

2016 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

by **Warren Yamamoto**, Nominations Committee Chairperson

The Nominations Committee of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans has selected Saturday, November 12, 2016, as election day for the 2017-2018 Executive Board of Directors (EBOD).

The Committee will prepare a slate of officers by the end of June.

Club members may make nominations to individual positions up to 60 days prior to the day of election, or Tuesday, September 13, 2016.



LET'S HELP SAVE THE 100TH/442D'S "TORCH OF LIBERTY" PATCH by Jayne Hirata

Recent articles in the local news have reported that the US Army

recently instituted the "Associated Units" pilot program in which 27 National Guard and Army Reserve units will be paired up with larger, active-duty units starting this Summer, including the 100th Battalion, 442d Infantry Regiment which will be partnered with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division stationed at Schofield Barracks.

While this new program is seen as a means of addressing concerns over military readiness in light of a shrinking pool of soldiers and major budget cuts, it



also brings with it the likelihood that our 100th/442d Reservists would be ordered to remove the beloved "Torch of Liberty" shoulder patch from their uniforms. The "Torch of Liberty" patch would instead be replaced with the red and yellow "Tropic Lightning" patch of the 25th Infantry Division.

If this dilemma sounds familiar, it is because our Reservists have fought for the right to wear the "Torch of Liberty" in the past, most notably during their deployments to Iraq and Kuwait in the early 2000's and upon returning home from those tours of duty. 100th veteran **Shizuya Hayashi** and his fellow Medal of Honor Awardee, 442nd veteran **Barney Hajiro** were instrumental in convincing Army higher ups to grant an exception to allow the reservists to wear the "Torch of Liberty", emphasizing the storied-history of the patch as a symbol of the traditions of honor, sacrifice and courage under fire being passed down from the WWII veterans to this new generation of brave soldiers.

In Memoriam

GEORGE S. KAJIWARA (Headquarters Company)

of Oregon passed away on February 8, 2016

TOKUJI ONO

(Baker Company) passed away on April 10, 2016

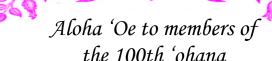
OSAMU "SAM" FUJIKAWA

(Charlie Company.

Southern California Chapter)

of California passed away on April 14, 2016

Our deepest sympathy to their families.



HATSUKO "HELEN" TOYAMA

(widow of Kosuke "Fred" Toyama, C Co.) passed away on January 1, 2016

Our heartfelt condolences to her family.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET UPDATE

by **Beverly Shiroma**, Chairperson

We are finalizing the details for the Annual 100th Anniversary Banquet which will be held on Sunday, July 10 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Pomaikai Ballrooms at Dole Cannery in Iwilei. The theme this year is "The Enduring Legacy of the 100th" and our program will focus on the connections between the the past, present and future of the Club. **President** Lloyd Kitaoka has secured some excellent entertainment for the event and we are sure it will be a day for all to remember.

We will have several vendors including the Education Center and the Descendants Chapter selling a variety of 100th logo items.

Registration forms and more information will be included in the June 2016 Puka Puka Parade.

LET'S HELP SAVE THE 100TH/442D'S "TORCH OF LIBERTY" PATCH

continued from page 1

As both Shizuya Hayashi and Barney Hajiro have since passed away, it is now up to us to pick up and carry on the "Torch of Liberty" for our 100th/442d Reservists. Please consider writing a letter to the following persons asking them to allow the 100th/442d to continue to wear the patch:

President Barack Obama

The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500 Email at www.whitehouse.gov/contact

Patrick J. Murphy

Acting Secretary of the Army Department of Defense 1400 Defense Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-1400

Lieutenant General Jeffrey W. Talley

Chief of Army Reserve and Commanding General United States Army Reserve Command 4710 Knox Street Fort Bragg, NC 28310

General Vincent K. Brooks

Commanding General United States Army Pacific Command **Building 525** Fort Shafter, HI 96858

Senator Mazie Hirono

330 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Email at www.hirono.senate.gov/contact/email

Senator Brian Schatz

722 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 E-mail at www.schatz.senate.gove/contact

Representative Tulsi Gabbard

1609 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Email at www.forms.house.gov/formsgabbard/ webforms/email-me.shtml

Representative Mark Takai

422 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Email at www.takai.house.gov/contact/email

DOG CHAPTER NEWS

by Joy Teraoka

I have no news to report.

However, regarding the future of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Organization, before my husband **Denis Teraoka**, passed away, he often voiced the hope that we would partner with 'Iolani School as the best way to perpetuate the veterans' legacy.

The buildings on our property are now old and in need of constant expensive repairs. In its proposal, 'Iolani would build a new structure that would accommodate the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans offices and meeting areas, including a museum for our Education Center, an archival area to protect our many valuable artifacts. It would also provide a bit more parking stalls. Above the ground floors for the 100th's needs, 'Iolani envisions housing for students.

The School also has suggested paying the 100th organization \$300,000 a year for operating funds. It would be difficult to obtain such arrangements with any other establishment.

Therefore, when the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Board brings up the Iolani proposal for approval by the membership, please consider supporting this collaboration. It will eliminate constantly searching for funds to maintain the Clubhouse and apartments. Year after year the 'Iolani curricula will result in student awareness in the history and significance of the AJA military experience during World War II. Denis believed this would be one of the best ways to perpetuate the legacy of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans' organization.

BAKER CHAPTER NEWS by Ann Kabasawa

Baker Chapter Members - Once again, our monthly meeting has been cancelled due to a conflict with another event at the Clubhouse so there will be nothing in May. I tried to coordinate with the Office to select another date that would work for everyone but in the end, it just didn't work out. The June calendar looks clear so see you on Saturday, June 4 at 1:00 pm.

I was shocked and saddened to hear about Baker Company

veteran **Tokuji Ono** who passed away on April 10. Our deepest condolences to Tokuji's widow, **Toshiko**, and his children, grandchildren, family members, friends and fellow Baker Company veterans. Funeral services were pending at the time this *PPP* goes to press.

Many descendants grew up with Tokuji as their no-nonsense school principal, not realizing that he had served alongside their fathers in the 100th until they saw him at events at the Clubhouse. (Photos of \courtesy of Leslie Taniyama from the 100th website).

I believe Tokuji was the last surviving veteran out of the 25 Baker Company members who had been a part of the US Army's top secret and infamous "dog bait" experiments on Cat Island. Tokuji and seven other Cat Island survivors including my father, the late **Ray Nosaka**, were interviewed by author and 100th Honorary Member **Graham Salisbury** and their experiences became the foundation for Salisbury's novel "Eyes of the Emperor".

Becoming a part of literary history may not have been a big deal to





Tokuji who told the Honolulu Star Bulletin upon the books release in 2005, "I wonder why (Salisbury) had to fictionalize real events? Some of the actual facts sound like fiction but there were places where he simply fictionalized stuff. Like one time, we were fishing in a school of mullet, and Mr. Salisbury, he made it a school of trout. Why? Dunno. But that's his privilege as a writer, I guess." Even with the switch from mullet to trout, many schools in Hawaii now include "Eyes of the Emperor" in their curriculum.

SAYING "SAYONARA" TO OSAMU "SAM" FUJIKAWA by Jayne Hirata

If you have ever been to the Mini-Reunion at the California Hotel in Las Vegas, chances are good that the first person to greet you in the 100th's hospitality room was 100th veteran and Southern California Chapter President, Osamu Fujikawa better known to all as "Sam". (By the way, the second person to greet you would have been Sam's wife, the always beautiful and beaming Teri Fujikawa). It was a rare opportunity that you'd get a chance to sit down and quietly speak to Sam once you got there as he was a self-described "gassa gassa boy", always on the run refilling ice for Leighton Goro Sumida's beer chilling in the bathtub, hunting down a descendant who forgot to pick up a nametag, or delivering persimmons (the ongoing joke "I got your kaki but not your car keys") that had been hauled down from Fresno by 100th veterans Yoshito "Toe" Yoshino and Tokuji "Toke" Yoshihashi.

I once asked Sam why he felt the need to work non-stop at the Mini-Reunions as it seemed that he and Teri never set foot outside of the Hospitality Rooms or had a chance to sleep. He replied it was because he was the youngest in the group of Mainland veterans who always reminded him that as the "Hanataro bozu", he was supposed to look out for his wiser and older "oniichans". It was kind of adorable to hear someone in their 90s refer to himself in a way that most of us refer to little kids and to know that he truly felt that way about the other 100th veterans.

You may not know this but Sam was our longest serving Chapter President, heading the Southern California Chapter for over 20 years.

Sam travelled to the White House in 2010 and was there when **President Barack Obama** signed legislation which awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and MIS for their service in WWII. This is Sam's bio that appears on the White House website (www.whitehouse.gov):

"Mr. Fujikawa was born in Alameda, California on August 23,1925. On May 10, 1942, a few months after Pearl Harbor was bombed, Executive Order 9066 was enacted and Fujikawa and his family, along with 25,000 more Japanese Americans who lived on the US West Coast, were transported to

one of the 10 internment camps scattered across the country. First, Fujikawa and his family were housed in a stable at Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno, CA and then relocated to Topaz, Utah where they were held behind barbed wire. Fujikawa was drafted into the Army from Topaz and trained at Camp Shelby, MS. Sent overseas with the 171st Infantry Battalion, Fujikawa was one of the replacements for the original 100th Infantry Battalion. When the war ended, he was among the returning Nisei or second-generation Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team to parade down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. for President Harry S. Truman's historic homecoming welcome. Fujikawa went to work for Hughes Aircraft and in 1952, moved back to California. He was with Hughes 37 years. Fujikawa remains an active member of the 100th/442nd Veterans Association and the Go For Broke National Education Center. He lives in Los Angeles, CA."

My deepest sympathy to Teri, the Fujikawa family and the Mainland Chapter Members.

MINI-REUNION IN LAS VEGAS

by Ann Kabasawa

Please send in your deposit and a completed registration form to Ann Kabasawa to hold your spot if you are planning to attend the upcoming Las Vegas Mini-Reunion at the California Hotel and Casino (Sunday, October 16 to Friday, October 21). Registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the Clubhouse Lounge or by contacting me at 781-8540 or diverseinnov@gmail.com.

If you are planning to go to the Mini-Reunion, please join your fellow travelers for an informational meeting on Sunday, August 7 from 10:00 am in Turner Hall. Please RSVP with me if you plan to

attend this meeting.

This will surely be another fun and memorable year with not only the 100th family but also others from the 442nd and MIS '*ohana* from Hawaii and the Mainland. We'll enjoy slot tournaments, banquets, omiyage shopping trips, and lots of talk story time in the Hospitality Rooms. Hope you'll join me there!

IN APPRECIATION

Doomo Arigatoo Gozaimasu for the following generous donations which were received between March 16 and April 21.

Education Center

- \$50 Cheryl Hoffman in memory of Dr. Denis Teraoka
- \$250 The estate of the late Wayne Iha
- \$400 Moriso Teraoka in memory of Dr. Denis Teraoka

General Operating Fund

- \$100 Tokuji Yoshihashi in memory of Akiko Nosaka
- \$100 **Denise L.A. Teraoka** in memory of Dr. Denis Teraoka
- \$300 Allyn Horikoshi, Sonya Kuboyama and Nellis Kunieda in memory of Lorraine Miyashiro
- \$50 Akira and May Otani in memory of Dr. Denis Teraoka
- \$25 Akira and May Otani in memory of Akiko Nosaka
- \$200 Tokuji Yoshihashi in memory of **Osamu "Sam"** Fujikawa

Our sincere apologies if any donations were inadvertently omitted. Please let the Office know if your donation was not listed or if there are any corrections needed. *Mahalo*!

ABLE ANTICS by Beverly Shiroma

Just a reminder to all Able Members to come and vote at the Special Meeting on May 21st at the Clubhouse from 10 am to 12 noon. If you cannot make it to the meeting, please send in your proxy to the Office no later than May 12 by 12 noon. If you have any questions, please contact me via the Office at 946-0272 or club100vets@gmail.com.

I represented Able Chapter at the private funeral service for Able Company veteran **Fred Takayama** on April 10. I would like to thank descendants **Gary Hayakawa** (Able) and **Milton Tanaka** (Baker) who volunteered to transport and set up the 100th flags and banners at the service and burial. Gary is part of the "regular" team but Milton was the substitute for Descendants Chapter President **Bert Hamakado** who was on vacation in Vietnam.

The Club is invited to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment Memorial Weekend Prayer Breakfast which will be held on Saturday, May 28 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am. **Charlene Flanters** of the Na Lei Aloha Foundation (Lantern Floating Hawaii) and Able Chapter Honorary Member **Stacey Hayashi** will be guest speakers and attendees may purchase and prepare a lantern to use in the annual Lantern Floating Ceremony (*toro nagashi*) at Ala Moana Beach on Monday, May 30. Space is limited so if you would like to attend with your family, please contact the Office and they will RSVP for you.

HEADQUARTER CHAPTER NEWS by **Janice Sakoda**

It's been awhile since I've had to write "no news is good news"... meaning it's been a slow news month.

So since I'm "scrapping the bottom of the barrel" for news, I'll just write that I was on the Big Island for 4 nights, visiting my brother and sister-in-law outside of Hilo. The nights were a chilly 65 degrees... brrrrrr. Great sleeping weather, though. Two of the days there were absolutely beautiful!!! Blue skies above the deep blue ocean that lay just beyond the lush green trees. This more than made up for the two rainy days. On a couple of occasions, we saw a couple of native Hawaiian Hawks (i'o) soaring on the air currents. It is good to know that the *i'o* is making a comeback and are no longer endangered.

Our Anniversary Banquet will be held on July 10; please register when you see the registration form. I know from experience that when we put it off, it goes to the "back burner" and gets forgotten. Hope to see many HQ/Medics members there!

DESCENDANTS CHAPTER

by Bert Hamakado

Due to a change in scheduling of an informational meeting by the Board of Directors, the Mothers Day Turner Hall Theater set for April 30 had to be cancelled. If you sent your ticket purchase, it should have been returned to you. If you haven't received it, please contact the Office. We are planning to reschedule it at a later date since everyone loves **Misora Hibari**.

We will be having a Fathers Day Turner Hall Theater sometime in June featuring a classic samurai movie. Details are still being worked on so look for the registration form in the next *PPP*.

BODY, MIND AND SOUL GROUP

by Jan Nadamoto

Body, Mind and Soul group classes in May and June! Woo hoo!!!

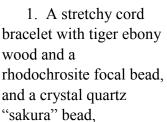
MAKE YOUR OWN BRACELET CLASS Sunday, May 29

10:00 am to 12:00 noon

\$35 for members, \$40 for non-members

Come and join us on May 29, 2016 and learn how to make bracelets! **Jamie Yoshida** from The Bead Gallery has graciously agreed to come down to the

Clubhouse and teach us how to make these beautiful, fun and whimsical bracelets! You'll have three styles to choose from:



2. A Garden Spring Time Bracelet with sterling silver findings and charm with eight colors to choose from and

3. A Baby Knots "Cupcake Bracelet" that comes in six colors with sterling silver findings and charm.







You will be able to select your own charms and you will be able to upgrade the Garden Spring Time bracelet and Baby Knots "Cupcake Bracelet" to a necklace for an additional \$8! And, if you're a whiz at making the bracelets you'll be able to purchase additional kits that day!

Cost to cover materials for a single bracelet is only \$35 for members and \$40 for non-Club 100 or Body, Mind and Soul members. It will be held at

520 Kamoku Street from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 25 with the bracelet you would like to make. (If you change your mind later then that's ok but we'll need to get a general idea of what people are interested in!). Please contact Jan Nadamoto at 808-347-3127 or nadamoto@backontrackconsultants.com if you have any questions!

CREATIVE AND HEALTHY COOKING CLASS

Sunday, June 5 10:00 am to 1:00 pm \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members

On Sunday, June 5, 2016, come and join us for a tasting frenzy, get educated, think (cook) outside of the box and take home a bag of wonderful organic veggies to use and be creative with at home!

Learn how to be creative, healthy and wise with your cooking! Emily and Elisabeth Beagle from Holoholo Farms will be here to do just that! (Photo of Emily Beagle is on the right). Remember when you wanted to cook a dish and just didn't have the right ingredients... so you ended up doing something else? Or, did you buy a five pound bag of sweet potatoes (just because



it was cheaper) when you just needed a few... and now have some potatoes that you didn't use and want to create something different with it? Well, the Beagle sisters are here to help you think outside of the box. They will prove to you that there's no need to get locked into the standard versions of dishes by:

- 1. Using up the produce you have and
- 2. Showing you different ways of using produce that is easy to find because this is the name of the game in these busy days!

Continued on page

BODY, MIND AND SOUL GROUP

Continued from page 5

The class will be held at 520 Kamoku Street (Club 100) from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-Club 100 and Body, Mind and Soul members. You will be tasting some wonderful *pupus*, talking story with the sisters and you will be taking home a CSA (Community Service Agriculture) bag of quality ORGANIC produce! (And, I can tell you that these veggies are really nice! "Fresh from the farm!"). You won't be disappointed.

RSVP and payment required by Wednesday, May 25, 2016. Please contact Jan Nadamoto at (808) 347-3127 or nadamoto@backontrackconsultants.com for payment information.

Please note: The additional \$5 for non-members is a donation to the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans and a \$25 yearly **BMS** membership donation option is available (checks should be made out to "100th Infantry Battalion Veterans"). The \$5 additional cost for non-members and the \$25 BMS membership donation are not tax-deductible and are separate and apart from 100th membership dues.

GREEN THUMB CLUB by Jan Sakoda

There will be no Green Thumb Meeting after collating on May 28, Memorial Day weekend. IF plans change and we decide to meet, I will send out an

email to those on my contact list. Let me know if you would like to be added to this list.

Update: The Green Thumb Club will NOT be doing the table decorations for the Anniversary Banquet as they have decided to go with another idea;



therefore, we are no longer seeking donations of plants.

If you're interested in being included in our email group, please let me know (bustersfriend@hotmail.com). Dates and times may change so please email me if you're interested so we can keep you updated of any last minute changes.

FROM DA OFFICE by Jayne Hirata

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new annual members who joined the Club between March 16 and April 22:

Edward Hirata, nephew of Jesse Hirata (B)
Janet Hirata, niece of Donald Hamada (HQ)
Edward Hirata, Jr., grandnephew of Donald Hamada
and Jesse Hirata

Dante Hirata-Epstein, great-grandnephew of
Donald Hamada and Jesse Hirata
Taja Hirata-Epstein, great-grandniece of
Donald Hamada and Jesse Hirata
Mahalo to the following for renewing their annual
memberships between March 16 and April 22:

Laverne Choy, daughter of Paul Nishida (B) Keith Oguro, son of Richard Oguro (B)

CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

The Clubhouse and Office will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. If you are planning to attend any Memorial Day observances around the State, I'd appreciate it if you would let me know if you would be willing to represent the 100th at any of these events.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

As Memorial Day approaches, I wanted to remind readers that the Military Funeral Honors (MFH) ceremony is available for eligible veterans. The MFH consists of the folding and presenting of a US burial flag and the playing of "Taps" by two or more uniformed military persons. For 100th WWII veterans, a request may be made to have the MFH conducted by the 100th/442d Color Guard (depending on their availability).

The funeral director handling the services for a 100th veteran will submit the paperwork to military authorities for the family, including a note that the 100th/442d Color Guard is requested. The family may need to provide copies of the veteran's death certificate and his DD-214 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Once the dates of the funeral and/or burial are set, please contact me so that I can arrange for volunteers to bring the 100th colors to the services and let the appropriate Chapter President know.

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans 520 Kamoku Street Honolulu, HI 96816

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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MAY 2016 CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

Saturday, May 21 at 9:00 am **BOARD Meeting**

ABLE Chapter No meeting **BAKER Chapter** No meeting **CHARLIE Chapter** No meeting **DOG Chapter** No meeting

Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 am **HQ/MEDICS** Chapter

GREEN THUMB CLUB No meeting

LINE DANCING Wednesday, May 4, 11, 18, 25 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am

PUKA-PUKA PARADE Collating on Saturday, May 28 at 9:00 am

CLUB EVENTS

(all events at the Clubhouse unless otherwise indicated)

Informational Meeting Saturday, May 7 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Proxy Submission Deadline Thursday, May 12, no later than 12:00 pm Vote and Special Meeting Saturday, May 21 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm **RSVP** for BMS Bracelet Wednesday, May 25

Class and Cooking Class

BMS Bracelet Class Sunday, May 29 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Office and Clubhouse will be closed on Monday, May 30 The Lounge and Turner Hall are booked for Sunday, May 1.

Dates and times subject to change. Please contact your Chapter President, Committee Chairperson or the Clubhouse Office for information or updates.



The Puka-Puka Parade is the official newsletter of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization and is published monthly, twelve times a year.

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

Please e-mail your articles, comments or questions about the PPP to club100vets@gmail.com.

If you do not have access to email, please mail or deliver your articles, comments or questions to the Clubhouse Office.

The deadline to submit articles for the June 2016 issue is Sunday, May 15

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans 520 Kamoku Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 (808)946-0272 club100vets@gmail.com www.100thbattalion.org Office Hours: M, T, Th, F - 9 am to 1 pm W - 9 am to 12 noon

MAY 2016 PUKA-PUKA PARADE ADDENDUM

FROM DA OFFICE by Jayne Hirata

LOST AND FOUND

A brown glasses case with the name "Kodama" on the inside was left at the Clubhouse on Sunday, April 3. Please contact the Office at 946-0272 or club100vets@gmail.com if it is yours.

MOTHERS DAY LOGO ITEMS

If you are looking for great Mothers Day gifts that will not only make your Mom happy but will also support the Club, your first place to shop should be the Clubhouse.

The Descendants Chapter has women's polo shirts with the 100th logo on them. The shirts are available in royal blue or white and come with or without a pocket. Sizes available are small to extra large. The shirts are \$26.00 to \$28.00 depending on size and pocket/no pocket. Men's polo shirts and unisex t-shirts are also for sale. Proceeds benefit the Descendants Chapter.

The Education Center has Chicco reusable bags in two sizes and colors. The smaller "Original" bag is purple and cost \$7.00. The larger "Vita" bag is blue and cost \$9.00. Both bags roll up into an attached drawstring bag so they are easy to keep in a purse or glove compartment. Proceeds from the sale of the Chicco bags benefit the Education Center.

For just \$20, your bookworm mom would surely love a hardcover copy of *Ambassadors in Arms* (proceeds benefit the 100th Infantry Battalion Legacy Organization) or *Japanese Eyes, American Heart, Volume III* (proceeds benefit the Club). We also have notecard sets for \$20 which feature a design by our own Judge Takashi Kitaoka (Baker Co.).

Stop by the Clubhouse during Office hours (M, T, Th, F from 9 to 1, W from 9 to 12) to shop!





NEW GFBNEC PRESIDENT VISITS THE CLUBHOUSE

100th President **Lloyd Kitaoka** recently met with **Dr. Vince Beresford**, the new President of the Go For Broke National Education Center, here at the Clubhouse. The meeting was an opportunity for Dr. Beresford to learn more about the 100th and the activities that are happening here in the 100th 'ohana in Hawaii. Also

were Brigadier General (Retired) James T. Hirai (Deputy Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies), and **GFBNEC Board Member** Alan S. Hayashi (Director of Public Relations and Policy Advocacy, BAE Systems) and GFBNEC Vice-Chairman Stephen Kagawa (President and CEO, The Pacific Bridge Companies, Inc.).

attending the meeting

Baker Chapter President Ann Kabasawa had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes,



sneak preview of the GFBNEC'S *Defining Courage* Exhibition which scheduled to open in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles on May 28. We are hoping she'll tell us all about it in the next issue of the *PPP*.

Reservations are still available if you'd like to attend the Grand Opening of the Exhibition which is described on the GFBNEC website as follows: The *Defining Courage* Exhibition documents the Japanese American Veteran experience beginning with Pearl Harbor and draws parallels to our contemporary times. Pearl Harbor changed the lives of all Americans, but one group of citizens was affected beyond compare. After Executive Order 9066, Japanese Americans were literally stripped of their rights as citizens, and sent to incarceration camps. In spite of this, as stated by **Ben Tamashiro**, 100th Infantry Battalion, and commemorated on the Go For Broke Monument, "Rising to the defense of their country, by the thousands came - these young Japanese American soldiers from Hawaii, the States, America's concentration camps - to fight in Europe and the Pacific during World War II. Looked upon with suspicion, set apart and deprived of their constitutional rights, they nevertheless remained steadfast and served with indomitable spirit and uncommon valor, for theirs was a fight to prove loyalty. This legacy will serve as a sobering reminder that never again shall any group be denied liberty and the rights of citizenship."

The *Defining Courage* exhibition illustrates the difficult decisions Japanese Americans were forced to make, and prompts visitors to explore what their decisions might be in similar circumstances. Touching on propaganda and the portrayal in the media, the exhibition also includes an electronic library of oral histories, still shots from WWII and a selection of film footage, for visitors to create their own minidocumentaries. The exhibition closes with the Courage section, where visitors can learn how to show courage similar to the Japanese American soldiers, but in their own lives."

ALL PAU

