

Hafa Adai Post 1509



"Post 1509 History"

Chartered: July 4 1969

VFW Commander-in-Chief: Richard W. Homan (1968 – 1969)

Original Location: Dededo, Guam, USA

New (Current) Location: Yigo, Guam

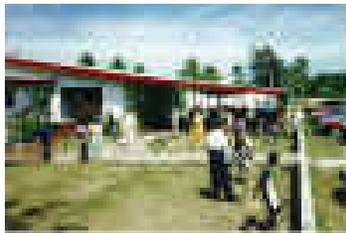
History behind the Post Name

- "Hafa Adai" which means "Hello" in Chamorro (the native language of Guam and the islands of the Northern Marianas) was adopted from the Guam Seal –
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The Post met in several places prior to getting a Post Home established. The first meeting place was at the Elks Lodge in Agana, Guam. In 1977, Department Commander Leo O. Miller visited Guam and asked Post Commander Ben Alperito and Chuck Clay to visit the Governor of Guam and try to get a place to meet. On the following Monday Alperito and Clay visited Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo and were assigned a Quonset Hut, formerly quarters for Fifth AF Officers during WWII, on the Harmon cliff line.



This Hut was renovated and served as a Post Home for several years. In the early 80's the Post purchased a building from the Bank of Hawaii and moved it to the cliff line site. This building served as an excellent facility for many years.



In 1997 the land on which were located was to be turned back to the original owners or their descendants, and we had to vacate, by order of the USAF and Governor of Guam.

Again we visited a governor; Governor Guiterres assigned us two 100' X 100' lots in Dededo. We moved half of our building about 6 miles and rebuilt and reopened. We were about to become a satisfactory operation again.

Then on December 16 1997 Typhoon "PAKA" arrived and took our roof, ceiling, files and accessories away. This is when we really learned what "Comradeship" means. Our Comrades, Local and throughout the Pacific Areas came through with assistance that put us back on our feet. We are now adequate in our operation and hope to continue to improve through the years.



Compiled by Chuck Clay, (2003)

Due to declining business and the out-of-the-way location in Dededo, the Post Home again moved in 2006 to our present location on in Yigo. The Post is located on Marine Corps Drive only 3 miles from Andersen AFB.

Post 1509 has two adopted two units – 554th RED HORSE Squadron (US Air Force) and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron, HSC-25 (US Navy). The Post actively participates in many community activities including providing scholarship funds to University of Guam nursing students, Wounded Warrior projects, assisting the Yigo Senior Citizens Center as well as providing free BBQs for all on Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Compiled by Jerry Krause, (2013)

For current Post meeting, officer listing, and canteen info, visit:

<http://www.vfwdeptpacific.org/1509/>



All American: 1987 – 1988

All State: 2006 – 2007

All State & American: 2011- 2012

~ List of Hafa Adai Post 1509 Commanders ~

Year/s	Name
69 – 71	Francisco A. Perez
71 – 73	Boleslaw S. Rolinski
73 – 74	Juan S. Quenga
74 – 76	Henry C. Buffery

76 – 77	Ben W. Alpuerto
77 – 79	Charles A. Clay
79 – 80	Clemente T. Faren, Jr.
80 – 81	Charles A. Clay
81 – 83	Francisco A. Perez
83 – 85	Vern L. Harper
85 – 87	Walter White
87 – 88	Charles A. Clay (All American)
88 – 90	Luther W. Harmon
90 – 91	William J. Penn
91 – 92	John E. Strattard
92 – 93	William J. Penn
93 – 94	Gordon Mailloux
94 – 97	Joe Q. Salas
97 – 97	Louis LeBlanc (Died in office)
97 – 00	Charles K. Douglas
00 – 03	John A. Wallace
03 – 05	Donald J. McLain
05 – 06	Raymond T. Baza
06 – 08	Gerald L. Kraus (All State)
08 – 10	Allen Turner
10 – 13	Brian Merenda (All State & All American)





Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Spring 2007 Scholarship

– The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. recently presented \$500 to Diane B. Orejudos, UOG Nursing major.

Pictured from left are John Wallace, Orejudos, and Ray Baza. Orejudos, who will be graduating this May, and has received the VOFW scholarship for the past 3 years.



Diane B. Orejudos, a University of Guam nursing major, received a \$500 scholarship from the Veterans of Foreign Wars on March 11 (2008). At the presentation were, from left: Remy Wallace, John Wallace, Orejudos, Ray Baza, Lee Baza and Helen Whippy, UOG senior vice president.



Airman 1st Class Cody Frediani was presented the VFW Life Saving Award by VFW Post 1509 Commander Brian Merenda, Feb 16, 2012 at the Top of the Rock, Andersen AFB. Airman Frediani demonstrated expert lifesaving skills when he responded to a cry for help at the base shopette Aug. 31, 2011. Airman Frediani performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation for 15 minutes before emergency response personnel arrived on scene. (USAFphoto/A1C Whitney Tucker)



Dec 2012: Wounded Warrior Ride Around the Island; at VFW Post 1509 for BBQ