

\$363,000 won in lawsuit over Lualualei crash

The state rodeo champion and his wife have won a \$363,000 judgment against the federal government as a result of injuries he suffered when his pickup truck was struck by another vehicle at Lualualei Naval Magazine in 1985.

Federal Judge Alan Kay ruled in favor of Stanley Joseph Jr. and his wife, Claudette, in holding the federal government responsible for the negligence of Marine Private Joseph G. Mraz III, the other vehicle's driver.

Kay said Mraz was speeding at about 50 mph on the wrong side of narrow 15-foot-wide Mississippi Road when he hit Joseph's

pickup truck.

Joseph, a drywall carpenter, suffered concussion and back, neck and shoulder pains, the judge said. Joseph had to stop working for about 2½ months and also had to suspend and then limit his rodeo, jogging and hunting activities, Kay said.

The judge said Joseph is still unable to perform in those activities "pain-free" and at the same level of excellence and enjoyment.

Jerry Hiatt, Joseph's attorney, said his client was the rodeo champion at the time of the accident and still holds the current title.