



In Memoriam:
Capt. Gilven
M. Slonim,
1913-2000
...B1

HAWAII'S NAVY NEWS

IMMF
commemora
tes 59th
Battle of
Midway
anniversary
... A4



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Battle of Midway commemorated

IMMF commemorates designation of Midway Atoll as National Memorial

By JOC Gerard Sekerak
EDITOR

A ceremony hosted by the International Midway Memorial Foundation (IMMF) on the Battleship Missouri Memorial June 3 commemorated the designation of Midway Atoll as a National Memorial. The ceremony was the result of an nine year struggle by the IMMF to get the American government and people to recognize the significance of the June 4, 1942 Battle of Midway.

"The struggle ended in 1999 when President Clinton signed the

bill designating Midway Atoll a National Memorial," cited the ceremony's guest speaker Air Force Dr. James M. D'Angelo, IMMF Chairman in a letter inviting IMMF supporters to the ceremony. "Pursuant to that act Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of the Interior, declared the Midway Atoll as a National Memorial on Sept. 13, 2000. This declaration, in my opinion, is the most significant event involving the Midway Islands since the Battle of Midway," added

D'Angelo in the letter.

D'Angelo also gave credit to two U.S. Senators who normally operate on opposite ends of the political spectrum for the creation of the national memorial. Republican Senator Jesse Helms (N.C.) and Democratic Senator Daniel Akaka (HI), the ceremony's keynote speaker, provided the IMMF with the needed congressional support. The two senators, along with Republican Congressman John Duncan, worked together to share

the same goal of designating Midway Atoll as a National Memorial.

In a separate letter read by D'Angelo at the June 3 ceremony, Helms apologized for not being able to be present at the ceremony, but praised Akaka for being the "champion of our cause to honor the great men who risked their lives at the Battle of Midway."

Helms went on in the letter to al-

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Navy recognizes, rewards local retention efforts



PH2 Chad McNeelley photo

Rear Adm. Robert T. Conway Jr., Commander Navy Region Hawaii and Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (right) presents Naval Station Pearl Harbor with the Navy's award pennant for retention Tuesday morning in front of the Pearl Harbor Memorial Fountain outside Bldg. 150. Receiving the award for NAVSTA are (left to right) NCC(SW) William Matthews, Command Career Counselor; ENCM (SW) Robert J. Scheeler Jr., Command Master Chief; Cmdr. Robert J. Petry, Executive Officer, and Capt. Ronald D. Hughes, Commanding Officer. Naval Dental Center Pearl Harbor and Pacific Missile Range Facility, Barking Sands, also received recognition Tuesday morning for their retention efforts.

Memorial Day remembered at Subbase

By J02 Cori Rhea
SUBPAC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

People from all different backgrounds came together recently to remember and honor those service members who gave their lives while serving their country. The gathering took place at a Memorial Day ceremony held on the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base at the USS Parche Memorial.

Paul Ferguson, President of the Hawaii Chapter U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII welcomed everyone including crewmembers of the USS Parch (SS-384) as they were present due to a reunion. Also present was the first Filipino Infantry Regiment.

"While Memorial Day is a national holiday to remember all who have gone before us, we Hawaii submarine veterans again gather here to remember and honor submariners and submarines and shipmates who sacrificed their lives in the fight to preserve life and liberty for our nation and the world," said Ferguson.

"This memorial is a shrine for the boats lost and men who perished in that great struggle against totalitarianism which, for them, began nearly 60 years ago and lasted a harrowing and costly 4 years," said the WWII veteran.

Every Memorial Day and Veterans Day a tradition called Roll Call is performed, where a bell is tolled for each submarine lost in World War II. During this touching ceremony, a lei is placed on the plaque for each submarine.

"I want to talk about the strength of the submarine force," said guest speaker Rear Adm. John B. Padgett, III, Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

"We are here to honor the men and women who have stood side by side with the men and women who go to sea on the submarines today. I think it is important to reflect on the fact that as we toll the bell for each of the submarines, we do not mention the names of the people on the ship. They are a matter of record on the plaque. We honor the submariners for their collective endeavor," he added.

The 50 state flags were posted by the Radford High School, Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, and the national anthem filled the air and the hearts of the people at the ceremony.

After the closing prayer, a 21-Gun Salute was conducted by the Naval Station Regional Ceremonial Guard and Taps was played by the CINCPACFLT Band.

Chief Petty Officer Dolores L. Parlato photo



Gordon R. England (right) is administered the oath of office as the 72nd Secretary of the Navy by David O. Cooke in the Pentagon on May 24. Cooke is the director of administration and management for Office of the Secretary of Defense.

practices," England said in hearings before the Senate Armed Service Committee chaired by Sen. John Warner of Virginia, himself a former Navy Secretary.

"Each of these goals is interrelated so implementation will be systematic rather than piecemeal.

These efforts will be difficult and challenging and the support of this committee will be essential," Mr. England continued.

In his opening remarks, Mr. England expressed his appreciation to the president and to Secretary of

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Destroyer named after Medal of Honor recipient

By J0CS(SW) Brian Roscoe
MCPON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jim Herdt announced on May 26 the Navy's decision to name the 45th ship of the Arleigh Burke class of guided missile destroyers, "James E. Williams." DDG 95's name will honor Medal of Honor recipient Boatswain's Mate First Class James Elliot Williams.

Former Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig, who asked MCPON Herdt to make the announcement on his behalf, chose the ship's name.

During the announcement ceremony, held in William's hometown of Darlington, S.C., the MCPON explained the significance of ship naming.

"The Navy has a unique way of honoring its heroes, history and ideals. By naming our ships, they become more than just another piece of hardware, they take on a life and spirit all their own," Herdt said.

"For more than a hundred years, nearly all U.S. Navy destroyers have been named for American naval leaders and heroes. This is certainly true for the destroyer we are naming today. Until now

this ship has been known simply by its hull number — DDG-95," he said. "However as of this moment, this great ship in the making will take on the name of a man who truly meets the definition of an American naval leader and hero, James E. Williams."

South Carolina Senator Ernest F. Hollings, who was unable to attend the ceremony, wrote "this grand gesture pales in comparison to the man himself, a Sailor and American patriot of the highest caliber. Elliott Williams served the U.S. Navy with every ounce of his strength, character and intellect and his heroism in Vietnam rightfully earned him a place in history."

Williams received the Medal of Honor for his service on the Mekong River in Vietnam on Oct. 31, 1966, while serving as boat captain and patrol officer aboard River Patrol Boat (PBR) 105.

His boat and another PBR were searching for contraband when crewmembers spotted two speedboats crossing ahead. The speedboats split up, with Williams pursuing and sinking one. He then turned his boat and

▼ See DESTROYER, A-12

Gordon England sworn in as Secretary of the Navy

By Navy Wire Service
NAVY WIRE SERVICE

Washington, D.C., — Gordon R. England officially became the 72nd Secretary of the Navy May 24 after he took the oath of office in the Pentagon following his Senate confirmation.

Nominated by President Bush on April 24, England brings more than 30 years' experience as a leader in the defense and technology industries to his new duties as leader of the Navy/Marine Corps team.

Prior to his nomination as Secretary of the Navy, England served as executive vice-president of General Dynamics since 1997.

England outlined four key areas that he would address as Navy Secretary.

"My agenda is to substantially improve our combat capability, enrich the lives of our people, swiftly incorporate technology across our total operation and dramatically improve our business