

# Hawaii Navy News



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Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

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## IN BRIEF

April 12 is last day to electronically file taxes at NLSO Navy Legal Service Office (NLSO) Pacific Detachment's Tax Center's last day of operation is Saturday, April 15. The last day for electronic transmissions to the IRS will be Wednesday, April 12.

All returns processed at the Tax Center after April 12 will be by paper returns only. Tax Center hours for walk-ins and appointments are: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment only.

Please call 473-5982 extension 235 for more information.

## "Pearl Harbor" movie to impact Building 1.

Big Ship Productions (a Disney company) will begin production for the movie "Pearl Harbor" on April 4 through May 3. On Wednesday, April 5, Disney will film scenes at and around Building 1. Avenue "E" from 7th Street to 8th Street will be closed beginning at 6 p.m., Tuesday, April 4 until 6 a.m., Thursday, April 6. Parking on the west and south side of Building 1G and along 7th Avenue will be blocked during the filming. Parking Lot "D" and "F" may be utilized for parking. Parking Lot "F" is accessible via Central Avenue. All vehicles remaining in the area will be towed at owner's expense. For more information, please contact MA1 Ray of Naval Station Security at 473-5909.

Pre-production and film work in and around Pearl Harbor may disrupt some daily work routines, but the film crew is dedicated to minimizing many of the inconveniences associated with shooting a major motion picture.

For more information, please contact Cmdr. Cole at 471-3769.

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## USS Paul Hamilton Sailor receives heroism medal for Sacred Falls slide

By JO2 Gregory Cleghorne

Navy Region Hawaii

POSTAL Clerk 3rd Class Shannon Victor, assigned to USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60), was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for saving lives at the risk of his own following the fatal rock slide at Sacred Falls State Park on Mother's Day, May 9, 1999. The slide claimed eight lives and injured more than 40 others.

Rear Admiral John W. Townes, III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group, Middle Pacific, presented the medal to Victor on Paul Hamilton's flight deck last Friday morning in front of the ship's crew and local media representatives during a command awards ceremony.

The medal is among the Navy and Marine Corps ten highest and is awarded to active duty Sailors or Marines who distinguish themselves for acts of heroism, not involving actual conflict, at the risk of their own life.

Victor, a 21-year-old Houston, Texas native, was approaching the falls when he heard the thunderous sound of car-sized boulders rumbling and crashing to the ground on and around frightened visitors a few hundred feet in front of him. The rumble was horrifically followed by the shrill screams of the injured and the shocked caught in the path of the fatal slide.

Rather than turn and go, Victor selflessly "ran as fast as he could" to assist the injured. "I really wasn't thinking about my own safety at the time," Victor recalled. "I was trying to help keep the victims alive."

Victor credits his Navy training and his mother, who works in a hospital, for his being able to handle the crisis situation.

"It was a pretty bad scene," he recalled. "First, I helped move the injured people to a safer area away from the slide."

Several smaller rockslides occurred after the fatal slide. Those assisting the injured believed there might be another major slide.

"We helped a little girl first [7-year-old Danielle Williams]," Victor recalled. "Her mom, who was in shock, was still holding her. I was able to pick the little girl up - she was yelling and screaming. I carried her in my arms to a safer site and carefully placed her under a tree. She was hurt pretty badly. We tried to calm her down because she was moving around a lot and we were worried that she would injure herself more."

Moving with urgency, Victor began making tree-branch splints, wrapping them around bro-



PH2 Chad McNeely photo

Rear Adm. John W. Townes, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific places the Navy and Marine Corps Medal on Postal Clerk 3rd Class Shannon Victor during a USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) command awards ceremony on March 24. Victor was awarded the medal, the highest medal awarded for heroism in peacetime, for saving lives while risking his own during the fatal rockslide in Sacred Falls State Park May 9, 1999.

ken bones with strips of cloth made from the shirt he was wearing; what was left of his shirt he used to make field bandages, then administered CPR.

"Sometimes we had to try to stop the bleeding [of the injured] by holding their broken limbs together with our hands," Victor said. "A team of people and I helped keep the little girl alive as long as we could, but on the way out, she went into shock and stopped screaming."

In the moments after one of Hawaii's worst natural disasters, scores of Oahu's emergency service teams descended on the area to assist the injured. The accident was a logistical nightmare for emergency services too. The gorge the accident occurred was narrow, more than mile long and hindered air-rescue efforts. Rescuers had to carry victims over rough terrain and across streams to the trailhead's clearing where emergency helicopters and ambulances waited.

"I was surprised [and relieved] to see all the paramedics and medical support people when we cleared the trail," Victor said. "They took the little girl and that was it for me. I couldn't watch anymore. I saw she was slipping. She gave signs she was hanging on, but she was slipping."

Danielle later died.

Victor couldn't remember how many people he assisted, treated or consoled, he said it was kind of a blur. But, after doing all he could, he quietly went home.

"When I helped the last person I could, I didn't wait around," he said. And when asked if he thinks he's a hero, he modestly said no, in a soft-spoken tone.

"I could have turned and left, but I didn't because I knew I could help," he reported. "I don't think I'm a hero. I was just there and did what I could."

## New homes for Sailors dedicated at Hale Moku ceremony

By Karen S. Spangler

Navy Family Housing

It was a time for remembering the history of years past and celebrating the new as the first three phases of 318 new homes of Navy family housing at Hale Moku were dedicated at a ceremony on Wednesday, 29 March. The project represents the Navy's continuing commitment to provide high quality housing for Sailors and their families.

Groundbreaking for the first phase of the project was held in March 1999 and construction began in April. Units from Phases IV and IV, dating from the pre-World War II era, still stand across the street from the new units and display a drastic contrast between the old and new.

"A year ago, I was here at the groundbreaking ceremony for this project. I spoke then, as I speak now, of the importance to turn good ideas into action...particularly those that improve the living standards and quality of life for our Sailors," said Rear Admiral John W. Townes, III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

"Today's ceremony represents far more than just the opening of new homes for our Sailors and their families," he continued. "It represents a continued commitment to back up what we say about the importance of quality of life and taking care of our people. For many years, it's been a fact that upgrading our inventory of nearly 8,000 Navy family homes here in Hawaii was one of our most pressing needs, particularly the homes in Hale Moku."

"These homes are right outside the front door of our base and serve as a visible reminder of the importance we place on providing



safe, comfortable and inviting quarters for our Sailors and their families," he said. The first residents of the newly-opened homes in the community, SH1 Jack H. Jennings and his wife, Estelita, assisted Rear Admiral Townes with the maile lei untying.

SH1 Jennings, who currently lives in one of the old Hale Moku units, is looking forward to moving across the street into the newer Hale Moku neighborhood. "We're really looking forward to moving into our new house. Some of the good things are the solar heating and the fact that everything is new and pretty reliable," he said.

Reverend William Kaina offered a Hawaiian blessing for the new homes. The blessing, an important part of the local culture, is performed to protect the home and to keep bad spirits or evil from entering.

Originally built in 1941, the Hale Moku units were in extremely poor condition and repairs and maintenance had not kept up with their deterioration. Replacing the units was a high priority in providing adequate family housing units for Navy personnel stationed in the Pearl Harbor area.

Hale Moku is a neighborhood steeped in history and with its close proximity to Pearl Harbor, families who lived there during

## New Hale Moku Street Names Honor Pearl Harbor Heroes

By Karen S. Spangler

Navy Family Housing

THEY were awarded the Navy Cross as heroes of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack, Pearl Harbor. Now their names and heroic deeds will be immortalized as part of the new Hale Moku Navy family housing community. The community is rich in history and with its close proximity to Pearl Harbor, families who lived there during the attack on Pearl Harbor were in the forefront of the events that occurred that day.

With the complete replacement of Navy homes in the Hale Moku neighborhood, new streets were added and it became necessary to determine new street names. It is only fitting that a neighborhood so rich in history should honor some of those who played a vital role in the Navy's and the nation's history on that tragic day.

According to SECNAV Instruction 5030.2D policy, "names will be selected to honor deceased members of the naval service. In exceptional cases where it is uniquely appropriate, living members of the naval services may be honored. Preferences should be given to names of deceased persons." The SECNAV instruction also specifies that "names should be selected to honor only persons who are, and are virtually certain always to be, highly regarded by naval personnel generally and by the civilian community in the area concerned."

New streets have been named after the following Navy Cross awardees:

Ensign D. Arnold Singleton, USNR - Ensign Singleton "was a fuel officer at Naval Air Station (Ford Island) and had just completed fueling the station from the USS NEOSHO, which was moored at the gasoline dock, when the first aerial attack started. Though under fire from the enemy, he continued with his duty and directed the

▼ See NEW HOMES, A-10

▼ See HALE MOKU, A-6