



Warrior Battalion Army ROTC Alumni Association Newsletter

April 2023

The latest news, views, and announcements

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12th Annual Fallen Warrior Golf Tournament

By CDT Rommel Galanto / UH Army ROTC S-5

The University of Hawaii Army ROTC program has a time-honored tradition that continues to honor those who have sacrificed for their country. The golf tournament allows alumni to reconnect with their former colleagues and mentor future Army leaders. Before any player hits their first tee or places their bag in a golf cart, the Cadets diligently prepare for the day's events. From gathering donations to selling raffle tickets for highly anticipated items at the banquet, the Cadets have worked tirelessly to ensure the event succeeds. Each Fallen Warrior is honored by retelling their story to each team approaching their hole. This year the Cadets have done it again; they have successfully planned an epic event for the Alumni Association and the Fallen Warriors. This year, the Golf Tournament is at Waikele Country Club on April 7, 2023.



**12TH ANNUAL
FALLEN WARRIOR
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

PRESENTED BY

THE WARRIOR BATTALION ARMY ROTC ALUMNI ASSOC.
& THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ARMY ROTC

THE WAIKELE COUNTRY CLUB

200 Paioa Place, Unit 94 Waipahu, HI 96797
808-676-9000

APRIL 7, 2023 | CHECK-IN STARTS AT 10AM

Alumni Association Newsletter

President Insights

By Sam Membrene / Association President



Aloha! Greetings from the Warrior Battalion Army ROTC Alumni Association! I would like to thank Mr. Allen Hoe, LTC Jerrod Melander, the UH Army ROTC Staff, and cadets for their outstanding leadership and dedication to our organization. The UH Army ROTC Program have achieved many milestones, raising funds for scholarships and awards, hosting successful reunions and events, and strengthening our ties with the ROTC program and the university.

I am committed to building on these achievements and taking our association to the next level. My vision is to make our association more visible, active, and relevant in the ROTC community and beyond. Some of my goals are to:

- Enhance our communication and outreach through social media, newsletters, and website updates.
- Expand our network and collaboration with other ROTC alumni chapters, military organizations, and community partners.
- Support and mentor the current cadets and recent graduates who are the future leaders of our Army and our nation.
- Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of our alumni in various fields and endeavors.
- Foster a culture of pride, loyalty, and camaraderie among our alumni and their families.

To achieve these goals, I need your help and involvement. I invite you to join me in making our association a vibrant and dynamic force that reflects the values and spirit of ROTC. Whether you are a recent graduate or a seasoned veteran, whether you live near or far, whether you have a lot or a little time to spare, there is a place for you in our association. You can volunteer for a committee, attend an event, donate to a cause, share your story, or simply stay in touch. Every action counts and makes a difference.

I look forward to working with you and hearing from you in the coming months. Please feel free to contact me at sam.membrere@icloud.com with any questions, suggestions, or feedback. Together, we can make our association a source of pride and inspiration for ourselves and others.

Treasurer Report

By Vic Underwood / Association Treasurer



Receivables	Amount
Checking	\$20,919.78
Donations:	\$2,775.00
Expenses: 1) Holiday Reception 2) Golf Tournament 3) Website Renewal 4) Merchandise 5) Other Direct Costs	\$19,761.73
Total: \$3,933.05	



Guess Who?

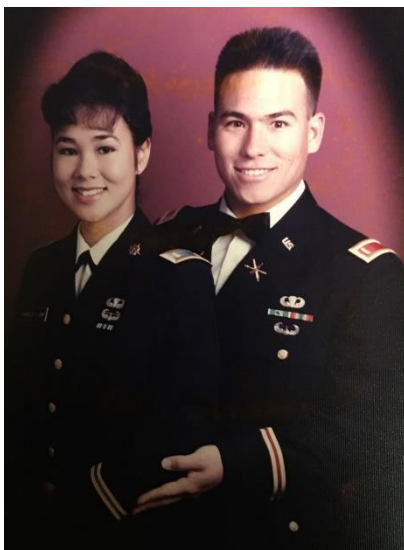
LTC (Ret) Courtney Vares-Lum
UHAROTC Class of 1988

By Sonny Rosales / Association Vice-President

Meet Courtney Vares-Lum, a life insurance agent who has been helping people secure their financial future for more than four years. Courtney is not your typical agent. He is a retired US Army officer who served his country for 32 years, earning various honors and skills along the way. He is also an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, surfing, fishing, and hiking. He loves Thai food and enjoys cooking gourmet food. Courtney is a devoted husband and father, who is married for 33 years to his beautiful wife, Suzy and both share two daughters who are their pride and joy.

Courtney's burning desire is to help others become the best version of themselves. He is always looking for opportunities to learn and grow, both personally and professionally.

-What was your proudest accomplishment – personal and military? “Having 2 girls and raising them to be strong learners of life who will make a difference in our communities and their own families should they choose to start one. After 32yrs in the Army, I am one blessed guy being able to live, with my body and mind intact, another life of having fun and making a difference for those around me.”:



-What advice would you give to a newly commissioned Army officer? “Find mentors for your personal & professional lives, keep your records up to date, always be ready for the next opportunity, and most importantly serve others. Oh, and did I mention to forge strong, lasting friendships along the way too? I love this saying, “if you want to have friends you have to be one too.”

-What was the most important lesson you've learned as a father, husband, and military officer? “**Father:** Create harmony on the time that is spent with my faith, family, fun, finances, and fitness. **Husband:** Remember, daily, the importance of the 3Cs — cuddle, communicate, and compromise. The top of the list though is always be the first one to apologize. **Officer:** Finding the right mentors and remembering to always serve those around you.”

-Who is your role model or person you looked up to and why? “My Dad; always reminded me to study hard, work hard, and one day work to be your own boss by owning your own business.”

Courtney has a lot of stories to share, from his military adventures to his hunting expeditions. He also has a lot of wisdom to offer, from his key to success to his advice for future Army officers. He is a friendly and approachable person who loves to connect with people and make them feel valued. He is someone you would want to have on your side, whether as a friend, a mentor, or an agent.

UH Army ROTC Program

By CDT Monique Rincon / UH Army ROTC Cadet PAO

The UH Army ROTC “Warrior” Battalion Ranger Challenge Team traveled to Joint Base Lewis-McChord to compete in the 8th Brigade Ranger Challenge competition from Jan. 26 to the 28th. For the second year in a row, the Warrior Battalion took 1st place and will be representing the university’s ROTC program at West Point while competing against teams from all over the world. The competition invites the top two teams from each Task Force competition (3 total held around the West coast) to compete for a chance to represent 8th Brigade at the Sandhurst Military Skills competition at West Point, NY. This year saw an increase in competition from last year, going from 3 competing teams to 6. Teams included ROTC programs from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, San Diego State University, Oregon State University, Gonzaga, University of California (Santa Barbra), and Washington State University. Day one of the competition consisted of an eight-mile ruck march for time, military weapons assembly/disassembly, marksmanship, Zodiac boat operations, tactical combat casualty care, a grenade assault course, and land navigation. Day two included physical fitness events, call for fire (requesting artillery fire), two separate obstacle courses (for time), and tests on the principles of patrolling. The team consisted of 11 Cadets (9 primary and 2 alternate members) and 3 cadre members from the Warrior Battalion.



Super Lab

The Battalion conducts Super Lab once per semester. It is a way for the Cadets to build confidence and proficiency in the tasks they learn during Lab.

The Warriors began Super Lab by conducting Land Navigation at East Range Training Area. During the early hours of darkness, the Cadets conducted Night Land Navigation to test their nighttime skills. Following Night Land Navigation training, the Cadets conduct Day Land Navigation in which they need to find 3 out of the 4 points in the allotted time.

Following the completion of Land Navigation, the Cadets conducted Basic Rifle Marksmanship where they Grouped and zeroed their assigned M4 and then familiarize themselves with Table VI of weapons qualification. This allowed the Cadets to continue to prepare for Cadet Summer Training this Summer.



Alumni Association Newsletter

Battalion Holiday Party

The Cadets celebrated the end of a long semester with a Holiday Party. This was an event to remember. Cadets from Fiji and American Samoa shared a portion of their culture with the Warrior Family with traditional dances and lighthearted fun. Other Cadets shared their hidden talents by singing and playing the Ukulele, adding a beautiful touch to the already remarkable event.

The Great Aloha Run

The Warrior Battalion raced in the 39th Annual Great Aloha Run, an 8.15-mile foot race that begins at Aloha Tower and ends at the Aloha Stadium. There were divisions for elites, age groups, wheelchairs, hand cycle competitions, and Sounds of Freedom (Military Formation). The Sounds of Freedom is a unique event at the Great Aloha Run, consisting of Active Duty and Reserve service men and women from all branches of service running in formation with their unit.

Clearly the most motivated unit there, the sounds of the Warrior Battalion cadence could be heard for miles.



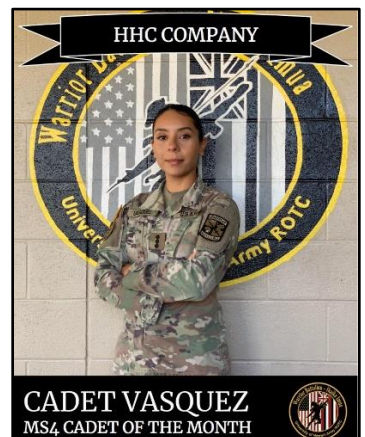
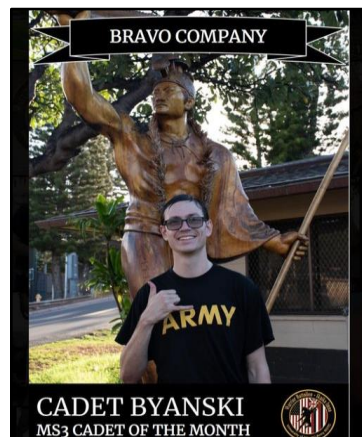
Volunteer Events

Under the direction of Mr. Oliveros, Military History Instructor and Recruiting Officer, the Cadets in the UH Army ROTC program serve as role models in the community. The Cadets served as graders for JROTC fitness challenges, drill and ceremony as well as military appreciation Night at various high schools on the island. Additionally, the Cadets attended monthly Green to Gold briefs to educate interested Army Soldiers on the packet process and general knowledge of ROTC. The Cadets have also taken time out of their busy school schedules to improve the appearance of the

Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial where the Cadets spent time washing windows and cleaning the exterior of some of the buildings to ensure the Memorial remains a place for Families to visit for years to come.

Cadet Of the Month

Each month, the Cadet Company Command Team has an opportunity to highlight the exceptional efforts of three Cadets (one from each MS level) that has embodied the Warrior Spirit. The recognized Cadets extend their influence beyond themselves and excel in leadership. Each Cadet receives a certificate from the Command Team and a coin from the Professor or Military Science. Be on the lookout for the next Cadet of Month posted on the UH Army ROTC Instagram page!



Spring FTX

As the semester comes to an end, the MSIII Cadets are preparing for the Spring Field Training Exercise (FTX). The FTX is an exercise held over the course of a weekend during which Cadets use skills previously learned during leadership labs, such as Land Navigation and Troop Leading Procedures. Cadets spend 2 nights in the field receiving additional training and executing events in conditions similar to those they will encounter at CST and in future training.



Warrior Battalion Calendar



April 2023	May 2023	June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -12th Annual Fallen Warrior Golf Tournament, 07 Apr -UH Army ROTC FTX, 14-16 Apr -Alumni Association Meeting, first Thursday of the month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UH Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, 12 May -UH at Manoa Commencement Ceremony, 14 May -Alumni Association Meeting, first Thursday of the month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cadet Summer Training -Alumni Association Meeting, first Thursday of the month