



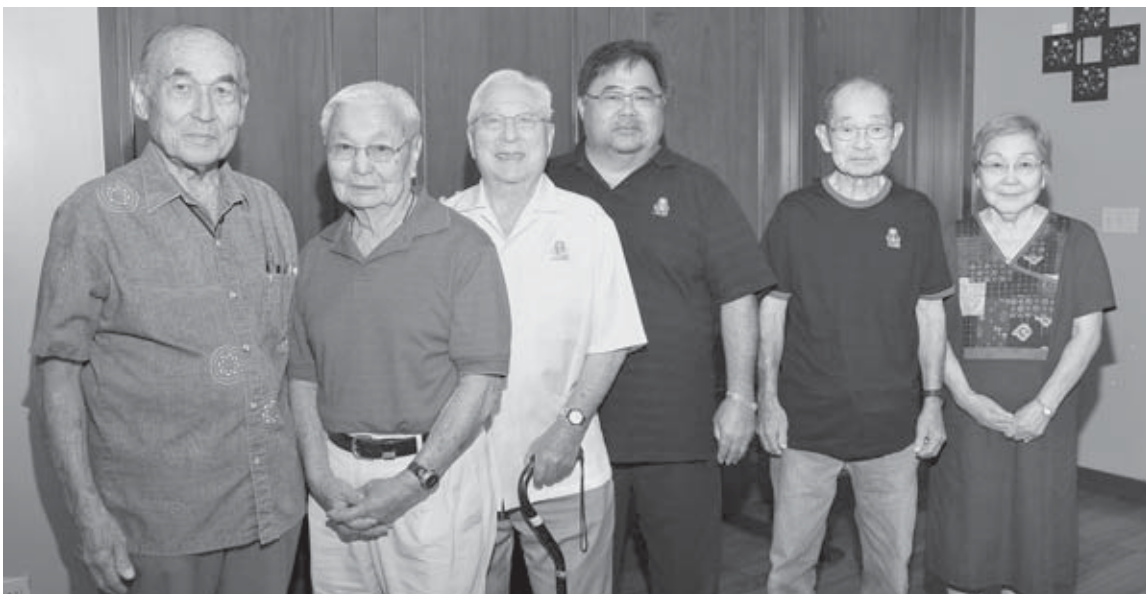
Go For Broke BULLETIN

442nd VETERANS CLUB



VOL 63, No 1, OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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Go For Broke

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Cover:

Top: 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399 veterans are treated to a ride in the C-17 Globemaster

Bottom: 442 Club Officers for CY 2011

L-R: Pres. William Thompson, 1st VP Mitsuo Honda, 2nd VP Noboru Kawamoto, 3rd VP Wade Wasano, Treasurer Takashi Shirakata, Secretary Esther Umeda

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

PRESIDENT'S *Report*

by Bill Thompson

On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Congressional Gold Medal bill, Senate Bill 1055 which had been unanimously passed by the House of Representatives. This bill now is Public Law 111-254. The Congressional Gold Medal will be cast by the United States Mint, most likely by August, or shortly thereafter.

The ceremony for this occasion will be in the fall of 2011 after details are worked out by the NVN and the Speaker of the House. Those eligible – veterans, widows of veterans, next of kin, and family members – must register to participate in the ceremony. Applications to register are available upon request. Eligible veterans of the 100th Infantry, 442nd RCT and M.I.S. are likely to receive free Honor Flights. Events surrounding the ceremony will be free to those who qualify. Since a large audience is expected, registration should be made as early as possible.

Our friends in the Vosges have informed us that a proposed wind farm development will destroy the site of the “Lost Battalion” if allowed to proceed. Together with Michael Higgins and the 36th Division veterans, we have written in support of those wishing to preserve the “Lost Battalion” site. The officials of La Houssière are the decision-making body. See page 36 for a copy of our letter to the Mayor and Council of La Houssière requesting they preserve this WWII historic site.

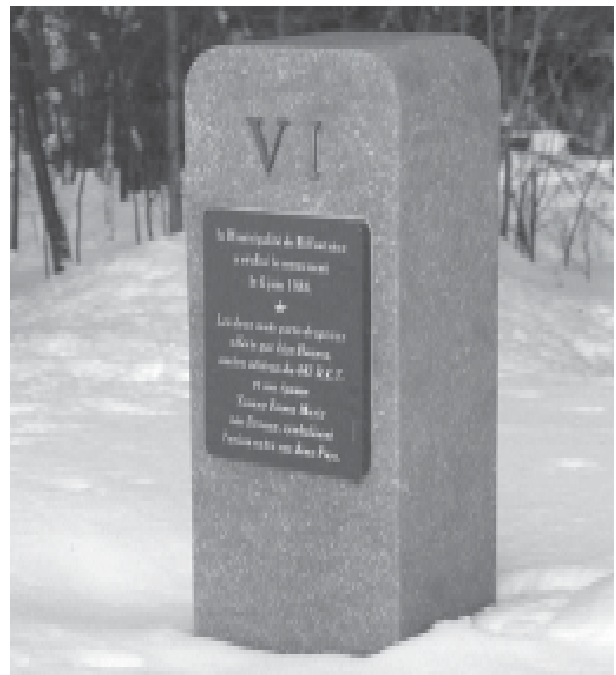
Our friend, Major General Robert Lee, retired in November from his State Adjutant General position. He has been a staunch supporter of the Nisei veterans.

In 2011, we will pursue our dream of developing our legacy center to house our numerous WWII archival materials and souvenirs. The present Club house was built as a social club. It no longer fits our long range plan of a historical/learning center to adequately display and utilize the vast amount of

WWII material collected. Wes Deguchi and the Sons & Daughters will play a key role in this endeavor.

On November 12, the Elks Lodge 616 hosted the Nisei veterans of the 100th Infantry, 442nd RCT and the M.I.S. at a luncheon. Arrangements were made by Alan Yukitomo of the Elks Club veterans committee.

The 68th Anniversary Banquet will be held on Sunday, March 27, 2011, at the Pacific Beach Hotel. Ron Yamada will fly in to be the emcee for this event. The featured speaker will be Gwen Fujie whose husband is in charge of Department of Defense schools in Japan.



Correction

In our last issue, Editor's Report, Page 6, we stated that George Watanabe was a 442 veteran.

George enlisted in the US Army in 1955 and retired from the Army in 1975. After retirement, he worked in Italy as a Department of the Army civilian. He was not a 442 veteran.

We apologize for this error.

IN MEMORIAM



Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:

Abe, Dr. Harry F. (Medics)	Nov. 19, 2010
Agena, Noboru (L Co.)	Nov. 11, 2010
Ajifu, Richard K. (G Co.)	Oct. 31, 2010
Akisada, Fumio (Medics)	Nov. 27, 2010
Endo, Robert Minoru (E Co.)	Oct. 28, 2010
Fujita, Sadamitsu Neil (Anti-Tank)	Oct. 2010
Hara, Mike (522 HQ)	Sep. 11, 2010
Hirokawa, Kenji (M Co.)	Nov. 1, 2010
Hirose, Victor Tooru (F Co.)	Nov. 7, 2010
Imamura, Dr. Eugene H. (Medics)	Jan. 28, 2010
Imoto, Yoshio (Cannon)	Oct. 22, 2010
Inouye, Hitoshi (232 Eng.)	June 3, 2010
Kagami, Kay (522A)	Aug. 17, 2010
Kashiki, John Yoshio (Cannon)	Oct. 24, 2010
Kida, Satoshi (RHQ)	Nov. 2010
Kimoto, Takashi (RHQ)	Nov. 12, 2010
Kinaga, Thomas (M Co.)	Sep. 15, 2010
Kitagawa, Ben (L Co.)	Dec. 2010
Komoto, George (Cannon)	Sep. 15, 2010
Mark, George (F Co.)	Sep. 8, 2010
Matsufuji, Shigeru "Shig" (3HQ)	Sep. 5, 2010
Matsumoto, Neal Hichiro (232 Eng/100 th A Co.)	Nov. 20, 2010
Mijo, Herbert Sakae (E Co.)	Sep. 28, 2010
Miyasato, Pete Seichi (F Co.)	Sep. 3, 2010
Monden, Charles R. (H Co.)	Sep. 21, 2010
Nakashima, Makoto (3HQ)	Oct. 15, 2010
Nikaido, Nelson Tetsuro (RHQ)	July 23, 2010
Nishimura, Col Bert Noboru (2HQ)	Oct. 15, 2010
Oda, Richard M. (K Co.)	Oct. 29, 2010
Ogawa, Wilson (G Co.)	Sep. 5, 2010
Oshiro, Takehiro "Joe" (K Co.)	Sep. 10, 2010
Ouchi, Richard Tomishin (G Co.)	Nov. 13, 2010
Sakauye, Yoshiharu "Yosh" (Service)	Aug. 19, 2010
Takahashi, Yoshio Weesh (M Co.)	Oct. 7, 2010
Tomita, Itsuo (2HQ)	Apr. 18, 2010
Uchida, Masaharu (Medics)	Oct. 6, 2010
Yakuma, Mitsuo (I Co.)	Dec. 22, 2010
Yamadera, George Shigeru (E Co.)	Nov. 14, 2010
Yoshii, Kiyoshi (K Co.)	Sep. 8, 2010

Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

442nd Veterans Club Donations

Cullen Ikehara – Truist	\$21
Edward Kanno – Truist	\$15
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taketa	\$30
<i>(IMO David Umeda, M Co.)</i>	
Janet Umeda <i>(IMO David Umeda, M Co.)</i>	\$500
Charlene Hokama	\$100
<i>(IMO Masatoshi Hokama, F Co.)</i>	
Mrs. Mary Kashiki	\$200
<i>(IMO John Kashiki, Cannon Co.)</i>	
Mr. & Mrs. John Mikasa	\$100
<i>(IMO John Kashiki, Cannon Co.)</i>	
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto	\$100
Susan Takara <i>(IMO Masaru Taira)</i>	\$100
Clinton Shiraishi	\$100
<i>(IMO Jerry Yutaka Ojiri, 522 Service Don Satoshi Shimazu, 522 HQ)</i>	
Mildred Tateishi	\$50
Mitsie Miya and Mr. & Mrs. Lindsay Miya	\$50
<i>(IMO Masami Ohara, Cannon Co.)</i>	
Yoshiko Muto	\$50
Setsuko Kanayama	\$100
<i>(IMO Richard Kanayama, I Co.)</i>	

GFB Bulletin Donations

Mrs. Toyoko Mizuno <i>(IMO of Tom Mizuno)</i>	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto	\$100
Susan Takara <i>(IMO Ronald Takara)</i>	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Taketa	\$25
<i>(IMO of David Umeda, M Co.)</i>	
Setsuko Kanayama	\$50
<i>(IMO of Richard Kanayama, I Co.)</i>	

Scholarship Donations

Clinton Shiraishi	\$100
<i>(IMO Jerry Yutaka Ojiri, 522 Service Don Satoshi Shimazu, 522 HQ)</i>	
Janet Brothers <i>(IMO Joe Kadowaki, F Co.)</i>	\$100
William Thompson <i>(IMO Bert Nishimura)</i>	\$100
Setsuko Kanayama	\$100
<i>(IMO Richard Kanayama, I Co.)</i>	

A Gentle Warrior Quietly Falls into Permanent Sleep

by Ed Yamasaki



Barney Fushimi Hajiro, the oldest surviving Medal of Honor recipient, died on January 21, 2011, at age 94.

For more than a year, “home” for Barney was the Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, where accommodations were clean and very satisfactory; food, good and nurses, helpful, kind, and efficient. And regular group activities such as, candlelight dinner, happy hour, movie night and guest entertainment provided enjoyable changes of pace for residents like Barney. Happy Hour which served non-alcoholic drinks was okay with Barney—a lifelong non-smoker and non-drinker.

Wife Esther, son Glenn and wife Frieda, grandson Ian and girlfriend Jodi, and brother Hokuro freely visited Barney at Maunalani. Often, Hokuro drove him to visit Esther, then a resident at Palolo Chinese Home, and vice-versa, took Esther to Maunalani for a visit with Barney. This pleasant arrangement continued through most of year 2010 until Barney’s internal organs began to shut down. He had stomach cancer surgery in 2002 and had suffered a serious attack of asthma in the past.

The final days of last year and early January 2011, saw Barney’s health worsen severely—difficulty in eating and even drinking liquids, contributed to increasing weight and muscle loss and a steady loss of bodily strength and even speech.

In spite of all these “negatives,” Barney was alert and responsive late into the night of January 20. At around 4:00 p.m., he responded to his nurse’s command to return her hand salute: slowly, hesitatingly raising his hand in half-salute. (The military hand salute was his regular farewell sign to all visitors during his better days.)

He continued to respond to questions with nods or shakings of his head well into the early evening hours. Barney was hanging on well. At Glenn’s urging, visitors of the day, Esther, other family members and Eddie Yamasaki left for home. Glenn remained alone with his father that night and had to sadly phone everyone around 5:00 a.m. that his father had passed away a half-hour earlier.

Barney Fushimi Hajiro received the highest military honors of Great Britain, the United States and France as follows: British Military Medal aboard the Canadian naval vessel, *Cayuga*, at Honolulu Harbor, October 30, 1948; the Congressional Medal of Honor at the White House, June 21, 2000; *Legion d’Honneur*, aboard the frigate *Prairial*, at Honolulu Harbor, October 14, 2004.



Photo: Vince Matsudaira

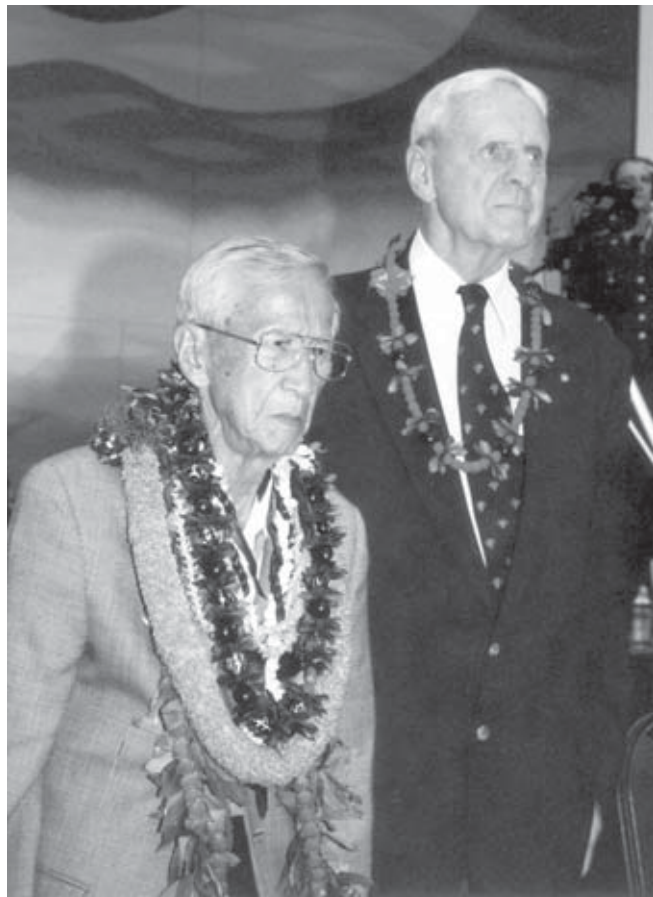
Barney was proud to receive these high honors but being ever humble, in his mind, he accepted them “for all the boys.” Thus when he was invited to attend celebrations and ceremonies as a Medal of Honor awardee, he was

inclined not to accept the invitations because it would be like “showing off.” He also did not wish to be saluted or to be treated differently from others. Eventually, however, he attended most of

these affairs in the belief that he was doing so on behalf of all members of the 442nd.

Barney served well as our unofficial ambassador at the 4th of July celebrations at Schofield, the U.S.S. Missouri reception honoring President George W. Bush, the Aloha Stadium Aloha Send-Off of the 100th/442nd Infantry Battalion Reserve to Iraq, and low-profile visits to Kamehameha and Waipahu schools. His last mainland trip was to attend the World War II Monument dedication in Washington, D.C. on May 29, 2004. He undertook the long, tiring journey because, in his own words, “to represent the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the people of Hawaii and to pay respect to the memorial.”

442nd veterans will always remember and be ever grateful to Barney, the gentle yet tough fighter, who represented them so well on the warfront and on the home front.



*Barney escorted at Medal of Honor banquet, Aug. 27, 2000
Photo: 100th & 442 S&D*



*Barney marches in with M Co. at 442nd Veterans Club 65th Anniversary banquet (March 2008)
Photo: 100th & 442 S&D*



Barney and wife Esther

Photo: Vince Matsudaira



News from the

EDITOR'S DESK

by Oscar Tsukayama

A Happy New Year to All From the GFB Bulletin Staff

We hope you have enjoyed reading the GFB Bulletin as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you. We will strive to improve as we attempt to bring you news that is meaningful, informative and entertaining.

Officers for CY 2011-442nd Veterans Club

Installation of officers for CY 2011 was conducted on Dec. 6, 2010, during the annual luncheon meeting for chapter reporters, docents and other volunteers. Eichi Oki, Esq. administered the Oath of Office. Guiding the veterans club for this year will be:

President	William Thompson
1 st VP	Mitsuo Honda
2 nd VP	Noboru Kawamoto
3 rd VP	Wade Wasano
Treasurer	Takashi Shirakata
Secretary	Esther Umeda

We pledge our full support and look forward to another successful year.



442 Club Welcomes the Christmas Season

It all started when President Thompson decided we need some Xmas spirit here and reached into his wallet to donate a Xmas tree. That weekend, our “Nandemoyariya” (handy-man), Craig Mitani got busy and “voila” when the staff came to work on Monday morning, they were greeted by scenes in the accompanying snapshots. According to Executive Secretary, Shirley Igarashi, Christmas is one of Craig’s favorite holidays and he just gets carried away with his Xmas spirit.

But Xmas decorations are not the only things Craig is involved in. He is probably the most valuable, behind the scenes person, at the club. He gets up early each morning; chases away the homeless who spend the night at the front entrance and cleans and vacuums the facilities to get it prepared for the days business. He also sets up tables and chairs for meetings scheduled for that day; cares for the outdoor and indoor plants and is always on standby for any tasks the staff may request. We thank Craig for his outstanding services to the club.

Impact of the Pearl Harbor Attack on the Japanese Community in Hawaii

An exhibit entitled “Looking like the Enemy” that tells the story of prejudice and hostility suffered by those of Japanese decent after the Pearl Harbor attack and



Merry Christmas, 442nd Veterans Club!

Photos: Oscar Tsukayama

actions taken by them to prove their loyalty to United States, is part of a larger display at the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument in Pearl Harbor. The newly rebuilt museum opened its doors on December 7, 2010, in conjunction with the commemoration of the 69th Anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Much credit is due to James and Yoshie Tanabe (Sons and Daughters-MIS) who made the initial contact with National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent, Mr. Paul DePrey, to discuss the merits of such a display. They pointed out that the impact of the attack on the Japanese community which represented 1/3 of Hawaii's population at the time and how they dealt with the issues they faced is a significant part of Pearl Harbor's history. Mr. DePrey and members of his staff visited the displays of the Hawaii Niseis at the Central Pacific Bank-Main Branch. They later met with James and Yoshie Tanabe and Mark Matsunaga (S&D-MIS), Eileen Sakai and Wes Deguchi (S&D-442nd), Jimmy Nakatani and Steve Takushi (S&D-100th) and Shari Tamashiro, Cybrarian, Kapiolani Community College (KCC) and discussed general guidelines for the exhibit.

Shari Tamashiro assumed the role of project leader and worked closely with the NPS staff to bring the project to fruition. Her expertise in developing displays were invaluable in coming up with a theme, researching and locating items that are in harmony with other displays in the museum and getting maximum effect from each item, artifact and narrative since there was so much to tell and so little space to tell it in. She says, much time was needed for research and coordinating plans and thanks KCC Administration for allowing her to work on this project during regular working hours.

This is going to be a changing exhibit which will be refreshed annually. The focus on the next exhibit will be the Hawaii Territorial Guard and the Varsity Victory Volunteers. Shari reminds everyone that the museum is not only for tourists and encourages locals to visit the displays as the important Pearl Harbor story is told vividly in detail. The new exhibits now include Japan's side of the story as well.

Update on Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony

1. The U.S. Mint has begun the design process for the medal. Several designs will be submitted and NVN will select one for approval by the Secretary of Treasury. Expected date of completion is August, 2011; a bronze replica will be offered for public sale by the U.S. Mint for \$50.

2. The CGM is awarded to those who served in the 100th, 442nd and MIS during the period December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946. This includes other ethnic groups (Caucasian, Korean, Hawaiian etc.) assigned to these units, members of the 171st Battalion, students at MIS or other U.S. Army language school, Japanese Americans assigned to the occupation of Japan during World War II who served in linguist positions whether or not they received formal Army language training and any Japanese American who worked in support of MIS programs in analyst, clerical or other capacities.

3. As of 23 Dec 2010, 1,600 have registered to attend and are listed in the the National Veterans Register (NVR). They include: 201 veterans, 61 widows, 13 next of kin of those killed in line of duty, 91 next of kin of deceased veterans and 1,234 family members. NVN encourages all to register as soon as possible at their website: www.nationalveteransnetwork.com. You may also contact Meta Tanikawa: congressional.goldmedal@gmail.com or Terry Shima: ttshima@comcast.net if you have questions.

4. The US House Speaker will determine the date and venue of the award presentation. NVN will encourage the speaker to accommodate all members listed in the NVR.

5. A gala dinner to honor the veterans will be the highlight of the ceremonies. Other events scheduled for the two-day ceremony are: laying of the NVN wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a 40 minute program at the World War II Memorial and a ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

6. A non-profit organization which flies veterans to Washington D.C. to see World War II memorials

(Honor Flights) has agreed to work with NVN for the CGM event. It will attempt to fly 100th, 442nd, and MIS veterans to Washington D.C. without charge. It is not known, at this time, whether flights will include Hawaii, but NVN suggests that early registration will give them numbers involved to use as a basis for negotiating with Honor Flights. The free flights are for veterans only.

7. NVN will continue to provide updates as details are firmed up. In the meantime they request that we spread the word and encourage all to register as soon as possible.

Stephanie Chiemi Yamamoto is Recipient of 442nd Scholarship

The 442nd Veterans Scholarship Fund awarded a scholarship to Stephanie Yamamoto for the 2010-2011 school year. Stephanie is a graduate of Mililani High School and started her fourth year at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, in Sep. 2010 and is pursuing a major in Kinesiology and a minor in Japanese. She aspires to become a physical therapist.

Haole Officers Remembered

Received an e-mail from Jimmy Yamashita, AJAWARVETS Memorial Alliance, indicating that he would like to start a project to obtain information about Haole officers who were assigned to the 442nd RCT and preserve them in Echoes of Silence. Over the years, a number of inquiries have been received from family members of these officers and they have found that very little information is available about them. He says that, with a few exceptions, these officers did not receive the credit and publicity they deserve for the leadership, sacrifice, and courage they displayed while serving with the 442nd or for their accomplishments in the post-war period.

The 442nd Veterans Club-Honolulu has agreed to support AJAWARVETS on this project and have instructed chapter presidents to discuss this matter with all members and to compile interesting and noteworthy information about their officers for inclusion in AJAWARVETS' data base.

Mr. Jim Dunn, son of Lt. James Dunn (I Co.) has agreed to serve as point-man for this project for AJAWARVETS. Chapter presidents or anyone who have inputs are requested to submit their reports to the 442nd Veterans Club.

Ron Oba and Mits Honda Share Wartime Experience With High School Students

Ron Oba spoke to approximately 150 Mililani High School students on November 4, 2010. His presentation covered his experience as a Japanese American during World War II which covered the bombing of Pearl Harbor, his service with the 442nd RCT and the post-war period. On November 9, 2010, Mits Honda spoke to students at Lutheran High School sharing his experience with the 232nd Engineers during World War II. We thank Ron and Mits for volunteering their time to take on this very worthy task of keeping the younger generation informed of problems faced by the older generation and how they dealt with them.

President Obama is Presented With a Copy of "From Boyhood to War" and "Silent Valor"

Two years ago, Allegra Matsuo Mossman (granddaughter of the late 442nd Medic, Theodore Matsuo)



Maya Soetoro-Ng with *Silent Valor* and *From Boyhood to War*

sent a gift of two books about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 442nd Medics, respectively, written by her grandmother, Dr. Dorothy Matsuo, to President Obama as an inaugural gift. However, they were returned as "Undeliverable." Even the leis that she sent were confiscated by the Secret Service as potential bio-hazards. Now, thanks to the kindness of Maya Soetoro-Ng, the President's sister, President Obama will receive the books while he and his family are vacationing in Hawaii for the holidays. Accompanying the books will be Allegra's personal message of hope which was also sent two years ago.

Feature Story

Ben Kuroki Receives Prestigious Audie Murphy Award (Article from JAVA Newsletter)

On November 6, 2010, Ben Kuroki, a native of Nebraska, was presented with the Audi Murphy Award by the American Veterans Center in Washington D.C. The award is named after Audie Murphy who was the most highly decorated soldier during World War II. The center is a non-profit organization which honors veterans of all wars.

During World War II, the US Army Air Corps institutionally discriminated against Japanese Americans serving their country as members of the crew in military aircraft. Only five Niseis were able to serve as gunners in bombers throughout World War II. Kuroki is the only Nisei known to have served in air combat in the Pacific Theater.

Kuroki received the Audie Murphy Award for his engagement in 58 air combat missions in Europe and Asia and for combating prejudice and discrimination on the home front. In his acceptance remarks, Kuroki said, “words are inadequate to thank my friends who went to bat for me and bestowed incredible honors decades later. Without their support, my war records would not have amounted

to a hill of beans. I now feel fully vindicated in my fight against surreal odds and ugly discrimination.”

The recipient of two Distinguished Service Medal and a survivor of the Ploesti, Rumania air raid in which 53 of the 178 bombers did not return to base, Kuroki has received the following high honors since 2005:

2005 – Recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest military award for Leadership. Also received the Nebraska Press Association’s highest honor, the *President’s Award* and University of Nebraska honorary *Doctorate of Humane Letters*.

2006 – Invited to the black tie White House state dinner for Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi.

2007 – Subject of the Public Broadcasting System documentary, *The Most Honorable Son – The Kuroki War Story*, which has been viewed nationally and internationally.

2008 – Special recognition by President George W. Bush at the White House Asia Pacific Islander Heritage Month ceremony. Also a permanent display on Kuroki was dedicated at the Smithsonian.

The exemplary air combat record of the Nisei combined with the land-based heroism of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as well as that of the Nisei linguists who served in the

Pacific, settled the question of their loyalty once and for all. After World War II, the aviation field was opened through reforms by military authorities allowing Japanese Americans to successfully serve in the cockpits of fighters and bombers as pilots and navigators on the same term as other Americans.

Despite the demands on his time, Kuroki visited Audie Murphy’s gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery and hosted a luncheon for JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association) members. He is a life member of JAVA.





Henry Kuniyuki

MELE KALIKIMAKA ... HAUOLI MAKAHIKI HOU!

Regimental Headquarters Chapter membership extends the seasonal greetings to all! The RHQ Chapter activities for the last quarter of 2010 are reported for the information of all concerned, especially for members who were unable to participate.

September 7, 2010 – At the monthly Chapter luncheon meeting, Chapter Treasurer Kuniyuki reported the income and expenditures of the Chapter. The expenditures totaled \$148.48 for the Ladies Appreciation luncheon.

October 4, 2010 – Monthly Chapter Luncheon Meeting. Eight members signed the roll call book maintained by Chapter Secretary Takamori Miyagi. They were: Takamori Miyagi, Noboru Kawamoto, Jitsuo and Ruby Kawada, Susan Takara, Sumie and Masatoshi Mitani, and Yoshikatsu Maruo in order of sign up. Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto reported on the RHQ Board Meeting Agenda.

November 1, 2010 – The monthly Chapter luncheon meeting held at Gyotaku Restaurant. Sadly only five participants: Takamori Miyagi, Noboru Kawamoto, Henry Kuniyuki, Ruby Kawada and Susan Takara.

Chapter President Kawamoto again reported on the Regimental Headquarters program and activities. He announced that Chapter Docents are invited by the Honolulu Elks Club to a luncheon on Friday, November 12, 2010. Docents are also invited to the 442nd Veterans Club's Annual Christmas Party scheduled to be held at the Ala Moana Shopping Center's Tsukiji Japanese Restaurant on Monday, December 6, 2010. Chapter Secretary Miyagi reported that the latest Chapter roster has been mailed to chapter members listed on the chapter membership list.

December 6, 2010 – The 442nd Board Christmas Party held at Tsukiji Fish Market and Restaurant

starting at 11:00 AM. RHQ participants totaled only five. They were Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto, Vice President Yoshikatsu Maruo, Secretary Takamori Miyagi, Treasurer Henry Kuniyuki, and Susan Takara.

December 10, 2010 – Received a delayed message from Konao Hakoda's family that he had passed away on October 6, 2010. Due to his spouse, Doris's physical condition, his memorial service is tentatively scheduled for 6:00 PM Thursday, January 6, 2011 at Hosoi Garden Mortuary. Henry Kuniyuki, Past 442nd Veterans Club President, will give a brief memorial address at the request of Konao's family. Chapter Secretary notified all RHQ Chapter members regarding Konao's untimely demise and memorial service schedule.

Sixty Nine years ago, April 13, 1942, Ruby Yasuhiro Kawada and her family were unconstitutionally interned with thousands of AJAs. Ruby was asked to relate her experience. This is Ruby's fascinating historical story:

“Dare to be Brave, Dare to be True”

“On April 13, 1942 (12 o'clock noon) we entered the Santa Anita (Race Track) assembly center. As we went through the check-in station, we were given shots in both arms. Many had fever and sore arms the next day. We were then assigned to our stables which were to be our living quarters for the next 5 months. We were given a broom, mop and bucket and army cots and blankets were issued with a thin cotton mattress. Some were given gunny sacks to be filled with hay the horses had left to be used as mattresses. Knives, scissors and tools were confiscated as were our cameras and radios. We only had our suitcases and bags of clothing and personal belongings. That was the start of life in a concentration camp. With barbed wire fences and MP's on towers with machine guns and floodlights pointed at us. One day we had some outside visitors. We were led into a room. The visitors were on one side of the table and we were on the other side. Hands and arms were not allowed on the table. At no time were we allowed to touch our visitors. MPs listened and watched very carefully.



Scene at Camp Rowher after a big Arkansas rainfall

At mealtime we had to line up in long lines. One morning after lining up for long time, at the serving counter we were given a large metal plate with a sample size box of dry cereal with a half a banana. Children under ten (10) years and adults over (60) sixty years were allowed a small carton of milk. Life was not easy but we did make a lot of new friends.

On Sept. 26, 1942 (9:45 AM) we left Santa Anita Assembly Center, loaded on trains for McGehee and the Rohwer Relocation Center located in the swampy area of Arkansas.

On Sept. 30, 1942 (8:30 AM) we reached and entered the Relocation Center. Our houses were army style barracks made with lumber and tar paper. The summers were hot; the winters were freezing cold even with a pot belly stove. Our family of (5) five lived in one unit with no partitions.

My eldest brother was already serving in the U.S. Army. Professional people received (\$19.00) Nineteen dollars a month. Others (\$16.00) sixteen dollars a month. We had a mess hall, community bath and wash hall. We also had Schools.

Then in the same manner that we were told to get in, we were told to get out. They were closing the camps. So on July 5, 1945 at 6:30 PM we left Rohwer to Detroit, Michigan and the unknown to start a new life."

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Ruby. An old Russian proverb: "We live as long as we are remembered" is an appropriate quotation for Ruby's story.

Arrivederci!



by John Mikasa

Cannoneer Esther Umeda is a compassionate and modest person, who has been active in Cannon Company get-togethers since the early years after the war. She is the sister of the late Takeshi "Bolo" Mizukami, and the wife of Mitsuo Umeda, both of them Cannoneers.

Esther has been selected as Secretary of the 442nd Veterans Club, one of few female officers of the Club. Cannon Company is very proud of her.

In other news, we are saddened by the passing of more of the active members. Masami "Rawfish" Ohara of Hawaii, Yoshio Imoto and John Kashiki of California. Our deep condolences to their families.

In particular, John Kashiki who had been the pillar of our annual reunions for more than half a century, passed away on October 24. I don't think he missed a single reunion, even his last one in 2010, when only seven original members were able to attend. He was an experienced leader, who will be severely missed.

John Yoshio Kashiki

Linda Fujioka of Los Angeles provided the following short biographical account on John Kashiki.



John Kashiki loved life. He lived every moment as an adventure he couldn't miss. His journey ended on Sunday morning, October 24, 2010, when he died while deep sea fishing in Mexico. John's zest for life took him around the world.

He made friends with everyone and it is said that by the time his airplane landed, he knew every person on board.

John was born in Los Angeles on July 14, 1919. When his father became ill, he took over the family farm in Holtville. At sixteen, John already loved the land and was passionate about farming. His love for agriculture and his entrepreneurial spirit was the essence of John's life. Even in retirement he took pride in his vegetable garden which he shared with many friends. After childhood, John attended the University of California, Davis to study agronomy and economics. During summers he would work in Fresno loading train cars. It was during this time that he met a girl named Mary Nakamura. When WWII broke out he and his family were interned in Poston, Arizona. Mary and John married during their first year in camp. Their daughter Judi, was born in the internment camp while John served overseas as a member of the 442's Cannon Company. He shared many proud adventures about his fellow Cannoneers. He and Mary chaired many reunions between Las Vegas and Hawaii, bringing his children and grandchildren along to meet his extended family. After the war John had lost his family farm to squatters and all of the family possessions had been burned. The family settled in Parlier where John worked three jobs until he was able to rent a small farm which is still their homestead. John and Mary worked as a team growing stone fruit and grapes which they harvested, packed and drove to market. This grew into KASH Inc, a farming and fruit packing business, that at one time, had branches in Philadelphia, Mexico, Japan and South America.

John was also proud of his family. His three daughters gave him seven grandsons and four great-grandchildren, which were his pride and joy. Grandpa Kash never missed any of their activities. Last December at age 90, John received his honorary Bachelor of Science degree from UC Davis, conferred on students who were removed from their studies due to Internment. John believed in serving his community and sat on the board of directors for Reedley Hospital and the Parlier-Orange Cove United Health Clinics. John also served on numerous agricultural boards helping develop the industry here and abroad.

John Kashiki lived a long and fruitful life. He always said when his time came he wanted to be fishing. His wish came true. Boat stories said John caught the last fish of the day and was lucky at poker. John was a larger than life kind of individual who had foresight beyond his time. Generous in nature, no one ever walked away without an offering of fruit, fish or friendship. For him everything was an opportunity and his desire to invent and build was seen in black and white and he was fully committed to his projects. John's passion and commitment to his beliefs were sometimes controversial but he never wavered.

John is survived by his wife Mary; daughters, Judi Nishimine and her husband Jim, JoAnn Chang and her husband Rodney, and Carole Ogawa and her husband Eddie; grandchildren, Joel Nishimine, Matt Nishimine and his wife Suzie, Jason Chang and his wife Losa, Ryan Chang and his wife Adrienn, Adam Chang and his wife Meghan, Chris Ogawa and his wife Leslie, and Ian Ogawa; and his great-grandchildren Mason, Juliann, Brennan and Amari.

Roger Yoshinari, our main contact on the mainland, has provided information concerning our 2011 reunion, as follows:

Cannon Company Reunion

The Annual Cannon Company Reunion will be held from Thursday, April 28 to Sunday, May 1, 2011 at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. These reunions have become a family event. Last year over 80 family members (including grandchildren) turned out to support their veterans and renew the friendships which have developed over the years. We look forward to another congenial get-together again this year.

For those who plan to attend, please make your own reservations at the Fremont by calling 1-800-634-6182 as soon as possible and definitely before the deadline of March 24, 2011 to receive the special Cannon Company group rate (which includes 3 meals per day). Also please notify Roger Yoshinari (Sam

Yoshinari's son) with your RSVP. You can contact Roger at (714) 624-0492.

68th Anniversary Banquet

Mark your calendars for the 68th Anniversary Banquet on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Honolulu. Cannon Company members are asked to make reservations through John Mikasa or Esther Umeda by March 1.

In Memoriam

With sadness, we express our condolences to the families of John Kashiki, who passed away on October 24, 2010, Masami Ohara, who passed away on December 5, 2010 and John Imoto who passed away on October 22, 2010. We will miss them and we salute their loyal support of the Cannon Company over the years. May they rest in peace.



Happy New Year All. Our Goal for 2011—
Stay Healthy, Stay Active, Keep in Touch

The last Medics meeting was held on November 10, 2010 with Howard Kozuma, John Masunaga, Jerry Ogawa, Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka, Oscar Tsukayama and a very welcome attendee, Dr. Noboru Ogami in attendance. This was probably, Noboru's first venture outside of his nursing home. He was accompanied by wife Betty, daughter and son-in-law Susan and Jerry and a caregiver. It was great to see Noboru as many have not seen him since January 2010. Tak Nakamura and Kazu Tomasa had other commitments and could not make it.

It was a luncheon meeting at Toshiaki's Tanaka Saimin, a brand spanking new restaurant in the old Weyerhaeuser building on Nimitz Highway and Alakawa Street. It is roomy; has great ambience; a menu with a wide selection, great tastes and the price is right. It is now operated by Toshiaki's daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Paul Watanabe. Guess What! Toshiaki picked up the tab.

After reporting on matters discussed at the mother club's meetings, the main order of business was our Medics Shinnen Enkai. Jack and Marian Yamashiro

made several inquiries and we decided that it will be held on January 29, 2011 at Natsunoya starting at 11:00 AM. A letter, informing members of the details and requesting RSVP was mailed out on January 6, 2011. We are looking forward to a good turnout and a good time.

News From Our Mainland Friends

Ben and Hisa Yamanaka from Los Angeles report that age is gradually creeping up on their gang and they don't get to meet as often. Consequently, there is very little news to report. He says the Wachis have moved into a retirement home. He sends best wishes for a great new year to the Medics in Hawaii.

Tosh and Fumi Yasutake celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 2010 and Tosh also celebrated his 88th. They are enjoying life with their kids, grandkids and kinfolks as they travel throughout the country visiting them. Tosh still plays tennis twice weekly and works at the lab every Friday. Fumi is kept busy with housework and loves to read. They say Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Mrs. Kimi Momoda reports that love, thoughtfulness and support from family members, kinfolks and friends have provided a great degree of comfort to her. One of her daughters lives only ten minutes away and spends a lot of time with her. She, too, sends Best Wishes for the New Year to all.

Mrs. Shizu Iijima from St. Paul, writes it is cold in Minnesota and envies those of us who can enjoy the Xmas holidays in T's and shorts. I invited her to

make like a snowbird and spend the holidays in Hawaii. She sends Holiday Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year to all.

Joe and Nell Saito from Ontario, OR called to say Happy Holidays and a Great New Year to all. Nell reports that all in the Saito family are doing well; they celebrated a family reunion in Oregon in 2010. Joe says he is pushing 93 and life is a day-to-day affair for him but was quick to say "I would like to" when I mentioned that he is good for many more trips to Hawaii.

We received the cutest e-card (guess that's what it's called) from Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya, an illustrated Best Wishes for the New Year card. They've had a busy year. After leaving Hawaii in January 2010, Jimmie had to undergo radiation treatment for cancer and recovered very nicely. Jimmie said, food tasted like sawdust and he didn't have any appetite but Lynn tried all kinds of recipes to make the food as palatable as possible. Jimmie tried hard to eat as much as he could to keep up his nutrition level and faithfully kept up his exercise so that by July he was well on his way to recovery and had regained most of the 25 lbs. he lost during radiation treatment. In October they did a tour of Europe; in November they were invited to the White House to witness the signing of the Congressional Medal Bill by President Barack Obama and in January 2011 they will be vacationing in Honolulu. We look forward to their visit as they will be here from 21 January to 1 February and will be attending our Shinnen Enkai.

News of the Homefolks

Marian Yamashiro received an iPad as a Christmas gift and is making out like a teenager as she surfs the net, does her e-mail, prepares a do-list so she won't forget, etc. whenever she has some free time between tasks. She is getting good at it and demonstrates how with twists of her fingers she can move the images up, down, right, left, profile, landscape, large, small or even turn the pages. She is very excited about her new toy.

Mitzie Inouye is always travelling. She has missed most of our Medics events because of her travels to Japan, Southeast Asia, the Mainland, etc. We are expecting that she would attend our Shinnen Enkai and play her Taishokoto for us.

Iris Fukui has registered and is planning to attend the award ceremonies for the Congressional Medal of Honor in Washington D.C. next fall.



Allegra Matsuo Mossman, granddaughter of the late 442nd RCT Medic, Theodore Matsuo and 442nd RCT Historian Dr. Dorothy Matsuo attended Governor Neil Abercrombie's Inaugural Ball on December 9, 2010.

She was escorted by Mark Aoki, grandson of Dan Aoki, Co. E 442nd RCT and 442nd's political strategist. It is good to see the younger generation getting involved and actively participating in politics.

Donations

Generous donations to the Medics Chapter were received from Jack and Marian Yamashiro and Tosh and Fumi Yasutake during the last quarter. We thank them sincerely.

Taps

Dr. Harry F. Abe, 94, passed away at his home in Long Island, New York on November 19, 2010. He was a respected member of the Medical Detachment, 442nd RCT and served in various supervisory and administrative positions within the detachment.

He was born in Seattle, WA on September 3, 1916 and raised in Portland, OR as the second of six children. He was drafted following graduation from college and later volunteered for assignment with the 442nd where he served as cadre and remained with the 442nd from Camp Shelby to combat in Italy and France until World War II ended.

He attended Marquette Medical School in Wisconsin and served his internship and residency at the St. Mary's Hospital in Brooklyn, New York after his discharge from the army. He practiced family medicine for 45 years in Long Island, NY and received a citation for his dedicated service from Nassau County, Executive, New York. He was also Director Emeritus, Department of Family Practice of St. Joseph's Hospital in Bethpage, NY.

Harry Abe was a lifetime member of the Nassau County Medical Society, NY State Medical Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American Medical Association and also served as county delegate to the NY State Medical Society. He was a life member of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association, Governor Emeritus of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles

and charter board member as well as senior advisor to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington D.C.

He is survived by wife Lynn, step sons, Kerry and Kris and daughter-in-law Gerrit and eight grandchildren. Also surviving are children of his deceased wife Fusako, Douglas and Carolyn, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Fumio Akisada of Honolulu passed away at home on November 27, 2010. He was 99. His military service included assignments with the 1399th Engrs., the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Medics. He is survived by daughter, Carolyn Whippo and two grandchildren.

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Abe and Akisada families.



A Requiem for Colonel Bert

Bert Noboru Nishimura was born in 1918 at Pahala on the Big Island. It was a plantation community. Bert's father was a *kanyaku imin* – a contract laborer from Japan. Conditions in Japan were hard and his father decided to join those seeking a new future on plantations in Hawaii. His mother



Photo: 442 Archives

came later as a picture bride. Both his parents were from Kumamoto *ken*. His father worked in the boiler room of the sugar mill. In the flu epidemic of World War I, Bert lost his younger brother and sister. When Bert was five years old, his

parents moved to Honolulu where better medical facilities were available. They made their home in Kakaako.

Bert attended public school and the Hongwanji language school. His father, who became a stevedore, was active in the sport of *sumo*. This, in a way led to his enrollment in the Judo class in the Hongwanji language school, a sport in which he became proficient. As part of the Judo class, the students were subjected to character building lectures. These would have a great impact on his future career. He was indoctrinated with the *yamato damashi* spirit to serve his country, to endure hardship and exhibit a sense of *gaman*. Most importantly, he learned the precepts of *oya- koko* or filial piety which meant one must bring honor to the family's name. He lived with the *on* concept which stated one should never forget your obligations.

Bert attended McKinley High School and was an honor student and a member of the National Honor Society. He was fond of news-writing,

journalism and public speaking. Following graduation, he enrolled at the University of Hawaii. He taught Judo while in college as he had reached the rank of *ni-dan*, second grade black belt. In 1939, Bert won a Judo tournament and was awarded the black belt, 3rd rank – *san-dan*. This feat has not been forgotten as the Judo Academy paid special tribute to Bert, this in 2010.

While attending the University, he enrolled in the ROTC program. This helped to pay for his college expenses. But it also prepared him for the military life which became his career. He graduated from the University in 1939 with a degree in education. His first teaching assignment was at Pahala – a return to his roots. Bert was with the 299th National Guard serving out his obligation as a Reserve officer. He was called to duty as the Hawaii National Guard was federalized. He was sent to Kauai and was there when Pearl Harbor was bombed. While on Kauai, he met and married Hanayo (Hannah) Minatoya. Bert recalls when the news that Pearl Harbor was bombed, the Guard members were ordered to their gun positions. But they were without ammunition as the supply sergeant who had the key to the arsenal was on a pass in Honolulu.

While Bert was on Kauai, an incident occurred which was big news. A Japanese pilot had landed his crippled plane on Niihau and had taken over the island. The Kauai National Guard was asked to investigate and Bert recalls Jack Mizuha and his men went to Niihau. By that time, a Niihau native in a rage had grabbed the Japanese pilot and bashed his head.

It was during this period that the Japanese community was at peril. There were talks of moving those of Japanese ancestry to the mainland or to Molokai. Bert recalls working with Reverend Yamada on Kauai on the Territorial Morale Committee. He became involved with Hung Wai Ching, Shigeo Yoshida, Charles Hemenway and others pleading the case of the local *Nikkei*

community. What a letdown to learn that the military had declared that those of Japanese ancestry were enemy aliens and not eligible for the draft like other citizens. Those in the Guard had their weapons taken away; things looked bleak. Those AJAs in the Guard, save a few, were segregated and sent to the mainland before the impending Midway battle of June 1942. These AJAs in the Guard would in time become the legendary 100th Infantry Battalion of WWII.

When President Roosevelt issued his announcement for the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, it gave the young Nisei a chance to demonstrate their loyalty. They registered by the thousands and 2600 from Hawaii were selected. They assembled at “Tent City” in Schofield Barracks where Bert was the Camp Commander. What a memorable moment it was in March 1943 when 1st Lt. Bert Nishimura led the 2,600 Island volunteers down King Street from the Iwilei railroad depot to Iolani Palace! The historic photograph of 1st Lt. Bert Nishimura at the head of the formation remains a classic!

At Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Bert spent time with Company I, then was assigned to Company K. Later, he was with Company E as executive officer. Bert is remembered as being very G.I. – that is, he observed strict military protocol. There was a story that Bert was walking along the sidewalk with another Nisei officer. He asked his companion when did he receive his officer’s bar? Bert learned that he was senior to his companion. While walking, he casually remarked: “Did you know you are walking on the wrong side of me?”

The 442nd went overseas with two infantry battalions as many of the 442nd in Camp Shelby had been sent as replacements to the 100th. The trip took over 20 days to cross the Atlantic in a huge convoy. The boys tried to cope with the monotony by playing card games, singing and shooting craps. Bert recalls an incident where a young talented ukulele player was singing “Danny Boy” and imitating the battalion

commander, Lt. Colonel James Hanley. The young ukulele player did not know that the battalion commander was watching the show from the upper deck and enjoying himself. That young ukulele player with Easy Company was Dan Inouye!

It was during the first Italian Campaign in 1944 that Bert was put to the test. He had been transferred to the Headquarters of the 2nd Battalion in charge of the I&R Section – Intelligence and Reconnaissance. His section was given the task to accompany the 522nd Field Artillery Observer to determine whether or not the Leaning Tower of Pisa – which provided a broad view of the landscape – was being used by the Germans as an observation point. The artillery officer managed to get himself separated from the group and was trapped by a German patrol. Bert's group captured two of the enemy patrol. He ordered his men to guard the prisoners and went to the rescue of the artillery officer. When his rifle jammed, he threw grenades and routed the enemy saving the artillery officer. He received a Silver Star for this action.

Our next major battle was in northeastern France in the Vosges Mountains. The fighting was fierce, weather was bitter cold and wet. Casualties were heavy and the Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion lost its Company Commander. Bert was finally promoted to Captain and took over as Company Commander. He was one of the two Nisei officers in the 442nd at Camp Shelby. The other Nisei officers had been sent to the 100th from Camp Shelby or transferred to the MIS. There was a standing order that the Army had issued – no Nisei could command an Infantry Company. Until then, we only had captains in the medical corps and in the engineer company. Of course this silly rule had been ignored by 100th Infantry by that time. While Bert was overseas, he received news that his parents had died.

After the war ended, Bert was discharged. The returning veterans formed the 442nd Veterans Club in 1946. Bert was part of this group and was its secretary. They organized fund-raising events

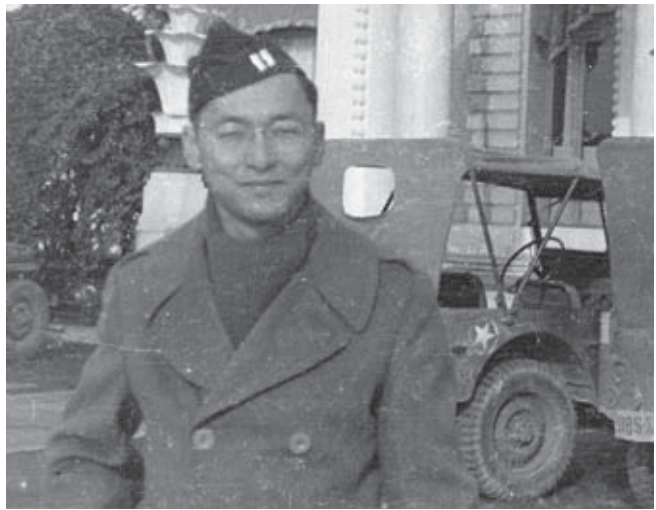


Photo: 442nd Veterans Club Archives

with the help of people like Earl Finch. However, he was recalled to service in 1949. He was sent to Japan and when the Korean War started in 1950, he was assigned to the 8th Army. After Korean War, he decided to make the Army his career. He served until 1966 and retired with the rank of Colonel after nearly 30 years of service. He was the first Nisei to attain this rank and he was proud that his accomplishment led the way for other Nisei to reach higher rank.

After leaving the Army, he did some teaching on the mainland and worked for private firms before returning to Hawaii. He was with the Hawaii National Bank when he decided to fully retire. He and Hannah lived at the Salt Lake subdivision for a while. Hannah wanted them to retire to Kauai, they found a home in a subdivision at Lihue. Then, Hannah became ill and they moved back to Honolulu where she could get the treatment she required. After she passed away, Bert made his home at Kahala Nui in Kaimuki. In a few years Bert's health took a turn for worse and his last year was spent mostly in bed. He passed away on October 15, 2010.

If Bert's parents were alive, they would be thrilled and filled with pride at their son's achievements. Truly, Bert had lived up to his code of *yamato-damashi* in serving his country and fulfilled his obligation of *oyakoko* by bringing honor to the Nishimura family.



by Ron Oba

*Fast as the Raptor
The Spirit of 'Go For Broke'
Flies Over Blue Sky*

Adjutant General Robert G.F. Lee

As he gave the keynote speech at the Joint Memorial Service, Gen. Lee invited the veterans of the 100/442/MIS to “come fly with me on the C-17.” About 30 of us were treated to a flyover over Molokai, Maui, Lanai and Kahoolawe. Several of the boys climbed the ladder to the two-story high pilot’s cabin to observe the scene from above. We looked through the keyholes on the side of the plane. After the ride, we were given a tour around the hangars where the F-22 or the Raptor was parked. The Pilot told the group not to touch the plane; someone immediately touched the plane! We were then bussed to the Officers Mess Hall and treated to some local food. There we learned that the General was retiring from active duty. I was urged, so I gave a thank you speech and expressed our sincere loss of a great general. The 9th Army Reserve at Fort Shafter will again attend the Bruyeres/Biffontaine reunion in October. They are asking whether some of the veterans are interested in attending this event.

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony

The ceremony will be held at the Rotunda for 300 representatives from all 100/442/MIS units sometime next year. The mainlanders are conducting a fundraiser for this event. Terry Shima, Executive Secretary of JAVA, is asking the veterans to come in droves. I have moved to send President Bill Thompson and a companion to attend the event at the Club’s expense. Motion was carried.

Interview

The Reverends Shinohara and Kuboi of the Nuuanu Soto Mission came to interview the veterans about the 442nd in WWII. Shirley called about 10

veterans for the interview but none wanted to be interviewed and since I was there, got to be the goat. Both Ministers could not converse in English, nor understand English; neither was I able to speak Japanese. It turned out to be a comedy of errors. Can you speak Pidgin Japanese? No! We struggled for 2 hours trying to convey the exploits of the 442nd from its inception to its return home. I couldn’t believe their sincere appreciation for the interview. I felt much better speaking with the Mililani High School students a few weeks later.

Wade Wasano is an accommodating guy. He takes me to these events even though I can drive, which relieves me of finding places I’ve never been to. I guess I should purchase a Garmin GPS. This is a fantastic instrument that tells you in voice to turn left, turn right; no, go back and turn left or right. Thank you, Wade. Sorry, I was not able to attend the Elks Club luncheon held for the veterans. Mr. Yukitomo has been sponsoring the luncheon for the veterans since last year.

Pearl Harbor: A Promise Fulfilled, 1941-2010; 69th Anniversary

On Pearl Harbor Day (December 7, 2010) when the Commemoration of the 69th Anniversary of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor and Dedication of the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center were held, Wade Wasano and I headed out to the Visitor Center at 6:30 a.m. but the 3,000 seats were nearly filled. We were ushered up front where the Pearl Harbor survivors sat. I sat next to a survivor who was stationed on the battleship USS Tennessee. Wade sat next to a survivor who was a great, great, grandson of the Revolutionary War!! Newly installed Governor Neil Abercrombie was one of the speakers. The program was precise and like clock-work till we were escorted through the cordon of “Walk with Fame” where the displays were manned by every military unit of the Army, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Air Force. What a surprise. I was interviewed many months ago about my eyewitness account of the attack and incarceration of my father-in-law which was being shown on the screen. Shari Tamashiro and her friends were there to urge me to stand beside the video so everyone

can take photos. National Parks Director Mr. Martinez said, "Ron you are now famous."

Las Vegas Reunion

George Nakasato, chair, of the Las Vegas reunion, sent our Registration forms to the veterans and relatives. Hopefully there will be another 17 veterans, spouses and children and friends to make up about 80 people attending the five-day event. We are still seeking a keynote speaker for the Sayonara Banquet. Do you want to talk? F Company is inviting veterans of other chapters to come join us since many chapters no longer plan a reunion for lack of membership. Mike Tsuji of I Company will be joining our group for the reunion. Planning members, Richard and Ron agreed with George that the genre should be about the same as last year. It has been successful so why fix it when it's not broken. However, the Security at the airport will be something to be seen. Yes you have a choice for an X-ray scan that will show your "Wan Hung Lo" or you can have a pat down, but don't touch my junk!! That's my privates!!

Ueda High School

Ueda High School of Japan in Nagoya comes with 300 students for an educational visit every year. I was again asked to speak at the Prince Hotel to the students who are very interested in our issei parents and how they fared over the years in Hawaii during the Plantation Days. This time, many of the students asked questions about the veterans and how it felt to be American Soldiers fighting for the USA. The Principal and students were very interested in the eye-witness attack on Pearl Harbor and the two Zero planes that fell at what is now the Pearlridge Shopping Center and another in the deep ravines of the Aiea Heights Koolau mountains.

Unemployable?

So far Fred Okada was called for a physical evaluation (2nd time) after completing the unemployable form. It has taken a long time to get any answers; however, according to Congressman Daniel Akaka, the procedures will be accelerated starting RIGHT NOW. I wonder.

I recently was prescribed some eye drops and waited 1-1/2 months, so I called the pharmacy to volunteer my help since they must be short-staffed. They said, no need help. But I insisted to go help so I can fill out my own prescription. They said, "Don't come, Don't come!" I wonder why. I should tell Mike Kitamura of Akaka's office about this.

Live With Honor, Die With Dignity

DVD of this movie is now available at the clubhouse for \$25. Your children should see this.

Year-End Luncheon

Forty-nine board members, reporters, docents and wives attended the luncheon at the Tsukiji Restaurant replete with delicious nigiri, shrimp tempura, miso yaki, ramen, etc. I picked up my good friend, Dr. Yutaka Yoshida, 98 years young of H Company for this festive luncheon and left when we were satiated. There was a short meeting but no one could hear a thing in that large room so it was a good thing that it was short. As we left, Oh Shucks, we forgot the shave ice, ice cream and desserts.

Christmas Party at the Tree Tops

39 veterans, wives and children came with gifts like the three wise men. The Tree Tops must have a new chef since the food was especially tasty. The shrimp tempura went out like hot cakes as the tourists descended into the dining room. Everyone brought door-prizes, monetary envelopes and orchid plants from Jr. Uranaka for the Lucky numbers and the bingo games that followed. We all took home more than one prize each. The manager said, "Next year-same time?" "Yes!"

Obituary

Mary Toshie Endo Muranaka, wife of Morris, F Company, died on December 16, 2010 at Pohai Nani Good Samaritan Society. She is survived by daughter Maureen, son Jan (Joylene) and daughter-in-law Star Botelho. She was preceded in death by Morris and son Garret. She was born in January 1917 in Los Angeles, California. After graduating from high school she attended UCLA and University of California, Berkeley and married Morris Muranaka.

Both were interned in the Rohwer, Arkansas Internment camp. Morris volunteered for the highly decorated 442nd Infantry, Fox Company. After WWII, Mary and Morris settled in Hawaii in Kailua. After Morris died, Mary returned to college at the University of Hawaii, Manoa and earned her 5th year teaching certificate while raising her young children.

Mary taught at Kailua Intermediate School for 20 years. She was a member of the Kailua United Methodist Church for over 50 years. She had a beautiful voice and sang for her friends and joined the chapel choir of Pohai Nani as one of its original members. She was loved by the Pohai Nani community for her ready smile and enthusiastic love of Bingo.



After the C-17 flight, Ron Oba wishes Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee a happy retirement Photo Wayne Iha



by Ann Kabasawa

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Hope this year finds all of you in better health and looking forward to the ANNUAL GEORGE COMPANY REUNION in Las Vegas on March 8th and 9th, 2011 at the Fremont Hotel. The banquet is on Tuesday March 8th and the cost is \$45.00 per person. On Wednesday, we'll have Hospitality Room and of course Talk Story time. We'll have lots of prizes and surprises, too!!

There will be a bus that takes those who want to go from Los Angeles to Las Vegas and back. It's a lot of fun and does a stop at Barstow, too. We do need more people to fill the bus, so if you are interested, please call Mary Karatsu at (323) 293-4676 or George Nakatsu at (310) 515-5472.

If you have any questions, please call Ann Kabasawa at (808) 781-8540 or e-mail at diverseinnovations@hawaii.rr.com.

HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU THERE!!!

George Company Cookbook

Send in your favorite RECIPES...whether it's yours or from someone else. But be sure to give us the name of the person and which veteran they're providing for. (Sample - Jane Tanaka is daughter's friend of veteran Joe Higa)

We also want to include a bio sheet of each veteran...for those still living and those who have passed. Please have someone from your family send us:

- Full name of veteran
- Birth city and age today
- Number of siblings
- Number of children, grandchildren & great grandchildren
- Favorite hobby or interest
- Latest photo of veteran

Last call for information to be submitted by:

JANUARY 31, 2011.

E-MAIL TO:

Ann Kabasawa - diverseinnovations@hawaii.rr.com

Lynnette Uyesato - electric808@hotmail.com
(270 Makalika Street, Hilo, HI 96720)



by Jane Shikasho

Sam Furuya, Sat Shikasho and Tommy Tamashiro enjoyed the fly-by ride on the C-17 Globemaster (the “Spirit of Go for Broke” was not available at the time), thanks to the generosity of Major General Lee. The highlight of the ride was climbing the steep steps to the cockpit to catch a glimpse of one or two islands.

Our Christmas lun-cheon, which was attended by Sam Furuya (Harumi was down with the flu), Irene Nakamura, Janet Matsuda, Frances Aoyama, Elaine and Tommy Tamashiro, and Jane and Sat Shikasho, was held at Tsukiji Restaurant and all enjoyed the variety of food on the buffet line. Missing from the scene but not forgotten were: Janet Goto, David Kaiura, Bill and Yaeko Kuwate, Sam Sasai, and Clara Watanabe.



Sam Furuya (top), Sat Shikasho (bottom left) and Tommy Tamashiro take turns sitting in the flight deck

Photos courtesy Wayne Iha





by Ed Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino Takisaki

Akemashite omedeto gozaimasu. Is that the way you say it? I recall my parents saying something like that, but hard to remember, *neh?* Oh dear, it is 2011! Who would think we would still be here to celebrate such old age, *neh?* But might as well enjoy it, and consider ourselves lucky if we are able to wake up each morning to enjoy whatever might come into our lives.

No news is good news, as they say! Not too much to report this quarter. The big news around the country is all the variety of weather inundating the US—snowstorms, flooding rains, tornadoes and on and on. Mother Nature has not been kind to us. Seattle had an unusually early snowstorm and freezing temperatures just before Thanksgiving, so we are preparing ourselves for the hard winter that has been forecast for us here in the Northwest. Although we have had below freezing temperatures this past week, there has been no precipitation; so with clear, sunny weather, we are able to see the mountains covered with snow in the distance—Mt. Rainier to the south; Mt. Baker to the north; the Olympics to the west; and the Cascades to the east. Looking out the window, it looks like a sunny summer day but when you step out the door, you know it is winter.

The recent signing by President Obama of the bill approving the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor for the 100th, 442nd and MIS and anticipation over the Medal's presentation to representative veterans in Washington, D.C. sometime this fall is commencing to gather a groundswell of excitement. According to the reports from the NVN, this ceremony promises to be a last hurrah to be remembered. Reportedly, many hundreds of family members are also planning to attend. I hope some

of our I Co. members will also be able to participate at this special ceremony. Even if we have lost so many of our boys, some of you are still healthy enough to be there; so hope you will think seriously about it.

Kim Muromoto is the only I Co. member whom I have seen recently. He is spry and seems to be very active. Shig Momoda still gets around; his age is catching up with him, but he still drives. William Yasutake is another one of our Company members who continues to be enjoying good health. So I hope that they will continue to represent I Co. in the Northwest. Everyone, have a Happy New Year!

California by Marian Yamashita

Happy New Year to all our friends from wet, wet Southern California. Though we have needed rain, not like what we had during the month of December and into the New Year. We have had very cold and snowy weather where it has never snowed before. But all will melt away soon and we'll be back to our normal winter weather, hopefully.

I Co. and JA Living Legacy had our annual holiday party at Happa restaurant in the Gardena Hotel. (Our usual holiday place "Sambi" restaurant closed its doors in November.) The party was festive with bingo games and gift exchanges and plenty of yummy food. Although the Item group is dwindling down to just a few, many came with their children and siblings, making the occasion very festive.

It was good to see Tomiko Yamaguchi with son Steve and his wife Toshimi. Tomiko has moved back to the Gardena area from Palm Springs, living with her son Glen.

And from the high desert, Apple Valley and Hesperia came Enro and Yoneko Okada and Tom Watanuki and Pat with their children.

A bit of good news from California is that Frank Kinoshita recovered enough as of a couple of weeks into November that he is now at home. After being confined in hospitals and care homes since early March, he has recuperated enough to enjoy the comforts of home.

Jim continues to progress slowly but manages to get around, mostly with a cane or a walker. At our age, everything is slow-motion anyway, so we can't expect much else.

From the Bay area, Frank Shimada reports that Shig and Yoshiko Doi, with the help of their daughters Janet and Sheryl, hosted a pre-New Year luncheon party at their home in Richmond. Besides Frank, invited guests for the occasion were Masato Yamashita, Lloyd Fujitani and sister Myrtle. Additional guests included Mr. and Mrs. Tets Fujimoto (Anti-Tank).

NATURALLY, as it most certainly happens at an occasion such as this, there were many tree bursts and shrapnel flying around after a very bountiful and tasty lunch. And to top off the most pleasurable affair, the host presented the guests with parting gifts of poinsettias and cartons of Big Island "hand-dipped shortbread cookies." Can it get any better than this?

Because there appeared to be no further market for his 10-acre Tokay vineyard, Lloyd Fujitani pulled out all his vines four years ago. Then when a test determined the soil to be infested with nematodes, he instituted measures to neutralize the infestation and let the land lie fallow for nearly a year. In the following year he planted Zinfandel grapes and finally in the third year after planting, he harvested a bumper crop. Needles to say, he was grinning from ear-to-ear. On January 1st 2011, HE WELCOMES his 93rd birthday.

One of Frank's casualties recently (October) was that he got rear-ended on the freeway and his pride and joy—the 24 year old pickup with 268,000 miles, was totaled. He no longer has his baby but he was left with a whiplash, swollen neck muscles, sore hands, knees and ankles. You name it - he has it, plus the fact that he lost 10 pounds due to loss of appetite. But you can't keep a good man down, so he will be back.

Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki

Going on 91, Winnie Takekawa continues to be her personable self, this, in spite of year 2010 having been centered on stubborn medical problems; first a colonoscopy (all okay), but then, a year-long battle with a vessel to her liver, being "bloated" (her word!).

Winnie begins the New Year with another appointment at Queen's for a repeat procedure to "fix" the vessel with a "rubber band" (again, her words). We wish her well, our prayers being for a permanent cure to her liver ailment.

Winnie, who lost Kazu some seven years ago, is blessed with a fine family, three children and seven grandchildren: Steven, with daughters Tessa and Tanna, who runs the Wedding Cafe at Ward Warehouse, and son Troy; Neal, with boys Kar and Kory, and Gwen, with Rachel, 14, and Emily, youngest at 10. Tessa is expecting in May, Winnie's first great-grandchild.

The happy family still lives in their large Ala Amoamo house - Winnie by herself pretty much occupies the main floor while the youngsters are comfortably accommodated downstairs.

Shu Fujitake too has faced medical problems: a broken left shoulder from a fall and a pancreatic infection that caused a coma and an ICU stay at Queen's. Shu did recover and is now a resident at Hale Nani Nursing. Bea and Eddie Yamasaki visited him on New Year's weekend and found him quite cheerful. He does have some skin problems, caused by exposure to sunlight after having taken some prescribed medication. Shu lamented about having to forego his annual trips to Japan, visiting close relatives, taking *onsen* baths, and sipping *sake*. *Gambare*, Shu.

Our thanks to Kaichi Igawa, Shu's buddy, who provided information on Shu's problems and on whom to call for assistance in tracking him down. It is disconcerting to phone a "single" like Shu, and receiving no answer

Barbara Kameda, at 89 years of age, feels blessed with the good life she has caring for Donald, now 90, though he has some memory problems; exercising every morning; taking care of home and yard at their 10th Avenue residence; getting out to lunch with a couple of friends and having two wonderful daughters, Diane Sasaki and Patricia Yamamoto. She is especially proud of granddaughter

Christen Sasaki, who at 31 is studying for her Ph.D. in history at UCLA. She melts when two-year-old great-granddaughter Rylie drops by, the latter calling Donald “*Ji-ji*” (grandpa) and Barbara “*Ba-ban*” (grandma) while adding hugs. And then there is another delight, her two-month-old great-grandson Leis.

Hiroshi Aruga answered the pleas of his daughters and moved to Honolulu in December, giving up his quiet Hilo country environment for our Big City. He is now staying with his daughter at 3132 Hakanu St., Honolulu 96821, tel. 808-373-2824, e-mail hiro442@hotmail.com. Sometime in mid-July, Hiroshi plans to move into a condo.

During the days of World War II, Terry Aratani and Hiroshi were paired like brothers. As new GIs in Camp Shelby, April 1943, ARatani and ARuga were lined up next to each other and assigned to First Platoon, I Company. (The Army efficiently assigned men alphabetically from A in the First Platoon through Y in the Fourth Platoon.) Thus, they served as buddies, went into battle, got wounded (Hiroshi, twice), and got discharged as staff sergeants.

For now, Hiroshi lives atop and Terry at the foot of Waialae Iki. To think that Terry and Hiroshi have been on monthly phone calls for some 60 years. Like most of us, Hiroshi has health problems, but not serious ones; he sounds real good over the phone. Itemites at the January meeting will see him. No longer driving, Hiroshi will be given a lift by still-driving Terry. Hiroshi’s move to Honolulu has prompted us to get updates on other Big Islanders in our Ohana.

Taka Arakaki of Hilo is well. He still checks in early in the mornings at Sputnik at 1:00 A.M. but he spends much less time there now—an hour or so. Sputnik opened 35 years ago; caters prepared foods for all types of parties and offers local favorites and Sputnik specialties which contribute greatly to the shop’s success.

Masa “Cowboy” Kawamoto and Eunice of Hawi, Kohala, continue to devote lots of time and energy in serving all the Big Island’s independent ranchers who bring in their cattle for slaughter and meat processing - the sides and quarters going into freezers back home. Masa has some hearing loss, but otherwise, both he and Eunice are “*genki*,” having just met the heavy year-end demands of their customers.

Asayo Naguwa is doing quite well. Nowadays, she spends time as a volunteer at Life Care Center, helping patients with their meals. Yuki passed away at the Center a year and a half ago. At home, it’s a couple of hours of daily watering and caring for her plants—Hilo has changed from a wet to dry place. November and December saw Asa off-island, visiting her children. Coleen (Robert) Shishido is a counselor at Maui Community College. Alvin, once retired after his twenty-year service in the Air Force, has re-enlisted and is again at Hickam Air Base. He and Lanai, from Thailand, have two children and two grandchildren. That makes Asa a great-grandma!

A few days into the New Year, Eddie joined Glenn and Frieda to visit Glenn’s father Barney Hajiro at Maunalani Nursing up on Wilhelmina Heights. Barney looked well that day: alert and responsive, recognizing Eddie. He’s picked up somewhat in eating of his meals, drinking juices and even having some of his favorite spam *musubi*. Glenn has been concerned about his appetite.



Ed Yamasaki visits Barney Hajiro at Maunalani Nursing Home
Photo courtesy Glenn Hajiro

Barney reminisced about the war years, recalling names like (Tommy) Onaga, (Goro) Matsumoto, (Shiro) Kashino, Capt. Hempstead, Lt. Wheatley, Capt. Bryne, (Sadaichi) Kubota, (Jim) Kawaminami. He recapped incidents relating to M Co.'s kitchen crew; becoming a member of I Co.; capturing a German patrol in the Vosges; fighting the Germans in the Vosges Forest. His recall of names and details of events is amazing.

At Glenn's request, Barney wrote his signature on a piece of paper. "Better than mine," remarked Eddie. Glenn makes this request regularly to test one aspect of his father's fitness.

After some 15-20 minutes, Barney, looking sleepy, asked his visitors to leave. In parting, he gave his familiar, gentle hand salute. Glenn was very pleased to see his father "looking so good."

Sakae Andy Yamashiro is rightly proud of his grandson, Mitchell Kazuto, who attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He is an 11-year member of Troop 264 in San Jose. Parents are Andy's son Dean and Belinda. Item Chapter Hawaii sent a congratulatory message to Mitchell, noting that here in Hawaii the Boy Scouts Aloha Council celebrated its centennial anniversary year in 2010.



Photo: Paul Wiren

Andy has another son Eric who came home over the year-end holidays to spend time with his parents. Eric lives in Merced where he is a supervisor with AT&T.

At home, Andy's wife Mae has been ill with brain and lung cancer with Andy as principal caregiver. New

medication seems to have arrested the spread of the cancer. Currently, Mae is made to get up as much as possible in a recliner or wheelchair.



Aina (birthday girl) celebrates with Grandpa and brother Hoku at home in Tokyo

Eddie Yamasaki escaped from 50-degree (+/-) temperatures in Japan and returned home in time for a warm Hawaii Christmas after his second three-month-discount-ticket trip, visiting son Ted and daughter Mariko, their spouses, and five grandchildren, ages 5 to 14. Great visit, of course, enjoying the fall foliage, *kaukau*, especially *sushi*, and *sake*. In short, he returned more fat, and probably, more sassy.

Sad News

Mitsuo "Battleship" Yakuma

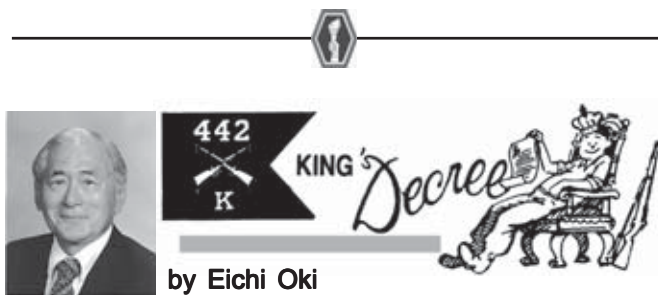
June 25, 1921 - December 22, 2010

On December 7, Mits fell and suffered a hip fracture while taking a walk outdoors with his walker. He was beginning to show early signs of Parkinson's and dementia, but no one is sure how or why such a fall occurred. Regrettably, as often happens, the incident triggered a downhill battle for Mits. He was admitted to Tripler's Center for Aging, where, along with failing kidneys and a weakening heart, he contracted pneumonia, necessitating a move to the ICU. His pleas, "I want to go home. Everybody sick over here," had to go unanswered. Through it all, he apparently never ceased in putting forth his best efforts, resulting in the medical staff calling him a "fighter."

Indeed, the tag “ Battleship ” earned during the war years was well deserved.

Besides his wife Yukie, Mits leaves behind two children, son Glenn and daughter Nora (Herman) Rapoza, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; sister Yoshiko Kaisen.

To family and friends of Mits, the Item Ohana sends warmest aloha.



Promises to Keep

This long overdue report on my part covers only the last quarter of the year from Oct. to Dec. 2010. I resume my responsibility as reporter for King chapter with apologies to its members for my long absence necessitated by personal and other pressing matters and assure them that I will do the best I can in the years of my tenure, taking to heart the words of Robert Frost in *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*:

“The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.”

King Chapter’s 2010 Christmas Gathering

King chapter’s 2010 Christmas gathering held on Dec. 15, 2010 at Pagoda International Ballroom served not only as the auspicious setting for the resumption of my reportorial responsibility but also gave me the perspective or insight of the participants’ overwhelming spirit of aloha and goodwill in this annual event, which had previously escaped me. As I went over the long list of donations and contributions with Helen Noborikawa, I could not help being moved and humbled by the effort, time and expense the donors put into their donations.

Our gathering was attended by 57 people (45 King chapter members and their families and friends and 12 special guests). The three most important people responsible for this event were Helen Noborikawa, Terry Fujioka and her daughter Louise Liu.

The 45 members including their families and friends who attended the Christmas gathering were the following: Masao (our president) & Terry Fujioka, son Norman Fujioka and daughter Louise Liu; Kats & Nora Ibara; Kent Kajiwaru (our treasurer) and son Scott Kajiwaru and his wife Kirsten and their daughter Molly; Mary Kosasa and her son Isaac Kosasa and his son Micah, and caregiver Koi; Rodney Miyamoto; Robert T. Nagata (M Co.) and son Allan Nagata and his wife Mariko; Curtis & Helen Noborikawa; Eichi & Nobuko Oki; Andrew Ono (honorary member); James Oura and daughter Phyllis Kurio; Seichi & Sally Sakaida; Satoru & Barbara Sawai; Kenny & Stella Shimabukuro; Mildred Shimamura and daughter Denise Shimamura, granddaughter Marlene Shimamura, and friend Noreen Yamamoto, daughter of Stanley Aotaki, deceased, former member of K Co.; Fumio & Mary Takeshita; Clarence Tamayori; Margaret Tanaka; Ellen Uehara; Thomas Yamasaki; James Yanagida; Herbert Yanamura; George & Mieko Yoshino.

The invited special guests from Vacations-Hawaii were Russell Gouveia, operations manager, and Collene Nakano, lead charter agent, and her husband Donald Nakano. The invitees from 442nd Veterans Club were William Thompson, 442nd President; Oscar Tsukayama, Go For Broke Bulletin Editor; Shirley Igarashi, Executive Secretary; and Claire Mitani, Archivist and Go For Broke Bulletin Production Manager; Wayne Iha, photographer, whose talented service is frequently requested by members of the 442nd and 100th.

The regular special guests who have been attending our annual Christmas gathering for several years now were Mildred Moriyama and her sister Florence Hughes, who started our chapter’s legacy fund on behalf of their Yamashiro family members with a donation of \$1,000 in memory of their respected brother Gordon Yamashiro, who died on the Vosges Mountains in Oct. 1944; Frances Mochizuki, one of our honorary members and former travel agent for King chapter who continues

to make bead and yarn leis for everyone on occasions such as our Christmas gathering; and Thelma Chang, author of “*I Can Never Forget*” – *Men of the 100th/442nd* and also *Of Courage, Fear and Backpacks and Other Things You Carried*, among other writings, and long-time friend of Joe and Millie Shimamura and the 442nd and 100th.

Donations/Contributions in the Spirit of the Season

The extraordinary donations and contributions at the Christmas gathering included:

1. Grand prize of a free trip for two including air, room and meals from Russell Gouveia of Vacations-Hawaii, which came as a complete surprise at the Christmas gathering and left us grateful and speechless. It was the first donation of our lottery and won by Isaac Kosasa, who had brought his mother Mary Kosasa to the once-a-year gathering as in the past.

2. Generous gift cards from the following: two gift cards from Mary Kosasa and one each from James Yanagida, Margaret Tanaka and Herbert Yanamura.

3. Orchid plants for each table plus two vases of anthurium floral arrangement from Seichi and Sally Sakaida as they have been doing for the past 20 years.

4. 442 pens for everyone plus three shopping bags and special leis for guests from Masao and Terry Fujioka and daughter Louise plus the additional donation of one DVD of *442: Live With Honor, Die With Dignity*, one *Departure* DVD and two *Going for Broke* documentary DVDs from Louise.

5. Boxes of senbei from Kent Kajiwara and packages of homemade cookies for everyone made by his granddaughter Molly Kajiwara.

6. Boxes of cereal from Mildred Shimamura.

7. Two baskets of plant arrangement from Mary and Fumio Takeshita.

8. Red, white and blue bead leis for everyone from Frances Mochizuki.

9. Blender from Craig Mitani, who was unable to attend as special guest.

10. CDs of the song *Go For Broke* for everyone from Jake Shimabukuro, the well-known ukulele expert, including copies to the Pagoda staff (Debbie, Yvette and Mae in the office and Joe and his kitchen staff).

11. Seven bags of Kau coffee from Lee Crutchfield of Kau, Big Island.

12. Two boxes of manju/mochi from Kate Yashima, who was unable to attend.

13. Anonymous gift card from someone who had attended Kalani High School.

14. Two decks of *hanafuda* cards and one Roy Sakuma CD *I Am What I Am* from Santa Claus.

15. Box of chocolates from anonymous.

16. The andagi enjoyed at the coffee and punch table from Rodney Miyamoto, who has been going through the trouble with his family in making and bringing the delicious andagi for several years now.

17. The contribution of the sautéed mahimahi and teriyaki chicken lunch and the boxes of Kleenex from King chapter.

Our heartfelt appreciation to all the donors and my apologies for any errors and omissions.

Conclusion and Best Wishes for the New Year

I apologize for not reporting any of the deaths and illnesses and other significant matters which took place since my last report and hope to do so in a comprehensive manner with the assistance of Helen Noborikawa, Masao and Terry Fujioka and others.

Finally, may I take this occasion to extend appreciation to all those who participated in the Christmas gathering and also extend greetings of the season and best wishes for the new year to all of the King chapter members and guests.



L-R: Mildred Shimamura, Eichi Oki, Thelma Chang
Photo by Wayne Iha



by Genro Kashiwa

Allen Nakamura, age 89, who lived in Aina Haina, passed away on July 18, 2010 after a short illness. Allen wrote the Company “L” column in the 442nd Go For Broke Bulletin for over 35 years. He was so steady, consistent, reliable, and capable that we find it hard to find a replacement to take care of the Company “L” column. We miss him as a friend. We car pooled each month to go to Company “L” meetings and functions with either Paul Matsumoto, Genro Kashiwa, or Allen as drivers. Paul, the good Joe, drove most of the time.

Back in the 1970’s Allen developed cancer in the neck and throat region. It necessitated surgery and all cancer was removed. However, his speech was impaired the rest of his life. Despite this, he enthusiastically spearheaded annual and semi-annual parties by arranging programs, and doing MC duties at Keehi Lagoon and tea-houses with his wife, Emi. Emi, a teacher, principal, and later a high DOE official, authored two very hilarious skits, all in Pidgin English,

“you know da kine.” All skits were performed by Company “L” veterans. The first skit entitled “Japanese Cinderella” was presented at a Company “L” function in 1979; and the second skit entitled “The Nevah-Evah-Befoah-Sounds and Dances of Hawaii” was presented at a 442 RCT function in 1981. Her skits will be printed in their entirety in a book or DVD Genro and Muriel are working on presently for Company L. Subsequently, Emi developed cancer and battled it for 2-3 years. She passed away in 1985. Allan lived as a widower for 25 years but he consistently and diligently wrote the column during that time. The last column was written by his daughter, Cynthia Medeiros, after Allen died. Now I was informed that I am to take the place of Allen Nakamura. I am asking that all Company “L” veterans send in their “printable” tidbits to me and Muriel Kashiwa at 5341 Apo Drive Honolulu, Hawaii 96821 (e-mail genromuriel@hawaii.rr.com).

I am particularly interested in hearing about combat incidents in France or Italy. For example: the day in late October or early November 1944 in the Vosges Mountains and forests in France, just after the famous “Banzai” charge of “I” and “K” Companies to rescue the “Lost Battalion” of the 36th Texas Division, when Paul K. Matsumoto drove his jeep and trailer loaded with hot food in mermite cans

to about 20 yards behind the front lines where the men of Company “L” were firing away at the German enemies who were firing at Company “L” men about 25 yards ahead of them. Paul Matsumoto told the boys that they “had” to eat the hot food he brought in his jeep trailer. Company “L” boys had no alternative but to withdraw 2 men at a time from the firing line to eat the hot food and



2010 Tree Tops Restaurant, Paradise Park Semi-annual Luncheon

Bottom (l-r): Hideo Nakayama, Jun Yamamoto, Genro Kashiwa, Wally Kawamura
Top: Isao Takiyama, Joe Oshiro, Paul Matsumoto, Kazuma Ogata, Stanley Matsuura

go back to firing at the German enemies. Stories like these would be lost forever unless the veterans tell them before they are incapacitated

On August 29, 2010 Tom Mizuno, age 89, of Waialua, Hilo, and Pearl City, passed away from kidney failure. When he learned he had a serious kidney problem a year and a half previously, he refused dialysis because of age. So, through that year and a half, his wonderful adoring family, wife Toyo, children, and many grandchildren rallied around him, entertaining and keeping him company for weekends, holidays, or any free time they had. At his funeral his life's eulogies were impressive. Two of his grandchildren wrote poems for him. After his service Toyo donated \$500.00 to Company L in his memory. Tom, Toyo, and family, thank you very much.

Ben Kitagawa of Seal Beach, California passed away in December, 2010. He died at a nursing home where he lived. In his younger robust days, he and his now deceased wife, Fudge Hide, regularly attended Hawaii and Las Vegas reunions. They were a fun and easy going couple so we enjoyed many a laugh together. Sam Ikari, Hiro Nishikubo, and Don and Sumi Seki attended Ben's funeral in Los Angeles, Another couple representing a foundation was present also. Sumi bemoans the fact that many future 442nd veterans' funeral will be small. There won't be any 442 song singing like before, either, which

reminds us that Genro always tells Paul that he will sing the "Company L Song" for Paul at his funeral.

Isao and Hilda Takiyama moved to 2752 Kaaha Street, #209, Honolulu, HI 96826. Please correct your Company L's Directory.

In mid-December 2010, the Honolulu chapter enjoyed Christmas lunch at Paradise Park, Tree Tops Restaurant. Twice a year the tranquil verdant setting draws us to that eating place, so we usually put in our early reservations. This year's number attending, of course, were 2 men less than last year's. The following members attended:

Hideo Higa, Terry Jichaku, Genro and Muriel Kashiwa, Wallace and Mabel Kawamura, Edna Kuramoto, Marian Matsumura, Stanley Mastuura, Toyo Mizuno, Hideo Nakayama, Kazuma Ogata, Joe and Nancy Oshiro, Bill Oshiro (flew in from Maui), Ronnie Oshiro (flew in from Maui with Father, Bill), Isao and Hilda Takiyama, Pauline Tome, Flora Watanabe, Jun and Lorraine Yamamoto.

Jim Turk and Yuri Suzuki of Shelton, Washington (summer and autumn) and Rancho Mirage, California (winter and spring) wrote the following of their visit to Italy last summer, 2010:

At the end of May, we rented a villa in Tuscany for 2 weeks and by early June, we had all 6 bedrooms filled with Cheryl and her friend Gail Jahn, Dean and Sharon (our son and daughter-in-law), Jason (son)

and Doug (son), Ryan and Jess (Dean's son and bride), Kyle, and David and Janet (nephew and wife). We enjoyed visiting the different hill towns, shopping, sightseeing and a special trip visiting the farmhouse (where Jim was hidden by the Italian farmer, Mr. Bardelli, behind German lines, with the patrol that he was with during WWII) and renewing friendships with Mr. Bardelli's two children, who live near Paris.



Bottom (l-r): Marian Matsumura, Flora Watanabe, Hilda Takiyama, Edna Kuramoto, Pauline Tome

Top: Muriel Kashiwa, Nancy Oshiro, Lorraine Yamamoto, Mabel Kawamura, Terry Jichaku, Genny Matsumoto



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

522-B Chapter hosted on December 8th, 2010, yet another lively early Christmas meeting/luncheon/party at Tree Tops deep in Manoa Valley, and “a good time was had by all.” The lovely wives and widows and friends in their colorful holiday chic and the guys in their smart aloha shirts ate, sang, and played bingo (what else?) with great camaraderie.

It was wonderful seeing some of the second generation sons and daughters present, such as Charlie Nakamura, Jr., Kiko-chan Miho Fujikami who accompanied her mother Laura substituting for Dad Kats who was ill, and photographer Wayne, son of the Uradas, who took terrific group pictures of us (last year) and generously gave each of us copies. Had fond memories of many Christmas pasts when more children came, scrambling for candies thrown down at them by their then-young fathers. Remember?

Music filled the air! It was about time for some of the members to come back and display their dormant talents, so I asked the gifted Hilda and Stan Kaneshiro, Ellen and Mits Kunihiro, and Jane Ueoka to come over a week earlier to rehearse a bunch of carols and Hawaiian songs. They came over with their ukuleles and guitars and fine voices, selected some carols, went through them once, and pau. No need practice. They were confident and ready. At the party, everybody was so happy to be involved in audience participation. Most recalled all the Christmas carols from small kid time, including the pidgin version of the 12 Days of Christmas, with all the motions. Surprisingly, a few heard and sang this version for the first time! Lively Jane Ueoka led the “band” and the vocals. Hey, it was so much fun;

let’s have more of you who play and sing join us next year, okay?

Thanks to Charles Nakamura, Sr. who added to the basso/baritone section of the informal chorus of mostly sopranos, with his strong voice. It was so wonderful seeing so many faces lighting up and singing their hearts out, something they hadn’t done in a long time, they told me later. I guess it was so soothing (?) I saw some of the guys snoozing!

Busy Joe Obayashi gave me a list to THANK all those who generously contributed gifts as prizes to add to the party’s fun: Reiko Arakaki, Sue Hamamoto, Walter Inouye, Mildred Hara, Hilda Thomas, Boyan and Nancy Higa, Kay Kagawa, Stan and Hilda Kaneshiro, Laura Miho, Irene Naka, Kay Nakamine, Joe and Peggy Obayashi, Toshio and Florance Ohara, Dan Tada. Rocky Tanna, Ted and Fuku Tsukiyama, Nancy Uchigakiuchi, Henry and Grace Urada, Charles Nakamura, and Flint Yonashiro.

Since no news is not necessarily good news, I invite all of you to write/send news of all kinds to me through e-mail, snail mail, phone, or grapevine. Ja neh, FYT

Golf Report

With the 522-B Golf Club being the only surviving golfing group in the 442, it is hoped that reports of its activities will not be considered tiresome or boring news. The group only fields about three foursomes on each monthly outing so that there are still lots of room to accommodate more players as stiff and creaky as they may be. The group will warmly welcome any more willing 442 golfers into its fellowship, so just call Rocky Tanna at 737-5837 and let him know if you would like join the monthly fun and relaxation at the Olomana links. The latest addition is Fred Arashiro of 232nd Engineers Chapter who played in the group’s December tournament and just in time for the year-end luncheon. The accumulated last three month’s tournament results are:

<u>Players:</u>	<u>10/18/10</u>	<u>11/15/10</u>	<u>12/13/10</u>
Fred Arashiro			138 gross
Masami Doi	74	66	
Roy Fujii	71	74	67
Richard Furuta	79	72	74
Boyan Higa	73	74	77
Mits Honda			82
Mits Kunihiro	109	103	104
George Muramaru	72	73	72
Rocky Tanna	69	72	71
Ted Tsukiyama			
Harold Ueoka	73	73	75
Flint Yonashiro	75	72	73

Par Three Pins:

Masami Doi		#8	
Richard Furuta			#8
Roy Fujii			#17
Boyan Higa	#17	#17	
George Muramaru			#2
Rocky Tanna		#2	
Harold Ueoka	#2		
Flint Yonashiro	#8 & #11		



by M. Honda

This quarter is fast coming to an end and here I am just starting on this newsletter. Today is the 27th of Dec and I've only got a few days to finish this.

The main news in this issue is the Passing of another stalwart of the Eng/Band Chapter. Hichiro Neal Matsumoto passed away early in the morning of the 20th of November 2010. He gave great service to the Chapter as a news reporter for a period of at least 55 years. His starting date is lost in the darkness of a time long ago in the fifties.

As Hich used to say, "Eh, no ax me. Even me I dono wen i start. Shee!! Dat was long time ago. Ah, no worry, I remember bimeby wen everybody forget about it." Hich was a master at writing in the Hawaiian Pidgin style. I can't even try it. Anyway, he used to write Pidgin style, Kumamoto dialect, and Standard English. Janet became expert in all those different styles and several times I thought of asking her what Hich meant in a particular sentence. This one I could understand, "Oi, agyan kostsu yuto nosan. Anmari bustu butsu yuto eda wo oru zo!" Translation: "Hey, no talk like dat. You grumble too much, I'll break your legs."

Hich's Mother and mine came from the same county in Kumamoto called Kosa except she came from the country and mine came from the wide part of the road called Kosa Machi. I visited a couple of times and saw the Midori Gawa that my Mom learned to swim in. I met my great-grandnephew who showed me where my Mom's house sat when she left for Hawaii in 1905. I stooped to grab a handful of dirt to bring home, but decided against it when I realized that it was fill dirt and not the original.

Hichiro was a great one and we will all miss him very much. May he rest in Peace.

The Chapter had a Christmas party on the 11th of December at the Natsunoya Teahouse in Alewa Heights. We had a good turnout of around 35 people with the Chapter paying for every member and spouse present. Kiyo K. was the M.C. and he did a great job as usual. What really made the party a ringing success was the presence of Brian Suzuki and his one-man band. Brian was presented with a shirt created by Ann Namba which he graciously accepted. Usually, he does not take anything because his volunteering for our party is from the heart.

We missed our first couple, Mary & Doc Kawamoto who had gone to visit daughter Jean and her family on the mainland. They should be back in time for our 1st meeting of the year next month. Our Chapter is getting small in numbers because of all the people missing from the rolls and makes me

wonder, “Who’s next?” Forget I said that!! What a gruesome thought.

Out here in Pearl City, Milady has been very busy running our extended families’ Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. The Thanksgiving party had around 40 people but the Christmas party drew over 50 people. Our parties started with about fifteen people and gradually grew into the fifties as children grew up and started inviting friends. Milady and I agree that it’s a lot of work but worth it when we see all the children form bonds that will last into the end of their lives. That’s our contribution into their lives. Things are easier for Milady because all the Nieces-in-laws help with preparation of foods and games to help make things festive and fun.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and that everyone makes it to the year 2012. BASTA!!! AND DERCI!!!



by Gail Nishimura

Brrr! It’s even cold in Hawaii, never like the mainland but cold enough for us...hope you are warm and toasty as you read through the bulletin.

As usual the time is flying by, can you believe that it’s 2011! Seems like we were just worrying about the new millennium and here it is eleven years later. Hope you had a great holiday season, I was able to welcome in the New Year with family and friends. As usual, there were the usual fireworks and a great number of illegal aerals to welcome in the New Year.

The annual Sons & Daughters Christmas Party was a success. It was a lot of fun and as usual the food was delicious. Ann always manages to make us all really think with her trivia questions. We had more people attend than in years past, all the tables were full and it was good to see so many come out –

in the pouring rain! Thanks to Irvin for the help with getting my mom in and out of the car with all the rain coming down.

Here’s Wes’ report from the latest meeting:

Hi Everyone,

Happy New Year! We had a great membership meeting last Thursday. It was held at the Clubhouse, with 18 in attendance. Thank you for your support and contributions to a successful meeting.

The meeting began with a special presentation by Bill Thompson, President of the 442 Veterans Club. He announced that the Board of Directors has approved the concept of a new 442/KCC Legacy Center and would like to proceed with the project this year.

Mr. Thompson presented a “vision” for the Legacy Center and asked the Sons and Daughters for their support.

The first order of business for the Legacy Center is the acquisition of the land parcel which currently is under State DLNR ownership. Multiple avenues will be taken to acquire the property. One is through legislation. Norman Sakamoto said he would help with the introduction of a bill for this purpose. We will also be meeting with the new director at DLNR and at the proper time, the Governor.

Please let me know if anyone knows members of the legislature or state government who might be able to help us. We also need help with many of the other aspects of this project.

Wade reported on a few other items discussed at the veteran’s board meeting. Planning for the March Anniversary Banquet is going well. One concern is the use of audio visual projectors and screens. Due to the high rental costs, Wade is still looking for a vendor.

Wade also reported on the Congressional Gold Medal Award. As of December, there were a total of over 1600 veterans and family members who have expressed interest in attending. Go to our website for more information.

The annual SD Christmas Party held at the Tree Tops restaurant was a great success. A Big MAHALO

to Ann Kabasawa and her “elves” for a job well done! Ann said she would like to incorporate new program ideas for this year’s party. Suggestions anyone?

The SD website continues to be populated with interesting articles, thanks to the help of Susan, Debbie and Mark. We have posted articles from our veterans, like Ted Tsukiyama and Ron Oba. In addition, we have posted articles from past GFB Bulletins. Ron has graciously donated copies of his old Bulletins, some dating back 30 years. We plan to re-publish stories that might be of interest from the Bulletins. Let us know if you have any articles worth posting.

Other items soon to be posted on the website are the Christmas party photos and a 2010 Honor Roll tribute.

Cindy gave us an update on the Veterans Archive Program. Currently we have two veterans who are participating in the “pilot” program: Mr. Oshiro and Mr. Deguchi. Marilyn (Mark’s sister) flew down from California to attend the meeting and present her father’s photo album. Impressive! Cindy will follow up with KCC on the digitizing of the photos. My dad’s photos should be ready by next month.

We discussed having a few more veterans involved in this pilot program. Names of possible candidates were discussed. Follow ups will be made by Wade, Mark and Alvin. Did I miss anyone?

Mark and Debbie talked about the Sons & Daughters Movie Night. After much discussion, and thanks to Shirley, we have decided to hold the event at Club 100. The venue is ideal for the purpose of the event: to get together with the sons and daughters of the 100th, MIS and 1399th. More information to follow on this, but for now, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 26, 2011.

Another important date for all of you to note is Saturday, April 9, 2011. We plan to hold our General Membership Meeting that evening. This will take the place of our monthly SD meeting which would have been on Thursday the 7th. This will be a dinner meeting to elect our new board of directors and officers. More to follow on the venue and program; please plan on attending!

Shirley reported that Senator Inouye will be visiting the Clubhouse and presenting a Framed Certificate on the Congressional Gold Medal and the signature pen that was used for the signing. The presentation will be made on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 2:30 pm.

All for now, Wes

Thanks Wes, for your great report. Will be looking forward to seeing you all at the annual anniversary banquet in March! Come and join us. Take care and stay warm!



Santa hands out candy



Ann Kabasawa and Santa

Photos courtesy Wayne Iha

Major General Robert G.F. Lee to Retire by Oscar Tsukayama

Maj. Gen Lee transferred authority as Hawaii State Adjutant General to newly appointed attorney general, Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong during ceremonies held on January 9, 2011. He is looking forward to his first vacation in years as he plans to retire from military service on March 1, 2011 after 39 years of Army Reserve and National Guard service. He also served 28 years as a nuclear engineer at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

As Adjutant General for the Hawaii Department of Defense, his duties included serving as: 1) head of the Hawaii National Guard consisting of 2980 personnel in the Army National Guard and 2500 in the Air Guard, 2) Director of State Civil Defense and Homeland Security, 3) Advisor to the Governor, and 4) providing support to the Office of Veterans Services. With so many hats to wear, it is no wonder that vacations were not in his agenda. During his tenure, the 29th Brigade (to which the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry - the Hawaii National Guard and Reserve Unit is assigned), was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and Kuwait in 2008 and he made 10 visits to the combat zones during these periods. The Brigade was also involved in providing security during major conventions in Honolulu, providing humanitarian aid during natural disasters and deployments related to partnership programs in counter-terrorism efforts in the Philippines and Indonesia which is on-going.

One of his greatest achievements as adjutant general is the unprecedented transformation and upgrade of the Guard's partnership with the regular military in the wartime defense of our country. As an example, the Hawaii Air Guard is the only such unit to fly the Air Force's premier fighter, the Raptor-F-22. In addition, it flies the C-17 Globemaster, the Air Force's newest cargo plane and the KC135-R refueling tanker all of which are in heavy demand for the military mission in Hawaii. His boss, Governor

Linda Lingle says, "He is one of the most respected adjutant generals in the nation. He always advocates for Hawaii's best interests, especially for the soldiers and airmen under his command. He and his wife Judi also concern themselves with the National Guard families which is something I respect them for immensely because few recognize the real sacrifice made by families of America's military members."

Maj. General Lee was also a staunch supporter and friend of the 100th Bn., 442nd and Nisei veterans. During his term in office, we developed close ties with the 100/442 Reserves which included inviting each other to our events, and most of all, in the assistance given us in the way of providing manpower and color guards for our banquets and events and color guards and rifle squads for our memorial services and burial services for our veterans. He served as keynote speaker during several of our events and treated the veterans to a once in a lifetime experience of a ride in the C-17 Globemaster during training missions on several occasions.

He will be missed and we wish him and wife Judi a Long and Happy Retirement.



Maj. Gen Lee at Joint Memorial Service 2010

Photo courtesy Ron Oba

Saving the Lost Battalion Site

by Bill Thompson

In November last year, word reached us that the “Lost Battalion” site of WWII in the Vosges Mountains was in danger of being obliterated by a wind farm project. The project, headed by an Egypt-based company, Erelia GDF Suez, submitted plans for a large scale wind farm project in the Vosges Mountains which includes development of the site where the 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment of the 36th Texas Division made a heroic stand.

A community organization, “*Défense de L’Environnement le département des Vosges*” has contested this wind farm project. We, the 442nd Veterans Club, have joined them in this effort to preserve the historic “Lost Battalion” site. Michael Higgins, son of the 1st Battalion commander, 141st Infantry Regiment, is representing the 36th Division veterans in this endeavor to save this hallowed ground. The 141st Infantry Regiment is known as the “Alamo Regiment” in honor of the brave men who gave their lives for freedom in 1836. The men of the Lost Battalion lived up to their reputation; they resisted the enemy who surrounded and bombarded them with heavy artillery.

The battle to rescue the trapped 1st Battalion gained lasting fame when the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was called back into action after suffering heavy casualties in freeing the towns of Bruyères, Biffontaine and Belmont from the Nazi invaders. After five days of brutal fighting, including a bayonet charge, the Nisei soldiers of the 442nd reached the trapped Texans. This battle in the Vosges has been designated as one of the ten most memorable battles in the history of the U.S. Army.

There is great concern especially among the veterans of the 36th Division. The American Cemetery at Epinal is the final resting place of 485 soldiers of the 36th Division. It was a high price paid by the 36th Division of the 6th U.S. Army Group in their battle to free the Vosges Mountains from the ruthless Nazi invaders who ruled this area for four years. The 6th U.S. Army Group which included the 7th U.S. Army could claim as being first to the Rhine River.

The wind farm project at *Borne n° 6, Le trapin des Saules*, the “Lost Battalion” site, depends upon the municipality of La Houssière. The decision for the wind farm rests with the Mayor and Municipal Council. We have written to the Mayor and the Council to weigh the wind farm project against the importance of this historic site. The freedom for the Vosgiens was decided nearly 67 years ago. The new generation at La Houssière may not be aware of the price of freedom as the American Cemetery at Epinal is over 35 kilometers away. The Bruyères and Biffontaine communities celebrate the freeing of their towns as Liberation Day in October of each year.

In the past two years, the 100th Infantry 442nd Reserve Color Guard was invited to participate in the Liberation Day ceremony; this year, for the 3rd time, the Reserve has been invited. The bond between the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the French communities of the Vosges remain firm. A Walk of Remembrance and Liberty stretches from Bruyères through Biffontaine and ends at the “Lost Battalion” site above the municipality of La Houssière. This year the 36th Division Color Guard may join in the October ceremony further strengthening the WWII ties between France and the United States.



Photo: Herve Claudon

**Letter to Mayor Cronel of La Houssiere from
William Thompson, 442nd Veterans Club**



442nd VETERANS CLUB

933 WILIWILI STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826 • TELEPHONE: (808) 949-7997 • FAX: (808) 949-1539

20 décembre 2010

Monsieur le Maire de la Houssière et son Conseil Municipal

Dear Maire Roger Cronel:

En Novembre, j'ai écrit une lettre à vous et au Conseil sur le projet de parc éolien proposé qui modifiera le site où l'héroïque «bataillon perdu» de la 36e division de l'armée américaine fait un stand. Je suis sûr que vos enfants l'école est familier avec les ordres donnés à la 442e régiment d'infanterie de sauver les soldats pris au piège de la 36e division. Les Allemands avaient reçu l'ordre de combattre jusqu'au dernier homme; quiconque en retraite seraient tués par leurs officiers, ce que nous avons appris de ceux que nous avons capturé. La bataille pour sauver la «bataillon perdu» a été le point culminant de la guerre dans les Vosges. Cette bataille pour sauver le bataillon piégé a été désigné comme l'un des dix batailles livrées par l'armée américaine dans son histoire.

Nous n'oublions pas la Vosgeans. Vous nous avez donné la nourriture et un abri pendant que le froid Octobre-Novembre 1944. Beaucoup d'entre vous nous ont aidé en donnant de précieux renseignements sur l'ennemi. Certains d'entre vous ont servi de guides. Certains ont combattu côte à côte avec nous, tels que les FFI. Ces FFI sont une vue familière parmi nos troupes. Il y avait là lorsque le «bataillon perdu» a été sauvé. Votre respect et d'amitié ont été une durables. C'est la raison pour laquelle de nombreux anciens combattants et leurs familles visitent les Vosges. Pour les vétérans, il est temps de rendre hommage à nos copains qui sont tombés au combat et du souvenir de nos amis.

Les leçons de la Seconde Guerre mondiale ne devrait pas être oublié. Pour garder la mémoire des sacrifices consentis, certains des sites de bataille doit être préservée. L'importance de la «bataillon perdu» site ne peut être mesurée. Nous offrons le cimetière américain d'Epinal comme preuve de l'combats acharnés dans les Vosges. Les écoles, j'en suis sûr, parler de la lutte épique pour apporter la liberté aux Vosges, et, éventuellement, à toute la France. Les communautés de Bruyères, Biffontaine et les autres célèbrent cette occasion comme Jour de la Libération

Nous vous prie de considérer l'effet de tout développement qui pourrait détruire la forêt où le «bataillon perdu» enfoncé, et, par conséquent, de détruire un site important qui est un jalon historique pour la France et l'Amérique.

Merci de nous avoir permis d'exprimer nos sentiments.

Respectueusement soumis,

William Y. Thompson

Président

442e Club des anciens combattants

TRANSLATION

December 20, 2010

Mr. Mayor of la Houssière and the Municipal Council

Dear Mayor Cronel:

In November, I wrote a letter to you and the Council about the proposed wind farm project which will alter the site where the heroic “Lost Battalion” of the 36th Division of the U.S. Army made a stand. I am sure your school children are familiar with the orders given to the 442nd Infantry Regiment to save the trapped soldiers of the 36th Division. The Germans had been given orders to fight to the last man; anyone retreating would be shot by their officers; this we learned from those we had captured. The battle to rescue the “Lost Battalion” was the climax to the war in the Vosges Mountains. This battle to rescue the trapped battalion has been designated as one of ten important battles fought by the U.S. Army in its history.

We will not forget the Vosgeans. You gave us food and shelter during that cold October–November of 1944. Many of you helped us by giving valuable information on the enemy. Some of you served as guides. Some fought side by side with us such as the FFI. These FFI were a familiar sight among our troops. They were there when the “Lost Battalion” was rescued. Your respect and friendship have been an enduring one. This is the reason why many veterans and their families visit the Vosges. For the veterans, it is a time to pay homage to our buddies who fell in battle and of remembrance of our friends.

The lessons of the World War II should not be forgotten. To keep the memory of the sacrifices made, some of the battle sites should be preserved. The importance of the “Lost Battalion” site cannot be measured. We offer the American Cemetery at Epinal as proof of the fierce battles in the Vosges. The schools, I am sure, tell of the epic struggle to bring freedom to the Vosges, and eventually, to all of France. The communities of Bruyeres, Biffontaine and others celebrate this occasion as Liberation Day.

We beseech you to consider the effect of any development which would destroy the forest where the “Lost Battalion” dug in, and, thereby, destroy a significant site which is a historic landmark for both France and America.

Thank you for allowing us to express our sentiments.

Respectfully submitted,

William Y. Thompson
President
442nd Veterans Club

Haole Officers Remembered

The following is a bio of Lt. James B. Dunn, I Co., written by his son Jim Dunn for the “Haole Officers Remembered” project.

James B. Dunn was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on July 2, 1909. He graduated from Rutgers University (NJ) in 1933 and worked as a banker in New York City. He married Doris Constable on September 7, 1940. Their only son, James C. Dunn was born on November 26, 1942. He was inducted into the US Army in April 1943 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. He served with Company I of the 442nd RCT in Italy, France and Germany and was separated from the Army in February 1946 as a First Lieutenant. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart and many campaign ribbons.

After the war he went into advertising sales in New York City with McGraw Hill Publishing Company and worked in that field until his retirement in 1972. He and his family made their permanent home in Plainfield, NJ. In 1975, he and his wife moved to San Juan Capistrano, CA to be closer to his son and his family. Shortly after the move to California, his health started to fail. He passed on December 29, 1991 due to complications from cancer.

Note from his son Jim: My father’s proudest moments were of his service with the 442. He spoke fondly of the friends he made in the 442 and there was a special place in his heart for the men he served with. I still have a picture of Company I that he kept on the wall of his bedroom.

In the 1970’s, my wife and I vacationed frequently in Hawaii and one time I decided to visit the 442 Club in Honolulu. I was treated like one of the guys when they found that my dad had served with them. It was a special moment.

My dad had many fond memories of the 442 and was extremely proud of the men he served with. I knew a lot about it because he spoke of them often. When I was in high school, he used to get me orchids for my date from Kay (Kei) Yamata (Yamada) who owned Orchids of Hawaii in New York City.

Community Exhibits Honor the Legacy of the Veterans

by Eileen Sakai

Sons, daughters and friends have refreshed the “Honoring the Legacy” exhibit at Central Pacific Bank and working with the National Park Service, have created a new exhibit at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center.

The AJA Veterans Exhibit Committee include sons, daughters and friends of the veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion (100th), the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442nd), and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). The Exhibit Committee creates exhibits on the four principal AJA units – the 100th, the 442nd, the MIS, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion (1399th). Alvin Yoshitomi and Eileen Sakai are the 442nd Sons & Daughters on the Exhibit Committee.

Central Pacific Bank

The first exhibit opened in February 2009 and featured the four principal AJA units – the 100th, the 442nd, the MIS, and the 1399th. Later that same year, the exhibit was changed to tell the story of “The Rescue of the Lost Battalion.” In November 2010, the exhibit was again refreshed to capture the story of the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) and is the current exhibit on display.

The 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) was comprised mostly of Nisei (second generation Japanese-American) soldiers. The battalion was activated in June 1942 as a “Separate” unit, signifying the battalion was an orphan outfit, unattached to a regiment or any larger unit. From training camp to the battlefield, the new display follows the steps of this brave group that came to be one of the most decorated military units for its size and length of service in the history of the United States. Memorabilia, photographs and veterans are featured in the exhibit.

The new display is part of its *Honoring the Legacy* exhibition at Central Pacific Bank’s Main Branch (220 S. King Street, Honolulu). Branch hours are Monday to Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and

Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, the public can call (808) 544-0500.

Pearl Harbor Visitor Center

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 to work out an agreement and design a small exhibit for the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center, focusing on the impact to Hawaii's citizens of Japanese ancestry immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

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, now tells a broader story about the entire war in the Pacific. Shari Tamashiro was the project leader for this exhibit, *Face of the Enemy, Japanese Americans Struggle to Prove their Loyalty*.

On December 7th, more than one-third of Hawaii's population was of Japanese ancestry. The attack immediately cast them under suspicion from

friends, neighbors and their country. Four thousand Nisei were already in the U.S. Army, drafted into the 298th and 299th regiments. Pfc. Ray Nosaka was on duty at Schofield Barracks and saw the bombs falling. He was soon reassigned to guard the Waimanalo shoreline.

"Rumors went around that in the back of us were American soldiers, haole soldiers. . . ready to shoot us. . . just like they don't trust us. They think we're going to go back and attack them."

Raymond Nosaka

Hawaii Nisei including Nosaka were pulled out of their units. They formed the legendary all-Nisei 100th Infantry Battalion. Many left Hawaii with this message from their fathers:

"Do your best for your country (America). Die if you must. Live, if you can, but whatever you do, do not bring haji (shame) to the family. Your country, the honor of your family comes first."

[John Tsukano, Bridge of Love, p. 19]

Chilly Sasaki, Anti-Tank Chapter loaned an artifact and Ron Oba, Fox Chapter shared his oral history for this exhibit.



The Exhibit Committee is now working with the National Park Service to host an open house for the veterans and their families after normal park hours. You will hear more details of this opportunity through your Chapter presidents.

Thanks to Central Pacific Bank and the National Park Service, we have an opportunity to share the stories and accomplishments of our veteran fathers to a much broader and global audience.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another reminder to save the date!

442nd Veterans Club **68th** *Anniversary Banquet*

Date: March 27, 2011 (Sunday)
Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Place: Pacific Beach Hotel (Grand Ballroom, 7th Floor)
Cost: \$35 per person
Parking: \$5 self parking with validation
\$9 valet parking with validation

No alcohol will be allowed in the foyer or banquet room. Alcohol will be confiscated by management.

Members:

Those wishing to attend the banquet, please submit your name and payment to your respective chapter. Chapter presidents will submit an attendees list and one payment to the 442nd Veterans Club. (Checks should be made out to "442nd Veterans Club" with note "68th Anniversary Banquet.")

Deadline to submit attendees list and payment: Monday, March 7, 2011

Hotel Reservations

The Pacific Beach Hotel is offering a special rate for local, neighbor island and mainland members attending the banquet.

Room occupancy for 1 to 2 persons:

\$109 + tax for Room only

\$139 + tax for Room and Breakfast for 2 at Oceanarium Restaurant)

Offer is valid 3 days prior and 3 days after March 27, 2011.

(\$15 overnight parking - price subject to change)

For room reservations:

Oahu members call (808) 923-4511

Neighbor island and mainland members call 1-800-367-6060

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

NEW 442 S&D WEBSITE


The Sons & Daughters have created a new website: www.442sd.org. Its primary purpose is to improve communications between the veterans, sons & daughters, relatives and friends.

Under "News & Events" at the website, you will find the latest news regarding the veterans and our organization. You will find and be able to download photos from past events such as the Anniversary Banquet and the Joint Memorial Services.

The website features interesting articles from the veterans: reflections of the past, present and future. We welcome you to submit articles of interest for posting on the website.


The website is used to expand the circulation of the Go For Broke Bulletin. Complete copies of the Bulletin can be found on the website, which can be shared with relatives and friends.

The website is address is: **www.442sd.org**



**SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THE
442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM**

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The 442nd's Farewell Ceremony at Iolani Palace
The Honolulu Chamber of Commerce bid farewell to the 442nd RCT on March 28, 1943.....

Who We Are

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. At the outbreak of the war, Japanese Americans faced suspicion and distrust. Executive Order 9086 by President Roosevelt sealed the fate of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. They were placed in barbed wired internment camps, leaving behind property and possession.

[Read More](#)

What We Do

The Sons & Daughters of the 442nd RCT is a chapter of the 442 Veterans Club. We were established in 1993 and have been in existence for the past 17 years. Our primary function is to provide support to the Veterans. We assist in the planning and implementation of various activities such as the annual 442 Veterans Anniversary Banquet, various military activities and functions and the annual Joint Memorial Services at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

[Read More](#)

Latest News

GFB Bulletin***Meet Barney Hajiro

Sons & Daughters March Meeting

TED'S CORNER *** Origins of the 442nd ***

442nd Organizational Chart

[View All Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team](#)

C-17 Flight

Nov. 2, 2010 - Photos: Wayne Iha



Handing out earplugs to the veterans



Boyan Higa (522B) in the flight deck



Veterans wait for takeoff



Harold Ueoka (522B) enjoys the view from the flight deck



Chilly Sasaki (AT) poses with the pilot



After the flight, LTC Dunn serves lunch to (l-r) Chilly Sasaki (AT), Sam Furuya (3HQ) and George Nakasato (F)

Veterans Day

Nov. 11, 2010, Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery

Photos by Wayne Iha



Noboru Kawamoto (RHQ) presents a lei at Veterans Day ceremony

Veterans Day

Nov. 11, 2010, Wahiawa Veterans Day Parade,

Photos: Shigeo "Doc" Kawamoto



Grand Marshal Doc Kawamoto (232nd Eng.)



Doc and wife Mary (r) pose with Rep. Mazie Hirono

Dec. 7th Ceremony

Pearl Harbor



*Ron Oba poses with Pearl Harbor survivor
Photo courtesy Ron Oba*



*100th and 442nd veterans at Pearl Harbor ceremony
Photo courtesy Wade Wasano*

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

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