

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS INTERACT WITH SURVIVORS THROUGH “WITNESS TO HISTORY” PROGRAM

Story and photos by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

Thanks to a special long-distance learning program, called “Witness to History,” 25 10th grade students from Creek Street Christian College were able to personally interact with Pearl Harbor survivors from their classroom in Bendigo, Australia.

The program, sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS), Arizona Memorial Museum Association (AMMA) and the United States Navy, allows students to have an opportunity to obtain first-hand accounts and interact live with Pearl Harbor survivors through video conferencing technology.

“This is a way of bringing our veterans to students who would never have the opportunity to have an actual conversation with them,” explained Daniel Martinez, historian for the USS Arizona Memorial and National Park Service. “It is also a way of taking the USS Arizona Memorial beyond its boundaries and [broadcasting] it all over the world.”

Martinez, who also served as moderator during the hour-long broadcast, said the Australian students were the first in their country to participate in the “Witness to History,” a program that has currently reached more than 11,772 students worldwide.

The program was broadcast from Ford Island on July 24 and featured two Hawai'i-based Pearl Harbor survivors - Sterling Cale, family a pharmacist's mate stationed at Naval



Pearl Harbor survivor Herb Weatherwax and Australian John Parsons interact with students from Creek Street Christian College in Bendigo, Australia as part of the “Witness to History” program that allows students to interact with Pearl Harbor survivors via videoconferencing technology.

Hospital at Pearl Harbor, and Herb Weatherwax, a Hawai'i native who enlisted in the 298th Infantry and witnessed the attacks from Schofield Barracks.

During the broadcast, both survivors shared personal experiences during and after the attacks on Dec. 7, 1941 as well as answered several students' questions.

“This is a first-hand experience from someone who was actually there [at

Pearl Harbor] when [the attacks] happened,” said Cale. “Most students learn about Pearl Harbor either by listening to a teacher who wasn't there or reading about it out of a book. But me and Uncle Herbie [Weatherwax] can give them two very different experiences about the same event from people who were actually there,” he added.

When one of the students asked the panel what they thought about the

2001 movie “Pearl Harbor,” Martinez interjected that although the movie was based more on a love story than a realistic war epic, it projected a national spotlight on the many survivors who at one point felt forgotten.

“What was interesting about that time was that young people started coming to the [USS Arizona Memorial] with the idea that they wanted to learn more about this subject,” Martinez explained to students. “So now, the survivors were being rediscovered by a new generation which they found very touching. Some were actually moved to tears because they didn't think they mattered anymore or that they were antiques of the past. The movie galvanized our nation and encouraged them to go visit the real place and see the real thing,” he added.

The “Witness to History” program consists of two videoconference series: “The Pearl Harbor Survivor Series,” that allows students to interact with survivors and hear their personal accounts, and “Inside the Vault: The Curator Series,” that allows students to view rare artifacts and photographs, currently not on display at the USS Arizona Memorial, accompanied by a voice-over interpretive lesson.

Interested schools are advised to contact the videoconference coordinator to reserve a date and time. For more information about the “Witness to History” videoconference program or Arizona Memorial Museum Association (AMMA), visit www.arizonamemorial.org or call Paul Heintz, AMMA education director at 485-2744.

(Below) Pearl Harbor survivors, Sterling Cale and Herb Weatherwax, field questions from Australian students during the “Witness to History” program. Survivors shared first-hand accounts of their lives during the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.



Quilts give military children comfort during deployments

Lt. j.g. Theresa Donnelly

Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet
Public Affairs

In an emotional presentation, two military families - each with a deployed husband/father - received a special reminder of their loved ones when they received a quilt adorned with family photos on July 25 at the Pearl Harbor Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA).

"When I saw the pictures of all of us together as a family, I cried. It is those times that I hold onto and that I look forward to when he gets home," said Lt. Cmdr. Jeannie Groeneveld whose husband, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Groeneveld, is currently assigned as the air boss aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Gridley (DDG 101).

Groeneveld's two children, ages three and 18 months, pointed at several family photos and, in a very touching gesture, handed their mother a tissue after her eyes welled up when seeing the blanket.

The presentation ceremony was designed to kick off the Honolulu Chapter of "Operation Kid Comfort," a nationwide program started in 2004 at Ft. Bragg/Pope Air Force Base in Fayetteville, N.C.

The program eases the stress of a parent's absence from the home by providing free quilts for children six and under and pillows for children seven and up. According to the program's Web site, since the program's inception more than 3,000 children have

received a quilt.

The two-year-old daughter of Sergeant Jeffrey Townsend, a career retention specialist with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363 headquartered at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i (MCBH) - Kaneohe Bay, also received a quilt. Townsend's unit is currently deployed to Iraq and is scheduled to return early next year.

"The blanket becomes just another way to keep the connection alive between my daughter and my husband," said Townsend's wife. "[Our daughter] calls the blanket her 'daddy blanket'."

Although the quilts can be made by volunteers from all over the country, these two quilts were made by local quilter and Kailua resident Ellen Huntley, who has made more than 20 quilts in the last six months and has a special affinity for U.S. service members.

"I actually teach enlisted Marines and Sailors on Marine Corps Base Kaneohe and I just love these young people and what they do," said Huntley, an instructor for the Military Academic Skills Program.

"It makes me feel really good that someone back here can do something to help these families out," she said.

The quilts are fashioned from collected family photographs and are made into

Navy and Marine families meet quilt maker Ellen Huntley who made the quilts that they received through "Operation Kid Comfort." Operation Kid Comfort, a program from the Armed Services YMCA, provides free hand-made quilts that are sewn from volunteers all over the country. The quilts are designed to ease the stress of a parents absence.

U.S. Navy photo by
MC3 Byung K. Cho



U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Byung Cho

Lt. Cmdr. Jeannie Groeneveld, holds up a quilt to show her son. The quilt is made from family photos and given to her free-of-charge via the Armed Services YMCA's "Operation Kid Comfort" program. Groeneveld's husband, Lt. Cmdr. Chris Groeneveld, is a naval aviator deployed on the USS Gridley (DDG 101). Operation Kid Comfort provides quilts to children of deployed service members.



"photo-transfer" quilts that display images of the deployed service member. All of the quilts are made by volunteers who contact the ASYMCA headquarters and request the materials that are then mailed to them free-of-charge.

ASYMCA also pays for the shipping of the quilt from the quilter to the military family.

Currently, Operation Kid Comfort has local operations in various parts of the country, but is just now beginning to establish a Hawai'i volunteer network. The Pearl Harbor ASYMCA staff has already reached out to Forest City

Military Communities in order to spread the word about the program and to seek volunteers who would be interested in making the quilts.

"With the Forest City's new community centers, we think that would be a great way for the spouses to get together and do something so meaningful for the children of deployed service members," said Kathy Kinneman, director of Honolulu's ASYMCA.

Kinneman encourages anyone who is interested in making a quilt or who would like to have one made for their child to contact Terri Nelson at 473-3398 or via e-mail at asymcaKbay@aol.com.

"I will always be grateful to the ASYMCA for giving this special gift to my boys. It is wonderful that my older son will be comforted sleeping under a blanket with pictures of his daddy whom he misses so much," said Groeneveld.

NMCRS Thrift Shop ready to open in new location

Paul Belanger

Director, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

The Pearl Harbor NMCRS Thrift Shop has moved. The thrift shop closed its former location next to Quick Field last month after many years of service because of necessary building renovations which will be taking place later this year.

The new shop, now located in building 1492, is set to open at 9 a.m. Aug. 4 following a ribbon cutting and grand opening.

The new location is on the lower level of a barracks building behind the Navy Uniform Shop near Utah Hall. The area has ample parking, easy access and totally renovated facilities.

Thanks to the generosity of Naval Station Pearl Harbor and its former commanding officer, Capt. Taylor Skardon, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Hawai'i has renovated the space, added a handicap ramp, signage and a new main entrance.

Volunteers from the thrift shop, along with staff and volunteers from both the Pearl Harbor and Kaneohe NMCRS offices, have been working this past month in relocating the shop, setting up shelves, racks and displays, and preparing for the grand opening.

The new shop will have a whole new look featuring theme rooms which include separate spaces for men's and women's uniforms, household goods, toys, children's clothing, men's and

women's clothing, books, music and many other items. In an effort to keep inventory fresh and new, all clothing items are now tagged with a color coding system which will allow them to rotate non-selling items out of inventory every three months. All items are now clearly price marked and pricing is non-negotiable to assure fairness to all customers.

NMCRS thrift shops exist to provide Sailors and Marines and their family members with an inexpensive source for clothing, uniform items, toys, small appliances and other household items. NMCRS relies on the dedication and enthusiasm of its volunteers and the donations made by active duty and retired personnel.

The Pearl Harbor NMCRS Thrift Shop raised more than \$65,000 from sales last year and these funds are used to assist our Sailors, Marines, family members and retirees in time of need.

NMCRS thrift shops are operated by volunteers and the Pearl Harbor Shop is no different. The Pearl Harbor Shop is run by Jo Hickok who serves as chairman and has accumulated more than 30,000 volunteer hours in the past 15 years. Lorna Keaunui serves as co-chairman of the thrift shop and also brings years of experience to her position.

The thrift shop is open from 8 a.m.-noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

For more information, call 423-1314.

Don't leave TRICARE at home

Kristen Ward

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

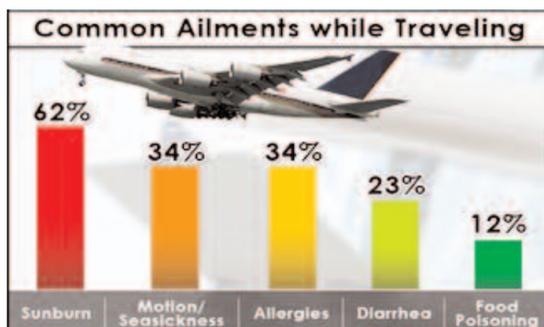
You worked hard all year, spent time planning your vacation, and are now looking forward to some time away from home, whether it be in the mountains, at the beach or overseas.

While you're counting down the days until you leave and crossing off items on your to-do list, don't forget to consider your health care benefits. Sometimes, even the most meticulous planning won't prevent you or your family members from getting the most common illnesses while on vacation, such as sunburn, allergies, fever and motion sickness or accidents that may require a trip to a doctor or hospital.

Here are some items to include on your to-do list before leaving for your destination.

- Ensure the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) records are up-to-date in case you need care on the road. Update your family's information in DEERS by:

- Logging onto the DEERS Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/ap>



[pj/address/indexAction.do](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/ap/address/indexAction.do)
-Calling 1-800-538-9552

-Visiting an ID card issuing facility (locations at www.dmdc.osd.mil)

-Faxing changes to 1-831-655-8317

-Mailing changes to: Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office
Attn: COA
400 Gigling Road
Seaside, CA 93955-6771

- Visit your physician for routine care before you leave, including general office visits for treatment and ongoing care. Care must be received at your assigned military treatment facility (MTF) or primary care manager's (PCM) office.

- Pack the prescription medicines you take every day,

making sure you have enough to last during your trip. Keep them in their original prescription bottles and always in your carry-on luggage. If you need a refill before you leave, the most cost-effective way is to visit the on-base pharmacy.

A second option is to use the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) program. Not only is there considerable cost savings (up to 66 percent), but you can also save yourself a trip to the pharmacy. TMOP offers up to a 90-day supply of medication for the same co-payment as a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. Your TMOP prescription will be delivered straight to your mailbox.

- Pack TRICARE Prime cards, military or uniformed

services ID cards and important contact information.

- Research locations of emergency and urgent care facilities. If you need to visit, understand the emergency and urgent care guidelines. Urgent care procedures vary by location. Contact the local military treatment facility (base/post doctor) or TRICARE Service Center (TSC) before receiving care to learn how to avoid out-of-pocket costs (You cannot contact a TSC other than going in to visit the office. It might be better to suggest they call us at 1-888-TriWest as they can get someone 24 hours a day.)

- If you experience an emergency while traveling, emergency care does not require prior authorization before treatment, so:

- Seek emergency care immediately at the nearest hospital.

- TRICARE Prime beneficiaries should notify your PCM and TriWest within 24 hours or by the next business day of any emergency room visit or admission (The patient should contact their PCM whether the emergency room visit was inpatient or outpatient) to avoid higher out-of-pocket costs. Contact TriWest at 1-888-TRIWEST (874-9378).

To report...

Fraud, Waste or Abuse

Contact Commander, Navy Region Hawai'i Inspector General

- ✓ We are here to help
- ✓ You can remain anonymous
- ✓ Remember to use your chain of command first

HOTLINE:
808-473-1782

EMAIL:
prlh-cnrhig@navy.mil

Navy Region Hawai'i Manawa Nanea

LEISURE

Morale Welfare & Recreation

KAYAK AND BARBECUE WITH OAC
Join the outdoor adventure center (OAC) for fun in the sun and kayaking at Chinaman's Hat on Aug. 2. After kayaking, visitors can enjoy a barbecue. The cost is \$20 per person and the event is open to all active duty and Department of Defense civilian employees and their families. FMI: 473-1198.



SUPER GARAGE SALE AND CRAFT FAIR
Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will host its Super Garage Sale and Craft Fair from 8 a.m.-noon Saturday at Richardson Field, located on Kamehameha Highway across from Aloha Stadium. The event is open to the general public and admission is free. Parking is available at Rainbow Bay Marina. FMI: 473-0606.

NFL PRE-SEASON AT OCEANS CPO CLUB AND CLUB PEARL
Oceans CPO Club and Club Pearl will show the Indianapolis Colts vs. Washington Redskins in the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame game at 2 p.m. Sunday. Oceans CPO Club is only for authorized patrons E-7 to E-9 and their guests. Club Pearl is open to all military affiliated patrons and their guests. FMI: 473-1743.

USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS
MWR youth sports is currently registering military youth (ages 7-18) for the fall season. The cost is \$60 per child and includes two team shirts and an award. The season will run from September to November. Registration ends Aug. 15. guests. FMI: 473-1743.

For more information on Navy Region Hawai'i MWR events, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com

Community Calendar

August

4, 8, 14 ~ Learn about the requirements for applying to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by attending an FBI career symposium beginning at 10 a.m. Aug. 4, hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps at the Transition Assistance Program Family Center at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i - Kaneohe Bay. FMI: 257-7790/7795. A presentation will be given at 9 a.m. Aug. 8 at the Navy at Fleet and Family Support Center, 4827 Bougainville Drive (Moanalua Shopping Center). FMI: 474-1999. The U.S. Army will host another presentation at 10 a.m. Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. at the Directorate of Human Services, Soldiers Support Center, building 750, Schofield Barracks. FMI: 655-1028.

20 ~ Navy Region Hawai'i's workforce development office will sponsor a "Learn From the Leaders" event from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Aug. 20 at building 89 at the Ford Island Conference Center at Pearl Harbor. The guest speaker will be noted community leader Rosa Say, founder and head of Say Leadership Coaching and author of "Managing With Aloha, Bringing Hawaii's Universal Values to the Art of Business." Capt. Donald Hodge, chief of staff for Navy Region Hawai'i and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, will introduce the speaker and give a brief update on the region's leadership development program. FMI: www.cnrh.cnicportal.cnic.navy.mil.

At a glance

Registration is now ongoing for the 5th Annual International Women's Leadership Conference to be held Sept. 24 at the Sheraton Hotel in Waikiki. Hosted by Hawai'i Governor Linda Lingle, the 2008 conference will include a group of renowned women speakers representing 10 different nations. FMI: www.iwlchi.org.

Sharkey Showtimes



Wanted (R)

Twenty-five-year-old Wes was the most disaffected, cube-dwelling drone the planet had ever known. Then he meets a woman named Fox. After his estranged father is murdered, the deadly sexy Fox recruits Wes into the Fraternity, a secret society that trains Wes to avenge his dad's death by unlocking his dormant powers. With wickedly brilliant tutors – including the Fraternity's enigmatic leader, Sloan – Wes grows to enjoy all the strength he ever wanted. But, slowly, he begins to realize there is more to his dangerous associates than meets the eye.

TODAY

7:00 PM Wanted (R)

SATURDAY

2:30 PM Wall E (G)

4:45 PM The Love Guru (PG 13)

7:00 PM Get Smart (PG 13)

SUNDAY

2:30 PM Kung Fu Panda (PG)

4:45 PM Wall E (G)

7:00 PM Wanted (R)

THURSDAY

7:00 PM Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG 13)

