

20091015 Retiree News

1. **The Promise.** **Retiree News** will contain information about benefits, National Guard events, and news about current, former, and retired members. There will be no chain e-mail, cute pictures, or sales pitches. Publication of **Retiree News** is on a random schedule – as topics come up and time permits. If you change your mind about receiving issues of **Retiree News**, send an e-mail at retireenews@hawaiiintel.net and you will be off the **Retiree News** mailing list.

2. **Business.**

- **The New 154th Wing Commander.** As this issue of **Retiree News** is sent out, the command has not named the new 154th Wing commander. **Col Joseph Kim** continues doing an outstanding job leading the wing until the commander announcement is made. I will get announcement news out to you as soon as it is made by the command.

- **The 2009 HNGEA Annual General Membership Meeting.** The Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association General membership meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2009. **SMSgt Maui Quizon** sent out the following e-mail with the meeting specifics. Retirees are definitely welcome to attend this annual meeting. Both the HNGEA and the officers association, HNGA, continue to work for increased benefits for Guard members.

-----Original Message-----

From: Quizon Ramon MSgt HQ 154 WG/IM

Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2009 9:30 AM

To: ALL HIANG; NGH I HRO MILTECHs

Subject: 2009 HNGEA Annual General Membership Meeting 31 Oct 09

Aloha fellow enlisted HNG members:

On behalf of the President, Hawaii National Guard Enlisted Association, Chief Ethan Toyama, the 2009 HNGEA AGMM is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2009, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., at the Oahu Veterans Center. We encourage all of you to attend as your committee has planned for an eventful and productive meeting. Attendance continues to increase over the years, and this year we look forward once again to seeing new faces.

Attached is the Agenda, Call to Meeting, and Flyer; information will also be posted on the HNGEA website www.hngea.net

See you there!

R.MAUI QUIZON, MSgt, HIANG
Chairman, HNGEA Resolutions Committee
(808) 448-7253 ramon.quizon@hick.af.mil

- **No retroactive early retirement for reserves.** Rick Maze wrote the following October 12, 2009 article that appeared in **Military Times**.

Congressional negotiators blamed themselves for leaving intact a reserve retirement formula that treats the 600,000 National Guard and reserve members who mobilized before Jan. 28, 2008, differently from those who mobilized later.

Negotiators who prepared the final version of the 2010 defense authorization bill rejected a Senate-passed provision that would have made retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, a retirement formula that allows reservists to begin drawing military retired pay 90 days earlier for every 90 days of mobilization.

That 90-for-90 rule, which allows Guard and reserve members to receive retirement before age 60 — when benefits begin for most reservists — was left out of the final defense bill because lawmakers said they could not find a way to pay for the benefits under congressional budget rules.

The House of Representatives gave final approval to the bill Thursday. The Senate is expected to take up the bill this week.

In their report accompanying the defense bill, negotiators said they “would support the provision provided that acceptable offsets are identified consistent with budgetary requirements of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.”

Under congressional budget rules, if lawmakers want to increase military retirement benefits, they must either reduce spending on other federal entitlements or make a decision at the start of the budget cycle to set aside more entitlement money for the Defense Department.

Negotiators from the House and Senate armed services committees who worked out details of the final defense bill did not have the power to do either, leaving them no choice but to reject the retroactive increases in retired pay.

This is not the first time congressional budget rules have prevented retroactive improvements in retired pay. In 2007, when lawmakers first decided to give mobilization credit toward earlier retirement benefits to Guard and reserve members, the change was not made retroactive to the start of deployments in response to the 2001 terrorist attacks because of the entitlement spending limits.

Despite a demand from major military associations that everyone mobilized since the 2001 terrorist attacks should be treated the same, lawmakers failed in 2008 and again this year to find a way to cover the estimated \$550 million in additional retired pay for the 600,000 people who had been mobilized for 90 days or longer between Sept. 11, 2001, and Jan. 28, 2008.

Congressional aides who work on military personnel issues, who asked not to be identified, said they expect that lawmakers who have been pushing hardest for the reserve retired pay improvements — Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., and Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. — will try again next year to make mobilization credit retroactive when Congress works on the 2011 defense budget.

- Change of Gaining MAJCOM. Effective October 1, 2009, Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) became the Gaining Major Command for all units of the 201st Combat Communications Group. The group headquarters and the three communications squadrons previously reported to Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). PACAF will continue to be the gaining command for the 297th Air Traffic Control Squadron.
- More Military Discounts. In earlier issues of **Retiree News**, there seemed to be an inconsistency in local Home Depot stores extending a 10% discount to military members and

retirees. Only the Kapolei store offered the discount on a daily basis, other stores were offering the 10% discount only on certain holiday weekends. Apparently their policy has changed.

Henry Hasuike send an e-mail saying that while at the Pearl City store recently, he discovered that Home Depot stores were now offering the military discount daily. One of the store employees indicated the policy changed as of a month ago, but they are not advertising it.

Thanks to Henry for sharing the information. Shop on!

- Advice from Snopes.com. Snoops.com is a great place to validate things in the media, including the internet. Several Retiree News readers sent me this about chain e-mail. Read on.

- Any time you see an e-mail that says forward this on to "10" of your friends, or sign this petition, or you'll get bad luck, good luck, or whatever, it almost always has an e-mail tracker program attached that tracks the cookies and e-mails of those folks you forward to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of "active" e-mails to use in spam e-mails, or sell to other spammers.

- Almost all e-mails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to that mass letter years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was, and all any of this type of e-mail is, is a way to get names and "cookie" tracking information for telemarketers and spammers - to validate active e-mail accounts for their own profitable purposes.

- Also: E-Mail petitions are NOT acceptable to Congress or any other government agencies. To be acceptable, petitions must have a signed signature and full address of the person signing the petition.

Never been to Snoops.com? – go to: <http://www.snopes.com/>.

- Rules of Engagement (ROE). Periodically, someone e-mails me requesting the e-mail address of another retiree. I forward the e-mail with the address request to the retiree for their action. This preserves the privacy of the retiree and their e-mail address.

- Disclaimer. The views and opinions expressed in **Retiree News** are those of the editor and do not represent official policy of The Adjutant General or the State Department of Defense.

3. The Wanted List. Help! **Retiree News** is looking for these Hawai'i National Guard members e-mail addresses or their addresses on file for them no longer works. E-mail their addresses to retireeneews@hawaiiantel.net if you can share them.

Norman Chang
Chris Wilson
Randy Solomon
Tom Gresch
Wayne Z. Higa

Russell Woodward
Byron Kim
Steve Ware
Katherine Asato
Edward Uyeda

Following are the new or updated e-mail addresses sent in by the individuals or **Retiree News** readers – Mahalo for adding or updating your e-mail address.

Susan Honjiyo

Christopher Muncy

Arthur Seto
Stan "Pilau" Hong
Rollie Smith

P.B. "Paddy" Evans
Dave "Butcher" Lilly
Stan "Ulu" Snow

The address total just passed **1150+** members. Be sure to ask your fellow retirees that you meet if they receive **Retiree News**. If not, send their e-mail address to retireenews@hawaiiintel.net. Mahalo for your support!

4. Condolences. These Hawai'i National Guard retirees passed away recently. They all served honorably and added something to our unique culture here in the Guard. Aloha Pumehana to all....

Wayson Y. Yamanaka, 53, of Hilo, Hawai'i, formerly of Kea'au, Hawai'i, died Oct. 5, 2009. Born in Hilo. A short order cook; former Hawai'i Army National Guard member. Survived by mother, Natsue; brothers, Mel and Ivan; nieces; nephews.

5. Retiree Update.

- Samoa Relief Effort. Congratulations to all the Hawai'i Army and Air National Guard members who supported the relief effort to Samoa. The Guard members who deployed faced some harsh conditions but the islanders there needed all the support we could provide. The aircrew and the Guard members who support the relief in Hawaii also did an outstanding job. It was a great joint task force that showed everyone what the Guard is all about. Job Well Done!

- The new Hawai'i Air National Guard Recruiting Officer Supervisor. **MSgt Charlsyee "Charlie" Yoshimoto** is the new HIANG recruiting office supervisor. She assumes the ROS duties as the HIANG has several new recruiters and has begun to share offices with the Hawai'i Army National Guard recruiters in Aiea and Kaneohe. Just know that Charlie will do a super job!

Charlie is part of a great Guard family – her husband is **Capt Curtis Yoshimoto** flies F-15 Eagles and retired **CMSgt Cal Yoshimoto** is her father-in-law.

Got family or friends interesting in joining, contact Charlie at 808-216-6338 or charlsyee.yoshimoto@hihick.ang.af.mil

- The new Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sergeant. The new ANG Command Chief is **CMSgt Christopher Muncy**. He just started his tour as the Command Chief and was in Hawai'i for an orientation visit. He is an Ohio Air Guard member who served with the 251st Combat Communications Group in Springfield, Ohio. Just prior to assuming his new position, he served at the HQ, Ohio Air National Guard. Send congratulatory e-mail: christopher.muncy.1@ang.af.mil

As we talked, I got caught up on several friends in the 251 CCG – **Wade Rupper**, **Phil Lambers**, **Mike & Pichi Welsh**, and **Mark Stout**, among others. Great meeting the Command Chief!

- The new Department SEEM on board. **Kenneth Gipson** is the department's new State Equal Employment Manager. He comes from the Nevada National Guard where he also served as the SEEM. He is a Navy veteran. Welcome Kenny!

Send congratulatory e-mail: kenneth.gipson1@us.army.mil

- Congratulations and Best Wishes go to **MSgt Mike Matsuura** and **TSgt Terry Iwamasa**, who got married in September. Both work in the aircraft maintenance and are two great people that I have known for quite a while. Again congratulations and best wishes!

Send congratulatory e-mail:

michael.matuura@hihick.ang.af.mil

terry.matsuura@hihick.ang.af.mil

- A familiar face on television from Rome. While watching the extensive coverage of the canonization of Father Damien to St. Damien of Molokai, **Olivia (Oli) Yee** was interviewed by one of the reporters covering the ceremony. She was among the 500+ Hawaii residents who made the pilgrimage to Rome for the ceremony. I'm sure she will have some reminiscences of her trip to share with all of us.

6. Upcoming Events. Events listed are by the event date.

- Enlisted & Non-Commissioned Officer Dining-In. The Senior Enlisted Leader, Hawai'i National Guard, **Command Chief Master Sergeant Denise Jelinski-Hall**, and Command Sergeant Major, Hawai'i Army National Guard, **CSM Elizabeth Kenui**, invites all enlisted and non-commissioned officers to a Dining-In celebrating the Year of the NCO. It will be a formal event honoring those who proudly serve as the backbone of "Hawaii's Own."

- When: Saturday, October 17, 2009, starting at 1800

- Where: Hickam AFB Officer's Club lanai

- Menu: choice of one below

--- Sliced London Broil

--- Roasted Stuffed Chicken Breast

--- Vegetable Lasagna

- Costs:

--- E6 & below: \$15.00

--- E7 & E8": \$20.00

--- E9: \$25.00

- Uniform of the Day:

--- Male: Army Blue or Green dress (bow tie)

--- Female: Army Blue or Green dress

--- Other services: equivalent uniform

--- Retirees: coat and tie

- POC for retirees:

--- **SGM Charles Pieters**, 672-1319 or 630-0139, charles.l.pieters@us.army.mil

- National Guard Birthday Ball Car Wash Fundraiser. Capt Jason Matsuoka sent out the following e-mail about the upcoming car wash. Proceeds from the car wash will reduce the costs for our upcoming Birthday Ball. Retirees should contact Jason for tickets or just show up on October 18.

-----Original Message-----

From: Matsuoka Jason Capt 154 AMXS [<mailto:jason.matsuoka@hihick.ang.af.mil>]

Sent: Thursday, October 08, 2009 5:30 AM

To: ALL HIANG

Subject: National Guard Birthday Ball Car Wash Fundraiser

Aloha,

The Birthday Ball Committee is holding a car wash fundraiser Sunday October 18, 2009 at the 76 Gas Station on 2105 South King Street. The money raised will off set some of the expenses for the ball. We are looking for volunteers to work from 1200-1600. The Army Guard is manning the morning shift. If you would like to help out, please contact me. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, contact your First Sergeant, cars are \$5.00, trucks/vans/SUVs are \$7.00.

Please pass this info to your traditionals.

Mahalo,

JASON N. MATSUOKA, Capt, HIANG
448-7394

- Save the Date – the Hawai'i National Guard Birthday Ball. This year's birthday ball is on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at the J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa in Kapolei. This joint event celebrates the 373rd Birthday of our National Guard's beginnings.

Dinner selections include: Filet Mignon, a salmon entrée, a chicken breast entrée, and a vegetarian entrée. Birthday Ball dinner prices were reduced by fundraisers, and reductions for lower grade Guard members. Guest costs are at the same rate as member/retiree. Checks payable to: [HING Birthday Ball](#).

E1-E4: \$40.00

E5-E7: \$52.00

E8-E9 / O1-O3: \$65.00

O4 and above: \$75.00

Retirees: \$60.00

Birthday Ball attire:

--- Military: Best Dress

--- Civilian: Coat & Tie / Formal dress

The J.W. Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa will offer a \$177.00 (plus applicable state and local taxes) per night rate for Birthday Ball attendees. The rate is good three days before and after the ball date.

There is also a special golf rate the day before and after the ball.

The event chairs is [BG Gary Hara](#) and [Brig Gen Stanley Osserman](#). Division OPRS are:

HIARNG POC: [LTC Laura Soares](#), 672-1321, laura.soares@us.army.mil

HIANG POC: [Lt Col Peter Ching](#), 448-8331, peter.ching@hick.af.mil

7. Website Links.

- The October issue of the 154th Wing's newspaper, the Kuka'ilimoku, is on the Hawaii State Department of Defense's website. Go to <http://hawaii.gov/dod/hiang/kukailimoku/2009->

kukalilimoku-issues/Kukailimoku%20Oct%202009.pdf/view. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

Since taking over several years ago, **TSgt Betty Squatrito-Martin** has done an outstanding job on the **Kuka'ilimoku**. The quality and content of each issue has improved vastly. Send congratulatory e-mail: betty.squatrito@hihick.ang.af.mil

- The State Department of Defense's newspaper, the **pupukahi**, is online. The **pupukahi** has gone totally electronic. The link to the current issue is www.hawaii.gov/dod - the **pupukahi** link is listed under the "What's New?" section. A super job by the **pupukahi** staff: **Lt Col Charles Anthony**, **CPT Jeffrey Hickman** and **Steven Lum** (HIARNG retiree).

Send congratulatory e-mail:

charles.anthony@hihick.ang.af.mil

jeff.hickman@ng.army.mil

stephen.m.lum@ng.army.mil

Past issues from 1997 through 2008 are posted on the website. The link is: <http://hawaii.gov/dod/staff-offices/public-affairs/pupukahi>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The Current Issue of **Soldiers** Magazine is Online. To view the current issue of **Soldiers**, the official U.S. Army magazine, just log on to: <http://www.army.mil/soldiers/>. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar when you get to the website referenced. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.

- The Current Issue of **Airman Magazine** is Online. To view the September-October 2009 issue, just log on to: <http://www.airmanonline.af.mil/>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser. You can view back issues (electronic issues only) by clicking on "back issues" on the scroll bar when you get to the website referenced.

- Federal Benefits for Veterans. The 2009 Edition of VA's Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet is available online. The booklet provides the rates for certain federal payments and outlines many programs and services provided by VA and other federal agencies. It also includes toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/fedben.pdf>. If the link does not work, copy it to your internet browser.