

COL. Edward R. Cruickshank, USA (Ret.)

President of the Oahu Veterans Council
Command of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Rainbow Chapter 483
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RE: BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en Calls for Col. Cruickshank to Resign

Aloha e COL. Cruickshank ~

Yesterday, in my letter to you and public officials, nicknamed you, *Col. Bare Minimum Cruickshank*. Did so to make a point. Do not wish to be disrespectful to you, your heroic service to our nation or the outstanding work you have done for Veterans. I do however need to emphasize what you said in your moving *Story of Valor*, “because you become like brothers. And you will do anything you can to save that individual from being hurt even if it means putting your life at stake.”

You are not doing everything you can for the over 53,000+ valiant, fallen brothers and sisters resting at Punchbowl. OVC is not. Our local ‘Ohana is not. As a community, we have collectively failed our heroes. They sacrificed ALL. We have responded by weakly and nonchalantly giving some. It is time for change.

Therefore, with the utmost admiration for your efforts and service over a lifetime, humbly ask you to step down immediately from your leadership position as President of the O’ahu Veterans Council and Center. I do not seek your excellent record to be stained or shaded. Rather, consider this request like the USA Olympic 1600M Relay Team heading to Paris 2024.

You have run a remarkable leg. Now I ask you to pass the baton to the next runner. We need the energy and commitment of team runner #2 at this time; as this team runner will soon pass the baton to team runner #3. Our line and corp is strong. Energy and motivation must remain strong. The observation of our fallen heroes has become tired.

Please step down with distinction. I submit my name to receive the baton from you. You have created the framework for an outstanding organization. Was quite nervous when I spoke to the group Saturday, April 27th. As I mentioned, was humbled being around so many heroes. I am in awe of all the accomplishments and devotion to this nation, state and Veterans from each of you. The group nevertheless has low energy. Veterans need a cheerleader.

OVC demands an infusion of new thinking and life. Times have changed. Parades down Main Street, politicians gathering at Punchbowl or Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe do not inspire the current and next generations. As noted on BoycottShinnyo.com website, even Buddhists are modifying their presentation to become “more cool” to younger generations. OVC must seek to be *more cool* as well. We live in a competitive entertainment world.

The sole objection to Shinnyo-en Floating Lantern is their day of observation. This day, the entire day, is dedicated to honor our nation’s fallen heroes in uniform; not civilians. We must hold the line.

At this time, as a candidate for OVC president, I propose the organization host **Lantern Lighting Punchbowl** next year on Monday, May 26, 2025. As OVC president, my first act will be to request LtCol (Ret) Pete Tingstrom serve as Chief of Staff. Pete's qualifications are impeccable:

- President, Special Forces Association (SFA) (Life Member)
- Senior Vice-Commander Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (Life Member)
- Vice-President SFBMC Fort DeRussy (Life Member)
- American Legion (Life Member)
- Disabled American Veterans (Life Member)

My PhD work at the University of New Mexico focused on political science and policy. Served Workers' Compensation as an advanced economist and policy analyst. My legal skills are top notch. Ask Hawaiian Electric. I'm a trained specialist advocating to keep citizens and Veterans off dangerous, addictive opioid medications. Too many Veterans suffer.

I've championed the efforts of Hawaii's U.S. Senator Brian Schatz for years. His team reports lack of medical cannabis kills our Veterans. The federal government recently announced their intent to reclassify medical cannabis to Schedule III from Schedule I. Research will explode. Many local corporations deny our Veterans employment due to their medications. We must evolve.

Served in a SMP role, combining ROTC and US Army Reserve training. My designated rank was 2nd Lieutenant and commanded a laundry support unit. My team was squared away and spent most of my time serving MI operations for our company. My father is a combat Veteran Korea; grandfather combat Veteran, Purple Heart recipient WWI; and, ancestral grandfather, Robert A. Lower, awarded Medal of Honor as a Union soldier for heroic bravery and valor during the Siege of Vicksburg. My wife's grandfather, Ray Larribas, is a decorated WWII POW, who escaped Nazis carrying many to freedom.

Have a warm relationship with Governor Josh Green, MD. Pete has established strong ties with Mayor Blangiardi's office. You will be passing the baton to competent professionals who love our Veterans and country.

Lantern Lighting Punchbowl

CoS Pete Tingstrom's first assignment will be to procure a city permit to host an OVC event in Ala Moana Park on Monday, May 26, 2025. We will graciously invite Shinnyo-en to continue their heart-warming **Floating Lantern Hawai'i** on Sunday, May 25, 2025. We will do what no community in the USA has done — create **Memorial Weekend**. Our objective will be to assist Shinnyo-en attract some 50,000+ on Sunday; while we build our event to host 50,000+ on Monday.

As times are changing across America, we must evolve with change. Decoration Day evolved into Memorial Day. We now suggest Memorial Weekend. In addition, Memorial Day focused on the men and women who died in combat. Our battles to defend our nation and preserve our values are fought by more than solely men and women who wear camo or digis today.

We're still overcoming the brutal suffering the nation and world endured due to SARS-CoV-2. Men and women wearing scrubs served on the front line of this war. **Lantern Lighting Punchbowl** will also honor our nurses, DRs and medical staff who perished in this war against nature.

Our local and national firefighters also wear a uniform to defend this nation and our values. We now are fully aware the heroics of Maui Fire Department. Their team sacrificed homes and family members in their selfless fight to save the historic Lahaina community. Firefighters will be honored.

We also include the heroic men and women who serve in the Thin Blue Line. Our peace / police officers stand in defense heroically each day and night to ensure our values are protected, as well as homes and families. **Lantern Lighting Punchbowl** will honor these fallen heroes as well.

Civilians will be honored on Sunday, May 25, 2025. Those who served and sacrificed in uniform to defend and protect our families, communities and nation will be honored Monday, May 26, 2025.

In the first **Lantern Lighting Punchbowl**, we will dedicate ceremonies to Nisei soldiers. We will seek partnership from the Japanese American Veterans Association. Nisei contributions to Hawai'i and the United States of America have never been fully honored. And, each year going forward, we will highlight a team, squad, company or group of uniformed heroes to lead the proceedings.

We will move beyond the traditional solemn event. A concept Op Order would look like this:

1900: Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter will drop a team of 4-5 amphibious SEALs into Ala Moana bay. They will swim to light our anchored signal fire.

1905: SEALs light signal fire

1906: Flyover of F-22 Raptors trailing red, white and blue smoke

1910: Motorcycle Veterans representing mechanized Calvary rev & roar engines — 30 seconds

1911: Fireworks and National Anthem

1915: Lantern Lighting Punchbowl ceremonies begin

The booming engine roar will serve to WAKE our slumbering heroes lying in love at Punchbowl. As told previously, I spent much time in meditation and contemplation on the hallowed grounds. Our brothers and sisters whispered to me softly, "We are so lonely. We are being forgotten." I played my ukulele for them; their spirits danced and sang. They want to live with us.

Lantern Lighting Punchbowl will WAKE our heroes. They will join us for patriotic music, festivities and lantern lighting. As the designated MC calls out names of our highlighted and honored brothers and sisters, food will be served and plates set for our fallen heroes. Toasts will be made with glasses raised and filled for our fallen heroes as well.

We will honor their sacrifice — giving ALL — by inviting our fallen brothers and sisters to sing, dance, eat and toast with all of us. They do not want to lie at rest lonely in silence. They want to be remembered as they lived ... full of life. And be honored for what each gave to us ... their life.

This is the way of a new generation of Americans; citizens who again are AWAKENED to the real human cost of freedom, and the sacrifice of the FEW giving ALL so the MANY can enjoy so much.

Please accept this request in the spirit of aloha, duty and honor. Your leadership has taken OVC to a position of acclaim in our 'Ohana and Veteran community. We ask that you pass the baton so the team can continue the next leg forward on this path to greatness.

With deepest admiration and respect,

Scott Goold
BOYCOTTshinnyo.com