

BIRMA Bulletin **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** December 2018

Published Bi-Monthly for Members of the Big Island Retired Military Association

Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



KILAUEA MILITARY CAMP

Our annual Christmas party will be at Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) at 1200 on Saturday, December 8. Let's help KMC get back on its feet after the long closure of National Volcanoes Park.

The delicious luncheon menu, **only \$20 per person**, will include:

**Beef & Vegetable Stir Fry – Boneless Teriyaki Chicken – Pineapple Glazed Ham – Fresh Mixed Vegetables – Hapa Rice – Tossed Salad – Fresh Fruits – Dessert – Iced Tea
Beer & Wine at additional charge**

Our party will again feature a voluntary grab bag. Those who wish to participate should bring a wrapped gift of about \$10 in value. We will also have free door prizes, including gift certificates. If you have something that you would like to donate as a door prize (separate from the grab bag), just wrap it up and bring it with you...the more prizes, the merrier! Our grand raffle will be a free overnight stay at KMC...proceeds will go to our Scholarship Fund.

New policy at the Volcanoes National Park offers free admission only to active duty and disabled military. We have asked for a waiver for all attendees...will let you know if we get one. So, unless we get a fee waiver or if you have a Senior pass, you will have to pay an entrance charge per vehicle to get to KMC. Senior one-year passes for those 62 or older cost \$20. Lifetime passes are now \$80. Passes apply to the vehicle. We recommend car-pooling...contact **Neal Herbert** if you need assistance getting in.

Another reason to come is an opportunity to attend the free Volcano Festival Chorus Christmas concert at the KMC Kilauea Theater, starting at 1930. Whether you plan to stay overnight at KMC or just come back later, this annual show is a great way to start the holiday season along with our lunch party. Contact KMC at <http://kilaueamilitarycamp.com> or 967-8333 for lodging reservations.

Guests are welcome! Please call **Neal Herbert** at 935-1946 or by e-mail to nfherbert@twc.com if you will attend...please let us know no later than December 1. We always have a great, fun time at KMC. There will be no meetings...just good food, gifts and happy time with your fellow members...hope to see you there!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



AL LAMKE

Aloha from Montana! I'm in Montana for my annual hunting trip. Jackie stayed home with her cats, which was a good decision her part. She was born and raised in Montana, but says she will never come back for a visit if there is a chance of snow on the ground. Well I got here on Nov 6 and there was 4 inches of snow and it stormed all day Wed. Temps in the low 20's, ideal for hunting! I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving, I will still be in Mt with my son and daughter (grandson too) for the holiday but get back right after. The Christmas party will be the 8th of Dec. Hope to see a big turnout.

At the October 27 meeting, I gave a talk on electrical safety and economy; highlights:

- In 2017, of some 364,300 home fires, 50.3% (183,090) were cooking related, 9.6% (34,973) due to electrical heating problems, 6.6% (24,044) because of carelessness, and 6.5% (23,680) by electrical malfunctions. Of the latter, 4,600 were caused by extension cords.
- When buying extension cords, do not buy or use cords less than #14 gauge wire. #12 gauge is better! Don't overload the cords...one cord for each single use is best.
- Have an electrician check your house wiring, most shops will do an inspection for free or a small price!
- Install smoke detectors in your house! Even battery only ones are better than none!
- Have an electrician install GFCI receptacles in your kitchen, bathrooms and outside locations. Improper receptacles accounted for 3082 residential fire deaths in 2017...6 were in Hawaii.
- To save money and reduce heat, replace all Incandescent and fluorescent bulbs with LED's! This will save approximately 80 to 85 % of your lighting bill. Incandescent bulbs last about 3 years-LED bulbs last about 15 years.
- When replacing appliances, buy only ENERGY STAR rated ones to further reduce electric bills!

MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDAR

February 23 meeting– Traxler home in Kona

April 27 meeting – Moore residence in Ninoole

Details will be in future bulletins.

2018 BIRMA MARK ALLEN TRAXLER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Mingxia Hawkins with parents, grandparents, Carol & Jim Traxler and Neal

The Big Island Retired Military Association presented its 2018 BIRMA-Mark Allen Traxler Memorial \$2,000 scholarship award to **Mingxia Hawkins**, a Kealakehe High School graduate and one of 18 applicants for this year's honor. At Kealakehe, she amassed a 4.0 plus GPA and was active in many school and extracurricular activities. Mingxia is now attending University of Hawaii-Hilo, planning to pursue a career in secondary education.

A special thanks to **Al and Jackie Lamke** for donating \$315...all the money collected for the lunch they hosted last month...to the BIRMA Scholarship fund, and to **Nate Chang** and **David Lehman** for their \$100 donations. Donations are always welcome at any time.

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. Life Membership is available to all eligible persons at dues relating to ages, in accordance with the following table.

Age 45 and below	<u>\$440.00</u>
Age 46 to 50	<u>\$380.00</u>
Age 51 to 55	<u>\$315.00</u>
Age 56 to 60	<u>\$255.00</u>
Age 61 to 65	<u>\$190.00</u>
Age 66 and over	<u>\$130.00</u>

Please mail dues to BIRMA, c/o 224 Paukaa Dr, Hilo HI 96720 or pay at the next meeting or online at our web site. Call **935-1946** with any questions.

DAV NOTICE

A Veteran Service officer will be at the Kona Vet Center on November 27, 2018. Call (808) 329-0574 to schedule an appointment.

OCTOBER 27 LUNCH MEETING AT THE LAMKES



Martha, Carol, Marilyn, Teresa, Heidi



Carol, Jim, Mingxia's mom



Lunchtime!



Bill and Nestorio



Hostess Jackie



Jim, Cheryl, Elva



Mingxia and friend