

★ Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution ★

WINTER 2020—2021

Hawaii Patriot



President's Message

Aloha Compatriots,

Well, COVID continues to foil our plans at HISSAR to get things done. In March of 2020 we were successful in having our annual general membership meeting before things started shutting down. We had plans to join the local Hawaii DAR people to participate in patriotic events like Memorial Day presentations, Independence Day parades and refurbishing the Mercè Boxcar. COVID has placed everything on hold. What is not on hold in HISSAR is our ability to conduct business for SAR.

I have been meeting at least monthly with the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution using Zoom. What was needed was to develop and later approve an NSSAR operating budget. Also discussed was the protection of the NSSAR building and contents due to civil unrest that was occurring in Louisville. Fortunately, the NSSAR bylaws allow for electronic voting for meetings and we could approve the proposed budget and provide plans for the NSSAR building security. HISSAR is also present on the museum committee and the veteran's recognition committee. On the museum committee, we have been busy searching for and acquiring revolutionary artifacts for our building museum displays (if you find yourselves near Louisville, go by and see the neat items in the museum—you will be pleased). The veteran's recognition group has been working hard to ensure our SAR military veterans are recognized by NSSAR. If you ever were in the military and served honorably, please go to the NSSAR web site and fill out the VRC form indicating your military era and provide a redacted DD Form 214. HISSAR will present you your well-earned certificate at one of our meetings.

The executive board (EB) of HISSAR has been meeting quarterly to resolve issues on membership, budget and planned social functions. Again, all meetings have been via Zoom. We are planning to have our annual general membership meeting in April—IN PERSON, providing COVID protocols allow. Thanks to the work of our 2nd Vice President, Dan Curtis, we hope to have the meeting at *Buca di Beppo* with a great presentation by Daniel Martinez, NPS Historian. Details will be released soon.

I also want to thank some other members of the EB. Arthur Tulak is still working hard to ensure the ROTC and JROTC outstanding citizen-students are being recognized by

HISSAR. Arthur has also made certain people and businesses who properly fly the American flag are recognized as well as the Eagle Scouts of Oahu. Dr. Mike Smith, MGySgt USMC (Ret.), our Secretary, has always ensured the HISSAR membership rolls are accurate and reported to NSSAR HQ as well as taking detailed notes of our meetings. And finally, our Chaplain, CDR, Jack Miller, USN (Ret.), has done an outstanding job in keeping our spirits uplifted even though the COVID pandemic has taken a toll on everyone. Jack has recently resigned from his position due to medical concerns. He has done an outstanding job and will be missed for his thoughtful guidance and friendship.

Besides marking your calendar for the HISSAR General Membership meeting, also mark your calendar for the 2021 NSSAR Congress in Seattle, WA in July. Details and sign up for the Congress will be available in mid-May—keep a lookout on the SAR web site for details. We are also having a quick special Congress in March. The purpose of this special Congress is to change the SAR Bylaws to allow electronic voting at Congresses. While electronic voting is approved, it is only authorized for SAR meetings. Congress is not a meeting, so electronic voting is not authorized. The bylaws can be changed to allow this only at a Congress (yes, a Catch 22). So, a special Congress is being formed for the sole purpose of allowing this administrative change to our bylaws. As your Trustee, I authorized the special Congress with other SAR Trustees. Due to the distance and short time of the meeting, I will not attend the special Congress. The special Congress is planned to be held in the Washington DC area and will be covered by the delegates in the local area.

HISSAR has 26 members but only 7 people help run the organization and represent the spirit and ideas of SAR. If you have time (and only a little is sometimes needed), please consider helping. You could become an officer or run just one committee for HISSAR, like the scholarship committee or the flag committee, etc.—many hands can make the task lighter.

On a personal note, I have recently moved to Florida to be closer to my kids and grandkids. I will continue to serve as the HISSAR President until my term is complete this July and also as the HISSAR Trustee as long as you see me providing the leadership and Hawaii connectivity for the job. Having lived in Hawaii for over 36 years and as an active HISSAR member, I feel well suited and “up” for the task. I also feel that my close proximity to SAR HQ in Kentucky is an advantage for HISSAR. Please allow me to continue representing you.

Hawaii Society SAR Continued to Operate despite the Pandemic

COVID-19 forced HISSAR to adapt to many restrictions on assembly as we continued to serve our community.

The Hawaii Society managed to continue to conduct business during the pandemic by switching ZOOM. This turned out to be quite effective, especially since our President has moved to Hawaii, and two of our Past President Directors are also now on the mainland.

At the 8 October HISSAR meeting, President Rob Moore announced his move to Florida would be completed by the end of the year, and that he was trading one set of sunny beaches for another— not a bad deal! President Moore also urged Compatriots of the Hawaii Society to look for deserving recipients of the Good Citizenship Medal and nominate them for the award. Past recipients have included Ms. Jenny Chanko in 2017, the Executive Director of the Oahu Veterans Council and Ms. Catherine Miloni, DAR of the HI WWI Centennial Committee in 2018, both nominated by Compatriot Tulak. We need to continue to recognize other prominent leaders in the volunteer community.

At the first meeting of the Hawaii Society in 2021 on 14 January, Compatriots planned support to the 2021 ROTC and JROTC Awards ceremonies, discussed the Semi Quincentennial celebration, and expanding the Eagle Scout program to include more recognition efforts of new Eagle Scouts. Vice President Dan Curtis is leading the nomination committee for the new Officer Slate, which will begin its term on July 7, 2021. Also discussed was the plan for the April 2021 General Membership Meeting (see article from Dan Curtis in this Newsletter).



Screen capture of the 8 October ZOOM meeting. Top row left to right: President Rob Moore, Vice President Arthur Tulak, and Derek Brown. 2nd Row; 2nd Vice President Dan Curtis, Registrar Bill Speed, Chaplain and Eagle Scout Committee Chair Jack Miller, and Dave Hosfield. 3rd Row: Public Relations Committee Chairman Matt LoPresti and Treasurer Elbridge Smith.



Screen capture of the 14 January 2021 ZOOM meeting. Top row left to right: Past President Chris Tourtellot, Vice President Arthur Tulak, and Derek Brown. 2nd Row; President Rob Moore, Bill Speed, Secretary Mike Smith,. 3rd Row: Treasurer Elbridge Smith.

HISSAR is seeking Volunteers & Nominations for Officer Positions & Committee Chairs for the 2021-2022 Slate

Officer Pos

- President
- 1st Vice President
- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Registrar
- Secretary
- Chaplain

Committee Chairs

- Cadet Awards Program Chair
- Eagle Scout Committee Chair
- Flag Committee Chair
- Membership Committee Chair
- Newsletter Editor
- Public Relations Committee Chair
- Scholarship Committee Chair

If you are interested in serving (or continue to serve in a position you already hold), or wish to nominate someone, please email the current 2nd Vice President, Dan Curtis, at djcurtis73@gmail.com

All nominations will be voted on during our Annual General Membership meeting in April. Due to COVID, a final date in April and venue for the Annual Meeting will be announced later.

Welcome New Compatriots

Col. USAF, (Ret.), Matt Durham joined us this past Fall from the Virginia Beach, Virginia SAR chapter. As a military Reservist, Matt left Oahu many years ago for a military deployment, which inspired him to serve our country full-time for nine years on Active Duty. He recently retired from the military as an Active Duty Colonel and returned home to Oahu.

Matt attended the United States Air Force Academy and after graduation was selected to serve as a pilot, where he flew training, cargo, and bomber aircraft all over the world. A lifelong learner, Matt earned his Doctorate and holds several teaching credentials, including the academic title of Professor. He teaches graduate courses at several Universities, is a real estate investor, and also works in the aviation industry.

In his last military assignment, Matt led Military Professional Education at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia, where he taught officers from all military Services. As a true Son of the American Revolution, he took great pride in sharing the nearby Yorktown Battlefield with both his colleagues and students. He led discussions and walked the sequence of the battle where America won its independence.

Matt's mother served as an Army nurse. She was an active member in the Arizona DAR until her death when she was interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Her dedication and commitment to the DAR inspired Matt to join the SAR, and to continue carrying the torch of our nation's history to the next generation.

As Matt transitions back to the island from his military service, he is enjoying the opportunity to explore his hobbies of physical fitness, making homemade wine, and volunteering with his dog as a Therapy Dog Team at local hospitals.



HISSAR Annual Membership Meeting

24 April 2021 11:30- 1:30 PM

(Buca Di Beppo Restaurant, Honolulu, HI)

Please RSVP to Dan Curtis, HISSAR 2d VP, at djcurtis73@gmail.com

*Due to Current COVID restrictions, seating is limited to 20 total people currently
Should COVID restrictions loosen; seating will increase to the increase as applicable by City/
County of Honolulu policy*

Agenda (T):

1130-1220- Social/Eating

1220-1230- Comfort Break/ZOOM set up

1230-1330- Official Business*

* For those who cannot make in person, we will set up an iPad in the room with ZOOM so that distributed people can participate for that 1 hour official business block. (ZOOM link to follow)



Compatriot Profiles:

CPO, USN (Ret.) John G. Smith

Compatriot Smith is a US Navy Veteran with 22 years of active service. John hails from San Francisco, California, and spent his youth in that city as well as Mill Valley and Marin County. John joined the Navy in 1971 starting his career as an Airman with VF-126 at Miramar California, then changing to Yeoman and retiring in Japan as a Chief Petty Officer, YNC(SW), in 1993. His specialty was Administration and Legal. John's duty stations included:



- VF-126, Naval Air Station Miramar, California
- USS PARSONS (DDG-33) homeported at Yokosuka, Japan
- Commander, US Naval Communications Station, Japan
- Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan
- 30th Naval Construction Regiment Detachment, Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory
- USS KNOX (FF-1052) homeported at Yokosuka, Japan
- Commander Fleet Activities, Yokosuka, Japan



John retired from the Navy in Japan, and remained there, teaching English for 7 years. John continued his education returning to college to study Information Technology. John's civilian career included working for Hewlett Packard as an Executive Assistant until his final retirement in 2015. John and his wife Hitomi, have one daughter, Mai, who holds two Masters Degrees, 1 from Tufts University, in Public Health and 1 from University of Hawaii in Social Work; and two sons who remain in Japan, one is a nurse and the other works in Marketing and Sales. John moved to Hawaii in 2017, to be on island as his daughter was attending University of Hawaii.

John's revolutionary war ancestry is William Davis (his 2nd great grandmother's father), to whom he is related through the Temple family line, which is mainly rooted around Pennsylvania where they have lived in or near Pittsburgh for a majority of the years since they came to America in 1676. The Davis Family, also lived in Philadelphia area since at least 1756, and married into the Temple family.

Compatriot Profiles: Derek Brown

Compatriot Brown joined SAR in 2011 (Thomas Jefferson Chapter, CASSAR); became a Life Member in 2015. He has five patriot ancestors identified to date, and is a dual member of the Hawai'i and Nevada Societies.

He has served as chapter president, 3 years; chapter registrar, 3 years; Medals and Awards chair, 6 years, and has been a First-line signer for 43 applicants to date. In the California Society, he served as the Youth Activities Director; Vice President North; Executive Vice-President; President; Alt Trustee, and; Trustee. At the National Society level, he currently serves as the NSSAR Inspector General and is currently a member of the following committees: NSSAR Nominating Committee, Facilities & HQ, Membership, Knight Essay, King Eagle Scout, Public Service & Heroism. Derek is a Past member of the Council of State Presidents committee and Rumbaugh Orations committee and has attended 5 National Congresses and 17 Leadership meetings to date. In addition, Derek is a member of the SAR Germany Society; Order of Founders of North America 1492-1692 (3 years as Grand Viscount); Germanna Foundation, and; Fellow, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (FSA Scot).

In the professional sphere, Derek holds a Bachelor Degree of Science in Electrical Engineering from Washington State University, and a MBA from Golden Gate University. He is a registered Electrical Engineer in California and retired from Pacific Gas and Electric Co as a senior consulting engineer (44 years). He is a Senior Life Member, IEEE, and a member of the IEEE Hydro Power Subcommittee. Derek is a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Contra Costa County for the last 32 years, and has been recognized as *Reserve Deputy Sheriff/ Officer of the Year* for multiple years.

Derek is married to Janet, his wife of 40 years, who is a life member DAR, their son is an NSSAR member and their daughter-in-law and daughter are members of the NSDAR.

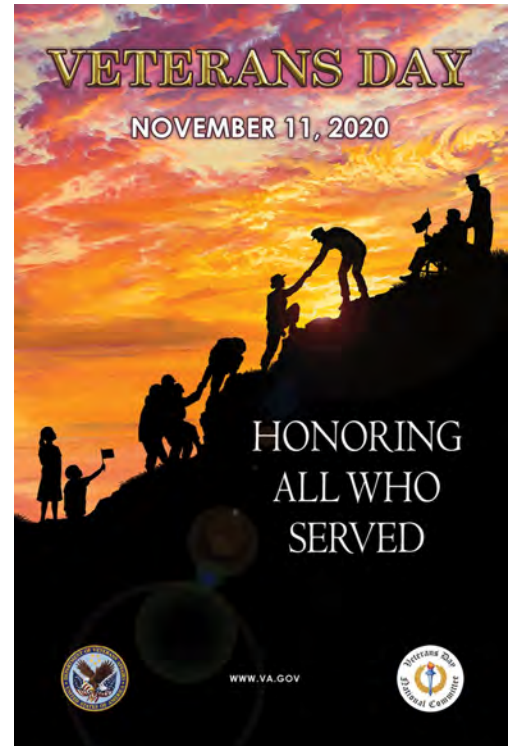


HISSAR Compatriots Support Veterans Day Observances

While the main ceremonies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), the WWI Memorial in Waikiki, and the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery were all cancelled due to the Corona Virus that originated in Communist China and spread across the globe, smaller events still took place in groups of ten persons or less. The punchbowl event is normally hosted by the OVC at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific but due to COVID it was commemorated with a video tribute prepared in coordination with U.S. military units and multiple Veterans Organizations on Oahu. The video also aired on multiple TV stations at 1100 hrs on 11 November at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y27EeAyySGM&feature=youtu.be>

Additionally There was no formal event at the WWI Memorial at Waikiki, where previously the Memorial Day and Veterans Day events as part of the Hawaii WWI Centennial Commemoration were held, but the site was open to the public. Many individual Veterans came by at 1100hrs to celebrate the Armistice that ended the fighting in the First World War, and to honor all Veterans, past and present. The Celtic Kula bagpipers performed there, and the American Legion Riders conducted a ride by the memorial at 1100 of the day. The Bells of Peace rang at 1111 hrs to close the event.

Compatriot Arthur Tulak participated in a small ceremony at the Soldiers Cemetery at Schofield Barracks, with the placing of a poppy wreath in honor of Veterans past. US Army Technical Sergeant Yukio Tokuda (1922-2015, who served in World War II with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 92nd Infantry Division, European Theater), and US Marine Corps Corporal William G. Speed (1919-1972, who served in the Signals Company, 1st Marine Division, Guadalcanal Campaign) were honored by Compatriot William Speed with flowers at his Oahu Isle home's butsudān.



Compatriot News

Compatriot Matthew S. LoPresti, Ph.D. who serves as our HISSAR Public Relations Committee Chair was recently elected as the Hawai'i State Representative for District 41, Ewa Beach. Compatriot LoPresti was also previously elected in 2014 and 2016 to serve in the State House of Representatives, District 41. He is Chair of the House Committee on Veterans, Military, & International Affairs & Culture and the Arts. Compatriot LoPresti has been teaching philosophy at the university level since 1999.

Compatriot LTC Dan Curtis has been accepted into the Military Order of Foreign Wars, Hawaii Commandery, as a Veteran Companion, based on his qualifying service in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, from March 28 to September 27 2004. The MOFW was formed on December 29, 1894, by Veterans of the War with Mexico, and descendants of Officers who served in the Wars of 1812, and the War for American Independence.

Compatriot Arthur Tulak, COL, USA, (Ret), has been appointed as the Vice Chairman of the American Veterans Committee to restore the Naval Air Station Barbers Point Memorial, and will take up the torch from President Rob Moore who led community efforts to restore this monument that was disassembled on March 3, 2108 and has been in storage ever since.



Is your news MIA?

Send your news to the Editor, and share your stories with fellow Compatriots!!

Update on the HISSAR Eagle Scout Programs

By Compatriot Arthur N. Tulak

At the January 14, 2021 Executive Board meeting, the Society committed to expanding its Eagle Scout programs by providing certificates from the Hawaii Society to Eagle Scouts who request them. Last year, I had the honor of presenting a certificate from the Military Order of the World Wars to an Eagle Scout from Troop 16, and sent out another 6 by mail to Scouts who achieved the highest rank in Boy Scouting. The HISSAR has sent a letter to the Aloha Council offering this certificate. As these requests come in, I will alert Society members of the date of the Court of Honor to see if we may provide a presenter to be there in-person, as we do for our ROTC and JROTC awards presentations. Unlike the Cadet awards ceremonies, the Eagle Courts of Honor take place throughout the year and are not tied to the school year. This is not the NSSAR Eagle Scout medal, which is a different program, but a unique certificate from the Society recognizing the Scout for achieving this rank.



The Hawaii Society extends its most sincere appreciation for the great work that Compatriot CDR Jack Miller, USN (Ret), did running our Eagle Scout programs, in particular the annual essay contest, which has been a great experience for the Compatriots, and the Scouts who participated. These pages have included the entire essays, or excerpts, which assured all that the Eagle Scout program continues to build young men of character who are also interested in scholarly pursuits. Jack served as the Eagle Scout program chairman for many years, until the close of 2020. The Hawaii Society is looking for a Compatriot to manage these very important programs going forward.



Hawaii Society, Sons of the American Revolution Flag Committee.

By Compatriot Arthur N. Tulak

The HISSAR presented the NSSAR Patriotic Flag Display certificate to the American Veterans West Oahu Veterans Center on Feb. 7, 2021.

The newly established Veterans Center was created out of the old club facility that formerly supported the Naval Magazine West Loch, and the Navy housing community at Iroquois Point on the mouth of the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The project to create a Veterans Center started in 2018, and the AMVETS Center opened its doors on November 7, 2020, and has conducted over 30 events since then. As many volunteers worked tirelessly to renovate the building, one of the first things the Dept did was to get flag poles up to display the National Emblem, the Hawaii State Flag, and the POW/MIA flag. AMVETS also has a flag award program and recognizes organizations and individuals who properly and proudly display the National Emblem.



The Hawaii Dept. of AMVETS Board leadership. Front Row (Left to right): 1st Vice Commander Ronald Y.K. Lam , HISSAR VP Arthur Tulak, Dept Commander Donovan Lazarus, Legislative Director Rodney W. Boucher. 2nd Row: Pedro Ortiz, Luis Linares, Carmelo Diaz-Rotger , Demetria Williams, Tim Harris.

Hawaii Society Supports U.S.A Semi quinentennial

By Arthur Tulak, Vice President HISSAR

The U.S. Congress established the United States Semi quinentennial Commission with the passage of PUBLIC LAW 114-196—JULY 22, 2016. The commission will plan and carry out programs and events that will culminate on or about July 4, 2026, which is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.

The commission plans to partner with States, corporations, and civic organizations. The commission's partner webpage explains that "civic and service groups will imagine and implement programming while activating their networks to support broadly inclusive participation." At the National level, NSSAR has established the "250th SAR Committee" to "work with the U.S. federal government to promote the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution." The 250th SAR Committee has already designed and obtained commemorative merchandise and SAR member awards and insignia for service rendered in support of this commemoration. The National 250th SAR Committee will support publicizing the anniversary and will help in developing educational programs and booklets relating to the American Revolution. NSSAR is encouraging the internationally-focused SAR societies (including the Canada SAR, France SAR, Germany SAR, International SAR, Mexico SAR, Spain SAR, Switzerland SAR, and United Kingdom SAR) to plan special Congresses during the commemoration period. Likewise, the NSDAR has established the **America 250!** Committee to plan DAR's involvement during our nation's upcoming 250th birthday. <https://www.dar.org/national-society/america-250> The American Battlefield Trust was selected by the Department of the Interior to serve as the national nonprofit partner to the United States Semi quinentennial Commission, working in tandem with the Commission to plan and coordinate America's landmark commemoration. Included in last month's 5,593-page federal coronavirus stimulus and spending package was \$8 million for the commission overseeing the celebrations surrounding the 250th anniversary of America in 2026. The organizers are also planning to use the money to facilitate the creation of 250th anniversary agencies at the local level. So far, only eight states have established their own commissions. The estimated cost of \$300 to \$500 million, and the Commission will need continued funding provided by legislation. The Commission is operating under a congressionally mandated, 276-page framework to carry out projects and celebrations culminating on July 4, 2026. The Semi quinentennial Commission plans to officially recognize tens of thousands of smaller events nationwide, so it will be our duty to ensure that the 50th State has meaningful participation.

It is not yet known how Hawaii intends to respond to the call to the States to set up corresponding programs, as it has not yet established a corresponding committee or commission. When Hawaii does join in, the coordinating organization will likely be similar to the 50th Vietnam War Commemoration, of which we are a commemorative partner, and the WWI Centennial, of which we were a Commemoration Partner at the State of Hawaii level. The Hawaii Society is on the partner e-mailing list, and we'll get regular updates.

We have obtained our SAR 250th flag and will display it, along with our HISSAR flag, at events for the next 5 years. Individual awards for service in connection to the 250th Commemoration, have already been approved by the NSSAR and are available at the NSSAR store. We need not wait until 2026 to get started, and can partner with the Hawaii NSDAR in our efforts.

Moving forward, Compatriots are asked to propose projects that the Society can carry out as part of the State's commemoration activities.



Upcoming Events

- 12 FEB — President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- 22 FEB — President George Washington's Birthday
- 01 MAR — Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day
- 25 MAR — Medal of Honor Day
- 29 MAR — National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- 06 APR — Army Day
- **24 APR — HISSAR Annual Membership Meeting at Buca Di Beppo at the Ward Center ††**
- 25 APR — Australia New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day. This event is usually held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, but due to COVID, will again be virtual event celebrated remotely.
- APR-MAY — ROTC and JROTC Awards Ceremonies ††
- 01 MAY — Loyalty Day
- 15 MAY — Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 15 MAY — Armed Forces Day
- 31 MAY — Memorial Day. Observances at the National Cemetery of the Pacific ††
- 14 JUN — Flag Day and US Army Birthday
- 4 JUL — Independence Day
- 7 AUG — Purple Heart Day
- 11 SEP — 20th Anniversary of the 9-11 Terrorist Attacks and Beginning of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM

†† If permitted with State COVID-19 measures in-place.



Hawaii Society Sons of the American Revolution

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2020 Society Leadership:

President: Col. USAF, (Ret.) Rob Moore
 Vice-President: COL, USA (Ret.) Arthur Tulak, Ed.D.
 2nd Vice President: LTC, USA, Dan Curtis
 Secretary: Dr. Michael Smith, MGySgt USMC (Ret.)
 Treasurer: Elbridge W. Smith
 Chaplain: Vacant
 Registrar: Bill Speed
 Public Relations: Matt LoPresti, PhD
 Hawaii Patriot Editor: COL, USA (Ret.) Arthur Tulak
 Directors:
 COL, USA, Straus Scantlin
 MSG, USA (Ret.) Chris Tourtellot