

November 29, 2013

*TO: Keeper of the Register
National Park Service
Washington, D.C*

I, Patricia Nasario Peterman, support the nomination of Ewa Battlefield to the National Historic Register as an important battlefield site that has local, state and national significance as part of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. The main air attack was directed through Ewa, which saw sustained combat actions resulting in the death or injury of local civilians as well as Marines, soldiers and naval aviators.

My father, Simon Nasario, was born and raised on Ewa Plantation (Oct. 18, 1918) and was drafted into the United States Army in November 1941. He completed his basic training at Schofield Barracks on Friday, Dec. 5, 1941. He had been granted his first weekend pass and thus was at the home of his grandmother and aunt who lived directly across the road from Ewa Airfield. That morning (Dec. 7) he was enjoying being able to sleep in when the attack began. His grandmother awoke him, and he ran outside (still in his "skivvies", as he likes to retell) to witness the enemy planes overhead shooting as they swooped in over the airfield. The shooting and bombing continued close to their home, and a bullet struck the front of the house where his uncle sat reading his newspaper on the front porch. My father then heard all military personnel were instructed to return to base, and he and several others headed for Schofield. All roads were being closed, and an MP directing traffic ordered a motorist to drive them to Schofield. They were in the bed of a truck; and, as the attack continued, they would occasionally have to dive for cover in the cane fields where they would be hidden from view. My father is now 95 years old. He has lived a good, productive life and contributed much to our society. Since I have grown up with this remarkable historian, I am always amazed how few people in this country are even aware of the strategic part Ewa Airfield played in the onset of World War II. While almost everyone has heard of Pearl Harbor, not so Ewa.

Since other Pearl Harbor historic battlefields sites have become National Historic Landmarks and part of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, it is only just and fair that Ewa Battlefield and the Ewa Community also receive the same due historic recognition and commemorative honor as have other Pearl Harbor battle sites. It is, in my opinion, unconscionable this historic site and its people have gone so long without the proper recognition due. As members of a grateful nation, we need to rectify this "oversight" so these people know we have NOT forgotten.

Sincerely,
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