

**VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, August 16, 2007, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Hawaii County Council Room (Hilo) and Kona Mayor's Office (Via**  
**Videoconferencing)**

**Present**

**Members**

Don Bennett  
Penny Fox  
Edward Lee

**Kona Mayor's Office (Via Videoconferencing)**

**Members**

Antonio Gaspar  
Minoru Hanato  
Robert Welter

**Guests (Kona)**

Boss Hanato  
Herb Lum

**Ex-Officio (Hilo)**

Patricia Engelhard, Director, P&R

**Also Present (Hilo)**

Nathalie Santos, Secretary

**Absent**

Denny Austen  
Richard Highley  
Roy Hinokawa  
Wendall Kekumu  
George Mukai  
Patrick Pavao  
Gilbert Sampaia  
Richard Stevens  
George Yamamoto

**Call to Order**

**• NO QUORUM - MEETING CANCELLED.**

Chairman Highley was not present. Vice-Chairperson Penny Fox could not call the meeting to order since there was no quorum – (6) members present and (9) are needed.

**Wreaths Across America - Presentation**

Joy Hofer (West Hawaii Liaison) and Barbara Cooper (East Hawaii Liaison) informed committee members present about the Wreaths Across America Project for all Big Island Veterans Cemeteries. Last year program was held at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery and this year they will expand it there and East Hawaii will be included.

East Hawaii Liaison Barbara Cooper shared that the Wreaths Across America Project began at Arlington National Cemetery which received national publicity so others wanted

to get involved. Civil Air Patrol is involved since it is a nationwide volunteer program which has a youth cadet program. Organization will obtain sponsorship for these wreaths, which will be sold for \$15.00 each. Unsure how many wreaths they will be able to have, depending on sponsorship. They will have a booth at the County Fair to seek sponsorships. Will request from the County number of graves at Veterans Cemeteries on the Big Island. Barbara asked members what they would like to see during the program scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon, she has a sample script, but would like to add more to it.

Barbara Cooper will be getting elementary and middle schools involved by first meeting with principals at some of the schools. Some of the mainland schools created a study program by having kids walk through cemetery, pick a name from one of the gravesites, look it up on the internet to study about that person and how they served their country. She may also contact the Boy Scouts for possible assistance and will be looking for a refrigerator to store wreaths. She would also like to know how long the wreaths could remain at the cemetery - in the Mainland they leave it until January.

West Hawaii Liaison Joy Hofer said she will not be seeking sponsorships this year because she has too many things going on.

### **Announcements**

Mr. Keith Ribbentrop of the Office of Veterans Services announced the following: Robert Alameda of Hilo Intermediate School called, they will be hosting a "Patriots Day Celebration" at the school between 8 am and 9 am on September 11<sup>th</sup>. If Veterans Organizations would like to participate, contact him before August 30<sup>th</sup> at 974-4955 Ext. 247.

Mr. Ribbentrop also announced that Colonel Marty Wong of the Armory National Guard informed him that they began a Military Funeral Honors Program for all services, contact Ph# 808-672-1589 or [marty.wong@us.army.mail](mailto:marty.wong@us.army.mail).

### **Water Usage at Veterans Cemetery III - West Hawaii**

Mr. Minoru Hanato installed a 1" meter to see what the water usage is at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery. He said they are using approximately 11,000 gallons per day. Director Engelhard said that is a lot of water when we were allotted only 3,600 gallons per day and haven't opened the other side or constructed restrooms yet. Mr. Hanato will check again since it doesn't sound right.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nathalie Santos*, Secretary