

# Kwajalein Reunion 2010 Honolulu

## Aloha E Pili Kākou . . . Let Us Be Together

August 26, 27 & 28, 2010 (4 Days & 3 Nights) ~ Hilton Hawaiian Village ~ Only 7 Months Away! Away!

### What To Do On O'ahu Cheap or Free!

#### *Journey Back In Time . . .*

**Aloha Tower** – Built in 1926, once the tallest structure on O'ahu, symbol of Hawaii's Aloha Spirit! [alohatower.com](http://alohatower.com)

**Chinatown** – Visit this exciting, historic district! Two-hour guided walking tours sponsored by the Chinatown Historical Society.

**Dole Plantation** – Pineapple Express Train, Plantation Garden Tour and the World's Largest Maze. Located near Wahiawa in Central O'ahu. [dole-plantation.com](http://dole-plantation.com)

**Hawaii's Plantation Village** – Outdoor history museum tells the story of life on Hawaii's sugar plantations (c. 1900). [hawaiiplantationvillage.org](http://hawaiiplantationvillage.org)

**Historic Waikiki** – Self-guided walking tour with map and text. Sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Assoc. [waikikihistorictail.com](http://waikikihistorictail.com)

**National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific** – Located in Punchbowl Crater, in ancient times known as the "Hill of Sacrifice".

**Pearl Harbor** - Visit USS Arizona Memorial, USS Bowfin Submarine Museum and/or battleship USS Missouri.

**Queen Emma Summer Palace** Built in 1848, lovely retreat of Queen Emma, wife of King Kamehameha IV. [daughtersofhawaii.com](http://daughtersofhawaii.com)

**Royal Mausoleum** – 2261 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu - Serene site of the final resting place for some of Hawaii's most beloved royal figures.

Any questions or to share your story, memory, opinion, ideas, participate in Hawaiiiana Fair and/or help with reunion, email Momi at [momiala@yahoo.com](mailto:momiala@yahoo.com)

### Registration Form

Our reunion registration form has been finalized and can be found at <http://www.wiehes.com/reunion2010/Registration%20Form.pdf>. It can be filled out online, printed (keep a copy for your records) and mailed to the address listed. Priority seating at events will be given to early registrants until the end of March.

### Hilton Hawaiian Village Reservations

To make reservations online, use the following personalized web site: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/HNLHVHH-ALA-20100823/index.jhtml>. Once you have entered the site, click on *Book A Room* to begin the process. You may also make your reservation by calling 1-800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667). Use the source code ALA to receive our special discounted Kwaj rate. This rate has been extended to include three days before and after the reunion!



### "Tails" From The Past

Have you heard the saying, "You must have come into this world backwards"? Well, I have heard it plenty from my family! My name is Suzanne (Van Ness) Brusco, and I was born on Kwajalein 61 years ago. My father, Joe, was in the Navy and arrived on Kwaj in 1947. He was followed shortly by my mother, Marjorie, and my brother, Kenny. I arrived November 18, 1948 and had the distinct honor of being the 11<sup>th</sup> Caucasian baby born on the island. Back then the hospital shared quarters in a Quonset Hut with the morgue. That particular day, all the hospital rooms were in use, so the doctor pushed my mother through the curtain into the morgue, where I made my appearance! Being born in a morgue allowed my family the pleasure of teasing me about starting my life out backwards!

Life on Kwaj was paradise for my brother. At 13 he had the freedom to roam from island to island at low tide. He and his friends had many adventures, checking out the tide pools, looking for shells and collecting rat tails. Yes, *rat tails*! You see, the rat population was very large and the servicemen would pay kids 50¢ a tail. Spending money and rodent control all in one! On one of the boys' adventures, they heard that the Navy had caught a Japanese pilot who had been shot down in WWII and had ended up on one of the islands. The pilot had been there for three years and was only captured because he had decided to shoot at one of the PT boats!

I was too young for such adventures, but that doesn't mean my life lacked excitement. One afternoon my mother left me for a short time unattended on the couch enjoying a bottle of formula. As babies often do, I managed to spit a portion of my drink back up and onto myself. Upon my mother's return, she found me covered in black ants!

We left Kwajalein in 1950. I have not returned but would love to visit someday. I would also like to meet other "babies" born on Kwaj!

### Airlines That Service The Islands

**American Airlines** ([www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)); **Continental Airlines** ([www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com)); **Delta** ([www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)); **Hawaiian Airlines** ([www.hawaiianair.com](http://www.hawaiianair.com)); **United** ([www.united.com](http://www.united.com)); and, **US Airways** ([www.usairways.com](http://www.usairways.com)).



### 'Iolani Suite Happenings

Our hospitality room, where we may *e pili kākou*, gather and talk story, will be located in the 'Iolani Suite of The Hilton Hawaiian Village's Tapa Conference Center. A Micronesian Memorabilia Corner will be set up for all to enjoy. And you may browse the Hawaiiiana Fair where the following former Kwaj residents will share their talents:

- **Tim Ashby** - Drawings, Kwaj Stuff and T-Shirts
- **Rev. Buck** - Books
- **Melissa Dethlefsen** - Prints and Specialty Items
- **Darlene Diehl** - Kwaj/Emon Beach Watercolor Prints and Sumi-e Japanese Ink Paintings
- **Greg Dvorak** - Kwaj Writings and T-Shirts
- **Momi Phillips** - Kikepa (Hawaiian Cover-Up)
- **Jody Ragan-Taylor** - Buttons and Bumper Stickers

### Email Response



Kwaj was a pool of talent, in regards to musicians over the years. I knew Ron Evans, Henry, Harry & German. The hospital had quite a musical connection! Ron, Ben (Salas) & I were corpsmen/medics. Ben is a physician now. I remember fondly the times German, Henry & another local guy (can't remember his name) would start singing Hawaiian songs over on Ebeye. We were all married to Micronesian girls then, & we used to drink beer together. My name is Steve Laughton, & I was on Kwaj from 1970 to 1972 & again from 1974 to 1979. Kwaj had such an impact on me; I was in my 20's & learned so much about myself & about diversity. If I cannot attend the reunion, I will be there in spirit!

### Attention Divers



Interested in SCUBA diving? Even if you haven't donned a mask and tank since leaving Kwaj, we are making two different dive trips possible. Captain Joe has a boat that holds 18 divers. Gear can be rented at Waikiki Dive Shop and given sufficient notice, the Captain is willing to pick it up. A seat on the boat is \$35, tanks are \$4 each and the gear rental, depending on what you need, is around \$35. We usually do a two-tank dive in the morning for advanced divers and a two-tank afternoon dive for beginners. Questions? Email Vincent Giasolli at [vgiasolli@gmail.com](mailto:vgiasolli@gmail.com).