

they needed the blood for (was powerful), said Diane Chong, who knows all too well about blood transfusions. "Those speakers brought tears to my eyes."

Chong's grandfather had leukemia and needed blood transfusions. She admitted at the time she was scared to donate, but made a conscious decision to donate on her 50th birthday.

"It is now that I know I am doing something for mankind," Chong said. "Something I could give and know where it is going to someone in need."

The Blood Donor Center takes time each January, which is National Blood Donor Month, to thank its donors who help ensure an adequate blood supply. Blood has a shelf life of only 42 days and must continually be replenished. The Armed Services Blood Program wants to encourage those who have never donated before to consider giving. A single blood donation could help save more than three lives.

Individuals and units recognized at the ceremony include:

Top Whole Blood Donors

- Harry Beasor, Jr.
- Charles Brown
- Diane Chong
- David Partaka,
- James Rayburn, Jr.
- Michelle Williams
- Alex Zotomayor

Top Platelet Donors

- William Andrew II
- Christopher Dunlap
- Frank Lange
- Clyde Wong
- Robert Fowler
- Richard Hill
- Elizabeth Gocong
- Glennys Uiagalelei

Top Blood Drive Coordinators

- Garrison Sgt. Maj. Michael Budomo, Pearl Harbor Shipyard
- Master Sgt. Rodd Maeyoshimoto, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam 15th Aircraft Maintenance Unit
- Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Aker, Joint Intelligence Operation Center

Community Support

- University of Hawaii Army ROTC
- University of Hawaii Air Force ROTC
- Schofield Post Exchange
- Hickam Base Exchange
- Navy Exchange

Top Unit

- Pearl Harbor Shipyard
- 84th Engineers Battalion at Schofield Barracks
- 205th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Shafter

Tripler Army Medical Center Blood Battle Winner

- Alpha Company

Phlebotomist of the Year

- Spc. Dong Lee

Red Cross Volunteer

- Bernice Oshita, who had more than 10,000 volunteer hours

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