INSIDE INFO

Welcome to the Pacific

U.S. Marine Capt. George Tolhurst McArthur, whose grandfathers were both in Okinawa before him, sensed his fate in Okinawa. His paternal grandfather landed in Okinawa as a U.S. soldier during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. A decade later, his maternal grandfather came to Okinawa as a missionary doctor and lived on the island for five years. With these family histories, he decided to collect oral histories from those who worked with his maternal grandfather, George Monroe Tolhurst.

McArthur, a communication strategy and operations officer with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, first came to Okinawa in 1999 to meet his mother’s nanny, Nobuko Futenma, who was the house maid for the Tolhurs from 1959 to 1963. McArthur came back to Okinawa as his first duty station in 2014.

“I was excited when I learned I would be stationed in Okinawa,” said McArthur, a native of Chapin, South Carolina. “I had heard so many stories growing up from my mother and uncles who spent their early childhood years on this island. I came to Okinawa when I was small for a short visit. As an adult now, I

STORY AND PHOTO BY NIKA NASHIRO, MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS PACIFIC

Marine comes back to family roots on Okinawa
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wanted to learn more about the family history and legacy of my late grandfather.”

Medical effort by missionaries
The Tolhurst family history with Okinawa dates back to 1956 when Dr. Tolhurst and his family first arrived in Okinawa as a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary doctor from Georgia. War-torn Okinawa had lost two-thirds of medical staff during the battle, and had limited clinics and medical care providers.

The Seventh-Day Adventists operated a small clinic in Shuri, Naha City, in 1953 with the help of a U.S. military doctor volunteering at the clinic twice a week. Humanitarian efforts, such as establishing medical facilities, were one of the ways missionaries evangelized to the local residents after the Battle of Okinawa. In 1958, Makimimato Clinic opened in Urasoe City, headed by Tolhurst.

Adventist Medical Center
While local clinics were in full operation, a central Adventist Medical Center hospital was being constructed. The medical center was completed on March 1, 1959, located in Uenoya, Naha City; later relocating to Nishihara Town in the 1980s. Ejler Jensen, then president of The Seventh-Day Adventist Okinawa Mission, assigned Tolhurst to be the first medical director of AMC.

Postwar Okinawa’s limited access to sanitation and medical facilities led to outbreaks of contagious diseases such as dysentery, measles, encephalitis and tuberculosis. The patients were amazed by the immediate effect of donated medicine from the U.S. military such as penicillin, steroids and other antibiotics. Word-of-mouth spread throughout Okinawa and patients managed to travel from all over the island to be examined at the clinic.

The hospital occasionally offered free medical examinations to military patients, and patients benefited from the medical care provided.

Grandfather’s legacy continues

“Medical effort by missionaries was a force that could not be stopped by the Islands. Sometimes, medical supplies and equipment were also donated by the U.S. military and U.S. organizations in Okinawa. To name a few, an ambulance, birthing table, an operating table, an X-ray machine, an anesthetic machine, refrigerator and a sink were donated.

“AMC ordered medicine and supplies via U.S. Army Hospital Ryuku Island on Camp Kuwae, now Camp Lester – a process which was started by Dr. Tolhurst,” said Michie Kuniyoshi, who was a nurse during the early 1960s. “Every doctor who was assigned to AMC went to the military hospital once a week and volunteered. This was an act of kindness reciprocating with what each other needed during that time of austerity.”

Medical effort by AMC went beyond bringing cutting edge supplies and modern procedures to Okinawa. With the help of the U.S. military, medical staff flew to neighboring islands to take care of emergency patients.

“Our main goal was and still is to serve others where there are medical needs,” said Norris Matsumoto, the director of AMC.

“Back in the day, with the help of the U.S. military, many local residents benefitted from the medical assistance we provided.”

Piecing together family history
Staff members who shared parts of their lives in late 1950s to 1960s with the Tolhurts gathered to pass on their history with McArthur. The reunion brought back memories that launched the former hospital employees into continuous conversation. The outpouring of almost-forgotten history was strong again as each staff member took turns reminiscing about their encounters with the Tolhurts.
Motivated by the educational opportunities the Marine Corps had to offer, Percival Lefthand was served in his close-knit family in southern Montana to take a shot at earning the title of United States Marine. 

“I did two years of community college,” said Lefthand. “I didn’t really know where I wanted to go after that, but I always wanted to join the military.”

After finishing recruit training, Lefthand returned to his home at the Crow Reservation and spent time with the family he hadn’t seen in three months. “When I went home after boot camp, there was a ‘Crow Fair,’” said Lefthand. “It’s where we all come together once a year to set up camp and thousands of people show up.”

Even though Lefthand was not able to attend the Crow Fair, what happened at the event left him in awe. “They announced my name to let everyone know that I joined the Marine Corps.” said Lefthand. “It’s where we all come together once a year to set up camp and thousands of people show up.”

Prior to enlisting, Lefthand, for the most part, enjoyed his time on the reservation. He especially enjoyed spending time learning more about his heritage. “I used to go with my grandparents to a place where all the elders would meet and eat. I would sit there with them and listen to them tell stories,” he said. Today, he remains in touch with his heritage through his tribe’s flag, a single eagle feather, a bag of sweetgrass, and a bag of bear root. He uses the bags of bear root and sweetgrass for prayers in tandem with the eagle feather to give him protection for his days going forward. November is Native American Heritage Month and serves to honor all Native American service members who are currently serving or who have served.

Okinawa Marine reflects on Native American heritage

Lance Cpl. Ryan Pulliam, Marine Corps Installations Pacific

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STORIES OKINAWA 3

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 4, 2019 A STARS AND STRIPES COMMUNITY PUBLICATION
ILLUMINATIONS ON OKINAWA
Light up for Christmas in paradise

A STARS AND STRIPES COMMUNITY PUBLICATION NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 4, 2019

Illuminations at Okinawa Zoo & Museum

From Christmas through New Year, the Okinawa Zoo & Museum gives off an exceptional radiance with 1.4 million bulbs. Not only that, the location becomes a stage for many festivities to pump up the excitement.

With “Super Aurora Attraction/Super beam light show,” a laser light show as a main feature, illuminations of various themes will be displayed to include “Illumination of palm trees”, “Tunnel of light”, “Niagara (water-fall-simulating illumination)”, “Okinawa Lantern (Shisa dog-shaped illuminations).” Plus, there will be “The Park of Snow” where you can enjoy snow tube riding, building a snowman and more.

This is a three-part event, each of which is dedicated to Christmas, the end of the year, and the new year.

From Dec. 21 to 30, under the title “Christmas Fantasy,” Santa Claus will also visit the zoo. A herd of zombies are also expected to join the party, bringing with them more chills in the sub-tropical winter.

On Dec. 31, “Nenmatsu (year-end) Countdown” will take place to celebrate the New Year with fireworks and live music.

From Jan. 2 through 6, the illuminations continue under the title “Snow and light winter story” where mochi pounding will be held, and Japanese lion dancing will be performed.

Ryukyu Lantern Festival

In Okinawa, some illuminations have a historical touch to them. Murasaki Mura Ryukyu Kingdom Theme Park will once again host the Ryukyu Lantern Festival starting Dec. 1.

Enjoy as lanterns of various colors, sizes, and styles light up the park’s Ryukyu-style buildings. Under the lights, buildings and streets in a traditional style will set a mood much different from other illuminations. Memorable scenes such as a stone-paved road lit with a line of Chinese red lanterns, and a huge statuesque lantern in the shape of a king welcomes visitors inside.

Plus, don’t miss the projection mapping performance, along with entertainment such as Hula dancing and live music. Festival foods like steamed meat buns, skewered chicken and more will also be available for purchase.

By Shoji Kudaka, Stripes Okinawa

Although a white Christmas is unlikely, every year a season of lights surely comes to Okinawa. Starting late November, illuminations begin at many locations to set the mood for a holiday season. It may still be warm on the island, but the colorful lights announce the arrival of the “sub-tropical paradise of Japan.”

BY SHOJI KUDAKA, STRIPES OKINAWA
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MAKE PLANS FOR THESE FUN EVENTS

35TH NAHA MARATHON: Dec. 1, 9 a.m.; Time limit 6 hours 15 minutes (by 3:15 p.m.); 30,000 runners run across Naha City, Haebaru-cho, Yaese-cho, Itoman City, and Tomigusuku City; 098-862-9902; www.naha-marathon.jp.

OKINAWA MARKET 2019: Dec. 7-8, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; a weekend full of food grown in Nanjo City; free admission; Nanjo City public parking lot (next to new Nanjo City Hall); 098-860-6077; www.nanjo-foodfest.com/.

OKINAWA BREAD SWEETS FESTA 2019 WINTER: Dec. 14-15, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Hosted by bagel store coco bagel, Okinawa bakeries and confectioneries gather and present their foods; at Okinawa Cellular Stadium; free admission; www.okinawabreadssweetsfesta.jp/okinawabreadssweetsfesta.html.

SUMIJI CHICHIJIMA FESTIVAL 2019: Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; stage performances; all-you-can-stuff vegetables, raffle, etc.; at le-son Noson Kankyo Kaihen Center; free admission; no parking available; Village Industrial Festival and Lifelong Learning Festival jointly hosted; 0980-49-3161; www.okinawa.jp/.

22ND KUNIGAMI TRAIL RUN: Dec. 15-16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 100K and 75K courses; Yakiniku (BBQ) party after the Dec. 8, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sumo wrestling in Okinawa; TOURNAMENT: Dec. 15-16, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sumo wrestling in Okinawa; TOUR: Dec. 15-16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sumo wrestling in Okinawa; tickets: 5,000-14,000 yen; free parking available; at Uruma City Gushikawa Dome; 098-890-5577; www.sumo-okinawa.jp/.

KINAWA YAMBARU SEA TO SUMMIT 2019: Dec. 14 at 2 p.m., Environment Symposium, at Nago City Haneji Branch; Dec. 15, 6:50 a.m., kayaking, biking, trekking at Yagachi Beach; environmental sporting event that’s being held in 13 different locations in Japan, first time to be held in Okinawa; event to enjoy and appreciate the nature rather than competition, 11,550 yen to participate; free parking available; www.seatosummit.jp/en/1111.

7TH KUNIGAMI TRAIL RUNNING: Dec. 14; 19K, 12K run, 8.6K walk courses; at Kunigami Forest Park; 098-43-5531; www.kunigami-trail.com/.

23ND WAKATEDA WO MIRU TSUDOI: Dec. 21, 6:30 - 8 a.m.; A gathering at the Nakagusuku Castle to pray for eternal prosperity by viewing the Wakateda Sunrise; at the Nakagusuku Castle; free admission; free parking available up to 50 lots; www.sumo-okinawa.jp/okinawabreadssweetsfesta/.

OZUMO OKINAWA PROVINCIAL TOUR: Dec. 15 - 16, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; ticket: 1,500 yen at the door; at Kadena-cho Town Hall; free parking up to 272 lots available; www.okinawa-provincial-tour.com/.

OKINAWA CULTURAL TOURISM CONTENTS PROGRAM: Oct. 11 through Feb. 9, 2020; four different shows: “la carte”: Okinawan performing arts on Oct. 11-13, “NEO Rukuyu”: entertainment show in Okinawa style on Nov. 29-Dec. 1, “Okinawa San”; Okinawan musical on Jan. 10-12 and “Gungachi Comedy”: comedy on Jan. 7-9; at Tenbusu Hall and Palette Civic Theater (only Okinawa San); tickets: 2,500 yen for adults, 2,000 yen for high school students and younger; free for preschoolers; no parking available; 098-987-0926, okinawabreadssweetsfesta.com/en.

KADENA GO! GO! FESTIVAL: Feb. 9, 3 - 7 p.m.; spotlighting musicians between teenage to people in their 30’s, musicians from Kadena-cho play all kinds of music-pops, hip hop, rock, etc.; tickets: 1,000 yen in advance, 1,500 yen at the door; at Kadadena-cho Town Hall; free parking up to 272 lots available, toll parking also available in the vicinity; 098-956-1111.

MOONLIGHT CRUISE IN SOUTHEAST BOTANICAL GARDENS: Until March 31, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.; experience the Mixed Reality by cruising in Southeast Botanical Gardens by next generation kart; adults (junior high school students and older) - 1,100 yen, 4-year-old to elementary school students - 550 yen on top of admission fee: adults - 1,980 yen, senior & high school students - 210 yen, elementary & junior high school students - 660 yen, free for under 6-year-old; reservation required for cruise; free parking available; 098-939-2555; www.southeast-botanical.jp/moonlight/.
**Stripes Sports Trivia**

Who was the first player, after a record-breaking season in which he led his team to an NBA-record 73 wins and set an individual record of 402 three-pointers (smashing his own previous league record of 286 set the year before), in NBA history to be elected league MVP by a unanimous vote?

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**The Weekly Crossword**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**P**eople in Japan live a long time, as you likely know, but did you know the country had the highest life expectancy of 194 nations surveyed by the World Health Organization in 2016? Japanese live to a whoppin’ average of 83.7 years old — 80.5 for men and 86.8 for women. If you’re curious, the U.S. ranked 31st at age 79.3, with men living to be 76.9 and women making it to 81.6.

Answers to Last Week’s Crossword:

**ACROSS**
1 Hook for large fish 15 Mink
2 Like some cheeses 16 Piano
3 Major defeat 17 Radio
4 Pain in the neck 19 Boulders
5 Like some berries 20 Knobs
6 Baby’s bat 21 Wrist
7 Hot rock 22 Rundown
8 Buoy 23 Jumps
9 Runners sore spot 24 Poker stake
10 Measure up 25 Type of fever or cold
11 Coat-of-arms piece? 26 Twitch
12 Flagpole 27 Chop
13 Sucker 28 Gobble
14 Bra (for men) 29 Stewards

**DOWN**
1 Deep cut 34 Anagram for "spare"
2 Pain in the neck 35 Like Silver’s rider
3 Love 36 Blows
4 Sneeze 37 Like some gases
5 Finger 38 Measure up
6 Nuts 39 Skewer
7 Brains 40 Stunt
8 Pulses 41 Relieve of
9 Arm 42 Suck
10 31st birthday (numeral) 43 Dip
11 Skin soother 44 "The___ have it!
12 Answer 45 "_My feet are killing me!
13 "Spare"

---

**SUDOKU**

**Difficulty: Medium**

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**HOW TO SOLVE:**
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

8 6 9 4 9 7 5
6 9 4 5 1 8 7
4 8 7 6 7 8
5 2 5 8

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**I’m nervous.**

Kinchoo shitemasu.

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**Kanji of the week**

渡 (Wataru or To) (Cross)

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:
Asiana Airlines Specials

Special Airlines tickets to New York!

Okinawa - John F Kennedy International Airport (Round trip) $994

Conditon:
- Prices are per person, in US dollars, based on rate 105
- Subject to yen rate when you purchase
- Discount will apply for Child/Infant, ask agent
- Prices include taxes, fuel charges
- Please purchase by 2 weeks prior to departure or until seats are filled

Presidents’ Day Seoul 4 days

15th - 19th February

- $46,000

MLK Seoul 4 days

18th - 21st January

- $46,000

Christmas Seoul 4 days

25th - 28th December

- $53,000

Sapporo 4 days

3rd - 6th February

- $139,000 - $145,000

all you can eat and drink at Sapporo Beer Garden included

*Seats are limited, Hurry up!!