



September 17, 2012

THE CHANNEL MARKER

Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor

Celebrating 62 Years of Service!

Rotary International
www.rotary.org

President Sakuji Tanaka

District 5000

Governor Chester "Chet" Dal Santo
 Asst. Dist Governor ...Yollette Nishimoto

Chartered June 14, 1950



Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor
www.pearlharborrotary.org

Club Officers

President..... Douglas S. Taylor
 President-Elect..... Lester M. Hunkele III
 Vice President..... Kimberly B. Moore
 Secretary..... Tsurumi Hamasu
 Treasurer..... Stella Kimura
 Past President..... Connie G. Kraus
 Sergeant-at-Arms..... Stefanie Wilson

Directors

Club Service..... Ernest G. Anderson
 Service Projects..... Shirley Robinson
 International Service... William H.Q. Bow
 New Generations..... Willa Gardner
 Membership..... Raymond Noh
 Public Relations..... Elle Kaanaana

Interest Clubs Sponsored

Aiea High School
 Farrington High School
 Moanalua High School
 Radford High School

Sister Clubs

Hiroshima Southeast, Japan
 Tokyo Osaki, Japan
 Avachinsky, Russia

Meeting Schedule

Mondays, 12:00 Noon
 Oahu Country Club
 150 Country Club Road

Channel Marker Published by
 Harvey Gray

IN THE WAKE

MEETING REPORT Sep 10, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President **Doug Taylor** welcomed members and guests to the 2862nd meeting of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor where we pursue *Peace Through Service*.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Doug Taylor**. **Doug**, inducted February 13, 1984 and sponsored by **George Topic**.

Harvey Gray, inducted September 8, 1997 and sponsored by **Bob Deibler** provided the prayer.

George Topic, inducted February 6, 1967 and sponsored by **Wally Backus**, led us in singing "God Bless America"



George Topic

RECOGNITION

Sergeant-at Arms **Stefanie Wilson** welcomed District Leadership: District Governor **Chet Del Santo**, Assistant District Governor **Yollette Nishimoto**, & **Harvey Gray**, District Newsletter. Rotarian Guests Within District 5000: **Alan Lloyd**, Windward - Calabash Member

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor will hold its annual Foundation Dinner and Silent Auction Saturday, November 10, starting at 5:30 pm, at the Outrigger Canoe Club. Cost will be about \$45 per person and we would like all to pre-pay to save a backlog at check in, and save having to follow up with some after the event.

Connie Kraus is chair of the auction and asks you to please take your items for the auction to any Monday lunch meeting, starting October 8, so we can start the auction preparations.

KEN BROWN

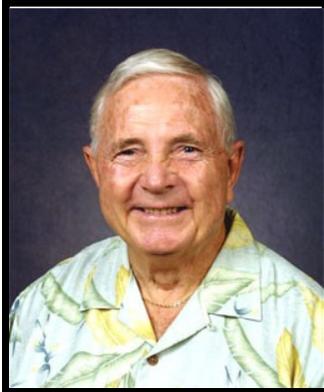
President **Doug** introduced Past President **Harvey Gray** and asked him to say a few words in remembrance of deceased Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor member **Ken Brown**, one of our clubs real Heroes. He was born in Los Angeles and grew up in the Manhattan Beach area. He graduated from the University of Southern California with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology and Naval Science in 1953. One needed to be around **Ken** for only a short time to know that **Ken** was an ardent USC fan. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. His many assignments included Commanding Officer of the USS Razorback

IN THE WAKE

(SS394). **Ken** retired from the Navy in 1969 as a Commander and then worked as a Trust Officer for First Hawaiian Bank for 19 years before retiring in 1998.

Ken joined the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor on November 24, 1974. He served on many Rotary Committees over the years and was a Club Director, Secretary, Vice President before becoming Club President (1980-81).

He contributed 10 Paul Harris Fellowships and was a Benefactor. He was also a Maurice J. Sullivan Fellow. **Ken** was the Rotary District 5000 Attendance Chairman for two years, aide to the District Governor and District Secretary and Treasurer for more than 20 years. Harvey asked that everyone join him in a moment of silence in memory of **Ken** who passed away in January of this year.



Ken Brown

PROGRAM

President **Doug Taylor** gave a brief background about our club and the Rotary organization in general. Our Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor was formed in 1950. This is our 12th Annual Heroes Luncheon. Our first luncheon was held in December 2001, when our membership thought it was appropriate to honor and thank first responders, public servants and members of the Armed Forces.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocation, and help build good will and peace in the world. The Rotary Foundation provides scholarships, cultural and student exchanges. Rotary is widely regarded as the world's largest private provider of international educational scholarships, community and international service. There are nearly 1.3 million members worldwide and in Hawaii we have 48 clubs and about 1,700 members.

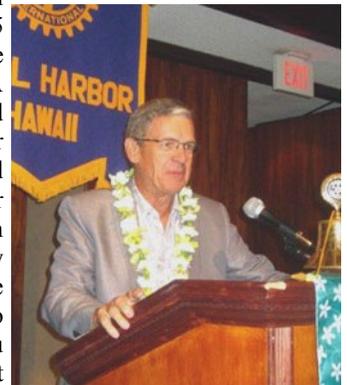
Past President **Harvey Gray** introduced guest speaker, Admiral **R. J. "Zap" Zlatoper**. **Zap** assumed his current position as the Chairman and 24th Trustee of The Estate of James Campbell on the 1st of July, 2000 after

successful earlier careers in the high technology industry and the United States Navy. During his service in the private and public sectors, Admiral **Zlatoper** has served for over 10 years as the Chief Executive Officer of large organizations in the national defense and commercial sectors.

The Estate of James Campbell is a private trust which administered real estate assets valued at more than \$2 billion, with holdings in Hawaii and 16 states on the U.S. mainland

Prior to joining The Estate of James Campbell, Admiral **Zlatoper** served as Co-Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Sanchez Computer Associates, Inc., a banking software company rated 45th on the Forbes magazine list of the 200 best small companies in the U.S. Under his leadership Sanchez grew from a \$50 million market capitalization organization to a \$1 billion corporation.

Before joining Sanchez, Admiral **Zlatoper** completed a distinguished naval career. His final assignment was Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, the world's largest naval command encompassing half the Earth's surface, and including more than 190 ships, 1600 aircraft, and 200,000 personnel, with an operating budget of \$5 billion per year. In this command he was directly responsible for naval relations with 45 countries throughout the Asia Pacific rim. A combat experienced naval aviator with over 4,000 flying hours and 1,000 aircraft carrier landings. I could go on all day citing his many accomplishment, but we would be here well into the afternoon, but you know that I had to get the flying bit in. Please welcome Admiral **Zap**.



Admiral Zlatoper

Admiral **Zlatoper** said that he cherished his years of Naval service and that he was fortunate to have a chance to observe three generations of heroes. **Zap** stated how heroes are a big part of America's culture and how they stand out as individuals rising to the occasion. He continued to say that his definition of a hero is someone who has a commitment to serving others and takes proper action at a critical moment. He shared a three examples of heroic acts that he observed during his Navy time.

IN THE WAKE

The first example was 45 years ago, second act was about 21 years ago, and the last one here today.

On July 29, 1967, **Admiral Zlatoper**, who was then a Lt. Commander aboard USS Forrester, an aircraft carrier operating in the Tonkin Gulf conducting combat flights over North Vietnam, recalled a catastrophic event that occurred that day. USS Forrester had arrived on Yankee Station on July 25 and immediately began combat operations, her aircraft flying 150 sorties during the next 4 days, without the loss of a single aircraft. At 10:52 A.M. on July 29, the second launch was being readied when a Zuni rocket accidentally fired from an F-4 Phantom parked on the starboard side of the flight deck aft of the island. The missile streaked across the deck into the 400 gallon belly fuel tank of **John McCain's** parked A-4D Skyhawk. The ruptured tank spewed highly flammable JP-5 fuel onto the deck which ignited spreading flames over the flight deck under other fully loaded aircraft ready for launch. The ensuing fire caused ordinance to explode and other rockets to ignite. Spread by the wind, the flames engulfed the aft



end of the stricken ship turning the flight deck into a blazing inferno. Berthing spaces immediately below the flight deck became death traps, while other crewmen were blown overboard by the explosion. Bombs were going off everywhere and there was nowhere to run. It took 12 hours to save the ship. **Zap** remembered in retrospect, after the ship was saved, how some of the sailors had reacted to the situation, in a way that surprised him. The group that stood out were the cooks and mess attendants who had no training in fire fighting or clearing bombs from the deck. Some were 5ft tall, 110 pound non rated sailors were on the hanger deck rolling 500 lb. bombs over the side of the ship and throwing liquid oxygen tanks and other explosives over the side so they wouldn't be caught in flames. These were men who just jumped in and took action and were heroes. They took proper action at a critical time. That was a generation after the greatest generation.

Admiral **Zap** was the Commander of the Navy Battle Group in the Persian Gulf at the beginning of Gulf War One. Battle Group One was made up of an aircraft carrier

and supporting ships and over 8000 men and women – only three of these had combat experience, The Admiral, the carrier C.O. and a very old landing Signal Officer, the rest were rookies and they were about to start a war. He recalled twenty one years ago on the morning of January 17, 1991 at 1:00 in the morning when he watched the launching of the first strike of the war. Fifty two aircraft were launched – Fifty two pilots flying into the start of the battle. The defenses of Iraq had been studied for months, and Saddam Hussein's anti air defense was theoretically the strongest in the world – on paper a system that was impenetrable. Fifty two Heroes took off into the unknown, putting their life on the line. They took proper action at a critical time.

We are recognizing 18 first responders and military heroes today. These are people that have committed to serving others and have taken proper action at the right time, at a critical moment. They are individuals that make a difference as we move forward to another generation.



Masters of Ceremony **Jeff Deer** and **Steve Dyer** read the BIOs of the honorees as they came forward to the dais.

Geoffrey P. Holt

Master Sergeant, US Army

MSG **Holt** hails from Nashville, is an Airborne Ranger, and has served in the Infantry for over 17 years. He has held just about every non-commissioned officer leadership position, to include Drill Sergeant and First Sergeant. He is currently the US Army Pacific's Exercises Sergeant Major. MSG **Holt's**



Zap & MSG Holt

IN THE WAKE

prior assignments have been with the 1st Cavalry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 1st Armor Division, Infantry Training Brigade, 173rd Airborne Brigade, and the 25th Infantry Division. He has willingly deployed to Kosovo, Macedonia, Iraq and Afghanistan. MSG Holt has been recognized with numerous awards and campaign medals, to include his part in a Valorous Unit award for neutralizing a surprise turncoat Iraqi soldier who attacked his unit on 9/7/10; the Army Commendation Medal with 'V' device, for valor, during action in Afghanistan; and the Purple Heart, for combat wounds received in Afghanistan.

Jeremy L. Stewart

Staff Sergeant, US Army

SSG **Stewart** enlisted in the Army 14 years ago and currently serves as a Chaplains' Assistant in charge of the North Community and Main Post Chapel at Schofield Barracks.

SSG **Stewart** has prior tours attached to infantry units at Ft Campbell, KY, Ft Bragg NC, and Ft Benning, GA. He is



Airborne and Air Assault qualified. SSG **Stewart** has deployed to Iraq three times. He has a Combat Action Badge, a Valorous Unit Award, a Presidential Unit Citation, 5 awards of the Army Achievement Medal, 6 awards of the Army Commendation Medal, and two awards of the Bronze Star.

Trevor Johnson

Corporal, US Marine Corps

Cpl **Johnson** is from Jackson, MS, and is 23 years old. Exactly 2 years ago, after three years at the University of Southern Mississippi, Cpl **Johnson**

had a yearning to serve his country and enlisted in the Marine Corps. He completed basic training at Parris Island and was his platoon's honor graduate. From there he was sent to Camp Lejeune for combat training, and was the battalion honor graduate.

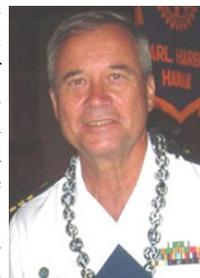
From there, he was sent to Amphibious Assault School at Camp Pendleton, and was the class honor graduate. He was then assigned to 3rd Marine Regiment, K-Bay, where he is currently serving as a Crew Chief with the Amphibious Assault Platoon. Not surprisingly, Cpl **Johnson** is the 2012 3rd Marine Regiment Marine of the Year.



John Smallman

Commander, US Navy

CDR **Smallman** has served in the US Navy Reserves for over 20 years. His most recent activation was serving as the Staff Judge Advocate for Pacific Partnership 2012 aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy which spent four months sailing to underprivileged areas throughout the Pacific Rim providing humanitarian aid and medical care. He just returned one week ago. In his full-time career, **Smallman** is an attorney and recently retired after 28 years with the Naval Criminal Investigative



Service and the FBI. His postings included Gary Indiana, Washington DC, San Diego, Detroit, Atlanta, Yokosuka, Bahrain, and Singapore. Significant deployments included a year aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation in the Persian and Arabian Gulf; with the US 7th Fleet aboard the command ship USS Blue Ridge; responding to the 2002 Bali bombing, the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and the earthquake/tsunami off the coast of Japan last year, as well as numerous deployments to the Horn of Africa, Kenya and Afghanistan.

Mark Wolfe

Electronics Technician Chief, US Navy

Chief **Wolfe** is from Irving, Texas, and has served in the Navy 15 years. He is currently assigned to the Los

Angeles-class attack submarine USS Tucson as the Communications Chief. On the Tucson, he runs the Navy College Afloat Education Program, through which he earned his BS in Public Administration, and the US Apprenticeship Program which allows sailors to take college classes or earn their Journeyman's license while deployed for months under water in the submarine. His awards include 4 Navy & Marine Corp Achievement Medals, 4 Good Conduct medals, and 2 awards of the Outstanding Volunteer Service medal. He has been sent all over the world, including Bahrain, Iraq, Singapore and Japan. During his submarine career, he completed 10 Trident Deterrent Patrols, 2 Western Pacific deployments, and a 12 month individual deployment to the Middle East.



IN THE WAKE

Bridget A. Sleppy

Master Sergeant, US Air Force

MSgt **Sleppy** hails from Summerville, S.C., and has served in the Air Force for 22 years. She is currently stationed at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam as the Pacific Air Forces' Sustainment Services Superintendent; with a background in Food Service, Fitness, Lodging, Linen Exchange, Mortuary Affairs and Readiness. Recently, she was deployed to Honduras with Joint Task Force Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base and was instrumental in accomplishing the missions of humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and counter-transnational organized crime. She has previously served in assignments in Florida, the United Kingdom, Germany, and North Dakota. She has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, four Air Force Achievement Medals, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.



Mary S. Gates

Technical Sergeant, U.S. Air Force

Technical Sergeant **Gates** has served in the Air Force for over 14 years. Prior to coming to Hawaii, she had assignments at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Missouri and Colorado. She is currently the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Joint Departmental Assignments Branch, Headquarters United States Pacific Command at Camp Smith. She is responsible for managing over 800 Air Force PACOM AOR billets spanning 36 countries. TSgt Gates has been recognized with numerous awards and campaign medals, to include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal and the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon. She has had an enormous impact with PACOM during her first year and was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal for her outstanding administrative support during the 2012 Terminal Fury Exercise, PACOM's largest.



David M. Jaime

Electrician's Mate Third Class, U.S. Coast Guard

Petty Officer **Jaime** joined the Coast Guard in 2009. After completing Electrician's Mate 'A' School at Yorktown, VA, he reported to the Naval Engineering Support Unit, Honolulu. EM3 **Jaime** quickly



acquired several competencies, to include precision calibration on meters used to monitor cutters' propulsion plants. He also volunteered for the District 14 Coast Guard Honor Guard. As a member of this highly visible unit, Petty Officer **Jaime** has participated in the 70th anniversary of the World War II attack on Pearl Harbor; a ceremony hosted by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) that commemorated the recovery of soldiers that were killed in action during WWII and the Vietnam War; and in a "victory parade" to commemorate receipt of the Congressional Gold Medal by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion.

Joshua Herman

Operations Specialist First Class, U.S. Coast

Petty Officer **Herman** currently serves as a Situation Unit Controller for the Coast Guard's Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu. He has been instrumental in Search and Rescue missions throughout the Central Pacific, often by looking outside the proverbial box to identify solutions to resource constraints, to include the rescue of a 77-year-old Australian man and his dog from a disabled sailing vessel 1,680nm southeast of Hawai'i. Working through diplomatic channels, he leveraged a French Falcon Jet from the Marquesas Islands to locate the disabled vessel, and a transiting Japanese merchant ship to pick them up, thereby saving their lives, and earning his team kudos from the Australian Embassy. Petty Officer **Herman** further helped to coordinate the complex MEDEVAC of a critically ill 35-year-old woman from a cruise ship 265nm south of the Big Island. His detailed mission synchronization with medical authorities saved her life.



Robert I. McFatridge

Sergeant, Hawaii Army National Guard

Born and raised in Honolulu, SGT **McFatridge** has served in the Army Guard for 7 years. He is currently a Cannon Crew Member with Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery. SGT **McFatridge** is also enrolled at the University of Hawaii, majoring in Civil Engineering. His interests include mechanical engineering, robotics, martial arts, crossfit, combat oriented online games, and military training. SGT **McFatridge** has already served in two deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is preparing for a third



IN THE WAKE

deployment. He has been recognized as the 2012 Hawai'i Army National Guard Soldier of the Year.

William "Bill" Goding

Lifeguard, C & C of Honolulu, Water Safety Div.

Bill Goding has spent his entire 37 year career rescuing people from the water. The first 20 years was with the US Air Force as a para-rescueman, serving four years enlisted, then 16 years as an officer, retiring at the rank of Major. For the last 17 years he has been a lifeguard with the City. He is currently the supervisor at Ala Moana Beach Park. **Bill** has saved numerous lives via rescues and CPR revivals, to include reviving then HPD Chief Lee Donohue in the first lifeguard-use of a beach AED (defibrillator). His supervisor wrote: "**Bill's** military background and leadership has contributed to making Ocean Safety a more professional service. He is a great leader and his co-workers reflect it." **Bill's** hobby is channel swimming, and he has swum every major channel between the Hawaiian Islands, several more than once. The City & County honored **Bill** as its 2009 Employee of the Year.



Jeffrey Fleigner

Officer, Honolulu Police Department

Officer **Fleigner** was born and raised in Rockville Centre, NY. He joined HPD in 2007 and his outstanding work ethic has been demonstrated by his work performance. In 2011, Officer **Fleigner** made 336 arrests, 99 of which were for felony offenses, and issued 1,287 citations. The arrests and citations were in addition to his normal duties as a patrol officer, which included prisoner transport and patrol calls for service. Officer **Fleigner** volunteers his personal time for community service projects in the Waianae area, and include cleaning storm drains and canals and painting out graffiti. He also participates in the annual Honolulu Police Department "Shop with a Cop", where police officers shop with under-privileged kids sponsored by various retail merchants in the community. In light of his outstanding job performance and off duty community service, Officer **Fleigner** was honored as the 2012

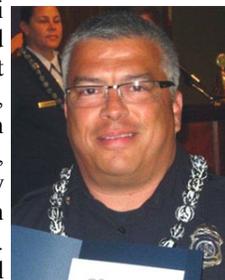


Honolulu Police Department Metropolitan Police Officer of the Year.

Peter Gutierrez

Firefighter/Paramedic, Federal Fire Department, Navy Region Hawaii

Gutierrez has served the community for over 22 years as a paramedic; 11 years with the City, and since 2001 with the Federal Fire Department. He is currently stationed at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Kaneohe Bay Fire Station 8 aboard the advanced life support ambulance, Medic 8. On April 4, 2012, **Gutierrez** and his partner in Medic 8, along with Engine 112, responded to a medical emergency dispatch of a 23 year old male in cardiac arrest on the Base. **Gutierrez** led a successful resuscitation effort, saving the man's life. For their efforts, he and his team received the prestigious Commander, Navy Installation Command, Fire and Emergency Services Life Saving Award, and the Zoll Medical Life Saving Award. On behalf of his team: Paramedic **Channing Morita**, Captain/EMT **Allison Nihei**, Firefighters/EMTs **Baron Choy**, **Alan Jacobson** and **Keahi Leith-Bowden**, **Gutierrez** receives today's Pearl Harbor Rotary Club recognition.



Edgar Abella

Airport Fire Equipment Operator, Hawaii State Fire Fighters

Abella has served 13 years as a Firefighter-Emergency Medical Technician. He is currently a member of the Oahu Crash-Fire Unit at the Honolulu International Airport, stationed at Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Station No.2, where he provides outstanding fire protection support and emergency medical services to airline passengers and the airport community. As an EMT he has displayed exceptional medical skills triaging patients. **Abella** recently retired after a 20-year military career, including 5 years in the Air Force Reserves, and 15 years with the Hawaii Air National Guard, which included combat deployments to Iraq in 2004, Kyrgyzstan in 2006 and Qatar in 2011.



IN THE WAKE

Sanja Du Plessis

Fire Fighter 1, Honolulu Fire Department

Du Plessis is a native of South Africa and came to Hawaii to be on the UH swim team. She joined the HFD in 2009 and is currently stationed in East Kapolei. **Du Plessis** played an integral role during the APEC Honolulu Forum as part of a team accounting for attendance, payroll, and equipment for each HFD employee. During shift changes, her team processed up to 200 personnel in 15 minutes. Due to her exemplary performance, she was selected and trained as a member of the HFD's All-Hazards Incident Management Team, a position that has traditionally been reserved for Fire Captains and Chiefs. Off duty, **Du Plessis** is one of Hawaii's top bodysurfers. Recently she and other bodysurfers were suddenly pulled out to sea by a strong current. **Du Plessis** selflessly stayed out, fighting the current, to help struggling bodysurfers get back in safely. She then saw a man clinging to a buoy further out. **Du Plessis** selflessly swam out to him and discovered he had been battered by the waves for an hour and was frightened, weak, cramping and expecting to die. It was too dangerous to swim him to shore, so she stayed and calmed him, while signaling for help, which was finally acknowledged after 15 minutes. As they waited, sets continued to batter the buoy and the tired swimmer was knocked off. In his weakened state, he quickly sank. **Du Plessis** dove in and found him five feet under. She pulled him out and waited with him until an Ocean Safety jet ski arrived about 15 minutes later, likely saving his life.



Kimberly Santos

Medical Intensive Care Technician (MICT), C & C of
Honolulu Emergency Medical Service Division

Santos has served the community as a paramedic for 13 years. She is currently assigned to the Aiea EMS Unit, and Pearl Harbor is within her response area. **Santos** has saved dozens of lives. Her supervisor writes: "MICT **Santos** is highly competent, compassionate, thorough, and personable professional. She is committed to the delivery of quality medical care, and has received numerous letters of appreciation



from patients. EMS receives messages from hospital staff commending MICT **Santos**' management of complex and challenging medical emergencies. She is a natural leader, is a mentor to fledgling emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and an inspiration for experienced MICTs."

Adrian Choi

Transportation Security Officer, TSA, Dept. of
Homeland Security

Officer **Choi** has served with TSA since December 2002. Recently, **Choi** was instrumental in saving a life. While driving, **Choi** noticed a man on the side of the street desperately trying to wave any car down. He observed four cars avoid and pass the man without offering assistance. **Choi** stopped. Ironically, the man identified himself as an engineer for the Honolulu Airport and asked **Choi** if he could drive him home. **Choi** started to, but noticed that the man did not look well, stopped the car, and called 911, comforting the man as they waited for the ambulance. EMS quickly arrived and took the man to the hospital. Later, **Choi** heard from the ambulance driver that the man's heart had stopped twice on the way to the hospital, but that they had resuscitated him and the man survived. They credited **Choi** with saving the man's life.



Kenneth Higa

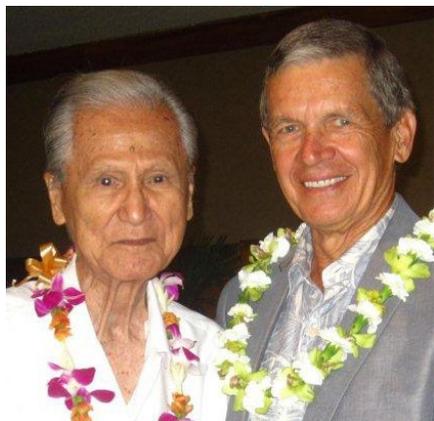
Private First Class, US Army, 100th/442nd

Ken is an original Member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, and served in F and C Companies as a machine gun operator. After crossing the Atlantic, the plains of Salerno, the Volturno River, and surviving the battle of Santa Maria Oliveto, **Ken** found himself in a stalemate at Anzio. In the early morning darkness on May 21, 1944, **Ken** was hunkered down with others in a bunker when a German shell made a direct hit. The others were able to get out and join their buddies in another dugout nearby. The Sergeant asked, where's Higa? "Da buggah make," was the reply. When the shelling stopped, the Sergeant went to the wrecked bunker expecting to collect **Ken's** dog tags. **Ken's** body lay buried in lumber and sandbags. The Sergeant stepped on his hand, and heard a moan. **Ken's** back was terribly wounded. Field doctors operated on him at an evacuation hospital on Anzio Beach. Normally, injured soldiers spent one day in the evacuation hospital and were then moved behind the

ROTARY HISTORY

ON THE HORIZON Upcoming Meetings & Events

lines to safety at a general hospital. But on the second day, still at the evacuation hospital, **Ken's** breathing became difficult. He caught the attention of the nurse. She came over and instead of asking him, "What's wrong?" she asked, "What's your religion?" "Protestant," **Ken** answered before passing out. He remembers thinking he had died and gone to heaven because he kept seeing an angel in white. Much later he realized it was the nurse



Ken Higa & Zap

who had remained by his side as a chaplain came to give the last rites. **Ken** remained at the evacuation hospital for an agonizing week, having to rest his injured back on a portable Army cot, with deep wounds, still open to prevent

gangrene, precluding him from rolling onto his side. Ultimately, he recovered and felt "reborn," which makes him "68" years old today. After the war, **Ken** worked as an accounting supervisor with the FAA, then in 1958, decided to pursue his dream of getting an education. He got his GED, then earned a business degree from the University of Missouri. He worked as a CPA and taught accounting at KCC, retiring in 1983. **Ken** and his wife have traveled extensively and are admired for their graceful ballroom dancing.

The 100th/442nd was the most highly decorated regiment in US history. They received an unprecedented 7 Presidential Unit Citations. Its members were awarded 560 Silver Stars, over 4,000 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple Heart Medals. 52 received the Distinguished Service Cross and 21 members received our country's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor. In 2011, **Ken** and the 100th Battalion, together with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by the United States. This honor is awarded to persons "who have performed an achievement that has an impact on American history and culture that is likely to be recognized as a major

achievement in the recipient's field long after the achievement."

Master of Ceremonies, **Jeef Deer** and **Stephen Dyer** concluded the program. President **Doug Taylor** thanked **Jeef Deer, Stephen Dyer, Lauren Tolentino** and **Harvey Gray** for helping to make the luncheon a success.

ADJOURNMENT

Les Hunkele led us in the 4-Way Test

September

New Generations Month

Sept 17: Jacque LeBlanc, Hawaiian Humane Society

Sept 24: Michael Smith, Marine Corps Band & New Zealand connection

October

Vocational Service Month

Oct 1: Jeff Gere, Master Storyteller, Talk Story Festival

Oct 8: DARK Columbus Day

Oct 15 CDR Maria Morenchow, Afghanistan Experience & Pacific Partnership 2012

Oct 22 TBA

Oct 29 TBA

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH?

'Oia 'i'o i keia o'lelo

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Kupono ia ka kou

3. Will it BUILD GOODWILL and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Kukulu lokomaika'i a me pilialoha maika'i a'e

4 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Pono ia ka kou