



USAG-KA Commander's Corner

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WELCOME BACK HEROES

Yokwe neighbors and members of “Team Kwajalein!” I want to begin by telling everyone how impressed I was by your incredible welcome and hospitality demonstrated to our WWII veterans who traveled here for the 72nd anniversary of Operation Flintlock with their friends and family.

These returning heroes are such an inspiration. Their personal sacrifices, and those of their fallen brothers in arms, are the reason we get to live on this amazing Atoll. I was thrilled to see the Kwajalein and Roi-Namur residents roll out the red carpet and welcome them into their Island home and hearts. Your efforts helped create priceless memories for them and their families. It was hard to not get a little teary eyed watching the community embrace these Great Americans!

Many people were instrumental in helping to make this return trip possible, and I want to personally thank all of you for offering your time and talents to this worthy effort. One person in particular was the center of gravity for the entire event. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Dan Farnham for making the anniversary a great success; I applaud Dan and his selfless conduct. For highlights of 72nd Flintlock Anniversary visit, and personal reflections of their fighting here back in 1944, please see pages 3-9 in this issue.

We are well into 2016 now and it's time for another round of Town Hall meetings. The Kwajalein Town Halls are scheduled for 17 FEB, and the Roi-Namur meetings will be 18 FEB. We will also execute a Teen Town Hall that week as well. Exact times and locations will be published soon. Stay tuned to the Roller, our official garrison Facebook page, and next week's issue of the Hourglass for details. CSM Rawlings and I look forward to your questions, comments and suggestions to help improve our community.

Also, you may have noticed we had an American Forces Network (AFN) news team here last week covering the WWII veterans' visit, community events and our unique mission in the Marshall Islands. The two reporters traveled here from Tokyo, Japan. I am happy to report that our garrison is being

featured in a series of news stories to be aired throughout the coming weeks. You can watch the first in the series of broadcasts on our Facebook page or AFN Pacific.

With a heavy heart, I am sad to report that we lost two amazing members of the island community this past week. Mr. Jas Joel and Mr. Timothy Thomas both passed away from health complications. They were respected employees of KRS. Their smiling faces and positive energy will be missed at the bakery and the Zamperini. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers.

Finally, this weekend will be a busy one. Whether you are attending the Vet's Hall Mardi Gras party, cheering for the Super Bowl, or enjoying a day on the water...I hope you have fun. Stay safe, enjoy the game....and I'll see you around the island.

Kommol Tata!

Col. Mike Larsen