) were playing us loose so we just went over the top on them," said Robinson, who is now in his fourth season as a member of the Lake Erie flag football squad.

Information Systems Technician 1st Class Gennaro Hawkins, who was one of three quarterbacks used by Lake Erie in the game, accounted for three of the team's five touchdown strikes.

The elusive Hawkins continually dodged Golden Eagle defenders in the backfield to buy time for Lake Erie receivers to race downfield.

Hawkins entered the contest seconds before the



Fire Controlman 2nd Class Chris Robinson of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) burns two Patrol Squadron Nine (VP 9) defenders to catch his third touchdown of the day during a Morale, Welfare and Recreation flag football game at Ward Field at Naval Station Pearl Harbor on Sept. 12. Lake Erie, the league's defending champs, beat VP 9, 33-12, to open the 2009 Afloat Division season with a win.

end of the first half, with Lake Erie clinging to a three-point lead, and promptly tossed a 55-yard pass for a TD to take a 21-12 advantage at the break.

Immediately following intermission, Hawkins fashioned a 60-yard, five-play drive that ended when Robinson scored his

second touchdown of the day on a ball that was tipped at the goal line by teammate, Electronics Technician 2nd Class Corey Piggee.

Earlier in the game, Piggee was on the receiving end of Lake Erie's first touchdown – a 52-yard bomb on the

team's opening play.

Hawkins hooked up with Robinson on 47-yard strike, as the two-minute warning approached, to round out the game's final score.

In racking up one big play after another, Hawkins explained that Lake Erie's strategy was

simple – take advantage of whatever the Golden Eagles' defense gave.

"We saw that their (Golden Eagles) defense was spread out on the outside so we took advantage of the middle," explained Hawkins. "We had our guys go deep up the center and it worked out for us."

Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Christian Villegas of VP-9 stated that the team's secondary breakdowns was a result of inexperience.

"We've only been playing together for a short while," noted Villegas, who caught a 39-yard scoring strike from Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Ryan White for the team's first touchdown. "We'll get together in practice. We'll be alright."

Although Robinson's heroics took the game's center stage, he quickly pointed out that Lake Erie's victory was based on a total team effort.

Robinson added that the team would have to be at its best throughout the season if it wants to repeat.

"Our defense got us some stops, when we needed it, and our offense produced," said Robinson about the win over VP-9. "We got a big target on our backs. Everybody wants to beat Lake Erie."

As good as Lake Erie looked against the Golden Eagles, Hawkins admitted that the team was a bit rusty.

However, Hawkins claimed he is certain that Lake Erie will do whatever it takes to improve its game as the season moves on.

"We're going to work the kinks out," he promised. "We're going to go out there and play our game. We like to have fun, but every game we're coming out to win. Last year is over."

**GOT SPORTS**  
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Contact the HNN editor for guidelines and story/photo submission requirements



## Hickam Air Force Base open house will showcase Thunderbirds, aircraft

### 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

The 2009 Hickam Air Force Base open house, "Wings Over The Pacific," scheduled for Sept. 19 and 20 on Hickam's flightline, will have a host of static displays and feature guest appearances by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and B.J. Penn, ultimate fighting champion

The event will include aircraft static displays from the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps and Navy displays, as well as food and drink vendors, and numerous other family activities.

The Thunderbirds have been performing from commercial airports and military bases all over the world for many years. More information about their demonstration can be found at <http://thunderbirds.air-force.com/>.

Navy displays will include Seabees static display, Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) dive tank and static, P-3 static, history displays from Navy Region Hawaii and Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and band participation.

Aircraft static displays that are scheduled include: C-5 Galaxy from 149th Fighter Wing, Kelly Air Field Annex, Texas; C-17 Globemaster III, F-15 Eagle, KC-135 Stratotanker, C-40B and C-37A from Hickam AFB, Hawaii; C-20G, P-3 Orion, CH-53D (helo), MK-58 (jet) and SH-60B Seahawk (helo) from Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Kaneohe; KC-10 Extender from Travis AFB, Calif.; C-130 Hercules and B-1 Lancer from Dyess AFB, Texas; C-130 Hercules and H-67C (helo) from USCG 14th District; CH-47 Chinook (helo) and UH-60 Blackhawk (helo) from Wheeler AAF, Hawaii; B-52



Photo courtesy of 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Stratofortress from Barksdale AFB, La.; and B-1 Lancer from Ellsworth AFB, S.D.; F-16 Falcon from Luke AFB, Ariz.; F-16 Aggressors from Eielson AFB, Alaska; and F-22 Raptor and E-3 Sentry (AWACS) from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. The F-22A has a significant capability to attack surface targets. In the air-to-ground configuration, the aircraft can carry two 1,000-pound GBU-32 joint direct attack munitions internally and will use on-board avionics for navigation and weapons delivery support.

This is Hickam AFB's first open house since 2003 and a crowd of more than 120,000 people is expected from the Hawaiian Islands and other places throughout the Pacific and world. Everyone is welcome to attend the open house and it is a free event.

Local stage entertainment is also scheduled before and after the Thunderbirds demonstration. There will be a children's play and ride area.

Gates will open at 10 a.m. and close for admittance at 5 p.m. The Thunderbirds will perform at 3 p.m. both days.

For more information, visit [www.hafb2009openhouse.com](http://www.hafb2009openhouse.com) or call 15th Airlift Wing Public Affairs at 449-1525.



Photo illustration

## Navy Exchange, DeCA and MWR team up for Labor Day event

Story and photos by Mark Smith

Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange Marketing

To celebrate the Labor Day weekend, the Navy Exchange joined forces with Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) and

Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) to host their first joint Labor Day weekend sales event.

Activities included a bounce house, a ring toss game, special guest appearances for the children, food-eating contests, and country line dancing demos and dance classes

hosted by Club Pearl dance instructors.

Food eating contest winners were: hamburger, Trini Trujillo, U.S. Army; cherry pie, Elffie LaChance, U.S. Air Force; watermelon, Tim Pelfrey, U.S. Navy; and hot dog, Trini Trujillo, U.S. Army.

# Skylark CENTRAL

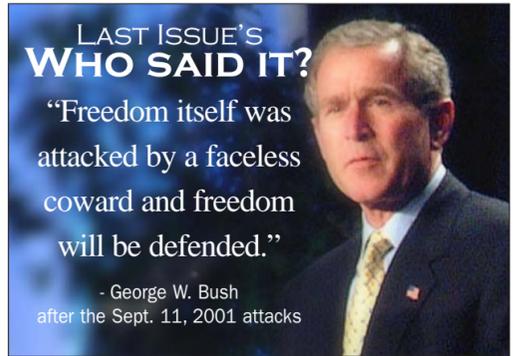
**WORD SEARCH**  
Find these 57 words that imply WEAK

ACHILLES' HEEL	SLOUCH	WEAKLING	A Y M Z L D E D Y W H C U O L S S P D L W
FLIMSY	CREAM PUFF	DROOP	I C A I I N Y F L R E V O H S U P M I W W
RUNDOWN	LIMP AS A DISHRAG	PANTYWAIST	F E H E L G O D R D E Y I W C D D H K I E
ANEMIC		WIMP	H P E I Y F N S P A N T Y W A I S T P S S
FRAGILE	SPINELESS	EFFETE	I J E L L Y F I S H T S T W E R M E Y H D
SAD SACK	DAINTY	PETER OUT	D F R A I L W D L H K A P O O R D E T Y A
BIG BABY	LISTLESS	WIPED-OUT	O E T A V G E F E K O O N F T O Y D N W N
FRAIL	TIRED	FAINT	S E C S E T A S W P A T E F U F Z A I A C
SAPPED	DECREPIT	PLAY OUT	M O G R R S K R H Y H E L T I O M Y A S R
CAVE IN	MILKSOP	WISHY-WASHY	U P A Y E I P I F E B U W Z U B S O D H A
HIT THE SKIDS	TOTTERY	FEEBLE	E E R S D P O S V L E Q Z A Y S D R F Y V
SHOT	DIE ON THE VINE	POOPEL	D T H S E D I I E D I L A P I D A T E D E
CHICKEN	MILQUETOAST	WISPY	W E S F A I N T S D E I A S O C P P F A N
HOUSE OF CARDS	WEAK POINT	FIZZLE OUT	O R I C K E T Y K O O M V E F W I S P Y W
SISSY	DILAPIDATED	PUSHOVER	B O D T E T K A U C B E S O D N S L L E O
COWARD	MOLLYCODDLE	WOBBLY	B U A E F F E T E Y A H E P S E P N A I D
JELLYFISH	WEAK	FLAT	L T S O R L I S T L E S S L L K O K Y A N
SKIN AND BONE	SISTER	RICKETY	Y B A B G I B S P L U B D E U C S N O D U
CRAVEN	DOORMAT	WOOZY	O S P N H I T E N O B D N A N I K S U A R
LILY-LIVERED	NAMBY-PAMBY		T A M R O O D E H M O I T W S H L L T I P
			K K I I N T O D O Y P P T T M C I D O Y R
			C O L E L L R I I S N I E V A C M R T I U
			L L F H F F U P M A E R C D A L D B T M F



**Who said it?**  
"THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH AMERICA THAT CANNOT BE CURED BY WHAT IS RIGHT WITH AMERICA."

**LAST ISSUE'S WHO SAID IT?**  
"Freedom itself was attacked by a faceless coward and freedom will be defended."  
- George W. Bush  
after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks



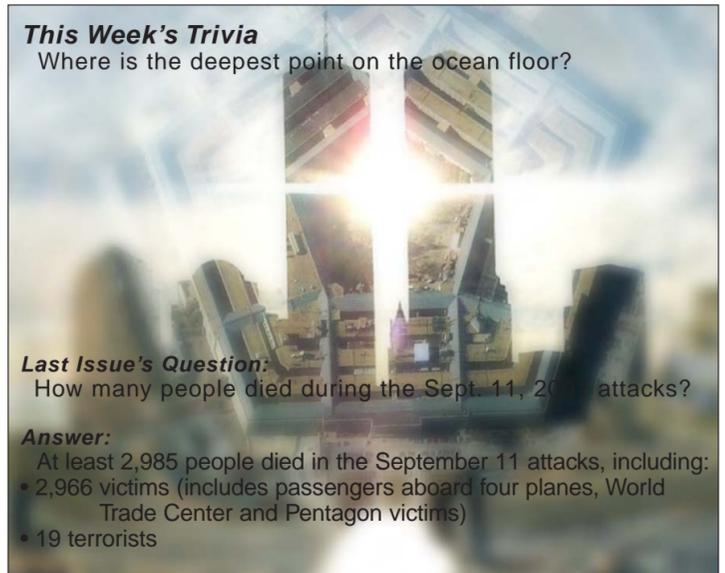
**WORD SEARCH SOLUTION**  
Find the these 38 words that mean ENCLOSURE

ATRIUM	PADDOCK	C L C Y E N D E C N E F O S
COURTYARD	SQUARE	T R A P M A R P R A O T I Y
PIGSTY	CLOSE	E R I R K R A W L U B C T T
BARNYARD	PALING	D O S B R L Y B O O T H A S
CRIB	STALL	D Q Q Q I O K L N N U S P G
QUADRANGLE	COMPARTMENT	E R U S O L C N E O T P A I
BOOTH	PALISADE	W M A A L C O M P O U N D P
DOVECOTE	STOCKADE	R D R Y D A T A C E Y O D C
RAILING	COMPOUND	E B E A T R S K O A V P O T
BULWARK	PARAPET	B T E P A R A P W E G A C L
ENCLOSURE	STOCKYARD	M R C P O D U N C O O P K L
RAMPART	COOP	A U M O E E U O G E A W R L
CAGE	PASTURE	H O M U I R T A C L L A T S
FENCE	WALL	C C L O S E O P I O E L Q R
ROOM	CORRAL	F O L D R A Y N R A B L N L
CELL	PATIO	C T R C I K G N I L I A R P
FOLD	YARD	
RUNWAY	COURT	
CHAMBER	PEN	

**This Week's Trivia**  
Where is the deepest point on the ocean floor?

**Last Issue's Question:**  
How many people died during the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks?

**Answer:**  
At least 2,985 people died in the September 11 attacks, including:  
• 2,966 victims (includes passengers aboard four planes, World Trade Center and Pentagon victims)  
• 19 terrorists



# Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

## Morale Welfare & Recreation

**MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL**  
Oceans CPO Club and Brews & Cues will host Monday Night Football events on Saturday and Sept. 28. Patrons can enjoy free pupus all day and watch their favorite teams on the big screen. Oceans CPO Club is for authorized patrons E7 to E9 and their guests. Brews & Cues is open to all military-affiliated patrons and their guests. FMI: 473-1743.

**BEATLES ROCK BAND COMPETITION**  
Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange is hosting a Beatles Rock Band competition. Pre-registration is required and will take place Sept. 21-23. There are a limited amount of slots available so early registration is encouraged. The winning team will receive a \$1,000 NEX gift card. FMI: visit the NEX or 423-3274.

**JUNIOR GOLF AT NAVY-MARINE GOLF COURSE**  
Every Sunday during September from 3 to 4 p.m. family members, ages 8 to 17 years, can learn the basics of the swing, golf etiquette and rules. FMI: 471-0142

**JUNIOR GOLF AT BARBERS POINT GOLF COURSE**  
Every Sunday during September from 3 to 4:30 p.m., family members, ages 8 to 14 years, can learn the basics of the swing, golf etiquette and rules. FMI: 221-9275.

**INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL LEAGUE**  
The season runs from September to December and is open to active duty. Games will be played at Ward Field at Pearl Harbor. FMI: 473-2494.

**DANCE LESSONS AT THE COUNTRY BAR**  
Want to learn line dancing? Come out and enjoy free lessons on Thursdays from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 9 p.m. FMI: 473-1743.

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

## Community Calendar

### September

**19** ~ UFC Lightweight Champion BJ Penn will be at the Navy Exchange (NEX) from 1-2:30 p.m.. FMI: 423-330.

**26-27** ~ Ralph Wetterhahn, renowned fighter pilot, author and subject of numerous aviation documentaries, will give a lecture on "Aviation Archaeology Points the Way to our Missing-in-Action" at the Pacific Aviation Museum on Ford Island. He will present a lecture on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. A book signing will follow. FMI: 441-4000 or visit [www.pacificaviationmuseum.org](http://www.pacificaviationmuseum.org).

**28** ~ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange (NEX) beauty salon will host a fashion show from 5-7 p.m. in the NEX rotunda. FMI: 423-3397.

**29** ~ Naval Health Clinic Hawai'i health promotions will host a "Healthy Cooking Class" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Halsey Terrace Community Center, located at 620 Pool St. near Camp Catlin. The class is free and open to all military members, active duty or retired, and their beneficiaries. FMI: Eleanor Bru at 473-1880, ext. 2396.

### October

**4** ~ Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange will begin new hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., effective seven days a week.

**10** ~ The 234th Navy Enlisted Birthday Ball will be held at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. Guest speaker will be MCPON (SS/SW) Rick West. Ticket prices include \$25 for E-1 to E-4, \$40 for E-5 to E-6, \$55 for E-7 to E-9, \$65 for retired military; and \$65 for officers and \$65 for civilians. FMI: contact your command representatives.

## Sharkey Showtimes



### G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG 13)

From the Egyptian desert to deep below the polar ice caps, the elite G.I. Joe team uses the latest in next-generation spy and military equipment to fight the corrupt arms dealer Destro and the growing threat of the mysterious Cobra organization to prevent them from plunging the world into chaos.

**TODAY**  
7:00 PM The Hurt Locker (R)

**SATURDAY**  
2:30 PM Aliens in the Attic (PG)  
4:45 PM Bandslam (PG)

7:00 PM G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG 13)

**SUNDAY**  
2:30 PM Aliens in the Attic (PG)  
4:45 PM G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG 13)  
7:15 PM A Perfect Getaway (R)

**THURSDAY**  
7:00 PM The Hurt Locker (R)

