Special Guests at OHANA East

This week we will have a very special group of guests at the OHANA East hotel—109 members of the families of 22 Marines and one Navy corpsman based in Kaneohe who were killed in Iraq during the deployment of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, to the Mideast over the past seven months. They will be in Hawaii to attend memorial services for their loved ones. The services are scheduled for 10 a.m. Thursday, April 19, at the Marine Corps Air Facility in Kaneohe.

The family members will be coming from all parts of the United States. Some live in big cities. Many live in small towns and farming communities and have not had the opportunity to travel much until now. It will be a difficult time for these family members, but we hope and pray it will be healing as well.

Besides Thursday’s memorial services, there will be other small gatherings and events where family members will get a chance to meet with other Marines who knew their sons, brothers, spouses, or uncles and, hopefully, can share stories about their lives and their service to our country.

Outrigger and OHANA Hotels & Resorts have a long and close relationship with the members of the Marine Corps stationed at Kaneohe. Under the leadership of our Military Liaison, Mildred Courtney, Marines are invited to our Waikiki properties for lunch to meet members of our ‘ohana on a one-to-one basis throughout the year. Every December, we traditionally deliver 30 tons of snow to the Marine base to help with their holiday party. With many of the Marines coming from northern states, the snow makes them feel at home and they quickly get into the spirit, making snowmen and throwing snowballs, Mildred reports.

At the OHANA East, floral lei will be awaiting the visiting family members and they will receive special attention throughout their stay. General Manager Alan Naito, Front Office Manager Ronnie Cabo, and Military Reservation Coordinator Jo Christian will join Mildred Courtney at the memorial services on Thursday.

The men and women of our armed forces are wonderful people who are dedicating their lives to serve our country. They are all volunteers in the prime of their lives who are willing to risk everything to offer the rest of us a chance for peace, security, liberty, and democracy. Overseas deployments are extremely stressful, not only for those who go, but also for the families left behind. I cannot even imagine the emotions involved when one of these brave, dedicated young men and women suffers injury or death.

The family members who will be with us at the OHANA East this week have endured all of that and more. Let’s make them feel welcome and offer our thanks for the incalculable sacrifices they and their loved ones have made for our country and for the values we cherish.

Those Who Made The Supreme Sacrifice
2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines

Lance Corporal Anthony Aguirre, born Harris, TX, March 21, 1986
Lance Corporal Joshua C. Alonzo, born Dumas, TX, November 2, 1985
First Lieutenant Joshua L. Booth, born Virginia Beach, VA, May 20, 1983
Lance Corporal Donald S. Brown, born Onondaga, NY, February 2, 1987
Lance Corporal Timothy W. Brown, born Carmichael, CA, April 17, 1985
Lance Corporal Daniel B. Chaires, born Tallahassee, FL, May 26, 1986
Lance Corporal James Chamroeun, born Santa Ana, CA, December 29, 1985
Lance Corporal Matthew W. Clark, born St. Louis, MO, August 11, 1984
Hospitalman Matthew D. Conte, born Magadore, OH, March 29, 1984
Lance Corporal James R. Davenport, born East Danville, IN, December 31, 1985

Gunnery Sergeant Terry J. Elliott, born Middleton, TN, June 19, 1972

Lance Corporal Mario D. Gonzalez, born Los Angeles, CA, February 5, 1985

Corporal Derek Jones, born Salem, OR, July 17, 1985

Private Edwardo J. Lope, born Aurora, IL, November 28, 1984

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph T. McCloud, born Wayne, MI, December 14, 1966

Lance Corporal Daniel T. Morris, born Augusta, VA, September 22, 1987

Corporal Stephen L. Morris, born Brazoria, TX, July 2, 1985

Private First Class Christopher T. Riviere, born Cooper City, FL, August 8, 1985

Lance Corporal Jeremy S. Sandvick Monroe, born Malta, MT, July 13, 1986

Lance Corporal Michael D. Scholl, born Kearney, NE, May 28, 1985

Corporal Joshua C. Sticklen, born Virginia Beach, VA, November 3, 1982

Private Heath D. Warner, born Canton, OH, January 2, 1987

Lance Corporal Jeromy D. West, born Arza, CA, September 26, 1986