



# Media Release

---

Public Affairs Office  
U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii  
(808)656-3157  
*“Malama na Koa”*

Release number: 2010-03-01  
March 3, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Soldiers Added to Army Gallery of Heroes**

**FORT DERUSSY, Hawaii** – The U.S. Army will officially induct two Soldiers into the Fort DeRussy Museum, Gallery of Heroes, March 5, at 1 p.m., to recognize two distinguished Soldiers for their service in World War II, and Korea.

Since 1988, the gallery has honored local Hawaiian servicemen and women who have received one of the nation’s two highest awards for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross, or its equivalents, the Navy Cross or the Air Force Cross.

The Soldiers being inducted are Thomas Yoshimi Ono of Honolulu, and Anthony T. Kaho’ohanohano of Wailuku, Maui.

Ono served as a private in W.W. II and received the Distinguished Service Cross for his extraordinary courage while assigned to Company B, 100th Infantry Battalion, 34th Infantry Division in June 1944.

Near the town of La Torretto, Italy, while engaged in intense close combat fighting and against overwhelming odds, Ono led a handful of fellow Soldiers in engaging multiple enemy emplacements in the vicinity of his assigned objective. During the three-hour engagement, he and his companions neutralized five machine guns, five machine pistols, and killed or captured 17 Germans. Ono subsequently served in the Korean War, where he was captured and spent two years as a Prisoner of War at Ch’ang-Song from April 25, 1951, until his release in August 1953.

Pfc. Anthony T. Kaho’ohanohano was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his remarkable bravery in combat while assigned to Co. H, 2nd Bn., 17th Inf. Regiment, 7th Inf. Div., while defending against enemy forces in the vicinity of Chup'a-ri, Korea, Sept. 1, 1951.

On that day, Kaho’ohanohano was in charge of a machine-gun squad supporting the defensive positions of Co. F, when they came under intense enemy attack launched by a numerically superior force. Because of the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, it was necessary for the friendly troops to withdraw from their defensive positions. As the men fell back, he ordered his squad to take up more defensible positions and provide protective fire for the friendly force.

--more--

## GALLERY 2-2-2

Kaho'ohanohano, having been painfully wounded in the shoulder during the initial enemy assault, gathered a supply of grenades and ammunition and returned to his original position to face the enemy alone.

Kaho'ohanohano continued to resist the onrushing enemy until his ammunition was depleted. He then engaged the enemy in hand-to-hand combat until he was killed.

“The initial search to identify candidates for induction into the Gallery of Heroes produced six Medal of Honor recipients and 18 Distinguished Service Cross recipients,” said Victoria Olson, executive director, Hawaii Army Museum Society. “Presently there are 22 Medal of Honor recipients and, as of this year’s ceremony, 54 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross and three recipients of the Navy Cross.

“Over the years, with more thorough research, and from family members hearing about the Gallery of Heroes, we have been able to glean more about the lives of these honored Soldiers,” Olson added.

One such case involved Patrick Viela, who was only two when his father, Army Sgt. Douglas Factora, died in Vietnam. As Viela read a local morning newspaper during his ride to work, he was stunned to see his father’s name mentioned as an inductee. This was the first he had known of his father’s heroic deeds.

“We’ve had several cases like Patrick’s in which friends and family members hear or read about an induction and realize the inductee is someone they know,” Olson said. “(The friends and family members) have been able to share with the museum curators more details about their loved one’s life, (as well as) photos that we can share with the public. We are able to put a face with the name, helping folks to realize that these are real people who performed superhuman deeds.”

Besides having to receive one of the nation’s two highest medals, inductees must have been born in Hawaii, entered military service from Hawaii, or have permanently resided in Hawaii for at least ten years, according to museum director, Judith Bowman.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. Validated parking is available across the street from the museum, and disabled parking spaces are provided in front of the museum.

-30-

**MEDIA NOTE:** Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P no later than 5:30 p.m., Thursday, March 4, and should meet Army escorts at Fort DeRussy’s U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii at 12:30 p.m., March 5. Reserved media parking is available on the circle in front of the museum. For further information, please contact Loran Doane, Media Relations chief, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii Public Affairs at (808) 656-3157 or cell (317)-847-2222.