



# Go For Broke BULLETIN

442<sup>nd</sup> VETERANS CLUB



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



Veterans attending the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon pose for a group photo

**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Editor ..... Henry Kuniyuki  
 Editor Emeritus ..... Oscar Tsukayama  
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# Go For Broke

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**Cover:**

*Following a successful luncheon, veterans gathered in the lobby of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom for a souvenir photo.*

*Photo: Lowell Thom*

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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 2013 submissions: April 5, July 5, October. 4 and January 6, 2014.

# PRESIDENT'S *Report*

by William Y. Thompson

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be long remembered. Thanks to Wesley Deguchi and the Sons and Daughters, the program co-chaired by Clayton and Gwen Fujie was a huge success in all aspects. From the get acquainted lunch to the final presentation of Legislative resolutions honoring the 442<sup>nd</sup> on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the days were filled with delightful surprises.

The unexpected large mainland turnout by our fellow veterans and their families added to the gaiety of the occasion. It was a treat having folks like retired Major Jerry Gustafson of Cannon Company and his family; the Kashino's of Seattle; Lawson Sakai of northern California; the Shoho family from Placentia, California; Ron Yamada – the list goes on – celebrating with us.

The tribute at the luncheon to our departed and beloved Senator Dan Inouye was given a tender touch with the appearance of Mrs. Irene Inouye as our keynote speaker. Further, the presence of Dan's former military aide, retired Colonel Walt Kanekua added to our lasting memory of Dan. The Colonel is now on Senator Mazie Hirono's staff.

Governor Neil Abercrombie was in top form for the occasion. He posed with veterans and their families, he went about shaking hands with the veterans reminding us of his days as our Congressman and greeting the veterans as they paraded down the aisle. The Governor was at his best as he read his proclamation to the assembly.

At the memorial service in Waikiki, Lt. General Francis Wiercinski was surprised at the 21 photos of 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Medal of Honor winners – he expressed his amazement of so many in such a comparatively small Army unit. The General also joined in the presentation of the folded *tsuru* to the Medal of Honor recipients. One particular moment stands out during this event– which was the stunning performance

of the Waimalu Elementary School students and their singing of patriotic songs. It was a show-stopper!

The Smithsonian Congressional Gold Medal travel exhibit at the Bishop Museum arrived while we were engrossed in our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary details– a most unfortunate circumstance. We could not participate fully in this event and we conveyed our regrets to committee. However, we did appear at a panel discussion which ended with an enthusiastic crowd asking for details about the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

Resolutions/Certificates honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team were issued by the City Council sponsored by Councilmembers Ann Kobayashi and Stanley Chang. The Senate offered its resolution to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT which was handled by Senator Brian Taniguchi. The same day, the House offered its legislative resolution honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 442<sup>nd</sup>. This was handled by Representative Mark Takai assisted by Representative Scott Nishimoto.

And now comes a moment of respite as the veterans come up for air following such a dazzling program of observance. Still ahead of us is the future of 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club and how to ensure that what we achieved during WWII lives on as an inspiration to the future generations. For as we have stated, the 442<sup>nd</sup> can best be described in two words: Americanism and patriotism.



Gov. Abercrombie presents proclamation to Bill Thompson at 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Photo: Wayne Iha

## IN MEMORIAM



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

Asai, Joe Tokio (232nd Eng.)	Jan. 3, 2013
Handa, David M. (E Co./L Co.)	Dec. 21, 2012
Iwamura, Seishi C. (G Co.)	Jan. 7, 2013
Kajiwara, Kazuo "Kent" (K Co.)	Jan. 14, 2013
Kameda, Donald Akio (I Co./Serv)	Jan. 2, 2013
Murakami, George (I Co.)	Jan. 29, 2013
Nakamura, Iwao "Naka" (I Co.)	Dec. 22, 2012
Okazaki, Charles (H Co.)	Jan. 24, 2013
Sagawa, Dr. Masaichi (AT/MIS)	Dec. 29, 2012
Sugidono, Jiro (L Co.)	Jan. 19, 2013
Sumida, Jitsuo (K Co.)	Dec. 8, 2012
Tamura, Masao (2HQ)	Jan. 29, 2013
Uyetani, George (HQ Co.)	Jan. 2013
Yatsushiro, Kanji (Anti-Tank)	Dec. 27, 2012
Yoshino, George Sukichi (K Co.)	Jan. 21, 2013

## Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

### 442nd Veterans Club

Gerald Gustafson	\$100
<i>(In Memory of Daniel K. Inouye, E Co.)</i>	
James Miyamoto	\$ 50
Irland & Kathy Tashima	\$100
<i>(In Memory of Toshi &amp; Jose Kadowaki, F Co.)</i>	
Harold Watase	\$100
<i>(In Memory of Donald Akio Kameda, I Co.)</i>	

### Go For Broke Bulletin

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Kinoshita	\$100
Mr. Bill Taketa	\$ 25



*Remembrance Service Medal of Honor display with folded tsuru*

*Photo: Lowell Thom*



News from the

## EDITOR'S DESK

by Henry Kuniyuki

### A Thousand Winds

“Watashi no ohaka no mae de Nakanai de kudasai  
Soko ni watashi wa imasen, Nemutte nanka imasen;  
Sen no kaze ni Sen no kaze ni natte  
Ano ooki na sora wo fukiwatatte imasu  
Aki ni wa hikari ni natte Hatake ni furisosogu  
Fuyu wa daiya no you ni Kirameku yuki ni naru,  
Asa wa tori ni natte Anata wo mezamesaseru;  
Yoru wa hoshi ni natte Anata wo mimamoru,  
Watashi no ohaka no mae de Nakanai de kudasai;  
Soko ni watashi wa imasen Shinde nanka imasen;  
Sen no kaze ni Sen no kaze ni natte  
Ano ooki na sora wo fukiwatatte imasu;  
Sen no kaze ni Sen no kaze ninatte  
Ano ooki na sora wo fukiwatatte imasu;  
Ano ooki na sora wo fukiwatatte imasu.”

Japanese singer-songwriter, Man Arai, composed this poem. It is published in fond memory of our distinguished comrade, the late Senator Daniel Ken Inouye.

Go for Broke Bulletin Co-Editor Henry Kuniyuki, newly appointed by 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club President, Bill Thompson, has many good memories of associating with the late Senator Dan. We both served in the “Rijikai,” the McCully Japanese Language School Student Body Government. During our annual “Rijikai” party, Dan entertained us playing his favorite song, “Danny Boy.” Before the start of World War II, we both served in the First Aide Stations, he at Lunalilo Elementary and I at Punahou School campus. During those early years, Senator Dan had the ambition of becoming a physician. After the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team was relieved from occupation assignment in Italy, our Troop Ship was met at the New York Harbor by Dan, standing alone on the pier.



L-R: Chapter Secretary Takamori Miyagi, the late Senator Daniel Inouye and Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto

Whenever the RHQ members go on Docent Duty at the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery, we have the Security Officer on duty escort us to Dan’s final resting place to lay a lei of Aloha.



## Feature Story

### History of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion (USAR)

The history of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment began with the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Naval Forces on December 7, 1941. The AJAs (Americans of Japanese Ancestry) who were in the Hawaii National Guard had their rifles taken away shortly after the December 7 bombing. With the attack on Midway Island imminent, the Army was unsure of the loyalties of AJAs. The military then formed the Hawaiian Provisional Battalion consisting of 1300 men and 29 officers, and in light of the coming Midway battle, on June 5, 1942, sent them to the mainland for training.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Provisional Battalion landed at Oakland, California, and traveled to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and was assigned to the Second Army. There the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion achieved excellent marks during training besides winning the hearts of the Wisconsin people. The national mood against the Japanese community had softened by this time and convinced the military to rescind its “enemy classification” of the AJAs. President Franklin D.

Roosevelt authorized the formation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team on February 2, 1943.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT began its training at Camp Shelby in April 1943 with volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland. The 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion met with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT for a short time at Camp Shelby. In July 1943, the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion received its colors emblazoned with the motto “Remember Pearl Harbor.” On August 11, 1943, they were sent overseas to fulfill their mission to fight for their country. The 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed in Oran, Africa, and soon after was assigned to the 34<sup>th</sup> “Red Bull” Division for their combat assignment. The 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion landed at Salerno, Italy, and in September 1943, first saw action. During its stay with the 34<sup>th</sup> Division, the bravery of the 100<sup>th</sup> soon earned them the sobriquet “The Purple Heart Battalion.” Their depleted ranks were filled with replacements from the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT training in Camp Shelby.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT had finished its training on the mainland was sent overseas in May 1944, less its first battalion. They were assigned to the 34<sup>th</sup> Division at which time the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT as its first battalion. The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT then proceeded to earn the title as the most decorated Army combat unit of its size and length of service. During this period in Italy and France, the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT won eight Distinguished (Presidential) Unit Citations. With the war over, the unit was inactivated in August 1946.

In July 1947, the unit was reactivated in the Army Reserves in Hawaii and a new chapter began for the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The period between July 1947 and May 1968, saw the battalion undergoing several organizational changes from regimental to battle group, ending in the current battalion structure. During this period, the battalion provided individual personnel for the Korean War. All company grade officers and senior NCOs were recalled to active duty and participated in Operation Koolau with the 25<sup>th</sup> Division and Exercise Coral Sands with the 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade.

In August 2004, the battalion was mobilized for duty in Iraq and stationed 50 miles northwest of Baghdad with the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, Honolulu,

Hawaii. During its tour of duty, four soldiers were killed in action before the unit returned to Hawaii in January 2006. The battalion had outstanding success in discovering and destroying multiple large weapon caches. In August 2008, the battalion was again deployed in 2009 to Kuwait and Iraq performing over 1500 combat missions covering 1.3 million miles of roads and logistical support during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit returned home in August 2009 with the loss of two soldiers.

Today, the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442d Infantry (USAR) is one of the infantry battalions of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade (Enhanced), Hawaii Army National Guard. In December 1980, a detachment was activated in American Samoa to become Company B. Several months later, Company C was established in Guam and the Island of Saipan in the Marianas and in Hilo. In 1989, Company C was relocated to American Samoa. On February 15, 1999, Company A was inactivated and the next day Company E was established in Guam and the Island of Saipan. The spirit of “GO FOR BROKE” remains the working philosophy for the soldiers of today and will remain so in the future.

### **Change of Command**

On February 10, 2013, Lt. Col. Daniel J. Austin took over the command of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion 442d Infantry Regiment at a ceremony at Shafter Flats. Lt. Col. Austin succeeded Lt. Col. Horikawa who had led the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion since June 27, 2011.



*Lt. Col. Daniel J Austin and his wife, May Jane*

*Photo: Bill Thompson*

LTC Austin was raised in Dallas, TX, and following a 4-year ROTC in college, was commissioned into the Regular Army as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1988. He entered active duty as a 2LT in March 1989. His military career includes combat jump into Panama for Operation Just Cause. Eight months later he was in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm. He was in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. More recently, he was in Fort Bliss, TX, serving as BN XO. In 2011, LTC Austin was selected to command the USAR Theater Support Group, Oahu Detachment. He has an impressive list of awards

LTC Keith K. Horikawa, a native of Wahiawa, HI, started his military career with the Hawaii National Guard. LTC Horikawa joined the U.S. Army Reserve in 2003 with the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command serving as Deputy Provost Marshal until 2007 and then as Battalion XO for the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442d Infantry from 2007 until 2011. He deployed with the battalion in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2008 to 2009. He took command of the battalion in June 2011 from LTC Kimo Dunn and served as Acting Commander. During his tenure, he led the 100<sup>th</sup> Color Guard to Bruyeres, France, for a

Liberation Day ceremony in October 2011 and upon return, led the 100<sup>th</sup> Color Guard to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in November at Washington, D.C.

In his farewell message, LTC Horikawa thanked the Reservists for all their hard work, personal sacrifice, and dedication they put into the battalion, both on duty and off. In his remarks, Horikawa stated... “for putting their personal lives on hold to attend schools and additional training; for giving up their weekends with family, friends and the beach to put on the uniform and train in the heat and humidity of Guam and Saipan, the fields and streets of American Samoa, the red dirt of the Kahukus and East Range, and the lava fields and dust bowls of the PTA; for jumping on the computer after a full day of work or school to complete SSD, evals and emails- endless, endless emails; for all the reps, sets, and miles logged to maintain physical fitness; for doing the right thing and looking out for their subordinates and battle buddies between drill weekends; and the most importantly for leaving their families and loved-ones behind to deploy and fight for our Country overseas, as they have done several times already.”



*The Color Guard is front and center ready for the Change of Command*

*Photo: Bill Thompson*



by Henry Kuniyuki

Friendship is a Special Gift  
“The beauty of friendship is this...  
It cannot be made,  
Described,  
Or measured,  
For it is a precious gift  
Of the heart.”

This quotation by an unknown author brings t our mind the true comradeship of the Regimental Headquarters Chapter members as we gathered for friendship and dinner at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom in Waikiki to celebrate our grand 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, March 24, 2013.

Shirley Igarashi, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club’s Executive Secretary reported that the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Headquarters Chapter members participation totaled thirty. Sincere congratulations and mahalo to the Sons & Daughters Chapter responsible for planning and hosting the memorable annual program. After the gala evening the Chapter Historian and Reporter, Henry Kuniyuki, was informed by the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom Manager that a grand total of twelve hundred 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club members and guests were present.

For the record, the Regimental Headquarters Chapter members and guests were: David & Shinichi Endo; Lois Okazaki; Allison, Patric and Sean Palmer; Alan & Evelyn Ueoka; Sharelle Cadiente; Leslie Kayser; the Kelekolio Family, Jodie, Kimo & Payton; the Kuniyuki Family, Henry, Emi, Michael & Joyce; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Family; Yoshikatsu & Kate Maruo; the five Miyagi Family – Takamori, Brandon, Debbie, Michael & Ryan; Mr. & Mrs. Steve Molnar; and Jane & Susan Takara.

In all frankness, the Chapter Treasurer, Henry Kuniyuki, cannot verify the Chapter participants list as individual reservations were made. If the names of other Chapter participants were not listed, please

inform Henry Kuniyuki for verification. The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, perhaps, may have been the very last similar function due to the rapidly aging of the Originals. AMEN!

### Regimental Headquarters Chapter Potpourri

When the Regimental Headquarters National Cemetery Docent Volunteers, Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto, Vice President Yoshikatsu Maruo, Secretary Takamori Miyagi and Treasurer Henry Kuniyuki reported for Docent Duty on March 3, 2013, a visitor from the Mainland, Ms. Susan Dillion of Lynnwood, Washington State took a group picture. Chapter Treasurer dispatched a letter of appreciation to her.

At a recent Regimental Headquarters montly Chapter meeting, the Chapter President showed the members present a very memorable photograph of his Company “B,” 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT on POW Guard Duty. Due to his old-old-age, he simply cannot recall his GI buddies depicted. Thank you, Chapter President Noboru Kawamoto.



The Regt. HQ Edict for this issue is concluded with a quotation by an unknown author: “Live Simply – Love Generously – Care Deeply – Speak Kindly.”

Arrivederci!





by John Mikasa

Cannon Chapter meetings were held on February 13 and March 13 at Zippy's on Vineyard Street. The agenda at the meetings were discussions of the coming Anniversary matters, and plans to host the mainland visitors on Chapter Night. We also met to enjoy our congeniality.

The Anniversary brought only two mainland Cannoneer families: the Gustafsons and Nittas. Invulnerable Gerald Gustafson, the last remaining officer from Camp Shelby days, came with son Eric and daughter Debi. May Nitta, widow of Bill, arrived with sons Stewart and Matt, and family friend Stephany Flores. Debi and Matt are active Sons and Daughters mainland group for Cannon Chapter.

On Chapter Night, our mainland representatives were hosted with a Chinese dinner at Hee Hing Restaurant. Local chapter members attending were Mits and Esther Umeda, and John and Mary Mikasa with daughter Gail and son-in-law Gary Wingard, recent transplant from California. Other local Cannoneers could not attend. It was a pleasant evening recalling many past events.

The Anniversary Banquet was well represented, despite our dwindling membership. Gerald Gustafson with Debi and Eric from Arizona. May, widow of

Bill Nitta, with sons Stewart and Matthew from Colorado, and family friend Stephany Flores of Texas. Amy Mizukami, widow of Takeshi (Bolo) Mizukami from Maui, with daughters Janice Tsukada, Karen Apana, and grandson Matthew Lindor. Chisato Holck, widow of Wilbert, with family members Geralyn and Willard and Dana, Eric and Mary Ann Nemoto, Sandra and Leonard Souza; Holck's guests Dumitri Vandici and Pierre Moulin, author of "American Samurais WWII in Europe."

Harold Nakasone with family members Clendon, Scot, Derek, Lance, Noah, Leah, and Kendrick, Kristy and Seth Oki. Umeda family of Mitsuo and Esther with Wayne, Alan, Darlene, Jocelyn, Monica, Calvin and Nathan, Koan Kojima and Alice Ahn.

Akira Okamoto with Richard and Stephanie and Grant Akana. Akira Takahashi with wife Betty and son Mark. May Koike, widow of Masaru, with grandson Sean Schuyler. John Mikasa with wife Mary and daughter Gail and son-in-law Gary Wingard.

The Sons & Daughters organization did a great job with the celebration.

Yukisada Oshiro is still on the mend from hip injury in December. He missed the Anniversary activities, probably for the first time. He is recovering with physical therapy, and we all wish this loyal Cannoneer well. Also missing the anniversary for the first time, were the Tsuka Murakamis of Kauai due to their prior commitments. Daughter Judi is an active Sons & Daughters member. They will be at the Cannoneers reunion in Las Vegas next month.



*Cannon Co. veterans at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet*

*Left to Right:  
Gerald Gustafson, Mitsuo Umeda,  
John Mikasa, Akira Takahashi,  
Harold Nakasone, Akira Okamoto  
(seated)*

*Photo: Lowell Thom*



by Oscar Tsukayama

### The 70<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration

By far, the biggest event for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club for the last quarter, in fact, in the last few years, were the series of events planned and hosted by the Sons and Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. We take off our hats to co-chairs Clayton and Gwen Fujie and their committee and the Sons and Daughters Chapter for a job superbly done. You made us proud and we are humbled by the honors bestowed on us, but most of all, we are at peace knowing that continuing the legacy of the 442<sup>nd</sup> is in good hands. The theme for the celebration, “The Legacy Lives On” reflects the resolve of the Sons and Daughters to continue the work of perpetuating our legacy.

Knowing that others will be covering the details of each event, I will not dwell on that, but rather,

would like to report on how Medics members joined in the celebration. First, we had a number of off-island visitors to include, Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya from Gig Harbor, WA; Tosh and Fumi Yasutake from Seattle, WA with a party of 9; and Mitzie Inouye from Hilo, HI. Most active were our mainland visitors and Michele Matsuo and Allegra Matsuo Mossman who attended all the events and Jerry and Florence Ogawa who attended the memorial service, picnic and banquet with up to 18 family members. Richard Bauske, an S&D Chapter member who is Jerry Ogawa’s son-in-law served as chairperson of the memorial service, museum visit and picnic.

Fifty-one Medics family members attended the banquet. Leading the pack in numbers attending were Jerry and Florence Ogawa with 9. They included Kenneth Ogawa, Richard and Corrine Bauske, Daniel and Vivian Tully, Nia Ungacta and Seaton Atchara. Also with 9 were Tosh and Fumi Yasutake that included son Keith and daughter Linda with her family, Andre’ Komber, Jim, Madi and Bento Williamson and Anna Towbridge. Following close behind were Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka with 7 that included Paul and Joan Watanabe, Francis and

Jenny Fong and Joan Miyagawa. Oscar and Suzy had 6 with Wayne, Nancy, Taryn and Travis Tsukayama, followed by Flora Umehara with 5 - Cindy, Sasha and Tia Taketa and Jason Nagamine. Betty Ogami was with a party of 3 with Susan Ogami Van Camp and Jerold Van Camp and the Matsuos showed up with 3 to include Brad Mossman, Michele Matsuo and Allegra Matsuo-Mossman. Couples included Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya, Jack and Marian Yamashiro and Howard and Dorothy Kozuma followed by singles, Iris Fukui, Mitzie Inouye and Kazuo Tomasa. Also present were John and Gloria Masunaga with daughter



Medics line up for photo. L-R: Howard Kozuma, Jack Yamashiro, Oscar Tsukayama, Toshiaki Tanaka, Jimmie Kanaya, Kazuo Tomasa, Jerry Ogawa and Tosh Yasutake. (Photo: Michele Matsuo)

Laura and husband Tadashi Kameda. However, they registered as E Co. Medics and were seated with E Co although he joined the Medics in the procession.

A disaster of sorts occurred during the procession. An announcement was made while we were waiting in line that there would be a slight delay and we were encouraged to sit on chairs that were provided for us. We decided that this would be a good time for a restroom break and 6 of us headed for the restroom which was located about 50 yards away on the far end of the foyer. A couple in the group relied on canes for walking and travel was at first gear speed. About ¾ of the way to the restroom they started announcing the beginning of the procession and Allegra who was our guidon bearer started worrying that they are going to call us soon and our men are walking in the opposite direction. I heard the announcement, “Medics Chapter, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club” while we were still in the restroom and Allegra led the march into the ballroom with only two veterans. Family members who were ready with camera wondered what was going on and sat down disappointed. When Allegra returned to the table Michele asked her what happened and quickly

decided that she would ask for a repeat of the Medics march. She hurried to the front to retrieve the guidon, left word to call the Medics again at the very end and rushed toward the foyer. Afraid that she might fall if she ran with the guidon, she took off her shoes and quickly assembled the remainder of the Medics who were now back from their restroom break to prepare for the procession. They called the Medics again at the very end and Michele led the six of us into the ballroom. Half-way through the procession, Michele realized that she was leading the group in stocking feet but hoped that everyone’s attention would be on the veterans not her feet.

We had a good turnout, the S&D put on a great program that we all enjoyed and it was fun to exchange greetings and talk story with friends, some of whom we had not seen in a long time.

### **Chapter Night**

Chapter night for the Medics was held on March 24 starting at 6 PM. Toshiaki Tanaka generously offered to host the event and the venue, of course, was Tanaka Saimin. When you hear



*Chapter Night at Tanaka Saimin*

*Sitting L-R: Gloria Masunaga, John Masunaga, Mitsuyo Tanaka, Tsutoe Taira, Fumi Yasutake, Suzy Tsukayama, Marian Yamashiro and Dorothy Kozuma.*

*Standing L-R: Lynn Kanaya, Toshiaki Tanaka, Kazu Tomasa, Tosh Yasutake, Jack Yamashiro, Howard Kozuma, Jimmie Kanaya and Oscar Tsukayama*

*(Photo: Michele Matsuo)*

“Tanaka Saimin,” you get the impression that it is a restaurant specializing in saimin. Their saimin is good, of course, one of the best in town; they make it the old-fashioned way. But their menu is varied and extensive, includes appetizers, salads, entrees, their daily specials and a long list of saimin dishes and has something to meet everyone’s taste. And their desserts, made by none other than son-in-law Paul Watanabe is “Broke da mouth quality.” Owners, CEOs, managers and operators, Paul and Joan Watanabe spent a lot of time with us to make sure that everything was okay and that we were having fun. And that we did. It was so fun to get together with our mainland and local friends some of whom we have not seen in a long time in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere.

Iris Fukui, who had other commitments could not attend but donated two Longs Drugs gift certificates as door prizes. Marian Yamashiro and Kazu Tomasa were the lucky winners. Twenty-three Medics family members attended. In addition to those shown in the photo, sons and daughters, Michele Matsuo and Allegra, Laura Masunaga and Tadashi Kameda, Keith Yasutake and Wayne and Gwen Sasaki participated in the event. A Big Mahalo to Toshiaki and Mitsuyo Tanaka and to Paul and Joan Watanabe for a fun and memorable event.

The Yasutakes from Seattle took advantage of this trip to Hawaii and decided to hold a family reunion in Kauai. Daughter Linda and family departed for Kauai on the 24<sup>th</sup> after the banquet to connect with other members of the family who flew directly to Kauai but Tosh, Fumi and Keith extended their stay in Honolulu another day to attend our chapter night. Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya vacationed in Honolulu for another week so we had a chance to get together with more lunches and dinners during their stay. It was a good reunion.

## **Donations**

Generous donations were received from Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya and from Tosh and Fumi Yasutake during their visits. We thank them very sincerely for their *omoiyari* (thoughtful consideration). Jimmie and Lynn writes, Thanks for all the good food and rides to the restaurants and events—please give our best to all. You all did a great job celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> activities. We hope to hear soon from the Yasutakes about their family reunion. We hope also that the Yasutakes and Kanayas and others from the mainland will join us for upcoming events.

## **Rest in Peace**

Learned from an obituary in the Star Advertiser that Herbert Hiroshi Okano, 89 died on March 13, 2013. Herbert was an original member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Aid Station. He was a retired high school teacher and counselor and a coffee and macadamia nut farmer in the post-war period. The obituary indicated that his wife Jane Akiko also died on the same day. Herbert died in the Kona Community Hospital on the Big Island while wife Jane died in the Maui Memorial Hospital. They are survived by son Darrell, daughter Laurie Landowski and two grandchildren.

Herbert was in a nursing home for a little over a year. After a fall, he was in a hospital for a while, and then was referred for rehabilitation and eventually to a nursing home with balance problems. He missed reading the GFB Bulletin and our Medics newsletter and asked his wife to call me if he didn’t get them on time. Jane would call me when they received them and explained how his eyes would light up and he would start talking about some of his army experiences when she read the stories to them. I had not heard from them for the last three months or so and am not sure at what point and why Jane moved to Maui. Our deepest sympathy to the Okano family.



by Okemura, et al

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon, we had 33 people registered. However, we had one no-show, unfortunately. Six veterans signed up but five were on hand. These were Robert Uyeda, Moriso Teraoka, Takashi Okemura, Bill Thompson and Yasunobu Shoho. At the last minute, Asami “Ace” Higuchi cancelled out due to illness. Two widows shared the moment with us, Sue Isonaga and Mitsue Sakamoto. Family members helped to fill the tables. Russell Shoho and his wife Barbara came from Placentia, California, to honor older brother Yasunobu. Andrea, Bill Thompson’s daughter, came from Texas to witness the program.

No neighbor island folks made it this year. In lieu of attending the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Yachiyo (Duke) Wataya donated \$100 to the anniversary committee.

A surprise was the selection of Headquarters 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion to lead the procession of veterans



James Okemura, grandson of Takashi, leads “roll call”

Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

into the banquet room. Carrying our Hq2nd guidon with pride was James Okemura, grandson of Takashi. Five veterans followed James, our guidon-bearer – so many of our boys were missing compared to earlier years.

The Saturday memorial service at Waikiki opposite the War Museum was attended only by Bill Thompson and his family. Those who chose not to attend missed an excellent program. The Smithsonian CGM travel exhibit was held during our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary events and many missed the opportunity to take in the exhibit.

### Sue Isonaga

In a new book entitled: “Japanese Eyes American Heart,” volume II, the stories of the unsung heroes of WWII are captured. This follows volume I which told the stories of the WWII veterans. The Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board published this book of those behind the scenes like Sue Isonaga. Sue, born Shizue Kobatake on Maui, was hired as maid by Robert L. Shivers and his wife. Shivers was the FBI agent in charge for Hawaii. In a story told by Ted Tsukiyama, Sue becomes a family member of the Shivers. They changed her name to Suzanne Shizue Kobatake, hence her familiar name of Sue. She dropped her dual citizenship which was a common thing during those days making her just an American citizen with no ties to Japan.

Then came the bombing of Pearl Harbor! Sue had a ring-side seat to history in the making. Thanks largely to the efforts of Robert Shivers, who stood by his firm conviction that there were no disloyal acts by the Nikkei community, the Japanese in Hawaii escaped the traumatic relocation of the mainland Japanese community to internment camps. Ted ends his story saying that the Shivers considered Sue a family member and Shivers insisted on giving the bride away when Sue married Herbert Isonaga. When the Shivers family will was read, Sue was surprised to see that she was included. Other sources of Sue and Shivers family can be found in Blake Clark’s book on Pearl Harbor and on the internet in an interview by the Center of Oral History.

## Obit

We sadly report the passing of Joyce Chieko Masunaga. She was the widow of Morris Masunaga, a veteran of Hq2ndBn and Company G. Morris left us before we sailed overseas and served with Company G overseas. Morris died many years ago. Surviving are the children Doreen Judd and Keith Masunaga. Six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren complete the family roster. Joyce died December 28, 2012. Services were held on Saturday, January 26, 2013, at the Nu'uanu Mortuary. Joyce was a familiar figure at our Chapter meetings, thanks to Herb and Sue Isonaga. Then she was confined to care facility a couple of years ago and that ended her attendance to our chapter meetings.

Major Susumu Yamada died on February 14, 2013. Services were held in early April. Yamada was one of original cadre that served as our NCOs when the 442<sup>nd</sup> arrived in Camp Shelby. He was known as a "by-the-book" platoon sergeant of A&P platoon. After the bruising battle in the Vosges Mountains, Yamada won a battlefield commission to lieutenant. We lost contact with Yamada and to our surprise learned that he had remained in the Army rose to the rank of Major and made Hawaii his home after retirement. In recent years, he participated in two of our monthly chapter meetings. Then we lost contact again until our secretary was contacted by the family on April 4<sup>th</sup>. We did not get the details of Yamada's service.



by Ron Oba

*Lottery for now?  
Everyone needs money  
Something for nothing  
(QUID PRO QUO)*



Irene Hirano Inouye & Ron Oba

Photo: Wayne Iha

Irland and Kathy Tashima donated to our coffers; thank you very much. Thank them at: 5519 Hidden Court, Sylvania, Ohio 43560. That's the Buckeye state.

The Chinese Lunar New Year in 2013 welcomes the year of the Snake, which will bring balance, harmony and good fortune for most signs of the Chinese zodiac which is based on a 12- year cycle with each year represented by an animal sign. Those born in snake years are observers or charmers who are intuitive, introspective, intelligent, materialistic and prone to jealousy. People can bring good fortune into the home by displaying snake images (oh, but make sure it's a friendly snake) for good energy and luck. Also roll oranges or tangerines which represent gold and treasures through the front door. Gold will continue to go up, up, up. Lucky colors include pink, red, blue, green and black. Just to be on the safe side, wear a lucky charm as I did during the WWII in Italy and France. Side bar: we were deathly afraid of rattlesnakes and water moccasins while training in the boondocks in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Sooo, snakes are friendly??

## Change of Venue

We now meet at the Likelike Drive Inn since our Zippy's Happy Hour room was getting crowded. Anyhow we met at Richard's where George and

Richard collaborated in planning for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Richard's daughter rented a room at the Tapa Tower, Hilton Hawaiian Village, the host venue, and set up a hospitality room. The following signed up for the celebration: Jim Charos, the Deguchis – Yasunori, Alissa, Amanda, Marivic, Wesley; Monica Delanty; Joann Gronberg; Hoopii – Kauhi, Rae; Ikeda – Takeo, Akiko, Duane, Glenn, Howard, Lynette, Pamela, Sharon, Travis; the Kajiyamas – Glenn, Kim, Nicole; Dr. Ellen Sawamura; Enoch Kanaya; Jeanne Katayama; Andrew and Wataru Kohashi; Jan Kusakabe, Mamea – Manu, Tama, and Toa; James and Peggy Mita; Frank Mizufuka; Dustin and Jennifer Monroy; Dorothy and Richard Murashige; Joslyn Tabios; George and Myrtle Nakasato; Ron and Michi Oba; Tommy and May Tamagawa; Tajiro and Ruth Uranaka; Jane Akita; Lew Keimi; Betty Makabe; Miriam Stevens; Mineo and Sachiko Inuzuka; Sally and Tom Hamamura; and Steve and Dorothy Shimizu. The memorial service was held at Fort DeRussy with a tour of the museum where numerous 442<sup>nd</sup> artifacts and the 21 Medal of Honor recipients are displayed. A special General Eric Shinseki memorial was displayed. A family picnic ensued with bento; then to the Jade Dynasty Seafood Restaurant for a 9-course dinner for 50+ members and guests. Again, George did a fantastic job in seating and entertaining the diners.

### **Shinnen EnKai**

Twenty-four members (Tsune and Betty did not attend) wives and friends came to celebrate the New Year's with a Banzai, Salute, Cheers and Hail Mary with a cocktail of Champagne brought by Mineo. Everyone brought door prizes for lucky numbers and was shared. The food was delectable by Natsunoya's standard as we satiated ourselves with their piping hot shrimp tempura and the rest was anticlimatic. Nah, we enjoyed every bit of the rest of the umai mono. Jr. Uranaka brought his father-in-law's kilned pottery and the lucky ones got to choose them. As usual Dorothy helped with the lucky numbers. George updated the members regarding the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary events.

### **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Has it been that long? I remember as an 18-year-old teenager we volunteered into an all-Japanese-American unit, the 442<sup>nd</sup> REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. Remember Governor John Burns entreating the young boys, "You are on the SPOT! YOU MUST volunteer to prove your loyalty." He kept repeating this over and over. I did not take kindly to this. Proverb: if you walk like a duck, swim like a duck and quack like a duck, you must be a duck." So I said to myself, I was born an American, schooled as an American and spoke like an American, so I MUST be an American!! Like 4,800 Hawaii boys and 1,500 boys from the internment camps, we volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and trained at Camp Shelby, where a Southern Senator said that we were sent to the hell-hole of the 48<sup>th</sup>. The Hattiesburg American newspaper, Bob Katayama kept a copy, headlined that the "Japs Invade Mississippi." We were barely 17-18-19 and were designated draft eligible; however, the government redesignated us as 4-C, enemy aliens. The government virtually took our citizenship without due process. During extreme emotional times, our government didn't know right from wrong. However, we were given rifles to shoot to kill; we trained hard and broke nearly all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army records: obstacle courses, 24-mile marches and we sleepwalked at night while marching; is that possible? 8-mile forced marches on the West Drill Field and back to the hutments. In those days we were told not to drink water but to take salt tablets. This made it worse as many boys had heat exhaustion and fell during the marches. First Sgt. Jack Wakamatsu rattled off numbers and specs of the Garand Rifle, Tommy guns, and BARs. He was a walking encyclopedia. Pfc Takeuchi said that he never shot at an enemy but shot into the air. Roy Iritani witnessed Hideo Yamada killed by a sniper in Bruyeres. It's deadly to be the point man. Goichi Suehiro pulled out a shrapnel from his belly button and didn't want to go to the hospital because he said, "The boys need me." Kats Nakamura lamented, "We're using Civil War strategies! Who's a damn fool to stand in front of the mortars and direct fire? Or dig slit trenches on the forward slopes and don't fire until you see the

whites of their eyes!” We earned 8 Presidential Unit Citations, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, etc. and commendations; 12 from the French and 4 from the Italian Governments. We did the fighting for them, who were like fries and spaghetti. You can’t hurt anyone by being half-fried or whip the enemy with a wet noodle. They’re not like Mel Gibson and the Brave Hearts. Approximately 800 were KIAs, 4,000 Bronze Stars and 9,486 got the Purple Hearts and most of all the boys earned 21 Medals of Honor. Our Kiyoshi Muranaga was one of the MoH recipients.

As in the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary Wes Deguchi’s twin daughters, Alicia and Amanda carried the company’s guidon as Fox veterans foot-stepped into the banquet hall to precede the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Later, the veterans marched onto the stage and sang the “Go for Broke!” song led by legendary Yanagihara. Irene H. Inouye spoke about her husband, the Honorable Daniel K. Inouye. Gwen Fujie was in charge of setting up the various events and programs.



Veterans get ready to sing “Go For Broke” song  
 Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

Today the various units still meet monthly to savor their camaraderie. The Memorial Service at Fort DeRussy rekindled the hardships and happy times we spent together in drills, maneuvers, forced marches,

chiggers, ticks, Rattlesnakes and Water Moccasins. Yet we reminisce the steaks and Southern fried chicken and the USO where the Mississippi Ladies served us Strawberry Milk Shakes and Sodas and at Hattiesburg where the young kids sold us ice water for 10-cents a cup during the hot summer months. Watermelons were plentiful but Capt. Akins wouldn’t let the boys buy them, saying that 50-cents per watermelon was too expensive. The boys bid and bought them anyway. The boys refused to eat Rutabagas, hominy grits, liverwort, Kohlrabi, mutton (the smell can kill you), Black-eyed peas, Brussel Sprouts, pig corn and powdered eggs. On weekends we had cold cuts of ham and cheese sandwiches. Local boys didn’t know how to eat cheese. Some of the boys danced with the white girls and fights started with the jealous white boys. Where are they now? Some veterans do not care to join - memories are too unforgiving. We are rapidly diminishing as we get into the 90ths. There are only 6 members attending our monthly Fox meetings. Of 600 attendees about 78 veterans attended last year’s anniversary banquet. F Co. now numbers 6 instead of the 20 or so, several years ago. Joe Tanaka, Katsuji Nakamura (wife Grace is at the Maluhia apartments), Mike Tsugawa, Stanley Matsumura, and Paul Yamashita were the last to leave us.

George and Richard are doing a good job in planning all the events for Fox members. George Nakasato did a tremendous write-up of the 442 Foundation Mission and Goals.

**In Memoriam**

Received word from Sally that her husband Lt. Pasquale T. Valenti, (retired) died on December 30, 2012. He was set to debark in Sicily since he was a Sicilian but he refused and joined the 91 Inf. Div. then eventually joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. They moved from New York to retire in Florida. Email: [Gramv8@aol.com](mailto:Gramv8@aol.com). Send Sally the condolences.

Our sincere condolences to the Valentis (4732 Cypress Dr. S., Boynton Beach, FL 33436), and recently; Shinako (Mich) Takata.

C’est fini, ciao, au revoir, auf wiedersehen.





by Yutaka Yoshida & Mildred Tahara

I was so sorry that I wasn't able to be with you all at the reunion, but I happily received a visit from some of our out-of-town H Company members! Shown here filling me in on the reunion happenings are Hideo and Chieko Onoda and Mike Tsuji.



Many thanks to Mildred Tahara for submitting the following news.

Sad to report the passing of 3 of our H Co. members:

1. Charles Isao Okazaki – 1/24/2013
2. Sadao Tachibana – 3/7/2013
3. Tadashi Kunishige – 3/7/2013

Charles Okazaki served as our Honolulu H Co. president for about 20 years. He did a good job in keeping our members together.

American Heroes – World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal exhibit at Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum on March 9, 2013 was a special early morning exhibit for 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup> and Military Intelligence. Retired Maj. Gen. Robert

G.F. Lee was the key speaker. His praises of the Nisei soldiers and Senator Daniel Inouye, brought tears to many there. The Congressional Gold Medal and Nisei Soldiers exhibit will be there until April 14, 2013 – don't miss this!

March 20<sup>th</sup>, Recognition at City Hawaii was sponsored by Council members Stanley Chang and Ann Kobayashi. Three 442<sup>nd</sup> members were there to accept the certificate – William Thompson, Akira Okamoto and Robert Kishinami.

March 23, Fort DeRussy, Waikiki – Joint Remembrance Service was held with prayer and speakers. The Army Museum welcomed everyone there to review the display. Bento lunch was ready after the museum tour and the group enjoyed playing games later. The Sons & Daughters even had some dancing going on.

March 24, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom. The banquet room was full with veterans, family and guests. H Co. had 47 members and family participating. It was very touching to see some veterans walking, limping, some with canes and in wheelchairs, marching into the banquet room led by young guidon bearers. An H Co. guidon bearer was Gillian Tanaka, grandson of Robert and Yoshi Kishinami. Guy N. Kishinami was also a guidon bearer. The program was well organized and we enjoyed it very much.

H Co. had 3 veterans from off-island signed up for the banquet. Hideo Onoda and his wife from Chicago, IL; Mike Isamu Tsuji and son Andrew from Los Angeles, CA; and George Harada from Molokai – unfortunately he was hospitalized several days before the banquet and missed the celebration. Hope he is feeling better now. 442<sup>nd</sup> souvenirs from Honolulu H Co. were presented to our 3 visitors.

A belated Bronze Star Medal was posthumously awarded to Charles Okazaki at the banquet and was accepted by his sons Craig and Eric Okazaki.

Take care and see you at the next banquet – or even sooner at our next H Co. meeting!



by Sat & Jane Shikasho

### 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet

What a memorable weekend it was to be treated like royalty at all the events the Sons and Daughters planned and executed to celebrate this unforgettable ceremony. Thank you S&D and all those who assisted with the monumental task to make the weekend an extra special experience that the veterans will remember.



L-R: Satoru & Jane Shikasho, Sam Furuya, Sunako Oye, Irene Nakamura, Frances Aoyama Photo: Pat Thomson

3HQ members and guests who attended the banquet:

#### Members (\*indicates widows)

- Frances\* Aoyama
- Elaine and Tommy Tamashiro
- Irene\* Nakamura
- Janet\* Matsuda
- Jane and Sat Shikasho

#### Guests

- Sunako Oye and daughter Tish from Seattle, Wa.
- Aimee Shu (daughter of Hajime Matsuura, RHQ Co)
- Harold Meheula (friend of Aimee)
- Karen Kikukawa (daughter of Frances Aoyama)

#### Families

- Harumi and Sam Furuya (members)
- Keith and Sharla (son)
- Corey, Lysie (children)
- Nelson and Lisa (son)
- Ryan (child) – We thank Ryan for being the HQ3 guidon bearer.
- Lori and Glenn (daughter)
- Jenner, Jared, Jalyn (children)
- Yaeko\* Kuwata
- Clive, Stacy, Wayne (sons)
- Helen Matsushima (sister)
- Wally Sekia (friend of Helen)
- Nancy Toyama (sister-in-law)

### A Very Special Mahalo

Due to a foolish error, we left home too early and arrived at the Capitol building about two hours before the Senate opened their doors to honor the 442<sup>d</sup> RCT with a certificate.

While sitting on the cold concrete platform, an angel came by and arranged for us to sit in a warm, comfortable room in the office of Senate President Donna Mercado. Terrance Aratani (son of Terry Aratani, Co. I), who works there provided us with necessities. We are grateful to all for your thoughtfulness and caring.



Guidon bearer Ryan Furuya with Satoru Shikasho (left) and his grandpa Sam Furuya Photo: Wayne Iha

## **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team - by Gwen Fujie**

Dear Veterans,

According to many of you, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team was a resounding success! We couldn't agree more. The Sons & Daughters Planning Committee "wen go for broke" for ten months and we think we did okay. Our major objectives were 1) to celebrate your 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in grand style, 2) to bring your stories and legacy to the forefront in the minds and hearts of the people in the entire community, and 3) to bring the younger generation into the legacy ohana. After months of planning, we feel we were able to meet our objectives in the activities of those few days. There were many who helped make that happen and to whom we are grateful. I would like to mention the following two.

At the end of December we began work with KIKU television's general manager, Phyllis Kihara, and her colleague, Roy Kimura, of Vertigo Project, in the design and production of four Public Service Announcements. The beautiful PSAs began airing hourly during the entire New Year's week on KIKU television and on a regular basis up until the big weekend, March 22 – 24. Phyllis also took it upon herself to contact her colleagues from the other major t.v. stations to run the PSAs throughout the month of March. They willingly complied. The PSAs touched the hearts of thousands of viewers across the State and helped us to gain the support of the community at large and it also brought awareness of the celebration to our veterans, veteran widows, and all their friends and family members. Thank you, Phyllis!

The Hawaii Herald Japanese American newspaper and Editor, Karleen Chinen, is also to be thanked for their tremendous support of our objectives. Karleen helped by giving print space for essays and stories from early on in our PR efforts. It began with the lovely and touching essay in January by Marisa Kashino, granddaughter of Shiro "Kash" Kashino and continued every other week with a story that showcased the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, culminating with

the Special Edition on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a gift to each of the 1,200 attendees at our "Legacy Lives On" closing banquet. Karleen's reprinted articles from past anniversaries were most appreciated and brought back sweet memories for many of you. I hope everyone reading this report will continue their subscription, or start subscribing and support the Hawaii Herald so it may continue its valuable work as the newspaper for and about the Japanese American community in Hawaii. Arigato and Ippei Nihei Deebiru to Karleen and her hard working staff at the Herald.

The very first recognition of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary came on Sunday, December 16, 2012 as the Oahu AJA Baseball Association honored our veterans with the ceremonial First Pitch at their 2012-2013 Season Opening Game. 200 young men from throughout the island of Oahu lined the field in uniform at the Patsy Mink Central Oahu Regional Park to pay tribute to our veterans as their young families and friends looked on. We passed out flyers of information about the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the upcoming events for 2013. It was wonderful to see so many young men stand in line to shake the hands of our veterans and say "thank you for your service." As a sansei, I grew up with my dad and his 442 buddies playing AJA baseball and softball and it was great to see the next generation now doing the same and also recognizing those who came before them. Each team member proudly wore the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary patch on their uniform throughout the season, as did the league umpires.

The Oahu AJA League is over a hundred years old and is perhaps the longest running community baseball league in the country. To me, the AJA League is not just about baseball. It is about carrying on tradition and living the legacy of those who came before them. This past year hundreds more yonsei and gosei and their families learned about the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, some for the first time, through the recognition that the League gave them. Our veterans were once again honored on April 6, 2013 at the Les Murakami Stadium at the University of Hawaii for the ceremonial First Pitch at the State AJA Tournament. Hundreds

of fans of all ages were there. Personally, I am happy to say that my dad's team, McCully, took the State championship this year! They must have had added luck for having listed the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion, clearly on the back of their tee-shirts! Go for Broke, McCully!

Our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary week began with a formal recognition at City Hall with proclamations sponsored by Council members Chang and Kobayashi. It was televised live on Olelo Community television as it took place on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The first official reunion activity started early Friday morning on March 22<sup>nd</sup> with the tour to Honouliuli Internment Camp. Thanks to Janice Yokoyama Trubitt, niece of Medal of Honor recipient, Sadao Munemori and chair of the tour, everyone had a great experience and were glad they went. We thank the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) for their generous support in hosting this activity. For more information on the JCCH Honouliuli project, please visit their website at [www.jcch.org](http://www.jcch.org). or go to the website on "The Untold Story."

Then at 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. the "At Ease" reception was held at the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Clubhouse in Honolulu with lots of food, fun and fellowship. Veterans and family members came to get acquainted, renew old friendships with our mainland and neighbor island veterans and families, and learn more about the upcoming events for the

weekend. Logo and Chibi merchandise sales went very well and everyone had a nice time talking story "at ease." 442 daughter, Laura Hirayama, and her committee from both the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT sons and daughters did a great job. We sincerely thank the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion ohana for their support of our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. They were most accommodating with the use of their Clubhouse and manpower and we, 442 sons and daughters, had fun getting to know them better, too!

The "At Ease" event was followed by an important gathering of sons and daughters and other descendants of all Nisei soldiers. This meeting began at 6:00 p.m. led by Leonard Oka. He and his fellow Sons and Daughters of the Maui Nisei Veterans organization came with a ton of delicious food and a full agenda of mini-seminars focused on how we, as individuals and organizations, can best carry forth the legacy of our Nisei soldiers. The meeting was well attended with 90 people from 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, 100<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn, 1399 Engineers and MIS descendants and friends. A few veterans and wives were also there. For more information on the presentations, please email Leonard Oka at [Leonard@mutualunderwriters.com](mailto:Leonard@mutualunderwriters.com). Much kudos to Leonard for organizing this important meeting! Leonard is the son of Clarence "Hekka" Oka, L Co.

Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, began with our Remembrance Service at 9:00 a.m. at the front of the U.S. Army Museum at Ft. DeRussy, Waikiki. In keeping with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary theme, "The Legacy Lives On," the entire program was presented by the "next generation." From the emcee to the prayer offerings, the Waimalu Elementary Chorus to the college student keynoter, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, the JROTC from McKinley, Roosevelt and Punahou schools - all participants were young people and all of them were proud and honored to be a part of the program.

We paid special tribute to the Medal of Honor recipients, including our late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, with their individual framed photos draped with ti leaf lei on center stage. In lieu of the typical wreath, white origami cranes (tsuru) were presented



Scene at "At Ease" reception

Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

by military and veteran groups as well as all the major Japanese American community organizations. The white cranes, a symbol of peace and hope for the future, were lovingly made by Geri Nishizawa Baenen of Seattle, WA, daughter of Toshio “Bulldog” Nishizawa of 522<sup>nd</sup> FAB. As Jake Shimabukuro’s “Go for Broke” melody played in the background, each of the presenters made their way to the stage holding a tsuru in the palm of their hands to lay at a MoH recipient’s photo or the Helmet, Boot and Rifle, symbol of the fallen soldier. There was not a dry eye in the audience, especially when the last tsuru was presented by a Junior Ambassador from the Japan America Society of Hawaii (JASH) who presented a special tsuru made by the children of Bruyeres, France.

The tsuru traveled 8,000 miles from Bruyeres, via Ed Hawkins, President of JASH. Mr. Hawkins was already scheduled to visit France before being invited to present a tsuru on behalf of his organization. Knowing he would return to Hawaii the day before the Service, he kindly made arrangements to have a tsuru made by the children of Bruyeres while he was there and brought it back with him in time for the service. To the people of Bruyeres the tsuru represented their heartfelt gratitude for the 442/100<sup>th</sup> for the hard won liberation of their village 69 years ago. They were delighted to be a part of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Service via their tsuru.

The powerful keynote speech given by University of Hawaii Hilo student, Evan Matsuyama, grandson of 442 veteran, Don Seki, reminded us all, especially the youth of his generation, to never forget our Nisei soldiers and what was sacrificed for us. He ended with a rousing “Go for Broke!” charge to everyone in the audience. The veterans loved it.

The Remembrance Service was chaired by Irvin Yoshino and his son, Aaron, served as emcee, while wife, Lisa, helped with the tsuru presentation. Irvin’s dad was the late George Yoshino of Company K who recently passed away in late January. Their labors were in honor and loving memory of him. After the Service many enjoyed touring the U.S. Army Museum while the seating under the tent was

reconfigured into a picnic setting. The strong men of the 100<sup>th</sup> Bn 442d Infantry Regiment USAR were there, as usual, to lend muscle power before, during and after the day’s event. Mahalo to CSM Beau Tatumura and Sgt. Chris Arakawa!

The Saturday “old-fashioned” picnic was a fun-filled afternoon of games, delicious bento, lots of door prizes, music from the forties and even a dance floor. The creativity of the Picnic Committee members made the “Basic Training” obstacle course a fun one that children and parents alike enjoyed. From the Geta Race to the Golf Ball and Spoon relay, and the choosing of prizes – everyone left with smiles and happy memories. Emcee “Mc”Laughlin Tanaka entertained the families in his living historian WWII outfit and dazzling personality as he gave out many door prizes.



“Bolo” Shirakata (206<sup>th</sup> Band) and Gwen Fujie Photo: Stan Oka

General Chair for Saturday was Vietnam vet and Bronze Star awardee, Richard Bauske, assisted by Lynne Calvet. The picnic program chair was Anita Nihei. They did an amazing job of coordinating logistics, food, and fun! Thank you to all who donated prizes and who worked that day at registration, food, water, the origami booth and the popular shave ice stand, donated by Stacey Hayashi and her crew. Thank you also to the U.S. Army Museum for their support.

Then came the big day! Sunday, March 23, 2013, the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Banquet “The Legacy Lives On” at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. With 1,200 people in attendance

and more on a waiting list, the 169 veterans who were able to be there, were in awe of the many who came to pay tribute to them and their Nisei soldier brothers. The ballroom doors opened at exactly 10:30 a.m. with the dramatic drums from Hawaii Matsuri Taiko and the formal Procession of the veterans led by the bagpipes of Alan Miyamura and the Sabre Arch by the Punahou JROTC. Each company guidon was proudly carried in by a descendant of a veteran and as the men marched in the people cheered and applauded. It was a proud moment for the veterans as well as their guests.

The National and State Anthems were sung by Julianne Miho Johnson, granddaughter of the late Katsugo Miho, of the 522<sup>nd</sup> FAB. Julianne did an inspiring job for being only 11 years old! Julianne's coach was Sandy Tsukiyama, daughter of Ted Tsukiyama of 522 FAB and MIS. Sandy and her professional musicians offered the fabulous music from the 40's during lunch. Thank you, Sandy!



Julianne Johnson, Jim Howard, Sandy Tsukiyama Photo: Wayne Iha

The new officers of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Veterans Club were introduced and a special presentation was made to President, Bill Thompson, by MIS president, George Arine, of the European War Surrender Agreement. The presentation was followed by the awarding of the Bronze Star to the late Charles Okazaki of H Company and to Harold Kudo of M Company, by Major Gen. (Ret.) Robert G. F. Lee.

An excerpt from the current Kumu Kahua Theatre play, "All That Remains," was featured with eight young male actors on stage led by the grandson of Masato Doi of Anti-Tank Company, Christopher

Masato Doi, of New York City. For information on the play please visit [www.kumukahua.org](http://www.kumukahua.org).

The Kansha Awards were presented to Ted Tsukiyama, the late Katsugo Miho, and the 100th Bn 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment USAR for their contributions to our community and sharing the legacy of the Nisei soldiers in their life work. Their tireless efforts over the years has helped the Sons & Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT carry out their mission of support to the veterans while sharing their stories with future generations.



Ted Tsukiyama receives Kansha Award

Photo: Pat Thomson

A special tribute was made to our beloved Senator, the late Daniel K. Inouye, beginning with an ancestral chant by Kumu Loko olu Quintero followed by a video produced by the Center for Asian American Media and a very personal and moving tribute by emcee Matthew Nagato. Our keynote speaker, Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye, the late Senator's widow, gave an inspiring and memorable address. Her speech can be found in the April issue of the Hawaii Herald, which was included in the anniversary packet.

The Sons and Daughters along with the veterans that were able, then went up on stage to sing the Go for Broke song with gusto and pride! And, the event ended with the entire ballroom of people standing and singing "God Bless America" with the late, great, Kate Smith on screen.

What an amazing day it was for the honorees, special guests, committee members and all who came to simply say "thank you!" to our beloved veterans.

We want to thank Ann Kabasawa, daughter of Ray Nosaka, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, a true “right hand” woman for her tremendous work assisting us with the banquet. A special mahalo to Ann and the staff at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom for helping make Sunday a success. As co-chairs, Clay and I wanted to be sure that every person who came on Sunday would have more than a few “chicken skin” moments and that they would leave having had a greater understanding of “living the legacy” of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and be motivated to do so with gratitude.

The final day of recognition was on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol building. Senator Taniguchi sponsored the recognition in the Senate and Representatives Nishimoto and Takai sponsored the recognition in the House. Beautiful speeches were made from both sides.



*Veterans visit the “Mighty Mo” Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*

A special militaries tour organized by Ann Kabasawa took participants from the USS Arizona to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, to the C-17 “The Spirit of Go for Broke,” and to the USS Missouri. All entities offered their tours without charge because it was the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. The day ended with a screening of the documentary “Valor With Honor” at the Honolulu



*Veterans at Capitol to receive proclamations Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*

Museum of Art Doris Duke Theatre with director and producer, Burt Takeuchi, and honored guest, veteran Lawson Sakai, of California in attendance.

This 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was indeed special. So many good people and good circumstances came together at the right moment to bring the celebration properly to you. Our joy, as sons and daughters, was just watching you have a great time taking it all in. We were overwhelmed by this year’s response from individuals who sent in donations with gratitude in their hearts and many in remembrance of loved ones and in honor of you. We will make note in the Bulletin of those that came in after our program booklet went to press.



*Clayton & Gwen*

Finally, while many of you said thank you to us sons and daughters for putting together this grand celebration, we want you to know it was truly an honor for us. In the months and years to come please be assured that your sacrifice and heroic deeds of the past and present will not be forgotten. And, “The Legacy Will Live On” in each and every one of us who have had the great privilege to know you. Okage sama de – you are loved!

In gratitude, and on behalf of the Sons & Daughters of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT,  
Clayton & Gwen Fujie  
Co-chairs, 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club  
**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**  
 March 24, 2013, Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom



*Photos by: Wayne Iha, Hal Ing, Ann Kabasawa, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, Lowell Thom, Pat Thomson*



*MC Matthew Nagato*



*Governor Neil Abercrombie*



*Irene Hirano Inouye, Keynote Speaker*



*Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani and Bishop Eric Matsumoto*



*Piper Alan Miyamura leads roll call*



*LTC Austin and MG (ret) Robert Lee present Bronze Star (post.) to Craig Okazaki, son of Charles Okazaki (H Co.)*



*Mayor Kirk Caldwell & family with Frank Takao (MIS/442)*



*Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, Barbara Tanabe, Irene Inouye seated at head table*





*Lt. Col. Keith Horikawa and wife at veteran table*



*100<sup>th</sup> Inf Bn*



*Easy*



*Howe*



*George*



*171<sup>st</sup>*



*Hawaii Matsuri Taiko*



*232<sup>nd</sup> Engrs*



*Cannon*



*King*



*Medics*



*Item*



*Service*



*522B*



*Regimental HQ*



*442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 2013 Officers*



*Maui Delegation (l-r): Leonard Oka, Hiroshi Arisumi (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng), Fred Ruge, Stanley Izumigawa (100<sup>th</sup>)*



*Kazu Tomasa (Med) leads everyone in the "Go For Broke" song*



*Gov. Abercrombie greets Masao Fujioka (K Co.)*



*Gov. Abercrombie greets Masaharu Suzuki (Anti-Tank)*



*Sons & Daughters volunteers*



by Ed Yamasaki

### **NORWEST by Louise Kashino-Takisaki**

No sooner than I had submitted my last column, I learned that George Murakami had passed away! Because his daughter lives in Oregon, they had services for him three days later before I even heard about it. Anyway, George passed away on January 29th as result of complications from lung cancer, which was why he was in the nursing home for so long. He will be sorely missed by his wife Cora and the family, as well as his friends to whom he generously delivered a variety of vegetables from his farm in the White River Valley.

The weekend of the 70th Anniversary of 442nd is just a memory now. The Sons and Daughters did a wonderful job of coordinating and presenting a wonderful three-day program, which was enjoyed by all the participants. It started off with a social hour held at the 100th Club, and what was promised to be a *pupu* event, ended up to be a huge table full of a wonderful array of delicious offerings from many, many good cooks. Thanks to everyone for the wonderful get-together to start off the weekend. This was followed by a “retreat” for the Sons and Daughters from the outer islands and the mainland as well. I stayed to listen because the subject matters sounded interesting, and the young people did not kick us seniors out. Although both 100th and 442nd seem to have enough veterans still capable of continuing their respective clubs, I can see that with the maturing sons and daughters, there is enough leadership and interest that they will “continue the legacy.”

For the Kashino family, it was a great week of sunshine and rain, and just fun to be vacationing in Hawaii. Two of my group had never experienced a reunion, so it was an eye-opening, awesome experience for them to witness. We enjoyed every bit of it, but will let Eddie report about some details

from his perspective of the 70th Reunion. We had the wonderful pleasure of meeting Eddie’s two children, Mariko and Ted, who came from Japan, as well as Mariko’s daughter Eriko. I was pleasantly surprised to hear them speak perfect English, as I did not realize they had gone to International schools. Anyhow, all three had great personalities and joined right in with all the activities.

The I Co. veterans that I was able to meet up with were Harold Watase, Hiram Doi, Terry Aratani, Masa Kawamoto, Masa Nakamura, Taka Aragaki, and Eddie Yamasaki from Hawaii, plus Sam Sakamoto from California, and William Tosh Yasutake from Seattle. There were many wives and children attending – all to help their parents participate in this special event. Although it was wonderful to see old friends again, at the same time it was very sad to realize so many of our old friends were unable to attend, or have gone on before us.

With the loss of Dan Inouye, the program at the main banquet was a tribute to a very special man, featuring a DVD of Dan giving us a message of wisdom. Irene Hirano, his wife, gave a very meaningful talk as the featured main speaker. It seemed like was the closure to a wonderful 70 year history of 442nd RCT. Aloha!

### **SOCAL by Marian Yamashita**

It’s once again time for the quarterly newsletter. Hopefully, all of our friends are well and in good health which is very important at this time of our lives – GOOD HEALTH IS SO IMPORTANT.

From all reports from those who went to the 70th Anniversary Celebration recently in Honolulu, they had one great time. Everyone came away with great compliments.

Although Jim and I had some thoughts of being there, due to some physical problems, regretfully, we were unable to attend at this time. I guess we missed one great event!

Here in So. Calif. our I Company group has dwindled to a handful. George Buto is not doing great, but is still hanging in there. Also along with George and Jim, though not actively involved is Shiro Nagaoka who lives in Torrance and Yutaka Isefuku

and his wife who are living in Irvine, CA. Sure isn't fun getting old!

Some exciting news about Lonnie, Bea Matsumura's 14-year-old granddaughter—when she graduated from middle school, instead of going to high school, she jumped to college and is now attending Dominguez State College. She is also a great musician and is scheduled to appear as a pianist at Carnegie Hall in New York. How exciting is that at age 14! Grandma Bea is so excited for her.

Recently Frank Kinoshita took a tumble again and landed in a hospital for a few days but is now at home and doing well although he cannot hear too well. He has wife Tami write notes to him.

Had a little phone visit with Pat Okada, Enro's daughter. She says that her folks are quite elderly; but they are doing O.K. Father has slowed down a bit at 89 and mother, Yoneko, gets a little disoriented at times. They live with their son, Alan, in Yuma, AZ.

Recently the Public Library in Sierra Madre invited Mits Kunihiro (E Company) and Jim with Don Nose, Director of the Go For Broke Foundation serving as moderator, for a short panel discussion about the Niseis going into the military in WWII. Jim and Mits answered questions from the audience, many of whom were unfamiliar with the subject. Jim was surprised to see so much interest as more than 100 invited patrons of the library showed up.

### **Honolulu by Eddie Yamasaki**

#### Chapter Night by Stacey Hayashi

The evening of March 23 will be long remembered as having been very special for over 90 members of the Item *ohana*. It began with a surprise treat: A docent-led tour of the historic 'Iolani Palace, the home of Hawaiian royalty. As with any kingdom, our kings and queens had their struggles and achievements.

Strolling through the koa-laden halls and rooms of our nation's only palace was made more magical by the harp strings of Sharene Taba, a professional harpist and wife of Dean Taba, a nationally known jazz cellist who is the son of Nancy [Clarence] Taba.

Prior commitments prevented the jazz trio of Dean, drummer Noel Okimoto, and sax player Timmy Tsukiyama from doing sets for us.

*Mahalo nui* to Sharene, and many thanks to Doug Goto, CEO of Pacific Guardian Life, for his generous donation to The Friends of 'Iolani Palace, which made possible the evening's tour.

(A historical footnote: on March 23, 1943, 70 years ago to this day, the broad expanse in front of 'Iolani Palace was where the 442<sup>nd</sup> was shown an outpouring of support upon its organization and departure for training and combat.)

Item *Ohana* then retreated to nearby Kana'ina, the old archives building (possibly the nation's first archives building), for a local-style family party. First, dinner with two specialties: a genuine sushi station, with a Japanese chef deftly making *nigiri* of your pick of slices of a wide variety of fresh seafood: *maguro*, salmon, *hamachi*, *ebi*.... *Oishii!*

And an amazing spread of Hawaiian luau *kaukau* cooked by talented Jarrin Otake, nephew of Barney Hajiro. The extensive menu included 100 handmade *laulau* (so hard to make this!), poi, *lomi* salmon, *kalua* pig, *haupia*, fresh pineapple, and *mochi*. He even had his children serve us.

Then, to "draw" the curtain for entertainment, Eddie had to break through a high decibel level of conversation in order to deliver his words of welcome, words of remembrance of loved ones and dear friends missing from our midst, and words of appreciation to the performers in the musical to follow.

Enjoyed greatly was music by the Urizun sanshin band led by popular sanshin *sensei* Derek Ichiro Shiroma. The band included members Kevin Kunisaki and Derek's son Kaeo. *Eisa* (Okinawan Taiko) was also performed by Lisa Tamashiro, Ray Mier and their troupe, *Chinagu Eisa*, with Ray on the big drum, or *odaiko*. The lively music and colorful Okinawan dress moved a few to stand and dance in the crowded hall.

A touch of Hawaii closed the program: Julie Morikawa, "Cowboy" Kawamoto's niece, danced the beautiful hula as her mother sang and played the ukulele.

Rene Paulo, Bishop Matsumoto, Bea Yamasaki, and most of the *ohana* members registered for the March 24th banquet joined our party. Special guest was Col. Dan Austin, newly assigned commander of



L-R: Terry Aratani, Masa Kawamoto, Harold Watase, Taka Aragaki, Hiram Doi, Ed Yamasaki, Tosh Yasutake, Sam Sakamoto, Masa Nakamura Photo: Clyde Sugimoto

the 100/442nd Infantry Battalion Reserves. We missed CSM Beau Tatsumura, Sgt. Chris Arakawa, other reservists.

Adding all the “long time no see” and talk-story going on, our chapter night was indeed a great deal of fun.

Many thanks to all the Itemites and to the extended *ohana* of supporters who contributed their unique and special talents to make Chapter Night a wonderful, memorable get-together. Our eternal gratitude and aloha.

Note from Eddie: I cannot thank Stacey enough for her tireless devotion and service to 100/442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, especially to us of Item Chapter. Our Chapter Night was entirely her production. If you have an opportunity, do express to her a word of thanks.

#### 70th Anniversary Celebration by Eddie Yamasaki

Item extends congratulations and thanks to Co-Chairs Gwen and Clayton Fujie and S&D for a successful week of memorable activities; it reconnected veterans, widows, families and friends, and brought to the fore the legacy of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.

Our chapter attracted nearly 100 *ohana* members, the star performer being three-year-old Daniel, great-grandson of Ayako [Mutt] Sakumoto and son of Horio and Todd Oya, Horio being the daughter of Glenn and Kimio Sakumoto. Present also were Gary Sakumoto and wife Linda Nakamura.

The Sakumotos had a family count of eight to remember and celebrate Mutt’s 442<sup>nd</sup> service.

Families of six were common: Terry and Elsie Aratani came with two sons from California, Brian and wife Ann, and Terrance with his daughter Carol Hagihara. Masa and Helen Nakamura brought along Brian and Mae Nakagawa, Kelly Tasaki and Jadd Cortez. Hiram Doi assembled daughter Patsy with Chad Yamasaki and son Rodney with Dale and their daughter Amanda.

From Pearl City came regulars Peter [Masa] and Tetsu Kobashigawa with Cora Saludevers; Glenn [Barney] and Frieda Hajiro; and Harry Umetsu with David and daughter Elsie Shimokawa. Aiea as always sent us Ellen [Bruno] Yamada with Peggy Ann McCauge, and Dane [Sus] Sakaida; and from Hawaii Kai Carole [Lt. Abe] and Mike Sullivan with Mary Lou Toyama. From Aina Koa came loyal Gay [Koppe] Sakamoto.

From nearby Manoa were Nancy [Clarence] Taba and son Stuart. Nancy continues her early morning yoga meditation and does some driving.

From off-shore, they came too! The Kashinos of Seattle, while missing the presence of Shiro, carry their love of Item/442<sup>nd</sup> by never missing celebrations anywhere: Louise with Debbie, Maria, Bev and Shina, Nate Carlile and Bruce Inaba took in all weekend events. Sam and Yaeko Sakamoto from Soquel, CA joined us with Daphne “Kimi” Sakamoto-Steidl and her well-known writer Franz.

From Seattle, WA came Tosh and Fumi Yasutake with Keith.

Off-shore but closer to Honolulu, our enduring rancher Masa “Cowboy” Kawamoto – who says his Big Island North Kohala ranch now has only 50 heads of cattle – arrived with Eunice, daughter Janette, Dean and Dylan Snelling. From Hilo, Taka Aragaki with daughter Ginette and her husband Roy Kubo. Taka enjoyed thoroughly a two-night layover in Koloa, Kauai as guest of buddy Ikito Muraoka, who couldn’t join us at the 70<sup>th</sup> due to health problems.

Also from Hilo were Asa [Yuki] Naguwa and her family, son Alvin and Lamai, and daughter Sonya with her husband Alson. Asa has taken over Yuki's chore of gardening, taking care of her anthuriums growing under her ferns, and the large lawn with fruit trees.

Eddie Yamasaki flew in from Nagasaki, bringing along his daughter Mariko, granddaughter Eriko, and from Tokyo, son Ted. He also invited as his guests writer Tom Coffman with Lois Lee, writer Thelma Chang, former 442nd secretary Betty Tsukiyama, Club 100's Jayne Hirata and Alison Hayashi. Also Doug Goto, Representative Mark Takai, Stacey Hayashi, Kristie Fujiwara, and Alex Bocchieri, Vanita Smith, Kristie Novak and Tom Yamada.

Appreciated were new friends: Kim and Francis Akimoto, June Nakagawa, Susan Asaba, and Gary Matsudaira.

Present also was Charlie Takahashi with his guests Fred Ruge, Robert Chinen, Hideo Takahashi, and Tracey Betts, Director of the Honolulu Regional Office of the Veterans Administration. It is hoped that Charlie will make his amends for all his serious misdoings while seeking guidance from his late father Suguru.

We missed greatly Frank Shimada, Jim and Marian Yamashita who could not take the long plane trip. In sending regrets, they sent their best wishes to all.

In the above report, the names of all veterans and widows have been underlined. Banquet registrants for Item included twelve veterans and six widows.

As Item *Ohana* members slip all the good times into their memory banks, may I here take the liberty to say "Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!" to Terry for his fine job in taking care of all our registrations, to Stacey for an unforgettable Chapter Night, and to you all for joining in celebrating of our 70th anniversary events.

Take care!

Live Aloha, Eddie

## Sad News

George Murakami of Tacoma, WA

March 8, 1922 - January 29, 2013

We learned of George's death upon reading the NORWEST report by Louise Kashino-Takisaki. Drafted into the army in 1944, he joined I Company in southern France with the second group of replacements. In Italy for 442<sup>nd</sup>'s final campaign, he was hit by a concussion grenade near Carrara which required a two-months' hospital stay. He had a rank of Pfc. and was awarded a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Upon discharge, George entered a career in chick sexing which he had studied under the G.I. Bill. In his retirement years, he went into landscaping gardening; and on the side, he had a berry farm raising raspberry and blackberry.

George is survived by his wife Cora of 64 years, daughter Lois (Jeffery) Saito of Ontario, OR, and siblings Hinako Dogen, Isoko Yoshihara, Sueko Fujikado, Ken (Yoshiko) Murakami, Washin (Kathleen) Murakami, and grandchildren.

## Correction

In the last issue of the GBF Bulletin, we reported that George Takeo Okamoto of Honolulu had died, based on an obituary in the Honolulu Star Advertiser. We had erred in believing that this person was the I Company George Takeo Okamoto who, according to our Company directory, resides in Renton, IN. We apologize to George for any inconvenience we might have caused. Our thanks to Susan Uyemura for calling our attention to this error.



Gov. Abercrombie greets Eddie Yamasaki and Taka Aragaki  
Photo: Wayne Iha



by Eichi Oki

### A Late Report: King Chapter's 2012 Christmas Gathering

King Chapter's Christmas gathering was held on December 12, 2012 at the Pagoda International Ballroom and was well attended by many veterans, their families and guests. Louise Liu (daughter of Masao and Terry Fujioka) organized a memorable event with a few surprises.

Major General Robert Lee (retired) addressed the group of 68 people with a speech about the historical accomplishments in Europe by the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (442<sup>nd</sup>) including the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, which became the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 442<sup>nd</sup>. He also made a special presentation of the Bronze Star to several veterans of Co. K in attendance, namely, Masao Fujioka, Walter Heirakuji, Katsuye Kats Ibara, Kazuo Kent Kajiwara, and James Yanagida. Walter Heirakuji received the Purple Heart in addition to the Bronze Star. Assisting General Lee with the presentation was Colonel Robert Leshar from the Hawaii National Guard, who read each citation and also by Command Sergeant Major Beau Tatsumura. A personalized letter from the late Senator Daniel Inouye was presented to each of the Bronze Star recipients.



Seated (l-r): Masao Fujioka, Kent Kajiwara, Walter Heirakuji, James Yanagida  
Standing: CSM Beau Tatsumura, Kats Ibara, Maj. Gen. (ret) Robert Lee, Col. Robert Leshar

There were several special guests at the event including: Thelma Chang (author of "*I Can Never Forget: Men of the 100th/442nd*"), Russell Gouveia (Director of Operations) and Collene Nakano (Lead Agent) of Vacations Hawaii, Mildred Moriyama and Florence Hughes (sisters of Gordon Yamashiro, who died on the Vosges Mountains). We would like to extend a special thank you to Mr. Gouveia of Vacations Hawaii for its generosity in donating the most sought-after door prize for the past three years. The lucky winner of the trip for two to Las Vegas was won by Chris Mochizuki (son of Frances Mochizuki).

Rodney Miyamoto and his family for many years provided us with the delicious treat of homemade andagi which we all enjoyed. Seichi and Sally Sakaida, as they've been doing for the past 20 years, donated beautiful orchid and other plants, which decorated each table and were given out as door prizes. Masao and Terry Fujioka gave everyone a Co. K pen with the 442<sup>nd</sup> logo.

Other donors and the items they donated are as follows:

- Masao Fujioka Family - 10 Goody bags
- Katsuye & Nora Ibara - 2 Longs Gift Certificates
- Molly, Kirsten & Scott Kajiwara - 2 pkg Christmas Goodies
- Harry Kanada - Biancchi Watch & Dark Glasses set
- Collene & Donald Nakano - 2 Longs Gift Certificates
- Kaitlyn, Mariko & Robert Nagata - 1 pkg cookies, 1 pkg hand soap, 1 pkg arare with \$15 Longs Gift Certificate
- Helen & Curtis Noborikawa - (2) \$25 Cash
- Stanley & Minne Sakuma - 2 Zippy's \$25 Gift Certificates
- Ronni & Dan Sakuma - Trader Joe's Goody Bag
- Ruth & Benty Tachibana - 4 Dishcloth sets and 2 Hot Pad sets
- Clarence Tamayori - \$50 Cash
- Margaret Tanaka - 2 Longs \$15 Gift Certificates
- James Yanagida - \$50 Cash
- Frances Mochizuki - Christmas bead leis for everyone
- King Chapter - A box of Kleenex for each person



After the final door prize was given out, we were all surprised with a visit from Governor Neil Abercrombie, whose presence had been arranged by Louise Liu, who had been employed by him when he was a Congressman. The Governor made a gracious speech honoring the veterans and presented each of the Bronze Star recipients with a special commendation from his office and graciously had his picture taken with those who requested to do so.

The festive event concluded with a Christmas carol led by Allan and Mariko Nagata and their daughter Kaitlyn, with everyone wishing each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



L-R: Eichi Oki, Flora Visaya, Kaitlyn Nagata, Nobuko Oki, Terry Fujioka  
Photo: Mariko Nagata



by Genro & Muriel Kashiwa

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom was attended by 11 Company L veterans namely: Roy Fujiwara, Takeo Haraguchi, Hideo Higa, Genro Kashiwa, Hideo Nakayama, Frank Nomura, Kazuma Ogata, Frances Ohta, Don Seki, James (Turk) Suzuki, Isao Takiyama. A total of 62 of which 51 were family members attended. It was especially nice that there were large family tables: the Victor Yamashitas (deceased) family of 6. Co. L Medic the late Tom Yagi's nephew Judge Bryan Yagi of San Francisco also attended. He is President of the Nikkei Legacy Center which is working on fundraising to restore the Presidio as a National Headquarters for the MIS. The Presidio was the training center for the MIS during WWII. We are truly grateful for the attendance of the mainland people. These veteran survivors must stay healthy these next 5 years to be able to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018. We are truly sorry that some of our other close friends from the mainland

were not able to attend this event. We missed them and hope them well.



L-R: Kazuma Ogata, Hideo Nakayama, Isao Takiyama, Takao Haraguchi  
hoto: Rodney Nakayama

Joe Oshiro is having some temporary physical problem so his job as Co. L chairman will be assumed by Genro Kashiwa. Beginning the month of May, the once-a-month meeting will be held at a new location: Gyotaku Restaurant upstairs on King Street. It will be at a new day – second Saturday of every month at 11:00. We're asking everyone who has children to have them drive the old people and join us for lunch. It is a friendly and relaxed group so the time spent will be very enjoyable. Genro and Muriel

will pick up anyone who has no driver or the driver is busy for that day. We'd like the widows such as Terry, Toyo, Flora, Edna, etc. and children to join us. Rodney Nakayama likes this idea so if he attends it, he may be able to pick you up. Please remember this routine. Let's keep busy so we don't age too fast.



*Hideo Nakayama & Genro Kashiwa*

*Photo: Rodney Nakayama*



**by Shiro Aoki**

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary has come and gone and while this may be the “Last Hurrah” for some of us, the amazing thing that happened as far as M Co. was concerned was the tremendous turnout by the M Co. families – 46 in all.

Dick and Sumi Tochihara came from Los Angeles; Anne & Ross Hempstead came all the way from the Isle of Firth in England. For Ross it was a delayed meeting with us M Co. vets for he intended to meet us all at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary but it took him 20 years to catch up with us. “It was an honor for me,” he said, “To finally meet all of you.” And it was an honor for us to meet him, too.

Those present at the banquet were the following in addition to the Hempsteads and Tochiharas: Jane and Harold Kudo and their niece Colleen; Frank and Nancy Nomura; Shige and Yori Inouye; Ralph and Alice Tomei; Robert Nagata and his son Allan and wife Mariko with their children Ryuto & Kailyn; the Sakamoto family Mary and her sons Donald & Gary & Marcella with Vernon & Wayland & friend Violet Kagawa; the Yamada family Alice, Russell, Linda, Susan and Summer & Kainoa Scott; the Clark family John & Julie Ushio-Clark with their children Koji &

Sachie; the Tsukano family Itsuo (Shangy & John Tsukano’s brother) and Hazel along with son Lloyd; Janet Umeda, Betty Tomikoshi, Edith Furuya, Alice Murashige, Dick and Sumi Tochihara’s daughter Sandy Kong; Ralph and Alice Tomei’s son Dale & girlfriend Linda, and Shiro Aoki. At the program Maj. General Robert Lee presented the Bronze Star to 3 people, one of whom was Harold Kudo from M Co. At the start of the program we had a formal procession with each company being led by the company guidon. Our Company Guidon Bearer was Gary Sakamoto, son of Tom Sakamoto. The seating arrangement for everyone was handled by Alice Murashige, who did a tremendous job. She continues to impress me and the other M Co. vets with their things she does.



*L-R: Frank & Nancy Nomura, Shigeo & Yori Inouye, Shiro Aoki*

*Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*



by Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama

Sighs of relief for the young Nisei and Sansei sons and daughters of 442 for the tremendous efforts they put forth for the past months in preparing and making the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities a huge success. Hearty kudos to Gwen Nishizawa Fujie and husband Clayton Fujie for serving as Co-General Chair over the entire grand celebration, and to young Julian Johnson, Laura and Kats Miho's granddaughter for singing the national anthem, and Sandy Tsukiyama, leader and vocalist of the quintet of talented local professional musicians Davis Yamaguchi, guitar, Jim Howard, piano, Steve Jones, bass, Peter Factora, drums, and Chris Yeh saxophone who entertained the enthusiastic crowd with popular and well-remembered Big Band pre-WWII music.

Now who was there among the 1,200 well-wishers? Since I didn't have a chance to go table-hopping everywhere, I will try to discern most of the hosts and guests of our own 522 from the massive list President Joe Obayashi gave me:

Tables 4, 5 & 6: Bea Nishizawa who expertly sewed a muumuu for Gwen the night before from the yardage she had of the original 442<sup>nd</sup> design sat with her family of Geri and her husband who came all the way from Washington, Miles, Guy, Gwen, and other family members and guests.

New 522 chapter president Boyan and Nancy Higa had a fine gathering of their children and guests at Table 31; Biggie Nakakura, Joe Obayashi, Mits and Ellen Kunihiro, Stanley and Hilda Kaneshiro, Kay Nakamine and grandson rounded out Table 32. Laura Miho had her lively table of daughters Celia, Ann, Mariko and their families at 65, and Rocky and Leatrice Tanna, and Roy Fujii and guests at 41. Harold, Jane and Les Ueoka were joined at table 66

with George Muramaru and family of well-known baseball players and guests.

At our table 33 we had unique guests Paole and sister Kika Matsumoto whose mother was an Italian warbride of a 442<sup>nd</sup> GI; Robert Fujimoto and grandson, and Fred and Kay Hirayama who were greatly improved healthwise with daughter Laura and son Peter. Table 68 had Gloria Taguma and son, and many other guests, Table 67 Mildred Hara and guests, and Phyllis Hironaka our new chapter secretary, Kay Kagawa and son, Chiyoko Shimazu, and guests. The ever-faithful Urada family of Henry and Grace and expert photographer Wayne and many other guests at table 42. Boyan said Shigeru Nakamura of Marui was also present, and I see Charles Nakamura, Sr and Jr on the list.

Also met again mainland friends of long-ago Sunako "Sunkie" Tazumi Ohye of Seattle, looking really good. Her late husband Ted was in Hq so he had a lot of friends here. Lawson and Mineko Hirasaki Sakai, Gilroy, CA both well-known to local friends here were also faithful attendees. Mineko's late brother was Manabi Hirasaki, a popular 522, and strawberry king of California.

If I have inadvertently left any of you out, please call me to chew me out. I can still remember what I ate in Poston, Arizona concentration camp, but not what I had for breakfast. (a sure sign?) Ja ne, Fuku

The 522 FAB community mourns the passing of its ever popular, respected member Walter Inouye who passed away on March 8, 2013 at age 97 years. Walter was born on July 13, 1915 in Haiku, Maui and volunteered for and was accepted for the 442<sup>nd</sup> at age 28 and served with "B" Battery of the 522<sup>nd</sup> FAB throughout the War as one of its oldest members. Throughout all combat missions Walter served as Forward Observer with the Radio Section of "B" Battery which required him to perform his target spotting job in advanced hazardous front line positions with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry units against the enemy. After the War Walter returned to become one of the most active members of the 522<sup>nd</sup> B Chapter participating in all of its social, bowling and golfing events over

the past 60 years. Walter was gifted with innovative hands and skills and will always be remembered for the unique door prizes he donated to Xmas parties and chapter meetings of hand-powered propellers, windmills and aircraft fashioned out of aluminum soda cans. Memorial services for Walter Inouye were held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 at Diamond Head Mortuary which was attended by over a dozen 522<sup>nd</sup> members and friends. Walter was survived by daughter Eileen Ogata, brother Edwin “Aku” Inouye, sister Alma Kano, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren



L-R: Harold Ueoka, Ellen Kunihiro, Mits Kunihiro, Joe Obayashi  
Photo: Clyde Sugimoto



by Fujio Matsuda

Well, gang, the 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion was a huge success! This report will be focused on this event that drew large public attention not only from Sons and Daughters and relatives, but the community at large, including schools, local and state government officials, museums and historical societies, in TV, newspapers, magazines, and public forums. The vets themselves were the center of attention. Doc Kawamoto, Bolo Shirakata, Mits Honda, Charlie Ijima among others were active in the pre-banquet events, in full 442<sup>nd</sup> caps and shirts, surrounded by adoring young students asking for their autographs! The Congressional Medal of Honor events were huge, also, with ceremonies in D.C. and locally, but in terms of warmth and enthusiasm, the 70<sup>th</sup> Banquet events were the most heartwarming and memorable. The vets, all in their late 80's or more, many in wheelchairs and walkers, marched in following their unit guidons, to standing applause. They had spring in their steps and sparkle in their eyes that belied

their aching joints and fading vision. Most of them use hearing aids anymore, making conversations very confusing and hilarious at times! Fading memories, too, were part of the norm; I witnessed a vet, spying an old buddy, calling him in the lineup waiting to march in, only to be greeted by a blank stare that said, more eloquently than words, “Who you?” It was funny, touching, and poignant. Of course, they ended up with a big hug.

The hall was packed with family and friends, and VIPs. Our chapter alone had more than 10 tables clustered together. There were lots of table-hopping, back slapping, hugs, and group photos. The vets were guests and enjoyed all the amenities. Everyone else had to pay. Some of the vets like to “monku,” but they really had no grounds to complain. They really were given hero treatment! And they deserved it! As a vet who started with the 232<sup>nd</sup> but got reassigned before basic training ended, I was more of an observer, feeling proud of their accomplishments, not only in winning the war with such great distinction, but in making a real change in the lives of the Sons and Daughters and future generations. I'm lucky they let me join them for old times' sake. After a long string of congratulations and accolades, wonderful entertainment, and a group photo of the vets, the luncheon came to an end, but the

audience lingered, reluctant to bring this magical day to an end. There probably will not be another like it.

George Yamada's daughter Diane and her husband Roger Eaton and Tad Fujioka's son Jeff and his wife Carol joined a few of the 232<sup>nd</sup>/Band members for lunch on Monday at the Willows Restaurant not too far from the 442<sup>nd</sup> Clubhouse. The Eatons came from La Palma, CA and the Fujiokas are from Auke Bay, AK. Doc and Mary Kawamoto, Charlie and Margie Ijima, Janet Matsumoto, Bolo Shirakata, Florence and Carrie Miyasato, Suzanne Toguchi, Betty Watanabe, Winnie Namba, and I joined them for a nice Hawaiian style luncheon buffet, complete with poi, lau lau, lomi salmon, poke (with ' ) kalua pig, and coconut/haupia cake. Plus kim chee, miso soup, long rice, the usual Hawaiian-kine food. The food was OK, but the company was first rate. We had a nice, private pavilion to ourselves, ideal for a reunion. With the passing of years, the reunions are becoming more infrequent and more precious each year.

To change the subject a bit from the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, but not much, I want to tell you about the "Manga" booklet that was published in conjunction with the Anniversary celebration. Many of you know about it already. It was written by

Stacey Hayashi, an S&D member, supported by the 442<sup>nd</sup> Foundation and a whole host of contributors, fact checkers, editors, and expeditors, based on a screenplay by Titus Chong and Stacey. The title of the Book is "Journey of Heroes" and copies should be available at any school or public library in Hawaii and at some mainland locations. Unfortunately, I understand the first edition is just about sold out, and there are no current plans to issue a second edition. It's a must read for especially the younger generation, but vets and family will enjoy, and perhaps shed a tear of two, when you read it. The superb "Manga" depictions were by Damon Wong.

Along these lines, I want to let you know about the Legacy Project the Sons and Daughters organization is working on for the Nisei Veterans organizations, for an education and research center on the new West Oahu Campus of the UH. Wes Deguchi, president of the S&D is spearheading the effort. Please encourage your sons and daughters to join the effort to keep the legacy alive and carry it over into future generations of our increasingly multicultural families and society. The Vets fought for equality and justice for the Nisei, but the principles they fought for are important for all generations of an immigrant nation like the U.S.



*Four generations! L-R: Tanner Takahashi (Bolo's grandson), Bolo Shirakata, Thomas Kanoa Takahashi (Bolo's great-grandson), Keith Shirakata (Bolo's son)* Photo: Wayne Iha



*Fujio Matsuda, Charlie Ijima and Hiroshi Arisumi march into the ballroom* Photo: Hal Ing



by Shuji Akiyama

When 171<sup>st</sup> members first went to 442<sup>nd</sup> meetings – it was “Who the Buggas???”

For young people who may not know, a regiment is made up of 3 battalions. The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimentl included the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle battalions training at Camp Shelby. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle battalions were sent to Europe. The 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion already in Europe was added to the 442<sup>nd</sup> and became its first battalion. Capis?

The 1<sup>st</sup> rifle battalion remained at Camp Shelby to train new recruits. It was given a new designation – the 171<sup>st</sup> Battalion.

Many left at Camp Shelby did not want to go through another basic training. Humbug. So most of us volunteered for MIS or the 442<sup>nd</sup> overseas.

I volunteered for MIS, but before my orders arrived, I was shipped to Europe, ending up with “A” Company, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Bad timing.

In the “Go for Broke” bulletin, we see a lot about the deaths of members, spouses and even children. But very little mention is made of the up and coming younger generation who uphold the virtues of the 442<sup>nd</sup>.

One is Daniel Akiyama, grandson of Mitsuo Akiyama who was company clerk of the Anti-Tank Company and nephew of Shuji Akiyama of the 171<sup>st</sup> and “A” Company. He is the author of a play called “A Cage of Fireflies” which ran at the Kumu Kahua Theatre, January and February 2013. A wonderful write-up is in the February 1, 2013 issue of the Hawaii Herald. Pelase read it. So smart!!

Another is Shuji’s granddaughter, now a junior at the USC School of Medicine on a US Navy scholarship. I have to salute her when she graduates next year. She’ll be a doctor (MD) and a naval LT when she graduates.

No doubt other 171<sup>st</sup> members have wonderful stories about their family’s up and coming generation who uphold the ideals of the 442<sup>nd</sup>.

Do write to me: Shuji Akiyama, 904 Lawelawe St., Honolulu, HI 96821.

Merci Beaucoup and Sayonara!



by Gail Nishimura

Hooray! We made it through the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! It was so nice to meet so many of the people who I “met” through emails and phone calls. Gwen & Clayton Fujie did a great job, Clay managed to feed us pretty often! Little did I know this former administrator is a good cook too!

Wes Deguchi our fearless leader was a very calming addition to many of our meetings. Ann Kabasawa helped to coordinate with the hotel and

kept us looking for her throughout the day! Mary Matsuda and family you did great even if it was trial by fire! We all have a first time! Shirley you da best! Words cannot express our appreciation for you.

We also have to thank Karlton Tomomitsu for “getting the word out” to the community, we’ve never had so much PR for our event. Thanks to Al Sadanaga for his expertise in reformatting our forms and other computer things. And to Byrnes Yamashita for getting rides for people to and from the banquet...quite a feat, we saw one of the drivers waiting for his riders, they were shopping, making pit stops, etc.

Now I hope everyone will be able to rest and recuperate from our many activities. NOT being a morning person was really hard for all those 7am! Ask me to stay up till 2am, no problem. I know I'm not alone on this as there were many nights when I got an email at 1am or later! But we all lived through it and have really gained a lot more respect for our fathers and what they did for us.

Janice Trubitt organized the Honouliuli tour for people. It was a great tour for everyone who attended. It also meant some of the families started their day early as they participated in all events on Friday!

Friday's "At Ease" was really fun and nice to see veterans and their families visiting with others. Thank you to all who donated decorations AND the food! Soooo much to eat and the choices we had to make! Everything was so good, and we had so many choices from different areas of the US! What an experience. Thanks Laura for organizing us! Claire Hinaga even had her 15 seconds of fame when KITV came to film!

"At Ease" was followed by the Sons & Daughters meetings. Speakers talked about doing oral histories, preserving information and pictures as well as what other Sons & Daughters groups are doing in different locations. All this also included more food from the Maui Sons & Daughters group. This was spearheaded by Leonard Oka. He brought the speakers together and organized everything. Another great experience!



*Alvin Yoshitomi conducts preservation class*

*Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*



*"At Ease" reception volunteers*

*Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*

Grace Fujii and gang as usual did a great job with our logo sales. This year we had Stacey Hayashi join with the sale of her comic books and chibi wear.

Saturday morning came early and thanks to Richard Bauske and crew tents and chairs were set up and ready for the Remembrance Service. His "teru teru boozu" on all the tents managed to ward off the rain that was predicted to appear on Saturday! They look like the little ghost treats I had my students make for the faculty at Halloween. That was something new to me, I don't think many even noticed it, but once I knew about it I looked for the others. Very clever! Will have to remember that the next time we plan something outdoors!

The Remembrance Service was very touching and to the many yonsei who took part in the day, you made it more meaningful. From beginning to end it was so nice to see the many plans come to life! The tsuru presentation was so impressive and moving. Having yonsei take an active role in the service helped to perpetuate the legacy and brought to light the theme of this anniversary – "The Legacy Lives On," we are trying to help others to remember what our fathers did. Irvin you did a great job getting the next generation involved.

After the service Richard and crew turned the seating area into table and chair seating while the veterans and families explored the Army Museum. By the time the first group emerged from the museum the tables and chairs were set and Lynn Calvet had her group ready to pass out bentos to everyone! My

cousins really enjoyed the bento and wanted the recipe for the mochiko chicken! Guess they're gonna make it when they go home.

The shave ice booth, run by Stacey Hayashi & friends was a great success as it may have brought back memories to many of picnics of the past. Very yummy!



After lunch there were games and activities set up for the kids as well as a lucky drawing throughout the afternoon. Anita Nihei and her committee got the afternoon going with a bang, starting with a MC extraordinaire – “McLaughlin” (Laughlin) Tanaka! So many

people working to keep others busy (Oshiros, Holcks, Geri Baenen, Gail Yip & everyone else I've missed)!

By 3pm most everyone and everything was cleared from the area! Great job to the crew, even trash was picked up! From there many headed over to the Hilton to start working on centerpieces and putting the programs together. We even had quality control checking the plants!

Sunday arrived quickly and the many stacks of badges we had behind us at the registration desk quickly narrowed down to just a handful and the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary luncheon was on its way! As usual Alvin Yoshitomi came through with the guidons for each company to march in with. Even Susan gets to help him move it inside! Veterans walked through the sword arch held by the ROTC students. What a memorable site to see. The photographers had a big job taking pictures of all the tables; we had almost 1160 people in the ballroom having lunch!

Sons & Daughters need to learn the words to the 442 song (at least 1 version anyway)! Pretty funny to look around and see many of us struggling, good thing we were in back! Everything seemed to fly by and soon we were saying goodbye to old and new friends!

Thank you again to all who worked on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I may have missed your name but believe me, you are appreciated. Our volunteers are the best! Every time the call goes out, you answer it! To the many who came from other states just for this, thank you for helping us perpetuate the legacy of 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, 1399 and MIS! See you all again next time!



## *Announcements*

### **Lost & Found**

To those who attended the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet:

Two pairs of glasses were found at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom after the banquet. If you've lost your glasses and think it may have been dropped or forgotten at the event, please contact the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club at 949-7997.

Also, a pair of dark glasses was left at the 442<sup>nd</sup> Clubhouse.

**REMINDER**  
to GFB Reporters:

Chapter reports for the  
April-June 2013 issue  
are due

July 5, 2013



# OTHER News

## Panel Discussion - CGM

In March 2013, the Smithsonian Congressional Gold Medal exhibit arrived at the Bishop Museum. Participation in this event was curtailed as the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club was busily preparing for its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Nonetheless, many

442<sup>nd</sup> veterans attended the opening ceremony and, later, took part in a panel discussion. Six 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans spoke to an eager audience who had many questions about WWII and its effect upon the veterans during the panel discussion. These six included (photo below, left to right): Eichi Oki, Ron Oba, Shiroku Yamamoto, Bill Thompson, Joseph Obayashi and Frank Takao.



*City & County proclamation ceremony arranged by council members Ann Kobayashi and Stanley Chang*

*Photo: Clyde Sugimoto*

Scenes from Remembrance Service / Picnic  
 March 23, 2013 (Photos: Hal Ing, Clyde Sugimoto, Pat Thomson)



100<sup>th</sup> Bn 442 Regiment Color Guard stands at attention for opening ceremony



LTG Francis Wiercinski joins in the "tsuru" presentation



Keynote speaker Evan Matsuyama, grandson of Don Seki (L Co.)



Mildred Tahara & Harry Kiyabu (H Co.)



Taka Aragaki (I Co.) & Louise Kashino



Gerald Gustafson (Cannon) & family



Waimalu Elementary Chorus



Mits Honda (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng) & family enjoy bento

More scenes from the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet  
 March 24, 2013, Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Ballroom  
 (Photos: Wayne Iha, Hal Ing, Clyde Sugimoto, Lowell Thom, Pat Thomson)



*King*



*Gov. Abercrombie and Takashi Okemura (2HQ)*



*Maj. Gen. (ret) Robert Lee & Lt. Col. Daniel Austin  
 award the Bronze Star to Harold Kudo (M Co.)*



*MIS*



*Item*



*Gov. Abercrombie and Fred Arashiro (232<sup>nd</sup> Eng.)*



*Cannon*



*Jimmie Kanaya (Med) & Enoch Kanaya (F Co.)*



*Wes and Gwen present a gift to Mrs. Irene Inouye, keynote speaker*



*George Arine (Pres., MIS) presents European War Surrender Agreement to Bill Thompson (Pres., 442)*



*A reading depicts a scene from the show "All That Remains" memorializing the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion*



*Muriel & Genro Kashiwa (L Co.)*

## Proclamation Presentations

March 25, 2013

*(Photos by Clyde Sugimoto)*



A large delegation of 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans were assembled on the floor of State House of Representatives to receive a legislative tribute on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Pictured with the veterans are Rep. Mark Takai and Rep. Scott Nishimoto.



Members of the State Senate posed with the veterans of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team on the floor of the Senate at a ceremony honoring the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team on its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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

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