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RENAMING OF FT. RUGER PARK THE OPERATION REDWING - MEDAL OF HONOR PARK

Today, Veteran's Day, the City officially renames Ft. Ruger Park the Operation Redwing - Medal of Honor Park.

"It is important to recognize heroes in our community. It has been my honor to champion the recognition of former Hawaii resident and Medal of Honor recipient, Lt. Michael P. Murphy, and the soldiers and sailors who died with him in Afghanistan during Operation Redwing. Renaming this park, on Veterans' Day 2008, after the 19 soldiers and sailors who died fighting in Afghanistan, is just a small statement of our community's appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice made by these service members," stated Councilmember Djou.

The SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation-Hawaii, an organization dedicated to assisting the families of Navy SEALs, has actively supported the efforts to rename the park, as reflected in the public testimony provided during the renaming process by the Foundations' four co-founders, who include President Ron Seiple, Vice-President Brian Barbata, Chairman Dennis Gaughan and Vice-Chairman Chad Buck.

Operation Redwing took place in 2005 in the Hindu Kush Mountains; its objective was to capture a senior Taliban commander in Afghanistan. Nineteen Navy Seals and members of the Army's Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) died during this operation, including Lt. Michael P. Murphy, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by the President.

In the spring of 2009, the SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation-Hawaii hopes to dedicate a memorial to the lost heroes at the Operation Redwing - Medal of Honor Park.

Operation Redwing and Lt. Murphy's heroic actions are chronicled in the bestselling book, 'Lone Survivor' by Marcus Luttrell, and is being made into a major motion picture by Universal Pictures.

Councilmember Djou introduced and successfully guided the passage of Resolution 08-188, renaming Ft. Ruger Park after Operation Redwing. Councilmember Djou garnered the support of the Kahala Community Association and the Waiialae-Kahala Neighborhood Board to change the park's name before introducing the re-naming resolution. Ft. Ruger Park is commonly known in the community as Triangle Park. The park was previously named after Maj. Gen. Thomas H. Ruger, a

Civil War Union officer who later served as the military governor of Georgia during Reconstruction in the 19th Century. Ft. Ruger, headquarters of the Hawaii National Guard, continues to be named after Gen. Ruger.

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