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Army Unveils “Spirit of the Warrior” Community Service Award

FORT SHAFTER, June 18, 2007--One of Hawaii’s most revered Soldiers, William W. “Bill” Paty, Jr. and his wife, Peggy were honored at a surprise ceremony unveiling the U.S. Army’s Mana O Ke Koa “Spirit of the Warrior” Community Service award June 16.

The ceremony was hosted by Lt. Gen. John M. Brown III, Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific and attended by more than 80 members of the Paty’s family, friends, military and community leaders. Adding to the pomp and ceremony were performances by the U.S. Army Strings, and a Hawaiian blessing officiated by Kahu Sam ‘Ohu Gon, Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor for the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii.

“In every field, there are those who forge ahead with a tireless spirit to make things happen,” Brown said during the formal award presentation. “Bill and Peggy Paty have committed more than a half century in service to the state and nation. Their service to Soldiers and Army Families inspired this award.” Brown praised the Paty’s for strengthening the U.S. Army’s partnership with the state and local communities throughout Hawaii. Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and Lt. Governor James R. “Duke” Aiona Jr., issued a proclamation designating June 16 as Bill and Peggy Paty Day in Hawaii. It chronicles their collective contributions and heralds the Kama’aina couple as the personification of America’s Greatest Generation for their legacy of public service, civic involvement and influence that transcends Hawaii’s shores.