



FAR LEFT: The Kaimuki High School Junior ROTC color guard presents the colors at the beginning of the Military Appreciation Week opening ceremonies May 12.

LEFT: Swing dancers fill the stage in the Pier 10 terminal during a USO Canteen Swing dance Friday evening. Music for the event was provided by the 25th Infantry Division Swing Band and Hula Joe and the Hutjumpers.

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guided missile destroyer USS O'Kane (DDG 77) helped kick off Military Appreciation Week celebrations when it pulled pier-side at Aloha Tower Marketplace May 12. The Sailors of USS O'Kane received a special "aloha" greeting full of hula dancers, musicians and streamers, plus an escort by the fireboat "Moku Ahi."

They were also treated to the sights of a flower drop from a helicopter and music from the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band.

"We've been greeting every cruise ship since January 1999," said Honolulu councilwoman and event hostess Rene Mansho. "We've also been greeting military ships that like to visit, and we're so proud that we get to celebrate the USS O'Kane."

"Thank you for being homeported here; you're really helping us and our economy, by being great neighbors," added Mansho.

"This is the first time we've done this (opening ceremony for Military Appreciation Week) at Aloha Tower Marketplace," said Scott Creel, Director of Marketing for Aloha Tower Marketplace. "For the last 10 years it has been at the state capital grounds, and this marks the first year to have it at other than that venue; and

by bringing in the ship, it adds an element to it that they can't do at the state capital," added Creel.

According to Creel, the ceremony can now be held out of the second-most highly recognized landmark in the state. And as an added bonus, event organizers have used the Pier 10 terminal as a stage for the first USO Canteen swing dance.

"We hope that we've delivered on our portion of welcoming the military, because they are really good to this shopping center and to the community and the state; so it's a small gesture on our part to say "thank you," said Creel. "We hope we have revived a tradition that will stay around for a long, long time," he added.

As the ship finished tying up to the pier, Julie Sanders and her three kids Sarah, Daniel and Timothy anxiously awaited the moment when her husband, Gunner's Mate 1st Class Daniel Sanders from O'Kane, would join them to enjoy a weekend full of festivities.

"It's part of my job," said Sanders. "I think I haven't missed one (pier-side greeting) yet on the O'Kane. We support daddy and his career. We may not always like it, but we support him," she said.

A number of people had the honor of riding as guests on O'Kane for the short trip from Pearl Harbor to the Aloha

Marketplace pier. The trip was the first on a Navy ship for Mary Tyler.

"Oh, that was wonderful. It was like a regular cruise," said Tyler. "I sat on one of those round things (bitt) that they tie the ropes around and I didn't budge," she said.

"My old man is 76, he's a World War Two vet, and he had a ball seeing how nice you fellas live compared to him," added Tyler.

Maryann Hollenntien, a native of Switzerland living in San Francisco, was wrapping up her five-day sight-seeing trip to Hawaii when she stumbled across the Aloha Tower Marketplace festivities.

"I think it's great that they (the United States) have a ceremony like that to honor the military," said Hollenntien. "We really don't do anything like this to honor the military in Switzerland," she added.

After the pier-side celebration, Members of the Pacific War Memorial Association presented the city of Honolulu with a replica of the bronze sculpture of the national Iwo Jima Memorial depicting the flag raising scene on Mount Suribachi.

The presentation was followed by the opening ceremony at the base of the Aloha Tower, which featured proclamations from the governor and mayor's office delivered to the



RIGHT: FCC(SW) Joseph Diak briefs a group of tourgoers on the operations of "his" ship, USS O'Kane. Eighteen hundred people toured the ship May 12-14 at Aloha Tower Marketplace pier.



FAR RIGHT: Soldiers, Sailors Airmen and Marines attended the Hawaii Military Appreciation Week opening ceremonies in front of the historic Aloha Tower. The tower is the second most recognized landmark in Hawaii.

