

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



PUKA-PUKA

PARADE

NOVEMBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: George Hagiwara

In this world full of opportunities and filled with luxurious living, let's look to our children if they have any desire to inherit our physical assets and perpetuate our legacy. I certainly place my faith them to perpetuate the legacy of the 100th Infantry Battalion rather than rely on a group of strangers. Whatever proposals are accepted or agreed upon, our primary concern should be considered with our children, most of whom are no longer children, as our successors

(EDITORS' NOTE: Excerpts from the president's welcoming address at the 45th Annual Memorial Service - Sunday, September 23, 1990 - Ray & Aki)

Memorial Day is a day our nation honors those who died while in the service of their country. And while it is a day of sadness, it is a day given to the memory of those who lost their lives in all wars for the causes of peace, freedom, and justice.

The men of the 100th Infantry Battalion have chosen this day to commemorate the loss of the first nisei soldier killed in action in World War II, Sergeant Shigeo "Joe" Takata of Baker Company. Sergeant Takata, who exemplified the highest traditions of leadership on the battlefield, was killed in Castelvetera, Italy on September 29, 1943.

In memorializing the brave, young men from all sects and branches of service, we are haunted by with memories of that young Marine whose body was blown up by the explosion of an artillery shell, the young sailor who was tossed into the Pacific Ocean from a bomb dropped by an enemy zero never to be seen again, or the crew of that fatal plane which left on a dawn patrol and failed to return. While such visions are deeply troublesome for us veterans, we can only imagine the suffering from the shock and grief that must have followed the delivery of the telegram notifying the parents or young wife of the loss of their loved one.

And so, a memorial service is marked by countless, different ways by countless, different people across the nation.

FROM THE EDITORS' PUKA: Ray and Aki Nosaka

The 1990 Mini-Reunion has come and gone. It was just great to renew acquaintances with our good friends from Southern California, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, New Mexico, and from all over the United States. As we greeted one another, it was noticeable that the black hair was getting less, shoulders were drooping a little more, walking canes were more visible, but the brotherly love and aloha was still unchanged. For the 200-plus people in attendance, this was truly a wonderful time of fellowship, even if it was only to say, "Hi, how are you doing? Making any money?"

Young O. Kim, devoted member of "B" Chapter, Southern California, presented a message with slide show on behalf of the NVCC Memorial Monument Committee. His delivery was very informative and succeeded in clarifying any doubts that we might have had. This project will need all of our moral, as well as financial, support.

Plans for the next reunion are already in the making for possibly June of 1991. We have submitted our suggestion in hopes of helping to bring about better organization and communication to all who will be attending. We are very grateful to the Southern California Chapter, with Ben Tagami as General Chairman, for hosting this event and we wish to offer our fullest cooperation. This annual get-together of "Katonks" and "Buddha-heads from Hawaii" is truly an occasion to which we all look forward.

EDITORS' PUKA (continued)

We are sincerely saddened by the passing of former Club 100 president Howard Miyake. Two days before his untimely death, I had the honor of shaking his hand and listening to some encouraging words spoken softly by this dying man. Our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Harumi Miyake and to son, Mark.

WE NEED YOU!! The Nominations and Election Committee is having a very difficult time recruiting officers for the year 1991. Will it be the same in 1992? 1993? What are we going to do? What is the reason that good men are shying away from taking the reins and leading the club to stay unified in brotherly love and purpose? Are things getting too technical? Too involved? Or is it just old age? Health? Or just "don't care" attitude?

Our thanks to the Company B and Rural teams, and the many others, who helped with the Puka Puka Parade on September 27, 1990: Bernard Akamine, Akira Akimoto, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Ralph & Ethel Fukunaga, Chester Hada, Michael Hamamoto, Ted Hamasu, Saburo Hasegawa, Tokuichi Hayashi, James & Carol Inafuku, Isamu Inouye, Masaru Kadamoto, Fred Kanemura, Gladys Kawakami, Arthur Komiyama, Kaneichi Morimoto, Ken Muroshige, Sonsei Nakamura, Seie & Evelyn Oshiro, Susumu Ota, Masaharu Saito, Robert Takashige, Sakae & Stella Tanigawa, Yukio Tanji, Masasuke Toma, Rikio Tsuda, Tsugio Tsuru, Marie Yoneshige, and Rudy Yoshida.

P.S. NOTE "Late News Flash": The 1991 Mini-Reunion date has been tentatively set for June 2-7, 1991 at the New Palace Station in Las Vegas. Watch for detailed information in the next two issues of the Puka Puka Parade.

HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS: Kenichi Suehiro

Our sympathy and condolence to Nancy Nakamura. As you know, Robert passed away Saturday morning at home and services were held Wednesday evening (October 3).

I forgot about our monthly meeting, so no news about the meeting. However, I have something to write about the recent mini-reunion held in Las Vegas. Roy Honbo decided to attend the reunion cause he wanted to fish at Lake Meade. Heard about the good sized stripers in the lake. I took the responsibility of arranging for a guide with boat, equipment, etc. I had everything confirmed in August. As you can imagine, Roy was all set. Fishing was to be on Wednesday, September 26 from 5:30 a.m. After arriving in Las Vegas for the reunion, I phoned the guide to confirm our reservation and guess what? The wife told me the motors were on the blink and that fishing on Wednesday was not possible. How about Friday? Well, we were scheduled to return home on Friday. She gave me the name and phone number of another guide who may take us out. I phoned several times but wasn't able to make contact. I was so darn mad, I gave up. Now, Roy will never let me forget this fishing fiasco! Roy and I were roommates. One afternoon, I went to our room to rest. I tried to unlock the door, but no luck. So, I went to the registrar and asked for another key. This key didn't work either, so down I went again. This time, the registrar asked to bellboy to go up with me. Roy was in the room all the time and he had double-locked the door for safety sake! And he never bothered to open the door when I was fumbling with the lock three times! I won't let him forget this ever.

The reunion was great, especially the huge, green grapes we were all treated to. Far better than our supermarket grapes. I carried a sackful for us to eat at the airport and on the plane. But I had so much, I had some leftover which I gave to a stewardess from Hawaii. At the Honolulu Airport, I told the Department of Agriculture representative what I did cause I figured too much bother. Well, she said next time just let them look about it - no sweat! Now I know!

I was surprised to see Dr. & Mrs. Otagaki, Pat Akimoto, and Dorothy Tamashiro at the reunion. Also, M/M Hideo Ueno, M/M Mike Takahashi, M/M Itsuki Oshita, Archie Kamisato, Marshall Higa and Arthur Tamashiro (golfers) and Mugi. Peter Kawahara must have represented Kona, Hawaii. He furnished all the statesiders with our famous Kona coffee. Those mainlanders sure put on a great show - many thanks!

Imagine Tony Oshita and Archie Kamisato being there! I'm sure they must have played to their hearts' content!

HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

Our sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Stella Nakayama. Her husband, Katsumi (Ka), died suddenly in Las Vegas. We'll surely miss Ka!

Margaret Higa hardly ever misses a trip, but this time she stayed home as a grandmother should. Now, the Higas have a grandson and a granddaughter. Understandably, Margaret is all stories - is she happy? You bet she is!

I was happy to see Sidney Oshiro on the way to Las Vegas and also saw him at the casino. He spoke of the knee operation and the absence of pain due to the successful operation. Now he's gone too. Our sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Yoshiko Oshiro and family.

Also, our good friend, Howard Miyake, passed away. Our sympathy and condolence to his Mrs. and family. I can still picture his coming out of the 133rd Regimental tent after he received his 2nd lieutenant bars - field commissioned. I was the first to salute him. Instead of giving me a dollar for being the first person to salute him, he said, "What the heck you saluting me for?" We'll surely miss him too!

ABLE CHAPTER NEWS: Tom Fujise

Items taken from the Able Chapter minutes: Able Chapter will present Mits Fukuda's name for consideration in naming one of the two new facilities the U.S. Army Reserve will be building at Ft. Shafter ... Katsumi Sakotani received a dues waiver ... All adults attending this coming Christmas party will be assessed \$5.00 per head. The event will be free to those under 18 years of age. Richard Ishimoto specifically requested that if you are going to be there, please sign up so he can have a headcount in advance. That way, he can order the right amount of food.

Hereafter, Able Chapter will have a "mi-mae" committee visit those paid up members who are ailing physically. This is primarily to let those members know that they have not been forgotten. Tom Fujise will head up a committee of three (3) to take over that responsibility. Besides Tom, Don Matsuda and Richard Ishimoto will make up the committee. "Report": On Tuesday, September 25th, Don and Tom visited Richard Miyashiro and Howard Miyake. They brought with them fruit baskets and a few words of encouragement. This as the first of such visits that the committee hopes to undertake in the coming years. The committee stayed with Richard for about an hour since he was sitting comfortably in front of the TV. He was happy to talk with us since he cannot carry on a conversation with the TV. With Howard in the hospital, the committee felt our stay should be only for a short while. Mrs. Miyake had to attend a course in home care for Howard. As we were ready to leave, Howard thanked us and the rest of Able Chapter for the beautiful fruit basket.

The following people are selected to head the upcoming Able Chapter Christmas Party to be held on Saturday, December 15:

Co-chairmen: Tom Fujise, Tomeki Nishioka, and Seie Oshiro
 Food & Clean-up: Mrs. Barbara Nishioka, Tom Fujise, and Richard Ishimoto
 Children's games and prizes: Miss Louise Morikawa
 Lucky Number: Tomeki Nishioka
 Decoration: Mrs. Evelyn Oshiro
 Entertainment: Horace Awa, Japan Nakahara, and Tsugio Tsuru
 Finance: Susumu Kunishige
 Table set-up & Breakfast: Walter Moriguchi
 Choba: Don Matsuda, Edward Kobata, Masaru Kadamoto, Richard Arakaki, and Tokuichi Hayashi

For the first time in the history of Able Chapter, we will have grandchildren showing their talents. If any grandchildren would like to sing or dance, please don't forget to bring your own tape. Horace Awa is also planning to have surprise entertainment for us.

DECEMBER PUKA PUKA PARADE DEADLINE: The deadline for submitting articles for the December issue of the Puka Puka Parade is Thursday, November 15, 1990.

DECEMBER PARADE COLLATING DATE: The December Parade will be collated on Thursday, November 29 at 8:30 a.m. in Turner Hall. Team 2: Able & Charlie Chapters are responsible for providing the manpower. However, volunteers from all the chapters are welcome to come out and help. Note that this is the LAST THURSDAY of the month since the regular collating date (4th Thursday) is Thanksgiving Day (November 22).

ABLE CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

We don't know if Howard Miyake ever climbed mango trees when he was young, but we know that he was a good climber on the "Tree of Life" in his later years. From a 16¢ plantation worker to a \$21.00 a month, plus room and board, hotel worker, from a PFC to a captain in the Army, from a clerk in the House of Representatives to Majority Leader and later to president of various organizations, he had reached great heights and maybe is still climbing.

Howard Y. Miyake passed away on October 5, 1990. Memorial services were held on October 14 at the Nuuanu Congregational Church. Inurnment took place on October 15 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Miyake and son, Mark.

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S NOTE: Sorry about breaking up the 'Able Chapter News'. The last page of Tom's draft had separated from the rest of his article and I did not notice it until after I had already typed the Parade deadline and collating announcements. - Paul)

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS: Yasuo Takata

Now that our mini-reunion is over, some are smiling and others have invested for the future. Main thing is that they enjoyed it although we had one tragedy. We finally met our long lost comrade, George Okano (Baker Chapter - 414 West Blair Avenue, Rock Springs, Wyoming 82902). He was on a trip with a senior citizen group and was not able to visit us until the last night. I took him around the casino to meet as many of our gang as possible. He writes that he is really looking forward to our 50th Anniversary in 1992. He says (quote), "The Good Lord willing, I want to be there." Alas, no preparations have been made to date. Don't know where it's going to be held and when.

George says it is getting cold up there. In Cheyenne, Wyoming, they had 10" of snow. He and his wife did go deer hunting, enjoyed it, and got their deer. Then there was the hard part of cutting and wrapping it up and storing it away. He sends his "hello" to all of his buddies and asks that they write to him.

About three months ago, Shizu Tahara, wife of Nash Tahara (King's Bakery), suffered a stroke (July 5) and was hospitalized for a couple of weeks. While hospitalized, she suffered a second stroke but recovered. She then went to the Rehab Hospital until the early part of this month. Now she is on outpatient treatment. She goes to the Rehab Center every morning. Her outlook is very good, according to "Nash". She is still in a wheelchair and determined to get better. Shizu has been very generous in donating pastries and cakes to Club 100 and Baker Chapter all these years. We have lost another golden voice. Not many of you know that Shizu sang for the Hilo Choir (or Hilo Glee Club) before King's Bakery. I heard her in two concerts. Let us pray for a rapid recovery and we hope to see her on her feet again.

At last, we have found Richard "Butter" Murakami. "Butter" is now hospitalized at Nuuanu Hale Hospital Convalescent Center. Several of "B" Chapter members and friends have visited him to cheer him up. His memory seems good and he was very happy.

Another Baker Chapter member, Noboru Kaneko, is also in a convalescent center at Kuakini Hospital (Hale Pulana Mau) due to numerous ailments but is able to walk with a cane. If you know him, please take time to visit him for he does not have many visitors.

Mrs. Roy Nakayama went on an extended trip and enjoyed it very much but came home so exhausted she had to take a couple of days to rest before returning to work.

Lots of luck to Sonsei and Elaine Nakamura on their trip to you-know-where.

In behalf of Baker Chapter, may I express our deepest sympathy to the families of our departed comrades: Robert Nakamura, Katsumi Nakayama, Noboru Niimi, Sidney Oshiro, Howard Miyake, and Isamu Sanemitsu.

DECEMBER MONTHLY BULLETIN: The deadline for submitting announcements for the December Monthly Bulletin is Monday, November 19, 1990.

CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS: Kazuto Shimizu

Let me start the article by offering our deepest condolence to Stella and her family for the untimely passing of Katsumi Nakayama (Dog Chapter) at our Mini-reunion. A period of joy and meeting old comrades turned to be his last days.

In other ways, the reunion was great. The Los Angeles group had the hospitality room in full swing where we could meet each other and enjoy fresh fruit, pupus and refreshments. For me, it was great to have three days of golf while my wife, Lynn, teamed up with friends to go casino-hopping. The elusive jackpots and royal flushes disappointed many, but there were several beaming faces among our members - ask Lynn how she did it.

Tea House Party - Warren Iwai, Hideshi Niimi and their committee are working double-time to put this event together.

Noboru Niimi, Club 100 and Charlie Chapter member, passed away in early October.

The Board of Directors approved "C" Chapter's request to waive Tsutomu Takayama's Club 100 dues. Tsutomu is in a care home with Alzhiemer's Disease. We wish him good care and comfort.

It has been noted that chapter activities are slowly fading into deep retirement. Poor night vision, failing health, and other complications are taking their toll. Let me dwell on two subjects that need your attention before we fade further away:

1) Funeral Services: The chapter tries to help as requested with the funeral service of members and their family. This is a chapter policy and we are handicapped when your chapter dues payment (\$5.00/year) is not current.

2) List of members buried at Punchbowl: The chapter decorates assigned graves during our annual Memorial Service. We do this by following a list, kept current by Kaoru Yonezawa and Saburo Ishitani to the best of their knowledge. It has come to my attention that the list should contain all former Company C members. We may have missed some of our inactive members. The front office depends on the chapters to update the master list. Input by everyone is needed to better our list. Our bull session after our monthly meeting may be a good place to start gathering data.

The slate of next year's officers for "C" Chapter is as follows:

President	Stanley Akita
Vice President	Hideshi Niimi
Secretary	Kiyoshi Uyeno
Treasurer	Kazuto Shimizu

If you wish to support their candidacy or wish to change it, your chance is at our November 19 meeting at 7:30 p.m.

DOG CHAPTER NEWS: Helen Nikaido

Charlie and Rhoda Kawamata enjoyed a weekend in Kauai at the Westin Kauai in early September. Following that weekend, they were off to the Waikaloa in Kona.

Mary Hamasaki left at the end of September for eastern Canada and the east coast to enjoy the fall foliage.

Sidney and Yoshiko Oshiro left on September 29th for a 13-day tour with their Oshiro clan to central Canada. Unfortunately, during the tour, Sidney became ill and passed away in Canada. He and Yoshiko-san were at the last chapter meeting in September and were looking forward to this trip.

Tragedy has struck several chapter families recently. Jitsuri Yoshida's mom passed away on September 29. Katsumi "Ka" Nakayama died in Las Vegas on September 26. Sidney Oshiro passed away on October 5 in Canada. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jits and Mildred Yoshida, Stella, Harry, Paul and Arthur Nakayama, and Yoshiko Oshiro.

Another dear friend, Robert Nakamura (HQ) passed away on September 29. To Nancy, we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

DOG CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

Ruth Watanabe and Charlie & Rhoda Kawamata are joining "Biffa" Moriguchi's tour to Japan on October 11. Eddie and Kay Harada were also off to Japan on October 15. Have a pleasant trip. Keep well!

"F" COMPANY NEWS: Kenneth N. Higa

"We'll see you in Hilo." That thought made an indelible imprint in the minds of the foxes at the Saturday night banquet following the announcement by Hayato Tanaka, honcho for the Big Islanders, that Hawaii will host the 1991 reunion. Take heed, Hawaii foxes, and start the wheels turning because in no time, it will be, "Here we come."

We were quartered at the Kauai Sands Hotel, located by the Waipouli Hotel shopping center complex on the eastside of the island. Consequently, it was not surprise that some of the boys strayed off course as they headed for the Friday night fellowship party at the Neighborhood Center in Lihue. Eventually, the errant drivers found their bearings and all "heads" were accounted for by the time Wataru Kaneshina gave the grace. Like in past reunions, food and drinks were plentiful. "Shooting the breeze", a favorite pastime, playing bingo, and "pick a lucky name" games fulfilled the "hang loose" portion of the evening's affair.

The Saturday night banquet was held at the Aston Kauai Resort and, unlike the previous night, the drivers had no problem homing in on their destination. The hotel is located only a short drive from the Kauai Sands - just past the Wailua River and then right off the highway.

An unexpected treat for us was the special entertainment by Kalei Kaholokula's two sons and a daughter-in-law. They were featured entertainers at the hotel and they came by to do a few numbers before going on to their regular show. Unfortunately, Kalei, "F" Company's famous songbird, was not able to join us. It would have been a delightful surprise if we could have heard his golden voice again. Nevertheless, the evening's program was not lacking for talent. The performances by "F" Company's seasoned pros Shizu Akamine, Ted Hamasu, Sylvia Kawahara, Kazue Kawamoto, Hideshi Niimi, Nobu Okinaka, Doris Shimabukuro, and Albert Shimizu were enjoyed by all. Newborn stars, Mike Kamiya and Sue Kaneshina, must be given credit for stepping up on stage when called upon to sing a song. Why, even Mike Hamamoto went up to the "mike" not to croon but to tell some off-color jokes. Never happened before.

More surprises were in store for us. Ken Yoshimoto went on stage but he did not sing a song, nor did he tell any jokes. So, what did he do? He played the harmonica. I have known Ken for many years but had no idea he was musically inclined. He told me it was no sweat learning how to play the harmonica. Then, when it came to Charles Nishimura's turn to perform, he did not sing his favorite song, "Release Me". Instead, he stuck his hand in his pants pocket to take out something. You guessed it. He, too, came prepared with a harmonica. It was rather difficult to judge who was the better harmonica player because both of them were terrific!

Ted Hamasu, the karaoke kingpin, was the emcee for the night but I believe he said he wished someone else was doing it, then he would have had the chance to sing more songs. He said he just loves to sing and sing and sing. Ted, next time your wish may be granted. However, I feel it is highly unlikely because emcees like you are hard to come by.

Choichi "Top Kick" Shimabukuro and his "Indians" went all out to make the weekend of September 14-16, 1990 a memorable one for all of us. Choichi gave much of the credit for the success of the reunion to the Eastside Quartet, composed of Sadao and Kazue Kawamoto, "Maggie" Watanabe, and his wife, Doris. Doris was the number one gung ho worker. She started gathering Job's-tears from 1989 and strung enough Job's-tears leis for everyone at the reunion. She crocheted doilies, runners, and other needlework items to be given as prizes for the bingo and the "pick a lucky name" games. She ran the games, ably assisted by Kazue Kawamoto, and took charge of the "dis and dat" chores needed to be done by the Kauai wahines. The Westside foxes and spouses pitched in by contributing pupus, donating cash, and helping with the clean up chores at the parties. The Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, and Mainland foxes, spouses, and widows extend a big mahalo to you, Choichi, and all your "Indians" for a wonderful weekend filled with "ono" food and down-to-earth fellowship.

"F" COMPANY NEWS (continued)

The Oahu golfers thank you, Ken Yoshimoto, for making the arrangements for tee off times for the Friday and Saturday games. Except for Ken, the other golfers were from Oahu. The only wahine golfer was Paul Hayashi's wife, Alice. She put the stronger sex to shame by taking top honors. Ken presented the prizes - golf balls donated by Hakaru Taoka - at the Saturday night party. Being a gracious host, Ken said he played a "lousy game(?)", so he was the only player who went home empty-handed.

Rudy Yoshida, our hard working secretary, deserves much thanks and appreciation for coordinating all of the communications from and to each island and for handling the booking for the car and room package and airline tickets. Thank you Alice Hayashi, a retired employee of Hawaiian Airlines, for making the initial contacts with the hotel and the airline. Thank you also for the complimentary airline ticket which was given to the most deserving person, Rudy Yoshida. Alice also made arrangements with HAL to let the Oahu gang board the plane with the Premium Club members. Last, but not least, thank you Kenzo Endo, our personal treasurer, for taking care of the finances.

Each year, when Club 100 observes its memorial service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Hayato Tanaka always sends dozens of anthiriums to decorate the graves of "F" Company members and spouses. Thank you, Hayato, for your thoughtfulness.

Oswald and Sylvia Kawahara are on the move again. They left the cold, windy city of Chicago for sunny Florida. Their new address is 5064 Teather Street, Spring Hills, Florida 34606. If any Fox member is ever around the gulf area, give Oswald a call. He will gladly pick you up at the airport.

When I read Aki Nosaka's "From the Editors' Puka" column in the October Puka Puka Parade, I couldn't help but reminisce about our "Imperial Vienna and Alps" tour which included the Oberammergau Passion Play. Beatrice and I left Honolulu on Saturday, June 16, for Munich and arrived there on Monday morning, July 18, where we joined the AARP tour group totalling 29 members, including the tour manager. We were the only orientals and the only ones from Hawaii. The others were all from the mainland. The tour brochure states, "Majestic Alpine scenery, charming mountain villages, exclusive resorts, and the splendor of imperial Vienna - this is seeing Europe in style." We found the statement to be true. We enjoyed the tour which started in Munich and ended in Zurich. The itinerary included a day or two-day stop overs in Munich and Oberammergau, Germany; Salzburg, Vienna, and Lienz, Austria; St. Morits, Zermatt, Montreux, Interlaken, and Lucerne, Switzerland; and Stressa, Italy.

The main highlight of the tour was the Passion Play. We had been thinking about attending it since the early seventies and, finally, it was also a dream come true from Beatrice and me. We experienced something unusual and eerie towards the end of the play. It was a clear day but, suddenly and simultaneously, with the sound stage effects of thunder and lightning, the clear, blue sky began to darken. The wind started blowing. The trees alongside and behind the stage started to bend with the force of the wind and the leaves, which were still only a few minutes ago, started to flutter wildly. The end result was almost a realistic creation of the stormy weather condition during the resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. It made me wonder if the timely, natural phenomenon was just a coincidental happening or was it a sign from above? It made me feel as if I was living in biblical times and was actually witnessing the resurrection of Our Lord. It was an eerie feeling and it gave me goose bumps. When the play ended, it looked like we were in for a bad storm. As we walked out of the theater, we felt big raindrops like teardrops falling down one's face. And then, a few minutes later, it stopped and the sky began to clear up. I asked one of the ladies in our group who had seen the play ten years ago if what we had experienced happened then. She answered, "NO!"

Some of the many other highlights of the trip were: The visit to the capital of Tyrol, Innsbruck. The performance of the famous Salzburg Marionette Theater and the visit to the house of Salzburg's most famous son, Wolfgang Mozart. The boat ride cruising through the Wachau region of the Danube River in Austria. The city tour of Vienna. The visit by a short boat ride to the palace on Isola Bella (beautiful island), owned by the princely Borromeos family, located in Lake Maggiaore where the resort town of Stressa is situated on its west bank. The two day overnight stay in the town of Zermatt, nearly 4,000 feet above sea level, nestled at the foot of one of the most famous Alpine peaks, the Matterhorn. The cog rail train ride up to the 10,000 foot

"F" COMPANY NEWS (continued)

high platform of Gornergrat to have a closer view of the Matterhorn and Gabelhorn peaks. The visit to the impressive fortress of Chillon, immortalized by Lord Byron's poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon", on our way to Montreux, the most elegant resort town on Lake Geneva. The visit to the Swiss capital, Bern, enroute to Interlaken, another resort town located between two lakes at the foot of the Jungfrau range. Except for one rainy day in Lucerne, we were very fortunate that we had good, clear weather throughout our tour. As stated in the brochure, the majestic Alpine scenery with its snow-capped peaks, ravines, waterfalls, steep winding roads going up and down the picturesque mountainsides, quaint chalet lined villages, beautiful lakes, and elegant lakeshore resorts were sights to behold. However, no matter how much an individual enjoys touring beautiful and pleasant places, there is no place like home.

And so, we left Zurich, Switzerland, on Wednesday, July 4. After an overnight stay near JFK Airport, we finally arrived in Honolulu at the ungodly hour of around 1:00 a.m., Friday, July 6. At last, home sweet home.

THE RURAL CHATTER: Ted Hamasu

The 45th Memorial Service of the 100th Infantry Battalion was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on 23 September 1990 under intermittent sunshine and showers. The Rural Chapter was responsible to distribute the programs for the service that began at 0845 hours. It seemed as though more people attended this service than in previous years attested by the number of cars and scarcity of parking spaces, although Mr. Gene Castagnetti, NMCP director, closed the cemetery to the tourists while our service was in progress. We appreciate and thank him for his consideration.

The keynote speaker was Reverend Eric Ebisu, the son of Masao and Otoe Ebisu of the Big Island. Eric is a "sansei" and presently serves as an associate pastor with the Pearl City Community Church that was built by the late Reverend Hiro Higuchi, an honorary member of our club. Masao served in Headquarters and, I believe, was from Paauilo of the Big Island. If I remember correctly, his parent were owners of a barber shop there. I remember having my ears lowered a couple of times. So much for the background.

Rev. Ebisu spoke about his childhood days, listening to his dad's war stories. He pictured his father to be a glamorous war hero, like the ones he watched on TV and movies. When Masao spoke about his buddies of the 100th Infantry Battalion, Eric visualized all of them to be like John Wayne or Rambo - big, tough-looking, and glamorous. But as he grew older and more knowledgeable of life, he realized that they were not much taller and bigger than he was and they were all local guys who grew up in the plantation villages of our islands, most of them with similar backgrounds. They were brought up in small communities with a Buddhist or Christian church in the background where they developed the cohesiveness and comradeship that is very rare in other communities. The unselfish giving of one's self, even their lives to the cause, brought out the highest traditions of the Buddhist and Christian teachings that must have been instilled in their childhood. Eric says that he was very fortunate to have his dad and the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion as his mentors. He also believes that the "pidgin English" may have helped to bring them even closer because of its uniqueness, "No mo' ada kine place dat talk like dis, an can know wot we bin se", ye? (This line was not uttered by Rev. Ebisu.)

The former "F" Company members of Rural Chapter were up early placing flowers on the graves of our buddies that are interned at Punchbowl. I put some flowers on Richard Okazaki's gravestone and said softly, "Richard, rest in peace. We will be back to see you again next year." (I believe that Richard was from Kapulena on the Big Island.) After the service was over, I visited Takei Gushikuma's grave at the Moiliili Cemetery and Shige Hokama's grave at the Nuuanu Memorial Park Cemetery with the flowers that Hayato sent. Hayato, we thank you for the flowers. We really appreciate your assistance every year.

Rural Chapter held its meeting at the Westgate Shopping Center in the spacious new office located on the top floor at 12 o'clock on 21 September 1990. The meeting progressed smoothly until we came to the committee reports. The ad hoc committee to look into the legality of the amendments passed by previous

THE RURAL CHATTER (continued)

administrations, chaired by Hakaru Taoka, reported that the research was progressing very slowly due to difficulties in locating the minutes of the meetings which these amendments were voted on. However, he assured the members that the matter will be cleared in the near future.

The matter of "priority of use of the club facilities" was brought up for discussion due to the uncertainties caused when Stanley Nakamoto v.s. Spouses created some hurt feelings. The membership voted to have our president bring this matter to the attention of the Board of Directors.

A rare phenomenon occurred in Rural Chapter. We had an increase in membership. "WELCOME ABOARD - MATAKI TAKESHITA and SUSUMU ISHII". We are very delighted to have you. The meeting was attended by 16 members and wives. We want to welcome back Robert Ikei who was under the weather for awhile.

HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS: Jimmy Maeda

The 1990 Club 100 Mini-reunion at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino was a very enjoyable one. We extend our thanks and mahalo to Ray Nosaka and his wife, Aki, Joe Mishima, and Tom Nishioka from Honolulu and Ben Tagami and his wife from Southern California and his committee. The Big Island delegation comprised of four persons: Ernest Enomoto and wife; Peter Kawahara, Kona; and Jimmy Maeda of Hilo.

The hospitality room, managed by our kotonk brothers and sisters had plenty to eat and drink. There were plenty of fresh and delicious grapes and other fruits. The L.A. gang even brought sushi. Something Everyone was asked to try something new - "dried mangoes". For the drinkers, there was NO ahi sashimi nor salmon sashimi -- maybe next time.

Ole' saying "the army travels on its stomach". The food at the Gold Coast was plentiful and good. Everybody was raving over the prime rib. The cuts were thick, tender and delicious. The senior citizens weren't able to consume all of the meat.

The final night's banquet was an enjoyable one, with some new faces joining us. Colonel Kim (retired), president of the memorial project in Los Angeles, was the speaker. He spoke on the subject of the Los Angeles Downtown Memorial Park Memorial Monument for the veterans of WWII (100th, 442nd & Interpreters) and the difficulty the committee is having. Former 100th Battalion members coming from far away states were recognized.

Golfing in the month of September at Las Vegas is not recommended. The courses are re-seeding the greens with winter grass. Since the grass was long and not cut, the players needed to putt hard. The Hawaii golfers found out that there are "sandbaggers" amongst our mainland brothers. Coming in with scores of net 63, 65, 66, 67, etc. shows that either they have talent or they don't do any work anymore.

I was very happy to find Fudge Tanishita of Seal Beach, California at the mini-reunion. The late Tom Tanishita and Fudge were parents away from home back in 1944-45 at Denver, Colorado, while the 100th boys were in hospitals and recuperating at Camp Carson.

By a voice vote, those present at the banquet agreed to hold another mini-reunion in 1991 at Las Vegas. The tentative date will be early or mid-June at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino. Plan to attend!

Former Company "A" men on the Big Island extend their prayers of condolence to the family of the late Howard Miyake.

KAUAI CHAPTER NEWS: Tsugime Takemoto

Mrs. Helene Matsunaga, widow of the late Senator Spark Matsunaga, was the keynote speaker at Kauai's 100th Infantry Battalion's Memorial Service held at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery, Hanapepe on Sunday, September 23, 1990. Prayers were said by the Reverend Yuban Narashiba. The memorial wreath was presented by Hisa Shimatsu and Kungo Iwai. Taps was blown by Sgt Florencio Delos Santos, U.S. Army (retired). Larry Sakoda was the master of ceremonies.

KAUAI CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

Following the service, a tree planting ceremony was held honoring the late senator. Helene had chosen a rainbow shower tree. This is the first of many trees to be planted as part of the beautification plan being encouraged by the Kauai Veterans Council. There are 12 groups in the KVC and each will chose a tree. Participants in the ceremony were: Rev. Narashiba blessing the tree; Edward Kawamura, president of the KVC, making the presentation; Helene Matsunaga accepting the tree; Mrs. Yoshi Minami, Gold Star mother; and Mako Takiguchi, president of the Kauai 100th. Members of the 100th and KVC shovelled the dirt in. Wives of the 100th served refreshments. Margaret Sakai was the chairperson.

Footnote on two of the participants: Mrs. Minami will be 97 years old in November and still mows the lawn, even though she is frail-looking. Sgt Delos Santos is much younger at 84 years. Although he has trouble walking, the notes of Taps were bell-like. Mrs. Minami comes to the service each year and said not to make too much of a fuss over her. She is the last Gold Star mother of the 100th on Kauai.

Mako Takiguchi and Kazu Senda took off for Las Vegas with other Company "D" friends.

NOTE: Tsugime Takemoto is substituting for Kauai's regular Parade writer, Ben Morimoto. Ben's right hand muscles are not functioning.

MAUI CHAPTER NEWS: Tom Nagata

Our annual KIA Memorial Service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 23 at the Makawao Maui Veterans Cemetery. Master of ceremonies Goichi Shimanuki opened the service with silent meditation and then read out the names of those who lost their lives in World War II and those deceased since the end of the war. Reverend Taido Kitagawa of the Wailuku Shingon Mission conducted the service. Chapter president William Nakahara gave the welcoming address and also announced the donation of \$500.00 to The Matsunaga Peace Foundation, in memory of the late U.S. Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, by Maui Chapter. After the service, refreshments were served by the wives of members to the next-of-kin and guests. Goichi Shimanuki and Kiyoshi Ikeda were the co-chairmen of this annual service and they were ably assisted by the members and their wives who helped decorate the graves of our fallen comrades with plumeria leis that they had made. Toshio Iwami and Akira Ishikawa transported the four large picture frames and stands from Wailuku and back again in storage in Wataru Kaneshina's home. Since our white club shirts are beginning to wear out, members are using the tan 40th Anniversary Reunion souvenir shirt, with the '100th INF BN VETS WWII' badge, at members' funerals, memorial Services, and other veterans functions.

There was a big turnout on chicken hekka night on Friday, October 12, at the Kahului Community Center. There was plenty to eat and drink as hardworking Butch Arisumi, able assisted by his telepjone network Group 1 members and wives, did a great job in preparing this party. Before dinner, chapter president William Nakahara made a few announcements and thanked Butch and his group for the delicious dinner. Masao Sato gave a report on his recent trip stateside and the need for donations to help build the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, California. Wataru Kaneshina offered grace and the wives and members helped themselves to the delicious food at the buffet table, which was ladden with food, side dishes, and pastries donated by the wives of Group 1 members. Following dinner, Masao Sato, Akira Ishikawa, and Arthur Shinyama ran the bingo games.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS: Tad Hashimoto

On September 15th, Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m., it was the 100/442nd Veterans Association dinner meeting held at the 100/442nd Memorial Hall in Los Angeles. Anti-Tank was in charge of the beer. "F" Company, in charge with help of associate members, help set up the task of setting up the tables and chairs. Our organization has an associate chapter: president - Russell Nakaishi, delegate - Bob Sugino, members - Robert Kasai, Eric Yamaguchi, Dave Sunahara, and Tim Kanno. 100th cooks were Ben & Jean Tagami, Allan Dong, Carlos & Beverly Picazo, Henry Hayshi, Douglas Tanaka, Francis Shiroma, Mike Miyake, Henry Sakato, Sam & Teri Fukikawa, and Sue Hashimoto. Also cooking and helping were Jim & Saki Kawaminami, Fudge Tanoshita, Yo Itari, Don Seki

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

and daughter, Lynette Seki Takahashi, Rose Kinaga, Fred & Bea Matsumura. Also assisting were associate members Bob Sugino, Russel Nakaishi, David Sunahara, Eric Yamaguchi, and Chester Hashigumi. Menu - barbecued steak, chicken, rock cod, corn, eggplant, and mixed rice (chirashi). There were two sheet cakes. A large one with the words '442nd Veterans Club' with the torch of Liberty emblem and a smaller one with 'Go For Broke' and the 100th emblem for dessert. I guess around 150 persons showed up. Incidentally, the crowd for all activities nowadays seems to be getting less and less as time goes by. For entertainment, it was "karaoke" and there were some pretty good voices and our Toe Yoshino also. Attending from the 100th were Sam & Teri Fujikawa, Harry & Fuji Fukusawa, Allan Dong, Carlos & Beverly Picazo, Douglas Tanaka, Francis Shiroma, Henry Hayashi, Mike Miyake, Henry Sakato, Ben & Jean Tagami, Lloyd and Michi Toda, Toe & Molly Yoshino, Buddy & Lily Mamiya, Nora Kim, Albert & Connie Takahashi, Young Kim, and Tad & Sue Hashimoto. After the evening ended, it was time to put the tables and chairs away and clean and sweep the ahll. Many of the men and women helped and the place was left in very good order when we left. Thanks to all of our paying guests for their much needed assistance in the cleanup of the dining section and the hard work of kitchen cleanup by the cooks.

Just heard that Yeiki Matsui had an operation. Heard that Matsu Furuye was under the weather also. Our wishes for a fast recovery to our good members and friends.

Monte Fujita and Tom Kasai made our barbecue cooking utensils by welding two half drums together (two of them) and legs to hold them up. This was about 15 years ago and they are still in use for cooking for a large group. The only change was made by Henry Hayashi when he had his friend, Sam Maeda, make higher legs to hold up, the drums so they wouldn't have to bend over so much. The original legs were shorter. It was donated by Sam Maeda of Mike's Body Shop on L.A. Thanks to Henry Hayashi.

Heard that, as of September 1990, the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Foundation had raised \$100,000.00 in donations and pledges. This from the members of the 100/442nd and the MIS. The Foundation had not, at the present time, solicited the general public.

On September 24th (Monday) to 28th (Friday), it was the 100th Infantry Battalion Mini-Reunion held at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Weather was real nice for Vegas. It was in the 80s while we were there. Travel and hotel arrangements were provided by Joe Mishima of Pacific Gateway Travel, Inc. of Hawaii. I believe it was Ray and Aki Nosaka who led the Hawaii group.

Twenty-nine of us mainlanders went by chartered bus. Very nice. Relax and go, relax and come home (and catch up on some sleep). Driving from Los Angeles is about five hours one way. The rest of the gang took their cars and others flew. We had complimentary meal tickets for all of our meals while we were there. The bus was used to take the golfers golfing and some transportation during the four days. On the fifth day, it was drive back home about 10:00 a.m. after breakfast.

We had a hospitality room. It was just one of the ordinary sized rooms (our apologies that we couldn't get a larger one), but it was OK. Ben and Jean Tagami manned and took care of the hospitality room from its opening to closing (very late at night) and did a superb job. Gotta really thank Jean Tagami for doing the almost "feel-like-there's-a-million-things-to-do" job to get the room started and to keep it going. After all, once it started, Jean was a golf and hospitality room widow. So, she had to take charge alone. Thanks, Jean. Ben and Jean had some help from Ed & Amy Nakazawa, Tom Kasai, Allan Dong, Henry Sakato, Henry Hayashi and Tad & Sue Hashimoto. Did I miss anyone?

We spent almost four days and three nights doing what one does in Las Vegas - socializing (but mainly losing money for the majority) - when finally it was banquet (buffet) night on Thursday evening about 7:00 p.m. President of 100th Battalion Veterans Club of Southern California, Eric Abe, was our emcee. He welcomed all to the reunion. Almost 200 persons were present; half from Hawaii and half from the mainland. Ben Tagami, president of the 100/442nd Veterans Association of Southern California, was the chairman of our mini-reunion. Ben got up to the mike, welcomed everyone, and thanked everyone for their donations of all kinds to our hospitality room and to Club 100 of L.A. 100th president George Hagiwara of Hawaii couldn't make it, so Ray Nosaka, representing Club 100th of Hawaii, thanked the L.A. Chapter and had wishes

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

for a successful reunion and presented leis to the mainlanders coming from near and far. We had people from Washington, Illinois, Utah, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, and somebody said New York, as well as up and down and all over California. Ray Nosaka also gave the invocation and thanks for all we have.

Young Oak Kim spoke and explained the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial. All should donate because it will be telling part of our great story long after we are gone. It is something large and represents an Asian group which is a rarity in itself. Incidentally, just having a few names, one would just look and go on by. But with over 13,000 names, like the Vietnam Memorial, people will take time to look, maybe inquire and find out the why and wherefore. A small monument is just looked at and passed by quickly. This one will have the names of those living and deceased of the 100th/442nd R.C.T./and M.I.S. who fought during a certain period of time or were overseas during this time. It is honoring a very special group - volunteers and those drafted from home (before the evacuations), volunteers from internments (or is it concentration) camps while their whole families are locked up without due process of law, racial prejudice, and poor political leadership. Heard a private poll was taken among Caucasians. They were asked if the same thing had happened to them, would they volunteer for the Army? Most said they would not. Very few said they would. In the history of the United States, this was a special and unique group and it will never happen again like it did then. This story must come out and it will thanks to the memorial. The memorial may take a couple of years to be built. As of September 1990, approximately \$100,000.00 had been pledged and donated to the memorial. This donation, so far, has mainly come from mainland members of the 100/442nd and M.I.S. and some outsiders. We want the Hawaii members now to respond and then we will go out to the general public for help. This memorial will be next to or nearby the Japanese American National Museum, which will be also be telling the story of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans in Hawaii and U.S. It will be a unique museum; the only one of its kind in the United States. A lot of things have been named - streets, airport terminals, buildings, bridges, etc. - for living persons honoring them while they are still alive and they will be memorials once they are gone.

Our Medal of Honor recipient, Hiroshi Hershey Miyamura, from Gallup, New Mexico, attend this mini-reunion. Entertainment was provided by Ray Nosaka, who this time played a ukulele, and Ray Fernandez, formerly of Hawaii but now a Las Vegas resident, played and sang while his wife did a couple of hulas for us. A very talented couple. There was karaoke entertainment from a half dozen persons. All very good. Heard that Dog Company was coming to Las Vegas around September 1991 for a reunion. The pleasant, happy evening ended around 10:00 p.m. Farewells were said as most were leaving after a very early breakfast heading for home.

We had a sad note of Katsumi Nakayama of Dog Company from Hawaii passing away in Las Vegas due to a heart attack. Our deepest sympathy to the Nakayama family.

We met a retired colonel, Toshio "Dusty" Aoyagi, who made his colonel rank during the Korean War. He served with Alvin Planas, a 2nd lieutenant from 100th, Company A.

Grace Tanaka hit a royal flush on a progressive poker machine and made \$110.00. What a thrill it was! She's taking it home and plans to bring it back as she is planning to return soon. Sue Hashimoto hit a royal flush on a 5¢ poker machine and won \$200.00. That was a great thrill just to hit the royal flush.

There were about 20 golfers, male and female. One member came out with a strained ligament but, otherwise, they had a great outdoor game played with a small, hard ball and a set of clubs.

Here are the donations to the hospitality room or to the 100th organization: John Hikari - \$100.00, Ken & Yoshiko Muranaga - 10 lbs of crabmeat and dipping sauces, Henry & Elsie Hayashi - casabas pretzels and nuts, Fudge Hideko Tanishita - mixed nuts and peanuts, George & Mei Teranishi (Tracy, CA) - \$20.00, Jim Vaughn (Tuscon, AZ) - \$20.00, M/M Masaru Abe (Reedley, CA) - 5 boxes of delicious seedless grapes, Sam & Yoshiko Ikari ("L" Company) - potato chips and nuts, M/M Kay Kobayashi and M/M Shig Nagao (Parlier, CA) - 7 crates of grapes, Jackson Maeshiro & Ken Muranaga - golf balls, Toe Yoshino & Lloyd Toda - pistachio nuts, Henry & Teresa Maeyama (Suisun, CA) - dried fruits. Our thanks to M/M Toshio Hamataka (Sacramento, CA) who brought a donation of

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER NEWS (continued)

peaches and grapes courtesy of Mr. Bob Hata of Fresno, CA., Louis Furushiro (Tuscon, AZ) - \$100.00, Frank & Hru Nishimura (Seattle, WA) - teriyaki sausages, teriyaki pork, beef jerky, & \$50.00 to the 100th. Thanks to Allan Dong for the 100th Battalion 3rd Mini-reunion goody bags and the nice things inside for everyone. Allan does so very much for our 100th - cooks, gets supplies and food, arranges things, donates time and money, helps in all kinds of ways, is always cheerful and is an extraordinary member. Yeiki Matsui could not attend our mini-reunion but donated \$50.00. We're wondering at this moment how Yeiki (due for an operation or had one) is doing. Take care Yeiki and best wishes for a fast recovery. Jesse Hirata - \$100.00, Mavis & Shizuya Hayashi - lots of dried mangoes, Tamotsu & Yoneko Shimizu - macadamian nuts and delicious pineapples, Peter Kawahara - one-cup portions packets of Kona instant coffee for the mainlanders to sample, Sam Sakamoto - home grown ginger and orchid flowers which were in the hospitality room, Sadashi & Jane Matsunami - "ika" (octopus), squid, chocolate macadamian nuts & \$20.00 more, Roy Nakayama - \$50.00 to our club. Our thanks to Pacific Heritage Bank for their generous donations of a couple hundred nice Papermate pens to our mini-reunion. I know I missed some persons and I apologize. But for those of you who contributed in different ways, big and small, thanks from all our members of Club 100th. Every little bit helps and it turns out to be an enormous amount when put together. Thanks so much for our thoughtful and generous friends. Your help assured a great hospitality room and a happier 100th club.

Farewell til we meet again. The reunion of these soldiers - called by many top officers of the 5th Army of the 100th Battalion as the "finest offensive combat unit" in the Italian theater of operations. A high ranking general in the European theater stated that the 100/442nd R.C.T. are probably the best assault troops in the U.S. Army.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION BY FIRST GROUP OF DRAFTEES: Hakaru Taoka

TEN HUT, right shoulder ho, right hase, forward ho, hup tu, tre, fo. You there, get in step. To the rear ha. Well, does that sound familiar to you? It happened just about 50 years ago. The sad part of it all is that so many of us at that time had no ROTC training so we were going in all directions at the beginning. Remember, too, that on occasion, you had to duck or get clobbered on the head because the guy in front of you turned the wrong way on the command, "to the rear ha".

Those of us called to active duty in the first draft in December 1940 and who fought with the 100th Infantry Battalion will be celebrating the "golden anniversary" and will have the chance to "talk story" about the good, old days and relive most of the things which happened over the years. Maybe, too, you would like to find out more about your old buddies since you last saw them. So, come out and join the gang to talk of old time stories. Information on the celebration is as follows:

PLACE: Club 100
 DATE: Saturday, January 12, 1991
 TIME: Cocktails start at 11:00 a.m. Lunch at 12:00 noon
 COST: \$10.00 per person. Includes a 9-course lunch with a variety of tsukemono, plus drinks.
 PROGRAM: To be kept to a minimum to give you all the time to "talk story" and just "shoot the breeze".
 PARKING: Ala Wai Elementary School
 PARTICIPATION: Stag, so you'll be free to roam around.

The members of the committee have been meeting regularly to plan for this event and, most likely, may have contacted those of you living on Oahu by now. If they have not and you would like to participate, please call any one of the members listed below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Joe Nakahara (chairman)	488-3094
Masato Kodama	845-5560
Walter "Biffa" Moriguchi	737-7008
Sonsei Nakamura	737-1007
Hideshi Niimi	732-0925
Iwao "Fuzzy" Fujimori	737-6752
Tetsuo Tateishi	488-4604
Ted Hamasu	455-3341
Hakaru Taoka	622-4575

50th ANNIVERSARY: FIRST DRAFTEES (continued)

We regret that we were not able to contact you on the neighbor islands on a person-to-person basis. But, you are most welcome to participate in the celebration. So, sign up and "talk story"!

NISEI VETERANS SPEECH: Lieutenant General Allen K. Ono

Thank you for the great honor that allows me to be with you tonight. It is thrilling, exhilarating and humbling, my emotions are exploding at this magic moment. My mother and father told me about you long ago in Hawaii. They said you were a group of great Americans who quietly and proudly are the nation's best citizens. My parents said I must be like you and to never let you down, in effect, you became my heroes.

You gave me inspiration during World War II, when the world was confused and frightened. Those of you who served in World War II -- your service was recorded vividly and permanently in me. It was your courage and heroism in combat in Europe and in the military intelligence service in the Pacific that brought us honor. You give me focus, pride, respect and inspiration.

You served in Korea when danger threatened the world. Your record again became legendary in regard to patriotism, valor and fidelity.

The legacy of your service continued when I joined the Army in 1955. There were no segregated units because you and others showed through your loyalty and bravery that Americans can and should soldier together. My comrades in 1955 remembered how good you were, and gave me opportunities to lead and command. There was no need for me in 1955 to prove myself worthy. You had done it for me.

But you brought me challenges. Because you were studious and duty bound, and these attributes were expected of me. I studied harder and followed rules more precisely. You were courageous. This challenged me to parachute from airplanes, rapel with ropes down cliffs, volunteer for patrols, and insist on making the main attack. This makes you my heroes. You paved the way that gave me a chance. You taught me how to earn dignity through action. You urged me to climb taller hills and set my sights higher.

So, thank you. I waited this long to say these simple but important words. Thank you.

Not all of you served in the Armed Forces. Your contributions were of equal importance. The competence, reliability and loyalty you demonstrated as outstanding citizens brought respect and admiration. The introduction of Japanese culture and values to this great nation made it greater and richer.

I am part of an awesome and powerful organization, the United States Army. I report to you that your Army is strong and competent and ready. We are equipped with modern weapons using advanced technology, and in the trust of soldiers who are bright, dedicated and sharp, you should be rightfully proud and confident of your Army.

These stars I wear are yours. You changed history. No longer will we question whether a Japanese American should be a general. No longer will we wonder whether an individual should command because of the shape of one's eyes. You changed history through your valor, your patriotism, your dedication, your love for our nation.

Allow me one last glance at you, in order to remember and savor this great moment in my life. let me look at this group that is so powerful that it can make generals. Thank you. God bless America.

(EDITORS' NOTE: Lieutenant General Ono was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. He received an ROTC commission through the University of Hawaii in 1955. He is a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal. Before he retired in 1990, he made this speech on October 3, 1987. The text of his speech was submitted by Douglas Tanaka. - Ray & Aki)