

## O'ahu Veterans Center Responds to BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en

**On May 14, 2024, at 10:59AM, O'ahu Veterans Center <info@theovc.org> wrote:**

Aloha

On behalf of the OVC Officers and Board of Directors to include myself, we would like to clarify our position with regard to this matter.

The Oahu Veterans Council Officers and Board of Directors believe ceremonies conducted on the morning of Memorial Day honoring our Veterans are not in conflict with the evening ceremony conducted by Shinnyo-En. The ceremonies are compatible as they are conducted at different times and places and both honor respected groups.

Please join us in observing Memorial Day as we honor and remember all military service members who died while serving our country. The following State and County of Honolulu Memorial Day Ceremonies are being held.

- Mayor Rick Blangiardi of the City and County of Honolulu will hold a Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Monday, May 27 at 08:30 a.m. For more information, please go to Memorial Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
- Governor Josh Green of the State of Hawaii and the Office of Veterans' Services have a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans' Cemetery in Kaneohe on Monday, May 27, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, please go to State of Hawaii Memorial Day Ceremony at the Hawaii State Veterans' Cemetery in Kaneohe

Very respectfully,

**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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### **BOYCOTT Shinnyo-en Response May 14, 2024**

Aloha COL. Cruickshank, USA (Ret.),

With all due respect, Decoration Day, which became Memorial Day, is a DAY, not simply ceremonies in the morning. I now see the real problem facing our fallen heroes. In your position of leadership, you do only the bare minimum in return for their entire lives. You give SOME; they gave ALL. You note activities sponsored by the mayor and governor. OVC does nothing at all.

If you truly cared about our brave fallen warriors, your organization would host an evening ceremony floating lanterns in their memory— rather than allow Shinnyo-en to appropriate the opening and observe civilians on this *Sacred Day*. You have become lazy, apathetic and make the least

possible effort to honor those who gave their entire lives to defend this nation and secure our freedoms. In my fitness review about your performance with OVC, I shall now refer to you as: COL. Bare Minimum Cruickshank.

Most importantly, although you are an official with OVC, you do not have the right or authority to speak for the 53,000+ fallen heroes lying at rest at Punchbowl, nor do you have the right or authority to speak for their families. Memorial Day is a DAY. You tolerate the diminishment of the public's observation of their sacrifice.

You claim, "The ceremonies are compatible as they are conducted at different times and places and both honor respected groups." Civilians are to honor our military on Memorial Day. There is no precedent for civilians to use Memorial Day to honor civilians. You do not defend this *Sacred Day* or the memory of those who gave all.

They gave all — not simply an arm or leg. You now allow them only a morning of their *Promised Day*. To me, this is unforgivably dishonorable behavior on your part and you should be ashamed. As you are not 100% willing to stand for our heroes and Veterans, I suggest you step down from your position with OVC and allow someone truly committed to chair this respected group.

You have diminished the observation of our fallen heroes — some who likely sacrificed their lives to protect and defend you during combat.

In your moving *Story of Valor*, you stated, "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."

Many did everything to save you from being hurt. Now you refuse to do "everything" to protect their memory and save them from being hurt by an apathetic and nonchalant public.

In my humble opinion, you do not return the sacrifice and valor they extended you, other brothers and sisters who served, or this nation.

We asked simply for Shinnyo-en to respect Memorial Day ... DAY ... and host their wonderful event on Sunday; thus allowing our local community to create a Memorial Weekend and enlarge the love, harmony and aloha in our 'Ohana.

With deepest sadness for your unwillingness to stand now for our brave, fallen Americans heroes.

Scott Goold  
BOYCOTTshinnyo.com

SEE INITIAL LETTER (attached below)

## Simple Request: Shift to Sunday. Create Memorial Weekend

[BoycottShinnyo.com](http://BoycottShinnyo.com)

May 11, 2024

Tulsi & Mike Gabbard  
Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi  
JAVA President Howard High  
OVC President Edward Cruickshank  
UH Ethnic Studies Professor emeritus Jonathan Y. Okamura

Aloha e friends ~

BoycottShinnyo.com has a new section, Boycott Opponents. We have listed you — key officials and groups who refused to champion our simple and harmonious request. There is no moral, social or political justification for your resistance to support enlarging the love and aloha over Memorial Weekend, while perpetuating the memory and history of our fallen brothers and sisters.

We came to each of you or your organizations seeking help. None of you demonstrated the courage or honor to stand for the over 53,000+ fallen heroes lying at Punchbowl. JAVA (Japanese American Veterans' Association,) claimed they were afraid to leave Floating Lantern participants with a negative view of Veterans. Others did not have the courtesy to respond.

Remember, participants would prefer the Sunday slot. Easier for families. Relax on Monday. Second, citizens don't have much of a view of Veterans at all. Most have forgotten those who gave ALL to defend this nation. Floating Lantern adds to the apathy.

JAVA's stated goal is to "perpetuate the memory and history of our departed comrades." That's the specific purpose of Decoration Day, which evolved into Memorial Day. None of you are shouldering your obligation to defend our fallen brothers and sisters.

OVC president Cruickshank said, "you will do anything you can to save that individual from being hurt even if it means putting your life at stake" — except protect their memory.

They gave ALL ... didn't return to a wife or husband; didn't return to see their first born baby; didn't get to ... well, everything each of you get to do with privilege. You can't give them ONE DAY?

You say that you're afraid you might leave the public with a negative view of Veterans for increasing remembrance of ALL PEOPLE over Memorial Weekend. We consider all of you to be cowardly and disrespectful. What shame you bring to Veterans. You should be more focused on those who have served and died, rather than the alleged nonchalant opinion of others. Shame! Shame! Shame!

History will not be as kind as we have been.

Direct Link. SEE:

<https://boycottshinnyo.com/opponents.php>