

NOTE: Scott Goold spent years teaching high school students how to debate and judging debate competitions. When one party results to Ad Hominem attacks, judges know that party is losing or has lost. They are unable to respond with logic or reason. They resort to name calling or attacks on the person.

Shinnyo-en supporters and those opposed to shifting Floating Lantern Hawai'i from Memorial Day to either Sunday or Saturday now complain about Scott's tone. Their tactic is an Ad Hominem assault on Scott Goold. They do not address, cannot counter, the moral and reasoned arguments of Scott Goold, Pete Tingstrom and thousands of Veterans.

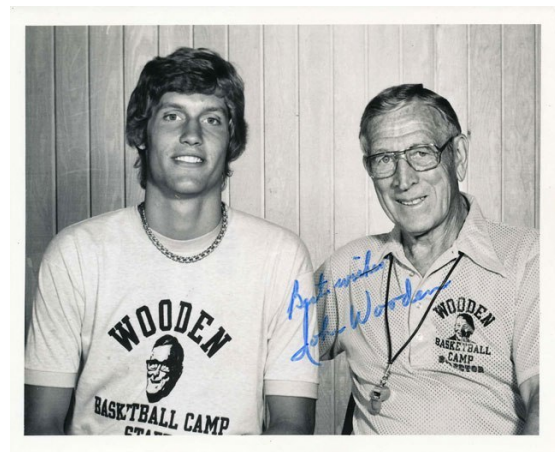
Veterans asked **ONLY** that Shinnyo-en host Floating Lantern Hawai'i on Sunday or Saturday. Memorial Day is reserved for civilians to pay honor and respect to our fallen brothers and sisters. Our request is not unjust, immoral or uncivil. Japanese Shinnyo-en is offending our dead heroes.

“You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either one.”

“Be true to yourself. You know what's right. Don't let someone else decide for you.”

“Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Character is what you really are. Reputation is what people say you are.”

Scott Goold coaching with John Wooden



May 16, 2024

Aloha Pete ~

Great to hear from you. Don't disagree with you at all. Our strategy from the start was for me to play the role of BAD COP, while you were the good guy. Learned this strategy studying Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and Malcom X. Martin preached and preached and preached. An apathetic and reluctant White America thanked him for his kind, moving words, but nothing changed.

Malcom began speaking more harshly, more radically. He began calling out leaders who refused to engage. Malcom brought the stick. Black people began to rise up in anger. FEAR woke up White America. Scared of Malcom, officials turned to Martin. They began cooperating with Martin. Nobody even talks about Malcom today. The tone and rhetoric of Malcom made Martin successful. Americans immortalized Martin — just as I hoped officials would listen to you.

More recently, millions of Americans begged the USA to be an honest broker in the Middle East in regard to Israel and Palestinians. Status quo officials remained silent to the horror and suffering of the innocent people in Gaza. Protests broke out on our college campuses. Officials are now working for a more humane path forward. That's America. Officials do not act until something starts to burn.

Teddy Roosevelt was clear about leadership, Walk Softly but carry a Big Stick. You and I discussed this philosophy numerous times. The status quo on O'ahu since 1999 allowed Shinnyo-en to trample

on the memory and honor of our fallen brothers and sisters. None cared. Some supported. I came to O'ahu and was horrified. Memorial Day is not for civilians. On Memorial Day, civilians do not honor themselves or family members. They dedicate the DAY to those who gave their LIVES for the rest of us.

Our objective when we partnered last year was to kindly, professionally, but firmly, request this Japanese Buddhist Order stop stepping on the graves of our honored heroes. We suggested Sunday — a day participants would prefer. Shinnyo-en has given us the finger. Bureaucrats and Veteran group officials simply asked us to go away.

When we initiated this action LAST SPRING, Shinnyo-en could have changed days. Senator Mike Gabbard promised. He left us holding the bag at the last minute. As I told you weeks ago, Shinnyo-en cannot shift days now. Logistically, change isn't possible. Asking officials to change is a waste of time. You wanted to ask. Now you realize logistically that's not possible.

Yesterday, I proffered a **COMPROMISE PROPOSAL**. Suggested creating **Lantern Lighting Punchbowl** for Monday, May 26, 2025. Tasked you to obtain the Ala Moana Park city permit. We would encourage Shinnyo-en to host their wonderful Floating Lantern Hawai'i event on Sunday, May 25, 2025. Together, we would create **Memorial Weekend** to honor all our fallen men and women in uniform, as well as civilians.

Yes, my tone is harsh. That is my intent. Yes, admit to playing **BAD COP**. That was our strategy. Remember, I started this initiative playing **GOOD COP** ... was told to go away. Had officials been willing to work with me respectfully five years ago, my tone would not have been forced to change. I believe sugar is more effective than vinegar ... but when sugar is refused, vinegar is the only recourse. President Reagan believed peace is created through strength. I do as well.

At this time, **WE HAVE AN ALOHA SOLUTION** ... we can join hands *laulima* to do something truly beautiful for the Purple Heart City of Honolulu, Aloha State, and both Americans and Japan.

I prefer to act like Martin. Know ALL of us honor his tone and style. However, we **WILL NOT** allow the graves of our fallen heroes to be desecrated in this manner. I call on YOU to be the **GOOD COP** ... and please, shut me up! I did not embark on this mission for personal fame or fortune. My **ONLY** objective is to preserve the honor and observation of our over 53,000+ fallen brothers and sisters resting at Punchbowl and across the nation. They ALL are lonely and do not want to be forgotten.

You listed many actions you plan to take this year. Why? We have an aloha compromise for all. Let's immediately end this negativity, shake hands, and begin planning for **Memorial Weekend 2025**.

The Aloha Solution is a WIN / WIN for all. Hope all of you will put our heroic, brave and valiant fallen brothers and sisters first at this time.

Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead.

Mahalo Ke Akua ~

Scott Goold
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