

MC2 Somers Steelman

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

Veterans, active duty service members and their families gathered at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor during a commemoration ceremony, Dec.

The theme, "Rising to the Challenge," highlights events in the days, weeks and months after the attack, as the United States rose to face challenges - both at war and on the home front — in order to achieve greater peace, freedom and democracy in the world.

"Today we pay tribute to those members of the Greatest Generation," said Jason Blout, chief of interpretation for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument. "They rose to the challenge, in the name of freedom, in order to achieve a more peaceful world.'

The ceremony began with a ringing of the USS Arizona ship's bell at exactly 7:55 a.m., followed by a moment of silence to commemorate the beginning of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and honoring those who courageously fought and died that

"The bell you hear is from the USS Arizona," Blout said. "As the resting place of more than a

thousand Sailors and Marines, the USS Arizona represents all American service members killed on Dec. 7, and stands in honor of all who were lost in World War II."

The ceremony paid tribute to those who lost their lives during the attacks on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, including a "Missing Man" flyover formation, a Hawaiian blessing, wreath presentations from each branch of the armed forces, and the rendering of honors led by retired Chief Storekeeper Al Rodrigues, a Pearl Harbor survivor.

"It was an honor to stand and represent all Pearl Harbor sur-

vivors," Rodrigues said.

tunity to salute all those who have fallen."

Adm. Scott H. Swift, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, spoke directly to the World War II veterans, thanking them for the sacrifices they made in the past, forging a cultural heritage of resilience that Sailors continue to draw from today.

"It is truly an honor to be able to join you in the remembrance of those heroes that were unexpectedly thrust into the crucible of war here more than seven decades ago," Swift said. "Heroes whose honor, courage and commitment amidst adversity continues to inspire generations of American service members today.'

Keynote speaker and Pulit-"I am grateful for the oppor- zer Prize-winning writer Steve

Twomey shared personal accounts of people whose lives were forever changed after the events of Dec. 7, uniting the country in an unwavering resolve to fight and rise to the challenges before them.

The ceremony ended with a rifle salute performed by a U.S. Marine Corps rifle detail, the playing of Echo Taps by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, and a vintage 1940s Globe Swift plane fly-by. As the Pearl Harbor survivors and World War II veterans left the ceremony, dozens of present-day service members lined the exit to create a "Walk of Honor," issuing a hand salute as veterans walked through, in honor of their service and sacrifice.

### 15th Wing hosts Dec. 7 remembrance ceremony

Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Heather

15th Wing Public Affairs

Seventy-six years after a date that will live in infamy, the 15th Wing hosted a Dec. 7 Remembrance Ceremony in commemoration of the attack on Hickam Field in 1941.

"Seventy-six years ago on a day much like today, an attack was launched by the Imperial Japanese Navy," said Col. Kevin Gordon, 15th Wing commander. "This very ground shook from the bombs that were released by the multitude of Japanese aircraft flying overhead, on this exact spot where we are sitting today."

More than 400 military members, veterans and family members attended the ceremony to honor and



Retired Air Force Col. Andrew Kowalski and Tech. Sgt. Durward Swanson, survivors of the 1941 attack on Hickam Field, attend the 15th Wing's Remembrance Ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 7.

the two waves of attacks by Japan on Dec. 7, 1941.

"A lot has changed since that day," Gordon said. "The U.S. was victorious in World War II, and Japan is now our treaty ally. What hasn't changed is our choice to honor and remember the 189 Airmen remember the courage, an honor guard three-

who lost their lives during bravery, sacrifice and determination of those who

weathered the attack." The ceremony included performances by the Air Force Band of the Pacific, an F-22 missing man flyover from the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing, wreath laying, and

to retired Air Force Col. Andrew Kowalski and former Tech. Sgt. Durward Swanson, survivors of the

attack in attendance. In addition to honoring Kowalski and Swanson, the ceremony honored men and women whose lives were forever changed

that day. On the morning of the attack, 12 B-17 Flying Fortresses were traveling from Hamilton Field, California to the Philippines. The first aircraft arrived over Hickam Field during the Japanese attack and was strafed. The aircraft broke in two after landing and 1st Lt. William Shlick, the flight doctor, managed to get out of the aircraft. He was killed by a Japanese bullet while still on the flightline.

Swanson was a night-

He was in bed when the bombing and strafing woke him. He got dressed, grabbed his helmet and gun, and headed back to his post. Upon returning to the guard post he witness a friend, U.S. Army Air Corps Pfc. James Strickland get hit by an

enemy bullet. During this time, then-Master Sgt. Kowalski, heard the explosions from base housing and immediately reported to the wing headquarters building, where he worked for the wing commander. Kowalski spent the day manning the phones for the commander and maintaining the official list of Hickam Field casualties.

in the barracks when they witnessed the attack. They got dressed and headed to shift guard at the main the headquarters building.

round volley. Shadow gate and was relieved of While underway they took boxes were also presented duty before the attack. cover from the attacks. Once at the neadquarters building, they carried buckets of water to the roof to help cool the barrel of a machine gun the Army set up. That night they slept on the floor in anticipation for a Japanese ground attack.

By the end of the attack, 189 Army Air Corps Airmen and civilians lost their lives, 303 others were injured, and only 79 of the 231 Hawaiian Air Force planes were usable.

The 15th Wing holds a remembrance ceremony every year at the same time as the first attack wave to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

"No other generation A group of Airmen were has sacrificed more for their country," Gordon said. "We are forever grateful and will always remember them."

### USS Utah Memorial sunset service, interment ceremony

MC2 Gabrielle Joyner

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

Service members, families and friends gathered at sunset around the USS Utah Memorial on historic Ford Island to honor victims of the Pearl Harbor attacks with a ceremony and interment service, Dec. 6.

A sunset ceremony is held every year to pay tribute to the crew of the USS Utah, and often, to Monuments. inter the ashes of survi-

vors recently passed, so that they may be united with their shipmates already entombed inside

the sunken vessel. "Each year we gather to honor the 58 Sailors who lost their lives when the USS Utah was hit by two Japanese torpedoes, one of the first ships to go down in Pearl Harbor that day, and we remember their sacrifice," said Jacqueline Ashwell, su-

and Honolulu National Ashwell opened the

perintendent of the World

War II Valor in the Pacific

ceremony by recounting the harrowing story of Peter Tomich, a U.S. Navy Sailor stationed onboard the Utah at the time of the attack.

'We remember the valor of men such as Peter Tomich, who, after realizing the ship was capsizing, did not run for safety, but instead decided to stay at his post. He knew if he could stabilize the boilers, a lot of people would be able to escape with their lives," Ashwell said. "So he stayed and al-

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### Utah Memorial sunset service, interment ceremony

### < From page A-1

to fulfill long lives. Today is particularly special. Today we celebrate the lives of two men who were able to escape the capsizing of the ship that you see behind me, thanks to the teamwork of Tomich and other shipmates."

This year, Lt. Cmdr. Clark J. Simmons and Aviation Machinist's Mate Harry Hohstadt were remembered and honored. Both crew members rose to the challenge and overcame great obstacles on that day, and the subsequent years to come.

Harbor and he loved the USS Utah. He brought me here for the first time when I was very young," said Claudette Simmons, daughter of Clark Simmons. "When I look at this place, I know he's home, and I know that

God has him now.' Simmons joined the Navy in 1939, a time when segregation was in full effect, making it difficult to move ahead in many career fields, including the Navy. Simmons did not let this deter him from his goals. He received a Purple Heart after being shot during his escape from the Utah, and after serving for 29 years, retired from the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander.

Hohstadt was also no stranger to adversity, being the youngest of nine children during the Great

Depression. in many subsequent battles including the pivotal struggle for Guadalcanal in November 1942. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, is our vow."

Hohstadt went on to start a large family, and owned lowed for others to go on his own business for 40

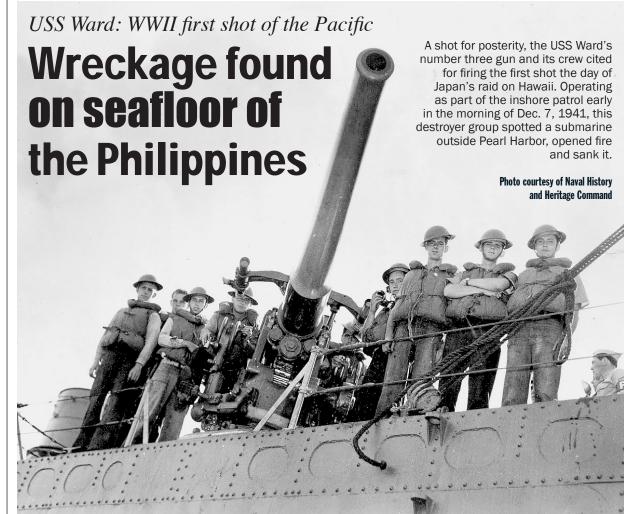
> "My dad would have been especially impressed with the young people, because he loved to see young people go into the service and serve their country," Teresa Teague said of her father Harry. "He also would have been quite taken with the officers because he was enlisted, and to see all the officers here to honor him, he would have been quite taken by their support."

During the ceremony, Ashwell took the time out to recognize one more "My dad loved Pearl U.S. Sailor, who has also volunteered to rise to a unique challenge presented at Pearl Harbor.

Retired Master Chief Jim Taylor has been a volunteer liaison and friend to the Pearl Harbor survivors and their families for many years, and was commemorated for his work at the ceremony.

Today, we also would like to honor the man that does the honors, a man who has been here for 20 years, steadfast, to honor all of those who choose to return to Pearl Harbor when they die," Ashwell

"For the past eight years, Jim Taylor has been here to coordinate events for our Pearl Harbor survivors and ensure that the USS Utah is not a forgotten ship. The employees of the U.S. National Park Service have enjoyed partnering with you over all these years, After the assault on and we have learned a the Utah, he saw action great deal from you as well. We will continue in this partnership to ensure that the USS Utah is never a forgotten ship. That is our promise, that



#### **Anna General**

Managing Editor, Ho'okele Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

#### Paul G. Allen Group

With the advancement of technology, the exploration of underwater wreckage has become an easier task for divers and expedition crews to discover secrets hidden on the ocean floor.

As Hawaii honors the 76th anniversary of the National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration on Dec. 7, Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Paul G. Allen's expedition crew of Research Vessel (R/V) Petrel released video footage of the wreckage of the USS Ward (Destroyer No. 139) in its final resting place at the bottom of Ormoc Bay in the Philippines, Dec. 1.

According to the Paul G. Allen Group, the R/V Petrel is a 250-foot research and exploration vessel

purchased in 2016 by Allen. Petrel's advanced underwater equipment and technology makes it one of the few ships on the planet capable of exploring 6,000 meters

"We are grateful to Mr. Allen and his entire team for the dedicated efforts to search for and provide evidence of the nations' and the Navy's rich maritime heritage of courage, valor and determination," said Adm. Scott Swift, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

On Dec. 7, 1941, about an hour before the attack on Pearl Harbor, USS Ward and its crew sighted and sank a Japanese midget submarine which was one of five top secret Japanese vessels each armed with torpedoes that intended to penetrate the harbor under cover of darkness before the attack began.

Three years later on Dec. 7, 1944, the USS Ward was lost after coming under attack by a kamikaze. The ship served as a high-speed transport for troops,

patrolling Ormoc Bay off the island of Leyte in the Philippines. It took a direct hit at the ships waterline causing fires that could not be extinguished, resulting in the crew ordered to abandon ship.

The USS O'Brien immediately came to assist. Lt. Cmdr. William Outerbridge, O'Brien's commanding officer had been in command of the USS Ward during the attack on Pearl Harbor three years earlier. Fortunately, only one USS Ward crew member was injured during the day's events.

"The USS Ward found herself in the crucible of American history at the intersection of a peacetime Navy and war footing. She took decisive, effective and unflinching action despite the uncertain waters. Now 76 years on, her example informs our naval posture," Swift

To learn more about USS Ward's history, visit the Naval History and Heritage Command at www.history.navy.mil.

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# Diverse VIEWS



Submitted by David D. Underwood Jr. and IT2 Matthew Muir

### What's the best holiday gift you've ever received?



Cheryl Mullen 735th Air Mobility Squadron

"When my kids bought their first gift for me on their own. It was an old-fashioned sweater that looked pretty bad, but they were proud. I still have it."



Master Sgt. Angel Olivas Defense Information Systems Agency **Pacific** 

"I would have to say my plane ticket home last year during December. My wife and kids got evacuated from Turkey so I had a nine-month deployment. When I came home, my kids had grown.'



STG2 Brandon Owens Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

"I asked for a Sega Genesis for Christmas and I have been a gamer ever since."



2nd Lt. Jennifer Ramirez 17th Operational Weather Squadron

"When I found out I was making my first PCS to Hawaii, my mom and dad surprised my sister, brother-in-law, and me with a vacation to Jamaica for Christmas. It was so special to spend a final holiday together."



CS2 Michael Lesko **MIDPAC** 

"The best gift was a metal tractor and trailer from my grandmother before she passed that year.'



**CS1** Demetrous Simmons **JBPHH** 

"The best gift for Christmas has always been family."

Want to see your command featured in Diverse Views? Got opinions to share? Drop us a line at editor@hookelenews.com

# The Navy JAG Corps turns 50

General's (JAG) Corps celebrates 50 years of service and excellence today, Dec. 8.

"From the time the Navy created the 'law specialist' program ... to the JAG Corps we know today, the Navy's legal team has made a difference every day providing steady counsel and advice to keep us from running aground ethically and on the right course always," said Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer.

The JAG Corps hosted a commemorative event on Dec. 7 at the U.S. Navy Museum in and the future of the JAG Corps Washington, D.C.

Retired and active-duty judge advocates, as well as other local colleagues, enjoyed remarks from community leaders before cutting a cake to mark the historic anniversary.
"The Navy

JAG Corps is a

profession with purpose. Every day, around the world, judge advocates are contributing to the Navy mission, shouldering a weighty responsibility with honor and humility," said Vice Adm. James W. Crawford III, who currently serves as the Navy's 43<sup>rd</sup> JAG. "I am proud to tance, information operations have worked alongside so many and intelligence law. dedicated, talented profession als, both past and present."

On Dec. 8, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation that formally created the JAG Corps of the Navy. It established active-duty lawyers as a distinct professional group naval officers focused on the delivery of a wide range of legal services.

Since its inception, the JAG Corps has grown and evolved to meet the demands of an ever-changing world. From the establishment of Naval Legal Service Command (NLSC), to

The Navy Judge Advocate the creation of the Victims' Le-eneral's (JAG) Corps celebrates gal Counsel Program, to the expansion of operational law, the JAG Corps has been ready to respond to emerging issues. Today, the mission of the JAG Corps is to provide commanders. Sailors. and Navy families with targeted legal solutions that enable effective naval and joint operations.

The rich history of the JAG Corps is a source of great pride for all of us," said Rear Adm. John G. Hannink, deputy JAG and NLSC commander. "Our current judge advocates are making their own mark on our legacy,

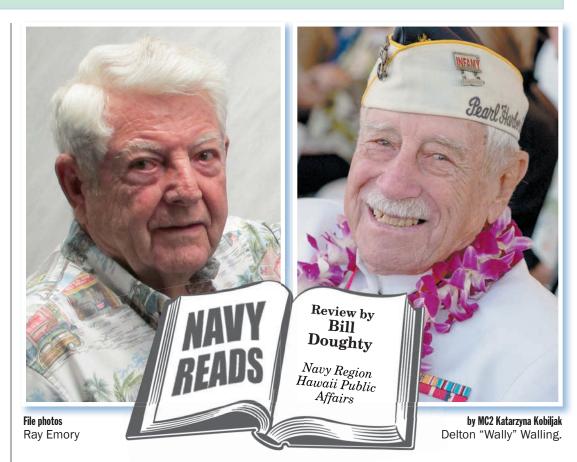
has never been brighter."

We do not work alone," he added. "Judge advocates practice alongside enlisted personnel and civilians in order to support the worldwide fleet. We share this milestone with all of them.'

Today's JAG Corps includes more than 1,300 accomplished Reserve and active-duty judge advocates practicing in many disciplines, including international law, military justice, administrative law, admiralty and maritime law, environmental law, legal assis-

The JAG community's statement - dedicated to service, committed to excellence illustrates the strong work ethic shared by judge advocates and their colleagues, as well as the high standards to which they ad-

here in their daily work. To learn more about the 50th anniversary of the JAG Corps, or about the services provided by judge advocates and their colleagues, visit www.jag.navy. mil/. For the latest news about the worldwide JAG community, follow www.facebook.com/navyjag and https://twitter.com/Navy\_JAG.



### What Pearl Harbor survivors read 76 years ago

What did Pearl Harbor survivors read before and after Dec. 7, 1941?

Clark J. Simmons of USS Utah told me in 2011, immediately after the 70th commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day, "My mother was a librarian. We did quite a bit of reading. She inundated us with books. I had three sisters and all of us were readers. I would read anything I could get my hands on.'

Marshall LaFavor, son of Chief Warrant Officer Machinist Franklyn LeFavor, grew up in a Navy family.

"One of the first things we did when we went to a new base was check in at the library and get our library cards," Marshall said.
"My dad was a big Zane

Grey fan. Being at sea for so long he said he wanted to read something with sand in his boots."

His dad also enjoyed reading C. S. Forester's Horatio Hornblower books, and after the war he read "Day of Infamy."

Ray Emory of USS Honolulu

his way to a Sacred Tea Ceremony aboard USS Arizona Memorial, that he only had time for his ship's manual during the war. He distinctly remembered its oil-stained and seasprayed pages and mentioned losing it during action in the western Pacific.

Today, Emory helps write the history of what happened at Pearl Harbor; he is a champion of the recently identified casualties of Pearl Harbor.

Delton "Wally" Walling, who happened to be with watchstanders in the shipyard water tower during the attack, even though he wasn't on duty, also read only the manuals he needed to read to be an effective signalman during the war.

"We were young kids coming in. We had nothing, no supplies, no libraries," he told me. After the war I wanted to try to forget.

George Bennett, national secretary of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association (which disbanded in late 2011) said he

told me earlier in the year, on enjoyed reading books of short stories and, after the war, about the history of what went on behind the scenes leading up to and during World War II — especially about intelligence and cryptanalysts and code breakers who did so much to help Adm. Chester Nimitz and Adm. Raymond Spruance win at the Battle of Midway and across the Pacific throughout the war.

> William F. Howell of USS Phoenix was a fan of Adm. William Halsey, Jr. during and after the war.

> "Read Sea of Thunder," he

told me. "Read about Halsey." Simmons, whose librarian mother instilled a love for reading, said, "I recommend history books — all history. And don't forget to study math and science!" (Clark Simmons, a native of Beaumont, Texas, passed away earlier this year in Brooklyn, New York.)

A version of this review first appeared in 2011 on Doughty's Navy Reads blog at http://navyreads.blogspot.com/.



U.S. NAVY JAG CORPS

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A U.S. Army B-17E is shown at Hickam Airfield, after landing safely during the air raid by Imperial Japan on Dec. 7, 1941. Smoke from burning ships at Pearl Harbor is visible in the distance.



Lt. j.g. Luis Espinosa conducts the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band Wind Ensemble during a public concert at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, Dec. 6.

Photo by MU2 Michael Caracciolo

USS Arizona survivor Don Stratton poses with fans at a book signing event at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center, Dec. 4.

National Park Service photo by Tom Fake Jim Taylor, Pearl Harbor survivor liaison, delivers remarks at the USS Utah Memorial.

**Photo courtesy of National Park Service** Pearl Harbor survivors, other veterans, military members and civilian guests render honors for the presentation of colors at the 76th anniversary of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 7.

Photo by MC2 Somers Steelman

### Veterans Talk Story

# Pearl Harbor survivors recognized

### Chaplain killed saving others in line of duty honored with Silver Star

MC1 Eric Lockwood

Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division

#### **Don Robbins**

Ho'okele editor

As the battleship USS Oklahoma (BB 37) capsized from a series of torpedo strikes in the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Chaplain Lt. j.g. Aloysious H. Schmitt sacrificed his own life to assist many of his shipmates in escaping to

For gallantry in action against the enemy, Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer has awarded the Silver Star Medal to Chaplain Schmitt.

Schmitt was hearing confessions aboard Oklahoma when four torpedoes hit the port side of the ship, according to a Navy Chaplain Corps history record.

As the vessel began to list to port, the crew tried to escape. Schmitt made his way with several others to a compartment in which an open porthole

**Photo courtesy of Loras College** An undated photo of Lt. j.g. Aloysius H. Schmitt who was killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

the outer hull of the ship - afforded a means of escape. One by one, the Sailors in the space, with Schmitt's help, crawled through the porthole to safety.

When they were all out, Schmitt attempted to get through the small opening. Even with the frantic assistance offered by the men who

During the attempt to escape, the chaplain became aware that others had come into the compartment from which he was trying to escape. Realizing that the water was rising rapidly and that even this one exit would soon be closed, Schmitt insisted on being pushed back to help others who could get through more easily, urging them on with a blessing.

As water poured into the ship, it gradually rolled over, and settled on the bottom of the harbor. More than 400 Oklahoma Sailors, including Schmitt, lost their lives.

Schmitt's body had been buried as an unknown soldier at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu. More than a century later, technological advances allowed authorities to identify his body and the remains of 388 unknowns of the Oklahoma's crew so they could be sent home for final burial.

Schmitt's family received the posthumous medal award – a small, circular window in were already out, Schmitt during a ceremony yesterday ily as "Father Al" — Sloan said sioned on June 28, 1949.

school that he graduated from in 1932. The school also dedicated its campus chapel to him.

Navy Chief of Chaplains Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben presented the Silver Star Medal to a member of Schmitt's family. In addition, the presentation ceremony was preceded by a special Catholic Mass in the campus chapel previously dedicated to Schmitt, and in which his remains are interred.

The presentation of the medals is not only appropriate but simply the right thing to do," Spencer said. "One of my highest priorities is to honor the service and sacrifice of our Sailors, Marines, civilians, and family members.

She called Schmitt a hero whose service and sacrifice will stand as an example for current and future service mem-

Schmitt's family said they are happy to celebrate the heroism of their loved one.

Dr. Steve Sloan is the greatnephew of Chaplain Schmitt. Although he never met Schmitt who was known in the fam-

struggled to get through the at Loras College in Iowa, the the story was a topic of discussion at every family holiday gathering when he was grow-

> We would talk about what happened, how many Sailors he helped escape, and what went on — we would kind of relive it every holiday and it became a bit of a tradition. So we're very excited about the medal. I think for the older people in the family it's a form of closure, but for the rest of us, our hope is that this is just the beginning of the story; that with the return of his remains and the presentation of the medal, his story will become known to a whole new generation."

> Named after the chaplain, USS Schmitt (DE 676) was commissioned July 24, 1943. The ship performed convoy escort missions in the Atlantic Ocean before being transferred to the Pacific. The ship also participated in combat operations off Balikpapan, Borneo in the summer of 1945. After conducting peacetime training and upkeep following the end of World War II, the ship was decommis-

### USS Vestal survivor posthumously awarded Bronze Star for valor

MC1 Eric Lockwood

Naval History and Heritage Command Communication and Outreach Division

#### **Anna General**

Managing Editor, Ho'okele Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Once known for his wild streak and Friday night amateur fights, one brave Sailor fought the treacherous inferno to save the lives of several Sailors aboard the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Chief Boatswain's Mate Joseph L. George who served as a second class petty officer aboard the repair ship USS Vestal (AR 4) during the attack on Pearl Harbor 76 years ago posthumously received a Bronze Star medal with "V" for valor award for his heroic achievement for saving the lives of USS Arizona survivors — Lauren Bruner and Don Stratton.

During this year's 76th anniversary National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony, Rear Adm. Matthew J. Carter, deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, presented the Bronze Star medal for Valor award to George's daughter, Joe Ann Taylor commended by his commandat the World War II Valor in the Pacific ing officer following the attack, National Monument's Pearl Harbor but he was not awarded any medal. Visitor Center, Dec. 7.

The posthumous award was re- Arizona Sailors saved by George's ac-

cently authorized by the U.S. Navy on Dec. 1 and awarded by Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer. George survived the war and retired from the Navy in 1955, but passed away in 1966.

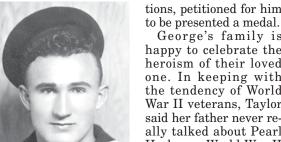
In addition to George's Bronze Star, Spencer also awarded the Silver Star Medal to Lt. j.g. Aloysious H. Schmitt for action while serving on the battleship USS Oklahoma (BB 37).

The presentation of the medal is not only appropriate but simply the right thing to do," Spencer

"One of my highest priorities is to honor the service and sacrifice of our Sailors, Marines, civilians, and family members and it is clear that Lt. Schmitt and Chief George are heroes whose service and sacrifice will stand as an example for current and future service members."

In 1942 George was officially

Bruner and Stratton, two of the USS



George's family is happy to celebrate the heroism of their loved one. In keeping with the tendency of World War II veterans, Taylor said her father never really talked about Pearl Harbor or World War II when she was growing up. But after he retired, he started going to reunions and that is when she began to get the full

"It was kind of surreal. You grow up with your dad thinking of him as dad; you're not used to thinking of him as a hero," Taylor said.

"But it's a wonderful story and I'm quite proud of him. Plus

I've gotten to know the men he saved and have developed a real bond with the Stratton and Bruner families.'

As recounted in an oral history interview conducted

George said on Dec. 7 he was settling the war and retired as a chief petty ofdown to read the Sunday newspaper ficer after 20 years in the Navy. To read

tions, petitioned for him tions) was sounded. That's when he realized there was an attack underway. To get a better sense of what was going on, he went outside, and the first thing he saw was a Japanese plane going down. With no time to think, his training kicked in and he began to act.

With Japanese torpedoes passing under his ship then striking Arizona, fires were breaking out everywhere. George recalled that the first thing he did, with help from several of his shipmates, was remove the awning covering the guns so that Vestal could fight back. Then he ran across the deck from fire to fire, to help put them out.

Meanwhile, Arizona was taking a pounding with explosions and fires encircling the Sailors on the decks.

"There were people over on the Arizona that were trying to get off, and there was fire all around," George said. 'I threw a line over."

After securing the line as best he could, George returned to fighting fires and controlling damage aboard Vestal. When it became apparent Arizona was doomed, George assisted with getting Vestal underway and away from the burning and fast-sinking battleship.

Arizona lost 1,177 crewmembers by the University of North during the attack. Vestal lost seven. Texas on Aug. 5, 1978, George went on to serve throughout when General Quarters (battle sta- more, www.history.navy.mil

### Brothers reunite aboard USS Arizona

**Bill Doughty** 

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Two brothers, both stationed aboard USS Arizona in December 1941. reunited this week after nearly 76 years.

Younger brother, Fireman Second Class Rayon Delois Birdsell, was aboard the battleship and killed in the attack of Dec. 7. Older brother, Machinist's Mate First Class Estellee Birdsell, was away from the ship that morning. He survived the attack and lived a full life.

An urn containing Estellee's ashes was placed within the brothers' former ship on Dec. 5 in a quiet late-afternoon ceremony held aboard the USS Arizona Memorial.

Rear Adm. James Waters, director of U.S. Pacific Fleet's maritime headquarters, presented keynote remarks.
"We remember the hun-

dreds of men lost here on Dec. 7, 1941 and we recognize that they were all brothers," Waters said. "Today we remember a



Photo by MC1 Phillip Pavlovich

Maryan St. Claire, daughter of Machinist Mate 1st Class Estellee Birdsell, touches her late father's name after its unveiling during an interment ceremony in his memory aboard the USS Arizona Memorial as part of the 76th Commemoration Event of the attacks on Pearl Harbor and Oahu at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Dec. 5.

that day 'in infamy,' would burning battleship, but it throughout the war, from hearts of the USS Arizona go on to fight in the war and fight to win.'

After the attack on the morning of Dec. 7, MM1 true brother — MM1 Es- Birdsell raced back to tellee Birdsell — who, like Pearl Harbor and tried to

was too late.

Reassigned to the destroyer USS Dale after Dec. 7, Estellee and his shipmates aboard Dale escorted, trained most other survivors of get on a boat to reach the and fought in the Pacific our brothers' was in the Tuesday's ceremony.

New Guinea, to Midway, to Guadalcanal and to the Aleutians. "Remember Pearl Har-bor' was their call," Wa-ters said. "'Remember

survivors." "Dad didn't like to talk

about his experiences during the war," daughter Maryan St. Claire said. Maryan participated in

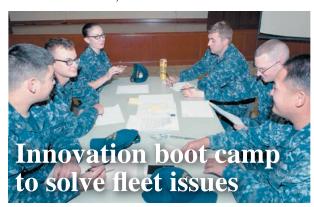
Her dad grew up as a hardscrabble farmboy in Arkansas at the height of the Great Depression. He quit school to work on the farm and pick up extra jobs.

My father had a mechanical ability, a knack, on the farm for fixing machinery that would break down or would be given up as a lost cause," Maryan said. When he saw other men — some with young families - not getting jobs, he joined the Navy.

After the war Estellee Birdsell, who had advanced to chief warrant officer, settled with his wife, Rita, in Newport Beach, in southern California, where Birdsell worked for the former Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

Rita was a native of Kalihi, Hawaii.

Tuesday's interment ceremony was conducted in coordination with the National Park Service, whose divers took Birdsell's ashes into the USS Arizona, reuniting the brothers. The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band provided music and performed Echo Taps, and the Navy Honors & Ceremonies detachment and flag detail provided ceremonial supA-8 • December 8, 2017 **HO'OKELE** 



File photo by MC1 Jeff Troutman

Sailors from the USS Preble (DDG 88) participate in "The Bridge" pilot program, an innovation workshop.

#### MC1 Phillip Pavlovich

U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

Applications are being accepted until Jan. 5, 2018, for a four-day innovation boot camp course designed to improve efforts Navy-wide. The course, hosted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet's (COMPACFLT) The Bridge initiative and Military District 5 (MD5), will be held in San Diego, Feb. 6-9, 2018. The Bridge is a COMPACFLT initiative designed to give all Sailors, regardless of rank or experience, an opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas for improving the Navy.

During the boot camp, participants will learn design thinking and lean methodology to help them develop concepts and brainstorm initial solutions to solve potential issues within their organizations.

"By teaching Sailors at all levels how to identify and frame problems, how to generate ideas to solve problems, and methods by which solutions can be implemented, we can enable change in both the near term and long term," said Cmdr. Thomas Ogden, director, COMPAC-FLT Strategic Initiatives Group. "We expect that attendees take what they learn in this course and not only use it to solve

problems, but to influence those around them to do the same. The process by which we make advances in policy and technology requires a willingness to try something new. Through the design thinking process, Sailors will learn how to quickly find where there are gaps in their ideas and then generate a solution at a more rapid pace."

After the four-day course, participants will use what they learned to continue developing, testing, and refining their solutions for a period of 30 to 90 days.

During that period, The Bridge and MD5 will meet with course participants and promote collaboration between teams and stakeholders in the Pacific Fleet and MD5 communities.

Select teams will have the opportunity to pitch their finalized concepts to Pacific Fleet senior leadership at the COM-PACFLT Commanders Conference held in spring of 2018.

The Bridge connects the 140,000 Sailors in the Pacific Fleet," Ogden said. "By connecting the boot camp participants directly to fleet leadership, it shows them that senior leaders are not only paying attention to the efforts from the deckplates but want to implement the solutions that have impact on the deckplates.'

### USS Pinckney stops in Hawaii

Story and photo by MC2 Craig Rodarte

USS Pinckney Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burkeclass guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) arrived in Pearl Harbor Dec. 4 following a six-month deployment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and the Arabian Gulf.

Pinckney left its homeport of San Diego in June with an embarked detachment from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 75.

As part of the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, the ship and its crew sailed nearly 52,000 miles during the deployment — equivalent to roughly twice around the world. Sailors participated in high-value unit escort missions and supported a joint task force during President Donald Trump's Southeast Asia visit. The crew also provided support to Operation Inherent Resolve in the Arabian Gulf and conducted training and operations with foreign

pan Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Indian Navv.

Over the last six months we have worked with Nimitz Strike Group and our international partners to ensure maritime security and the free flow of commerce from San Diego to the Middle East," said Cmdr. Frank Walter, commanding officer, Pinckney.

"After all that, there is nothing like coming back to the United States of America and Pinckney is proud to return to Pearl Harbor. We're going to use this time to take on some last minute supplies and make some repairs, and, of course, we'll be taking some time to relax before heading home."

HSM 75 flew more than 600 hours during deployment, executing 213 flights from Pinckney in support of strike group operations and national tasking. Throughout her deployment, Pinckney carried out two Strait of Malacca transits, 12 escorts of USNS and U.S.flagged cargo and support vessels through the

navies including the Ja- Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el Mandeb; executed more than 23 underway replenishments safely receiving more than 5 million gallons of diesel fuel and more than 130,000 gallons of jet propulsion fuel with zero mishaps.

> Pinckney visited various ports during the deployment, including Pearl Harbor; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Pattaya, Thailand; and Duqm, Oman. Sailors volunteered to spend time and play with children at the Child Protection and Development Center in Pattaya City, Thailand, fostering a positive relationship with the local community.

During the deployment, 114 Sailors qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists and 55 Sailors qualified Enlisted Air Warfare Specialists. Administrative personnel processed 82 Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and gained 39 and transferred 23 personnel while sustaining 15 changes in personnel routing instruction messages.

Supply personnel handled more than 6,700 pounds of outgoing mail, received more than 375 pallets of food costing more than \$600,000 and generated more than \$210,000 in sales, contributing \$50,000 in ship store profits to morale, welfare and recreation.

The Pinckney crew received the Force Health and Wellness Award, also known as the Green "H." The award recognizes Sailors who have demonstrated their dedication to helping Shipmates make constructive changes in their life by conducting activities like CPR training, smoking cessation courses, regular health fairs, fitness sessions, and education on healthy living practices. Pinckney also received the Battle Effectiveness Award, known as the Battle "E," for work conducted in 2016. The Battle "E" is presented throughout the Navy to ships whose crews consistently exhibit excellence in wartime capabilities and optimal mission readiness within their hull class and region.



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### Story and photos by MC1 Jeffrey Troutman

Navy Public Affairs Support Element Detachment Hawaii

An all-service bowling competition for wounded veterans took place at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Nov. 28, in commemoration of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Warrior Care Month.

The event was hosted by the Navy and Coast Guard Wounded Warrior Program, Navy Region Hawaii, and featured teams from the Navy, Marines and Army playing for bragging rights and the honor of hosting next year's competition.

The bowling competition was the first of its kind for the Hawaii's Wounded Warrior Program, and will be an annual event open to all branches of service.

"The most gratifying part of today, for me personally, was seeing the smiles and laughter among our Wounded Warriors, and watching them compete as a team," said Margo Crane, N95 Region program director for the Navy and Coast Guard Wounded Warrior Program, Navy Region Hawaii.

"All of these service members are injured, ill, or wounded, and are struggling to find what we call a 'new normal,' in that they are learning who they will be and how to move along their recovery path post injury or illness. Coming together strengthens and improves morale, and instills a sense of purpose and camaraderie across the services on our island.

"Events like these help us get that word out, meet new members in the program, and ensure their journey back to health is a productive one."

— Anthony Pone, Senior Chief Culinary Specialist

Though the Army's bowling team ultimately emerged victorious in the inaugural event, Chief Fire Controlman Ricky Davis stressed that all members of the Wounded Warrior Program were winners when participating with the community in such events.

"Service members in the Wounded Warrior program are some of the most courageous men and women you will ever meet," Davis said. "Just being in each other's company and having each other's support is worth

coming out to events like this." Senior Chief Culinary Specialist Anthony Pone said a Wounded Warrior service member's responsibilities to their respective commands and fellow service members never goes away, something Hawaii's Wounded

Warrior program members stand by.

We're based on an island, so the community is built on selfless people who are here to help each other and continue to mentor our service members," Pone said. "Events like these help us get that word out, meet new members in the program, and ensure their journey back to health is a productive one."

On Nov. 5, 2008, then-Secretary of Defense Robert F. Gates established November as Warrior Care Month, as a "Department of Defense-wide effort aimed at increasing awareness of programs and resources available to wounded, ill, and injured service members. their families, and those who care about them."

Gates charged the Department of Defense to "continue to make it easier for our troops and their families to take advantage of all the assistance now available to them.'

Every year, the DoD, military services and collaborating organizations use the month of November to celebrate the strength and resilience — physically, mentally, and spiritually — of our wounded, ill, and injured service members, as well as their families and caregivers, raise awareness of the warrior care resources and programs available today, and inspire year-round discourse regarding today's warrior care

This year's theme for Warrior Care Month, as in years past, was "Show of Strength," represented in the physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, familial, and career-readiness activities that service members and their families and caregivers engage to overcome

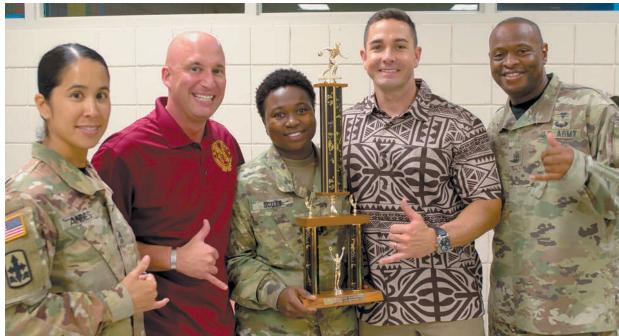
For more information, visit www.greatlifehawaii. com/family-support/wounded-warrior.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Ivan Valencia prepares to bowl.



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) 2nd Class Ivan Valencia is set to knock down some pins.



Members of the Army Cadre 1 bowling team pose with a trophy following the bowling competition.

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# Chief Wright to Airmen: know your retirement options

If I had to pick just one thing I'm most passionate about as the Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force, without a doubt it would be taking care of our Airmen and their families professionally, physically, spiritually and financially. I'm a firm believer that these four things go hand-in-hand.

In order to be the best, most resilient Airman possible, you have to balance your professional, physical, spiritual and financial wellness. This is why I'm always looking to arm our Airmen with knowledge to help them grow and make the best decisions possible in their lives.

Part of arming our Airmen with knowledge means providing them the tools necessary to understand and smartly plan their long-range financial goals. But this planning isn't just for Airmen with families; it's vital for all Airmen.

Airmen.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the Department of Defense will transition to the Blended Retirement System (BRS). If you haven't heard about BRS, you need to get up to speed now and learn all you can. I need each of you to take an active interest in your financial planning by using every resource we've made available to learn about the BRS.

The BRS gives Airmen an opportunity to save their money in a portable Thrift Savings Plan while receiving matching government funds at the same time.

This is the most basic layman's description of the program, which is why I need you to arm yourselves with all of the research and information available.

To help you, our Air Force leaders have put together a team of experts ready to provide extensive



Kaleth O. Wright Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force

training. Certified personal financial counselors are available at your Airman and Family Readiness Center.

These experts cannot decide for you, but they can help you evaluate which retirement plan is best for you. Every Airman's situation is different, financial goals are unique to each Airman and there is no "one size fits all" decision.

Airmen who enter the Air Force on or after Jan. 1, 2018, are automatically covered by the BRS. Active component Airmen serving now and those who enter the Air Force on or before Dec. 31, 2017, will be grandfathered under the current retirement system.

Airmen with fewer than 12 years of active service on Dec. 31, 2017, or Reserve Component Airmen with fewer than 4,320 retirement points as of Dec. 31, 2017, have the choice to opt into the BRS. Reserve Component members' "retirement points" and retirement eligibility for the defined benefit are the same under the BRS as under the current retirement systems. The opt-in window for BRS will run from Jan. 1, 2018 through Dec. 31, 2018.

Make your decision

knowing only you can determine which system is best for you, and understand that if you opt into BRS, it is irrevocable. You only have one chance to make this choice, so it's imperative you and those involved in making financial decisions for your family fully understand the pros and cons of both retirement systems.

I encourage each of you to take all of the training available on ADLS and utilize the BRS comparison calculator on the Military Compensation website (http://militarypay.defense.gov/Calculators/) before making an appointment with your base financial counselor. The calculator provides a comparison between the current retirement system and the BRS.

Doing your homework and preparing your questions ahead of time will help you get the most from your financial counseling appointment.

I would like to see all eligible Airmen trained as soon as possible to give everyone time to really think about their options and be fully prepared before making this life-impacting decision.

There are pros and cons to every major decision we make, and this holds true for both retirement plans. I can't tell you what to do. I can't tell you what's best for your family. All I can tell you is that you need to arm yourself with knowledge.

knowledge.
Check out the training, talk to people who can provide you with objective advice, talk to those who will be most impacted by your decision and execute your plan knowing you made the best decision for you and your family.

For more information about the BRS, visit the BRS website at http:// militarypay.defense.gov/ BlendedRetirement/.



### Arts and Crafts center to 'ho-ho-host' holiday open house Dec. 9

- Free 48th Annual Tower Lighting Celebration will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at Freedom Tower. It will feature free family-friendly activities, entertainment by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific Hawaii, free photos with Santa and the tower lighting to end the event. Food will be available for purchase. For more information, visit www.greatlifehawaii.com.
- A free holiday open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Arts and Crafts Center. It's designed for the whole family with free make'n'takes, demos, giveaways and hot dogs and soda. This event is open to all ages. For more information, call 448-9907.
- Free golf clinic will be held from 2 p.m. Dec 9 at the Mamala Bay Golf Course. For more information, call 449-2304.
- Quilting charity cooperative will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 10 and every Sunday at the Arts and Crafts Center. Participants can bring their own machine, tools and fabric, and then join like-minded quilters to create pieces for charities. For more information, call 484-2393.
- ITT Honolulu City Lights trolley tour will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Dec. 10-23. Patrons can skip the traffic and parking challenges and experience the ride to see the holiday displays at Honolulu Hale. Tickets are \$15 for the 6 p.m. tour and \$10 for the 8:30 p.m. tour and are subject to availability for each date/time. For more information, call 448-2295.
- Hike Kealia/swim Mokuleia from 8

- a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 13, departing from the Outdoor Adventure Center. The cost of this activity is \$20 and the deadline to sign up is Dec. 11. For more information, call 473-1198.
- Free golf clinic will be held from 2 p.m. Dec. 14 at Navy-Marine Golf Course. For more information, call 471-0142.
- Free learn about Kwanzaa event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 15 at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Library. Hands-on learning through crafts and music will provide education about this weeklong African American celebration. This event will include light refreshments. For more information, call 448-8296.
- North Shore Bike Ride will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 16, departing from the Outdoor Adventure Center. It's a seven-mile round-trip bike ride on level terrain that is suitable for beginners. The cost of this activity is \$25 and the deadline to sign up is Dec. 14. For more information, call 473-1198.
- Spearfishing excursion will hit the water from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 16 at Hickam Harbor. The cost of the activity is \$20 and participants need to have taken the learning to spearfish course to participate. Deadline to sign up is Dec. 14. For more information, call 449-5215.
- Christmas sale will be offered from Dec. 16 to 24 at the pro shops at all golf courses.
- Learn to surf will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Dec. 17 at Hickam Harbor. The cost of this class is \$30 and the deadline to sign up is Dec. 14. For more information, call 449-5215.



John Burns, administrative support assistant for Navy Region Hawaii, took these recent photos of sandhill cranes at the edge of a lake while on a recent trip to Orlando, Florida. How to submit: Email your photos and information to editor@hookelenews.com

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Missi Waits directs a class of Cycle Fit. The spinning class, just across from Hickam Fitness Center, is a recent addition to a host of Cycle Fit classes offered by MWR.

### Cycle Fit helps keep weight off during holidays

Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Hoʻokele

Keeping the pounds from creeping up on you during the holidays can be an exercise in

However, by staying busy with one of the many Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) group exercise classes offered at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Hickam Fitness Centers, struggles with the old holiday-weight-gain blues can be a thing of the past.

For years, Cycle Fit, one of the more popular classes offered at Joint Base, has been the go-to workout when it comes to getting in shape and doing it fast.

has made it even easier to attend Cycle Fit by adding another spinning class at a lo- is glad that he found the new

cation just across from Hickam Fitness Center. Taught and executed by 11-

year spinning instructor Missi Waits, the newest Cycle Fit class is held every Tuesday evening, from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. While the class is a recent ad-

dition, don't wait too long to sign up and get rolling right away to stay in shape and improve your health — especially if you plan to indulge in a few holiday goodies this season.

"The good thing about this class it that one size pretty much fits all," said Waits, who also teaches spinning at the JB-PHH Fitness Center. "You can really tailor this to whatever you want to do."

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Robert Flemming, USS Chung-Since Thanksgiving, MWR Hoon (DDG 93), said he has used spinning to supplement other activities to stay fit and

"I used to do this when I was stationed on Norfolk," he said. "I got here and saw the advertisement, but I didn't see the class. I came in (to Hickam Fitness Center) and asked where is the class and they told me it's right across the street. I said great, sign me up."

Flemming said that he does spinning for the cardio and endurance benefits, which he can't seem to get done as efficiently on any other form of exercise

and Waits agrees.

"They are basically training for heart rate," Waits said. "Tonight, I did intervals, so we're working on recovery. When you saw us do the standing flats, we were pretty much at a regular heart rate. Sprints, it's (heart rate) going to go up. The sprints are pretty intense, so you'll probably go up to a 92 percent of max heart rate and then we'll ple of classes, but Waits said 2214.

come down again.'

During the workout, Waits had class members stand and pedal, sit and pedal, adjust resistance and levels of intensity all to keep riders in the zone with just the right amount of energy and recovery.

The entire hour is accompanied by pulsating music that not only helps set the pace, but also keeps the classes energized.

"Tonight, we did intervals, so I'll do warm-ups and then I'll do the medium sprints first," she said. "Then I'll go a little bit heavier and the last ones, I have them go really heavy. Your heart rate should really go higher up at that time. After that, I'll switch to a strength and endurance route just to level them off and then we cool down."

One drawback to newbies is that they might get a dose of saddle soreness in the first cougive your body time to adjust and it will all go away.

"Your first class, you can't do anything about that," she said. Your second class, it might be a little bit worse. But by the third time, your body just figures out where to sit and your body figures it out.

Done in the proper way and under the right guidance, Waits said that spinning is one of those great exercises that are so low-impact, you can do every it every day.

"You can do it every day just as long as you change it up," she said. "I wouldn't suggest doing that class (interval) every day, but if you do that one and then you do a climb, and then you one like this again and you do a recovery ride, you really can do it

For more information, call Hickam Fitness Center at 448-

## Radford Rams get ready for OIA hoops season



Story and photo by Randy Dela Cruz

Sports Editor, Ho'okele

A year after qualifying for the OIA high school playoffs, the Adm. Arthur W. Radford High School Rams boy's basketball squad is laying the groundwork for another strong season.

Despite losing sparkplug point guard and Navy family member Santino Calloway, and athletic post player Jordan Pinder, whose family had a permanent change of station earlier in the year, the Rams appear ready to butt heads against a stacked OIA Western Division after competing in their own Jim Alegre Basketball Tournament last weekend.

Loaded with players from families at Joint Base Pearl

Harbor-Hickam and a quartet of 6-foot-plus players, led by co-captain 6-foot-5-inch senior Robert Garrison, the Rams should be physical enough to hold their own against any OIA West squad and are busy at work to put all the finishing touches together before the Rams season opener against the Nanakuli Golden Hawks

Dec. 23 at Nanakuli High "We have the physical talent, but we need to work on our mental game," Garrison said

after showing off his aggres-

sive style of play at the block

against Hayward High School from California Dec. 1. "We've still got to get used to playing with each other."

One of the players joining Garrison near the basket is 6-foot-2-inch Tyler Jordan, whose dad Master Sgt. Brent Jordan was a member of the 647th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) Over 30 JBPHH 2017 intramural basketball championship team.

Although only a sophomore, the younger Jordon's ability to slice and dice near the hoop is a nice complement to the hard-hitting style of Garrison.

"We just have to set our picks, do our pick and roll and play our offense," Garrison said about improving the team's inside play. "We just have to set our screens and that would give us looks down low."

While the post seems to be well in hand, the team's backcourt has its work cut out for it, but luckily for the Rams they have the players needed to do the job.

Last year's perimeter was well staffed by sharpshooters Jeremy Ramos and Jordan An-

naquey, as Calloway directed the team's potent attack. All players have departed by way of graduation, but returning guard and team co-captain

senior Earl Ray Navarro will help fill the void.

and strong rebounding game varro, who spent a good deal of his youth polishing his skills in MWR Youth Sports, has tremendous hustle on the court and uses it to drive to the basket or pull up for the jumper on offense, in addition to holding down his opponent on de-

> One sleeper in the group could be sophomore No. 2 guard Elhadji Kone, who was the team's brightest weapon on offense in the team's game against Hayward.

> Kone opened up the scoring for the Rams with a splashdown from beyond the top of the arc for three points and went on to score a team-high 13 points.

> He not only knocked down his second trey of the game later in the first quarter, but also scored at least a basket in all four quarters.

> This year marks the second season in which head coach Travis Armstrong leads the

A solid and tactical coach, Armstrong's rotations and schemes might be tough to master, but Garrison, playing in his second year under Armstrong, said players are beginning to understand that the coach's playbook is a vital key to the team's success.

"Since last year, we've gotten at least 20 percent better," he said. "We're getting better at Navy family member Na-

every practice.

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### Chapels announce holiday schedule

Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Chapels have announced the 2017 holiday schedule.

### **Roman Catholic** holiday services:

- Dec. 8, 11:30 a.m., Immaculate Conception Mass at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.
- Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Immaculate Conception Mass at Hickam Chapel Center.
- Dec. 24, 8:15 a.m., Catholic Mass at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.
- Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.
- Dec. 25, 9 a.m., Christmas Day Mass at Hickam Chapel Center.
- Jan. 1, 9 a.m., New Year's Day Mass at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.

#### **Protestant holiday** services:

- Dec. 9, 11 a.m., Joint Base Protestant Women Christmas brunch at Hickam Chapel Center.
- Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m., JB-PHH Christmas caroling at Hickam Chapel
- Dec. 24, 10 a.m., Christmas Eve traditional service at Submarine Memorial Chapel.
- Dec. 24, 8:30 a.m., Christmas Eve unity worship service at Hickam Chapel Center.
- Dec. 24, 11 a.m., Christmas Eve contemporary service at Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel.
- Dec. 24, 6 p.m., Joint Base Christmas Eve candlelight service at Hickam Chapel Center.

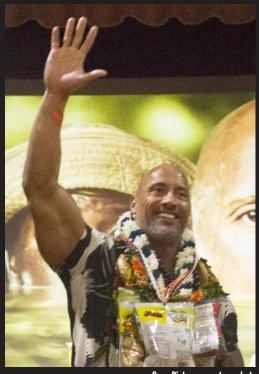
### Jewish holiday services:

Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m., Shabbat Hanukah service at Aloha Jewish Chapel.

For more information, call the Pearl Harbor Memorial Chapel at 473-3971 or the Hickam Chapel Center at 449-1754.

### Dwayne Johnson visits Hickam theater for advance screening





At left, Dwayne Johnson, star of "Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle," receives lei during his visit to Hickam Memorial Theater for an advance screening of the movie at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Nov. 29. At right, Johnson waves to his fans. Army & Air Force Exchange Service hosted the event, in partnership with Sony Pictures and the USO, as a thank you to service members and their families.

### Celebrate safely, sensibly this holiday season

#### Navy Region Hawaii Plan of the Week

The season between Thanksgiving and New Year's can often be a time of great joy and celebration.

We give thanks, visit family and friends, and reflect on the past as we anticipate what the new year will bring. Whether you are traveling to other locations or staying in the local area, a major concern for our personnel and their families is motor vehicle accidents, which is the No. 1 cause of holiday fatalities and killer of our personnel.

#### Here are some tips for safe driving.

- Plan your route so you don't have to look at your phone for directions and give yourself ample time to reach your destination.
- When driving, be alert, prac Many accidents are caused



tice defensive driving techniques, use safety restraints, drive within posted speed limits and always anticipate the unexpected.

by fatigue, excessive speed, and poor judgment - so slow down.

If you are going to drink alcohol have a plan and stick to it. Never drink and drive. Let a sober driver have the keys or call a taxi.

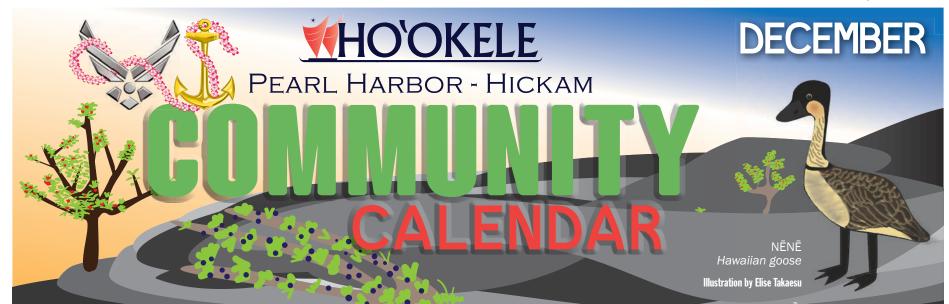
Lastly, if you fly somewhere in the world, recognize your fatigue and let someone else do the driving.

### Here are some general tips for hosting visitors.

- Light your walkway, porch, and stairs to prevent falls and add nightlights in hallways.
- Keep hallways, stairs, and exits free of toys, furniture and other clutter.
- Keep a sober eye on overexcited children. Your partner may be distracted by cooking and guests.
- If toddlers will be visiting, in-

- stall safety gates at tops and bottoms of stairs.
- Identify two fire exits from every room, whether door or window. Post a floor plan of your home where everyone in the family can see it and designate a meeting place outdoors.
- Assign an emergency exit buddy to each person with special needs, such as frail relatives or children.
- Test your smoke alarms before visitors arrive, especially near sleeping areas.
- Check your throw rugs and bathroom rugs for non-slip backings.
- If you are throwing a party to celebrate the holidays be attentive to the alcohol consumption of the guests. If necessary, provide a designated driver or even overnight accommodations.

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### **READY, SET, RUN! VOLUNTEERS**

**NOW** - Morale, Welfare and Recreation is looking for volunteer coaches for the "Ready, Set, Run!" youth cross country running club program being held from Jan. 3 to Aug. 18. Contact Brittany Bigham at brittany. bigham@navy.mil to volunteer as a coach. The program is for youth ages 7 to 18 and registration runs through Jan. 1. FMI: 473-0789 or visit www. greatlifehawaii.com.

### PACFLT BAND CONCERTS

**DEC. 8, 9, 12 –** The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band invites the public to join them for upcoming community concerts. Free U.S. Pacific Fleet Band Wind Ensemble Holiday Concerts will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 8 at Ka Makana Ali'i in Kapolei, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Halsey Terrace Community Center, and 5 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the Hale Koa Hotel Luau Garden. Holiday music will include jazz, contemporary wind band, marches and popular hits from today.

### **NAVIGATING HOLIDAY STRESS**

**DEC.** 11 — An interactive workshop on navigating holiday stress will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. The workshop is designed to assist military service members and families in managing their stress during the holiday season. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/ family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **ACING THE INTERVIEW**

**DEC.** 12 — A class on acing the job interview will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Wahiawa. Participants can learn how to position themselves as the best candidate, discover different interview styles, practice interview questions and learn about common pitfalls to avoid. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/familysupport/mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-

### **FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT 101**

**DEC.** 12 — A class on federal employment will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Wahiawa. The class is designed to help participants navigate the USAJobs website and understand the application process from start to finish. The class will also cover topics such

**TODAY** — The annual Tower Lighting Celebration will be held from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Freedom Tower lawn. The event will include crafts, a milk and cookies tent, entertainment by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific-Hawaii, food for sale, and photos with Santa. Parking is limited. A free shuttle service will be provided, traveling round-trip from the BX Garden Shop from 4:15 p.m. until the event ends. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com.



as hiring preferences and programs for veterans and military spouses. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/ mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **MILLION DOLLAR SERVICEMEMBER**

**DEC. 12–13** – The two-day Million Dollar Servicemember class will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. It is designed for junior Navy and Air Force personnel to learn about proper budgeting techniques and all aspects of finances. Topics will include credit management, savings and investment options, insurance, military pay and allowances. The discussion will also include consumer rip-offs, how to obtain a loan, credit scores and reports, and new/used car purchasing techniques. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii. com/family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-1999.

### RAIL TRANSIT MEETING

**DEC.** 13 - A business and community meeting about the Honolulu Rail Transit Project's airport guideway and stations will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. at Radford High School cafeteria. The project has announced a notice of possible noise from December to March due to use of construction equipment along Kamehameha Highway at Halawa Stream near Pearl Harbor. HART's 24hour project hotline is 566-2299 and the project website is www.HonoluluTransit. org. FMI: bit.ly/STGHawaii or visit STGHawaii on Facebook.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME**

**DEC.** 13 – A class on discovering ways to earn supplemental income will be held from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Military and Family Support Center Hickam. This course will cover legitimate remote employment opportunities, local part-time/temporary/seasonal jobs, self-employment and government contracting, leveraging a hobby into a money maker, quick-start income opportunities and money- saving apps. The class is also designed to identify red flags for scams, determine entrepreneurial risk-tolerance and potential. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/ family-support/mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **WORK, PERSONAL LIFE BALANCE**

**DEC.** 13 — A class on balancing work and personal life will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. This class will focus on strategies to create realistic expectations and challenge negative thinking patterns. FMI: www. greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfscclass-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **SELF-ESTEEM IN CHILDREN**

**DEC.** 14 — A class on developing self-esteem in children will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Hickam. The class

will focus on learning the "language of encouragement," discovering the power of mutual respect and how to understand the difference between praise and encouragement. FMI: www. greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfscclass-schedule or call 474-1999.

#### **EFMP COFFEE TALK**

**DEC.** 14 — An Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) coffee talk program families will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. The program is designed to help EFMP families learn, share and connect with each other. FMI: www.greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/ mfsc-class-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **SMOOTH MOVE**

**DEC.** 14 — A Smooth Move workshop will be held from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Military and Family Support Center Pearl Harbor. This workshop will feature speakers from various departments to give participants a better understanding of the permanent change of station (PCS) process. Topics will include travel regulations, shipping a vehicle, filling out necessary paperwork, clearing quarters, researching new the base and location and financial planning. FMI: www. greatlifehawaii.com/family-support/mfscclass-schedule or call 474-1999.

### **BLOOD DRIVE**

**DEC.** 19 — An Armed Services Blood Program drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ford Island NOAA building, 1845 Wasp Blvd. FMI: www.militaryblood. dod.mil/ or call 433-6699 or 433-6148.

### **SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MEALS**

**DEC. 22**, **25** — A special Christmas meal will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 22 at Silver Dolphin Bistro, Cromwell Circle building 654. The cost is \$9.05 cash only. In addition, a special Christmas meal will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 25 at the Hale Aina Dining Facility, Andrews Street building 1860. The cost is \$13.50 cash only. There is no charge to RIK/ESM members. The meals are open to all active-duty personnel, escorted family members of active-duty personnel, retirees and Department of Defense employees with valid ID card. Please bring exact change. FMI: call Silver Dolphin Bistro at 473-2948 or Hale Aina at 449-1666.

# MOVIE SHOWTIMES

### SHARKEY THEATER

TODAY - DEC. 8

7:00 PM • Murder on the Orient Express (PG-13)

SATURDAY - DEC. 9

2:30 PM • The Star (PG)

4:30 PM • Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)

7:10 PM • Thank You For Your Service (R)

SUNDAY - DEC. 10

2:30 PM • The Star (PG)

4:40 PM • Geostorm (3-D) (PG-13) 7:00 PM • Thor: Ragnarok (3-D) (PG-13)

THURSDAY - DEC. 14

7:00 PM • Thank You For Your Service (R)

### HICKAM MEMORIAL THEATER

TODAY - DEC. 8

6:30 PM • Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)

SATURDAY - DEC. 9

2:30 PM • Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)

6:00 PM • Murder on the Orient Express (PG-13)

SUNDAY - DEC. 10

2:00 PM • Thor: Ragnarok (PG-13)

THURSDAY - DEC. 14

6:30 PM • Murder on the Orient Express (PG-13)

### **Murder on the Orient Express**

A lavish trip through Europe quickly unfolds into a race against time to solve a murder aboard a train. When an avalanche stops the Orient Express dead in its tracks, the world's greatest detective — Hercule Poirot — arrives to interrogate all passengers and search for clues before the killer can strike again.