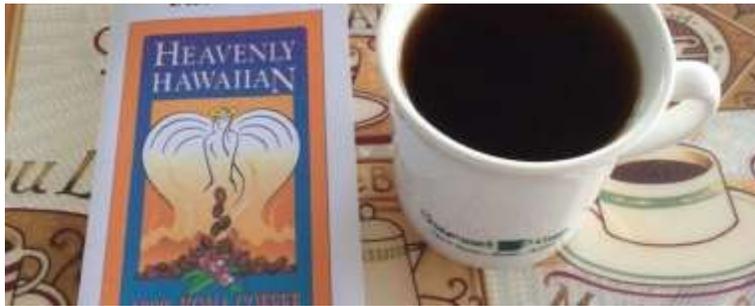




BIRMA Bulletin August 2017

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired Military Association
Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

AUGUST 26 LUNCH MEETING



HEAVENLY HAWAIIAN COFFEE FARM

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, August 26 at the **Dave & Trudy Bateman** residence in Kailua-Kona. The BIRMA board will meet at 1030, with a catered lunch starting at 1200. Cost is \$10 per person. Guests are welcome. After the lunch meeting, there will be a special tour of the Bateman's Heavenly Hawaiian coffee farm. For more information, see President's Corner below and check the coffee farm online at <https://heavenlyhawaiian.com/>.

Directions: Their home is at 78-6817 Makenawai St., Kailua-Kona HI 96740. The farm address is 78-1136 Bishop Road, Holualoa, HI 96725...very near their residence. Dave's phone number is 895-5899 should you need assistance. **Maps are attached to this email.**

Please call **Neal Herbert** at 935-1946, or by e-mail to nfherbert@twc.com for reservations...no later than August 16, please.

DUES

Annual membership dues for July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018 are now payable. Dues are \$20 if you are 70 or younger; \$12 for those 71 years or older. Please mail dues to BIRMA, c/o 224 Paukaa Dr, Hilo HI 96720 or pay at the next meeting. Call **935-1946** with any questions.

TV & VCR Repair

All makes & models, free estimates, reasonable rates. Call **Gil Sampaia** at 934-0616.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Hello to all, and hope you are having a great summer! Jackie and I are having a lazy summer and have not done much except the on-going yard work - removing a few trees, etc. We had a great time at the last meeting in Waikoloa, great food and an excellent speaker, Rick Ruchty, who spoke about the homeless veterans in our community. It gave a whole new view of our homeless and how many of our veterans have been treated. BIRMA's scholarship recipient this year is Israel Rodriguez-Herring. As per our criteria, he is a direct descendant of a military retiree. We are hoping he can attend our coming meeting in Aug. The meeting was adjourned followed by a fun time visiting and a great lunch at the golf club. As noted above, we are looking forward to the coming lunch meeting at Dave and Trudy's home. Dave has stated he will give the BIRMA members a guided tour of the coffee farm and processing center after lunch. This should be a fun and interesting time. What a great opportunity to find out all the work that goes into that "Cup of Joe" that we all enjoy. Find out what it's like to be a coffee farmer. Coming from a farming background, Jackie and I definitely appreciate all the work that is involved. Jackie's dad always said he didn't need to go to church. He saw God's work every day and learned that He was the one in control of everything - he (dad) just did what he could humanly do. We are hoping for a big turn out, so **call Neal** to let him know so the lunch can be planned. Jackie and I will be celebrating our 49th anniversary on the 10th of Aug. We met when I was on my first assignment and she had come home for college for a wedding which lead to our wedding a year later. Nothing special planned but already have plans for next year! Be safe, healthy, and drive careful. Looking forward to seeing everyone in August.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!



**Nestorio and Elva Domingo
Celebrating their 42nd in Manila**

HELLO FROM HARRIET OWENS AND JOE MESZAROS



Joe next to new home



Harriet with new friend

We recently moved from Hawaii (Big Island) to another island. No not another Hawaiian Island, but Wellesley Island, NY. We landed here on February 14 (yes, Valentine's Day) in the midst of two snow storms. According to the locals, first major snow of the 2016-17 season of winter. Little did we know another would hit in March.

Our joining this GREAT Organization, Big Island Retired Military Association (BIRMA), was a result of encouragement from friends we had met on the Big Island. Though our total years were twelve years, we have been members for at least three of those years. We enjoyed our participation in BIRMA. We were able to travel around the Island and visit our military friends every two months, sometimes at a restaurant, sometimes at a member's home. The socialization was only a part of being in the Association. At bimonthly meetings, the Board meets followed by lunch and then a speaker of the community provides a program of interest.

We are now getting settled in our new three story home that is by a golf course. We have a huge back yard provided by the Thousand Island Country Club. There are beautiful trees and flowers, wildlife, birds and chipmunks to enjoy. We do not golf nor do we have a boat docked which provides most of the activity for the residents and tourists. We have our hobbies that include sewing, reading, car and home maintenance (doesn't everybody?) Joe also looks forward to using his "carry" license. Joe is getting involved with a Sportsman Club and Harriet is now meeting ladies who sew and play cards, so we are getting acquainted with our surroundings.

We have joined the Alexandria Bay American Legion Post 904, meeting monthly. Not as much activity such as breakfasts with the VFW 3830 in Puna, but we have occasional access to military support groups. We live very close to Fort Drum near Watertown, NY, where we can go to get many benefits the military has to offer. Our military clinic is separate from the base in Watertown. We will miss all the friends we have made in BIRMA and plan to keep in touch with the newsletter, the website and an occasional phone call. Hopefully other members of the Organization who have moved and want to stay involved are doing so as well.

MEMORIAL DAY AY VETS # 2, HILO



Bill, Kathy and Marilyn with BIRMA bouquet

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**BIRMA MINUTES
Golf Course Bar and Grill
Waikoloa, HI
June 24, 2017**

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called to order by President, Al Lamke at 10:30 AM.

Board attendees: Nestorio Domingo, Al Lamke, Bill and Kathy Tilton, Antonio Gaspar, Dave Bateman, Neal Herbert and Jim Traxler. The guest speaker, Rick Ruchty, sat in on the meeting.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

The bank balance as of June 24, 2017 is \$4450.42; the only transaction since the last report being a \$35 expense for Memorial Day flowers. A check for \$1,000.00 from the Traxlers. \$100.00 from the Lamkes, and \$42.00 from the April meeting were provided to the treasurer. Neal advised that we have no official tax-exempt status from the IRS. It was agreed that Neal would file for a 501c (3) exemption for a cost of \$275.

Welfare: It was noted that Wendy and Skip Hickey are still off Island, but Wendy has improved and continues to do very well,

Scholarship: The scholarship submissions were reviewed by the Board. A decision was made selecting Israel Rodriquez-Herring for the award with the goal of awarding the Scholarship at the August meeting. Several suggestions were made to expand and clarify the scholarship criteria to try to attract more applicants. Neal said he would draft some revisions for the next meeting.

Membership: Kathy Tilton reported that there was one less single member due to Cheryl King's passing. There are presently 47 couples and 27 singles.

Publicity: There was discussion about ordering the trifold flyer. It has been finalized and is ready for printing. A motion was approved to print 1,000 copies for \$263.00 and purchase 12 display holders.

Legislative: Jim reported that a \$850,000 CIP allotment to support design of the West Hawaii Community Veteran Center is waiting for the Governor's signature. Dave Bateman is still actively working on several Veterans Bills, but there was a lot of push back on these Bills this year.

Faded Glory: Flags are still being collected and should be turned into Bill. In the future, flags collected by BIRMA will be retired by the VFW. BIRMA will conduct a ceremonial flag retirement once a year.

Programs: The August 26th BIRMA meeting and luncheon will be hosted by Dave Bateman at his Coffee Farm on the West Side. The October meeting will be on the East Side with location TBD. The Christmas Party will be at Privateer's Cove in Kona and Jim will provide more detail at the August meeting.

Kona 4th of July Parade- Al requested volunteers interested in participating in the Parade to contact him. If there is no interest, BIRMA will not be represented this year.

Old Business: There was discussion about the BIRMA website and how it should/ would be managed. The contract renews this July for a cost of \$658.53 for three years. Al asked that Kathy and Neal do what was necessary to continue transfer of web management from Harriet Owens and to try to reduce costs. More details will be coming at the next meeting. Neal volunteered to publish the Newsletter on a temporary basis until we get a new volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57.

General Membership Meeting/Luncheon

Al opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 1200. Lunch was provided by Ilocos Island Foods at the Waikoloa Golf Course.

After lunch, Rick Ruchty from the Kona Vet Center, discussed Homelessness on the Big Island with his firsthand knowledge and experience as a Veterans Outreach Specialist

Al made some announcements based on the BOD meeting held earlier.

Domingo Gaspar won the 50/50 and the BIRMA share was \$27.00

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.