

## Rotary Minutes 19 Jan 2021

### Rotary Club of Honolulu Zoom Meeting

PRESIDING: **PRESIDENT Rich Proctor**

Speaker: **Daniel Martinez** Chief Historian WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument

The inspiration was given by **Rob Hale**, who shared a story whose moral was “You never know the impact you can make on others’ lives by what you consider small acts of dedication, warmth or kindness.”

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **President Rich**. The singing of “God Bless America” was led by **Al Linton**. **President Rich** introduced our visitors who included: Rotarian Kevin Parle from the U.K., PDG Del Green, Hideo Yamanaka from the Kyoto Club, Bruce Van Tassell, father of **Rob Van Tassell**, Rotarians Vitek and Izabela Kobylinsk of Poland, Saima Makhdoom, and former members Byron Eliashof and Jim Reed.

**Birthdays** this week: **Karin Holma** on 19 Jan, **Paul Saito** on 21 Jan, and **Keane Santos** on 24 Jan

**Club Anniversaries:** **Rob Van Tassell** 1 Year (Sponsor **Paul Saito**)

**Bryan Watkins** 8 Years (Sponsor **Alice Tucker**)

#### **Announcements:**

**President Rich** thanked Rotarians and guests for their work on Saturday 16 Jan to spread mulch at the Centennial Park and applauded **Reese Liggett** for organizing the effort.

**Alice Tucker** announced that she needs Volunteers to read applications and interview Hawaii Rotary Youth Foundation scholarship applicants. Please call Alice or Martha to sign up.

**Rick Tabor** put into the chat **OPPORTUNITY TO** Sign up to volunteer at our RYLA Virtual experience. Our Zoom time will be Friday evening 2/26 & all day Saturday 2/27. To sign up please go to

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewCWolMQsVy5qq5PGHCYPao\\_I8J5OxEEYEuxPHtDu-H818gw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSewCWolMQsVy5qq5PGHCYPao_I8J5OxEEYEuxPHtDu-H818gw/viewform)

#### **Breakout Discussion:**

Club members and guests participated in breakout room discussion with a reprise of the question: “What is one thing that no one in the room knows about you?”

**Program:** **DANIEL MARTINEZ**, Chief Historian for the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

**Bob Sigall** introduced our speaker who is a graduate of Cal State Dominguez Hills. He is a highly regarded historian who has served in a variety of roles with the National Park Service, most notably the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument and for the last 30 years **at the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument**.

Dan began his talk by thanking Rotarians throughout the U.S. for their service on behalf of numerous NPS projects. He proceeded to give a talk that was riveting and full of color,

texture, and detail of the story of the Attack on 7 Dec 1941 that we all think we know. He related his own family connection to the attack, relating that his school age mother was at mass in St Patrick's Church in Kaimuki and quickly told to depart for her 2nd Avenue home to watch the unfolding events from there. Her father was coming off shift as a foreman at the construction of the enormous Red Hill underground fuel tanks and witnessed from close vantage the awesome horror of the attack.

Over the course of his talk Dan dispelled myths - 1. little evidence supports conspiracy theory that intelligence of the imminent attack was deliberately withheld, and 2. Most of 49 civilian casualties were not result of Japanese but rather friendly fire. He related fascinating details of the detailed reconnaissance done by Takeo Yoshikawa, a Naval Officer assigned to the Consulate, a James Bond-like character whose detailed maps and drawings of ship positions and the harbor entrance approaches were key to the attack's deadly impact. Dan also related details on the three Japanese innovations, purposely designed for the attack, that were key to its success – 1. Shallow water torpedoes, 2. Midget submarines, and 3. High level Bombers for deck penetration. Dan concluded his talk and was invited to stay for questions after the formal close of the meeting where he stayed for nearly an hour of extended talk story.

**PRESIDENT RICH** closed the meeting at 1 pm by announcing that next Tuesday our guest speaker will be Historian and Writer Nanette Napoleon, who will discuss Hawaii's Sons of the Civil War.

The Meeting closed with our Video of Hawaii Aloha featuring members of our club including **Lyla Berg, Bub Wo, Erin Pauahi Auerbach, Paul Saito, Kent Reinker, Gwen Yamamoto Lau, Ann Stamp Miller, and President Rich.**

Respectfully submitted, **David M Shanahan**, Scribe