



USAG-KA Commander's Corner

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COMMUNITY MOURNS LOSS

We lost a member of the Kwajalein Atoll Community earlier this week. Mr. Jim Bennett, a six year KRS employee, passed away on Roi-Namur. He was a widower and had two sons. He was also a Navy Veteran.

A group of his friends, American Legion representatives, and others gathered as his body was escorted to the aircraft that flew him home to his family. Volunteers served as pall bearers and respectfully placed his U.S. flag covered remains in the van for transportation to the airfield. The group of about 20 followed behind on their bikes. Once at the airfield, the group walked out to the aircraft and observed as pall bearers placed the casket on the plane. Friends then said their final farewells on the flight line.

It was a somber event, yet one that any person would be grateful to have done in their honor. In my opinion, a great way to show reverence toward a community member and Veteran. And the memorial held on Roi Thursday night gave those close to him another opportunity to say goodbye. The outpouring of support experienced on Roi was inspiring and makes me proud to be part of this community.

This issue of the Hourglass contains several memories and stories about Jim Bennett, shared by his friends and co-workers, past and present. He is also our Hero of the Week, something that was already planned before his passing. That, in itself, is a tribute to his contributions and work ethic.

Every person on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur are members of the same team. We all work together toward the same goal. Without KRS, all other contractors and our Marshallese brothers and sisters, we would fail our mission here in the Kwajalein Atoll.

KRS lost a valuable member of their internal team this week. Moreover, the Roi-Namur community is suffering from the loss of a personal friend. I ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this time of grief.

Take care, be safe and thank you for all you do.
Col. Mike Larsen