



VALE

Jerry Montgomery

1940-2013

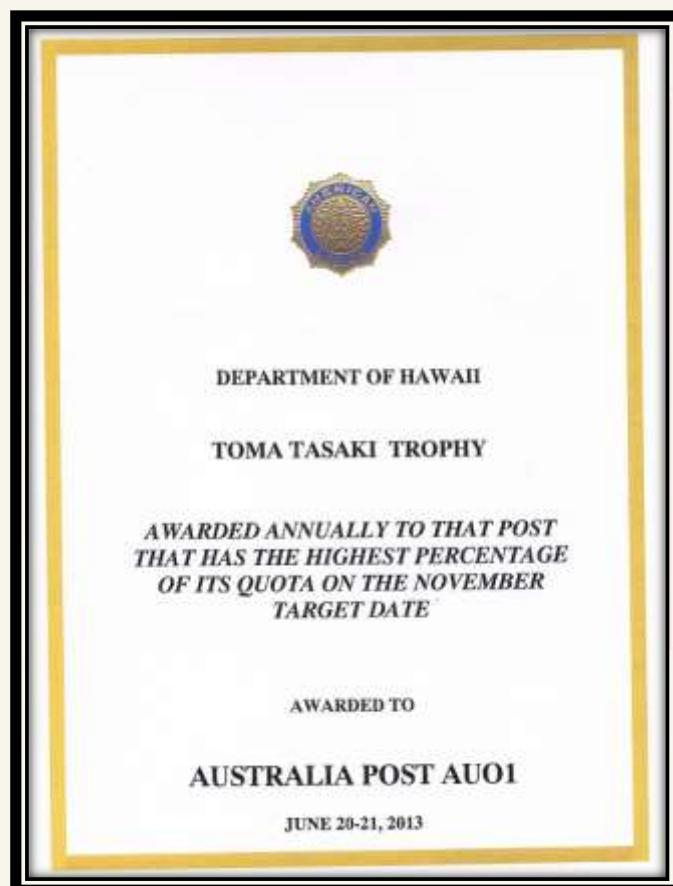
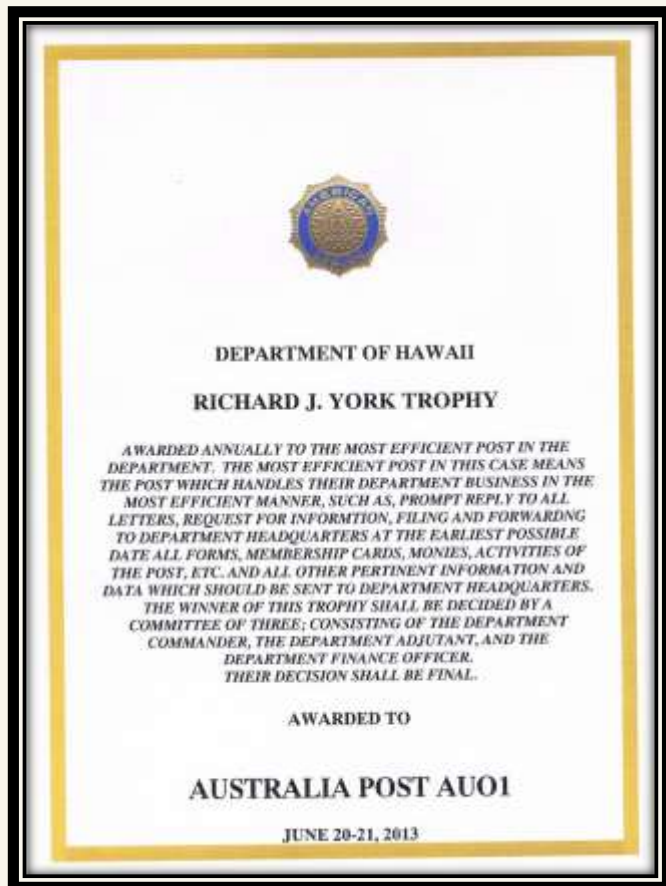
US ARMY - VIETNAM

Jerry passed away on July 11th after a fatal fall, fortunately he was saved from any pain or suffering. He was originally from Portland, Oregon and served in Vietnam 1966-67 with the Military Assistance Command (MACV). He was well known in Sydney as a Chef Extraordinaire' sharing his talent with VIP's at Government House, Admiralty House and The American Club as well of his family and friends at his home. His culinary talents would make those Master Chefs on TV look like amateurs. Condolences on behalf of all members of the Post and Auxiliary Unit were extended to his wife Pam and other family members.

**WE WILL REMEMBER HIM
LEST WE FORGET**



Congratulations to Post No.1 “Yanks Down Under”



WELCOME to a new member, **Gary Nasers**, US Army (retired) and a former member of the 82nd Airborne Division. More on **Gary** in the next newsletter.

At the recent Department of Hawaii Convention in Honolulu, June 20-21, 2012, YOUR Post received two awards. First was the **Richard J. York Trophy** awarded annually to then most efficient Post in the Department meaning the Post which handles their Department business in the most efficient manner. The winner is decided by a committee consisting of the Department Commander, the Department Adjutant and the Department Finance Officer. This is at least the second time our Post has won this award.

The second award is the **Toma Tasaki Trophy** awarded annually to the Post that has the highest percentage of its quota of renewals and new members on the November target date. Both these awards are comprised of a certificate and a monetary award to the Post. The actual trophy is kept in the Department Headquarters in Honolulu. **Richard York and Toma Tasaki** are **Past Department Commanders** who have left a legacy to the department following their tenure in office. These awards as were previous awards thru the years could only be achieved by your support and dedication to the Post, thank you.

SHOW ME DA MONEY!!

Yes it's that time of year once again RENEWAL TIME !!. To date we have over 50% and counting that have renewed, so like the man in the movie said "**show me da money**". Many have received reminders via email and those who do not have email will have a reminder with this newsletter, maybe we'll qualify for an award again.



In The American Legion magazine you may have noticed that you can pay your dues on-line. **This is NOT for our Post.**



How it works is the dues are sent to National Headquarters and they disburse to the Department and the Post their share . This is done in US dollars either by check or EFT to the Posts bank account.

Our bank, BankWest, of course is in Australian dollars and after fees and exchange rates are taken into consideration we would lose, so PLEASE **do not** send your dues on-line to Indianapolis.

Send your checks (that mean cheques for you Australians) made out to American Legion to the Post Commanders address (at the bottom of the page).

If you wish to send them via EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) to the Posts bank account get in touch with the Post Commander who will give you all the details of our account you need for the transfer. We already have quite a few that have done this, of course your bank must be an Australian one needless to say.

It has been brought to our attention that Australia Post charges almost \$9 for a \$27 (AUD) money order. Wow!! no wonder they are making a profit. For those few that do send Australian Post Money Orders for their dues it would be wise to send them via EFT. This is painless, just tell them at your bank what you wish to do and BINGO, Australian Post will lose a few bucks and you will gain. If you do opt to pay via EFT please inform your commander via email or phone with the date this was done and as a reference use your name so we can match up the payment.

ALOHA! Iolani Palace Celebrates

If you just happened to be in the neighbourhood of the Iolani Palace in Honolulu on July 6th that huge crowd was not a riot but a **Kinimaka** reunion. What's a **Kinimaka** I hear you say. Well it's not a thing it's a name. As you know we have two **Kinimaka's** in our Post, **Jim** a Retired Chief Warrant Officer from the US Coast Guard and his son **Bud**. OK, back to the riot, I mean reunion. There were **400** at the reunion, and our own **Jim Kinimaka** is the patriarch, yes he's that old. The **Kinimaka** klan, whoops I mean clan, goes back 17 generations and some have served Hawaiian royalty such as **Jim's** great grandfather who was the

Commander of the Royal Grounds under King Kalakaua in the 1800's. The family is involved in everything (honest of course), restaurants, actors, food catering, sports, show business including at least one who was in one of the early Hawaii 5-0 TV series and of course veterans in most of the US Armed Forces. I remember one owned a restaurant in Manly near Sydney, another was the manager of Duke's in the Outrigger Waikiki, no freebies, and later a Hawaiian themed restaurant in Las Vegas.

So, back to the reunion. At the Palace there was a re-enactment of the Royal Court arriving at the Palace with **Jim's** eldest sister chosen for the Queen's role and his 22 yr old granddaughter (I told he was old), who flew in from Australia, played the part of Princess in waiting. The Royal Guards (10) were dressed in the uniforms worn in the King Kalakaua days with rifles etc. All the actors were **Kinimakas** except the Royal Guards who were all active duty Hawaii National Guardsmen. Following this they all toured the Palace then were off to Ala Moana Beach Park, a huge park at the entrance to Waikiki and across the street from the Ala Moana shopping center, for a good old big time Hawaiian luau. All the normal good stuff they have at a luau and of course lots of "poi" (that's library paste for you haoli's or foreigners) and soft drinks...yes no booze or "okole hau" as they call it. I wonder if they all had a little paper umbrellas (made in China) on the soft drink glasses. Anyway the entertainment, besides the **400 Kinimaka's**, was provided by the elder sister who has a big, big hula troupe or "hula halau" that she takes all around the world. Hula dancers, knife dancers, singers..the lot.

Now they were all in a huge tent 50 yards long and 20 yards wide (I'm not about to translate that into metric measurements). The entire reunion was catered by **Jim's** brother who owns and operates a food catering business (no freebies there either). For those who have never been to Honolulu, Iolani Palace is the only royal palace in the United States. It was built by King Kalakaua (name of the main street in Waikiki for those that have been to Hawaii but never got out of Waikiki). Believe it or not they had electric lights and a telephone system before the White House. If you had watched the original HAWAII 5-0 series, McGarret (**Jack Lord**) had his office in Iolani Palace. So much for that little grass shack stuff the Hawaiians sing about. To top it all off the family even received a letter of congratulations from a fellow islander, one Barry O'Bama. (I couldn't resist that), of course it is President Obama who was born and spent his early childhood on Oahu.



VJ DAY THE 68TH ANNIVERSARY



So, sounds like they had a great time, then **Jim** and one of his sons were off home to their little grass shack in.....AUSTIN, TEXAS? I know, you thought he'd be headed back to a little grass shack in Hawaii but no, when he left Australia after many many years here, he re-located in Texas. He says if you are ever in the neighbourhood look him up and he'd "throw another armadillo on the barbie for you". So there, I've mentioned your name enough times **Jim** so you can send that dues check anytime.



Most American Legion Posts are more or less neighbourhood Posts but not Post AU01. Our members live in 5 Australian states, New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. At one time we did have members in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. We have 24 members living in 15 different states in the USA. 99% of them were living in Australia when they joined the Post, and last but not least one in Thailand. So with 100 plus members you may have wondered why we only get 35 or so ANZAC Day, July 4th and Thanksgiving Day lunches.

Thursday August 15th—VP or VJ Day, the 68th anniversary of the surrender of Imperial Japan and the end of World War 2. At the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney. The State Branch of the RSL requests that we be there by 10:35 am, the arrival of the official party and ceremony begins promptly at 11:00 am. The Post Commander has the banner at home, if we have enough from the Post attending he will bring it with him and the wreath.

The next day (August 16) The Post Commander who will accompany the Auxiliary Unit President (carrying her baggage) are off to Houston, Texas for the National Conventions and then a bit of R&R in Hawaii. We've been to Hawaii so many times maybe we are **Kinimaka's** too. I guess **Frau Raymond** would be a **von Kinimaka**. By the way she is related via her grandmother to the **von Trapp** family, really.....just ask her.

Battle of the Atlantic



Seems we had a boo-boo in our last newsletter (o.k. a typo, even the NY and London Times make them). It concerned the 8 Australians who were selected to attend the “Battle of the Atlantic” commemoration. To make it right the 8 selected were 4 ex Royal Australian Air Force men, 3 ex Merchant Navy men and 1 ex Royal Australian Navy man. One of the ex-Merchant Navy men was of course our own **Don Kennedy** (former Kannon-Kommander). A side light to this, something I didn’t learn for the June newsletter, of the RAAF men flying a Sunderland flying boat attacked a German U-boat on the surface sinking the boat. The pilot saw some of the crew struggling on the surface so he circled the area and dropped a dingy and some of them survived the war. After the war the U-boat Captain made enquiries, discovered the pilot was an Australian and came out here after the war to find him. They met and a friendship eventuated. A great story and of course true.

There has been only one nomination for Commander and Vice-Commander, the present incumbents, so looks like you are stuck with us for another term.....thank you.



Photo: Don Kennedy and David Raymond

AUXILIARY UNIT NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to our three new LIFE MEMBERS!!! Norma Benner, Phyllis Kytic and Helen Edwards..... Norma was the founder of Auxiliary Unit AU02 on the Gold Coast, Queensland before transferring to our Unit when Unit AU02 folded. She now lives in Southern California. **Phyllis'** late husband was one of the founders of the Legion Post back in 1945 and still resides in their same homestead in Kogarah (Sydney). **Helen** who will be 93 in a few months, lives in South Carolina and from memory has attended most all National Conventions for at **least** the past 10 years and is the mother-in-law of member **Elke Haggan**.



U.S. Air Force veteran Ed Sarvis and his friend watch the presentations.

The July 4th luncheon was once again well attended with 32 Auxiliary, Legion and friends. We **also WELCOMED a new member, Jean Nasers who we were delighted to meet at the July 4th luncheon.** Jean is the wife of new Post member **Gary.** **WELCOME ABOARD BOTH!!!**

Norma Benner made the local newspaper attending the Yucaipa-Calimesa (California) Memorial Day ceremonies. Yes it's also dues time for the Auxiliary, \$15 this year due to a rise in per capita dues by National Hqs., first rise in many years. Already we have about 60% paid in for 2014 so let's make it once again 100%.

Dorothy Leayr was in Sydney, from her home in outback Cowra, for the annual general meeting of the War Widows Guild. Played bowls on Thursday but suffered Thursday night. Now she's going to *Curves* (sort of an exercise club for the elderly, not **Dorothy** of course but the other ladies there).

We received a very nice note from **Mark Gilbert** who always attends our July 4th and Thanksgiving luncheons. His late father **Bill** was one of the founding members of the Post. He thanks us for a wonderful day and helping ex-American veterans. He wrote it was great seeing Phyllis (Kytic) and Esme (Trainor) both whose late husbands were in the infancy of the Post.



Thank You for your Support!!