



# JANUARY 2020 PUKA-PUKA PARADE ADDENDUM

*All da stuff dat nevah fit in da oddah PPP*

## NISEI VETERANS SHARE STORIES OF LIFE AFTER WWII: HIDENOBU HIYANE

by JAYNE OMAYE. Photography by AARON K. YOSHINO

<http://www.honolulumagazine.com/Honolulu-Magazine/December-2019/Nisei-Veterans-Share-Stories-of-Life-After-WWII-Hidenobu-Hiyane/>

THEY'RE OUR EVERYDAY HEROES IN PLAIN CLOTHES—THE REVERED SECOND-GENERATION JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II. FEWER THAN 250 HAWAI'I NISEI VETS ARE KNOWN TO BE ALIVE TODAY IN HAWAI'I. AND THE WAR IS JUST PART OF THEIR LIFE STORIES.



HIDENOBU HIYANE, Age 101, 100th Infantry Battalion

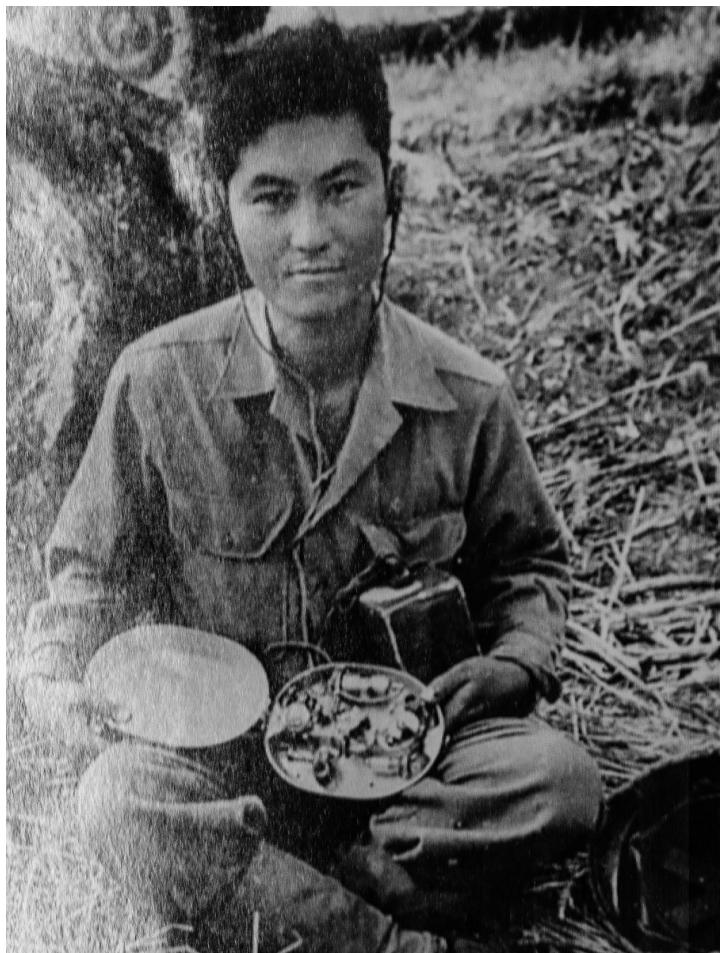
**At 101, Hidenobu Hiyane considers himself a lucky man.** He dodged death more than once while serving in Europe - his commanding officer was shot and killed while Hiyane was standing right next to him; in another close call, a grenade landed near him but didn't detonate.

Luck was on his side after the war, too. He met his wife, **HISAE**, by chance in Chicago. He was attending the DeForest Training School, now known as DeVry University, on the GI Bill and she was visiting her sister, who happened to live in the same apartment building as Hiyane. They thought they'd never see each other again when she flew to New York for college, but when she arrived, the school had closed. The pair reunited in Chicago and wed in 1947 in front of a justice of the peace and Hisae's sister as a witness.

Sprinkled throughout their Pearl City home are reminders of the days Hiyane worked as an Army radio operator and electronics repairman for the Salvation Army. A contraption he invented for the blender is mixed in with appliances in the kitchen and a heavy metal mess kit that was somehow transformed into a radio during the war sits on his dining room table. He even had his own amateur radio handle - KH6AOZ - as he tuned in and communicated with others through Morse code, which he learned during the war. ([PPP Editor's Note](#): You can hear Mr. Hiyane speak in Morse code by clicking the link to this article at the Honolulu Magazine website).

"My whole life, everything was rigged," daughter **JOYCE (WALTERS)** jokes. "We have to read directions like how to turn something on because it's connected to something else. He was constantly inventing things."

Hiyane swears by aloe juice - Joyce grinds the plant and mixes it with water for him every day. It seems to be working - he doesn't regularly wear glasses and takes only one medication a day. He gets the celebrity treatment at his annual visits to the doctor, who takes pictures of him, bragging to everyone that his patient is over a century old. Hiyane also enjoys doing word-search puzzles while practicing Morse code under his breath. (Hiyane says,) "As long as you know Morse code, your mind is pretty good." ([PPP Editor's Note](#): You can hear Mr. Hiyane's answer to the question "What is your secret to life besides drinking aloe juice?" also at the Honolulu Magazine website.)





## **SURVIVORS OF MINIDOKA IN IDAHO'S HIGH DESERT DESCRIBE THEIR EXPERIENCES FOR A NEW FILM** by LAUREN YOSHIKO

Willamette Week website at <https://www.wweek.com/arts/2019/12/03/survivors-of-minidoka-in-idahos-high-desert-describe-their-experiences-for-a-new-film/>



**Approximately 13,000 men, women and children were incarcerated at the camp between 1942 and 1945.**

Most of us read a line or two in a history book at some point about Japanese "internment camps." That term might ring a World War II-related bell if you were paying attention. But to the approximately 13,000 men, women and children incarcerated at Minidoka in South Central Idaho between 1942 and 1945, the unconstitutional imprisonment would turn their lives upside down and rob them of their identities. As the new documentary *Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp* reveals, the effects continue to ripple far beyond the confines of the hastily built barracks in the high desert.

Produced for the now-dubbed Minidoka National Historic Site 20 miles outside of Twin Falls, Idaho, the film documents the experiences of Japanese Americans sent there—it was one of at least 12 camps constructed for some 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry in reaction to the military strike on Pearl Harbor. Director **RORY BANYARD** spent hours poring over archives and interviewing Minidoka survivors from Oregon, Washington and Alaska. My grandmother, **JONI TERUKO KIMOTO**, is one of them, and will speak Sunday, December 8 at a screening of the film at the Hollywood Theatre. It's these voices—along with narrator **GEORGE TAKEI**—that guide us through the camp, their words accompanied by black-and-white photographs and old video footage.

Most stories about the period of Japanese incarceration typically begin on December 7, 1941, the day Japanese pilots attacked the U.S. naval base in Hawaii. But Banyard takes viewers back to the mid-1800s to establish how deep the roots of the Japanese American community extend. The film offers glimpses of that era's prospering neighborhoods, including Nihonmachi, the Japantown that once stood where Portland's Old Town-Chinatown is today.

"Japanese immigrants and their U.S.-born children built a vibrant district of businesses and culture in Nihonmachi," says Kimoto, who has faint memories of the pre-WWII neighborhood. "In the outlying farming areas, they worked the soil into rich agricultural lands. They labored in the forest to help build the infrastructure for the Northwest region."

Then December 7 came to pass, and all the pent-up paranoia and resentment toward the Japanese came to a head. The increasing animosity led **PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT** to sign an executive order in 1942 authorizing a ban on anyone of Japanese ancestry along the West Coast. *Minidoka* then cuts to FBI agents raiding homes in search of radio equipment and weapons, notifying residents of their impending relocation. Families had a matter of weeks to prepare, and were told they could bring only what they could carry.

"One day, my father is a respectable Portland businessman with a family, a car. He could vote. He had a place in his community," says **LAWRENCE MATSUDA**, who was born in the camp and will also speak at the Hollywood this weekend. "Two weeks later, he was a prisoner in a remote camp, surrounded by barbed wire."

While the images of bare-bones living conditions and venomous newspaper headlines have a sobering effect, it's the photos of the people that cut the deepest. Everyone is so visibly American: The young men wear letterman jackets with their hair slicked back in pompadours; the young women don pleated skirts and victory rolls. Even the survivors don't talk about the uncomfortable barracks as much as they do the shame of having their Americanness questioned. Now, many are inspired to look back and discuss what happened, not only to help them process the camps, but also to help inform future generations.

"When the Muslim bans were enacted, it felt all too familiar," says Kimoto. "Hearing words used against other races and cultures, seeing children separated from their parents, and the nation divided by bigotry—so much of what my family and I endured is being repeated. My parents' time was one of silence. This is a sansei's [third generation's] time, my time, and I feel the responsibility to speak."

## **MINIDOKA: AN INDEPENDENT DOCUMENTARY**

with <https://www.minidokafilm.com/> Friends of Minidoka. The project has received funding from the Japanese American

### **ABOUT:**

*Minidoka* tells the story of Japanese Americans, most of them American citizens, who were forcibly removed from their Pacific Northwest homes during World War II. They were held in squalid conditions in temporary detention centers and then put on trains to a concentration camp in the desert of Southern Idaho. Innocent of any crime, many of them would remain imprisoned at Minidoka for over three years.

In the compelling voices of survivors of the camp, the film explores the unconstitutional suspension of the civil rights of these Americans and the long-lasting impact of the incarceration on their community. *Minidoka* examines what happens when a group of Americans are imprisoned solely on the basis of race and the relevance of this story today.

In addition to the hour-long film for national public television, we are also producing a 7th-12th grade educational curriculum. The curriculum is based on four short companion films that bring a deeper awareness and understanding of this critical story to a new generation. Both the television documentary and the short educational films will be told primarily in the voices of survivors of the camps and their descendants.

The project is being produced by North Shore Productions and in partnership with Friends of Minidoka. The project has received funding grants from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant, the Freeman Foundation, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council. Co

### **DONATE:**

Support the project with your donation.

North Shore Productions is excited to partner with Friends of Minidoka to be our fiscal sponsor for the

*Minidoka* film and educational curriculum project. All donations via this page will be exclusively allocated to the Minidoka project.

This important project will raise awareness of the Japanese American incarceration story via a national distributed documentary as well as a series of educational short films, study guides, and learning aids to enable educators to incorporate this story into their curriculum.

We are currently in need of additional funds to finish both the independent documentary and educational package. Your generous donation will allow us to tell this timely story of institutional racism, civil rights violations, and governmental prosecution on the basis of race. No donation is too small.

## TEGARDEN RETURNS TO NISEI VETERANS CENTER

<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2019/12/tegarden-returns-to-nisei-veterans-center/>  
**She resigned as mayor's chief of staff this month**

**DEIDRE TEGARDEN**, who left her post as **MAUI COUNTY MAYOR MICHAEL VICTORINO**'s chief of staff Sunday, has been renamed executive director of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, according to an announcement from the center Monday.

Tegarden will officially begin work January 6, taking over from former state **SENATOR JILL TOKUDA**, who will now serve as director for external relations for the center. Tokuda will be leading the charge on the center's upcoming capital campaign and further develop partnerships throughout Hawaii and beyond.

Tegarden is returning to the position she held from 2016 to the end of 2018, when she left to become the mayor's chief of staff.

Earlier this month, Tegarden announced that she would be resigning from the Mayor's Office, effective Sunday, "to undertake new challenges." On Monday, Victorino named Deputy Managing Director **TYSON MIYAKE** as her replacement.

"It was a privilege and honor to serve the County of Maui over the last year, and I'm grateful to Mayor Victorino for giving me the opportunity work in his administration," Tegarden said in a statement Monday. "I'm sad to leave such a great team in the Office of the Mayor, but I am very excited to be returning to the nisei veterans. I continue to believe that these veterans can teach us many lessons on courage, loyalty and integrity — core values we need to encourage in our future generations."

Tegarden also thanked Tokuda "for her work in guiding the center, and I know we will continue to partner with her as we move forward into exciting new ventures."

Before leading the veterans center, Tegarden served as chief of protocol for former **GOVERNOR NEIL ABERCROMBIE** and **Governor David Ige**, as well as the point person for the U.S.-Japan Council's State Prefecture meetings in 2012. She also served as director of the county Office of Economic Development under former **MAYOR CHARMAINE TAVARES** and as the executive director for Big Brothers Big Sisters Maui.

Tegarden graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Japanese and Chinese studies.

"The NVMC board of directors is very pleased to have Deidre Tegarden at its helm again," board **PRESIDENT BRIAN MOTO** said Monday. "She is a person of foresight and imagination, a leader who contributes to our community and our nonprofit mission."

The center's mission is to ignite human potential by inspiring people to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the nisei veterans. Many Maui nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, fought heroically during World War II in Europe and the Pacific. The center was established to document for posterity the exploits of Maui nisei veterans and to offer their valor, values and sacrifice as lessons for others in the community.

For more information, visit [nvmc.org](http://nvmc.org) or call 244-6862.

## **JA VETERANS IMMORTALIZED IN NEW BOOK, EXHIBIT by J.K. YAMAMOTO**

<https://www.rafu.com/2019/11/ja-veterans-immortalized-in-new-book-exhibit/>

“The Go For Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits” is on view through November 24 at the George J. Doizaki Gallery of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 South San Pedro Street in Little Tokyo.

The exhibit celebrates the publication of the second book in photographer **SHANE SATO** and oral historian **ROBERT HORSTING**, “The Go For Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits,” a follow-up to “The Go For Broke Spirit: Portraits in Courage.”

In addition to portraits of Japanese American veterans, the exhibit includes a video featuring several veterans - three from the Korean War, three from the Vietnam War, and one from the Gulf War.

An opening reception was held on Nov. 3. Following introductory remarks by JACCC President and CEO **PATRICIA WYATT, KEN HAYASHI**, a Vietnam vet, spoke on behalf of the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance, of which he is president.

“Once you see this show or you see this book, I’m sure you’ll agree that [Sato] has a unique talent for bringing out and capturing the personalities of the sometimes very stoic veterans,” Hayashi said. “It was labor of love. He and Robert Horsting put in countless hours producing the new book you see today, as well as this exhibition, to honor the veterans ...”

“How honored I am that my picture is included with those of my heroes, the Nisei veterans of World War II. Despite the fact that their families were still imprisoned, they chose to serve America. It was because of their great courage and magnificent record in battle that subsequent generations of Japanese Americans were not considered second-class citizens ... They opened the door for our Sansei generation. We stand tall as Americans because we stand on their shoulders. As veterans, we salute you. As Americans, we thank you.”

He explained the purpose of the Japanese American National War Memorial Court, located outside the JACCC. “Most of you have been to a funeral with a military honor guard ... An officer of the guard kneels to present [the flag] to the next of kin. As that presentation is very personal, you may never have heard what he says ... ‘On behalf of the president of the United States, the United States Army and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a token of our appreciation for your loved one’s honorable and faithful service’ ... There can be no more honorable or faithful service than to give your life in service of your country.

“The parents of almost 1,200 Japanese Americans received that flag and heard those words ... They and their families will never forget.”

Organizations of Japanese American veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War “were compelled by a sense of duty to remember and honor their comrades who did not return home,” Hayashi said. “They built the Japanese American National War Memorial Court so that our community and our nation never forget their sacrifice.”

The memorial includes names from other conflicts, from the Spanish American War (1898) to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“They formed a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation ... to preserve and maintain the memorial court, educate, inform and present forums on the contributions of Japanese Americans in all the wars of the United States,” Hayashi said. “With the last of the three organizations set to disband soon ... the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance accepts this mission ... but we need your help. We’re an all-volunteer organization. Maintaining the memorial court and presenting programs like Memorial Day services ... as well as preparing for the almost inevitable acts of vandalism or natural disasters, all require money. Please help us ... with your generous donations.”

Horsting said that working on the oral histories has been a rewarding experience, and that in some cases even the veteran’s own family was not aware of his experiences. “This book is a means by which we can broadly share their story beyond the Japanese American community.”

Horsting thanked Sato for having the foresight to start photographing the veterans, many of whom have

since passed away, many years ago.

"I really want to share the story, not just of the veterans, the military and the historical thing, but I wanted to bring out their personality," Sato said. "So when you look at these portraits, I hope that you'll be able to see some kind of personality, something about them that humanizes them, makes you want to learn more."

"That's where the stories come in, that's where the books come in, and hopefully you'll be able to take this book home, set it on the coffee table, and it will start conversations between yourself and your family, or if you're lucky enough to have one of these vets as a relative, to personally ask questions. My family did not talk about the war, nor did they talk about camp ... I'm sure that some of you have had the same experience where your family never spoke to you about these things. I'm very happy that you'll be able to take a look at this book."

He added, "I hope to travel this show. I hope to talk to people who don't know about the internment, who don't know about the Nisei veterans and don't really know anything about Japanese American history."

On hand to sign copies of the book were World War II veterans who appear in the first or second book: **MAS TSUIDA** (who just turned 100), **TOKE YOSHIHASHI, DON MIYADA, YOSH NAKAMURA, DON SEKI** (the "cover boy" of the first book), **MIN IMAMURA, FRANK WADA, and HIT OHARA**. Veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam War and Gulf War were also on hand.

A public forum featuring veterans from the various wars followed on November 9.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m

Sponsored by the Veterans Memorial Court Alliance, the exhibit is made possible with support from the JA Community Foundation and California Humanities, a nonprofit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

On the Web:

[www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org)

[www.thegoforbrokespirit.com](http://www.thegoforbrokespirit.com)

[www.memorialcourtalliance.org](http://www.memorialcourtalliance.org)

//

//

//

//

//

//

//

## MORE MAINLAND CHAPTER CHRISTMA PARTY PHOTOS

courtesy of DAVID WATANABE

Upper left photo of **BEN SUECHIKA** with his daughter who is a graduate of Leilehua.

Upper right photo of **RALPH AND AMY MATSUMOTO**

Bottom left photo of **RALPH KANESHIRO** and family

Bottom right photo of **YOSH NAKAMURA** and his daughter



Happy  
New  
Year

PAU