



Go For Broke BULLETIN

442nd VETERANS CLUB



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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Go For Broke

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Cover:

Top: 100th/442nd Rifle Squad with 21-Gun Salute at Joint Memorial Service

Bottom: Bruyeres visitors pose for photo at King Kamehameha Statue

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Go For Broke is the official bulletin of the 442nd Veterans Club. Contributors may submit reports to: Editor, Go For Broke Bulletin, 933 Wiliwili Street, Honolulu, HI 96826; e-mail: 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net. Please submit reports on CD (saved in MS Word in Windows format) or email to 442 office. For more information, contact (808) 949-7997. Deadlines for 2011 submissions: April 8, July 8, October. 7, January 6, 2012.

PRESIDENT'S *Report*

by Bill Thompson

Finally! November 2nd is the date for the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service – the Nisei Warriors of WWII. This highest civilian award by Congress was enacted in 2010 and signed into law by President Barack Obama on October 5, 2010.

Congress has sent out 1250 invitations to eligible veterans and next of kin to attend the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal at the ceremony to be held in the Emancipation Hall in Washington, D.C. Over 3,000 veterans, next of kin, and family members have signed up for the Congressional Gold ceremony and other events planned by the National Veterans Network, a coordinating agency for the many Nisei organizations.

This elaborate ceremony will be televised nationally and all veterans should keep watching for the announcements emanating from Washington, D.C. This last WWII honor to be presented to the Nisei warriors of WWII is a fitting finale attesting to the patriotism of the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Following the Washington, D.C. ceremony, a local ceremony will be held on December 17 here in Honolulu. A parade through Waikiki in the morning will begin the local Congressional Gold Medal ceremony with a luncheon program to be held at the Hawaii Convention Center. The next day a memorial service will be held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Details of the local ceremony will be published in the newspapers from time to time.

Our last quarter of 2011 will be filled with memorable events – a grand way to finish the year and celebrate our WWII service in grand style with our fellow veterans, families and friends.



Joint Memorial Service - l-r: Bill Thompson (Pres., 442nd Veterans Club), Irene Anzai (1st VP, 100th Inf Bn Veterans), Lt. Gen. Francis Wiercinski (Cdr., US Army, Pacific), Tsutomu Oi (1399), Edgar Hamasu (Pres., MIS)

Photo: Wayne Iha

IN MEMORIAM



Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:

Doi, Masami (E Co.)	July 10, 2011
Fujimoto, Tsutomu (522C)	June 14, 2011
Furuto, Gordon Tokuo (Service)	June 18, 2011
Hayashida, Harold Toshio (M Co.)	May 25, 2011
Ichikawa, Robert Setsuto (E Co.)	July 4, 2011
Ikehara, Seikichi (HQ Co.)	Aug. 8, 2011
Ishihara, Yukio (Service Co.)	Sept. 2, 2011
Ito, Martin Lloyd (Cannon Co.)	June 23, 2011
Kajikawa, Frank Masaru (HQ Co.)	July 11, 2011
Katayama, Robert Nobuichi (F Co.)	Aug. 14, 2011
Kimura, Michio G "Mickey" (M Co.)	Oct. 12, 2010
Kinoshita, Fukuo "Papa" (F Co.)	June 20, 2011
Kuida, Dr. Hiroshi (Cannon Co.)	Aug. 2, 2011
Matsumoto, Tatsumi (3HQ)	July 24, 2011
Miyakawa, Richard (Anti-Tank)	June 6, 2011
Nakauchi, Hideo (K Co.)	Feb. 13, 2011
Nishioka, Atsuo (232 nd Eng.)	Aug. 8, 2011
Nishizaki, Masatsugi (232 nd Eng.)	May 13, 2011
Okamoto, Allen Hisayoshi (I Co.)	July 9, 2011
Ono, Kiyoshi (522B)	June 12, 2011
Sakaguchi, Ryosuke R. (G Co.)	June 8, 2011
Sakamoto, James Naomitsu (2HQ)	Aug. 5, 2011
Sakamoto, Oscar Katsumi (522A)	June 24, 2011
Sakumoto, Matsuji "Mutt" (I Co.)	Aug. 19, 2011
Sato, Haruo (F Co.)	July 30, 2011
Seto, Frank Tomohiko (Anti-Tank)	June 3, 2011
Shigaki, Jerry Masashi (G Co.)	May 14, 2011
Sorakubo, Manabu (522A)	May 24, 2011
Sugasawara, Walter Atsushi (E Co.)	Aug. 28, 2011
Tadakuma, Hiroshi "Horse" (3HQ)	July 22, 2011
Tamayose, Masanobu (522 Serv)	Aug. 1, 2011
Tanizaki, Frank Toshiyuki (E Co.)	Aug. 20, 2011
Tanoue, Tadashi L. (K Co.)	June 21, 2011
Tanouye, Jim (F Co.)	June 4, 2011
Terada, Riyoji (Medic)	Aug. 12, 2011
Teruya, Wataru (HQ Co.)	May 27, 2011
Tsuhako, Saburo (Anti-Tank)	June 22, 2011
Uyeda, Katsumi (Anti-Tank)	April, 3, 2011
Uyeno, Ray Moriyoshi (HQ Co.)	June 24, 2011

Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

442nd Veterans Club

Mrs. & Mrs. Bill Andrews <i>(IMO Katsugo Miho, 522B)</i>	\$500
Hanafuda Hawaii, LLC	\$4,006
James Miyamoto	\$50
Howard Murakami	\$100
Fred Okada <i>(IMO Robert Katayama, F Co.)</i>	\$20
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Oba <i>(IMO Robert Katayama, F Co.)</i>	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Oba <i>(IMO Florence Kodama)</i>	\$100
Laura Shigenaga <i>(IMO Raymond Shigenaga, E Co.)</i>	\$200
Carol Sullivan	\$25
Bryan Yagi <i>(IMO Barney Hajiro, I Co.)</i>	\$50
Bryan Yagi <i>(IMO Fred Ida, G Co.)</i>	\$50

Go For Broke Bulletin

1 st Lt. Donald Macaulay <i>(IMO Col. Virgil Miller)</i>	\$100
James Miyamoto	\$50
Howard Murakami	\$100
Francis Ohta <i>(IMO Dyna Matsuda, L Co.)</i>	\$100
Susan Takara <i>(IMO Ronald Takara)</i>	\$100
May Shiozawa	\$25

Scholarship Donations

Betty Matsuda <i>(IMO Takashi "Dyna" Matsuda, L Co.)</i>	\$320
Mitsue Sakamoto <i>(IMO James Sakamoto, 2HQ)</i>	\$500
William Thompson <i>(IMO James Sakamoto, 2HQ)</i>	\$500
William Thompson <i>(IMO Robert Katayama, F Co.)</i>	\$100
William Thompson <i>(IMO Katsugo Miho, 522B)</i>	\$100
Ted Tsukiyama <i>(IMO Toku Tanaka)</i>	\$30

Our apologies: The last issue erroneously reported a \$500 donation from JA Living Legacy to the GFB Bulletin. Donor should have read: AJA WWII Memorial Alliance.



News from the

EDITOR'S DESK

by Oscar Tsukayama

A Message from Senator Akaka's Office

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony Set For November 2nd to Honor the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service:

A resolution passed by Congress this month is paving the way for a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony to be held this November in our nation's Capitol, honoring members of the U.S. Army 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) for their dedicated service during World War II.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 28 authorized the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitors Center for the commemoration on November 2, 2011. Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka led the resolution through the U.S. Senate on September 8, and Congresswomen Mazie K. Hirono and Colleen Hanabusa ushered it through the House of Representatives on September 21.

The award was authorized by the Congressional Gold Medal for Japanese American Veterans Act, cosponsored by Senators Akaka and Inouye in the Senate and signed into law by President Barack Obama on October 5, 2010. The legislation collectively grants the Congressional Gold Medal to members of 100th Battalion/442nd RCT and MIS for their decorated service. These Japanese-Americans soldiers were mostly from Hawaii. "I am looking forward to seeing thousands of Nisei veterans and their families fill Emancipation Hall at the Capitol as Congress presents the units this well deserved honor for their heroic service which helped win the war. The statues of Kamehameha and Lady Freedom will frame the ceremony as these World War II heroes are honored with the Congressional Gold Medal," said Senator Akaka.

"I am very pleased that we will be able to use this space to commemorate this moment and share it with our families, loved ones, and friends. I was with several of my former comrades in arms in the Oval Office when the President signed the recognition, making it official. We appeared to be in a happy, jovial mood, but I am certain that all of us recognized the emotional caliber of the moment. We knew that the recognition we were receiving was the result of lost lives and bloodshed. We remembered our brothers who did not come home from the war. We were humbled, proud and pleased that the contributions and sacrifices we made in defense of our country were recognized. I am very grateful to this nation for remembering us," said Senator Inouye.

"This November, we will hold a long-awaited ceremony that pays tribute to the service and unquestioned loyalty of these heroic WWII veterans. These soldiers faced wartime challenges with honor and dignity not only on the battlefields of Europe, but back home during uncertain times," said Congresswoman Hirono. "I look forward to this commemoration that will allow our nation to acknowledge their heroism and sacrifice."

"This recognition of valor and heroism is long overdue," said Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, member of the House Armed Services Committee. "Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, these remarkable heroes volunteered to defend a country that declared them to be 'enemy aliens.' They clamored for permission to fight for a nation that sent many of their family members and friends to internment camps. This ceremony will give us the opportunity to thank these veterans for their service and sacrifice – and honor those who are not with us to witness this extraordinary moment."

For the latest updates on the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, please visit: [National Veterans Network](#).

Update on the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) Ceremony

1. November 2, 2011 has been set as the date for the CGM Ceremony. The following seating

priority has been set by NVN since the Emancipation Hall cannot accommodate all attendees.

- Veteran plus one guest
- Widow plus one guest
- One Next of Kin
- One Next of Kin of deceased veteran

2. 3,800 have registered to attend the ceremonies.

3. Date and Time for the banquet to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel are yet to be determined. The main ballroom can accommodate 2,500 persons and an overflow room with TV viewing can accommodate another 1,000 persons. NVN will determine seating priority.

4. The ceremony initially scheduled to be held outdoors at the National World War II Memorial has been moved to the Washington Hilton Hotel, Columbia Hall. The ceremony will start at 10:30 AM, Nov. 1.

5. A private ceremony for KIA families will be held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism on the last day. However, this too will be by invitation only as the capacity at the monument is 300 persons. All attendees are encouraged to visit the memorial during their free time.

6. There will be no Honor Flights from Hawaii.

7. The Hawaii Committee which is planning a CGM ceremony in Honolulu in December 2011 has arranged to provide blazers, at no cost, to veterans from Hawaii attending the ceremonies in Washington, D.C. An insignia of their units will be attached to the blue blazers and a matching tie and ribbon lei will make up the uniform. Fifty-nine veterans from Hawaii are registered to attend the ceremonies.

Brush of Kindness

The Honolulu Habitat for Humanity is looking for veterans who they can assist with minor house repair, painting, caulking, landscaping, junk removal, building outside ramps or stairs, etc. To qualify, families must be within 30% to 60% of the mean income (for example, a family of 2 in Hawaii cannot earn more than \$47K per year). Depending on the level of income, the work may be without cost or

veterans may be required to pay a portion of the cost. For veterans who are in a care facility his or her spouse must live in the house. Widows are also eligible; however, a house that is rented out is not eligible. If you are interested, please contact Shirley at the 442nd Veterans Club, telephone 808-949-7997 for additional information or application forms.

Go For Broke: Me and the War!

(Information and photo for this article was provided by Susan Uyemura, CEO, JA Living Legacy.)

The Nikkei Writers Guild has published its sixth book authored by Mike Tsuji, H Co., 442nd Regimental Combat Team, titled: "Go For Broke: Me and the War." The foreword was written by Vincent H. Okamoto, Vietnam veteran and member of the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Mike's book presents an unabashed and refreshing perspective of World War II as experienced by an ordinary guy thrust into extraordinary circumstances as he lives and witnesses feats of courage and perseverance fighting with the 442nd RCT. His detailed accounts transport readers to a period in his life that nurtured his humanity and will endear readers by introducing them to an often untold side of that war that reveals the many battles our community's soldiers faced within themselves.

The Nikkei Writers Guild is the publishing division of the Japanese American Living Legacy, a nonprofit (501.c.3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. The book may be obtained by contacting: www.jalivinglegacy.org or calling: (657) 278-4483.



Warship Named For Japanese American World War II Veteran

August 24, 2011 was a day of special honor for Japanese American veterans of World War II as they welcomed an Army warship to the Port of Tacoma. Nisei veterans were treated as special guests to welcome in the Army vessel which arrived from its home port in Hawaii. The ship, a Logistics Service Vessel LSV-7, a huge landing craft, is named “Staff Sgt. Robert T. Kuroda.”

Robert Kuroda who fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe died in combat in 1944 as he single-handedly took out two machine gun nests in France for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was 21 at the time.

With the landing vessel named in his honor, the Nisei veterans say they can look on this with a great deal of pride—for him and for their own services in the United States Armed Forces.

Joint Memorial Service (JMS) a Big Success

A great big MAHALO to Chairman Wade Wasano and his JMS Committee for a job well done. It was a big success with about 500 attending. Most encouraging was the large number of family members (widows, wives, sons, daughters and grandkids) in attendance.

The memorial address was given by Lt. Gen. Francis “Frank” Wiercinski, Commander, U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and Ms. Lynn Heirakuji, daughter of disabled K Company veteran, Walter Heirakuji, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The 111th Army Band-HIARNG furnished music for the ceremony; the 100th Bn. 442nd Inf. Regt. did the presentation, posting and retiring of colors and the HSL-37 “Easy Riders” U.S. Navy did the flyover. Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani gave the invocation and benediction while Pastor Russell Takaezu gave a prayer of remembrance. Alan Miyamura and Primasita Seery, Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii provided their rendition of “Going Home” and ‘Auld Lang Syne” and the Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin Choir entertained the attendees with their singing of “I Am

a Thousand Winds.”

‘Mahalo Nui Loa to Boy Scout Troop 39, 100 and 216; Cub Scout Pack 39 and 442 and the Roosevelt High School JROTC Leadership and Cadets who were out in force to decorate the graves with leis and flags; serve as ushers and distribute programs and bottled water; we also send our heartfelt thanks to local businesses such as BAE Systems, Inc., Hawaiian Isles Kona Coffee, McDonald’s of Hawaii (King St.), Menehune Water Co., Ryan’s Graphics and others too numerous to mention for their generous donations. Last but not least, our thanks to Col. Gene Castagnetti (Ret), Director, NMCP, Maj. Gen. Darryll Wong, Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, Mayor Peter Carlisle and others for their support and efforts in helping to make this event a big success.



442nd Veterans Club president Bill Thompson and 100/442 reservist present wreath at Joint Memorial Service

Photo: Wayne Iha

442nd Veterans Club Sponsors Hanafuda Exhibit at Senior Fair

Mrs. Helen Nakano, a retired school teacher, has dedicated herself to promoting the game of “Hanafuda” to help bridge the gap between generations. She noted that, because of differences in the language and lifestyles of the issei and their younger generations, families were getting further apart and out of touch. But in families where hanafuda is played, there seemed to be more inter-action between the grandparents and grandkids. This fact served as a catalyst for her new career in which she designs, manufactures, sells, and most importantly,

teaches hanafuda to get families involved in the game. She hopes that this will help develop close-knit families.



Photo: Helen Nakano

She asked the 442nd Veterans Club to sponsor her Hanafuda booth at the Senior Fair this year which featured her hanafuda exhibits as well as pamphlets, brochures and other publicity material regarding the 442nd RCT. She donated her profits from the exhibit in the amount of \$4,006.00 to the 442 Veterans Club. We thank her very sincerely for her generous donation.

Keisen University Students from Japan Interview 442nd Veterans

In conjunction with their project to do a study of the Nikkei in America, nine students with their project leader conducted interviews of 442nd Veterans at the clubhouse on September 12, 2011.



Kazuo Tomasa (Medics) and Lovette Yanagihara (Ukulele/Hula Group) give Keisen University students a lesson in hula

Bill Thompson, Ron Oba, Robert Uyeda, Satoru Shikasho, Moriso Teraoka, Ed Yamasaki, and Takashi Shirakata graciously volunteered to participate in the interviews. From all indications, the interviews were fruitful and the group appeared satisfied with the results but the highlight of the day seems to be the entertainment that followed. It is not known whether this was planned or whether it was coincidental but members of the 442nd Ukulele and Hula Club made their appearance as the interviews were about to end. Almost immediately, an impromptu party atmosphere prevailed as the group enjoyed sing-alongs; Kazu Tomasa entertained with his favorite songs accompanied by his ukulele, and Lovette Yanagihara taught and led the group in a hula. I think the group experienced the spirit of Aloha in addition to what they learned through the interviews.

Late News

1. Leslie Wilcox, President and CEO of PBS Hawaii has agreed to serve as Emcee for the 69th Anniversary Banquet.

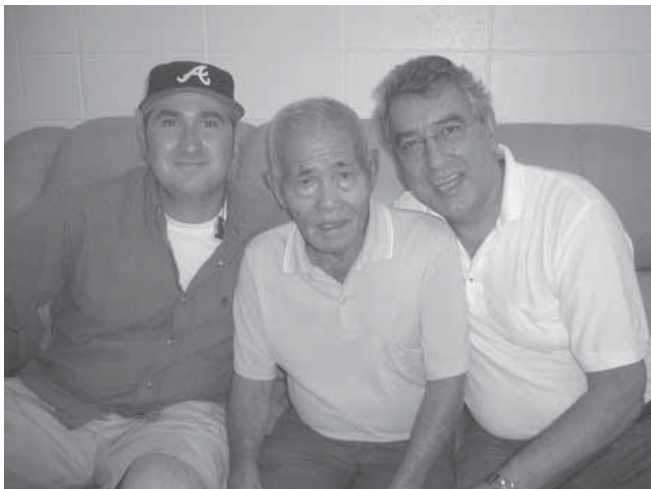
2. Mr. & Mrs. Mitsuo Honda (442nd) plus 4 family members; Mr. & Mrs. Riki Tsuda (100th); Mr. & Mrs. Yuko Nakahira (442nd) and Mrs. Florence Miyasato (442nd widow) and daughter Carrie will be attending the Bruyeres/Biffontaine Liberation Ceremony from October 19 to 29, 2011. They will be escorted by the command staff and color guard members of the 100 Bn. 442nd Infantry Regt.

Feature Story

by Harold Nishida, Jr.

A Grandson's Quest

Mr. Jotoku Asato, a lifetime Maui resident, is a quiet and unassuming combat veteran who served in three major wars in our recent history. First he served as a member of the famous 442nd RCT, Item Company during WWII. In 1950 he was deployed to Korea as a member of the 27th Infantry Regiment of the Hawaii based 25th Infantry Division, and even later served in the Vietnam War. With more than a couple lifetimes of painful memories of his war experiences, he had no idea how one of his many painful memories during the Korean War could ever benefit someone so profoundly.



Chris Chruma, Jotoku Asato, Dr. Richard Sword

Chris Chruma, a 36-year-old California native wondered why he did not have a grandfather while he was growing up. Seeing his grandfather's pictures, he learned that his grandfather was killed in the Korean War before he was born. However, he was never satisfied with the abbreviated answers he received about his grandfather and longed to find out more about him and how he died. While searching for answers in 1999, Chruma posted an appeal for information from anyone who knew Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Bennett, on the internet Web site, the Korean War

Project. After eight years of waiting without a response, he began to believe there was no hope of hearing from anyone.

In 2007, thousands of miles away on Maui, Mr. Asato was being interviewed by Dr. Richard Sword about his wartime experiences. While listening and documenting the recollections of this 84-year-old Korean War experiences, Dr. Sword learned that Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Bennett and Mr. Asato were in a foxhole together on September 20, 1950 in the Pusan Perimeter near the city of Taegu, South Korea. Mr. Asato recalled that they were being targeted by incoming enemy artillery rounds when Sgt. Bennett momentarily stood out from his foxhole to determine the direction of the incoming rounds when he was hit by shrapnel, killing him instantly.

Later as Dr. Sword was researching the Korean War Project Web site, he discovered some information on Sgt. Bennett and noted the appeal posted by his grandson, Chris Chruma. Dr. Sword notified Mr. Asato, then they responded to the appeal by contacting Chris Chruma. Chris said he and his family were excited, very grateful and were highly emotional about the response. Chris said he "bawled like a baby" while reading Mr. Asato's response.

A meeting was arranged on Maui in October of 2007 where Mr. Asato shared much more details about Chruma's grandfather. Hearing Asato's description of his grandfather and of his grandfather's loving thoughts about his wife during those final days and how he died without suffering finally fulfilled Chruma's lifetime quest to learn about his grandfather. Chruma could now take home the precious information to share with his grandmother and family. After 55 years, there finally was closure for this family, thanks to our Maui Itemite Hero. Mr. Jotoku Asato is one of three remaining Maui Itemites still "Going for Broke" in 2011.



by Henry Kuniyuki

Ronald Yoshio Takara



An American Indian Prayer: “And may the warm winds of heaven blow softly upon you and may the great spirit make sunrise in your heart.” This renown prayer was first published in the Go for Broke issue of April/June 2003, Vol. 54 No. 3 and dedicated to the memory of our buddy, the late Ronald Yoshio Takara who passed away on April 8th, 2003. Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto quoted the following words of remembrance by an unknown author at his service: “God saw him growing weary. He did what he thought best. He put his arms around him and whispered ‘Come and rest.’ But he did not go alone for part of him went with him. The day God called him home.” Ronald was originally a member of 3rd Bn Hq Chapter. He transferred to the then Livorno Chapter, which has been redesignated as Regimental Headquarters Chapter. Ronald was employed as a chef at the then Kau Kau Korner prior to his draft as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team after basic training at Camp Hood, Texas. He was assigned to 3rd Bn Headquarters Company of 442nd RCT. He was honorably discharged as Technician 4th Grade and was rehired by Kau Kau Korner. When that renown establishment closed, he was employed by Sandbar Restaurant from which he retired in 1980. Two years after discharge from the Army, he settled down with Susan Taira in August of 1948. Susan retired from the Spencecliff firm, the Tahitian Lanai. Chapter members admired Susan

faithfully escorting Ronald to our monthly Chapter meetings. We are pleased that Susan still continues participating at our Chapter monthly meetings and 442nd Headquarters functions.

RHQ Chapter Potpourri

The Go For Broke Bulletin’s Vol. 63, No. 3 April/June 2011 issue’s front cover featured, among others, a photo of 442nd Veterans Club 2nd Vice President Noboru Kawamoto presenting a wreath at the State Governor’s Memorial Day Service, Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery. Nobu also continues his double duty faithfully as our RHQ Chapter President. Eleven Chapters had the respective chapter news published, and the other eleven Chapters were identified as “No News.” “In Memoriam – Taps” page of the latest issue had forty-two names listed with “deepest sympathy.” SAD!

The Oahu AJA Veterans Council 6th Annual Joint Memorial Service was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on September 25, 2011. The four AJA veterans organizations were the 100th Infantry Battalion; 442nd Regimental Combat Team; 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

The Society of Military Widows Check List was distributed at the 442nd Veterans Club monthly Board meeting. Copies of the Check List have been mailed to our Chapter members and widows. If you desire additional copies for your family members, contact Chapter Treasurer Henry Kuniyuki, telephone number 808 638-2391.

RHQ Chapter Secretary, Takamori Miyagi, contacted thirty members regarding the annual Ladies Appreciation Luncheon at the Tree Tops Restaurant, scheduled for Sunday, October 16th, 2011. Names of the Chapter participants will be published in the subsequent issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin.

Secretary Takamori had a major throat (CHANGE!) cancer surgery recently which precluded his annual visitation to his favorite place, Las Vegas, escorted by his “oya-koko” son Michael. Arrivederci!



by John Mikasa

Our local activities have been quite slow. We're bearing with our old-age ailments, but with a will to keep going. A luncheon meeting was held on September 22 to discuss 442 RCT matters, and to continue our friendship. Attendees were Akira Okamoto, Yukisada Oshiro, Harold Nakasone, May Koike, Mitsuo and Esther Umeda, and John and Mary Mikasa. The Akira Takahashi's had a schedule conflict and could not attend.

The upcoming Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, D.C., and the Bruyeres to Honolulu activities and a donation for it were briefly discussed. Members present did not anticipate active participation. The progress of the special 442 RCT shirt and cap that were ordered seems to be in limbo. The report for the Bruyeres to Honolulu will be covered elsewhere in this bulletin, by Eric Nemoto of the Sons and Daughters Chapter. Judi Murakami, daughter of Tsuka, participated in the activities with others on Kauai.

We're very glad that Akira Okamoto is doing ok after his bout with a stroke earlier this year. He is riding a new mobile chair that gets him practically anywhere he wants to go, even fishing. How many of the 442 RCT World War II members have parents interned in National Cemeteries? Akira's parents are interned in Punchbowl National Cemetery. His father was a World War I veteran.

Roger Yoshinari, our principal mainland coordinator, sent a reminder: Our 2012 Reunion is scheduled on May 3-7, 2012, at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas.



442nd Regimental Combat Team

Cannon Company Annual Reunion Fremont Hotel Las Vegas, Nevada May 3 – 7, 2012



“Go For Broke”



MEDICS Reports



by **Oscar Tsukayama**

Medics Meeting

Our last meeting was at Tanaka Saimin on August 10, 2011 with Kazu Tomasa, Howard Kozuma, Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka and Oscar Tsukayama present. Age seems to be taking its toll as, a bad cold, doctor visit, caring for spouse, recovering from surgery, etc. were some of the reasons given for non-attendance. Hope all will be in good shape for the next meeting in November when we will be making plans for our Shinnen Enkai. Meeting consisted of announcement of upcoming events, a report of matters discussed at the Board of Directors meetings and, of course, catching up on the latest and just socializing. Toshiaki, again, hosted lunch which is getting to be a habit that must be stopped.

Congratulations Are in Order

Jack and Marian Yamashiro celebrated their 63rd Wedding Anniversary in October. Just think, more than a half a century of togetherness, and I must say, I've never seen a couple more compatible who work so harmoniously as they hustle through their chores each day. Lending a helping hand seems to be an instinctive trait for them. You don't have to ask; they'll volunteer and get the job done – pronto. For the past several years, they have planned and run our Shinnen Enkai programs with very little outside help, and as you all know, we've had some good times, thanks to Jack and Marian's superb planning and hard work.

Daughter Susan and granddaughter Corey came from California to help celebrate the occasion. Our Heartiest Congratulations to Jack and Marian and Our Best Wishes for many more years of togetherness as a fabulous team.

Dr. Dorothy Itsue Matsuo, EdD

Dorothy Matsuo peacefully passed on to join her husband Ted on September 14, 2011 with family members at her side. The Medics Chapter lost its Matriarch.

Dorothy was a Sansei teenager when Pearl Harbor was attacked and experienced the humiliation of being Japanese American during the early days of World War II. She watched the volunteers of the 442nd march off to war and was intrigued in the dynamics that led the men to volunteer and to succeed so outstandingly as soldiers. She obtained a doctorate in education administration from the University of Hawaii and in her role as faculty and counselor at UH, assisted military veterans in meeting the numerous demands of higher education. After the war, being married to a 442nd medic, she attended numerous 442nd functions; heard their war stories and decided to document one of the most incredible sagas of American history which she did in two books titled: "From Boyhood to War – History and Anecdotes of the 442nd Regimental Combat" and "Silent Valor – The Story of the 442nd Medics."

With husband Ted, who served as president of the Medics Chapter for decades, she encouraged and supported the Medics members in all of their endeavors and gave us guidance when needed. She was a mother figure for the Medics Chapter who will be dearly missed. We send our heartfelt sympathies and condolence to the Matsuo family.

Maya Soetoro Ng Acknowledges Receipt of Books By President Obama

In the October to December 2010 issue of the GFB Bulletin, we reported how two books written by Dr. Dorothy Matsuo, "From Boyhood to War" and "Silent Valor" were presented to President Obama through his sister Maya Soetoro Ng. This occurred while the president and his family were vacationing in Hawaii last summer. Accompanying the books was a personal message of hope by Allegra Matsuo Mossman, granddaughter of Dorothy Matsuo.

On September 26, 2011, Allegra received the following e-mail from Maya Soetoro Ng:

Dear Allegra,

I wanted to let you know that my brother was delighted by your note to him and grateful for the blessings you sent. He was happy to receive the books that your grandmother wrote and am sure found the stories contained in them most moving. You are so lovely and articulate I look forward to hearing about your future endeavors. All the best to you.

Maya

News of Medics from Abroad

Herbert Okano from Holualoa, HI, called to get some information regarding the Congressional Gold Medal. He says he and his wife are kept busy tending to their coffee and macadamia nut farms and they are doing okay except for the occasional aches and pains related to age. They send their best regards to Medics Chapter members.

Charles Fujimoto from Riverside, CA, wrote to say "Thanks" for the Medics Directory. He writes, "I joined the medics at Ghedi Airport in Northern Italy. The Germans were surrendering by the thousands and we processed and placed them in enclosures within the airfield. S/Sgt. Kozuma was my 1st Sgt and Dr. Wallace Kawaoka was C.O. We had a good time together-Regards to the Gang." He enclosed a generous donation to the Medics Chapter.

Hajime Miyamoto, Hilo, HI (G Co. Medic) Hajime was glad to receive the Medics directory and our newsletter. He reports that he was active with the Hilo-G Co group for many years but age, he says, seems to be creeping up as both he and his wife are not as mobile as they used to be. They spend most of their time at home now. He sends his Best to the Oahu Gang and also sent a generous check to the Medics Chapter.

Grace Miyamoto, Los Angeles, CA (Wife of Tadao Miyamoto-K Co. Medic) Grace writes, Thank you very much for the Medics Directory and for keeping me in touch with the Medics. She sends her Aloha and enclosed a generous donation to the Medics Chapter.

Ben Yamanaka, Los Angeles, CA. Daughter Gail reports that Dad celebrated his 92nd birthday on July 22nd and he and wife Hisa observed their 60th wedding anniversary on July 8. A Double Congratulations to Ben and Hisa and our Best Wishes for many more years of celebrations. The LA-E Co Group was a very active group that held monthly luncheon meetings for many years and also held reunions in Las Vegas a couple of times per year. However, Gail reports that they only meet four times a year now and Las Vegas visits are rarely discussed. Their last quarterly luncheon meeting was held at the Nikkei Senior Gardens, a retirement community, where several of their members now reside. This way they get to meet their old friends who may not be able to make it to a restaurant outside of the home. Gail says mom and dad are holding their own but they both have heart problems and dad is on oxygen with emphysema. GAMBARE! Ben and Hisa.

Hagi Kusunoki, Los Angeles, CA. (Wife of George Kusunoki-E Co. Medic). Hagi writes, "Thank you for the Medics Directory, it will be very useful." I am enjoying good health and continue to be active; I teach Tea Ceremony in my home and also volunteer once a week at the Japanese American National Museum and twice a month at a Japanese Retirement Home. Hope all is well with you, please call if you are in the LA area. Way to go, Hagi!

Donations

Generous donations to the Medics Chapter were received from Charles Fujimoto, Grace Miyamoto and Hajime Miyamoto. We thank them very sincerely.

Rest in Peace

Ryoji Terada, 92 of Los Angeles, CA, passed away on August 12, 2011. He is survived by wife, Uri Terada, daughters Janice Terada and Carole (Dennis) Omoto and two grandchildren. Our Deepest Sympathy to the Terada family.



by Ace Higuchi, et al

In our previous Chapter report, our date was off and we now want to present a correct description of the swimming meets held in Rome:

In discussing Charlie Oda's missing swimming trophy, it was mentioned that the swimming meet in which the 442nd participated in Rome "was held during the summer of 1945 shortly after the war in Italy ended." This is incorrect. The swimming meet referred to was held in the summer of 1944 during the midst of the Italian campaign. Those of us who were lucky enough to be selected for the swimming team were pulled from the front lines and placed on "special duty" and were ordered to report "to the rear" to join the team.

I learned later that we were selected on the basis of our competitive swimming experience in High School. I also learned that the team was formed in response to the 34th Infantry Division to be represented in the Fifth Army's area-wide swimming competition. The 442nd (with the 100th Battalion) as part of the Division, was,

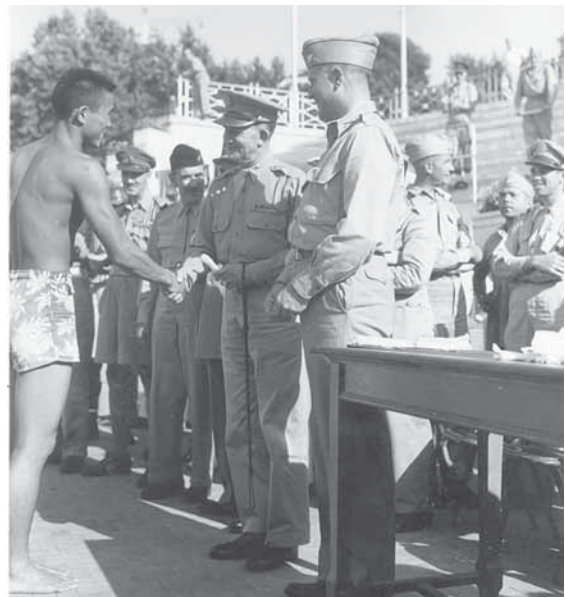
therefore, asked to participate, Swimmers from other units of the 34th were also invited.

I don't remember how the team as a whole fared in the meet as I and others who failed to qualify for the finals were returned to our respective units. However, I believe that several of our members won individual events. As far as I can remember, the team included Capt. "Doc" Katsumi Kometani (coach), Halo Hirose, Charlie Oda, Tom Tanaka, and John Tsukano.

In the summer of 1945, after the war in Italy and Europe was over, the 442nd formed another swimming team. This time the team took part in a meet at Milan, in northern Italy. I was fortunate enough to be included.

I have no idea about our individual winners in this meet, but I do recall that we won the team championship as evidenced by the championship trophy that we received. The members of the team, besides Coach Lt. Robert Wakuya and myself, were: Yoshio Adachi, Bobby Iwamoto, Keichi "Kebo" Kakuda, Henry Koizumi, Jimmy Kuroda, Paul Miyake, Charlie Oda, Kenneth Oshima, Tom Tanaka, Henry "Dose" Teshima, and Tadashi Yamamoto.

Thus, it may be noted that the 442nd took part in two major swimming events in Italy – one in Rome in 1944 during war time; and the other in Milan in 1945 in peace time.



Left: 18 Aug 1944 - Start of Allied Swimming Meet held in the Stadio Nazionale di Roma, Rome, Italy

Right: 20 Aug 1944 - PFC Charles Oda, representing the 5th Army, is presented with medals he won at the meet by Brig. Gen. T.K. Brown, Commanding General, Rome Area Command

Photos from 442nd Veterans Club Archive, Signal Corps collection



The Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans held a reunion at the California Hotel in Las Vegas from October 2-6, 2011. Susan Uyemura, CEO & President of Japanese American Living Legacy, submitted this photo of E Co. veterans and widows who attended the reunion.

Our thanks to Tom Graves, FFNV official photographer, who not only provided the photo but the names as well.



E Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team

Photo Courtesy: Tom Graves, FFNV official photographer

Front row (l-r): Christie Ichikawa, Lily Maeda, Sterling Suga, Joe Sakato (MOH), Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura (MOH), Shig Iwasaki, Ben Yamanaka

Top row (l-r): Lawson Sakai, John Sakamoto, Hiro Asai, Roy Tsuya, Tadao Yoshimoto, George Kanatani, Susumu Musashi



by Ron Oba

Legacy Center
Who Are You? Be Who You Are
Never Forget Vets

Japan-Hawaii Baseball All Stars

Both teams selected from the various competing teams of Japan and Hawaii played at the Waipahu Hans O’Lange field. Mr. Kazuhiro Tanabe, Senior Advisor for the JAPAN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FEDERATION from Osaka, told me that this series started through the 442 Veterans Club with Home-stays by members and is in its 50th year. Hawaii all-stars won the first series with Sid Fernandez pitching for Hawaii. Japanese players subsequently started to win nearly all the tournaments since Japanese students, once entering the game can only play baseball or one sport only. They won both games played on Maui and Oahu. They are also getting bigger and stronger as some of these players now play for the Major League baseball franchises like Ichiro of Seattle and Matsui of the New York Yankees. They were surprised to learn that the Hawaii players were going home to play basketball as well as other sports, since they can play only one sport. Most surprising is that a young female teenager Eri Yoshida wants to play in the American Major League Baseball with her famous knuckle ball.

Legacy Center

Wes Deguchi is formulating a contingency plan to establish the 442 Legacy Center on the Kapiolani Community Center grounds, eastward toward the 18th Kaimuki Avenue. With President Bill Thompson’s foresight, Wes has designed a two-story center with adequate parking on an incline which will be a tremendous undertaking and would need adequate fund-raising effort by its members. Fox

Chapter members when apprised of the plan said that for the rural members this will be somewhat of a distance to travel. Personally, I think Wes should be planning this phase of expansion for the foreseeable future of the Sons and Daughters who are losing interest for lack of a singular purpose in carrying on the “What’s going on, DAD?” I hope President Thompson’s prognostication is also in line with the Sons and Daughters future.

Congressional Gold Medal Celebration

Capt. Haz NPD Anguay, 100th Bn/442 Inf. Regt. from Fort Shafter Flats, has been assigned to coordinate the veteran’s trip to Washington DC; therefore he came to my home to collect the application for me and Michi for the Honor Flight and Guardianship. If you have sent in your request, he should be contacting you for your application.

Post-Script: You must now fly to California to get on the Honor Flight. To which airport???

Joint Memorial Day Celebration

Wade Wasano gave the opening remarks succinctly, followed by Mistress of Ceremony Lynn Heirakuji; Posting of Colors, Invocation by Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani, Col. Gene Castagnetti’s Welcome Note, Wreath presentations, and the Memorial address by Lt. Gen. Francis J. Wiercinski, 21 Gun salute, TAPS, and the Flyover. Alan Miyamura on Bagpipe and Primasita Seery on a drum played “Going Home,” Auld Land Syne.”

Every Service is akin to a reunion since we get to see so many veterans. They’re not diminishing; they were all there!!

Patient: I have a ringing in my ear.

Doctor: Don’t answer.

In Memoriam

Bob Nobuichi Katayama, 86. Retired Army Lt. Col. and retired partner Carlsmith Ball, died at the V.A. Center for Aging, Tripler. Bob had a relative in Aiea so he went to school at the Aiea Elementary School with my sister in the late 1930s. He later

moved to Honolulu and matriculated at Farrington High School and as a Senior, he volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1943. He trained at Camp Shelby and sent over to Italy where he was injured immediately with a million dollar wound. He was sent home and used his G.I. Bill to enter Yale Law School but was recalled to active duty as a Reserve officer during the Korean War.

After graduating from Yale, Bob entered the Regular army in the Judge Advocate General's Corps to make the military his first career. He later obtained his LL.M. from George Washington Law School and became a professor teaching government procurement law at the University of Virginia. He was the Judge Advocate in DaNang, South Vietnam. He started as a rifleman in Company F, 442 RCT, and ended as the Staff Judge Advocate of the U.S. Army Pacific. Bob retired after 20 years of active duty. He enlisted in the regular army and served in Korea and Japan and retired as a Lt. Colonel. He received 24 Army decorations and awards, the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, service medals for the Korean and Vietnam Wars, two Presidential Unit Citations and a Meritorious Unit Commendation badge.

He joined Baker and McKenzie, America's largest law firm, practicing in Chicago, Tokyo and San Francisco. Coming back to Hawaii, he joined Carlsmith Ball law firm, retiring from practice in 2004. His third career began as the Chairman, CEO of the Kapolei Golf Course and President of the Kapolei Holding Corp. He also held leadership roles in the 442nd Veterans Club and Foundation, as well as other centers including as the Dean's Advisory Council of the Richardson School of Law.

He said he was exposed to Agent Orange which later caused illnesses to his lungs. Bob and Jeanne, his wife, lived at Kahala Nui. He is survived by sons Robert N. Jr. and Kent J., daughters Alyce A. Katayama-Jenkins, Jeanne's daughters Susan H. Ono, Carole Yamashiro and Wendy Y. Lee. Jeanne said that Bob wanted a quiet private service which was held at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary. He died on August 14, 2011.

Haruo Sato: 93 yrs. old Fox Company veteran, died in Aiea. Funeral was held at the Hosoi Garden Funeral Home on August 15 with the 442nd Colors prominently displayed by the Butsudan. Following the eulogy by Reverend Kawaji, the 9th Army Reserve unit from Shafter Flats led by Sgt Chris Arakawa fired a 21-gun salute that woke up everyone and the TAPS was played to assuage the group that there were no gangbusters outside and brought the eulogy to a fitting climax. Haruo was in A Company, 171st. Separate, according to the Company photo taken at Camp Shelby. He probably came to Italy after the war with Joe Tanaka who was also a Cadre from the 171st. He was a retired electronic Technician for the Federal Aviation Administration, Pacific Asian Region.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families of Bob (Jeanne) and Haruo.

Doctor: You'll live to be 60.

Patient: I am 60.

Doctor: See, what did I tell you.



Ron Oba being interviewed by students from Keisen University, Japan (Oct. 3, 2011)



by Yutaka Yoshida

Aloha Everyone!

I'm sorry I haven't been writing lately but I hope to get back in the swing of things. Have enjoyed seeing everyone at our regular Treetops gatherings and I thank all of the organizers for keeping us together.

Just had the good fortune to see Chieko and Sam Onoda when they were here for a stopoff on their Hawaiian cruise. Saw them last summer at their home in Chicago as well! They have lived since 1972 in the famous John Hancock building in Chicago. Sam grew up in Seattle and went to high school with George Sato and Yosh Fujiwara.

Sam worked as a corporate attorney and Chieko a nurse practitioner who trained nurses in Chicago and Japan. Their three children live in California, Indianapolis and Chicago. They are active and lively and recently returned from a South American cruise!

Many of you helped make my 99th birthday a memorable one and I thank you for all the good wishes, leis and gifts! I hope you all had a good time; I know I certainly did! Keep in touch and send me some interesting tidbits. I hope my next article will include some information about June Oganeku's son, Wade. Send me something about YOUR family!



H Co.. members celebrate Dr. Yoshida's 99th birthday at his home



by Jane Shikasho

In spite of the small size of our chapter, we continue to get some excitement once in a while. Edna Kuniyuki was in town from Bremerton, Washington and we had a pleasant reunion and a sumptuous buffet at the Royal Buffet Court of Hawaii Prince Hotel. We were happy that Yaeko Kuwata was able to join us after a long absence. Her husband Bill is still confined in a care home.

Sam and Harumi Furuya were treated “very kindly” by the poker machines in Las Vegas so they can hardly wait for a repeat trip.

Sat Shikasho was one of the veterans interviewed by students of Toyko’s Keisen University who asked a variety of questions such as:

- Where our parents came from in Japan and occupation
- What our occupation was before the war
- How we related to soldiers from the mainland, both Japanese and whites during training
- What our primary duties were in combat and length of service
- What we did after the war: education, type of work and current life status

The wife of the teacher accompanying the group assisted with language difficulties.

The Furuyas and Shikashos attended the Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl on Sept. 25 and were impressed with the excellent program chaired by Wade Wasano and his committee. Flowers were placed in the chapel in memory of deceased chapter members.



Sat Shikasho (left) and Robert Uyeda (2HQ) being interviewed by Keisen University students



by Ed Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

Although the long awaited summer got a late start here in the Pacific Northwest, we enjoyed a continuous dose of sunshine for several weeks and we had beautiful weather until the end of September. But now we are commencing our inclement weather, but we don't mind since the rain is what keeps our grass green and forests growing.

This past month of August, I have been the recipient of a bag full of fresh corn just about every week from George Murakami's farm close to Tacoma, WA. He does not drive into town anymore, so he makes his brother-in-law be the delivery man. It is my understanding that George is still actively farming some property he still has in the Valley, although he and Cora moved to the "big city." He is still healthy and feisty so that is the good word. Kim Muromoto continues to enjoy life and I see him at functions of the NVC.

In May, Shig Momoda was presented the *Croix de Guerre* and the French Legion of Honour at an awards ceremony at the NVC Hall. Apparently it was long overdue, so Shig had mentioned it to a coordinator for the Veterans Administration. He investigated the records and was successful in obtaining this recognition for Shig. Apparently, there were several other French Legion of Honor awards earned, and these will be presented at a future date.

The highlight of my summer was going to Chicago for a five-day vacation with my youngest daughter Bev. It was her idea that I should go back there and reminisce over the years I had spent there after relocating from Minidoka Internment Camp back in 1943, when I was only 17 and didn't know anyone. In those days, the only way we traveled was by train. My mother had heard of two others

who were going to relocate: one to St. Louis to go to nursing school, and the other to Philadelphia to continue his medical school education; so my mother "tanomu-ed" them to let me travel with them. I have one friend who lives in the Chicago area, so her husband drove us around to all the places where I had lived as a student, the apartment I later shared with three other girls; and finally to the location where Kash and I had spent our first year of married life.

Naturally, all those buildings were gone, but it was very nostalgic for me to remember those days. Bev was very interested in some of the brownstone-front apartments which were still standing in the neighborhoods. Together we had a great time being a tourist this time, staying at a nice hotel and taking cabs for transportation for the most part. It is truly a nice, cosmopolitan city, and naturally so different from what I remember from way back in the mid-'40s.

This brings to mind of all the "boys" I met during the time Kash was in Europe. Every time he heard of someone going home after he had been wounded, he would freely give him my address, saying "Look up my girlfriend." I remember Rex Miyahara and George Suzuki, who were recuperating at the hospital in Battlefield, MI, coming over.

And the day after Kash and I were married, we went to a movie and ran into a group of Co. I fellows who were en route to being discharged. He invited them over for dinner the next day; and for the rest of the week, they spent our honeymoon with us. Kash had me make dinner for them (even though I didn't know how to cook); he said, "Just make something Japanese and make a lot of rice." Amongst the six that came over, I recall the names of Bruno Yamada, Kenneth Okuma and Champ Suzuki. Later on, I met Terry Aratani, Harold Watase, Barney Hajiro and Ralph Arashiro, to name just a few more.

Since those olden days, our family has enjoyed participating in almost every reunion that the 442nd has had. These gatherings gave me the opportunity to meet the many, many friends that Kash had made during his experiences with the troops. Although WWII was an unfortunate experience for us of Japanese ancestry, it certainly expanded our world

beyond our own little cities; it gave us an opportunity to widen our exposure and to make so many more friends all over the world. Thanks for the memories!

California by Marian Yamashita

Hi from California – we just got back from Las Vegas attending the Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) reunion.

Again, as in the past years, with all of the volunteer help, young and old, the reunion was a huge success. The hospitality room was always buzzing with a room full of people talking stories, socializing and munching all the delicious pupus. Assisting the regular hospitality volunteers were Carol Akiyama and Seth Sakamoto, descendants of I Company veterans.

The final evening was a banquet with great food, and the guest speaker was the Korean War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Hershey Miyamura. He told of many of his experiences including his days as prisoner of war of North Korea.

Special guest was Christine Yamazaki, representing the National Veterans Network, who spoke about the up-coming Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony to the 100th, 442nd and MIS to be held on November 2nd. She clarified some questions that many had by giving a day-to-day account of all of the happenings in DC. It appears like the event will be a great success in spite of the unexpected, large number of participants, a cause for busy and crowded events. Hopefully, the event will not be hampered with bad weather so common to that area at that time.

The FFNV reunion was well represented with Item chapter members Terry and Elsie Aratani with a son from Honolulu and another son from Southern California; Joe Okumoto, whose daughter, Cindy joined him from Portland Oregon where she lives and works; Dane Sakaida, son of deceased Sus Sakaida; Charlie Takahashi son of Suguru Takahashi of Maui, and associate members Hal and Laura Nishida who now live on the Big Island – formerly from Maui.



FFNV REUNION 2011 I COMPANY GROUP

1st row (l-r): Mas Yamashita, Shig Doi, Lloyd Fujitani, CMH George Sakato (E Co), Hershey Miyamura (banquet speaker, CMH Korean War), Marian Yamashita, Jim Yamashita, Carol Akiyama

2nd row (l-r): Art Iwasaki, Joe Okamoto, Frank Shimada, Richard Tochihara (M), Jane Okada, Toni Sakamoto, Sumi Tochihara

3rd row (l-r): Chris Yahng, Charlie Takahashi (Maui), Susan Uyemura (So Cal Assoc), Dane Sakaida (son of Sus "Tonti"), Lawson Sakai (FFNV Pres., E Co.), Brian Shiroyama (FFNV)

Photo by Stephanie Sakauye

Also due to be in Vegas were regulars, George and Margaret Oshita from Kauai, but due to Margaret's health issue they had to cancel; we really missed them.

From Seattle came Jane Okada and daughter Cathy – Jane always help organize the Wednesday brunch at the Main Street Buffet where we eat and talk stories for a couple of hours. The Iwasaki children, Robert, Paul, Christi, Stephanie, and Leslie accompanied their dad, Art from Portland. Though Art spends a lot of time in a wheelchair, he is able to walk some and also drives. What a great inspiration to us “oldies.” We missed Louise Kashino, another regular, who, due to conflicting dates, had to pass this year.

From Northern Cal came Shig and Yoshiko Doi, their daughter Sheryle and husband Scott, son Durand and wife Lana; Frank Shimada; Mas Yamashita and Lloyd Fujitani. From Southern Cal came Richard and Sumi Tochihara, Toni Sakamoto and son Seth, associate members Ray and Susan Uyemura, and Jim and myself. Also joining us from H Company were Mike Tsuji and son, Andrew. Mike has written a paperback book, “Me and the War,” on his personal experiences during the war years.

We missed seeing Enro and Yoneko Okada now of Yuma, AZ, to where they had moved recently to live with their son, Alan. They had come to the reunion; but before we got there, they had to leave as Yoneko was not feeling well. Hopefully she has since gotten better.

Plans are still pending, but Susan of JA Living Legacy is making arrangements for our Holiday Happening to be held the first weekend in December. At this time, it appears that we may have many out-of-town Itemites joining us for this annual event to celebrate the coming of the holiday season.

Maui by Harold H. Nishida Jr.

Please see Hal's article “A Grandson's Quest” under Feature Story on page 9.

Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki

Thanks to Vance Gerkovich for his JAVA Round Robin message, “In Memory of Mutt Sakumoto” (#66-2011-JAVA-APAVET- Round Robin). His review of and comments on the Japanese American experience are appreciated.

Susan Uyemura lunched with Tommy Harimoto and John Corrice during her mid-summer visit to Honolulu. Sad to say, Tommy had a relapse and had to be helped home to One Kalakaua. We understand that he has his good days and bad days. Last heard, he was “better than expected,” leaving the assisted living facility for couple hours to return to his own apartment for lunch there, showing some appetite. Also reassuring is that sister June Harimoto resides on the same floor.

Thirty-eight French citizens, led by Monsieur Ludovic Durain, deputy mayor of Bruyeres, were honored by 100th/442nd at a sumptuous buffet, with wine, of course. Banzai, a champagne toast, and singing of “Hawaii Aloha” concluded the gala party.

Among the 100th/442nd ohana were Esther Hajiro with son Glenn and Eddie Yamasaki. Esther still resides in a private care home, where she is pretty much treated as a member of the Filipino family. She manages to go out with a walker and looked quite fit and contented. She may be contacted by phone, 484-9598.

To Bessie Watanabe, Walter's widow, 2011 turned into a very hard-luck year, following a tough year 2010 when she lost Walter.

We all know backyard, fruit picking in Hawaii is not without risks for the elderly. Bessie was following Walter's tradition of picking pirie and hayden mangoes—a good crop again, as usual—to share these delicious fruits with family and friends.

The unexpected happened: standing in Walter's rock garden, while extending her arm with the long, bamboo pole high in the air, Bessie lost her balance. She fell with her right foot getting caught in a space between two rocks. The shattered ankle necessitated major surgery at Queen's, a hospital stay of four months, and two

month's living with daughter Lisa in Hawaii Kai. Only last month was she "okay'd" to live alone in her Waialua home.

She's thankful that she has progressed to walking with a cane and is pleased to be back home. "No more mango-picking," she says, just hoping her ankle becomes whole again soon so that she might return to her weekly hula class. Take care, Bessie!

Thanks to Masa and Helen Nakamura for the tip on Bessie's injury. Helen grew up in Waialua as a Maruyama, a family close to Walter's, the Watanabes.

The aloha among good neighbors, like among good friends, is certainly to be nurtured and treasured.

Sad News

Allen Hisayoshi Okamoto, Lower Gwynedd, PA
April 20, 1920 - July 9, 2011

In the last *Bulletin*, we printed as late news son Wayne's message of July 10, advising us of Allen's death from various medical issues.

Allen was born in South Philadelphia. After earning his B.S. in chemical engineering and M.S. in chemistry from Lehigh University, he worked at Atlantic Richfield for 13 years, at GE Aerospace Industry, and in RCA's Satellite Program.

A faithful member of Supplee Presbyterian Church in Ambler, PA and a regular volunteer at the Red Cross, he was also active as a member of JACL and JAVA.

Allen, a staff sergeant, was a transferee to Item from B Company. He was never able to attend any 442nd anniversary reunion from far-off Philadelphia. So we had no chance to talk-story—say, about his having been wounded three times. A long-time Item Chapter reporter, his "East" column often contained laments about his not ever seeing a fellow Item buddy to write about and about his dislike of writing "news" centered on himself.

Please read his humorous memoir in *And Then There Were Eight* on his encounter with "Stay get!" and on other lessons he learned from his fellow brothers from Hawaii.

Allen is survived by wife Yone of 62 years;

children: Barbara of Cleveland; Jeffrey (Christina) of Lebanon, PA; Wayne (Ollie) of Chicago; and Joan also of Chicago; as well as four grandchildren and three younger brothers, William, Raymond, and Robert.

Matsuji "Mutt" Sakumoto

June 12, 1924 - August 19, 2011



"You guys need cigarettes?"

These four words uttered nearly 67 years ago on October 31, 1944 did not resonate throughout the world, but they certainly resonated with the person to whom they had been directed. These words were spoken by Mutt as his naturally laid-back way of saying, "Hi!" to a complete stranger, a haole sergeant who was one of (later learned) over 211 survivors of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Division, a unit without rations, with little ammo, surrounded by vastly superior German forces for a full week. (The "Lost Battalion" had been trapped originally with 275 men.)

History does not record the reply given by Sgt. Eddie Guy, who "took me by my arm to his acting commanding officer, saying, 'Sir, this is the first man who came to us.' The C.O., wrapped in a shelter-half in a trench, came to a sitting position and held out his hand, saying, 'Thank you.' He asked for cigarettes and I gave him all I had." [Mutt's full account of this incident is in *And Then There Were Eight*.]

The acting commanding officer was then 1st Lt. Martin Higgins, who, in his keynote speech at 442nd's 57th Punchbowl Memorial Anniversary, remarked that ". . . they (the rescuers) looked like giants to us." [Higgins' speech is reproduced in *And Then There Were Eight*. Also note: Under official military structure, battalion commander is a lieutenant colonel.]

October 31 - November 2, 2009, Mutt attended the 65th Reunion of the 1st ("Lost") Battalion held in Houston, TX, accompanied by son

Glenn, trip financed by Item Chapter. With the theme, “Homecoming of Heroes,” the event, sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum Foundation, paid tribute to the 100th/442nd; the 425th Fighter Squadron, which air-dropped tanks of rations, ammo, etc. (at a loss of one plane); and the 141st “Texas” Regiment.

Mutt felt honored to be one of forty honorees, including twenty-seven 100th/442nd vets who got to shake hands with Admiral Mike Mullen, Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (retired October 2011). He also appreciated having a reunion with Jack Wilson, with whom he had convalesced for six months at Camp Carson Hospital, CO for trench feet. [Wilson contributed a memoir to *And Then There Were Eight* in which he states that he owed his life to the 100th/442nd. Today, at age 87, he lives in Demopolis, IN with just some hearing problems.]



Mutt receives a handshake from Admiral Mullen

Mutt died peacefully in his sleep on August 19. About three weeks earlier, in Vegas with son Gary, Mutt had complained about a headache. Returning home, a medical check-up revealed a slight heart murmur and an ear infection, for which an antibiotic was prescribed.

A Buddhist funeral service was held September 4 at Mililani Mauka Chapel at which Bryan Yagi, who met Mutt two years ago at the Houston 141st Regiment Reunion, reflected on

Mutt’s life. Representing Item were Futao Terashima, Masa/Helen Nakamura, Harold Watase, and Eddie Yamasaki. The committal service was held at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific with Eddie saying a few words.



Photo by: Bryan Yagi

Excerpted from condolence messages: Gerome, Sabrina and Tiffany Villain, France, “We won’t ever find words to say to him Merci for all he and his comrades did for us, our liberty and peace. We won’t forget him.” Herve Claudon, Houx, France, “He will stay in our minds as a legend.” Vance Gerkovich, son of 1st Lt. Roy Gerkovich, Purple Heart olc, “Do not let men like Mutt be forgotten.”

Mutt leaves behind wife Ayako, sons Glenn (Kimiyo) and Gary (Linda), sisters Kimie Watanabe and Saeko Kakimoto, three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

David Tadahiro Ito, Honolulu

April 25, 1922 - September 7, 2011

After military service, David, like many other vets, became a federal government worker and retired as a contract specialist at Fort Shafter.

Until some years ago David regularly showed up at chapter affairs. Daughter Beverly, who has no siblings, says that David had several health issues and succumbed to dementia. Mother Betty, suffering from Parkinson’s, died this past June in a hospice facility.

To say the least, it has been a most difficult time for Beverly. We hope she will now find comfort with sons Brandon and Tyler residing with her.

Beverly hopes to become a member of the 442nd Sons and Daughters.

We extend our warmest aloha to the family and friends of these comrades.



by Genro & Muriel Kashiwa

Our semi-annual lunch at the lovely Paradise Park Tree Top Restaurant in Manoa Valley was enjoyed for its great buffet and the company of eighteen old friends. We missed those who could not attend. Attending were Terry Jichaku, Mabel Kawamura, Edna Kuramoto, Marian Matsumura and Son, Stanley Matsuura, Toyo Mizuno, Hideo Nakayama, Kazuma Ogata, Joe Oshiro, Nancy Oshiro, Isa Takiyama, Flora Watanabe, Hideo Higa, Paul Matsumoto, Genny Matsumoto, Genro Kashiwa and Muriel Kashiwa.

You are all probably aware that for about 5 years our Company L group has been graciously included in the Company E Group's Reunion in Las Vegas usually held in October. The event is called "Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans." We are indeed grateful for this favor from Company E and their usual constant coordinator, Lawson Sakai. Paul and Genny Matsumoto attended this usual Reunion this October at the California Hotel. They reported other attendees who are from the mainland were: Don and Sumi Seki, Hiro and Betty Nishikubo, Sam Yokote with many family members, Donald Wakida (Nephew of Takashi Wada), Takashi Wada, and Sam Ikari.

We were saddened to learn of the following deaths:

Hilda Aayao Takiyama, wife of Isao. Born May 10, 1926, she passed away on February 11, 2011 at age 84. She was born in Kauai. She worked at the Kapiolani Medical Center as a medical records clerk for many years. Her children are Gail Takiyama, Amy (Curtis) Monma, and Lori (Darrell) Tsukada. Her Grandchildren

are Jarrod and Renee Tsukada and Kyle Monma.

Jane Sakiko Haraguchi, wife of Takao Haraguchi. Born August 6, 1927, she passed away on April 23, 2011 at age 83. She was mother to Patricia Alpert-Haraguchi, Susan Louis-Haraguchi, Glenn John, and Dean. Her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren are Denny, Jason, Justin, Riana, Alanna, Elijah, Jared, Kylie, Samuel, Dean, Chantelle, Charice, Christian, Crystal, and Weston.

Yoshiko Ikari, wife of Sam, last year in Rosemeade, California.

Message to you all: Genro and Muriel have been assembling photos and materials of wartime and postwar photos for many years. No exact count of photos was ever made but we are guessing about 1700. When labeling is finished (we don't know all of you on the mainland), we will have University of Hawaii Kapiolani College digitalize them. A CD will be created. (Shari Tamashiro is the KCC cybrarian.) If you wish the CD, please drop Genro a note. If you don't have a computer and wish to have it in book form, please let us know. (We will ask a printer for the cost.)



REMINDER

Deadline for the
Oct. - Dec. 2011
issue of the GFB Bulletin
is
January 6, 2012



BAKER



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

522 Baker Chapter members had no news to share, so this 522B chapter column for this issue will be limited to sad obituary notices of the passing of its two members.

On September 5, 2011, Masahide Ojima passed away in Honolulu at age 89. "Hide" as he was popularly known was an auto mechanic and owner of Hide's Auto Service here in Honolulu. Hide grew up in the Waialae section of Kaimuki where his family owned and operated the Ojima Service Station. Hide's childhood friend and neighbor was George Rocky Tanna with whom he grew up together, schooled together, enlisted together from the same Kaimuki Draft Board and were sent out to Schofield as conscripts of the newly formed 442nd RCT. Then at Camp Shelby, Hide and Rocky found they had been both assigned to Baker Battery, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion where they found themselves housed together as bunkmates in the same hut. While Rocky was assigned to the gun section as gunner, Hide's natural mechanical abilities won him an assignment to the Motor Pool Section where he served as mechanic and truck driver throughout the war. Hide was known as a quiet, unassuming guy from which little other personal details are known of him. Hide was hospitalized and passed away at the Kuakini Medical Center on September 5, 2011 followed by private services. He was survived by brother Walter K. Ojima and sisters Grace S. Konno, Nancy T. Sakuda, Margaret F. Ojima and Agnes E. Fujii.

On September 11, 2011, 522 Baker lost one of its staunchest member pillars, Katsugo "Kats" Miho from long lingering illnesses. Kats was the

youngest of eight children of the Miho family born, raised and educated in Kahului, Maui. As a student at UH when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, Kats served with the Hawaii Territorial Guard with other UH ROTC cadets and then in February 1943 he volunteered for and was accepted to the 442nd RCT. At Camp Shelby, Kats was assigned to the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and served as gunner corporal on the No. 2 gun of Baker Battery which was the lead target registering gun for the 522nd Field Artillery. Kats served with the 522nd throughout the War including the liberation of Jewish POWs during the 522 Holocaust encounter in Bavaria, Germany. In the post war, Kats completed his college education and obtained a law degree from George Washington University Law School through the G.I. Bill assistance. Back in Hawaii Kats started his legal career as a member of the Fong Miho Choy law firm, then started a successful political career being elected to and serving in the State House of Representatives from 1959-1970, and culminated his legal service being appointed as a Family Court Judge of the Circuit Court of Hawaii from 1971-1979. As a veteran he was active in the affairs of the 442nd Veterans Club, promoted U.S.- Japan good will and friendship through baseball and sumo for which he was honored in 2007 by receiving the Imperial award of the Order of the Rising Sun-Gold and Silver Rays, and served as President of the 442nd Veterans Club in 1967 and 2001.

Kats Miho passed away at Hale Ho Aloha Nursing Facility at age 89, leaving surviving wife Laura, four children Mariko, Arthur, Celia and Ann and seven grandchildren. Funeral services were held on September 29, 2011 at Hosoi Mortuary.



by M. Honda

The 3rd Quarter has come and gone and Pres Bolo's term of office is nearing the end, or so he thinks. He needs to remember that he has another two years to go in the President's chair. Doc and I went about 8 years each so Bolo has a long way to go. People don't like to serve, but once they get into it it's alright. The calendar year is almost over so its time to go into another cycle. We'll wait till the next meeting and decide whether someone else is willing to go on.

Random Acts of Kindness

Something happened to me on July 21st that made me very happy. In fact, two things happened that I would like to relate to you members of the Eng/Band Chap.

The first thing that happened was at WalMart in Mililani when a dark young woman helped me load a forty-pound package onto my shopping cart. The package was on the bottom shelf and I was stooping to pick up the package when this young woman came and took the package off the bottom shelf and without a word placed the package onto my shopping cart. She left before I could thank her and that was it.

The second thing was at the Pearl City Foodland where Milady and I go for our groceries. Watermelon was in season so Millie picked a good one and placed it on the Cashier's counter. There was a young woman who looked almost the same as the woman who had helped us with the bookcase package. The young woman in front of me paid up and was leaving when the cashier packaged my melon and gave it to me. "Wait a minute, I didn't pay for it yet," I told the cashier. The cashier looked at me and said, "Your daughter paid for it and left." Well, she wasn't my daughter but a Filipina girl who had decided to pay for my melon. I rushed out to thank her but she was gone like the girl who had helped me with the bookcase.

These two acts of kindness made me think how nice people were to be helping total strangers load a heavy object onto a shopping cart and to pay for a watermelon. These were two Filipina women who just were kind and without thinking had helped me an old Japanese American guy. Now, when I see a dark woman I look closely at her to see if it is one of the girls who had helped me. I am now looking for a chance to help someone ne like the women did for me.

It's coming to the end of the calendar year and Bolo is gearing up for another go at running the meetings. It gets to be fun after a while Bolo, just keep at it. We will be right behind you, especially the Women, who make our meetings the fun events that they are. These Band guys make really good Presidents and we should make better use of them.

Aloha for now.



100/442 at Joint Memorial Service

Photo: Wayne Iha



by Gail Nishimura

Here's a bit of news from Susan Yoshitomi:

The Sons and Daughters have been quite active and looking forward to an exciting next few months.

The Joint Memorial Service was held on September 25th at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. Sons and Daughters from the various AJA groups were busy with various aspects of the service. It is always a moving experience to listen to the tributes to the Veterans in such a beautiful, patriotic and hallowed ground of heroes.

On Saturday, October 8, Bruyeres-Honolulu Sister City (Jumelage) 50th Anniversary Luncheon will be hosted by the Sons & Daughters of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club. Mark and Debbie Oshiro are the Program Coordinators and have been working with Arlene Sato and Amy Muroshige of the 100th to put together a wonderful event for our visitors from Bruyeres and the Veterans. At the time this article was written, the final arrangements were being made and members at our October meeting were putting together gift bags.

The "Honoring the Legacy" Exhibit at the Central Pacific Bank on Alakea Street will be featuring the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). There will be a work day to assemble the exhibit materials on Sunday, October 23. The exhibit will be installed at CPB either on the last weekend in October or the first weekend in November. The plan is to have this exhibit in place in time for Veterans Day in November. Volunteers are needed and this is a good opportunity to learn how a display is put together.

The Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony will be held in Washington, DC on November 2. Wes Deguchi, Mark and Debbie Oshiro, and Marilyn Kuga will be attending the DC

Ceremony. The CGMA events being planned for Hawaii include a a parade and luncheon on Saturday, December 17. The next day there will be a memorial service at the National Cemetery of the Punchbowl. This will be a great opportunity for us to celebrate and remember the legacy of our Veterans.

The end of year brings our annual Sons and Daughters Christmas party. This year, our Christmas party falls on the same day as the CGMA memorial service. Our Christmas Party will start a little later and the program will be different so we can all attend both events.

And before you know it, it will be 2012 and a whole new year for the Sons and Daughters. Please continue to check our website: <http://www.442sd.org> to see our past and future events.

Well, it's late and time seems to just fly by... it's October already and activities are starting to zoom by. Hope you have a "bootiful" Halloween, Thanksgiving and Holiday season. Thanks, Susan and we all hope to see you at the next activity.



Bill Thompson and Wade Wasano at Brothers in Valor Monument
Photo by Wayne Iha

Other News

Inaugural “Go For Broke” Golf Tournament Scores An Ace!

by Eric Nemoto

If fund raising golf tournaments were evaluated by a golf score, it could be said that the inaugural “Go For Broke” Golf Tournament, held at the Klipper Course, in Kaneohe, Hawaii, on August 25th, 2011, shot under par! In its very first year of existence, created as part of our ongoing efforts to raise funds to support the “Bruyères To Honolulu 2011” project (to host our visiting French friends from Bruyères as they attend the 50th anniversary of the Bruyères-Honolulu sister-city relationship), we attracted a sizeable list of participants who had terrific fun playing a beautiful but challenging course, enjoyed great food, camaraderie, and prizes. All while raising a good deal of money for a very worthy cause.

In all, we had 23 participating teams which amounted to 92 total participants in a shotgun start that began around 12:30 p.m. There were three platinum sponsors (\$2500 contribution), seven gold sponsors (\$1500 contribution), and numerous four-man golf teams (\$600 contribution). Corporate sponsors received company logo recognitions on all printed matter as well as sponsorship signs placed around the golf course. After everyone finished their rounds we had a buffet meal provided at the Klipper clubhouse for which everyone commented that the food was terrific.

After dinner, Willard Holck, Chairman of the “Bruyères To Honolulu 2011” Planning Committee, addressed the audience and expressed his thanks for everyone’s participation and wonderful contributions. He mentioned how the men of the 100th/442nd literally changed the course of history through their bravery, and cited in particular, the fact that 21 medal of honor recipients came from their ranks (the golf tournament

was dedicated to these men and their portraits and descriptions were displayed in the dining area). He expressed the continuing great challenge that existed for the next generation – the sons and daughters of the 100th/442nd – which is to perpetuate the legacy of their fathers by continuing to honor these men, as well as the friendship their bravery created between the people of Hawaii and France, which he said could best be achieved through maintaining the sister-city relationship between Honolulu and Bruyères. The audience enthusiastically applauded Willard’s speech.

It was then on to the awarding of prizes, with Willard and his wife, GERALYN, serving as emcees. It was the committee’s desire that as much as those teams that scored the best would be eligible for some of the better prizes, everyone would walk away with something they could treasure. Some of what were given out to participants included: vacation nights at the Rio Mar Resort in Puerto Rico, and the Turtle Bay Resort and Halekulani Hotel in Hawaii; a flat screen television; dinners to various restaurants; complimentary rounds of golf, which included lessons from a pro (this was given to the team with the “worst score”☺); and an endless stream of other prizes such as golf balls, golf umbrellas, golf wear, watches, bracelets, art prints from local artists, gift cards, and cash prizes. In all, every participant did in fact receive a take-home prize of some value and it’s safe to say that most left with prizes they thoroughly enjoyed receiving.

Suffice it to say, for our very first golf tournament, the “Go For Broke” golf tournament resulted in a rousing success. It is our goal to make this an annual event, not only for the fund-raising benefits, but because as with other activities designed to bring awareness to the significance of the 100th/442nd RCT, it continues to perpetuate their legacy. But alas, now we must turn our attention to the actual arrival of our French visitors itself. All of our fundraising efforts have proved successful and now it’s time to play the role of perfect hosts!

Bruyères To Honolulu 2011

by Eric Nemoto

(Photos by Bruyères to Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee)



Of course there's really no more planning involved. "Bruyères To Honolulu 2011," the project to host a contingent of citizens from Bruyères as part of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Honolulu – Bruyères sister city relationship, is completed and was an enormous success!

Kauai

It started with the arrival of 34 Bruyèrans on Kauai on Thursday, September 29th after a slight delay out of San Francisco. They were welcomed by a large and enthusiastic crowd of 100th/442nd veterans and their families who feted them with a luncheon at the Kauai Veterans Hall. Judi Murakami, daughter of a Kauai veteran, headed the committee that planned the group's Kauai experience and the reception the French received was terrific. Then after checking into the Aston Aloha Hotel and catching their breath they were then treated to a Smiths Family luau experience in the evening. The following day, Friday, September 30th, saw the group touring the Garden Island. A bus transported them around the island and in particular they took in the beauty of the Wailua River and the grandeur of Waimea Canyon. Returning to their hotel in the early evening the group had the night to themselves.

Maui

The Bruyèrans next island stop was Maui. A morning flight on Saturday, October 1st had them landing around 10:00 a.m., where they were taken straight to the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center for lunch with the Maui 100th/442nd veterans and their families. Their reception there was terrific as well and was coordinated by Jill Ross and Leonard Oka, whose fathers were Maui veterans. They then were transported to the Maui Seaside Hotel where they were able to rest for a few hours until being chaperoned (by some Maui friends they met at the luncheon) to the Maui County Fair during the night. The next day, Sunday, October 2nd, had them again traveling by bus to tour the island. Among the many sights to see they visited Haleakala and took snapshots of the rare silversword plant, saw beautiful Iao Valley, and toured scenic Lahaina. They returned to their hotel for dinner on their own.

Hawai'i – Kona

The group arrived in Kona at a little past 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 3rd. Through special arrangements made with the Kona Airport, the Bruyèrans were allowed to take a group photo on the tarmac after they deplaned. The significance of

this? They took this same group snapshot in front of their plane back in 1976! Their awaiting bus then transported them to the West Hawai'i Veterans Cemetery for a luncheon and a tree planting ceremony with the veterans and their families there, where Tracey Matsuyama, daughter of a Kona veteran, was instrumental in coordinating the activities. After lunch the group checked into the Kona Seaside Hotel where they were free to take in the Kona night. While strolling through the quaint seaside town, many of the Bruyèrans noticed a number of "very fit" people. These folks, it would be later discovered, were arriving athletes who intended to compete in the upcoming Iron Man Triathlon, which was held on Saturday, October 8th.

Hawai'i – Hilo

Tuesday, October 4th saw the Bruyèrans traveling by bus on a tour of the Big Island, which was coordinated by Dwayne Mukai, son of a Hilo veteran. Among the many sights they saw, the group visited the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Rainbow Falls, and the black sand Punalu'u Beach in Ka'u where they were able to see three sea turtles basking on the beach. In Hilo, veterans and their families treated the group to a luncheon at the American Japanese Hall. An incredibly full day of activities had them returning to their hotel around 7:30 p.m. where dinner would be on their own.

Oahu

The Holck 'Ohana welcomed the Bruyèrans at Honolulu International Airport upon their arrival at 9:25 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday, October 5th. From there the group was transported by bus to Pearl Harbor where they first enjoyed a brunch at Schooners before touring the Arizona Memorial. The tour lasted until the mid-afternoon after which they were transported to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel in Waikiki. At night they were treated to a welcome dinner at the hotel by the Holck 'Ohana.

Note: Two nights earlier (Monday, October 3rd) the Holck 'Ohana welcomed family friends Marcelle Deschaseaux (wife of the late Gerard

Deschaseaux, co-founder of the Bruyères – Honolulu Sister City Relationship) and her daughter Claudie Deschaseaux, who would join the rest of the Bruyères group on Oahu. They were checked into a bed and breakfast in Kailua, not very far from the residence of Chisato "Chic" Holck, wife of the late Sandy Holck, the other co-founder of the Bruyères – Honolulu Sister City Relationship.

Thursday, October 6th was the big day that the Bruyèrans had organized their vacation around – the ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Honolulu-Bruyères Sister City Relationship. Their day started out with a tour of 'Iolani Palace by Kippen de Alba Chu that was given entirely in French. The tour began at 8:00 a.m. and continued until 9:30 a.m., after which they were escorted on foot to Honolulu Hale where the ceremonies began at 10:00 a.m.



l-r: Mayor Peter Carlisle, Honorary French Consul Patricia Lee, Masao Tamura, and Deputy Mayor of Bruyères Ludovic Durain

After a musical interlude provided by the Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club, the program began with the singing of the American and French national anthems and a welcome by Ann Chung, Director of the Office of Economic Development, who would serve as the program MC. Important dignitaries in the audience were introduced, which included the mayor of Honolulu, Peter Carlisle, and Deputy Mayor of Bruyères, Ludovic Durain. Speeches then followed by Willard Holck, son of Sandy Holck, and chairman of the Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning

Committee, Mayor Carlisle (who probably stole the show with his reading of his speech in both English and French), and Deputy Mayor Durain. All three men talked of the bravery of the 100th/442nd and of the unique relationship that was born out of the liberation of Bruyères in 1944. The actual signing of the reaffirmation of the sister city relationship followed and both the mayor and the deputy mayor sat together at a table, accompanied by Marcelle Deschaseaux and Chic Holck, to affix their signatures on proclamations that they then exchanged with one another.

What followed was a very rare and prestigious event – the presentation of the Legion d’Honneur (Legion of Honor), France’s highest military honor, to Kauai resident and 442nd RCT veteran, Masao Tamura. As the unassuming 88-year-old Tamura stood in front of an admiring crowd, French honorary consul Patricia Lee, described the meaning of the award and the extent of Tamura’s bravery in both English and French. Upon being presented with this honor, Tamura was given a prolonged standing ovation, to which he later humbly mentioned that he was receiving this award for his comrades.

The final speaker was Adrian Allan, Headmaster of Le Jardin Academy, the first Honolulu school to declare itself as a sister-school with Bruyères. Allan, a native of London, England, enlisted the help of one of his students to interpret his speech in French. Dean Harvest, of the Neighborhood Commission Office, offered the closing benediction in Hawaiian, after which a reception was held with the Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club once again providing music.

The group’s itinerary for Friday, October 7th would prove to be one of their most eventful. A bus picked them up from their hotel in the morning and took them to the Valley of the Temple in Kahalu‘u. There they toured the grounds, fed the Japanese koi, and visited the Byodo Temple. They hopped back on the bus and traveled to Kahuku where they were treated to lunch by Danna Holck (a member of the Holck ‘Ohana) at the Turtle Bay Resort, where she is the General Manager. It was off to the Polynesian



Cultural Center after that where the group took in the various Polynesian “villages” and then stayed for dinner and the spectacular evening show that followed. They were returned to their hotel by 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 8th, was another fun-filled day. It began with the Bruyèrans going to the Aloha Stadium Swap Meet. A luncheon provided by the 100th Veterans Club and Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT, followed at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club. It was a great time of friendship, gift sharing, and hearty laughter (both Peter Carlisle and Ludovic Durain were pulled on stage for impromptu hula performances), during which Willard and GERALYN Holck were recognized for their tireless leadership of the “Bruyeres To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee,” and given a standing ovation. After the very festive luncheon (of which I am told another highlight was the banzai given by “moi” in partial ceremonial samurai garb) the group then visited the Punchbowl Cemetery where a tour was conducted by Duane Vachon and assisted by Pierre Moulin, during which they placed leis onto the memorial to the 100th/442nd RCT and observed a moment of silence. They were returned to the Queen Kapiolani Hotel by late afternoon where they would enjoy an evening on their own.





Sunday, October 9th, saw them attending a very special mass at St. Ann's Church in Kaneohe. It was special because Father John Keenan, who is fluent in many languages, celebrated the mass in both English and French. This was followed by a reception with coffee, desserts, and camaraderie. The group then was transported to Kahalu'u, deep into the area near the base of the Ko'olau, to the home of Willard and GERALYN HOLCK, where a lunch was provided and a variety of activities afforded to our French friends.

First, they were taught the game of Hanafuda by Helen Nakano and her associates, who are committed to keeping the Japanese card game alive. Kevin Burkett then discussed the series of wines that were afforded to our guests. Hilary and Nathan Aipa provided Hawaiian music for entertainment, and helped GERALYN HOLCK teach the group how to make eye lash feather leis which all of them wore when they departed for their hotel at 3:00 p.m.

At night they were treated to dinner by veteran Jun Yamamoto and his wife Lorraine at the Kai Market Restaurant located in the Sheraton Waikiki. Hot off the press reports coming from the Yamamotos as well as veteran Joe Oshiro and his wife Nancy (who also attended) were that the night was absolutely "fabulous."

Monday, October 10th, had Terry Holck worried. The group was scheduled to go to Hanauma Bay but darkened skies had her thinking, "What would be our plan B?" GERALYN HOLCK answered,

"We have no plan B!" But alas, as with everything else associated with the Bruyèran odyssey, even Mother Nature would be accommodating. The skies did clear and the group spent a wonderful morning snorkeling through the astoundingly clear waters. With a tour guide who took them on a free underwater tour leading the way, they saw the many beautiful fish that make Hanauma famous worldwide. After this great time at the bay, their bus took them down the coast for a look at the Blow Hole. But what caught their attention even more were the hang gliders soaring above Makapu'u. The bus pulled to the side and they snapped numerous photos. They then had lunch at a beach house in Waimanalo where they were able to relax and dip back into the water. They stayed through the mid-afternoon until their bus took them back to their hotel at 3:30 p.m. The night would be left to them to enjoy Waikiki on their own as they were nearing the end of their incredible vacation.

Tuesday, October 11th, their LAST DAY. It's very likely that this day, they probably thought, would never come. After all, they had been planning their trip for well over two years, and since landing, they had been on constant "overdrive," seeing practically every major site in the Hawaiian islands, and experiencing every native nuance. But in fact, it was HERE. But as last days go, the Bruyèrans certainly went out with a BANG.

During The Day: To start, they traveled to the Windward side to visit Le Jardin Academy in Kailua.

On the way over they stopped to take in the view (and the wind) from the Pali Lookout. At 9:00 a.m., they arrived at Le Jardin, which was the first school that the Holck 'Ohana succeeded in arranging to be a sister school with Bruyères, and the reception the school gave their new French cousins was nothing short of phenomenal. Students lined the entrance to the school auditorium, giving yellow plumeria leis to our French friends. They in return received pins and pens from each visitor. They were entreated to both Hawaiian and French songs from every grade level, as well as hula dancing. A video was played for them showing young students from Le Jardin visiting Bruyères 30 years ago! In a photo taken by some of the students (now adults), Bruyères Deputy Mayor Ludovic Durain actually saw himself as a little boy in one of Mrs. Deschseaux' classes! Students proceeded to give speeches in French, and one student sang the French national anthem. They planted a tree on the school grounds and were taught a Hawaiian song. After Le Jardin, the group visited Sea Life Park, where for many of the French it was the very first time they had ever seen a dolphin! Later they traveled back to Waikiki to take in a tour of the museum at Fort DeRussey where Pierre Moulin was their guide from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. After that it was a quick return to their hotel rooms to spruce up, for the farewell dinner sponsored by the Holck 'Ohana was to begin at 6:30 p.m.

The Final Night: Suffice to say the schedule had the Holck 'Ohana hosting the dinner only up until 8:30 p.m., but of course, you can't be on schedule when you're saying farewell to lifelong friends. Everyone lingered well past 10:30 p.m., even though they had to depart for the airport at 3:45 the next morning! During the evening program, Eric Nemoto, serving as the night's MC, mentioned that one of the most endearing memories that the Holck 'Ohana had of their trip to Bruyères in 2009, was of the members of the Peace and Freedom Trail Committee (their hosts during the visit) lining the road to wave their final goodbyes as the Holcks departed by car. "It was then," Nemoto said, "That we all looked at each other and said that now 'the pressure was on us!'"

But we vowed that we were going to show our French friends the time of their lives when they visited in 2011." "We hope we have succeeded," he continued. To which the Bruyèrans applauded enthusiastically (Martial Hilaire, president of the Peace and Freedom Trail Committee, would later remark that the Holck's have certainly "raised the bar" when it comes to hospitality). Nemoto proceeded to introduced the entire planning committee and advised all present that it was the intent of the Holck 'Ohana to maintain its active committee and that it will be seeking to create its own non-profit organization in support of the perpetuation of the sister city relationship. The program then continued with a slide show produced by Terry Holck (which was also given to each of the French in the form of a DVD) which showed photos and video of their entire trip. Professional dancer and former Miss Hawaii Debbie Nakanelua, who also once visited Bruyères, performed two hula dances. Alenka Remec, of the Honolulu Mayor's Office, who was so helpful with the 50th anniversary celebration, represented the mayor (who was on business travel to Korea) and the City and County of Honolulu, and gave out gifts to each of the Bruyèrans. The Bruyèrans, in turn, returned gifts to everyone (of particular note, each of the six children of Sandy and Chic Holck received a commemorative trophy marking the sister city relationship), and Deputy Mayor Ludovic Durain, gave an emotional speech about the wonderful time they all had and how they would never forget it. At the close of the program, Willard Holck, Chairman of the Bruyères To Honolulu 2011 Planning Committee (and leader of the Holck 'Ohana), and Martial Hilaire, President of the Bruyères Peace and Freedom Trail Committee, were asked to come to the front of the gathering where they raised their hands to recite a promise, which they signed on a written proclamation. This "promise" appears below:

FAMILY is a special word no matter what language. It represents your closest relatives, your most cherished friends, the people you can really count on. Family will support one another through the good times and the bad. They will be there for

one another now and for always. Through our travels we have not only come to know one another, to laugh with each other, to become good friends with one another, we have become “family.” But as relationships can sometimes wane due to the passing of time and the distance that separates us, we agree to the...

*Holck ‘Ohana
Freedom Trail Committee
Ohana Famille
PROMISE*

As representatives of our respective groups:

*I promise that we will maintain our relationship
between our two groups.*

*I promise that we will continue to visit one another
as time and resources permit.*

*I promise that we will continue to create more
exchange opportunities between our groups.*

*I promise that we will maintain our friendship like
the family that we are all a part of.*

*Signed this 11th day of October, 2011, in the
witness of other family members under a beautiful
Hawaiian night sky.*

*Willard Holck, Holck ‘Ohana
Martial Hilaire, Freedom Trail Committee*

The men signed two copies of this “promise” and each maintained a copy housed in a Koa wood frame. The rest of the evening was left to the personal goodbyes, during which time Ashley Holck, Willard and Geralyn’s daughter, enchanted everyone by dancing the hula. Almost fittingly, her ending number was performed to the song, “Waikiki.” Fitting because here we were on the final night in beautiful Waikiki, with these wonderful people from a different part of the world with whom we share an almost indestructible bond with, a relationship that is basically... well... beautiful. And as if they were trying to soak up and remember every last moment of their “trip of a lifetime,” our friends from France stood silent and mesmerized, watching Ashley as she continued to dance to the melodic tune. It was time standing still. “Bryuyères To Honolulu 2011” had reached its amazing end and that moment was absolutely perfect.

The Overview

I think it is safe to say that Bryuyères To Honolulu 2011 was a phenomenal success. Everyone who has participated in the hosting of our friends has done a fantastic job. We have succeeded, Hawai‘i, in perpetuating this unique friendship with friends who live half a world away. Congratulations to all!





Matsuji “Mutt” Sakumoto

By Bryan Yagi

Bryan Yagi of San Francisco met Mutt Sakumoto through Glenn Hajiro (son of Barney Hajiro, I Co.) on Labor Day weekend of 2009 at Mutt’s residence in Waialua. The two became instant friends and remained close until Mutt’s passing. The following was written by Bryan as a tribute to his very special friend and by request from Susan Uyemura of the Japanese American Living Legacy, who wanted all to know of the man who was the first to reach the Lost Battalion.

Matsuji “Mutt” Sakumoto, who was a member of the 442nd RCT, passed away on August 19, 2011 at the age of 87. He was born on June 12, 1924, in Waialua, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. He was one of seven children born to Sakamatsu and Kito Sakumoto. He was raised on the Waialua Sugar Plantation where his father worked as a carpenter.

As a boy, when he was not in school (English or Japanese), Mr. Sakumoto could be found at the local gym playing basketball or at the local fishing hole netting crabs. He indicated he was one of the first kids to quit Japanese school because he hated it so much. However, his love for basketball would find him as the first sub on his high school varsity team. He also played in the Japanese American league. He once said, “I don’t want to brag, but I had a pretty good jump shot.”

While attending elementary school, Mr. Sakumoto received the nickname “Mutt” from his eldest brother. His brother was reading the sports section of a newspaper and noticed the name of a Japanese baseball player. The baseball player’s first name was Matsuji who had the nickname of “Mutt.” “Hey, this guy has the same first name like you,” said his brother. “I’m going to call you Mutt, too.” The name stuck.

During the summer months, Mr. Sakumoto helped his family by working on the sugar plantation — cutting cane. A portion of the

defunct sugar mill can still be seen from the yard of his home which was built on land once belonging to the plantation.

In December of 1941, Mr. Sakumoto was a senior in high school. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, his high school closed for the balance of the school year and so he was unable to graduate. He soon obtained a government job as a mechanic repairing military vehicles. Although he had some experience working on cars after school at a garage in Haleiwa, Mr. Sakumoto said it was mostly “on-the-job training.”

In early 1943, Mr. Sakumoto and several friends volunteered for the U.S. Army when they heard that a Japanese American unit was being formed. The unit would become known as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Mr. Sakumoto and his fellow volunteers were soon shipped to the mainland on the ship, *Lurline*. He explained that it was a difficult trip as he and almost all the Hawaiian boys were seasick. He added, “I would even get seasick on the inter-island boat trips to visit relatives in Kauai.”

The transport ship docked in the San Francisco Bay area. The men were then transported by train to Camp Shelby, Mississippi for basic training. Mr. Sakumoto was initially assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, but he was later transferred to Company I, 3rd Battalion when sent overseas.

During basic training, he was assigned the BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle). He laughed, “I was only 5’2” and that bugger was 5’4” and heavy.” He was later given an M-1 carbine that he said was useless in the Vosges Mountains of France.

After months of training, the 442nd RCT was sent to Italy under the command of General Mark Clark of the 5th Army. There Mr. Sakumoto participated in the Rome-Arno Campaign. His first experience in battle was near the Italian city of Belvedere. When the his battalion was stalled by the Germans, the more experienced 100th



Bryan with "Mutt" and Ayako Sakumoto

Photo: Bryan Yagi

Battalion was sent to assist them.

Mr. Sakumoto soon saw the work of the 100th Battalion, e.g., destroyed German vehicles including tanks and half-tracks with dead enemy soldiers still in their seats. He thought, "Wow! Is war easy or what?" His mind was soon changed when artillery shells from the Germans began to rain down on him and his company.

After that campaign, the 442nd RCT was sent to France. The regiment became a part of the 36th Division under the command of General Dahlquist.

After battling the Germans in the French villages of Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belmont, the 442nd RCT was only given one day of rest before General Dahlquist of the 36th Division called upon the weary 442nd RCT to rescue of a battalion from 141st Texas Regiment that had been surrounded by the enemy in the nearby Vosges Mountains.

Mr. Sakumoto remembered he was resting on the ground after his platoon had "taken a beating," while trying to break through the German's line when General Dahlquist and his aide, the son of author Sinclair Lewis, approached. The General said, "Hey, what are you guys doing here? Don't let the other guys do all the fighting. Get up and charge!"

"I thought to myself – Charge? Charge where? You can't see the enemy because the forest is so thick. It was also cold and rainy. It was so miserable." Nonetheless, he and others

moved out into the forest. Their commanding officer found a transmitting wire and told them to follow it. After following the wire through the dense forest, Mr. Sakumoto said, "I looked up and saw one guy running from tree-to-tree and then another soldier running from tree-to-tree. I thought to myself. Hey, these guys must be from that Lost Battalion." He was right.

After making the first contact with the Texans, Mr. Sakumoto was taken to their commanding officer. He lit up a cigarette and soon noticed everyone staring at him. He asked if they (the survivors of the Lost Battalion) would like cigarettes. He pointed to his field pack on his back. The men went into his mess kit and took all three of his packages of cigarettes.

While fighting in the Vosges, Mr. Sakumoto had contracted "trench foot" — a serious condition in which the foot becomes infected and swollen from the wet and cold conditions. While the rest of the regiment continued battling the Germans, Mr. Sakumoto was sent to various field hospitals. He felt bad about leaving his comrades behind as he was eventually returned to the United States to recuperate. Both of his feet were affected.

Upon his discharge, Mr. Sakumoto returned home to Waiialua, Hawaii. He was able to regain his job as a mechanic and made a career of that position with the federal government. He was later sent overseas to Vietnam, South Korea and Okinawa to work. He retired in the early 1990s.

Throughout his life, Mr. Sakumoto remained a humble man. He never sought publicity or fortune for being the first man to reach the Lost Battalion. For those of us who knew him well, he was also a kind, trusting and giving person.

He is survived by his wife Ayako whom he gave much praise and credit for raising their two sons while he was working overseas. He is also survived by his sons Glenn and Gary and their wives Linda Nakashima and Kimiye Sakumoto, respectively, as well as grandchildren Marlo (Todd Oya), Lenn, and Meriann and great-grandson Daniel.

Joint Memorial Service

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl
Sept. 25, 2011
Photos by Wayne Iha



l-r Tsutomu Oi (1399), Edgar Hamasu (MIS), Bill Thompson (442)



100th Inf Bn Irene Anzai (l) and Denis Teraoka (r) present wreath



1399 presents wreath



MIS presents wreath



100/442 Reserve presents wreath



Pastor Russell Takaazu gives Prayer of Remembrance



Lynn Heirakuji, Mistress of Ceremony



Lt. General Francis J. Wiercinski gives Memorial Address



Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin Choir



Alan Miyamura & Primasita Seery



l-r: Lt. Gen. Wiercinski, Tsutomu Oi and Edgar Hamasu



Group poses in front of Brothers in Valor Monument

Congressional Gold Medal Hawaii Celebration

December 17, 2011 (Saturday):

Parade thru Waikiki

Time: 10:00 a.m. - approx. 10:45 a.m.

For those interested in participating: Trolleys will pick up veterans (and 1 or 2 attendants, if needed) at the Hawaii Convention Center at 9:30 a.m. and take them to Ft. DeRussy where the parade begins. The parade will proceed along Kalakaua Avenue, stop briefly in front of the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center for the Mayor's proclamation, and continue to Kapiolani Park where it ends. Trolleys will then transport the veterans to the Hawaii Convention Center

Banquet Luncheon

Time: 12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Place: Hawaii Convention Center

Notice to Veterans

Those planning to attend the banquet luncheon must register!

A veteran and 1 guest of his choice will receive a complimentary lunch. All others may purchase a ticket at a cost of \$75 for adults and \$50 for children 10 under.

Chapter members: Please submit name(s) and payment to your chapter president. For those not active with their chapter, please contact the 442nd Veterans Club. You may be asked to provide additional information (e.g., discharge form DD-214).

100th, 442nd and MIS Veterans who did not attend the Washington, D.C. event will receive a replica of the CGM. All others (e.g., widows, next of kin, etc.) must purchase the medal online at: <http://catalog.usmint.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/TopCategoriesDisplay?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001>

The Hawaii celebration will also honor veterans of the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. They are invited to participate in the parade and veterans of the 1399th and one guest will be hosted for lunch.

**Deadline to submit attendees list and payment to the 442nd Veterans Club:
Wednesday, November 23, 2011**

December 18, 2011 (Sunday):

Memorial Service

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl

***Any questions, please call the 442nd Veterans Club at (808) 949-7997 or
email at 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net***

The 442nd Veterans Club
933 Wiliwili Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

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