

# HUI LIMA KOKUA NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

To all you Irish and Irish at heart, Happy St. Patrick's Day! My Japanese - American family in Hawaii has always eaten corned beef and cabbage, potatoes and carrots (and rice) on March 17.

Everyone loves celebrations, right? This month is **Mike Nakamura's** birthday on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Hau'oli la Hanau, Mika'ele! Also, a belated happy birthday to **Kaimana Pendergrass** who celebrated her birthday February 8.

Would you all let me know your birthdays (year not necessary), so we can acknowledge you when your special day arrives. Please send me an email or call me: Lynette Inouye, corresponding secretary, 805-758-7387, llinouye@gmail.com

This month we are featuring **Liz Awa DuBose**. Here's a short bio of a gifted gal:

**Family** – My father is a Kona Boy (native Hawaiian/ Japanese, Army non-commissioned officer) and my mother was born during WW II in Ausburg, Germany.

I was born in Lawton, OK. (my dad was stationed at Fort Sill.) My folks live in Kona along with my three siblings and five of my nieces and nephews. My sister is an accountant, one brother is a retired firefighter from the Capt. Cook Fire Station and my youngest brother is a fisherman, hunter, Hawaii Rodeo Association president. I go back to Kona at least once a year to visit and when I do, I spend time hiking, boogie boarding and diving, as well as picking and drying fruit (my folks have all sorts of fruit on their property) and sometimes aku from my dad's catch. He is 82 and still fishing and diving. I also help my parents with various projects around the house.

I met my husband John DuBose at the University of Arizona. He is a special education teacher and a referee/umpire for local schools. Our boys, Quincy and Orion Awa-DuBose (29 & 26) graduated from the University of West Georgia in 2016 with degrees in Special Education and Economics. They also played football and were Division 2 All-American athletes.

**Education** – My education started at 2 ½ when I attended pre-school with Catholic nuns in Germany because I wanted to go with my older sister. Next was kindergarten

m at Konawaena Elementary School in Kona, HI. My dad served his 1<sup>st</sup> tour in Vietnam and WA state and CA were next. After my dad's 2<sup>nd</sup> tour in Vietnam, we moved to Schofield Barracks on Oahu where I attended Wheeler Elementary, Wahiawa Intermediate and Leilehua HS for 2 years. I graduated from Zweibruecken American HS in Germany. It took me 7 years to earn my bachelors since I didn't go to college right out of high school. I could not always afford to go to school full time and I squeezed in a co-op as well. I eventually earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the U of A. I was the first engineer on both the Hawaiian and German sides of the family. A couple years later I earned a Master of Science degree in Systems Management from USC.

**Career** – I began my career as an electronics engineer/missile engineer for the Rolling Airframe Missile and Standard Missile programs for what is now Naval Surface Warfare Center Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD). I worked my way up the career ladder through a variety of technical and leadership positions within the organization. I recently changed direction (sort of) and I now focus on recruiting, internship programs, entry level hiring for the command. The University of Hawai'i at Manoa is one of my favorite schools for recruiting scientists and engineers to continue the excellence of Fleet support provided by NSWC PHD.

**Faith** – Catholic, born and raised (lost for a time, but found my way home). My mother's Catholicism comes from Bavaria, a strongly Catholic region in Germany. My father's Catholicism comes from as far back as my great-great-grandmother (I don't know which ancestors were the first converts from the old Hawaiian ways. I have baptismal records going back 100 years). Imagine two people (out of the billions on earth in the 1960's), my parents, met, fell in love, shared their Catholic faith and just celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sacrament of Marriage!

I am a member of Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Ventura. I serve the Lord through various ministries. I am a believer, I love the Lord and I love my Catholic faith – there is no greater blessing!

**Hula** – I am a member of Halau Hula O Pualanina'auali'ioha based in Camarillo, under Kumu Rona Koe. I love my hula ohana and I find immense joy in dancing hula, playing ipu heke and chanting mele – all of which allow me to stay connected to my Hawaiian roots.

