



June 30, 2006

## **Medal of Honor Photo Exhibit Opens in Honolulu Medal of Honor Recipients to Attend**

A unique patriotic exhibit will be open for this year's Fourth of July celebrations. Medal of Honor recipients residing in Hawai'i are featured in the grand opening of

"Visions of Valor," the nation's first traveling photographic exhibit honoring recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest honor for valor under fire.

Featured in the exhibit of dramatic black and white portraits are recipients Barney Hajiro of Waipahu, Shizuya Hayashi of Pearl City, Allan Kellogg Jr. of Kailua, and Hawai'i's U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Medal of Honor recipients, Tommy Norris and Ken Stumpf, attended an opening ceremony emceed by National Guard Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, adjutant general, state of Hawai'i on June 29 at the Hawai'i State Art Museum where the portraits will be on display through July 5. Admission is free.

The "Visions of Valor" exhibit is sponsored by TriWest Healthcare Alliance, which administers the military's health care plan, TRICARE, in Hawai'i and 20 other western states, and by the Hawai'i Medical Service Association.

"There's not a better way to celebrate our freedom this Fourth of July than to see this exhibit and learn about these special men whose bravery, dedication and selflessness led them to our nation's highest honor," said David McIntyre Jr., TriWest president and CEO.

A duplicate "Visions of Valor" exhibit is on permanent display at the Pentagon's new Hall of Heroes.

Hajiro, while an Army private in France during World War II, exposed himself to enemy fire, ambushed an 18-man, heavily armed enemy patrol and initiated an attack on "Suicide Hill." He ran through enemy fire and fearlessly destroyed two machine gun nests and killed two enemy snipers single-handedly.

Hayashi, an Army private in Italy during World War II, rose in the face of heavy fire and, shooting from the hip, charged and overtook an enemy machine gun position. Advancing, an anti-aircraft gun position opened fire. He returned fire, killing nine, taking four prisoners, and forced the enemy to withdraw.

Kellogg, while a Marine gunnery sergeant in 1970 in Vietnam, was ambushed at night and a grenade glanced off his chest. He forced it into the mud, threw his body over it and absorbed its blast. Injured in the chest, right shoulder and arm, he continued directing his men.

Senator Inouye, an Army first lieutenant serving in Italy in World War II, crawled up a treacherous slope, neutralized two machine gun emplacements and continued fighting although wounded until a grenade shattered his right arm. He refused evacuation and continued directing his platoon.

Norris, a Navy lieutenant serving in Vietnam in 1972, led patrols deep into heavily controlled enemy territory to rescue two downed pilots. After saving one, over the next two days he continued his rescue efforts by disguising himself as a fisherman on a sampan.

Stumpf, serving in Vietnam in 1967, received the medal as an army sergeant in Hawai'i's 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which has earned more Medals of Honor than any other military organization. Encountering a well-fortified enemy bunker complex and exposing himself to machine gun fire, he rescued three men and organized an assault against several bunkers, destroying a key bunker.

“Visions of Valor” is the first and largest exhibit of its kind in the nation’s history to honor the courage, commitment and character of Medal of Honor recipients, whose numbers are declining. Only 111 recipients are still living today. The Medal of Honor has been awarded to 3,442 recipients.

The exhibit is intended to educate the public about the Congressional Medal of Honor and to perpetuate the patriotism, courage and honor of its recipients.

Visit [www.cmohs.org](http://www.cmohs.org) to read the recipients’ citations.



U.S. Senator from Hawai'i, Daniel Inouye attended a high-level ceremony on Feb. 3 in Washington, D.C. when TriWest Healthcare Alliance unveiled its acquisition of one of two Valor Portfolios, renamed "Visions of Valor." One will be on permanent display for the 23,000 Pentagon employees and visitors who pass by to admire and pay their respect to these recipients.



Similar to the exhibition in Washington, D.C., these Medal of Honor portraits provide a rare glimpse of America's most honored heroes. These recipients are a rapidly diminishing number of service members upon whom our nation bestowed the highest award for valor in combat - the Medal of Honor. Less than 121 are alive today, out of the 3,441 awarded since the Civil War.