



## The legacy continues

by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Every so often, a musician influences his craft to such a degree that he leaves a footprint, a legacy—a heritage to be carried on by future generations. And every so often the future is given the opportunity to experience that heritage, that legacy that defines the musician and his craft. Honolulu experienced such an opportunity as Heritage to Horizons played out during the Tops in Blue Show at the Waikiki Shell, Sept. 12, as part of the weeklong celebration of the Air Force's 60th anniversary during Air Force Week, Honolulu.

The Heritage to Horizon's moment took place when Tech. Sgt.

See BADURIA page 5

## Checking out



photos by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Senior Airman Falon Holman, 15th Airlift Wing Mission Support Squadron and Staff Sgt. Maria Jenkins, Asst. NCOIC of outbound assignments, 15AW MSS, process personnel for deployment as the Initial Readiness Response Exercise kicked off here Oct. 11. The IRRE is a joint exercise with the Guard and Active Duty running from Oct. 11-14.

## Weighing in



Senior Airman Daniel Lee, aircrew life support technician, 204th Life Support Squadron, weighs-in preparing to deploy.

## CFC fundraiser: living and giving brings hope

by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Federal employees were treated to a complimentary breakfast during the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff celebration held at the Courtyard of Hero's, here Oct. 2.

"Hope Lives When You Give" is the theme for the Hawaii Pacific Area CFC this year.

General Paul V. Hester, Commander Pacific Air Forces and CFC Chair, spoke to the audience about the charity campaign that runs from Oct. 1-31.

Payroll deductions can be used to donate within the CFC. Payroll deductions allow for automatic deductions, with the ability for year-long support of the chosen charity. CFC contributors choose the designated dollar amount, the organization(s) that receives the gift, and the way in which the gift is given. For more information go to the following URL: <http://www.cfc-hawaii.org>.



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

Community members serve up breakfast at CFC kick-off.

# Commander's Call: Personal Readiness

by Brig. Gen. Peter S. "Skipper" Pawling, Commander 154 WG



A l o h a fellow Airmen of the 154th Wing! I hope everyone finds Octobers' Joint Initial Readiness

Response Exercise with our Team Hickam partners, the 15th Airlift Wing, a learning experience, one in which we measure our war fighting preparedness. In the next issue of the Kukailimoku, I will give you a more detailed wrap up of how the joint IRRE went; for now, the one area of concern requiring our immediate attention is personal readiness.

Simply stated, personal readiness is a PERSONAL responsibility; it is also a responsibility shared by the UNIT DEPLOYMENT MANAGER and the UNIT COMMANDER. After initial assessment of IRRE results, it appears we have a long way to go before we can confidently say that our personal readiness will suc-

cessfully pass the critical eyes of the inspectors during the ORI.

We have very little time to improve on the processes; so it is vital that you start early. You do not want to be the one who is not prepared!

A sense of urgency is absolutely imperative to success, not only for the upcoming inspection, but for our real world readiness requirements. Preparation is the key because it gives us the chance

to perform our mission; without a conscientious effort to prepare, we will set ourselves up to fail, and failing is not in our nature.

In addition to being prepared (by starting early), completion of your personal readiness requirements (e.g. medical) will also have a direct impact on the success of our 154th

Medical Group with their Health Services Inspection (HSI), January 2008, a mere three months away.

Remember, the collective efforts of each and every one of you will be the key factor in our ability to succeed in attaining "outstanding" results in the upcoming ORI - I expect all you, Airmen of the 154th Wing, to do your part in PERSONAL READINESS.

Recently, we had visits from two very important Air Force leaders, the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Michael Wynne (earlier this month), and the Air Forces Acting Assistant Secretary of Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Mr. Craig W. Duehring (in September).

In a letter from Mr. Duehring he expressed his astonishment at the number and complexity of challenges facing the Hawaii Air National Guard; and how he sees that we are uniquely qualified to accomplish

see **READINESS** page 7



photo by Tech. Sgt. Mysti Dowsett

Command Chief Master Sgt. Thomas S. Westermeyer, Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, Col. John J. Torres, Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee III



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling presents the Honorable Michael Wynne, Secretary of the U.S. Air Force, with a Hawaii Air National Guard polo shirt during Sec. Wynne's visit to Hickam Air Force Base, Oct. 2.

## Kuka'ilimoku

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All photos are United States Air Force photos unless otherwise noted.

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# Organizational core strengthens Airmen

by **Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S. K. Lee III**



Core – A central and often foundational part usually distinct from the enveloping part by a difference in nature. The word *core* describes the foundational part of an organization to which the top level leadership entrusts the execution of agreed upon expectations. This results in accomplishing the goal or mission. In the Hawaii Air National Guard, the managerial/supervisory layer represents the *core* of our organization, which is expected to lead by example, motivate our Airmen, exude professionalism as a role model, rehabilitate, guide, empower, mentor, possess compassion, be knowledgeable, be above reproach and sincerely care about our Airmen. The guidance our Airmen seek needs to be treated as a priority, which is what we are charged to do, our nation and community entrusts each and every one

of us to do the right thing and take care of our most precious resource, our Airmen. For those in a position occupying the *core* of our organization, caring about what our Airmen are doing or not doing is of great importance. Exemplify *Integrity first* and foremost, *Serve them before yourself*, and seek *Excellence in all that you as well as they do*. The *core* of the HIANG should feel accountable to our Airmen in satisfying their need to succeed. Just as physical core exercises strengthen our bodies in enhancing our ability to lead healthy lives, that same concept applies to our mission readiness as we strengthen our organizational *core*. Challenge yourself in identifying weaknesses related to your responsibilities, gather feedback from your peers, brainstorm ideas, formulate solutions and execute your plan with success in mind and take care of your Airmen. Let's all collaborate in strengthening the *core* of the greatest organization on the globe, nobody does it better.....Let's Roll!!!!!!!!!!!!



photo by Master Sgt. Kristen Stanley

The Hawaii Air National Guard First Sergeants attend a workshop at the Bellows Regional Training Institute Sept. 20-21, 2007. The workshop focused on "Developing Airman for Tomorrow and Beyond." The off-site meeting allowed the group to discuss First Sergeant issues such as Family Care Plans, Dress and Appearance and Retention.

# Guardisman honored as unsung hero

by staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

Five U.S. Air Force junior enlisted members were honored as “unsung heroes” in a recognition ceremony in Waikiki, Sept. 15, as part of Air Force Week Honolulu, a week long celebration of the U.S. Air Force’s 60th anniversary.

Hawaii Air National Guard member, Staff Sgt. Kenley Agtarap, 154th Logistics Readiness Squadron information management journeyman, was among the honorees.

The recognition ceremony took place as part of the Thunderbird Ground ceremony just moments prior to take-off.

The Airmen, standing next to the Thunderbird Officers, were introduced to the large crowd that had assembled along Waikiki Beach, to watch the Thunderbirds Demonstration Team.

“I thought it was going to be a simple ceremony, but it ended up being somewhat semi-formal and what better way to top it off than with the Thunderbird aerial show,” said Sergeant Agtarap.

Sergeant Agtarap was honored for his key role in administering unit training programs and providing critical administrative support at both the unit and wing levels that helped ensure the success of the mission.

“For me it’s the mission, honor, and dignity to serve my country



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

*Amidst the Air Force Week Honolulu festivities, Staff Sgt. Kenley Agtarap gets congratulations from Col. Ronald Han, Brig. Gen. Peter S. Pawling, Senior Airman Ryan Yung and Master Sgt. Maui Quizon for being recognized as the unsung hero from the Hawaii Air National Guard. Staff Sgt. Agtarap was honored in a ceremony just prior to the Thunderbird Aerial Demonstration Show Sept. 15.*

that motivates me to perform at the highest level, said Sergeant Agtarap.

Sergeant Agtarap is thoroughly trained and skilled, said Master Sgt. Quizon.

He quickly acquired knowledge in the newly implemented Air Reserve Orders Writing system becoming one of the “go to” Airmen for systems guidance, added Sergeant Quizon. In addition, Sergeant Agtarap deployed to Incirlik

Turkey in support of the Pacific Air Forces Tanker Task Force assisting in logistics and administrative support areas.

“It felt good being there in front of thousands of people being honored for the work that I’ve accomplished,” he said.

I can’t take credit for this myself, said Sergeant Agtarap. “I share this recognition with the people around me that have helped me become who I am today,” said Sergeant Agtarap.

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## Lucky to be free, lucky to be an American, lucky to be a Woman

by Staff Sgt. Veronica Bastatas

I recently attended the Fourth Annual International Women’s Leadership Conference at the Sheraton Waikiki as a guest of Command Chief Jelinski-Hall.

The theme of the event was Inspiring Today, for Tomorrow. The purpose of the event was to connect the younger generation of women to the stronger successful female figures of today.

The event focused on women who have not only accomplished a lot in their lives but who are changing the lives of others. At the end of the day, I had no excuse not to be able to achieve my goals because all

those women had big obstacles to overcome and they still succeeded.

Let’s do ourselves and other women a favor. Let’s stop making excuses for why we are not doing something because we all have the potential and the freedom to do anything.

Let us also encourage other women around us who need the inspiration because we need to work together to make the world a better place to live. Do your part, be a woman and be proud.

Like Eleanor Roosevelt said, “You cannot ask of others what you are unwilling to do yourself.”

**BADURIA**

Daniel Baduria, 154th Wing Maintenance Squadron C-17 aircraft fuel system craftsman here, strolled onto the Tops and Blue stage replicating his father, Donald Baduria's ukulele style. "I never could have imagined doing something like this," said Sergeant Baduria.

The magic of technology allowed his father's Ed Sullivan Show performance to be broadcast, thus, bringing the past to the present. "I felt proud and fulfilled that people who did not know about his great talent were exposed to it in such a grand forum," said Sergeant Baduria.

When the film clip ended, the future met the past. "I was just the medium to present his extraordinary talent," said Sergeant Baduria.

Present his talent he did. Continuing the legacy his father laid down starting with a Tops in Blue tour in



photo by Staff Sgt. Betty J. Squatrito-Martin

*Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria plays the ukelele in the style his father had taught him, moving the melody along with chord progressions rather than a single note.*

1956-1957, Sergeant Baduria strolled onto the stage picking and strumming his ukulele moving the song's melody along through chord progressions rather than a single note just as his father had taught him.

"I am fortunate enough to have learned directly from him. He taught me all of his tricks," said Sergeant Baduria. I felt a great sense of pride in being able to perform a piece of music that he taught me, added Sergeant Baduria.

According to Sergeant Baduria his father's legacy set the standard for his craft, the ukulele. "His style of playing was special because of his precision, dynamics, and solid tempo," said Sergeant Baduria.

It was while touring with Tops and Blue that Donald Baduria's style came into its own. Donald Baduria's 'ukulele, along with a flamenco guitar player and a banjo player, created the sounds of the string ensemble the Strolling Strings.

According to Sergeant Baduria, the time spent with the Strolling Strings had the greatest impact on his father's style.

"They would trade secrets and incorporate them in

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***"It was a great feeling, not only for myself, but also my family... to be honored in such a grand style."***

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Baduria  
C-17 aircraft fuel system craftsman

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the playing of their instruments," said Sergeant Baduria. "He learned a variety of picking and strumming techniques from the banjo player and flamenco guitar player," added Sergeant Baduria.

From this collaboration came innovative picking techniques, which have yet to be duplicated according to Sergeant Baduria. "There are some good young players in this generation. However, there is not anyone out there that plays in my father's style. I am probably the one person who plays most like him," said Sergeant Baduria.

Opening for Tops in Blue was one of the most satisfying feelings because it allowed me to share my father's music with my peers who ordinarily see me as just another fellow maintainer, said Sergeant Baduria.

While his time with Tops in Blue was instrumental in developing his style, it was neither the beginning nor the end of Donald Baduria's playing days.

My father was an innovative, self-taught 'ukulele artist, who began playing at the age of four and continued playing after his tour with the Air Force, said Sergeant Baduria. He went on to perform with Kui Lee and Alfred Apaka, two renowned Waikiki artists, and he recorded two record albums.

When Sergeant Baduria hit the last chord, Heritage to Horizons had played out.

"It was a great feeling not only for myself, but also for my family, to be honored in such a grand style," said Sergeant Baduria.

Sergeant Daniel Baduria had invoked the images and sounds of his father's legacy; he had replicated the musical footprint his father left behind. Like father, like son.

## News Briefs

## National Guard Birthday Ball

The National Guard Birthday Ball is scheduled for Dec. 22, at the Sheraton Waikiki.

Hawaii Army and Air National Guard members and retirees are invited. Formal attire: Military Best Dress, civilian coat and tie. Festivities begin at 5 p.m. Contact your First Sergeant for more information.

## COLA Changes

Effective Oct. 10, 2007 there was a change to the "Average Annual Spendable Income" table, which is one of three components that make up the COLA computation equation. A change in the amount of COLA entitlements is because of this change. If you would like to validate the amount of your COLA entitlement, please use the COLA rate query function on the following website; <http://perdiem.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem/ocform.html>

## CES Airman reenlists on deployment



*courtesy photo*

Staff Sgt. Clint Rodriguez, 154th Civil Engineering Squadron, takes the reenlistment oath from Col. Kevin Kriner, 447th Air Expeditionary group commander, while on deployment to the Central Command. According to Master Sgt. Luke Sakanashi, 447 ECES, Sergeant Rodriguez was proud to reenlist.

## October Promotions

### Promoted to SMSgt (E-8)

154 MXS Hall, Tony F.  
154 MXS Kalilikane, Edwin G.  
154 MXS Peleholani, Mark A.

### Promoted to MSgt (E-7)

154 AMXS Cristobal, Byron C.  
204 AS Hirano, Lester  
154 WG Katada, Emric K.  
154 SFS Namoca, Ricardo A.  
154 AMXS Peters, Rex J.L.  
154 MXS Yokono, Jeffery

### Promoted to TSgt (E-6)

154 SFS B a t u n g b a c a l ,  
Brandon  
154 SFS Colon, Anthony  
154 SFS Kim, Robert M.

### Promoted to SSgt (E-5)

154 SFS Gloor, Shane K.M.

## HIANG takes Golf Championship

With Chief Master Sgt. Alwyn Yoshimura sinking key putts when needed, Master Sgt. Eric Faurot and Maj. Duke Oka dominating their competition, and Maj. Taison Tanaka going a combined 11 under par (67, 69, 69) throughout the playoffs, the HIANG golf team took the Hickam Base Championship in Intramural Golf at Mamala Bay Golf Course in September. The HIANG Golf Team defeated JPAC, 15 MDS, and 561 CF enroot to the Championship. Matches were Best Ball and Scramble with a total of 6 points to be won. The HIANG Team won 4-2, 6-0, 5 1/2-1/2 for a dominating performance.

Everyone got a chance to play in the regular season, helping the team to the playoffs. During the playoffs, "The team stepped it up," said Master Sgt. Eliapo. Other team members were Lt. Col. Woodrow, Lt. Col. Cleveland, Lt. Col. Higa, Maj. Ota, Maj. Murata, CMSgt. Tom, SMSgt. Tanaka, and TSgt. Crabbe.



## Ancillary Training

Based on commanders' concerns over the proliferation of ancillary training requirements, the CSAF directed A1 to study the program and make dramatic reductions.

Following the review



and inputs from across the Air Force, the CSAF has approved a plan to significantly reduce annual requirements for ancillary training.

Sept. 30, annual ancillary training requirements for courses such as Protection from Terrorism Level 1, Information Security, Information Assurance, Records Management, Privacy Act Training (w/ Freedom of Information Act), NATO Security, Suicide Awareness and Violence Prevention, Awareness Training for Combating Trafficking in Persons, and Sexual Assault Awareness Training were turned off.

The new block courses of instruction will be available beginning Oct. 2007. AETC experts worked with AETC to design three blocks of targeted training encompassing a total of 90 minutes that will be available through multiple instructional options.

The training will be able to be accomplished during a single session or broken up into three separate blocks distributed throughout the year.

**154 WG  
Drill Dates  
Nov. 3-4, 2007  
Dec. 1-2, 2007  
Jan. 5-6, 2008**

# Chaplain's Corner: Time to get off the fence; take action

by Capt. Leah Boling, Chaplain

Have you seen the television commercial where the employees are on the floor ideating? It seems to me, even though I only have to write an article once every three months, I am always ideating about what to write ahead of time. Sometimes an incident at work will provide me the inspiration to write an article while other times my husband will give me suggestions. For this article, he suggested I write about a popular song in the 70s entitled "Living Next Door To Alice." I wasn't familiar with the song so I "ideated" about his suggestion for a mere second or two and thought better of it. Instead, I went with this.

Do you ever watch KHNL's John Fink's, "Think About It" segment? Last month one segment focused on how we can be of service to our fellow men and women serving overseas in the war effort. He challenged viewers that regardless of what we each feel personally about the war, we need to be supportive of the men and women there doing their job. Mr. Fink said a small effort on our part here can make a tremendous impact on those soldiers. He concluded the segment by saying, "Act now, don't just think about it." In other words, he said don't ideate anymore, just do it.

Former President Bill Clinton was on Oprah recently and discussed

his new book "Giving." During the interview, he mentioned he didn't like to have meetings to talk about the problems. Instead, he liked to have meetings to solve problems--not just talk about them. Again, we are challenged to act and not just think.

My husband, who works at the base library, was faced with a situation where he had to not just think, but act quickly as well. He was shelving books when he noticed someone reading classified material. He didn't have to "Think About It" very long, he knew the right thing to do was to contact the OSI. My husband did his job, and the OSI did their job. What would have happened if my husband just thought about what he was supposed to do and not act on it? I don't know if my husband stopped a major disaster from happening or not. Who knows? Six years ago, 9/11 hit us hard as individuals and as a nation. On that fateful morning, Michael Tuohey "stared the devil in the eyes and didn't recognize him." Mr. Touhey worked at the airport in Maine where two of the hi-jackers started their journey. He knew something was not right with these two men, but didn't act upon his gut feelings. To be fair to Mr. Touhey, at the time, there

were no procedures or protocols in place to report "gut feelings." However, knowing what we know now, just ideating about what to do would not have been the best choice.

As I sit here typing this article, I am also listening to the songs we have on our computer. Without realizing it, the song "Living Next Door To Alice" started playing. I paused to listen and then googled the lyrics. As I read the lyrics and listened to the song, I understood what the singer was trying to impart to the listeners. He had been living next door to Alice for 24 years, but he never got up the nerve to tell her how he felt about her. Now that she left, the chance was gone. Sadly, another woman living next door to him felt about him the same way he felt about Alice. And like him, she didn't do anything about it. Imagine, three lives ideating, but never acting. Is there something in your life you are thinking about, but not sure how to act on it? This may be the time to just do it!

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### General Protestant Service

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., UTA Sundays, Bldg. 3416, 2nd floor, Na Koa Conference Room.

### Catholic Services

5:00 p.m., Saturdays, Nelles Chapel  
10:00 a.m., Sundays, Chapel Center

### Jewish Services

7:30 p.m., Fridays, Pearl Harbor Aloha Chapel on Makalapa Road.

For **Buddhist, Muslim or other faith groups**, call either the Wing Chaplain's office at 448-7275 on drill weekends or during other times the Chapel Center at 449-1754.

## READINESS

these challenges.

With new missions like the F-22 Raptor, the "plus-up" of the KC-135 Air Refueling Tankers, and our most recent conversion to a C-17 Globemaster Classic Associate Unit with the 15th Airlift Wing), we find ourselves changing the way we do business. It's nice to know that leadership at higher levels of our organization have confidence in us to accomplish these new missions.

Finally, it was a pleasure and an honor to have Secretary Wynne take time out of his busy schedule to visit the HIANG, to hear from us on our F-22 conversion, the enormity of our military construction plans, and the progress in our "way ahead" with Air Force Special Operations 21. His visit confirms the relevance of the 154th Wing and Hawaii Air National Guard's presence in the Pacific.

Aloha, keep up the good work and be safe!

# Knock it Off: Safety it's job one

by Lt. Col. Gregory Woodrow, 154WG/SE

*The first virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue.....*  
**Napoleon Bonaparte**

There is a lot of truth in this. Endurance of fatigue is what our fitness program is all about.

In today's Guard, you're expected to be "fit to fight." Fit physically, mentally, emotionally. And you are tested, everyday. Particularly since 9/11, the OPSTEMPO for those of us in the Hawaii Air National Guard has done nothing but increase. Add to that an impending ORI, an aggressive exercise schedule to hone your combat skills, family, financial, and other life demands, and you can see that sometimes the cup "overfloweth..."

During the last 154th Wing CERE, we had several mishaps with one common causal factor - fatigue. Thankfully, no one was seriously injured, and none of our planes were bent or broke. But past performance

doesn't guarantee future returns.

"Knock it off." This is an assertive statement that we use in the flying business to alert those around us that maybe things aren't going as planned. Maybe it's time to take a break, step back, and analyze what we're doing. In fact, if you're not already aware, "Knock it off" has already been adapted for use in maintenance. Check AFI 21-101, para 2.17.

Commanders and supervisors at all levels, I urge you to brief your troops and empower them to call a "Knock it off." Often it's the youngest, most inexperienced Airmen that see the operation at hand from a different perspective and recognize the inherent risk; however, they will never speak up unless you've already created a culture of empowerment and non-retribution. What's the best way to create this culture? Brief. Brief. Brief. Talk the talk, and walk the talk.

For you young folks: SPEAK UP. If something doesn't look right,

feel right, or smell right, bring it to someone's attention. I guarantee your co-workers/supervisors would rather you voice your concerns than suffer an embarrassing or possibly dangerous situation. What's the worst that can happen? Your situational awareness is less than your coworkers, and there is a short pause in the operation as they bring you up to speed. Big deal. The whole operation will be safer for it. And who knows, you may save a valuable HIANG resource from injury or damage.

Important note. ORIs are graded by results. The PACAF IG Bearcat Team would never intentionally put us in a dangerous situation; however, if you see a dangerous situation developing and intend to use an assertive statement like "Knock it off," you may want to voice your concern to an inspector first (if available) and let him/her make the call. Remember, there is nothing we do where hurting people or bending iron is acceptable. Be safe.

## Maintenance personnel practice crash recovery

by Staff Sgt. John Yano

The 154th Maintenance Squadron's C-17 Maintenance Flight received hands on experience in crash recovery during an all day exercise here, Sept. 20.

The scenario of an F-4 committing a hard landing, breaking one of the axels and blocking the runway, challenged the maintenance team in their crash recovery processes and procedures.

The team, made up of approximately 21 maintenance personnel, deployed to the site of the pre-positioned F-4 training aircraft and lifted the aircraft using an alternative lifting method (bags).

During the scenario, pallets were put under the body of the plane and airbags were placed on top of them. The plane is tethered from all angles with three-man teams at each location and then lifted carefully balancing the plane on the airbags. The scenario was planned in order to allow the team to experience lifting the plane.

Once the aircraft was lifted, a wheel skate was inserted under the broken axel for movement.

The actually lifting of the plane was only a fraction of the total time that went into the exercise. Extensive planning along with the set up and breakdown of

equipment were key components to having a successful exercise. The F-4 training aircraft was used because regulations prohibit the use of an operational C-17. If using an operational aircraft like the C-17, air bags are inflated until they are almost but not actually touching the plane.

In the event of a plane crash, the crash recovery team would be one of the last teams to respond.



photo by Staff Sgt. John Yano

Airmen monitor the air bags under the F-4 during the 154 MXS crash recovery exercise here Sept. 20.

# Hispanic Americans: Hero Street

by Rex Jones, EED

A few years ago, my wife and our youngest son were invited to visit Augustana College. Our son was considering the possibility of enrolling there after high school. While there, we simply could not pass up the opportunity to visit a neighborhood that a friend had told us about during a Hispanic American Observance Luncheon – “it is a neighborhood entirely dedicated to its fallen war heroes” she shared with us.

With this in mind, we made an honest effort to follow our MapQuest instructions to the best of our ability yet we still had to stop for directions. Turns out, we weren't lost after all -- we were on the exact street we were looking for. We were confused because we mistakenly had bigger expectations. You see, it's not much of a street in size at all -- just one and a half blocks long. Its surface wasn't paved (at the time) and there were no large luxurious homes to grace its sides. There weren't any monuments but still they officially called this street **Hero St. U.S.A.**

Here in the tiny Mid-West town of Silvis, Ill. Hero Street has an amazing history and tradition to uphold its name. It has earned the name with honor and with the blood of eight young men, all of Mexican descent, who tragically gave their lives on fields of combat for a country they felt was well worth dying for. It has been researched and documented by the Department of Defense that there is no other street of comparable size that has sent as many men and women to serve in the armed forces than this block of approximately twenty-five homes. Hero Street USA has sent more than 110 men and women into the military. Fifty-seven men went in during World War II & Korea, and over 20 more to Vietnam. These eight men: [Joseph Gomez](#), [Peter Macias](#), [Johnny Muños](#), [Tony Pompa](#), [Frank Sandoval](#), [Joe Sandoval](#), [William Sandoval](#), and [Claro Soliz](#), lost their lives in World War II and Korea. Now, a street remembers them in their honor.

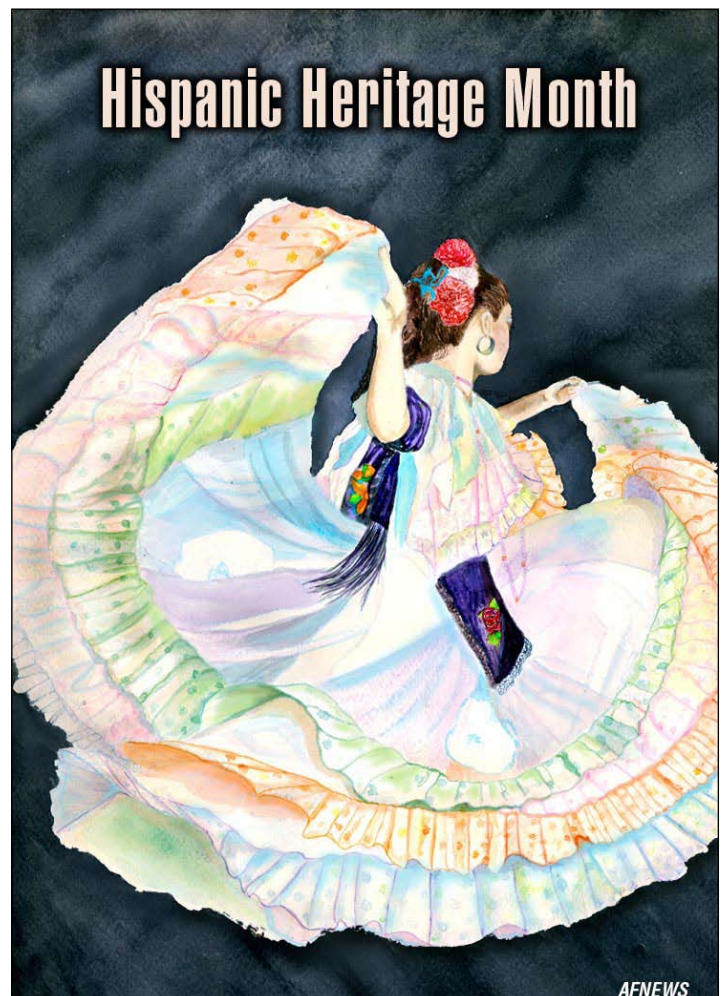
When tallying the number of its residents who served in World War II and the Korean campaign, the total came to 57 men (again, this doesn't include the Street's contribution to the Vietnam conflict or our most current conflicts). Of those 57, the two Sandoval families (not related) sent 13, six from one and seven from the other. Three Sandoval boys were killed in action. These families not only believed in freedom, but sent their sons to fight for it. Many were not born in the United States, so they would not have to go to war. But go they did.

They all grew up together on this street, and it has been said that they were all uncommonly close. They were bound together by common heritage - this was the first generation of children raised in America by parents who had migrated here from Mexico years before. And, there were other bonds. They were all poor. Although their fathers worked long, exhausting hours for the railroad and made more money that they would

ever have realized in their native town in Mexico, they were still poor. They roamed together over Billy Goat Hill, the small bluff rising from behind one side of the street. It was where they built bonfires, flew kites, dug caves and had mud fights. They hunted small game on the hills scrubby sides and shared two precious .22 rifles among the bunch of them.

Today, there is in fact a fitting monument and Park dedicated to these heroes. And, those visiting aren't likely to have the same initial reaction that I and my family had when I first saw Hero Street USA. Regardless of one's reaction to this street, to those that live there, it is home! In a letter from Claro Soliz to Frank Sandoval he described it as, “The Street is really not much, just mud and ruts, but right now to me it is the greatest street in the world.”

You may not find yourself in Silvis, Ill., anytime soon; however, you can still pay your respects to those Hispanic Americans that have strengthened our country and contributed to the spirit of America. Please join me as we celebrate the rich cultural traditions of our Hispanic-American community. This year's theme is “Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society.”



PT uniform guidelines will be posted at the dining facility, medical facility and at Mission Personnel Flight by the end of the year.



*photo by Tech. Sgt. Mysti Dowsett*

*Command Chief Master Sgt. Denise Jelinski-Hall and Command Chief Master Sgt. Robert S.K. Lee III model the Air Force Physical Training uniform.*