



Go For Broke BULLETIN

442nd VETERANS CLUB



VOL 66, No 3, APRIL - JUNE 2014

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



Groundbreaking ceremony on Fort DeRussy grounds for a monument to commemorate the 4 Nisei units of WWII: 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and 1399th Engineer Battalion. *Story on page 22*

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Go For Broke

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Cover: *Groundbreaking ceremony of the Brothers in Valor monument at Ft. DeRussy, March 1996*
(Photo: 442 S&D)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS.....	Page
President's Report.....	2
Taps.....	3
Donations.....	3
Editor's Report.....	Position Vacant
Feature Stories.....	4
Regimental HQ.....	Henry Kuniyuki..... No News
AT.....	Committee of Three..... No News
Cannon.....	John Mikasa..... 7
Medics.....	Michele Matsuo..... 8
Service.....	No News
HQ2.....	Contributed by Friends..... 9
Easy.....	No News
Fox.....	Ron Oba..... 10
George.....	Ann Kabasawa..... 11
Howe.....	Mildred Tahara..... 12
HQ3.....	Satoru & Jane Shikasho..... 12
Item.....	Louise Kashino & Jim Yamashita..... 13
King.....	Eichi Oki..... No News
Love.....	Genro & Muriel Kashiwa..... 15
Mike.....	Shiro Aoki..... No News
522 Able.....	No News
522 Baker.....	Ted & Fuku Tsukiyama..... No News
522 Charlie.....	No News
232 Eng/Band.....	Bolo Shirakata..... 16
171st.....	Shuji Akiyama..... 17
Sons & Daughters.....	Gail Nishimura..... 19
Other News.....	22
Announcements.....	24

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 2014 submissions: April 7, July 7, October. 6 and January 5, 2015.



A problem has risen complicating the future of our 442nd Veterans Club. Until a couple of years ago, the Club worked seamlessly with our Sons and Daughters Chapter. A third party has entered the picture. This new entity is the NVLC (Nisei Veterans Legacy Center). There is confusion whether the Sons and Daughters Chapter is the NVLC. This has complicated the future of our Club as the NVLC plans are in direct conflict with our 442nd Legacy Center plans. Hopefully, this will be amicably solved.

Plans are underway for our 72nd Anniversary. This will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel who had hosted many of our anniversary festivities. We had the well-known movie star Cary Hiroyuki Tagawa the last time we were at the Pacific Beach Hotel. Our 72nd will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2015.

On June 22, our Club purchased a table for ten to join our fellow comrades of the 100th Infantry Battalion for their 72nd Anniversary. Admiral Harry Harris was the keynote speaker and gave a stirring

complementary tribute to the men of the 100th. A special treat was in store for the attendees to the anniversary. A “SHISA” dance wow-ed the audience.

In April we took on the Veterans Affairs by inquiring why the open grave sites at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific were kept open and not available for burial. We received a puzzling response. However, our local Star Bulletin reporter took on the administration of the NMCP at Punchbowl and the result is that now burials are available where in the past only inurnments were allowed. These open grave sites became available when unknown burials were identified and the remains shipped home to the mainland at the request of the families.

We celebrated Memorial Day ceremonies at the Lion’s Club Haleiwa service on the North Shore: the Governor’s State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe and the Mayor’s memorial service at Punchbowl.

A bit of sad news to report: Our famed *UTA NO KAI* has called it quits after years of service to the Club. This issue of the Go For Broke Bulletin is dedicated to them with our grateful thanks for a job well done.



“Fallen Warriors” Memorial Monument

On May 9, 2014, the ROTC unit at the University of Hawaii dedicated a memorial to former UH ROTC cadets who died in wars – WWII, Iraq and Afghanistan. Among those honored were the seven ROTC cadets of the VVV: Grover Nagaji, Akio Nishikawa, Dan Betsui, Hiroichi Tomita, Howard Urabe, Robert Murata and Jenhatsu Chinen.

IN MEMORIAM



Deepest sympathies to the families & friends of the following:

Akisada, Utaka "Ute" (G Co.)	Mar. 10, 2014
Baba, Takashi (522C, MIS)	Jan. 16, 2013
Fukuyama, Kwanji (K Co.)	Mar. 23, 2014
Higashi, Ken (L Co.)	Apr. 13, 2014
Horiuchi, Harold M. (K Co.)	Mar. 29, 2014
Izumigawa, Stanley (L Co./100 th A)	Apr. 23, 2014
Kaihatsu, Omar Masayuki (E Co.)	Feb. 13, 2014
Kaneshiro, Steven S. (Cannon)	Mar. 20, 2014
Kojima, Kuga (K Co.)	Feb. 4, 2014
Miura, Tommy Tamotsu (L Co.)	Mar. 26, 2014
Miyake, George Tsutomu (522C)	Apr. 16, 2014
Miyamoto, Jack Tsuneichi (I Co.)	Apr. 3, 2014
Murashige, Calvin (F Co.)	Mar. 16, 2014
Nakamoto, Takeshi Tom (G Co.)	Apr. 6, 2014
Nakamura, Yoshio George (E Co.)	Feb. 25, 2014
Oshita, George (I Co.)	Apr. 2, 2014
Ouye, Floyd Hiroto (H Co.)	Mar. 30, 2014
Sakuma, Stanley (K Co.)	Mar. 21, 2014
Tagawa, Jack K. (2HQ)	Feb. 23, 2011
Uesugi, Noboru (E Co.)	Apr. 11, 2013



Donations

Many thanks to the following for their generosity and support.

442nd Veterans Club

Mrs. Mariko Hanami <i>(IMO Tsukasa Murakami, Cannon)</i>	\$100
Mr. Sadao Kodama	\$50
Sen. Daniel K. Inouye <i>(Residual - The Next Karate Kid)</i>	\$9.56

Go For Broke Bulletin

Mrs. Rose Shimizu <i>(IMO Tokio Shimizu, 3rd HQ)</i>	\$100
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Scholarship

Mr. William Thompson <i>(In memory of the Tsukano brothers: John, Mitsuo and Shangy)</i>	\$350
Mr. Harold Watase	\$100

Feature Story



TURK TETSUO TOKITA
A Legend In His Time

How do you measure the contribution of someone to his country, to his State and to his County?

Turk was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team having volunteered in 1943. He was with Company H, the weapons Company of the 2nd Battalion. He was twice wounded.

After WWII, Turk returned home. He was an administrative assistant to the Kauai Board of Supervisors and, later, for the Kauai Council. At one time, he worked as a land-use consultant and on a task force to promote economic opportunity for Kauai as reported to Derrick DePledge in an interview.

It was politics that drew attention and for which he is best known. He gained fame after Hawaii became a State; first from his role in serving as Jack A. Burns campaign manager for governor on the island of Kauai. Burns became Hawaii's second elected governor in 1962. It was the neighbor island votes that carried Burns to victory. On Maui, it was Pundi Yokouchi who managed Burns campaign while on the Big Island Hiroshi "Scrub" Tanaka was in charge of the Burns campaign. These three – Turk, Pundi and Scrub – became Democratic stalwarts and helped change the fabric of Hawaii's racial, political and economic structure. These three later helped other Democrats to the governorship of Hawaii.

After Governor Jack Burns died while in office, Turk and the others decided that Governor Burns achievements should not be forgotten. With the urging of Dan Aoki, aide to Governor Burns, and Don Horio, speech writer for Governor Burns, an informal JAB team was formed. The first gathering of this team was on Kauai with Turk serving as host. Next, it was Pundi who hosted the second gathering of the Burns team. This was later followed by a gathering on the Big Island. The last get-together of the Burns team was on Oahu hosted by Kenneth Brown, close friend and supporter of Governor Burns. It was at this last gathering that Dan Boylan announced his new book about Governor Burns, the 3rd book on Governor Burns. The first was Tom Coffman's "Catch a Wave," followed by a book sponsored by the Burns team written by Sammy Amalu.

Turk attended the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, DC in 2011. He travelled at his own expense as free flights were only offered to the mainland veterans. Earlier this year in March, an ailing Turk, on a wheelchair, accompanied by his wife and son, attended the 71st Anniversary of the 442nd RCT. It was his way of bidding farewell to his buddies.

Turk Tetsuo Tokita died on Saturday, June 7, 2014. He was 94 years old. He is survived by his wife Emi, three children - Lane, Mari and Ken. He also had five grandchildren.

SAYONARA!

With this sad note, we bid the *UTA NO KAI*, the musical auxiliary organization of our 442nd Veterans Club “Thank you” and wish you all good health in the coming years.

At our May 2014 Board meeting, Mitsuru Kunihiro presented a check of \$1,154.44 with the news that the *UTA NO KAI* organization had decided to end their long run of musical entertainment.

The *UTA NO KAI* was an off-shoot of the Hula and Ukulele Club. It formally organized in November 2003. The officers were:

President - Kay Hirayama
Vice President - May Otani
Treasurer - Mitsuru Kunihiro

Emeritus President – Doc Kawamoto
Program Advisor – Susumu Awaya

The auxiliary group was formed to serve the wives of the veterans due to the emerging popularity of Japanese music and the songs from the tape cassette players such as Sus Awaya, Ken Okuma and Shigeru Kawamoto. The auxiliary group would meet at various locations at times for their meetings: Oasis Café, Likelike Restaurant and McKinley Grill. They practiced each week at the 442nd Club House. The group appreciates the help of Paul Matsumoto and George Nakasato of the Hula and Ukulele Club.

The *UTA NO KAI* membership totaled 29 (9 men and 20 women) in 2006. By 2014, the membership shrunk to 10 (3 men and 7 women). The 10 included Doc K, Mits K, and Kazu T for the men; and Edith F, Millie H, Mary K, Ellen K, Janet U, Jane M, and Ellen Y. for the ladies. They, then, decided it was time to call it quits.



Bonenkai - November 2006

Front (seated l-r): Janet Umeda, Janet Matsumoto, Mits Kunihiro
2nd row: Janet Goto, Ellen Kunihiro, “Doc” Kawamoto, Kay Hirayama, Elsie Teruya, Guest (Elsie Teruya’s sister-in-law), Shigeru Goto, May Otani, Shinako Takata
3rd row: Hichi Matsumoto, Mary Kawamoto, Edith Furuya, Ellen Yamada, Mitsue Shishido, Millie Honda, Gladys Uyemura, Kenneth Okuma, Betty Tomikoshi, Kiyoshi Kimura

For the 442nd Veterans Club, the performance of the *UTA NO KAI* added special flavor to our anniversary events as they were frequently asked to perform for the entertainment of the veterans and guests.



Shinen Enkai Party - April 22, 2007

Front (l-r): “Doc” Kawamoto, Ellen Kunihiro, Curtis Kunihiro, Kay Hirayama, Irene Nakamura, Mary Kawamoto

Back (l-r): Elsie Teruya, Fred Hirayama, Janet Umeda, May Otani, Mits Kunihiro, Ellen Yamada, Kay Sugihara, Millie Honda, Kazuo Tomasa, Mitsue Shishido



Paul Matsumoto leads the men singing the “Go For Broke” song at the 442nd Veterans Club 68th anniversary banquet



Uta No Kai performing at a Memorial Service
Photo: 442 S&D



by John Mikasa

Cannon Chapter met at the Makino Chaya restaurant on June 19th. Considering our senior discount price, the luncheon was a bargain. Attendees were: Akira, Betty, and Mark Takahashi; Harold Nakasone; Akira Okamoto; Mitsuo and Esther Umeda; and John and Mary Mikasa. Stout-hearted Akira Okamoto came with his wheelchair via handi-van all the way from Punaluu.

Esther presented the recent status and issues of business at the club headquarters to update our information.

Due to oversight, the passing away of Amy Mizukami, widow of Cannoneer Takeshi "Bolo," was not reported in the previous bulletin. Amy passed away in March, and her funeral was held on March 23rd, the same day as the 71st Anniversary banquet of the 442nd RCT. Survivors are children Janice, Melvin and Karen.

Cannoneer Stephan Shigetoshi Kaneshiro passed away in March. It seems he moved to the U.S. mainland soon after his discharge from service, and we lost contact with him. Harold Nakasone remembers him as a Purple Heart recipient from wounds of artillery fire fragments.

Our condolences to the Mizukami and Nakasone families.

Cannon Company annual reunion in Las Vegas was held April 24-27. Reporter Alan Ugai, son of Alice and the late Norman, sent the following report:

The Cannon Company held their annual 2014 reunion in Las Vegas at the Fremont Hotel, April 24-27. The Cannon Company families traveled from Hawaii, California, Texas, Colorado and Nevada to attend. The Veterans and spouses that were able to attend were Gerald Gustafson, Tsutomu Okabayashi, Yukie Murakami, and May Nitta. Sons

and daughters in attendance were Roger Yoshinari, Judi Murakami, Matt Nitta, Iris Yamagata, Susan Doi, Alan Ugai, Hope and James Hazelitt (Kitigawa), Shirley and David Cassell (Okabayashi), Chuck and Donna Mayeda and Eric and Lynn Gustafson. They were joined by other relative and friends including grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

For over the past 20 years Fremont Hotel and Casino has played host to the reunion thanks to a relationship originally established by John Kashiki and now kept intact by the sons and daughters.

The guests enjoyed visiting in the hospitality room which was stocked with fresh fruit and many other snacks and sharing mealtimes at the Fremont Buffet. A few of the guests took in the Le Reve show at the Wynn Hotel on Friday night. On Sunday night many of the guests enjoyed a nice dinner at Tony Romo's at the Fremont Hotel.

The entire reunion group went to lunch on Saturday at Makino's, an all-you-can-eat sushi buffet. The seemingly endless line of sushi, other entrees and desserts were regarded with great pleasure by



Gerald "Gus" Gustafson and Tsutomu "Tex" Okabayashi

all. The lunch was followed by afternoon naps by many of the guests.

The 2015 Las Vegas Reunion for the Cannon Com-pany is tentatively scheduled for April 23-26, 2015 at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas. For infor-mation, Alan Ugai can be e-mailed at robclm21@yahoo.com.

Reporter Alan Ugai has been a leader with Cannon's Sons and Daughters. Others who are active that I remember offhand include Roger Yoshinari, Judi Murakami, Matt Nitta, Lynn Gustafson and Shirley Cassell. We appreciate their efforts to keep memories alive.



MEDICS

Reports



by Michele Matsuo

The Medics bid sad Aloha to Medics Dange Raymond Atagi and Yeichi “Kelly” Kuwayama.

Dange Raymond Atagi was born in Blackfoot, Idaho in 1920, but lived and farmed in Evergreen, Nyssa, and Ontario after his family settled in Oregon in 1925. Dange enlisted as a Private in the Air Corps on December 6, 1941, at Fort Lewis, Washington. However, the Air Corps declined to allow him to serve due to his Japanese ethnicity and ancestry, despite being a born and raised American, and transferred him instead to the Army where he became a Medic in the 100thBn/442nd RCT.

Dange Atagi passed away unexpectedly on May 28, 2014, at the age of 94 years old, still learning, renovating his kitchen, gardening, working on his sprinklers, and enjoying tech and cooking gadgets until the very last day of his full and rich life! We salute you, Dange Raymond Atagi, for your service and for being an example to all! Sincere condolences to Dange’s wife of 51 years, Fumiko, and their three children, Dr. Tanya Atagi Fisher, Jolene Buccino, and Patrick Atagi, and their eight grandchildren.

The Medics also suffered the loss of Kelly Kuwayama, on June 29, 2014, suddenly from a stroke, just when we were hoping that he was fully in the clear since he was gadding about after a bout of bronchitis. Kelly was 96 years old, having been born in Manhattan, New York City, in 1918. Kelly was a graduate of Princeton, but found it impossible to find a job due to his ethnicity, and found himself in the Army in 1941, nearly a full year before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Initially, he was assigned to guard New York Harbor, as part of a Coast Artillery unit. Later, after the loyalty of Japanese Americans was questioned, he was transferred from the line unit to a medical unit in Fort Ethan

Allen in Vermont, where he was surprised to find himself a “Surgical Technician” without benefit of any Medical training.

Kelly later joined the 442nd RCT when it was formed and trained and shipped out to Europe with the 442nd, as a Medic. Highly decorated, Kelly was a veteran of the Battle of The Lost Battalion, and was himself wounded in Biffontaine, France, on October 29, 1944. Fortunately, Kelly was able to recover after a few weeks of hospitalization and was back with his unit, Company E, when his platoon leader, Second Lieutenant Daniel K. Inouye was severely injured in the Po Valley Campaign near the end of the War. Kelly was able to stop the bleeding of Dan Inouye’s nearly severed arm and evacuate him for treatment. The People of Hawaii will be eternally grateful that Dan Inouye’s life was saved that day in April 1945, by Kelly’s skill and quick action. Okagesama de, Kelly Kuwayama...We not only salute you for your service, celebrate your great life full of community service and pioneering business success, we give thanks for the good that Dan was able to do in his life. Thank you to all of the Medics and to all the veterans of the 442nd RCT, for all the good that flowed and was made possible from your service to others!

After the war, Kelly utilized the GI Bill to earn his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1947. He enjoyed a terrific career as the US General Manager for Nomura Securities, as well as working for the Commerce Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. Deepest sympathy to his wife, Fumiko, and his siblings Tomi and George.

We are pleased to report that Kazu Tomasa is back in fine form after a fall, and Iris Fukui is recovering from an operation to insert a pacemaker.

The Medics are planning a social get-together in September. Details will be sent out in the Chapter Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by
Michele Matsuo
Chapter Vice President



Contributed by Friends

The summer of 1944 was typical sunny weather for which Italy is famous. The famous British poets and writers would go to Italy and enjoy themselves. In fact some notable poets are buried in the graveyard in Rome – John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley. For us in the 442nd RCT, it was our first taste of battle.

We, the 2nd Battalion, were stymied on June 26, our first day in combat, due mostly to miscommunication. For our 2nd HQ Company, the losses were significant. The field command post was hit by artillery and we lost our operation officer and two men. The Anti-tank platoon lost three men due to artillery fire. In fact, all three squads of the Anti-tank platoon came under fire. We quickly learned to keep hidden from the high ground with its enemy observers pin-pointing our location – if we can't see them, they can't see us – lesson No. 1.

Then, two weeks later, we met the enemy again at a place that was called Hill 140. This time, the rifle companies of the 2nd Bn took it to the enemy.

After taking Hill 140, the Regiment continued pounding the enemy. Many remember the Pink O.P., a farm building that became a landmark in the battle to push the enemy further north.

We passed vineyards and orchards in the Tuscany district. One notable building we over-ran was Count Ciano's villa. It was in ruins by the time we reached it. On our march northward, there was an incident that is mentioned in a couple of books. On a sunny day on a long winding road, we paused for a rest. Our lieutenant noted a tank across a deep valley on the other side of the winding road. He had the 1st squad fire a round from the 57-mm anti-tank gun. MISTAKE! The enemy artillery opened up on us and we had to scatter. We wonder if the 57-mm round ever reached across the valley. But for history, the first and probably only 57-mm round fired during our battles in Italy and France occurred at that moment.

After the 442nd had pushed the enemy north of the Arno River, there was a lull in battle. Our Anti-tank platoon was stationed at a place called Scandicci. We got a lesson in wine-making. A big concrete tub was filled with grapes. The owner then took off his shoes and stomped on the grapes. At least he washed his feet first. Some of our boys volunteered to assist the owner in whose home we were quartered. Some of us nervously drank "vino" after that.



*Taken in Scandicci, Italy - Aug. 27, 1944
Front (l-r): Lt. Nishimura, Lt. Rowlands,
Lt. Slater, Lt Mackey
Back: Lt. Col. Hanley (Bn Cdr.), Maj.
Conely, Capt. Crowley, Capt. Kovac*

Photo: Bert Nishimura collection, 442nd Veterans Club Archives



by Ron Oba

*All Fox members thrive
They meet once a month on Friday
To shoot the bull*

Mother's Day

M is for the many things she gave me
O means only that she's growing old
T is for the tears she shed to save me
H is for her heart of purest gold
E is for her eyes with love-light shining
R means right and right she'll always be

If you remember the words, remember, May 11 was Mother's Day. We all met at Mid-Pac Country Club for a scrumptious luncheon of beef, chicken or mahimahi sponsored by Natalie Oda-Lee.

Called May Tamagawa to inquire about Tommy. Tommy hurt his leg and had to be hospitalized but he came to the Fox meeting, nonchalantly.

Junior is so healthy, he wants my treadmill that I want to give away. Too large for his apartment.

Don't call George early in the morning since he will be jogging at Ala Moana Beach Park.

I had an appointment with the optometrist and he wouldn't order new glasses like before. Sequestration must still be prevalent. He said, "Come back in October." Wow, but I need them now!!

I mentioned that Dorothy hurt her arm; she has recovered well.

Mentioned also that George and Richard attended the ceremony at the Central Pacific Bank that the 100/442 Veterans helped start.

Attended the 100th Inf. Bn. Anniversary Banquet. Beef or Fish. I sat on the lounge with my feet propped up and surely lost my cell phone. Did anyone find my cell phone? Nah, statically, more cell phones are lost each year. Since cell phones have no legs; old saying, "Garbage in, garbage out."

Our Anniversary should be in March 29, '15. Last year there were barely 78 veterans present. Where are they going? To Italy and France, no doubt; their Senioritis and Mademoiselles are already married.



Rear Admiral Anne Cullere presents the French Legion of Honor medal to Yasunori Deguchi, F Co.

Photo: Wayne Iha



by Ann Kabasawa

Annual George Company Reunion 2014

Every year we had our George Co. Reunion in Las Vegas. This year we changed the venue and had it in Los Angeles, CA at the Miyako Hotel. There were several of us who went to Manzanar first prior to the reunion. Seeing Manzanar is such a humbling and “chicken-skin” feeling that you get when you try to imagine all the internees there. All the photos and video at the Manzanar Museum really told the true stories of what the internees went through.

Although we had just a couple of veterans from George Co....Tets Asato and Jim Makino, we had families of the other George company veterans as well as others from the 100th too who came. It was so nice to see them. We had our dinner banquet as well as our luncheon with a special slide show of all

the past George Co. memories. We also had a really nice tour of JANM as well as the monument too. Getting together and talking story was so wonderful.

After the reunion, ten of us went to Morongo Resort and Casino near Palm Springs and a couple of minutes from the largest Premium Outlet, Desert Hills....we were lucky....most of us won!! It was Aunty Mary Karatsu’s 90th birthday!! And she is still going strong!!

Upon our return from Morongo Casino, we attended Tom Nakamoto’s funeral in Rancho Palos Verdes. Tom, his wife Sachi, sons Greg or Steve, came regularly to our George Co. Reunions. Tom was always smiling and very humble. We really missed his at this last reunion.

Those who attended our reunion, said that they wanted to go back to Las Vegas, so yes **THERE WILL BE ANOTHER GEORGE COMPANY REUNION IN 2015 IN LAS VEGAS SOMETIME IN APRIL!!**





I'm out of news to report on H Co. since we haven't held chapter meetings for a while now. No comments of the 71st Anniversary Banquet so I guess everyone had a good time. I know I did! In spite of his failing health, Turk Tokita from Kauai made it a point to join his fellow veterans at the banquet on March 23rd. On June 7, 2014, Turk passed away. H Co. thanks his family for understanding one of Turk's last wishes.

Robert Kishinami, H Co. president, Honolulu, hopes that our members will be able to meet on Oct. 19, 10:30 a.m. at the 442nd Clubhouse for a meeting and luncheon. He has an interesting meeting planned so please be there.

Shirley Igarashi retired as secretary of the 442nd Club recently and she was nice to be with a group of us at the 72nd 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Anniversary Banquet on June 22. Best of health to you and good luck in whatever you do.

Mina-sama ogenkide.



REMINDER

Chapter reports
for the 4th Quarter issue of
the GFB bulletin
are due on

October 6, 2014



Sometime in early spring of this year, we received a heart aching news that Edna Hisayo Kuniyuki had passed away on 25 January 2014 I Bremerton, WA.

Edna was predeceased by her husband, Robert "Bob" Kuniyuki. He is inurned at the columbarium of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). Her inurnment was on 18 June 2014 at Bob's niche.

It was a solemn private service attended by her children, relatives and friends including some members of the 442nd 3HQ Co. chapter to which she and Bob belonged.

Following the ritual, a luncheon was held "celebrating the life" of Edna. Many happy memories were remembered.

The Kuniyukis always contributed vitality and the goodies to our chapter meetings. Edna's hot *ocha* (tea) and better-than-Starbucks coffee are now history.





by Louise Kashino, Jim & Marian Yamashita

Norwest b y Louise Kashino-Takisaki

No real Co. I news from the Pacific Northwest, which is probably good news in that our good old boys – Kim Muromoto and William Tosh Yasutake are both doing well. Aside from that, in case some of the veterans don't get our Newsletter, I will report as follows:

I had mentioned the May 17th "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" program which went off so successfully in the last Item news column. Well, we continue to receive favorable letters and comments from those who participated so we feel like it is a feather in our caps for this long overdue honoring of the Vietnam Veterans. As we are rapidly losing our WWII veterans, we need the younger generation to contribute their talents to help our club fulfill our Mission Statement. It is with such programs as the "Welcome Home" that we hope to stir the interest of our younger audience.

We have been able to redo our Museum with the help from a grant received from the National Parks Service. The souvenirs and memorabilia which have been mostly donated by the veterans are nicely displayed in beautiful show cases, and give more space to adequately show them off. Every time I go in the Museum, I am impressed that so many of the boys brought home the variety of souvenirs. In my husband's case, Shiro only came home with one gun which he promptly gave to his brother-in-law, saying he doesn't want to look at anything to remind him of his experiences on the front line. But we are grateful to the boys who did bring the many souvenirs home. If ever anyone is in Seattle for a visit, please do not hesitate to contact one of the docents who will be

glad to give you a tour of our facilities. As I am still in the phone book you can call me and I'll help you make the connection.

The NVC Foundation is planning their second Luau Fund Raiser in September. We will follow our Luau theme and feature a singing star who will entertain with a performance of 40s and 50s music, as well as others with Hawaiian musical talents. There will also be a live auction along with a raffle. These fund raisers help us to enhance our clubhouse, plus there is continuous upkeep which all costs money. We gratefully appreciate the interest from our community who patronize our activities and programs.

SoCal by Jim & Marian Yamashita

Greetings from Southern California. It is now middle of summer and we are experiencing great warm weather but very pleasant.

Our group here in Southern California has dwindled to just a handful. And those that are around aren't able to get out and about like we did in our younger days. But with few members available and jointly with Susan Uyemura's JA Living Legacy group, we managed to get together for lunch at Tokyo Lobby in Hacienda Heights a few months ago celebrating Moms and Dads day. It was a pleasant affair and it was good to see many friends with children and grandchildren attending. Also attending was Iwasaki scholarship recipient Marc Marutani, siblings and family Joel Marutani, Wendy Marutani and Brent Marutani.

We missed seeing Rose (Nobo) Ikuta as her son Eddie wasn't available to bring her. She has kept her home on Butler Avenue but she is living in an assisted living home for some time now. Dorothy (Bill) Davenport came with her grandson and his children. Dorothy is quite immobile now and depends entirely on a walker or a scooter.

Among some of the others was Tomiko (Eddie) Yamaguchi with her son Steven. After Eddie died she moved from Palm Springs back to Gardena to live with her other son, Glenn. Also present were Yoshio Nakamura with Grace

and daughter Linda. Yosh served a replacement for M Company. So with all our friends and their families we had a wonderful luncheon and hopefully we can continue to gather on such occasions.



Recently our own Shig Doi with his grandson, Shawn visited the battlegrounds in Northeastern France joining a group of friends and families of former veterans to led by Brian Yamamoto, son of MIS veteran and assisted by our Associate member Peggy Mizumoto whose father was with the 100th. The trip according to Shig, was

very fulfilling, yet very emotional as they visited Epinal National Veterans and see the familiar names especially that of Captain Byrnes who died when he stepped on a mine leading us to the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

Calling Shig Doi, Jim found out that Frank Shimada that he fell and is now in a Veterans hospital in Palo Alto nearby. Knowing that Frank has many friends concerned about his wellbeing, I proceeded to contact Frank and found him in good spirit as he related that he was walking out of door at home he stumbled and he hit his forehead. Fortunately, a relative happened to be there so Frank was rushed him to emergency. Since he is now unable to care for himself, he is now a resident of the VA hospital. Although mentally he is still sharp as a whistle, he needs help now to get around using a walker or a wheelchair. He sounded great and seems to be resigned about being where he is.

Although it has been some time ago since we lost our good friend, Beatrice Matsumura, widow of Fred Matsumura, who passed away suddenly in her sleep. She was never sick that I can remember, so it was a great shock and we all truly miss her.



2014 Iwasaki Scholarship Recipient

by Susan Uyemura

This year's recipient hails from Orange, California. Marc Kenji Marutani is a fifth generation Japanese American. He graduated from El Modena High School. Marc's grandfathers served during the Korean Conflict. Five great-uncles served in World War II and three served with the 442 RCT. Other granduncles served in the Cold War and in Vietnam. Other second cousins served in the Cold War and notably, one served as a Colonel with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq.

At El Modena, Marc was an AP scholar, basketball player (junior varsity), keyboardist for the Marching Band, founder of the Flash Mob Club and also represented his school as a delegate to the 2013 California Boys State in Sacramento and the 2012 National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine at UCLA. Marc served as Senior Patrol Leader of Boys Scout Troop 578 and also attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

Marc's passions include playing piano, performing in a rock band and tutoring youth in math and English.

Marc served as VP Fundraising, Religious Chair & Conference Committee member for the Junior Young Buddhist Association, as well as Sunday School Assistant Teacher and Chibiko Basketball Assistant Coach for the Orange County Buddhist Church. Marc also thoroughly enjoyed participating in the OCBC Sports/SEYO basketball and baseball programs during his K-12 years. Before Marc begins fall studies as a Biological Science major at the University of California, Irvine, he will serve as a Counselor in Training at the LABCC Summer Youth Camp and a delegate to BCA's Youth Advisory Committee summer retreat.



The usual monthly meeting of Company “L” Veterans was held at Zippy’s Restaurant in Kahala on Saturday, June 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. The usual attendees were there: Joe Oshiro with his wife and son, Kazuma Ogata, Isa Takiyama, Genro Kashiwa and his wife Muriel. The surprise was that Kila Takao Haraguchi had arranged a photo shoot of the boys and the meeting for a political candidate with camera, lights and microphone for recording. The boys were coached to saying the political candidate’s name in unison for the political take regardless of his preferred candidate. The group complied with the request for the sake of Kila. The group’s lunch tab was picked up by Kila.

It’s getting harder and harder to write this column, and so for the last column, Genro started to write about things about the war he experienced which he cannot forget. One such thing was about the “tree bursts” that caused shell fragments to rain down on him in the Vosges Mountain Top forests. This was on or about November 1st or 2nd, 1944, right after the battle to and rescue of the “Lost Battalion” of the 36th Texas Division on October 28, 1944. Recently, Genro met a veteran from the 522 Field Artillery and complained about the tree bursts which I thought was caused by them, but upon further reflection, I concluded that they were perfect shots that would have landed just in front of the advancing infantrymen, except that there were tall trees in the forest that caused the “tree bursts,” and that the maps being used by the Field Artillery did not show the tall trees.

The other incident which “I cannot forget” (after 70 years) is the incident wherein Genro Kashiwa and his first platoon were pursuing the German enemy to the end of the mountain top on or about November 4th, 1944 and the platoon was having a fierce fire

fight with the enemy at the mountain edge. Our men were firing at the German enemy about 30 feet away and stalemated there, in the thick forest, when out of nowhere comes Paul K. Matsumoto, the assistant jeep driver in his jeep together with a small trailer loaded with hot food in marmite cans. He stopped his jeep and trailer about 20 feet from the position that my men were having a fire fight with the enemy. Paul Matsumoto said he was ordered to bring the hot food to the men. I told Paul that the men are in the middle of a fire fight and cannot eat hot food. Paul insisted that the men eat the hot food in his jeep trailer, and he would not listen to my objection that my men were too busy in a fire fight with the enemy. I had to give in and ordered my men (two at a time) to stop firing at the enemy and come back and eat the hot food and go back to the line to continue their fire fight with the enemy.

The army regulation is that the men eat “C” rations (which came in cans) at the front lines while fighting the enemy – this was when the enemy is not too close; while the men were given “K” rations (which came in small paper boxes) when the enemy was real close. But nowhere is it stated that the men would eat “hot food” when in an intense fire fight with the enemy. So there was a “SNAFU” (situation normal, all fouled up) in the order to Paul Matsumoto.



Genro Kashiwa (r) with Bill Thompson and Rear Admiral Anne Cullere
Photo: Pat Thomson



by Bolo Shirakata

Journey to Hokkaido

Our flight from Honolulu to Tokyo took us about 8 hours and after about an hour-and-a-half, we were again flying on our way to Hokkaido. We arrived at Sapporo Chitose Airport at 8:30 p.m. and stretched our legs after the long plane ride to Sapporo overnight. Didn't go visiting and headed for Otaru, where we had time to visit the area and do some shopping. All the big hotels have buffet dining so you can eat all you want from chazuke to whatever you can think of. Of interest in Otaru was the glassware shop Kitaichi. Amazing, the things they create and so beautiful. One day was not enough but we had to move on.



Bolo with daughter Renee Takahashi; (back, l-r) sons Kyle, Keith, and son-in-law Steve Takahashi

After departing Otaru, we went to our favorite hotel in Noboribetsu, the Grand Hotel where we stayed for 2 days and enjoyed ourselves bathing in their famous onsen, regular and outdoor (roten buro). Oh yes, we were dressed in yukata and haori and had a Japanese room (nihon zashiki). Slept on the tatami with shiki buton and kake buton. We also had dinner in our room Japanese-style. I don't know how many courses, but this was not family style. It was individually prepared for each person. Ono? You've got to believe it.

After two days in Noboribetsu, we headed for Hakodate where we stayed for a day and visited the seafood market and other shopping areas. It was fun and very enjoyable. We then left Hakodate and flew into Haneda Airport. From there, we headed for Odaiba, a city in Tokyo which is manmade. My nephew, who lives in Yokohama, came to pick us up and took us shopping. You know what? We went to Costco and did some shopping. They accepted our local membership card. My nephew and his wife treated us to lunch in Chinatown which was superb. Since they live in Yokohama near Chinatown, they knew some top-notch chefs and we were served royally. That evening, they took us to dinner in Tokyo. Guess what, we had balloon fish, sashimi, soup and finally "ojiai." What remained in the soup was turned into a thicker soup which had scrambled eggs and the remaining balloon fish bones. It was really delicious. Living proof that I'm still here. Forgot to mention, but our trip consisted of 5 of us – my daughter and husband, my two sons and myself and fortunately we had the same guide of two years ago who made all the arrangements in Hokkaido. She lives in Sapporo but fluent in English and very knowledgeable of almost everything in Hokkaido. The next trip? Trying to stay healthy and I'm anxiously waiting for the bullet train to go from Tokyo to Hokkaido.

Sore made, gomen.



by Shuji Akiyama

It is my feeling that over half of those attending the 70th reunion don't know the history of the 442nd. They don't know when, why, or how it all started. As we are of the eldest generation present today, I feel it is important that the 442nd focus on sharing our legacy with the younger generations. For example, many may not realize that Dave Shoji, head coach of the UH Wahine volleyball team and the coach with the winningest record in the NCAA, is the son of a 442nd combat veteran named Kobe Shoji. And as I wrote in a previous article to this newsletter, Daniel Akiyama is the grandson of my brother Mitsuo Akiyama, who was in the 442nd Anti-Tank Company. Daniel is the author of a play called "Cage of Fireflies" which was selected by the prestigious Sundance Institute for production and debuted at the Kumu Kahua Theater in Honolulu. I am also proud to say that I have three granddaughters. The eldest is a registered nurse. The second is a senior at USC Medical School; she has a full U.S. Navy Scholarship and will start serving as a Navy physician this year. The youngest is finishing her freshman year at UCLA and will likely major in physics. I am overjoyed to see the younger generations growing their minds and pursuing higher education at universities. Still, it is important to continue their education at home by sharing our stories so they can appreciate(?) how their family history intersects with their country's history.

That said, I would like to share some of my own stories as well as pay homage to five others in my family who volunteered and fought in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Today, I am the only surviving veteran in my family.

On December 7, 1941, I was a sophomore at UH Manoa and a member of their ROTC. The next day, I was not notified that I had been inducted into the Hawaii Territorial Guard along with the rest

of the ROTC boys. We were given a rifle and five bullets which we carried but had no idea how to use. Luckily, I was in the armory pushing papers and running errands so my ignorance never mattered. On February 6, 1942, all Nisei were forced out and labeled as "enemy aliens." I was shocked; I was born an American citizen. In early 1943, 10,000 Nisei crazily volunteered to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. I say "crazily" in hindsight but at the time, we volunteered out of pride and brotherhood. We sailed on the *Lurline* to Oakland, rode the train with flaps down for five days, and arrived at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. I was part of the Headquarters Company First Battalion. When training finished, I became a code clerk. My job was to encode our radio messages to prevent the enemy from intercepting vital information.

When it was decided that the First Battalion (renamed the 171st Battalion) would remain at Camp Shelby to train the next set of recruits, many of us decided to volunteer for other missions rather than experience basic training again. I was accepted by the highly competitive MIS because I had attended language school throughout youth. But before my transfer came through, I was shipped to Italy and ended up with "A" Company, 100th Battalion. After serving several months in Italy, the 442nd was sent to France. We rode on a LST from Italy to Marseilles. After we got there, we rode a train for seven miles for about seven hours to a field outside of Marseilles. Then they trucked us to the vicinity of Bruyeres and we walked into the town. The Germans had just left the town.

A week or so later, the General of the 36th Division ordered the 442nd to rescue their battalion which was trapped in the forest outside Biffontaine. On the way, I was made the radioman and was of course required to carry the radio, a bulky and heavy machine which added about fifty pounds to my pack. I followed the "A" Company CO into the forest with no instruction on how to operate the machine or which language to communicate in. Thus, I spoke pidgin English, Hawaiian, and even nihongo (Japanese) to confuse the enemy. We were hit hard. I can still

remember the trees bursting above us and falling branches raining down. Our regiment suffered many losses, but ultimately, we were able to save the “Lost Battalion.” In response to our victory, the Governor of Texas later made us official “Texan citizens.” After the battle, my duties with the heavy radio were finished, and I was given a walkie-talkie. What a relief! Following the attack, a squad of “A” Company was told to ride five small tanks to open the road ahead. Riding on top a tank is not exactly comfortable or easy. Two of our comrades fell off the tank and were never seen again (presumed captured). We were given Bronze Star medals for our actions.

Because the 442nd was battered up, we were sent to recover and do patrol work at the Italian-French border outside the city of Menton. Life was quite easy. We were given passes maybe once a month to go on outside excursions. My best friend Henry Nakasone and I would go to Beausoleil just outside of Monte Carlo. There, we would sell off our army-issued cigarettes and give candies to local children. We were lucky to befriend two young boys who spoke English because their mother was British. They asked if we would like to come over for dinner. The problem was that they lived in Monte Carlo which was off limits to Americans. However, the thought of a delicious home-cooked meal was too irresistible so we quickly snuck into town, bringing gifts of candy and cigarettes with us. Dinner was hot and eaten at a table with a tablecloth and off real plates with real silverware. Their parents then invited us to stay the night, and we got to sleep in comfortable beds. Wow!

Shortly after our friendly encounter with the English family, the 442nd was ordered to go to Italy to start the spring offense and assist the 92nd Division. It was early morning when we broke ground to climb a mountain the size of Koko Head with the Germans residing on the top, observing our ascent. I think it was the first day when Sadao Munemori of “A” Company jumped on a grenade to shield his buddies from the blast. In honor of his sacrifice, he was the first one to receive the Medal of Honor. Days later, we crawled our way to the top. We stayed there for

about a week – situated in a marble mine – before moving to Alexandria where we would hear that World War II had ended.

We were then called to duty at Ghedi Airport to watch 50,000 German POWs. The border was so large that each patrolling officer could not see the next. Around September 1945, thirty of the 442nd men were chosen to attend the University of Florence in Italy for three months. Both my brother and I were lucky to be chosen. We stayed at the railway station, took classes in the morning, and were free to roam in the afternoon. We studied the language and culture of Italy. Have you ever been to Florence? It is one of the most beautiful and interesting cities in Italy.

After my wonderful experience at the University of Florence, all of us headed home and were discharged from the army on December 16, 1945. Using the financial support of the GI Bill, I returned to the University of Hawaii and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Economics. I then worked as an accountant for the Honolulu Police Department before becoming an insurance examiner. I was verifying the financial condition of the local insurance companies and HMSA. I also went to two insurance companies on the mainland representing the insurance commissioners of zone 6.

Number two is my brother, Mitsuo Akiyama. He resided in Hilo so I did not know he had joined the 442nd until I saw him at Camp Shelby. Mits became the clerk of the Anti-Tank Company. He was shuffling papers between his company personnel in the rear. He got through the war safely. And as I wrote previously, he even went to the University of Florence. Prior to WWII, he had been a secretary to the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Hilo. He was the first to bring a mainland scientist to Hawaii to scout for a place to install a telescope on the Big Island. After WWII, Mits became a life insurance agent for Sun Life Company of Canada.

Number three is my wife’s brother Kenneth Muroshige. He was drafted with the 298th Infantry, but volunteered to join the 100th Infantry. Kenneth trained in Camp Savage in Wisconsin. The 100th Infantry went to North Africa and later joined the 34th

Division in Italy. Kenneth was severely injured in the Battle of Monte Cassino. He was discharged and sent to a hospital in the United States. He later became a typewriter repairman for the Army; he was even a driver for a limousine company temporarily.

Number four is my wife's brother-in-law, Edwin Kokubun. He volunteered from Maui and was assigned to the Anti-Tank Company. Luckily, he went through many campaigns without getting hurt. He was a key guy in his company. However, he is best remembered as that tall guy holding the American flag in the famous color guard photo which served as the inspiration for the design of the Congressional Gold Medal. After the war ended, Edwin studied refrigerator repair using the benefits of the GI Bill. Later on, he became a lineman of Maui Electric and then a foreman.

Number five is my sister-in-law's brother, John Ushijima. He volunteered from Hilo. From the beginning of the war, he was with the Cannon Company. He was an integral part of the campaign, and luckily, he was not harmed. After being discharged, he went to college and law school under the GI Bill of Rights. He practiced law in Hilo with his wife who was an attorney, too. He was also President of the Hawaii Senate for many years.

Number six is John Ushijima's brother, Shigeru Ushijima. He was drafted into the 298th Infantry. On January 28, 1942, he was on the transport ship, which was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. Luckily, he survived. Subsequently, he joined the 100th Infantry Battalion in Camp Savage and was shipped to Italy and France. He was injured in Italy but rejoined the 100th in Anzio and took part in combat in France. After the war, he returned to Hilo and worked for American Factors. Years later, he worked for the Hilo Post Office until retirement.

I have recounted these stories knowing that many of you have similar stories to tell and in hopes of encouraging you to share them, especially with your families. Let's pass on our legacy. Go For Broke!



by Gail Nishimura

Time is flying by and it's SUMMER! Kids are out of school but will be heading back to school soon. Graduations are done and the parties are in full swing! My vacation came and went before I really got to soak in everything! Seems like we were planning and planning – then it was home again, vacation over! (At least I'm retired now so I can recoup from my trip!)

As we get older – old times and old friends are remembered. We bid aloha to many and remember the good times. Reminiscing – I seem to be doing that a lot lately. Many times I wish I had talked more with my parents about things they did when they were living on the mainland. Mom worked in DC area during the war and Dad in NYC for school after the war. If you have the chance, talk to your folks now.

Life has a way of continuing even without our noticing, kids are grown before you know it...I often wonder what happened to the cute little kids who are now college graduates or parents! I had a surprise visit a week ago from one of my mother's friends, Chieko Kondo. They became friends in Hawaii and then met up again when both were living on the east coast. Chieko & her daughter, Michiko ("Michi") stopped in to visit since they were in Hawaii for a wedding. She



remembered December 7, 1941 as their day off, so she and mom were out and about during the day. She said mom's employer was very worried since they didn't know where they had gone that day. Mom lived in the DC area and she and her friends would go to the Tasaka's house every

Sunday to help Mrs. Tasaka & her teen daughter Mary cook for the "442 boys." (One of the "boys," James

Yanagida, came to talk to me at my mom's funeral and told me how they've known each other since those days at the Tasakas. Turns out he now lives in Wahiawa and also belongs to the same Baptist Church as my mom did – small world!)

After the war my mom moved back to Hawaii and her friend Chieko moved to the west coast. The Tasakas stayed on the east coast. Over the years they all kept in contact through Christmas cards and letters. Families came and the letters became Christmas notes, but they kept in touch. Later when I took over doing mom's Christmas card list I tried to keep up with her friends though I never met many of them. (I met Mary Tasaka Kusumoto & her family when I was in college and visited at their Silver Springs home.)

My parents didn't meet till mom returned from DC and moved to Wahiawa with her family, but the running joke was how come mom went to Camp Shelby to visit my soon to be uncle "Mits" Okinaga in Co. F, her brother Fumio Ohashi in Co. L and yet missed my dad in Co. K? (My dad's younger brother was also in 522B but he was transferred to MIS.)



Pictured: Mr. Benton (mom's employer), mom, Hiroshi (last name?), Fumio & Chieko.

This year mom would've been 100! She had a full life and was lucky to not be on the west coast (as initially planned) when the war broke out. She lived in the DC area for 4 years and came home when the war was over. She kept in contact with many of her friends who have since passed and I think they're now all together again reminiscing the old times!

We bid aloha to Shirley Igarashi as she "retires" from



working at the 442 office. She is still active with S&D, but has stopped working at the office. Shirley has been such a lifesaver to so many and I think we underestimate how important her presence was. She is always so pleasant to all – whether you are a veteran, a son or daughter or just looking for information. She was even nice to the homeless who hung around the outside of the office! (One guy told me I got an A+ for parallel parking in front of the office!) Many times we call her at the last minute for information or just say "Call the office and let Shirley know". You will be greatly missed by many and I'm glad you're my friend cause we can still get together from time to time. Thank you for all you've done for us.

Now getting back to Sons & Daughters events!

On June 22 some S&D's joined the 100th Battalion at their anniversary banquet at Dole Cannery. Some who attended are Wes Deguchi, Shirley Igarashi, Anita Nihei, Byrnes Yamashita, Mark and Debbie Oshiro, Karlton Tomomitsu, Laura Hirayama, Phyllis Hironaka, Jeanne Ishikawa, Ann Kabasawa, May Kawawaki-Price, Grace Fujii, Gwen Fujie and me. (Sorry if I missed anyone, I may not have seen you or forgot I saw you!)

We have an activity on Saturday, July 26, 2014. Come & join us...we'd love to have you join us. It's from 9-11am at the 100th Battalion Club house. Parking at Ala Wai School. Cost is \$5/per person. Contact Debbie & Mark Oshiro at mmoshiro@hawaii.rr.com.

The 9th Annual Joint Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). The service is held to honor fallen World War II members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion. It will be sponsored this year by the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. The keynote speaker will be retired Judge Thomas Kaulukukui, Jr. whose father Thomas, Sr. was a member of the Varsity Victory Volunteers. The event will be open to the public.

To update you on the Go For Broke: Japanese

American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts exhibit that has been traveling in Hawaii since March. It is currently in Honolulu at the 100th Battalion Clubhouse and has traveled from Honolulu to Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center before coming back to Honolulu. It was also shown earlier at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

The exhibit will be at

- Arizona Memorial Visitor's Center, July 14-25

- Hawaii Community FCU, Kailua-Kona,

August 18 – September 12.

The exhibit covers the following components:

- Japanese Immigration to the territory of Hawaii and the continental United States, 1885-1924

- Prewar Japanese experience in Hawaii and the mainland, 1924-1941

- Pearl Harbor – Japanese American evacuation and internment on the west coast

- Japanese American soldier in World War II, including story of the 100th/442nd/522nd, and the history of Japanese Americans in the occupation of Japan after the War

- Individuals who helped Japanese American soldiers during World War II

- Soldiers returning home – closing of the internment camps

- Japanese American veterans and the civil rights movement

- The Redress Movement – passage of House Resolution 442, Civil Liberties Act of 1988

- The continuing legacy

Eric Saul is the Founder and Executive Director of Visa for Life and Institute for the Study of Rescue and Altruism in the Holocaust (ISRAH), whose mission is to document a comprehensive history of the Holocaust. In 2010 he curated the exhibit currently in Hawaii.

We are so very lucky and grateful to have someone who has knowledge on preservation do this for our veterans. Otherwise many of the important facts may disappear in a box of stuff that no one knows what to do with (like me). I'm interested but no one else in

my family is, so everything is still in the box in the closet! It was at the bottom of my grandmother's trunk under all the blankets, etc! Guess we should all start looking around for things that will tell us more of our history. You never know what's in the box at the top of the closet!

Keep in touch! 442sd.org

Shirley's Retirement Party by Grace Fujii



Shirley with bouquet from K Co.; first day as Exec. Secy., 442nd Veterans Club

Our dear, sweet Shirley Igarashi, daughter of the late Charles Igarashi, K Co., was overwhelmingly surprised at her fabulous retirement party on July 12, planned

by Gwen Fujie and Anita Nihei, our "Go For Broke Hostesses with the Mostest!" As Shirley entered we sang "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow..." she joined in and when she heard the party was for her she stopped and exclaimed, "FOR ME?!?" We had a great laugh surprising her. We expressed our sincere appreciation and love for her as the Executive Secretary of the 442nd RCT Veterans Club and especially as our amazing friend and sister.

We enjoyed the Willows venue and oonolicious buffet, having seconds, thirds, fourths, stuffing our opu to the max; admiring Shirley's fantastic memory/photo album that Gwen so lovingly created! The party favors! The fun game! The happy camaraderie! The outstanding secret gift card! And, memorable of all, eliciting admiring cheers, the huge "Candy-Gram" poster boards; truly, a delicious work of art crafted by Gwen!

Words cannot adequately convey the sincere emotions we shared expressing our love for Shirley ~ the cheerful sweetheart and blessing, who, by her joyous attitude and "can do" spirit, entered our lives and made us all want to become better persons.

May Fair Winds, Calm Seas and Clear Skies accompany Shirley's future travels. God Bless You! We love you lots and more!

OTHER News

Oahu AJA Veterans Council - Fini

The Oahu AJA Veterans Council was formally incorporated on February 13, 1997. The Council consists of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Veterans Club, Military Intelligence Service Club of Hawaii, and the 1399th Engineers Battalion. The Council was organized to promote cooperation among its member organizations and to foster the development and growth of these organizations in the State of Hawaii; to provide and maintain means through which the member organizations may exchange ideas and aims through which they may obtain uniformity of opinion and concentration of action in the promotion of these ideas and aims.

The first directors and officers were: President Robert N. Katayama (442nd), Vice President Howard Furumoto (MIS), Secretary Thomas Takemoto (1399th Engineers) and Treasurer Joichi Muramatsu (100th Inf).

As the coordinating body, the first major activity was the erection of the "Brothers in Valor" memorial monument at Ft. DeRussy, Waikiki. An on-going program is the Joint Memorial Service (JMS) held on the last Sunday in September at the NMCP at Punchbowl to honor our dead comrades. This date in September commemorates the first AJA killed in combat during WWII - Sgt. Shigeo Joe Takata of B Company, 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) on September 29, 1943.

This year it will be the 9th JMS and probably the last since the dissolution of the Oahu AJA Veterans Council. On May 7, 2014, the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs was notified that there was no unanimous decision by the four member organizations to continue the Oahu AJA Veterans Council. This came about when Wesley Deguchi, President of the NVLC, asked if the NVLC can take over the JMS program. The 442nd Veterans Club and the 1399th Engineers Battalion both voted to continue the Council; the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club and the MIS Club both voted against the continuation of the Council. Therefore, the State had no alternative but to dissolve the Council.



This sign is located on the Ft. DeRussy property and is on Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki. The Brothers in Valor monument can be seen in the background. Next to this sign is a small plaque honoring Judy M. Weightman who conceived the idea which led to the building of the Brother in Valor memorial monument.



Jackson Morisawa was the principal designer of the layout for this memorial monument at Ft. DeRussy honoring the four Nisei units of WWII. The monument itself was created and built by 442nd veteran and sculptor Bumpei Akaji. The inscription plaques were handled by Ted Tsukiyama aided by others familiar with the history of these four Nisei WWII units.



(L-R): Mark Matsunaga, Lois Nakagawa, Mike Harada and Wayne Iha stand alongside of the Brothers in Valor monument. The floral wreaths placed at the foot of the monument were a recent innovation. These wreaths were brought to the Brothers in Valor memorial monument following the Joint Memorial Service.



This small plaque dedicated to Judy M. Weightman was installed next to the "Brothers in Valor" sign. The committee that organized and supervised the construction of the memorial monument of the "Brothers in Valor" wanted to honor her for conceiving the idea for the monument and for her help on the project.



French Legion of Honor Medal Ceremony

Photos by Wayne Iha, Clyde Sugimoto, Pat Thomson

On August 20, 2014, French Legion of Honor medals were presented to 7 veterans who served in France during WWII. Three veterans of the 442nd were among those honored. Three 100th Infantry Battalion veterans and a retired Canadian Colonel were also presented with the medals. The ceremony took place on the French Frigate *Prairial* anchored at Pearl Harbor. The medals were presented by Rear Admiral Anne Cullere of the French Navy who was here for the Pacific naval games. Admiral Harry Harris also spoke during the ceremony. The 442nd veterans honored were: Hiroo Endo (K Co), Yasunori Deguchi (F Co) and Shiro Aoki (M Co). Since Aoki was ill and could not attend the ceremony, his M Company buddy Ralph Tomei accepted the medal on his behalf.



Hiroo Endo, Company K



Yasunori Deguchi, Company F



Ralph Tomei, Company M

French Legion of Honor Medal Ceremony (cont.)



Left: Rear Admiral Cullere congratulates Deguchi with son Wesley on hand



Right: Rear Admiral Cullere congratulates Endo; looking on is wife of Consul General Shigeeda



Seven recipients of the Legion of Honor



Announcements

Save the date!

442nd Veterans Club

72nd Anniversary Banquet

Date: March 29, 2015 (Sunday)
Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Place: Pacific Beach Hotel (Grand Ballroom, 7th Floor)
Cost: To Be Determined

More information will be provided in the next issue of the Go For Broke bulletin.

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

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

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