



Go For Broke Bulletin

442nd Veterans Club • A Quarterly Publication

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Photos Courtesy: Wayne Iha

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Go For Broke

442 Officers

Cover:

TOP: Lt. General Joseph Peterson and wife Ann shown with Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn and wife Karleen, flanked by Bill Thompson and CSM Glenn Gomes



BOTTOM: 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry (USAR) sing their "Go For Broke" Song

President..... William Y. (Bill) Thompson
1st Vice-PresidentMitsuo Honda
2nd Vice-PresidentNoboru Kawamoto
3rd Vice-PresidentWade Wasano
Secretary.....Satoru Shikasho
Treasurer.....Masao Fujioka
Executive Secretary.....Shirley Igarashi

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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 first quarter of 2010 was devoted to our 67th anniversary observance of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 522nd FA committee with help from the Sons & Daughters staged an outstanding program. Special guests of our 67th anniversary banquet were 67 members of the 100th Infantry 442 Reserves led by their new commander – LTC Kimo Dunn. An excellent choice for our keynote speaker was Lieutenant General Joseph F. Peterson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army Forces Command. LTG Peterson attended Saint Louis School where he was Class President and an All-Star football lineman for the Crusaders.

The General's wife, Ann, gave our program a special touch; she presented an Honorary Member Plaque to the sons of Shigeo Yoshida. She also introduced one of the students chosen for the 442nd Veterans Scholarship Endowment Fund. The tally for the attendance was 687 and included 160 veterans.

A sizeable donation – \$10,000 – was received from Mrs. Rinko Yoshioka in memory of her husband, Minoru “Min” Yoshioka of Item Company. Her donation was earmarked for Item Chapter and the GFB Bulletin Fund. We thank her sincerely for her generous donation.



Minoru “Min” Yoshioka

In January, there was a change of command and LTC Kimo Dunn took over the

100th Infantry 442 Reserves from LTC Mike Peeters.

LTC Peeters was instrumental in obtaining permission to send a Color Guard from the Reserves to participate in the 65th anniversary of Liberation Day in Bruyeres and Biffontaine in October of last year. This Color Guard team of seven was led by LTC Kimo Dunn. A photo display of the Color Guard parading in the town of Bruyeres and holding forth during the ceremony held at the 442nd monument was shown at the 67th anniversary banquet.

We were happy that an old error was corrected during the 67th anniversary program. An Honorary Member Plaque was awarded posthumously to Shigeo Yoshida. Somehow, the early directors failed to recognize the leading role played by Shigeo Yoshida in interracial relations when war with Japan seemed imminent and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. His two sons, Ronald and Gerald, were guests at the banquet and received the plaque in honor of their father.

The board will once again seek to develop a long-range plan which will include a historical learning center. To this end, increased focus will be made on our archival documents and artifacts. The board has committed itself to a legacy program and given the president the full power to develop this legacy program – to chair, coordinate and direct any activity related to this program, for the board to approve.

Betty Tsukiyama who was our Executive Secretary the past three years left us to tend to family matters. The board was appreciative of her work and her role as “Mother” to the veterans. Shirley Igarashi is our new Executive Secretary. She has been active in the Sons and Daughters and is the daughter of Charles Igarashi, K Company.



TAPS IN MEMORIAM

Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:



Akiyama, Makio "Mickey" (I Co.)...Feb. 24, 2010	Kimura, Frank S. (M Co.).....Dec. 6, 2009
Fukuda, Albert A. (Anti-Tank).....Dec. 24, 2009	Matsui, Mitsuoki (E Co.)..... Dec. 1, 2009
Fukuda, Bert H. (3HQ).....Jan. 20, 2010	Miyabara, Mutsuo (F Co.)..... Oct. 27, 2009
Hakoda, Gilbert K. (I Co.).....Mar. 2, 2010	Nakamoto, Albert M. Jr. (F Co.).....Dec. 24, 2009
Hasegawa, Hiroshi Harry (Medics)... Jan. 26, 2010	Nomura, Raymond H. (L Co.).....Aug. 16, 2009
Hokama, Masatoshi (F Co.).....Jan. 25, 2010	Nomura, Satoru (G Co.)..... Nov. 27, 2009
Ikari, Ted T. (522B).....Aug. 9, 2009	Oshiro, Edward Y. (L Co.)..... Jan. 5, 2010
Imamura, Dr. Eugene H. (Medics).... Jan. 28, 2010	Sodetani, Toshimi (Anti-Tank/100-C)....Dec. 31, 2009
Ishii, James K. (Medics)..... Feb. 27, 2010	Suda, Toshio (Medics).....Feb. 7, 2010
Kajikawa, William M. (522 HQ).....Feb. 15, 2010	Suminaga, Hitoshi (I Co.).....Jan. 23, 2010
Kasadate, Masami "Casey" (L Co.)..Dec. 30, 2009	Tanimoto, Takeshi (Service)..... Dec. 5, 2009
Kasai, Minoru "Min" (2HQ).....Dec. 28, 2009	Zupkas, Michael Paul Sr. (442 Officer)....Feb. 3, 2010
Kawaratani, Hideo (E Co.).....Feb. 4, 2010	



CLUB DONATIONS

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

- 442nd Ukulele Hula & Choral – \$25
- Robert Arakaki (100th) – \$100
- Kozue Awaya – \$100
- In memory of Susumu Awaya, Service Co.*
- Geri Baenen – \$50
- Dr. Americo Bugliani – \$100
- Mr. & Mrs. Yim Lee – \$25
- Stephen Nagao – \$20
- Tom Parry – \$20
- Linda Powers – \$25
- Mildred K. Tateishi – \$100
- Lloyd Tsukano – \$70
- Susan Shoho-Uyemura – \$50
- Bryan Yagi – \$50
- Rinko Yoshioka – \$5,000

*In memory of Minoru Yoshioka, I Co.
(note: This amount donated to I Co.,
which donated the funds to the Scholarship Fund)*

GFB BULLETIN DONATIONS

We thank you sincerely for your generosity and support.

- Charles Fujimoto – \$100
- Linda Fujioka – \$100
- G.A. Gustafson – \$50
- Tom Hiranaga – \$50
- Hiro Hirano – \$100
- Frank & Tami Kinoshita – \$100
- Bill S. Taketa – \$25
- Diana Yamashiro – \$25
- Rinko Yoshioka – \$5,000

In memory of Minoru Yoshioka, I Co.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

We thank you sincerely for your generosity and support.

- I Co., 442nd – \$5,000



News from the

EDITOR'S DESK

by Oscar Tsukayama

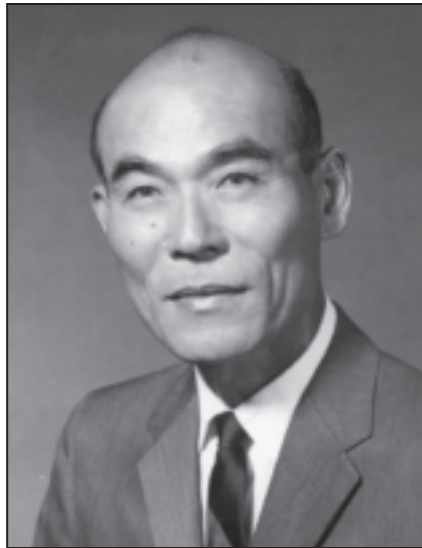
67th Anniversary Banquet

Kudos to Mits Kunihiro and the 67th Anniversary Banquet Committee for a job well done. Mahalo, too, to our Sons and Daughters who are always on hand to put our plans in gear and execute, and thank you also to the myriad of volunteers and supporters who contributed their skills and knowledge to put together a great event. Last, but not least, a "Big Thank You" to Shirley Igarashi and Claire Mitani who quietly worked behind the scenes to provide administrative support and take care of the volumes of minute but important details. It was awesome! Since others will be reporting on various aspects of the program, I will not go into detail, but would like to say, Gwen Fujie did an outstanding job as MC; speeches by Governor Lingle, Mayor Hannemann and Lt. Gen. Peterson were inspiring and the presence of the 100th Bn/442nd Infantry Reserves in their uniforms provided a military ambience signifying patriotism, duty and sacrifice which are earmarks of the 442nd.

I also liked the idea of featuring descendants of 442nd veterans like Sandra Tsukiyama de Olivera, Kristi-Lin Wasano, Kiara-Lin Wasano and Kylie Wasano in the program. Jake Shimabukuro was a treat but the highlight of the day was the sing-along featuring songs from the World War II era in keeping with the theme of this year's program - "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" – A TRIBUTE TO 442ND RCT VETERANS. It was a memorable day.

Shigeo Yoshida is Awarded Honorary Membership

The 442nd Veterans Club awarded an Honorary Membership to the late Shigeo Yoshida, an educator and community leader in Hawaii. Immediately prior to the war with Japan and after Pearl Harbor, Shigeo Yoshida was appointed to serve on the Military Governor's Morale Committee whose purpose was to cope with racial interaction which was a matter of grave concern to military and civilian leaders at that time.



Shigeo Yoshida

Mr. Yoshida was steadfast in his defense of the patriotism of the Nisei and of the Japanese community in Hawaii, and his influence in the committee, contributed immensely to preventing the mass evacuation of those of Japanese ancestry from Hawaii, as occurred on the West Coast.

He encouraged Niseis to show their patriotism and volunteer their services in support of the war effort which led to the formation of groups such as the Varsity Victory Volunteers, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

Mr. Hung Wai Ching, Chairman of the committee, is quoted as saying, "Shigeo Yoshida was the brains; I was the mouthpiece." The 442nd Board members, in unanimously approving the award, were astonished that he was not one of the first to receive this award.

Jennifer E. Morita and J essica P. Toyama Are Awarded Scholarships

The 442nd Veterans Endowed Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to two students in the University of Hawaii System. In addition to their scholastic achievements they were required to submit essays describing the role of the 442nd RCT in World War II and their legacy to be selected.

Jennifer is the granddaughter of Fusetsu Miyazaki, a 100th Battalion veteran who currently lives in Kauai. She is a Kaimuki High School graduate and is pursuing a career in nursing at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. She says, “I want to serve the people of Hawaii, just as these brave men of the 100th and 442nd served their country.”

Jessica is the granddaughter of Kosuke Toyama (deceased) who also was a veteran of the 100th Battalion. She graduated from Moanalua High School and is pursuing a course in Pre-Pharmacy at the University of Hawaii-Hilo. She says, “Through their selflessness and fighting spirit, the 100th and 442nd surpassed expectations. It is this exemplary model of patriotism and tenacity that I will resolve to emulate both in my professional and personal endeavors.”

Presentation was made during 442nd’s 67th Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 28, 2010.

“Hi, I’m Scott, I’m 4 and I am Japanese.”

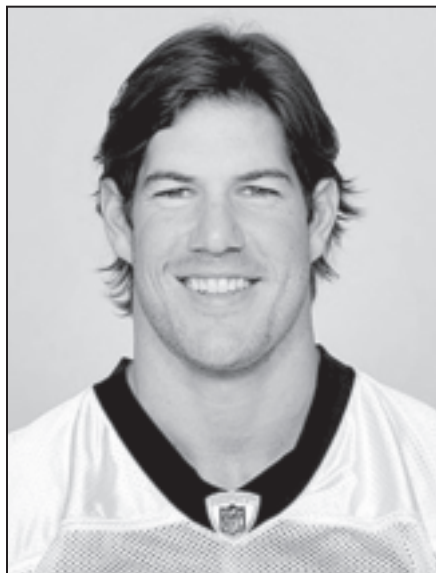
New Orleans linebacker, Scott Fujita, surprised his paternal grandmother, Lillie Fujita, by introducing himself to a group of friends thusly. After all, both of his biological parents are Caucasian which makes Scott 100% Haole (Caucasian). He was adopted by Rod Fujita a Sansei, and his wife Helen Fujita, a Caucasian, when he was 6 weeks old. Fujita says, “I know I don’t have a drop of Japanese blood in me

but what is race? It’s just a label. The way you’re raised, your family, the people you love—that means more than anything else.” He goes on to say, “I’ve never struggled with my identity. Throughout my life, first as a child and later as a football player, my path to success has always been to define for myself who I am.” Lillie Fujita adds, “That’s the connection point for Scott. You choose to be what you are. It’s not your location, your obstacles or your skin – You. You choose. Scott learned this from his family.

It’s not that he wasn’t tested. People would give them an odd look whenever he and his brother Jason (also Caucasian and adopted) would go out with their parents to shop or to eat; people wondered why a kid with blond hair and green eyes had a name like “Fujita” on his Pee Wee football jersey, and there was the time a substitute teacher asked to see his ID because she didn’t believe his name belonged to him. But he shrugged off most of it, confident in thinking of himself as Japanese at heart. For his father Rod, it was much simpler. He would say, “To me, he has always been and always will be, just my son.”

Every January 1st, the Fujitas celebrated *Oshogatsu* (Japanese New Year) and on May 5, *Kodomo No Hi* or Children’s Day. Scott ate so much rice with chopsticks that he was 8 before he knew what to do with a baked potato. He learned about Japanese customs, culture and traditions from Nagao and Lillie Fujita his paternal grandparents. They often showed up unannounced to pick them up after school and would take Scott and Jason out for ice cream and toy shopping. During these trips, they would talk about the samurai, of Japanese art and history and of majestic places like Mount Fuji. Scott says, “I found a very

beautiful and interesting culture filled with dignity and respect through these stories and they became mine.”



Scott Fujita, Cleveland Browns

Photo: National Football League

Scott has also connected to his ancestors through anger about and empathy for Japanese American residents who were interned during World War II. Nagao and Lillie and their parents were among them.

Nagao's parents lost their farmland because they could not continue to pay their mortgage. Nagao was permitted to leave camp and attend college at BYU. After graduation, he enlisted in the Army to fight for the very country that was imprisoning his family. Deployed to Italy, he was assigned to and fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He attended law school under the GI Bill after his return from Italy and practiced law in Oxnard, California. He died in 1988. Even now, Scott gets angry when he mentions how Japanese internment was never brought up in school.

Scott adopted the ideals of perseverance that sustained his grandparents. He was a star safety at Rio Mesa High School, but because of his size, drew meager attention from D1 schools. Cal offered him a shot as a walk-on and in his first camp, blew away his coaches by offering to help an injury-plagued Bears team with both hands bandaged, one because of a fracture and the other because of a bad gash. He was given a scholarship the following spring and became one of Cal's leading tacklers as a linebacker. He graduated with a degree in political science and added a Masters in education from Cal Berkeley.

He was a fifth round pick by Kansas City in 2002 where he was named the Chief's best rookie. He was traded to Dallas in 2005 and as an unrestricted free agent came to New Orleans in 2006 where he has posted 342 stops, 6.5 sacks, four interceptions, six forced fumbles and a pair of fumble recoveries. He has consistently ranked among the team's most important players. During the grand reopening of the Superdome after Katrina, he was introduced to the TV audience as "The Asian Assassin." When he gets home from a trip, he usually is greeted by UPS boxes full of souvenir items, gifts and memorabilia from fans. One such gift, after a game with the Eagles, was a banner made by neighbors, spread out

across his parking space which read: "McNabb Got FUJITA'ED." Scott says, "I want to frame this because, the truth behind the message is, no matter where you're from or how you were raised, no matter what you look like or who you play for, when fans turn your name into a verb -well- you've arrived!"

After playing in the Super Bowl in which the Saints won, Scott signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Browns. Before leaving town, he gave half of his Super Bowl check to charity – half going to relief efforts in Haiti and half going to coastal restoration in New Orleans. In parting, he said, "The people of this city and region have been so good to me and my family that we just felt strongly about doing something to protect the city we have come to love so much." We wish him continued success in his career with the Cleveland Browns.

Lt. General Joseph Peterson Keynote Speaker

Gwen Fujie, the emcee at the 442nd Veterans Club's 67th Anniversary banquet, introduced Lt. General Peterson:

We are greatly honored to have as our keynote speaker today, Lt. General Joseph Peterson. Currently, he is the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Forces Command. You have read his credentials as shown on the program brochure. I will not repeat this military record but rather introduce him to you as a local boy who has made good. He is the highest ranking person of Hawaiian ancestry serving in the U.S. Army. He is the eldest of four children of George Peterson and Marilyn Ishimoto Peterson. He is of Hawaiian-Swedish-Chinese-Japanese ethnicity, born in Honolulu in 1950.

According to his high school alma mater 1968 yearbook, he was active in school activities. He excelled in athletics. He was on the Saint Louis Crusader football team and was an All-star lineman with jersey number 73; his team won two ILH championships, 1966-67 and 1967-68. He also was

on the track team and took part in field events. This is a surprise – he was a member of the glee club! I wonder if his Army buddies knew of his musical talents. In his senior year, he was Class President and voted best in personality.

We are pleased that his wife is here with us today; she is the former Ann Moix. She was his grade school sweetheart we've been told! (Oh, how the secrets come out!) They have a son, Kevin, who is in the U.S. Air Force. It is a distinct honor to present to you a distinguished military leader – Hawaii's own Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson.

Lt. General Joseph F. Peterson has been the Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Forces Command since Dec. 11, 2006. Forces Command trains, mobilizes, deploys, sustains, transforms, and reconstitutes conventional forces numbering approximately 780,000 soldiers.

Commissioned as an Armor officer through ROTC at Santa Clara University, he has commanded Armor units at Fort Lewis, WA; Korea; and Fort Carson, CO; to include 35th Armor, 4th Infantry Division. He has also served as commander of the 3d Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Fort Riley, KS; Asst. Division Commander (Support and then Maneuver) and Commanding General, 3d Infantry Division, Fort

Stewart, GA; Commanding General 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX; and Commanding General, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Baghdad, Iraq.

Lt. General Peterson has served in key staff positions in the Department of the Army, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and in NATO, including Aide-de-Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe; Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, VA; and Vice Director for Operations, J3, The Joint Staff.

Lt. General Peterson earned an MBA from Chaminade University, Hawaii, and attended a variety of military schools including the Armor Officer Advanced Course, the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star,

Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, and Combat Action Badge.



LTG Joseph F. Peterson



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Feature Story

by Oscar Tsukayama

On January 8, 2010, the 442nd Veterans Club in Honolulu received a personal check in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Mrs. Rinko Yoshioka, widow of Minoru “Mike” Yoshioka who served with I Company, 442nd RCT. There were no letters or notes explaining the check except a footnote earmarking the check for I Company and the Go For Broke Bulletin. However, there was an essay written by a family friend, Kelly Wilkinson that described Min Yoshioka’s 442nd experience that accompanied the check. Bill Thompson, President, 442nd Veterans Club, Oscar Tsukayama, Editor, Go For Broke Bulletin, and Eddie Yamasaki, President, I Chapter sent Thank You letters to Mrs. Yoshioka for her generous donation. Min passed away on July 8, 2009 in Fresno, CA. The essay by Kelly Wilkinson is printed below.

Experiences of the 442nd

by Kelly Wilkinson

World History P.1 2/20/08

We all look up to those brave soldiers that have served in wars before our time. Some tell great tales of how they narrowly escaped a bullet or how their unit was the only one to make it back home that day. Many of us are not fortunate enough to hear the stories behind those stories or listen about the men that fought in such hard times.

There was a battalion called the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, better known as the 442nd. This group was made up of solely Japanese Americans willing to fight for their country. Many of these men don’t talk about what they saw or heard or

even felt, including a man named Minoru Yoshioka.

Minoru “Min” Yoshioka was born on May 27, 1920 in Los Angeles, California. Min was living in Inglewood, California with his parents, brother and sister. When he turned twenty one he



Minoru “Min” Yoshioka

was drafted to serve in the military. Before the war began, Min was sent to boot camp/basic training at Camp Grant, Illinois where he was trained to be a medic. While Min was in basic training, the Pacific side of the war began on December 7, 1941.

Ironically, Min’s family was sent to Manzanar, a Japanese internment camp while he served his country. Min was then stationed in Lubbock, Texas at a hospital. Even in the military, Min was forced to deal with discrimination with a mandatory transfer of all Nisei Japanese American medics, which was a total of ten men. These men were sent to Camp Berkeley, Texas because the other American soldiers did not want to be treated by Japanese American medics. In February 1943, Min was “required” to volunteer for the 442nd’s replacement battalion. The original 100th Battalion was made of all Japanese Americans from Hawaii, activated in June 1942 and sent to Sicily, Italy.

He was sent to Fort McCellan, Alabama for infantry basic training. Then in 1944, Min departed from Fort Mead, Maryland and landed in

Naples, Italy. Now that Min had finally arrived he had to face combat. His battalion met up with the original 442nd at Bruyeres, France. One of Min Yoshioka's most memorable experiences was the "Campaign of the Lost Battalion."

On Vosges Mountain, France, a Texas unit had become surrounded by the Germans on the top of the mountain. Several American battalions had tried to save the Texas unit, but failed to do so. The reason they had failed was due to the Germans surrounding the Texas unit and bombing the Americans that had tried to save them. As he climbed the deadly mountain, Min could see fellow soldiers being killed by the Germans' "88 cannons." As he continued up, all he could hear was a buzzing around his ears due to the deafening sound of the cannons.

The forest was so thick with trees, even mid-day seemed like it was covered with the black of night. To make matters worse, weather was no help either, it rained constantly with ice cold air. Just to try to find some sort of covering, the men dug "foxholes" – here they slept at night in cold muddy water. Being in a position where they had no dry clothes to change into, many men developed trench foot, a disease that if not tended to could lead to gangrene. Several battalions tried and failed to save the Texas unit on top of the Vosges Mountain, but only the 442nd was able to rescue them. Min's I Company were all killed or wounded except for eight men, Min being one of them. They later received a Presidential Unit Citation for liberating the Texans. After the battle, Min was sent to a hospital in England for a total of five months due to a severe case of trench foot.

After his recovery from trench foot, Min had become separated from his battalion. He was sent to France to wait for the 442nd and join them there. After several failed attempts to rejoin the 442nd, Min was reclassified as military police "MP." Min was not to guard foreign soldiers, but instead American soldiers; rapes, beatings from commanders to soldiers, and even the hanging of an American soldier that had murdered a company commander.

He held this position for two to three months. He was then discharged and sent home.

Min was shipped home and landed in Virginia. He bought a train ticket to California and joined his family in Kerman. His family had been released from the internment camp and they were now farm laborers. Min used his GI bill and Cal Vet loan to buy a farm in Madera, California and went to night school.

Min had gone into the war as a twenty one year old thinking he would only be fighting for one year, but five long years later he came home a twenty six year old filled with experiences many people never had to even think about. The horrors of war and battle can be memories that no brave soldier would want to ever look back on. Sometimes it is the silent heroes that have the most to tell, it's just our choice to ask them about that point in time that affected both them and us to this day.

For me, World War II has always been an interesting time to learn about. Being able to talk to someone who actually fought in the war was better than any history book could ever teach. To me, Min was always Mr. Yoshioka. He never talked much, let alone, tell me the entire story of the war through his eyes. He was very modest when he told the story of the "Campaign of the Lost Battalion" and never boasted about the amazing things that he had accomplished. In fact, the 442nd had a saying that all the men lived by during war: "Go For Broke." This small saying meant that the men would give it their all while they served their country. As Mr. Yoshioka told me this, he was very quiet, yet I could tell that he was proud to say it by the small smile that spread across his face.

I am so thankful to have been able to talk to him about his experiences during the war and even though he would never remind me of the stories he told, I will never forget them.



by Henry Kuniyuki

"Serendipity"

The making of pleasant discoveries by accident. Lucky discoveries, the best part of any trip are always unexpected.

Henry and Emi Kuniyuki, who scheduled their last (6th) cruise on Holland America Line, will be going to South East Asia from March 17th to April 12, 2010. The cruise voyage on MS Amsterdam starts in Singapore. The first layover stop will be at Sihanoukville, Cambodia. The second exotic stop will be at Phu My, Vietnam. The second Vietnam-stop will be at Halong Bay. After Vietnam, the ship will sail to Hong Kong, from Hong Kong, the next China stop will be at Shanghai on April 1st. After an overnite layover in Shanghai, the ship sails to Xinggang (Beijing), the last stop in China. On April 8th the MS Amsterdam's arrival will be at Jeju (Cheju), South Korea. The twenty-eight-day dream vacation ends at Kobe, Japan. Henry and Emi plan to "savor life's joys and pay close attention to momentary pleasures and wonders."

Regimental Headquarters Chapter Potpourri

Monday, January 4, 2010 – Chapter Secretary Takamori Miyagi participated in the 442nd Veterans Club Board of Directors meeting as Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto was "under the weather." Takamori reported the Board's agenda to Chapter members attending the first luncheon meeting of the year. Only five members answered the roll call. They were Chapter Vice President Yoshikatsu Maruo,

Secretary Takamori Miyagi, Treasurer Henry Kuniyuki, Ruby Kawada and Susan Takara.

Monday, February 1, 2010 – Chapter Secretary Miyagi again attended the 442nd Board of Directors meeting. Chapter's luncheon meeting at Gyotaku Restaurant was attended by six faithfuls. Chapter Treasurer Kuniyuki advised 67th Anniversary Banquet participants to submit the banquet fee to RHQ Chapter treasury by March 1st.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010 – Yoshikatsu Maruo and Henry Kuniyuki were privileged to participate at Senator Daniel Inouye's fund raiser at Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. It was good for 2000 supporters to listen to both Senator Dan and Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye's campaign speeches.

Saturday, February 20, 2010 – Chapter Docent Chairman Yoshikatsu Maruo, Takamori Miyagi and Susan Takara reported for Docent duty at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific. Illness of both Noboru Kawamoto and Henry Kuniyuki precluded their participation as Chapter docents.

Monday, March 1, 2010 – Chapter Chief of Staff Henry Kuniyuki reported the gracious donation of one hundred dollars by Maria Yamada to the Chapter Treasury. Chapter Treasurer Kuniyuki dispatched a letter of appreciation to Maria, informing her that her donation will be used to defray the Ladies Appreciation Luncheon, scheduled to be held at Tree Tops Restaurant on October 10, 2010.

Sunday, March 28, 2010 – Chapter Secretary

Takamori Miyagi reported twenty-five Chapter members and guests present at the 67th Annual Banquet of the 442nd Veterans Club.

The alphabetical listing of participants: The Kawada family – Jitsuo, Ruby and Alvin; Kawamoto family – Noboru, Andrew and Kendall; Kumabe family – Shirley, Michael, Sirena and Kristie; Maruo family – Yoshikatsu, Katie, Michael and Leslie; Miyagi family – Takamori, Michael, Debra, Brandon, Jodie, Ryan and Angie; Takara

family – Susan and Jane. Claire Kiyama and Sachi Miki’s names were also submitted to 442nd Veterans Club headquarters as Chapter participants.

“A moment’s insight is sometimes worth a life’s experience”

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes

Arrivederci!



RHQ Chapter members at 67th Anniversary Banquet



by Committee of Three

As this is written, some of the items mentioned are of things to come and by the time this issue of the bulletin gets to you, the happenings (or not) will be history.

On April 21, Anti-Tankers will get together for their usual luncheon at the Pearl City Gytaku (at the expense of their diminishing chapter treasury on the irrefutable proposition that you can't take it with you). After lunch, the Chilly Sasaki's invited them to their home for coffee and dessert and a very special treat. The special treat?

Courtesy of Jack Kaguni, who had carefully preserved the treasure, a viewing of past films dating back to the 1950s of AT gatherings and activities. Young, beautiful wives and handsome husbands; rascally cute kiddies; past Christmas celebrations and athletic events – all coming to life again.

The other anticipated event: Hiroshi Kaku will probably have visited us in Hawaii in late April. "Probably" because his trip depends on the condition of his wife Connie who suffered colon cancer and had about 12 inches removed on March 25. Their son Leonard, who has a medical background, was with them at the time and was of great help, asking all the relevant questions about the required procedure. Surgery was successful and after a 4-day stay in the hospital, Connie has done well recuperating at home, but only if she doesn't need help will Kaku's trip be made. Shiroku Yamamoto is the one who received the news about Kaku's Hawaii visit and believes the primary purpose is to attend

a class reunion in Hilo. But Kaku also scheduled a stay at the Hale Koa hotel in Honolulu so he will undoubtedly get together with "the boys." Stay tuned – and whether Kaku actually makes it to Hawaii will be reported in the next issue (maybe – reliability of the Committee of Three is questionable). News about Kaku in the last issue was a full year late and this item about his as-yet-not-taken-place trip equalizes things!

On March 15 Anti-Tanker Lt. Col. Henry Ikemoto's ashes were placed in Punchbowl Cemetery. His funeral had already taken place in California, but his wife Mildred brought his ashes over because, although a *kotonk*, it was Henry's express wish to be buried in Punchbowl. Mildred is a Hawaii girl and so there were a lot of her relatives and friends in attendance, and so were AT'ers Masato Doi, Jack Kaguni and Chilly Sasaki. Henry never missed any of the last dozen or so "big" 442 reunions and was the engine that held the L.A. AT gang together.

Last March, Jack and Masato missed Shiroku at their Wednesday coffee hours for several weeks. Masato phoned a number of times to let him know about Henry's interment at Punchbowl but no one, not even wife Amy, answered the phone, so the worry was that something terrible had occurred. But he's back now. Turns out that he and Amy had been living in Kaneohe (their residence is in Honolulu), helping to take care of Amy's bed-ridden sister.

We're all getting older. Take care!



by John Mikasa

The Cannon Chapter in Hawaii has been experiencing a traumatic time, originating from the time our perennial president, Kazutaka Saiki, suddenly passed away. Kazu had almost single-handedly done the entire administrative and other business for our chapter. The few remaining members, all undergoing old-age infirmities of various types and degrees, met in November to discuss our future. So, in January 2010, we gathered for a luncheon meeting to discuss further our future.

James Kamo was present and said, "We should continue Cannon Chapter 'til last man standing!" This statement by James Kamo gave us remaining vets some encouragement to continue on. It was determined that we should try and continue with help from our spouses. Kazu's sons Rance and Leith have been helpful in providing us with documentation and paper work. Since then we have met several times to continue organizational improvements and to prepare for the 67th Anniversary Banquet for the 442nd Veterans Club.

Our contact with our mainland Cannoneers has been initiated primarily through Roger Yoshinari, son of Sam Yoshinari and other Sons and Daughters including Judi Murakami, Tsuka's daughter and Debi Gustafson, daughter of Gerald "Gus" Gustafson.

Belated news from our mainland Cannoneers include the awarding of Honorary Degrees by the University of California at Davis to John Kashiki and to William "Willie" Fujioka posthumously at Berkeley (write-up was covered in Dec. 2009 Bulletin). The ceremonies were held in December, 2009.

In November, 2009 Cannon Company was represented at the 65th anniversary celebration of the Rescue of the Lost Battalion in Houston by Sam Yoshinari and son Roger, Tommy Okabayashi, and Linda Toyota, daughter of Yoshio Toyota.

The annual Chapters reunion is scheduled for June 24-28, 2010 in Las Vegas. It is being managed by the chapter's sons and daughters. Hope we will top last year's attendance of 81-strong vets, families and friends.

The 67th 442nd Veterans Club Banquet was held on March 28, 2010 at The Pacific Beach Hotel. Attendees were: May Nitta with her sons Stuart and Matthew from Colorado; Chisato Holck with her children, Sandra and Leonard Sousa; Wilbert and Terry Holck; Mary Ann and Eric Nemoto; Willard and Geralyn Holck; Rance Saiki; Akira Okamoto who came from the Philippines and guest Grant Akana; James Kamo; John and Mary Mikasa; Yukisada Oshiro; Akira and Betty Takahashi; Mitsuo and Esther Umeda with their son Alan, daughter-in-law Darlene and grandchildren, Calvin, Nathan, Monica, Corynne and Jocelyn.



(l-r) Yukisada Oshiro and Mitsuo Umeda



by Oscar Tsukayama

Hello Y'All

Shinnen Enkai

The Medics Gang got together at Natsunoya on January 23 for our annual New Year's Party with 32 people attending. We enjoyed singing, games, door prizes, a talent show, good food, and most of all, great company. The highlight of the day was everyone getting up to dance to the tune of Tanko Bushi to cap the day's events.

Our ukulele virtuoso, Kazu Tomasa, provided the accompaniment for our sing-along; Marian Yamashiro handled the door prizes and gave out two \$50

Longs Drugs gift certificates and one \$50 Zippy's certificate. The lucky winners, I think, were the Ogami sisters, Susan and Carrie and Mutchan Nakamura's daughter Faye. Susan Ogami-Van Camp did a great job taking care of the games; we enjoyed games

like, What am I thinking, What's in the bag, Jan Ken Po and Call me by my right name with group and individual winners. Of the individual winners, Toshiaki Tanaka, nosed out Millie Nakasone in a

hard-fought Jan Ken Po battle and went home with the grand prize – \$8 worth of quarters. In the talent department, Noboru and Betty Ogami entertained the group with their rendition of "Wakare No Isochidori," Brad Mossman (Ted and Dorothy Matsuo's son-in-law) treated the group with one of his original compositions "Rain on the Wind" as he accompanied himself in slack key, and talk about a family with talent, granddaughter Allegra also pleased the group with "Fireflies." It was a FUN event, a GREAT way to start the New Year.



The Grand Finale...*Tanko Bushi*.

Attending were John and Gloria Masunaga, Tak and Eva Nakamura, Noboru and Betty Ogami with daughters Susan and Carrie and son-in-law Jerry, Jerry and Florence Ogawa with daughters Corrine and Vivian and sons-in-law Richard and Daniel, Toshiaki

and Mitsuyo Tanaka, Kazu Tomasa, Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama with son Edward and daughter-in-law Nancy, Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Michele Matsuo with husband Brad and daughter Allegra, Mutsue

Nakamura with daughter Faye, and Millie Nakasone with daughter Camile and granddaughter Nicole.

Jimmie and Lynn Visit Hawaii

Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya were visitors in Honolulu from Jan. 11 to 20. They've been doing

this the last few years to get away from Washington's harsh winter and enjoy Hawaii's balmy weather. We were experiencing a cold winter, usually in the 60's, but for Lynn it was just right. She started each day with a dip and exercise in



Talk Story time at the Prince Court Restaurant.

Waikiki Beach. The Kanayas hosted a luncheon for the Medics gang on January 18 at the Prince Court Restaurant which was attended by Kazu Tomasa, Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama, Toshiaki Tanaka, Iris Fukui, Michele Matsuo and Allegra and John and Gloria Masunaga. The buffet is great at the Prince Court but we enjoyed the "Talk Story" more as we were again the last to leave. Unfortunately, the Kanayas missed our Shinnen Enkai by a couple of days but they promised to call us the next time to see if we had any special events planned before scheduling their visits.

Joe and Nell Saito Join Us in Celebrating Our 67th

Joe and Nell of Ontario, Oregon wanted to visit their grand-daughter and husband who are

teachers at the Hawaii Baptist Academy so they planned their visit to coincide with our 67th Reunion banquet. Good Thinking. The Medics Gang, of course, always looking for a reason for a get-together, hosted a luncheon at the Kirin Restaurant in Moiliili with 14 (20 including the Saito party) attending. Kazu Tomasa brought his ukulele along

to provide some background music but ended up leading the group in a sing-along-proof that the Medics love to sing and have a good time.

John and Gloria Masunaga, Tak and Eva Nakamura, Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka, Kazu Tomasa, Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama, Jack

and Marian Yamashiro, Mutsue Nakamura, and Millie Nakasone with granddaughter Nicole attended. Joe and Nell were accompanied by their daughter Carrie and her husband David and granddaughter Tiffany and her husband. Everyone was having a good time getting caught up on the latest; we finally left when politely told that the restaurant closes at 2:00 PM. According to Joe, they were kept busy throughout their stay, 23 March to 1 April with invites to breakfasts, lunches and dinners, etc. and that they enjoyed their visit tremendously. He was glad that he was able to visit with Chikashi Kimura, a buddy from Camp Shelby, who now resides in the Kuakini Home Residential Facility and to have lunch again at Toshiaki's Boulevard Saimin where they make their saimin the "Old Fashion Way." Lunch was free when daughter Joan saw us and came to chat with us.



Joe & Nell with Toshiaki & Mitsuyo at the Kirin Restaurant.

At 92 young, Joe is still sparkling with energy and continues to give lectures at schools about the 442nd, the internment of persons of Japanese descent in relocation camps during WWII, and acts of discrimination against Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor and the post-war period. Although he is relinquishing some of these responsibilities, he was very active in community activities, and over a period of years, served as Commander of his American Legion Post, served as an officer in his PTA organization, served as a trustee in his school board and in many other leadership positions. We all wished we could be as energetic when we get to be 92. Nell is just as vibrant, hard-working and friendly and has the knack to make you feel relaxed and welcome when you talk to her. We look forward to their next visit.

67th Anniversary Banquet

Twenty-three Medics members attended the 67th Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 28, 2010. We were honored this year by the presence of Joe and Nell Saito from Ontario, Oregon who scheduled their visit, specifically, to join us in celebrating our 67th. Attending were: John and Gloria Masunaga; Jerry and Florence Ogawa

with daughters Corrine and Vivian with their husbands Richard and Daniel and son Kenneth; Joe and Nell Saito; Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka with daughter Joan and husband Paul; Kazuo Tomasa; Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama with son Edward and wife Nancy and grandson Travis, and Jack and Marian Yamashiro. The Saitos were able to meet with many old friends from other chapters too and were very glad they came.

Sick Call

After returning from his trip to Hawaii, Jimmie Kanaya underwent surgery to remove a cyst from his neck in late January. He is now undergoing radiation treatment and in her last report, Lynn writes that food does not taste good and he has no appetite but he is in good spirits and tries very hard to eat as much of the special dishes that Lynn prepares for him. He also is keeping up with his exercises to keep up his strength and stamina. Keep up the good work Jimmie! GO FOR BROKE. We will be keeping you in our prayers.

Noboru Ogami fell in his driveway in late January and spent most of February in the hospital recovering from surgery to drain fluid from is

brain caused by the fall. He was transferred to a rehabilitation center in early March where he is currently undergoing rehabilitation. Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery are with you.

Donations

Generous donations were received from Kazuo Tomasa, Jerry and Florence Ogawa and Joe and Nell Saito during this quarter. We thank you very sincerely.

Rest In Peace

Dr. Eugene Hachiro Imamura of Seattle, WA, died on January 28, 2010. He was 88. He was born in Waipahu, HI and graduated from Farrington High School and the University of Hawaii. He joined the 442nd RCT in 1944 and served as a Medic. He retired from Family Practice

in Seattle after 48 years. He is survived by many nieces and nephews.

James Kentaro Ishii of Sacramento, CA, died on February 27, 2010. He was 91. He served as a Medic with the 442nd RCT and participated in the rescue of the lost battalion. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He is survived by two sons, Michael (Janice) and Curtis (Emily) of Vancouver, WA, brother Don (Lillian) of Sacramento, CA, and three grandchildren.

Toshio Suda of Chicago, IL, died on February 7, 2010. He was 95. He served with the 100th Inf. Bn. and later, as a Medic with the 442nd RCT in Italy. He is survived by daughter, Pricilla (Jeff) Taylor; sons, Richard (Ann Marie) Suda and Robert (Catherine) Suda, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



The Yamashiro, Masunaga and Tsukayama families enjoy the 67th Anniversary Banquet.



by Okemura, et.al.

The first meeting of the year was a success, though a small one, when 13 Chapter members showed up at the Hanaki Restaurant. The Uyeda, Sakamoto, Hayama and Nakamura wife/husband teams, plus the singles: Sue Isonaga, Takashi Okemura, Yasu Shoho, Bill Thompson and Moriso Teraoka. Then came the thinning of the ranks – that’s the word to describe the Hq2nd Chapter turnout in February – just five including Uyeda, Okemura, Teraoka and the Sakamotos. No meeting was held in March this being our anniversary month.

Our Chapter had two tables with twenty registered for the 67th anniversary banquet. It was good to see Col. Bert turnout; we’ve missed him in recent months. He was accompanied by his son Alan Nishimura who flew in from LA. At their table were Robert and Hisako Uyeda, Andy Ono and his guest Ms. Beryl Chun, Yasu Shoho, and Yasu’s brother and wife, Russell and Barbara Shoho.

The other table had Ace Higuchi, Charlie and Cynne Calvet (Ace’s daughter), Takashi Okemura and son Karl, Moriso Teraoka, Sue Isonaga and daughter Mae, and Ben Thompson (Bill’s grandson). Ace attends the annual banquets most of the time. He was happy see Col. Bert who had been his I&R officer.

This is the second time that Russell Shoho joined his “older” brother at our anniversary banquet. Russell’s daughter also attended our 67th anniversary banquet; she is Susan Uyemura, Director of the JA Living Legacy Organization – she always sits with Item Company veterans.

Russell and Barbara live in Placentia, California.

He is a Viet Nam veteran and a retired electrical engineer. Russell edited the story of Kazuo Masuda. It is a stirring tribute to one of the 442nd heroes who died in battle. Even though he received a Distinguished Service Cross, his family was denied a plot in his hometown’s cemetery. This caused a sensational story nationally. It seems that the writer’s bug has bitten Russell as he is now on a new story of another 442nd veteran. Keep your eyes open for a story on the life of Mineo Inuzuka.

By the way, Russell Shoho left boxes full with books of Kazuo Masuda and the Item Company saga: “And Then There Were Eight” with our 442nd office. Rather than left them, it would be more proper to say the books were donated. They can be purchased anytime and the proceeds go to our 442nd Veterans Club. What a generous offer!

Yasu (Yasunobu), who lives in Kaneohe, comes from a large Kauai family. He regularly crosses the Pali to faithfully attend our meetings.

Unfortunately, no one from the family has remained on Kauai. Yasu has four other brothers, all living in California. Besides Russell, there are Harry, Reynold and Donald. Two sisters live in Las Vegas. Yasu is a backyard farmer and grows tasty eggplants. He should swap them for his brother Russell’s dried kaki.

Incidentally, Yasu became a grandfather – twin granddaughters! Stephanie and Tiffany are the latest additions to the Shoho clan.



by Shigeyuki Yoshitake

67th Anniversary and More

Easy Chapter had 2-1/2 tables at the Mother Club Anniversary luncheon held at the Pacific Beach Hotel Ballroom. It was a surprisingly large turnout as the tables were crowded making walking difficult in the ballroom.

Our U.S. Senator was in attendance, but this time he sat with the VIPs. At the 65th Anniversary Banquet, Dan sat with the Easy Chapter folks and people kept coming to shake his hand.

The program was nice with music as the main focus. Jake Shimabukuro put on a strong solo performance with his ukulele. A young group of people played the luncheon honor displaying their ukulele skills.

The keynote speaker, LTG Joe Peterson, had a nice message linking the military between the WWII and the present. A local boy, a graduate of St. Louis High School and a non-West Point person, who rose to the rank of Lieutenant General, stood tall at the podium.

Those attending from Easy Chapter were: Masami/Marilyn Doi, with son Douglas and wife Pam and grandson Nicklas; Naotomo/Hazel Matoi, Glenn/Miyo Nakasone, Tadao/Sakaye Yoshimoto and daughter Irene Lee and husband

Keith. Also Ralph Fujii, Ronald Furuike, Shige Yoshitake, and Lily Maeda, Mildred Nakata, Haruko Oyama, Kay Sugihara, Chiyono Takemoto and daughter Karen. Toshio Okamura had to miss the gathering when Hazel hurt herself at home. Thomas Ooka was also a no-show.



LTG Peterson and Drusilla Tanaka

Eight Showed Up

The Chapter started the Year of the Tiger with eight members showing up at the regular meeting on February 9, 2010. We emphasize 2010 because it was at the regular meeting in February 2009 when we had the same number at the meeting. We usually have only five or six at our monthly meetings.

Those at the meeting were: Masami, Don Masuda, Glenn, Maui, Stooka, Tadao and Shige.

I forgot, one more, Yoshio Yamaki. Nice to see you again, and make coming to the meeting your New Year habit.

Happy Note

Glenn with Miyo, Mildred and Kay visited Hiroshi Okada at his Salt Lake care home. Hiroshi was in his jovial mood. He talked and sang, entertaining the group continuously. He is still the Hiroshi we know.



by Ron Oba

*Camaraderie
Ho'oponopono'e
Celebrate 0'10*

Shinnen En Kai 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Instead of *Omedeto*, it is now “KUNG HEE FAT CHOI.” Year of the Tiger. No, no not *that* Tiger. He’s in the doghouse! We reprise our New Year’s celebration at the Natsunoya Tea House every year because the venue is roomy, comfortable and conducive to a Happy New Year feast. Members who don’t attend our monthly meetings come out of the woodwork so it’s nice to see so many faces.

We always order too many items but everyone is happy to take home plate lunches from the left-over food. Management there is very accommodating with ice for the beverages, micro-phone and table/chair setting for our aging, wobbly lower extremities that can’t elevate us off the floor from a tatami setting. Twenty-four Homo sapiens attended with door prizes for all. The waitress also

got an orchid plant for her excellent service. Ben Kodama and Jr. Uranaka donated the beautiful flowering orchid plants that went flying during the door prizes. Fred Okada donated a box of frozen shrimps that someone gobbled up. Yoichi Tamura brought the poke, Chikako brought bottles of Zinfandel, Mineo brought and raised the Champagne for Banzais (may you live ten thousand years) three times for long live the celebrants. Ron brought the beer and soft drinks, and thanks to

others, who donated drinks and pupus. We also eagerly awaited Shinako’s yes, the two-and-1/2 pound avocados for everyone – do you eat it with sugar, shoyu, tabasco or in California Roll? Yes the fruit is getting bigger!



(l-r): Ron Oba, Wes Deguchi, George Nakasato

Thanks to everyone for the door prizes that were called again and again due of the numerous prizes supplemented by the orchid plants. Those attending were: Mineo, Stanley/Judy, Tsuneo/Betty, Richard/Dorothy, George/Myrtle, Ron/Michi, Natalie, Yoshio/Clara, Chikako, Shinako, Tommy/May, Yoichi/Hilda, Tajiro/Ruth, Helen,

and Wes Deguchi (president of Sons & Daughters). Masako, and Chilly/Irene could not attend. Thoughtfully, Irene didn't want to pass her cold; instead was passing interesting emails from home.

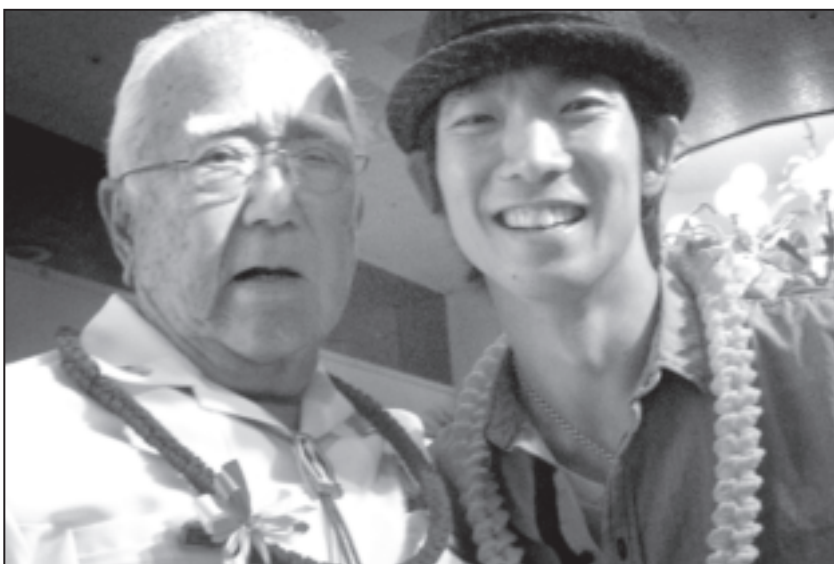
67th Anniversary Celebration

Six-hundred eighty-five veterans and wives plus 67 guests of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, U.S. Army Reservists, attended the 67th Anniversary of the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The Reservists reciprocated by singing the "Go For Broke" song.

Sadly only 170 veterans showed up. No one really knows how many are still surviving. Raise your hand if you want to be the last WWII survivor in 2020! The venue was at the Pacific Beach Hotel at \$30 per person and not like \$45 at other venues. During the recession we need to find the best

resort hotel in Waikiki. We should ask our Hawaii-born friend, President Barack Obama, for some stimulus funds and hold it on furlough Fridays so all our hard-working children can attend

The keynote speaker was Lt. General Joseph F. Peterson who heaped accolades to, about and for the veterans. LTG Peterson, born and raised in Hawaii, attended the Saint Louis School and came all the way from far away Atlanta, Georgia. Governor Linda Lingle spoke briefly, ditto for Mayor Mufi Hannemann and the Honorable Senator Dan Inouye. Wes Deguchi, Sons & Daughters President and son of F Co's Yasunori Deguchi, spoke on behalf of his hard-working committee members for this occasion.



Ron and Jake Shimabukuro

Michi and I hosted the Consul General of Japan; closest to Jake Shimabukuro who strummed his quick-fingered Ukulele – that's why it's called the Jumping Flea!! Jake reminisced about meeting and playing the ukulele before the Queen of England with companion Bette Midler who attended Radford High School. I had the honor of taking a picture with Jake as he came off the stage.

Attending were: Richard/Dorothy, George/Myrtle, Ron/Michi, Tajiro/Ruth, Yasunori/Wes/ Marivic Deguchi and daughter.

Ron and Michi had to sit on the VIP table as hosts for the Presidents of the 100th Battalion, Robert/Nancy Arakaki and MIS Ed/Helen H a m a s u , Gerald/Bonnie Yoshida, sons of Shigeo Yoshida member of the Morale Division that lobbied to

prevent the deportation of Japanese Americans to the mainland, Walter Kaneakua Executive Assistant to U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, and the Consul General of Japan Mr. Yoshihiko Kamo.

2010 Las Vegas Reunion

Our next gambling expedition will be by the Legislator's Resolution that will allow a Casino in Hawaii. Sadly they want only the One-Armed Bandit Machines that eat our money but don't give out s---. Of course the legislation will predictably fail muster since there are too many religious, police, political people who oppose but go to Las Vegas and lose money anyway. I like it that way since it is a venue for our F Company

to go to the Las Vegas Reunion to reunite and reminisce about ourselves and our many happenings. Gambling is no longer the lure for going. Meeting life-long friends is what brings us there. But I go to gamble to try to make the elusive MegaBucks.

In Memoriam

Masatoshi Hokama, 86, of Wailuku, Maui. He died on January 25, 2010. During WWII he became the company cook after the originals were discharged. He and Charlene were the owners of Hokama's Music and Color T.V. I remember his

Udon shop upstairs more than his color T.Vs. His parents operated the Hokama Music Store in Honolulu on King Street. His sister, Amy Mitsuda was the music director at Punahou School. He is survived by his wife Charlene, son David, daughter, Lisa Soe, sisters Hazel Wada, Betty Inada and Amy Mitsuda, and grandchildren. Arrangements by Ballard Family Mortuary. We will miss his presence at our reunion in Las Vegas where he came with his wheelchair as many times as his health allowed. Our sincere condolences to Charlene and family.



GEORGE
Gossips



by Fred Ida

“G” Company Reunion – March 2-4, 2010

By Mary Karatsu

Sometimes things turn out much better when expectations are not set too high. Such was the case when G Company met on March 2nd at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. We really were not planning to have another reunion but at the insistence of Ann Kabasawa, things started to pick up in January. Ann is affiliated with the Sons & Daughters of Hawaii (and also happens to be my niece) and she was adamant that we continue to get together.

Fred Ida, the head honcho for so many years, had undergone a very serious operation the later part of last year so was unable to even think of organizing a reunion. George Nakatsu and I were just plain tired and decided that we weren't

going to get involved this year either but as things began to progress and there was no stopping Ann, we jumped on board, filled the bus and guess what? It was one of the most successful and fun reunions of all times!!

At the banquet on the first night, all of the sons and daughters and young people stepped up and participated in the program. After Judge Bryan Yagi from the San Francisco courts gave an inspirational keynote speech about why he has gotten involved in telling the 100th/442 story, all of the young people got up and danced the Tanko Bushi Ondo and sang a revised version of the 442 Fight Song. (When I say young people, these are our kids who are now in their 50s and 60s – but

they are still young to us!)

On Wednesday, the hospitality room was open all day with the usual good food. Once again, thanks to Sandy Koyama, Chiye Hayashi and all of the ladies who not only made food but helped keep the table stocked all day.

Kats Hikido organized and led the “talk story” session and the panel included: Jimmy Doi, Rocky Matayoshi, Mitz Tagawa, Art Nishimoto, Fred Ida, Kaz Hamasaki and representing the wives, Esther Oda.

Dr. Roy Yasui, an honorary member of G Company, spoke of his experiences as a Canadian citizen and about the Canadian internment camps. He then revealed to us the following good news that our own Rocky Matayoshi has finally been re-awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Dr. Yasui read a Fax letter from Secretary of the Army, John M. McHugh, sent by Terry Shima, Director of JAVA, that T/Sgt. Shinyei “Rocky” Matayoshi, 3rd Platoon, was re-awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He was awarded the DSC for extraordinary gallantry while leading his platoon up the steep inclines of Mount Belvedere and destroying deadly machine gun emplacements in April 1945.

T /Sgt. Matayoshi could not be considered for a possible upgrade for the Medal of Honor since his records were destroyed in a fire at the National Army Archives in St. Louis. A letter-writing campaign by Dr. Roy Yasui to Pentagon officials, Senators, Service organizations, etc. resulted in over 100 letters requesting an alternative approach to authenticate T/Sgt. Matayoshi’s DSC but were ignored or rejected on the basis that no records existed of his DSC. The letter writer had clearly stated that the records were destroyed in a fire. However, T/Sgt. Matayoshi was clearly in possession of a DSC medal with his name engraved on the back of it. The army was now claiming that he was not awarded that DSC medal since no records exist awarding him the DSC medal. Due to familial moves he could not locate the DSC

citation with the General Order on it.

Roy Yasui obtained affidavits from living witnesses. Subsequently, Terry Shima obtained the assistance of Senator Daniel Akaka who formally requested the Secretary of the Army to review the information packet prepared by Terry Shima and Roy Yasui. It was reviewed positively by the Army Decorations Board, the Senior Army Decorations Board and the Secretary of the Army. The final procedure requires a waiver of the time limit by Congress.

Conundrum: If T/Sgt. Matayoshi’s DSC is authenticated will it be reviewed for a possible upgrade to a Medal of Honor as the original legislation mandated? We will be awaiting further news and certainly admire Roy Yasui’s perseverance through the years in pursuing this matter.

We were so happy to see Fred Ida looking so good, as well as his son Dennis. Fred said he still had to face a couple of more tests when he went home but we know, with his positive attitude, everything will be just fine. We were so surprised to see Mitz Tagawa come walking in because I had just talked to his wife Kay a couple of weeks ago and she said they had to cancel because Mitz was having shoulder surgery. He did have a very complicated shoulder replacement surgery but being the tough guy that he is, he was determined to come. Poor Kay drove the ten hours from Arizona and she was exhausted but it was just wonderful to see them, as well as their daughter and husband from back east.

It was nice to have Dorothy Kuroda and daughter, Karen come in from Michigan. They flew to Los Angeles and took the bus with us. They were able to visit the Museum and the Veterans’ Memorial Walls and the sights of Little Tokyo on the way back. Stanley Serikaku also flew in from Chicago and accompanied us on the bus. His two sons, Bob and Steve, flew directly to Las Vegas. Also from New York were Roy Greene’s two daughters, Carolyn Russo and Elizabeth Murphy, who are always a delight to see. Rocky’s son,

442nd Veterans Club 67th Anniversary Banquet



Lt. General Joseph Peterson, keynote speaker



Entertainment by students of Roy Sakuma Ukulele School



Mrs. Ann Peterson presents gift to scholarship recipient Jennifer Morita



Mrs. Ann Peterson presents 442nd honorary member plaque to sons of the late Shigeo Yoshida



Governor Linda Lingle meets with veterans

Photos courtesy: Wayne Iha, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, Lowell Thom

442nd Veterans Club 67th Anniversary Banquet



Sandra Tsukiyama de Olivera sings the National Anthem



Reservists prepare for 442 RCT guidon procession



Sen. Dan Inouye and wife Irene with Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn and wife Karleen



Mayor Mufi Hannemann and Emcee Gwen Fujie

Photos courtesy: Wayne Iha, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, Lowell Thom

Edmund, attended for the first time.

Esther Oda's two sons, John and Tom, came in from San Jose, as well as her brother Vic Kambe and wife Sue, and Kats & Alice Hikido. From Richmond, Minor and Lilly Miyasaki who always meet us as the bus pulls up. From the state of Washington, Chris and Colleen Sketchley and their little genius son, Jackson, as well as Colleen's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fukui were able to join us this year.

Sorry to note that the Hawaii contingent is getting smaller. Besides Fred and Dennis, those who came were: Ray & Pat Handa, Bobby Ito, Shigemi & Betty Ishizaki, Mitsuki Matsunaga and Lynnette Uyesato, Kazu & Grace Hamasaki, Doris Nishizawa and their guests Minoru and Frances Ota. We all missed Kiyomi and Emily Yamamoto.

Don Wakida from Fresno once again brought five boxes of the sweetest and huge navel oranges for everyone to enjoy and take home. We appreciated that Mike Tsuji from H Company attended, as well as Susan Uyemura. I was happy to host a table of Karatsus, some who came for the first time. Others from the L.A. area were Bill & Mary Osaka and son Gary; Chiye Hayashi and niece Kathryn Sekino, Toshi Ito, Bones & Shiz Fujimoto and daughter Sandy; George & Mary Nakatsu; Tom & Sachi Nakamoto. Sorry that Michi Eguchi had a Toyota incident the day before and had to cancel. We also missed regulars Tets & Dorothy Asato and Jimmy & Masayo Makino.

All of the activities were recorded by our wonderful team of photographers from Hawaii: Clyde Sugimoto, Wayne Iha, Ray Taga, Brian Ching and, of course, Ann Kabasawa.

Aren't we lucky to have someone like Mary Karatsu to record our reunion happenings year after year? This gal is not a candidate for Alzheimer's for sure. All the attendees over the years join me in one big MAHALO for all she has done for us over the years. Mary always sez: "If I missed

anything feel free to add or correct what I wrote."

This year for the first time in many years I would like to make this addition. Mary Karatsu, George Nakatsu and Fred Ida were presented with a very special award. A large frame that reads: GEORGE COMPANY 442 RCT GO FOR BROKE with a large 442 patch in the center. Just beautiful!

Ann Kabasawa did a wonderful job in putting our reunion together. She deserves a lot of credit and our thanks for all the effort it takes to put all the things together. She promises that should we have another one next year. You will be contacted in October instead of January. Thank you, Ann.

I tried to make the best of the whole reunion, knowing damn well that the 2010 reunion may have been my last.

The 67th Anniversary banquet may have been one of our better banquets in several years. It's too bad that G Co. had the smallest attendance since its very beginning. Only four from Honolulu: Ray and Pat Honda, Robert Ito and Fred Ida, from Hilo Lynette and father, Mitsuki Matsunaga; from Maui, Grace and Kazu Hamasaki and guest; and from Seattle: Chris, Jackson and Colleen Sketchley.

Sandy Koyama and hubby traveled to China soon after the reunion and on their return, like all travelers, Sandy writes: "Had a good time, too much to see, not enough time."

Lynette Uyesato is planning to put together a cookbook: G COMPANY FUN FOODS. Your cooperation and help will be much appreciated. It will be ready for the 2011 reunion, so there is not that much time. Call her at 808-959-6909 on weekends or write her at 270 Makalika St., Hilo, HI 96720 for info and forms.

Till next time, take very good care of yourselves.



by Jane Shikasho

Harumi and Sam Furuya missed the November and February meetings as they were in Las Vegas for their R&R. No wonder they looked so relaxed.

Elaine and Tommy Tamashiro experienced what the newspapers were describing about the unusually cold winter weather on the East Coast. They were in Washington, D.C. recently to attend the Government Affairs Conference for Credit Unions as Tommy is on the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Credit Union. He is a Professor Emeritus in Entomology at UH Manoa but still keeps busy dabbling with “bugs.”

It was nice to have Janet Goto join us for the 67th anniversary banquet. We were able to

fill one table plus one with Sam & Harumi Furuya, Clara Watanabe, Janet Matsuda, Irene Nakamura, Frances Aoyama, Elaine & Tommy Tamashiro, and Jane and Sat Shikasho.

The banquet was first-class, from beginning to end and thoroughly enjoyed, especially the singing of old-time songs led by the three professional music teachers. Irene Nakamura won the centerpiece orchid plant. We would like to acknowledge Ben Kodama’s generosity for donating the plants and also for making it possible for us to attend the Windward Orchid Show recently where we picked up a few pointers on orchid culture.



3rd HQ Chapter members at 67th Anniversary Banquet



by Eddie Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino Takisaki

Having endured an unusually mild winter, we are now looking forward to longer days and some warm spring weather. The excitement of the Vancouver BC Winter Olympics is behind us and the Mariners baseball season is upon us which is always exciting for us JA's-what with Don Wakamatsu as the man-in-charge and the duo of Ichiro Suzuki and Ken Griffey on our side! Spring Fever is here!!

The past three months have been especially difficult for me what with three personal losses in a row, but now I have to get myself out of the doldrums and look at life again. But with our age and generation, it will be repeating itself over and over again, so enjoy each day as it comes. Here in the Northwest, Co. I members Kim Muromoto, Gerald Shig Momoda, William Tosh Yasutake, Gus Murakami, George Murakami, Roy Taketa, Toru Matsuoka and Ketch Toyohara are still going strong. Keep it up, guys.

Don't have a lot of news to report but the NVC Memorial Wall capital campaign is going well, as we have purchased and paid off the property next door to the NVC Clubhouse. To date, we have collected approximately \$990,000 towards our goal of \$1.2M, which includes the \$200,000, Congressman Jim McDermott has obtained for NVC from a Federal appropriation fund. The three houses that were formerly on the lot have been demolished and the temporary additional parking lot is in full use.

They plan to start construction of the Wall and permanent parking lot in early June with a

completion date and dedication set for Labor Day.

For those who are unfamiliar with our project, plans are in place for a Memorial Wall of granite bricks with names of JA's who have served in the military on one side, and another Wall with similarly engraved bricks for those who were incarcerated in camps during WWII. When it is completed, we anticipate a beautiful memorial park and think it will be a showpiece to enhance the neighborhood. If ever you visit us in Seattle, please contact one of our members who will gladly make arrangements to give you a tour of the newly remodeled NVC Clubhouse. And now with the addition of this Memorial Wall, it is a project that we will proudly show off.

California by Marian Yamashita

Greetings from Southern California! Recently, we have had a lot of badly needed rain, but spring has sprung and we are enjoying many days of sunshine and warm weather.

Jim continues to slowly recover from his balance problem which has been more than 15 months. He has now graduated to a walker mostly and can walk with just a cane periodically. The progress is slow but hopefully in the near future he will be back to normal.

Although I Co. here in Southern California has dwindled down to just a handful, we try to keep in touch by gathering for special occasions. One such gathering was the *shinnen kai* at the Seafood Pavilion in Chinatown together with members of the Living Legacy and Memorial Alliance. Thanks go to Susan Uyemura for driving a car full of senior

citizens who no longer drive any distance. And thanks also to Andrew Tsuji who arranged for the delicious food which everyone enjoyed. As usual, Andrew's father Mike (H Co.) joined us for the occasion. Also flying down from San Francisco was Judge Bryan Yagi who joined us for lunch. He is soon to be retired and hopes to do lots of traveling.

It was good to see Mary Senzaki with daughter, Denise, who is now retired. They have pulled up stakes from Los Angeles and have moved to Huntington Beach to be with another daughter, Nadine. Mary has been troubled with headaches for a couple of years but the doctors cannot seem to find the source of her problem. It is tough being a senior citizen.

Another recent casualty is Frank Kinoshita who fell in his home and hit the top of his head on the corner of their breakfast bar. He landed in the hospital as there was internal bleeding in the head, but he is now getting therapy in a convalescent care facility; so should be good as new soon.

Following is an article from Frank Shimada of San Jose who had been in touch with Mickey Akiyama periodically as he was not far away: "After a valiant fight of more than six and a half years against various medical afflictions, his number came up on February 24th at 2:15 P.M. and Mickey went to join his 2nd platoon friends who had gone on before him. I visited him at the Palo Alto V.A. hospital. Five days earlier, at which time, though confined to a wheel chair, he was in a jovial mood, alert and very much animated in his conversation."

Frank concludes, "with that image fresh in my mind, it is difficult to realize he is no longer with us physically."

A memorial service was held on March 14th at the V.A. hospital chapel where family and friends gathered to bid farewell with the playing of taps and witnessed the presenting of the American flag to daughter, Carol. Representing I Co. were Shig and Yo Doi, Hiro Hirano, Mrs. Kaz Muto, Mrs. Shoji Tamori, and Frank Shimada.

Other veterans present were Lawson Sakai (E), Sam Furukawa (B) and Al Tortolano, a surviving member of the "Lost Battalion." At a later date, Mickey, who was born in Idaho, will be interred in the city of Spokane, Washington.

Maui by Harold H. Nishida Jr.

Aloha, everyone! Maui Item Company members send their best regards to all of our 442 friends and families who are still "Going for Broke."

Sadly, it is becoming more prevalent that more of our Maui members are becoming less able to participate in social activities because of age-related health issues. However, for those who are able to attend and participate, Maui Item Company "Associates" will continue to facilitate Club functions and activities for their enjoyment for as long as they choose.

On March 28, Maui Item Company "Associates" attended the 67th Anniversary 442nd banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel to represent those from Maui who were not able to attend. Representing Maui Item Co. were Charlie Takahashi, Fred Ruge, Irvin Yamada, Guffy Moriera, Dr. Richard Sword, yours truly and my wife Laura.

Thanks to all those responsible for organizing the wonderful reunion and to all of our 442nd veteran heroes who attended. We had a wonderful time and will always cherish these precious opportunities to socialize with them. We especially enjoyed our time with Eddie Yamasaki (our Oahu mentor), our Oahu Item Company Ohana and all of the 442nd friends and families we met.

We look forward to seeing our mainland mentor, Jim Yamashita (SoCal), Item Company ohanas and many 442nd friends and families we've come to know at the September FFNV reunions in Las Vegas.

See you all there. A...LOOO...HA!!!

Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki

A Touching Gesture

In January, Mrs. Rinko [Minoru] Yoshioka donated \$10,000 to the 442nd Veterans Club: \$5,000 to Item Chapter and \$5,000 to the Go For Broke Bulletin.

It was at the March chapter meeting that the Mother Club check for \$5,000 was presented to our members. After being totally overwhelmed by the generosity of Mrs. Yoshioka, with grateful hearts, we unanimously decided to donate the proceeds to the 442nd Veterans Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of Minoru Yoshioka.

This fund was established in 2007 at the University of Hawaii Foundation to assist students seeking higher education. In a letter expressing our deep appreciation to Mrs. Yoshioka, we advised her of our desire to preserve Minoru's legacy through the scholarship fund. In the next issue of the GFB Bulletin, we hope to share personal information about Minoru.

We regret that we have yet to find locally, a surviving Item Company vet who served with him.

Happy Valentine's Day

For all 442nd Board members, the first day of February was Valentine's Day. All chapter representatives present received a card crafted by students in the second grade at Makakilo Elementary School. The beautiful card to Eddie carried the message: "Dear: [sic] Veteran, Thank you for your service to our country. I appreciate your help. Happy Valentine's Day! You are kind. Thank you for saving the USA. Please stay safe. Take care of yourself. Love, Amber.



Nancy Taba visits with Esther Hajiro

Eddie thanks and sends his love to Amber and her teacher, Ms. Ann Nakamura, for remembering America's veterans on Valentine's Day.

Family Reunion in Las Vegas

In February, Masa and Helen Nakamura returned from Vegas—"no winnings," so says Helen. Joining them from Sunnyville, CA, were daughter Charlene and grandchildren, Evan celebrating his 21st birthday and Alisha looking forward to graduating from high school this year.

So it was a special reunion. Their second daughter Mae residing in Honolulu has two sons, Micah attending Oregon State University and Christopher attending Hawaii Baptist Academy.

67th Anniversary Banquet

This event attracted forty members of the Item Ohana, with the "Maui" delegation ably led by Charlie Takahashi, son of Suguru, numbering

ten: Irvin Yamada, Raphael Moriera, Robert Chinen (presently of Honolulu) with guest Teri, Harold and Laura Nishida (presently of Waikoloa, Big Island), Dr. Richard Sword, Fred Ruge, Floyd Honda (presently of Honolulu).

We have appreciated the countless volunteer hours devoted by Dr. Sword to interviewing Item vets and successfully

gaining favorable disability ratings for them from the VA. Irvin of course has become the "official" chapter photographer: vets and widows at the banquet will have received our group anniversary photo well before reading this here.

At one table were: Winnie Takekawa with daughter Gwen, Elsie and Terry Aratani, Gay Sakamoto, Nickie and Richard Oshiro with

daughter Elyse Farley, and Freida and Glenn Hajiro. We greatly missed Barney and Esther, Glenn's parents.

Barney at Maunalani Rehabilitation Center continues to have high spirits in spite of having to move about in a wheelchair. Esther has a new address: c/o Precy Villanueva, 99-058 Ohiaku Pl., Aiea, HI 96701. Tel. 808-484-9598. We hope she'll continue to be active and well in the new environment.

Seated around another table were: George and Margaret Oshita of Kapaa with son Russell, Nancy Taba with son Stuart, Barbara Kameda, and Sus "Tonti" Sakaida with son Aki. It was good to see long-time-no-see Barbara and to again greet the Oshitas who have never missed a 442nd or chapter event in our memory! Also joining us were Ellen Yamada and sister, Doris Kumashiro.

Surrounding the fourth Item table were: Tommy Harimoto, Mutt and Ayako Sakumoto, son Gary Sakumoto with wife Linda Nakashima, Brian Yagi, Stacey Hayashi with guest Titus Chong, Susan Uyemura of Living Legacy, and Eddie Yamasaki.

Mutt and Bryan, an appellate court judge from San Francisco, had first met in Houston during the October reunion of the 36th Infantry Division. They hit it off well and after exchanging promises, "If you attend the 442nd anniversary banquet next year, I will..." Bryan ended up being Mutt's houseguest out in Waialua.

Young and high-spirited Stacey is an active member of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans, serving as Treasurer of Able Chapter. Eddie decided to corral her towards 442 upon learning that she had talked to childhood friend Jake Shimabukuro about performing at our anniversary banquet. It all worked out with M.C. Gwen Fujie- pleased to treat the 442nd Ohana to a live performance by internationally known, uke virtuoso Jake. We did miss our comrades and our ladies who could not attend for reasons of health or other commitments. You all, do take care.

"A great reunion!" was a farewell cry as we parted. Yep, Item men and ladies were seen shaking hands, hugging and kissing, and exchanging news with not only each other but ole' friends, in the reception lobby and in the dining room. Let's do it over again next March!

A note to Mary [Danny] Yamashita: We missed you, Mary. Many thanks for sharing in the banquet, in spirit, through your generous and thoughtful donation to Item Chapter.

A Note of Gratitude: The Item veterans, their families and friends thank and congratulate the Banquet Committee, chaired by Mitsuru Kunihiro, for a job well done. The program was inspiring, moving, and entertaining. In large measure, it was due to the masterful job done by Gwen Fujie as mistress of ceremonies, that the anniversary celebration was such a success.

Sad News

Hitoshi Suminaga

January 28, 1917-January 23, 2010

Hitoshi, born in Carpinteria, was raised in Torrance. The retired grocery clerk was a longtime resident of Gardena. He is survived by wife, Tsuma; sons, Matt and Scott and two grandchildren. Funeral services were held on Saturday, January 30, at the Green Hills Memorial Chapel. [Source: *Rafu Shimpō*, January 27, 2010]

Makio "Mickey" Akiyama

May 19, 1917 – February 24, 2010

Daughter Carol Lynn Akiyama wrote: "It is with great sadness, that I report my dad's passing at VA Palo Alto's hospital (Northern California), where he enjoyed his final months of life, happily and well-cared-for, by VA Palo Alto's brilliant, compassionate, loving medical staff. Fortunately, I was with Dad at the end. We held a private memorial service for Dad, last March 14, at VA Palo Alto's Chapel, attended by 442nd RCT/100th veterans/wives/widows -- Frank Shimada, Yoshiko

and Shig Doi, Hiro Hirano, Sam Furukawa (B Co./100th), Mineko and Lawson Sakai (E Co.), Alice and Astro, ‘Al’ Tortolano (141st Regiment, ‘Lost Battalion’ survivor/Italian Nisei), and widows



**Mickey and Carol Akiyama, Palo Alto VA Hospital
Dec. 12, 2009**

of I Co. vets, Yoshiko (Kaz) Muto, and Shizuko (Shoji) Tamori – as well as Dad’s VA Palo Alto doctors and many other dear friends and family, from Southern and Northern California. Dad will be buried in Spokane, WA, later this spring, during another private memorial service, with Dad’s surviving twin brother and wife, Masuo and Miyo Akiyama, and other close friends and family from Washington, Southern and Northern California, and Canada in attendance. After enjoying 6-1/2 years of Life and Adventures with Dad, I shall miss him dearly. To all who shared in his life and, now, in my sorrow, thank you for your loving friendship.”

Mickey, an original member of Sadaichi Kubota’s second platoon, participated in the liberation of Bruyeres, the Vosges forest “Lost Battalion” battle and breakthrough of the Germans’ “Gothic Line.” Like many others who served so valiantly, he received a Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge and Bronze Star among other medals and

commendations. Contributions may be made in Mickey’s memory to the 442nd RCT Foundation, 933 Wiliwili St., Honolulu, HI 96826.

Gilbert Kusuo Hakoda of Keauhou
Mar 30, 1923 -- March 2, 2010

Gilbert, a retired Hakoda’s Builders Appliance owner, died at home. He was born in Holualoa, Hawaii. He is survived by wife Yaeko; sons Elvin and Wayne; daughters Karen Shibuya and Jan Nakamoto; brothers Kono, Dan and Kenneth; eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Services were held at Daifukuji Soto Mission, Honalo, on March 14. (Source: *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, March 10 issue)

In his memoir included in *And Then There Were Eight*, Gilbert notes that in 1955 he became a life member of the Disabled Veterans, Kona Chapter. He also noted that of the five soldiers from Kona who had served in I Company, he was then the sole survivor. It is sad to think that with his passing, there is now no Item vet in Kona.

Members of the Item Ohana extend *Aloha Pumehana* to the families and friends of the above members.

* * *



(l-r) “Bolo” Shirakata (Band), Tom Harimoto (I Co.), Harold Ueoka (522B).



by Allen Nakamura

To celebrate the 2010 season, we had four L Chapter members present, namely President Joe Oshiro, Genro Kashiwa, Allen Nakamura and Kila Haraguchi. Paul Matsumoto & Wally Kawamura had previous engagements while Hide Nakayama was in Las Vegas and the Takiyama family was in bereavement due to their son's sudden death (article in obituary column). Muriel Kashiwa who usually takes over the transportation in these situations was not available 'cause of her dental appointment, so son-in-law Ganin took over. Janie Li their daughter came to pick us up. Yep, the Kashiwas are a very important family in meeting our transportation needs. Without them no meetings can be held.

The meeting was short with the announcement that the Sons & Daughters will continue to be in existence and have a voice in the affairs of the club. I thought this was a sigh of relief as they have been a very important part of the club. The rest of the meeting was taken up by the disarray situation at the Hawaii DAV since the demise of Tommy Kakesako, inasmuch as we meet at the DAV Youth Hall.

Chapter Meeting 2-10-10

We had better attendance with Joe Oshiro, Isa Takiyama, Kila Haraguchi, Hide Nakayama, Kazuma Ogata, Allen Nakamura, Genro & Muriel Kashiwa and Rodney Nakayama. Thanks to Muriel & Rodney for their dedication, Muriel was again the transportation savior and Rodney, who is a CPA, paid for the Bento Lunch!

Paul Matsumoto who missed two

consecutive chapter meetings had good reasons. He had ligament surgery done by Dr. Takai at Kuakini Hospital on his left shoulder from a fall at home on Jan. 29, hitting a radio stand while trying to turn on the radio when he felt dizzy getting up from the floor, luckily escaping hitting his head. This happened when he & Genny were just about to go to Longs Drugs to pick up some medicine.

I can sympathize with him from my own experience, how painful the recovery of a ligament surgery can be. This wasn't all, as upon revisit to the doctor for a checkup, they found that he had pneumonia. He was re-admitted to Kuakini Hospital for a few days. How can this happen to a nice guy. Wally Kawamura also was not in attendance as he was not feeling too good. Take care, both of you guys.

Chapter Meeting 3-10-10

With Paul Matsumoto back in circulation, enduring his still painful surgery but able to drive picking up the usual guys, Genro, Allen, Wally & Hide N. joined president Joe Oshiro, treasurer Isa Takiyama & Kila Haraguchi for the March meeting. The meeting was hi-lighted with the info that the 442nd club treasurer nominee has withdrawn his name. The club is looking at hiring a CPA for the position, a first time I believe, in the history of the organization. The club also has a new Executive Secretary Shirley Igarashi, as Betty Tsukiyama had to leave the position to take care of her aged parents. I talked to Shirley on the phone and found her full of energy. The club is in good hands.

Obituary

Masami “Casey” Kasadate, age 87 of Kaneohe died on December 30, 2009. He is survived by sons Calvin and Raymond, sister, Ethel Suekini and four grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Borthwick Mortuary on Thursday, January 14, 2010. Burial held on Friday, January 15, 2010 at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Our deepest sympathy and condolence, may he rest in peace. Casey was wounded so severely that many of his 1st platoon comrades thought he would not survive. For many years he was employed as a warehouseman at Kaneohe Marine Corp Base. He was an active member of L Chapter until his hearing became really bad. In later years when visiting him, communication was via written messages. We all enjoyed his companionship with his loud voice which resulted in many humorous moments.

Besides the regular L Chapter members present at the memorial service, it was nice to see Chiyoko Fuji and her son Burt at the service as Lawrence couldn't make it for his fellow platoon comrade. It also was nice to see long time no see Albert Nakama there as the chapter members greeted him warmly. He and Genro Kashiwa had much to talk about especially the recent past event on Judge Brian Yagi's visit. Genro related to him that at the Mt. Fogorito battle, he saw a medic he didn't recognize coming over to 1st platoon which he learned was 2nd platoon medic Tom Yagi from his uncle Judge Brian Yagi, a family friend of medic Feb Yokoi who cradled Casey when he was wounded. Medic Tom Yagi received the Silver Star posthumously.

Edward Y. “Eddie” Oshiro, age 87, died January 5, 2010. He was born in Paia, Maui, and was a retired NCR service technician. He is survived by wife Ruth, sons Edmund & Jon, daughter Lyn Ikeda, 2 grandchildren, brother, Roy and sisters Masako Hiyane, Lily Watts, Bette Wong and Mabel Scales. Memorial services were held

at Hosoi Garden Mortuary, Saturday, January 23, 2010. Our deepest sympathy and condolence; may he rest in peace. Many remember Eddie who worked together with Sgt. Shig Kosugi in the supply department. He was not an active L Chapter member. He always had a jovial smile and pleasant personality.

Jon Norio Takiyama, age 50, died January 12, 2010. He was a Navy procurement analyst. He is survived by father Isao & mother Hilda Takiyama; sisters Gail, Amy Monma and Lori Tsukuda and nieces & nephews. Private service was held on January 21, 2010 at Nuuanu Memorial Park & Mortuary. Our deepest sympathy and condolence; may he rest in peace. It is a tragic event as Jon was in the prime of his life.

67th 442nd Anniversary Banquet

I believe there were no chapter widows at this year's event. Of course they had their own reasons, illness, traveling, transportation problems, age, etc., but we do miss them and hope to see them at future anniversary banquets. Stanley Watanabe who moved to Idaho a few years back had his daughter Patti, husband Charles Wolcott and grandson Steven at the banquet. They were greeted warmly by everyone. The Wolcotts have a daughter, I didn't get her name, who is happily married and living in Rhode Island. Others there were: Allen Nakamura, daughter Cynthia Medeiros, son Randal his wife Ann; Stanley Izumigawa, daughter Joan; Genro/Muriel Kashiwa; Paul/Genny Matsumoto; Joe/Nancy Oshiro, son Tommy, wife Lynn; Wally/Mabel Kawamura; Kazuma Ogata; Jun/Lorraine Yamamoto; Isa Takiyama; Hide Nakayama and son Rodney. It seems that Kazuma hurt his back. No golfing for a while, I guess.

As many know, the success of events ride on the performance of the M.C. Gwen Fujie of the Sons & Daughters did a magnificent job with her deep resonant voice. I knew her father the late Toshio “Bulldog” Nishizawa from McCully days.

He would be proud to have witnessed her talent.

Another reason the S&D is so vital to the club. Congratulations to the committee for an outstanding program.

The Posting of Colors and Company Guidons continue to be impressive. The National Anthem was professionally sung by Sandra Tsukiyama de Oliveira, daughter of Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama, 522 B & MIS. Her pleasing voice thrilled the audience. I learned from a reliable source that Sandra was into music at an early age. The special appearance by Jake Shimabukuro was a bonus. It's the first time that I saw his performance, a showman in every word. You can really appreciate why he's known as the King of the Ukulele!

The keynote address was given by Lt. General Joseph F. Peterson, a St. Louis High School graduate. After the program he walked among the nearby tables to get signatures from the veterans. Fortunately L Chapter sat behind the VIP's (the first time that this happened in my memory, thanks to President Joe Oshiro's magic thumb in picking the right number). The "Go for Broke" song by the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment (U.S. Army Reserve) was lively and peppy.

There is history behind this song within the lyrics written by Martin Ida, (KIA) of Co. L and a few of Co. L and Cannon Company guys who were musically gifted. Co. L is very proud of this song. It is unfortunate that the arrangement as presented by the US Army Reserve group left out the chorus lines (Ji lai lai lai chorus). They probably are not aware of the historical significance of the phrase as it represents the German prisoners at the Alabama peanut farm. I felt it was quite inappropriate that the chorus was left out.

Ben Kodama

Who in the audience does not appreciate

his donation of beautiful orchid centerpieces, year after year, during our annual banquet. I can appreciate it very much this year as I took home the centerpiece being the oldest among Joe Oshiro & Hide Nakayama and our families. Some distinction! How long has it been since the days of our annual visits to Hale Pulama Mau, a charitable Tommy Kakesako project, 30, 40 years? That's how long I have been a reporter. No wonder I feel so-o-o-o worn out!

Genro/Muriel & I were surprised to meet Judge Brian Yagi who dominated my column in the two previous issues while waiting for the elevator at the conclusion of the luncheon. He was here for the annual celebration staying at the home of Mutt Sakumoto of I Chapter. He sat with I Chapter during the luncheon. Muriel/Genro invited Judge Yagi to have lunch the next day and I tagged along at the Kashiwa's invite. Luncheon was at the Makino Chaya in Pearlridge!



Allen Nakamura and daughter-in-law Ann.



by Shiro Aoki



Our 67th Anniversary Banquet

With the theme “Sentimental Journey – a Musical Tribute to 442nd RCT Veterans,” the 442nd RCT celebrated its 67th Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Sunday, March 28, 2010. The Mikers in attendance were: Shige & Yori Inouye, Frank & Nancy Nomura, Ralph & Alice Tomei, Donald & Gery Sakamoto (sons of Thomas Sakamoto), Yoshinobu Matsushima, Janet Umeda & Shiro Aoki. The 11 members present represent the lowest turnout that M Co. has had in any of the 442 events ever but the announced crowd for this day was 700, which is more than it was for last year, so there still may be hope that the celebration will be carried on as before.

The posting of colors and company guidons was done by the 100th Battalion, 442nd Reserves who continue to do things to honor us. They even went to France to carry the 442nd colors at the Bruyeres and Biffontaine celebrations and they did so even without being asked and certainly the parading of our colors was one of the highlights of the French Celebration. Our hats are off to the men of the 100th/442nd Reserves with heartfelt thanks for the services they continue to do for us.

The governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable Linda Lingle, and the mayor of the City & County of Honolulu, the Honorable Mufi Hannemann, made appearances and both said in their remarks that they were here to personally thank the veterans for what they have done for the State of Hawaii and the City of Honolulu. And there was a special appearance by Jake Shimabukuro

who flew in all the way from Maui that very morning to make an appearance to honor us veterans.

The Sons & Daughters of the 442nd put out a mission statement “Perpetuation of the Legacy.” In part, this is what they say: “As Americans of Japanese ancestry, our fathers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought two battles in World War II: Prejudice at home and the enemy in Europe. Through turmoil and adversity at home, our fathers enlisted and went off to fight in a war far away. They fought with valor and honor. Many perished in fighting for what they believed in: their family, their home, their country. As sons and daughters, we will never forget the dedication, sacrifice and courage of our fathers. It is through their accomplishments that we are here today. It is through their valor that we take our place as citizens of this great country.

“To ensure that this great legacy lives on, this is the mission of our organization. To assist in our efforts, we look to the next generation, our children, to uphold the torch. The time has come for the grandsons and granddaughters to get involved. They are the future. We ask that you pass this on to anyone and everyone who believes in the legacy – your sons, daughters and their families. You can start by visiting our website: www.442sd.org.”

That's all for now.



BAKER

Bilines



by Fuku & Ted Tsukiyama

522-B

By Fuku Tsukiyama

First things first. You can't kick off the glorious 67th 442nd Anniversary Luncheon without knowing where you're going to sit. So bright and early Sunday morning, Chairman Mits Kunihiro's efficient wife, Ellen's committee of pretty 522 ladies were at the registration tables telling everyone where to go. Amiable and smiling Jane Ueoka, Marge Kuba, Doris Ishida, Florence Ohara, Hilda Kaneshiro and 442 Executive Secretary, Shirley Igarashi did the honors.

522-B daughters Gwen Nishizawa (Toshio "Bulldog" Nishizawa) Fujie, all the way from Tokyo to serve as emcee, and Sandra Tsukiyama (Ted's firstborn) who was privileged to sing the opening National Anthem, represented the Battery in the Sentimental Journey-themed gala.

The Pacific Beach Hotel's banquet hall was overflowing; pleasantly, surprisingly with lots of old and new friends and family groups. 522-B had 10 tables, according to Joe Obayashi's seating chart: Table #19 Mariko Miho and friends; #31 Robert Fujimoto, Kay and son Charles Kagawa, Kay Nakamine, Gloria Taguma and nephew; Harold, Jane and Les Ueoka; #30 Geri Nishizawa Baenen from Washington state with mother Bea and family and #42 with younger Nishizawas. Table #21: Boyan and Nancy Higa, Marge Kuba, Caroline Okazaki, Florence Ohara (here's to a speedy recovery for husband Toshio who was ill and unable to attend); Henry and Grace Urada and

family; #33: Walter Inouye, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, the Nakamuras, Charles Sr. and Charles Jr., Dan Tada, Rocky Tanna, and Jane Yamao.

Table #33 graced Reiko Arakaki, Ellen and Seigo Nagao, Biggie Nakakura, Joe and Peggy Obayashi and family; #22: Mike and Mildred Hara and grandson, Fred and Kay Hirayama and daughter, and Clinton Shiraishi from Kauai. Table #18 had Kats and Laura Miho and guests, and Roy Fujii and family, Table #20 had Doris and Henry Ishida, the Kunihiros with guests Kazuto and Lynn Shimizu and Jiro and Jenny Yukimura, parents of former Kauai mayor Joanne Yukimura. Table #42 had many other guests of Gwen Fujie. If I've inadvertently omitted anyone, please call me pronto.

It seems everyone enjoys music, especially nostalgic songs both American oldies and Japanese "*natsukashii uta*." So when the karaoke people came around with their mikes for all to participate, there were many among us who at first shyly sang, but were in no time in fine voice. Were you one of them? Lovenaloha, and "*Ja Ne*."

Golfing Updates

By Ted Tsukiyama

Four monthly golf tournaments have been played since our last golfing report, on December 14, January 11, February 8 and March 5. To preserve print space in this column, the net scores for each of the four tournaments will be reported in a consolidated spreadsheet form, named in alphabetical order under four columns, with

the six place winners in each tournament indicated in parenthesis after each score:

PLAYERS				
DATES	12/14	1/11	2/8	3/5
Masami Doi	70(3)	71(1)	62(1)	71(3)
Roy Fujii	68(1)	77(6)	76	62(1)
Richard Furuta	68(2)	79	73(5)	71(3)
Boyan Higa	73(6)	75(4)	71(4)	72(4)
Mits Kunihiro	88	72(2)	90	75
George Muramaru	79	72(3)	74(6)	--
Rocky Tanna	80	76(5)	70(3)	72(4)
Ted Tsukiyama	71(4)	--	--	73
Harold Ueoka	81	82	66(2)	74
Flint Yonashiro	72(5)	--	85	69(2)

Winners of the closest-to-the-par 3 pins contests over the four tournaments were: Masami Doi (3), Boyan Higa, George Muramaru and Flint Yonashiro with (2) each, and Roy Fujii, Richard Furuta and Ted Tsukiyama with (1) each. As the

reported scores indicate the four tournaments have been dominated by Masami Doi and Roy Fujii who have each won two first place finishes, which should merit the attention of the handicap chairman to take appropriate steps to level the playing field. The other third to sixth place winnings in those four tournaments have been generously shared by the other eight golfing members.

Participation in the monthly tournaments has barely averaged three foursomes each time so that **there still is a lot of room for more participants.**

Responding to the invitation in the last issue's 522-B news column, we welcome new members Mitsuo Honda (232 Engineers) and Neka Matoi (E Co.) who signed up to join us in our next monthly tournaments. Invitations are still open to other 442nd golfers and their golfing spouses who would like to enjoy playing golf with the 522-B golf club in its monthly outings at Olomana Golf Course. Call Rocky Tanna, golf chairman, at 737-5837 to join!



by M. Honda

The first meeting of the year in Jan went very well with new Pres Bolo Shirakata in the chair. But wait, somebody was missing! Doc & Mary our first couple had not shown and it was after 11 A.M. Marge finally called to ask, "What happened," complete silence!! They had missed their first meeting in 25 years. I said, "This is good. Now we can talk about them."

Doc's birthday is on the 13th of Feb and

our meeting was on the 14th, Valentine's Day. Our lovely Ladies missed out because we decided to hold a party for him. We usually take the Ladies out to lunch, but this day they had to make special dishes for his party.

Marge went and ordered a birthday cake and made a special sugar-free one especially for the guest of honor. It was perfect because they came in last, just after Fuj's entry after his Church

attendance. Immediately, Mary remarked on the bounty of food on the table and there was cake, too. Talk about a surprise when they read the words on the cake which read “Happy birthday Doc.” Doc couldn’t stop smiling and laughing and everyone was scurrying around taking pictures of the cake and food for him to show his family. This was not really a birthday party but to honor Doc for being the most popular Leader of the Chapter, ever. The birthday just happened to be there.

I don’t think The LORD made another man like Doc. He lost the mold or cracked it and another man like Doc was never made. That’s right, he is one of a kind with a mind that’s sharper than the rest of ours put together. Doc is a very popular guy. Everybody loves him, especially the women! He is everyone’s friend. I have never heard him raise his voice to anyone even when someone yells at him. He just looks at the angry guy and smiles.

Doc is an electronic wizard and keeps the *Uta No Kai* going with his mastery of any new equipment that becomes available for Karaoke. One wall of his living room is covered with every recorder and player you can think of using. You want to talk about singing? Nobody could sing like him with his great voice and exceptional style. His voice carries a long way. Kiyoko used to say that he could be heard a block away and all you had to do was follow the voice and you would find him.

Doc went to Japan to work around 1950 as an Optometrist and that was where he found his life partner. After a couple of years of enjoying the Japanese people and making new friends, he met a lovely young lady named Takeko. Now, this Takeko was not your average young Japanese girl. She could speak English better than most Americans and could speak Japanese like a native, ‘Tokyo Style’. She had gone to Japan at the start of the War with her parents as a fourteen year old and was working in Tokyo when she met Doc.

Doc’s name was Shigeo and she was Mary Takeko Ohno and had lived in Los Angeles until leaving for Japan with her family.

Now, it wasn’t easy for Doc to get into the Good Graces of Takeko’s parents. They probably thought of Doc as being too Hawaiian—too many rough edges, you know, but after many tries Doc got in as a good candidate to marry their daughter. Takeko had already accepted him and was probably getting antsy. (Sorry, Takeko, I’m just making this up.)

Doc and Mary came back to Hawaii and in no time were the leaders of the 232nd/Band Chapter. Doc took part in every activity, golf, softball, etc. He always bragged that he was the catcher for Tom Kameda, a longtime Power Pitcher for the Wahiawa baseball team. I always laughed and said, yeah batting practice catcher and warming up Tom Kameda for his day’s work on the mound.

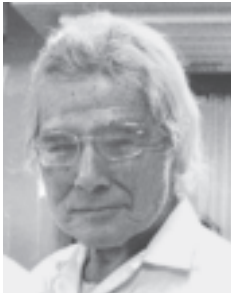
There is a lot more to Doc and Mary’s story, but we shall end it here. We love you, Doc and Mary Takeko.

The 67th Anniversary Luncheon was yesterday, the 28th and we had a very good time. There were 46 Eng/Band members attending and everyone enjoyed catching up on news and happenings. The MC was the best we’ve ever had and Mits Kunihiro put together a super program. The only thing missing was the Beer to change the member’s attitudes because some guys don’t smile and laugh without a bottle in their hands.

Aloha, Io Finito.

* * *

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



by Stan Izumigawa

The 67th Anniversary Banquet held on March 28 was a memorable and most enjoyable affair and the planning committee, whose most visible member and MC, Gwen Fujie, did a super job, and deserves a lot of credit. Highlights will likely be reported elsewhere so I will not repeat them. Hiroshi Arisumi (232nd) and I (L) appeared to be the only veteran members from Maui attending, along with associate members affiliated with our “I” Company, Charles Takahashi, Harold Nishida, Fred Kuge and Dr. Richard Sword. Although I never really had a chance to chat with them, I did get to see, however briefly, the hardy “L” Company regulars Genro Kashiwa, Paul Matsumoto, Joe Oshiro and Allen Nakamura. Next time, we should ask to be seated at the same table. Also got to meet Jun Yamamoto, former mainlander, who gave us all an updated company roster along with a separate KIA Honor Roll and also a post-war honor roll listing.

Shortly after the program began, I turned my chair around to face the stage and a handsome young man in military uniform, now sitting next to me, handed me a book and asked me to autograph it, which I did, adding “L” Co. 442nd, “A” Co. 100th. There were already a few other signatures. After a while, I noticed that he had shoulder braids

on his uniform, and that there were three stars on them. Checking on my copy of the program, sure enough, it listed Lt. General Joseph F. Peterson as the keynote speaker (later introduced as being Hawaiian, Chinese, and Japanese). If I had known earlier, I would have put “former Pfc” in front of my signature. Nevertheless his gesture told me that his admiration and respect for the 100th-442nd WWII veterans was genuine and sincere. After his speech, I managed to shake his hand and say, although under the circumstances I don't know if he heard me, that it made us veterans feel real good to see fellows like him get to where they are.



Stan Izumigawa and Drusilla Tanaka.

Back on Maui veterans Howard Murakami, Art Kurahara, Hide Murakami, James Itamura, Hiroshi

Arisumi and Stan Izumigawa were present at the March 31 kickoff event for the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center's (NVMC) Legacy Fund drive which has a goal of a couple of million dollars. Investment income from the legacy fund is intended to help fund, in the future, NVMC programs which currently include provisions for a pre-school and an adult day care center and later an education center (yet to be built) related to the 100th-442nd legacy. Chef Roy Yamaguchi donated his services and with his crew prepared a wide range of sumptuous pupus which everyone present enjoyed.



by Gail Nishimura

Hello again, hope everyone had a great Easter weekend and enjoyed the latest anniversary luncheon. I know Shirley was really busy; she started working at the 442 office just in time to help work on the anniversary! Congrats on your new job, Shirley.

This year is just flying by, seems like I was still paying for the high school band trip and it's already over... I can now say I've been to China and the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and saw the Terra Cotta Warriors in Xian. I can mark it off my list of things to do. Do you have things you need to check off your list? How about carrying on the legacy of our fathers? Have you done anything about that?

Sons & Daughters is trying to build our membership. We are trying to keep our fathers' legacy strong and ongoing. WE NEED YOUR HELP to do this. Please think about joining Sons & Daughters, we would love to have you.

Wes sent this memo with news of recent events.
Hi Everyone,

First of all, I'd like to welcome our new SD members: Willard & Geralyn Holck, Don Sakamoto, Eric & Mary Ann Nemoto, and Angie Lead. Willard and Mary Ann are the son and daughter of Wilbert Holck of Cannon Company. Don's father is Toshio T. Sakamoto of Mike Company. Angie is the granddaughter of Kenneth Ota of Fox Company. Welcome to our ohana!

Secondly, I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the 67th Anniversary Banquet an overwhelming success. Gwen did a great job

pulling everything together during the final week of preparations. Wade, thanks for being the "go to" SD member on the banquet committee. Shirley, I know you wanted to "stay out" of the planning, but your position as Executive Secretary at the Club pulled you into the mix. Thanks to you and your years of experience in the planning of banquets, things got done!

Thanks to all that helped out on the Souvenirs sales (logo sales). As usual Grace and her crew did a fantastic job organizing and selling the souvenirs. She reported gross sales at the banquet of just under \$6,000! Anita, Laura, Susan and Alvin: thank you for helping with the membership drive. I believe that the banquet flyers and the membership table have and will continue to generate interest in our organization.

Ann, thanks for organizing the photographers for the event. That reminds me, the photos have been posted on our website. Check it out.

Our April SD meeting was held last Thursday. Under "Old Business," we discussed the 442SD website. Ed, thanks for sending your article, which has been already posted on the Blog Page. As a reminder to others, please send me your articles.

As part of our continued membership drive, we discussed the idea of sending a flyer along with a membership renewal form to the current members. The current registry has about 400 members. A draft of the flyer was circulated. Please send me your comments/suggestions on the flyer. The target date to mail out the flyer is

the last week of this month.

We also talked about the new 442 Educational Center. Research is needed to determine the size, functions and programs appropriate for the new Center. Anita will contact the Maui Nikkei Veterans Center to learn more about their facility. Laura will contact the Japanese Cultural Center. And Irvin will follow up with the Go For Broke National Educational Center. Under "New Business," we discussed the concept of a Hawaii-Bruyeres friendship exchange program. The Japan-America Society is interested in assisting us with this project. Willard and GERALYN will take the lead in organizing our efforts.

It turns out that they attended the anniversary celebration in Bruyeres last year and already have established contacts there. Willard mentioned that there is already a Honolulu-Bruyeres sister city relationship. A contingency from Bruyeres plans to visit Hawaii in October of 2011. Also thanks to the Holcks for sharing the photos of their Bruyeres' trip with us.

A couple of upcoming events:

May 22, 2010: Welcome home parade and USO family day as part of the 2010 Hawaii Military Appreciation Month organized by the US Pacific Command. The parade will be through Waikiki. They would like the 100th/442 to participate.

June 5, 2010: 125th Anniversary of Kanyaku Imin. This all day event will be held at Iolani Palace and includes a fundraising concert for a 442 comic book (based on a 100th/442 movie script). There's also hope of having the veterans there for a photo shoot.

All for now, Wes Deguchi

Laura Hirayama added the following to Wes' memo. "Hi everyone, I wanted to mention an item that I mentioned at the S&D meeting, but was not mentioned in Wes' memo. I wanted to know if the S&D was interested in learning about the Honouliuli Internment Camp, one of the

internment camps that was set up on Oahu during World War II. This may not be directly related to the 442 men, but I thought it was interesting as part of the Japanese American experience and part of the history that surrounded the 442 guys and perhaps affected them. This came up only because I was thinking of all of us doing something together, like go on a hike or something. I googled the camp and found the articles attached below. Sorry, I'm not really good at attaching things on computers so I'm not sure if you will be able to just click onto these links, or have to type out all the letters, to read them. If that doesn't work, just google Honouliuli Internment Camp to view the articles. Journey to Honouliuli | Articles | Discover Nikkei honoluluadvertiser.com

Brian Niiya, of the JCCH, mentioned that they are trying to get the camp registered as a national historical site and hope to have a pilgrimage to it in February 2011. The property is not normally open to the public, but the property owner, Monsanto, is open to what the JCCH is trying to do. Brian was open to allowing us to join them, if they can get the pilgrimage together.

They are hoping to shuttle 200 to 300 people there to walk around and see the site. Is anyone interested? If so, please let me know so I can give Brian an estimate number. I also thought it would be nice to invite the 100th S&D to join us, since they might be interested in it, too. If people are also interested in having preliminary information on the camp, the JCCH has a short video/slide show presentation they can share with us. Maybe at a meeting or a planned get together. I thought maybe the 100th S&D can join us for this, too. One of the workers in my building is in that group, so I will ask him about it. Do you think the 442 or 100th men would be interested, too? Anyone interested? If you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. Thanks!

Sounds like a great experience that we would normally not be able to do. If you are interested, contact Laura at lhira@hawaiiantel.net.

Eileen Sakai sent in this information about the latest about new exhibit that will be part of the new USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center. She also added a few pictures!

The sons, daughters and friends who helped create the Honoring the Legacy exhibit at Central Pacific Bank are working with the National Park Service on an exhibit about World War II AJAs that will be part of the new USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center.

The AJA Veterans Exhibit Committee includes sons, daughters and friends of the veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service. The exhibit Committee produced the exhibit on the four principal AJA units – the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion – that opened at Central Pacific Bank’s Main Branch in February 2009.

Under the agreement to renew the bank exhibit regularly, the Exhibit Committee replaced the initial exhibit with one focusing on the 442nd’s Rescue of the Lost Battalion in France in the fall of 1944.

MIS veteran, James Tanabe and his wife Yoshie are outspoken advocates for the accurate public portrayal of Japanese Americans. They

arranged for the Exhibit Committee to meet with National Park Service officials and they worked out an agreement to come up with an exhibit for the Arizona Memorial Visitors Center.

In addition to construction of the new visitor center, the USS Arizona Memorial became a World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, under a new federal program. The new visitor center, while still focusing on Japan’s December 7, 1941, attack on Hawaii, will tell a broader story about the entire war in the Pacific. Shari Tamashiro is the project leader for this exhibit, and Alvin Yoshitomi and Eileen Sakai are the 442nd Sons & Daughters on the Exhibit Committee.

The members of the AJA Veterans Exhibit Committee are grateful for the opportunity to inform visitors about the WWII experiences of Japanese Americans. We encourage you to visit the CPB exhibit, and stay tuned for updates on the USS Arizona Memorial Visitors Center exhibit. For now, we share with you pictures from The Blessing of the new Arizona Memorial Visitors Center.



Mark Takai, Eileen Sakai, Norman Sakamoto



Senator Dan Inouye & Pearl Harbor Survivors

Hope you enjoyed yourself at the anniversary luncheon. Plan to visit our meetings if you’re available on the first Thursday of every month.

If you want to contact us you can email either Wes Deguchi (wes@m5architecture.com) or me (gail_nishimura@notes.k12.hi.us); we would love to hear from you. Take care and we’ll visit again soon... it’ll be summertime!

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OTHER NEWS

Articles submitted by Ted Tsukiyama and Oscar Tsukayama

New “Go For Broke” Exhibit

by Ted Tsukiyama

A new exhibit titled “Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts” will open from the end of May 2010 at the Statue of Liberty Museum on Ellis Island, New York. The Exhibit will run from May through September 2010 and thereafter become a travelling exhibit over the entire country, including Hawaii.

The Exhibit will honor and tell the story of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II that served with the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat team including the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 1399 Construction Engineers, Military Intelligence Service, and Nisei of the Women’ Army Corps (WAC). One section will feature the 522nd Field Artillery Battalions’ combat experience in Germany and the liberation of Jewish POWs from the Nazi Holocaust. The Nisei Soldier’s story will be told through hundreds of photographs and documents, 30 text panels and 25 quote panels based on oral histories of the Nisei veterans, materials from the National Archives, Library of Congress, FDR Library, Hawaii State Archives and other collections, much of it being unique and exhibited for the first time.

The introductory portion will feature the story of Issei generation immigration to Hawaii and mainland United States, their subsequent struggles to raise their families to become good American citizens and their sufferance of the tragedy of the wartime internment of the Japanese in World War II. The main part of the Exhibit will document

and narrate the wartime military experiences of the Nisei Soldiers through 1941 to 1946, and include the service and contribution of the Nisei MIS in the post-war occupation and rebuilding of Japan. The last part of the exhibit will document the legacy of the Nisei Soldiers and their impact upon the post-war Japanese-American experience, including their individual success in rising to high positions in politics, business, military, space and academia and resulting contribution to the achievement of statehood for Hawaii, elimination of Asian Exclusion Laws, citizenship, voting and land ownership rights for Issei, passage of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act and the like.

The grand opening ceremony will be held in June 2010 attended by civilian and military dignitaries, Nisei veterans, and veteran related organizations like the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American National Museum, National Japanese American Historical Society, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Survivors of Dachau, and veteran’s organizations like the 100-442nd Veterans Hawaii. The Exhibit which will run for four months during the peak of the tourist season and the National Park Service estimates that some 7,000 visitors per day will go out to the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island to view the exhibit.

All members of the 100/442/MIS planning a summer trip to the East Coast this year should be sure to include this Go For Broke Exhibit in their itinerary.

This Go For Broke Exhibit has been organized and produced by Historian Eric Saul, a

great friend and supporter of the Nisei Soldiers of World War II. As an Army Historian stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco in 1980 he introduced and featured the service of blacks, chicanos and other minority soldiers in Army museum exhibits for the first time, and went on to produce the first “Go For Broke” Exhibit about the 100/442nd at the Presidio Army Museum. He collaborated with 442 veteran Chester Tanaka to found the Go For Broke Foundation which was the forerunner to present National Japanese American Historical Society in San Francisco, and in 1982 he encouraged and inspired Chester Tanaka to write and produce the epic pictorial history book of the 100/442, “GO FOR BROKE.” In 1987 Saul created the “A More Perfect Union” Exhibit which was

on public exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. for over 20 years. Over the years he has ceaselessly publicized the story of the 522nd Field Artillery liberation of Jewish POWs from the Nazi Holocaust through “Sushi and Bagels” meetings with the Jewish community and through the “Unlikely Liberators” traveling exhibit in 1992.

And as the keynote speaker at the 2001 Nisei Medal of Honor Commemoration in Seattle, Washington, Eric Saul delivered an impassioned tribute to the Nisei Veterans gathered there, widely considered to be one of the finest speeches about the service and contributions of the 100/442nd. Eric Saul has proven himself to be a true and loyal friend of the 100/442nd.

Unsung Heroes

by Oscar Tsukayama

Information for this article was obtained from an article written by David Buto in the JAV A Website.

In the 1990s, Ted Tsukiyama, 442nd Club Historian, started work on establishing a 442nd/100th museum and library in Hawaii. He needed help in Washington D.C. to do extensive research at the National Archives and elsewhere to obtain records related to the 442nd and 100th. He immediately contacted his friends, Jack and Aiko Herzig, who had an extensive personally-researched archive, and wanted to tap into their expertise in conducting research and obtaining records. The Herzigs lost no time in finding volunteers in response to Ted’s plea and trained the volunteers in the research process. Sus Yamamoto and his wife Fumie volunteered and they were joined by their close friend Maggie Ikeda. Over the years, others joined in now and

then-Martha Giovanelli (Ted’s sister) being one of them, but these three were the ones who stuck it out for the long haul.

Their procedure consisted of making a trip to the National Archives one day before the research was to take place and fill out a request form. By doing this, the boxes of material would be ready for research when they arrived the next morning. Otherwise, they would have to wait about a half a day for the approval and retrieval to take place. Each box had a unique reference number and contained labeled folders. They tackled each box reading every piece of paper in each folder. They made the 45 minute trip from the Maryland suburbs to the heart of Washington D.C. about once a week and spent 4 to 8 hours in painstaking research for nearly ten years.

The documents were mostly fragile and yellowing and were on thin, sometimes, transparent paper. In some cases, the paper was brittle and

nearly deteriorating and the dust was so bad, sometimes it irritated Maggie's allergies. When handling photographs, they had to wear special gloves which made handling difficult. At first, they concentrated only on records related to the 442nd and 100th, but they found that to get the whole story, they had to review papers of General Marshall, Earl Warren, the Secretary of the Navy, the Surgeon General, etc. and of every military organization to which the 442nd/100th was assigned. The whole ordeal was a painful learning process.

At first, they were making handwritten summaries of the documents and were sending them to Hawaii, paying for the expenses out of their own pockets.

Ted Tsukiyama arranged for the 442nd Veterans Club to defray the costs and to purchase a photo-copying machine for their use which greatly improved the process. According to Fumie Yamamoto, she was struck by how telling the archives' information was. She recalls reading how the Lost Battalion which had been short of food, ammunition, batteries, etc. radioed back to the units who were airdropping supplies: "The airplanes are giving away our position – Do not send us anything." It was a stark statement of how desperate the situation was.

At one point, the research efforts of the threesome were directed towards obtaining information to support the review of DSC awards

for possible upgrading to the CMH, sponsored by Sen. Akaka and headed by Ed Ichiyama, 522nd FA Bn. Their hard work and sacrifices were instrumental in successfully completing this project in a timely manner. In appreciation for their efforts, Secretary of the Army, Louis Caldera invited them to the ceremonies honoring the Medal of Honor recipients and Ed Ichiyama who was a speaker at the ceremonies, acknowledged their decade-long research of the 100th and 442nd at the National Archives.

Over a ten year period, the threesome made hundreds of trips to the National Archives; spent over a thousand hours of their own time; read and copied thousands and thousands of pages of documents, and sent 10 boxes of material to Hawaii.

Due to health reasons, their visits to the National Archives ended in January 1999. The 442nd Veterans Club presented them with a Letter of Appreciation and a Medal to thank them for their efforts and sacrifice. They say that there is still much more data to be captured and hope that the project may be continued so that

posterity can better understand and appreciate what took place.

The 442nd Veterans Club reiterates its heartfelt MAHALO and ALOHA to Sus and Fumie Yamamoto and Maggie Ikeda for their many years of dedication, hard work and sacrifice.



A sample National Archives document gleaned by researchers to capture historical records.

Uncle Keiji Taki, H Co., 442nd RCT

The letter and article below was submitted by Mrs. Linda Fujioka of Los Angeles, California, wife of the late William Fujioka, Cannon Company, 442nd RCT. We thank Mrs. Fujioka very sincerely for her generous donation to the Go For Broke Bulletin.

Dear Oscar Tsukayama,
Editor of "Go For Broke"

I am enclosing a donation in memory of my brother-in-law and my son's uncle, Keiji Taki. A memoriam was written up in the "Heights Life" a publication in a little rural city located about 20 miles east of Los Angeles.

It was such a beautiful tribute to Keiji Taki written by his son and daughter. Keiji served in "H" Company and before he died he was saddened by the death of Col. Keegan, commander of H Company.

I'm hoping that you'll find space to print this article in the "Go For Broke" quarterly publication.

Thank you also for printing the story of the Fujioka family in the Oct.-Dec. publication. My husband William (Willie) Fujioka was in the Cannon Company. Life went by quickly. All four brothers-in law are gone. They served in 442nd and MIS.

So proud of all the sons and daughters in Hawaii who have taken over to continue to tell the story of the huge sacrifices that our boys made to prove that we were loyal Americans by their courageous deeds.

Thank you Oscar.
Sincerely, Linda Fujioka

Keiji Taki, 1924-2010

Keiji Taki, a long-time resident of La Habra Heights, died January 2, 2010, at the age of 85. He and his wife, Ruby (who survives him), were

both avid runners who could often be seen jogging the winding roads and streets of our city – a practice he continued well into his 70s. His daughter, Tori, and son, Toby, wrote the following tribute to their father and submitted it to Heights Life:

"On the morning of January 2, 2010, our father passed quietly away. He was born January 26, 1924, in Soldier Summit, Utah. The first 18 years of his life were spent in the small farming community of Idaho Falls, Idaho. During high school, he played basketball and football. His love for sports continued into his later years, and he was running marathons through his 70s.

"During World War II, our father served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Company



Keiji Taki, H Co 442nd RCT

H, earning the Bronze Star for valor, the Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Unit Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Fouragere, and Purple Heart."

[*Editor's note:* The famous United States Army regiment in which Keiji Taki served his country was an Asian American unit composed of mostly Nisei (American-born) Japanese Americans who fought in Europe.

The families of many of its soldiers were subject to internment by the U.S. government. The 442nd was a fighting force that fought with great distinction in some of the heaviest combat in Italy, southern France and Germany.]

"In a 2001 interview, our father was asked what he missed most while in the military. This is a portion of what he said: 'My mother subscribed to the Rafu Shimpo, a Japanese-American newspaper from Los Angeles. Sometime in 1941, there was an article with a photo of a Nisei girl who was elected Girls League President at Montebello High School.

Her name was Ruby Kuroiwa. I wrote to her, and our correspondence lasted for three years.' [While on furlough back to the U.S. in 1944, Keiji had the choice of going to his home in Idaho or to Massachusetts, where Ruby was then living with relatives. He chose the latter. His story now continues in his own words:] 'The trip north, where I met Ruby for the first time, resulted in our marriage three days later on February 14, 1944... We had two memorable months together before our regiment shipped out. She is the most wonderful person I ever met, and it must be a good

relationship, because we are still together.' Throughout their 67-year marriage, they were inseparable until May 2009, when an automobile accident left Keiji Taki unable to care for himself.

"In 1960, our parents bought an acre of land in La Habra Heights. Six years later, they built their home. They loved their home, their land and living in this rural city."

Keiji Taki is survived by his wife Ruby, daughter Tori, son Toby and five grandchildren.

ANNOUNCEMENT By Stacey Hayashi

An Invitation from The Friends of 'Iolani Palace

Event: *Kulia I Kanuu ~ A Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Kanyaku Imin, Honoring All AJA WWII Veterans*

Date: June 5, 2010

Time: *2:00pm~9:00pm

**Possibly earlier for the photo; perhaps an hour or hour-and-a-half prior to event start.*

Place: Iolani Palace

The theme phrase is the motto of Queen Kapiolani, which means "Strive for the summit" in the sense of striving for excellence or greatness, which is like "Go For Broke" in spirit, to emphasize the deep friendship and history between the people of Japan and Hawaii. This friendship dates back to the *gannen mono* through the days of King Kalakaua and the Friendship Treaty to present day.

We are currently coordinating a re-creation of that famous photo of the 442nd RCT from the goodbye ceremony on March 29, 1943, but with all WWII AJA units, before the doors open to the

public. If time permits, in addition to the large group photo we would like to take photos of each individual unit. Then, to begin the formal ceremony, veterans can march in from just outside the Palace gates like the 442nd marched down King Street in 1943. If escorts are needed the 100th/442nd Reserves can provide them.

Details about logistics are forthcoming as we will be coordinating with your Club. We are also sending the above information in a letter to the club as a formal invitation from the Palace.

Please understand we know the veterans are not as sprightly as they were as young men in 1943, so the term "marching in" to the Palace Grounds should be considered loosely. We want to allow the veterans the pomp and circumstance they deserve but do not want to overtire them physically. If necessary, the bus can just drop everyone off inside the Palace Grounds if the veterans decide that is what is in their best interest.

Therefore, we will be working with you to ensure the best possible scenario considering the circumstances. We are also working on an alternate (shorter) event timeline and encourage and need your active participation. Mahalo for your kokua!

The 442nd Veterans Club
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