

BIRMA Bulletin

February 2014

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

MAUNA LOA: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE VOLCANO IN YOUR BACKYARD?

Mauna Loa, the largest volcano on Earth, comprises more than half of the surface area of Hawai'i Island. Mapping and dating show that 95% of this active volcano is covered with lava flows less than 10,000 years old. Since 1843, it has erupted 33 times. When Mauna Loa erupts, fast-moving and voluminous lava flows can reach the sea in hours, severing roads and utilities, repaving the flanks and building new land. The growth of Mauna Loa is far from complete as this huge volcano will undoubtedly erupt again. Come join volcanologist **Frank Trusdell** as he talks about Mauna Loa's eruptive history and current status...and ask him how safe your place is!!



This special presentation and our luncheon meeting will be on **Saturday, February 22 at 1200** at **Banyan's Restaurant**, 87B Banyan Drive, Hilo (933-2199)...located between the Hilo Hawaiian and Naniloa hotels, in front of Uncle Billy's hotel. Cost is only

\$15 per person, inclusive, for a nice two-entrée buffet: Shoyu Chicken and Furikaki Swai Fish, with salad, stir fry vegetables, rice, dessert, coffee, tea. Guests are welcome.



Banyan Drive

Liliuokalani

Gardens

Come and enjoy the good food, super program and fellowship. Walk along Banyan Drive, also known as Hilo's Walk of Fame, for all the huge trees planted by celebrities such as Amelia Earhart. Also, take time to visit Hilo's nearby Liliuokalani Gardens, Tea House and Coconut Island.

Please call **Marilyn or Neal** at 935-1946, or by e-mail to nfherbert@hawaiiantel.net for reservations...no later than February 14, please.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Skip Hickey

Aloha All, - As noted above, our next meeting will be February 22nd at Banyan's Restaurant in Hilo. The Board of Directors will meet at 1030. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Following the Board of Directors meeting, at about noon time, we will open the general meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bravo Zulu to the **Kona VFW**. They did a superb job hosting our December meeting/ annual Christmas party. Special thanks go to the VFW Auxiliary for their hard work setting up and decorating, creating a festive Christmas atmosphere. Thanks to **Martha and Frank**, the Christmas party was a huge success. Great food and a really fun gift swap. Raisin Bran made its debut, I wonder what will show up at next year's Christmas swap. I guess we will just have to wait and see.

LTC Shwedo, PTA garrison commander, is organizing a mid-February meeting with all of the veteran's organizations on Hawaii Island. His goal is to establish better communication and coordination between the organizations and the active duty forces. Al and Jackie Lamke and I plan on attending. We'll present a short briefing at our February 22 meeting.

We are planning a flag retirement ceremony this summer. If you have a worn flag or know anyone that has a worn flag needing retirement please gather them up. We will announce the date and location of the flag retirement in a future Bulletin.

DECEMBER 2013 CHRISTMAS PARTY AT KONA VFW POST 12122

We had a great time, a huge group of 36 members and guests enjoyed good food and gathered up many door prizes. A special raffle for one of **Marilyn's** handmade quilts earned \$102 for the BIRMA treasury...Mahalo, Marilyn, for your donation. Please patronize the following merchants who so graciously donated door prizes this year: **KTA food stores - Big Island Candies - Safeway - Target Stores - Big Island Delights**. And thanks to **Pedro and Flora Quiocho** for their kind donation of two food certificates. See attached party photos.

COUNTY OF HAWAII OUTSTANDING OLDER AMERICANS AWARD

The County Office of Aging is again sponsoring its annual elder citizen award. BIRMA should participate by nominating one of its members to honor his or her achievements and contributions to our community. Separate certificates are also issued for Community Service, Senior Activities, Personal Achievement and Age. Please submit your nominee to our President, Skip Hickey, at oldhickdog2@gmail.com or by phone at 781-424-1630, by February 21 please.

MAUNA LANI CHRISTMAS TREE



Al and Jackie Lamke again did a great job preparing special decorations and setting up the BIRMA tree in the Mauna Lani lounge for their annual charity Christmas tree event. They were ably assisted by **Martha Tumbleson, Carol Traxler, Wendy Hickey and Marilyn Herbert**, with very passive supervision by Skip, Jim and Neal. Their efforts earned BIRMA over \$110...Mahalo!!

FRAUD ALERT

The Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a fraud alert about a marketing scam that is targeting veterans who misdial the VA National Call Center (800-827-1000) or the GI Bill Call Center (888-442-4551) phone numbers. A marketing company created two phone numbers that differ from the real VA numbers by one digit. If a veteran misdials and calls the bogus number, the answering party will offer a gift card and try to obtain sensitive personal data, to include credit card information. Please note that the VA will “never” ask for credit card or banking information over the phone. The two bogus numbers are 800-872-1000 and 888-442-4511. The bottom line is make sure you know who you are talking to before providing personal information over the phone. The VA has notified law enforcement authorities.

For a list of toll-free VA phone numbers, go to the VA’s Inquiry Routing & Information System webpage at https://iris.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1703.

2014 CALENDAR

The tentative dates for our bi-monthly meetings will be as follows:

April 26 - June 28 - August 23 - October 25 - December 13 (annual Christmas party)

Please mark your calendars now! Anyone interested in hosting one of these lunch meetings or is willing to make arrangements at a local restaurant or any other venue should contact our Programs Chair, **Harry Correa** at 968-0995 or by e-mail to menehune.kahuna@gmail.com.

UNIQUE ART EXHIBIT



When visitors first enter the National Veteran's Art Museum in Chicago, they hear a sound like wind chimes coming from above them and their attention is drawn upward 24 feet to the ceiling of the two-story high atrium. The dog tags of the more than 58,000 service men and women who died in the Vietnam War, were hung from the ceiling of the museum on Veterans Day, November 11, 2010. The 10-by-40-foot sculpture, entitled Above & Beyond, was designed by Ned Broderick and Richard Stein. The thousands of metal dog tags are suspended 24 feet in the air, 1 inch apart, from fine lines that allow them to move and chime with shifting air currents. Museum employees using a kiosk and laser pointer help visitors locate the exact dog tag with the imprinted name of a lost friend or relative.

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**BIRMA BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA-February 22, 2014**

Call meeting to order – 1030

Secretary – October 26, 2013 BOD Minutes posted in December 2013 Bulletin.
Read, discuss, and accept minutes

Treasurer – Treasurer’s report

Committees:

○ Welfare -

○ Scholarship –

§ Mail-out/email offering scholarship info status

§ Jim Traxler wants to increase his share of joint scholarship to \$1000 this year.
Does BOD want to match donation or maintain \$500 contribution level as in the
past. Discussion, vote.

○ Membership – Status and New Members

○ Publicity – Mauna Lani Christmas tree report

§ Have we paid Al and Jackie for new lights?

○ Legislative – Dave Bateman update

○ Faded Glory – Report on flags collected Meeting at Pahoia VFW?

○ Programs –

§ Hosts for 2014 meetings

§ Jim Traxler has indicated he would like to host the June meeting at his home
on the 21st instead of the 28th, catering schedule conflict.

Other Items:

○ West Hawaii Veteran’s Council meeting, report.

○ West Hawaii Cemetery meeting, report.

○ Mayor’s Veteran’s Advisory Committee, report.

○ Status of new west side flag pole.

○ Report on PTA hosted veteran organizations meeting, 2/15/2014

Items from the floor

Adjourn

