



Go For Broke BULLETIN

442nd VETERANS CLUB



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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Go For Broke

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Cover:

Top: 100th/442nd Reserve color guard at opening ceremony of the banquet at Hawaii Convention Center (Photo: Pat Thomson)

Bottom: 100th/442nd Reserve color guard at CGM Memorial Service (Photo: Ann Kabasawa)

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Go For Broke is the official bulletin of the 442nd Veterans Club. Contributors may submit reports to: Editor, Go For Broke Bulletin, 933 Wiliwili Street, Honolulu, HI 96826; e-mail: 442veterans@hawaiiintel.net. Please submit reports on CD (saved in MS Word in Windows format) or email to 442 office. For more information, contact (808) 949-7997. Deadlines for 2012 submissions: April 2, July 2, October 5, January 7, 2013.

PRESIDENT'S *Report*



by Bill Thompson

What an exciting finish to the year 2011. The 4th quarter was filled with notable events. The quarter started with the visit by 40 people from Bruyères; they visited the neighbor islands in late September and early October. They finished their visit with a meeting with Mayor Peter Carlisle reaffirming the Honolulu-Bruyères sister city relationship.

Then, it was the trip to Bruyères by the 100th Infantry 442 Reserve Color Guard and our 1st Vice President, Mits Honda. They participated in the annual Liberation Day observance held around mid-October. The Reserve Color Guard returned in time to participate in the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony held on November 2 in the Emancipation Hall of Congress.

Under the aegis of the National Veterans Network (NVN) the Washington DC Congressional Gold Medal ceremony was a spectacular finish to the achievements of the WWII Nisei warriors. Congressional leaders were lavish in their praise of the WWII Nisei warriors. Speaker of the House John Boehner, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. Ralph Hall and Rep. Adam Schiff of California who sponsored the initial bill were among those who highly praised the Nisei. Senate leaders who added their best wishes included Senate President Harry Reid, Sen. Mitch McConnell, Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barbara Boxer. A souvenir DVD presented to the veterans captured all these comments issued by our Congressional leaders. Senator Dan Inouye, who sported a special blazer worn by the Hawaii Combat Team veterans spoke on behalf of the veterans. He recalled our “long journey but a glorious one.” He was certain that “those who are resting in the cemeteries are pleased with this day.” The CGM bronze replicas presented

at the DC ceremony to the veterans, spouses of deceased veterans and designated recipients were made possible by the generous donations of those who hold the Nisei veterans in high esteem.

Thanks to the efforts of Tammy Kubo and her friends, those 100th/442nd veterans attending the DC ceremony were all provided with a Navy blue blazer with the 442nd torch insignia sewn on the blazer’s pocket. This was matched with a white shirt, a blue tie and a colorful woven red/white/blue lei placing the Hawaiian veterans in a class by themselves. This was seen by all as evidenced by Ted Hamasu, 100th veteran, who was on stage representing the 100th Infantry.

Then on December 17, it was time for the Hawaiian version of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. What an impressive day it was with the parade through Waikiki followed by the luncheon at the Hawaii Convention Center. Retired General David Bramlett served as Emcee for the luncheon ceremony attended by 3,000 persons. The program scripted by retired MG Robert Lee and Barbara Tanabe ran flawlessly. The big moment was the presentation of the bronze CGM replicas to the veterans or the designee of veterans unable to attend the ceremony. What a proud moment for all those receiving the CGM replicas which were in a stunning presentation case. Retired General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, was the keynote speaker. Special thanks go to BAE Systems, represented by Alan Hayashi, who donated \$75,000 for the occasion which included the cost of the CGM replicas presented to the veterans.

This is my last report as a new president takes over in 2012. There were many memorable events during my five-year tenure. However, with the passing of many veterans who reached their “ripe old age,” and a very lean membership, the Club faces new challenges. But, with our “Go For Broke” spirit, we can make an unforgettable exit and just don’t say: “will the last person turn off the lights.”

IN MEMORIAM



Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:

Aburanao, Kiyoharu "Kay" (G Co.)	Sept. 17, 2011
Frazier, Cpt. Ivan Harold (M Co.)	Apr. 9, 2011
Fukunaga, Harold (G Co.)	Nov. 16, 2011
Hiraki, Tom (232 nd Eng.)	Sept. 17, 2011
Hiraoka, Tommy Yoshio (I Co.)	Oct. 27, 2011
Horita, Tadao (Medic)	Dec. 2, 2011
Ito, David Tadahiro (I Co.)	Sept. 7, 2011
Komiyama, Arthur (100 th /442 Serv.)	July 30, 2011
Miho, Katsugo (522B)	Sept. 11, 2011
Nakagawa, Richard M. (F Co.)	Nov. 22, 2011
Nakano, Albert Akio (HQ Co.)	Oct. 8, 2011
Nakashima, Richard Y. (3HQ)	Sept. 18, 2011
Noda, Kenji (K Co.)	Aug. 27, 2011
Ohnoki, Harry Hajime (Medic)	Sept. 29, 2011
Ojima, Masahide (522B)	Sept. 5, 2011
Okada, Hiroshi (E Co.)	Oct. 31, 2011
Okamoto, Monte Shuji (232 nd Eng.)	Sept. 30, 2011
Okamura, Toshio (E Co.)	Nov. 21, 2011
Saiki, Charles (Service)	Nov. 11, 2011
Sakamoto, Kiyoto (100 th /442 AT)	July 27, 2011
Sakima, Kaoru (522 HQ)	Nov. 5, 2011
Sakuma, Kohei (522 HQ)	Sept. 18, 2011
Taira, Wilfred M. (Medic)	Dec. 31, 2011
Takemoto, Stanley M. (L Co.)	Sept. 14, 2011
Terada, Riyoji (Medic)	Aug. 12, 2011
Wachi, Hideo (Medic)	Dec. 9, 2011
Wakano, Victor Ichiro (Cannon/MIS)	Oct. 10, 2011
Yamamoto, Jun William (L Co.)	Nov. 3, 2011
Yara, Choki (F Co.)	Sept. 5, 2011

Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

442nd Veterans Club

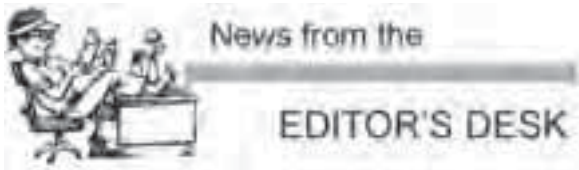
Mabel Kawamura <i>(IMO Wallace Kawamura, L Co.)</i>	\$500
Mr. & Mrs. Mitsuo Umeda	\$100
P. Konno <i>(IMO Masahide Ojima, 522B)</i>	\$100
Mr. & Mrs. Satoru Shikasho	\$100
Tamayori Family <i>(In honor of Clarence Tamayori, K Co.)</i>	\$200
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto	\$100
Harold Kudo	\$50
Lisa Yoshimura	\$50
<i>(In honor of Sadao Tachibana, H Co.)</i>	
Yoshiko Muto	\$50

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Nora Yamashiro <i>(IMO Rodney Yamashiro, 232nd Eng.)</i>	\$75
Mr. & Mrs. Satoru Shikasho	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Hisashi Okamoto	\$100
Harold Kudo	\$50

Scholarship Donations

William Thompson <i>(IMO Harold Fukunaga, G Co.)</i>	\$100
Fumie Yamamoto <i>(IMO Dr. Richard Yamamoto, 2HQ)</i>	\$500



by Oscar Tsukayama

A Happy New Year to All as we start a new year with great anticipation on what is in store for us. Hopefully, we will be able to achieve all our goals, wishes and aspirations.

Officers For CY 2012

Ronald Oba will serve as president of the 442nd Veterans Club for CY 2012. He will be assisted by 1st VP—Wes Deguchi, 2nd VP—Joseph Oshiro, 3rd VP—Wade Wasano, Secretary—Esther Umeda, and Treasurer—Takashi Shirakata. The slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee was unanimously approved by the board at its meeting on December 5, 2011, and the officers were formally installed with George Nakasato—F Co. conducting the installation ceremony. Congratulations to all as we pledge our full support.

We also want to express a Big Mahalo to last year's slate of officers for a job well done. They are President—Bill Thompson, 1st VP—Mits Honda, 2nd VP—Noboru Kawamoto, 3rd VP—Wade Wasano, Treasurer—Takashi Shirakata, and Secretary—Esther Umeda. Thank You So Much.

A special tribute to Mr. William Thompson is also in order for his dedication, hard work and persistence that he has demonstrated during the last five years he served as president. During this period, Bill practically lived in the club office taking care of club business; he represented the club in an outstanding manner with government, community, education, business and military leaders and was able to inspire the interest of leaders of these groups in the activities and programs of the veterans club thereby enhancing the image of the club in the eyes of the community.

During his tenure, he established the 442nd Scholarship Program with the University of Hawaii which is up and running; he also provided the initiative

to start work on a 442nd Archives and Learning Center which was discussed in the past but remained a project that did not get off the ground. Sensing that time was running out because of our aging membership, he took it upon himself, with S&D participation, to contact legislators, government officials and Congress and business persons to inquire about funding and grants of land and educational institutions to discuss joint-use, operation and maintenance of such a facility.

The project is now being established as a Nisei Legacy Center by the Sons & Daughters as opposed to a 442nd Legacy Center and is contrary to what Bill had envisioned. The project, however, has obtained the support of the organizations involved, namely the 100th Bn. Veterans Club, the 442nd Veterans Club, the MIS Club and 442nd Foundation, each of which has allocated \$5,000 toward continuing work on the project.

The pros and cons of a Nisei Legacy Center versus a 442nd Legacy Center is an issue that time will resolve. But, I think, Bill's vision, persistence and hard work must be credited for initiating the leg work and getting it to a point where we can expect an Archives and Legacy Center that will live on long after we are gone.

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies

The biggest events of the last quarter, without question, are the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) ceremonies which were held in Washington D.C. as well as in Honolulu. Since there was so much publicity in the newspapers, TV, radio, DVDs, etc. related to these ceremonies, we decided not to repeat that information but instead opted to excerpt statements, sentiments and thoughts expressed by dignitaries, hosts and veterans alike which give the true picture of the mood, feelings and atmosphere which prevailed during the ceremonies.

Washington D.C. Ceremonies: House Speaker John Boehner: It is my privilege to welcome all the recipients on behalf of every American and we are humbled by your presence today. Dr. Barry Black, Senate Chaplain: May their exemplary service

inspire us to cultivate in our lives their courage in danger, their steadfastness in triumph, their perseverance in difficulty, their love which nothing can change and their joy which nothing can take away. Representative Adam Schiff: These remarkable men left a segregated nation to fight and defend America with no guarantee that their own freedom would be defended in return. They fought for the values of America, equality, justice, opportunity even when these values were denied them at home and they paved the way for millions of other Americans who proudly wear a uniform today. Senator Barbara Boxer: You served your country despite being subjected to hurtful slurs and deep suspicion from many of your fellow citizens. Your bravery led your units to become known as Go for Broke because of your willingness to risk everything for America. While we can never repay the debt that we owe you, we can and we must recognize your valor and patriotism. So thank you for everything and thank you for making sure we preserve the incredible story of the Go for Broke regiments for future generations. Senator John McCain: The Nisei did everything that was asked of them and more. What is most remarkable is that they did so despite the fact that our nation, at times, fell short of its responsibilities to them and Americans like them. House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi: It is point of pride for me today that so many of today's awardees have San Francisco ties. The Japanese American community enriches our city and is a source of strength to us. Paying tribute to those who never came home, she said, "The Nisei vets bring luster to this gold medal and bring honor to this Congress." Senate Republican Leader, Mitch McConnell: Quoted former president Bill Clinton in saying, "Rarely has a nation been more well served by people it had so ill treated." He also quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur in saying, "Never in military history did any army know so much about the enemy prior to an actual engagement." Thanking the vets for their matchless record of bravery and service, he said, Congress honors you today with this medal, but believe me, the honor is all ours. William Thompson, President 442nd Veterans Club-Hawaii:

The award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei soldiers of WWII not only recognizes their unwavering patriotism but also symbolizes what Americanism is all about. Senator Daniel Inouye: who received a standing ovation recalled that seventy years ago when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, we were declared by our government as being enemy aliens. But we didn't sit by and do nothing, we petitioned the government to give us an opportunity to demonstrate our love for country and our patriotism which was granted. It's been a long journey but a glorious one. We wish to thank all of you, all Americans for this recognition. I'm certain I speak for all assembled here, but more importantly, I'm sure that those who are resting in cemeteries are pleased with this day.

Hawaii Ceremonies: First a Big Thank You to co-chairs MG Robert Lee and Barbara Tanabe and their committee for planning and hosting such a moving and inspiring series of events to include a parade, an award ceremony and a memorial service. With 450 veterans attending and a total of more than 3,000 including family members and friends, "A Big Success" is the only way to describe the event.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs and former U.S. Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki: Distinguished in battle, unique in American history and yet humble to nearly a fault, these are the boys of the One Puka Puka, Go For Broke and MIS. We just don't make units like this anymore. Except for your service and bloody sacrifice, my life's work would not have followed the path it did. And so to you and your family members we are indebted to all of you for giving us lessons about living our lives with purpose and dignity. From my generation to yours, I thank you. Masato Doi, 90, Anti-Tank Co., 442nd RCT: I was surprised and a little overwhelmed by the celebration. It really is an honor. I am proud that our service led to greater tolerance and acceptance of Japanese Americans among the general public. Harold Watase, 87, I Co. 442nd RCT: Initially, I felt embarrassed by the honor but it became acceptable when I considered that 44 men in my company were killed in action and many others are

suffering throughout their lives with disabilities. I think the Nisei from the mainland whose families were in relocation camps during the war deserve an extra award.

The sentiments expressed by Masato and Harold, I think, say it all. When we volunteered, we weren't thinking of medals or accolades nor did we expect any awards. But there were tremendous sacrifices and when you consider the suffering experienced and are still being experienced by these men and their families, we have to conclude that it is good to know that our sacrifices are recognized and that our nation has decided to honor and express its appreciation.

Pearl Harbor Observes its 70th Anniversary

Commemoration of Pearl Harbor's 70th anniversary on December 7, 2011 was a major event that brought survivors from all over the country and participation by several countries including a large contingent from Japan. The 442nd Veterans Club offered a wreath and was represented by, Bill Thompson, Ron Oba, Chilly Sasaki, Ed Yamasaki, and Wade Wasano.

Central Pacific Bank Honors MIS

A new display focusing on the exploits of the MIS during WWII made its debut at the CPB Main Branch, 220 S. King St. in observance of Veterans Day. This display is part of the "Honoring Our Legacy" exhibits which honor the 100th Inf. Bn., 442nd RCT, MIS and 1399th Engrs. Admission is FREE and office hours are: Monday to Thursday – 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and Fridays from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

Included in the exhibit are historic photographs, mementoes, a katana (sword), a captured Japanese flag and sash obtained by MIS veterans and supporters. It also includes personal items from the collection of the late Honolulu businessman Kazuo Yamane.

442nd Veterans Club to Present Gifts of the CGM Replicas

The 442nd Veterans Club will order five replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal, four to be presented as gifts and one to be displayed in the 442nd Veterans Club. Recipients of the gift will be the municipalities of Bruyeres, Biffontaine and La Houssiere and the Museum at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.



On November 22, 2011, Bill Thompson and Chilly Sasaki were invited by the Special Operations Command to a special ceremony at Camp Smith to honor the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Gerald Teramae, son of 442nd veteran Shinichi Teramae, served as escort to Bill and Chilly at the event. On display was a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal which Gerald received at the Washington, DC ceremony on November 2, 2011, as next of kin. Shinichi Teramae served with the Anti-Tank Company, 442nd RCT with Chilly Sasaki.

Photo (left to right): Gerald Teramae, Bill Thompson (2HQ), Takayuki "Chilly" Sasaki (Anti-Tank), Major General Norman Brozenick (Commander, Special Operations, Pacific).

Feature Story

Many thanks to Susan Uyemura, CEO of Japanese American Living Legacy, for contributing the following article.

Our Veterans Remembered In France

The small French towns of Bruyères and Biffontaine remain fairly obscure to most tourists visiting France even today. However, anyone familiar with the annals of World War II, would recognize these two towns as sites of some of the most gruesome combat campaigns between the Germans and the Americans. This area of France was known more commonly as Lorraine during World War II. Germany wanted control of this area during the war for its resources. The famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion gained much of their notoriety for their heroics in this geographical area during the war. For many of the residents in these towns, the “different looking Americans” liberated them from the grasp of German troops. For this, the people of the region remain forever appreciative of the Americans – particularly our community’s veterans of Japanese ancestry.

Bruyères and Biffontaine invited Japanese American Living Legacy in 2009, to visit the Vosges Mountains and participate in the annual commemoration festivities honoring the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT. It was the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyères and Biffontaine in 2009. Susan Uyemura, CEO of Japanese American Living Legacy seized the opportunity to witness and participate in this wonderful event. Having learned of Susan Uyemura’s plans to attend the commemoration, the 442nd Clubhouse of Hawaii decided to send the original 442nd RCT flag to Bruyères and Biffontaine under the care of the current 100th/442nd Hawaiian National Guard. World War II veteran, Bill Thompson, asked Susan to represent the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in France. Japanese American Living Legacy, the 100th/442nd

Veterans Association and the 442nd Clubhouse of Hawaii presented full-size replicas of the 442nd flag to the cities of Bruyères and Biffontaine.

Prior to her first visit to this region of France, Susan Uyemura had been corresponding, for about a year, with a French historian who specialized in the military events in the Vosges Mountains. Gerome Villain is a third generation Vosgian who has a tremendous interest in meeting and corresponding with Americans associated with the liberation of France. Gerome volunteered to be a guide and interpreter for Susan should she ever visit Vosges. Susan had also briefly corresponded with another Vosgian prior to her trip, Herve Claudon. Herve and his wife, Sylvie, own and operate rental homes where people can stay and experience the Vosges area from its most authentic roots.

Gerome had gained wide recognition in this area of France for previously discovering two original “belly tanks” dropped by American airplanes in the Vosges Mountains during the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion. Belly tanks are the rather large containers fitted on the “belly” of an airplane’s fuselage, usually installed for carrying extra fuel. However, during the war, the Americans attempted to “deliver” much needed food and ammunition to their ensnared troops by filling belly tanks with supplies and literally dropping the tanks near their soldiers; they would break open upon impact. The German troops soon realized what was in those tanks and fought the Americans vehemently for their possession. Gerome arranged to donate one of the tanks to the Texas Military Museum and the other to the city of Biffontaine. Gerome had studied the history of the liberation and knew more about the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team than many of the visitors to the region. He impressed Japanese American Living Legacy with his knowledge. As part of Gerome’s educational tour, he took JA Living Legacy into the Vosges forests where he pointed out original foxholes, clearly visible even after 65 years. He even shared some “fire water” with us to taste. Fire water was something the soldiers drank to stay warm, a type of home-brewed liquor made from

potatoes. It was rumored that soldiers during the war could even use the fire water as fuel for their jeeps!

Gerome's tour included a visit to the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial. Susan first met Herve in-person at the Epinal the American Cemetery and Memorial. He guided the group to where all of the Americans from the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT are buried. Over 5,000 soldiers lay in rest there, including ten Nisei and two of their Caucasian officers from the 442nd RCT. We visited the graves and paid our respects. The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial is considered "American soil" and is cared for by American staff from the American Battle Monuments Commission, an agency of our federal Executive Branch.

The commemoration festivities in Bruyères always impresses attendees! Uniformed fire department, policemen, French veterans, original citizens and local government officials came out to honor our veterans and the visiting National Guard troops. By chance, veteran Noel Okamoto of the 232nd Engineers, was visiting Bruyères that year and was honored as a special guest. Having the original flag return to Vosges 65 years later along with one of the famed 442nd RCT was considered a huge honor for the people of Vosges that year. Following a traditional Vosgian lunch made with potatoes and ham we went to the Biffontaine celebration. Biffontaine is the site where the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion occurred. It was amazing to see these areas practically unchanged after 65 years. Another flag was sent to the mayor of Biffontaine and later presented there by Herve and Gerome.

This year's commemoration was no less a celebration. With a population of less than 500, Biffontaine is easy to pass through without too much recognition. But if you look closely, you will see that some of the farmhouses display the French flag right next to the American flag. Biffontaine was occupied for over four years by the Germans during World War II. With the German border less than 15 miles away, it is easy to see how the Germans were able to takeover this area and control Biffontaine with little

resistance, leaving little hope of rescue for its inhabitants. While France fought the Germans on the home front, Biffontaine was left to German reign until October of 1944. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team combined with the 100th Battalion to fight one of the bloodiest battles they had faced. This battle would later be known to many as the "Rescue of the Lost Battalion."

Today, Biffontaine has changed little. Its beautiful mountainsides and deep forests remain relatively untouched by the decades passed. Tucked deeply in the mountainside is a monument maintained by the people of Biffontaine. It proudly displays, "*Ici, Sont Tombes Heroiquemen pour la liberation de notre sol les valereux combattants Americains de la 36 Texas division. 100th Battalioin Infantry Hawaii 442nd Regiment de Ligne 1st Battalioin D'Infanterie du 141 Regiment de Combat. October 1944.*" The rough translation is "Here, we honor our heroes for the liberation of our soil and the courageous combat engaged by the Americans of the 36 Texas Division, 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regiment Combat Team. October 1944." Every year on October 23, the residents gather to once again remember and honor their liberators.

This year as a special treat for commemoration participants, three of our community's veterans attended: Mitsuo Honda (232nd Engineers), Rikio Tsuda (100th Battalion, B Company) and Yuko Nakahira (442nd, Anti-Tank Division) along with their respective families. Accompanying our veterans and participating in regional commemorations for a third year in a row, was the 100th/442nd National Guard from Hawaii led by Major Horikawa and Lt. Colonel Yazawa. Other special guests were Major General Lee, Dr. Yazawa (Lt. Colonel Yazawa's father), Susan Uyemura from Japanese American Living Legacy and her mother Barbara Shoho. Mayor of Biffontaine, Denis Henry welcomed the out of town guests and honored them at the ceremony and hosted a champagne toast outside of the Mayor's office, just in front of the church where a plaque recognized Captain Young O. Kim for his bravery and medic M. Chinen for his dedication to his men.



(l-r) Mits Honda (232 Eng.), Rikio Tsuda (100-B), Yukio Nakahira (AT) at La basse de l'ane, Bruyeres Photo: Gerome Villain

Rikio Tsuda remembered the battle that took place and was happy to meet the people of Biffontaine. Each of the veterans and guests were treated to a special sit down traditional “French” lunch in the Mayor’s hall named “Salle Hawaii” (Hawaii Room). The Mayor presented each guest with a commemorative coin of the city. After lunch, we walked down the street where the Mayor had put up a display of some of the soldiers’ items retrieved from the forests along with souvenirs, books, and plaques that reside permanently in the Mayor’s hall.

The following day everyone met in the town of Bruyères. We began the day with a mass at the famous church where the 442nd RCT had rested after liberating the city (Notre Dame de L’Assomption). Church bells rang loudly. Slowly, but surely, residents from all over the city came to the church to participate in this mass. The church choir played “Aloha Oe” and the sermon repeatedly praised and thanked the veterans in attendance for their participation in the liberation over 67 years ago. Mass was followed by a parade through the city and an exhibit at the Bruyères mayoral hall. Each of the veterans was presented with a commemorative coin of the city and all of the guests received posters of the town. Lunch followed for the VIP guests.

JA Living Legacy, CEO, Uyemura said, “The experience is truly amazing. It is very clear the people of this region take this commemoration very seriously and are truly indebted to our veterans.” For more event photos, please visit Japanese American Living Legacy’s Facebook page.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a nonprofit (501c3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 278-4483.



Ceremony at Bruyeres

Photo: Gerome Villain



by Henry Kuniyuki

AKEMASHITE OMEDETO! The auspicious New Year of the DRAGON. A wise man once quoted: "May the beauty of the Holiday Season touch your heart, renew your faith, and refresh your spirit." We are thankful for the past year 2011 and are excited about the possibilities of 2012. We hope and pray that this New Year will be one of abundant blessings to all and life bring you HOPE.

RHQ Chapter activities of the past six months of 2011 are now history, recorded for posterity, and reported chronologically as follows:

July 5, 2011 - Monthly Chapter luncheon meeting at Gyotaku Japanese Restaurant. Received the report of the 442nd VC meeting.

August 1, 2011 - Chapter meeting, time and place same as July.

September 12, 2011 - Chapter monthly luncheon meeting, again scheduled and held at Gyotaku Restaurant with only eight members present.

October 3, 2011 - No meeting due to scheduled annual program.

October 16, 2011 - Annual meeting at Tree Tops Restaurant with thirty participants. Enjoyed "talking story."

November 7, 2011 - Monthly luncheon meeting

at Gyotaku.

December 5, 2011 - RHQ Chapter Christmas Party at Maple Garden.

December 17, 2011 - Club 100th, 442nd RCT Club, MIS Club and 1399th Construction Battalion Club members paraded on Kalakaua Avenue, starting from Ala Moana Center and ending at Kapiolani Park. After the parade, the combined Nisei veterans, approximately 435 in number gathered at Hawaii Convention Center Banquet Hall for a gala affair with General Eric Shinseki as keynote speaker. General Shinseki currently serves on U.S. President Obama's Cabinet as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"America's Congressional Gold Medal Heroes - In the Twilight of their Lives, America's Veterans Still Shine" Hawaii Herald, the Hawaii's Japanese American Journal publication headline of Friday, November 4, 2011 issue was reported by Karleen C. Chinen. Congress of the United States honored the Nisei veterans with the Nation's high civilian award for service. Hawaii Nisei veterans received the coveted award at the December 17th program from General Eric Shinseki. The Hawaii Hochi Centennial publication listed the Hawaii's World War II Japanese American Honor Roll.

Sincere mahalo and appreciation are expressed to my bride of blessed sixty-five years who I depend on editing my Regt Hq Edict story. I invariably depend on her to suggest appropriate quotations for my Regt Hq Edict story.

"May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions." — Joey Adams Arrivederci!



RHQ Chapter annual meeting gathering on Oct. 16, 2011. Photo taken by David, Maria Yamada's son.



by John Mikasa

This quarter has been a quiet one for Cannon Company, except for the Congressional Gold Medal award activities. Plans were prepared as a luncheon meeting at Zippy's on November 9.

Cannon Company families attending the December 17 activities were the following: Tsuka and Yukie Murakami from Kauai with daughters Judi and Aimee, and relatives Michi and Seigi Higa.

Harold Nakasone was accompanied by sons Clendon, Scot, Derek, and Lance; and grandchildren Justin, Lurn, Tasia, and Leahi Nakasone; and Kendrick, Krystin, Seth and Dayton Oki.

Tokio Shimizu was accompanied by wife Rose, son Bruce, and daughter Ann Akamine.

Mitsuo and Esther Umeda was accompanied by daughter and son-in-law Michael Chinaka, sons Alan and Wayne; grandchildren Robyn, Monica and Corynne Umeda; and guest Hong Lam.

Yukisada Oshiro was accompanied by daughters Cheri and Diane.

Akira Okamoto came with his long-time friend Grant Akina.

Akira and Betty Takahashi arrived with son Mark.

May Koike, John and Mary Mikasa completed the Cannon Company attendees.



(l-r) John Mikasa, Ronald Sakamoto (232 Eng), Mitsuo Umeda on a trolley in the Waikiki parade. Photo: Wayne Iha

The activities of the day was unforgettable. The award of the medals was the highlight. The trolley parade through Waikiki was awesome. Even the luncheon at this convention compared to the tiny musubi meal at our anniversary convention some years ago, was excellent.

The late Dr. Masaru Koike was a busy urologist practicing in Honolulu. He graduated from the University of Hawaii in three years, and applied to enroll in a number of medical schools that practiced prejudices at that time. He overcame the difficulties and graduated from the University of Chicago. Masaru retired from practice in 1993 and became a regular monthly meeting attendee. He also enjoyed our regular Las Vegas reunions, meeting with old friends and families, and playing golf. His wife May is also a regular Cannon Company member, thoughtful and gracious. We hold her quite dear, especially with our dwindling membership.

Roger Yoshinari, our principle mainland contact, provided the following:

The Annual Cannon Company Reunion will be held from Thursday, May 3, to Monday, May 7, 2012 at the Fremont Hotel in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. As always, our Hospitality Suite will be the Bronze Room on the 2nd floor. A block of rooms has been set aside for us under the hotel's Hawaiian Plan, which includes breakfast, lunch and dinner each day.

In recent years, this has become a family event. All family members, relatives, and friends are welcome. Please make your own hotel reservations. The deadline to get our group rate under the Hawaiian Plan is Saturday, March 31, 2012. Just call the Fremont (Toll Free) at: 1 800-634-6182 and let them know that you are part of the Cannon Company group and mention code: A2FCANN, in order to get our special room rate with the Hawaiian Plan.

Last year, there were 68 people who attended. The enthusiasm still continues to keep the Cannon Company Reunion on the calendar each year. We look forward to seeing the Cannoneers and their families again in May.



by Oscar Tsukayama

Another year gone by—Another year wiser.....GAMBARIMASHO

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies

By far, the major events of the past quarter were the CGM ceremonies held in Washington D.C. from November 1 to 3, and the Hawaii CGM ceremonies held on December 17 and 18. Medics who attended the WDC ceremonies were: Kelly Kuwayama, Jimmie Kanaya, Tosh Yasutake, Shig Momoda, Dange Atagi and George Minata—all from the mainland. In addition, Kelly was one of four Niseis invited to have breakfast with President and Mrs. Obama in the White House East Room on Veterans Day.



Taken in Wash., DC: (l-r) George Minata & Shig Momoda

Eight Medics, Howard Kozuma, Jack Yamashiro, John Masunaga, Kazuo Tomasa, Sueo Fujii, Toshiaki Tanaka, Jerry Ogawa and Oscar Tsukayama attended the Hawaii ceremonies. They were accompanied by 43 family members who brought the total of Medics members attending to 51. Jerry Ogawa's family led the group with 20 in attendance followed by Sueo Fujii's family with 11. The ceremony was inspiring and the veterans appreciated the honor.

Honoring a Really, Really Good Man

Information for this article was obtained from an article by Shawn Vestal for the Spokane Newspaper, Northwest.

George (Ike) Minata was born in Troy Montana but his family moved to Bonners Ferry, ID where his father ran a restaurant and owned real property in town which he rented to businesses. George played football and basketball in high school and was a student at the University of Idaho on a football scholarship when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He was an All-American Boy right up to that point but then he became an enemy alien and was swept up in one of the most shameful chapters of American race relations which led to the forced removal of those of Japanese descent from coastal areas and their internment in relocation camps. George's family lost their business and their land due to community boycott. George continued to play football but he could not accompany the team when they played west coast schools and he even had to fight some of his racist teammates. It was hysteria, he says.

In 1943, when his country asked Japanese Americans to help fight the Germans, you'd think he would have had a quick dismissive answer. But Minata with thousands of other Japanese Americans enlisted. The achievements, the sacrifices and losses incurred in KIA, WIA, and permanent disabilities by the 442nd RCT are well documented. Minata says all this for the privilege of coming home to face the same racism they experienced before. Wife Aiko says, we would go into a restaurant and just sit there without being served.

A measure of recognition and appreciation has come to the Nisei veterans (100th Inf. Bn. 442nd RCT and the MIS) when Congress approved the granting of the Congressional Gold Medal to these veterans. Minata and a small contingent of veterans of these units from Spokane attended the award ceremony held in Washington D.C. from November 1 to 3. George has mixed feelings about this honor as he is about his experience in the war or how he was treated before he went. "I don't have too many feelings about it—it's nice" he says.

George was a medic during the war. In July 1944, near Cecina, Italy, he and another medic were carrying a wounded soldier from the front lines to the aid station when mortar fire rained down on them. George was hit in the neck, back and both legs and his fellow medic's arms were shredded. The injured soldier they were carrying got up and took off. "I don't know how" he says, "but he did." His companion moved George to a nearby barn from where he was later evacuated and spent the next few months hospitalized and in rehabilitation. He later rejoined the 442nd until the end of the war.

George returned to Spokane where his family had resettled in 1946. There he met Aiko who was interned in Camp Minidoka in southern Idaho and they were married in 1948. George later attended pharmacy school in Pullman, WA under the GI Bill and returned to Spokane where they raised their two daughters.

Among the topics that were not part of regular family conversation were George's experiences in Italy. Aiko says, "I didn't know very much about any of this until we started going to 442nd reunions in Hawaii. The veterans would talk about the old days and that's how I learned about these things. He didn't say anything."

Writer Shawn Vestal says, "The heroism of the 442nd is made all the more poignant by how little right America had to ask it of them. Minata doesn't talk about this much – when I asked him why he hadn't been angry and resentful, why he'd been willing to risk his life, he referred me to a written history of the Nisei fighters that mentions their strong sense of honor and loyalty that included this line. There is an old Japanese proverb that goes, if you do something really good and you don't talk about it, it must be really, really good."

Shawn concludes his article with, "In the end, the 442nd compiled an amazing record. They served a crucial role across Europe in the final battles of the war. To the 14,000 Japanese Americans who served, there were more than 18,000 medals awarded. And if like many of the World War II generation, Minata is subdued, the rest of the family is not. Aiko says

our two daughters think it's great – we are taking both of them to Washington D.C.



Jimmie Kanaya & George Minata at Wash., DC CGM event

Medics Chapter Loses Another Stalwart

The Medics Chapter lost another staunch supporter when Wilfred Masaichi Taira, 91, passed away on December 31, 2011 after a long illness. Wilfred was assigned as company aid man to E Company and was much respected by them as the man who took great care of them. His dedication to duty and to his responsibility to care for the wounded is attested to by the award of two awards for bravery, the Silver Star and Bronze Star medal, in carrying out his duties as a medic in combat. He also received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

After his discharge, Wilfred attended an aircraft mechanic's school in California, then worked as an Aircraft Mechanic for Aloha Airlines while raising a family of 3 sons and 4 daughters with wife Tsutoe. He remained very active with 442nd and Medics chapter activities during the post-war period by attending most functions and furnishing moral, financial and physical support when needed. He suffered a stroke in 2003 and was wheelchair-bound since, but insisted on attending 442 and Medics functions with the help of family members. He just loved spending as much time as he could with his comrades. Wilfred was friendly and personable; didn't say much; loved company and always had a smile that showed he was thoroughly enjoying what was going on. He will be missed.

Messages From Medic Family Members

Kelly Kuwayama called from WDC to inquire whether any of Akio Nishikawa's relatives were planning to attend the GMC ceremonies in WDC. Kelly served with Akio (KIA July 1944-Italy) as E Co. medic and wished to meet with them if they attended. I imposed on Stan Izumigawa of Maui to see if he could make some telephone inquiries. As it turned out, his daughter made the contacts to find that all of Akio's immediate family members are gone. She was able to contact a cousin who indicated that none of his relatives are expected to attend. Notified Kelly of the results by e mail. Wish to thank Stan and his daughter for their help.

Jimmie & Lynn Kanaya sent images of medics members who attended the CGM ceremonies in WDC. They plan to be in Hawaii in January but did not give a date.

Ben Yamanaka through daughter Gail sent an e mail to advise that Hideo Wachi passed away on December 9, 2012. The Wachi's had moved to a nursing home just a few months ago. They indicated that the once active E Co. group of LA is feeling the effects of old age and its numbers are dwindling,

Herb and Jane Okano called to inquire about purchasing a CGM replica. They placed their order and received the medal right after the new year. Herb suffered a fall a few months ago and is now in rehab. He appears to be having problems with balance. Get well soon Herb!

Ginny Squires (Yash Deguchi's wife) wrote to say thanks for keeping her in the mailing list for the Medics Directory. She says, I'm originally from Rochester, NY and in looking through the directory noticed that Medic John Hayashi resides in Rochester. On a recent trip home, I contacted John and had a nice visit with him. I hope to meet with him again in June. Thank you Ginny for your nice letter—am glad the directory was helpful for you.

Joe and Nell Saito called to say that they plan a visit to Hawaii in March to coincide with our 69th reunion. I will be sending you details of the reunion as they are firmed up—we are looking forward to seeing you.

Donations

Generous donations were received from Mrs. Shizu Iijima (Ike Iijima's wife) from St. Paul, MN; Ichiro Matsuzawa, Las Vegas, NV; and George Minata, Spokane, WA during the last quarter. Ichiro is a long lost buddy from the 171st who finally got in touch with Toshiaki Tanaka to let him know that he now resides in Las Vegas. Shizu writes, we are experiencing a brown Xmas in Minnesota for a change, but I wish I could be enjoying the balmy weather in Hawaii. George sends greetings and best wishes to all in the Medics. We thank them sincerely for their generous donations.

Taps

Tadao Horita, age 90, passed away on Dec. 2, 2011. He is listed as having served as a medic with the 100th and the 442nd. His place of birth and last place of residence is not known, his social security death index was issued by the state of California.

Harry Hajime Ohnoki, 91, of Los Angeles, CA died on September 29, 2011. He was predeceased by his wife Toshie and is survived by sons: Donald (May), Daniel T (Iris) and three grandchildren.

Wilfred Masaichi Taira, age 90, of Honolulu, Hawaii passed away on December 31, 2011. He served as company aid man for E Co., 442nd RCT. He is survived by wife-Tsutoe, sons-Terry N., Dan T. and Nathan A.; daughters-Carolyn S. Shimabuku, Gwen E. Sasaki, and Pat A. Taira; three brothers, three sisters, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Hideo Wachi, age 92, of Los Angeles, CA passed away on December 9, 2011. He served as company aid man for E Co., 442nd RCT. He is survived by wife-Shizuko, son-Eugene (Elaine) Wachi; daughter-Julie (Rod) Kaseguma, six grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Horita, Ohnoki, Taira and Wachi families.



by Ace Higuchi, et al

The highlight of this quarter was the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony on December 17 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Our Hq2ndBn chapter had 9 veterans present with their families making a total attendance of 34. The veterans were Toshio Hayama, Ace Higuchi, Takashi Okemura, Tamio Otsu, Wataru Shigehara, Yasunobu Shoho, Bill Thompson, Robert Uyehara, and Shigeo Wakayama. We were delighted to see the neighbor islanders buddies present -- Wally Shigehara (I&R platoon) from the Big Island, Hilo, and Piggy Wakayama (A&P platoon) from Wailuku, Maui. Our thoughts were those of our buddies who were not present, and as Sen. Dan Inouye had said at the DC ceremony: "... those resting in cemeteries are pleased with this day." Our sentiments, exactly.

The CGM activities of December 17 were widely publicized and we will not repeat them so as to leave more space in the GFB Bulletin for what will be unforgettable photos.

Lest we forget, Masao Tamura of Lihue, Kauai, received the French Legion of Honor, Chevalier Class, from French Consul Patricia Lee, at a ceremony here in Honolulu in October. Masao is a wounded veteran of the Vosges Mountains campaign in France.

On August 5, 2011, we lost James Naomitsu Sakamoto. Jimmy was a "Charter member" of the Hq2ndBn Chapter. He was born on March 7, 1923, and a graduate of McKinley High School. He worked at Lewers & Cooke and also attended Honolulu Business College. When the call came for volunteers for the 442nd RCT, Jimmy stepped up.

At Camp Shelby Jimmy was assigned to the Communications Platoon of the Headquarters Company of the the 2nd Battalion. He was with the radio section. In Col. James Hanley's book "A Matter of Honor," Jimmy is prominently mentioned. It seems

the Colonel and Jimmy became quite friendly. His Platoon Sergeant was Jack Tagawa of L.A. Jack passed away in February of last year and his burial was at Arlington Cemetery during the Congressional Gold Medal events. Jimmy earned a Bronze Star for his actions to maintain communications at the battle for Mt. Belvedere, during our second campaign in Italy. Jimmy's Platoon Leader was Lt. Walter Mackey (now a retired Captain) who lives in Dallas, Texas. Mackey is desirous of obtaining the CGM replica which may happen when Houston hosts a CGM ceremony.

After the war, with his radio training background, he qualified for the RCA Institute in New York. He returned home and resumed work at Lewers & Cooke. He married Mitsue in June 25, 1949. In 1950 he secured a job at Pearl Harbor in radio and electronics. He retired in 1979. Later, he suffered a stroke which immobilized his right hand and arm; he, then, learned how to be a lefty. Even though with his infirmity, he faithfully attended our Chapter meetings until the very end.



"Piggy" Wakayama with Reservists at CGM banquet



by Ron Oba

*Unsung heroes
CGM Gold Star Medal
They are all of Vets*

As the year ends and we embark onto new horizons, we lament on the passing of the 70th? anniversary of WWII. We fought not for glory but for our country that eulogies our valor with the Congressional Gold Medal given only to President George Washington, Tuskegee Airman, Rosa Parks and the 442 Regimental Combat Team.

Congressional Gold Medal

Richard Murashige writes: My trip to DC started October 28 with my daughter Kim and granddaughter Nicole Kajiyama heading for San Francisco to meet my other daughter and son-in-law, Joanne and Martin Gronberg before heading to the twin cities and to DC.

Hilton Hotel was the CGM Headquarters. Day one was registration and rest. Day two, the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno presented the Bronze Star Medal to 40 members of the 100th and the 442nd. Lots of tours were taken. Day three was the highlight of the CGM affair. We went to the Capitol to the Emancipation Hall to officially receive the CGM.

The final affair was the gala dinner. Emcees were Sachi Koto and Ann Curry. The 17-hour flight was well worth it.

List of Fox Company members and dependents who went to DC: James Mita; Enoch Kanaya; Frank Mizufuka; David and Adelita Katagiri; Yasunori Deguchi and son Wesley; Frank and Namiye Fukuzawa; Ocean Miyake and Monica; Richard and Shirley Nakagawa; Steve

and Dorothy Shimizu and two sons; Frances Shintani and son Steve; Matsumoto and companion; Kaoru and Yuri Masuda and dependent Jack Hana's nephew; Richard Murashige with daughters, Kim, Joanne and husband Martin Gronberg and granddaughter Nicole Kajiyama; and Susan Ohama Wermuth, niece of Abe Ohama.

Christmas at Tree Tops

28 brave souls on a windy Saturday morning headed into Manoa Valley and parked away from the tall tree branches that can come crashing onto our cars. Our venue was reserved for Fox chapter members in a comfortable room as before. Reading of the honor roll with Fox veteran Richard Nakagawa as one of the deceased. The luncheon buffet was replete with ono stuff and after being satiated, we started the lucky numbers. I asked Jr. Uranaka to help me and promptly stood up, oops, he fell for the umpteenth time. Everyone was 911 as they all rushed to help Jr. off the floor. He recently underwent a surgical removal of a hematoma under his scalp and was still a little bit unsteady so I told him, eh, don't need to help, got plenty of help. The grab bag, lucky numbers and the bingo games were the highlights of the event as everyone enjoyed another wonderful Christmas at Tree Tops. Tommy Tamagawa again donated a \$100 bill as the grand prize won by Charlene Matsushima. We promptly reserved next year's date, same time, under Richard's name.

Reunion Reprised

Frank Mizufuka proposed to George that we renew our reunion at the Las Vegas California Hotel without the trimmings like the banquet and program; just the Hospitality Room and enjoy the camaraderie. What do you think?? Come one, come all.

70th Anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack

Wade Wasano acted as the limousine driver and transported president Bill Thompson,

president-elect Ron Oba and Chilly Sasaki (Anti-Tank) to the Pearl Harbor event. As usual, we sat next to the Pearl Harbor Survivors who are now in their 90s. They were a proud bunch of survivors who were honored by every speaker including Leslie Wilcox, who did a tremendous job as she called out each Survivor with their namesake USS battleships, cruisers, destroyers or ship tenders.



Front (l-r): Chilly Sasaki (AT), Bill Thompson (2HQ), Ron Oba (F Co.)
 Back (l-r): Ed Yamasaki (I Co.), Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani (MIS)

Convention Center

Luncheon was our next venue for the celebration of the Congressional Gold Medal. Veterans rode on the trolleys through Waikiki where tourists and islanders saluted the veterans in the parade. Marching bands, including the Royal Hawaiian Band, and marchers returned to the Convention Center for the luncheon. Keynote speaker was retired U.S. Army Chief of Staff and now Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki. He was introduced by MC General (Ret.) David Bramlett. General Shinseki later posed with veterans for picture-taking. Veterans received the bronze medal replica donated by friends of the veterans. Many of us reserved a table for families at this once-in-a-lifetime commemoration.

National Cemetery of the Pacific

Next morning the veterans, wives and friends attended the Memorial Service for veterans who are interred at the cemetery.



Paul Yamashita (seated), George Nakasato and Tadashi Tamagawa (right) at CGM banquet



Richard Murashige, one of the Grand Marshals in the Parade

Photos: P. Thomson



by Yutaka Yoshida

Greetings H Company members! Many of us attended a wonderful event in mid-December: the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medals at a huge luncheon at the convention center. I had never been to the Hawaii Convention Center before and I was awed by the vast hall, filled with tables. Outside the hall, in the lobby, 442 books and memorabilia were available for purchase. My daughter bought me a copy of Mike Tsuji's book, not realizing that I had already read it, so I decided to read it again! It was even better the second time around! I thought it was a great read and really captured our experience beautifully. Anyway, back to the luncheon. The luncheon was extremely well-organized. Each veteran was presented with a beautiful red, white and blue lei and we joined each other at our H Company tables. I thought we had a really good turnout for this event, and it was attended by many friends and family members as well. We had a good lunch, and had several speakers and video presentation, each of which were poignant and thoughtful. Here's who I saw there, and please forgive me if I leave anyone

out! Seen at the luncheon were: Blake Mitani, Harold and Patsy Afuso, Hiromi Fujimura, Charlie Okazaki, Ron and Yuki Sakai, Bob and Yoshiko Kishinami, Harry and Yoshi Kiyabu, June Oganeku, Tak Okuhara, Mildred Tahara, Dorothy Nakagawa, Margaret Mita, Priscilla Sadanaga, Doris Yoshimoto, Annie Tamura, and all the way from Molokai, George Harada.



Blake Mitani
Photo: P. Thomson



Tak Okuhara
Photo: A. Kabasawa

After the lunch and speeches, each veteran was personally presented with his medal by an active duty soldier – it was very personal, very efficient and quite a moving experience to be honored in that way. It was a pleasure to share such a happy experience and be surrounded by all of you— friends for all these years. Thanks goes to Charlie Okazaki for organizing all of us so that we could sit together and for the many other things he does for our chapter. Aloha— see you at the next meeting!



Ronald & Yuki Sakai Photo: William Yoshida Hummel



Charlie Okazaki (l) & George Harada
Photo: William Yoshida Hummel

Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony - Washington, D.C. November 2, 2011



*Hiroshi Arisumi (232nd Eng.) arrives in Washington, DC
Photo: Tammy Kubo*



Medics veterans (l-r) Toshi Yasutake & Dange Atagi



White Yamamoto (Anti-Tank)

Photo: Ron Yamada



*LTG Joseph Peterson presents CGM to Senator Daniel Inouye
Photo: Ron Yamada*

Congressional Gold Medal Celebration (Hawaii) - Parade

December 17, 2011

Photos Courtesy: Sons & Daughters and Friends of the Nisei Veterans



Congressional Gold Medal Celebration - Banquet

Hawaii Convention Center

December 17, 2011

Photos Courtesy: Sons & Daughters and Friends of the Nisei Veterans



(l-r) Mitsuru Kunihiro, Stanley & Hilda Kaneshiro, "Biggie" Nakakura (522FA veterans)



(l-r) Ted Umetsu & Fred Hirayama (522FA veterans) receive CGM



E Co. Veterans



(l-r) Stanley Watanabe (L Co), Ronald Sakamoto (232nd Eng), Masato Doi (Anti-Tank)



Major Keith Horikawa & Joe Obayashi (522HQ)



Ace Higuchi (2HQ)



F Co. veterans Wataru Kohashi and Ocean Miyake (seated)

Congressional Gold Medal - Memorial Service

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl

December 18, 2011

Photos Courtesy: Sons & Daughters and Friends of the Nisei Veterans



(l-r) Rev. Wallace Fukunaga, Cpt. Kevin Gilbert, Col. Kimo Dunn, Lt. Gen. Joseph Peterson, Rep. Mazie Hirono, Gene Castagnetti



100th/442 Reserve Color Guard



(l-r) Wataru Kohashi (F), Harold Ueoka (522B), Richard Murashige (F)



(l-r) Alan Miyamura, Edgar Hamasu (MIS), Rev. & Mrs. Yoshiaki Fujitani



(l-r) Maui Ogata (1399), Tsutomu Oi (1399), Bill Thompson (442)



(l-r) Rocky Tanna (l) & Roy Fujii (r) of 522B



by Jane Shikasho

What a treat it was for the veterans to be treated so royally – a trolley ride in a parade thru Waikiki, with door to door transportation, a beautiful 3-strand red, white and blue silk lei, a fabulous lunch, and to receive the replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal on December 17. Many thanks and mahalo to the members of NVN, BAE Systems and all the many generous donors who worked so tirelessly to make this event possible.

We were particularly pleased that the Kuwate and Furuya families turned out 100% for the banquet. Yaeko brought Bill in a wheelchair after getting permission from the care home to which he has been confined, together with sons Wayne, Stacy and Clive. Sam and Harumi Furuya were accompanied by sons Keith and Nelson and daughter Lori.

David Kaiura came with daughter Kathy Yonesaki, and Frances Aoyama came with daughter Karen Kikukawa. Tommy and Elaine Tamashiro, Irene Nakamura, and Sat and Jane Shikasho made a total of 20 present when we include Janet Matsuda, who got a surprise invitation from her nephew Al Deguchi of California, who is the brother of Wes Deguchi, to be a guest at their table.

Sat Shikasho sent a note of appreciation to Edna Wright of Pearl City who was the one who made the silk ribbon lei he received.

The Memorial Service, which was very well organized included providing umbrellas when the liquid sunshine was heavy at times, was attended by Sat and Jane Shikasho.

We were pleasantly surprised to receive a Christmas Newsletter from Namomi Pursel, daughter of Edna Kuniyuki of Bremerton, Washington. Here's an excerpt:



In January my mother will have been here for three years, demonstrating that time does indeed fly. She's adjusting to the "cooler" weather, living with a dog, and is enjoying all four seasons for the first time in her life. We did go back to Honolulu for a week in September to visit old friends and to eat (I think). This is a picture of Mom in Joe's garden. While the plants were late in coming in this year due to the prolonged cold weather, they grew robustly as you can see them towering over her. She still spends most of her time crocheting some very intricate patterns. Amazing some of the stuff she does but it keeps her mind sharp and her fingers agile.



Furuya Family

Photo: P. Thomson



Satoru Shikasho with Joe Obayashi (522B) on trolley

Photo: T. Takaki



by Ed Yamasaki

Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

My daughter Debbie and I were honored to attend the presentation ceremonies for the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service in Washington, D.C. on November 2, 2011. It was a “Last Hurrah” tribute to our veterans and what an emotional and triumphant gesture received from Congress. The presentation was in the Emancipation Hall of the United States Capitol and how impressive it was to even be there. We only had 28 veterans from the Pacific Northwest who were able to attend, but we totaled 350 in number, including the veteran families who wanted to honor their fathers. I understand there were over 3,000 in attendance. We had decided to go, to watch this historical act for Shiro, Jiro and the rest of our veteran friends who are not with us today, and to honor their memories.

On October 31st, the activities commenced with people registering at the Washington Hilton where most of the programs were located. In the Hospitality Room, our Seattle group set up a booth with handout materials, a replica of our newly completed Memorial Wall next to our NVC Clubhouse, and portable pull-up posters which our Education Outreach speakers use in talking about our past war experiences. We noticed that people were reading these posters with great interest, and several veterans were standing around talking about their war experiences. With this celebration being 68 years since their activation into the Army, you have to realize that the veterans present were in the minority, and most of the participants in attendance were scattered elderly Nisei, lots of Sansei and some Yonsei—family members who

wanted to remember and honor their fathers and grandfathers. The Gala Banquet was held in the ballroom at the Washington Hilton, and it was a sight to behold—seeing 2500 people for a sit-down dinner. I hope everyone saw some of the national TV coverages given for this long overdue honor for the Japanese American soldiers who left a legacy for the future generations that they will be proud of.

The I Co. members that I saw throughout the crowd were: Ronald “Buster” Minami and wife Ruth from Wisconsin; James Yamane and his whole family from Denver; Glenn Hajiro from Honolulu; Art Iwasaki and all his children from Portland, OR; several children of Bob Yonemitsu (deceased); William Tosh Yasutake and his son Bruce from Bothell, WA. Others familiar in the crowd were Dick and Sumi Tochihiro from Southern Cal.; Hiroshi Arisumi and wife Sue and Dr. Richard Sword from Maui. I’m sure there were several others, but with the crowd of over 3,000, it was hard to find one another. I read in the JAVA news that Henry Nakada’s son Mike from Homer, AK was there.

By the time this goes to press I know the Hawaii tribute to the veterans of all three units will have had their celebration on December 17th, and know it also was a huge event for the many boys who were still able to attend, along with their families. Eddie Yamasaki sent me the *Hawaii Herald*; and on the internet, I saw several pictures of the Hawaii event. One trailer was of five pictures, and three of them were of our own I Co. boys: Hiram Doi, Walter Okumoto and Harold Watase. The expressions on their faces were of surprise, pride and delight when they opened up to see their Gold Medal replicas. They are really beautiful medals, and so heavy! The expression on their faces was priceless.

Seattle will be having our own Congressional Gold Medal celebration on January 14th, and already we have gone from our small-box thinking, to expanding the event to be held at the University of Washington, since so many of the families are

wanting to attend. Debbie and I are both on the planning committee so we are hard at work trying to make it a memorable event. We have almost 90 Honoree veterans who will receive their Gold Medal, so there is a great demand for tickets from their families.

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn with Jim and Marian Yamashita over the tragic loss of their son, Glen. No words are adequate to express our sorrow, but hope his family is dealing with the loss as best they can. Our heartfelt condolences and love goes out to the whole family.

We also have heard of the recent loss of Tommy Harimoto, and also Mas Yamashita (and probably several others that I haven't mentioned). They have both been regulars to most of the reunions and it has been my pleasure to become friends with them. I'll never forget how Tommy used to deliver pastries and guava juice to our condo doorstep each morning as he was making his rounds of circulating the newspaper in the Waikiki area, on that first family trip to attend the 1961 Reunion. Even though our daughters were quite young, they will always remember his thoughtfulness. Since our family has been lucky enough to attend most of the reunions together, they became acquainted with their daddy's friends and hold them all dear to their hearts. Guys like Uncle Smitty, Uncle Tommy (Umeda), Uncle Shu, et al come to mind. Those were the good old days!

California by Marian Yamashita

Happy New Year to everyone. Hopefully 2012 will be a good and healthy year for all. We in southern California are enjoying spring-like weather, in the 70s and the 80s, though it is the middle of winter; but in time we shall be feeling winter rain and cold.

On the 4th of December, jointly with JA Living Legacy, we had our annual holiday get-together at the Oiwake Buffet Restaurant in Li'l Tokyo. Though our own group has dwindled down to just a handful, with members of other

veterans groups and family members joining us, we had a great bang-up time. Also joining us from Oregon was Art Iwasaki with son Robert. Though Art is in a wheelchair, he gets around.

Congratulations to those who were able to attend the Congressional Gold Medal awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. early in November. From all reports, the function was a great success, and all who attended expressed having a great once-in-a-lifetime experience with good weather and all.

The local vets are looking forward to our own ceremony due to be held in southern California sometime soon.

Finally, Jim and I will miss our dear son Glen who passed away December 6th from a sudden fatal heart attack at age 55. It has been a very tough time for his family, our daughters and us. We miss him dearly but we know he is watching over us and someday we will meet.

Take care, everyone, and have a good 2012 year!

Maui by Harold H. Nishida, Jr.

Aloha, everyone! On behalf of the Maui Item Ohana, I want to extend our best wishes to all and to wish everyone a "Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2012 New Year."

Once again the year has passed by ever so quickly just when we felt comfortable smelling the roses along the way. Sometimes I like to take a philosophical view on this matter I try to defer to the old saying, "Time flies when you're having fun." However, I'm always reminded about reality, that not everyone had such a great time this past year as we solemnly remember those Item members who have passed on. For the families and friends of those who have suffered a loss last year, our Maui Ohana extends deepest sympathy and condolences.

Maui's Item veterans, Motoshi (Edna) Tokunaga, Jotoku Asato and Kiyoki Koki, are still active and participate in most Maui 442 activities. Also still active are widows Jane [Sadao] Nakama

and Winifred [Akira] Shishido. Mary [Mike] Nakamura decided to end her participation in the Maui 442 Veterans Club activities, citing her age and her personal dissatisfaction with the changes that have occurred with the Club since the passing of her husband. Long-time Item associates Hiroshi and Sadie Uyeno are still doing their best to remain active, but Shigeo and Janet Wakayama have decreased their activities due to Shigeo's progressive problems with his leg. Item members Sanford and Akie Sakumoto, Florence [Sadao] Hashimura, Ben and Esther Nakamura have become totally inactive due to their debilitating, age-related medical issues. Our prayers go out to them.

Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki

Shinnen Omedeto Gozaimasu!

2012, *Tatsu-doshi*, Year of the Dragon, has arrived. *Tatsu* is "a symbol of authority, dignity and honor." *Tatsu* are powerful, yet benevolent and kind, and are said to bring good fortune. You good people born in a *tatsu-doshi* are "lively, intellectual, energetic and excitable." (Source: *Hawaii Herald*, January 6, 2012 issue)

2011, Year of the Rabbit, ended being very busy for our chapter members. On November 10, our annual luncheon, which drew 55 Item vets, wives, widows and other family friends, was a hilarious event of games and quizzes, with each attendee taking home "solid" cash—multiple fresh Jefferson dollar coins and a good number winning crisp, Jefferson two-dollar bills.

On November 25, George Nakasato, Fox Chapter, and Eddie represented Bill Thompson and 442 at a Miyako Restaurant celebration luncheon honoring Bishop Ryokan Ara, founder of Tendai Mission of Hawaii, for having received the Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation award for his outstanding contributions in promoting mutual understanding and bilateral relations between Japan and other countries.

Bishop Ara of the Tendai Educational Foundation inspired and supported the writing and

publication of the well-received *Japanese Eyes . . . American Heart*, a collection of personal stories written by Japanese American veterans of WWII.

On December 7, Eddie Yamasaki joined Bill Thompson, 442nd president; Ron Oba, Fox Chapter; Chilly Sasaki, Anti-Tank; Reverend Yoshiaki Fujitani, MIS; and Wade Wasano, S&D in attending the 70th Anniversary ceremonies at Pearl Harbor. Moving moments of the program included a survivor from every ship moored in the harbor on that fateful Sunday morning, reading the names of his shipmates killed in battle, and meeting and shaking the hands of several survivors.

On December 16, Honolulu saw the arrival of two Big Island visitors, Taka Aragaki and Masa "Cowboy" Kawamoto of Hawi, both here to attend the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) celebrations on the following day.

Taka brought along daughter Ginette with her husband Roy Kubo, a teacher at Pahoa High School. And Masa came with wife Eunice; grandson Dean, teacher at Konawaena Agricultural School; and his mom Janette Snellint, principal of Pahoa High School. Since Taka and Masa never see each other, living so far apart on the BIG island, Eddie invited all to a Japanese dinner at Ojiya Restaurant. And the war was "fought" all over again!



(l-r) Taka Aragaki, Eddie Yamasaki, Gene Castagnetti (Memorial Service at Punchbowl)



Masa “Cowboy” Kawamoto with (l-r) son Dean, wife Eunice, daughter Janette

Some in the Item Ohana may not know that Staff Sergeant Masa was No. 1 Cook in charge of I Company kitchen, from Day One to discharge, supervising seven assistants, including Taka. Their personal stories in *And Then There Were Eight* contain some humorous incidents.

Today, Taka lives in semi-retirement. His Sputnik Restaurant, opened in 1975, sells baked goods and plate lunches but mainly offers catering services for meetings and parties. It is a one-man operation turned over to son Dayton about a dozen years ago. Taka says that he often is up around 3:00 a.m. to check on and help out his son.

Masa, far west in Big Island’s Kohala ranch country, continues working with cattle: while no longer riding a horse or herding cattle on his own ranch, he now operates the island’s only butcher shop that quarters cattle. Independent ranchers around the island bring their cattle to him should they want steaks for a barbecue.

The story of Taka and Masa is just another where duties and skills learned in military service are transferred to civilian careers.

The December 17 CGM Celebration was an inspiring event, with vets riding the trolleys along Kalakaua Avenue, lined with smiling crowds waving at us and saying, “Thank you!” The Convention Center banquet drew 67 members of

the Item Ohana, of whom eight were veterans. On December 18, a moving memorial service was held at Punchbowl National Cemetery.

This *GFB Bulletin* issue elsewhere covers details of the two-day CGM celebration. With space constraints for chapter reports, we shall list the names of ohana members who participated in the chapter luncheon and CGM events in the next *Bulletin* issue.

However, mention should be made of the following:

First, the sparkling photo in the *Star Advertiser* December 18 issue of Hiram Doi, Harold Watase, and Joe Okumoto happily displaying their CGM replicas. The accompanying article quotes Chad Yamasaki, 21, Hiram’s grandson: “It’s good we have these kinds of things to appreciate what these past generations have done for us.”

Second, arrival of Masa Kawamoto at the Convention Center, wearing his WWII khaki uniform, complete with S/Sgt. Stripes; five overseas service stripes, each representing six months away from home; and his ribbons, including Purple Heart. Attract a lot of attention, he did, people asking him to pose in front of the CGM posters, even getting himself on TV’s evening news. He had “on” his perpetual winking smile. To think the uniform still fitted him. Masa, thanks!

Wow! We’ve hopped and hopped throughout the Year of the Rabbit. What will we be doing this Year of the Dragon? Whatever it is, let’s fill it with happiness, peace, and good health.

Sad News

Mary Fumiko Senzaki, Huntington Beach, CA
Died December 1, 2011

Mary passed away at age 88; she is the widow of Takashi “Tak” Senzaki who died in March, 2006. Marian Yamashita writes that Mary “had been on oxygen for a while and in a wheelchair for months. But I am afraid things caught up with her. We will dearly miss her at

our meetings.” Tak, in his thoughtful story for *And Then There Were Eight*, wrote “War was hell. ...I’m glad I went through it so my children would not need to.”

Mary is survived by daughters, Denise Senzaki and Nadine (Steve) Takayama; sons, Norman (Susan) Senzaki of Fresno, CA and Lloyd (Tami) Senzaki; grandchildren, Jennifer and Michael (Teresa) Takayama, Sara, Erin, and Daniel Senzaki all of Fresno, CA; great grandsons, Michael Jr. and Vincent Takayama; siblings, Maggie Konishi and Robert (Itsie) Kobayashi, sisters-in-law, Ruth Kobayashi, Chiz Senzaki and Miyo Senzaki; brother-in-law, Bruce (Kaz) Nagasaki; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. [Source: *Los Angeles Times*, December 9-10, 2011]

Tommie Yoshio Hiraoka, Denver, CO
November 25, 1925 - October 27, 2011

Tom has passed to the Pure Land and is at peace. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kinuko, of nearly 58 years. Survived by his children Becky Hardman (Dennis), Bruce Hiraoka (Pat); five grandchildren Lucas Trujillo, Jesse Trujillo (Carrie), Kikue Hardman, Nicolai Hiraoka, and Emiko Hardman. Memorial services were held at the Denver Buddhist Temple on November 3rd. Both Tom and Kinuko are inurned at Olinger Highlands Mortuary. Together forever. [Source: *Denver Post*, November 2, 2011]

[Editor’s note: We regret having no information on Tom’s World War II experience. Anyone with such information is asked to submit same to Eddie.]

Glen Yamashita, Huntington Beach, CA
May 26, 1956 - December 6, 2010

Glen Yamashita, only son of Marian and Jim Yamashita, passed away of a heart attack at age 55. The death was sudden and unexpected, Glen having been active in sports all his adult life and jogging several times a week. But on December 6, he was found, pale and cold on the bedroom floor.

Without having personally experienced such a loss, one cannot comprehend the shock and pain of losing an only adult son under such circumstances as did Marian and Jim. Yet, we members of the Item Ohana are heartened that this wonderful, giving couple intend to “carry on” their full, busy life in Glendale, CA. They feel blessed with having a large, close family.

Glen is survived by wife Noel and two children: Mike, 22, now working in insurance, and Alyssa, 18, a student at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Glen also left behind daughter Ashley, who was five years old at the time Glen’s first wife Debra tragically died after a short illness. Ashley is now a student at U.C. Irvine.

As Vice-President of Sales for Mitsubishi Electric, Irvine, Glen covered the Pacific. But his life-long passion was basketball, as player on Monte Vista, Cal State Fullerton, and community teams, followed by being player-coach for Nisei Athletic Union and Orange Coast Sports Association. An enthusiastic, supportive father, he made the time to join Mike and Ashley on trips to Japan to play ball as team members under a Yonsei exchange program.

Marian and Jim have two other children, daughters: Wendi (Michael) Coombs of Seattle, whose daughter Alison studies at University of Washington; and Nancy (Howard) Hawkins of Glendora, who are parents of Laura, 23, attending U. Cal. San Diego; Kate, 21, a researcher on autism; and Dereck, 28, a computer specialist. It must be a great comfort to Marian and Jim that Nancy and her family live next door to them on No. Loraine Ave.

Masato “Mauch” Yamashita, Lodi, CA
December 27, 1924 - December 7, 2011

Mauch suddenly died of a heart attack, 20 days short of his 87th birthday. He was a close friend of Frank Shimada, Lloyd Fujitani, who was an honorary pallbearer, and Shig Doi, who represented the 100th/442nd in offering incense at the Lodi Buddhist Betsuin funeral service.

Mauch was interned at the Rohwer Camp, where he earned his high school diploma and from which he volunteered for the 442nd RCT.

Following discharge, Mauch attended an auto mechanics school in southern California. After years working as a mechanic at Pine Street Garage, in 1961, he and friend Will Kagawa purchased Pine Auto Retail Store, which he co-managed until his death.

Mauch was “all-baseball.” He played the game in Rohwer and in Lodi on the Japanese American Citizens League Team, becoming coach and then manager of the team until his passing. In 2002, the Kofu Park was named “Masato ‘Mauch’ Yamashita Field” in his honor.

Mauch was a member of the Lodi Buddhist Betsuin, JACL, and Nisei VFW Post No. 8985 in San Francisco, as well as Honorary Member of the Kokuyo-kai Golf Club. He is survived by several cousins.

“Mauch touched so many people with his kindness, selflessness, humor and generosity. His friendship and uplifting presence will be sorely missed.” As Frank says, “He was a really good guy.” [Again, we regret having no further information on Mauch’s war experience.]

Thomas Susumu Harimoto, Waipahu, Oahu
December 15, 1920 - December 17, 2011

Among the 67 Item Ohana members present at the December 17 Congressional Gold Medal celebration banquet at the Convention Center were Walter Harimoto, Tommy’s brother; Lynne Nakamoto, sister, and Gene Harimoto, nephew. The three had signed up for the banquet weeks in advance to represent Tommy, accept the CGM replica on his behalf, and take it back to him at One Kalakaua Senior Living, his residence.

Walter, Lynne and Gene were assigned to Table 30 at the banquet, as was Eddie Yamasaki. Taking his seat, Eddie was looking forward to meeting the Harimotos and getting an update on Tommy’s condition. It had been some months since Tommy had suffered a hip fracture from a

fall in his Ala Wai apartment, an injury necessitating a move to One Kalakaua. In response to our periodic checks, Tommy had responded that he was getting along, even getting to his weekly, Monday wine-tasting sessions.

Thus, Eddie was unprepared for Walter’s shocking news: Tommy had died that morning. We had heard that Tommy was spending more time in bed, but that he was up occasionally for his meals and got about with a walker.

Tommy was born in Waipahu to Heikichi and Yei Harimoto, the third of seven children. He grew up in Honolulu, with his father becoming caretaker on the grounds at Pilgrim Church, the site of Queen’s Hospital parking structure today.

At McKinley High School, he participated in various school activities, the Honor Society, ROTC, the Christian Club, school paper reporting. His greatest recognition was being an All-star forward on the basketball team. After high school, he played for Coca-Cola in the city league and was a member of the Hawaii All-Star Team when it defeated the Harlem Globe Trotters.

At the outbreak of WWII, Tommy worked for Coca-Cola, and then as Honolulu Advertiser’s district manager for street sales. In June 1944, he received his draft notice; and while he was offered a deferment, he chose to enlist.

He was among those training in Camp Fannin, TX, who were to be shipped out as reinforcement troops become completing their training. Aboard the troop transport en route to Europe, Tommy’s complement contracted German measles (“my private battle” with the Germans, per Tommy), thus delaying entry into combat service. Tommy joined I Co. for the Po Valley Campaign in Italy, which ended with the German surrender on May 2, 1945.

The last elements of the 442nd RCT returned to the U.S. in July 1946. And “for reasons unknown to me,” 1st Sgt. Harimoto was ordered to carry the RCT regimental colors as the regiment paraded on Constitution Avenue to the White House to receive its seventh Distinguished Unit

Citation from President Harry Truman. For Tommy, it was “an honor I shall not forget.”

After discharge, he returned to the Advertiser as district manager. After retirement, his favorite pastimes were meeting with Company I vets and their families, especially at our anniversary reunions, and taking trips to Japan. Lloyd Fujitani, now of Acampo, CA, tells of a surprise run-in with Tommy in front of an elevator at Hotal Sanno, a hotel for the military.

Participating in the funeral program at Hosoi Mortuary, Honolulu, were Tommy’s relatives: Gayle Harimoto, niece; Trisha Fujimoto, grand-niece; Breene Harimoto, nephew; Deane Harimoto, nephew, who gave the eulogy. Close friend Jon Corrice also presented some remembrances. A military honors ceremony was conducted by the 100th/442nd Infantry Battalion Reserves. (Tommy also left behind sister June, a resident at One Kalakaua, and nephew Glenn Harimoto.)

Itemites in attendance were Ellen Yamada [Bruno] and daughter Peggy Ann, accompanying Karen Harimoto on a wheelchair (no relation to

Tommy, Karen for years took care of travel accommodations for Item vets and families); Terry Aratani; Joe Okumoto; and Masa Nakamura. Also, Harold Watase, Eddie Yamasaki, and Elsie Sakai, sister of Bea Matsumura.

Kazuma T. Nekoba, Hilo

February 21, 1923 - December 29, 2011

Kazuma was born in Pepeekeo, Hawaii, and died at Hilo Medical Center. He was a retired plumber and a member of the Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin.

He is survived by daughter, Maxine (Henri) Aki, Jr. of Hilo; brothers, Tsutomu Nekoba of Hilo and Atsushi Nekoba of Honolulu; two grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

[Editor’s note: We regret having no information on Kazuma’s World War II experience. Anyone with such information is asked to submit same to Eddie.]

To the families and friends of the above vets, Glen Yamashita, and Mary Senzaki, the Item Ohana extends Aloha Pumehana.



Walter Okumoto

Photo: A. Kabasawa



Masa Kawamoto & Ed Yamasaki

Photo: W. Iha



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

AKEMASHITE OMEDETO GOZAIMASU. Happy 2012 to you all in the year of the Dragon. So much has happened in the past year I don't know where to start. Sort of kidding, of course, since most of you have been leading quiet, uneventful lives, or so you tell me. Hardly anybody travels anymore, just to the neighborhood grocery store, or to the exciting 522 luncheons at the Treetops in Manoa to eat and meet old friends, yeah? So at the last gathering for the annual Christmas party December 8, 2011, complete with singing long-forgotten Christmas carols accompanied by the ukulele-playing of leader Jane Ueoka and Hilda and Stanley Kaneshiro (guitar), Florence Ohara, Henry and Doris Ishida, Mits and Ellen Kunihiro we enjoyed the lusty voices of everyone, including basso profundo Charlie Nakamura and son Charlie, Jr. And of course, there was the inevitable raffle where everyone clutched their number stubs hoping to win good prizes, and the great challenging bingo competition. Biggie, or rather, his efficient daughter Lynn sent me the donation list, generous contributions of cash, gift cards, books, candy, and cases of fresh pineapple. For which the 522 says THANK YOU VERY MUCH. A good time was had by all, and we missed those of you who usually attend but could not this time—Christmas shopping, other parties, etc. See you next time, OK?

NEXT: was the gigantic gathering of Nisei Veterans to be recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony parade and banquet on December 17, 2011, a rainy day at the convention hall. There were oh so many people I could not get around to all the tables to say hello, but Rocky was good enough to slip me a whole legal-sized sheet of names of 522 members and their guests. I was fortunate enough to sit at a table with three handsome young men: Aaron, who accompanied his grandpa Walter Inouye, and Charles

Jr. who also sang with his dad Charles, Sr. at the Christmas party, and Ivan who brought his energetic mother Kay Nakamine. Ivan was also gracious enough to cut the centerpiece cake and served everyone generous pieces.

Rocky's List: Roy Fujii and guest, Robert Fujimoto and guest, Richard Furuta, Sue Hamamoto and guest, Boyan and Nancy Higa and 16 guests, William Hirata and guest, Fred Hirayama and guest, Walter Inouye and Aaron. Henry and Doris Ishida and 3 guests, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, Mits and Ellen Kunihiro, George and Helen Maeyama, George and Ruth Muramaru, Seigo and Ellen Nagao and 12 guests, Masaru Nakakura and Norma, Kay Nakamine and Ivan, Charles Sr. and Jr. Nakamura. Beatrice Nishizawa and 9 guests, Toshio and Florence Ohara and 2 guests, Gloria and son Craig Taguma and guest, Rocky and Leatrice Tanna, Harold, Jane Ueoka and guest, Henry and Wesley Urada and guest, Eugene and Eric Yamane, Flint Yonashiro and guest, and us.

Golf Report

The 522 golf news hereby reports two past month's of tournament results:

<u>Players:</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Roy Fujii	88	78
Richard Furuta	77	80
Boyan Higa	80	68
Mits Kunihiro	56	102
Rocky Tanna	70	80
Ted Tsukiyama	—	70
Harold Ueoka	73	—
Flint Yonashiro	84	76

Par Three Pins:

Boyan Higa	#8	
Ted Tsukiyama		#8
Flint Yonashiro	#11	#11

The 522 Golf Group is the only active golf club left in the 442, but it is down to 2 to 3 foursomes each time with plenty room for more. Other 442 golfers are welcome to join our monthly outings at Olomana Golf Course. Just call Rocky Tanna at 737-5837.



by M. Honda

My family went on a trip to visit the battlefields around Bruyeres and Biffontaine, France with the 100/442nd Reservists of the US Army. We had a small group of about twenty Reserves who were kind enough to let us join them on this trip. My gang consisted of Millie, daughter June and Sheldon and son Jay and wife Julie. In fact, we were assigned a reservist who took care of anything that we needed. Those guys were too nice to us. We were very excited and happy to be going with an official group of the US Army Reserves.

There were six of the Honda Family, Riki and Evelyn Tsuda of the 100th Bn and Yuki and Nora Nakahira of the Anti Tank Company of the 442nd, and Florence, wife of the late Morris Miyasato of the 232nd Engineers, and daughter, Carrie.

We flew to France then rode a bus to the Bruyeres Area from the South of France up the Rhone River Valley from the Mediterranean coast. Everyone enjoyed the bus trip because of the interesting scenery. We passed by a castle built on a hilltop just like in the fairy tales. I thought, "Wow, there's going to be a lot of scenes like this," but it was the only castle we encountered. We reached the Stuttgart area of Germany, then took another day to reach the Bruyeres area.

I thought that Bruyeres was going to bring back a lot of memories, but no, everything had changed like everywhere else in this world, after sixty years. Bruyeres had become a good sized town and was not the small village that it was during the war. I couldn't recognize anything that looked familiar. The last time I was there I found what looked like the street in which we had occupied a Shabby Hotel during the war but there was no luck this time. The language barrier made it impossible to communicate with the natives. French is one of the most difficult

languages to use for anyone not familiar with it. No one in my group had studied French in High School. I had skipped French to take up Latin, of all things.

The French people remembered the Japanese troops that had helped liberate their town during the war and they treated us to two huge luncheon banquets in their town halls of Biffontaine and Bruyeres. We really confused them during the war with our Japanese faces when the Japanese were supposed to be fighting with the Germans and Italians against the Allies. The people of that area still remember the war like it had happened yesterday.

The weather was beautiful with a lot of sunshine and my son remarked that it was a beautiful place. I told him how cold and wet it was during the war and also scary with the German shelling of the area. The forest was dry and with the sunshine everything really looked beautiful. We found a large hole in the ground that looked like it had been used as a foxhole. The French also had an old US helmet that had been damaged by an artillery shell and the poor owner probably had a hole in his skull which had probably killed him. Enough about the war!!

Among the highlights of our trip was a very touching visit to a nursing home to see 92 year old, Mrs. Noelle. We were told of her bravery during WWII: while her husband was away fighting Germans, the enemy occupied her home when one day, an infantryman of the 100th came stumbling in, injured, hungry and cold. She helped him and through sign language learned of his comrades, hiding in the hills. She would cook for them and hike up into the mountains stealthily, everyday, under cover of darkness. She risked her life for our boys and we gifted her with lei and candies and booties and a plaque from Robert Arakaki, which she tearfully accepted.

We were a happy group and fitted in very well with the reservists. We were lucky to be included in their traveling entourage. The people of Biffontaine and Bruyeres and the Epinal Cemetery were among the kindest, most welcoming and friendly I have ever met. They made our trip the success it was and I offer my humble and grateful thanks to them all.

We spent a couple of days in the area, then, headed for Paris where the soldiers soon went home along with the rest of the Veterans. Only the Honda group of six stayed back for an extra four days so the young ones could visit around the Paris area. Millie and I stayed back and visited a few of the small cafes around the hotel. It was a good trip and the young ones really enjoyed our visit in Paris.

It was a good trip and Millie and I would like to take the young ones for another go at Europe. They all said that they would have to study some French if there is another trip.

This is all for now and I bid you Aloha.



*(l-r) Mits Honda, Rikio Tsuda and Yukio Nakahira at Biffontaine ceremony
Photo: Gerome Villain*



MAUI MATTERS

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

The Maui 442nd Veterans Club members and I extend to all our warmest Aloha and best wishes for a Happy, Prosperous, Safe and Healthy New Year.

This article is a follow-up to my summer story about my Japan friends and Big Island neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Hiromi Akizuki, who went to Maui to pay homage and to honor the members of the Maui 442 Veterans Club. This is an unusual story of how the 442 history and story affected someone's life so many years into the next generation from Japan following WWII. Even though Japan and the U.S. were adversaries in WWII, information about the exploits of the 442 were known in Japan during the war. Noting the ancestral connection between the Nisei and Japan, many Japanese in the old country still hold the 442 in very high esteem. Some of the stories and sentiments about the 442 even filtered down to the next generation of Japanese during the post-war years of reconstruction in Japan.

My friend, Mr. Akizuki, was one of those who heard about the 442 and was inspired; he thought and hoped that someday he would be able to meet and pay homage to the survivors himself. Our meeting as neighbors on the Big Island seemed a feat of "destiny," as he described it. For me, our connection gave me great hope as I learned that in the land of our ancestry, your historic accomplishments, your "Go for Broke" spirit and legacy would also live on in the history of our ancestors, still revered and continuing to inspire the generations!

In July of 2011, our members attended the third of four Maui 442 Veterans Club social events for the year. Unlike our usual socials however, our members were really excited with anticipation of a promised special event that caused the attendee headcount to exceed our expected normal of 50 to 60 folks. Why were they excited? Well, as earlier reported, my Big Island neighbors from Japan had promised to return to Maui with Laura and me to sponsor and host a special social to honor the members of the Maui 442 Veterans Club. The Akizukis offered to cook for them some traditional dishes from Japan. Mr. Akizuki wanted the members to savor the memory of their mothers and the flavor of some old traditional Japanese dishes that their mothers might have prepared for them when they were children.

Rescheduling their busy worldwide travel plans, the Akizukis returned to the Big Island in late June to fulfill this promise. Flying to Maui the day before the event with close friend Yutaka Fujita, along with Laura and me, we began shopping and then prepping their traditional dishes in the kitchen of the Wailuku Hongwanji. Even Maui 442 Veterans Club President, Kazu Hamasaki, pitched in while his wife Gracie helped with her food- prepping expertise. Everything was meticulously planned out by the Akizukis. The ingredients used to prepare the food and even the plates used to serve the food had to be specially selected to meet their requirements for presentation.

On the day of the social, everyone was excited and arrived early. After a short introduction from President Hamasaki and an invocation by Reverend Shinkai Murakami, the elderly were served by volunteers so that they did not have to wait in lines. You could clearly hear the soft background music as the room grew quiet, and faces lit up with delight as the members began sampling the wonderful dishes prepared. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the freshly prepared dishes; the quality and quantity were superb and memorable, thanks to the Akizukis.



Yutaka Fujita (l), Mieko & Hiromi Akizuki receive gifts from Kazu Hamasaki (President, Maui 442 Veterans Club)

After everyone had their generous fill, members, on their own, with walkers or wheelchairs, gathered at the steps of the mission for picture-taking with the Akizukis. What a wonderful sight to behold, especially for the Akizukis who were thrilled with the outpouring of expressions of gratitude by the members.

A presentation of special gifts of thanks was made to the Akizukis and friend Yutaka Fujita for their generosity in honoring the veterans, wives and widows of the Maui 442 Veterans Club. Mr. Akizuki gave a short speech in Japanese, explaining that as a fifteen-year-old boy in 1958, he first heard of the 422 from a Kamikaze pilot whose life was spared as there were little or no airplanes to fly towards the end of WWII. The pilot explained the exploits of the Americans of Japanese ancestry who fought the Germans in Europe. He said he was proud of the 442 for their bravery, sacrifice and loyalty to their adopted country even though they were discriminated against, and many of their families were interned in concentration camps. He said that they should be respected and honored even though they fought for the other side.

After 53 years of hoping for an opportunity, Mr. Akizuki was finally able to fulfill his dream. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to honor them for their great service to our nation and for maintaining the long Japanese tradition of honoring their ancestry. As the Akizukis said their farewells, they were graciously invited to return anytime.

Well, no respectable Club social should end without a bit of everyone's favorite game, Bingo! With prizes galore, Laura organized and ran the games, and all kept coming to the front table for prizes. Everybody went home a winner this day as everyone had one more opportunity to fully enjoy one another and to forget the worries for the moment and..... "Go for Broke!"



by Gail Nishimura

Happy 2012!

Another year has flown by and we wonder where did it go...guess as we get older, time flies. I've joined the growing number of boomers to retire, still waiting for it to kick in, guess it will when I get my first retirement check - reality. Oh well, guess we need a shake once in a while.

The year ended with many events in the last quarter beginning in October with the visit from Bruyeres-Honolulu Sister City (Jumelage). This was followed by the trip in November to Washington, DC for the Congressional Gold Medal awards ceremony. If you have a chance see the video from this ceremony, it's very touching.

On December 17th the Veterans were honored with a parade in Waikiki followed by a luncheon at the Hawaii Convention Center. It was so nice to see all the people out to watch the parade and hear the praises from the MCs (Danny Kaleikini and Carole Kai Onouye) as well as the presentation by Mayor Carlisle.

The Veterans looked so happy to be recognized, even if many of them still don't say much about what they did during the war. We as descendants need to talk to our fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers before they really forget what happened. I, like many others, don't have a chance to talk to my dad anymore, so do it while you still have the chance. As I mentioned earlier, time flies, don't let it get away from you.

To add to the busy weekend, we (Sons & Daughters) had our annual Christmas party at Treetops in Manoa (at the old Paradise Park). It was fun and so nice to see new faces at the party. We had the biggest group in quite a while, 115 people!

Thanks to Ann Kabasawa for working on the arrangements and getting all the door prizes. Also thanks to Eileen Sakai for the idea for the jun-ken-po game, everyone enjoyed the game and the final set was between

a grown up and little boy, so it was a game for all. All winners wore their bells with pride until defeated! The food was great as usual. For those who missed the 2011 party, mark your 2012 calendars! The next S&D Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 16, 2012 @ Treetops in Manoa.



Photo: Wayne Iha

Since I'm now retired and don't have other meetings at the same time, I attended my first meeting after a long absence. It was nice to meet new people. Wes has added lots of new names to his email list to remind us of meetings. Our S&D website is up and running, www.442sd.org. Aaron Yoshino is helping to upload pictures from the Congressional Gold Medal Veterans luncheon. Karlton Tomomitsu spoke about the Hawaii Herald special edition that was available at the luncheon. Additional copies will be available through Hawaii Herald for a small fee.

At the meeting Wade Wasano talked about the new board for the Veterans Club. The new President will be Ron Oba and our own Wes is the 1st VP! Also the next Anniversary Banquet will be on March 25, 2012 at 10am at the Pacific Beach Hotel. They will be honoring the VVV and the theme is "Golden Moments." The 2nd Battalion is in charge of the banquet. S&D volunteers will be needed, more information will be available at the next meeting (February 2 @ 442 clubhouse).

The Veterans Archive Program is still moving along, Anita is still recuperating (take care, hope you're feeling better soon). There was an interview with Wes

on KITV regarding the Nisei Legacy Center, they are working on a business plan to be presented to KCC. Also looking for alternative sites. This is something we all will need to help and support... just because it's called "nisei" doesn't mean it stops at that generation.

Here's a list of upcoming events you might be interested in:

- March - Anniversary Banquet
- April - Membership Notice
- May - General Membership Meeting
- August - GFB Golf Tournament
- September - Joint Memorial Service

Other things we discussed are - S&D event (movie night or possible visit to Pacific Aviation Museum), we also have ongoing projects & committees that will need help. (Membership, Archives/Education, Souvenirs, & Website committees, Nisei Legacy Center and Veterans Archives Project)

That's about it for now, our thoughts go to those who are coping with illness' and other ailments. We hope that 2012 will bring good things to you and we'll be looking forward to meeting more new friends in the coming months. Take care and be safe.



Other News

442nd Comic Book to be Published

by Ed Yamasaki

How can the story of the achievements of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team be effectively introduced to the children of Hawaii? How can they be taught that freedom and liberty are not free and that racial discrimination is a real part of the history of Hawaii and the United States of America?

The lessons to be learned in the issues raised by such questions can be taught through the medium of comics, says Stacey Hayashi, a strong supporter and friend of the 100th/442nd.

The story of the 100th/442nd must be told and retold. This must be a continuing endeavor. It would be desirable to begin telling the story to children and reaching them early through a medium they like and enjoy. That's comics.

The project is well underway with a professional artist signed, production discussions initiated, target audience surveyed and distribution channels tentatively identified (schools and libraries-public and private) and curriculum development for teacher use being studied. For more information, visit: www.442comicbook.com

The 442nd Veterans Club is honored by your efforts and anxiously awaits the final results. We wish you great success in your project.

Capt. Robert Louis Hempstead

1920 - August 23, 1944

by Oscar Tsukayama

Information for this article was excerpted from an article written by Katherine Baishiki and Ronald Ross Hempstead in November 2005.

Robert Louis Hempstead, the only child of Beatrice and Harold Hempstead was born in Atlanta, GA in 1920. He majored in chemical engineering at Clemson University in South Carolina and was married to Louise Ross in Los Angeles, CA. They had one son, Ronald Ross Hempstead.

Robert volunteered for active duty immediately after graduation and received his basic training in Fort McClellan, Alabama. In 1943, he was stationed in Camp Shelby, Mississippi where he was assigned to the 442nd Regi-mental Combat Team. Capt. Robert Hempstead was killed in action at San Columbano, Italy while serving as commanding officer of Company M, 442nd RCT in the Rome-Arno Campaign.

The following excerpt from *Americans: the Story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team* written by Orville Shirey describes Capt. Hempstead's heroic actions: "Almost immediately, it was discovered that the Germans were maintaining a patrol base in San Columbano on the south side

of the Arno and on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion. Capt. Hempstead, commanding officer of Company M, volunteered to lead a combined Company M and L patrol to wipe out the enemy nest. The patrol went out August 23, taking along a forward observer from Cannon Company. Aided by fire from Cannon Company, the patrol cleared out one enemy strongpoint, killing 8 Germans and wounding several others. As the patrol worked its way beyond San Columbano, it was ambushed near a canal and caught in a cross-fire from two enemy machine guns supported by mortars. Capt. Hempstead, seeing the patrol was trapped, left his covered position and opened fire with a tommy gun drawing the enemy's attention to him. He was instantly killed by a burst of machine gun fire, but by creating a diversion, he enabled his remaining men to withdraw to better positions and call down artillery fire on the enemy. Capt Hempstead was posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action at the cost of his life."

In addition to the Silver Star, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge and Bronze Star. He was originally interred in Vada, Italy in 1944 but was repatriated in 1949 and interred at the Westview Cemetery in Atlanta, Georgia.

His son Ronald Ross Hempstead Sr. later became the second Capt Hempstead and his grandson, Ronald Ross Hempstead Jr. became the third Capt. Hempstead by way of West Point in 1984.



Ross & Anne Hempstead visit Go For Broke Monument
Photo: Susan Uyemura

Announcements

GEORGE COMPANY REUNION

April 17-19, 2012

Fremont Hotel, Las Vegas

All others are welcome to join us!

For details, please call Ann Kabasawa
at 781-8540, or email at
diverseinnovations@hawaii.rr.com

2012 Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship

by Susan Uyemura (CEO, JALL)

In 2008, the Iwasaki family (of Oregon) contacted JA Living Legacy in hopes of setting up a scholarship fund in honor of their parents, Art and his late wife, Teri Iwasaki. Together with his children, Robert, Stephanie, Christie, Paul and Leslie, they created the "Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship" to offset the rising costs of education. Art Iwasaki is a member of I Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team therefore one of the criteria for eligibility was that the recipient have a relationship to a World War II Nisei veteran. This is our fourth year of a five year commitment.

Application information is available on the website www.jalivinglegacy.org. It is an online application. Graduating high school students with a relationship to a Nisei World War II Veteran are encouraged to apply. Deadline is April 1, 2012. All applicants will be notified through email as well as mail by May 30, 2012.

The awards and scholarship committee uses a double blind review to select and rate the applicants. This ensures there is no favoritism toward any one applicant. Once the application is received, it is assigned a number, all personal information not pertinent to the application is erased. The committee then reviews each candidate blindly and rates them using our scholarship rubric. This process ensures there is no bias toward any one candidate or his/her family.

Save the date!

442nd Veterans Club
69th *Anniversary Banquet*

Date: March 25, 2012 (Sunday)
Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Place: Pacific Beach Hotel (Grand Ballroom, 7th Floor)
Cost: \$40 per person
Parking: \$5 self parking with validation
\$9 valet parking with validation

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

Members

Those wishing to attend the banquet, please submit your name and payment to your respective chapter. Chapter presidents will submit an attendees list and one payment to the 442nd Veterans Club. (Checks should be made out to "442nd Veterans Club" with note "69th Anniversary Banquet.")

Deadline to submit attendees list and payment: Monday, March 5, 2012

Hotel Reservations

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

Room occupancy for up to 2 persons:
\$139 (plus tax) per night
Rate includes daily breakfast at Oceanarium Restaurant for 1-2 persons
\$10.00 per day for daily self-parking
(Offer is valid 3 days prior and 3 days after March 25, 2012)

For reservations:
Oahu members call 923-4511
Neighbor island and mainland members call 1-800-367-6060

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

More photos from the Congressional Gold Medal Events





Governor Neil Abercrombie, General (Ret.) Eric Shinseki, Mayor Peter Carlisle



Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Robert Lee & Barbara Tanabe



(l-r) Yoshio Shibuya (F Co.), Eichi Oki (K Co.)



Jerry Ogawa (Medics)



(l-r) Ed Yamasaki (I Co.), Edward Ikuma (100th), CSM Beau Tatsumura (100/442)



Gen. Eric Shinseki poses with veterans



Muriel & Genro Kashiwa, Hideo Higa (L Co.)



Seigo Nagao (522HQ)



Rocky Tanna (522B)



I Co. veterans (l-r) Harold Watase & Walter Okumoto



K Co. veterans (l-r) Curtis Noborikawa, James Yanagida, Walter Heirakuji



Mr. & Mrs. Mits Honda (232 Eng.) with Major Keith Horikawa (100/442)



Ed Kanaya (206 Band)



Ralph Tomei (M Co.)



Lt. Gen. Joseph Peterson with Ed Yamasaki (I Co.) and Takashi Shirakata (206th Band)



Alan Miyamura & Primasita Seery



Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Hamasu with (right) James Kuroiwa (GFB Assn)



Royal Hawaiian Band



Memorial Service MC Colonel Kimo Dunn

Visit to Maunalani Care Home

December 20, 2011

Photos by Ann Kabasawa



Lt. General & Mrs. Joseph Peterson and Colonel Kimo Dunn visited Maunalani Care Home to present replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal to 100th & 442nd veterans residing at the home.



Gen. & Mrs. Peterson with Ray Nosaka (100th)

Sons & Daughters Christmas Party

Tree Tops Restaurant, December 18, 2011

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



Takamori Miyagi (standing) with Mr. & Mrs. George Yoshino (K Co.)



Ford Matsunaga, Harold Ueoka (522B) and Gail Nishimura at the prize table



Ed Yamasaki (I Co.) with Santa



Mr. & Mrs. Seiji Oshiro with Santa



Joey Kawahakui



Leeya Kawahakui



Bryce Kanemoto

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

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