



FY 2009-10

442ND RCT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

FY2009-2010 442nd Veterans Club Archives Center Report

The 442nd RCT Foundation continues to focus its financial resources to supporting the 442nd Veterans Club Archives. Especially in light of declining contributions in recent years, the Foundation's board of directors has consciously established the 442 Archives and the collection efforts of 442nd-related documents from the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) by the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) as its top funding priorities.

Located in two converted apartments at the 442nd Veterans Club headquarters, the Archives collects, preserves and interprets items relating to the history of the 442nd RCT. Its collection consists of artifacts, photographs, publications and documents from the war and postwar memorabilia relating to the Club's activities.

Funding support from the Foundation pays for Archive staff, which is responsible for cataloging, storing and organizing materials in the collection, in addition to handling office duties and assisting visitors and requests for information.

Briefly, Archives activities include:

- Digitizing of NARA documents collected and sent from Washington, D.C., by JAVA volunteers. There are approximately 30 linear feet of documents that need to be scanned.

- Digitizing of photographs. The Archives photo collection includes over 20,000 wartime and postwar images that need to be digitized for preservation purposes.

- Transfer of materials to UH Hamilton Library. In accordance with an agreement between the 442nd and UH, selected items must be transferred from the Archives to the University. Materials selected for transfer must be scanned or photocopied.

- 442nd Veterans Club website. The 442nd Veterans Club website was launched in 2008. The Archives supports the website by providing information and images as requested.

- Digitizing of audio-visual materials. The Archives

Continued on page 8



Preservation of company photos (Co. F above) have been a major focus of the 442 RCT Archives & Learning Center. Photo courtesy of 442 RCT Archives & Learning Center.



The 442nd RCT Foundation is an IRC Section 501(c)(3) private, non-profit corporation, registered in the state of Hawaii. It is based at the 442nd Veterans Club headquarters in Honolulu.

Please direct questions and correspondence to:

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Phone: (808) 949-7997
Fax: (808) 949-1539

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees, which also reviews and awards grant support to individuals and organizations whose efforts serve to further the mission of the Foundation.

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Our Mission:

"To promote, preserve and perpetuate the spirit and dedication of the men of the 442nd RCT."

President's Message

Dear Members,

Although our organization, like so many non-profits across the USA, had some economic setbacks in 2010, we, perhaps, are more fortunate than others. With the support of our donors we were able to meet the goals of the Foundation mission: to reach out and perpetuate the legacy and story of the men of the 442nd RCT.

This past year, we strongly supported the 442nd Archives Learning Center. Its outreach services to the general public, as well as to educational institutions have increased over time, requiring upgrades to its collection, filing and storage systems. Equipment upgrades and services also required continued attention. With our help, all of these were accomplished.

A grant was also offered to the Go-For-Broke National Educational Center to partially support its second teacher-training program on the island of Maui.

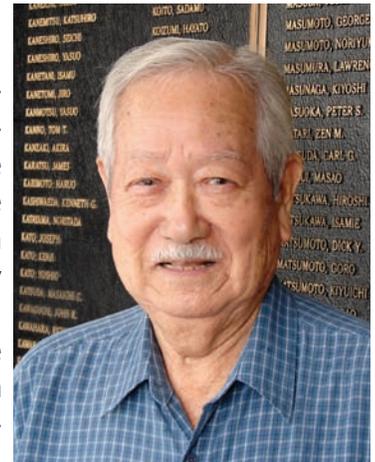
On the national scene, a grant was awarded to help the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) upgrade its communication systems to record historical data from the National Archives Library. This valuable data is then sent here to be shared via the 442nd Archives and the Archives at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

2010 was also filled with exciting events recognizing the 442nd RCT.

Last May, the documentary film, "442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity," was released. Directed by Junichi Suzuki, the film reveals many untold stories of the legendary all-Nisei military unit as told by the veterans themselves. On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, one of our country's highest civilian honors, to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service.

Events such as these are timely reminders for each of us to continue sharing the legacy of the Nisei veterans of WWII. These stories help to enrich the larger community's knowledge of diverse cultures and the dangers of prejudice and discrimination.

Since 1993, we have worked together to ensure that the legacy of courage and sacrifice forged on the battlefield some 67 years ago will never be forgotten. Let us look forward to continuing to promote and support the mission of the Foundation through 2011 and into the future by perpetuating the spirit and accomplishment of the men of the 442nd RCT.



George Nakasato

Mahalo.

George M. Nakasato, President
 442nd RCT Foundation



Teacher Training Institute Held on Maui

The 442nd RCT Foundation provided support for the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) teacher training institute held October 8 and 9, 2010, at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) in Kahului, Maui. The institute, entitled Looking Like the Enemy: Japanese Americans in World War II Hawaii, represented a partnership between GFBNEC, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH), and NVMC.

The goal of the workshop was to provide teachers with tools and training to teach World War II history in Social Studies and Modern Hawaiian History through the experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawaii. Teachers were provided with curriculum, primary and secondary resource materials, and local sites for field trips to help them share the story of Japanese Americans during the war through the Occupation of Japan. The institute also shared stories of AJA veterans, who provided their personal perspectives of the war. Teachers found the talk story session with the veterans to be an invaluable experience.

The NVMC presented information about its new archive center that is slated to open in late 2011. The archive will provide a place for the public to do research and find primary resources on Nisei veterans from Maui.

Teacher evaluations of the institute were all extremely positive. They indicated that they would use the lesson plans and other resources



Participants at the teacher training institute held on Maui. Photos courtesy of Go For Broke National Education Center.

in their classes, adapt them to fit their needs, or share them with other Social Studies and Modern Hawaiian History teachers at their schools.

This was the second year that the institute was held. The 442nd RCT Foundation also supported the inaugural GFBNEC program held on Oahu in 2009. Organizational partners met following the institute to discuss the future of the workshop partnership. The group assessed the way we are delivering the educational program and materials. The groups agreed to explore new and more efficient ways to provide teachers with the training and materials while continuing to offer teachers support and information that they need. The partnering organizations hope to redirect their efforts and find new ways to engage students and teachers with the WWII Japanese American story. 🇺🇸

Teachers get firsthand experiences from Maui Nisei vets during the institute's popular talk story session.





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Mahalo to all supporters of the 442nd RCT Foundation

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continued on page 5



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Cpl. Toratsugu Ryusaki and Sgt. Masao Uehara work on the motor of a 5x6 Army truck in 1943. (U.S. Signal Corps Photo/442nd RCT Archives Collection)

Correction: In last year's (FY2008-09) report, we listed a donation from the Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program in the amount of \$5,000. The administrators of that program want to clarify that the donation was made on behalf of a client who chooses to remain anonymous. We apologize for the misunderstanding.



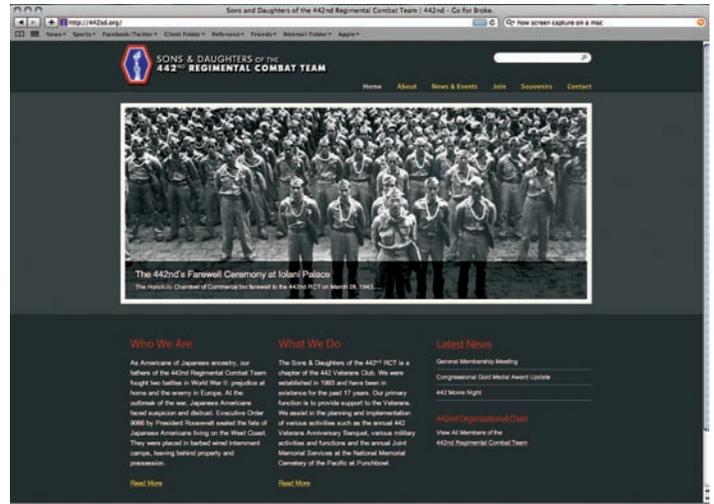
Sons & Daughters Create New Web Site: www.442sd.org

The Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT have created a new Web site: www.442sd.org. The primary purpose of the Web site is to improve communications between the veterans, sons and daughters, family members, and friends.

In today's world of cell phones and the Internet, communication has gotten much easier and faster. We no longer have to wait for a reply to a letter to arrive in the mailbox. With a cell phone, you are connected 24/7. The same can be said about the Internet. You can send a message and receive a reply as quick as it takes for the other person to read it and type out a reply.

The Web site is used to share information quickly and efficiently. On the Web site under "News & Events," you will find the latest news regarding the veterans and our organization. There are weekly updates on veteran-related news. You will also be able to view and download photos from past 442-related events such as the Anniversary Banquet and the Joint Memorial Services. Did you know that Senator Dan Inouye recently visited the 442 Clubhouse? You can find out why and who he met by visiting the Web site.

One of the areas featured on the new Web site is the 442nd Archives. Interesting articles from the veterans offer reflections of the past. Through the years, there have been a lot of great articles



Screenshot of the new Web site's homepage.

written by the veterans. Many of these predate the computer. Part of our goal is to republish these articles. For example, there are many articles in the "Go For Broke Bulletin" that tell the stories of the veterans dating back 30 years or more. These stories give us insight as to what occurred and how they felt during this difficult period in history. The Web site is also used to expand the quarterly publication of the "Go For Broke Bulletin." Current copies of the Bulletin can also be found on the site and shared with relatives and friends, without depending on the postal system.

The Web site also offers a registry of all those who served in the 442nd RCT. Under the title, "The 442nd Organizational Chart," you will find the names of the more than 15,000 men associated with this unit, which includes the 100th Infantry Battalion and MIS (Military Intelligence Service). The names are listed by Company.

The promotion of the 442nd Archives is in keeping with the goals of the 442nd RCT Foundation.

As we move forward from a paper-and-pencil world to one of computers and e-mail, we need to adapt and explore new ways to perpetuate the legacy of the 442. Our new Web site is a step in the right direction. Through the World Wide Web and www.442sd.org, we now have the ability to tell their stories to audiences throughout the world. 



The Sons & Daughters Web site includes coverage of veterans' events, such as the 2010 annual banquet pictured above.



442 RCT Legacy Center Proposed at KCC

Ever since it was established in 1993, the 442nd RCT Foundation has raised and dispersed funds in support of its mission, which is “to promote, preserve and perpetuate the spirit and dedication of the men of the 442nd RCT.” Central to this mission has been support for the 442 Archives.

It is with great interest, therefore, that the Foundation follows the effort currently underway to create a new Legacy Center for the 442nd RCT at a site located at Kapiolani Community College (KCC). The Foundation is neither for or against the plan, but stands ready to respond should its involvement be solicited at some point down the line.

The proposed facility would be dedicated to the history of the 442, including its collection of photographs, letters, documents, publications, artifacts, audio-visual material and wartime memorabilia.

Proponents envision the Legacy Center to include a library for study and research, a classroom for lectures and audio-visual presentations, a separate area for veterans' oral histories, and a space for exhibits and displays.

As a partner, KCC would help to ensure the longevity

of the Legacy Center, including its ongoing operational and maintenance costs, planners state.

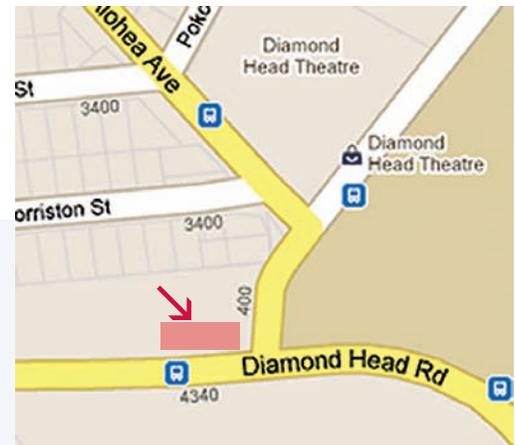
Senate Bill No. 1215, introduced in the 2011 Session of the Hawaii State Legislature, proposes to create a task force to study the feasibility of creating the new Legacy Center at KCC. The study would focus on the transfer of approximately 1.5 acres from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to KCC to be used for the Legacy Center.

The 3-acre property is currently being used by the State Parks Division of DLNR. Proponents believe the land is underutilized and can accommodate both the State Parks facility and the Legacy Center. The Legacy Center group has met with State Parks and presented a conceptual site plan. The parties agree to further study the concept regarding the joint use of the parcel. 

Statement excerpted from testimony presented in support of Senate Bill 1215 S.D.1 before the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing on March 1, 2011:

“While I understand that there are many issues associated with the creation of a new Legacy Center at this location, as a veteran, I feel that it is important that our story lives on. With the support of an institution of higher learning like KCC, we hope that not only will it expand the awareness of our legacy, but ensure that the facility will be around for a long time to come. As president of the 442 Veterans Club, I am reminded everyday that time is running out. Our honor roll grows longer every month. Many of the veterans who envisioned this learning center are no longer with us. We support this bill. We ask for your help and guidance to make our vision a reality.”

—William Thompson, President, 442nd RCT Veterans Club



NISEI LEGACY CENTER
SITE MASTERPLAN
Scale: 1"=50'



AD2

Above: Arrow shows approximate location of site, corner of Diamond Head Road and Makapuu Avenue, across the street from main KCC campus. Detail of property shows proposed plan to share use of the space with DLNR's State Parks Division.



442nd RCT Archives, *continued from page 1*

collection of analog (Hi8 and VHS) tapes – including oral histories – must be digitized for preservation purposes.

- Unit Photo Project.

Panoramic photos of all 442nd units taken at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, are being reproduced and mounted for display in the Clubhouse. A copy print of each photo is being produced by a professional photo lab for display purposes.

In addition to personnel costs, the Foundation also underwrites much of the Archives' equipment and supply costs. 



Above: Unit photos (Medics pictured above) will be duplicated for both display and preservation purposes.

Right: Photo taken at the outskirts of Massa, Italy, on 4/13/1945. Traffic moves over by-pass built by an Engineers Co. of the 442nd RCT.

Photos courtesy of the 442nd RCT Archives & Learning Center

