



Go For Broke Bulletin

442nd Veterans Club • A Quarterly Publication

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Photos Courtesy: Wayne Iha and Aaron Yoshino

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442 Officers

Cover:

Top: Office Staff, Board of Directors, Chapter Reporters, Docents and other volunteers at December luncheon meeting.



Bottom Left: MOH Awardee, Barney Hajiro at Lost Battalion display at Central Pacific Bank.

Bottom Right: Mutt Sakumoto, first from 442nd to make contact with rescued soldiers attends CPB display.

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2nd Vice-President Noboru Kawamoto
3rd Vice-President Wade Wasano
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The Go For Broke Bulletin is the official bulletin of the 442nd Veterans Club. It is published quarterly. Contributors may submit reports to the Editor, Go For Broke Bulletin, 933 Wiliwili St., Honolulu, HI 96826 or via email to: 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net. Preferably, reports should be submitted on computer disk or e-mail. Please save files on MS Word in Windows format. Deadlines for chapter reports for 2010 are: April 9, July 9, Oct 8 and Jan 7, 2011.

PRESIDENT'S *Report*

by Bill Thompson, President



The last quarter was an eventful time for us. In October, we were invited to participate in the 65th anniversary of Liberation Day in Bruyeres and Biffontaine. Our friends in the Vosges Mountains communities have not forgotten us. While age has slowed us down, the memory of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was kept alive when Lt. Col. Mike Peeters arranged for the 100th Infantry 442 Reserves to represent us. A color guard of seven led by Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn flew to France to participate in the October 18 Liberation Day ceremony. Mayor Alain Blangy and his Deputy, Jean Michaud of Bruyeres and Mayor Denis Henry of Biffontaine greeted and hosted the color guard party. It was a thrilling moment for our French friends to see the colors of the 442nd RCT and the 100th Infantry Colors once again featured in the anniversary ceremonies. We owe a debt of gratitude to our *bons amis* – Gerome Villain and Herve Claudon – who took care of the arrangements for the color guard.

Susan Uyemura of the Living Legacy organization of Fullerton, California, was there with her husband Ray. She made a surprise gift of the 442nd RCT Colors to the Mayor of Bruyeres. She took part in the anniversary event at Bruyeres and the special ceremony at Biffontaine. A 442nd veteran from Utah, a former Kauai native, Noel Okamoto, also was there with his daughter.

On November 1st, some of our veterans took part in the “Homecoming for Heroes Tribute” held at Houston, Texas. The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation offered to cover the cost of those veterans making the trip:

Ron Oba, Ed Ichiyama, Ken Inada, Wataru Kohashi and Benty Tachibana. The boys of Item Company passed the hat to send “Mutt” Sakumoto to Houston. They felt that Mutt who made the initial contact with the Lost Battalion was a main event of the tribute. His immortal words rank with those of Clark Gable (Rhett Butler) whose retort: “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn!” to his wife Scarlett; and those of Clint Eastwood (Dirty Harry) who snarled: “Go ahead, make my day!” as he drew out his .44 magnum. Mutt, upon seeing the haggard Lost Battalion men, calmly said: “Do you guys need any cigarettes?”

Veterans Day saw us presenting a floral tribute at the State Kaneohe Veterans Cemetery. Noboru Kawamoto did the honors.

At the same time, a new revised exhibit by the Sons and Daughters was displayed at the Central Pacific Bank. The exhibit featured the Rescue of the Lost Battalion of the 141st Alamo Regiment in the Vosges Mountains by the 442nd RCT. Col. Bert Nishimura (Ret.), was the Grand Marshal for the annual Veterans Day parade at Wahiawa sponsored by the Lions Club.

The last Board meeting was a luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel attended by the Board members. In appreciation for their services, docents from Punchbowl NMCP and reporters of our GFB Bulletin were luncheon guests of the Club. The officers for 2010 were installed by Judge Masato Doi.

The year closed out with the annual Christmas party for veterans and their families staged by the Sons and Daughters.



TAPS IN MEMORIAM

Deepest sympathies to the families
& friends of the following:

CLUB DONATIONS

*Thank you to the following for
their generous donation to the
442nd Veterans Club:*

Kaoru (Kay) H. Ishii & Yvonne Maeda – \$200
Edward Kanno – \$25
Don & Alice Masuda – \$150
Helen Miyashiro – \$100
In memory of Shinso Miyashiro
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto – \$100

GFB BULLETIN DONATIONS

*We thank you sincerely for your generosity
and support.*

Yoshiko Muto – \$50
Kennie Namba – \$71
Gail Nishimoto – \$30
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto – \$100
Mr. & Mrs. Satoru Shikasho – \$100
Hideo Takahashi – \$100
Bill & Doris Taketa – \$25

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

*We thank you sincerely for your generosity
and continuing support.*

Mrs. Hiroko Doi – \$2,000
*In memory of Shizuichi Hamada
& Tetsuo Hamada*
Mr. William Y. Thompson – \$100
In memory of Tokuo Kaneshige
Mrs. Gail Yap & Family and
Mrs. Anita Nihei & Family – \$500
In memory of Henry Hori

Clayton, Richard M. (522HQ Officer)..... Feb. 21, 2005
Fujiwara, Edward S. (3rd HQ).....Oct. 16, 2009
Fujiu, Hobi (AT).....Dec. 18, 2009
Fujiyoshi, Kenichi (Medics).....Dec. 16, 2009
Fukuda, Toshio (I Co.).....Nov. 4, 2009
Hori, Henry K. (2HQ/G Co.).....Oct. 27, 2009
Ikemoto, Henry Y. (Anti-Tank)..... Dec. 1, 2009
Inukai, Harry H. (522 FAB HQ Btry)..... Sept. 29, 2009
Ito, Joph (Medics).....Nov. 2, 2009
Iwana, Shiro (522B).....Sept. 10, 2009
Iwata, Tad T. (522A)..... Sept. 19, 2009
Kamidoi, Tad T. (E Co.).....Nov. 21, 2009
Kaneshige, Tokuo (2HQ)..... Nov. 12, 2009
Keegan, Col. Christopher (H Co. Cdr.).....Oct. 11, 2009
Kojimoto, Mitsunobu (H Co.).....Oct. 24, 2009
Konno, Rex H. (E Co.)..... Oct. 29, 2009
Kunihara, Lloyd (I Co.)..... Nov. 29, 2009
Mine, Jumpei (100D/H Co.).....Oct. 2009
Miyagawa, Stephen K. (3rd HQ).....Oct. 24, 2009
Morihiro, George (I Co.).....Oct. 25, 2009
Musashi, Sam (F Co.).....Oct. 4, 2009
Nakamura, Katsuji (F Co.).....Oct. 21, 2009
Nakatsu, Kiyoyuki (3rd HQ).....Oct. 31, 2009
Onuma, Norman H. (522B/315th Inf)..... Sept. 11, 2009
(Name in the Army, Hisao Yoshimura)
Oyama, Masanori Henry (522A)..... Sept. 16, 2009
Sasaki, Kunikazu "Kuni" (K Co.)..... Nov. 18, 2009
Takeuchi, Kazuma (AT/Service).....Sept. 15, 2009
Takisaki, Raymond (I Co.).....Dec. 10, 2009
Takitani, Henry (100th/K Co.).....July 6, 2009
Yamashige, James (L Co.)..... June 6, 2009
Yasuda, Joseph K. (M Co.).....Nov. 3, 2009
Yukitomo, Robert (L Co.) Dec. 24, 2009

* * *

We apologize for the following errors which appeared in the last issue:

CORRECTIONS

Donations by Kimiko Sato should have read:

GFB Bulletin: Kimiko Sato, \$500 in memory of Norman F. Sato, Cannon Co.

Scholarship: \$500 in memory of Takeo Morishita, L Co. (donor incorrectly listed as Patricia Takahashi)

Taps: Henry T. Kitahara was inadvertently listed. Our sincere apologies for this error; please disregard.

We apologize for the error in the Anti-Tank article which listed Edwin Kokubun of Wailuku Maui as being deceased.



News from the

EDITOR'S DESK

by Oscar Tsukayama

A New Year's Greeting!

Happy New Year All and the Best to You in 2010...

The 442nd Veterans Club in Honolulu enjoyed another fulfilling and successful year in 2009, thanks to the able leadership of President Bill Thompson and his staff. Not to be overlooked, of course, are the cooperation and support rendered by members of the Board of Directors, the Docents and the host of volunteers who worked behind the scenes to keep the gears grinding; thanks also to our chapter reporters who quietly worked throughout the year to dig up and report the kinds of news that our readers enjoy. Last but not least, "A Great Big Thank You" to Eileen Sakai and our Sons and Daughters organization who served as the Movers and Shakers in all of our projects.

I would be remiss, of course, if I did not acknowledge the continuing enthusiasm and support displayed by the membership in all our projects. We would not have been successful without your involvement and help.

Let us pledge our support to the incoming leadership as we look forward to another successful year.

67th Anniversary Banquet

Chairperson Mits Kunihiro (522nd FA Bn.) announced that the banquet this year will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 28, 2010. Doors will open at 10:30 AM; lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and the event will close at 2:00 PM. Cost for self-parking will be \$3; valet parking will be \$7. Parking rates will be for a maximum of 4 hours. Registration and pre-payment for attendance will be

through your respective chapters. Each chapter will make a lump-sum payment to the 442nd Veterans Club for all chapter members attending by March 1, 2010. Neighbor Island and Mainlanders who wish to attend are requested to contact their chapter presidents or the 442nd Veterans Club for additional information or to register for attendance. The committee promises a good time for all – see you all there!

Rescue of the Lost Battalion Displayed at Central Pacific Bank

On Tuesday, November 10, 2009, the Central Pacific Bank hosted an open-house to launch a new exhibit, "The Rescue of the Lost Battalion." This display replaces the previous display that depicted the achievements of the 100th Bn., 442nd RCT, MIS and the 1399th Engrs, during WWII. Approximately 80 Nisei veterans and spouses attended. In his welcoming remarks, Chairman, President and CEO of Central Pacific Bank, Mr. Ronald K. Migita said that we decided to do these displays to honor and perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei veterans. We are grateful for your sacrifices and we know that we enjoy the good life we do today because you stepped up to the plate when your country needed you in spite of the prejudices and mistreatment you endured.

Among the guests was a Captain Kirsten Udd, Public Affairs Officer for Pacific Air Force at Hickam AFB. She wrote an article in the PACAF Pixels, PACAF's official newsletter in which she says, "I had previously known a little about the 442nd but learned a lot more about their amazing achievements through the museum quality displays

and talking to veterans who actually participated in the battles.” She learned about how the Nisei volunteered in an era when their loyalty was questioned; when some were interned in relocation camps; of how they bravely fought their way through intense German opposition to rescue the lost battalion; of how they were designated honorary Texans and even learned about the Banzai Charge from one of the veterans. She later checked Wikipedia to learn the origin of the word “Nisei.” In her article, she emphasizes the importance of the color “purple” which denotes a joint world, in which all must work together to get the job done and ends it with hopes that her article has increased awareness of Hawaii’s rich military heritage.

We thank CPB for making space available in their lobby to make public the 442 story and we thank our Sons and Daughters and other volunteers who worked diligently to put the display together.

Denzel Washington Visits Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC)

The following article was submitted by Roger Eaton, Researcher, AJAWARVETS Memorial Alliance

Denzel Washington, noted actor, screenwriter, director and producer, and his family, recently visited the troops at BAMC in San Antonio, TX. BAMC is where soldiers who have been evacuated from Germany come to be hospitalized in the United States; especially burn victims. There are some buildings there called Fisher Houses. The Fisher House is a hotel where soldiers’ families can stay for little or no charges while their soldier is staying in the hospital. BAMC has

quite a few of these houses on base, but as you can imagine, they are almost filled most of the time.

While Denzel Washington was visiting BAMC, they gave him a tour of one of the Fisher Houses. He asked how much one of them would cost to build. He took his checkbook out and wrote a check for the full amount right there on the spot. The soldiers overseas were amazed to hear this story and wanted to get the word out to the American public because it warmed their hearts to hear it.

The question is: Why do Brad Pitt, Madonna, Tom Cruise and others make front page news with their ridiculous antics and Denzel Washington’s “Patriotism” doesn’t even make page 3 in the Metro section of any newspaper except the local newspaper in San Antonio?

Editor’s Note: I read another version of this story which states that Mr. Washington did not write a check on the spot but sent a check after his return home. It also reported that it did not cover the entire cost of the building although it was sizeable.

Lost Dream Restored to Japanese-American Family
Information for this article was gleaned from an article written by Teresa Watanabe in the Los Angeles Times on December 13, 2009.

For a time, the Fujioka Family in Los Angeles enjoyed an abundant life taking pleasure in things like a beachfront property, a Steinway grand piano, vacations in Catalina and the like. Then came Pearl Harbor and the family lost nearly everything. They lost their freedom when patriarch Fred Jiro Fujioka was hauled away by the FBI and other family members were interned in a desolate relocation camp in Wyoming; they lost their



Denzel Washington with staff of Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX • 2004

Photo: US Army

family's Oldsmobile dealership, their trucking business, their real estate holdings and other assets estimated at \$18 million. And son William lost his chance to graduate from UC Berkeley to fulfill his mother's dream for him to become a doctor.



Linda Fujioka will accept her husband's degree with sons William, left, and Fred, not pictured.

Photo: Bret Harman, Los Angeles Times

The family, however, regained a measure of their loss when UC Berkeley awarded honorary degrees to William Fujioka and 100 other Japanese Americans whose education was interrupted by internment and/or the war. "This validates his whole life experience," said William's eldest son Fred, who will accept the posthumous award along with his mother and brother. He further stated that the honorary degree would complete the one piece of unfinished business in the family's remarkable turnabout from post-war ruins to prominent public service. Fred, 58 is a Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge and his younger brother William, 57 is Chief Executive of Los Angeles County. Their role model and mother Linda went back to school and

earned her teaching credentials at age 40 and at age 81, still works as a substitute at the Fishburn Avenue Elementary School in Maywood.

William Fujioka was taking pre-med classes at UC Berkeley when Pearl Harbor was attacked. His family was shipped to Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming from where he enlisted in the US Army and was subsequently assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was with Cannon Company where he was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star Medal among other awards. He survived a shelling which killed a close friend riding in the same truck and later found the body of a dear cousin in the battlefield. The family says "the gory violence, the personal losses and the abrupt turn in his family fortunes shocked and scarred him deeply." In a recent interview, his wife Linda said "the war really messed him up – he just wasn't ready for all that gore".

When William returned from the war, he did not go back to college and abandoned his ambition of becoming a doctor. He worked at a produce market, an insurance company, a trucking firm and in city government. He died of cancer in 1992.

* * *



Joe Oshiro reflects at the Central Pacific Bank 'Lost Battalion' Display.

Photo Courtesy: Aaron Yoshino



442 Feature Story

by Bill Thompson

Vosges-Tour

Two years ago, Gerome Villain and Herve Claudon decided to ensure that the WWII liberation of Vosges is not forgotten. In this regard, they created the “Vosges-Tour” project. They welcome people from the US who desire to follow in the tracks of the liberators of 1944. Some have arrived to check historical records and compare them with the local people’s accounts.

In September 2007, Jake and Seth Lindauer from Indiana, son and grandson of Norman Lindauer, visited Bruyeres. They wanted to see the battle area where the elder Lindauer fought in October 1944 along side of the 442nd RCT.



Gerome Villain

In 2001, at the request of Wayne Osako, coordinator, and Eileen Roulier-Shima, both Gerome and Herve organized the Veterans Nisei Stamp campaign in France. They gathered support of both local and national figures including that of the President of the French Republic.

In March 2008, the famous comic author, Billy Tucci, came to gather background information for his comic strip which featured the Lost Battalion. Then a couple of months later, in May, in association with the US vehicles collectors, the first “Walk in Peace and Remember” took

place. It started from Bruyeres and ten miles later ended at the Lost Battalion Memorial “Borne #6” at “*le Trapin des Saules.*”

The Lost Battalion Symposium was held in July 2008 sponsored by the Texas Armed Forces Museum in Austin. The highlight of the symposium featured a salvaged belly tank discovered in the Vosges Mountains by Gerome and shipped to Texas. The belly tanks dropped by the 405th Fighter Squadron contained supplies needed by the trapped



Herve Claudon

battalion. Both Gerome and Herve were honored at this ceremony in Austin.

The October 2008 liberation of Bruyeres ceremony included the presentation of the Lone Star Flag of Texas to the municipality of Bruyeres. This flag contained the signatures of the 36th Division and 442nd RCT veterans who participated in the July symposium.

After a year of search, some artifacts of the P-47 plane of 1st Lt. Robert Booth which crashed during the effort to air-drop supplies to the Lost Battalion were found. These were presented to Elliot Archilla. He is the son of Eliel Archilla who was a pilot with the 405th Fighter Squadron. These were placed in the Lost Battalion room of the Austin museum.

In July 2009, Bastille Day, Lawson Sakai, of the FFNV from California, led a group of 40 which included six 442nd veterans to Bruyeres. Then in early October, visitors to the Vosges included Patti and Dwight Stickle and Ron and Corrine Oshima. They received honors from the officials of the village of Tendon which is 5 miles from Bruyeres.

In mid-October, the 100th Infantry 442nd Reserves sent a color guard to participate in the 65th Liberation Day anniversary ceremonies at Bruyeres and Biffontaine. It was a moving experience to see the original colors of the 100th and 442nd displayed. Noel Okamoto, from Utah, was the sole 442nd veteran present. Noel was there to locate a lady who befriended him that October 65 years ago. It was a happy reunion for Noel and the Raymonde

family. Susan Uyemura was there with her husband Ray. She presented the mayor of Bruyeres a replica of the 442nd RCT colors. According to Gerome and Herve, she suggested the name “Vosges-Tour.”

At the end of October, Dr. Abbie Salyers-Grubb and her husband were there to inspect and learn about the area where the Japanese Americans fought with the 36th Division in WWII for the book she is writing.

(This report is based on an article submitted by Gerome Villain and Herve Claudon complete with photos. The entire report is available at the 442nd Veterans Club office.)



Gerome Villain & Herve Claudon with 100/442 Reserves. Bruyeres, France.

Photo Courtesy: Herve & Sylvie Claudon



by Henry Kuniyuki

Hauoli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year!

Akemashite Omedeto! Kung Hee Fat Choy! Feliz Ano Novo! Feliz Ano Nuevo! Bonne Annee! Prosit Neujahr! Manula Le Tausaga Fou! Gott Nytt Art! Manigong Bagong Taon!

The RHQ Chapter extends the SEASON'S GREETINGS to all in Hawaiian, English, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Samoan, Swedish and Filipino languages.

As 2009 comes to a close, we need to take a moment to pause and remember this past year. We are thankful for the leadership of Noboru Kawamoto and the devotion of all our RHQ members. We are indeed blessed to have so many who are willing to help whenever and wherever needed. We also must remember the good friends who are no longer with us. Those who died this past year. They are missed but will always remain a part of RHQ. Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

The following is a condensed version of an article written by Ralf Stinson, son-in-law of Noboru and Elaine Kawamoto, RHQ Chapter. It was submitted for publication in the last issue but had to be postponed due to space constraints. Our sincere apologies.

Ralf Stinson's HALO Jumps, 10 & 11 June 2000

On Saturday June 10, 2000, I had a very interesting and somewhat unique experience that I would like to share with you. I made a civilian

High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) Parachute Jump.

It started at 8:00 AM when I arrived at the Drop Zone (DZ) at Yolo County Airport just west of Davis, CA. First, I checked all my equipment such as main parachute, reserve parachute, helmet, oxygen hoses, altimeter, low altitude beeper, etc. Then I got into warm clothes, first a layer of thermal underwear, then polartec trousers and jacket, boots and my jump suit. Then on goes the parachute both main and reserve on the back. The oxygen bailout bottles (2) are attached to my left side. At altitude, I can get 30 minutes of oxygen from them. It is summer in the Sacramento Valley; it is hot and the sweat pumps are working. We get a brief on the jump; put on our helmets with goggles, oxygen mask and a little altitude sensing device that tells me by a loud horn that it is getting low and time to open the parachute. The jumpmaster gives me an equipment check; I'm OK so off we go to the aircraft. It is a Cessna 208 Caravan that can hold about 15 jumpers but on our flight we have the pilot, jumpmaster, 4 jumpers and oxygen equipment and tanks. We are going to its maximum altitude so we cannot take a full load.

I climb into the Caravan and take my seat just forward of the door. This is the warmest seat in the plane. Then I strap on the oxygen mask and connect to the onboard oxygen system. The seal of the mask is checked to ensure that I am receiving only pure oxygen. Next comes the hard part – wait one hour on the ground breathing pure oxygen so

the nitrogen gets out of my blood. This is necessary to prevent Decompression Sickness or Bends. I have also been warned to drink a lot of water, not coffee or alcohol. The aviator oxygen, unlike medical oxygen is 99+% pure and is extremely dry. Every exhale removes water from your body. It is also hot on the ground and I am sweating. The other problem is we are all connected and can't go to the boys' room. Remember, if you are asked if you need to go, GO! Later may be too late.

At 9:30, the pilot starts the engine and we taxi to the end of the runway. My safety belt is on; my altimeter is set to zero; I reach and touch all my handles and ripcord and we close the door and seal it to keep the wind out. It is hot now but the big cold will come soon. The climb to 12,000 feet comes fast with a relief of cool air. At 18,000 feet my altimeter stops working; it will start again as I drop through 18,000 feet. My altimeter has only one needle and a full circle is 13,000 feet. So the needle is pointing at 5,000 feet. Looking outside, I know I am high. I can see the Golden Gate Bridge, Mt. Lassen, Mt. Shasta, the Sierras, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Diablo, etc. The view is great. It is getting cold inside the plane. I zip up my clothes and put on my ski gloves. I go through the mental exercise of what I need to do. First turn on the bailout bottle, then check oxygen flow and disconnect from the onboard oxygen system. I also reach and feel for all my handles and ripcords. The reverse is not good. It could be fatal. I can feel gas in my stomach and it will get worse so I must get rid of it. We all do the high altitude shuffle (move from cheek to cheek) to relieve gas pressure (fart). But we are all on the onboard oxygen system so the fragrance is not a problem. Around 24,000 feet the climb rate is much slower and it's darn cold. At 28,000 feet we are climbing at 200 feet per minute, 10 minutes to go. It is now very cold and all the windows are frosted. I draw the Chinese characters for my wife's name Chi-yomi on the window.

We are at 30,000 feet; the air is thin. With

the oxygen mask on and the aircraft noise, we cannot talk easily. We communicate with hand signs and writing. The jumpmaster checks for alertness and hypoxia. Without breathing pure oxygen, we would go unconscious in one to two minutes. Mental alertness is a possible problem. The jumpmaster points at me and holds up three fingers. I must add one and answer with four fingers. None of us had problems with the math. The jumpmaster now knows we are all alert. The human body is not designed for surviving at 30,000 feet. The next hand sign is to go on the bailout bottles. I move the lever and visually check to see it says "ON." Then I check the flow indicator and take some breaths and see it move. Now I know I am receiving oxygen from the bailout bottles and I disconnect from the onboard system. Next we are signaled to put on our goggles. We cannot do this too soon or moisture will build up and freeze on exit.

The light by the door flashes telling the jumpmaster to open the door. I position myself by the door. I will be the first out. I am not thinking about the ground, it is too far, about six miles. The pilot gets 300 more feet of altitude so the exit altitude is 30,300 feet. The outside temperature is minus 42 degrees centigrade (-45F). I am so ready and excited, I don't feel the cold. I see the light go green. I point at it and look at the jumpmaster. He signals hold while he gives a quick look outside for aircraft below us and whether we are in the correct county. Then he signals and I am gone in a flash. I feel the wind blast and the biting cold. I do a quick check of myself and look up at the aircraft. I see the other three jumpers exit after me seven seconds apart.

I am falling faster than normal in thin air at about 180+ MPH. The parachutes are designed and tested for falling up to 150 MPH. If they open accidentally, I could be injured by the shock and it could also damage the canopy and break some suspension lines. I would then be with a broken parachute; may be injured with limited

oxygen and in a very cold and unforgiving environment. There are emergency procedures that can be employed in these instances, but these are precarious situations. I then roll over and look at the deep blue sky with a few very high altitude clouds. The sky is absolutely beautiful. My face is sheltered from the wind blast in this position and it is relaxing.

I then roll back on my stomach, the normal freefall position. I am falling at about 180 to 200 MPH because of the thin air. I am used to falling at about 120 MPH in lower altitudes but having the fast thin air hit you has a strange feel on my body. I find the DZ and airfield below me. It has never looked so small. The wind is pushing me to the East so need to make some corrections or will have a long walk back to the DZ. At last the altimeter is moving (18,000 feet). I turn toward the west and look down at Lake Berryessa. I go into a tracking position by moving my arms back that causes my head to drop and I move forward. I can feel the air warming up and getting thicker. I am tracking forward at a ground speed of about 80 MPH. I can see myself moving towards the DZ. The altimeter reads 0 feet or 13,000 feet and I have about 60 more seconds of freefall left. I have already fallen for about 90 seconds.

The air is warm and the exhaust valve thaws so exhaling is now easy. I am over a good spot to open and now I enjoy the ride and scenery.

I think of the people I love and how exciting it is to be alive. At 4,500 feet, I get a beeping in my ear warning me to get ready for opening. I plan to open at 3,500 feet which is 1,000 feet (5.5 seconds of freefall) above my normal opening altitude. I have heavy clothes, extra equipment and ski gloves. If I have a problem, I want more time to take care of it. As I pass 3,500 feet, I wave my left arm to warn anyone above me that I am opening. I reach for the pilot chute; pull it out and let it go. It catches the 120 MPH wind and pulls out the bag the parachute is in. Next the

parachute comes out; catches the wind and quickly opens up. The opening shock is about 4G's so it is gentle. I check the canopy and see that it is fully inflated and in good shape – a very good feeling. I then look around to make sure I don't run into another jumper. My parachute has a 25 MPH forward speed. A collision under canopy can be fatal. I spot 3 other canopies, not too close. I know the other jumpers are safe. I turn off the oxygen bailout bottles to save oxygen and disconnect the right side of my mask. I inhale the thick, "moist" warm air of the Sacramento Valley for the first time in over 2 hours. Another good feeling.

We start flying our parachutes to the landing area. I look at the wind sock to check wind direction and speed. I also keep an eye on the other jumpers so we won't collide. We are south of the DZ and just a few jumpers so we basically fly straight in with a few turns to lose altitude so we don't overshoot the target, a small area with pea gravel. The wind is about 1 MPH and my airspeed is 25 MPH. This means I am going over the ground at 24 MPH. At about 12 feet, I start pulling down on both steering toggles that act like an airplane's flaps. I am trading forward speed for lift. My forward speed drops off and my descent slows. When I hit the ground, I am going forward at about 5 MPH and my vertical speed is almost 0, a very gentle landing. I land about 6 feet from the center where I was aiming. A 6-foot miss from 30,300 feet with 150 seconds of freefall – I am very happy.

We then debrief the 30,000 foot jump. This is important to learn any new safety information. Breathing pure oxygen for two hours and the excitement of the jump will have physiological effects on us including being very tired later and very susceptible to alcohol, "Yes, a cheap drunk."

I have one more jump the next morning so no drinking for me. Above 18,000 feet is the positive control zone. All activities, including freefall, are strictly controlled by the FAA. Months were required for our clearance.

On Sunday morning, June 11, 2000, I made

a second HALO jump. I reported to the DZ at 5:30 AM and at 6:00 we were on oxygen. The pilot, however, reported difficulty with exhaling and repairs had to be made to change his regulator. It required re-piping the system, under pressure, a dangerous operation, but we made it in time to take off on schedule. John Lewis has about 300 jumps and this will be his 22nd HALO jump. He is a computer programmer for JAVA and other languages and lives in Emeryville. Steven Van Horn is the photographer. He has made several HALO jumps, over 200 BASE jumps and several thousand parachute jumps. They are on the load with me.

Today was warmer, -38 degrees centigrade at 30,000 feet. I had paid for a photographer (\$150) and his seat (\$325) to take a video of me in freefall. That is over \$3.00 per second of video. We had four jumpers on the aircraft, one solo and the three of us. At 2 minutes before the jump, we went on our oxygen bailout bottles and disconnected from the onboard oxygen system. At 1 minute we put our goggles down and got into position. At 30 seconds, we saw the green light flash and opened the door. Then the green light came on and the solo first jumper was signaled out and gone. Then my cameraman backed into the door. I got ready to dive after him. John was right on my butt. On signal, the cameraman went out and I dove after him, not as fast as I should so there was some

separation. At about 120 MPH, 1 second is 176 feet. John was right after me.

I flew over to the cameraman. He had a video camera, 35 mm camera and a 2-1/2 inch camera on his helmet. I flew to a few feet in front of him and posed for a picture. John came over for some photos and we held hands facing the camera. I then turned to face John and make a two hand hold then caused our formation to rotate so the cameraman was to my right. I then let go of John with my right hand but continued holding with my left so we were again facing the cameraman. I signaled the cameraman to join us and he flew in for a three man star. We held that for a few seconds then the cameraman backed off.

At 5,000 feet, I waved good-bye and turned away and tracked off to clear for opening. I opened at about 3,500 feet. We were about a mile from the DZ and wind was very light. I flew to about 100 meters of the DZ and landed gently in a plowed field. It was a great jump, even better than the first. I saw the video and it was great. I hope the still pictures are good also.

The HALO jump is a very special jump and only jumpers with over 200 jumps are allowed. Tandem jumps are a great safe way to get a taste of skydiving. The tandem jumps are from 13,000 feet with 60 seconds of freefall. Oxygen is not used or required.

* * *

REMINDER:
Chapter Reports for the next issue are
due on April 9, 2010



by Committee of Three

To make proper closure of the Chapter's year 2009, members Cynthia and Masato Doi, Amy and Whitey Yamamoto, Margaret and Jack Kaguni, Irene and Chilly Sasaki, Nora and Yuki Nakahira, Alice and Jerry Ayabe, and Petit Suzuki gathered on Saturday, December 5, at the Pearl City Gyotaku Restaurant for a pre-Christmas luncheon celebration. For the record, this was the eighth consecutive year that our Christmas venue has remained at Gyotaku, with the last two being hosted by the Chapter's treasury. Last minute cancellations were by Katherine and Rugged Miyakawa, Sachi Fukunaga, and Sally Nakamura – all nothing serious, but due to unforeseen priorities.

The luncheon program:

1) Announcement by Masato about the sudden and unexpected death of Henry Ikemoto in the bathroom of his Los Angeles home on December 1, 2009. Henry was a replacement towards the end of the war and joined the Anti-Tank Company when it was at Lake Como, Italy.

After his discharge, Henry volunteered into the Army Reserve until his retirement with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Henry made frequent trips to Hawaii with his wife Mildred, an islander. After retirement from the service, he remained very active with Japanese American veterans organizations and was the “engine-that-could” of the Anti-Tank group in Los Angeles. His ashes will be interred in Punchbowl with services conducted at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, March 15.

2) Door prizes: Two Long's Drugs gift certificates were won in drawings, one by Masato and the other by Jack.

3) Crazy Bingo: Wherein every member deposits a gift-wrapped package into the “pot” and retrieves from the “pot” one of the packages when his number is called. Everyone wins!

4) The finale is always reserved for Petit Suzuki's magic show. His display of the slippery rope “knot” disappearing trick never fails to keep everyone guessing.

5) For posterity: This is definitely Chilly's kuleana- -with his trusty camera at hand he took separate snapshots with the Christmas setting backdrop of every couple as well as of the whole assembly.

Later, the group accepted the Sasaki's invitation to their home on nearby Aiea Heights for coffee and refreshments. The home-baked desserts served by Irene (fruitcake) and by Amy (butter mochi) were delicious and a perfect companion to coffee. The only drawback to visiting with the Sasaki's is that their immaculately beautiful yard embarrasses all the other husbands!

A sad note: Word was received that Hobi Fujiu, an Anti-Tank Company member, died after a long illness on December 18, 2009, in Torrance, California. He volunteered into the 442nd while interned in Amache Relocation Camp in Colorado, and was with AT from its beginnings in Camp Shelby to the end. After the war, he went into gardening first and later into insurance, becoming the owner of his own agency. He was into sports even while in the army, pitching for AT's softball squad, and later in civilian life became an avid fisherman, bowler and golfer.

SURPRISE! (read to the end and find out who wrote the following and when):

"I'm running behind schedule on this newsletter, which is normal for me.

I attended the 65th Reunion of the 442 Combat Team in Honolulu on March 28-31, 2008, and returned to New York on April 2, 2008. Each Chapter has their annual Reunion in all different locations but the Annual Reunion of the 442nd Club has always been a must for me to attend since the 1980s. This will probably be the last for me due to our age and mobility. I have always enjoyed the camaraderie with the boys and visit with my relatives as my roots are still in Hawaii. I always look forward to the Go For Broke Bulletin and I am very happy to see from the last one that the committee of 3 has taken action and has gotten results. I for one am one of those that did not correspond and that will change with this newsletter.

On May 20, Connie and I took a trip to San Francisco and Pleasant Hill where my son Leonard lives and then to Lake Tahoe South on the 23rd to 27th as a treat from Leonard and Lili. Even though the weather was wet and cold the scenery was beautiful with the snow-capped mountains and the lake. They had a gondola ride to the summit but due to the weather it was not worth the ride to the top because there was nothing to be seen and when the weather cleared it was closed for 2 weeks. On the Main street of the town one crosses from the State of California into the state of Nevada, where all the games are located. This place has really developed since I last saw it in 1990 on our Class of 1940 Reunion and the AJA Reunion in 1988. That was our travel for the year.

On October 14, 2008, Connie tripped over a foot stool in the living room and was in terrible pain and could not get up so I had to rush her to emergency where she was examined and an X-ray was taken, which showed she had a small fracture of left hip and required surgery which was scheduled

the following evening. They mended the fracture with 4 small screws and she was told that it would probably take 6 weeks for the fracture to heal. She had to stay in the hospital for 4 days and was transferred to the Rehabilitation Section for the next 10 days and finally returned home with a walker and a wheel chair. Then they scheduled her for rehab 2 times a week and after 6 weeks the doctor said she could use her left side completely with the aid of a walker and cane but still needed someone at all times. Now she is able to walk without anything but still has to move very slowly and that's a great burden off my back.

My older son Leonard and Lili came to visit us on Nov. 25 to Dec. 6. Their daughter Akemi is in her final year at Columbia University for her doctorate in Physical Therapy. We all had a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner and they also stayed in Manhattan for a few days to see the shows, museums, etc. They departed for San Francisco on Saturday, Dec. 6th. While they were here we talked with our other son Neil and his family in New Zealand on the computer SKYPE with the camera so we could see them and vice-versa instead of just talking only on the telephone.

We talked to each other for almost two hours the first time and an hour the second time before they left for home.

We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Wonderful New Year. All our love and kisses.

The author of the foregoing is none other than Hiroshi Kaku of Staten Island, New York, and it is dated "December 2008"!

Profound apologies to Kaku for this year-old acknowledgment of his fantastic response to the urgent request by the Committee of Three for updates by Anti-Tankers. Hopefully, this printing brings back pleasant memories to him of the visits by and with his children. As he predicted, he missed our 2009 Reunion, but again hopefully, he will be with us in the future. Write us more updates, Kaku! We won't misplace them again.



by Oscar Tsukayama

“Happy New Year All and the Best to You in 2010.”

Another year gone by-another year wiser. Only problem – We Forget! But let us be thankful that we can greet each day with great hopes and live each day to the fullest.

Medics Meeting

Meeting was held on Dec. 16, 2009 with Noboru and Betty Ogami, Jack and Marian Yamashiro, John Masunaga, Toshiaki Tanaka and Oscar Tsukayama present. Two were sick, one was in Vegas and one had other commitments. One day soon, we hope, we’ll see a 100% attendance. Oscar started the meeting by passing on notes from the Mother Club’s Board of Directors meeting. Items are covered in other parts of the bulletin so they will not be mentioned here.

Plans for the Medics Shinnen Enkai were discussed and Marian Yamashiro was volunteered to select a date, place, menu and price for the event. Here is the info we have so far: Date: January 23, 2010 at 11:30 AM, at Natsunoya and an ONO menu for a charge of \$20 per person. Thank you, Marian. Oscar sent out letters to all Medics to provide details and to ascertain attendance. RSVP date is Jan. 8, 2010. Susan Ogami-Van Camp (Noboru and Betty Ogami’s daughter) has agreed to line up some games and help out with the program. We will be getting together after the RSVP date to plan a program. A good time is guaranteed!

The highlight of the meeting was Toshiaki Tanaka extolling the virtues of garlic. He ran into

some literature on it and tried some and like magic, he says, his blood pressure came down as did his cholesterol. He is waiting to see what it is going to do to his PSA count. According to the literature he shared with the group, it is also good for preventing diabetes and cancer.

Dr. Noboru Ogami is Designated Outstanding OBGYN

The Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children celebrated its centennial in 2009. As one of the events in its year-long observance, it hosted an Outstanding Physicians Celebration on November 19, 2009 during which Noboru and other outstanding physicians from other fields of medicine were honored. His citation expressed appreciation for his commitment, leadership and caring, and for his contributions in laying the foundation for improvements in pediatrics and obstetrics care at the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. The value of this award is that the selection is made by his peers.

Our Heartiest Congratulations Noboru, it is good to know that your years of hard work and dedication are acknowledged, appreciated and honored.

67th Anniversary Banquet

The banquet will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Sunday March 28, 2010. Doors will open at 10:30 AM; lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and closing will be at 2:00 PM. The committee (522nd FA Bn.) chaired by Mitsuru Kunihiro promises a fun and memorable program. Cost is \$30 per person; self parking-\$3 and valet parking-\$7. Parking is for up to 4 hours. Oscar will send letters out to all Oahu residents to ascertain attendance and collect charges; payments must be made through your respective chapters. Deadline for payment is March 1, 2010. For Neighbor Island and Mainland members, please contact Oscar or the 442nd Veterans Club for additional information.

News From Abroad

Heard from Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya-Gig Harbor, WA, Tak and Kimi Momoda-Mercer Island, WA, Ben and Hisa Yamanaka-Los Angeles, CA, John Hayashi-Rochester, NY, Joe and Nell Saito-Ontario, OR and Kelly and Fumi Kuwayama-Washington D.C. They all sent good wishes for a happy holiday season and a great 2010 to all Medics.

Tak and Kimi enclosed a generous donation to the Medics Chapter. Ben turned 90 this year and says we seem to be slowing down and time seems to be speeding up and it is getting harder to keep up with deadlines. Made only two trips to Las Vegas this year; spend more time now playing Shanghai Rummy with friends at home.

Joe and Nell Saito called to say they plan to join us for the 67th reunion (Hooray). Wish more of you could join us.

Just before press time, we received a holiday greeting from Tosh and Fumi Yasutake of Bothell, WA in which he enclosed a generous donation in memory of Kenichi Fujiyoshi. I recall, Ken telling me of how he and Tosh spent some furlough time together which blossomed into a life-long friendship. They have been exchanging Christmas cards through all these years.

Tosh wonders what happened to our visions of reminiscing while cuddled in a rocking chair – we seem to be busier than ever. At 87 young, he pays tennis twice a week; goes to the lab once a week and does a lot of travelling to visit with family and friends.

Donations

Generous donations to the Medics Chapter were received from Tak and Kimi Momoda, Noboru and Betty Ogami and Tosh and Fumi Yasutake.

We thank you very much – they will be very helpful in hosting events to keep us together and in touch.

Sick Call

In November 2009, Kelly Kuwayama, Medic E Co., went through two major surgeries. One to install 3 stents to treat his aortic aneurysm and a second to remove a tumor from his colon. We exchanged e-mails to wish him well and to inquire about his condition; he wrote back to report that the operations went well and that he was recuperating beautifully.

Takashi (Tak) Nakamura (Regmtl. Medic) also suffered from bleeding ulcers and had to undergo surgery; he is recuperating well from the surgery but is scheduled for further checks for other medical conditions. Our prayers that he emerges from these checks with a Clean Bill of Health. The good news is that he and Eva will attend our Shinnen Enkai.

Jerry Ogawa, (H Co. Medic) woke up one night with bleeding in his stomach. He, too, went under the knife to take care of the problem. He is recuperating well and is almost good as new – he reports that he and his family will be attending our Shinnen Enkai.

Taps

The GFB Alliance which maintains the 100th/442nd/MIS Roster reported that Joph Ito who served as a Medic with the 442nd RCT died on November 2, 2009. Joph lived in Alhambra, CA and was 90 years old at the time of his passing.

We also note that Kenichi Fujiyoshi (Rgmtl. Medic) age 89, died in Honolulu, HI on December 16, 2009. Ken was not in the best of health in recent years and was not active in Medics Chapter activities but faithfully kept in touch by telephone to see how the gang was doing and to inquire about specific individuals. He enjoyed reminiscing about his army experience, particularly, about things he did with his buddies and even wrote an article for the GFB Bulletin. He made several sizeable monetary donations to the Medics Chapter. He will be missed.

Stay Healthy – Keep in Touch!



by Okemura, et.al.

Tokuo Kaneshige



At the age of 87, Tokuo passed away on November 12, 2009. He had been confined at home due to illness. However, his mind was sharp and he still kept track of his 2nd Battalion Headquarters buddies. It was at our November 13 luncheon meeting that we learned of his passing, a sad note for us. His funeral service was held on the fifth of December.

Toku was a retired employee of the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in the Design Division. After returning home from the war, he started working at Pearl Harbor. What was amazing was that he took classes at the University while working full-time and eventually earned a degree in engineering.

Toku is survived by sons Melvin and Keith, and daughters Kathleen Tateishi, and Sharon Soon. He had 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. He had 4 brothers – Edward, Henry, Thomas and Morris; and two sisters- Mitsuko Nishitani and Grace Koizumi.

Bidding good-bye to our old friend at the funeral service were Violet Ishida, Sue Isonaga, Joyce Masunaga, Frances Sato, Robert Uyeda, Moriso Teraoka, Yasunobu Shoho, Ace Higuchi, Takashi/Jane Okemura, Richard/Margie Nakamura,

Bill/Marj Thompson and Toshio/Grace Hayama.

Toku was with the Communications Platoon of the 2nd Battalion Headquarters Company. Lt. Walter Mackey was their platoon leader assisted by S/Sgt Jack Tagawa. Toku was with the message center section. Larry Ishida was the chief of this section and Toku's partner was Takushi Sodetani. Being in the message center meant that Toku and his buddies could listen to the messages – some trite but some critical. Not long ago, we reported in the GFB Bulletin that Toku was a passenger in a military C-3 plane that was bringing home the boys after the war. The plane which started on the East Coast crashed before landing in Sacramento; Toku was one of the lucky survivors.

His buddies remember him as the pitcher of the Hq2nd baseball team when the 442nd Veterans Club first started and we were still young.

It is hard to write about Toku without mentioning Stella, his wife who preceded him in death. They both enjoyed their early morning exercise in walking along the Pearl Harbor Trail for many years. Their main interest after retirement was going to Las Vegas and having fun. They could be considered as being regulars of the Strip. Even after Stella passed on, Toku continued visiting Las Vegas. Was he successful? Well, there is saying that what's in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas. Not so with Toku. He liked to say that he made a little which he brought home to pass on the grandchildren.

I'm sure Toku was proud that his son Melvin is on the Board of Governors of Iolani School, one of Hawaii's prestigious learning institutions. What an honor. And of course, there is that Iolani School scholarship set up in Toku's name by his family – a fitting tribute to a great guy.



by Shigeyuki Yoshitake

It Almost Came True...

Three weeks at the end of November and the beginning of December were exciting days as the telephone line kept ringing between the Federal (Kuhio) Building and the writer's home. The first call from Senator Dan Inouye's office was to confirm that Easy Chapter was having its annual Christmas get-together on the second Tuesday of December. The next call was that the Senator was coming to Hawaii, but could not stay for lunch.

Then on the day after Thanksgiving, another call said that the trip was cancelled because the Senate was considering the Health bill. Monday (the day before our meeting) came the good news that the trip was "on." But alas, on Tuesday while we waited at the DAV Complex, Mrs. Irene Inouye came with her driver. Our senator was back in Washington, D.C. But Irene was able to spend a few minutes with me and have a taste of the good food planned by Maui Okamura.

At least we were able to greet Mrs. Inouye and extend our Aloha and Christmas wish. Maybe next year we can plan a lunch.

The Food Was...

Now back to the luncheon. The food was excellent. And the program. Again, Clayton and Kathy Pang came up with a new "game."

Of course, the items of every day came from Long's Drug Store. But this time, instead of guessing the price, we drew numbers. There were so many prizes that each person took home

two items. Thank you, Clayton and Kathy.

Those who came were: Masami/Marilyn Doi, Juno/Amy Kaneshige, Glenn/Miyo Nakasone, Maui/Hazel Okamura, Thomas/June Ooka, Tadao/Sakaye Yoshimoto. Singles were Don Masuda, Noboru Uesugi and Shige Yoshitake.

Single ladies were: Mildred Nakata, Tokue Ouchi, Haruko Oyama, Laura Shigenaga, Kay Sugihara and Beatrice Tsukamoto. Also Pakala Takahashi, guest from Maui, and the Pangs.

Sick Call

Hiroshi Okada has moved to a Salt Lake care home. Just a month earlier, he was said to be at the Palolo Chinese care place.

Raymond Shigenaga continues to be at Leahi. The others seem to be reasonably well. We bump into others at doctor's offices, etc., and the cane is now our standard aide.

* * *



Ed & Genny Goto's grandson, Curran, at Sons & Daughters Christmas Party.

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha



by Ron Oba

*Lost Battalion
Salute the survivors now
Yes they meet again*

Year of the Tiger – Meow!!!

The Rescue of the Lost Battalion

Were they really lost? Nah, the Texas 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Inf Division, TEXAS were 275 strong in their slit trenches surrounded by the Germans and ended with 217 survivors in the Vosges Mountains of Bruyeres/Biffontaine. Marty Higgins, commander of the “Lost Battalion” said that they lost 50 men sent out to break out of the entrapment. The 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team suffered 814 casualties (Honolulu Advertiser) of which approximately 200 were killed in action. Marty Higgins said that he didn't know that the 442nd/100th had suffered so many KIA/WIA/MIA until he read it in the newspapers.

At the Punchbowl ceremony, he said “The 100th/442nd saved the United States an embarrass-

ment by saving us. You didn't have to do it! Why did you do it? Because you are Americans.”

Many of the survivors came to the 65th Anniversary of the rescue GALA – some healthy, others with canes and wheelchairs for a total of 40 members from both units. But they all had a happy smile as they greeted the 100th/442nd participants at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Houston, Texas. There were various venues for picture-taking such as during the luncheon and an Aloha dinner for 1,000 when Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen served as keynote speaker. Other notables from the Houston community also

addressed the group. From Hawaii were Ed Ichiyama and wife Connie, Mutt Sakumoto, Michi and Ron Oba, Wataru Kohashi and Mitsuo Tachibana from Hilo; from L.A. Ocean Miyake, and caregiver, Monica; Steve Shimizu with sons, Jimmie Kanaya and wife Lynn



(standing l-r): Michi Oba, Ron Oba, David Katagiri, Adelita Katagiri
(sitting l-r): Wataru Kohashi, Ocean Miyake

from Gig Harbor, WA; David Katagiri and Adelita. Michi and I sat with Adam Moilanen and other people from Houston who were very interested not only about the rescue but the Nisei soldiers who

fought and died to prove that they were just as loyal Americans as any good American citizen. They embraced us like we were brothers and sisters. One of them even wanted to come to Hawaii to visit us and offered to host Michi and me in Houston for a vacation.

We met many survivors, especially Mr. Ted Rodrigues and his wife and son. Ted was a good friend of Hide and Kay Nakamine of Pono St. in Waimalu. Ted also inquired about his late friend Douglas Gusukuma and his wife. We also became friends with the hosts and survivors such as The Honorable Norman Mineta, Co-host, Daniel/Dorothy Chow, Charles/Joyce Medlin who picked us up, Reverend Murakami, George Hirasaki, Philanthropist Donna Fujimoto Cole, Survivors Jack/Judy Wilson, Bruce/Tim Estes, Astro Tortolano, Albert Lasseige, Robert Peiser and many others. Enoch Kanaya's Brother Jimmie Kanaya and of course Kris Ikejiri who ran around taking care of everyone's needs. We'd like to thank Mari Okabayashi and the Medlins, Charles and Joyce for picking us up from the Hobby Airport. The hosts were very hospitable and committees assigned to whatever responsibilities, really, truly put their heart and soul to take care of the needs of all the guests who came to the Houston Hyatt Hotel to celebrate. They were tremendous.

Everyone there thanked Mrs. Donna Fujimoto Cole who seemed to have hosted many of the events. All in all, we really paid for our sojourn to Houston depending on how much extras the Hawaii veterans paid for the overage on airfare and an extra day at the Hyatt but all the meals and hotel rooms were hosted by the JANMF of Washington DC.

We traveled with Kimi and Don Matsuda of the 100th to and from the airports. Michi and I couldn't find our gates so we resorted to what Kimi and Don were doing, that is, to ride the cart for the Handi that takes passengers to their gates. I will now use the cart at every airport to our gates – no hassle, no misses, no walking!! However, we

had a crisis!! I lost my wallet. When we went through the security gates, I put my wallet in the tray and couldn't find it in my pockets. I went to the Lost and Found but they were of no help. She said to call the Security yourself and gave me the phone number that didn't work. After searching everywhere, I was resigned to my fate and settled on the plane coming home. I didn't want to put my wallet in the tray where sometimes it can be stolen. I'm glad that I take all the credit cards out of my wallet whenever I travel. I wanted to eat some of the cookies in my carry-on bag and, holy cow, there was my wallet eyeing me with a snicker and saying, "Stupid, don't you remember sticking me in here at the security checkpoint?"

Central Pacific Bank Exhibit and Teacher Training

We were asked to participate by Ms. Funai for the Teacher Training of the Nisei History during the war years which included the evacuation, relocation and the 100th/442nd war exploits.

I took over some of my artifacts like an artificial P-38 pistol, helmet, canteen, etc, which made a great hit with the teachers. I also passed out the brochures of the 442nd. Christine Sato Yamazaki of the National Education Center who was at the Hyatt, Houston, told me that we made an impression with the teachers.

Our next event was the "Lost Battalion", piggy backing on the new exhibit: "The Rescue of the Lost Battalion" at the CPB exhibit area. Channels 2 and 8 were there to interview the veterans who were reticent, reluctant and refused (not like the mainland boys), so when they approached me for an interview, I joked, "What do you want to know?" So my friends asked me how come you're on TV all the time? When I go to the schools to talk with the students, I say to the Mother Club, someone has to tell the story. The 100th veterans are always there to tell their stories.

Christmas Party at Tree Tops

Don't park under the trees; the leaves and branches will fall on your front and rear windows. It did mine. A moment of silence was observed for the late Clara Yamashita and Kats Nakamura. In the absence of Paul Yamashita, Ron gave the invocation and ended with "Namuamidabutsu." Dorothy Murashige corralled the girls to help with the setting, decoration and arranging the grab bags. She and Richard managed the overview of the program. The food was fine as usual but the Bingo games and door prizes were more frenetic as everyone cashed in on the prizes. May and Tommy were in charge of the grab bags, Ruth and Masako for table settings, Clara Shibuya and Helen Horikawa distributed Favors for everyone. Shinako Takata gave every family her 2 lb. avocados. Dorothy placed two pizzelles for each person. Mike Tsugawa brought a bottle of wine while management donated two bottles of wine that went for door prizes. Jr. Uranaka and Ben Kodama again brought enough orchid plants from the Kodama Nursery in Waianae for everyone. Wesley Deguchi the new president of the Sons & Daughters and son of Yas Deguchi, second platoon, came to join in the Christmas party. Wes is an architect and holds a key position in the future construction of the Rail System. The rail has been long overdue since the Frank Fasi and Mansho days.

Richard and Dorothy brought over the Bingo sets as Junior and Ron helped with the calling of Bingo numbers. There were so many money envelopes that everyone who bought a card was able to collect their share. Jannelle came with her new baby girl but Collin stole the show by immediately making a beeline to the Oba's table as Collin remembered all of them and again cajoled with them. We all had a wonderful Christmas Party and next year it will be a week earlier on December 11 so that people can go visit their families on the mainland before Christmas. Stay healthy as we will see you next year.

In Memoriam

Katsuji Nakamura, 85, died on October 21, 2009. "Kats" as we knew him was an entrepreneur. He was a member of F Co. 442nd RCT. He delved into everything from sports equipment to tour guide to the mainland and Europe. He worked for the Sen Plumbing Co. and then the Heide and Cook Ltd with Joe Tanaka. Kats was one of the few heavy smokers and developed emphysema that forced him into the Maluhia Nursing Home. He is survived by his wife, Grace, daughters, Lynn Mitsui and Sheryl Danilewicz, brother Masaru; sister Ruth Usui. Fox Chapter veterans sang the 442nd "Go For Broke" song led by George Nakasato and Kazu Tomasa. I hope we didn't miss a beat!! We shall miss Kats's enthusiasm and happy go lucky style. The funeral was held at the Hosoi Garden Mortuary on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 at 4 pm. We offer our sincere condolences to Grace and her family.

Noteworthy: Rosa Doyle, waitress at the Makiki Zippy's Restaurant, donated a "Koden" to Clara Yamashita's funeral. She said that Clara was such a nice person to work with for the breakfast meetings. Thanks, Rosa

Emi Takusagawa, the alter ego of Hiro, wrote: Sam Musashi died on September 12, 2009 (obituary to follow). Emi Iguchi, wife of Yuke Iguchi, died November 12, 2009 and interred at Mission Valejo Cemetery; Brother of Ocean, Kuni Miyake of Gardena died Oct. 16, 2009; Frank Ogata of Sunnyvale, died Aug. 22 and Mrs. Shige Morimune of Oxnard on Oct 11, 2009.

A Chinese laundry was named Moshe Plotnick. A customer asked, "How did you get such a name?" The Chinese owner said that when he came through immigration a man in front gave his name as Moshe Plotnick. When the officer asked me what was my name, "I said, Sam Ting." Daily sayings: Be not afraid of growing slower; be afraid only of standing still.

Ces't Fini.



GEORGE

Gossips



by Fred Ida

This may be the shortest G Company article in the many years I have had the “pleasure” of being involved in this task. But for whatever it is worth here goes.

Sandy and Jerry Koyama (Sandy is the daughter of Bones and Shiz Fujimoto) were in town to celebrate the 21st birthday of their niece.

I received the embarrassment of my life, when they paid for our lunch when I was parking my car. And the cashier refused to cancel her credit card purchase. Dolores and I were joined by their daughter-in-law, Sherrie from Hilo.

On October 15, G Company got together at the Hanaki Restaurant for lunch. We welcomed Fujiko Motobu who has been absent at our meetings since we changed from night time meetings to AM meetings. That must have been 10 years or more ago. I believe Kazu will join us at one of our get-togethers. Also in attendance were: Kiyomi Yamamoto, Richard Ajifu, Joanne and George Furukawa, Pat and Ray Handa, Betty and Jimmy Ishizaki, and Dolores and Fred Ida.

Ray Handa closed 2009 with having a successful major surgery on his aching back. He was out of the hospital in 4 days and was looking forward to therapy at home. Who was it that said that the cause could be too much poker machines in Vegas.

Ran into Jane Fukunaga at Straub Clinic while waiting for Dolores. She is looking well, but would not commit to attending our Shinnenkai on January 13th at TreeTops.

Plans for our Las Vegas reunion is not progressing too well, due to health problems of Ann Kabasawa’s parents. We will try to help her

to start things going. Time has become suddenly short and if it falls apart, so be it.

442nd Veterans Club received a very generous donation from the family of the late Henry Hori. His daughter Anita Nihei brought it to my house to deliver to the club.

Another generous donation to G Company was received from Emily Tamanaha. Thank you, Emily.

I am not quite ready to share my experiences involving cancer, because there is so much more to come in the way of treatments. I'll get to it in a future issue. In the meantime, please take good care of yourselves.

* * *



Ryan Nosaka, Sons & Daughters Christmas party.

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha

65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bruyeres October 18, 2009



65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bruyeres October 18, 2009



Homecoming For Heroes • Houston, TX November, 1 2009



Photos Courtesy: Kris Ikejiri, NJAMF

Veterans Day 2009



Central Pacific Bank Exhibit, Nov. 10, 2009



Photos Courtesy: Wayne Iha

Central Pacific Bank Exhibit, Nov. 10, 2009



Sons & Daughters Christmas 2009



Photos Courtesy: Wayne Iha



by Yutaka Yoshida

It's my sad duty to write our Company's farewell to two of our members, but I'd like this column to be a remembrance of lives well-lived and a celebration of the memories of two people who made a difference in the lives of their H Company friends.

Colonel Christopher Keegan, former commanding officer of H Company, was buried in December at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. I'd like to quote from the biographical information included in a well-written biography sent to me by the Japanese American Veterans Association:

"Keegan was born in New York City, raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was drafted into the US Army in March 1941. He arrived in Camp Shelby...serving as commanding officer of H Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Except for the time spent in field hospitals, Captain Keegan served in all 442nd campaigns: Rome-Arno, the liberation of Bruyeres, Belmont, and Biffontaine in the Vosges forest.

Keegan received three Purple Hearts for wounds sustained on three occasions. The first was in July 1944 near the town of Pastina in the Rome-Arno Campaign when shrapnel was embedded in his hand. The second was in Bruyeres when an enemy

artillery barrage lodged shrapnel in his back. He was confined to the field hospital during the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges. The third was in Italy at Mt. Belvedere, the western anchor of the German Gothic Line, when more than 50 pieces of shrapnel hit him and severed his Achilles tendon."

I personally recall Keegan's last injury very vividly, as I was knocked down but uninjured by the same mortar blast that wounded him.

My own recollection of Chris Keegan is that he was a brave soldier and a good officer, well-liked and respected by his men. In the JAVA article,



COL C. Keegan, 442nd RCT
Artwork by Jackson Morisawa

Mike Tsuji is quoted as saying, "He was a straight shooter, very strict but very compassionate." You don't usually get very close to the officers (during war) but after the war, friendships blossomed... I know that's true for me. There were multiple interactions with Chris Keegan after the war, the first being in Cincinnati. I was attending school there, and Chris owned and operated the Geogianna Dry Cleaning Shop. Later, after Chris reenlisted and became a full colonel, he was assigned to Honolulu and he and his wife Ann

lived near what is now Kapiolani Community College. Chris and Ann, who preceded him in death, raised a fine family, of which they were very proud. He is survived by his five children: Kathryn

Clare (Joseph), Christopher (Denise), Timothy (Mary), Dennis (Karen) and Thomas (Laura), 17 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In 1997, former H Company correspondent Jackson Morisawa wrote the following about an H Company gathering following the 54th Anniversary, which the Keegans attended: “The food, bingo and especially the opportunity to reminisce our good and bad experiences of wartime were well consumed and reflected by the smile on all those who were in attendance. We thank Ann and Chris Keegan for making it so.”

It’s hard to believe that I must also say goodbye to my dear friend and faithful email mentor **Mits Kojimoto**, who passed away in late October. Mits was active in mind, body and spirit right up to the end of his life.

Mits, who lived most of his life in San Francisco, was a skilled athlete and an excellent basketball player. Some of the same fighting spirit he displayed on the court showed itself in other areas of his life, and was certainly evident in the kind of man and soldier he was. In the beautiful memorial booklet that Mits’ son, Keith, sent me after his father’s service, he writes about how his dad did everything he could to stop an excellent opposing high school player from scoring. Keith writes: Mits believed, you get 5 fouls – use ‘em and he never let them go to waste. That’s how I remember him, too – full of life and enthusiasm, reliable and brave. One of my favorite memories of Mits is from the time we were stationed in Sospel. We were occupying a schoolhouse that had been abandoned because it was in the line of fire of the German artillery. Mits and I passed some time having wrestling matches on an old mattress placed in front of a fireplace. Obviously, most of our wartime memories are not quite that lighthearted and I remember Mits as a smart, dependable member of the machine gun squad.

After the war, I saw Mits once in the 50s in San Francisco, and I remember vividly that he

bought me a fresh abalone steak – delicious! Later, he and his wife Sadame, made numerous trips to Hawaii and attended other reunions as well.

One fact about Mits that I will always remember is that he, like some others in the 442, volunteered for the war not from the comfort of his home, but from Topaz, where he was incarcerated with his family. To me, that takes a special kind of bravery, self-respect and patriotism. Mits was lucky to have a fantastic family. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sadame, and their children Keith (Priscilla), Kathryn, Carrie, granddaughter Gayle (Gary Hume) and great-grandchildren Kiana and Derek.

Keith quoted Mits as having once observed, “We made a difference. We proved that Americans of Japanese ancestry were loyal Americans, willing to sacrifice our lives. Niseis are a special kind.”

You were a special kind, Mits. We will miss you and we send you our aloha.

* * *



Kylene Wasano, Sons & Daughters Christmas Party

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha



by Jane Shikasho

Ten HQ-3 members enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch at the Pah-Ke's Chinese Restaurant in Kaneohe on December 11. Door prizes were won by Elaine Tamashiro, Frances Aoyama and Clara Watanabe. Tommy Tamashiro won the Grand Prize which he declined and so Sam Furuya was the lucky one to take home the extra food!

The November meeting was cancelled as the Furuyas were in Las Vegas and only four members could attend.

We were greatly saddened by the loss of our GFB Bulletin writer, Frances Tsubata, who passed away on September 11, 2009 after a brief illness. A Celebration of Life was held for Frances at the Nuuanu Congregational Church on October

11. She was predeceased by her late husband, Edward Kiyoshi Tsubata. Frances was a graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Sociology and retired as an Employment Specialist from the Hawaii State Department of Labor. She is survived by 3 children, 5 grandsons and 2 great-granddaughters.

Members of the Board of Directors, GFB Bulletin writers (Jane Shikasho, HQ-3), and Punchbowl Cemetery docents were invited to the Board's annual luncheon meeting which was held at the Hale Koa Hotel on December 7. Sat Shikasho was elected as Secretary for the 442nd Club for 2010.



Newly elected officers. (l-r) Wade Wasano (3rd VP), Masao Fujioka (Treasurer), Mitsuo Honda (1st VP), Bill Thompson (Pres.), Satoru Shikasho (Secy). Missing: Noboru Kawamoto (2nd VP).

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha



by Eddie Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

Year 2009 was a bad one for the Co. I family here in the Pacific Northwest as our forces have rapidly declined. In recent months, we have lost Kiyo Yabuki in August, George Morihiro in October, my husband Jiro Takisaki and Josie Taketa, wife of Roy Taketa in December as well. We extend our deepest sympathies to their family and friends.

Last year at this time, we were buried in several inches of snow followed by freezing temperatures which left our city in a state of chaos and emergency. My granddaughter arrived for a Christmas vacation from Washington, D.C. but was unable to get up to their house while her mother was trapped and unable to get out. This year the opposite happened with 20 inches of snow falling in D.C. just prior to her departure for Seattle. This time she came home to sunny, dry weather here which goes to prove that we don't always have rainy weather in Seattle.

Our Nisei Veterans Committee is storming ahead with the fund-raising campaign to acquire property and put up a Memorial Wall outside the building with names of Japanese Americans who have served in the military, as well as, exhibiting names of persons who were incarcerated in the internment camps during WWII. We have reached our goal of funding the parking lot and acquired ownership as of November 1, 2009. They will commence demolishing the three houses presently on the property in early January and have the parking lot available for use very soon. We still have a little ways to go to reach our total goal but we are optimistic that we will be able to dedicate

our new addition by next Labor Day.

My husband, Jiro Takisaki, was diagnosed with cancer in March of this year and passed away on December 10th. He rallied for three months in between treatments but the second round was too much for him although he put up a valiant fight. We were able to spend two weeks in Maui in September so I was happy for him as that was his favorite place to vacation. I was widowed by Kash for seven years before I met Jiro and he charmed me into marrying him in October of 2004 so we had a wonderful happy marriage for five years before I finally lost him. He will be missed by a lot of family and friends.

Please have a safe and healthy Year of the Tiger.

California by Marian Yamashita

Hi and HAPPY NEW YEAR and hopefully the year 2010 will be a good and healthy year for all. For the Yamashitas, the past year, Jim had upper back surgery to correct his ability to walk again. Thankfully after some intense physical therapy he is able to get around with a walker.

I Co Club here in Southern California lost couple of very active members whom we all miss very much. Fred Matsumura, our perpetual treasurer and our liaison to Nisei Charter arranged our travel to Las Vegas annually to attend the FFNV reunions. We will also miss Nobo Ikuta, who with Rose's help, was our club's chaplain from day one. As is true with all groups ours has become quite small, but hopefully, we can still hang together and meet periodically.

One of such gatherings was held on 6th December when we had our annual holiday party at the Sambi restaurant in Downey. It was held in conjunction with our friends of JA Living Legacy with Susan Uyemura in charge, keeping the party lively. With so many of the members limited in their physical movement, Susan had some fun games that allowed even us old folks to participate in.

It was good to see Tom Watanuki again after he moved out to Apple Valley. Although Pat was unable to attend due to a recent surgery, Tom was accompanied by Pat's granddaughter, Zestra and husband Mike Kearns. Tom's son Wayne was also there with his wife Jan. Also, our regulars coming from out of town were Enro & Yoneko Okada and Frank & Tami Kinoshita. The festivities were culminated by the cutting of the King's Hawaiian Bakery cake donated by Shuji & Chiye Taketomo. In addition to making the cake extra flavorful, Kevin Shimabukuro of King's Hawaiian donated Hawaiian dinner rolls for everyone to take home.

Next event involving Item members will be the AJA WWII Memorial's Shinnen Luncheon to be held on Friday, February 5th at the Empress Pavilion in Chinatown. With members and guests attending, this may be a good starting event for the year 2010. Susan reminds us that December 5th has already been reserved for the Year End happening so mark your calendars.

I Company again wishes to acknowledge donations from Yoshiko Muto, Michi Miyada, Saki Kawaminami and Enro Okada. Again, thanks for all you do on our behalf.

In a phone conversation, Frank Shimada said that he is well and still golfing several days a week and even going on golfing junkets periodically. Going on 92, he stays quite healthy and active. He also mentioned that Shig and Yoshiko Doi kindly invited him and several army buddies to an early New Year's celebration at their home

in Richmond. It was a great feast with good socializing.

Carol Akiyama submits this update on her father. As of the New Year 2010, Carol is pleased to report that her 92-year-old Dad, Mickey Makio Akiyama is doing well at VA Palo Alto's medical-facility (Northern California), where he's been hospitalized and receiving excellent care since April 2008. For the past 6-1/2 years, Carol has been driving to Northern California every month, from her Los Angeles home, to visit and care-for Mickey, spending most of her life there in the process. Assisting Carol with Mickey's ongoing-care have been his best pals, Brian Shiroyama (Sansei, retired Air Force Colonel) and Lewis Bowen (Mickey's devoted friend, since the early 1970's). Mickey's frequent visitors continue to include Frank Shimada and Shizuko Tamori, widow of Shoji Tamori from Concord, CA, along with Shizuko's son & daughter-in-law, Bob & Claudia Tamori. Mickey and Carol remain grateful for loving regards, sent from 442nd RCT friends, and wish you all happiness and good health for 2010, Year of the Tiger.

Maui by Harold H. Nishida Jr.

Aloha everyone! It has been a very good year for our Maui Item Company Ohana. We are all looking forward to the promise of a brand new year ahead and want to wish everyone a "Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year."

In December, we sadly learned of the passing of Jiro Takisaki, the husband of Louise Kashino Takisaki, Seattle Item Company Ohana and a great contributor to this publication. To our dear friend Louise and her family we wish to convey our deepest condolences on their great loss. We will always remember Jiro as a loving, happy, cheerful and supportive mild-mannered friend.

Honolulu by Terry Aratani

Happy New Year!

Since our President Edward Yamasaki went

to Japan in October to visit his children and grandchildren, it has been all quiet on the Honolulu Item home front. No reports or news on how our Item Ohana members are getting along. As Bill Naganuma always said, “No news is good news.”



Ed with grandchildren Hoku (I) and Aina • Nov '09

While Eddie is in Japan, Joe Okumoto, Tommy Harimoto and Masa Nakamura have kept Item Chapter active by getting together at the 442nd Clubhouse for the October, November and December chapter meetings. Thanks, guys!

Our thanks to Yoshiko Muto and Masami Iso for their season's greetings; to Yo for a generous monetary donation and to Bob for the Swiss Colony Cheese and sausages.

Alyne Shinozawa Myers e-mailed Jim Yamashita that her mother Carol Toshi Shinozawa is doing fairly well. She is legally blind from glaucoma and is hearing impaired so she is now living with me in Ohio. As soon as I retire, my husband, daughter and I will move to Hawaii to live and Mom will also live with us. Kristi, my only daughter who is now 17 is so happy to have Grandma living here. Our 2010 chapter directory has Carol's address. Phone number is 937-233-8059.

Eddie Yamasaki spoke on the phone with Mary [Danny] Yamashita who resides at Kahala Nui. He reports that Mary's voice was strong and clear and, in her up-beat manner, shared personal

news. Mary did not dwell on her own health problems except to say that she is being evaluated to see if she can get the services of an all-day caregiver. She has been getting out occasionally on a wheelchair. Her granddaughters who entertained us so well at chapter Christmas parties of the past are doing fine. Emily, 18, who majors in performing arts at New York University, danced the role of Snowflake in the ballet “Nutcracker.” Katherine, 13, attends UH High School.

Andy Yamashiro says Mae is doing okay making her own decisions on what she wants to do, where to go, and so on. She does well on a wheelchair and, for transportation, uses the Handi-Van. At this writing, son Eric was home, lending an extra hand to those of a daily caregiver.

Matsuji “Mutt” Sakumoto with oldest son Glen attended the October 31-November 1 141st Regiment “Lost Battalion” reunion in Houston, Texas. Sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum Foundation, the event commemorated the 65th anniversary of the “Lost Battalion” rescue by the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

With the theme, “Homecoming of Heroes,” honored were the 100th/442nd; the 425th Fighter Squadron, which air-dropped tanks of rations, ammo, etc. (at a loss of one plane) during the rescue; and the 141st “Texas” Regiment. Mutt was deeply impressed with the program with its accolades from high officials and felt truly honored with Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who shook the hand of each of the 40 honorees, including twenty-seven 100th/442nd veterans. He also appreciated having a reunion with Jack Wilson of the “Lost Battalion” and especially the constant, caring company of Judge Bryan Yagi of San Francisco, nephew of Tom Takeshi Yagi, L Co.

We thank Mutt and Glen for making the long trip to Houston and their kokua in representing the 442nd Infantry Regiment. Also, to Bryan for watching over our buddy.

442nd 67th Anniversary Banquet

All Itemites – Keep the date open to see each other during our 67th Anniversary celebration: Sunday, March 28, 442nd 67th Anniversary banquet at Pacific Beach Hotel. The banquet notice will be mailed to you in January 2010.

Sad News

George Morihiro, Seattle, WA

Sept 19, 1924 - Oct 26, 2009

Born in Tacoma, WA, George was interned in the relocation camp in Minidoka, ID when he enlisted for the U.S. Army and became a member of I Company. After the war, George moved to Seattle where he worked for 20 years at Tall's Camera Supply and then for 24 years as owner of GEM Photo Distributors. He dedicated his retirement years to the Nisei Veterans Committee, serving as NVC Commander from 1982-1983.

He is survived by his son Alan (Kim), grandchildren Tyler and Justin and sisters Patricia Kihara, Sally Kinoshita and Yaeko (Japan).

Lloyd I. Kurihara, Sanger, CA

June 24, 1924 - Nov 29, 2009

Born in Visalia, CA, Lloyd was a retired supermarket manager, all-around fisherman, active member of the United Methodist Church of Sanger, past president of the Sanger Lions Club, Grand Marshal of the Toyland Parade in 1980 & 1990, past secretary-treasurer of the Calwa Lions Club, past president of his local JACL chapter, part of the CCDC JACL Committee for the past few years, past president of the Eagles Aerie #1147, past post commander of VFW Post 7168.

He is survived by his wife, Martie; four children, ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Toshio Fukuda, Aiea HI

Passed on November 4, 2009 at age 87

Born in Paia, Maui, Toshio was a Pearl Harbor Commissary retiree and meat cutter on

Molokai and Oahu.

He is survived by son Milton, daughters Amy Ahlstrom and Karen Nihei, brothers Masa, Nobu and Yoshito; sisters Florence Yonemori and Sylvia Tanaka, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Raymond Jiro Takisaki, Seattle, WA

Passed on December 10, 2009 at age 85

Jiro was one of nine children whose young lives were disrupted during World War II. A few days after Pearl Harbor, his father, an art collector and kendo instructor, was interned in a FBI detention camp in North Dakota. Jiro and four siblings moved from Seattle to Spokane to avoid internment. Two siblings remained in Seattle to close and sell the family's grocery and antique store and were later interned. While completing high school in Spokane, he worked to help support his family and then enlisted in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in 1944.

Because of an injury received during training, Jiro was left behind and did not serve overseas with the 442nd. He returned to Spokane after discharge in 1946 and operated Beacon Cleaners with a partner. He and his wife, Marion reared five children. In 1991, after Marion's death, he moved back to Seattle. He was active within the Nisei Veterans Committee where he earned the nickname, "Energizer Bunny," for his continual help with repairs and improvements to their hall.

Louise Kashino and he met five years ago while ballroom dancing at NVC; fell in love and got married right away.

In addition to Louise, Jiro is survived by daughters Phyllis Campbell and Ann Wentzke, sons Tom, Greg and Walt; brother Jim and sisters Mary Yuasa and Agnes Havlis, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service is to be held at Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church, Seattle. Donations may be made in his memory to NVC Foundation (P.O. Box 3042, Seattle, WA 98114)

or Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church (3001 24th Ave. S, Seattle, WA 98144).

Information source Seattle Times.

In addition to the above Item Ohana comrades, we remember the loss of the following during 2009: Kenneth Seikichi Okuma, Kiyoshi

“Cupie” Nakagawa, Fred Mitsuhara Matsumura, George Teruo Funai, Nobo Ikuta, Lawrence Yukio Ishikawa, Larry Takeshi “Shorty” Kazumura, and Victor S. Izui (Medic).

Members of Item Ohana extend Aloha Pumehana to the families and friends of these comrades.



by Allen Nakamura

As we approach the New Year, the regular chapter attendees President Joe Oshiro, Treasurer Isa Takiyama, Paul Matsumoto, Wally Kawamura, Hideo Nakayama, Genro Kashiwa, Allen Nakamura, Takao “Kila” Haraguchi and golf schedule permitting attendee Kazuma Ogata and regular communicating Lawrence Fujii and other guys we see at times at our luncheon get-together, Tom Mizuno, Stanley Matsuura, Hideo Higa, Bill Oshiro and Robert Yukitomo, wives and widows, count our blessings to stay healthy and well. Happy & Safe Holidays to everyone!!

No chapter meeting was held in November as it fell on Armistice Day, a holiday. However, we had a lively October meeting as Muriel Kashiwa joined the group for Bento lunch as she pinched hit for Paul Matsumoto in picking up the usual guys. Paul took his son & daughter-in-law to the airport.

442nd 67th Reunion Luncheon Banquet

The luncheon will be at the Pacific Beach Hotel, March 28, 2010. \$30 per person. Mail your check of the luncheon to treasurer Isa

Takiyama, 1638 B Anapuni St. Honolulu, HI 96822 preferably by Chapter meeting February 10, 2010.

Obituary

Robert Mutsuji Yukitomo, 88 died December 24, 2009. He is survived by wife Joan, sons Alan and Donald, grandson Andrew. He is a retired attorney with more than 50 years of service. He was born in Kona, HI. He attended Konawaena High School (1940). U of H, Bachelor of Arts (1940-1941; 1946-1950). Boston School of Law (1950-1952). Private services were held at Borthwick Mortuary-Makai Chapel January 5, 2010. May he rest in peace. Company L members and wives were invited to his memorial services.

Info from his eulogy. He was awarded besides the Bronze Medal, the non-French soldiers Croix de Guerre Medal with Gold Stars, the 2nd highest military honor rendered by France. He was also an avid and skilled golfer. He was not an active member of L Chapter but we occasionally met him at the 442nd Anniversary Luncheon Banquet and at our semi-annual chapter luncheon.

Annual Chapter Holiday Luncheon

Tree Tops Restaurant was again the scene for our annual Xmas Luncheon. With decreasing numbers of our group, we shared the room with other diners who preferred sitting at a separate table. It all turned out O.K. as Flora Watanabe who's becoming a fixture at these occasions, enlightened the diners in the room with a joke about Hawaiian, Chinese and Portuguese in their encounter with Jesus. We all enjoyed the joke with much laughter but not so much as the group of Hawaiians sitting at a separate table. They had a ball! Good thing the Hawaiian joke was a favorable one.

It wasn't too bad having to share the dining room. 522-B also had their luncheon as they occupied the bigger private room with their large membership with wives and guests. It was nice to greet some of them as they came wandering over to our mini room or at the buffet line. Some of them we haven't seen in awhile, guys like George Muramura, Ted Tsukiyama, Kats Miho, Rocky Tanna. Didn't get to see Biggie Nakakura but as Rocky Tanna said, "He's here as he is the treasurer!" I was surprised to see my late wife Emiko's colleague and classmate at U of H and best friend Leatrice Itao Yukinaga on the buffet line. She and her husband were guests of the 522nd. I didn't ask the name of their friend. It's true that you get to meet your friends at unexpected places.

Attending this annual chapter luncheon meeting were: Joe/Nancy Oshiro, Isa/Hilda Takiyama, Pauline Tome, Genro/Muriel Kashiwa, Allen Nakamura, Paul/Genny Matsumoto, Wally/Mabel Kawamura, Hideo Nakayama, Stanley Matsuura, Tom/Toyo Mizuno, Edna Kuramoto, Flora Watanabe and Jun/Lorraine Yamamoto. Terry Jichaku was at Las Vegas; also absent were Marian Matsumura and Betty Nakahara whose picture was in the Advertiser 12/18, focusing on making mochi at the popular Aiea Hongwanji Mission's traditional Japanese New Year

Celebration. Also Hideo Higa signed up but--? We haven't seen Mabel Fujimoto in quite a while now. I guess she's finding it difficult and unbearable to walk. Hope to see you get much better Mabel!

As we age, we must overcome health problems by reducing our weights by exercise or other means. I have noticed that Tom Mizuno, once an accomplished athlete, with a physique to match, has lost 40 pounds according to his wife Toyo. Now it's a strain for him to get up from sitting too long. I have the same problem. Kazuma Ogata with his weekly golf schedule says he lost 20 lbs. It's admirable to see Isa Takiyama besides handling the chapter dues and cost of the luncheon taking care of his wife Hilda and Pauline Tome, both of whom are on walkers.

FFNV

Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans held their Annual Nisei Veterans Reunion from 9/27 - 10/1 at the California Hotel in L.V. Paul/Genny Matsumoto and Genro/Muriel Kashiwa were there to help celebrate this reunion. For the Farewell Banquet dinner, Judge Vincent Okamoto, whom we are very familiar with, as he was the keynote speaker at one of our luncheon banquets, was the featured speaker.

Paul Matsumoto gave me a photo taken at the reunion of Judge Vincent Okamoto, Love Chapter and MIS members. Ken Higashi is pictured with a walking cane. Others in the picture, Don Seki, Genro Kashiwa, Roy Fujiwara, Paul Matsumoto, Mits Takahashi, Tak Wada, Hiro Nishikubo, Joe Ouchi, Sam Ikari. Glad to see Hiro able to travel now after his prolonged illness. Joe Onchi is another story. At one of the reunions his daughter wrote to me that he is a member of Company L and he would like to have registration papers to attend. I mailed him all required papers but he did not register. He resides in Oregon where we don't have any contacts.

Paul also attended the Lost Battalion

reunion with some of the rescued 36th Division veterans which had a picture of him in the Advertiser. He also e-mailed me on this event but I was not able to open the attachment on my new computer. Oscar Tsukayama, editor of GFBB also e-mailed me that the event is now in the 442nd archives.

1,000th Victory

How sweet it was for David Shoji as he won his incredible 1,000th victory as the Rainbow Wahine Volleyball outstanding coach. How proud would have Chiz & Kobe been who attended every Rainbow Wahine game here and abroad. In the past, I watched the Rainbow Wahine play at Stan Sheriff Center but age and health had reduced my following the Rainbow Wahine on a comfortable chair and the indispensable TV! But, I was there with my family among the 10,000 fans. I'm glad I was there as the crowd was deafening LOUD! We had choice seats, compliments of David.

As to the game itself, it was fitting as New Mexico State the foremost challenger to the

Rainbows gave a fine effort. During the game, I noticed David's strategy in the 4th set when he had Stephanie Brandt a 5'9" former setter and now a formidable server and back row specialist as the outside hitter for defensive purpose until the game was well in hand when he replaced her with the regular outside hitter Stephanie Ferrell. Kobe always said this is the "Gut feeling Dave had," the proper strategy. As the Rainbow tabloid was passed out after the game, "If winning is big, this is colossal." Indeed it is! Congratulations David!

In this magical season of accomplishments, the Rainbow Wahine after the snobbish behavior of the NCAA Committee in belittling the Wahine's by rating them No. 12 in the regionals even with their fine 32 - 2 record, they bested all adversity and reached the FINAL FOUR!! Although they lost in 4 sets to a bigger & taller team, taking a set from them is a feat in itself! To top it all David was selected as the NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR!! Congratulations to David and the Rainbow Wahine VB Team! Stand tall, Chiz and Kobe, we cheer for you, too!



by Shiro Aoki



Well, here it is in the new year of 2010 and our M Co. membership is dwindling even more as we lost two of our members in the closing two months of 2009.

We lost Joe Yasuda in mid-November of 2009. He was a police officer and a liquor inspector before he retired. He was a member of the First Platoon and used to attend some of the M Co.

functions until declining health in his later years forced him to skip many of our later functions. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Hazel and the rest of his remaining survivors.

Then we received the sad news from his daughter Sandra that Frank Kimura had passed away on the night of December 6th, 2009. Frank, as you all know, has been the benevolent donor

of many goods at Christmastime to his M Co. friends. He never forgot the friends that he had made at Camp Shelby and the Italian and French Campaigns that the 442 fought in and had carried on his spirit of giving until the very end. In fact, we had received goodies in November that he had sent to individual members and a couple of cases that he sent to Ralph Tomei that we distributed to the active members of M Co. Frank had intended to attend the 65th Reunion and had signed up but had to cancel because of ill health. When his health improved, he visited us with his wife, Helen in April of 2009. Our deepest sympathy to his wife Helen, his daughter Sandra and all of his loved ones.

A Visit from the Yamaguchis

In mid-November of 2009, Jimmy Yamaguchi, his wife Nori, along with their daughter Mary Kay and her husband Larry French, came to Hawaii for a short visit. They were accompanied by their older grandson and his wife and their younger grandson with his girlfriend and stayed at a house in Kailua. My wife and I had a chance to visit with them and enjoyed a very pleasant luncheon with them.

Our Christmas Party

Eighteen members of M Co., down from the usual 30 or so that used to attend M Co. functions, gathered at the Chin's Chinese Restaurant in Waialae on Sunday, December 20, 2009 for our annual Xmas get-together. Attending were: Shiro & Evelyn Aoki, Shige & Yori Inouye, Harold & Jane Kudo, Frank & Nancy Nomura, Ralph & Alice Tomei, Freida Kanemori, Tommy Kikuchi, Yoshinobu Matsushima, Robert Nagata, Mitsue Shishido, Isamu Takayesu, Elsie Teruya and Janet Umeda. Before we ate, we observed a brief moment of silence in memory of Frank Kimura, Joe Yasuda and all of the other M Co. members who have long since gone on to meet their maker. The food there at Chin's is plentiful, of a great variety and most

of those there went up for seconds and thirds and really had a good time thanks to Frank Nomura who had steered us there in the first place. Nowadays, Ralph Tomei collects only \$5 per person because Frank Nomura always had said, spend the money while we can and let the M Co. treasury offset the balance. Shige Inouye said that at this rate, we can go for another five years so we can all look forward to these 5-dollar lunches for the rest of our lifetime.

We received a \$100 donation from a Gail Nishimoto from Davis, CA who said, "I hope you can use it for one of the M Co. lunches or any other gathering that you may have coming up," and we sure did for this occasion. Gail is the daughter of Fred Dobana and made this donation in memory of her father Fred and Bill Okazaki who is a relative of hers. Fred Dobana was a machine gunner in the first platoon and the machine gunners remembered Dobana pretty well. Gail had attended the 1978 reunion with her mom a year after her father had passed away and had wonderful memories which they still talk about. This is the second time that Gail has sent us a donation and we M Co. members send our grateful thanks to Gail for her generosity and thoughtfulness.

A happy and healthy 2010 to you all!

* * *



**Gabi Miyashiro, Ryan Nosaka and Santa.
Sons & Daughters Christmas Party 2009.**

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha



by Fuku & Ted Tsukiyama

The good men of the 522 once again had an early Christmas party for their wives and friends at their favorite “Tree Tops Restaurant” deep in Manoa Valley, but without the jolly ol’ St. Nick (like “Bulldog” Nishizawa) who used to grace our lively gatherings with all our children who have since grown up and do not need toys anymore. Roles have reversed and they are closeting toys for their own kids, but two handsome young men who did accompany their folks were Wayne with Henry and Grace Urada, and Charles, Jr. with dad Charles Nakamura. Toymakers Walter Inouye and Flint Yonashiro were present, with Flint distributing his ingenious golf ball dolls which he wants to distribute to other organizations. Just let him know you have some old golf balls to spare. Walter was talking about having visited the Vatican, and I thought he’d gone there for the recent Saint Damien celebration, but no, it was back in 1944 during the fighting war!

When the usual lucky number fun and games time arrived, all the delighted squeals came from Reiko Arakaki (Yasuo) who won a lot of prizes. The lucky draws and door prizes were made possible through generous donations from, who else? Reiko Arakaki, and Hilda Thomas, Betty Hirozawa, Kay Kagawa, Kay Nakamine, Nancy Uchigakiuchi, Gloria Taguma, Kats Miho, George Muramaru, Rocky Tanna, Flint Yonashiro, Henry Urata, Charles Nakamura and Joe Obayashi.

It was great seeing Betty Hirozawa (Minoru), Kay Kagawa (Shoso), Irene Naka (Isamu), Kay Nakamine (Hideo), Chiyo Shimazu

(Don), and Nancy Uchigakiuchi (Milton) looking so stylish and pretty..... Present and adding to the festive air were Mike and Mildred Hara and guest Hilda Thomas; Boyan and Nancy Higa, Fred and Kay Hirayama, Henry and Doris Ishida, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, Mits and Ellen Kunihiro, Kats and Laura Miho, Biggie Nakakura, Joe and Peggy Obayashi, Toshio and Florence Ohara, Dan Tada, George Rocky Tanna (Leatrice was ill?), Harold and Jane Ueoka, and George and Ruth Muramaru.

An added Note: Boyan and Nancy Higa made a special trip to Haiku, Maui recently to help celebrate an old 522 buddy Walter Sakamoto’s 90th birthday, given by his granddaughter Chantel and her family. There will be many more 90th birthdays in the offing for the rest of you, so just wait and your time will come, okay?

The hale and hardy/hearty divot diggers complained to me that I didn’t include the most important purpose of the 522 news column: GOLF SCORES! So I am deferring to an avid golfer to report what’s going on with the 522-B hackers, see below.

522-B Fairway Divots

by Ted Tsukiyama

The 522-B Golf Club is now the only surviving golf club in the 442nd Veterans Club, so its golfing record should be deemed of newsworthy interest to the veterans. The 522-B plays every month at the Olomana Golf Course

in Waimanalo and the scores and results of the last three tournaments are reported as follows:

October 19, 2009	
Name	Net Score
Harold Ueoka	61
George Muramaru	68
Ted Tsukiyama	70
Richard Furuta	71
Mits Kunihiro	71
Rocky Tanna	73
Roy Fujii	74
Boyan Higa	75
Masami Doi	75
Flint Yonashiro	76

Closest to the Par 3's were: #2 = Flint Yonashiro, #8 = Rocky Tanna and #17 = Ted Tsukiyama

This column salutes Harold Ueoka for his great golfing victory on October 19th in which he spread-eagled all competition on his way to an 11 under par spectacular net 61 winning score! His triumph was especially sweet for Harold who normally ends up in the cellar and seldom if ever has basked in the glow of the winner's circle. His victory is remarkable since Harold at age 90 is now the most senior member of the club following the retirement of Walter Inouye at age 94 several years ago.

But golf did not always come easy for Harold despite a stellar baseball career in his younger days when he anchored his high school baseball team, played for the 522nd FAB baseball team at Camp Shelby as a star second baseman, then played softball for the 522-B team in the post-war 442nd softball league and ended up in the Japanese Makule Softball League play. Alas, there was no transference of his baseball skills to the golf course. "Bulldog" Nishizawa used to tease Harold "Eh, how come you one ex-ball player, but your golf swing look like you only

bunting the ball!" Harold's son Les refuses to take up golf for fear that he might have inherited his father's golfing deficits. Harold's golf handicap more than doubles the official USGA limits and must remain a military secret. To add to his handicaps, Harold has about 20/500 vision and cannot see his ball more than 25 yards in front so he always plays with his two "seeing eye dogs" Rocky Tanna and Ted Tsukiyama. Rocky and Ted's job is to find Harold's ball after every swing, nudge his ball onto a nice grassy lie for the next swing, look for his ball in the bushes, fish his errant drives out of the water hazard, and kick his out-of-bounds ball back into the fairway when no one is looking.

But this time Harold did not need any help from his "seeing eye dogs." He borrowed Rocky's driver on every hole to hit "fair balls" on every drive and reduced his putts from the usual four down to two to three strokes per hole, so he blazed his way to a net 61 for the day which was better than second place winner by seven strokes! So, hearty congratulations, Harold!

November 16, 2009	
Name	Net Score
George Muramaru	67
Ted Tsukiyama	69
Richard Furuta	70
Flint Yonashiro	71
Roy Fujii	73
Boyan Higa	74
Mits Kunihiro	74
Harold Ueoka	78
Rocky Tanna	81

Best of the Par 3's were: #2 = George Muramaru, #3 = Ted Tsukiyama and #17 = Masami Doi

Alibi comment: Harold Ueoka did not play with his two "seeing eye dogs" this tournament.

December 14, 2009

Name	Net Score
Roy Fujii	68
Richard Furuta	68
Masami Doi	70
Ted Tsukiyama	71
Flint Yonashiro	72
Boyan Higa	73
George Muramaru	79
Rocky Tanna	80
Harold Ueoka	81
Mits Kunihiro	88

Best of Par 3's: #2 = Boyan Higa, #8 = Ted Tsukiyama, #11 = Flint Yonashiro and #17 = Masami Doi

More excuses: Harold Ueoka did not play with his "seeing eye dogs" this time again.

The membership of the 522-B Golf Club is not restricted to 522 Field Artillery veterans but includes other 442-ers like Richard Furuta (Company "I") and Masami Doi (Company "E"), so it would welcome any other 442 veterans who would like to play golf. The 522-B golfers play every third Monday of the month at the Olomana Golf Course at a very reasonable green fee of \$35 including cart.

As an added incentive, it will reveal another military secret in that its tournaments tee off from the silver tee (seniors only) which is only 30 inches behind the ladies' red tees. So, those who quit golf because of their "*shoben ball*" (droopy trajectory) should come back to play with the 522-B with renewed dignity because the holes are now 40 to 60 yards shorter from the silver tees! Call Rocky Tanna at phone: 737-5837 to revive your golf game again with the 522-B golfers.



by M. Honda

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! EVERY ONE!

We already wished you a Merry Xmas on the 12th of December and it will be a month gone by the time you read this. That was a great party that we had at the Natsunoya Teahouse on Makanani Dr.

We had a very good turnout of 39 members, wives, descendants and guests on that day. It came to a grand total of 40 with our Good Friend Bryan Suzuki included. Bryan provided us with beautiful music to accompany the singers and for enjoyment

during the party. He really makes our party a good one. Thank You, Bryan.

I won't list the attendees except for mentioning the singers and others who contributed to the fun. First, there was Kiyoko Kimura who did his usual bang up job of running the show and then there was Eleanor Ando who did the Hula. Thank you, both. Also, there was Ellen Yamada of I Co who sang for her supper. She was good. There were several others including Janet Matsumoto and Mary Kawamoto who added to

the entertainment. Oh, and I cannot forget Doc “The Great” Kawamoto, who’s always anxious to show his stuff. I think he also included his theme song “Put your arms around me Honey, Hooold me tight!!” of World War II vintage besides another song which I cannot recall at the moment.

Also, I have to mention the up and coming Duo of Millie Honda and Fuj Matsuda who we will hear from more and more in the future. Millie kept saying, “You know, we didn’t practice at all, but it came out good.” Well, that’s her opinion (this is the spouse speaking). They sang something called Izakaya and it did come out pretty good because of Fuj’s singing, I guess. I probably missed a few others for which I apologize. Hich did not perform on this day and I later found out that he had retired from singing and dancing.

Our always generous member Winnie Namba did it again by donating a shirt for our Pres. Chas and an outfit for Marge Ijima for their continuing contributions to the Chapter. The pieces were from Anne Namba’s beautiful creations. Marge was also in the committee that planned the party which also included Janet, Millie, Mary K. and Edna. Thank you all. Of course, I, Mits Honda,

also contributed by hauling, carrying things and driving the Lady here and there for several days before the big day. I was the Labor force of one.

There were quite a few people we hadn’t seen for a while and they included Rodney and Nora Yamashiro, Fred and Masako Arashiro, Monte and Lily Okamoto, Flo Miyasato with daughter Carrie, Jon Kurio with Mom Nikki and Bessie Ono and granddaughters. Doc invited cousin Yaeko Santoki and son Warren whose Dad served in the Fire Department with Chas Ijima. There was also Glen Ijima with his missus whom I did not get to meet because I forgot.

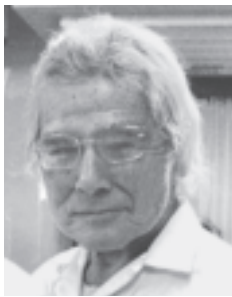
I got a news bulletin from Roger of L.A. about a visit from Kiyo Nakada and they got together for lunch. They had Henry Kanbara, Marye Kimoto and Daughter, Jimmy Nakamura’s brother and Sis in law, Yae Sueda and Kaz Kiyomura. My old friend Tommy Matsunami of Honokaa did not show because of a cold. Jimmy was 3rd Platoon 2nd squad Sgt. and lived on 2nd avenue for a long time. I will write to Cary, Jimmy’s nephew later on when I am more into the New Year.

I’ll quit for now before they cut me off again. ‘Derci !!



Look out! Charley Ijima finds his inner samurai.

Photo Courtesy: Wayne Iha



MAUI

Matters



by Stan Izumigawa

The Maui Chapter will be welcoming the New Year with the first gathering for the year scheduled for Saturday, January 9 at the Wailuku Hongwanji social hall. Club treasurer Tom Hiranaga will be chairing the affair on behalf of the “Tutto” group comprised of members from non-line companies such as the Engineer, Service, Regimental Headquarters and Anti-Tank Companies. The last social for ‘09 was held on November 7, chaired by the energetic and enterprising “I” Company group headed by club VP Charles Takahashi and assisted by their wide network of associate members. All of our affairs allow time for everyone to “talk story” with friends; partake of a catered lunch; enjoy winning various prizes at “Bingo” and close by singing the Go For Broke song. Beginning about a couple of years ago, we started to invite the members of the 100th who now make a money contribution to cover costs for their members who attend and who appreciate being included.

In ‘09 we lost two members, Mitsuo Watanabe and Komao Mochizuki. Also passing away was Mitsuoki Matsui, who was a 442 veteran but not listed as a member of the club.

On that well known anniversary of December 7 four of us (Art Kurahara, Hiroshi Arisumi, Howard Murakami and Stan Izumigawa) visited a group of 8th graders at Maui Waena Intermediate School in Kahului at the invitation of Teacher Jennifer Felipe Suzuki (who, to our knowledge, is the only teacher on Maui who involves 100th-442nd veterans) to talk about our WWII experiences. Starting with what we were

doing on December 7, 1941, each of us related some human interest related kinds of occurrences.

Among other things, for example, Art told of strained relations with non-AJA friends right after Pearl Harbor, some of whom turned their backs and walked away when greeted. Hiroshi recalled the dangerous and delicate task of removing live mines from the battlefield so the combat guys could advance and Howard talked about surviving a plane crash on the way home after the war, a crash in which the crew and several fellow returning vets on board perished. I (Stan) explained some unexpected things that occurred on several occasions when the guys I was with “captured” enemy soldiers. Also, when talking about friends who did not survive the war, I choked up; tears came into my eyes which I wiped away and for a moment I could not speak. I think I have a better understanding now of why some of the boys just do not want to talk about the war.

We were treated to a sumptuous lunch with the students after the session and were also presented some goodies like a carry-all bag, a school-Tee shirt etc. I chatted briefly with each of the guys afterwards and found that we each came away with a very good feeling and it wasn't because of the goodies.

We look forward to 2010 but we are also aware that each year becomes more challenging as we age. Some key people begin to falter or slow down as time takes its toll and we all need to come to grips with the reality that we cannot expect to do or have everything the same as in the past. Our governing body, the council, made up of officers, various chairpersons and chapter heads, will be considering decisions, adjustments, and related issues as time goes by.



by Gail Nishimura

Happy New Year! Can you believe that it's been a year since we started this journey? How time flies when you get older...I remember when I was in school (as a student) I used to wonder when will it be vacation, now it's what happened to the school year! This past year has flown by and yet I'm still learning more and more.

Have even learned to use text messaging (very rarely though) and I hate it since, like most of us oldies, I don't have a keyboard on my phone so it takes me quite a while to reply! But I also like it because I don't have to talk to everyone. We even used the abbreviations on our message board at school: "c u in 2010" [*Translation: "See you in 2010"*]

I got invited to the annual meeting/ luncheon in early December, it was really nice. A perk for writing this column: I even won a door prize! Interesting to meet some of the veterans and their families away from the regular events. I met some new friends and then met up again at our Family Christmas Party.

We had our Sons & Daughters Family Christmas Party on the 20th of December; it was lots of fun; great seeing people I haven't seen since the last party. Missed seeing Ray Nosaka as our regular SC but his replacement did a great job with his assistant. Take care Ray.

As usual Ann Kabasawa did a great job in

organizing the rest of us. We arrived on time; got our assignments and went right to work. And thanks to all who donated the door prizes; we all went home with lots of great things. Seems the kids are getting bigger and stronger...the piñata went down faster than usual, even the seniors did well. We all seemed to try and "lose" at musical chairs, but those who were the last ones standing were pretty competitive.

The next S&D Family Christmas Party will be held on the 19th of December, 2010. Same place, same time...so Save The Date! More information will be coming out later in the year.



Sons & Daughters Christmas 2009

Wes Deguchi was introduced to the group again; he is our new president for Sons & Daughters. Welcome Wes, we're looking forward to working with you. Thank you for stepping up and taking this on - we appreciate the time and effort you will be adding to your already busy schedule.

Aloha to Eileen who has guided us for a looooong time and is getting a well deserved change. She's not leaving us, just doing other things. She writes the following for us about the exhibit at Central Pacific Bank (CPB).

In honor of Veterans Day, Central Pacific Bank's "Honoring the Legacy" exhibit was refreshed in November and features The Rescue of the Lost Battalion. Once again, the joint efforts

of sons, daughters and friends of the 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th made this exhibit possible. 2009 also commemorated the 65th anniversary of the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

By mid-October 1944, World War II was going the Allies' way, yet still far from won. The Germans were digging in to defend their homeland, under the orders from Hitler to hold at all costs. The enemy's line of defense was the steep, heavily forested slopes of the Vosges Mountains. The 141st Infantry Regiment, whose roots lay in San Antonio, Texas, moved into the Vosges Mountains where the enemy surrounded them. The trapped men tried to fight their way out, without success.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, recovering from a week of heavy fighting, was ordered into the fight to free what had become known as the Lost Battalion. This exhibit commemorates the 65th anniversary of the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

One of the advancing Nisei was Private Barney Hajiro, of I Company, firing his BAR as he moved forward in a single handed duel that wiped out two enemy machine gun nests and killed two snipers before he was wounded by yet another

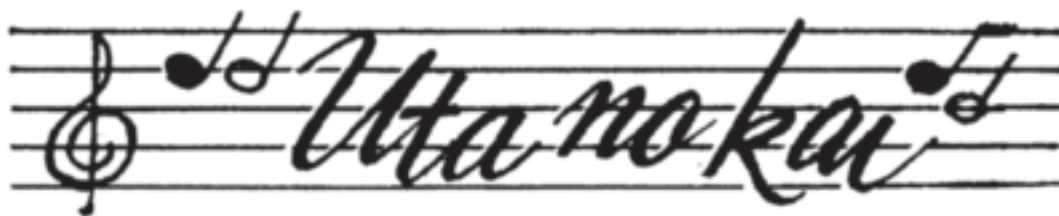
machine gun. Hajiro would, years later, receive the Medal of Honor.

On the afternoon of October 30th, Private Matsuji "Mutt" Sakumoto from Hawaii was on point when he spotted a GI ahead. It was Sgt. Edward Guy of the Lost Battalion. Guy recalls, "I recognized a GI in the trees ahead and jumped up, and shouted and laughing ran down the slopes toward the 442 trooper." Sakumoto's greeting to Guy, "Need any cigarettes?" There was no rejoicing for the rescuers and the rescued and the fighting continued into the second week of November.

To launch the exhibit, CPB hosted a reception for the veterans, their families and friends. This exhibit will continue to be on display through the first quarter of 2010.

The next thing on our agenda will be the annual anniversary for the veterans in March. I'll be looking forward to seeing more of you there bringing your parents.

Enjoy the year, we Ox people had our year and now the next group of boomers will begin entering the Year of the Tiger! Have a safe, happy 2010!



by Kay Hirayama

The Uta No Kai continues to thrive with the support of its die-hard members! At the end of 2009, everyone unanimously agreed to have an additional mini-borot performance, from 4:30 to 5:00, to spur the interest of the members. With our updated audio system, that emits wonderfully

clear music, it has been a joy to sing. We are grateful for the amenities that help us maintain interest and progress in our singing. We are looking forward to a joyful new year of fellowship and singing! Happy New Year!

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OTHER STORIES

Article submitted by Oscar Tsukayama

Aiea Elementary Sixth Graders Learn About The 442nd

In a letter dated October 27, 2009 addressed to the 442nd Veterans Club, Ms. Sonja Edsman, 6th grade teacher at Aiea Elementary School, wrote: "My students and I spent some time talking about World War II and how your unit distinguished itself. They learned about the 442nd's determination to exemplify courage and patriotism in the face of racism and the unspeakable horrors of war. I hope it was eye-opening for them. We sincerely express our gratitude and admiration for you as veterans and as members of the greatest generation."

Attached to her letter were 32 essays written by her students, each touching on some aspect of the 442nd story and each expressing their thoughts and sentiments regarding how our sacrifices helped to make their lives better.

In his reply, President Thompson praised the students for their astute observations and lavish praise and informed them that their letters are being read by the veterans who have expressed their appreciation for the reports. He complimented Ms. Edsman for tutoring such an alert and perceptive class and asked her to extend our appreciation to her students.

All of the reports were well written and selecting one for publication was a most difficult task. After several reviews, we selected the essay written by Verresi Sinli. Our heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Edsman and her 6th grade class.

Aiea, Hawaii 96701
October 28, 2009

Dear Veteran of the 442nd,

My ~~name~~ name is Verresi Sinli and I am in the sixth grade. I enjoy playing softball, volleyball, soccer, and basketball. When I grow up I would like to become a professional softball player because my favorite sport is softball.

I learned that you and others show courage, pride, loyalty, and patriotism by fighting in World War II. I am really appreciative because you fought. I personally liked how you took a risk and kept persevering.

The effects from your fighting gave us freedom. You gave us freedom to get educated, to pursue our ~~de~~ dreams, to live a better and safer life, and to also live with your family in your own houses. All of you heroes gave us freedom.

Thank you and take care. Thank you for ~~protecting~~ fighting and you are all heroes. Again thank you for your hard work.

Mahalo,

Verresi Sinli

Special Visitors by C. Mitani

A few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th, an eight-year-old girl, her mother and two brothers were forced to evacuate the island of Oahu along with other military families living at Schofield Barracks. Sixty-seven years later, this little girl would return to the island – this time, Honolulu was a stopover on her Hawaiian Island cruise. Julia Miller Vokac, daughter of Col. Virgil Miller, was back for the first time since she left in March 1942.

Julia was born in Wyoming when her father was stationed at Fort Francis E. Warren, and grew up on numerous military posts in the continental US, Hawaii and Europe (after WWII). According to Col. Miller's files, the family arrived in Hawaii in May 1940. Col. Miller was a Division Staff officer in the G-4 at Schofield Barracks at the time.

In September 2009, Julia's son Bob contacted the 442nd Veterans Club asking if they could visit the clubhouse while on a stopover in Honolulu. Their cruise ship was scheduled to arrive early morning and leave in the late afternoon. Time was tight, but they wanted to squeeze in a visit before doing a little sightseeing. Bob understood that it was a Saturday and probably no one would be at the clubhouse, but stated that it would be "icing on the cake" to meet just one veteran from the regiment his grandfather was so proud of.



**Lt. Col Virgil Miller
in Antibes, France**

*Photo: 442nd
Veterans Club Archives*

On October 31, 2009, a small reception was held for the Vokacs. It was a pleasant surprise when they, along with four of their friends, arrived at the clubhouse and were greeted by not one, but four 442nd veterans. Present were Bill Thompson (2HQ), retired Col. Bert Nishimura (2HQ), Robert Uyeda (2HQ), Joe & Nancy Oshiro (L Co.), and Andy Ono.

Julia was especially surprised to learn that Robert Uyeda knew of a hope chest that she still has in her possession. According to Mr. Uyeda, he was assigned to the 149th Staging Area, Peninsula Base Section in Livorno after the war. This staging area was under the command of Col. Miller. As a staff sergeant, Mr. Uyeda was in charge of the company maintenance shop where German prisoners and Italian civilians also worked.

One day, he saw some men building a chest and asked what they were doing. They said it was something for Col. Miller. Who would have thought over sixty years later, Mr. Uyeda would meet the owner of that hope chest!

Many thanks to the veterans and friends who attended the reception. All of you made the Vokacs very happy by taking the time to welcome them.



Robert Uyeda, Bob Vokac and Julia Vokac

And a special "thank you" to Nancy Oshiro, who helped me set up and serve the refreshments!

ANNOUNCEMENT

442nd Veterans Club **67th** *Anniversary Banquet*

Where: Pacific Beach Hotel – Grand Ballroom,
7th Floor

Date: Sunday, March 28, 2010

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person

Parking: \$3 self-parking / \$7 valet parking

Chapters & Members

Each member/guest desiring to attend the banquet, please report to your respective Chapter and pay your required cost.

Each Chapter president shall submit attendees list and one payment by check, payable to the 442nd Veterans Club, with a notation on the check: "67th Anniversary Banquet."

Deadline for attendees list and payments: Monday, March 1, 2010 (Board Meeting)

Hotel Reservation – Pacific Beach Hotel

442nd Veterans Club members residing locally or from the Neighbor Island or from the mainland may communicate with the hotel for their stay that allows a special rate when attending the 442nd 67th Anniversary Banquet. Just mention that you are attending the Anniversary banquet.

Telephone number for room reservation – (808) 922-1233

Offer valid three (3) days prior and three (3) days after March 28, 2010.

Room occupancy for 1 to 2 persons:

\$109 + tax ~ Room Only

\$139 + tax ~Room and Breakfast for 2 @ Oceanarium Restaurant

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



Additional Pictures



Photos Courtesy: Kris Ikejiri, NJAMF



Photos Courtesy: Wayne Iha

The 442nd Veterans Club
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