



DANIEL K. INOUE  
INSTITUTE

September 4, 2018

Aloha, and hope your summer has been enjoyable and well, fun! It has been a busy time at the Daniel K. Inouye Institute throughout the late spring and summer. We will be sharing with you over several newsletters all that we have been doing.

But before doing so, let us pause to send our prayers and aloha to the family of U.S. Senator John McCain. The two veteran senators were, first and foremost, battle tested warriors who saw bloody combat and understood personal sacrifice for the love of their country. While they had an up and down relationship at times in the Senate, it was their strong respect for one another as warriors that was their ultimate bond. America has lost another great lion of the U.S. Senate.



*Left to right: U.S. Senator John McCain, Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III, U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Thad Cochran; June 7, 2012 in Washington, D.C.*

On May 29th, the eve of the U.S. PACOM Change of Command ceremony where Admiral Harry Harris would relinquish his command and retire from the military after 40 years of faithful and steadfast service (to later become the U.S. Ambassador to Korea), Irene had a special opportunity to present the Admiral with Senator's Medal of Honor flag in its original wooden box.

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The new PACOM headquarters was envisioned and built with Senator's steady hand, together with the PACOM commanders of that time. It was completed in April 2004. Inouye felt strongly that when our nation's military received the military leaders of the Asia-Pacific region, it must be in a headquarters commensurate to our global leadership position. With a beautiful headquarters, a command decision was made that some of the rooms would be named for Medal of Honor recipients. Initially, Senator declined, not wanting to have his name affixed to any part of the new facility. He relented, after it was insisted that his military service and not his political position would be the basis of the accolade. Then came the issue of which room would bear his name.



*Irene Hirano Inouye and PACOM Commander Admiral Harry Harris*

With a chuckle, he selected the Officers' Dining Room, encouraging those at the dedication ceremony to refer to it as "Inouye's Mess!" Now, in addition to the photo of Captain Inouye, and the declaration of his heroism for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor, hangs his Medal of Honor flag to welcome all to the "Inouye Mess."



*From left to right: Jennifer Goto Sabas, Betsy Schmid and Irene Hirano Inouye*

Keeping with the military theme, Irene and Jennifer journeyed to Bath, Maine for a special Laying of the Keel ceremony at the General Dynamics Bath Works shipyard on May 14th for the *USS Daniel Inouye*, a DDG 51 Class Destroyer. We were thrilled to have Betsy Schmid, former Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Staff Director for Inouye, and now with General Dynamics, join us for the ceremony. The laying of the keel is an age-old tradition. Irene Inouye as the ship's sponsor, etched her initials to authenticate the keel plate, symbolizing the joining of the ship's components.



*Irene Hirano Inouye's initials are etched into a portion of the USS Daniel Inouye.*

The *USS Daniel Inouye* will be equipped with an Aegis Baseline 9 Combat System, including an integrated air and missile defense capability. It will be an asset in global maritime security, as well as possess anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities. Senator placed a high priority on readiness and making sure that our men and women of the armed forces had what they needed to train, fight and return home safely to their families. He is definitely smiling down on us, at the thought that his name would be carried forward on as a sophisticated defender and protector of our nation.



*Keel of the USS Daniel Inouye*

Following the ceremony, we toured the different components of the ship, marveled at its sheer enormity, and realized quickly that you need to be in top shape to run up and down those very narrow and steep flights of stairs!

Since the Keel Laying ceremony, we have learned that the first commander of the USS Daniel Inouye will be DonAnn Gilmore. The Navy is planning to christen the ship in the summer of 2019 in Bath, Maine, with a commissioning ceremony in 2020. We have our fingers crossed that it will be at Pearl Harbor!

The Inouye family received another honor at the end of June, on the 30th, when Matson blessed its newest ship in honor of Senator Inouye in Philadelphia. The *Daniel K. Inouye* is the largest containership ever built in the U.S., and the biggest and fastest for Matson. It will be put into service to move cargo between Hawaii and the West Coast.



As the sponsor, Irene did the honors of christening the ship by breaking a bottle of champagne against the bough. She presented the captain with American and Hawaiian flags, together with Senator's Distinguished Service Cross and certificate which is the second highest award a member of the U.S. Army can receive for "extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force." The captain and leadership team each received the Senator's President Pro Tempore coin and special keychains.



A vigilant supporter of the Jones Act, Senator believed in a strong U.S. maritime sector to both ensure the steady and uninterrupted movement of cargo domestically and internationally, as well as to provide the capability to support our nation's military in time of need. He also believed it was important to maintain a capable U.S. industrial shipbuilding base for both civilian and military vessels, and hence the requirement that U.S. vessels be built in the U.S. and crewed primarily by Americans. With the unease being caused by an aggressive China and volatile North Korea in our region, the need for the Jones Act remains imperative.



Thank you very much Matson, and a special shout out to recently retired Chair Walter Dods for your support and kindness thru all these years. The sister ship, named *Kaimana Hila* is being completed at the Philadelphia yard.

We appreciate your continued support and friendship. It means a lot to us. Stay tuned for our next communication. Until then,

Aloha,  
Irene, Ken and Jennifer