

"Bruyères To Honolulu 2011"

An Update From The Planning Committee

Of course there's really no more planning involved. **"Bruyères To Honolulu 2011"** the project to host a contingent of citizens from Bruyères as part of the **50th anniversary** of the establishment of the **Honolulu – Bruyères sister city relationship**, is completed and was an enormous success! The people of Bruyères have been eternally grateful to the Nisei Veterans of the **100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team** for restoring their freedom from Nazi occupation in October, 1944 – 67 years ago.



Arrival at the Honolulu airport - 2011



Memories from October, 1976 – 35 years ago

1976



2011 – Thirty-five years later



Through special arrangements made with the Kona Airport, the Bruyèrans were allowed to take a group photo on the tarmac after they deplaned. The significance of this? They took a similar group snapshot in front of their plane back in 1976!

Kauai

Luncheon at the Kauai Veterans Center



Dennis Fujimoto/The Garden Island - photo

It started with the arrival of 34 Bruyèrans on Kauai on Thursday, September 29th after a slight delay out of San Francisco. They were welcomed by a large and enthusiastic crowd of 100th/442nd veterans and their families who feted them with a luncheon at the Kauai Veterans Hall. **Judi Murakami**, daughter of Kauai veteran **Tsuka Murakami**, headed the committee that planned the group's Kauai experience and the reception the French received was terrific. Then after checking into the Aston Aloha Hotel and catching their breath they were then treated to a Smiths Family luau experience in the evening. The following day, Friday, September 30th, saw the group touring the Garden Island. A bus transported them around the island and in particular they took in the beauty of the Wailua River and the grandeur of Waimea Canyon. Returning to their hotel in the early evening the group had the night to themselves.

Maui

At the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center in Maui



Claudine Hilaire, wife of the president of the Go For Broke French Club, presents a medallion to nisei World War II veteran Kunio Kikuta on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (Maui).

IRVIN YAMADA photo

The Bruyèrans next island stop was Maui. A morning flight on Saturday, October 1st had them landing around 10:00 a.m., where they were taken straight to the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center for lunch with the Maui 100th/442nd veterans and their families. Their reception there was terrific as well and was coordinated by **Jill Ross** and **Leonard Oka**, whose fathers were Maui veterans. They then were transported to the Maui Seaside Hotel where they were able to rest for a few hours until being chaperoned (by some Maui friends they met at the luncheon) to the Maui County Fair during the night. The next day, Sunday, October 2nd, had them again traveling by bus to tour the island. Among the many sights to see they visited Haleakala and took snapshots of the rare silversword plant, saw beautiful Iao Valley, and toured scenic Lahaina. They returned to their hotel for an evening of leisure.



Takeo "Ike" Ikeda, 87, 442nd F Company



Harold Kishaba, 90, 442nd E Company



Howard Murakami, 88, 442nd Hdq Company

IRVIN YAMADA photos

Hawai`i – Kona

The group arrived in Kona at a little past 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3rd.

Their awaiting bus then transported them to the West Hawai`i Veterans Cemetery for a luncheon and a tree planting ceremony with the veterans and their families there, where **Tracey Matsuyama**, daughter of a Kona veteran, was instrumental in coordinating the activities.

French delegation plants hoawa in honor of Hawaii veterans



West Hawaii Today - photos



Yas Deguchi, F Company, receives medallion from Bruyères visitors

After lunch the group checked into the Kona Seaside Hotel where they were free to take in the Kona night. While strolling through the quaint seaside town, many of the Bruyèrans noticed a number of "very fit" people. These folks, it would be later discovered, were arriving athletes who intended to compete in the Iron Man Triathlon, which was held on Saturday, October 8th.

Hawai`i – Hilo

Tuesday, October 4th saw the Bruyèrans traveling by bus on a tour of the Big Island, which was coordinated by **Dwayne Mukai**, son of a Hilo veteran. Among the many sights they saw, the group visited the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Rainbow Falls, and the black sand Punalu`u Beach in Ka`u where they were able to see three sea turtles basking on the beach. In Hilo, veterans and their families treated the group to a luncheon at the American Japanese Hall. An incredibly full day of activities had them returning to their hotel around 7:30 p.m.

Volcano on the Big Island - Halema'uma'u crater



Kneeling: Bernard Hans

1st row: Maurice Mougeolle, Annie Thiebaut, Claudine Hilaire, Jean-lou and Gisele Borra, Josiane Hans, Odile Michelon, Monique Mougeolle, Christian Lienard, Guy Parisot, Marie Therese Houot

Back row: Martial Hilaire, Danielle Boyer, Jean-louis & Corinne Meregnani, Christiane Thomas, Bernard Colnel, Eliane Haby, Jean Paul Thiebaut, Jean Albert Haby, Christian Deville, Ludovic Durain, Marie-Claire Deville, Claude Mathieu, Claude Lienard

Standing in the back: Jean-Claude Gaulard

Oahu



The Holck `Ohana welcomed the Bruyèrans at Honolulu International Airport upon their arrival at 9:25 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, October 5th. From there the group was transported by bus to Pearl Harbor where they first enjoyed a brunch at Schooners before touring the Arizona Memorial. The tour lasted until the mid-afternoon after which they were transported to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel in Waikiki. At night they were treated to a welcome dinner at the hotel by the **Holck `Ohana**.

Note: Two nights earlier (Monday, October 3rd) the Holck `Ohana welcomed family friends Marcelle Deschaseaux (wife of the late Gerard Deschaseaux, co-founder of the Bruyères – Honolulu Sister City Relationship) and her daughter Claudie Deschaseaux, who would join the rest of the Bruyères group on Oahu. They were checked into a bed and breakfast in Kailua, not very far from the residence of Chisato “Chic” Holck, wife of the late Sandy Holck, the other co-founder of the Bruyères – Honolulu Sister City Relationship.



Marcelle and Claudie Deschaseaux

Ali`iolani Hale – Hawaii Supreme Court Building
(across the street from `Iolani Palace)



Front Row L to R: Pierrette Galmiche, Marie Thérèse Houot, Jean Yves Pierrat, Bernard Colnel, Catherine Colnel, Guy Parisot, Liliane Parisot, Maurice Mougeolle, Monique Mougeolle, Martial Hilaire, Claudine Hilaire, Josiane Hans, Bernard Hans

Back Row L to R: Annie Thiebaut, Manoëlla Villemin, Jean Paul Thiebaut, Danielle Boyer, Marcel Balland, Claude Mathieu, Christian Deville, Marie Claire Deville, Odile Michelon, Christian Lienard, Claude Lienard, Christiane Thomas, Jean Claude Gaulard, Jacqueline Gaulard, Ludovic Durain, Corinne Meregnani, Jean-Louis Meregnani

Thursday, October 6th was the big day that the Bruyèrans had organized their vacation around – the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Honolulu – Bruyères Sister City Relationship. Their day started out with a tour of `Iolani Palace by **Kippen de Alba Chu** that was given entirely in French. The tour began at 8:00 a.m. and continued until 9:30 a.m., after which they were escorted on foot to Honolulu Hale where the ceremonies began at 10:00 a.m.

50th Anniversary Ceremony at the Honolulu Hale – Thursday, October 6, 2011



Seated From L To R: Chisato "Chic" Holck, Claudie Deschaseaux, Liliane Parisot, Marcelle Deschaseaux, Masao Tamura, Honorary French Consul Patricia Lee, Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, Deputy Mayor of Bruyères Ludovic Durain, Catherine Colnel

Standing From L To R: Claude Mathieu, Claude Lienard, Guy Parisot, Marcel Balland, Pierre Moulin, Odile Michelon, Claudine Hilaire, Martial Hilaire, Christiane Thomas, Josiane Hans, Bernard Hans, Annie Thiebaut, Gisèle Borra, Jean Paul Thiebaut, Bernard Colnel

Standing on Stairway and Balcony From L To R: Jean Albert Haby, Christian Deville, Corinne Meregnani, Marie Claire Deville, Maurice Mougeolle, Monique Mougeolle, Marie Thérèse Houot, Manoëlla Villemin, Christian Lienard, Jacqueline Gaulard, Jean Yves Pierrat, Jean-Lou Borra, Jean Claude Gaulard, Jean-Louis Meregnani, Danielle Boyer, Pierrette Galmiche

After a musical interlude provided by the **Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club**, the program began with the singing of the American and French national anthems and a welcome by **Ann Chung**, Director of the Office of Economic Development, who would serve as the program MC. Important dignitaries in the audience were introduced, which included the mayor of Honolulu, **Peter Carlisle**, and Deputy Mayor of Bruyères, **Ludovic Durain**. Speeches then followed by **Willard Holck**, son of Sandy Holck, and chairman of the Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee, Mayor Carlisle (who probably stole the show with his reading of his speech in both English and French), and Deputy Mayor Durain. All three men talked of the bravery of the 100th/442nd and of the unique relationship that was born out of the liberation of Bruyères in 1944.

Official Signing of Proclamation Renewing Sister City Relationship



L to R: Marcelle Deschaseaux, Deputy Mayor of Bruyères, Ludovic Durain, Honolulu Mayor, Peter Carlisle, and Chisato "Chic" Holck

The actual signing of the reaffirmation of the sister city relationship followed and both the mayor and the deputy mayor sat together at a table, accompanied by **Marcelle Deschaseaux** and **Chic Holck**, to affix their signatures on proclamations that they then exchanged with one another.



L to R: Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, Honorary French Consul Patricia Lee, Masao Tamura, and Deputy Mayor of Bruyères Ludovic Durain

What followed was a very rare and prestigious event – the presentation of the Legion d’Honneur (Legion of Honor), France’s highest military honor, to Kauai resident and 442nd RCT veteran, **Masao Tamura**. As the unassuming 88-year-old Tamura stood in front of an admiring crowd, French honorary consul **Patricia Lee**, described the meaning of the award and the extent of Tamura’s bravery in both English and French. Upon being presented with this honor, Tamura was given a prolonged standing ovation, to which he later humbly mentioned that he was receiving this award for his comrades.

The final speaker was **Adrian Allan**, Headmaster of Le Jardin Academy, the first Honolulu school to declare itself as a sister-school with Bruyères. Allan, a native of London, England, enlisted the help of one of his students to interpret his speech in French. **Dean Harvest**, of the Neighborhood Commission Office, offered the closing benediction in Hawaiian, after which a reception was held with the **Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club** once again providing music.

Byodo Temple in Kahalu`u



The group's itinerary for Friday, October 7th would prove to be one of their most eventful. A bus picked them up from their hotel in the morning and took them to the Valley of the Temple in Kahalu`u. There they toured the grounds, fed the Japanese koi, and visited the Byodo Temple. They hopped back on the bus and traveled to Kahuku where they were treated to lunch by **Danna Holck** (a member of the Holck `Ohana) at the Turtle Bay Resort, where she is the General Manager. It was off to the Polynesian Cultural Center after that where the group took in the various Polynesian "villages" and then stayed for dinner and the spectacular evening show that followed. They returned to their hotel around 9:00 p.m.



Claudine Hilaire and Danna Holck

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club



Saturday, October 8th, was another fun-filled day. It began with the Bruyèrans going to the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet. A luncheon provided by the Sons and Daughters of the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT, followed at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club. It was a great time of friendship, gift sharing, and hearty laughter (both **Peter Carlisle** and **Ludovic Durain** were pulled on stage for impromptu hula performances), during which **Willard and GERALYN Holck** were recognized and given a standing ovation for their tireless leadership of the "Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee."



After the very festive luncheon (of which I am told another highlight was the banzai cheer given by "moi", **Eric Nemo-to**, in partial ceremonial samurai garb). The group then visited the Punchbowl Cemetery where a tour was conducted by **Duane Vachon** and assisted by **Pierre Moulin**. They placed leis onto the memorial to the 100th/442nd RCT and observed a moment of silence. They returned to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel by late afternoon where they would enjoy an evening on their own.



Joe Obayashi (522nd Artillery Battalion) looks on while greeting visitors at the 100th Clubhouse



Bob Kishinami of H (Howe) Company opens a package from Bruyères



Tammy Kubo shares her photo album



Monique & Maurice Mougeolle and Jean-Claude & Jacqueline Gaulard



Korean food, fresh fruit and local desserts



Jean Yves Pierrat & Gaye Miyasaki

Sunday, October 9th, saw them attending a very special mass at St. Ann's Church in Kaneohe. It was special because **Father John Keenan**, who is fluent in many languages, celebrated the mass in both English and French. This was followed by a reception with coffee, desserts, and camaraderie. The group then was transported to Kahalu`u, deep into the area near the base of the Ko`olau, to the home of **Willard and Geralyn Holck**, where a lunch was provided and a variety of activities afforded to our French friends.



Marcelle Deschaseaux, Claire Cheeley, and Fr. John Keenan



Jean-Louis & Corinne Meregnani learn to play Hanafuda

First, they were taught the game of Hanafuda by **Helen Nakano** and her associates, who are committed to keeping the Japanese card game alive. **Kevin Burkett** then discussed the series of wines that were afforded to our guests. **Hilary and Nathan Aipa** provided Hawaiian music for entertainment, and helped **Geralyn Holck** teach the group how to make eye lash feather leis which all of them wore when they departed for their hotel at 3:00 p.m.

At night they were treated to dinner by veteran **Jun Yamamoto** and his wife **Lorraine** at the Kai Market Restaurant located in the Sheraton Waikiki. The reports from the Yamamotos as well as veteran **Joe Oshiro** and his wife, **Nancy**, were that the night was absolutely "fabulous".

Monday, October 10th, had **Terry Holck** worried. The group was scheduled to go to Hanauma Bay but darkened skies had her thinking, "What would be our plan B?" **Geralyn Holck** answered, "We have no plan B!" But alas, as with everything else associated with the Bruyèran odyssey, even Mother Nature would be accommodating. The skies cleared and the group spent a wonderful morning snorkeling through the astoundingly clear waters. With a guide who took them on a free underwater tour leading the way, they saw the many beautiful fish that make Hanauma famous worldwide. After this great time at the bay, their bus took them down the coast for a look at the Blow Hole. But what caught their attention even more were the hang gliders soaring above Makapu`u. The bus pulled to the side and they snapped numerous photos.

They then had lunch at Honorary French Consul, **Patricia Lee's** beach house in Waimanalo where they were able to relax and dip back into the water. They stayed through the mid-afternoon until their bus took them back to their hotel at 3:30 p.m. The night would be left to them to enjoy Waikiki on their own as they were nearing the end of their incredible vacation.

At the beach home of the French Consul Patricia Lee in Waimanalo



L to R: Bernard Hans, Pierre Moulin, Deputy Mayor Ludovic Durain, Honorary French Consul Patricia Lee, Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle, Martial Hilaire & Christian Deville

Tuesday, October 11th, their LAST DAY. It's very likely that this day, they probably thought, would never come. After all, they had been planning their trip for well over two years, and since landing, they had been on constant "overdrive," seeing practically every major site in the Hawaiian islands, and experiencing every native nuance. But in fact, it was HERE. But as last days go, the Bruyèrans certainly went out with a BANG.

During The Day: To start, they traveled to the Windward side to visit Le Jardin Academy in Kailua. On the way over they stopped to take in the view (and the wind) from the Pali Lookout. At 9:00 a.m., they arrived at Le Jardin, which was the first school that the Holck `Ohana succeeded in arranging to be a sister school with Bruyères, and the reception the school gave their new French cousins was nothing short of phenomenal.

Le Jardin Academy in Kailua



Students lined the entrance to the school auditorium, giving yellow plumeria leis to our French friends.



Micah Hirokawa singing Hawaiian and French songs and directing the student choir.

They in return received pins and pens from each visitor. They were entreated to both Hawaiian and French songs from every grade level, as well as hula dancing. A video was played for them showing young students from Le Jardin visiting Bruyères 30 years ago! In a photo taken by some of the students (now adults), Bruyères Deputy Mayor **Ludovic Durain** actually saw himself as a little boy in one of Mrs. Deschseaux' classes! Students proceeded to give speeches in French, and one student sang the French national anthem. They planted a tree on the school grounds and were taught a Hawaiian song.



Ludovic Durain gives a souvenir to a student



Bernard Colnel passes out key chains



Danielle Boyer and Christiane Thomas

After Le Jardin, the group visited Sea Life Park, where for many of the French it was the very first time they had ever seen a dolphin! Later they traveled back to Waikiki to take in a tour of the museum at Fort DeRussey where **Pierre Moulin** was their guide from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. After that it was a quick return to their hotel rooms to spruce up, for the farewell dinner sponsored by the Holck `Ohana was to begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Final Night: Suffice to say the schedule had the Holck `Ohana hosting the dinner only up until 8:30 p.m., but of course, you can't be on schedule when you're saying farewell to lifelong friends. Everyone lingered well past 10:30 p.m., even though they had to depart for the airport at 3:45 the next morning! During the evening program, **Eric Nemoto**, serving as the night's MC, mentioned that one of the most endearing memories that the Holck `Ohana had of their trip to Bruyères in 2009, was of the members of the Peace and Freedom Trail Committee (their hosts during the visit) lining the road to wave their final goodbyes as the Holcks departed by car. "It was then," Nemoto

said, "That we all looked at each other and said that now 'the pressure was on us!' But we vowed that we were going to show our French friends the time of their lives when they visited in 2011." "We hope we have succeeded," he continued. To which the Bruyèrans applauded enthusiastically (**Martial Hilaire**, president of the Peace and Freedom Trail Committee, would later remark that the Holck's have certainly "raised the bar" when it comes to hospitality). Nemoto proceeded to introduced the entire planning committee and advised all present that it was the intent of the Holck `Ohana to maintain its active committee and that it will be seeking to create its own non-profit organization in support of the perpetuation of the sister city relationship. The program then continued with a slide show produced by **Terry Holck** (which was also given to each of the French in the form of a DVD) which showed photos and video of their entire trip.

Professional dancer and former Miss Hawaii **Debbie Nakanelua**, who also once visited Bruyères, performed two hula dances.



Alenka Remec, of the Honolulu Mayor's Office, who was so helpful with the 50th anniversary celebration, represented the mayor (who was on business travel to Korea) and the City and County of Honolulu, and gave out gifts to each of the Bruyèrans.

The Bruyèrans, in turn, returned gifts to everyone (of particular note, each of the six children of Sandy and Chic Holck received a commemorative trophy marking the sister city relationship),

and Deputy Mayor **Ludovic Durain**, gave an emotional speech about the wonderful time they all had and how they would never forget it. At the close of the program, **Willard Holck**, Chairman of the Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee (and leader of the Holck `Ohana), and **Martial Hilaire**, President of the Bruyères Peace and Freedom Trail Committee, were asked to come to the front of the gathering where they raised their hands to recite a promise, which they signed on a written proclamation.

This "promise" appears below:



Willard Holck and Martial Hilaire signed two copies of this "promise" and each maintained a copy mounted in a Koa wood frame.

Ashley Holck doing the Hula to "Waikiki"



The rest of the evening was left to the personal goodbyes, during which time **Ashley Holck**, Willard and GERALYN's daughter, enchanted everyone by dancing the hula. Almost fittingly, her ending number was performed to the song, "Waikiki." Fitting because here we were on the final night in beautiful Waikiki, with these wonderful people from a different part of the world with whom we share an almost indestructible bond, a relationship that is basically... well... beautiful. And as if they were trying to soak up and remember every last moment of their "trip of a lifetime," our friends from France stood silent and mesmerized, watching Ashley as she continued to dance to the melodic tune. It was time standing still. "Bryères To Honolulu 2011" had reached its amazing end and that moment was absolutely perfect.

The Overview

With our fondest Aloha



Marcelle Deschaseaux and Chisato "Chic" Holck

I think it is safe to say that Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 was a phenomenal success. Everyone who participated in the hosting of our friends has done a fantastic job. "Sandy" Holck and Gerard Deschaseaux would have been proud. The 50th Anniversary Celebration of the sister city relationship between Bruyères and Honolulu was a fitting tribute to their legacies and to all of the Nisei Veterans. We have succeeded, Hawai`i, in perpetuating this unique friendship with friends who live half a world away. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all!

Eric Nemoto
Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee
October 14, 2011

Post Script

Mahalo nui loa no kēia hana ho'ohiwahiwa me mākou, A hui hou no mākou āpau...
Thank you very much for celebrating with us, until we meet again...



The Planning Committee and each visitor from Bruyères extend a heartfelt thank you to all the people and organizations who helped make this Hawaiian experience an event of a lifetime. Special thanks go to the Holck Ohana, the City of Honolulu, Mayor Peter Carlisle, James Nakatani-100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Organization, all the local volunteers in Kauai, Maui, Kona, Hilo & Oahu, and the many donors, who have supported us with their generosity.

Mahalo nui loa – thank you very much.

Sitting in front L to R: Ashley Holck, Clifton Harada, Susan Harada, Danna Holck, Geralyn Holck, Marcelle Deschaseaux, Willard Holck, Sandra Sousa, Terry Holck

Kneeling behind L to R: Eric Nemoto, Gisèle Borra, Jean Paul Thiebaut, Christiane Thomas, Jean Claude Gaulard, Jacqueline Gaulard, Eliane Haby, Jean Albert Haby, Josiane Hans, Bernard Hans, Mary Ann Nemoto, Susan Cajski, Wilbert Holck, Jr.

Standing L to R: Corinne Meregnani, Jean-Louis Meregnani, Jean-Lou Borra, Jean Yves Pierrat, Marcel Balland, Annie Thiebaut, Danielle Boyer (mostly hidden), Marie Thérèse Houot, Claude Mathieu, Odile Michelin, Marie Claire Deville, Claudine Hilaire, Martial Hilaire, Christian Deville, Maurice Mougeolle, Monique Mougeolle, Pierre Moulin, Claudie Deschaseaux, Ludovic Durain, Christian Lienard, Claude Lienard, Liliane Parisot, Guy Parisot,, Thomas Cajski, Manoëlla Villemin, Pierrette Galmiche