



IMUA POLENISIA

SPECIAL
WHITE HOUSE EDITION

GO FORWARD POLYNESIA

THE VOICE OF THE POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER

PCC PRESENTS UNIQUE PERSONALIZED HAWAIIAN KOA BOWL TO PRESIDENT & MRS. BUSH

by Reg Schwenke

While worldwide media attention focused on Hawaii during last weekend's 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing, White House staff, top CINCPAC officials and the Polynesian Cultural Center quietly coordinated the presentation of a very special personalized gift to President and Mrs. Bush.

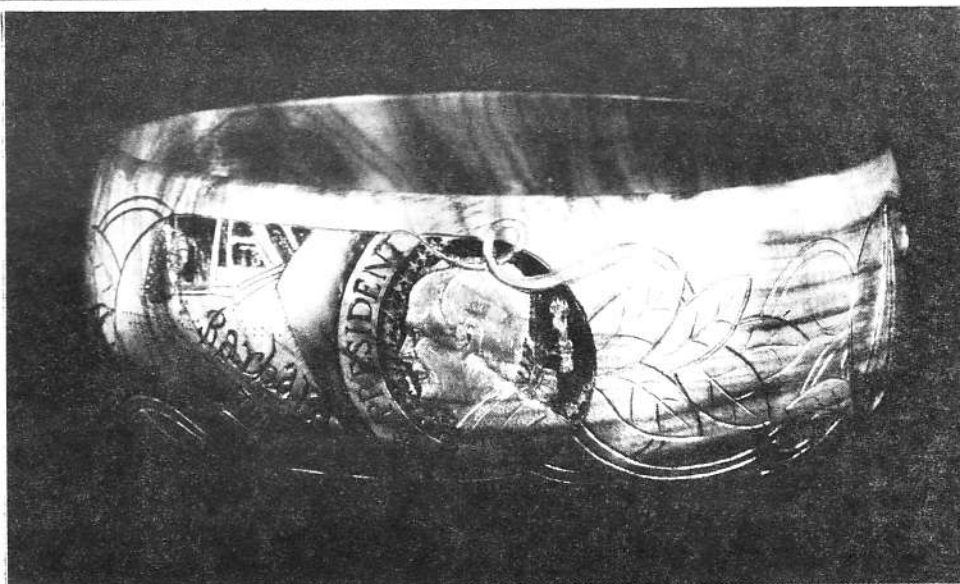
The rare opportunity to present this gift to President Bush followed a great deal of coordination and cooperative effort between PCC's Operations and Corporate Communications divisions—which resulted in a whirlwind tour of the Cultural Center by President Bush's White House advance team two weekends ago (*see related story*).

Because of the personalized nature of this gift, a decision was made not to release information of this presentation until after the Presidential party left Hawaii.

Now it can be told...

The Center's gift was a special one of great significance and represented the heartfelt expressions of aloha from all Center employees for President and Mrs. Bush. It was given to the First Couple upon arrival last Friday night at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki.

The gift was an intricately and beautifully carved wooden koa bowl—a traditional Hawaiian gift to



those of high rank or stature. This koa bowl is the same one from which President Bush and his wife Barbara were to have lifted the flower leis Saturday morning at the Arizona Memorial to throw into waters above the entombed USS Arizona.

Originally, the Center's gift was intended as a private gift to be received by the President in his hotel suite, but it was selected by White House staff and CINCPAC officials for inclusion in the Pearl Harbor ceremonies.

But White House staff, while on a tour of the USS Missouri, decided instead to use a silver bowl from the battleship because of its historical significance.

This PCC gift bowl, however, is unique and particularly noteworthy in that it features four special three dimensional hand-carved vignettes:

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PCC's contingent pose in front of the 16-inch guns of the USS Missouri with U.S. Senator Phil Graham (Texas), State Department of Land Natural Resources Director William Paty and his wife Peggy.

"A DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET..."

by Jeanie Moore

Saturday, December 7, 1991.

The day finally arrived. I had been looking forward to this day all week.

As I watched television and read newspaper stories about Pearl Harbor, I became more aware of what had really taken place. I had heard about the Pearl Harbor attack from my parents and an uncle who served in World War II as a rear gunner in a fighter bomber.

We woke up at 3:30 a.m. so we could be ready to leave Laie by 4:30 a.m. Reg arrived right on time and said we would need to go back to pick up David (Operations Division vice president) and Carolyn Hannemann.

Carolyn came out and said David was almost ready. The next thing we see is David coming out the front

door dressed only in a large towel. He peered into the car window, looked surprised, muttered

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something and ran back into the house. It was a hilarious moment. Reg, Les and I died laughing and Carolyn didn't look pleased.

We said, "we'll be back for you in a minute" and left to pick up David and Terry Eskaran a block away.

As we returned to pick up Carolyn

and David, we assumed he would be ready. He came out this time with his suit pants and shirt on, but was still holding his suit jacket, shoes, tie and socks in hand. We could tell David was ready for an event-filled day. He is such a gem.

The rest of the day was special too. Little did I know how special it would be. I felt very insignificant as we arrived at Pearl Harbor's Kilo 8 pier, where President Bush's main address would take place.

With the battleship USS Missouri at the pier and military and security personnel everywhere, I began to realize the true greatness of our country and felt a great sense of pride. I remember saying to Les afterward that I wished our children were here to see, hear and feel the greatness of the events that had taken place right where I was standing.

Actually, seeing the President and Mrs. Bush just four feet away from us gave me goose bumps. I never believed I would ever be a part of something as significant and historic



as this. I thought about my life and realized I have taken so much for granted.

I cannot help but recall another classic incident that day with David Hannemann. We were standing on the pier alongside the USS Missouri when General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, his wife and Secret Service escorts came by and David walked up to him and introduced himself. He called us over and introduced us.

The next thing we know David has us lined up alongside the battleship in the background and clicks a photo — or so we thought. I was excited we would get such a rare photo opportunity with one of the most powerful and influential men in America.

We found out minutes later — after General Powell left — that when David clicked our photo the sound we heard was the film rewinding. He had run out of film. For the next 20 minutes, Reg, Les and I teased David mercilessly and he was a great sport about it.

Reg joked: "You know the photo I am going to use on the front page of our next issue of *Imua Polenisia* is the photo with General Colin Powell that David never got..." It set us laughing again.

The amazing thing is a Chicago couple standing next to us took several photos of the one David missed with the Powells' — and promised to send us copies and negative. We exchanged addresses and promised to send them a special PCC gift pack. We did.

But that wasn't the end of it. Our ride from Pearl Harbor was an unforgettable experience.

As the President's motorcade passed us, Reg immediately joined it

at the end and we found ourselves part of President Bush's official motorcade. What a great, but scary experience!



We ran about 10 stop signs with policemen in front and behind us — not to mention we were all travelling beyond the speed limit. We were hoping no one would realize we didn't belong and stop us. We reached Hickam Air Force Base without incident where President Bush and his party were scheduled to depart from.

The best part was we were in one of PCC's brightly painted vans. Talk about PCC advertising you couldn't buy. All streets along the route had been blocked by police and thousands of people were lining the streets waving — and were probably curious as to PCC's involvement as part of the Presidential motorcade.

Reg simply said, "Just act like you belong..." It was great fun. That was

one special ride I will not forget.

As I reflect on all that happened, I am so grateful that Les and I could have been a part of such a wonderful event with all the significance it held and to present the Bush's with a gift of such great work and emotional value.

I had seen preliminary drawings for the koa bowl as David Eskaran had brought them over to be looked at by Les.

I remember being so impressed by just the drawings David had done. But there was no way I could have judged

how wonderful the actual bowl was to be.

Reg stopped by four days later to show me the bowl and I remember thinking the President and Mrs. Bush would feel so honored by this truly unique, one-of-a-kind gift. I did not realize then the effort and hardship involved in the creation of this personalized gift...

Saturday, December 7, 1991.

It is a day that will live in infamy — in my mind and heart. ☹



The Story Behind the President's Bowl

by David Eskaran

If I knew I would get only 10 hours sleep in five days, I definitely would have said "NO!"

But I am so glad and grateful now I said "Yes."

I don't think anyone in Hawaii or this earth could have done it — faced with the same obstacles I had to overcome. With everything else I had to do outside of my PCC obligations, this was the most awesome challenge I have ever undertaken.

Late November and early December are always hectic periods for me due to the Christmas rush.

Add to this:

- A mother who needed a Matson container loaded and shipped out from Wahiawa to Arizona by the last week of November.
- Meetings with art buyers from galleries in New York City and portfolio preparations.
- Night entrepreneurship classes every Tuesday and Thursday in Honolulu.
- Important preliminary preparations for a month-long trip to Japan in December — and you have the makings of an impossible schedule.

Reg Schwenke (PCC Corporate Communications vice president) approached me late November to design and carve a personalized koa bowl for the President of the United States. He said it was a special gift to President and Mrs. Bush when they



came to Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor 50th anniversary.

Reg, David Hannemann (PCC Operations vice president), Les Moore (PCC president) and I discussed exactly what we would feature in my carved images. Originally we discussed having three designs on the exterior for the bowl, then four and finally five vignettes on the exterior of the bowl.

It was most challenging because each change required hours of background research at BYU-Hawaii library on the Bush family and history; the Presidential seal, the Arizona Memorial, Kamehameha the Great and the PCC logo with views that would be most desirable for a pictorial or vignette.

I had to set up shop in my dining room so I could watch my sick son. My wife was teaching at Kahuku High School and I had to act as nurse over a son who had been vomiting most of Monday morning.

I worked for 18 hours on Monday (December 2) starting one minute after midnight, adhering to President Moore's counsel to "remember the Sabbath ends a minute after midnight."

Frustration set in so many times partly because of my own fatigue, the noise of my children (despite the efforts of my caring wife who kept the family out of the house most of

the time), but moreso the awesome challenge of having to do in three days what would normally take a month.

I missed my Tuesday and Thursday night classes in entrepreneurship/business plan writing and also had to cancel a personal interview with my instructor — vital to the completion of the course. I called to explain my situation and received their support.

Tuesday's dilemma came after I carved the PCC logo and King Kamehameha the Great vignettes. I began carving the Arizona Memorial and found the spongiest wood in that area.

What should have been one of the easiest vignettes turned out to be the most difficult. I had anticipated only four hours maximum on that vignette, but spent 15 hours because of the difficult wood grain. I reverted to motorized dental tools and X-acto knives to complete that section. Numerous

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prayers were said to help keep my wits about me and help me overcome each delay and drawback.

The headache I was nursing made me numb and control of my hands had become difficult. I couldn't keep them from shaking which at this moment is not what I needed.

My greatest fear was realized when

I started the "Bush vignette." The same graining found in the "Arizona" vignette was also here in the most vital and critical of spots — the

"Frustration set in so many times partly because of my own fatigue, the noise of my children (despite the efforts of my caring wife who kept the family out of the house most of the time), but moreso the awesome challenge of having to do in three days what would normally take a month."

centerpiece and focal point of the entire bowl! Despair set in.

I said another prayer to bless me and bless the bowl—and if possible recombine the elements within it to make the wood "sound". I knew I couldn't make the deadline without divine intervention.

The Bush vignette took a total of 31 hours — the better part of two days!

Upon completion of the carving, I needed a small brush for staining the background images. Finding myself without a brush I tried using fibres from a coconut husk and a piece of string before I found my daughter's little watercolor paint set. I cut most of the bristles off to suit my needs (and to this writing my daughter Diane has no knowledge of it.)

I had finished! I had done the impossible! All that was needed was the finish with varnish. If only I were so lucky.

The first spray application caused a bubbling chemical reaction to the other varnished portions of the bowl. It was totally unexpected.

I had six hours before deadline and found myself making promises to Reg I didn't think I could keep. I needed another miracle. I had no liquid strippers, no car and no time. I was truly at my lowest point here...to come so far only to encounter

another incredible challenge.

I had to find the strength to pray one last time. I was going to ask one last favor from the "source." First to keep me sane for five more hours giving me the ability to think critically and logically — and to provide clear skies to allow sunlight to dry the varnish finish I eventually put on.

I found some steel wool and sanded the exterior of the bowl. I tested another spray application on the prepared spot and it bubbled again leaving large white spots on the exterior.

I sanded once more with steel wool and searched my garage for an alternative. I found a small jar, partially dried out but with just enough finish to be hand-rubbed on the bowl. Without ample sunlight and too much humidity, experience has taught me it can take up to two weeks for a piece to dry.

Before taking the bowl outside to dry, I made petition once more. The clouds moved and the brightest sun shown from 10:30

a.m. to 2 p.m. He had answered my prayers.

I sat nearby turning the bowl every 15 minutes making sure no sudden drizzle could destroy my hopes and scared away my neighbor's cat everytime he curiously poked his nose up at the table where the bowl was drying.

I finally realized the completion of the project when Tali picked it up from my home. What a relief. My first desire was to sleep, but I had two important things to do.

First, I needed to thank my Heavenly Father for giving me the strength, abilities and circumstances to overcome every negative occurrence

with a positive solution and I needed to clean my wife's castle the way she would have it.

At 4:57 p.m., Thursday, December 5, I stared at my bedroom clock and wondered if sleeping was going to be a greater joy than eating.

Over the previous five days, I ate a total of three meals — supplementing my intermittent hunger with guava juice — as the telephone rang again and again. Plans for our twins birthday party also had to be made.

I've often wondered how many other PCC employees would have given as much.

Finally, I want to take this rare opportunity to publicly petition our managers, supervisors, and administrators not to forget those who have given more than their all in bringing recognition and credit to our community and faith.

All workers from the greatest to the least are all equally needed. Reward exceptional effort. Know who to reward and commend for them for their good works.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

PCC President Les Moore has taken David's concluding comments to heart.

Never before has a PCC employee received as much recognition and acclaim in direct communications with the President of the United States — as David Eskaran has and well deserves.

He and his wife Terry also received prestigious invitations to participate in the VIP activities for the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor with President Bush and Mrs. Bush.

Moreover, his work has been recognized in front page stories of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Not only has a "new day" dawned at PCC, but passing days will get clearer and brighter David...



President George and Barbara Bush
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Bush:

It is an honor, privilege and pleasure to represent the people of the Polynesian Cultural Center and our board of directors in welcoming you to Polynesia with the greetings of our Islands.

Aloha (Hawaii). Talofa (Samoa). Kiaora (Maori - New Zealand). Bula Vinaka (Fiji). Malo e Lelei (Tonga). Iaorana (Tahiti). Kaoha (Marquesas).

Though the purpose and occasion of your visit is both solemn and somber, we take immense delight in extending to you our deepest expressions of true brotherhood and sisterhood in the traditional Polynesian fashion.

The Cultural Center has prepared a personal and precious gift of love for you in the form of an intricately carved koa bowl -- a traditional Hawaiian gift to those of high rank. This bowl is the same one from which you and Mrs. Bush will draw flower leis tomorrow morning at the official ceremony at the Arizona Memorial. This gift, however, is probably like no other you have received before in Hawaii. It features four different hand-carved vignettes:

- The centerpiece vignette depicts your profile (President Bush) with the Presidential Seal in the background coupled with an image of your World War 2 fighter plane with the "Barbara III" inscription.
- Visual of the Arizona Memorial as it sits today at Pearl Harbor.
- Profile of King Kamehameha the Great -- the Hawaiian monarch who conquered most of these islands -- and then united them all under one kingdom.
- Logo of the Polynesian Cultural Center featuring the outline of a traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe.

Special mention and recognition goes to one of our long-time Polynesian Cultural Center employees, David "Kawika" Eskaran. Now regarded one of the finest master carvers in the South Pacific, Eskaran, 35, has been influenced and taught by some of the Pacific's greatest woodworking masters. A native Hawaiian, he has numerous works in private, corporate and government collections throughout the world. He was given an awesome challenge to complete the carving of this bowl within three days when it was learned it would be part of the Pearl Harbor anniversary ceremonies. We recognize and treasure this opportunity as a rare privilege.

But we are proudest of the fact that David Eskaran is just one of more than 25,000 students at the adjoining Brigham Young University - Hawaii who have literally "paid" their own way through college as Polynesian Cultural Center employees since 1963. U.S. Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, someone you are familiar with, is another graduate of BYU-Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Hawaii's #1 Experience

Corporate Office 55-370 Kamehameha Highway, Laie, Hawaii 96762 Phone (808) 293-3005

President and Mrs Bush
Page Two
December 6, 1991

As Hawaii's most popular paid visitor activity, the Cultural Center is also considered the world's most successful cultural theme attraction -- having hosted more than 15 million guests since 1963.

Significantly, we have been working closely for several years with top-level cultural officials from the People's Republic of China to assist and train their top staff and management in the operations of a successful cultural theme attraction. In fact, we developed a special program several years ago in which six PRC cultural or tourism senior staff are assigned to work full-time for one-year periods at the Center in various departments and divisions to learn how they can better promote, present and operate some of Mainland China's famous sites and attractions.

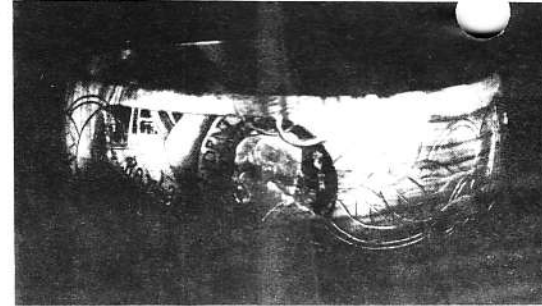
Mr. President, I mention our cultural involvement with the People's Republic of China only because of your familiarity and associations developed as a former U.S. Ambassador to the People's Republic of China.

Finally, please know you are in our prayers and those of millions as you lead and guide this great nation of ours. From the isles of the sea and the people of the Polynesian Cultural Center, we thank you for your goodness, wisdom and humility.

With deepest aloha and admiration,

Lester W. Moore
President
POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER

Honolulu Star Bulletin (Front Page)
Monday, December 9, 1991



This hand-carved koa bowl didn't pass the president's audition.

Koa bowl not carved out for brush with Bush fame

□ He used a silver one in ceremonies

By Lee Catterall
Star-Bulletin

President Bush was not exactly bowled over during the Pearl Harbor commemoration by a gift from the Polynesian Cultural Center.

The center presented the president and his wife Barbara with a personalized koa bowl from which they were to lift leis and throw them into the waters above the entombed USS Arizona on Saturday.

Center employee David "Kawika" Eskaran carved vignettes and decorative engraving on the koa bowl, completing work in three days so it would be ready for the ceremony.

Alas, the bowl saw no action.

The White House opted instead for a silver bowl from the USS Missouri, upon whose deck papers were signed in 1945 ending World War II.

It had more historical significance than the wooden bowl.

In a news release, Center President Lester W. Moore said of the missed opportunity: "We recognize and treasure that opportunity as a rare privilege."

Polynesian Cultural Center in the News...

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Hawaii's largest daily newspaper, published a front page color photo and article (above) of PCC's koa gift bowl to President Bush and Mrs. Bush on Monday, December 9.

Unfortunately, their article indicated the President was not "bowled over" by the gift -- which was absolutely false and contrary to what a White House aide said.

In fairness to President Bush, the Cultural Center and David Eskaran, the Honolulu Star Bulletin editors and publisher permitted us the opportunity to present the correct story in a longer front page article (bottom right) the very next day.

The letter from Les Moore to President and Mrs. Bush accompanying the koa bowl gift is reprinted here (left).



President and Mrs. Bush make their way to their seats before his main address at Pearl Harbor's Kilo 8 pier. He is accompanied by CINCPAC Commander-in-Chief Admiral Larson and his wife. Admiral Larson was recently hosted at PCC. They are flanked by the President's Secret Service detail.

Photo by T. David Hannemann

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1991

THE PULSE OF PARADISE

35 CENTS

Bush 'absolutely' loves koa bowl gift

□ Polynesian Cultural Center decries reports that he didn't

Star-Bulletin staff

The Polynesian Cultural Center wants to make one thing clear: President Bush and his wife Barbara loved a hand-carved koa bowl the center gave to them for use in Pearl Harbor Day ceremonies.

PCC spokesman Reg Schwenke took strong exception to a front-page story in yesterday's Star-Bulletin, which said Bush was not exactly "bowled over" by the gift and that the White House opted to

use a silver bowl instead during Saturday's events.

White House advance team leader Brad Blake-man said the Bushes "absolutely loved their Polynesian Cultural Center gift bowl and were extremely impressed with the fine detailed workmanship put into the bowl," Schwenke said.

The bowl was carved by center employee David Eskaran and features four three-dimensional, hand-carved vignettes, including one depicting Bush's profile with part of the presidential seal in the background, coupled with an image of his World War II Avenger torpedo bomber and a "Barbara III" inscription.

Other vignettes depict the Arizona Memorial, Polynesian cultural images and King Kamehameha the Great.

"We were told by the White House advance team that the bowl, along with the gift letter from our Polynesian Cultural Center president, Lester Moore, would be placed in the president's hotel suite," Schwenke said.

He said he was notified a couple of days later that

the bowl had been selected to be the one from which the Bushes would draw the flower leis for the Arizona Memorial commemoration.

However, plans changed last Thursday when some of the White House staff, while on a tour of the USS Missouri, discovered a silver bowl and decided it was more appropriate because of the historic significance of the battleship, he said.

Japanese officials signed surrender papers aboard the Missouri in 1945, ending World War II.

"At the center, we completely understood their decision and supported it," Schwenke said.

So, as originally planned, the PCC's bowl was delivered to the Hilton Hawaiian Village and placed in the president's suite, he said.

"We are absolutely incensed that a gift that was created with a great deal of attention, dedication and aloha has brought into question not only the abilities and workmanship of one of the Pacific's finest master carvers but also the reputation and quality standards of the Polynesian Cultural Center," he said.

Presidential Bowl
continued from page one

- *The centerpiece vignette depicts President Bush's profile with part of the Presidential Seal in the background coupled with an image of his World War 2 fighter plane with the distinctive and personalized "Barbara III" inscription.*
- *Visual of the Arizona Memorial as it sits today at Pearl Harbor.*
- *Profile of King Kamehameha the Great — the Hawaiian monarch who conquered most of these islands — and then united them all under one kingdom.*
- *Logo of the Polynesian Cultural Center featuring the outline of a traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe.*

Each of the four vignettes were purposely designed to represent a great deal of meaningful symbolism.

In fact, while the main vignette is that of the President's profile and his "Barbara III" World War II fighter plane insignia, the Polynesian Cultural Center logo on the inside of the koa bowl faces the vignette of King Kamehameha the Great because of Hawaiian cultural protocol.

For Hawaiians, there is special significance and symbolism involved in the giving of wooden koa bowls. They believe "Koa" signifies bravery, valiance, fearlessness and steadfastness. The richness and beauty of its wood grain suggests elements of peace and harmony. An old Hawaiian adage is "E Ola Koa" — Live like the Koa, with valiance, strength, steadfastness and honor.

In a special gift letter to President and Mrs. Bush, Polynesian Cultural Center president Lester W. Moore wrote that because of the personalized nature of the carvings, "this gift is probably like no other you have received before in Hawaii.

"Though the purpose and occasion of your visit is both solemn and somber, we take immense delight in extending to you our deepest expressions of true brotherhood and

sisterhood in traditional Polynesian fashion," Moore wrote.


In his letter, Moore recognized the talents and contributions of David "Kawika" Eskaran, a long-time Cultural Center employee who hand-carved the vignettes and decorative engraving on the koa bowl. He was given an awesome challenge to complete the carving within three days when it was learned it might be included as part of the official Pearl Harbor anniversary commemoration. Eskaran worked around the clock with barely any sleep to complete the bowl on time.

Regarded one of the finest carvers in the South Pacific — officially designated a "master carver" in the State of Hawaii five years ago, Eskaran (35) was influenced and taught by some of the South Pacific's greatest woodworking masters (particularly the Center's ranking master carver, Barney Christy). A native Hawaiian, Eskaran has numerous works in private, corporate and government collections throughout the world.

Even though our bowl was not used at Pearl Harbor, "we recognize and treasure that opportunity as a rare privilege," Moore said.

He also noted that David Eskaran is just one of more than 25,000 graduates from the adjoining Brigham Young University - Hawaii who have literally "paid" their own way through college as Polynesian Cultural Center employees since 1963.

A contingent of top PCC executives, including Eskaran, were on hand last Saturday for the official commemoration ceremonies at Pearl Harbor. The Center's contingent also delivered last Saturday two colorful and striking formal Fijian salusalus made from dried lauhala leaves for President Bush and his wife.

The Cultural Center is also considered the world's most successful cultural theme attraction—having hosted more than 15 million guests since 1963. 

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BEHIND-THE-SCENES PERSPECTIVE...

by Tali Galea'i

I *t was an exciting and special day last Thursday when I was asked to pick up PCC's koa bowl gift from David Eskaran's home for President Bush and his wife Barbara.*

I was really excited just to be a small part of PCC's gift preparation, knowing it was directly for the President of the United States. When I picked up their bowl and saw it for the first time, I was amazed at how perfectly it was carved. It was a masterpiece!

I started the day off by making several phone calls to Motorpool and Network Photo (PCC's independent photo concessionaire). I reserved a van for 9:30 a.m. that morning to run errands. Things got so hectic, I didn't get the chance to pick up the van until 11:00 a.m.

On my way out, President Moore just happened to pass by and looked as if he was coming back to his office. He must have read my mind, stopped, picked me up and gave me a ride to Motorpool. I thought that was very nice of him.

When I got to Motorpool, Leonard Peters asked me for my license. I didn't have it with me at the time so he sent me back to get it (PCC policy) using his department cart. I got back to the office and Reg (my boss and Corporate Communications Division vice president Reg Schwenke) had more assignments to do. It took me another half hour before I could pick up the van.

When I got back to the office I called Les Forester, co-owner of Network Photo, and he wasn't in. I left a message with his secretary and told her it was urgent! Like any good secretary, she tracked him down in 10

minutes.

I explained to Les the full story of PCC's koa bowl for President Bush and how we wanted museum quality photos taken the minute David was finished with it. Without hesitation, Les said he would drop everything else to handle it personally and immediately. Now all I needed to do was wait for David to call and let us know when to pick up the bowl. All other arrangements had been made.

At 12:40 p.m. the phone rang in Reg's office. All I could hear was: "Is it ready? okay, thank you." I knew it was time to do some major running around.

In driving to David's house I knew he lived on Iosepa Street, but I wasn't sure where. So I drove to one end and started knocking on two different doors until I came to the right home.

Making sure I handled the koa bowl carefully, I delivered it immediately to Network Photo's office at Laie Shopping Center.

On my way to Network Photo, people stopped to look and asked questions: "What's the bowl for? Who's it for? Who carved it?"

Les and his workers were there waiting for the koa bowl. In fact, Les mentioned to me earlier his photographer was committed to be at another location taking pictures at that time, but would cancel it to get

our project completed.

The studio film shoot was completed within 20 minutes and I rushed back to the office with the koa bowl. Within an hour, the color and black and white photos of the koa bowl were sent up to the Corporate Office with frames. The pictures were beautiful. Now that is a good example of going the extra mile. It was a job well done.

It felt good to know everyone was working together with a warm spirit of cooperation and a strong desire to help each other. I am sure President Bush will love and appreciate the beautiful koa bowl given to him from the Polynesian Cultural Center — and the efforts of all those who put forth their time to make it happen.

That one day of work in making sure everything was taken care of and following up on assignments was hectic, yet it was one of my better days. I knew how important this assignment was and it was up to me to complete assignments given to me.

"It felt good to know everyone was working together with a warm spirit of cooperation and a strong desire to help each other."



White House Advance Team Visits Cultural Center

by Palauni Ma Sun

When confirmation came several weeks ago that President Bush's White House advance team had accepted an invitation to visit PCC, I was quite excited.

It's a far cry from having the President himself, but the fact they represented the White House was still cause for great anticipation among our employees.

They were scheduled to arrive Saturday (two weekends ago) at 3:30 p.m., so I proceeded to plan their itinerary.

Our seven "Island" Cultural Directors were notified and special activities were planned for each Island. Fuifatu Ho Ching was assigned as the designated guide and "runner" and a specially-decorated canoe was in place and ready to go.

At 3:30 p.m. the party did not show nor had we heard from them of any changes. Les Moore, Reg Schwenke and his wife were already at the front entrance waiting to greet them upon arrival.

Reg quickly got on the phone, reached their hotel and found out that extended meetings between the White House team and CINCPAC officials would delay their arrival at PCC until 5 p.m.

I quickly rushed to inform all Island Cultural Directors of the new arrival time and arranged a new itinerary. Since the party were to arrive just in time for the PCC Island Farewell program, we decided a round-trip canoe tour would be better — thus allowing them a quick overview of the Center.

Within minutes after this plan was finalized, I received a call by radio that the party had just returned to their hotel room and would not arrive until about 6 p.m. Again, I huddled with some Island Cultural Directors and sought their input.

We settled on a quick moonlight canoe tour with tiki torches set up

alongside the lagoon — and with people singing, dancing and performing cultural demonstrations along the banks.

Pulefano (Galea'i), Samoa's Island Cultural Director, assembled some men to prepare and line up the torches while I contacted all the Islands to hold back some employees to assist.

Again, 15 minutes after everyone has been contacted and were ready to go, I received another call from President Moore to cancel all Island activities because it appeared they probably wouldn't arrive until 6:45 p.m. and would barely have time for dinner before our evening show at 7:30 p.m.

We decided to take them directly to our Ambassador Club Fine Dining area.

They finally arrived at 6:45 p.m. and were greeted by President Moore, David Hannemann, Reg Schwenke and their wives. After a momentary official welcome and lei presentation, the party were escorted to dinner by Guest Services manager Logoitino Apelu.

Following dinner they were escorted to the evening show to see "Mana! The Spirit of Our People" and were seated in the Manager's row. Pineapple ice cream delectables were served to them by Concession workers during intermission.

While they were watching the show, David came up with a spontaneous idea of a special canoe tour after the show. However, before we could proceed we needed to know if they could stay for it.

David returned with a big smile on his face and we knew exactly what that meant. We only had 40 minutes to plan all this.

Logo quickly called security to turn on all the lights in the different islands. We took a quick cart drive around to check if there was enough lighting for our tour. Unfortunately, there were not enough lights for the canoe tour so the guide could maneuver the double-hulled canoe safely.

Our only hope for the necessary lighting depended on lighting tiki torches. But everybody had gone

home and we could not open the shed to get the torches.

Logo stayed behind to take care of other arrangements while I went looking for Pulefano to help us. Pulefano had just barely gotten home and was eating dinner with his family when I called and told him about the plan and asked his help.

"No problem," he said, "I will be there in five minutes." This gave us only ten minutes to set up. When Pulefano and his helper arrived, the show had just finished.

There was no time to soak the torch wick's and fill them with gas, so we simply dipped the wicks in gas and as the canoe approached, we lit the wicks, dropped them along the banks and ran 30 yards before lighting another.

The key was timing our movements so the wicks wouldn't burn out before the canoe got there. Luckily, the party disembarked in Samoa where Sielu Avea was kind enough to stay behind and do the firemaking and coconut-husking demonstrations in one of the


Samoaan fale's. They had a great time and enjoyed Sielu's humorous demonstration immensely.

After the Samoan village, they reboarded the canoe and continued their moonlight tour. For the rest of the route all the way from Samoa, Fiji, Hawaii, Tahiti and back to the IMAX theater, I ran (Pulefano drove and dipped the wicks in gas) all the way lighting wicks and placing them along the canoe route as it approached.

In areas we couldn't reach we just threw the burning wicks and, according to President Moore, "they looked like flying stars."

I understand from Reg that the White House advance team were overwhelmed at the reception they received at the Center.

For all of us involved in this assignment, that made it all worthwhile.

Whatever impact our efforts had, should the President of the United States ever decide to visit PCC, we hope our small part helped set the stage for that to happen... 



Key members of the White House advance team at dinner with PCC's Moore. They are from left Carl Truscott, Secret Service lead; PCC president Les Moore; Brad Blakeman, the White House Advance Team leader; and Peter Gilliard, Advance team Media Coordinator.

President Bush's Elite White House Presidential Honor Guard Perform... Then Feted At PCC

by Palauni Ma Sun

President Bush's elite White House Presidential Honor Guard gave a breathtaking and outstanding drill performance last Thursday during PCC's special "Day of Remembrance" activities.

Before an appreciative throng of hundreds of Pearl Harbor survivors and family members at the Center's entrance, President Bush's "Pure Excellence" Honor Guard and other military groups entertained and dazzled all with their pin-point precision.

Led by Sergeant Fiafia Seau (the first Samoan to be selected part of the two Presidential Honor Guard teams comprising a total of 32 men), the group were invited afterwards to tour the Center as personal guests of PCC president Les Moore.



They were accorded special treatment and recognition throughout their tour of the Center's seven Islands. They were also recognized during the evening show and were asked to stand with the Pearl Harbor survivors and families.

On their Island tour, Sergeant Seau was the designated honoree for the group because of his Polynesian roots. He received leis and gifts on their behalf.

He expressed his great pride and joy as they all marvelled at the cultural depth and protocol of the Center's Polynesian cultures.

When asked what they would remember most about their visit, one soldier responded: "The sincerity of the people."

They raved about their overall PCC experience and kept saying to each other they had never seen or experienced anything like it before.

*Above: Joint Services Color Guard from CINCPAC
Below: White House Presidential Honor Guard*



Photos by Lloyd Berardy