



# Go For Broke BULLETIN

442<sup>nd</sup> VETERANS CLUB



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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# Go For Broke

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### Cover:

*Top: 442nd Veterans Club 68th Anniversary*  
*Bottom: Congressional Gold Medal News Conference*

*Photos: Wayne Iha*

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## PRESIDENT'S *Report*

by Bill Thompson

The quest for a site to build our 442<sup>nd</sup> Legacy Center continues. A State lot is being sought as it would cost less to obtain and being on a State lot could ensure the longevity of the Legacy Center. A consideration being evaluated is to locate this facility near an education facility which would greatly expand its use. This effort is a goal of our Sons and Daughters.

Our 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet in the closing days of March was well-attended. Over 600 persons were registered of which about 120 were veterans. This matches last year's count and our fears of a smaller anniversary turn-out did not materialize. Yes, we are still a formidable force even though each month we add over a dozen or so names to our Honor Roll.

Mits Honda who chaired this year's anniversary banquet provided a balanced program which even included the cultural aspects of the hana fuda card game. Yes, we remember the yaku combinations that pit skill against brains.

Ahead of us is the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. While a handful of veterans will journey to witness the ceremony in Washington, DC, we here at home will be planning a memorable program – a grand finale of the awards given to us over the years. For this, we have MG Robert Lee (retired) and Barbara Tanabe as co-chairs. This gala event is scheduled for December 17 with a morning parade in Waikiki followed by a banquet at which time replicas of the CGM will be presented to the veterans. We will try to get our neighbor island veterans receive free Honor Flights to match the national Honor Flights being given to veterans attending the Washington, DC ceremony.

On a sad note, we are sorry to see some the veterans who have done much for the Club pass on. We lost Barney Hajiro, our MOH veteran; Fred Ida, former president and staunch G Company leader; Alex Oka of Service Company; Robert Sasaki, our former long-time executive secretary; and Shigeyuki

Yoshitake, a volunteer for our archives and JCCH. Yes, there are others on our monthly Honor Roll who will be missed.

The “battle” to save the Lost Battalion site in the Vosges Mountains was won. Mayor Roger Cronel of La Houssière announced that due to the overwhelming support from local and the United States groups, the municipal council voted against the wind farm project which would have destroyed the Lost Battalion site. This site plays a significant part in the history of the 36<sup>th</sup> Texas Division and the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. The task now is to have this historic site formally designated and preserved. Its place in the history of the battle in the Vosges Mountains by the Allied Forces and its role in the fight for freedom fight by the Vosgiens is worth telling. The local citizens committee of La Houssière did an excellent job in marshalling the forces to forestall the farm project.

The 100<sup>th</sup> 442 Reserve has been invited, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, to participate in the October Liberation Day ceremony in Bruyeres and Biffontaine. This invitation means the Color Guard can express our appreciation to the municipal council and citizens of La Houssière for saving the Lost Battalion site. Interested persons may join this October trip by signing up with the Reserve group.



Senator Daniel Inouye & Bill Thompson at 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet Photo: Wayne Iha



## IN MEMORIAM



*Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:*

Chagami, Richard (Service)	Jan. 22, 2011
Fujii, Stanley K. (522 Svc)	Feb. 12, 2011
Fujitake, Shusuke (I Co.)	Mar. 27, 2011
Hajiro, Barney (M Co./I Co.)	Jan. 21, 2011
Hakoda, Kono (RHQ)	Oct. 6, 2010
Hashi, Richard (Service)	Dec. 31, 2010
Hirata, Shinichi (RHQ Co.)	Jan. 14, 2011
Ida, Fred (G Co.)	Feb. 2, 2011
Iso, Robert Masami (I Co.)	Feb. 6, 2011
Kamisato, Ernest (M Co.)	Jan. 8, 2011
Kawamura, Isamu "Sam" (522C)	Nov. 19, 2010
Kimura, George Kenji (RHQ Co.)	Feb. 6, 2011
Kitagawa, Ben (L Co.)	Dec. 15, 2010
Kuranishi, Katsuji Kenneth (E Co.)	Dec. 14, 2010
Kurihara, James "Jake" (H Co.)	Nov. 26, 2010
Kurokawa, Mickey (L Co.)	Feb. 16, 2011
Matsuda, Takashi "Dyna" (L Co.)	Dec. 5, 2010
Matsumoto, Willard "Lanky" (H Co.)	Jan. 28, 2011
Mori, Giichiro Joe (RHQ Co.)	Feb. 17, 2011
Nakano, Rokuro "George" (I Co.)	Mar. 4, 2011
Nakata, Hilo Hiroyoshi (K Co.)	Dec. 26, 2010
Ohara, Masami (Cannon)	Dec. 5, 2010
Oka, Alexander (Service)	Jan. 22, 2011
Okazaki, George (G Co.)	Sep. 1, 2010
Okimoto, Frank Sadami (G Co.)	Jan. 29, 2011
Orita, Toshio "Bob" (522C)	Feb. 6, 2011
Ozaki, Dr. Henry Y. (232 Eng.)	Dec. 27, 2010
Sakaida, Susumu "Tonti" (I Co.)	Feb. 7, 2011
Sakuma, Mamoru (G Co.)	Jan. 29, 2011
Sasaki, Robert (L Co.)	Jan. 11, 2011
Shikashio, Jimmy K. (522 Svc)	July 19, 2010
Sugawa, LTC (Ret) Ben (522B/L Co.)	Feb. 6, 2011
Suzuki, Harry Isao (H Co.)	Feb. 28, 2011
Tagami, Shuji (3HQ)	Dec. 15, 2010
Takahashi, James Iwao (3HQ)	Nov. 26, 2010
Tokusato, Paul Masaichi (F Co.)	Jan. 22, 2011
Uchimiya, George Y. (K Co.)	Oct. 30, 2010
Wakimoto, Kahachi (H Co.)	Jan. 25, 2011
Yamada, Dr. Edward (RHQ)	Dec. 14, 2010
Yamane, Kozo (H Co.)	Dec. 6, 2010
Yamashita, Jack T. (Cannon)	Feb. 12, 2011
Yoshitake, Shigeyuki (E Co.)	Dec. 23, 2010

## Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

### 442nd Veterans Club Donations

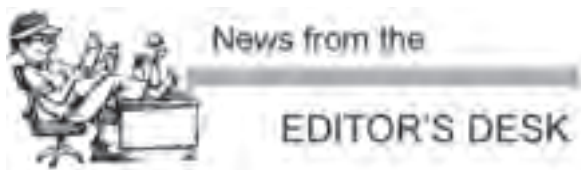
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Martin Fujimoto	\$100
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Hawaii Stars Presents (behalf of HGEA)	\$500
Alan Hayashi	\$200
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Cullen Ikehara	\$18
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Lloyd Tsukano	\$105
Nancy Uchimiya	\$100

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William Thompson	\$100
( <i>IMO Shigeyuki Yoshitake, E Co.</i> )	
William Thompson ( <i>IMO Fred Ida, G Co.</i> )	\$100
William Thompson	\$100
( <i>IMO Barney Hajiro, M Co./I Co.</i> )	



by Oscar Tsukayama

### **Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) Ceremony for Hawaii Veterans**

A CGM Committee co-chaired by Maj. General Robert Lee (Ret) and Barbara Tanabe has been formed to plan and conduct a separate CGM ceremony for Hawaii veterans. Plans developed thus far call for a morning parade in Waikiki and a banquet luncheon at the Hawaii Convention Center on Saturday December 17, 2011. Lunch for veterans will be free; neighbor island veterans will be transported to Honolulu without charge and the CGM Committee in conjunction with support from local businesses and individuals will furnish, without charge, replicas of the medal to each surviving veteran. Additional information related to this event will be furnished as plans are formulated.

On March 28, 2011, a news conference was held at Iolani Palace to announce the latest plans for this event. Approximately 35 aged veterans were present to hear the news and a picture was taken at the very spot in which a photo was taken on March 28, 1943 to bid farewell to 2,600 young men who left for Camp Shelby, MS for training. A Honolulu Star Bulletin story at the time said, "No scene in Honolulu during World War II has been more striking, more significant, than that at the territorial Capitol grounds on Sunday. It was not alone the size of the crowd, between 15,000 and 17,000, and said by old-timers to be the largest that ever massed within the gateways to old Iolani Palace." Many of the veterans present are in the photo taken 68 years ago. William Thompson, President of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club said, "The 1943 group photo is priceless. This is icing on the cake. We never dreamed that we'd go to war and get the honors that we received."

### **68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**

Accolades to the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet Planning Committee for a job well done. This year's committee was composed of representatives from the special companies and included Mits Honda (232<sup>nd</sup> Engrs.) as president, Masato Doi (Anti-Tank), Ralph Chinaka (Service), Noboru Kawamoto (Regt. Hq), Takashi Shirakata (Band), Frank Takao (171<sup>st</sup>), Kazuo Tomasa (Medics), Esther Umeda (Cannon) and the shakers and movers of the committee, S&D representatives Claire Mitani, Gail Onuma and Wade Wasano. We thank them sincerely for their hard work and efforts during the past year in putting together a great program. A total of 610 were in attendance, of which, 124 were veterans.

The theme for this year's celebration was "Nisei Values (Kachi) will continue to influence the future generations." Both Governor Abercrombie in his special message and Gwen Fujie in her keynote address, "Back to the future-the next generation" talked at length about these values that were instilled into the Nisei by their issei parents which contributed to making them a great generation. Governor Abercrombie stated that what keeps you coming back year after year is not just to celebrate the anniversary of your inception; rather, it is because you have a legacy to uphold, to preserve and perpetuate. You embraced values that permitted you to prove your loyalty to your nation by volunteering to serve in its armed forces in spite of prejudice and mistreatment by that nation, and enabled you to "Go For Broke" in battle and in the post-war years in building a more democratic society. This is why you have your Sons and Daughters organization to continue your legacy and I hope that it will continue for years and years to come.

Gwen Fujie is a professional lecturer on the subject of helping individuals and organizations increase their personal and professional effectiveness. She has conducted lectures and seminars throughout the United States and Japan and has written two books, *"101 Ways to Say Thank You – A Guidebook For Appreciation, Motivation and Validation"* and *"Mission Possible – Strategies*

from *Successful Possibility Thinkers*.” Following is her keynote speech:

### **Back to the Future – the Next Generation**

*Konnichiwa* and aloha!

*Omedetō gozaimasu!* (Congratulations!) — 68 years of friendship, fellowship and your famous “Go For Broke” spirit. Congratulations, gentlemen! You have come a long way!

It’s been a full year since we were all together here at the Pacific Beach Hotel. It is so nice to see you again. *Ogenki desu ne!* (You’re very healthy, aren’t you?!) It was an honor then to serve as your emcee, and today I come here with tremendous gratitude for this opportunity to be with you again at this most distinguished event. I am proud to be a daughter of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

I must admit, though, that I come with a very heavy heart having just left my home at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo. May I assure you that your American military forces — the Marines, Army, Air Force and Navy — are incredible as they all step up to assist the people of Japan.

My husband and I are so proud to be a part of our country’s Department of Defense, especially in times like this. Our “Operation Tomodachi (friend)” is in full force as I speak, and while my husband had hoped to be here today, his priority at this time is keeping the military dependent schools operating throughout Japan. He sends his warmest aloha to you. Clayton’s Uncle Sus Nakagawa was with the 100th Infantry Battalion, Uncle Goro Inaba was with the 442nd’s Anti-Tank Company and Uncle Walter Minaai was with the Military Intelligence Service.

As I look across this ballroom — I wonder why it is that each year I see you veterans, you don’t seem to change a bit: still so youthful, warm and very active. Some of you continue to play golf, get together socially, sing karaoke, do ballroom dancing, and who knows what else you do to keep young and vibrant! Your generation just seems to take aging in stride, and you’re doing it so gracefully. We have much to learn from you in this area.

Your military legacy from 1943 to 1946 will live on throughout history. It will be especially sealed forever when you are presented with the long-overdue Congressional Gold Medal this fall. I hope to see you there again!

Today I’m here to share what I believe are lessons learned from you, “The Greatest Generation,” and more specifically from the 442nd, 100th, the MIS and other Nisei units — and to assure you that your legacy will be understood, preserved and honored through us, your sons, daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. You can be assured that your military legacy of bravery and sacrifice will not be forgotten. You were heroes on the battlefield and, ’til today, you are heroes on the home front.

Looking back to our hanabata days, did we know we had a living legend and a hero in our midst? No! Did we care? No! Did we ask questions? No! Oh, how I wish we did. But did you brag and boast about your heroic accomplishments? No, never. As an adult I often wondered why. It was just not your style, right? As far as you were concerned, the war was pau (finished/ended). It was time to move forward.

This is a huge lesson for us to learn — that when we face adversity and challenge of any sort — we must deal with it the best we can and then move forward. As you would advise, no make *monku* (complain) or *haboot* (localism for *habuteru* — to pout). Rise above, learn from it and keep moving forward.

I often think of you veterans as men who simply got *better* rather than stayed bitter. You had every right to be angry, bitter and unforgiving of those who treated you unjustly. And, for some, I’m sure it took a while to overcome the treatment you and your families endured, especially our Mainland uncles.

There is a stoic matter-of-fact attitude, a *shikata ga nai* — it cannot be helped — attitude that is so ingrained even today, as it was for our grandparents and, I believe, our Nisei parents. So, instead of wasting time with anger and remorse, you put your noses to the grindstone and went to work. Whether

it was on the farm or in school, at the shipyard or a downtown office, you chose to move forward. And you did it with your usual Go For Broke spirit!

I asked my family for their thoughts on “The Greatest Generation.” My brother Guy reflected on your lives in the context of world history.

Some people experience just one or two life-changing events. You, on the other hand, experienced many!

You were born just before the Great Depression. You witnessed the bombing of Pearl Harbor and its aftereffects. You volunteered for service to our country. You witnessed firsthand the sting of racial prejudice in the South. You endured the humanity and the inhumanity of war. Some of you came home to discrimination and hard times as you tried to rebuild your lives.

You also witnessed statehood, the civil rights movement, the first moonwalk — and I don’t mean Michael Jackson’s, although some of you saw that, too, right here at Aloha Stadium!

You lived through the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and today you are witnessing the modern day wars in the Middle East.

You experienced the loss of two great leaders to assassination — President John F. Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. You saw the typewriter become obsolete and the computer age come to fruition — and, at age 80 to 90, some of you even have a Facebook page and an e-mail account!

Gentlemen, you are an amazing lot.

With the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear threat in Japan, once again you are witness to another historic, life-changing event. I know this one is particularly close to your hearts and minds because of your ancestral connection to Japan.

Living in Japan, I find it difficult to concentrate and focus on lighthearted matters or anything other than the immediate crisis at hand. The images we have seen in the past few weeks, the devastation and human loss has been immense. There are hundreds of stories of strength, courage and resolve.



*68th Anniversary Keynote Speaker Gwen Fujie  
Photo: Wayne Iha*

As I read about and watched the media coverage of the past few weeks, I saw seasoned reporters stunned by the devastation they witnessed. Diane Sawyer, Anderson Cooper, CNN, the *New York Times* — they all tell us about and show us over and over again the unbelievably catastrophic disaster.

I also see these same reporters completely awed and touched by the nature of the Japanese people as they experience and endure this painful, life-changing event that continues to unfold. These reporters are surprised to see that in the midst of adversity, the Japanese people are kind to one other, supportive of each other: There’s no looting and shouting, no finger-pointing.

As one Japanese woman who was interviewed after the tsunami said, “What good would it do to be angry? If I thought it would help us to be angry, I would be angry. But I don’t think it would help us, so instead, I must move forward and do what I can.”

I know you have seen them on the news — in the rescue, makeshift shelters, survivors huddled together and embracing one another. Recall their faces, many in shock but otherwise bowing, mustering



up a smile, nodding their heads and thanking people for their concern. It seemed in all the faces that were interviewed on television, the look of courage, immense gratitude, hope and, for some, even the signs of acceptance already set in.

The behavior of the survivors in response to this tragic event is being discussed around the world. The feelings of admiration, compassion and respect for the people of Japan is being shared via e-mail, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube from all corners of the world.

As I experience firsthand the remarkable attitudes displayed by the Japanese people, I realize that I am not surprised. We have grown up seeing this same spirit and attitudes towards life displayed by our dads and veteran uncles. Through your past and present you have shown us how to meet challenges with courage and bravery. You have shown us how people from all walks of life can be equals, each one doing what he can to support the other. You've shown us how to be loyal to family, friends and community.

Shikata ga nai, gaman, ganbare — these are values that were passed down to you from your Japanese ancestors. These values, imbedded in the lives of Americans of Japanese ancestry, played a major role in shaping the uniqueness of the 442nd, 100th and all of the Nisei units.

In a March 11 New York Times commentary titled “Sympathy for Japan, and Admiration,” former Times Tokyo bureau chief Nicholas Kristof recalled his observations following the 1995 Kobe earthquake and his thoughts of the Japanese following the recent disaster. “. . . [T]he Japanese people themselves were truly noble in their perseverance and stoicism and orderliness. There’s a common Japanese word, ‘gaman,’ that doesn’t really have an English equivalent, but is something like ‘toughing it out’ . . .”

“This stoicism is built into the Japanese language. People always say ‘shikata ga nai’ — it can’t be helped. And one of the most common things to say to someone else is ‘ganbatte kudasai’ — tough it out, be strong’ . . .”

“Uncomplaining, collective resilience is steeped into the Japanese soul.”

Again, these reflections are no surprise to us, are they? I received numerous e-mails with the same sentiment. The ones I received from fellow Sansei friends all reiterated how, in watching the Japanese survivors, they have become even more proud of their Japanese heritage. One, from Dr. R. Kagawa, said, “Now we have a better understanding of how we were raised.” Another Japanese American writer said, “I am so very proud to be descended from a culture which adheres to the proposition that human decency and morality transcends even the most basic and fundamental instincts of survival, whether of the fittest, or the weak. I have no doubt that those of us fortunate enough to have descended in this culture deserve no credit for this extraordinary strength of character. Rather, it is wholly attributable to those who came before us.”

With all of the challenges you have faced throughout your life, what has remained steadfast in your disposition? I think three things are part of your legacy.

1) Your optimism. It is consistent and unwavering, wouldn’t you agree? Some of you keep playing your worst game of golf, yet you keep going back for more, still believing that at age 90 you just might get that hole-in-one.

2) Your sense of humor. There is none like it — and I know: I’ve been around you for 60-some years. You men are more fun to be with than any other group I know of! But then, who wouldn’t have fun with a roomful of guys named “Bulldog,” “Gashouse,” “Biggie,” “Jeep Jeep,” “The Banker,” “Rocky,” “Cannonball,” “Montana” and “Ugly,” to name a few.

3) Your complete dedication to family and friends without regard for one’s status in life. In other words, there is no class differentiation with you guys. Lawyers and judges schmooze with electricians; carpenters poke fun at doctors and there’s no holds barred with a politician or a plumber, and vice versa.

After the war, regardless of occupation or profession, you continued to help one another like family. You traded skills and knowledge and you



were so generous and matter-of-fact about it. No such thing as discount — it was free, or at least, work done in trade. A typical example of this was how my dad, an electrician, did all the electrical work for his buddy who became a dentist. In exchange for all that wiring, and I don't mean braces, the doctor took care of our teeth. Years later, I wondered if the doctor knew my dad had five kids when the deal was made.

You were comrades on the battlefields of war and, regardless of what road you took after the war, you have remained brothers through thick and thin, helping one another now for 68 years.

In simple terms, I think you made the best lemonade out of all the lemons you got in life. Your ganbare spirit, translated into English, is “go for broke” — and as far as I'm concerned, it is as alive and well as it was on your first day of battle.

Optimism . . . sense of humor . . . complete dedication to family and friends: These are part of your legacy, too.

I'd like to close now with excerpts from one of my favorite books on how to live a meaningful, fulfilling life. It was written by Dr. Kent Keith and is titled “The Paradoxical Commandments.” As I read Dr. Keith's words, I realized that I had heard the same message throughout my life from my dad and veteran uncles, but in a slightly different way.

So, the next generation, listen up!

Dr. Keith writes: People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. Love them, anyway. My 522nd Dad said, “You know what? You like that, too. You illogical, bullheaded and self-centered, too. So, make nice to everybody, anyway.

Dr. Keith said: If you do good, people will accuse you of having selfish ulterior motives. Do good, anyway. My MIS uncle said, “Nevah mind what odda people going think your motive — you do what's right and good, anyway.”

Dr. Keith said: If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed, anyway. My 100th uncle said, “Eh, when you get rich, watch out for the sneaky buggahs. But suck seed, anyway.”

Dr. Keith said: The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good, anyway. My Medic

uncle said, “No worry about who going forget. Everybody going forget eventually, so do some good, anyway.”

Dr. Keith said: Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank, anyway. My Headquarters uncle said, “No matter what, always be one straight-shooter. Who da guy Frank, anyway?”

Dr. Keith said: What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build, anyway. My 1399th Engineer uncle said, “No worries . . . we get carpenters, plumbers, electricians, and lawyers and judges and architects, too. Go build, anyway.”

Finally, Dr. Keith said: Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have, anyway. And all my veteran uncles said, “No worry about your teet . . . Go For Broke, anyway!”

Ladies and gentlemen, beloved veterans . . . this has been my greatest honor. We, sons and daughters, are so proud to be a part of your heritage. We thank you for the life lessons you taught us with few words and many examples. Be assured your legacy will be carried on. Just look around you — hundreds are here today to honor you, our everyday heroes.

Our challenge now is to give you many reasons to be proud of us. So, sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Honor thy mother and father, grandma and grandpa — and by that, I mean listen to their stories, respect their opinion, help them in the yard once in a while, be patient with them — you know, we're all going to be hard of hearing someday — and use kind words.

Learn all you can about their lives and times: They made history, after all, and you are a part of it, so be proud.

Say “Thank you” often and, most of all, tell them you love them. I love you, Mom!

Ladies and gentlemen, beloved veterans, thank you! Stay safe! Pray for Japan and always hold our service men and women in uniform close to your hearts and minds! *Makoto ni arigato gozaimashita.* (Truly, thank you very much.) Go For Broke!

# Feature Story

## Genro Kashiwa (Co. L) is Awarded the Chevalier Legion of Honor



On Friday April 1, 2011, Genro Kashiwa, 87, a retired attorney was awarded the Chevalier Legion of Honor by the government of France. The award ceremony took place aboard the French Frigate *Prairial* and was presented by its Commanding Officer, Nicolas Pitrat and Honorary French Consul,

Patricia Y. Lee. The Legion of Honor is France's highest civilian honor and is awarded to French citizens or foreigners for outstanding achievements in military or civilian life. Kashiwa is only the second member from the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT to receive this award; the other member being Barney Hajiro who received his award in 2004. Genro's initial reaction when informed about his selection for the award – "Why me, there were a lot of other people doing more heroic things." Genro earned two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart among other awards during his service with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.

Present at the award ceremony to help celebrate the occasion were wife Muriel, son Peter, daughter Janie and grandkids Jason, Bradley and Kevin Lee. Also present were Company L comrades, Joseph Oshiro, Isao Takiyama, Kazuma Ogata, Jun Yamamoto, Hideo Higa, Stanley Matsuura and Paul Matsumoto and Bill Thompson (President, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club).

Following is Genro's Acceptance Speech. We thank Genro's niece, Jan Kawabata, for furnishing a copy with photos and permission to publish.

### Genro's Acceptance Speech

This is a very surreal experience — that events of over 65 years ago are being remembered today by the French Government. Words cannot express the feelings that I have. I am so very grateful that the



French Government has chosen to present me with this honor, that signifies their recognition that the actions and efforts of the Hawaii boys of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in the Vosges Mountain and in the town of Bruyeres all those many years ago, still means something

today to the people of France.

I want to acknowledge and thank Pat Lee who so strongly supported my candidacy for this great honor. I want to thank my family and friends for supporting me, and for being here today to share this moment with me. I am 87 years old, and with my memory not what it used to be, I so easily forget where I was yesterday or what I had for breakfast this morning — yet ironically, my memories of the events that happened virtually a lifetime ago during WWII in France, are still very vivid and detailed.

I remember that just outside the town of Bruyeres, we waited in a cluster of trees. As the town was still occupied by the Germans, we were waiting and planning our move to get into the middle of town. We were so surprised that the basements of the houses in Bruyeres were all connected, and with the help of the Bruyeres townspeople ushering us through, we discreetly made our way through the maze of basements, which led us to a small roadway running into the town square, where we saw a German Tank with 88 mm cannon just pulling out of the town square. I also remember being at the top of the Vosges Mountain at the foot of another cluster of very tall trees. This is where we experienced something called "tree bursts," where enemy artillery being fired by the Germans hit the top of the trees and 'burst' or exploded, and shrapnel rained down upon our Platoon.

All these details I remember as if they were yesterday, and yet they happened so long ago. All

those years ago when we naïve, and very young boys from Hawaii (now some of the old men here today) who had no knowledge of French culture and no worldly experience, entered an unfamiliar country with a bit of uncertainty and fear of many things unknown, and yet we did, as the 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry motto goes, “GO FOR BROKE.” We were warmly welcomed and encouraged by the people of France. And we went to France committed to work together towards a common goal – to protect people and freedoms.

I believe this award from the French Government stands for the ideal that people from diverse backgrounds and cultures must come together and stand behind one another to protect our cherished values of democracy and freedom.

Let me just say that my contributions in France were no greater than those of my comrades in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and in my platoon of Company “L” of the third battalion. Nevertheless I thank the French Government for this recognition, and would like to accept this honor on behalf of my comrades who fought side-by-side with me on Vosges Mountain, including those who are still alive today,

- 1) Hideo Higa
- 2) Paul Matsumoto

- 3) Hideo Nakayama
- 4) Stanley Toshiyuki Matsuura
- 5) “Kila” Takao Haraguchi
- 6) Joe Oshiro
- 7) Lawrence Fujii
- 8) Jun Yamamoto
- 9) Kazuma Ogata  
and
- 10) Isao Takiyama

And on behalf of those who have recently passed away, including:

- 1) Tommy Kakesako
- 2) “Casey” Masami Kasadate
- 3) Joe Wakamatsu
- 4) Jacob Jichaku
- 5) Richard Furukawa
- 6) Kobe Shoji

And I also accept this honor in memory of my forever cherished comrades who lost their lives in World War II, fighting for the cause which we all so strongly believed in, including: 1) George Miyaoka (who stepped on a mine in the Vosges Mountain), 2) Martin Iida and 3) “Sleepy” Thomas Inada.

Once again, I would like to thank the French Government for bestowing upon me this great honor.





by Henry Kuniyuki

“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything.” This renown quotation by William Shakespeare is dedicated to our 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Teams’ sons and daughters, who are all collectively destined to carry on our 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT heritage.

### **RHQ Chapter Potpourri**

January 3, 2011 - The first Chapter monthly luncheon meeting, held as usual at Gyotaku Japanese Restaurant had only nine members participating. They were: Jitsuo and Ruby Kawada; Elaine Kawamoto; Henry Kuniyuki; Yoshikatsu Maruo and daughter Patricia; Masatoshi and Sumie Mitani; and Janice Stinson.

January 19, 2011 - Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto and Chapter Secretary Takamori Miyagi were privileged to be present at a special 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club’s Board of Directors meeting and associate with Senator Daniel K. Inouye. They were most pleased to have the opportunity of having a photograph taken with the good Senator.



*Takamori Miyagi (l) & Noboru Kawamoto pose with the Senator  
Photo: Wayne Iha*

February 7, 2011 - The Chapter members expressed sincere appreciation to Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto for his presentation of the Chapter By-Laws for updating. The Chapter By-Laws was revised to cover the financial status of the Chapter. It

was unanimously decided that, upon the dissolution of the RHQ Chapter, its remaining cash assets will be donated to the RHQ Sons and Daughters treasury. The RHQ Sons and Daughters Chapter is expected to continue the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club’s organization in perpetuity.

March 7, 2011 - Only seven Chapter members present at the monthly luncheon meeting. Chapter President Kawamoto; Vice President Maruo; Secretary Miyagi; Treasurer Kuniyuki; Jitsuo and Ruby Kawada; and Susan Takara. Although small in number, those members present enjoyed “talking story” after conclusion of the business meeting. The rather small number of Chapter members present was rather sad as participation at the early years meetings of Chapter members totaled eighty-plus. The Chapter was then designated as Livorno Chapter when the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club was first organized.

March 27, 2011 – The 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club was held at the Pacific Beach Hotel with approximately 610-plus members and guests participating. Chapter Secretary Takamori Miyagi reported that twenty-seven members and guests of the Chapter thoroughly enjoyed the keynote address of Gwen Fujie. Her speech was entitled “Back to the Future - the Next Generation.” Prior to Gwen’s remarks another guests speaker, Helen Nakano, entertained all with her speech, “Bringing Generations a Little Closer, the Dream of Hanafuda Baba.” Each member received a gift of Hanafuda. For the Chapter Historian’s record the following Chapter members and guests were present: the Kawamoto Family: Noboru, Elaine, Kendall and Andrew; the Maruo Family: Yoshikatsu, Katie and Patricia; the Miyagi Family: Takamori, Michael, Debbie, Brandon, Jodie, Ryan, and Sharelle Cadiente; Kuniyuki Family: Henry and Emi; the Kawada Family: Jitsuo, Ruby and Alvin; the Kumabe Family: Shirley, Michael and Kristie Matsumoto; the Sugioka Family: Kameo and Alice; and Susan Takara and Jane Taira. The Regimental Headquarters Chapter’s financial assessment for the party totaled \$945.00.

“Deep Peace of the Shining Stars to You,” a poem by an unknown author is sincerely dedicated to our RHQ Chapter ladies. Arrivederci!





by John Mikasa

Cannon Company's local activities were primarily addressed to the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet in Honolulu, and to the annual Cannon Company Reunion to be held in Las Vegas, from April 28 to May 1.

The Banquet was well-attended. The Umeda Clan with eight, and the Holck Clan with nine attendees, made up more than half of the total. From the Umeda's were: Mitsuo and Esther, Alan and Darlene, Nathan, Monica, Corynne, and Joscelyn. Calvin, although signed up, had to cancel at the last moment. The Holck Clan attendees were: Chisato Holck, Sandra and Leonard Souza, MaryAnn and Eric Nemoto, Wilbert and Terry Holck, and Willard and Geralyn Holck. Others were: Tsuka and Yukie and Judi Murakami from Kauai, and Murakami relatives Michi and Seigi Higa; Akira and Betty and Mark Takahashi; Yukisada Oshiro; May Koike; Akira Okamoto and Grant Akana; and John and Mary Mikasa.

Cannoneer Akira Okamoto is a remarkable guy. He has lived in many states in the U.S., the former Trust Territories, the Philippines, and maybe elsewhere I missed. He is currently living in Honolulu. He is the current eldest in his family, so he may remain here, but who knows for sure. In the meanwhile, his difficulty with walking doesn't seem to slow him down. He is signed up for our Company Reunion in Las Vegas, and plans to attend the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the fall. He zooms around town in his mobile wheelchair, ever active. Way to go, Akira!

Yukisada Oshiro is still mending from a fractured hip, but made effort to attend the 68<sup>th</sup> 442<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. Kiyoshi Taba has been ailing lately and could not attend the banquet. We wish both of them well and good recovery.

Our Company reunions in Las Vegas have been declining in the number of original members, but a good turnout is still occurring with Sons and Daughters, and other family members and friends. The results of this reunion should be covered subsequently.



*l-r: Akira Okamoto, Mitsuo Umeda, Yukisada Oshiro, John Mikasa at 68<sup>th</sup> Banquet*

*Photo: Wayne Iha*



by Oscar Tsukayama

### Shinnen Enkai

Our biggest event of the quarter, no doubt, was our shinnen enkai which was held on January 29, 2011 at the Natsunoya Tea House with 21 in attendance. Present were, John and Gloria Masunaga; Dorothy Matsuo with Michele Matsuo, Brad Mossman and Allegra Matsuo-Mossman; Tak and Eva Nakamura; Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka; Kazuo Tomasa; Jack and Marian Yamashiro and Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama with Edward, Nancy and Travis Tsukayama. Special guests were Medic Jimmie Kanaya and wife Lynn from Gig Harbor, WA who scheduled their Hawaii vacation to attend our party and Suzy's brother from Okinawa, Takashi Yabu.

Games, door prizes, a talent show and community singing were enjoyed by all. Marian did a great job heading the games and door prizes; she even had prizes for game winners. The trivia question games and Jan Ken Po were a big hit. In the talent department, Brad Mossman treated the group to

*Pipeline Sequence* and *Soy Un Americano* which he sang while strumming on slack key; *Soy Un Americano* is a song he personally composed. Allegra played Vivaldi's Concerto in A Minor, No.2 on her violin and later sang *Lei Pikake* which was one of her grandpa's (Ted Matsuo) favorite songs. Listening to real talent was so soothing and enjoyable. Rounding out the talent department, Oscar on his ukulele, grandson Travis on his electric guitar, accompanied by Kazu Tomasa did a medley of songs in pidgin. The highlight, of course, was Kazu leading the group in a community sing. The group came to life as we sang songs like *Shoji*, *Ue wo Muite*, *Pearly Shells*, etc. With conflicts in schedules, the attendance this year was rather small but we look forward to a bigger turn-out next year.

Kudos to Jack and Marian for arranging the place and menu, for planning and conducting the games and door prizes and for deciding and purchasing prizes for the games and door prizes. Thanks also to John and Gloria, Jack and Marian, Michele, Toshiaki and Mutsuye, Wayne and Nancy and Oscar and Suzy for donations of desserts, drinks and door prizes, and a "Big Thank You" to Kazu for a generous cash donation and for livening the party with his music. It was fun.



## **68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**

Twenty-two Medics members attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet on March 27 at the Pacific Beach Hotel. They included Iris Fukui, Betty Ogami, Jerry and Florence Ogawa with daughters and sons-in-law Richard and Corrine Bauske, Kenneth and Atchara Seaton, and Daniel and Vivian Tully; Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka with daughter and son-in-law Paul and Joan Watanabe; Kazuo Tomasa, Jack and Marian Yamashiro and Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama with son, daughter-in-law and grandson Wayne, Nancy and Travis. Initially, there were 31 registered to attend, but illness and scheduling conflicts resulted in 9 last-minute cancellations. All present enjoyed the opportunity to get together and talk story and enjoyed the food and entertainment planned by the banquet committee. The speech by keynote speaker Gwen Fujie was outstanding. Heard later from Flora Umehara, Millie Nakasone and John and Gloria Masunaga that they had looked forward to attending and regretted the need to cancel due to last minute change in circumstances.

## **News From Our Mainland Friends**

Received a thank you note from Jimmie and Lynn; they report that they had a great time in Hawaii and send their mahalo to the Medics gang for their hospitality and aloha. Jimmie continues to do well in his recovery.

Tosh Yasutake called to inquire about the effects of the tsunami generated by the major earthquake in Japan; assured him that all is well except for some major damages mostly in ports and harbors. Thanked him for his concern.

Also received a note from Kimi Momoda; she is doing okay with loving support from friends and family members. She enclosed a generous donation in memory of Tak Momoda.

## **Medics Chapter Donates \$1,000 to Japan Relief**

In response to President Thompson's plea to participate in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club's Japan Relief Fund Drive, the Medics Chapter came up with a respectable \$1,000. This was possible when three

members who strongly believed that this major disaster requires major relief efforts, opted to make their sizeable donations through the chapter rather than as individuals. They, of course, wished to remain anonymous.

The spirit of compassion and omoiari (thoughtfulness, care, concern) is alive and well as demonstrated by these members. Although, it is not known exactly to what extent, we know that other chapter members have made contributions through other venues. We hope that our contributions will, in some small measure, help bring relief to those in Japan who are suffering from the effects of the major earthquake and tsunami which hit Northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

## **Donation**

Generous donations to the Medics Chapter were received from Kimi Momoda in memory of husband Tak and from Flora Umehara, in memory of husband Akira. We thank them very sincerely for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

## **Taps**

Just as we were ready to go to press, we received the sad news that Dr. Noboru Ogami passed away on April 22, 2011. Noboru was a staunch supporter and active member of the Medics Chapter for many years and will be missed. Our Sincere Sympathy to Betty and the Ogami family. There will be more news of Noboru in the next issue.

## **REMINDER**

Chapter reports  
for the next GFB issue  
are due on:

July 8, 2011





by Okemura, et al

The Hq 2<sup>nd</sup>Bn Chapter had a scaled down program during this period. Our January meeting at Gytaku McCully had about 10 or so in attendance but our February meeting at Gytaku Waimalu had a measly 5 on hand. Our March meeting was cancelled in view of the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. And so it goes like a thermometer – hot at times and cold some times.

Yasu Shoho lost his kid brother, Haruto, recently, if you can call someone in his 80's a kid brother. But the Shoho family lives on with 4 brothers and 4 sisters. Must be the Kauai factor in longevity. And for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, Yasu's brother joined us for the anniversary banquet in March. Russell and Barbara Shoho sat at the Hq2ndBn Chapter table. Russell is the author of the book "the Kazuo Masuda Legacy." Kazuo was with Fox Company and won the Distinguished Service Cross for action in Italy. But

Kazuo's battle at home was even more noteworthy. When Kazuo's body came home, the family was refused a burial plot. A loud outcry ensued and Army generals and prominent citizens joined in the battle. Kazuo is buried at Westminster Memorial Park, Westminster, California. Russell is now on his second book about another Fox Company Nisei warrior – Mineo Inuzuka.

Not too long ago, Masao Tamura from Kauai surprised us by sending a book written by Medic Minoru Masuda, T3 of the Medics for our library. We were surprised, not at the book, to hear from a Hq2ndBn veteran from Kauai. In fact, there are two of our former Hq2ndBn on Kauai much to our astonishment. More about this, our long lost buddies at a later date.

Ace Higuchi regularly attends the 442<sup>nd</sup> anniversary gatherings with his children. And to our delight, his daughter Lynne Calvet just signed up with the Sons and Daughters. Now, that's number 2 for our Hq2ndBn Chapter as Bill Thompson's grandson is a regular at the Sons and Daughters meetings. Guess we need to do some arm-twisting to get the younger generation active – more so with our Legacy Center in the embryo stages and needing much assistance.



2HQ Table, 68th Anniversary Banquet

Photo: Terry Takaki





by Ron Oba

*Listen! A frog  
Jumping into the stillness  
Of an ancient pond*

Basho's "A Haiku Journey: the Narrow Road to the Far North," above, is one of his most revered haiku ever written. Basho traveled all over Japan and wrote of his vision, experiences and of nature. People adored him and offered shelter and sustenance as he traveled throughout Japan to experience nature through his Haiku.

Dorothy Murashige gave me her book, "A Haiku Journey" and I couldn't put the book down. Thanks Dorothy.

### **Ohayo, Shinnen Akemashite Omedetoo Gozaimasu**

This is the Year of the Rabbit that reproduces before your eyes. OMG where did all the rabbits come from? And a prosperous New Year!

BFF Natsunoya Tea House was the venue for our yearly luncheon. They've gone hi-tech as we were able to email our Menu F which included Bara Sushi, Noodles, Hibachi Baked Chicken, Shoyu Pork, Nishime, Potato Salad and much more but a much smaller menu since our old-timers get satiated before they can toast the Champagne. Therefore take-home plates were plentiful. We also chose the sit down family style starting with the piping hot shrimp tempura. George read out the Honor Roll with a moment of silence of those gone by during the past year: they're increasing while we're decreasing. Three Banzais (may you live Ten Thousand Years!) started the festivities with Champagne glasses raised high to greet the New Year. The veterans roster is diminishing but the rest are healthy and robust. We will miss the veterans: Masatoshi Hokama, Stanley Matsumura, Mutt Matsuichi Kusatsu, George Mark,

Paul Tokusato, Shigeo Tanada, Harry Hiroshi Sugihara, Pete Miyasato, Victor Tooru Hirose, Kenge Takahashi, Masao Tamayei, Humio Yagi as well as Sharon Tanaka. Our condolences to their families.

The food was excellent as usual and the door prizes with orchid plants from Jr. Uranaka supplemented by Ben Kodama, and frozen shrimps donated by Fred Okada's Fish Wholesale Co. Thanks to all the other donors besides Ben, Tajiri and Fred. A sidebar: Ben will be moving to be with his daughter in San Jose and this will be the last orchid plants to our Anniversary Banquet or to the F Co. members. Best wishes, Ben. We'll miss you more than the orchid plants, maybe.

### **Pacific Army Reserve 2011 USAR Banquet**

My wife, Michiko, and I attended the USAR Banquet, representing the 442nd Veterans at the Ihilani Marriot Hotel in Ko Olina. The soldiers were in "Blues" dress code for a formal event. They looked great in their Blues and the ladies were all in gowns. Approximately 2,000 were in attendance in the cavernous banquet hall. The "NCO of the Year, Soldier of the Year and the winner of the Best Warrior Competition 2010" were honored. They also called upon my wife and me, Robert Arakaki (100th) and Nancy to be introduced to the IX Corps Army Reserve. The event was replete with Fallen Comrade Ceremony, Remarks and Presentation of Awards.

The 9th Mission Support Command was originally designated as the IX Corps and was organized on January 10, 1962. At that time it was an integral part of the active army's IX Corps. In 1940 it was activated at Ft. Lewis, Washington. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the IX Corps was assigned to defensive duties on the West Coast of the United States. From 1944 on, it was deployed to Leyte, Okinawa and Kyushu, Japan for occupational duty. In 1950 it was reactivated and sent to South Korea. For its outstanding service, the unit was awarded two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations and nine Campaign Honors.

On April 27, 1987 the command was

redesignated IX Corps, then renamed 9th U.S. Army Reserve Command. The command moved to its current location at Fort Shafter Flats from Fort DeRussy in December 1997. In due respect to the IX Corps the rest of the excerpted history from their program will remain as is. However the IX Corps' excerpted history is related here because the 442nd RCT is actively associated with their brothers, General G.F. Robert Lee, Lt Col. Kimo Dunn, CSGMajor Beau Tatsumura, SGMajor Dean Shackles and the IX Corps in every significant event. As General G.F. Robert Lee, Salutes, "Go For Broke!"

### **Interviews with the Punahou Students**

Auwe! They forgot the date and did not come to the 100th Inf Bn headquarters. However, there were some youthful looking frisky old ladies like Mrs. Nakano who joked and played Hana Fuda with the veterans. I told her that my uncle, Mr. Uchida used to cut and paste the black and rust colored hanafuda in 1932-1940 when he lived on Frog Lane upside of School Street. Most of Frog Lane loop has outlived its days and is no more. Hopefully the Punahou teacher and students won't forget the next interview.

### **Arizona Visitor Center**

The National Park Service Director Mrs. Eileen Martinez set aside the Visitor Center exclusively for the 100/442/MIS/1399 veterans, wives and friends from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on March 16, Wednesday after all the tourists departed. National Park Service Superintendent, Paul DePrey welcomed the group to the Exhibit Galleries and outside Exhibits. He complimented the leaders of the 100/442/MIS/1399 and the Sons and Daughters organizations. The tour gave the veterans and family members ample time to browse and take pictures of the Pearl Harbor attack, the technically topographed dairama and the battleships in the harbor. My interview with the Lanikai Video group, LLC depicting the eye-witness view of the attack with two burning "Zeros" falling in Aiea and the incarceration of my father-in-law, Reverend Hakuai Oda was shown continuously on

Kiosks (video screens) at the center. Park Service Director Mr. Martinez said, "Hey, Ron, you're a national hero." Everyone was invited to see the Documentary Film in the theaters followed by refreshments donated by the veterans' groups. The Theaters showed movies of the attack. The Shuttle boats did not go to the Memorial itself. Veterans were asked to wear their white shirts. We thank the Sons and Daughters for arranging this event.

### **Legacy Center**

President Bill Thompson and Wes Deguchi, son of Yasunori, F Co.; including Mitsuo Honda and Ron Oba are working diligently to establish a Legacy Center next to the Kapiolani Community College. The Department of Land and Natural Resources owns the land that is underutilized. Committee members testified at the Legislature to have the Legacy Center utilize portion of the property. Recently appointed as the Director of the DLNR is Mr. William Aila, Jr. Hopefully our request will be approved.

### **Las Vegas Reunion**

Thus far, 14 Hawaii veterans, wives and the rest from the mainland will be attending the 19th reunion. All told 47 and 50 people will attend the Hospitality and Sayonara Banquets respectively. Fourteen (14) frenetic fingers played the slot machines and the winners were: 1st Enoch Kanaya, 2nd James Mita and 3rd Bryan Yagi. Shinako Takata came in last. Yes, our numbers are getting smaller as years go by. And yet, we're asking George to continue to set up the reunion in Vegas every year till the last one is still standing tall. Judge Bryan Yagi consented to speak about an interview with General Mark Clark at our Sayonara Banquet. Electronic gadgets are a bane as there was no video to show Bryan's DVD; but Richard Ross, a computer expert, ran up to his room and got his laptop and attached Bryan's DVD player and shot the Powerpoint into the screen; that saved the day as we were able to see and listen to Gen Mark Clark's interview about the 442nd veterans. Don Okita (Go Navy!) showed the "Live with Honor,

Die with Dignity” as well as the “Beyond Barbed Wire” movie at the hospitality room.

We waited with anticipation to see our old friends from the Mainland. It was wonderful to see Toshi Kadowaki with her “Black-eyed peas” come again. She tripped and fell and got a black eye but she wore dark glasses so we couldn’t see her Black-eye. Marge Yoshida came with Sally Hamamoto’s gang. We missed Emi Takusagawa. John Wakamatsu was again asked to bring the beer and soft drinks. Thanks to all the others for the pupus at the hospitality room.

Ocean Miyake made 100 years according to the Japanese age and we had a huge birthday cake and singing to celebrate his birthday. It is gratifying to see Monica take good care of father, Ocean. We’ll still need the Grey Goose Vodka since Tommy Tamagawa, 91 years young will attend. Tommy keeps winning at Craps and donated \$300. Roy Matsuda brought his friends Ken and Carolyn Omoto from Waipahu. Roy imbibed so much Gray Goose that he fell off the high chair, but no matter, he rolled the dice the next day for one-half hour as all the players rode on his dice and made more than Roy. Jr. Uranaka has donated a 442nd wristwatch and the chapter will give out 442nd decals on every table. Masao Masuda and Russell Shoho donated their book, “The Kazuo Masuda Legacy.” Ron donated his book, “Men of Company F.” George and Myrtle printed the program and list of attendees with their telephone, cell, and email addresses; and the Honor Roll. Both the Hospitality Luncheon and Sayonara Banquet were huge success as everyone thanked George, Richard and Ron for enjoyable events. We thank the Murashiges, Dorothy and Richard for meetings at their home to plan this reunion with the Nakasatos and Obas. Dorothy always whips up delicious lunches for the planners.

### **Anniversary Banquet: Pacific Beach Hotel**

Ben Kodama will donate his orchid centerpieces for the last time. He will be moving to San Jose to be with his daughter. His son will continue to operate the Kodama Orchid Nursery in Lualualei where we built Ammunition Magazines as I worked as a

reinforcing steel worker. Hundreds of the Magazines cannot be seen since we covered them up and planted vegetation over the roofs. Neighbor islanders were: Yasunori Deguchi and Wataru Kohashi.

Speakers were: Wes Deguchi (S&D), Gwen Fujie, and Mrs. Helen Nakano. Since I played Hanafuda with Mrs. Nakano, she impressed me with her explanation of the history of the cards like a school teacher using prompt cards on stage. She gave a set of the Hanafudas to every veteran at the Banquet. Thank you.

### **Congressional Gold Medal**

Once again, Adj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee arranged for the ceremony at the Iolani Palace Grounds. The picture-taking replicated the 1943 going away ceremony for the 2,800 volunteers to San Francisco, thence to Camp Shelby. Speakers were: Pauline Sato (100th Bn), Wayne Iha (1399 Const. Bn), Edgar Hamasu (MIS), and Bill Thompson (442nd). Survivors with canes and crutches reminisced the event 68 years ago.

### **In Memoriam**

Paul M. Tokusato, 90, of San Francisco, formally of Hilo, a retired superintendent of services for Concordia-Argonaut in San Francisco and a veteran of F Company, 442nd RCT, injured during the WWII, died in San Francisco. He was a boxer and was born in Hilo. He is survived by wife Yasuko, son Craig, daughter Pauline Harada, brother Douglas, and grandchildren. Services Sunday at Dodo Mortuary in Hilo. No flowers or monetary contributions.

Sharon Tanaka, wife of the late Joe Tanaka, died March 19, 2011. She continued to attend our luncheons and annual banquets but lately have not attended our functions. Services were held at the Hosoi Garden Memorial on Sunday, April 3.

Our condolences to the Tokusatos and Tanakas.



by Mary Karatsu

In memory and in tribute to our great leader, Fred Ida, G Company held its annual reunion in Las Vegas on March 8-10, 2011. Fred passed away on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and his service was held at Hosoi Garden Mortuary on Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Kabasawa had been working with Fred for months on the reunion plans so she did a masterful job handling the multitude of tasks necessary to make for a very successful event. Dennis Ida, Fred's son, and his wife Sherri were very involved in making Fred's presence felt. Also in attendance was Fred's brother Charles (wife Almira) who lives in Orange County.

Another surprise guest was Fred's nephew, Stanley Date, who is a good friend of mine. Stan was visiting the church that I attend when he noticed my Go for Broke license plates. He asked where I had gotten them so I asked him if he knew someone

in the 442. He said "Yes, my Uncle Fred Ida" — and I almost fell over. Anyhow, I told him about the G Company reunion so he and his wife Diane came. Stan is a very gifted speaker (must run in the Ida family) so he gave a very fitting invocation at the start of the banquet. He also has a beautiful voice...he sang the Hukilau song so that the sons and daughters and friends could dance.

It was a pleasure to welcome Don Nose, the new president of the Go for Broke National Education Center, who gave an update on the Congressional Gold Medal Awards ceremony to be held in Washington D.C. in the Fall.

With close to 100 in attendance at the banquet, everyone enjoyed the delicious dinner and the chance to just sit and chat afterwards. The next day, the hospitality room was open all day and the food committee did their usual excellent job. Our heartfelt thanks to Sandy Koyama and her helpers for making sure there was an abundance of wonderful and variety of good food. Everyone went home with a door prize, too.

At the craft table, Lynnette Uyesato made sure everyone either made or received a hand-crafted 442 lapel pin. Lynnette was also responsible for putting



*Photo: Wayne Iha*



together Volume I of the George Company Mini Cookbook. We'll have Volume II next year, so if you have any recipes to contribute, please let us know.

During the "talk story" time, after the veterans had recalled some of their war time experiences, a couple of the sons talked about their careers and about their Dads and families. Thanks to Steve Serikaku and Edmond Matayoshi for sharing their very interesting and successful careers. We are so very proud of every one of you sons and daughters' accomplishments and know you appreciate this was possible because of your Dads! We're looking forward to more stories by the sons and daughters next year.

Speaking of young people, we really appreciate Ann, Clyde, Wayne for all of the photography and to Robi Shibao-Martin, Cathy Tanaka and Patti Osebold for showing up "to help in any way we can," and to Lynnette and Sandy. Thank you to Rosie Rabot and Lynnette Uyesato for teaching the sons and daughters to dance the Hukilau. Also thanks to Patti Osebold for making those yarn hula skirts used

to dance the Hukilau. A big Mahalo to Bryan Yagi for being such a wonderful MC.

We were so happy that Minor Miyasaki was able to make it to the reunion. Lilly had called about a month before and said they would have to cancel because they found out that Minor had stomach cancer and was quite ill. About a week before the reunion, she called to say that Minor had rebounded and really wanted to see all of his old buddies and friends. He was at the bus stop to greet us as our bus pulled up — as he has done for many, many years. He thoroughly enjoyed the reunion, especially since his son Kevin, daughter Karen and her husband Oren, came with Minor and Lilly.

I am sorry to report that Minor passed away on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Lilly says that he fulfilled his last wish so it has been easier to accept. We have lost a very dear friend and a faithful G Company member.

There will be another George Company Reunion in Las Vegas in March 2012. Will keep you posted with more details later. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there!!!



by Jane Shikasho

Six members of our chapter were present when Senator Dan Inouye presented the Club with the bill signed by President Obama awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei soldiers. We experienced first-hand our Government in action when we were surrounded by Secret Service agents guarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> in line for the presidency of the U.S.

We were very happy to have Karen Kikugawa, daughter of Frances Aoyama, join the 8 members of our Chapter at the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet held at the Pacific Beach Hotel. Karen lived on the mainland for many years and drove cross-country on a

motorcycle with her late husband before they settled in Hawaii. Elaine Tamashiro was celebrating her birthday that day and won the centerpiece orchid plant donated by Ben Kodama.

Sat Shikasho was the only member able to attend the news conference at Iolani Palace announcing the details of the December 17 presentation of the Congressional Gold Medals.



Photo: Wayne Iha

# 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom • March 27, 2011

*Photos courtesy: Wayne Iha, Pat Thomson, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki*



*Seated l-r: Robert Arakaki (100th) & wife Nancy; Marjorie Thompson  
Standing l-r: Edgar Hamasu (MIS) & wife Helen; Bill Thompson (442)*



*Sandy Tsukiyama sings the National Anthem*



*Keynote Speaker Gwen Fujie*



*Special Message by Governor Neil Abercrombie*





*MC Ron Yamada*



*Senator Dan Inouye, Irene Hirano; Reverend & Mrs. Yoshiaki Fujitani*



*Guest Table*



*Guest Table*





*Guest Speaker Helen Nakano*



*100/442 Reserve Color Guard*



*Paul Matsumoto leads veterans in singing the "Go For Broke" song*



*Seigo & Ellen Nagao (522B)*



*68<sup>th</sup> chairman Mits Honda (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng.) & Rep. Mazie Hirono*



*Sen. Inouye with Sgt. Jose Villa & Capt. Haz Anguay*





*l-r: Glenn & Frieda Hajiro; Carleen & Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn*



*Sgt. Major Beau Tatsumura with Maj. Gen. (USA Ret.) and Mrs. Robert Lee*



*Stephanie Yamamoto (UH 442 Scholarship recipient) with Rep. Mazie Hirono and Gov. Neil Abercrombie*



*Wataru Kohashi (F Co.) and son Andrew*



*Miyazono Minyo Buyo Kai entertain the audience*



by Ed Yamasaki

### Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

The heart-breaking news of Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear ramifications came as such a shock; and the news doesn't seem to improve. The newspaper reports and pictures of the devastation on TV are unbelievable! Most of us have some relatives in Japan, and many are in a quandary if we do not hear from them. It is most gratifying to see the outpouring of sympathy from the general public, with many donations being sent through charitable agencies or private fundraisers; but it is with a helpless feeling as we stand by and watch. The people of Japan seem very stoic and many have been through the strife of WWII, so their *gaman* and *shikata-ganai* attitude is noticeable with the reports that there is little hysteria and no looting. We can't help but take pride in this behavior as compared to what have happened after other disasters around the world.

Jiro's daughter Phyllis was traveling in Japan with a leadership group from the US, a tour being led by Irene Hirano, Daniel Inouye's wife. The group was in Tokyo on a bus en route to their last day of conferences when the earthquake hit. After riding out the many minutes of shaking and the initial shock was past, the bus continued on as they had a meeting with the Prime Minister. However, there was an aftershock, so they had to cancel the meeting. Despite air travel being completely off schedule, the group did manage to get back to the US with only a two-day delay. Phyllis commented that it was amazing to observe the discipline of the people – at how orderly and law-abiding they were despite the disaster they were experiencing. With heavy hearts, our sympathies go out to the country for all the suffering and losses its people are withstanding.

With the days getting longer and our weather improving, our spirits seem to lift, looking forward to Spring and some warmer weather. It has been a funny winter with topsy-turvy reports of heavy rains in California and contrary weather all over the US. Even the southern states report that it has been one of the coldest winters being experienced. I had an opportunity to spend a week in Palm Desert visiting with some friends in February. We hit a good week when the weather was in the 70's, so it was a nice break away from home for me.

The Seattle NVC will be hosting the quarterly meeting of the Nisei Veterans Network (NVN) in April, at which time we will be able to show off our newly remodeled clubhouse and our recently erected Memorial Wall. The Committee will be planning the celebration for the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and Military Intelligence Service. This medal will be a specially minted gold medal that will be displayed at the Smithsonian after President Obama makes the presentation in the Rotunda. It is my understanding that some 300+ veterans from those units will be able to attend the ceremonies in Washington, D.C. on a date yet to be set – hopefully sometime in October of this year. Although so many of those who deserve to be present have passed on, it is the Committee's hope that many of those healthy enough to travel will attend this very special ceremony. It is a last hurrah for the units, which honor has been long overdue.

At the NVC Installation luncheon in March, it was nice to see Tosh Yasutake, Kim Muromoto and Shig Momoda together with their wives, still active and energetic enough to enjoy this once-a-year function. I think all of them still drive, as well. Shig is well over 90, and the other two are past mid-80's!!

This is all the good news I have from Seattle for this quarter. As we keep saying to everyone in parting, "Staying healthy is Number One!"

### California by Marian Yamashita

Greetings. First of all, many of us have friends and relative in Japan who were affected by the horrendous earthquake and tsunami. Our prayers

go to thousands of people who lost their loved ones and all their belongings; so many are still unaccounted for. What a huge tragedy!

Because we are all in our twilight years, our physical problems increase and increase. For this reason, Enro & Yoneko Okada have pulled up stakes in Hesperia and have moved to Yuma, Arizona to be near their son Alan and are currently waiting to move into an assisted living facility. Although they are both quite mobile and seem OK, they are requiring extra care.

Rose Ikuta, although quite healthy, needs a little extra care also; so she is now in an assisted living facility near her home. She seems quite happy in her new environment. Her family has hired a part-time caregiver who takes her to church and runs errands for her when needed.

Mary Senzaki is now living with daughter Nadine in Huntington Beach. Although she is now with oxygen and in a wheelchair, her spirit is high.

Shuji Taketomo was in and out of the hospital during the early part of February with pneumonia but has been recuperating quite well at home. Although using a walker, he is exercising up & down his driveway. At 93 years young, his mind is still “sharp as a tack.”

The handful of I Company members living here in Southern California together with members of JA Living Legacy is planning a joint get-together at Cal State Fullerton on Saturday June 18th. More details will follow, so be sure to reserve that date. Although drivers will be available, we are encouraging family members to join us in this Mother-Father Day event.

Our Northern Cal rep, Frank Shimada is slowly recovering from an accident that totaled his ancient pickup. He is now driving again with his new Honda, “putt- putt,” as he calls it. Other than that, he has nothing new to report. Frank and Shig Doi did a yeomen’s job when they were interviewed by Burt Takeuchi for his documentary “Valor With Honor.”

Reporting for I Company are these observations by Susan Uyemura on her trip to Hawaii to attend the 442nd 68th Anniversary luncheon. “Although there were a few veterans and widows, some of the veterans were unable to attend this reunion, maybe

next year? While on Oahu, Susan called on Fred Matao Watanabe because her mother grew up in Manoa Valley and knew ‘Matao.’ We spent an hour visiting and reminiscing about pre-war Manoa Valley. Fred has a coffee table displaying photos of I Company and his best friend, Suguru Takahashi of Maui. Fred M graciously lent Susan his personal I Company photo album – which contains many precious wartime photos. While Fred has difficulty walking long distances, he still drives and lives alone. His two daughters and son check in on him regularly and bring dinner every night so he always has company. His pet guinea pig, Yoshi keeps him company during the day.

“Another Itemite that did not attend was Tom Harimoto. Susan stopped by his new place ‘One Kalakaua’ and knocked on his door. Tom’s hearing is not so good so it was a surprise for Tom to open the door and see kotonk Susan standing there. Tom gave up driving two months ago which meant his activities were somewhat limited, including inability to attend the monthly I Company meetings. However, he has not given up his Monday wine club. Tom has decided to talk to the doctor about knee replacement surgery as his ultimate goal is to get back on that golf course. Tom’s best friend, Jon Corrice keeps him coming and going.

“The reunion was fun as always but there were some missing Itemites like Barney Hajiro and Susumu Sakaida [both now deceased] and photographer Irvin Yamada. However, sons Glenn Hajiro and Dane Sakaida represented their dads, and best friend Floyd Honda took the I Company photo. Irvin is recovering from prostate surgery. We will be back next year!”

### **Maui by Harold H. Nishida, Jr.**

As a Maui Item associate, I promised mentor, Eddie Yamasaki, that I would occasionally update the status of our Maui Item Ohana. Of the original Item veterans in the Maui 442nd Veterans Club, there are only three remaining active members: Motoshi (Edna) Tokunaga, Jotoku Asato and Kiyoki Koki are still “Going for Broke.” Also active are Item widows Jane [Sadao] Nakama, Mary [Mike]



Nakamura, Winifred [Akira] Shishido, and Ellen [Tsuneo] Shiigi. Long time Item associates Hiroshi and Sadie Uyeno, Shigeo and Janet Wakayama are still doing their best to remain active in Club activities. Sadly however, Item members Sanford and Akie Sakumoto, Florence [Sadao] Hashimura, Ben and Esther Nakamura have become inactive due to medical issues. Our continued prayers go out to them.

I want to also acknowledge the recent passing of a son of Maui and Medal of Honor recipient, Barney Fushimi Hajiro 94; of Item veterans Susumu “Tonti” Sakaida 86, and Mitsuo “Battleship” Yakuma 89. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to the families of these brave 442nd heroes and to the many unknown number of others who have passed on recently throughout our nation.

### On the Lighter Side

Those of us who were fortunate to have attended the 68th 442nd anniversary/reunion want to once again thank the Oahu Sons and Daughters organization for the great job of organizing and hosting this wonderful event. Although we missed the smiling faces and fellowship of those who were not able to attend or have passed on this past year, we are ever grateful for the opportunity to renew ties with those that were able to attend. Last but not least, I want to express our humble thanks and gratitude to all the veterans of the 100th/442nd and to all who continue to serve and sacrifice to preserve our great nation and its people. May God bless them all!

### **Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki**

#### 68th Anniversary Banquet

Our congratulations and mahalo nui go to the Sons and Daughters, and Mits Honda and Committee for a job “Well Done!”

The Anniversary was celebrated by 48 members under the Item Ohana umbrella. The steady thinning of the ranks with passage of time—more passing on or becoming physically impaired—is evidenced in the attendance by only five Item veterans.

Still, we are pleased that four of our vets had family with them; they are: always-there George and

Margaret Oshita of Kapaa, Kauai, with son Russell; Mutt and Ayako Sakumoto, with son Glenn and his wife Kimiye; and Harry Umetsu, with daughter Elsie and her husband David Shimokawa.

Terry and Elsie Aratani, another “always-there” couple, and Eddie Yamasaki made up our chapter “veterans circle.” Welcomed again were Vietnam War vet Harold Nishida and wife Laura of Waikoloa, Big Island.

Our loyal widows numbered five also—Esther [Barney] Hajiro with son Glenn and his wife Laura; Gay [C.B./Kiyoshi] Sakamoto with son Keith Yoshida; Liz [Richard] Nishioka with sister Diane and her husband Ted Ogata; Nancy [Clarence] Taba with son Stuart; and Ellen [Bruno] Yamada with daughter Peggy Ann McCague.

Three attendees constituted a grouping of sons carrying on for their fathers: Peter Kobashigawa, son of Masa, and his wife Tetsu; Dane Sakaida, son of recently deceased Sus; and Charlie Takahashi, son of Suguru.

Dane faithfully accompanied his handicapped father regularly to Item’s Las Vegas and local reunions as well as to 442nd March gatherings. Charlie, in keeping with his pledge to his father, annually hosts a delegation of his friends, mostly from Maui. This year, his group included Fred Ruge, Raphael Morreira, Mike Kitamura, Antonio Gino, John Condello, Robert Chinen, and Floyd Honda.

Irvin Yamada, photographer, was absent due to a scheduled prostate surgery. Floyd subbed in the annual taking of a photo of the Maui men with Dan Inouye.

Carol Sullivan, daughter of Lt. Yaso Abe, who died October 1, 1998, and husband Michael again joined us. And, she again had personally made red, white or blue silk leis for each of us. Carol had a guest, Mary Lou Toyama. We learned that Mary Lou had an uncle in the Air Force, based in Texas in 1962. He told her that whenever Texans learned he was from Hawaii, he was treated so royally, as were all Japanese Americans. Mary Lou wished to thank 442nd vets for having so courageously, at great sacrifice, rescued the “Lost Battalion” of Texas.



Susan Uyemura, a 442nd niece, is a long-time friend of Item. Her parents, Los Angeles residents Russell and Barbara Shoho, were seated at 2nd Headquarters Chapter table as guests of Yoshinobu Shoho, Russell's brother.

Good friends and supporters of the 442nd RCT were guests of Eddie: Tom and Lois Coffman, Thelma Chang, and Stacey Hayashi. Tom is presently doing research on Shigeo Yoshida and Hung Wai Ching. Thelma writes for *National Geographic* while working on her novel and a Federal grant project. Stacey is now working on getting *And Then There Were Eight* on Amazon.com, thus making it available for download by e-readers all over the world.

### **Sad News**

Rokuro "George" Nakano of Bountiful Utah  
December 29, 1922 - March 4, 2011

George worked as a turkey farmer, gardener and custodian. He received the rank of Black Belt in judo and taught at the Syracuse Judo Club for many years. He was active in the Buddhist churches and the Hiroshima Kenjinkai, Shizuoka Kenjinkai and Japanese Gardner's Association. Family and community were everything to him. Funeral services were held on March 11 at Lindquist's Bountiful Mortuary with inurnment at Ogden City Cemetery.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Miyuki; three children, Naomi (Bob); Cheryl; Joy (Scott); seven grandchildren, Sydney, Shelby, Kacie, Alec, Devon, Taylor, Maddie, brother Russell (Betty), and sister-in-laws Fumi and Aileen.

### Barney Hajiro

September 16, 1916 - January 21, 2011

Barney's Celebration of Life was held at Hosoi Garden Mortuary on February 12. The 100th Infantry Battalion Reserve, under Sgt. Major Dean Shackles, participated in the Posting and Retiring of Colors. Military Community Remarks were contributed by Major General Robert Lee and Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn, with Eulogy delivered by Eddie Yamasaki.

100th Infantry Battalion Reserve men offered two songs for Barney: "Go For Broke" and the "Army Song." Taps were sounded on the bugle played by Sgt. Benjamin Stevens, 25th Infantry Division Band.

The well-attended service was moving and impressive. A Committal service, a 21-gun salute, a helicopter fly-by, and interment took place at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The lettering on Headstone no. G-15 is in gold, the plot centrally located among "the boys."

Barney is survived by his wife Esther, son Glenn (Freida) and grandson Ian.

### Susumu "Tonti" Sakaida

August 29, 1924 - February 7, 2011



Sus was born in the Kamalo area of Molokai to Bunichi Fujitake and picture bride Sono Haraguchi, immigrants from Yamaguchi-ken and Hiroshima-ken respectively. He was the "middle" child, with two older boys and a brother and sister below.

Like most of his generation, he was a wage earner early on, at nine cents per hour cutting off pineapple tops. His character was molded by Japanese school, the Boy Scouts movement, and kid-time activities with Japanese and Filipino friends: baseball, basketball, hiking, and net/spear fishing.

Happily for Sus, growing up was rich not in material objects but in things that matter. He found joy in giving and sharing, and in serving fellow man.

He did not succeed in becoming an original 442nd volunteer, but was accepted towards war's end, getting a Fort Blanding basic training and ending up a staff sergeant with the northern Italy occupation. The I Company experience became an integral part of him, as did the name "Tonti," adopted from that of an Italian wrestler.

After discharge, Tonti attended Midwest Trade School and subsequently started his work career. His leadership skills soon made him an ILWU officer,

serving on the Political Action Committee as chairman of the Molokai Task Force. He subsequently served on the Maui County Planning Commission and the Aquatic Wildlife and Forestry Board.

A devoted 60-year member of the Boy Scouts, he was an Eagle Scout and an Explorer Scout Master and was honored with the Silver Beaver Award. He coached Little League Baseball and Buddy Basketball.

Tonti's whole person was a reflection of his deep conviction that "Molokai was the best place to live in the whole world."

Our buddy was preceded in death by his wife Yasuko and is survived by sons Dane and Eric (Lauree), daughter Grace (Ian) McKnight, brothers Seichi (Sally) and Manabu (Louise) and 10 grandchildren.

#### Shusuke Fujitake

May 15, 1924-March 27, 2011

Shu lived for years in an apartment on Hauoli Street near the 442nd Clubhouse. About a year and a half ago, upon recovering from a hip fracture suffered from a fall on his front-door steps, he opted to reside in a small, private home in Kalihi, on introduction by a social worker of Queen's Hospital.

Shu was comfortable and quite satisfied with his own bedroom, the meals, and care provided by his Filipino host. He then contracted pneumonia.

The following account is based on information received from his niece, Helen Ochi of Torrance, CA., tel. 310-292-7999.

At his care home, Shu fell and fractured his shoulder bones. After surgery, he contracted pneumonia (the third time), went to ICU for an extended period of time, and eventually recovered enough to return to Hale Nani Nursing Home. There he began experiencing difficulty in swallowing food, liquids, medication. Weight loss followed, down to 69 pounds, along with infections of bladder, liver, etc.

Shu entered hospice care, and for the last few months of his life, he was said to have been comfortable.

Shu is survived by sister Chikayo Fujitake, who resides in a nursing home in Los Angeles. Several nieces and nephews live in California. His parents were Yoshimitsu and Shige (Nakamoto) Fujitake, who had emigrated from Yamaguchi-ken.

Shu had a passion for nature, reading such magazines as *National Geographic* and *Audubon Magazine*. He designed the plantings in front of the 442nd Clubhouse and the garden at the rear of the parking lot, with plants donated by Masa Nakamura from his nursery.

His other passion was his annual trips to Japan: they totaled 31. He happily visited with relatives in Niigata and always shared with anyone his *onsen* and sake-drinking stories. Another pride and joy was showing off the cropped hair on his head, steadily turning from white to black. Credit his *kuromame* concoctions.

The *And Then There Were Eight* book committee was indebted to Shu for his amazing memory of names and faces of the hundreds who served in I Company. Shu was a caring, quiet guy, truly loving Item Chapter and "Mother Club." He will be missed lots.

#### Robert Masami Iso of San Jose

May 20, 1918 - February 6, 2011

Bob died peacefully at Menlo Park Veterans Administration Hospital.

He was drafted in October 1941 and was based in several army camps before being shipped with the first, large replacement contingent that joined the Combat Team near Marseilles, France in September 1944. As a member of the Second Platoon, he was wounded in the left arm during the Lost Battalion battle. Returning to his unit in Italy, he was again severely wounded in his hip and leg. Eighteen months of hospitalization followed.

Bob led an active life in spite of being eventually confined to a wheelchair. His interests resulted in his holding senior positions in Disabled American Veterans chapters and serving as Commander of the 14th District, CA.

It was reported that VA doctor Eric Strong, in view of Bob's condition, sought the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to him as soon as possible. The medal not being available, the Japanese American Association in DC obtained one of the original documents signed by Congress and the President, declaring that members of the 442nd would receive the CGM. Happily, the award

ceremony took place three days before Bob's death. About 100 persons, including Frank Shimada, witnessed this very special occasion.

Bob is survived by wife Rose and brother James.

We extend Aloha Pumehana to the families and friends of the above members of the Ite Ohana.



by Genro Kashiwa

Setting for our end of the 2010 holiday party was at our usual favorite restaurant, Tree Tops at Paradise Park in the beautiful Manoa valley. The lush fauna and quiet environment were the usual welcoming setting for all of us. Attendees were: Hide Higa, Terry Jichaku, Genro and Muriel Kashiwa, Wally and Mabel Kawamura, Edna Kuramoto, Stanley Matsuura, Toyo Mizuno, Hide Nakayama, Kazuma Ogata, Bill Oshiro, Joe and Nancy Oshiro, Isa and Hilda Takiyama, Pauline Tome, Flora Watanabe, and Jun and Lorraine Yamamoto. Tree Top owners know us well through the years and their friendly ways make spending hours chatting our habit so to speak.

Three months later on March 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, our annual banquet 2011 in the banquet hall of the Pacific Beach Hotel was a gala dressed-up event. Each round table was decorated with Ben Kodama's lovely orchid plant. For some 25 years or more, Ben donated hundreds of orchids from his Waianae nurseries for our banquet table to be given to guests. We are very grateful and thank him for his generosity from the bottom of our hearts. Due to age, this is his last year.

Another donation to guests was a box of painted Hanafuda Hawaii Style game created by Helen Tanabe Nakano and Jason Nakano. It was designed and illustrated by Helen's son, Jason Nakano. With the cards, in each box is a beautiful handbook of illustrated instructions, cues, and tips. This game was brought to Hawaii from Japan over 100 years ago played by immigrants and their children. Players ages 6 to 96 enjoy this fun game of chance and skill. We thank Helen and Jason for their thoughtfulness in introducing us to a great game.

The main speaker, Gwen Fujie, is the daughter of Bulldog Nishizawa of 522, and is a professional motivational speaker. She grew up in Kaneohe, graduating from Castle High, and now living in Japan. Her husband is an educational specialist working in Japan.

This successful annual event was the product of various planning committees, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club under Bill Thompson, and Sons and Daughters members like Wade Wasano, and others, too numerous to mention.

Company L members at two tables were: Paul and Jenny Matsumoto, Hide and Rodney Nakayama, Hide and Lester Higa, Stanley and Joan Izumigawa and a New York guest, Kazuma and Tome Ogata, Joe and Nancy Oshiro, Paul Matsumoto, Stanley Watanabe, Jun and Lorraine Yamamoto, Isa Takiyama, Genro and Muriel Kashiwa.



Recently, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Genro Kashiwa was awarded the Chevalier Legion of Honor on the French Ship, PS Prairial. Invitations unfortunately were limited to 10 for family and 10 for veterans. Veterans who were invited were Bill Thompson, Joe Oshiro, Paul Matsumoto, Stanley Matsumura, Hideo Higa, Hide Nakayama, Jun Yamamoto, Isa Takiyama. Unable to attend were Kazuma Ogata, Takao Haraguchi, Lawrence Fujii, Yoshiji Aoki, Stanley Watanabe and Matsy Takabuki.

For a list of those who passed away in 2011:



Robert Minoru Sasaki, 89. Born in Waiialua on June 5, 1921, he passed away on January 11, 2011. He was predeceased by wife Lily in 2008. He moved from Aina Koa to Waiialae Iki to live with Doreen and Glenn

Matsuda and two granddaughters, Nadine and Christine. He suffered a lengthy illness. He worked at first at Fort Shafter and Pacific Insurance. He worked for 33 years at 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Office and was a very reliable worker. Throughout his life, he got together with his family of many brothers and sisters and was very close to them.

Hilda Ayako Takiyama, 84. Born in Kauai May 10, 1926 and died February 11, 2011. She worked at Kapiolani Medical Center as a records clerk until 1990. She was diabetic so she had a vision problem. However, she really enjoyed watching TV. She is survived by husband, Isao; children: Gail Takiyama, Amy (Curtis) Monma, and Lori (Darrell) Tsukada; grandchildren: Jarrod and Renee Tsukada and Kyle Monma.



Mickey Mitsuo Kurokawa, 86. Born in Paauilo, Hawaii on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1924, the seventh of ten children. He died on February 16, 2011. After WWII, he attended trade school, and then worked as a Refrigeration Mechanic at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Shop 56 for 20 years. After his retirement, he worked for Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu Country Club and Aloha Stadium. Then, he became full-time Grandfather to his grandchildren Erin and Scott with whom they were inseparable. Mickey and Patsy love to travel so they have gone to Japan, Europe, Canada, Korea, and Hong Kong. They have relatives on the mainland and the Big Island so they frequently spent time visiting these brothers and sisters. He is survived by wife Patsy Tatsue, daughters Sheri and Mimi (Robert) Shiroma, and grandchildren Erin and Scott.



Wallace Toshio Kawamura, 89. Born on May 20, 1921 in Honolulu, he passed away on March 4, 2011. He was general contractor for 32 years building houses. His homes were beautiful so many homeowners were pleased with his work. In his retirement he built things for his home and for Terry's children. He loved plants and koi so he raised both throughout his life. He was ill in the hospital for 2 months. He is survived by wife, Mabel and daughter Terry (Ross) Sasamura, and grandsons, Reed and Rawlins.





by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

Again this year the pretty wives, widows and friends of the 522 B Battery came beautifully dressed in their Sunday best of well-coordinated reds, blacks, greys, winter whites and Asian prints and designs to grace the seven reserved tables at the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 27. All of the honored men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> wore red- white and blue leis made so diligently by the personable Millie Honda, wife of 232<sup>nd</sup> Eng/Band member Mits Honda. We all join in thanking you, Millie, for your thoughtfulness.

522 was honored to be represented by two daughters, Sandy Tsukiyama, who opened the program singing our national anthem, and by keynote speaker Gwen Nishizawa Fujie, daughter of Toshio "Bulldog" and Bea Nishizawa. We have known the bright and vivacious Gwen since she was a little girl, who has developed into a fine speaker, among other achievements. See program notes.

According to the printouts given me by the ever-efficient Rocky Tanna and Joe Obayashi, we kapu-ed seven tables: seated at tables 31 and 42 were Gwen Nishizawa's clan, including her mother, brothers Miles and Guy and their families and sister Gerry from Washington state.

At table 35: Robert Fujimoto and Guest, Mildred Hara and guests, Chiyoko Shimazu, Kay and son Charles Kagawa and Reiko Arakaki. Table 33: Harold, Jane and Leslie Ueoka, Henry and Grace Urada and family. Table 34: Charles Nakamura, Sr. and Jr., Gloria Taguma and nephew, Laura Miho and her daughters Mariko and Celia and her family. Table 32: Masaru "Biggie" Nakakura looking so well and daughter Norma, Seigo and Ellen Nagao, Mits and Ellen Kunihiro, Kazuo and Lyn Shimizu and Joe and Peggy Obayashi.

At table 30 where Masayuki "Boyan" and Nancy Higa, Toshio and Florence Ohara, Craig Taguma, son of Yoshio and Gloria Taguma, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, George "Rocky" Tanna, and the Tsukiyamas. Nancy won Gwen's book, and Florence was awarded the beautiful yellow Thai dendrobium. It was announced that Ben Kodama who had so graciously donated his orchids every year will be unable to from this year. Thank you and arigato, Ben.

Although Kay Nakamine (Hideo) was unable to attend, she had called earlier to announce that her grandson had come to perform with his private school's band from southern California during the Asian Festival just about the time of the heartbreaking Japan earthquake and tsunami.

Get-well notes go to Kats Miho and Fred and Kay Hirayama who are recuperating at Hale Hoaloha care home. Sorry to hear we have lost another fine 522 wife: Martha Hironaka joined her late husband Sam several months ago.

Hey, stay well, everyone, and if you want to start tap dancing, call Reiko Arakaki, for good quick, one-bowl recipes call Florence Ohara, for golf call Rocky, and for tennis call me. Ja neh, Fuku



Fuku, Sandy and Ted Tsukiyama

Photo: Wayne Iha

## Taps

Lt. Col. (ret.) Ben I. Sugawa, better known as “Bully” Sugawa, died February 6, 2011 at age 87. He was born December 26, 1923 in Lawai, Kauai. His military service and career included the 522<sup>nd</sup> FAB with “B” Battery, Korean and Viet Nam wars which concluded with the rank of Lt. Colonel. He taught at Nanakuli Schools for 15 years, and he passionately followed his favorite hobby of golf at the military golf courses where he organized several golf clubs. “Bully” is survived by his wife Gladys, four children Edmund, Ryan, Theresa and Constance, nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Memorial services were held on February 25, 2011 at Mililani Mortuary (downtown) and he was interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

## Golf Report

The 522 golf news hereby reports three past month’s tournament results:

<u>Players:</u>	<u>1/10/11</u>	<u>2/14/11</u>	<u>3/21/11</u>
Masami Doi	70	—	73
Roy Fujii	67	69	70
Richard Furuta	82	81	73
Boyan Higa	65	75	68
Mits Honda	—	—	—
Mits Kunihiro	86	87	70
George Muramaru	—	—	—
Rocky Tanna	71	76	75
Ted Tsukiyama	73	72	—
Harold Ueoka	70	—	—
Flint Yonashiro	77	67	73

### Par 3 Pins:

Roy Fujii		#8 & #17
Boyan Higa	#2	
Rocky Tanna		#2
Ted Tsukiyama	#8 & #14	#8
Flint Yonashiro	#2	

Other 442 golfers are welcomed to join us. Just call Rocky Tanna at 737-5837.



by M. Honda

Happy New Year to all Band and Eng people whether they come to meetings or not. It’s a happy time of the year and no time to be discriminating against those who skip our meetings. Our first meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Jan, but the turn out was like any other meeting of the year. Used to be a huge crowd coming to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year but it seems that people are getting tired and they didn’t come like before. Well, you guys out there at least don’t forget to pay your dues for the year and try to give some work to our lovely hard working treasurer, Marge I. Nothing much happened during the month and so, I have nothing much to say.

Our first couple, Doc and Mary K. didn’t make it back in time for the meeting. They had gone to the Mainland to visit daughter Jean and her family and stayed a month. I’ve already seen Doc and Mary and they are as good as I’ve ever seen them. Welcome back Doc and Mary.

Feb is fast approaching and I, for one, am busy getting things arranged for our March anniversary Luncheon. Actually, my committee of one is doing most of the work and I try to stay out of her way. Claire Mitani does all the work and she was lucky to get Gail Onuma to join her team. Thank you both. Actually, we have members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn on the committee and we’ve gotten some good ideas from them. Of course, we have Wade to run the actual program on that day. We also have a few volunteers for that day and some seven of them are connected to the Honda Family. One couple even came from Waimea on the Big Isle (that’s my son & Daughter-in-Law). The 4<sup>th</sup> Bn are the attached separate units like the Eng, Band, Anti-Tank,

Service Co, Medics, Cannon, RHQ, and 171<sup>st</sup> Co.

I have been feeling out of sorts since the Holidays and wondered what was happening to me. I remembered taking up meditation in the early nineties because of my three heart bypass surgeries in the late eighties. The reason for meditation was because all the diets, exercises and rest (mostly) didn't seem to help. I was desperately clutching at straws. I didn't want to die during my next operation.

Anyway, I went into meditation and got into the rhythm after a couple of days. It's not something that one can turn on & off at will. It takes a certain frame of mind to get into it. I took it up in the early nineties while attending a Guru's meetings. I found it difficult to understand his explanation and couldn't find good instructions anywhere until one day at a barber's waiting room, I found a little article in the Police Gazette of all things that explained it in detail and I was on my way.

The path to meditation is quite difficult because you have to learn to drive all thoughts out of your mind. It's amazing the way little bits of things come into your mind when trying to clear your mind of all thoughts. The idea is not to make your mind blank which only causes one to get sleepy. I remember talking to a guy from the mainland who paid \$5000 for a one-week retreat in the Cascades. He only succeeded in falling asleep. I told him that I can do that, sleep, anytime. Just show me a couch and I'm off to dreamland. Explaining how to drive all thoughts out of one's mind is going to take too much space so I'll stop here. Anyone who wants to discuss meditation in private can do so by writing me. Include your e mail if available and remember I don't claim to be an expert or a Guru like that guy I met in the nineties. It gets to be fun after a while and it does calm your inner man, the guy deep inside yourself whom you don't even discuss with your Lady. He's my secret inner self. I'll discuss these secret inner selves later on in the

year when I'm more up to it. Nah!! I better stay off that subject, might get too close to that secret inner guy inside me.

Well, the annual banquet is really getting close and my main committee person, name of Claire, is getting busier & busier by the hour. As I said earlier, my main job is to stay out of her way and give her the Ball. This is no time to trip her up on her way to the goal line. Love you Claire, Go Get 'Em'!!

March 31, 2011. The Banquet has come and gone!!! It was a long time coming but it finally did and I for one am not sorry to see it go. My three main assistants did all the work and all I had to do was stand by to see that all was OK, but a funny thing happened when I finally reached home around three-thirty that afternoon, I was exhausted and went to bed for about 2 hours and was in a deep sleep. The next day on Monday, the same thing happened and I was still too tired to do anything. I finally recovered on Wednesday and it's been OK since.

Sayonara! I will see you again in three months.



*Charles Ijima and Bolo Shirakata (232nd Eng/Band)  
Photo: Pat Thomson*



## Maui Matters

by Harold Nishida, Jr.

Aloha, everyone from the Maui 442nd Ohana!

Another year has begun with a bang and now it's already April. In January of this year, the Maui 442 Veterans Club held its first general membership meeting, social event and annual elections for Executive Council officers. Hosted by the Maui Item associates, around forty 442nd/100th veterans, wives, widows, family and friends attended. They especially enjoyed the luncheon and bingo game (prizes), hosted by Master Bingo MC, Charlie Takahashi. The election results were overwhelming in favor of the incumbents from last year's elections; President - Kazuichi Hamasaki, Vice-president - Charlie Takahashi, Secretary - Harold Nishida, and Treasurer - Kaoru Muraoka.

This year, the general membership has elected to continue having their gatherings at the Wailuku Hongwanji with quarterly events that provide something for members to enjoy and look forward to. The Maui Item associates are thankful for the opportunity to earn the members' trust, confidence and continued support in their efforts to give back a little something from those who care.

### Sad News

We usually like to focus only on the light and happier news, especially with the dawning of a new year. However, the beginning of 2011 sadly heralded the passing of three of our precious Maui 442nd Veterans Club members.

1. Richard Tamotsu Hashi, 93 of Wailuku, Maui passed away on December 31, 2010. He was born on December 9, 1917 in Hana, Maui. Richard was a veteran of WWII and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Service Company. He created two businesses and retired as owner of Hashi

Auto Service Co., and JC Terrace Apartments. In recent years we were happy to see him attend many of our social events. Richard is survived by his son, James and daughter-in-law Takane.

2. Yasu Okinaka was a retired Postmaster of the U.S. Post Office in Puunene, Maui. Yasu was a veteran who served with the 442nd RCT, but unfortunately I must apologize that I was not able to obtain sufficient information about him in time for this posting.

3. Willard "Lanky" Matsumoto, 89 of Wailuku, Maui died on January 28, 2011. He was born April 10, 1921 in Hana, Maui and retired as a Scout Executive for the Boy Scouts of America, Maui County Council. He served with the 442nd RCT and was the head of "Tutto" company in the Maui 442 Veterans Club until his illness prevented him from continuing.

"Lanky," as he was affectionately known from his high school days playing basketball, was an avid sportsman and a devout Christian. He was well respected as a community leader and one of the last of the original Burger King (442) gang who met for breakfast chats every Monday and Friday mornings for many years. "Lanky" was one of those men in my life who inspired and affirmed my belief that one person can make a difference in this world by giving of himself instead of taking.

He is survived by his daughters, Lila (Allen) Kanda, Iris (Eric) Yamashige, May (Dino Oliveira) Matsumoto; sister, Alyce Yoshino; and grandchildren, Brendan and Sarah.

We will surely miss him and all of the other members of our Maui 442 Ohana that have passed on recently. Our deepest sympathies and condolences go out to the families of these brave heroes.





by Gail Nishimura

As always it was really great seeing so many old friends at the annual Anniversary Banquet. Wow! 68 years...that's a really long time ago, I wish sometimes my dad was still around to enjoy all this, I often wonder if I would even be part of Sons & Daughters if he was still around. Seems we try to make up for lost time playing catch up, I'm always guilty of that. If your dads or uncles are still around, make time with them to just sit and visit, I visited every Sunday but now it seems like I could have done more.

Going back to the Anniversary Banquet, everyone – including Sons and Daughters seemed to really enjoy meeting up with old friends...spring is a time to renew. Sons & Daughters also had a great dinner meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The dinner meeting was held at Tree Tops in Manoa, this time when we got there it was drier, not like our Christmas party day when it poured buckets of rain. We had our elections for the year, we will be led again by Wes Deguchi. The others are in Wes' report. Thanks for stepping up and taking on the duties for this year.

Here's Wes' report:

Hi Everyone,

As you know, last Saturday night was our General Membership Meeting. It was a dinner/meeting held at Treetops Restaurant in Manoa. Due to the cancellation of another party, we had the whole place to ourselves! We had a great turnout. In addition to all of our regular members, it was nice to see new members and guests at the event, including: Corinne & Richard Bauske, Doreen & Glenn Matsuda, Terry & Ross Sasamura, Carol & Mike Sullivan, Karlton Tomomitsu, Mary Lou Toyama, David Tsubata, Joyce Yeh, and Patti & Alan Yoshino.

The meeting portion of the evening's program was held after dinner. Here are a few agenda highlights:

Wade and Grace reported on the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. There were close to 700 in attendance and overall, a very successful event. The 442 Club reported a small profit due to the generous donations. President Thompson also proclaimed "There will be a 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet"! Thank you to all the Sons & Daughters who helped at the event.

Grace reported that the sale of souvenirs went well at the banquet. A lot of the items were sold out, amounting to approximately \$8,000 in gross receipts. To Grace and her band of helpers; "job well done"!

Cindy gave an update on the Veterans Photo Archive Program. We have successfully completed the first phase under this pilot program. The veteran is Seiji Oshiro. His photo collection has been scanned. Members of the committee, along with family members were treated to a 5 hour interview with Mr. Oshiro as he described each photo. His collection will be part of the 442 archive, as well as be posted into a related website. We are still looking for a few more veterans under this pilot program. Cindy has collected the photos of veteran Yasunori Deguchi, our next participant.

Willard gave an update of the Bruyeres group visit. The group of 40+ will be in Hawaii the first week of October. Upon the confirmation of their itinerary, Willard will let us know how we can provide assistance. His fundraising efforts have begun. A flyer will be sent out to all Sons & Daughters on the event.

I gave an update on our new legacy center. Senate Bill 1215 is currently "parked" in the House Finance Committee. At the wish of the veterans, voting on the bill has been deferred. I believe the bill has fulfilled its purpose. It has raised awareness of the veteran's vision for a legacy center. The result is another potential site for the center. While the DLNR site is still under consideration, a new site, one that is presently part of the KCC property, has been suggested. This site would not require any land

transactions. We would deal directly with KCC, which means a shorter time table for development. We have begun our study of this property and will have more to present at the next meeting.

Under “New Business” and one of the primary purpose of the GM meeting is the election of new officers. A slate of candidates were nominated and voted into office. Your officers for 2011-2012 are:

Wes Deguchi: President  
Anita Nihei: 1st Vice President  
Wade Wasano: 2nd Vice President  
Shirley Igarashi: Treasurer  
Susan Yoshitomi: Secretary

I presented the “Help Wanted” list (see below). It represents some of the commitments, goals, and requirements of the Sons & Daughters. As an organization, we are only as strong as our members’ involvement. The success of our organization is measured by the fulfillment of our mission.

As I have stated, the time to get involved is now! There are fewer veterans among us with each passing month. We need to determine the future of our organization...the future of the 442. Please read the attachment and let us know how you can help.

Next month’s meeting will be back at the Clubhouse. May 5<sup>th</sup>. Boys Day!

All for now, Wes

Here’s the “Help Wanted” list:

**Membership:**

- Update membership roster.
- Membership recruitment plan.

**Executive:**

- Update Bylaws
- Long range plan.

**Communications:**

- 442sd Website
- Awareness program
- VON (Veterans Organization Network)

**Archive:**

- Veterans photo archive program
- Education program.
- Volunteer work.

**Legacy Center Project:**

- KCC liaison.
- 100<sup>th</sup>, MIS, 1399<sup>th</sup> liaison
- Design team.
- Financial planning team.
- Fundraising committee.
- PR committee.

**Social:**

- SD Christmas Party
- 100/442 Get Together.

**Events:**

- Annual Anniversary Banquet.
- Joint Memorial Service.
- CPB Exhibit.
- CGMA Honolulu Banquet (12/17/11)
- Bruyeres visit.

**Souvenirs:**

- Sales and distribution.

Hope to see you at the next event. Take care of yourselves and Happy Mother’s/Father’s Day! To the yonsei...if you’re getting ready to graduate, good luck as you head out to the real world and make your mark!

Don’t forget to check out our website...[www.442sd.org](http://www.442sd.org)



Wade Wasano, daughter Kylee and Gwen Fujie  
Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

## **Lost Battalion Site Saved from Development by Bill Thompson**

In our last Go For Broke Bulletin, we wrote about the campaign to save the Lost Battalion from a wind farm development. A local committee had been organized to prevent a wind farm project from destroying the Lost Battalion site of WWII which is of significant importance to the 36<sup>th</sup> Division and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Team.

Lending support to the local committee were, among many, Michael Higgins, son of the Lost Battalion commander, and our 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club. After about 4 months, the municipal council of La Houssière finally reached a decision to abandon the wind farm project which had been opposed by 90% of the local population.

The local committee, “*Defense de l’Environnement dans le département des Vosges*” wrote us on February 26: “This morning, the city council of La Houssière has abandoned the continuation of the windfarm project. They have done so unanimously. They explained that the opposition of the local population (90% opposed), it made no sense to continue....”. Drs. K. Terleth / President

The Mayor of La Houssière wrote to our friend:  
*Mme et Mr. Claudon*

*Décision prise ce matin: le project éolien est abandonné. Puis-je vous demander de bien vouloir informer vos amis Américains qui se sont manifestés par mail cette semaine encore. Cordialement, R. Cronel*

### **TRANSLATION:**

Madam and Mr. Claudon,

Decision taken this morning: the windfarm project is abandoned. May I ask you to kindly inform your American friends who have come forward by mail again this week. Regards, R. Cronel

We sent our thanks to Mayor Roger Cronel saying: .... “The action by you and Council members

preserves s historical site that future generation will revere. The veterans of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and our comrades of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division will always keep the battle we fought in the Vosges Mountains in high esteem. This October when Liberation Day is celebrated by the Vosgiens, the Colors of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team will once again be re-united with our friends of the Vosges. I am sure La Houssière will have a prominent role in the ceremony....”



## **442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club Conducts Fund Raising for Japan Relief**

President Thompson announced during the board meeting on April 4, 2011 that we would hold a fund-raising to contribute to victims of the major earthquake and tsunami in Japan. He encouraged each chapter to make a donation and urged chapter presidents to pass the word on to individual members for donations. A deadline of April 25, 2011 was set.

Our members proved that the Spirit of Compassion and Giving was alive and well as the front office announced that \$15,920.00 has been contributed as of April 26, 2011. This must be considered a fairly large donation in view of the fact that several chapters and a number of individuals have already made contributions through other charity groups and did not participate in this project. Major contributors were: M Co.-\$6,355, 2Hq-\$2,050, S&D-\$1,100, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club-\$1,000, and Medics-\$1,000. Other contributors included: \$500 to \$999—232<sup>nd</sup>/Band, 3Hq, 522-A, and 522-B, and from \$100 to \$499—F Co., Cannon, Service, 171<sup>st</sup>, E Co., RHQ, and H Co.

Approximately 45 individual donors also participated in this project. The donations will be forwarded to the American Red Cross for distribution to victims of the earthquake/Tsunami.





## **Moriso Attending College 26 Years After Retirement**

In the October to December 2007 issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin, we featured Moriso Teraoka (2Hq and 100<sup>th</sup> Bn. D) as the man who is continuing his education 23 years after his retirement from his job in Pearl Harbor. After retiring in 1985, he enrolled in a culinary arts class at the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) not because he wanted to start a second career but so he could cook for his family on weekends and holidays and instill in his family the spirit of togetherness. He enjoyed it so much; he continued in several cooking classes and eventually expanded into language arts, creative writing, photography and journalism and worked for the school newspaper. He has also written a book titled "Let Me Fight Chicken."

In 1988, he started thinking about giving back for all the enrichment and enjoyment he was receiving from the school and obtained permission to clear, landscape and design a cactus and succulent garden on unimproved land. He started out single-handedly but as it began to take shape, interest grew and soon students, faculty and even community members came out to help. In two years, the garden became a must see spot for plant connoisseurs, tourists, KCC personnel and community members.

We had not heard from him in a spell but came across a poem he had written recently extolling the beauty of his garden and some of its plants. We note that 26 years after retirement he continues his education.

### My Persian Rug

Warmed by the rays from Diamond Head  
Spreading over the floor of black volcanic cinders  
Discovered by the name sake Edith Colea  
Established its residence at KCC  
From half the world away of ancient Persia  
Reflection of the velvety rug of a Persian palace  
My personal flowering rugs are all displayed at my  
cactus garden.

### My Landlocked Starfish

My starfish need not be in the ocean off Waikiki  
Come, I'll show you my landlock starfish at KCC  
Look at the five pointed petals of reddish brown,  
ribbed and hairy  
Textured to appear like no other beauty in the garden  
Called stapelia in the succulent world  
Stay upwind and don't breathe near the blossom  
The horse flies are always in love  
Because it smells like unko, I mean like shit.

### My Green Porcupine

Would you like to see a green porcupine?  
Yes? Come to my garden at KCC  
Look over there, the green cylinder  
Covered with white quills, no I mean needles  
In cactus talk  
Watch the needles quiver with a gust of wind  
Passing over  
Remember jumping jack? Or jack in the box?  
The clown in the box that jumps out when cranked  
That's my green porcupine  
A beauty to behold—from a distance.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Sons and Daughters, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club is re-ordering Garrison Caps and Iolani White Shirts in preparation for the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony scheduled for December 2011 in Honolulu. Anyone wishing to purchase either or both items are asked to contact the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, telephone: 949-7997 for order forms. Deadline for orders is: **MAY 15, 2011.**



# Dedication of CGM Proclamation - Visit by Senator Daniel K. Inouye

## 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club - January 19, 2011 (Photos by Wayne Iha)



*Bill Thompson and Senator Inouye unveil CGM proclamation*



*l-r: Senator Inouye, Thomas Ooka (E) & Ron Oba (F)*



*Senator Inouye with (l-r) Mary Kawamoto, Bolo Shirakata, Fujio Matsuda and Marge Ijima (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng/Band)*



*The Senator chats with ladies from 3<sup>rd</sup> HQ*



*Senator Inouye has a good time with l-r: Boyan Higa (522B); Mits Honda, Fujio Matsuda, Bolo Shirakata (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng/Band)*



*Senator Inouye admires the handiwork of the kukui nut lei made by Robert Uyeda (2HQ)*

## More photos from the 442nd Veterans Club 68th Anniversary Banquet

Courtesy: Wayne Iha, Clyde Sugimoto, Pat Thomson, Terry Takaki



*442nd Veterans Club 2011 Officers*



*Maj. Gen (USA Ret.) Robert Lee*



*Dr. Yutaka Yoshida (H Co.) & Sen. Inouye*



*l-r: Mits & Ellen Kunihiro, Harold Ueoka and Rocky Tanna (522B)*



*l-r: Benty Tachibana, Harry Kanada & Curtis Noborikawa (K Co.)*



*l-r: Jack Kaguni (AT) and Boyan Higa (522B)*





*Event volunteers Laura Hirayama & Drusilla Tanaka (standing l-r) join the Medics*



*I Co. Table*



*3rd HQ Table*



*2HQ Table*



*Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn & Ron Oba (F Co.)*



*Many thanks to our volunteers*



*Anti-Tank*



*l-r: Chilly Sasaki (AT) & George Nakasato (F Co.)*



*More of our volunteers -- our thanks for their help!*



# Congressional Gold Medal News Conference

March 28, 2011, Iolani Palace

Photos: Wayne Iha



*Maj. Gen. (USA Ret.) Robert Lee at podium; (l-r), Edgar Hamasu (MIS), Bill Thompson (442), Galen Ho (BAE Systems) Pauline Sato (100th)*



*l-r: Edgar Hamasu and Galen Ho*



*l-r: MG (USA Ret.) Robert Lee, Ron Oba (F Co.), Barbara Tanabe, Lt. Col. Kimo Dunn (100/442 Reserve)*



*l-r: Boyan Higa (522B), Yoshiko & Robert Kishinami (H Co.) and Harold Ueoka (522B)*



The 442nd Veterans Club  
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