

# COMMANDER'S CORNER

BY USAG-KA COMMANDER COL. MICHAEL LARSEN

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okwe neighbors and members of "Team Kwajalein!" We had a very eventful couple of weeks since my last column, and I continue to be impressed with how our community "weathers" things together.

On Oct. 7, we had an excellent example of that concept when approximately 845 of our Marshallese friends and co-workers were stranded here on Kwajalein for the first time that can be recalled. The generosity of people donating food, blankets, pillows and dry clothes to help feed and give comfort to these men, women and children for the night speaks volumes about the character of our people in this island. The way you all came together to help each other made me very proud to count myself as a part of this community. I invite you to read more about how Kwajalein Rrange Services and other organizations supported this emergency mission on pages 4-5 of this Hourglass issue.

Earlier this week we hosted the commander of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) here on island. Admiral Cecil Haney is an advocate of our unique missions here,

and I appreciate him taking the time to see firsthand the accomplishments and professionalism of the entire island team. Please see our official Garrison Facebook page for photos from that visit. The story will be in the next issue of The Hourglass.

I executed my first Town Hall on Roi-Namur for our U.S. and R.M.I. workforce Friday. My first session of Kwajalein Town Halls are scheduled for Oct. 20. Time and location details are on page 11. I look forward to tackling any concerns that get highlighted during the Town Hall series. I challenge you to feel free to remark on whatever you want; I promise it will be an open and honest discourse.

We recently began publishing the "Hero of the Week" in the Hourglass. In this issue, we are profiling two heroes—a husband and wife team who have positively impacted the community for years—Bob and Jane Sholar. Read about their volunteer efforts on page 6. If you want to recommend someone for Hero of the Week, contact the Hourglass Editor Jordan Vinson so that we can continue to publicize worthy contributors to our community.

My new Public Affairs Officer, Nikki Maxwell, has injected positive new energy into our official USAG-KA Facebook page. My goal is to make that online space



a venue for useful command information and community updates. If you have a question or comment, you can post it there (or private message) anytime, and we will respond. Please "Like" and share our page with your friends and families to help get the word out.

Take care, and I'll see you around the island.

Kommol Tata!  
Col. Mike Larsen



## Nation mourns Zedkaia's passing

The Republic of the Marshall Islands held a state funeral Thursday for the late Majuro Iroiylaplap and former R.M.I. President Jurelang Zedkaia. Zedkaia, 65, passed away Wednesday on Majuro following an apparent heart attack.

Current President Christopher Loeak ordered flags to half-mast earlier this week

and has declared a month of national mourning to honor the late president and paramount chief.

"Our hearts are leaden with grief at this time of great loss," Loeak told media. "Iroiylaplap Jurelang Zedkaia will be remembered with gratitude for the contributions made towards our country's development and growth."

An honor guard and mourners escorted Zedkaia's remains from Majuro Hospital to the state funeral, held in the Nitijela, the nation's capital building on Majuro. His remains were later transported to the Assembly of God Church in Delap for follow-up services before his burial next week in a cemetery in Laura reserved for traditional leaders.

### THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944.

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