

Hawaii Navy News



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Serving the "Best Homeport in the Navy"

May 5, 2000

IN BRIEF

Open house planned for child care program

A National Provider Appreciation Day picnic and an open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 12 at the Navy Child Development Homes Office.

The office is now located at the old Navy Aloha Center, Building 4, off Nimitz Highway. At that time, the Navy Family Child Care Program will also change its name to the Navy Child Development Homes Program.

All providers, children, parents, parents looking for child care and those interested in becoming child care providers are invited to attend. Call 471-8440 to RSVP or for information.

Free movies at Sharkey

Effective immediately all movies at the Sharkey Theater are free to all active duty personnel.

Present your military ID at the box office for admission. For movie times, call the movie hotline at 473-0726.

Boutiki to host artist

The Boutiki Gift Shop will host Sharon Quick, watercolor artist, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on May 15, 19 and 20 and from 3 to 7 p.m. on May 17.

The shop is located on Pearl Harbor Naval Station, 640 Club Road (past Scott Pool). Ms. Quick will be autographing purchased pieces from her art collection.

The gift shop is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday and Friday. Spring merchandise will be offered at special savings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 6. For information, call 422-6662.

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Scrapbook Hawaii: Honalei Bay, Kauai offers a scenic getaway for the entire family...B-1

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Salvor gets 'royal' welcome in Hilo

Ship, Sailors take part in 37th Annual Merrie Monarch Festival on Big Island

By J01 Gerard Sekerak
HAWAII NAVY NEWS EDITOR

The 108 officers and Sailors aboard USS Salvor (ARS 52) were treated to a royal welcome, literally, when they made a port visit to Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii April 28.

The king, queen and members of the royal court of the 37th Annual Merrie Monarch Festival greeted the crew of the Safeguard-class rescue and salvage ship during a welcome ceremony at Hilo Harbor.

Salvor's crew also enjoyed a hula exhibition by dancers from Te Vai Ura Nui Tahiti. Sailors manned the rails and stood in formation on the pier as the young dancers performed both traditional and modern hula.

Salvor was in Hilo as part of the annual hula competition and Hawaiian cultural festival.

The week-long festival included Hawaiian arts and crafts exhibitions, a royal parade and three nights of hula competition.

"For 37 years, Hilo has welcomed people from



J01 Gerard Sekerak photo

Commander Navy Region Hawaii, Rear Adm. John W. Townes III and his wife Nancy wave to spectators during the 37th Annual Merrie Monarch parade April 29. The Admiral and the crew of the USS Salvor (ARS 52) represented the Navy in Hilo for the annual hula competition and Hawaiian cultural festival.

around the world to observe and participate in one of the most beautiful art forms of the Hawaiian culture," said Rear Adm. John Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii at the welcome ceremony.

"Hula provides a tremendous opportunity for our Sailors to learn about and appreciate the culture and history of Hawaii's people while visiting one of the most beautiful places on earth. The opportunity to see and be a part of this year's Merrie Monarch

Festival is something we will all remember and cherish for years to come."

Adm. Townes and his wife, Nancy, joined Salvor's crew in representing the Navy at the Merrie Monarch Festival.

Following the ceremony, Nault hosted a reception aboard ship for the Merrie Monarch Royal Court and members of the Hilo Council of the Navy League.

The Hilo Navy League supported Salvor during its port visit, coordinated the arrival ceremony and ship's

community relations project and hosted a reception for the officers and chiefs of Salvor on Saturday.

The Navy League is a civilian organization that supports all the sea services and serves as a liaison between the Navy and local civilian officials.

During the three-day port visit, Salvor crewmembers provided public tours of their ship for nearly 400 Big Island residents, and volunteered to paint the main office of a local homeless shelter (see story, below).

Salvor's Sailors also enjoyed liberty in Hilo during their visit, taking advantage of the sights and attractions the Big Island has to offer.

Some Sailors took a trip to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, where they hiked around a two-mile crater, smelled the brimstone and heard and saw the steam hissing out of Kilauea, one of the world's most active volcanoes. And, of course, many enjoyed the spectacle of the Merrie Monarch hula competition.

Merrie Monarch - Service Project: Salvor Sailors paint homeless shelter

By J01 Gerard Sekerak
NAVY HAWAII NEWS EDITOR

Since he was 15-years-old, Joe Detto dreamed of someday living and earning a living in Hawaii. Now at age 43, Joe's dream has come true... sort of.

While seven volunteer Sailors from the USS Salvor (ARS 52) painted the exterior walls and trim of the main office of the East Hawaii Coalition for the Homeless Inc. April 29, Joe slept in his room in the homeless shelter's transition building just across the parking lot.

He had attained his dream, but at what cost? He had dropped everything, sold most of his possessions, including his car, and moved to Hilo, Hawaii in the hopes of finding a job, and a new life.

What he found however, was homelessness, poverty and hard times.

Joe's story is not unique.

He and the 600 to 800 nomadic residents who flow through Homeless Inc.'s facility each year share similar stories.

But none of the Salvor Sailors knew anything about Joe and the others before they volunteered to spend a

Saturday afternoon sprucing up the shelter's faded main office exterior with paint. They volunteered simply to help those less fortunate.

"I heard it was a school," said Salvor volunteer Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (DV/PJ) Brian Burke. "But now (knowing it's a homeless shelter), it's even better. They have nothing and we have everything they need to do the job," he added.

"I feel good about it. When people chip in and help out, it makes them (the shelter) look that much more palatable" said Burke, who provided the painting guidance for his shipmates.

What was needed, and provided for by the shelter, were enough paint, rollers, and brushes to do the job. Not to mention a hand-made lunch of sandwiches, chips and drinks to keep the seven Sailors who provided the labor, energized and motivated.

"A few months ago, we put in a request to the Chamber of Commerce looking for funding to get our facilities painted," said Steve Bader, executive director of the East Hawaii Coalition for the Homeless Inc.

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Joe Detto got a new start at the East Hawaii Coalition for the Homeless Inc. He watched Salvor Sailors paint the shelter's main office before heading back to his temporary home in the shelter's Transition building.



PHAA Josh Pritikel photo

USS Topeka Sailors return from their Western Pacific deployment Monday. While on deployment to the Western Pacific, Topeka celebrated the new millennium in the most unique of times and places. The submarine navigated across the international dateline and equator as the clock struck midnight, 2000.

USS Topeka returns from time warp

By J03 McClain Shewman
COMSUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS Topeka (SSN 754), a Pearl Harbor-based fast-attack submarine returned from a Western Pacific Deployment (WESTPAC), and another century, Monday.

Nearly five months ago, while already on deployment to the Western Pacific, Topeka celebrated the new millennium in the most unique of times and places.

The submarine navigated across the international dateline and equator as the clock struck midnight, 2000.

"All of us on the Topeka are proud to represent the United States Navy during this unique opportunity.

USS Topeka was the first U.S. ship to witness this... I

can assure you we were the only ones at 400 feet below the surface to experience [the millennium]," said Cmdr. Mark Patton, commanding officer of USS Topeka.

By virtue of their location, the crew simultaneously experiencing different hours, days, months, years, hemispheres and seasons while looking forward to the new millennium.

And they had the unique vantagepoint of watching the clocks roll from 400 feet below the surface of the Pacific.

"We continue to ask a lot of these Sailors and their families. And these unique opportunities - while they're already deployed for six months over the holidays anyway - are the right thing to do for all the right reasons.

I wish I was out there with them," said Rear Adm. Al Konetzni, Jr., Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"It was a successful WESTPAC but now it's time to enjoy being home with my family," said the Columbus, Ohio native FT2(SS) Tom Belcher.

"It feels great to be home and all I'm looking forward to is spending time with my family," said SK2(SS) Teague Foltz of Salt Lake City, Utah.

The boat, commissioned in January of 1994, carries a crew of 139 men and is an improved Los Angeles-class submarine.

Named after the state capital of Kansas, USS Topeka is the third U.S. Navy vessel to bear the name.

USS Topeka is a member of Submarine Squadron Seven.