



**2017 Veteran's Day & USMC 242nd Birthday Event  
Ka Makana Ali'i Mall, Kapolei, Hawai'i 96707**

**Saturday, November 11, 2017**

On behalf of American Veterans Hawaii Commander, Donovan A. Lazarus, Ewa Battlefield Post Commander, Ronald Y.K. Lam, and Officers.

**Welcome!**

This annual ceremony serves as a tribute to all of our nation's veterans who have and continue to selflessly defend our nation and freedom. Through this Signature Event, we aim to recognize the courage and sacrifice of all American Veterans and honor the legacy of the peace they helped to achieve.

In addition to the 76th Anniversary of World War II, 2017 also marks the 67th Anniversary of the Korean War, 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. AmVets Hawaii honors all veterans for their bravery, duty, and discipline. This year, we dedicated our ceremony to the veterans of World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War whose sacrifice and commitment to freedom align directly with American Veterans' legacy of peace.

**Veterans Day** is the one day set aside each November to honor those who have served and continue to serve our nation. The holiday also offers a great opportunity to teach civilians about the sacrifice service members and their families make year-round.

The theme for this year's ceremony is: ***"Veterans: A Lifetime of Service"***

## ORDER OF EVENTS

Welcome.....Chrystie Brandt, Master of Ceremonies  
Presentation of National Colors.....Kapolei High School MC-JROTC  
National Anthem & Hawai'i Pono'i.....Mililani High School Choir  
Invocation.....Chrystie Brandt, Master of Ceremonies  
Distinguished Speaker.....Stephanie G. England, General Manager, Ka Makana Ali'i  
Distinguished Speaker.....Majority Floor Leader, Sen. Will Espero  
Distinguished Speaker.....Rolly Alvarado (Sgt, USMC), Oahu Vets Center  
Distinguished Speaker.....Director Donna Renk (Surviving Spouse)  
Keynote Address.....Thomas "Tom" Lee (SSG, USA)

### WREATH PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Presenting.....Senator Espero, CDR Lazarus, SSG Lee and CDR Lam  
Playing of "Taps".....Keane Ishii, Mililani HS Choir Director  
Ewalani Hulamaids Performance.....under the instructions of Kumu Ewalani Kailewa  
Taiko Drummers Group.....under the instructions of Sensei Masanobu Nishioka

### USMC BIRTHDAY CAKE-CUTTING CEREMONY

Colonel Jason Seal (USMC, Ret.), Senior Instructor, Kapolei High School MC-JROTC  
Playing of Happy Birthday USMC.....Sound Technician  
Retire the Colors.....Kapolei High School MC-JROTC  
Playing of United States Armed Forces Medley.....Sound Technician

### Acknowledgements & Mahalos

**Speakers:** Sen. Espero, Sgt. Alvarado, Dir. Renk & SSG Lee  
Mililani High School Choir, under the instructions of Director Keane Ishii  
Ewalani Hulamaids, under the instructions of Kumu Ewalani Kailewa  
Taiko Drummers, under the instruction of Sensei Masanobu Nishioka  
Colonel Seal and the Kapolei High School MC-JROTC Color Guards  
Lori Respicio, Clubhouse Director, Boys & Girls Club Of Hawaii  
US Marine Corps League, Boys Scout Troop 361 & All our volunteers

## History of Veterans Day

November 11th was just another day of the year.

That was until an end to hostilities, an armistice, took effect between the Allied Powers and Germany on November 11, 1918, on the 11th hour of the day. Although no country signed the Treaty of Versailles until June 1919, officially ending World War I, the day of the armistice marked the end of WWI combat.

President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11, 1919, the first Armistice Day. The idea was to recognize the day fighting ended by having parades and halting business at 11 a.m. In the spring of 1938, Congress approved an act to make November 11th, a legal holiday to honor veterans of WWI and celebrate a day of peace.

After World War II, Armistice Day changed. Veterans advocate organizations wanted Congress to amend the act of 1938 to change the name of the holiday. Congress did, and in 1954 Armistice Day legally became Veterans Day, a holiday to honor veterans of all wars.

A 1968 bill moved recognition of Veterans Day and some other holidays to Mondays, giving the public three-day weekends. However, confusion and public distaste for the change nullified it. In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford returned the observation of Veterans Day to November 11th, no matter what day of the week it falls on. Since then, it has always honored veterans for their service and sacrifice to the nation.

**“The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten.”**

- Calvin Coolidge

### **Unaccounted for From Past Conflicts:**

**WWII.....72,977**

**Korean War.....7,716**

**Vietnam War.....1,602**

**Cold War .....126**

**Iraq & Other Conflicts .....6**

**Total MIA.....82,427 - Last updated 8 NOV 2017**



**Happy 242nd Birthday US Marine Corps!**



**Thank You To All Who Served!**

**(Past, Present and Future)**

**American Veterans Hawaii**

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