



# Go For Broke BULLETIN

442<sup>nd</sup> VETERANS CLUB



VOL 64, No 2, JANUARY - MARCH 2012

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



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# Go For Broke

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### Cover:

*Top: Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa delivers keynote address.*

*Bottom: Veterans assemble for a souvenir photo with Cary Tagawa.*

*Photos: Wayne Iha*

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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 Ron Oba

The year 2011 came to a happy ending with veterans, wives and friends attending the Anniversary Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel. Japanese actor Cary Tagawa captivated the audience with his sincere ovation of the 442nd veterans and their accomplishments during WWII.

Highlight of the year was the award of the Congressional Gold Medal that was given to only a handful of Americans starting with President George Washington, the Dalai Lama, Rosa Parks, The American Indian code breakers, Tuskegee Airmen, etc. A replica of the CGM was sent to the Camp Shelby Museum to be displayed with the other 442<sup>nd</sup> Memorabilia.

The Legacy Project spearheaded by Wes Deguchi at the UH West Oahu Campus on 1.5 acres of land, displayed by Powerpoint was an awesome presentation. Should this Legacy Project come to fruition, it will be used for classes, university-related activities and community-based meetings. The 442 veterans will have something to look forward to.

The veterans awarded Past President Bill Thompson with a plaque for his 5 years of continuous service as President. It will be a hard task to step into his shoes. Veterans also had an opportunity to have their portraits taken by Carl Matsukado, a professional photographer who lives in Paris, France. He will display the photos of the veterans in Paris as well as in Bruyeres, France.

As your new President, I ask for your support in achieving the mission of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club.



*442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club Officers for 2012: (l-r) Bill Thompson (Past Pres.), Esther Umeda (Secy), Takashi Shirakata (Treasurer), Wade Wasano (3<sup>rd</sup> VP), Joe Oshiro (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Wes Deguchi (1<sup>st</sup> VP)*

*Photo: Wayne Iha*

## IN MEMORIAM



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

Fujimoto, Hiroshi (E Co.)	Jan. 19, 2012
Fujimoto, Yoshihide (H Co.)	Jan. 5, 2012
Fujishige, Isao "Fred" (522B)	Jan. 16, 2012
Harimoto, Tom (I Co.)	Dec. 17, 2011
Harunaga, Toshio (F Co./MIS)	Nov. 4, 2011
Higa, Hideo (L Co.)	Dec. 14, 2011
Hirayama, Robert Takashi (K Co.)	Dec. 24, 2011
Iwata, Himeo "Mike" (RHQ)	Dec. 14, 2011
Kodani, Eugene Gen (RHQ)	Dec. 28, 2011
Kondo, Isao (E Co.)	Nov. 8, 2011
Maekawa, Tom K. (522B)	Dec. 18, 2011
Masatsugu, James T. (RHQ/2HQ)	Dec. 3, 2011
Mitani, Masatoshi (RHQ)	Feb. 25, 2012
Nakama, Ray Soei (AT/Service)	Feb. 13, 2012
Nakamura, Richard Takashi (2HQ)	Jan. 3, 2012
Nekoba, Kazuma (I Co.)	Dec. 29, 2011
Ogawa, Edward Y. (L Co.)	Jan. 27, 2012
Ogawa, Richard Yukio (G Co.)	Dec. 26, 2011
Oura, James Susumu (K Co.)	Jan. 3, 2012
Sakamoto, Shitomi T. (I Co.)	Jan. 16, 2012
Satow, Susumu "Sus" (H Co.)	Feb. 16, 2012
Shiro, Shigeo Joseph (Anti-Tank)	Feb. 20, 2012
Sugawara, Benjamin Issei (L Co.)	Dec. 9, 2011
Suzuki, Emo (H Co.)	Feb. 20, 2012
Taira, Wilfred Masaichi (Medic)	Dec. 31, 2011
Taketa, Roy Hajime (I Co.)	Jan. 13, 2012
Tanoue, Tadao (Anti-Tank)	Jan. 14, 2012
Wakayama, Tadao "Tad" (M Co.)	Nov. 3, 2011
Watada, Richard S. (I Co.)	Feb. 26, 2012
Yamashita, Masato "Mauch" (I Co.)	Dec. 7, 2011

## Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

### 442nd Veterans Club

Jean Allen	\$100
(IMO Joe Kadowaki, F Co.)	
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Arakaki	\$100
Dr. Americo Bugliani	\$100
Jane Fukunaga	\$300
(IMO Harold Fukunaga, G Co.)	
Gerald A Gustafson	\$100
(IMO all deceased Cannoneers)	
Alan Hayashi	\$250
Harry Kawada	\$200
Masahide Ojima Revocable Trust	\$5,000
(IMO Masahide Ojima, 522B)	
Herbert Oshiro	\$500
Mrs. June Takasaki & Family	\$1,000
(IMO Thomas Harimoto, I Co.)	
Bryan Yagi (IMO Matsuji "Mutt"	\$50
Sakumoto, I Co.)	
Kate & Dan Yashima	\$20
(IMO James Oura, K Co.)	

### Go For Broke Bulletin

Iris Fukui	\$100
Gerald A. Gustafson (IMO Sam Yoshinari	\$50
and "Moe" Yonemura, Cannon Co.)	
Mrs. Mary Ito	\$100
(IMO Yoshio Ito, I Co.)	
Mrs. Lillian Matsudaira	\$50
(IMO John Matsudaira, K Co.)	
Herbert Oshiro	\$500

### Scholarship Donations

Tokuo Kaneshige & Family	\$50
(IMO James Sakamoto, 2HQ)	
Herbert Oshiro	\$500





News from the

## EDITOR'S DESK

by Oscar Tsukayama

### **American! American!**

There is a story in "The e Torch", a publication for the Go For Broke National Education Center which I thought was quite amazing.

A Sansei, born in Hawaii was working as a stewardess for Pan American Airways in the 1960s and during one of her flights to Rome there was a 3-day layover. So she decided to do some shopping and sightseeing with two co-workers, one a blonde from Boston and the other a blue-eyed brunette from Canada. While strolling through a main street in Rome, a few young men approached them and tried out their English in an attempt to start a conversation. They tried guessing where the girls were from, saying the blonde was German or Swedish and the brunette was either British or French when one of the girls asked them to guess where she (the Sansei) was from.

Much to her surprise, one young man said, "Oh we know she is an American from America." When asked how he knew, he replied, "All the American soldiers who helped save our village looked just like her pointing in her direction. Then the young men started cheering, "American! American!" while they circled around us.

The Sansei says, "I was overwhelmed by the thoughts of the brave young American soldiers who helped save all those villages and towns in Europe. It was the most heartening time of my life." She ends her article with "Whenever stories of their heroism are retold, I am in awe of their accomplishments and they make me proud to be a Japanese American. So I thank all you brave Congressional Gold Medal honorees, and God Bless."

I found it very interesting that while in combat in Italy we experienced the very same thing. The villagers would assume that we are what Americans look like because we liberated their villages but soon they would

run into Caucasian soldiers and would ask us who these blond-haired and blue-eyed soldiers are. We would say, "They are American soldiers" and they would say, "No, you are the Americans." When we explain that they are European Americans and we are Japanese Americans, they would nod as if to say they understand but there was that puzzling look on their faces which indicated they really didn't get it.

An amusing thought—I wonder if they still are some octo and nonagenarians in the hamlets and villages of rural Italy who believe that the AJA is representative of mainstream America.

### **Legacy Center**

Work on the establishment of a legacy center for World War II AJA military units, namely the 100<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn., 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service-MIS and 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineering Construction Battalion is proceeding smoothly. An official name for the center is yet to be determined but for now it is being called the Nisei Legacy Center - NLC. A committee consisting of representatives from each of the organizations involved has been formed which include:

Wes Deguchi - 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club and 442<sup>nd</sup>  
Sons & Daughters

Norman Sakamoto - 442<sup>nd</sup> Sons & Daughters

Ed Goto - 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation and 442<sup>nd</sup>

Sons & Daughters

Lloyd Kitaoka - 100<sup>th</sup> Bn. Veterans Club

James Nakatani - 100<sup>th</sup> Legacy Organization

Mark Matsunaga - MIS Veterans Club

Donn Ariyoshi - MIS Veterans Club

Gary Okuda - Atty, Law firm of Leu & Okuda

Irene Hirano Inouye - Advisor; US-Japan

Council President

Ted Tsukiyama - Advisor; 442<sup>nd</sup> & MIS

Veterans Clubs

Actions taken thus far include:

1. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NLC and the five organizations involved is pending ratification.

2. Registration as a 501 (c)3 corporation status has been completed.

3. A business plan which outlines project overview, mission and goals and purpose has been completed.

4. The evaluation of sites for the center is ongoing. Currently, locations being considered are: Kapiolani Community College, Japanese Cultural Center, Oahu Veterans Center and UH West Oahu Campus.

#### **442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Celebrate 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Approximately 500 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, family members and friends convened at the Pacific Beach Hotel on 25 Mar 2012 to celebrate the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Of this number about 100 were veterans. We've been doing this for 69 years and it would seem like we are replaying the same old record over and over again but "NO" each year is unique with a new theme, different speakers and a new facet of the 442<sup>nd</sup> story. It is an event that we have come to cherish and look forward to each year.

Leslie Wilcox, President and CEO of PBS Hawaii did a superb job as Mistress of Ceremonies for this year's event as she made sure that the program flowed smoothly and in a timely fashion. Senator Daniel Inouye, Governor Neil Abercrombie and President Ron Oba sent messages; Mayor Peter Carlisle and Keynote Speaker, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa were present to make their presentations. Her ad libs and humor throughout the program, contributed greatly to an enjoyable afternoon. Actor Cary Tagawa who has appeared in *Last Emperor*, *Rising Son*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Planet of Apes*, *Hachiko*, *Snow Falling on Cedars*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Mortal Combat* and *Picture Bride*, gave an inspiring speech about how values instilled in us by our Issei parents, (Heart, Humility and Perseverance-never give up), contributed to how we reacted to the suspicion and prejudice we were subjected to immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He wanted to make sure that we all understood that although he has not lived in Hawaii,

he is a local boy with strong local ties because his dad was born in Molokai.

Honoring the Varsity Victory Volunteers – VVV was part of this year's ceremony. Several remaining members of the VVV were introduced on stage while the MC gave a brief history of the unit. A video clip of the VVV was also shown. To round out the program, a video trailer of "The Legend and Legacy of Shiro Kashino" and a video of the "The Last March" which featured veterans marching into the ballroom by companies behind their company guidons during the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet were shown. The program closed with the singing of the Go For Broke song led by members of the Uta No Kai. It was another memorable event.

Whenever we experience an event of this magnitude, we think about all the headaches someone endured in developing a plan and the hard work required in making sure all the pieces fall into place. For this we thank the Planning Committee consisting of Chairman, William Thompson, Ron Oba-Fox Co., Charles Okazaki-H Co., Shigeru Ooka-E Co., Robert Uyeda-2 Hq., Wade Wasano-S&D and the movers and shakers Shirley Igarashi, Claire Mitani, Gail Onuma and Eileen Sakai. Thank Yous are also in order for the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Reserves for posting and retiring of colors; for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Sons and Daughters for their tremendous help in manning the reception table, ushering guests to their tables, arranging and overseeing vendors and taking care of whatever problems or questions that may arise; to MG Robert Lee-Ret., Barbara Watanabe and Alan Hayashi of BAE Systems for their continuing support; to Sandra Tsukiyama for her rendering of the *Star Spangled Banner*; to Ben Kodama and E Co. for donation of the centerpieces; to photographers Wayne Iha, Ann Kabasawa, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, and Pat Thompson and to a host of others too numerous to mention. We thank them all very much.



by Henry Kuniyuki



Service Company, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team as a truck driver. Masatoshi retired as a Maintenance Mechanic with the Hawaii State Department of Transportation after fourteen creditable years on Dec. 30, 1989.

### Masatoshi Mitani

Sad News.... Our RHQ charter member, Masatoshi Mitani, passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2012, a victim of cardiac arrest.

*Departure  
I stand on the top of a hill  
In the rays of the sun's last glow.  
And I look over the darkening sea  
And across the dusky land.  
And I say to myself,  
"This is my home."  
Home is a place to be born,  
And Home is a place for growing up,  
And Home is a place to leave.  
So I turn my back on the green hills of earth,  
And turn my steps toward the stars.  
Lacy Veach, age 17  
Punahou School 1965*

"Departure," these words of comfort by Lacy Veach, former Punahou School student, is published with the permission of their Archive Staff. Lacy Veach is currently serving as an Astronaut with the United States Space Agency. Takamori Miyagi, RHQ Chapter Secretary, notified Chapter members that Masatoshi's memorial service was scheduled to be held at Honpa Hongwanji Mission Temple on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 11:00 AM. The Mission's Minister, the Rev. Tomo Hojo officiating.



Masatoshi and Sumie's life stories were previously published in the Go For Broke Bulletin issues of May-June 1990 and April-June 2005.

Masatoshi's World War II service record denotes that he was inducted on September of 1944 and assigned to

### Regimental Headquarters Chapter Potpourri

Chapter Historian Henry Kuniyuki reported and recorded the Chapter and members activities for the past quarter for posterity:

Dec. 5, 2011: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting held at Maple Garden.

Jan. 9, 2012: Monthly Luncheon Meeting. Chapter President reported the proceedings of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Board of Directors agenda.

Feb. 6, 2012: Chapter Monthly Meeting with a quorum present.

Feb. 11, 2012: Three Chapter members; Yoshikatsu Maruo, Takamori Miyagi and Susan Takara performed "Docent Duty" at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl. Noboru Kawamoto and Henry Kuniyuki were not present due to personal physical ailments.

Mar. 3, 2012: Memorial Service for the late Masatoshi Mitani held at Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin with the Rev. Tomo Hojo presiding. Ruby Kawada and Takamori Miyagi manned the reception desk. Henry Kuniyuki served as the Master of Ceremony. Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto gave the eulogy after expressing the sincere sympathy on behalf of the congregation present. Ten Chapter members participated. They were: Takamori Miyagi, Jitsuo and Ruby Kawada, Noboru Kawamoto, Henry Kuniyuki, Yoshikatsu and Leslie Maruo, Paul Takaezu, Ken Teruya and Susan Takara. The late Masatoshi's family arranged a reception in the Betsuin's dining hall after his service.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser issue of Sunday, February 26, 2012 publicized the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club's 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet, scheduled to be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel's Grand Ballroom on Sunday, March 25, 2012.

Arrivederci!



by John Mikasa

Cannon chapter held a luncheon meeting at Zippy's restaurant on Feb. 29, primarily to prepare for attendance at the 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. Because of the short deadline of March 5 for the banquet fees, it was collected at that time.

We also learned that May Koike suffered a sudden collapse while on a mainland trip, and was recuperating at home. But she was considering attendance at the anniversary banquet.

Attendance for the extended Cannon Company Chapter at the banquet was the largest in the past few years numbering 52. Attendees were as follows:

The family of the late Wilbert "Sandy" Holck was represented by: Chisato, Wilbert and Terry, Willard and GERALYN, Danna, Leonard and Sandra Souza, and Eric and Mary Ann Nemoto.

Harold Nakasone was accompanied by Clendon, Scot, Derek, Lance, Amy, Justin, and Scot Jr., and by Kendrick, Seth and Dayton Oki.

Yukisada Oshiro attended with Dave and Cheri Breslin; and Diana, Garet, Cullen and Daniel Miyamoto.

Akira Okamoto came with Grant Akana, and Richard and Stephanie Okamoto.

Tsukasa Murakami arrived from Kauai with Yukie and Judith, Aimee Ida, and Alice Kawakami.

Mitsuo and Esther Umeda's party included family and friends as follows: Alan and Darlene, Calvin, Nathan, Monica, Corynne, and Jocelyn Umeda; Hong Lam and Newton Parks.

Akira Takahashi with wife Betty and son Mark, and John and Mary Mikasa completed the Cannon Chapter.

May Koike decided not to attend because she felt insufficiently recovered to attend such a large gathering. We missed her, and wish her a complete recovery soon.

Judith Murakami, daughter of Tsukasa Murakami, is currently planning with three veterans groups, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, the MIS Veterans club, and the West Kauai Club 100, in planning a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony on Kauai for those who could not attend previous ones. No date has been set as yet.

The Chapter's annual Reunion in Las Vegas for May 3-7, 2012 has been in planning by Judith Murakami, Roger Yoshinari, Alan Ugai, Elaine Enomoto and others; all are sons or daughters of Cannoneers. Interesting and exciting programs are planned. Besides the Tsuka Murakami family from Kauai, Hawaii Cannoneers have been scarce at the Las Vegas Reunions in the past few years, primarily due to age-related physical disabilities or are no longer here. The very energetic attendees have continued to make the reunions lively and enjoyable.



## **442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team Cannon Company Annual Reunion**

**Fremont Hotel  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
May 3 – 7, 2012**



***"Go For Broke"***





by Oscar Tsukayama

### Medics Shinnen Enkai

Forty-four Medics family members made the drive to the Natsunoya Tea House in Alewa Heights for our annual New Year's party on January 21, 2012. Jerry and Florence Ogawa led the pack with 17 family members present; Oscar and Suzy with 6; Betty Ogami, the Matsuo/Mossmans and Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka with 4; Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Millie Nakasone and Mutchan Nakamura with 2; and Kazu Tomasa-1. Also joining us for the first time was Gladys Kimura, (Chikashi's wife) with one guest. Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya were scheduled to attend but they ran into difficulty arranging flight and hotel reservations to coincide with the 21<sup>st</sup> date and finally had to give up. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the good food and camaraderie as we get together each year to catch up on the latest and renew our vows to keep in touch.



*The Ogawas are first in the buffet line*

Our talented musician, Kazu Tomasa accompanied by Travis Tsukayama on guitar provided background music for the event—Brad Mossman, Allegra Matsuo-Mossman, Betty Ogami, and Kazu Tomasa shared their talents for entertainment. Kazu's rendition of the Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai was hilarious as he appeared in full costume. Our thanks to



*Kazu's Cockeyed Mayor of Kaunakakai*

all of the participants for adding to our enjoyment. The high-light of the event, however, was the door prizes. There were so many donations of plants, gift cards and other merchandise that everyone went home with something.

Our 'Thanks' again to Jack and Marian for serving as a two person committee for planning and running the event; to Jerry and Florence for a generous monetary donation; to Millie Nakasone for the favors of Senbei for all to take home (they were great), and to the many donors, too numerous to mention, for gifts of desserts, drinks and door prizes. See you all again next year.



*Grace Kimura and guest, the Ogamis and Matsuo/Mossmans ready for lunch*

### Medics Meeting

Only five (Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Toshiaki Tanaka, Kazuo Tomasa and Oscar Tsukayama) attended our February 15 meeting. Howard Kozuma had transportation problems; Gloria Masunaga suffered a fall and needed John's attention at home; Tak Nakamura's back problems appears to be acting up and Jerry Ogawa was tied up with doctor's appointments. Age seems to be taking its toll and it looks like we may not see an improvement to this

situation. We haven't seen Howard in a spell but Dorothy says they're doing okay just getting old. Sudden illnesses and doctors appointments have caused John Masunaga to miss several of our events; Tak too has missed many of our events due to his inability to sit or stand for long periods-he needs to keep moving. He also spends a lot of time with Eva who has been in rehab for over a year after a hip fracture. Iris Fukui appears to have recovered well from her leg fracture which caused her to cancel her trip to Washington D.C. for the CGM ceremony. Seriously considering skipping business meetings and getting the word out by newsletter. We will continue our luncheon meetings just to keep in touch.

### Joe and Nell Saito

Joe and Nell Saito have been looking forward to attending our 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet but after talking it over with family members in January, decided that just maybe, the trip might be a little strenuous for his 93-year-old body. He and Nell sent a beautiful note saying that they're OKAY but there are age related limitations and it is time to listen to what the kids have to say. They send their thanks to the Hawaii Medics for their past hospitality and kindnesses; send their best regards and request that we continue to keep them in the loop on all that's going on with the 442<sup>nd</sup> and Medics in Hawaii. They enclosed a very generous donation to the Medics Chapter.

### E Company-Los Angeles



Hideo Wachi (front); Ben Yamanaka (behind)

Gail Yamanaka, daughter of Ben and Hisa Yamanaka-Medic, sent a copy of their newsletter. They had their first meeting at the Ebisu Restaurant on February 18 and reported that other meetings for the year are scheduled for Feb. 25, May 19, Aug. 18 and Nov. 17. They also reported that Mits and

Marge Kunihiro, Kay and Sterling Suga, Chris Ichikawa, Mary and Ted Fujimoto and Ben, Hisa and Gail Yamanaka attended Hide Wachi's memorial service. They also enclosed a photo of Ben and Hideo taken in Italy or France in 1944 or 1945.

### CGM Ceremony for Northwest Nisei Veterans

*Information for this article was obtained from an article written by Nancy Bartley for the Seattle Times on January 15, 2012.*

William Yasutake was a prisoner along with his family when he decided to fight for the country that imprisoned him merely because he was Nisei. There were thousands of others like him who opted to prove their loyalty to the United States of America despite this ill treatment. They served as members of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service whose wartime heroics and achievements are legendary.

On Saturday, January 14, 2012, 90 Nisei veterans of the Pacific Northwest who served in the above units were awarded the nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), in ceremonies held at the Meany Theater, University of Washington. Sporting burgundy caps with Nisei emblems, some clutching canes, all now in their 80s and 90s, they sat solemnly on stage in an auditorium filled with family and friends who rose for a standing ovation as Army Gen., Peter Chiarelli introduced the group and U.S. Reps. Adam Smith, D-Tacoma and Jim McDermott, D-Seattle called them heroes who changed the course of history. "Most of us can't imagine the bigotry following the attack on Pearl Harbor," Chiarelli said. "The Nisei were under a heavy cloud of suspicion, yet they volunteered to serve not knowing if their country would accept them again."

Now 89 and a Bothell resident, Yasutake speaks about the war days reluctantly. He was a medic who was wounded but still cared for others. He received two Bronze Star Medals for combat in Italy and France. He says, "You don't think much of it at the time-it just comes naturally. You worry more about the others than you do yourself."

Stanley Shikuma of the Seattle Veterans Committee which sponsored the event said the

ceremony is not only for the veterans but also for family members and the community at large to make them aware of the sacrifices and hardships they endured. For family members the ceremony was a moving tribute—Steven Chihara said “I was very proud to see my grandfather Tosh Chihara receive the gold medal.

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

Forty-two Medics family members and friends attended 442<sup>nd</sup>'s 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on 25 March 2012. Heading the list of attendees were Jerry and Florence Ogawa with 7-Kenneth Ogawa, Richard and Corinne Bauske and Daniel and Vivian Tully; Betty Ogami with 6-Jerry Van Camp and Susan Ogami Van Camp, and Dennis, Carolyn and Jack Fuller; Oscar and Suzy Tsukayama with 6-Wayne, Nancy, Taryn and Travis Tsukayama; Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka with 4-Paul and Joan Watanabe; Flora Umehara with 4-Cindy and Sasha Taketa and Jason Nagamine; Michele Matsuo with 9-Allegra Matsuo-Mossman, Rafael and Lea del Castillo, Ben Cayetano, Michael Uechi, Wayne

Miyashiro, Ford Fuchigami and Michael Asato; Jack and Marian Yamashiro, Kazuo Tomasa, Iris Fukui, and John and Gloria Masunaga. It was an enjoyable time for all who attended.

### **Donations**

Generous donations to the Medics Chapter were received from the following during the past quarter:

Wallace K. Isobe and family: In memory of brother Kosaku Isobe-Medic-KIA 30 Oct 1944 in France. Wally has been a friend and avid supporter of the Medics Chapter for many years.

Jerry and Florence Ogawa: Thank you for your frequent and generous donations.

Toshi and Fumi Yasutake: In memory of Dorothy Matsuo and Wilfred Taira.

Joe and Nell Saito: Thank you Joe and Nell, we'll miss you at the anniversary banquet but we'll be thinking of you and we will keep in touch.

A Big Mahalo to our donors from the Medics Chapter.



*Seated l-r: Joan Watanabe, Mitsuyo Tanaka, Toshiaki Tanaka, Ben Cayetano*

*Standing l-r: Paul Watanabe, Michele Matsuo and two members of Ben Cayetano's staff*

*Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*





by Okemura, et al

What a pleasant surprise it was to have the Tsuchiya family from Kauai join us at the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon. Melvin “Baggy” Tsuchiya was with the Anti-tank platoon. He was with the 3<sup>rd</sup> squad. They had quite an initiation on the first day of battle on June 26, 1944. The 3<sup>rd</sup> squad came under artillery fire which landed very close to the men who ducked into a nearby ditch. One member was slightly injured while the second person was badly shaken up by the shell which landed close by.

It was after this first Italian campaign when we were stationed at Vada that Baggy first met his future wife, Vally. We were hot and dusty that summer of 1944 and were cooling off by a well when we met these friendly folks. It was after the French campaign when we returned for the final Po Valley campaign in Italy that Baggy solidified his courtship with Vally. He remained in Italy while most of us returned home.



Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

During this period, Baggy rapidly rose in rank from Private First Class to Tech Sergeant. He became Santa Claus at one time for the youngsters. He married Vally and brought her home to Kauai where he became a teacher at Waimea High School and, also, coach of the football team. Baggy passed away in September 1992.

For many of us, it has been a long time since we last saw Vally. She had her son, Val, and daughter, Cathy Awai, who had her family with her.

Another delightful surprise at the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon was Florence Hashimoto and her daughter, Valerie. Since Larry died several years ago, we missed seeing Florence at our gatherings.

We had six Hq2nd veterans at the luncheon: Robert Uyeda, Takashi Okemura, Tamio Otsu, Moriso Teraoka, Yasunobu Shoho & Bill Thompson. All told, Hq2nd had 27 persons in attendance.

Walter Mackey, of Texas, who was our Communication platoon leader, inquired as to how he could receive the replica of the Congressional Gold Medal. His health had prevented him from going to the DC ceremony. The Houston, Texas committee was notified about Mackey’s desire to receive the CGM replica at their February 14, 2012, ceremony. We’re certain that Mackey’s wish came true.



Photo: Wayne Iha





by Ron Oba

*Take photos anyone?  
You look young now than before  
Guess photos do lie*

### Legacy Center

1. The West Oahu Community College UH pending lease negotiations. Wes will be giving a presentation regarding the site and building design at the next monthly BOD meeting. Wes believes this site is the preferred site and will show justification at the meeting.

2. The MOU has been approved by the 100<sup>th</sup> Veterans Club. Wes expects it to be approved by the 100th Legacy Organization at their monthly meeting this Tuesday. Therefore, we can say all organizations have ratified the MOU.

### Henry Giugni Archives

Carol Fukunaga invited veterans of the 100/442/MIS to tour the Henry Giugni archives where Hawaii's historical events are digitized and kept on the shelves. The archive is presently in the warehouse that used to be the Libby McNeil building. They will soon move to the West Oahu Campus site. Robby Omura would like to interview veterans for their WWII stories.

### MIS Anniversary Banquet

Presidents of the 100/442 were invited to the banquet where Edward Hamasu presided and honored several veterans for their contributions. Approximately 6,000 MISers served in the Pacific Theater of operations.

A replica of the Congressional Gold Medal was donated to the Camp Shelby Museum to museum Director, Chad Daniels to be displayed with the other 442<sup>nd</sup> Memorabilia at the Museum. The rudimentary

museum at Camp Shelby started on the upper floor of a theater that was initiated by Herbert Sasaki of Mississippi, Hiro Takusagawa, LA; Ted Yenari of New Orleans and Ron Oba. We started by displaying photos of the veterans and a perpetual running of the VHS tape on the upper floor of the theater. Senator Daniel Inouye later appropriated enough funds for the new museum and the ten-foot high Memorial below the Museum. Hundreds of 442 veterans revisited Camp Shelby for the dedication of the Museum and the Monument.

[nth@natsunoyateahouse.biz](mailto:nth@natsunoyateahouse.biz) is what you email to get reservations, menu and parking on a Saturday high noon for their delicious fried shrimps and servings replete with okazu, okazu, okazu, till you gotta ask for a doggie bag. It was nice to have so many, 22 attending to greet the beginning of the new year. Mineo and Ron again brought the Champagne to toast the new year. Others brought door prizes and snacks. Junior brought ceramic bowls that his father-in-law kilned for the door prizes, therefore no orchid plants.

100/442 Army Reserve invited Wes and Ron to their anniversary banquet at the Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. It was a formal affair so Wes came dressed in his coat and tie. As expected the Army wives came in their long gowns. We sat with Judge Kubo and wife Tammy in a beautiful white gown. When the music started for dancing, Wes and I did not want to dance together, too gay — so we left.

### Joint Memorial Service

Matt Matsunaga, a news writer for the Star Advertiser, presided and announced that the MIS will be in charge of this year's Joint Memorial Service. \$400 remains in the kitty so we decided to have each unit donate \$200 each to supplement the fund. Out-houses costs \$200, plus the handicapped ones which costs more. Wes asked that the Sons and Daughters be invited to attend the meeting so they can assist in the Memorial Service.

As an aside, Mr. Carl Matsukado, a professional photographer who lives in Paris, France with a photo



# 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet



*Photos by: Wayne Iha, Ann Kabasawa, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, Pat Thomson*



*Leslie Wilcox, MC*



*100/442 Reserve Color Guard*



*Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, Speaker*



*Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz*



*Mayor Peter Carlisle*



*MG Robert Lee (Ret.) and Alan Hayashi (BAE Systems)*



*Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani and Col. Ed Gayagas (US Army Ret.)*



*Bill Thompson receives award for serving 5 years as 442 president*



*l-r: Leslie Wilcox, Eileen Sakai and Sandy Tsukiyama*



*Tsutomu Oi (1399) with Cary Tagawa*





*2nd HQ*



*3rd HQ*



*Easy*



*George*



*232nd Eng/Band*



*Love*



*Cannon*



*Item*





*Fox*



*Howe*



*522B*



*King*



*Mike*



*Service*



*Anti-Tank*



*Medics*





*Regimental HQ*



*l-r: Ed Yamasaki, Mayor Carlisle, Vince Matsudaira*



*Seigo Nagao (522B) & Cary Tagawa*



*Veterans of the Varsity Victory Volunteers*



*Masato Doi (AT) & Cary Tagawa*



*"Go For Broke" song with Kazuo Tomasa (Medics) leading*



*Clarence Tamayori, Minne Sakuma, Cary Tagawa & Stanley Sakuma*



*Sons & Daughters volunteers at sales table*

studio is here to photograph the 442 veterans to be displayed in Paris and Bruyeres. Scores of veterans are having their photos taken. Ed Yamasaki sheepishly said that this is a good time to have your photo taken for your funeral!!

### 69th Anniversary Banquet

As President, I decided to give a very short speech since nobody will be listening anyhow. Leslie Wilcox, CEO of PBS Hawaii, served as the MCEE. Mr. Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, a Japanese movie star and recently with a bit in "Hawaii Five-O" was the featured speaker. I was down with the flu, so Wes gave my speech.

Approximately 600 who attended were mostly family and friends with about 70 veterans present. Our

numbers are diminishing. The "TORCH" of Go For Broke Education Center cited that 3,600 veterans remain. I believe that this is simply a guess, since no one really knows how many veterans remain because many veterans never come to our functions and their addresses are unknown.

George Nakasato said two years ago that we should die early to reserve one of the niches at the columbarium before they run out of niches. Since then many new columbariums have been built through Senator Daniel Inouye's appropriations. Therefore we should hang loose and take our time before dying.

When my son was 6 years old, he came back from school and said, "We killed the egg, we killed the egg." What? He said, "We dyed it" at Easter time.



by Ed Yamasaki

### Norwest by Louise Kashino-Takisaki

We have enjoyed a La Nina winter with multitudes of rainy, windy and stormy weather, along with an unexpected week of snow that crippled the Pacific Northwest, and the weather man tells us we still continue to have La Nina around through June. One Californian was reported to have called us "wimps" when it comes to driving in the snow; we challenge that and invite him to come up and see if he can negotiate our hills when there is icy weather. As we always say, you can't control the weather; so no use complaining!

The highlight of our veterans activities was to celebrate the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal at the Seattle Regional Ceremonies held on January 14th at the University of Washington, Meany Hall. We had 85 veterans seated on the stage during the ceremonies, and they personally received their Gold Medal replicas from Congressmen Jim McDermott and Adam Smith.

With typical nisei modesty, so many of the veterans of the 100th/442nd and MIS did not wish to participate; however, their families insisted that they wanted to see their fathers/grandfathers so honored. Afterwards, many of the honorees admitted it was a proud moment for them; they were glad they had obliged their families. With over 1100 guests expected to attend, there was a lot of planning in the background. The committee was happy at how smoothly the program played out, thanks to our many volunteers. George Murakami, Kim Muromoto and Ketch Toyohara were our I Co. honorees.

It seemed that our departed soldier/veterans were looking down at us from Heaven to allow for a successful CGM event, as there were sprinklings of snowflakes coming down the morning of January 14th, and everyone's greatest fear was that if it had continued to snow, it would create havoc for our CGM program. However, by noon the sun came out and our snow held off until that night. When the snow actually came down, it was heavy enough to cause our schools as well as many businesses to be closed, and many planned events to be cancelled.

Roy Taketa was one of our boys who were slated to receive the Gold Medal replica on January 14th.



However, Roy passed away the day before this event; so at his funeral the following week, our NVC Commander Tom Kometani presented the American flag and the medal replica to his daughter, Bonnie Kurata. The family was most appreciative of this special gesture. (See Roy's obituary under "Sad News.")

Our family had an enjoyable "winter break" when granddaughter, Marisa, was married in Cancun, Mexico in February. She is Debbie's daughter who works in Washington, D.C. where she met her husband. In November when we attended the CGM ceremonies, we were able to see Marisa's everyday life as she pursues a successful career in the literary field.

### **Norcal by Frank Shimada**

Day of Remembrance in San Francisco, courtesy Bryan Yagi

On February 19, communities throughout California and other major cities around the nation commemorated the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Roosevelt with the Day of Remembrance. This order caused the exclusion, evacuation, and incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry without any due process of law. The majority were American citizens.

Each year around February 19th, the Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium presents educational and cultural events to the public, so they may remember this historic injustice and its implications in today's society.

The consortium includes organizations; such as, The Fred Korematsu Institute/Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans! JACL-S.F. Chapter, National Japanese American Historical Society, and the Tule Lake Committee, to name only a few.

A candle-lighting ceremony concludes the program in which speakers for civil and human rights address the audience. A candle is lit for each of the ten War Relocation Camps and one is lit for the Department of Justice Camps, e.g., Crystal City, Santa Fe.

On this day, Shig Doi of Item Company representing the 442nd RCT participated by lighting a

candle for Amache where his parents were incarcerated after being transferred from Tule Lake. Others participating in the candle lighting ceremony included Koji Ozawa representing the MIS who lit the candle for Topaz.



*Shig Doi to light the candle for those incarcerated (including his family) at Amache*

*Photo: Bryan Yagi*

Addendum: Shig was in the Army when his parents and siblings were incarcerated in Tule Lake and then Amache, Colorado. Despite being in the Army and a citizen, he was prevented from seeing his parents because all persons of Japanese ancestry were excluded from the West Coast. When his sergeant once asked him why he was not taking his furlough, he answered, "I have no home to go to."

Shig was later transferred to the 442nd RCT and assigned to I Co. He participated in the rescue of the Lost Battalion in France and the assault on the Gothic Line in Italy. He is a recipient of the Bronze Star for valor in action. After the war, he married and worked as a x-ray technician for Contra Costa County.

### Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony

Frank Shimada submitted an article [*San Jose News*, February 24, 2012] on the awarding in San Jose of the Congressional Gold Medal to members of the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion and Military Intelligence Service. The following has been excerpted from it:

"... there was no bragging or chest-thumping at the medal ceremony, at least not among the old warriors. . . . Frank Shimada, 94, showed up early, wearing his precious 442nd cap.

“‘I don’t think I deserve this medal as much as the other guys,’ the San Jose resident said. ‘I was one of the lucky or unlucky ones. I got hit early.’

“‘He had been fighting with the 442nd through Italy for little more than a month when a German hand grenade riddled his body with shrapnel and nearly killed him. Shimada spent four months in a hospital . . . [and] was not allowed back into battle.’

“‘The other guys who went through something horrific, the ones who fought longer than I did, those guys did tremendous hard work,’ he said. ‘They deserve the medals.’”

Attending the ceremony in the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin gym were 159 awardees: 65 veterans, 44 widows and 50 next-of-kin of those killed in combat or deceased since the war, along with 500 relatives, friends, and dignitaries.

### **Socal by Marian Yamashita**

Greetings from Southern California!

Although many parts of the mainland have had some harsh winter weather, thankfully, Southern Cal is enjoying just the typical rain and sunshine weather during this time of the year.

Because I Co. ohana members have dwindled down to just a handful, with many not driving any more, getting together for any event becomes a little hard. We are limping along using walkers, cane or wheelchairs, plus – hearing aids. Never did I realize that being a senior citizen would become so difficult, physically. But, we will still have a few get-togethers each year with the help of children and grandchildren doing the driving. We have these events jointly with JA Living Legacy, with CEO Susan Uyemura taking charge.

Recently we were invited to the annual MIS Shinnen Kai luncheon at the Almansor Restaurant in Alhambra. Joined by Ray and Susan Uyemura, Mike Tsuji and son Andrew, and niece and nephew of Jim’s, Cheryl and Mark Yamashita, children of Shigeru Yamashita who was in the first MIS class held at the Presidio, San Francisco. Thanks to Cathy Tanaka and her committee for doing a “bang-up” job of putting the wonderful event together.

I hear from Tomiko, widow of Eddie Yamaguchi,

living in Palm Springs, a couple of times a month. She has had some physical problems, so she is forever “doctoring.” Such is life as a “senior citizen”!

Just a few months ago when our dear friend Mary Senzaki, widow of Tak, passed away, their children and families made a very generous donation to our I Company Club. Special thank-you goes to Denise, Nadine, Norman and Lloyd. The funds shall be shared with other organizations and events in honor of their parents.

Jim has already distributed some DVDs converted from the obsolete VCR tapes in which Tak makes a rare appearance describing his experience as platoon sergeant during the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion.

Our friends from Hesperia, California, Enro and Yoneko Okada, moved to Yuma, Arizona to be near their son, Alan. As of this writing I understand that they are doing well as senior citizens while enjoying grandkids as well. Tom Watanuki, who lives in Apple Valley, is spending his weekends lake-fishing, catching some fish most of the time. Although Tom has trouble walking, he has access to a wheelchair and walkers and so manages to get around okay.

As of this writing, tentative plans for the Southern California regional Congressional Gold Medal celebration is to be held at the site of the Go for Broke Monument near Temple and San Pedro streets. The CGM event is being held on June 9th in conjunction with the 12th anniversary of the monument’s dedication.

Those of us who have heard so much of all the celebrations of the Gold Medal awarding in other areas are very anxiously awaiting the one in Los Angeles. Being one of the areas with a large Japanese American population, a large turn-out is anticipated.

Jim wishes to acknowledge generous donations from Eddie and Bea Yamasaki to benefit his “Echoes of Silence” educational project. Currently, Jim is converting old 100, 442 and MIS videos from outdated VCR format to DVD. Please e-mail [jimy442@verizon.net](mailto:jimy442@verizon.net) for a list of available DVDs or to let him know if you have some good quality tape of your own that can be added to his library.



## **Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki**

### The 69th Anniversary Banquet

Actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, our keynote speaker, touched our hearts as he talked about the values ingrained in Japanese Americans through traditions and culture.

His message was not delivered through a historical review of 442nd's war record but through a down-to-earth, warm conversation with the audience on his take on the make-up of the Japanese-American soldier.

At a chapter table, Item had the pleasure of accommodating Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Matsudaira, daughter Adriene, and son Dustin and Chereisa. Vince is the producer of "Kash," a documentary on Shiro Kashino, a trailer of which was shown as part of the anniversary program. Our thanks to Vince for recording the amazing life of a selfless, courageous warrior and making the story available for future generations.

Item ohana members themselves took over three tables of ten each. From Manoa came Nancy/son Stuart Taba and Walter Okumoto; from Hawaii Kai way, Carol/Michael Sullivan and Terry/Elsie Aratani. Aiea, Pearl City and on out to Mililani were well represented by regulars Liz Nishioka and guests Ted/Diana Ogata and Pamela Phillips; Dane Sakaida; Harry Umetsu and guests David/Elsie Shimokawa.

Others from West Oahu were Glenn/Frieda Hajiro and Eddie Yamasaki's guests Stacey Hayashi, anime artist Damon Wong, and Carl/Danuta Matsukado. Carl, a professional photographer, is in the process of taking portrait photos of 100th/442nd vets for display in a Paris gallery, along with letters and memorabilia from the people of Bruyeres and Biffontaine.

Maui's energetic and loyal Charlie Takahashi brought along photographers Irvin Yamada and Floyd Honda, Robert Chinen and Jack Cutting.

### Report on a School Visit by Eddie Yamasaki

Makakilo Elementary School second-grade class, under teacher Mrs. Anne Nakamura (daughter-in-law of Andy Nakamura), played host to Robert Arakaki and Goro Sumida of 100th Infantry Battalion Club and myself for an interview session. The visit was coordinated by Bert Hamakado and Jayne Hirata-

Epstein of 100th's Sons and Daughters.

Makakilo's single-story school buildings are spread out along a rolling hillside of green lawns. On that bright mid-morning of February, I wished I could enroll and be drowned in the sight and smell of the setting—so unlike my Makiki-centered lifestyle.

The refreshed feeling was further enhanced as the three vets settled in the classroom of fourteen pupils: we, seated low on pupil chairs; the kids, bunched and seated on the floor before us. The classroom was cheerful with colorful drawings and posters of each of the 26 alphabets in capital and small letters covering the upper reaches of the surrounding walls.

After self-introductions by the vets and the setting of the ground rules—yes, raising a hand if you have a question, but also giving your name before asking it—the eager pupils raised their hands straight up. "Did you like it (the army life)?" "Did you shoot?" "What did you eat?" "Where did you go?" To answer questions such as these in an understandable, meaningful and interesting way for the seven-year-olds was a bit of a challenge—but, of course, still relaxing and often amusing—a learning experience for us vets.

The session ended with each of us receiving a brown bag containing fourteen valentines on 8 1/2X11 sheets, drawings and messages of thanks and love—precious is the word.

Walking over to the cafeteria, Diamond Head could be faintly seen on the far horizon. For lunch, a turkey-pastrami sandwich with an 8-oz. carton of milk. Most kids with us had homemade box lunches and school milk, with a few having the school's offerings.

Thanks go to Bert and Jayne as well as Makakilo's second-grade class for an enjoyable, memorable visit.

### Two DVDs Produced by Jim Yamashita

Our heartfelt thanks to Jim - his AJA WWII Memorial Alliance - and Susan Uyemura - her Japanese American Living Legacy - for their production and wide distribution of two DVDs. One DVD presents the Washington D.C. ceremony for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans and then a special ABC production by

David Ono and Robert Horsting that was made in conjunction with the award ceremony, involving visits to various battle sites. The other DVD includes clips from History Channel's "Moment of Truth" and scenes of the Lost Battalion rescue with an interview with MOH recipient George Sakato. The second segment is an update of a taping of the 1982 Nisei Reunion held in Los Angeles. In it are I Company's Shiro Kashino, Bill Morita, Vic Izui, Bruno Yamada, Tak Senzaki, Jim Yamashita and "Portagee" Matsunami. The final segment shows the promise kept by our Lt. Sadaichi Kubota.

#### Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship, Portland, OR

The last issue of the GFB Bulletin announced that applications for this scholarship were being accepted from candidates related to a Japanese-American WWII veteran. Initiated in 2008, the \$2,000 scholarship grant is being offered annually for five years, making 2012 its fourth year. On the eve of deadline April 1, thirteen applications were on hand. We look forward to learning the awardee's name.

Art was drafted into the Army in March, 1942, but for some reason was bounced among army camps before joining I Co. in Epinal in October, 1944. As a radioman of Headquarters Platoon, he was wounded twice in France and once during the Gothic Campaign in Italy. He earned a Bronze Star for valor in action during the Lost Battalion battle.

Art is a young 92 and remains active. You can see his ready smile in the photo and read his story in *And Then There Were Eight*.

#### A Personal Message from Eddie Yamasaki

As many of you know, my daughter and son live in Japan, both being married to nationals of that country. And between them, I am blessed with five grandchildren, ranging in age from 7 to 17 years. (To think, not a few of you are blessed with great-grandchildren in this age group.)

So, while I am in pretty good health, my daughter has asked me to come live with her family; and I have found it difficult to decline. Therefore, as soon as I manage to put my personal affairs (i.e., 88 years of accumulation of stuff) in good order, hopefully by

year's end, I shall be relocating to the land of *sakura* and sake, lock, stock and barrel.

Right now, my inner feelings are indeed mixed, happiness and sadness. I am very sad to be leaving fair Hawaii, my home sweet home, where natural and cultural diversity abounds; also to be leaving the States, my country of military service and formal education.

Most of all, I'll be placing myself a long distance away from dear Hawaii and mainland friends, you, who mean so much to me, who have cared for me and given me lots and lots, for so long: going on 70 years since March 23, 1943! In my mind's eye, your faces appear clearly. I'd like to write each of your names here, with specific kindnesses extended to me, to thank you. This I cannot—those words, "space constraints." So, forgive me: please accept my collective *mahalo nui ka kou*—especially for calling me a friend.

Take care, God bless, arrivederci.

/s/ Eddie

P.S. Important: My continuing to contribute to the quarterly "Item Items" report under my by-line is no longer feasible.

May I give special recognition to our corps of regional reporters: currently, Lou Kashino-Takisaki, Frank Shimada, Marian Yamashita, Hal Nishida; newly recruited Charlie Takahashi; in the past, Allen Okamoto and Harold Aruga; also Vic Izui, who's missed greatly. Thanks for your patience with my exhortations, you all; job so well done!

Sincere thanks to Item ohana for your long-time *kokua* in sharing your news with me. Do extend the same *kokua* to my successor.

#### **Sad News**

Richard S. Watada of Berkeley, CA

Dec. 21, 1923 - Feb. 26, 2012

Richard passed away in his Berkeley home after a short illness. He is survived by Rose, his wife of over 51 years, daughters Marianne and Julia, son Richard, daughter and son in-laws Kimi and Al, and five grandchildren.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Richard and his family were uprooted during WW II and relocated to the Amache Internment Camp in CO. In 1944, he

volunteered into the army and joined the 442nd for the Lost Battalion battle and the Gothic Line campaign in Italy. Sgt. Watada was awarded a Bronze Star.

After the war, Richard settled in Berkeley where he earned a masters degree in architecture from UC Berkeley. He practiced architecture in the Bay Area until his retirement in 1991. [Source: *Inside Bay Area*]

#### Roy H. Taketa of Renton, WA

Died on January 13, 2012

Roy, a recipient of the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, died at age 94. He is survived by his children, Bonnie Kurata and Glenn (Robin) Taketa; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; brother Harry Taketa; sisters Amy Kato, Lilly (Tad) Kato, Katie (James) Komoto and sister-in-law, Tomeko Taketa. He is predeceased by his parents; wife, Josie; daughter Jane Ibuki and brothers William, George and Ben.

#### Shitomi "Toni" Sakamoto of Pasadena, CA

February 11, 1922 - January 16, 2012



Toni passed away, surrounded by his family at Scripps Encinitas Hospital. He suffered from a developing brain mass and its attendant debilitating effects. He finally succumbed to pneumonia; but fortunately before passing, he

reached a stable and quiet condition during which he enjoyed a talk with his family.

Item family members present were: Carol Akiyama, Eddie Ikuta with mother Rose, Patti Okada, Chiye Takemoto, Bill Teragawa with mother June, Susan Uyemura, and Marian and Jim Yamashita.

He is survived by three sons, Hugh (Nancy) Sakamoto, Seth Sakamoto, and Marc (Barbara) Sakamoto; and two grandchildren.

#### Winifred Chizue Takekawa of Honolulu, HI

November 15, 1920 - March 19, 2012

Upon being asked about her mother's passing, Gwen responded as follows: "My mom had been in declining health since the beginning of the year. She passed away on March 19th at Maluhia Care Facility

at 4:45 pm. She was surrounded by her family, who had spent the day with her. We talked, reminisced and thanked her for her love."

These words are welcome to the ears of many friends of Kazu and Winnie: to know that the close Takekawa family had such a gathering at bedside on the day of her passing.

"Lots of fun; very friendly; most of all, a good lady" is the way Elsie Aratani thought of Winnie. A more loving mother would be hard to find. Liz Nishioka says, "Winnie was a wonderful cook, so every Sunday, the Takekawa clan gathered at Kazu and Winnie's home on Ala Amoamo Street. This partaking of Winnie's cooking, a long-time tradition, is well known among the Item ohana members in Honolulu.

We remember that Winnie was a Kunia girl, and Kazu spent many hours driving to and from Wahiawa, a long-distance courtship that had a very happy ending.

Winnie leaves behind: son Steve (June) Takekawa with children Tessa (Kyle) Gomes with their child Sophia, Tanna (Bryson) Dang and Troy Takekawa; another son Neil (Donna) Takekawa with children Kai and Kory Takekawa; daughter Gwen (Paul) Murakami with children Rachel and Emily Murakami. (Tanna and Bryson own The Wedding Cafe at Ward Warehouse.)



Stacey Hayashi and Ed Yamasaki pose with Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa  
Photo: Wayne Iha



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

WHAT? Deadline time already? Will dispense with a report of the first-of-the-year clan gathering at Treetops (where else?) and dive headlong into the well-attended 69<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet of our beloved 442<sup>nd</sup> on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Pacific Beach Hotel. The early birds were already there before 9:00 a.m. having told to be there before 10:30, the starting time for lunch. Everyone in their Sunday best, because it was Sunday after all, mingled freely with their auld acquaintances, recognizing some right off the bat, and puzzling over others.

Everyone's friend, the lovely and personable Leslie Wilcox was the emcee, and our daughter Sandy sang the national anthem to open the festivities. Our 522 members and friends were bright-eyed and bushy-tailed in their stylish attire.

Table 1 had Boyan and Nancy Higa, Harold and Jane Ueoka, Roy Fujii, and the Urada family Henry, Grace, Wesley, Geraldine, and Wayne. At Table 2 were Dr. Joan Kagawa, daughter of Shoso and Kay Kagawa (who was ill and unable to attend), and her daughter Krista Guggieri and Chiyoko Shimazu. At Table 12 were Biggy Nakakura and his daughter Norma, Mits Kunihiro, Kazuto and Lynn Shimizu, Seigo and Ellen Nagao, and Joe and Peggy Obayashi.

At Table 13 were Charles Sr. and Jr. Nakamura who had started out 2 hours earlier all the way from Waialua, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, Mildred and son Barrett Hara who proudly pass around pictures of his first grandchild, and their friend Hilda Thomas, and the Tsukiyamas.

At Table 14 Laura Miho seated most of her family including Mariko, Celia Fujikami and her family Derek, Ethan and Anna and her nephew, the well-known oral historians Warren and Michiko Kodama Nishimoto. We missed many of the other faithful

members and their widows who are regulars to our other meetings, like Rocky and Leatrice Tanna. Hope all those who were incapacitated are well recovered now.

Our new and personable in-coming 442 president for next year Wes Deguchi gave the welcoming address in place of the ailing and absent Ron Oba, and many other sons and daughters were present, a most welcome sight. Even keynote speaker the well-known actor Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa fits into that category, so do join us again.

Stay well, everyone...until next time. Ja neh, Fuku

### Golf Report

The 522 golf news hereby reports the past three months tournament scores:

<u>Players</u>	<u>01/09 /12</u>	<u>02/13/12</u>	<u>03/19/12</u>
Roy Fujii	84	77	71
Richard Furuta	75	-	65
Boyan Higa	72	71	67
Mits Kunihiro	81	72	64
Rocky Tanna	75	66	67
Ted Tsukiyama	-	-	-
Harold Ueoka	90	75	88
Flint Yonashiro	71	74	74
<u>Par Three Pins</u>			
Richard Furuta	#2		
Boyan Higa		#2 & 17	#2 & 8
Rocky Tanna		#8	
Flint Yonashiro	#8,11 &17		

The welcome mat is always spread out for any 442 golfer and family to play golf at Olomana Golf links with the only golf organization in the 442<sup>nd</sup>. Just call Rocky Tanna at 737-5837 to join in!





by M. Honda

The first quarter of the year 2012 has gone by and it is already well into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Q. My lackadaisical approach to writing this article is very bad for producing anything for printing in the GFB news. I have asked our President to replace me but I am only met with a "So, what else is new?" look. Writing comes very hard for me because not only am I a poor writer, but I am also not a typist. Well, anyway, since the Boss appointed me to write, I am laboring again here at my computer.

The first three months went by so quickly that I am not quite ready for this tough job of putting words down on this paper. Millie says sit here long enough and something will come to that so-called brain of yours. I've been sitting here for half an hour and nothing has happened so far. I cannot sit here all day so I will write something and hope that Claire will not send it back with a "REWRITE" note on it.

My fingers and brain have cramped up and Millie says that there is no Doctor available for my ailment. I'll just have to live like this for the rest of my life and someday a merciful end will come to my sad life. Sad life or not, I will have to make do with what I have and hope that she will let me live here till the day is done for me.

Our Chapter meetings for the first quarter went very well and the President will surely be up for re-election again and again. Our attendance for these meetings still hold steady at seven or eight members and some more guys may decide to show up to increase that number. Our March meeting went really well although two Big Guns in the persons of Doc and Fuj were no shows. The meeting was lively even without Doc who usually gives out a lot of free advice and comments and when Fuj talks everyone listens. They probably had more urgent things to do besides attending our meeting. Steady Chas & Marge, the Hondas, Yvonne and others showed up and we had a very good

meeting although comments and questions were at a minimum because Doc was a no show. Let me say that the refreshments were still the best and cannot be beat anywhere else in the 442<sup>nd</sup>.

We had a very good showing at the Annual Banquet on March 25<sup>th</sup> with about three tables. Thank you, Marge, for the handling of the group names. We had a few strangers at the banquet and they should show up for the Chapter meetings and bring their partner with them. Chester was one of them and he should bring that attractive woman with him to the meetings. Bazook also came with his family so we had a good crowd attending and of course, Doc Goto came with his gang to fill up one table. The attendance seemed to be about the same as before and there seemed to be at least five or six hundred in attendance. Attendance cannot increase because the boys are going at a good rate and there is no one to replace those going. It's not like during the war when someone dies or is maimed they send in a replacement. Nowadays, if one goes, that's it and there is no replacement. When you go, you go!

This is all for now. Aloha!! Till the next time.  
Mits



Charles Ijima (center) and Mits Honda pose with Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa  
Photo: Wayne Iha

# MAUI MATTERS

by Charlie Takahashi

There is a lot going on on Maui. In January we had elections and a new council was installed. The 2012-2013 executive board is President - Hiroshi Arisumi; 1st Vice President - Irvin Yamada, 2nd Vice President - Richard Minatoya, Secretary - Charlie Takahashi, and Interim Treasurer - Judy Kitagawa. Also, newly confirmed as 442nd Associates were Leslie Maeda and Victor Lopez.

We'd like to thank the previous board members for their leadership and we appreciate their support during this transition: Kazuichi Hamasaki, Charlie Takahashi, Harold Nishida, and Kaoru Muraoka, who, at a young 90, was re-elected but chose not to serve again.

Over seventy veterans, their wives, widows and a few family members attended this membership meeting.

The program of this first social of the year began at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning with a greeting by past president Kazuichi. Lunch was served by the Associates while the election ballots were tallied. After announcement of the council election tally, the social ended with the playing of bingo. One of the special prizes was donated by Richard Minatoya: a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal which was won by Jane Nakama, widow of Sadao (I Co.).

Between the Sons and Daughters and the 442nd Maui Veterans Council, the veterans can look forward

to a full calendar of events in 2012. Beginning in April, the Maui 442nd Veterans Council along with the I Company Associates will host their annual spring social at the Wailuku Hongwanji on April 28. Next event will be an anniversary celebration (acknowledging the date on which the 100th and 442nd joined together) - date to be confirmed in June. This event will be coordinated by the Sons and Daughters.

Retiring police Lt. Robert G. Hill has been named the new executive director of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) and moved into the post at the beginning of the year. The Center's Education Building is due to open soon. It will house an archival collection and books about World War II, especially the role and contributions of the Japanese American units.

## A Personal Note from Harold Nishida

Completing nearly seven years of service to the members of the Maui 442 Veterans Club and the rest of the 442 world, I am grateful for the opportunities, friendships and grace I've received from so many wonderful people. I fully understand and appreciate that the 442 is not just a club but a way of living.

I am now pleased to be able to spend more quality time with my family and to continue my dream of writing and performing my music. Also, as I've been told, and I do believe, when one door closes, another opens in life. Well, we're stepping through a new door as my wife Laura and I go off to Japan in April to enjoy the cherry blossom festivities and a grand tour of Japan hosted by the Akizukis, who have adopted us as family.

Again, sincere thanks to all for having shared with me your lives over these past years; it has truly been a wonderful journey and adventure, one full of life-changing memories that I will always cherish. "GO FOR BROKE!!"



(l-r) Secretary Charlie Takahashi, 2nd Vice President Richard Minatoya, 1st Vice President Irvin Yamada and President Hiroshi Arisumi

Photo: Susan Uyemura



by Gail Nishimura

Happy Spring! Can you believe that one fourth of the year has already gone by? I've now been retired for 3 full months! How time flies.

My vacation has come and gone now it's time to get back to life at home...spring cleaning time! LOL, like I'm really gonna be doing that... I think I still have stuff around from the year we had the big reunion at the Convention Center... I need to get that tossed out and more room made for the upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Yes, the 70<sup>th</sup> is next March and we (Sons and Daughters) are in charge. We're gonna need all the help we can get. If you can help, come to the next S&D meeting and see where you can help out. We meet every month on the first Thursday at the clubhouse. Call Shirley in the clubhouse if you want to order dinner.

The 69<sup>th</sup> was nice, there were over 500 people who attended, it was nice to see many of the veterans again. It was really impressive to see video from a few years back of the "roll call," the count of veterans that attended this year was just over 100.

As usual, Grace and her crew had lots of logo things for sale and it was hard to pass by without picking up something. I keep wondering what more I need to add to my collection of logo items.

Our thoughts go out to Grace Fujii and her family with the passing of her husband Gary. Grace is one of Sons & Daughters' charter members and has been very active keeping our closets filled with logo items. She has managed to keep her business going while getting everyone in her family (and other S&D's families) busy with our logo sales.

Here's a letter that Wes wanted everyone to read:  
February 3, 2012

Board of Directors, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club

Subject: The Future of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club

Dear Board of Directors:

The Sons and Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT (S&D) was founded and made a Chapter of the 442<sup>nd</sup>

Veterans Club 19 years ago. Over the years, we have provided support to the veterans in various social and formal activities, such as the Anniversary Banquets, military parades and Joint Memorial Services. In addition to helping in these events, our mission is to promote and ensure that your legacy lives on. The educational aspects of the archives and other historic media are an important focus for us. We are tasked with reaching out to future generations through education.

We envision our role of supporting the veterans changing in the coming years. While we will always be there to help with the Banquets and other functions, the time has come for the S&D to assist with the operations of the organization. The viability of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club depends on the participation of its Chapters. Each Chapter is representative on the Board of Directors. Without the Board and its officers, there is no Club. It was evident in last year's search for a new president that the interest to "run" the Club has diminished. President Oba has agreed to take on the duties one more time. Last year, we also saw the folding of George Co. due to the lack of representation on the Board.

I believe most of the Chapters will be facing a similar resolution in the coming years. As president-elect, I suggest that the S&D can play a role in helping to run the Club. There should be a smooth, gradual transition where the S&D become part of the Chapters and also members of the Board of Directors.

To accomplish this, we need to develop a plan. The S&D is willing to study this idea and formulate a plan. One of the main issues is how this will affect the organization's bylaws. Provisions will need to be made to accommodate the S&D. To initiate the process, the S&D is willing to attend the meetings of the various Chapters. This would help to facilitate discussion among the members of each Chapter regarding this issue.

The role of the Sons & Daughters has been and will always be to support the veterans. If you feel you need help in running the organization, we can provide that support. We understand this is a social club. Its use and focus should be for the veterans. For as long as there are veterans who see a need in the Club, the S&D will be there. Sincerely, Wes Deguchi

Hope you have a great spring, enjoy whatever great weather we have. Hope to see you at our next meeting.



## Other News

### Getting the Facts Straight

by Susan Uyemura

(CEO & President, Japanese American Living Legacy)

A historian should never generally interpret or assume that historical events occurred. Facts should be checked without excuses. In the last edition of the Go For Broke bulletin, I wrote an article that contained errors on the history of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. These errors resulted from assumptions I had made due to my familiarity with the subject matter. Nevertheless, I need to set the record straight by correcting and clarifying points I made in that aforementioned article.

I had stated that the “442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) joined with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.” I had thought that “joined with” implied that the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was already serving and that the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT later joined them. However, some readers have inferred a different interpretation. I did not mean to make it sound like that the two groups joined together prior to serving in Europe. I am aware that the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion was already in service and became the first battalion of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and thought I was being clear. I did not intend to reduce or dilute the achievements of either group with this statement.

I have attended memorial celebrations in Bruyères and Biffontaine a couple of times, and I did not know that I had also been to La Houssière (the adjacent town to Biffontaine in the Vosges). While visiting the monument in Biffontaine, Vosges History Guide, Gerome Villain took me to see some remnant foxholes just a few paces from the monument; these foxholes were used during the Rescue of the Lost Battalion. I only recently found out from Gerome that the foxholes we visited were, technically, in La Houssière. Since Biffontaine maintains a monument for the Rescue of the Lost Battalion, I had wrongfully assumed that the battle had occurred in Biffontaine.

However, I was unaware that the majority of the battle was actually fought in La Houssière and that the battle extended into Biffontaine.

I referenced the “Hawaiian National Guard” in my article. The group I was trying to identify is the “Hawaiian National Reserve.” It was a mistake and I apologize to the Hawaiian National Reserve for identifying them incorrectly.

Lastly, “The famed 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion gained much of their notoriety ...” is a claim that should only be made by someone who was there. While I realize that each battle as experienced by our community’s veterans is significant in its own right, I had no right to make such a generalized claim. Clearly, the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion’s and the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT’s experiences in the European theater should be recognized in totality. Their overall courage and perseverance throughout World War II ultimately defines their recognition. Again, I apologize to all veterans that might have been offended by my statement.

Mistakes and misunderstandings happen, but there are no excuses for not owning up and correcting them whenever possible. It was never my intent to damage or belittle the achievements of our veterans; however, I certainly do not want to make statements that are historically inaccurate or that are unclear either. Luckily, there are people in this community that care enough about our history to point-out my mistakes when I make them. I would like to personally thank Bill Thompson, the past president of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Clubhouse in Hawaii for his timely feedback and for bringing these issues to my attention and my thanks to Gerome Villain (Vosges History Guide) in France and Jim Yamashita (I Company) for their insight as well. Our community’s history belongs to each of us. While historians will try their best to present history as accurately as possible, ultimately it is the responsibility of the community to make sure that events and experiences are as accurately portrayed as they possibly can be.

## **442nd RCT Foundation Receives Major Support from Charitable Foundations**

by George Nakasato, President, 442 RCT Foundation

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation was recently named one of the beneficiaries of the Sam & Martha Hironaka Charitable Remainder Unit Trust and received a generous contribution, according to President George M. Nakasato.

With the death of the last surviving recipient, Martha Hironaka, the accumulated income from the Trust was distributed to various foundations and institutions. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hironaka family and to those that had the pleasure in knowing them.

Sam Sazao Hironaka, a life member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, was attached to the 522<sup>nd</sup> HQ Battalion. As a life member of the Veterans Club, he actively served in numerous committees, including the Club's Long-range Planning Committee of the early 90s, and, subsequently, was elected as a Trustee for term of six years with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation. He resigned from the latter committee in 2001 due to his health.

Sam died on March 21, 2004 and, together with Martha, who died on January 20, 2011, is currently interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

We are grateful to the Hironaka family for their lasting legacy toward the Foundation's charitable and educational mission. Contributions such as these add a dimension to the Foundation program to further reach-out into the communities and help perpetuate the legacy and spirit of the men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

It is interesting to note that, in recent times, the Foundation also received contributions from various charitable foundations and institutions, including the Ford Foundation and the GE United Way Campaign. However, our basic support still comes from individual donors, mainly from members and friends of the 442<sup>nd</sup> families.

To all of them, the Foundation extends its heartfelt thank you.

## *Announcements*

### **Search for "Tai"**

Editor's Note: The email below requests assistance in locating a 442<sup>nd</sup> soldier named Tai. In response to our request for additional information, Ty Krout indicated that the unit his dad was assigned to was probably the 232<sup>nd</sup> Medical Service Bn. which was, most likely, located in Naples, Italy. He also stated that Tai's hospitalization probably occurred sometime in 1944. If Tai recalls receiving treatment from a S/Sgt. Henry Krout or if there is anyone who knows of a Tai that fits the description, please contact the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club in Honolulu. The mailing address, telephone and email address for the Veterans Club are on page 1 of this bulletin.

Hello,

I am looking for information on members of the 442 in Italy, 42-43, during the war. My father was a medical corpsman and during that time was instrumental in saving a Japanese 442<sup>nd</sup> soldier. He only knew the man as "Tai," and didn't know how to spell the name. I was born in 55, first son, and he named me after this man whom he befriended. Not knowing the Japanese spelling, I got "Ty." Well, dad passed this last November and I was going through his military service records and I thought of figuring out who Tai is. If you can help me, let me know. Or, pass me on to someone who has a list of those in the 442. We have some pictures of Casino, and Naples where dad worked in a medical unit as a surgery technician. I have tried the national records, and that was no help at all. I am a Vietnam Vet, and contacting other vets is usually the best method. My father's name is Henry W. Krout, Tech-3. Thanks in advance.

Ty W. Krout  
Sgt, US Army  
Communications Specialist

The 442nd Veterans Club  
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