

HB

244

SFIN

FILE

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORTED OUT
 MAY 15 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 5/9/07

FURTHER:

 DATE TURNED IN TO OFFICE: 5/15/07

Finance Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 244(FIN) am

HB 244 MEDAL OF HONOR

"An Act creating an Alaska Decoration of Honor and establishing criteria for awarding the decoration."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous SCS or CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

SENATE BILL:
 Same Title
 New Title

HOUSE BILL:
 Same Title
 Technical Title Change
 New Title w/ SCR # _____

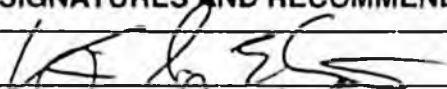
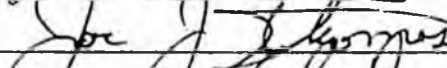
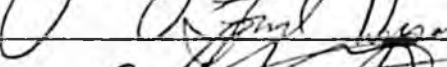
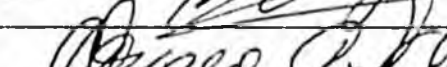
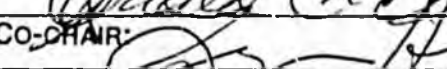
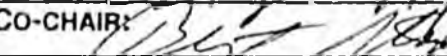

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department	Date	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN#
LAA	5/1/07	55.0			2
DMVA	5/2/07			✓	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	Elton	✓			
	Thomas	✓			
	Dyson	✓			
	Huggins	✓			
	Olson	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Hoffman	✓			
CO-CHAIR: 	Stedman	✓			

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
MAY 15 2007
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 2
Bill Version: CSHB 244(FIN)
(H) Publish Date: 5/7/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Legislature
Title: "An Act creating an Alaska Medal of Honor and RDU: Legislative Council
and establishing criteria for awarding the medal." Component: Council and Subcommittees
Sponsor: House Rules Committee by request of JASC
Requester: House Finance Component No.: 783

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	55.0					
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TAL OPERATING	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	55.0					
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

HB 244 creates an Alaska Medal of Honor and establishes criteria for awarding the medal to an individual. The Alaska Medal of Honor shall be awarded by concurrent resolution drafted in consultation with the Adjutant General's Office and must be adopted by both Houses of the Legislature. This fiscal note includes 5.0 for an artist design of the Alaska Medal of Honor reflective of Alaska and honoring the sacrifice of the recipient. The estimated cost for each Alaska Medal of Honor and shadow box is \$250. The initial order will be for 200 medals with a projected cost of 50.0. Costs for the ordering medals in future fiscal years will be absorbed within existing Legislative budgets.

Prepared by: Karla Schotfield, Deputy Director Phone: 465-6626
Division: Legislative Affairs Agency Date/Time: 5/1/07 2:34 PM
Approved by: Pamola Varni, Executive Director Date: 5/1/2007
Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

FISCAL NOTE

REPORTED OUT
 MAY 15 2007
 SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

STATE OF ALASKA
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 244(FIN)
 (H) Publish Date: 5/7/07

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Military & Veterans Affairs
 Title Creating an Alaska Medal of Honor and establish RDU Military and Veterans Affairs
criteria for awarding medal Component Veterans Services
 Sponsor Rules by Request of Joint Armed Services Comm
 Requester Military and Veterans Affairs Component No. 421

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Contractual	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grants & Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1003 GF Match	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1004 GF	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1037 GF/Mental Health	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2007) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2008 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has a very minor role in the award of this medal and does not expect a fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Mr. John Cramer, Acting Deputy Commissioner
 Division: Commissioner's Office
 Approved by: General Craig Campbell, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Phone (907) 465-4602
 Date/Time 5/2/07 4:00 PM
 Date 5/2/2007

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

JOINT ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Representative Nancy Dahlstrom

State Capitol, Rm 409
Juneau, AK 99801
Juneau (907) 465-3783
Juneau Fax (907) 465-2293
Eagle River (907) 622-3783

Rep_Nancy_Dahlstrom@legis.state.ak.us



Senator Bill Wielechowski

State Capitol, Rm 115
Juneau, AK 99801
Juneau (907) 465-2435
Juneau Fax (907) 465-6615
Anchorage (907) 269-0102

Sen_Bill_Wielechowski@legis.state.ak.us

CO-CHAIRS

REPRESENTATIVE NANCY DAHLSTROM SENATOR BILL WIELECHOWSKI

CS House Bill 244 (FIN)am
Creating an Alaska Decoration of Honor.

Last year, the Legislature passed House Concurrent Resolution 48 requesting that the Alaska Legislature, through the Joint Armed Services Committee, create the Alaska Medal of Honor and establishing its criteria.

The Finance Committee Substitute changed the name to the Alaska Decoration of Honor and will recognize military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms. This special medal will be awarded on behalf of the residents of Alaska to an individual who was killed in action since statehood while:

- engaged in an action against any enemy of the United States;
- engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force;
- serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party;
- serving in or deploying to or from a combat zone as designated by presidential order.

To be eligible to receive the Alaska Medal of Honor, an individual must have been, at the time the individual was killed in action, a member of:

- the Alaska National Guard who was a state resident,
- the United States military reserves who was a state resident, or
- the regular United States armed forces who was a legal resident of the state or stationed in the state by proper order of the U.S. Department of Defense.

The adjutant general will annually obtain a list from the federal government of those who meet the criteria above. The list will then be forwarded to the Legislature for appropriate honors.

The legislature acknowledges the honorees by a concurrent resolution introduced by the House Speaker or Senate President, or their designees, and be adopted by both houses. In accordance with the legislation, the Joint Armed Services Committee will make arrangements for the designing the medal and writing the standard operating procedures for the awarding of the Alaska Decoration of Honor.

In conjunction, the state's adjutant general will enter and maintain the name of each recipient on the Alaska Decoration of Honor Roll.

We ask for your support of CS HB 244(FIN)am to give Alaskans a special way to honor our fallen heroes at home. Thank you.

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2006

Source
HCR 48 am S

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
51



Relating to establishing the Alaska Medal of Honor.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, in times of threats to our nation's security, the armed forces of the United States stand ready to protect our nation; and

WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States also protect the lives and freedoms of individuals from other nations who cannot fight for themselves; and

WHEREAS the armed forces of the United States, which are known for highly skilled military personnel, unwavering patriotism, and undiminishing compassion for others, bravely answered the call to fight for the citizens of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, as a central location of armed forces training and preparation, the state has sent many members of the Alaska National Guard, the military reserves, the United States Air Force, the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Coast Guard, and the United States Coast Guard Reserve who are state residents or who were stationed in the state to protect the United States from terrorist groups based in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, in the course of active and unpredictable military duty, members of the

armed forces often become engaged in dangerous situations, endangering their own lives as they act to protect innocent civilians; and

WHEREAS airmen, airwomen, soldiers, marines, and sailors who are state residents or who were stationed in the state have served in some of the most dangerous areas of Iraq and Afghanistan and have come into contact with opposing forces on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS many heroes who were residents of the state or who were stationed in the state have been killed in action, courageously sacrificing their lives to protect the lives of Americans and of foreign citizens; and

WHEREAS the people of the state are grateful to and saddened by the loss of those members of the armed forces who have been killed in action, and stand by the surviving family members in support; and

WHEREAS the members of the armed forces who have been killed in action will be forever remembered as heroes who sacrificed their lives so others could be free from acts of terrorism;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the legislature establish an Alaska Medal of Honor that may be awarded to residents of the state and those who were stationed in the state who have been killed in action; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska Medal of Honor be awarded to residents of the state or those who were stationed in the state who have been killed in action while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that a recipient of the Alaska Medal of Honor be a resident of the state or have served in the state as a member of the Alaska National Guard, the United States regular armed forces, the United States Coast Guard, or the United States armed forces reserves at the time the combat fatality occurred; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Armed Services Committee, in conjunction with the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and the commanding officer of Alaska Command or their representatives, prepare and design the Alaska Medal of Honor; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Armed Services Committee prepare legislation to be introduced and considered during the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature,

to provide for an Alaska Medal of Honor to help express the gratitude of the people of the State of Alaska to the members of our armed forces who sacrificed their lives in defense of our nation and its freedoms and to their loved ones; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Armed Services Committee, in conjunction with the Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard and the commanding officer of Alaska Command or their representatives, prepare and present guidelines for awarding the Alaska Medal of Honor to the Alaska State Legislature for approval.

Hawaii Medal of Honor presented to 120 fallen military personnel

The Hawaii State Senate and Hawaii State House of Representatives convened April 18, 2006 in a special joint session to recognize military service members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The families of these fallen service members all received the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of their loved ones.

In 2005, the Legislature passed House Bill 8, which created the Hawaii Medal of Honor.

This special medal is awarded on behalf of the people of the State of Hawaii to an individual who was killed in action while serving our country as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The Hawaii Medal of Honor is a symbol of our remembering those who stood tall for our values so that we may live in a land perpetuated in righteousness," said Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education and Military Affairs.

Recipients of the medal include members of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Military Reserves, and the Hawaii National Guard, who were residents of

the State of Hawaii, attended an educational institution in Hawaii, or were stationed in Hawaii by order of the United States Department of Defense.

As of February 28, 2006, Hawaii has lost 120 service members with Hawaii ties, who have sacrificed their lives while in the line of duty.

The effort to identify those eligible for the medal has taken many months, said Rep. K. Mark Takai.

"Working with all the branches of the military, we worked extremely hard to identify each service member who sacrificed their lives," Takai said.

The primary next of kin and their families for each service member were invited to attend.

More than 150 people from across Hawaii, the U.S. Mainland, Guam, Saipan and American Samoa were present as 49 families received the medal at the ceremony on the House Floor.

"We are truly grateful for the sacrifices that these families have made," Takai said.

"This medal is just a small token of our utmost appreciation. It tells these families that

120 war dead: medal — and a vow to never forget

BY ROD OIHA
Advertiser Staff Writer

In an unprecedented tribute yesterday, Hawaii opened its arms and hearts to men and women with local ties who died while serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

"They were part of our 'ohana,'" Linda Lingto said of 120 service members who died between Sept. 2001 and late February 2003. "I want to let you know how we appreciate what they did for us as Americans so that life could continue." With the hope that those who died will never be forgotten, she said, "I hope the world one day recognizes their families' sacrifice to our nation, whose

LETTER
TO THE EDITOR
11/15/05
1/21/06

The Hawaii Medal of Honor is a symbol of our remembering those who stood tall for our values so that we may live in a land perpetuated in righteousness. I am proud to be a part of this special ceremony and to recognize the sacrifice of our fallen heroes. The Hawaii Medal of Honor is a symbol of our remembering those who stood tall for our values so that we may live in a land perpetuated in righteousness. I am proud to be a part of this special ceremony and to recognize the sacrifice of our fallen heroes.

we also grieve for their loss," Takai added.

A planning committee chaired by Rep. Ken Ito, Major General Robert Lee and Sakamoto met for about a year to design and create the medal, and to coordinate plans for the ceremonies slated for next month.

"This is the least we can do for all these families and for the service members who

See Medals presented

THEY WERE PART OF OUR 'OHANA



Six-year-old daughter Mya Williams and mother Brandy received the Hawaii Medal of Honor on behalf of Army Sgt. Eugene Williams, who was killed March 29, 2003 in Iraq. Sgt. Williams was the first casualty with ties to Hawaii. Presenting the medal is House Speaker Calvin Say, while Gov. Linda Lingto offers her condolences.

<<Back



Hawaii Medal Of Honor Recipients Recognized

April 16, 2007 09:30 AM

By Beth Hillyer

HONOLULU (KHNL) - Three thousand six hundred and forty two U.S. service members have died since the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan began. Many of those killed in action have ties to Hawaii. Monday, the Hawaii State Legislature will honor those who died in the line of duty.

The family of Marine Major Megan McClung will be among those with heavy hearts attending the ceremony.

Mike and Re McClung have a lifetime of memories of their daughter Megan Malia Leilani McClung.

Re McClung says, "Megan was very proud she was born in the islands."

They are here to receive the Hawaii Medal of Honor on her behalf.

Mike McClung explains, "The state is honoring the service men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the second year they have done it and we are very honored they have chosen to this for our service men and women because they are the heros of this thing."

She was killed December 6th when a roadside bomb destroyed her vehicle. She is the highest ranking female marine killed in combat. Instead of her death, her parents focus on her zest for life. Megan was an talented athlete.

Mike McClung states, "She was a world class triathlete competed in the ironman here twice."

She volunteered to serve as a public affairs officer in Iraq.

Mike McClung adds, "Megan believed as we do that everyone deserves freedom of choice and she wanted to go back over there to make sure she helped the American forces bring freedom of choice to the people of Iraq."

Megan would have turned 35 Saturday.

Re McClung concludes, "I think Megan embodied the aloha spirit. What she was known for was her smile, her energy, her positive attitude, her sense of humor, that's all part of the aloha spirit."

There will be more than 80 families and their fallen service members honored on Monday's



Marine Major Megan McClung



ceremony.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2007 WorldNow and KHNL, a Baycom Media station. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

[More Military news](#)

Hawaii Medal of Honor awarded to deceased service members

By Mark Niese
ASSOCIATED PRESS

7:08 p.m. April 16, 2007

HONOLULU – When Marine Lance Cpl. Timothy Brown left for duty in Iraq last fall, his mother promised she would fight her terminal cancer until he returned.

Susan Brown was still alive Monday to receive the Hawaii Medal of Honor for her son, who died at age 21 after just eight weeks in Iraq.

"I was the one trying to hang on until he got home. I should have made him make the same promise to me," she said. "He had an amazing life, even though he was only 21."

Timothy Brown was one of 67 service members with ties to Hawaii who were given the award after dying in Iraq and Afghanistan during the last year.

Brown, of Sacramento, Calif., was killed Nov. 14 after his Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb in Iraq's Al Anbar province. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force at Kaneohe Bay in Hawaii.

The Hawaii Medal of Honor is believed to be the only such state award in the country honoring service members in the Middle East, and this is the second year it has been distributed. Last year, 120 service members received the medal.

"It tears my heart out to see the parents of soldiers who have given the ultimate sacrifice," said Lt. Col. Drew Meyerowich, battalion commander for the Army's 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, who saw 10 out of 16 soldiers lost from his unit receive the medal.

Military leaders, fellow service members, family and elected officials attended the ceremony at the state Capitol to remember those who died. After the names of the deceased were announced, a bell chimed twice as their age and connection to Hawaii was read out.

Then family members or friends, draped with purple lei, walked to the front of the state Senate chamber for the presentation of the Hawaii Medal of Honor, which features the state coat of arms and the Maltese Cross.

"Without the protection of our uniformed men and women, we civilians would not be able to reap the benefits of a free and democratic society," said Rep. Calvin Say, D-St. Louis Heights-Vilhelmina Rise. "We must live in a manner that proves we are worthy of their sacrifice."

The award is given for service members who had been residents of Hawaii, were stationed in the islands, attended college here or were members of the Hawaii National Guard when they died.

The ceremony included a 21-gun salute and the playing of "Taps" from the Capitol rotunda.

During the ceremony, no one talked about the merits of the war in Iraq, instead focusing on upholding the memory of service members who gave their lives for their country.

Marine Cpl. John Sims accepted the medal for 19-year-old Lance Cpl. Ryan A. Miller of Pearland, Texas, who was killed by a roadside bomb Sept. 14 while on patrol in the Anbar province. Miller had been assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force at Kaneohe Bay.

"He was a funny guy. He loved to laugh. He loved to crack jokes. He worked well under fire," Sims said. "This ceremony gave all the family and friends a chance to come together. It means a lot."

More than 43 families or friends of killed service members attended the ceremony. Medals for the others will be mailed or hand-delivered to their families.

Meyerowich, the battalion commander, said the situation in Iraq is improving because the Iraqi people are standing up to terrorism.

"People are sick and tired of terrorists with extremist views distorting the religion of Islam," he said. "They're sick and tired of seeing their society run by explosions."

Hawaii's residents and troops feel the impact of the war because of the military's heavy presence in the islands, said Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, state adjutant general and director of State Civil Defense.

"It is difficult to say goodbye ... to a loved one who was in the prime of life and their potential didn't have the opportunity to blossom," Lee said. "When brave men die, it is their deeds and not our words that are remembered."

Find this article at:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20070416-1908-wst-medalofhonor.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in this article.

Honolulu Advisor

Posted on: Saturday, April 15, 2006

State honors fallen heroes

By William Cole
Advertiser Military Writer

Cpl. Kyle Grimes wanted to go to college and work for the FBI when he got out of the Marines.

The 21-year-old had a sense of humor. No matter what the situation in Iraq — no matter how dangerous or stressful, he could crack everybody up.

Being in combat made the Kane'ohe Bay Marine realize how important family is, and he wondered if he would make it out to some day have his own.

It is because of those memories Marybeth LeVan has of her son, who died Jan. 26, 2005, and the Hawai'i State Legislature's desire to honor that sacrifice, that she's flying out from Baton Rouge, La., with five family members for a recognition ceremony on Tuesday.

About 200 people from Hawai'i, across the Mainland, Guam and Saipan are expected to attend the Hawai'i Medal of Honor presentation at the 10 a.m. joint session of the Legislature.

As of Feb. 28, 120 service members with Hawai'i ties had given their lives while serving in operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

When LeVan received the invitation, she said there was no question she would go. She, her husband and daughter, her sister, brother-in-law and niece are spending about \$2,000 apiece for airfare and the hotel stay.

"This is what we have left of (Kyle) — ceremonies like this and remembrances, because memories are all, that's it, that's what we have," LeVan said.

She said the state's Medal of Honor is commendable. "I can't say enough what an honor it is, and what it means to us that other people want to remember our boys as we do," she said.

Theresa Inouye also will be there. Her son, Sgt. Deyson Cariaga, 20, of Kalihi was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq on July 8 outside Logistics Support Area Anaconda north of Baghdad.



Theresa Inouye, mother of Sgt. Deyson Cariaga, who was killed in Iraq last year, holds a Hawai'i Medal of Honor. The award recognizes Hawai'i-linked military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

RICHARD AMBO | The Honolulu Advertiser

The 2002 Roosevelt High School graduate was the only Hawai'i-based casualty from the nearly yearlong Hawai'i National Guard and Reserve deployment to Iraq.

"It's nice to know that people still recognize the fact that the war is still going on out there," Inouye said yesterday. "My son won't be the last, but they are fighting for a cause. I don't want that cause to be forgotten."

Inouye said the nine months since her son's death have been a roller coaster of emotions with many lows. It doesn't get easier, she said. "There's just days you can't believe it happened, still," she said.

Inouye is thankful that the Legislature is recognizing her son's sacrifice. But it also brings back a hurt that remains very raw. "It's a double-edged sword," she said.

She tries to dwell on the things that Deyson liked, including going to the beach, a family vacation to Las Vegas, and regular Jamba Juice runs.

"Little things like that. It's the good things you try to remember," she said.

Recipients of the new medal include active duty, National Guard and Reserve forces who were residents of Hawai'i, went to school here, were stationed here, or were attached to Hawai'i units.

The silver and gold medal, with a circle of kalo leaves and maltese cross representing axes of the globe and Hawai'i as the crossroads of the Pacific, was approved by the Legislature in 2005.

A total of 48 families will be represented at the ceremony from inside and outside the state, officials said. The Medals of Honor that aren't given to families on Tuesday will be sent to home states for presentation.

The special joint session of the Legislature will be held in the House chambers. The public is invited to attend, but there will be no public parking at the Capitol.

Each fallen service member will be recognized by name, the toll of a bell, and presentation of a Koa-cased Hawai'i Medal of Honor to a family member.

The effort to identify those eligible for the medal took many months, said House vice speaker Rep. K. Mark Takai, D-34th (Pearl City, Newtown, Royal Summit).

"Working with all the branches of the military, we worked extremely hard to identify each service member who sacrificed their lives," he said.

Takai, a captain in the Hawai'i Army National Guard, served as the casualty assistance officer for Cariaga's family.

"We are truly grateful for the sacrifices that these families have made," Takai said. "This medal is just a small token of our utmost appreciation. It tells these families that we also grieve for their loss."

Whether future war dead will be honored with a Medal of Honor at a joint legislative session next year or in some other manner hasn't been decided.

Behind the names on the list are deaths and family tragedy that came singly, as with Cariaga, and in multifold loss, as with the crash Jan. 26, 2005, of a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in a sandstorm in western Iraq that claimed 31 lives.

The crash remains the single greatest loss of life from the Iraq War. Of the total, 26 Marines and a Navy corpsman were from Kane'ohe Bay. Grimes was one of those Marines.

The Hawai'i unit had lost eight Marines in a suicide car bombing on Oct. 30, 2004. More would die in house-to-house fighting in Fallujah in following months.

Kyle Grimes didn't want his mom to worry, but she learned from other family members what he was facing.

"He saw buddies get killed," LeVan said. "He saw the guy standing next to him lose an arm and a leg."

She has kept in touch by e-mail and phone with other families who lost Marines.

"It's very healing to get together and ceremonies like this (the Medal of Honor) also are very healing for us, knowing other people want to remember our sons," she said.

But like Inouye, she said it's still hard to believe her son is gone.

"I have to remind myself every day that it's really true. It doesn't get any easier. I just expect that's how it will be for the rest of my life, just a big, open wound," she said.

Two Army Reservists, Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto, 28, and Spc. Derence W. Jack, 31, were killed on Oct. 31, 2005. Both men, from Saipan and assigned to the Hawai'i-based 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, were on patrol north of LSA Anaconda when a bomb exploded.

Cariaga was driving the third of seven Humvees in a convoy heading back to LSA Anaconda on a beat-up asphalt road the military calls Route Heather when a 155 mm artillery shell exploded.

He bore the brunt of the blast and was killed instantly. Two of three Air Force airmen in the Humvee suffered shrapnel injuries and broken ribs.

Theresa Inouye finds herself asking, "When will this all end for myself, and I think just the war in general. I wish ... this war was over with."

79°F / Part, Cloudy

Star Bulletin

Vol. 11, Issue 109 - Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Info | PDA/Text | Corrections | Calendars | Movies | Obituaries | Vital Stats | Weather | Surf

Search

starbulletin.com Internet

Alternate Search

Back Issues

(1996-Present)

W | T | F | S | S | M | T

Inside | Apr. 19

Hawaii News

- Water bills could rise 15%
- Another big leap in gas cap forecast
- Revival of state hurricane fund considered
- In honor of Hawaii's fallen heroes
- No flood solutions planned
- Homeless could live in parks at night
- Car chase ends as officer shoots tire
- Former charity worker facing more charges
- Priest held top positions in isles
- Former Maui priest remembered for humor
- Food drive planned Saturday
- Maui mayor heads trip to Philippines for centennial
- Third man arrested in Maui fire
- Newswatch, Police/Fire
- Kokuia Line
- Curky's Hawaii
- Obituaries
- Corrections
- Weather

Features

- Kai-na! (Let's eat!)
- MAO Organic Farms offers youth programs
- Da Kine
- By Request
- On the Scene
- Wine

Sports

- Luedtgerodt, a JC swingman, commits to Bows
- Not Hawaii to play tonight's winner
- Simpson scores another award with Gilanville story
- Mid-Pacific's ace
- L.A. bound Orosari
- Lorenzo, Kamohamoha sting top-ranked Iolani
- Iolani rings up another quick ILM rout
- Hawaii Beat
- High School Notebook
- Scoreboard



In honor of Hawaii's fallen heroes

Relatives gather at the Capitol as the state awards posthumous Medals of Honor to 120

By Gregg K. Kakesako
gkakesako@starbulletin.com

Sgt. 1st Class Kelly Martin Liberato Bolor didn't want his son Kyle to grow up without a dad, like he had.

"We were only 2 when our father died," said Bolor's twin brother Kolin, of Maui. "It was hard growing up without a dad."

"He wanted so much to retire from the Army and spend more time with his son, since he knew what it was like never having a dad. Now Kyle is living the same way -- growing up without a dad."

Sgt. Bolor was one of 17 101st Airborne Division soldiers killed Nov. 15, 2003, during a collision of two Black Hawk helicopters.

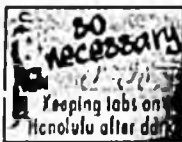
the BIG

Reader Poll

Do you think public school teachers should be subject to random drug and alcohol testing?

Sections

- Local News
- Features
- Sports
- Business
- Editorial
- Travel (Sunday)
- Corrections



Classifieds

Wheels

Island Homes

Jobs

Government Section

Bidding Advantage

Advertise



Columns

Kaukukalahale

Dictionaries

Poll

Calendar

Movies
 Special Packages
 MidWeek

Subscriptions
 Newsstands
 Directory
 PDA/Text
 Headlines by E-Mail
 RSS/XML

Contribute



DENNIS ODA / DODA@STARBULLETIN.COM
 "It was really a tough year for us," said Kelly Bolor, remembering her husband, Kelly Martin Liberato Bolor. "I lost my father that same year ... (My son) Kyle still looks at pictures at our house and wishes his father was there." Mother and son were at yesterday's ceremony at the state Capitol.

Yesterday the Bolors were among more than 200 family members at the state Capitol attending the first joint House and Senate session to posthumously honor 120 soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors with Hawaii ties killed in Iraq and Afghanistan between March 2003 and Feb. 28.

The Hawaii Medal of Honor, encased individually in a koa frame, was presented to family or friends of 49 service members. As House Clerk Patricia Mau-Shimizu read each of the 49 names, a lone sailor tolled a brass bell and a family member or friend walked to the podium to receive the medal from Gov. Linda Lingde, Senate President Robert Bundo, House Speaker Calvin Say and Maj. Gen. Bob Lee.

The family members and friends, who came from as far as Saipan and the East Coast, had paid their own way to participate in the first presentation of the Hawaii Medal of Honor. Medals for the other 71 fallen warriors were to be mailed or hand-delivered to their families.

The reading of the last name yesterday was followed by a 21-gun salute. As a bugler played taps in the capitol courtyard, a woman could be heard sobbing as the audience stood silently at attention inside.

TV & Radio
Business

- Michael Dell in deal to buy Hualalai resort
- Sales of Oahu homes fell during Q1
- Sale of KGMB expected by the end of this year
- New Blu-ray format dominates Sony show
- Business Briefs
- The Buzz
- Visitor Arrivals
- Market Watch
- WSJ Sunday
- Dilbert

Editorial

- Shinseki vindicated by retired generals' revolt
- Corky's Editorial Cartoon
- Under the Sun
- Letters

Columns | Apr 19

Kokua Line
 June Watanabe

Corky's Hawaii
 Corky Trinidad

On the Scene
 John Berger

By Request
 Betty Shimabukuro

The Buzz
 Erika Engle

Under the Sun
 Cynthia Oi

Editorial Cartoon
 Corky Trinidad

Tools

Email this article
 Printer-friendly
 E-mail City Desk



DENNIS ODA / OODAW STARBULLETIN.COM
More than 40 families attended yesterday's Hawaii Medal of Honor ceremony during a special joint session of the state House and Senate. Melissa Jack tearfully accepted a medal and certificate from state Rep. Ken Ito.

Lingle told the gathering that she remembered sitting with a group of widows as they dealt with their lives and the infant children who would never know their fathers.

"I hoped that the children would one day appreciate the sacrifice that their father had made and their mother made for our country," she said.

While providing a medal can't take away the pain of losing a loved one, it shows that Hawaii will never forget them, she said.

The sentiment provided some comfort to families who have sacrificed so much.

"It's been a rough road for us," said Brandy Williams, of Waipahu, who received the medal honoring her husband, Sgt. Eugene Williams. "And ceremonies like this, remembrances, you know, and our memories, that's all we have."



DENNIS ODA / DODA@STARBULLETIN.COM
 After the ceremony, Kaleb Witkowski, 5, proudly held the medal awarded posthumously to his father, Spc. Philip Witkowski. Looking on were Tina Witkowski with her other son, Kyle, 2, and her father, Karl Ross.

Sgt. Williams, of Highland, N.Y., was serving with the 3rd Infantry Division in Iraq when he was killed by a suicide bomber posing as a taxi driver on March 29, 2003.

His wife attended the ceremony with daughters Mya, 6, and 3-year-old Monica, who wore a pink dress and a pin with a photo of her father's smiling face. "We made this for the funeral," Brandy Williams said.

For the Bolors, the state's honor is added to several tributes to their family hero.

Koith Bolor said that for the past three years, friends on Maui have held a softball tournament in his brother's honor on Veterans Day, a few days before the anniversary of his death.

And Sgt. Bolor's wife, who is also named Kelly, said that in June, the Army Reserve will rename its training center for the 137th Quartermaster Company in El Monte, Calif., after her husband. A former Army reservist, Sgt. Bolor was called into active duty twice, first for Desert Storm in 1991 and then for the current war in Iraq.

Mrs. Bolor, who lives in Whittier, Calif., with 6-year-old Kyle, said her son took the loss of his father "really hard." She sought counseling for him and enrolled him in martial arts to help him manage his anger.

"It was really a tough year for us," she said. "Kyle still looks at pictures at our house and wishes his father was there."

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN