

November 17, 2013

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

To whom it may concern:

Please add my voice in ardent support of the battlefield nomination of Ewa Battlefield to the National Historic Register. The events of December 7, 1941 speak for themselves, and the combat activities focused on, around, and above the Ewa Marine Air Base on that day comprise an integral and critical phase of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Ewa Field was a prime navigation point for Japanese ingress and egress, and is in all likelihood where some of the first, if not the first, shots were fired. It was an important target in its own right, sustaining multiple attacks. All of its aircraft were destroyed. Not content with just destroying aircraft, the Japanese also strafed the area, including civilian housing areas of the nearby Ewa Sugar Plantation. Marines were killed on Ewa Field and local civilians were wounded, all in direct combat activities.

Ewa Field was also the focus of much of the day's fierce air-to-air combat, witnessing numerous dogfights and casualties on both sides directly overhead or just off-shore.

But for me, and for many others like me, Ewa Marine Air Base is more than a memorial to those who bravely fought and died on December 7, 1941. It is the home of Marine Corps Aviation in the Pacific, and it is also a memorial to the thousands of Marine Aviators that deployed into the Pacific Theater of Operations in both WWII and Korea. For hundreds of those Marines Ewa Marine Air Base was the last plot of U.S. soil they ever saw, having giving the full measure of their devotion to our nation.

My father was one of those Marines. He was a Corsair pilot shot down in Korea in 1951. He was a pilot from Ewa Marine Air Base. It's pretty important to me.

Sincerely,

  
Scott G. Gier

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