



A TIMELY TOPIC

State Representative **Gene Ward**, left, was the guest speaker at our first meeting of 2018 on February 27th. He spoke on several issues, one of which was the timely topic of missile threats to Hawaii from North Korea; timely because our islands had experienced a false missile warning alert on January 13th.

A WARD OF THE STATE

Though he is a state representative, Gene Ward is not actually a ward of the state. I just wanted to add some levity to a weighty presentation, which, however, was delivered with some levity. As he started on his first topic, the North Korean missile threat, Rep. Ward asked how many people had ever been to Seoul. He was momentarily surprised when at least half the people in the room raised a hand. "Oh, that's right," he said, "You ARE airline people." He had been unaware of our group before being invited to speak at our meeting.

People who were in Hawaii on January 13th when smart phones and TVs lit up with an "incoming missile alert. . . This is not a test!" are not likely to forget that date. Though reactions varied, the one that got the most attention was stark fear, epitomized by the photo of a father putting his toddler into a sewer manhole. Ward said that photo went round the world and will be one of those forever remembered. A false alarm message did not go out until 38 minutes later and fear turned into anger. Ward believes that in spite of investigations by various entities, part of the story is still missing. It appears that many members and guests are in agreement.

Many residents and tourists had no idea what to do to protect themselves in the event of a missile alert. Ward stated that we would probably have 12 to 14 minutes of usable time after receiving an alert and that we should: Get inside—Stay inside—Stay tuned. The safest place is an inside room away from windows.

According to Ward, the North Korean missile threat was seriously underestimated by the U.S. intelligence groups. He has written letters to members of Congress and to President Trump recommending that they establish a multi-agency center, in conjunction with the East-West Center, to coordinate the work of protecting not only the people of Hawaii but of the entire Pacific area. He feels Hawaii is perfectly positioned to be developed into a "Geneva of the Pacific".

Rep. Ward spoke on various other problems facing our state, including our huge homeless situation. As he spoke, testimony was being given in the House regarding a bill (HB2014) to create villages on state land in selected areas for the homeless. Rather than building expensive brick-and-mortar buildings that many homeless refuse to move into anyway, the state would provide structures such as domes, yurts or other small permanent tent-like homes. Ward supports the bill which is far less costly than the frequent sweeps to move the homeless from the sidewalks, public parks, and other highly visible areas.

Flu season is not yet over and several members called in sick after signing up for the meeting. However, 42 people showed up to hear Rep. Ward speak. As usual, there were a lot of noisy interactions before the meeting started as members interacted with others whom they do not often see. Henry Blakstad is recovered from his bout of pneumonia and other medical difficulties and looked great. He again provided door prizes, for which all were grateful, especially the winners. Our next general membership meeting is scheduled for April 24th.



February 27th Meeting at Waialae Country Club

◀ Carol Wong, Rep. Gene Ward, Darlene & Lee Laster.

Denise Mazzanti, Joan Davis and Betty Ellis ▶



Dan Del Monte ▶ and Kiddy DeCoster

◀ Carol Wong and Aggie von Brimer



▲ Ed Gencarelli and Marie Jahnsen

◀ Lillian Yoshioka and Katie Yoshioka

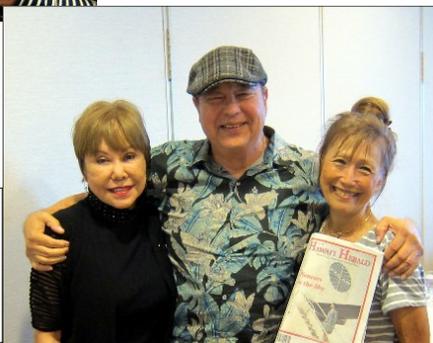


Seated: Roy Stocks ▶
Standing: Danni Kamealoha and Diane VanderZanden (aka Mrs. Roy Stocks)

▲ Cher Sullivan and Margaret Moody



Carol Nezu, Harlow Urabe, ▶ and Glori Ino with the recent Hawaii Herald news magazine featuring Pan Am stewardesses.





▲ Jane Noe and Karen Hom



▲ Clare Takayama and Pat Wagner



▲ Seated: Tomiye Nakamura and Calvin Murata. Standing: Patti Jacoby, Sachi Kato, Iris Inouye, Shirley Motas, Elaine Keb, Shirley Silva and Harlow Urabe.



▲ The Rezentos family: Gary, Dick and Gordon, with Sachi Kato



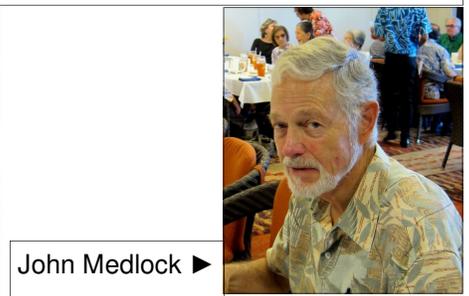
▲ Denise Mazzanti, Carol Suyderhoud and Marie Jahnsen



◀ Jan Newhart and Henry Blakstad



Darlene Laster ▶ and Ilona Benoit



John Medlock ▶

A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Among the various clippings and articles given to me over time, I received an article from the November 22, 1995, edition of the Star-Bulletin, a former afternoon newspaper published in Honolulu. The article, titled "Wild Adventure Paved the Sky," was about the 60th anniversary of Pan American's first flight from San Francisco to Honolulu from a local perspective. There was also reference to the Pan Am Retirees Association. The following article was written by Star Bulletin reporter Ron Ohira:



The "Flying Boat," with its 130-foot wingspan, made its Hawaii landings off the Pearl City peninsula.

During Lloyd Osbornes' junior year at Yale in 1931, Pan American World Airways began planning a project that would be hailed four years later as "the most climactic event, to date, in man's amazing conquest of world distances."

That feat was Pan Am's first San Francisco-to-Hawaii China Clipper flight, which marks its 60th anniversary today. The 2,410-mile flight took 21 hours and 20 minutes to complete and was the first leg of the airline's historic transpacific crossing to the China coast.

"Flying the four-props across the ocean was a wild adventure," said the 86-year-old Osborne, a longtime Kailua resident, who was hired by Pan American that year and became a China Clipper pilot in 1936. "It was a very exciting time."

Captain Edwin Musick landed the "flying boat" in Pearl Harbor on Nov. 23, 1935, at 10:21 a.m. to the cheers of 2,000 people. A Star-Bulletin headline that afternoon hailed the arrival of Pacific air mail service to Hawaii as the plane delivered 23 bags containing more than 100,000 letters. Pan American Airways President Juan Trippe, his chief engineer Andre Priester and Col. Charles Lindbergh began planning the transpacific project in 1931.

"This much they knew at the outset," William Norwood wrote in a 1935 Star-Bulletin article. "If they could not devise means of building an American airline to Asia, America's bid for share of the \$10 billion trade of the Orient would soon face a hopeless obstacle."

The men concluded that the 8,396-mile crossing could be made by setting up island stations in Hawaii, Midway, Wake, Guam and the Philippines. Pan Am invested \$2 million for construction of the stations, which was [sic] completed in July 1935. [Ed. Note: The last station was actually completed in November 1935 just in time for the historic flight.]

In the same year, Glenn Martin Co. of Baltimore finished building a 25½-ton "flying boat" designed by Igor Sikorsky that Pan American would call its China Clipper. The seaplane had a wingspan of 130 feet. It boasted a maximum flying range of 4,000 miles as a mail transport, and 3,000 miles if used for passenger and mail transport. Its top speed was 179 mph.

"We always had to worry about head winds because it could cause us to run out of gas," Osborne said. "Also, since we were pioneering routes in those days, we had to fly without good weather reports." The first leg to Hawaii was the longest. The second leg, Hawaii to Midway, covered 1380 miles, and it was 1,248 miles from Midway to Wake Island, 1,450 miles from Wake to Guam, 1,500 miles from Guam to Manila and 700 miles from Manila to the China Coast. "We had overnight layovers along the way," Osborne said. "It was a long flight. Looking back now, it's amazing how far air travel has come."

Charles Hughes, Jr. of Kula, Maui, and Ewa Beach resident Pat Calimpong were hired by Pan American in 1942 to work at its Pearl Harbor base.

"I used to fish off the dock and watch the seaplanes," said Calimpong, a Pan Am employee for 43 years. "It was hard for me to believe then that something that big could stay up in the air. The seaplanes used to go out toward the entrance of the harbor, make a U-turn and then take off coming toward the peninsula," he added. "I worked on all of them, from the seaplanes to the 747."

Pan Am had three Clipper ships—named China, Philippines and Hawaii—flying in the Pacific and all were designed for comfort. "It was a beautiful plane and there was a lounge right in the middle," Hughes said. "You had to spend a lot of hours in the air so it had to be designed for comfort."

Calimpong said the interior of the plane reminded him of a living room. "There was even a kitchen," he said. "They served a whole turkey on the plane. It was a really luxurious flight."

Trippe, Priester and Lindbergh included an extensive training program for Pan Am personnel while planning the project. "I had 600 hours of flying but was hired as an apprentice pilot," said Osborne, who started out flying Pan Am's Caribbean and South American routes. "I kind of felt insulted at first. It took awhile for me to grow up and realize how much I didn't know." One of the training requirements, Osborne said, was for pilots to learn a foreign language.

"I was 16 when I started and made 50 cents an hour for eight hours of work," said Calimpong, also hired as an apprentice. "I learned a lot working for Pan American and I'm sad it's not here anymore."

Osborne, Calimpong and Hughes will be among 50 Pan Am Retiree Association members from Hawaii and abroad celebrating the 60th anniversary flight with a visit to the "flying boat" base tomorrow. After a brief ceremony, they'll lunch at the Outrigger Canoe Club. The luncheon, at \$12.50 per person, is open to all former Pan American employees and friends. Call Ellen Shikuma at 734-5725 for information.

CHANGING TIMES AND CREEPING INFLATION

Once again we have been advised that the price of paradise is going up. Please note that our luncheon price at Waialae Country Club is increasing a bit. The sign-up form on page 7 reflects the new price. At \$2 a luncheon, for those who attend all our meetings, it will add ten dollars to your yearly meeting expense. While none of us like increases, we hope the amount is tolerable to our members.



BE AWARE OF SCAMS

By this time, I think we are all alert to scam calls, however, since we are a senior group, I thought it might be wise to mention this one. You are probably already aware that Medicare will be sending us all new cards that have different numbers than our social security numbers, i.e. our social security numbers will no longer appear on our Medicare cards. The law requiring the change reads that they must complete the project by April of 2019. According to AARP, the cards will start arriving in mailboxes beginning in April. As with most government agencies, Medicare will not contact you.

In the meantime, scammers are already calling people to say you need a temporary card and you need to pay \$5 (or more) for the temporary card. They also ask for your personal information. Simply hang up if you receive such a call. Again, the Medicare office does not contact people. You will receive your card in the mail when they get to your name on that vast list. You do not need to do anything. Though the card is very similar to our current one, it is safe to carry in your wallet. Your social security number remains the same. It just will not appear on your Medicare card.

PAN AM PEOPLE AND EVENTS



L to R: Elissa Mataele, James & Espie Husing, and Kauasi Mataele

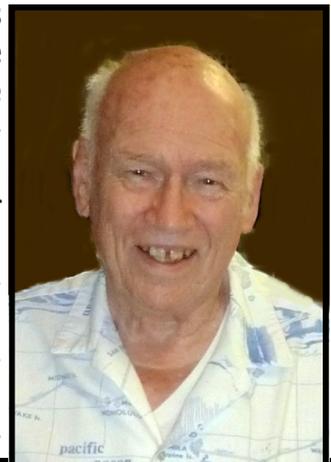
James Husing writes from the Bay Area that he has retired from the National Background Investigation Bureau (NBIB), a division of the Office of Personnel Management, after over 37 ½ years of federal service. "The NBIB is the federal agency that completes most of the security clearance background investigations for the military, defense contractors, DOJ, DOE, Homeland Security and most other federal agencies. I was a Senior Special Agent. During my career, I completed a little over 100,000 background investigations. My retirement luncheon was on Jan. 26th, 2018, attended by 30 family, friends and co-workers. Most notable among them were my dear friends Elissa and Kauasi Mataele who flew in from Honolulu to help me celebrate. Elissa, of Hawaii Five-O (original series) and Magnum, P.I. fame, danced the hula at the luncheon and brought flower leis for most of the attendees. Rest, travel and honey-do's planned for retirement." . . . Welcome to new member **Dave McCarthy**.

Dave is a mechanic and worked for National Airlines, Pan Am and Northwest Airlines in Miami. He and his wife, Wendy, live at 13261 Humboldt Ave. S., Burnsville, MN, 55337. His contacts are 952-894-2907 (H), 952-250-7101 (C) and email: dwkkmc@aloha.com. Dave found us through Rosie Rosenstein and we appreciate that he completed page 8 of this newsletter and sent it in. .

. **Margo Bourland** has submitted one of her paintings to the Association of Hawaii Artists (AHA) for their 45th Annual Aloha Show. Entries are limited and she was pleased to hear her work has been accepted. The Annual Aloha Show will be held at Honolulu Hale from March 6th to 22nd. Keep it in mind if you have any business at city hall. Even if you don't, pop on by to see the artworks on display.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN . . .

We are saddened to report the passing of **Allan Mosher**, 87, who was not only a member of our association for many years, but served on the Board of Directors for most of those years. I am in my 20th year on the board and Allan served even longer. He was the designer of our newsletter's title page and a big help to me when I agreed to become its editor. He spent a lot of time teaching me the intricacies of Microsoft's Publisher program which I still use today. Other board members, past and present, will remember the old days when we would gather at Allan's home to staple, fold and sort the newsletters in preparation for their trip to the main post office, a job Allan kindly took care of. He was someone who could always be counted on to do his part. He worked in Cargo Sales for Pan Am. Allan is survived by his wife, Pat; sons, Dennis (Christina) and Frank Dud-



ley Mosher; daughters Jocelyn (Chuck) O'Neill and Natalie (Logan) Smith; and 7 grandchildren.



*May your blessings
outnumber
The shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.*

2018 Schedule

- March 20—Board Meeting Only
- **April 24**—General Member Meeting
- May 22—Board Meeting Only
- **June 26**—General Member Meeting
- July 24—Board Meeting Only
- **August 28**—General Member Meeting
- September 25—Board Meeting Only
- **October 23**—Annual Meeting
- November 27—Board Meeting Only
- **December 1**—Annual Gala, WCC



Luncheon Meeting Reservation

Scheduled Speaker: Fred Hemmings

Next Meeting—April 24, 2018

Waialae Country Club

4997 Kahala Avenue

11:00 Social hour, 11:30 Lunch

\$30.00 per person (Includes tip and Parking)

Please try to make your reservation by February 22nd.

Member Name _____ \$30.00

Guest Name _____ 30.00

Total _____

Makes checks payable to PAA and send to:

Carol Suyderhoud, 7503 Maka'a Street, Honolulu, HI 96825-3127

If transportation is required, call Carol at 396-5225 or contact her by e-mail at: carolws@hawaii.rr.com. Payment in advance of the meeting is appreciated.

NOTE: If you received this newsletter electronically and would like to attend the meeting, print this page or enclose a note with your check, stating what and who the check is for.

PAA Hawaii Aloha Chapter Officers

Darlene Carver Laster	President & Chapter Chair	Darleelas@aol.com	394-8981
Ed Gencarelli	Vice President	edgen76@gmail.com	254-4576
John Medlock	Treasurer/Membership	johnmiii@earthlink.net	664-0586
Marie Jahnsen	Secretary	marie.jahnsen@gmail.com	832-752-4982
Al Chun	Annual Gala Coordinator	alhwchun@gmail.com	395-0525
Owen Oshima	Annual Gala Co-Chair	owenoshima007@aol.com	741-6936
Carol Weiss-Suyderhoud	Meetings Coordinator/Speaker Chair	carolws@hawaii.rr.com	396-5225
Diane VanderZanden	Editor, <i>Aloha Clipper</i>	alohadvz@gmail.com	396-5293
Ellen Shikuma	Director	EllenNOW@aol.com	734-5725
Clare Takayama	Director	TakaHale@aol.com	247-2004

(Note: area code for all phone numbers is 808 unless otherwise specified.)

Newsletter Items:

If you have any news item that would be of interest, please call Diane VanderZanden at 396-5293 or send mail to 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #26-D, Honolulu, HI 96825-1734 or by e-mail: alohadvz@gmail.com.

Members, we encourage you to print this page and give the application below to your Pan Am friends who are not members. If you are a former employee and not a member of the Aloha Chapter of the Pan Am Association, we encourage you to complete and submit the application below and help keep our association healthy. Thank you.

PAN AM ASSOCIATION—ALOHA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check all applicable boxes and complete all applicable lines.

- Renewal New Member
- Retiree—Pan Am retiree who received lump sum pension or is receiving PBGC checks.
- Associate—All other former Pan Am employees
- Ohana—Surviving spouse, child or relative of above; sponsored person with close connection to Pan Am (subject to BOD approval).

PRINT CLEARLY PLEASE

Date: _____

Name: _____ **Spouse:** _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street Apt # City State ZIP code

Home Phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Would you like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, which is in color? Yes _____ No _____

Retiree/Associate: Dept: _____ **PAA Service:** _____ **Receiving Pension?** _____
of years worked Yes or No

Ohana: Pls. state category & PAA sponsor (See above): _____

The association directory is published every two years and is distributed to **MEMBERS ONLY.**

Do you wish to be listed in the directory? Yes No

May we publish your phone number/E-mail address? Yes No

- Annual Membership: \$ 30 US Residents \$ 35 Overseas residents
- Lifetime Membership: \$150 US Residents \$175 Overseas residents

Please make check payable to **PAA** (Pan Am Association) and send with this application to:

John Medlock, 411 Kaelepu Drive, APT F, Kailua, HI 96734-3309