I write this message while contemplating on the successful conclusion to the Congressional Gold Medal Hawai‘i celebration, which was completed just a few hours ago with a special memorial service at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. As with any big event that takes months of planning, it seemed that time passed by so quickly on days’ events – and it was over before you knew it.

So many images and sounds are rolling through my mind – the sight of veterans carefully loading onto the trolleys, the hundreds of tables and chairs at the convention center that were filled by thousands of people, the families taking photos with their veteran, the humble veterans receiving their Bronze Star medals and replica Congressional Gold Medals, General Shinseki’s eloquent and heartfelt words, the superb tribute video shown at the banquet, the rain blessing the memorial service, and the 500 American flags symbolically marking the graves of the deceased. Every person who attended – and there were more than 3,000 – has, I’m sure, their own vivid memories. For that, we are blessed.

A weekend such as this took nearly a year’s worth of planning by dozens of people, mostly volunteers, from several different groups, and many generous donors. Mahalo nui loa to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and resources to create and carry out this remarkable tribute to our beloved veterans.

The Congressional Gold Medal celebration closes a remarkable year FULL of activity. The end of the year also marks the conclusion of terms for several Board members – Denis Teraoka, Avin Oshiro, and Amy Muroshige. All have contributed selflessly to our organization. Dr. Teraoka, a veteran, has been actively engaged on the board and nudged us to ensure that the bylaws be updated. For many years, Avin took charge of repairs needed to the Clubhouse and apartment, and always kept the welfare and enjoyment of the veterans at top of mind. Amy served as Secretary, Annual banquet co-chair, Puka Puka Parade team lead, and all-around “do-er” this past year. Their contributions will be sorely missed and hopefully they will still be familiar faces around the Clubhouse.

Finally, for now, I’d like to close with great appreciation to all who attended the Town Hall meeting on December 10. I was so impressed with how many veterans, wives, widows, and descendants came from across the island -- we even had a representative from the Southern California chapter! Everyone was engaged and participated in our discussions and voting on two very important topics – the revision of our bylaws and acceptance of Honorary Member, Robert Lee. I am pleased to say that both votes passed unanimously!

With gratitude and aloha, I wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy New Year!

Pauline
In Memoriam

Tad Tadao Kanda (D)
Passed away on December 7, 2011

Our deepest sympathy to his family.

NOVEMBER COLLATING NEWS
by Arlene Sato

Thank you to all who volunteered on Saturday, November 26. Chris Marcello brought four of her Japanese students at the UH. The 100th Reservists helping were Beau Tatsumura, Chris Makinano, Eldon Naone, Leon Nelson, Jordan Kagehiro, Samson Anzai, and Rae and Al Yazawa. Ed Ikuma’s neighbors, Linda Reis and Douglas Ogino, visited our Education Center one day and expressed a desire to volunteer in any way they could so they happily came to help with collating. Thanks also to our regular volunteers: Doris Aimoto, Bernard and Jeannette Akamine, Nancy Arakaki, Bert Hamakado, Don and Kimi Matsuda, Elsie Oshita, Dot Tamashiro, Drusilla Tanaka, Riki and Evelyn Tsuda, Cheryl and Shelby Tateishi, Kody and Shannon Kimoto, Gloria Tamashiro, and Dorothy Inouye. The next collating will be on Saturday, February 25, at 9 a.m. for the March 2012 issue. (There will be no Puka Puka Parade for February.)

Reservist Leon Nelson helped with the collating. (Thanks to Bernard Akamine for this photo.)

HOW TO ORDER THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL REPLICA

Anyone may order the replica of the gold medal awarded to the Nisei Soldiers of WW II.

The Nisei soldiers Congressional Gold Medal replica is available for order through the US Mint. There are TWO medal replica options: Three-inch bronze replica of the CGM medal (product number 926; $44.95) and 1-1/2-inch bronze replica of the CGM medal (product number 927; $7.95). There is an optional presentation case: Blue presentation case for the three-inch replica (product number 022; $8.00). Shipping is charged separately.

FOR WEB ORDERS
To place a web order, visit the US Mint website at www.usmint.gov.

FOR TELEPHONE ORDERS
Call 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468). Hearing- and speech-impaired customers with TTY equipment may order at 1-888-321-MINT (6468).

Our apologies to Scholarship Recipient Allyson Harada for misspelling her name in the December issue.

FROM THE PUJA PUJA PARADE
EDITORIAL AND PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

The following schedule lists the deadlines to submit articles and photos for each issue and the collating dates for 2012.

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Subject to change.
HIDDEN TREASURES IN THE CLUBHOUSE
by Susan Muroshige

While the Education Center was under construction during the past months, Arlene Sato spent many hours going through various storage areas, closets, and filing cabinets to review and organize old materials and records. Among the valuable items she found were three old black and white photographs. One of the photos was of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) titled “Easter Sunrise Service 1951” taken by Thomas Ooka, a 442nd veteran. A second photo was also a Punchbowl scene. It is signed, but the signature is not clear. The third photo was of the Haleiwa War Memorial honoring the 16 men from the Waialua-Kahuku area who were killed in action during World War II. The monument was dedicated on July 4, 1947. In the photo are Chaplain Israel Yost and family members of the men who had died. It must have been taken in September 1947 when Chaplain Yost visited Hawaii and conducted memorial services on several islands.

These photos, along with a photo of the 442nd RCT/100th Infantry Battalion Memorial, 1944, in Bruyeres, Vosges, France, and one of the 100th Infantry Battalion Memorial at Sacrifice Field, Fort Benning, Georgia, which was dedicated on October 25, 1999, have been hung in the Board Room/Resource Center. Jan Sakoda re-matted and reframed several of these photos. Thank you, Arlene and Jan, for making these valuable pieces available for viewing again.

There is also a print signed by John Kelley (1878-1962) hanging high above the entrance to the kitchen (shown at right). John Kelly was a well-known local printmaker. If anyone knows how the club came to receive this print, please call the office.

Mrs. Anita Korenaga, sister of Shinyei Nakamine (B) who was killed in action, has donated the Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to her brother for his heroic actions in June 1944. She received the Medal at a White House ceremony in 2000. The medal has been placed in the new display case, honoring the men of the 100th who received the Medal of Honor. Thank you, Mrs. Korenaga, for your generous gift.

WELCOME 2012 BOARD MEMBERS

On January 21, 2012, our Board will reconvene with a few new faces. We welcome and thank all who are volunteering to serve our organization and carry on important responsibilities.

President – Pauline Sato
1st Vice President- Irene Anzai
2nd Vice President – Lloyd Kitaoka
Secretary – Vacant
Treasurer – Janice Trubitt
A Chapter – Leighton Goro Sumida
B Chapter – Bert Kuioka (with Randy Kuroda)
C Chapter – Warren Yamamoto
D Chapter - Harry Nakayama
HQ/Medics Chapter – Dot Tamashiro
Rural Chapter – Ken Kaneshige
Descendants Chapter– Bert Hamakado

Avin Oshiro, Amy Muroshige, and Denis Teraoka will step down for others to lead. Also, due to the change in bylaws, Stan Izumigawa (Maui Chapter) and Sam Fujikawa (Southern California Chapter) will no longer be directors, however, they will be invited to attend a board meeting per year with voting rights. Mahalo to all for serving so faithfully.

HELP WANTED

Puka Puka Parade:
Our monthly “voice” of our organization is in need of help in 2012. If you would like to continue seeing quality articles and photos, please consider offering your kokua as:
- Article editor and proof-reader
- Article/photo compiler
- Transporter of printed newsletters to Clubhouse and prepared mail to Post Office

Board of Directors:
We are still seeking a Secretary to serve on the Board of Directors. This is a very important position. If you are an eligible member, are good at note-taking, and want to help our organization in a very meaningful way, please step forward today.

70th Anniversary Banquet:
As no one has stepped forward to chair the upcoming banquet, the Board voted to have members of Chapters A, C, and Descendants be responsible for planning and executing our upcoming annual banquet to be held on Sunday, July 8, 2012, at Honolulu Country Club. If you are in those Chapters, please offer your help as there are many tasks that need to be done.

Please contact the office right away if you can help with any of these tasks. We need your kokua! Phone: 946-0272; email: club100vets@gmail.com.
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY:
A GRANDSON’S PERSPECTIVE
by Reid T. Mizue
Grandson of Tadao Ibaraki (A)

Editor’s note: Thanks to Reid for submitting his detailed and very descriptive report of his trip to the Congressional Gold Medal events in Washington, D.C. We have included excerpts here; his full report is included in the electronic version.

It was late afternoon on October 31, 2011, when I arrived at Ronald Reagan International Airport, Washington, D.C. I looked out the small window of the United jet as it seemed to fly parallel with the Potomac, trees with red and orange autumn leaves, and the setting sun behind us. It felt wonderful to be in our nation’s Capital filled with the anticipation of the forthcoming events. I had a sense of purpose, a mission, and an honorable task that I would need to fulfill before this first week in November came to an end.

Almost a year ago, the buzz of a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony was just beginning. I first heard about this event through my mother, Ruby Mizue. Through an email my Mother sent, I learned that the Congressional Gold Medal truly had significant meaning. This medal is the highest honor the United States Congress can bestow upon a civilian. At that time, I figured it was a great honor, but I had no idea the journey I was about to embark on.

Although my grandfather had passed away, my grandmother, Ellen Ibaraki, was still with us. My wife and I would often visit her to see how she was doing. On one weekend visit to see her, she told me that I would be going to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for her and for grandpa. I don’t recall her asking, but I do remember her literally telling me that she would not be able to attend and so I should go in her place to represent grandpa. As her grandson, I was deeply honored to accept.

On the morning of Tuesday, November 1, 2011, the first event, the World War II Memorial Program, was held at the Washington Hilton. Upon arrival, I was astounded by the vast sea of people, chairs, and media also awaiting the start of the program to kick off. The Army Band intently played patriotic event music, the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School choir sang, and keynote speakers talked about the sacrifice, the courage, and heart the three units of Japanese American soldiers maintained throughout WWII. What amazed me most was the diversity in the audience. Folks came from all over the country to honor men like my grandpa who fought battles on two fronts; engaged with the enemy in Europe or the Pacific and at home where they were discriminated against for being Americans of Japanese ancestry. This first ceremony was the initial time during the trip that I felt a welling up of pride. I felt honored for being the grandson of a man who was a member of the “Purple Heart Battalion.”

Following the WWII Memorial Program, I jumped in a cab for a quick, fifteen-minute ride to the Veteran Wreath Presentation event at the WWII Memorial. I recall the air being brisk, but the sun was out and there was just enough cloud cover to provide the perfect weather for a late morning outdoor ceremony. The WWII memorial was amazingly large. It was made up of two pavilions (Pacific and Atlantic), a vast fountain in the center, a wall of 4,000 tiny gold stars, and pillars that surround the entire memorial, one each for the individual States and Territories. WWII was considered the war fought across two oceans and so the symbolism of design was spot on. Again, I was able to speak with so many Veterans from all over the country. Each Veteran was either sometimes in a wheelchair or simply walked at an even tempo while taking in the sights and sounds of an event in their honor. The look on their faces and their eyes spoke of satisfaction and joy.

The morning of the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony had finally arrived. That morning was incredible. I took photos at the King Kamehameha I statue in Emancipation Hall and listened intently to heart-wrenching speeches.

Later that same evening, I attended the Gold Medal Gala dinner. This event truly made the entire trip worthwhile. Washington Hilton’s massive ballroom was filled with over 2,000 people. The evening was filled with instances of seriousness, laughter, and tears. I was touched incredibly by two of the speakers that evening: Ann Curry, co-anchor of the Today show on NBC, and our own Senator Daniel Inouye.

I have always had an appreciation for my grandfather’s sacrifice, his story, and his Legacy. Selflessness and heart in the face of prejudice and war resonated with me as the first week of November 2011 came to an end.
HIGHLIGHTS OF KEYNOTE SPEECHES
AT HAWAI’I’S CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
EVENTS

Editor’s Note: Due to space limitations, we are including excerpts from the speeches delivered during the Congressional Gold Medal events in Hawaii.

BANQUET ADDRESS

The following remarks are from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki’s speech at the banquet on Saturday, December 17, 2011, at the Hawaii Convention Center. For his entire speech, see the link: http://www.va.gov/opa/speeches/2001/12_17_2011.asp

…And so it was from here, Hawai‘i, that the long journey began for so many Nisei that culminated in the award of the Congressional Gold Medal last month, a journey that began on that day of infamy at Pearl Harbor. Many of you here today were touched by the events of 7 December, 1941. Individuals, families, and communities were called upon to make sacrifices. For some, that sacrifice continues to this day.

My oldest childhood friend, Steve Sato, who sits in this audience today, lost his dad Sergeant Shukichi Sato at the Volturno River in November 1943, as I recently learned from watching a video produced by Los Angeles Channel 7 News Anchor David Ono. As I was growing up, Steve was always my friend without a dad; none of us kids really thought much about why because his mom Kaoru more than made up for the absence. Understanding more fully today all that she sacrificed for Steve only magnifies my admiration for her. Photos of his dad, of his dad and mom together, and the wartime letters they shared are all that Steve has today to fill in the gaps about the father he never met and the mother who never let him feel deprived. But their sacrifice is ongoing.

Secretary Shinseki spent a few minutes to describe the achievements of the three honoree groups: We are still awed at their ability and their willingness to absorb the rigors of combat and the stings of battle by surveying the awards bestowed upon "One-Puka-Puka!" And "Go For Broke!"—more than 18,000 individual awards from September 1943 to September 1945, including: 21 Medals of Honor; 52 Distinguished Service Crosses; 560 Silver Stars, and over 4,000 Bronze Stars; a staggering 9,486 Purple Hearts for combat wounds; and an unprecedented seven Presidential Unit Citations. No other regiment, in 237 years of U.S. Army history, has amassed an equivalent battle record, nor is it likely that any other regiment will match this performance, ever.

The highly classified nature of the MIS’s missions masked the valor, determination, and accomplishments of its Soldiers. For all intents and purposes, the MIS—classified units—did not exist until more than two decades after World War II, when their existence was declassified. To this day, they have never been fully recognized for such operational accomplishments as: linguist support leading to the aerial ambush of Admiral Yamamoto over the Pacific Ocean; enabling Merrill’s Marauders’ success in Burma; intelligence preparation of the battlefield for general MacArthur's brilliant island-hopping campaign; contributing to our seizure of the strategic initiative during and after the Battle of Midway; and, finally, contributing immensely to the democratization of post-war Japan, leading to its becoming one of our closest and staunchest allies today.

We now know that the first MIS Nisei class began training before the attack on Pearl Harbor, and after the attack, they shipped out to begin preparing the way for stopping Japan's operational momentum. By the end of the war, the MIS was everywhere present in the Pacific Theater of Operations. General Charles Willoughby, Douglas MacArthur’s Intelligence Chief, declared that "the Nisei saved countless allied lives and shortened the war [in the Pacific] by two years."

To each of our honorees, the bonds of trust you forged with your fellow Soldiers in battle are still intact. As you accept our appreciation and accolades today for your service, you represent every member of your distinguished units, even those who are no longer with us. You remind us all about the sacrifices which were made so that the rest of us could live our lives as we have come to enjoy them over 70 years….And for all of those reasons, it is so important that we continue to tell your stories so that future generations can understand what it took to provide those, who followed in your footsteps, the comfort and the privilege we enjoy today, and to remind them that those privileges come with responsibilities.

To our honorees: As I said last month in Washington, I've waited my entire life for this opportunity to offer all the magnificent warriors of these historic units and their families my deep personal thanks for your service and your example of how to live my life. And it is so very special to be able to say these things here in Hawai‘i where, for so many of you, this courageous chapter in our Nation's history began. Except for your service and bloody sacrifice, my life's work would not have followed the path that it did.

So, to you and your family members, we are indebted to you all for giving us lessons about living our lives with purpose and dignity. From my generation to yours, we thank you. I am proud to be an American Soldier. I am proud that President Obama gave me this opportunity to serve Veterans, and I am honored to have been with you here today.

…Aloha.
MEMORIAL SERVICE ADDRESS

Editor’s Note: LTG (Ret) Joe Peterson (shown at right with Punchbowl Director Gene Castagnetti) delivered his speech amid a torrential downpour. He and others referred to the wet phenomenon as a “blessing,” and carried on. The entire speech is in the electronic version. We have extracted highlights here.

Patriotism, Bravery, Dedication, Commitment, Sacrifice and Love of Nation – these words roll easily off one’s tongue, but as these values are practiced and lived, they define a people and a nation - and are what makes America “the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave!”

I’ve seen another twist on this phrase; it read, “Land of the Free – Because of the Brave!”

This clearly defines – the “Greatest Generation” and at the top of that list are our WWII Nisei Veterans.

Today on these hallowed grounds of Punchbowl, a National Cemetery, and the final resting place for American service men and women, we give pause to recognize not only our Nisei Veterans for defining our future, shaping our lives, and allowing all Asian Pacific Americans to stand proud – with heads held high - because of your resolve and dedication, but also those 100th Battalion soldiers who have followed in your footsteps and continued to defend our nation at war in Vietnam, Iraq and other conflicts.

Our Nisei Veterans honored us through their heroic actions, service and sacrifices – well beyond their call to duty. Their record stands alone in the annals of US military history. Some estimate that the 442nd experienced a casualty rate of 314% - meaning that each soldier could have been injured in combat at least three times.

Over 800 Nisei gave their lives in WWII so that we could live in this “Land of the Free”, and that others across Europe and the Pacific could enjoy these same freedoms.

Our Nisei veterans fought, were injured, and gave their lives not only for our country, but for people who they scarcely knew, in places they had never heard of – Salerno, Saipan, Bruyeres, Vosges, Cassino, Anzio and the list goes on and on. These Nisei Americans fought not only to restore their rights, and to preserve America’s honor, but also for others rights and liberties, just as our troops across the world and the 100th Battalion continues to do today.

33,000 Nisei were members of the Armed Forces in WWII. With over 18,000 individual decorations including 21 Medals of Honor,7 Presidential unit citations, and now the Congressional Gold Medal, no one can criticize or question their allegiance or patriotism. The audience responded with spontaneous applause.

As a boy scout, on Veterans Day, I walked here along the long lines of white crosses, [in those days marked] the final resting site of so many of these heroes. I placed small US flags and leis to commemorate their service. These giants walked amongst us then, as they do today, however, in much smaller numbers. We referred to them as dad, uncle or grandfather. Because of their nature, humility and culture – seldom did they ever mention anything of their exploits or achievements in war.

I only recently learned of my uncle’s participation in the Military Intelligence Service, and am honored to recognize him now, MG Arthur Ishimoto, the former Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, who became the most senior ranking military member of our Nisei Veterans.

Our Nisei Veterans defined the meaning of being American. Their spouses and families redefined the meaning of selflessness. Your collective efforts are awe-inspiring. Today’s gathering commemorates your sacrifice, and celebrates the lives of those Nisei soldiers who fought and died for us. It also recognizes those members of the 100th Battalion [442nd Infantry Reserve] who have fought and died for us in other conflicts. You have brought great honor – meiyo – to your family, culture and nation.

I and many of the Sanseis and younger generations that are present today, realize that it is because of you that we can live our lives fully, without suspicion or doubt of loyalty, and enjoy the freedoms, privileges and opportunities we share.

Today, we gather in this sacred place to remember and commemorate our Nisei Veterans and other soldiers of the 100th Battalion who gave their lives for our country, for what they are:

Heroes – Patriots –Americans!

Let us now proceed to honor and preserve their legacy.

Following the CGM Memorial Service: Steve Sato, Yvonne Toyama, and Sonia Sato paused to visit the gravesite of Yvonne’s uncle, Roy S. Fukumoto (KIA, Co. C). Steve’s father, Shukichi Sato (KIA, Co. F) is buried on Kauai.
THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL
EVENTS IN HAWAII
by Bernard Akamine and Drusilla Tanaka

“Flattered.” That was the reply of Tokuji Ono (B) when he was asked how he felt about the Congressional Gold Medal and the events that took place over the weekend of December 17 and 18, 2011. Tom “Kewpie” Tsubota (B/MIS) reflected on the video that was featured at the banquet, for which he was interviewed. He recalled that he spent a lot of time talking to the film crew, but after seeing the video, he realized that only a few seconds of the interview were included in the final cut. When the video came on at the banquet, he didn’t realize that it was the one he participated in, so he was shocked to see himself but was satisfied with the overall experience.

Another veteran, when asked how he felt about the day’s event, answered, “It’s a struggle,” then burst into a wide smile! Retired Judge Takashi “Kit” Kitaoka (B) confessed that he questioned whether he should attend the event at all but was glad that he did, even though it was “kinda tough.” He was pleased with the medal replica he received, saying it was very nice and very heavy. Sonsei Nakamura (B) enjoyed the banquet and was surprised to see so many people there. (The final count was 3,200.) He was happy to see his former First Sergeant, “Kit” Kitaoka. When Sonsei realized that the veteran sitting at the next table was his old friend Masaichi Yoza (B), he couldn’t believe it. There was a loud yell from both men when they recognized each other. Paulette Arakaki, wife of Alfred (A), was very impressed with the food service—she just could not imagine preparing that much food for that many people. She said everything was “perfect.” Dr. Fujio Matsuda (442.232 Eng and former UH President) felt it was a great day for the veterans—the event brought all of them together again, and it was great that their families were with them. “It was an opportunity to rejuvenate the idealism they had when they were in the service, and for their families to hear more of their stories,” said Dr. Matsuda. George Nakasato (442.F Co) rode the trolley in the parade and had this to say: “I really think that the parade was a meaningful kind of exercise, in a sense that the seniors that were sitting in there (the trolley)—I’m sure they still recollect the parade that we had some 65 years ago when we marched on the street. Today, we sat in the trolley and recognized people on the sidewalk. And, the people responded. That’s the beauty of the whole thing. A lot of them saluted, and that felt good in the sense that there is some degree of recognition for all of us. Even though we’re not that active as before, it felt good. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki gave a very good speech today. We don’t hear from people like that very often. Overall, I enjoyed it.”

The Memorial Service at Punchbowl drew a record standing-room-only crowd. Entering the National Cemetery of the Pacific was itself a moving experience, as the roadway was lined with huge American flags fluttering in the breeze. The gravesites in Section D, known as the 100/442 KIA gravesites, were decorated with miniature American flags, and there were gigantic infantry blue flags over three separate graves. In his welcoming remarks, Cemetery Director Gene Castagnetti told us that these flags were for the men who received the Medal of Honor. In the photo, the flags are for, from left to right: Shinyei Nakamine (B), Robert Kuroda (442.H Co), and Mikio Hasemoto (B). It was difficult to take a close-up photo of a flag which displayed a gigantic image of the Medal of Honor because it was so huge and the color blended in with the sky. LTG Joe Peterson’s touching speech, which is included elsewhere in this issue, was interrupted by the downpour of rain—but, true to his warrior spirit, he kept on despite being completely drenched. By doing so, he clearly demonstrated that he has embodied the lessons he learned from the Nisei soldiers, many of whom were themselves soaking wet from the downpour.

Heartfelt thanks to the Hawaii Steering Committee, the event sponsors and donors, and to the dozens of volunteers for a memorable weekend!
IOLANI STUDENTS VISIT EDUCATION CENTER

On Wednesday, December 7, all of Mrs. Elsie Yoshimura’s Japanese Language classes from Iolani School walked over to see our Education Center. Yoshimura Sensei’s father was Thomas Taro Higa (A). They had to answer questions on a worksheet by reading the information displayed. One of the students said that his grandfather was a member of the club, but the grandfather never told him anything about the past. He was happy that he had the opportunity to visit and learn more.

DESCENDANTS CHAPTER NEWS

by Bert Hamakado

Much mahalos for those who supported our wreath and poinsettia fundraiser during the months of November and December. To the volunteers who helped with this fundraiser, it was a success and mahalo for your time and efforts.

December has already passed! We should wrap up the old year properly and prepare for the new. The Descendants Chapter will be celebrating another aspect of our heritage with the Shinnen Enkai 2012 on Saturday, January 14, 2012, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the clubhouse. The James Kawashima (B) family will be demonstrating mochi pounding. Come and enjoy eating the freshly pounded mochi and drink some ozoni soup. Admission is FREE, donations accepted. Need kokuia, looking for people to help pound mochi, prepare the fresh mochi and help celebrate the upcoming New Year. Hope you can come and socialize with the veterans, wives, descendants and the 100th Infantry Battalion Ohana.

DONATIONS TO THE EDUCATION CENTER

by Jan Sakoda

We are thankful for the following gifts received by the Education Center between October 15 and December 14, 2011:

$20 Descendants Chapter in memory of Patty Kawaoka
$30 Anonymous
$50 Norman Morita in memory of Masatoshi Morita
$50 Susumu and Ruth Kunishige
$50 Jane Ota in memory of Francis Nakamura
$60 Elsie Yoshimura
$100 Akira and Pat Akimoto in memory of Alicia Robello
$100 Dorothy “Dot” Tamashiro in memory of Harold S. Tamashiro
$100 Doris Aimoto in memory of Yoshito Aimoto
$100 Bessie Fukumoto in memory of Robert Fukumoto
$100 Nealson and Arlene Sato in memory of Hideshi Niimi
$100 Joanne Kai on behalf of Gladys Kawakami in memory of Arthur Komiyama and Roy Nakatani
$100 Gregg and Judith Nakamura
$400 Mieko Muroshige in memory of Richard Hosaka, Stanley Hamamura, Kiyoshi Shiramizu, Arthur Komiyama, Katsumi Maeda, Kenneth Muroshige
$500 Jeanne Maeda in memory of Katsumi Maeda
$1,000 Elizabeth “Bette” Takahashi in memory of Sake Takahashi
$1,000 Joanne Kai and Brian Kawakami in memory of M. Eugene and Gladys Kawakami

Refreshments for the Dedication Event:
2 trays of sushi from Ukichi Wozumi
Baked goods from Marie Yoneshige
Mochi from Dot Tamashiro
Baked goods from Ann Kabasawa
Brownies from Mrs. Ruth Kunishige
Scones from Jake Shimabukuro

Beautiful Floral Arrangements were received from:
442nd Veterans Club
Bill Thompson
Universal Construction

In-Kind Services for the Dedication Program:
Ukulele performance by Jake Shimabukuro
A LETTER FROM VIKKI POWELL

Aloha to my 100th Battalion Family from Oklahoma City. There are no words to express the heartfelt gratitude I have for how each of you made this journey so moving for me. When I left Oklahoma City on December 15, I had no expectations on what I would discover upon arrival. All I knew was that I had a few goals I wanted to achieve during my visit. The first was to attend the parade the morning of December 17. The second was to attend the Congressional Gold Medal banquet. The third was to have some private time with my father at Punchbowl before attending the memorial service on December 18. Check, check, check.

Now, after making it safely back to Oklahoma and getting a full night’s rest in my own bed, I am beginning to fully grasp and appreciate the richness and depth of the kindness everyone showed me during my visit. For 57 years, I never knew anyone from my father’s side of the family. Today, I now know that my father was blessed with such a large family—the 100th Battalion family! I also know that this family has opened their arms and welcomed me into their fold. Never, in my wildest imagination, would I ever have thought this would happen. I had accepted long ago that there would be this hole in my life of not knowing very much about my father and that this hole would never be filled or healed.

During discussions I had with Mr. Eddie Ikuma, I learned some information about my Dad that stood out to me. He told me that my father was well liked. From Eddie I also learned that my father had an opportunity to leave or to remain with the men of the battalion. He chose to remain. For that, he earned respect. I also learned that my Dad had been an instructor at Schofield Barracks before the war started and that he had helped to train many of the men of the 100th Battalion before and after the war started. I found this news very interesting as I, too, had been an instructor while serving in the U.S.A.F. on active duty. This was a delightful coincidence.

Everyone that I spoke to gave me some piece that I could use to help put this puzzle together. Drusilla Tanaka helped me to understand how the Silver Star and the first Purple Heart my Dad was awarded were for the same event. Susan Muroshige showed me a photo of my Dad that is in the clubhouse that closely matched a photocopy of a photo I’d been given by his wife in 1992. Jan Sakoda and Arlene Sato recognized faces from another set of photocopied photos I’d been given in 1992 and contacted these individuals on my behalf. David Fukuda enlightened me on how my Dad was transferred from “C” Company to “A” Company. I also learned that his father, Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, was transferred to “A” Company after my Dad was wounded.

Charles Miyamoto sent me a photo of a military formation that included my Dad. Charles took the time to find this photo from the effects that were left by his uncle after he had passed away. Mr. Robert Arakaki and I spoke on three occasions and he remembered my Dad from “C” Company. Dainan Skeem, an archivist at the University of Hawaii, provided historical information for me to review.

I would like to extend a Mahalo to Jim Omura and Laurine Ota for sending me keepsake photos. Mahalo to Susan Muroshige, Jan Sakoda, Arlene Sato, Stan Sato, and Jimmy Nakatani for taking me under their wings and guiding me along this journey. I shall always giggle when I remember Jimmy’s reaction to meeting me at the banquet. Yoshie Tanabe presented me with a beautiful red, white, and blue lei at the banquet and made sure I was taken care of during my trip. Miraculously, the lei Amy Muroshige gave me made it back to Oklahoma smelling as wonderful as it did when it was given.

Not only did I learn more than I ever imagined I would know about my Dad on this trip, I also gained a new family. Now my heart is healed and my sadness is lifted. You have helped this to be the best Christmas ever!

Mahalo and Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Vikki Powell
proud daughter of Capt. James C. Vaughn

Editor’s Note: We learned about Vikki’s quest to learn more about her father after the deadline had passed for the December issue. Thus, her plea was on the first page of the electronic PPP, and several did respond. If more readers can offer Vikki information, photos, etc., please write to her at ohyou12@cox.net or at 8213 Canna Lane, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.
braved the weather and attended an absolutely wonderful and fun luncheon that his faithful and hardworking "crew" presented to all of us. With colorful decorations, prizes, favors, and delicious food for everyone, we certainly had a good time. Spotted among the attendees were 100th members Toke Yoshishashi, Duke Ogawa, Chiz Ohira, Mas and Elma Takahashi, Susan and Scott Takahashi. There helping with the festivities were our Honorary members Robi Shibao-Martin and Cathy Tanaka. We even welcomed Ann Kabasawa who was in town visiting her son in Torrance. It was such a nice surprise to see her!

We wish you all a wonderful weekend in Hawaii to celebrate the Congressional Gold Medal Award as it sounds like there are many special ceremonies being planned for this very important event.

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**Charlie Chapter NEWS**

by Arlene Sato

We had a total of almost 100 people at our C/HQ/Medics Christmas party on Dec. 3. Skip Tomiyama decorated the tables so beautifully with a variety of gifts. Gary Mizushima made the most delicious melt-in-the-mouth prime rib, steamed monchong fish with black bean topping, fried chicken, and jook soup. Thanks to the people who baked, we had a big variety of desserts. Santa heard the Christmas carols and dropped in with presents for the children. There were lots of bingo prizes, door prizes and leftover food to take home. Mahalo to all that helped set up the tables, cleaned up, and washed dishes.

Mahalo to the following: Skip Tomiyama for decorating the hall so beautifully, for all the table centerpieces, and for providing the live music, Norman Oda for 9 name-brand men’s Aloha Shirts, Wayne Iha for one case of chicken broth, Doris Aimoto for two bags of azuki, Lorraine Miyashiro $50, Kazuto Shimizu $25, Kenneth Higa $20, William Omoto of California $50, Gary Mizushima $200, and Gail Miyahara of California (daughter of George Miyahara) $100. Bob Ogata, nephew of KIA veteran Masayoshi Ogata (D), donated a hand-made ukulele.

Be sure to attend the Shinnen Enkai and help with pounding the mochi at the clubhouse on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Next C Chapter meeting is on Saturday, January 28, 2012, at 10 am. Our 2012 C Chapter Board of Directors are the same as last year: President-Warren Yamamoto, Vice President –Kazuto Shimizu, Secretary-Skip Tomiyama, and Treasurer-Arlene Sato.
HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS
Janice Sakoda – 737-7778
Daughter of Gary K. Uchida

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hope you are all keeping well despite this wintry weather!

The Hawaii Congressional Gold Medal ceremony has come and gone… over 3,000 attended the memorable banquet; old friendships were rekindled and new friendships were made. I got to meet Colleen Iwata and her family who flew in from Hilo just for the celebration. I met Colleen via email when she sent to the Education Center a clipping of a 1944 newspaper article. While reading it, I saw my dad’s name in the article (that was a chicken skin moment!); there was even a photo of him visiting George Inouye, Colleen’s dad, at Dibble Hospital where both were convalescing. I immediately emailed Colleen back and a friendship was soon formed. Hopefully, they’ll all return to the clubhouse for the anniversary banquet in July 2012.

Congratulations to Headquarters Company’s Ed Ikuma who received his Bronze Star at the Hawaii Congressional Gold Medal banquet. Aki Akimoto received his medal during the November 2 Washington, D.C., ceremony, as did Elsie Oshita on behalf of her husband Tony. (Photo courtesy of Ikuma Family)

We’re going to start the new year off with our next Headquarters meeting on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Please join us in the boardroom at 10:00 am. It’ll be a short one so come early. Parking might be tight so parking will also be available at Ala Wai School.

There will be no PPP in February so this also serves as a reminder to join us at our February 11 meeting. Be sure to mark your calendar. We’ll need to discuss important topics, such as where and when our Spring Luncheon will be!

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS
by Evelyn Tsuda

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!
Wishing all of you good health and happiness during this new year. I hope you will continue to attend our chapter meetings, but if you have not done so in the past, I hope you will make it your top priority. Our next meeting will be on February 4, 2012, at 1 p.m.

A big MAHALO to Fred Kurisu and Mieko Muroshige for their generous donations. Fred has been our benefactor for many years, for which we are very grateful. Mrs. Muroshige’s donation was made in memory of her husband Ken who passed away three years ago.

Our chapter Christmas party was held on December 4 and I don’t hesitate to say that it was a success. It was co-chaired by our president Bert Kuioka and myself; and we wish to thank Bert Hamakado and Helen Kodama for serving on the committee, Jeff Ono for emceeing, Elaine Nakamura and Nancy Arakaki for manning the reception table, Gary Nakayama and the Arakaki boys for helping to set up, Rose Hamakado, Ann Kabasawa, and Sophie Hatakenaka for their tremendous help in the kitchen, Curtis and Cathy Tsuda for picking up the food, and everyone who helped with the cleanup.

The 111 people who showed up at the party, including 28 children, enjoyed a 7-course Chinese buffet, a guessing game (the best guesser was Tokuji Ono’s grandson who won first prize), karaoke by Charlie Tanaka, BINGO, and a visit by Santa (thanks to Ralph Steensen, an honorary member, who looked like a storybook Santa). There were door prizes galore which kept the party going until 2:00 pm. The grand prize was a beautiful ukulele handcrafted and donated by Bob Ogata (nephew of Masayoshi Ogata, Co. D, KIA). We have to also thank the following for their donations: Diane Ono for a slew of prizes, Roy Arakaki, Ralph Steensen, Bernard Akamine, Ethel Sekine, Tom Tsubota, Mary Ann Tanabe, Humi Iha’s family, Cheryl Kamihara, Mieko Muroshige, Karen Yoza-Iha, Louise Katahara. Cash donations were received from Robert Arakaki, Sonsei Nakamura, Alvin Katahara, Mark Arakaki, the Iha family, and Susan Iwasa. Everyone enjoyed the delicious pupu and desserts brought by Drusilla Tanaka, Ann Kabasawa, Mary Ann Tanabe, the Iha family, Tokuji Ono, and Rose Hamakado, who must have labored for days making pickled mango, jello, and shrimp chips the size of your hand. THANK YOU ALL - our party wouldn’t have been a success without your donations and support. (If I have omitted some names, please forgive me.)
Our Dog Chapter Christmas party on December 11 was a tremendous success! We had over 85 people joining us for the festivities. And, thank heaven, unlike last year’s rain storm that flooded the clubhouse, this year not a drop of rain fell to threaten us.

Our chairperson, Karleen Chinen, chose caterer Marujyu Market to provide us with delicious food. Rhoda Kawamata fried a batch of crispy o’ama fish for pupu. She caught them herself—just for our party. Thanks to many others who brought delectable dishes and desserts. The Nakayama brothers were in charge of the beverages—the punch was so good—“not too sweet, not too sowah, but jes’ right!”

The Teraoka clan provided some of the entertainment. Mother (Joy) Teraoka sang “Hawaiian Lullaby” as visiting daughter Denise danced the hula. She also offered another graceful hula to “Palehua.” Brother Douglas sang “White Christmas” and “I’ll Have a Blue, Blue Christmas.” Scuppy Nishime, grandson of the late Saburo Nishime, rendered a beautiful piano solo.

Thanks to the following for their generous donations to our Christmas party: Kay Okamoto, $50; Steve Takushi, $100; Denis Teraoka, $500.

We were honored to have Kahu Manu Mook, guest of Glenn Yamasaki, blow the conch shell to bless our gathering and give the invocation in Hawaiian.

Hey! Hey! We hit the front page of the Hawaii Herald with Karleen Chinen’s photo of our Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Denis and Joy Teraoka) with Scuppy Nishime and his pet dog on Santa’s knee. Goose bumps galore! The Congressional Gold Medal of Honor celebration for the 100th/442nd/MIS veterans was truly the high point in the history of the Nikkei (those of Japanese descent) in America. We are forever indebted to these men who fought for not only their country, but especially for us of Japanese ancestry to prove we were worthy of being first-class citizens.

Our condolences to the family (sons Brion and Dean) of Tad Kanda who passed away on December 7, 2011. In the early days when “Club 100” was just forming, Tad was quite an active member. Private services were held.

WHAT’S UP WITH THE WINE GANG
by Jayne Hirata-Epstein

Sorry that your Wine Gang reporter and head chef was AWOL from the PPP, but it was a very hectic time for me when it came to my “other jobs” as Mommy and getting my certification in small animal massage and animal reiki. Not too many dogs at Wine Gang, except for Shelley Santo’s adorable Oscar, but the boys are always willing to serve as substitute canines when I need some practice.

The Wine Gang would like to thank 442nd veteran Bolo Shirakata for his donation of $100, 442nd veteran Roy Takiyama for his donation of $100, and Aloha Shoyu Man Martin Fujimoto for his donation of a $30 Zippy’s Gift Card. Due to their generosity and everyone who brings something potluck style each given us several ukulele for prizes. I didn’t get the names of the lucky winners, but I’m sure they were more than happy with their luck. Thanks to all who donated prizes—we had an overflow so everyone went home with something. Thanks to all of you for coming, participating, and cleaning up after the party was over. That’s what makes it all so worthwhile every Christmas. We hope to see you all again next year! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This is to announce our new Dog Chapter officers for the next year: Harry Nakayama, president; Steve Takushi, vice-president; Joy Teraoka, secretary; and Arthur Nakayama, treasurer. Applause, please! We are more than grateful to have our younger members taking over the helm in our chapter affairs. Let’s be sure to give them support in their endeavors.

The first Dog Chapter meeting of the year will be February 4, 2012, at 9:30 am in the clubhouse lounge.
Wine Gang, continued

week, we can continue to have a bountiful and
delicious buffet of food. We can also support our
wonderful 100th/442nd Army Reservists as we did in
December by providing them with a beautiful
Christmas tree for their headquarters at Fort Shafter
for the second year in a row.

The Wine Gang had a Thanksgiving Party at Sunrise
Restaurant to celebrate several events including the
birthdays of 100th/442nd soldier Chris Arakawa,
former Education Center employee Pam Funai, and
442nd veteran Paul Watanabe as well as Robert
Arakaki and Goro Sumida receiving clean bills of
health after short hospital stays. Even though the
place was so packed that we ran out of chairs,
everyone had a great time due in large part to the live
Okinawan music performed by Shari Tamashiro’s
friend. Along with the Wine Gang regulars were
several special guests including Col. Kimo Dunn,
Scott Williams of Lex Brodie’s Tire Company, and
Judge Ed Kubo. Plans for the Wine Gang Christmas
party are being put into place as this article is being
written and we are hoping to have a New Year’s
Chinese Food party in January per request of the
veterans. We will also continue to have our popular
poker nights when we can work out everyone’s
schedules -- hard to do when lots of us don’t drive at
night or don’t drive at all!

In case you were wondering, the Wine Gang will
continue to meet for lunch every Thursday in 2012
and as long as the boys are camped out in the lounge.
We post the menu and any announcements such as
birthday parties, special events or anything else of
interest at my Wine Gang Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/pages/100th-Infantry-Battalion-
Veterans-aka-Club-100 or you can e-mail me at
100thwinegang@gmail.com. At our Facebook page,
we also have articles and news about the Nisei
veterans as well as great photos taken by Wayne Iha.
(Photos are in electronic version of PPP.)

On behalf of everyone at the Wine Gang, I would like
to wish you a safe, prosperous, and, most of all,
healthy and happy new year. As 2012 is the Year of
the Dragon, do you know how to tell the difference
between a Chinese, Japanese, and Korean dragon?
Just count the toes. Chinese dragons have five toes,
Korean dragons have four, and Japanese dragons have
three. Hmm, maybe I’ll spend this Thursday checking
out the veterans’ toes to see where they really come
from……

NEWS FROM THE BIG ISLAND CHAPTER
by Martha Terao

A Christmas party is the last event of the year hosted
by the Sons & Daughters in Hilo. Despite the rain and
wind, 82 people attended the AJA Veterans Christmas
Party on December 11th. Among the attendees, 14
were veterans with their wives and families; 9 widows
and their families; 18 Sons & Daughters, as well as 10 children
ages 12 and under. Also enjoying the event were several guests.

Among the 100th Battalion veterans, only Hideo Kami was able to attend. Several of the
100th Battalion widows also braved the wet weather to enjoy the catered lunch which included an assortment of sushi, salads, roast beef, chicken, and all-time favorite butterfish with teriyaki sauce. The dessert table was filled with a variety of chocolate treats.

Everyone had a chance to make several craft items to take home. This year a new activity table was set up to either learn or play the “Hanafuda” card game. The 10 children in attendance didn’t mention that Santa’s costume was remarkably dry despite the rainy trip from the North Pole! The party ended after everyone won many BINGO prizes.

HEADS UP: On the east side of our island, there are 12 surviving 100th Battalion “boys”; however, only four attend meetings and veteran events: Eugene Eguchi, Joe Sugawara, Kazuma Taguchi and Hideo Kami.

As mentioned, Mr. Kami was the only member attending this year’s Christmas Party. Mr. Eguchi was hospitalized with congestive heart failure which causes the lungs to fill up with fluid, making it difficult to breathe. He is doing well recuperating at home. Mr. Sugawara was on a vacation in Las Vegas. Mr. Taguchi probably did not want to leave the warmth of home during that rainy day. According to his son Glenn, both parents are well and enjoy their Sundays grocery shopping.

Other 100th “boys” who in the past were regular attendees at events are now residing in “skilled nursing” homes. Mr. Motoyoshi Tanaka and his wife are both residents at the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans Home in Hilo. Mr. Stanley Ushijima is a resident at Life Care Center of Hilo where daily visiting hours are 10 am to 8:30 pm.

(continued on page 14)
**Big Island, continued**
The next Club meeting is scheduled for February. Please contact Mr. Eguchi for details.

**REFLECTIONS:**
To honor my father, Seizoku Akamine, I attended the Hawaii Congressional Gold Medal events in Honolulu. Besides me, my daughter, Marisa Oshiro, and fiancé, George Tsuhako, other members from Hilo were Larry Tanimoto’s family: widow Kazue, daughter, Gweyn Eckart, and grandson, Randall Eckart of Kona. We enjoyed the lunch and program, as well as observed Hilo veteran, Joe Sugawara on stage to receive his Bronze Medal. Congratulations, Mr. Sugawara!

**NOTE OF THANKS:**
Mahalo to the 100th Battalion families that sat at Table 177 with Marisa and George. You made them feel comfortable.

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**MAUI CHAPTER NEWS**
by Stan Izumigawa

Two dozen veterans and family members enjoyed an end-of-the-year gathering (our club only meets twice a year) for lunch at one of the local golf club restaurants and had a great time socializing and talking story in a setting that allowed us to do so without disturbing other customers. We did not discuss it at the time, but suggested that members let the club officers know how they liked that day’s arrangements as a guide to future get-togethers. Thanks were extended to the Nagata family for a financial contribution and to Hiroshi Arisumi of the 232nd Engineers who donated a package of persimmons for each one present. Brian Moto delivered a blessing and a sumptuous lunch followed. Program chair Jill Ross included a word game, the winner of which got to take home more of the delicious persimmons. Decorations included a sizable pumpkin at each table. Senior club member and much-travelled Tom Yamada at age 97 spontaneously rose at the conclusion of the day’s activities to thank those who handled the day’s affairs and was supported by a round of applause. The photo at top right shows the veterans who were present.

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Ed Nishihara, Stan Izumigawa, Fred Yamashige, Willie Goo, Tom Yamada and (sitting) Akira Ishikawa. (Photo submitted by Stan Izumigawa)

December’s highlight, of course, was the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies on the 17th and 18th in Honolulu. The Maui contingent included Willie Goo and son, Tom Yamada, Ed Nishihara (accompanied by wife Marie, daughter Francine, and husband Rowan), and Stan Izumigawa (accompanied by 15-year part-time GF Janice Ambrozik, who has been living at home in New York recovering from health conditions). I did not run into some of our regular members who usually make it on such an occasion.

I had hoped that, this being one of the last major public occasions honoring Nisei Veterans, the planners would take the time to call each veteran on stage, recite a brief historical background, and have General Shinseki and Congresswoman Hirono present the replicas of the Gold Medal for a brief moment of glory which most of the fellows have not experienced. My lone hearing aid having died, I was not able to hear any of the speeches at the banquet on Saturday. Still, I was able to exchange greetings with several of the leading figures associated with our club and with buddies and acquaintances from the 442nd and the MIS.

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Editor’s Note: The following appeared in the Descendants’ Chapter ad in the Nov. 4 Hawaii Herald, a special commemorative issue for the Congressional Gold Medal events in Washington, D.C.: To our Congressional Gold Medal Heroes, 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd, MIS, and 1399th.

**OKAGE SAMA DE**
(We are who we are because of you.)
With gratitude, we congratulate you!
Thank you so much for the following donations which were received between November 15 and December 15, 2011.

**GENERAL FUND**
- $25  Lorraine N.M. Young in memory of Kazuto Mito
- $25  Robert Arakaki in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $25  Michio Niiya in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $25  Bernard & Jeanette Akamine in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $25  Yoshi Tsukayama in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $25  Tomi Taba in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $30  Tomiko & Kenkichi Arakaki in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $35  Hideshi & Roland Hirata in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Ernest Y.K. Lau in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Ruby & Donald Takenaka in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  James M. Fukuda in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Florence Mitsunaga in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Kiku & Glen Okamura in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Club 100 D Chapter in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $50  Club 100 D Chapter in memory of Jitsuru Yoshida
- $100  Bob & Kay Ogata in memory of Saburo Nishime
- $100  Bob & Kay Ogata in memory of Jitsuru Yoshida
- $100  Warren Fukushima
- $100  Richard Kobayashi
- $100  Sam Terasaki in honor of Tammy Kubo and Ka’apuni Peters-Wong
- $100  Michael Doi
- $100  Kiyoto & Kimi Oki

A generous material donation of electrical supplies to repair the lighting in our Clubhouse was received from GE Consumer and Industrial. Thanks to Jim Low, son-in-law of Bob Sato (A), for arranging the donation and installation of new fixtures.

**PUKA PUKA PARADE**
- $30  Lorraine N.M. Young

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- $30  Kazuto Shimizu in memory of Saburo Nishime

**EDUCATION CENTER**
A complete list of Donors from October 14 through December 15, 2011, is on page 8.

**CALENDAR REMINDERS**
- **Saturday, January 14, 2012**  *Shinnen Enkai Event* sponsored by the Descendants Chapter, 10 am to 2 pm. Reservations encouraged. Please call the Clubhouse Office: 946-0272
- **Monday, January 16, 2012**  The Clubhouse Office will be closed for the Martin Luther King Holiday
- **Monday, February 20, 2012**  The Clubhouse Office will be closed for the Presidents’ Day Holiday

There is no **Puka Puka Parade** for February 2012. The March issue will be collated on February 25.
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EBOD Meeting  Saturday, Jan. 21, and Feb. 18, 8:30 am
BOARD Meeting  Saturday, Jan. 21, and Feb. 18, 9:30 am
ABLE Chapter  Saturday, Jan. 28, and Feb. 25, 8:30 am
BAKER Chapter  Sunday, January 8, and Saturday, Feb. 4, 1 pm
CHARLIE Chapter  Saturday, January 28, 10 am; No Feb. mtg.
DOG Chapter  No January meeting; Next mtg: Feb. 4, 9:30 am
HQ/MEDICS Chapter  Saturday, Jan. 14, and Feb. 11, 10 am
RURAL Chapter  Quarterly meetings to be announced
DESCENDANTS Chapter  To be announced
LONG- RANGE PLAN.  To be announced
SCHOLARSHIP Comm.  To be announced
LINE DANCING  Every Wednesday at 9 am, Turner Hall
ZUMBA (BEGINNERS)  Every Wednesday at 10:30 am, Turner Hall
CRAFTS  Every Tuesday at 9 am

PUKA PUKA PARADE  Collating on Saturday, February 25, 9 am
The Clubhouse Office will be closed on Monday, January 16, in observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday and on Monday, February 20, for Presidents’ Day Holiday. Dates and times subject to change. Please contact your Chapter President, Committee Chair, or the Office for more information.

Happy New Year!
January-February 2012
Return Service Requested

HONOLULU, HI 96826
PAAI D L S. POSTAGE
ON-PREMISE

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans

The Puka Puka Parade is the monthly newsletter of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization. It is published at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Clubhouse, 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96826, eleven times a year.

The opinions expressed in the Puka Puka Parade are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans.

The deadline to submit articles for the March 2012 issue is February 13, 2012.

Please send your articles, comments or questions about the Parade via email to pukaparade@gmail.com, via fax to (808) 946-0273 or via mail to Puka Puka Parade 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96826.

If you want to be removed from the PPP mailing list, would like to receive the PPP via email, have a new mailing address, or have any questions, please contact the Clubhouse Office at 946-0272 or club100vets@gmail.com.
HAWAII’S SALUTE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL HEROES

Editor’s note: Mahalo to photographers Wayne Iha, Ann Kabasawa, Clyde Sugimoto, Terry Takaki, Pat Thomson, Lowell Thom, Arlene Sato, Jan Sakoda, Clint Inouye, Joan Naguwa, Celia Nishie, Drusilla Tanaka and many others for submitting photos taken during the Congressional Gold Medal events in Hawaii, December 17 & 18, 2011.

VICTORY PARADE

Milton Tanaka, son of Asao Tanaka (A) and his wife Cheryl join other descendants in carrying the Parade Banner.

Millie Honda and Evelyn Tsuda await the coming of the Trolleys carrying Mits Honda (442.232 Eng) and Rikio Tsuda (100.B)
The crowd at Kalakaua and Seaside Avenues

CGM Event Sponsor BAE Systems
The Marine Corps Band

The Navy Band

The Royal Hawaiian Band
On the Trolley
Kazuo Tomasa (442. Medics), Sutemi Yamamoto (442. F22 FAB), and Ukichi Wozumi (B)

Yoroku Ito (C), Denis Teraoka (D), Takamori Miyagi (C), Jitsuo Kawada (442. M)

In Classy Convertibles
George Joji “Oscar” Miyashiro (C), extreme left, and Ed Ikuma (HQ) with flag
There were several vehicles in the parade, equipped with heavy weapons.
The Family of Ed Ikuma brought their banners, flags, cheers, and smiles!
The Banquet at the Hawaii Convention Center

Frank Tanabe (MIS) and Family
Former Governor George Ariyoshi (MIS) and Descendants

The proud family of Tokuichi Hayashi (A)

Andrew Nishino (A)

Mits Kunihiro (442.522), Stanley Kaneshiro (442.522), Hilda Kaneshiro and Masaru “Biggie” Nakakura (442.522)

Violet Kagawa (center) and Lei Weavers

Ted Wakai (MIS) and Dr. Coolidge Wakai (B)

Hideo Taise (1399)

Nellie and Hiroshi Matsunami (A)

Wes Deguchi gives last-minute instructions to volunteers.
Marie Yoneshige (the late Richard Yoneshige B), Tom “Kewpie” Tsubota (B/MIS) and Yori Inouye

Leighton Goro Sumida (A) and Manabu Hongo (C)

Taiko Drummers from Pacific Buddhist Academy

Bert and Rose Hamakado

Neil Kamikawa, Francis Kamikawa (HQ), Alvin Kamikawa

The Posting of the Colors
The Rev. Yoshiaki Fujitani (MIS) and Gen. (Ret) David Bramlett

MAJ Keith Horikawa, Celia Nishiie, Kazuma “Monty” Nishiie (D) and MG Robert Lee

Rikio Tsuda (B), Tadashi Tamagawa (442.F), Harold Sugiyama (B), Joe Sugawara (D), Ed Ikuma (HQ), Yoshio Ekimoto (HQ) await the presentation of their Bronze Star Medals

Hideo Ueno (HQ), center, with Shelley Ueno Hawkins and Steve Hawkins

Nobuichi Masatsugu (B)
VA Secretary Eric Shinseki delivered the keynote address and posed with veterans of each honoree group.
PHOTOS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL MEMORIAL SERVICE
December 18, 2010

LTG (Ret) Joseph Peterson, Fukuji Maui Ogata (1399.B), Tsutomu Oi (1399th President and 1399.Medics), William “Bill” Thompson (442nd President and 442.2nd Bn.2nd HQ), Christine Sato Yamazaki (National Veterans Network), Pauline Sato (100th President), and Edgar Hamasu (MIS President)

The blue sky and Col. Kimo Dunn greeted the congregation.
The sky darkened with showers of blessing soon after the memorial wreath was presented on behalf of a grateful nation.

“Going Home” and “Auld Lang Syne” by Alan Miyamura and Primasita Seery
Wreaths acknowledged event sponsors, BAE Systems and Island Insurance Company

Evelyn and Rikio Tsuda (B), Vikki Powell, Isami Yoshihara

Medal of Honor Flag
Following the CGM Memorial Service: Steve Sato, Yvonne Toyama, and Sonia Sato paused to visit the gravesite of Yvonne’s uncle, Roy S. Fukumoto (C) who was KIA near Lanuvio, Italy, on June 2, 1944. Steve’s father, Shukichi Sato (F) who was KIA near Capriati and Alife, Italy, on November 3, 1943, is buried on Kauai. The CGM Memorial Service was Steve’s first memorial service at Punchbowl.
After the deadline for the January/February issue, the Clubhouse received information regarding the 2012 Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship for which 100th Descendants would qualify.

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2011

Announcing the 2012 Teri and Art Iwasaki Scholarship

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

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

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

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit 501.c.3 organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy / Nikkei Writers Guild / Memorial Alliance, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 278-4483.

Susan Uyemura, CEO, President & Oral Historian
Japanese American Living Legacy / Nikkei Writers Guild / in partnership with Memorial Alliance

www.jalivinglegacy.org
(657) 278-4483
Akira Akimoto (HQ), Patsy Akimoto, and LTG Joe Peterson are “calabash” relatives. General Peterson’s uncle, MG (Ret) Arthur Ishimoto’s wife, the late Mitzi Ishimoto and Patsy Akimoto are sisters.

The entire memorial address delivered by LTG (Ret) Joseph Peterson at the Memorial Service on December 18, 2011, follows:

Hawaii Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Service
Punchbowl Cemetery
18 Dec 2011

Kimo, thank you for that kind introduction.

First, please bow with me in prayer. Lord bless us with your presence today, and that of our Aumakua – the spirit of our ancestors. We ask for your Aloha and that you will continue to always watch over us. Amen and Amen!

Governor Neil Abercrombie, sir, welcome and it’s great to see you again. I think you will agree, this is a much more peaceful setting than our visit together in Baghdad.

Mayors: Alan Arakawa (Maui), Peter Carlisle (Honolulu), Bernard Carvalho (Kauai), and William Kenoi (the Big Island), thank you for being with us this morning.

Mike Kitamura - State director for Senator Akaka, and Susan Kodani District Director for Representative Mazie Hirono. We appreciate your participation.

Japanese Consul General Kamo Yoshihiko, you honor us with your presence.

General and Mrs. Bramlett, thank you both for your efforts in support of today’s memorial ceremony, and Happy Anniversary.

LTG and Mrs. Wierzinski, Commander of the US Army Pacific, Frank it’s great to see you and Janine again and to have you represent all US Army forces in the Pacific.

Major Generals Darryll Wong and Bob Lee, our current and past State Adjutant Generals, Aloha.

We are also blessed to have with us today the family of Barney Hajiro, and other family members of -“Go for Broke” recipients of the Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest award for valor in combat. Fellow General and Flag officers, Sergeants Major, and so many other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Finally and most importantly, members of the 100th Battalion past and present, the 442d Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineers, your spouses, family members and friends – we are honored to share today’s commemoration of your comrades with you.
Good morning, ohayo gozaimasu, and Aloha!

Patriotism, Bravery, Dedication, Commitment, Sacrifice and Love of Nation – these words roll easily off one’s tongue, but as these values are practiced and lived, they define a people and a nation - and are what makes America “the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave!”

I’ve seen another twist on this phrase; it read, “Land of the Free – Because of the Brave!”

This clearly defines – the “Greatest Generation” and at the top of that list are our WWII Nisei Veterans.

These Veterans are men and women, who after being abandoned by their country and labeled as “enemy aliens,” volunteered from Hawaii, and out of internment camps across America to serve their country in War.

Simply stated, our Nisei Veterans fought for the freedom of others, while their own rights of citizenship and that of their families were being denied.

Today on these hallowed grounds of Punchbowl, a National Cemetery, and the final resting place for American service men and women; we give pause to recognize not only our Nisei Veterans for defining our future, shaping our lives, and allowing all Asian Pacific Americans to stand proud – with heads held high - because of your resolve and dedication, but also those 100th Battalion soldiers who have followed in your footsteps and continued to defend our nation at war in Vietnam, Iraq and other conflicts.

Our Nisei Veterans honored us through their heroic actions, service and sacrifices – well beyond their call to duty. Their record stands alone in the annals of US military history. Some estimate that the 442d experienced a casualty rate of 314% - meaning that each soldier could have been injured in combat at least three times.

Over 800 Nisei gave their lives in WWII so that we could live in this “Land of the Free”, and that others across Europe and the Pacific could enjoy these same freedoms.

Our Nisei veterans fought, were injured, and gave their lives not only for our country, but for people who they scarcely knew, in places they had never heard of – Salerno, Saipan, Bruyeres, Vosges, Cassino, Anzio and the list goes on and on. These Nisei Americans fought not only to restore their rights, and to preserve America’s honor, but also for others rights and liberties, just as our troops across the world and the 100th Battalion continues to do today.

33,000 Nisei were members of the Armed Forces in WWII. With over 18,000 individual decorations including 21 Medals of Honor, 7 Presidential unit citations, and now the Congressional Gold Medal, no one can criticize or question their allegiance or patriotism.

As a boy scout, on Veterans Day, I walked here along the long lines of these white crosses, that demarcate the final resting site of so many of these heroes. I placed small US flags and leis to commemorate their service. These giants walked amongst us then, as they do today however, in much smaller numbers. We referred to them as dad, uncle or grandfather. Because of their nature, humility and culture – seldom did they ever mention anything of their exploits or achievements in war.

I only recently learned of my uncle’s participation in the Military Intelligence Service, and am honored to recognize him now, MG Arthur Ishimoto, the former Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, who became the most senior ranking military member of our Nisei Veterans.

A close friend found out about his father’s awards for heroism as he was packing his dad’s belongings and found a Silver and Bronze star awarded for heroism in combat, in Europe.

Our Nisei Veterans defined the meaning of being American. Their spouses and families redefined the meaning of selflessness. Your collective efforts are awe-inspiring. Today’s gathering commemorates your sacrifice, and celebrates the lives of those Nisei soldiers who fought and died for us. It also recognizes those members of the 100th Battalion who have fought and died for us in other conflicts. You have brought great honor – meiyo – to your family, culture and nation.

I and many of the Sanseis and younger generations that are present today, realize that it is because of you that we can live our lives fully, without suspicion or doubt of loyalty, and enjoy the freedoms, privileges and opportunities we share.

“Ua Mau keea o kaina I kepono” our beloved state’s motto.---- “The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.”
I ask you - Is there a better example of what this means than the actions of our Nisei Veterans? Your example and efforts personify this motto.

We owe you a debt of gratitude, which can only be repaid through our own dedication, loyalty, commitment and sacrifice. We must live your legacy through our own service in the Armed Forces, and through achieving excellence in business, government, education, science, and through love of country.

Before ending, I would like to thank Bob Lee and Barbara Tanabe and their committee for organizing and sponsoring Hawaii’s Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies. I would also like to offer a special thanks to the National Veterans Network, Christine Sato-Yamasaki and in particular to Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima of the Japanese American Veterans Association, for your efforts in Washington DC and our Congress, to make the Congressional Gold Medal for our Nisei Veterans a reality. Without your leadership and dogged efforts the Congressional Gold Medal would still be only a dream.

Today, we gather in this sacred place to remember and commemorate our Nisei Veterans and other soldiers of the 100th Battalion who gave their lives for our country, for what they are:

Heroes – Patriots – Americans!

Let us now proceed to honor and preserve their legacy.

God bless each and every one of you, and especially those Nisei who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives to honor their commitment to our constitution and country.

God bless our troops in uniform today and their families, and God Bless America!

Thank you, Arigato goziamasu, Mahalo and Aloha!

Go for Broke!

MAIL CALL

12/9/11

Dear 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans,

Thank you very much for all the memories at Club 100. Our parents, Mr. Eugene & Gladys Kawakami loved all of you, the clubhouse & activities.

In their memory, we would like to donate to the Education Center.

Thank you very much.

Love,

Joanne Kai
Brian Kawakami
and Family

$1,000 donation
Dear Pauline,

As previously mentioned, I wanted to share my experience of attending the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington DC this past November, as a grandson of a 100th Infantry Battalion Veteran. The following is a brief summary from the perspective of perhaps the next generation to carry on the Legacy of the 100th Infantry Battalion:

The Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony: A Grandson’s Perspective

It was late afternoon on October 31, 2011 when I arrived at Ronald Reagan International Airport, Washington DC. I looked out the small window of the United jet, as it seemed to fly parallel with the Potomac, trees with red and orange autumn leaves, and the setting sun behind us. Before I knew it, I was walking through the small terminal with yellow painted steel beams. On the way to the baggage claim, my good friend Ari Wong, who happens to live and work in DC as a Federal Officer, greeted me. We were both happy to see each other, hugging and talking story about our plans for the evening. It felt wonderful to be in our nation’s Capital filled with the anticipation of the forthcoming events. I had a sense of purpose, a mission, and an honorable task that I would need to fulfill before this first week in November came to an end.

Almost a year ago, the buzz of a Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony was just beginning. I first heard about this event through my mother Ruby Mizue who is the daughter of Tadao Ibaraki, 100th Infantry Battalion, Company A. Tadao Ibaraki is also my grandfather, who has since passed on in early 2006. Through an email my Mother sent, I learned that the Congressional Gold Medal truly had significant meaning. This medal is the highest honor the United States Congress can bestow upon a civilian. The Tuskegee Airmen, the Native American Code Talkers, and individuals like George Washington, Walt Disney, and Jesse Owens are a few of the recipients of this prestigious award. On October 5, 2010, Bill 1055 was officially signed by the House of Representatives, the Senate, and President Obama, granting the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT, and the Military Intelligence Service. At that time I figured it was a great honor, but I had no idea the journey I was about to embark on.

Although my grandfather had passed away, my grandmother Ellen Ibaraki was still with us. My wife and I would often visit her to see how she was doing. As a 90 year-old, she would have her good and not so good days. On one weekend visit to see her, she had told me that I would be going to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for her and for grandpa. I don’t recall her asking, but I do remember her literally telling me that she will not be able to attend and so I should go in her place to represent grandpa. As her grandson I was deeply honored to accept.

On the morning of Tuesday November 1, 2011 the first event was held. I recall getting into my dress clothes, coat and tie, which I purchased special for these events. For a Hawaii-boy, a suit was not in my normal wardrobe. Leaving my hotel room, I again felt so honored to simply be in DC for my family and of course for my grandpa and grandma Ibaraki. The first event was to be the World War II Memorial Program held at the Washington Hilton. Upon arrival I was astounded by the vast sea of people, chairs, and media also awaiting the start of the program to kick-off. The Army Band intently played patriotic event music, the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School choir sang, and keynote speakers talked about the sacrifice, the courage, and heart the 3 units of Japanese American soldiers maintained throughout WWII. What amazed me most was the diversity in the audience. There were potentially over a thousand people there, several hundred of which were Veterans.
Talking to those around me, I came to realize that folks came from all over the country to be here. California, Hawaii, Utah, Minnesota, Brooklyn, Chicago, Arizona, and Washington were some of the places both Veterans and their families told me they were from. There seemed to be people of all ethnicities there as well, yet they were all there to honor men like my grandpa who fought battles on two fronts, WWII Europe and at home where they were discriminated against for being Americans of Japanese ancestry. This first ceremony was the initial time during the trip that I felt a welling up of pride. I felt honored for being the grandson of a man who went through the predicament of serving as a member of the “purple heart battalion”.

Following the WWII Memorial Program, I decided to take a cab with a fellow grandson of a deceased Veteran to the Wreath Presentation event at the WWII Memorial. We both jumped in a cab for a quick fifteen-minute ride. Upon arrival we could see that the chartered buses had also just got there and the Veterans were beginning to disembark. I recall the air being brisk, but the sun was out and there was just enough cloud cover to provide the perfect weather for a late morning outdoor ceremony. The WWII memorial was amazingly large. Made up of two pavilions (Pacific and Atlantic), a vast fountain in the center, a wall of 4,000 tiny gold stars, and pillars that surround the entire memorial, one each for the individual States and Territories. WWII was considered the war fought across two oceans and so the symbolism of design was spot on. Again, I was able to speak with so many Veterans from all over the country. Their wives, their sons, or their daughters often escorted them. Each Veteran was either sometimes in a wheelchair or simply walked at an even tempo while taking in the sights and sounds of an event in their honor. One very significant thing I witnessed was that each Veteran seemed happy. Like my grandfather, most of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS Veterans were men of few words, and on this day no words were necessary. The look on their faces and their eyes spoke of satisfaction and joy. No doubt seeing their long time army buddies and reminiscing the events of their actions may have conjured tragic memories but this seemed to bring closure to them. Finally.

The morning of the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony had finally arrived. On Wednesday, November 02, 2011, there was a hubbub in the lower lobby of the Washington Hilton. Veterans and their families were getting organized to catch the first set of buses to the U.S. Capitol where the Ceremony was scheduled to occur in Emancipation Hall. At 5:30am, the sun had just begun to rise in with a light orange glow. There was not a cloud in the sky that morning and so already, I knew what I was about to witness would be history. Upon arrival at the Capitol we all followed the crowd to an entrance where organizers checked us through to the entrance doors. There we each needed to pass through metal detectors and our bags were scanned similar to the TSA process at an airport. After all, we would be in the presence of multiple Senators and of course the Pro-Tempore, Hawaii’s own Senator Daniel Inouye.

That morning was incredible. I took photos at the King Kamehameha I statue in Emancipation Hall, listened intently to heart wrenching speeches by Speaker Boehnor, the honorable Nancy Pelosi, Senator McCain, Congressman Schiff, and Senator Inouye. Each honored the 100th, 442nd, and the MIS with graceful words of respect and long-overdue recognition. Hearing Senator Inouye finish his speech with ‘God Bless’ followed by a standing ovation by all the Japanese American Veterans, I again felt a great sense of pride welling up inside me. This truly was their time. I do believe that my grandpa was looking down and satisfied with what he saw.

Following the Ceremony, the Hawaii based folks seemed to make their way over to the King Kamehameha I statue. There I was able to see Senator Akaka, Congresswoman Hanabusa, and Congresswoman Hirono. All three were so glad to be there in support of the Nisei men in their 80’s and 90’s that paved the way and set an example for minorities in their hometown Hawaii. It was very nice to see the support and representation from our little State in the Pacific.

Later that same evening, I attended the Gold Medal Gala dinner. This event truly made the entire trip worthwhile. I sat at table 161 and I gather that the Washington Hilton’s massive ballroom was filled with over 2,000 people. They seemed to have located most of the Hawaii people in one area as I sat with Veterans from Maui and daughters of 442nd Veterans from Aiea. No matter what, Hawaii people seemed to recognize each other immediately. I also noticed Pauline Sato, her family and her father Bob Sato, Company A were sitting at the table next to mine.
The evening was filled with instances of seriousness, laughter, and tears. I was touched incredibly by two of the speakers that evening. Ann Curry, co-anchor of the Today show on NBC gave a light talk about growing up as a Japanese-American. She provided an anecdote about her mother and the common Japanese saying ‘gambaru’. In her work and life this word came to mean that one must always remember to “never, ever, ever, ever, ever, give up…. especially when there is no chance of winning.” She mentioned that the Nisei in WWII simply embodied this mantra through their sacrifice and willingness to serve their country.

The other speech that really hit home for me as a grandson to a 100th Infantry Battalion Veteran was Senator Inouye’s words. As always, he spoke in an elegant tone, pausing just enough for one to contemplate the deep meaning behind his words. Senator Inouye was born and raised in Hawaii, represents Hawaii in our nation’s Capitol, and has done so since his days as a WWII soldier. He told a riveting story about the “kotonks” and the “kanakas” during training. He recalled that the Hawaii boys and their mainland counterparts were so different. Their demeanor was different, their attitudes, and of course their speech. He described for the audience how the mainland Nisei were always so clean cut, spoke perfect English, and seemed to always abide by the rules. In contrast, the local boys were looked at as “provincial”, wore slippers everywhere, spoke “pidgeon-English”, and were quick to break out dice or a game of poker. Though ethnically the “katonks” and the Hawaii boys were similar, the differences led to infighting amongst the cultural opposites. Senator Inouye stated that at one point the infighting had gotten so bad that the “haole” officers were contemplating scrapping the entire unit. They did not think that these two groups could go to war together. One morning the entire training camp was marched on buses without being told where they were headed. Eventually they arrived at what looked like a prison in the middle of nowhere. Senator Inouye mentioned many of the boys on the bus thought they were being escorted to a prison. Little did they know, that this was in fact a prison. They got off the buses and noticed that they had arrived at an internment camp for Japanese Americans, with barbed wire and lookout towers with armed guards. Almost immediately the Hawaii boys recognized what they were being exposed to. Senator Inouye stated that till this day, he does not know if he would have volunteered if the same injustice had been brought upon his family in Hawaii. After that day of realization, the Hawaii boys and their mainland counterparts seemed to have understood one another a bit better.

I have always had an appreciation for my grandfather’s sacrifice, his story, and his Legacy. I however did not realize the immense gravity of the situation they all faced in WWII. Listening to the speeches from high-powered Senators, hearing stories from so many Veterans, and seeing so many of their humble faces made me realize what future generations will only read about. The men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT and the MIS have witnessed and experienced first hand the hardships, tragedy, and struggle, of the catastrophic events that occurred during WWII. These Nisei soldiers knew only how to persevere, improving the hand they were dealt, and in turn allowing future generations to benefit from their sacrifice. As WWII Veterans they were truly a significant part of the “the greatest generation”. Their selflessness and heart in the face of prejudice and war resonated with me as the first week of November 2011 came to an end.

Mahalo,
Reid T. Mizue
Grandson of Tadao Ibaraki, 100th Infantry Battalion, Company A
Photos from Maui Chapter (Stanley Izumigawa)

Chiyono Endo, Lillian Miyagawa, Helen Nakashima, Violet Moto

Ed Nishihara, Stan Izumigawa, Fred Yamashige, Willie Goo, Tom Yamada and (sitting) Akira Ishikawa

Photos from the Wine Gang

Standing – Akira “Aki” Akimoto (100.HQ), Robert Arakaki (100.B), Isao “Roy” Takiyama (442.L); Seated – Takashi Kitaoka (100.B), Paul Watanabe (442.232 Eng), Leighton “Goro” Sumida (100.E/A), Takashi “Bolo” Shirakata (442.206 Band), and Eddie Yamasaki (442.1).
PHOTOS FROM BAKER CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY
Thanks to Wayne Iha, Ann Kabasawa, Pat Thomson, and Clyde Sugimoto

2012 Baker Chapter Leadership Team

Randy Kuroda
(Son of Haruto Kuroda)

Bert Kuioka
(Son of Jack Kuioka)

Tom “Kewpie” Tsubota won the Grand Prize—a handcrafted ukulele by Bob Ogata

Our own “storybook Santa”

1. Humi Iha and her “Nutcracker” BINGO prize
2. Charlie Tanaka sings “Koko Ni Sachi Ari” for his public debut
3. Evelyn Tsuda (center) and descendants of Harry and Kay Katahara with their BINGO and Door Prizes
4. Helen Kodama was an “all-around” helper
5. Fred Kurisu and Marie Yoneshige
6. Sonsei and Elaine Nakamura, their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and descendants-in-law

Thanks to Susan (Tanaka) Hokama who decorated more than 30 pine cones from Ukichi Wozumi!