

Wreath Laying Ceremony

SAR Granite Monument on the Memorial Walk

National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Honolulu, Hawaii

1030 hours September 3, 2009

Program

Welcome – Compatriot Jack Miller, HISSAR

Introductory remarks – Cemetery Directory – Gene Castagnetti

Keynote remarks - President General Judge Ed Butler, SAR

Prayer – SAR National Chaplain James Taylor

Post the Bugler

Laying of the wreath by General Butler with Color Guard escort

Taps by Corporal Sullivan, USMC

Closing of the Ceremony – Compatriot Jack Miller

On Thursday, September 3, 2009, thirty of us went by bus and private auto to the Punchbowl Military Cemetery, officially known as “The National Memorial of the Pacific”. Twenty years ago, the CASSAR placed a bronze plaque at the beautiful cemetery. I had the honor of placing a wreath on this

monument to pay honor to our servicemen and women buried there. Many of them were killed in combat at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Others died in combat in Europe during the two World Wars, Korea, Viet Nam, and the Middle East. We honored their service and sacrifice. We were welcomed by Cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti. My remarks were short.

Good morning Ladies and gentlemen. The Sons of the American Revolution is here this morning to honor our service members buried here. Although many people view this cemetery as the final resting place of those killed during the sneak attack by the Japanese on Dec. 7, 1941, American servicemen from World War I are enshrined here, as are those who fought in all the conflicts since then.

As a patriotic organization, we honor our deceased Revolutionary War Patriots by our SAR membership; by marking their graves, commemorating their battles; and writing about their service and sacrifice. It is more important for us to honor our active duty men and women in uniform and the veterans who are still alive. We can do this in simple ways. As we go through airports, malls, and public places, when we see a person in military uniform, we should stop, shake their hands and thank them for their service and sacrifice.

Yesterday, we met with some Wounded Warriors at Tripler Army Hospital to let them know how much we appreciated their service and sacrifice. At that time we presented them with the "SAR Outstanding Citizenship Award", and took their photo for publication in their home town newspaper.

Similar hospital visits are planned in the near future in Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky.

Following my remarks, Rev. James Taylor presented the benediction. A Marine Lance Corporal played Taps. I then followed two members of the color guard up the hill to lay a wreath on the SAR monument placed there some 20 years ago by the CASSAR. Interestingly, the SAR monument was the first placed at the Punchbowl. Since then over 20 more have been installed, including one from the DAR.