

# BIRMA Bulletin

## December 2013



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

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Our annual Christmas party will be at newly chartered Lance Cpl Christopher Camero Memorial VFW Post 12122 in Kona at 1200 on Saturday, December 14. **Frank Dickinson and Martha Tumbleson** will be our hosts. We will have our traditional voluntary grab bag (if you want to participate, bring a “unisex” wrapped gift with a \$10 value). There will also be door prizes and gift certificates galore...you are invited to donate any “white elephants” you may have or bring any donations you can acquire from local merchants. Additionally, we will have a special raffle for a lighted wall quilt (above) donated by **Marilyn Herbert**. As in the past, we will invite our friends from the Hilo Council, Navy League to join us. The luncheon will be prepared by the VFW and will cost only **\$12 per person**:

Ham+++Peas & Carrots+++Homemade Cranberry Sauce from the **Hickeys**+++Sweet Potatoes/Yams  
Pistachio Green Salad+++Rolls/Butter+++Red Velvet Cake+++Soda/Punch/Water++  
+Wine included

Beer and hard stuff will be available; donations accepted.

This event is based on minimum of 30 people, so please plan to attend...guests are welcome. The VFW Post is located at the former Swing Zone facility in Kona...see attached directions. Thanks to the recently realigned Saddle road, those coming from East Hawaii will now have a much faster trip at less fuel cost. To further reduce travel expense, consider car-pooling...a list of attendees will be provided by e-mail before the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please call **Frank or Martha** at 327-9638 or by e-mail to [franksnmail@aol.com](mailto:franksnmail@aol.com)...please let them know if you are coming no later than December 7.

There will be no meetings...just good food, gifts and a fun time...hope to see you there!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Skip Hickey

Aloha All,

Our next meeting is our annual Christmas party on Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the new VFW in Kona. Frank and Martha have worked hard to put the Christmas party together. I've talked to the folks at the VFW and they are excited and looking forward to the first Christmas party in their new facility. Make your reservations early and join us at what will prove to be a great celebration of the Christmas season.

Our last meeting at the Nani Mau Gardens in Hilo was a great success. Thirty eight people, including seven guests, enjoyed the good food, great service and the informative guest speaker. LTJG Stephen Halls, Executive Officer, USCGC Kiska gave a very interesting and informative talk. He gave a brief history of the Coast Guard and how it evolved into what we have today. He described the coordination and communication needed to be successful in today's high tech environment. He went on to describe their day to day operations in the local Hawaiian waters. And to no surprise to any of us, their success depends on the professionalism and dedication of the men and woman that serve in the Coast Guard today. They are rightly proud of their accomplishments and are an important part of Home Land Security for our nation.

The annual Veterans Day ceremonies held at the West Hawaii Veterans Cemetery saluted and honored the sacrifices made by veterans and their families, past and present. In a special ceremony, the new POW/MIA memorial was dedicated. The traditional Hawaiian blessing was performed by Kahu Danny Akaka Jr. The vision of the committee, who worked so hard to make this memorial a reality, is that this will be a comforting place to reflect on those who have given so much, that extra measure.

### **OCTOBER LUNCH MEETING AT NANI MAU GARDENS IN HILO**

A big crowd of members and guests enjoyed a delicious 3-entrée buffet and had the opportunity to tour the renovated gardens. We had a very informative presentation by

LTJG Steven Hills, USCG, Executive Officer, USCG Cutter KISKA, including colorful handouts. **Andy & Harriet Anderson**, long-time BIRMA members who were visiting Hawaii from their home in Fort Mohave, Arizona, were there...along with some members we haven't seen for a while. Some pictures are attached, along with minutes of the Board and General Member meetings.

### **WELCOME ABOARD!**



### **Ervin and Rosey Harris**

No stranger to military life, Ervin, his father and his brother all served in the U.S. Air Force. Ervin served 17 1/2 years. In the 1990's, three children came into his life through adoption. The kids are now all in their late teens. Whew! Ervin's favorite thing to do when not at work at TSA is exploring Big Island with Rosey and camera.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota in 1996, Rosey and her son moved to the Sacramento, Ca area. She is a State of CA Certified Massage Therapist. All of her Hawaiian Lomi Lomi Massage instructors thus far were taught by Aunty Margaret Machado.

Ervin and Rosey met in 2005 and married in 2010.

### **VETERANS DAY 2013**

Some pictures from this month's Veterans Day ceremonies attended by BIRMA members:



Floral presentations, Veterans #1, Hilo POW-MIA memorial dedication, Vets #3, Kona

### **HILO HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE**

Information on this year's Hilo Hospice LOL event was previously provided by e-mail. Anyone interested in participating should contact Pearl Lyman at [969-1733](tel:969-1733).

### **MAUNA LANI CHRISTMAS TREE EXHIBIT**

BIRMA will again participate in the annual Christmas Tree charity at the Mauna Lani resort in Kona. How it works: The tree displays, very colorful and unique, will be open to the public from **Dec 5 to Dec 19**. You may donate a dollar or more in the name of the tree that you vote for...each dollar represents one vote. The top winners get big cash prizes; the rest of the money is divided among the other entrants. So, your participation will help BIRMA earn more funds...and pass the word to your friends. **Jackie and Al**

**Lamke** will again be in charge of decorations this year and plan to decorate the BIRMA tree on **Thursday, Dec 5 starting at 0830**. Please call them at 326-9287 if you can assist.

**2014 CALENDAR**

February 22 – Hilo  
April 26 – Kona  
June 28 - TBD

Locations and details will be provided in subsequent bulletins

**ANGEL FLIGHT**

Check this dramatic video with music about combat deceased return flights at following link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Ikj1hZDnw&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Ikj1hZDnw&feature=player_embedded)

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Big Island Retired Military Association  
Nani Mau Gardens - Hilo  
October 26, 2013

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Skip Hickey at 1055.

Board attendees: Skip Hickey, Al Lamke, Neal Herbert, Norm Stahl. Members: Andy Anderson, Joe Meszaros, Frank Dickinson, Martha Tumbleson, Emile Wery.

Minutes - A motion to accept the minutes dated 8-24-13 as published in the October 2013 Bulletin was approved.

Treasurer's report - The Board reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report summarized as follows as of 10-26-13:

Checking Balance	<b>\$2,216.33</b>
CD Balance	<b>\$2,178.92</b>
	<b>\$4,395.25</b>

The board agreed that the two CD's should be consolidated when one of them expires.

Welfare – Neal reported that Carol Sampaia has COPD and is undergoing treatment.

Scholarship - Norm, Scholarship Chair, led a discussion about how schools are notified and lack of response this year. He used e-mails instead of snail mail to reduce costs. It was suggested that Norm use regular mail this year, followed by an e-mail reminder with a poster notice that could be posted on the school bulletin boards. Better publicity in the form of newspaper articles was also mentioned. Al volunteered to assist Norm with the coming year's notifications and offered to contact some schools to discuss their responses.

Membership - Neal reported that there was no change in membership. Presently, BIRMA has 112 members which includes 46 couples and 20 singles. We have 12 life members and 6 widows with free membership. Dues for the most part are paid up for this FY. The board agreed to award honorary memberships in accordance with Article 3, Section 6 of the By-Laws.

Publicity - Neal noted we had 39 sign in to attend today's lunch (38 actually showed up). Notices were placed in both Big Island papers.

Faded Glory - Skip said he was collecting flags for disposal. The next flag disposal ceremony will be either June or August; location to be determined. The VFW posts in Pahoa and Kona will be contacted to see if they will host this event.

Programs – Frank and Martha led a discussion of plans for the December 14 annual Christmas party to be held at the new VFW post in Kona. Details have been decided and will be posted in the next bulletin. Neal said he would contact Hilo Hospice to see if BIRMA can participate in the annual Hospice Light-Up-A-Life event this December. Al said he and Jackie will set up the BURMA Christmas tree at the Mauna Lani hotel again this year.

The February 2014 meeting will be in Hilo; the April lunch will be in Kona. The rest of the year is to be determined.

Other Items-

Skip attended the last Mayor's Veterans Advisory Committee meeting. The board approved a floral display for presentation by BIRMA at the East Hawaii Veterans Day Ceremony. Details on all Veterans Day ceremonies on the Big Island will be forwarded to members by e-mail. There will be no Veterans Day parade in Hilo.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 1150.

### General Member Meeting Minutes

President Hickey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, and then recessed for lunch.

After lunch, Skip introduced our guest speaker, LTJG Steven Hills, USCG, who gave a very informative power point presentation on current Coast Guard District 14 operations. Skip presented LTJG Hills with a Certificate of Appreciation.

\$134 was collected from the 50/50 drawing, with Norm winning half.

The meeting was adjourned at 1400.

Map to VFW Post 12122

74-5562 Makala Blvd, Kailua-Kona

