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## Gold Star parents remember son





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May 29, 2018 + Volume 5, Issue 4

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### From the Commander



### U.S. Army Garrison Japan A Message from the Garrison Commander

Greetings to everyone throughout the U.S. Army in Japan,

I encourage all of our Service Members to participate in the Living Pattern Survey for Overseas Cost of Living Allowance.

COL Phil Gage

The COLA Survey is your opportunity to have a direct impact on COLA rates right here in Japan. We want everyone to have the same purchasing power

overseas as they would back in the states.

This survey only comes around once every three years so we need full participation because generous feedback will bring generous results!

Either a Service Member, or Spouse, can take the survey. Consider all your expenses associated with living in Japan, like highway tolls for off-duty activities, cell phone purchases, JCI and Japan Road Tax.

The quality of life for our military members and their families is a top priority for the U.S. Army in Japan.

Your voices matter to us. So take the survey. It's available online at www.usfj.mil from now until May 31, 2018.

- COL Phil Gage





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Asian American

**Pacific Islander** 

Heritage Month

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## **Asian-Pacific Heritage**

The cogs represent the diverse ethnic groups from Asia and the Pacific Islands and are arranged to form the nations of this region.

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31 MAY 2018 1400 Community Recreation Center Camp Zama, Japan

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# **Pet PCS Update**



Service members who PCS'd to Japan with their pet(s) on United Airlines will now be eligible to fly back to the United States using the United PetSafe program, regardless of new restrictions.

Members will be required to provide proof that United originally moved their pet(s) to Japan using a fillable form that can be downloaded from the USFJ website.

**CLICK HERE** for the form!

The form will also be distributed through command channels.

If your pet is on the restricted breed list but it did not come over to Japan on a United Airlines flight, you are not eligible to return to the states via the United PetSafe program.

If you are eligible under this program, please fill out

United's PetSafe Military Booking Request form with as much information as possible and submit it to petsafe@united. com. Service members can expect a reply from United via phone within 48 hours of submission.

It's important to note that for United PetSafe customers, there will be a scheduled pet service interruption from June 18 through July 8, 2018 as United makes adjustments for future pet movement. This applies to all pet movements on United.

In addition to this updated PetSafe policy, The U.S. Transportation Command is working to expand Patriot Express pet capacity in the near future. Discussions are ongoing and more information will be provided as soon as it becomes available.

If you have questions regarding the United Airlines PetSafe program update, please CLICK HERE to send an e-mail message or call 1-800-575-3335 or 1-832-235-1541.

Other questions should be directed to Camp Zama's Transportation Management Office.





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# **Exchange Pet Contest**

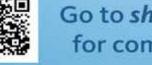




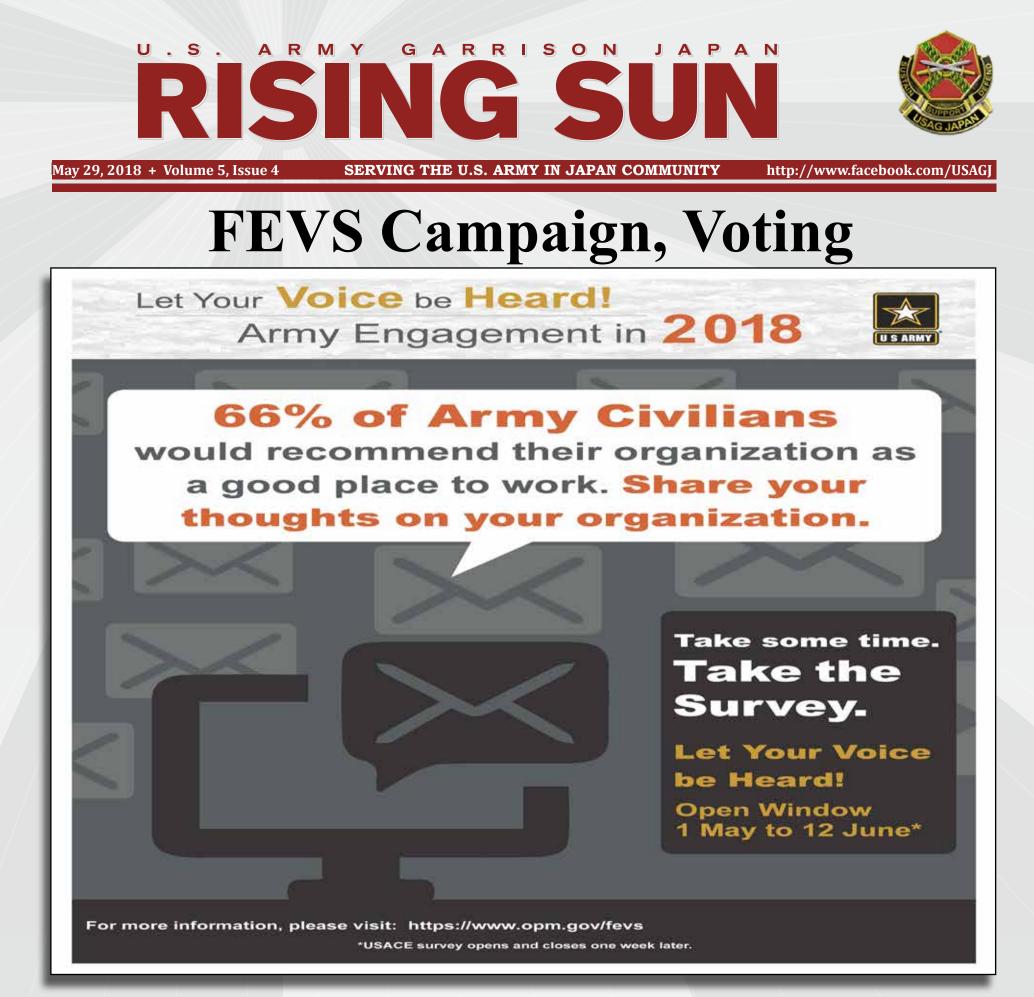
### Send us a picture of your Patriot Pet for a chance to WIN ONE (1) GRAND PRIZE **\$1,000 EXCHANGE GIFT CARD**

or 1 of 2 First Place Prizes: \$500 Exchange Gift Card or 1 of 8 Runner-Up Prizes: \$250 Exchange Gift Card





Go to shopmyexchange.com/sweepstakes for complete details and links to enter.



#### **Voting: Your vote is your voice** Are you registered to vote?

Have you received your Absentee Ballot for your states' primary election yet? It's a midterm election year, and you don't have to wait until November to have your voice heard. In the month of May there will be 12 different States that will hold a primary.

CLICK HERE to see if your State is one of them.

You may still have time to register and request your absentee ballot today. Voting is one of our most fundamental rights as U.S. citizens. We are working to ensure Service members, their eligible family members, and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so - even from here in Japan. Let your voice be heard! Send your vote home!

# your VOTE is your VOICE

# RISING SUN



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### Gold Star parents remember son



by Lance D. Davis, Public Affairs Specialist

Oct. 1, 2009 was a normal day for Wendy Holland. It began with seeing her husband, 1st Sgt. Will Holland, assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion in Nashville, Tn., off to work. She also saw her 11-year-old son, Logan, off to school.

Wendy Holland, left, pictured with her son Pfc. Robert Sanchez, right, after his graduation from Infantry School. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)

Her day continued

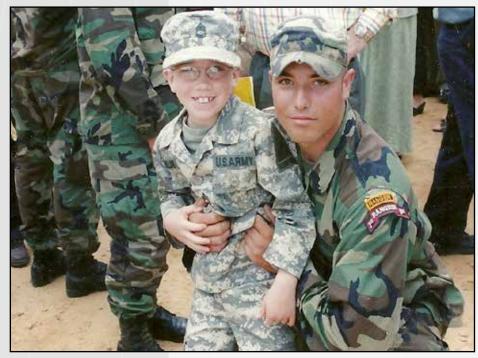
with a visit to the gym and running numerous errands.

Later that afternoon, she was leaving the grocery store to meet Logan who had arrived home early.

To Wendy's surprise, Logan told her that two men had been to their home looking for her.

"Why did you answer the door?" Wendy asked her son.

"You know you're not supposed to open the door," she said.



Logan Holland, left, pictured with his brother Robert Sanchez, right, after Sanchez's graduation from Ranger School. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)



1st Sgt. Will Holland, left, pictured with his son Pfc. Robert Sanchez, right, during Sanchez's visit to support hometown recruiting at Holland's recruiting station in Melbourne, Fla. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)

"Well, they were dressed like Dad," Logan responded. "I thought they were looking for Dad!"

As Wendy held the groceries tightly in her arms, she screamed as tears began to roll down her face. Logan started to cry as well.

She quickly realized the Soldiers had not come to their home about her husband.

In her heart, she knew it was about their older son, Robert Sanchez, a Soldier deployed in Afghanistan.

Wendy called her husband immediately to tell him what was going on.

After speaking with the rear detachment for Robert's unit, Will told his wife she had to open the door and talk to the men. That was the only way they could find out what happened because she was the point of contact listed for Robert's next of kin.

Wendy pulled herself together as she heard the knocks.





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### Gold Star parents...continued

by Lance D. Davis, Public Affairs Specialist

She opened the door for two Soldiers. One was a chaplain wearing dress blues, and the other one had on dress greens.

The news she received from the two men changed their family's life forever.

Sgt. Robert Daniel Sanchez, 24, was killed Oct. 1, 2009 in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device after he and his squad had finished a combat mission.

Robert was assigned to the U.S. Army's B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, based out of Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., serving as an automatic rifleman and team leader.

At the time of his death, he was on his fifth deployment with three previous deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan.

"He died doing what he loved," says Wendy. "For someone to do their job, love it and die is giving whole heartedly."

Robert, a native of Miami, was brought back to Satellite Beach, Fla. for his funeral and burial.



Sgt. Robert Daniel Sanchez pictured during one of his deployments. Sanchez was assigned to the U.S. Army's B Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment based out of Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. He served with three deployments to Iraq and two in Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)



Sgt. Robert Daniel Sanchez's official photo before his fifth deployment, which was to Afghanistan. Sanchez had three previous deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)

This place was significant to his parents because he graduated from Satellite Senior High School in 2004, enlisting in the Army that summer.

Although the overwhelming support from the community — celebrating Robert as a hero who sacrificed for his country — was appreciated, Wendy sees their loss no differently from anyone else who has lost a child.

"I don't care how you lose your child," says Wendy. "It's the worst thing in the world."

Will describes their loss as life changing.

"You can't prepare for it. You can't train for it," he says.

"When you go through something like this, it changes everything."

Wendy admits she was very upset and headed to a dark place in the aftermath of her son's death.

"What was his sacrifice for? People don't even care," Wendy says, recalling her thoughts that were out of her anger, sadness and pain.

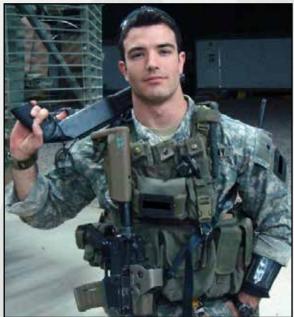
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### **Gold Star parents...continued**



by Lance D. Davis, Public Affairs Specialist

She gives much credit to her husband for helping her come towards the light again to cope with her agony.

"I was messed up in the head and probably needed major counseling" she says.

Sgt. Robert Daniel Sanchez's poses for a photo during his fifth deployment, which was to Afghanistan. Sanchez had three previous deployments to Iraq and one to Afghanistan. gym and busy" (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)

"He kept me in the

Will made dealing with his wife's grief a

priority over his own out of concern for her.

"I don't think I really thought about me grieving for a couple of years because I was too worried about her," he says.

"I had to keep her focused and busy. Yes, we all love Rob, and it's tragic that he's gone, but we still had a son at home and three other children."

Will told Wendy he was willing to retire from the Army to be at home with her, but she said no to his offer.



Wendy Holland and other community members take a group photo after completing an 8-mile walk in honor of her late son Robert Sanchez. (Photo courtesy of Wendy Holland)



Robert Sanchez holds Sampson, his family's dog, during his last visit to his parents' home in Nashville, Tn. before his fifth deployment, which was to Afghanistan. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)

"Rob wouldn't have wanted him to get out," she says.

Will continued his Army career, currently serving as command sergeant major of U.S. Army Garrison Japan.

"We were excited when we got orders to come to Japan because Rob always wanted to come here," says Wendy.

More than eight years later, the Hollands remain strong, keeping the memory of their son alive.

"We remember Robert by talking about him," says Will.

He also wears an Airborne Ranger in the Sky bracelet. Will says he has only taken it off once for a medical procedure.

Wendy keeps her family's home with lots of Rob's photos and memorabilia, including his formal uniform he had while in Afghanistan.

"My house is like a shrine to Rob," she says. "I asked my younger son (Logan) if he thought it was weird, and he said, 'Mom, it would be weird if it wasn't."

On Oct. 1, 2017, Wendy and a group of women from the Camp Zama community participated in a walk to honor Robert's memory. They walked eight miles around the installation, placing a flag at every mile to represent each year since Robert's death.





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### Gold Star parents...continued

by Lance D. Davis, Public Affairs Specialist

"It doesn't upset me to talk about my son," says Wendy.

She describes her son as someone who was very handsome, extremely intelligent, and so full of life, with a love for his family, friends and all people.

Wendy says she was so happy the family was able to celebrate Robert's 24th birthday on July 19, 2009 before he deployed.

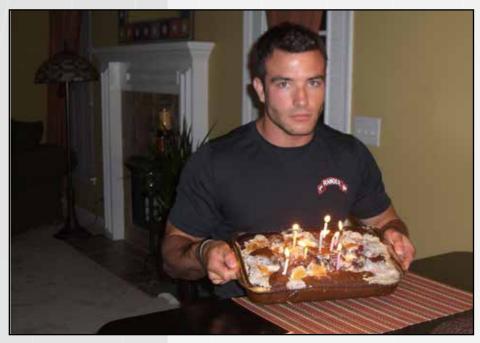
This was the first and last birthday they celebrated with him since he had joined the Army.

She also defines her late son as a true patriot for America, remembering how the events of 911 first inspired his interest in joining the military when he was only in middle school.

"We have to be proud of our son for becoming a Soldier," she says. "How can we not be?"

The Hollands were married on Memorial Day weekend 20 years ago. This weekend is bittersweet for them.

They gain a year of marriage, but they mourn the loss of their son.



Robert Sanchez holds his cake for his 24th birthday July 19, 2009 at his parents' home in Nashville, Tn. This was his last visit before deploying to Afghanistan. Sanchez was killed Oct. 1, 2009 in Afghanistan after completing a combat mission. (Photo courtesy of Command Sgt. Maj. Will Holland)



Wendy Holland places an American flag and picture of her late son Sgt. Robert Sanchez on the ground Oct. 1, 2017 to honor the 8th anniversary of his death. Holland and several women from the Camp Zama community participated in an 8-mile walk around the installation in memory of Sanchez. (Photo courtesy of Wendy Holland)

Since their son's death, this is the first year the Hollands have celebrated their anniversary because they realized this is what he would want.

The Hollands say Memorial Day is more than a holiday.

They truly understand the familiar phrase "all gave some and some gave all" because it hits home.

This is why they remember their son on this day and every day.

"Rob gave the ultimate sacrifice because he loved his country so much," says Wendy.

"How many of us can say we'll die doing what we love?"

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# **MWR** Calendar



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# Weekly DFAC Menu

Hours of Operation and Prices: Breakfast: 7 - 9 a.m. / \$3.45 Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. / \$5.60 Dinner: 5 - 6:30 p.m. / \$4.85 Brunch: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. / \$6.25 Supper: 5 - 6 p.m. / \$7.65 Daily entrée includes: Salad bar, Desserts, Fruits and Beverages

#### **Daily Breakfast Menu:**

Eggs to Order / Grilled Bacon Grilled Turkey Sausage Sausage Patties **Creamed Beef** Biscuits French Toast / Pancakes Oatmeal / Grits **Steamed Rice** Hashed Brown Potatoes Muffins / Assorted Bread Assorted Cereals / Cottage Cheese **Breakfast Pastries** 



### Facility Lunch May 29, 11:39 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Minestrone Soup / New England Clam Chowder Lasagna / Spinach Lasagna Szechwan Chicken Spaghetti with Meat Sauce / Marinara Sauce Mashed Potatoes / Steamed Rice Seasoned Italian Blend / Grazed Carrots **Toasted Garlic Bread** 



#### New England Clam Chowder Yankee Pot Roast Greate Park Gliops **Mashed Potatoes**

#### Seasoned Green Beans Price: \$4.85 .

### facility Lunch May 30, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chicken Gumbo Soup / Cream of Potato Soup **BBQ Chicken / Fried Chicken / Baked Chicken BBQ Pork Spareribs / Southern Fried Catfish** Baked Macaroni & Cheese / Corn Bread Muffins Glazed Sweet Potatoes / Steamed Rice Okra & Tomato Gumbo / Black Eyed Peas Southern Style Greens / Southern Fried Okra



Dinner May30, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Chileken Gumbo Soup Gream of Potato Soup **Beef Yakisoba** Lemon Baked Fish Franconia Potatoes Steamed Rice Gallico Corn

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Price: \$4.85







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### **Weekly DFAC Menu Continued**

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#### **Daily Breakfast Menu:**

Eggs to Order / Grilled Bacon
Grilled Turkey Sausage
Sausage Patties
Creamed Beef
Biscuits
French Toast / Pancakes
Oatmeal / Grits
Steamed Rice
Hashed Brown Potatoes
Muffins / Assorted Bread
Assorted Cereals / Cottage Cheese
Breakfast Pastries







### ing facing Brunch Jun 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

12

Omelet / Bolled Eggs / Pancakes / Grits / Biscults Creamed Beef / Hashed Brown Potatoes Beef Rice Soup / Cream of Mushroom Soup Grilled Sirioin Steak / Fried Chicken Baked Italian Sausage with Onion & Pepper Mashed Potatoes / Steamed Rice Green Beans Cassserole Sautéed Mushrooms & Onions





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# RISING SUN



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# **Disaster Preparedness Reminder**



U.S. Army Garrison Japan's thoughts are with those affected by the eruptions in Hawaii. If Japan had a volcanic eruption, do you know how and where you would shelter in place?

Please pick up a copy of the USAG Japan Disaster Preparedness Handbook or talk to the emergency management coordinator for your unit/organization today!



#### **USARJ/USAGJ Website Update**

The U.S. Army Japan and U.S. Army Garrison Japan websites are still offline. Please be patient during this transition to a new website system. CLICK HERE to find resources and information in the meantime.

#### Weekly Newsletter Submission Guidelines

The Rising Sun is a weekly newsletter produced by U.S. Amy Garrison Japan Public Affairs and sent out every MONDAY (except on holidays or otherwise stated) to Camp Zama community members, providing news, information and highlights about the U.S. Army in Japan. CLICK HERE to send submissions for weekly newsletter. Please include relevant details. Submission deadline is THURSDAY by NOON.

