



# 100<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB

PUKA-PUKA

MONTHLY NEWS

## PARADE

AUGUST 2000

ISSUE #2000-8

**Mahalo to PukaPuka Volunteers:** Many thanks to the following people who came out on July 6 to collate and mail out the July PPP: Bernard Akamine, Otomatsu Aoki, Alfred Arakaki, Robert Arakaki, Kunio Fujimoto, Tom Fujise, Ted Hamasu, Saburo Hasegawa, Tokuchi Hayashi, Ed Ikuma, Shigeru Inouye, Masaru Kadomoto, Lawrence and Regina Kamiya, Kiyomi Kaneshige, Robert Kapuniai, Gladys Kawakami, Arthur Komiyama, Don and Kimi Matsuda, Y. Mugitani, Joe Muramatsu, Saburo Nishime, Tommy Nishioka, Ray and Aki Nosaka, Takeichi Onishi, Susumu Ota, Masaharu Saito, Leo Sato, Robert Sato, Kazuto Shimizu, Hiromi Suehiro, Yukio Tanji, Denis and Joy Teraoka, Martin Tohara, Masa Toma, Rikio and Evelyn Tsuda, Ukichi Wozumi, Marie Yoneshige, Kaoru and Sadako Yonezawa, and to Mary Hamasaki and Cecilee Tanaka for proofreading. Special thanks to "Chef" Bernard Akamine who prepared a delicious "creamed corned beef on toast" treat for all of the volunteers. He said in the Army, they call it "S.O.S." (Hint, it doesn't stand for "save our ship," or "Society of Seven.") Thank you, Aki Nosaka for compiling the list of volunteers!

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT (via the internet)

by President Don Matsuda

Whew! Here it is, July already. Sure has been a busy year. Good thing we had Drusilla helping our busy committees. Especially with the Anniversary Banquet being held in Las Vegas instead of here in Honolulu. She got the club a big discount. We also had to help out with the Spark Matsunaga display at the new VA medical and regional office center at Tripler. With her help, the canned juices for the reception and the bottled water for the handicapped were purchased and delivered as a donation from both Club 100 and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club. When the Army asked us to help with locating the next of kin of the deceased Medal of Honor recipients, things were really hectic. President Clinton's announcement depended on each family being notified first. The Army didn't tell us why they wanted to contact the families—we suspected it had to do with the MOH, but we didn't know what they were going to tell the families. Finding Mikio Hasemoto's family took the most time, since his only brother had already passed away, but thanks to Sakae Takahashi, the very last family to be located (Allan Ohata's) was contacted and a few hours later, the announcement was released to the press.

And now, the humongous MOH celebration is coming up in August. Our committees are marching double time carrying this in their back packs. It's gonna be huge. As Stanley Akita says, "This is truly our last hurrah." Look for the sign-up sheet in this PPP and come out and show your support for all the medal recipients. Besides Stanley who is on the Banquet Program Sub-Committee, Joe Muramatsu and Tokuji Ono are on the Sunset Memorial Service Sub-Committee. Our Exec sits on the B&F and Banquet Program Sub-Committees, too, and attends the Steering Committee meetings in order to pass the up-to-date information on to our members. Since I am the Treasurer of the Oahu AJA Veterans Council this year, I am on the Budget and Finance Sub-Committee. A lot of our Sons and Daughters are hard at work on the Parade Sub-Committee, where I am the lonesome veteran representative. You know me, all I want to do is get together with the guys and have a good time. "Don't volunteer for anything," we learned in the Army. "Continuous Service," hell, we gave enough already in combat. But you know what, all these celebrations and "services" actually helps us and all veterans. The more they know about what we did, the more they will respect us and do for us. Take VA benefits, you deserve a helluva lot more than what you're getting now. Well, the more they know about us, the more they will help us.

**Don't forget! Sign up for the MOH events. Come and show your pride. It's our "last hurrah."**

**The PukaPuka Parade is the monthly newsletter of Club 100, an association of World War II Veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Published at 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826.**

**In this issue:** Information on October mini-reunion; information and reservation form for August 25, 26, 27 Medal of Honor Celebration in Hawaii (use the same form to sign up for the Post Parade Reception at the Clubhouse), texts of speeches by Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera, Army Chief of

Staff General Eric Shinseki, and Rev. David B. Turner—all given in Washington DC or at the Pentagon during ceremonies commemorating the awarding of the Medal of Honor.

**Remarks by The Reverend David Baumgart Turner at the Medal of Honor Memorial Service, Fort Meyer Chapel, June 21, 2000 (via the internet)**

It is truly a privilege to be gathered with you in this important time of remembering and celebrating the gifts and contributions of these special men. I stand here as one almost two generations removed from the horrors that gripped our world more than 55 years ago - horrors which these marvelous men gave of themselves, and for some of them their very lives, to rid our world of. In many ways it is their sacrifice that allows me two generations removed to stand before you and remember them with you.

I also stand here as the grandson of Farrant Turner, the first commanding officer of the 100th battalion, the "Old Man" as many of you knew him. He died when I was but two years old. I only met him briefly and have no personal recollection of him. But I have come to know him through the eyes and stories of many of you who sit here before me as well as your many comrades in arms.

I want to thank you for that gift. I thank you as well for the gift you gave him by serving and working with him. Even more, I want to thank you for the gift you gave to these men whom we recognize today and the countless others you and they served with. For you served with a mutual trust, an abiding friendship and an attitude of committed sacrifice and service. From such bonds emerge acts of courage and valor, acts of wonder and in a strange way acts of beauty.

The men we honor this day, your friends and family, all emerged from different backgrounds each with a different story. There were those who were local boys from the neighbor islands, and there were others who were internees recruited from the relocation centers. Each one had a different background, and their stories need to be told and retold again and again. You knew them as brothers, uncles, sons, spouses, fathers, grandfathers, friends. You know their special gifts. You know their very lives and how regardless of wartime valor they were people of honor - people whose lives deserve remembering and celebrating as we do today. For in their lives, before the war, during battle, and for some in lives lived well beyond battle they gave to all of us gifts that we are privileged to receive.

I am reminded as I think on their lives and ponder on their deaths of some lessons learned from the blossoms of the hau tree. Many of you may be familiar with the hau tree that dominates the forests of much of Hawaii. Its branches are so richly tangled that one soon discovers, as one tries to move through them, it prevents you from distinguishing where one tree ends and another begins. Was it not also the same for these men whom we honor this morning. They were first part of a larger unit - intertwined and interwoven with each other - so connected that each breath seemed to be collective rather than individual.

Yet from the hau tree, in the midst of these interwoven branches, emerges a blossom of exquisite and simple beauty. It is a golden and sun-dripped flower, reminiscent of the sun these men must have played under in the days of their youth. Is it not true that from the interwoven mass of our lives there are those rays of sun that emerge that we rejoice and marvel in. Certainly this was the case for these men. They were our rays of sun - our very blossoms of life.

Yet blossoms do not last forever. Eventually, they must slip from the branches that hold them and let go of their leafy perch. With the hau blossoms, though, something unique happens. For, you see, the flower doesn't brown and wilt and shrivel in its last moments. Rather, it simply changes color, moving from the golden rays of the full sun to the soft and gentle orange of the sky when the sun has slipped below the horizon.

Even in its death the beauty that defined its life is evident, a beauty that causes one to pause, a beauty that is cause for gratitude - even celebration. So it is as we pause this day - because these men not only lived a moment with fullness of beauty and honor, but they lived and ultimately died with such fullness as well. They lived a life that was filled with gift. They gave to all of us a gift of freedom and possibility and hope in their lives and through to their deaths.

The hau blossom ultimately does loosen its hold and does slip from the tree; so too have these men. And as the blossom is gently carried on the float of the breath of a breeze, so too do we

rest assured that they are carried within the spirit of that which is holy - where having given their gift of life, they rest now in God's loving hands.

Mahalo ke akua. Thank you God. Thank you for this precious gift of these special men. Amen

Closing prayer: Let us pray: Gracious God: Our memories are filled this day for honors that are well given, of lives that have been well lived, of friends well made and of family members well loved.

We give our thanks to you this morning not only for the sacrifice of the individuals we honor, but also for the families whose lives have been changed and dreams altered by the very sacrifices of these men. We give you thanks for their todays given for our tomorrows lived.

We pray that you would be with us as we move forward committed to the very values and freedoms they lived and died for. May we move forward embracing the life they lived with us and celebrating the gift of their presence which has been lived amongst us.

Thank you God, for the gift of these men, we are forever enriched by the beauty of that blessing. Amen.

**Remarks by<sup>1</sup> The Honorable Louis Caldera, Secretary of the Army, at the Hall of Heroes Induction for Asian Pacific American Medal of Honor Awardees, The Pentagon, June 22, 2000 (via the internet)**

Thank you, General Shinseki, for that introduction and for those very personal remarks. Perhaps no one knows better than you what this week has meant to our soldiers, to our veterans of World War II, to our nation as a whole and especially to our nation's Asian American and Pacific American communities.

Senator Inouye, Senator Akaka, Congresswoman Mink, Deputy Secretary DeLeon, Under Secretary Slocombe, General and Mrs. Shinseki. Other distinguished guests. Ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon. Thank you all for joining us, here at the center courtyard of the Pentagon, the symbol of American military power and of the millions of dedicated men and women serving today who provide for the security and welfare of our nation. We are gathered to further honor the 22 men who were awarded the nation's highest decoration for heroism by President Clinton yesterday at the White House. They are the largest number of soldiers who have ever been -- and perhaps will ever be -- awarded the Medal of Honor on a single day.

Today we are inducting them into the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, a shrine to the most honored soldiers in our nation's military history. They take their place alongside other icons of wars past like Sgt. York, Audie Murphy, and most recently Alfred Rascon. It is fitting that we have such a place, so that the memory of their deeds will be forever enshrined in the long annals of our country's history.

Eight were killed in action; seven of them are with us today. The rest are now with God, but represented here by beloved members of their family who still grieve for their loss. They sit here in body or spirit [gesture], on my left and right, guarding our flanks, just as they stood courageously by the side of their buddies on the battlefields of that great war against tyranny, half a century ago.

As we gather for this induction ceremony on this warm afternoon, let me cast your mind back to another award ceremony that took place half a century ago. On November 12, 1944, during a lull in the fighting, the 442d Regimental Combat Team held an awards ceremony following the terrible battle to drive the German Wehrmacht from the Vosges Mountains in Eastern France. The war was far from over, but the 442d was being pulled out of the front lines for a brief respite, before being reassigned to combat elsewhere. There was snow on the ground that day, as the division commander passed in front of the ranks of Nisei soldiers, who were shivering and weary in their heavy overcoats. Angry that so few men had turned out for the ceremony, the general turned to the regimental commander and said, "Colonel, I thought I ordered that all the men of the regiment be assembled." "But sir," the colonel answered, "this is the entire regiment!"

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks as prepared for delivery; the spoken remarks may deviate slightly.

Just in those three weeks of combat, the 442nd had lost over half of its assigned strength. Two hundred were dead or missing. Nearly two thousand were hospitalized for wounds or cold weather injuries. The regiment could barely muster one third of its number. But it had accomplished its mission -- the historic rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion.

Today, fifty-six years later, time has thinned the ranks even more. Many 442nd veterans rest in honor in the hushed silence of the American Military Cemeteries in Epinal in France, the Punchbowl in Hawaii, and Arlington National Cemetery. Only a few are with us today. But their spirit is alive and strong in the breasts of all who cherish courage and freedom.

We hold this induction ceremony today to recognize that spirit and the brave men who gave so much to our country on the field of battle. It is our way of telling them and their loved ones that their memory, their deeds, will never be forgotten.

We will never forget PVT Barney Hajiro, whose uphill charge against heavy fire in the forests of eastern France remains legendary even among his battle-hardened comrades. His was among many outstanding acts of bravery during the famous battle to rescue the "Lost Battalion," which had been encircled by the enemy and was in imminent danger of annihilation. In that fearful engagement, the 442<sup>nd</sup> suffered 800 casualties to save 200 Texans. Four Nisei soldiers killed or wounded for each fellow soldier saved.

We will never forget James Okubo, a medic -- a non-combatant -- who took his duty to care for the wounded so seriously that time and again he dashed and crawled across open field to rescue injured men at the front lines, shielding them with his body from withering machine gun fire and mortar attack even as he treated them and carried them to safety.

And we will never forget Kiyoshi Muranaga, a mortar crewman who set up his small 60 mm mortar in the open, fully exposing his position to the enemy, and called down his own death as he dueled one-on-one, but hopelessly outmatched, with the heavier artillery of a deadly German 88 mm self-propelled gun in order to protect his comrades.

And we will never forget the many others represented here today who, on distant shores, on countless battlefields, risked all they hold dear to carry out their duty.

Most of us cannot truly comprehend the enormity of these soldiers' accomplishments -- what they did in those fateful moments when they were called upon to render services above and beyond the call of duty. We can only be thankful that there is something that impels a man -- in a split second -- to overcome the powerful instinct for self-preservation and throw himself on a grenade, or expose himself to mortal fire, or fight on without hope of survival, to protect his buddies and fulfill his duty -- casting away a future of love, home, and dreams fulfilled.

Their deeds are remarkable in themselves. But they take on added significance when one considers the special burden that these men carried even as they fought for our freedoms -- the unwarranted suspicions of their disloyalty, the hostility directed at them by fellow citizens, the unjust interment of their families -- all derived from the fact that they "looked different" from other Americans.

Today's induction ceremony is not only about recognizing individual accomplishments. It's also about passing on to a new generation of Americans a knowledge of the sacrifices of the generations that preceded them. For these young people need to know that their parents and grandparents thought that America as a nation and an ideal was worth fighting for and dying for.

In the last few years, we've begun to understand the importance of capturing the story of the soldiers of World War II and passing it on for the benefit of future generations. The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of World War II, and the D-Day commemorative celebrations that saw many veterans returning to the shores of Normandy for the first time since the invasion, helped awaken a need to know the stories of that great conflict before they are lost to all time. And since then, films like Saving Private Ryan and books like Tom Brokaw's The Greatest Generation have attempted to satisfy that growing hunger to know more of World War II and the men and women who fought so hard to win it.

These books and films and celebrations have caused many young people to appreciate for the first time that the elderly person driving slowly down the street in front of them may have participated in the liberation of France. They have begun to understand that the frail old man walking with a cane may have been wounded in a long ago battle in the South Pacific. They have begun to appreciate that their gentle grandmother may have worked on the assembly

lines of the Arsenal of Democracy that produced the weapons and equipment that helped our troops triumph over evil.

It is through preserving the stories and deeds of the men and women who sacrificed so much for their children and grandchildren that we pass on to them the importance of duty, the importance of service. General Shinseki just now and yesterday evening spoke of how, as a young boy growing up in Hawaii, he first heard at his grandmother's knee, the stories of the heroes of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team told around the kitchen table by his uncles who served in that remarkable unit. Senator Inouye spoke movingly last night of the many soldiers he served with whose stories were never recorded, but whose deeds were no less the equal of those we now honor. That is undoubtedly true. But we are nevertheless grateful that we have the stories of the 22 heroes who are the focus of this week's celebrations for the inspiration of those who come after. It is through these stories of our Army's rich legacy of heroism and selfless service that we instill in young Americans the values they should aspire to as soldiers, and teach about them about the responsibilities of citizenship.

The induction of these score of soldiers into the Hall of Heroes has a larger purpose as well. It is to ensure, above all else, that the record is set straight, that Americans, 200 and 500 years from now, appreciate that Americans of all faiths, creeds, and backgrounds have contributed to the defense of our values and principles.

They deserve to know that more than 20,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry volunteered for service in World War II, providing invaluable intelligence services in the Pacific theater that significantly shortened the war against Japan and saved thousands of allied lives; and that the most decorated unit in our entire history -- the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> -- was comprised of Japanese Americans fighting in Europe, so many of whom we honor today.

They deserve to know that 13,000 Chinese Americans fought in the United States Army in World War II, and that one of them, CPT Francis Wai, the onetime all-star quarterback at the Punahou School in Honolulu, a man who also carried the fierce blood of Hawaiian warriors in his veins, was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravely leading his men across the beach against stiff enemy resistance on Leyte, on the very first day of the liberation of the Philippines.

They deserve the to opportunity to appreciate that over 11,000 Filipino Americans signed up for the Army -- in addition to the thousands of Filipinos who served our Army as Filipino Scouts -- and that one of them, 2LT Rudolph Davila, born in El Paso, Texas, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the breakout from the Anzio beachhead in Italy in 1944.

They deserve to learn, indeed, that America's Army in World War II included many soldiers who traced their heritage from other parts of Asia and the Pacific. Americans from Korea, which was then a Japanese colony, were few in number, but proud to serve. One was my friend COL Young Oak Kim from Los Angeles, now a key advisor to the Army on relations with Korea. Then-CPT Kim fought with the 442d and earned the Distinguished Service Cross. He is as fine a man and as great a patriot as I have ever met.

The magnificent tree of our history has given fruit to the freedom, democracy, and prosperity that Americans enjoy today. But that tree has many roots, nourished by the values and talents of peoples of diverse backgrounds, from every corner of the globe. It is one of our great tasks as a nation to ensure that we acknowledge all those who have helped make that tree grow tall and strong. And it is one of the purposes of this induction ceremony to ensure that the unsurpassed deeds of these special men -- and the contributions of the communities that they represent -- are forever recorded in the annals of our nation's history.

President Clinton has often said that if he had just one wish, one single wish, it is that we could be One People....One America. That we be able to put the God-given talents of all of America's diverse peoples in harness to the values and principles that make our nation unique in all of human history. We need look no further than the men we honor on this stage today to see how close we are to achieving this bright vision.

And so, in behalf of the one million men and women who serve in the Army today, and on behalf of the millions of others who have filled our ranks in years past, from Valley Forge to Kosovo, I extend to the honorees -- as well as their loved ones -- the simple and profound gratitude of the U.S. Army and of the Republic we love and serve, as we proudly induct them into the Hall of Heroes.

Thank you and God Bless you.

## HAWAII'S MEDAL OF HONOR CELEBRATION

Save the dates August 25, 26 and 27 for *Hawaii's Medal of Honor Salute*.

**August 25 (Friday):** Sunset Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), to begin at 5 p.m. Carpooling or use of shuttle buses is recommended. The service should be over by 7 p.m. (still enough sunlight for you to drive home safely). The service will honor those MOH recipients who have passed away and whose remains are at Punchbowl. 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion members are: Shinyei Nakamine (B), Mikio Hasemoto (B), Kaoru Moto (C), Masato "Curly" Nakae (A), and Allan Ohata (B).

Please indicate on the registration form HOW MANY of you will be attending. The event is open to the public and there is no admission fee, but the planners would like to know how many people they could expect, so that there are enough chairs, etc.

**August 26 (Saturday):** Parade and motorcade through downtown Honolulu, originating at Aala Park and winding down to Ala Moana Park will involve 50 units, including military and high school bands. Club members are encouraged to sign up to ride on the five-ton trucks. Show your pride! Wear your club shirt and cap and a big smile.

**POST-PARADE:** The Club Board of Directors approved having a Post-Parade Reception and Open House at the clubhouse AFTER the parade for participants and their family members who sit on the sidelines and cheer. Carpool and park at Ala Wai School parking lot. Army trucks will take veterans to the parade starting point. After the parade, the trucks will return from Ala Moana Park to the clubhouse. Ice-cold beverages and heavy pupu will be available for all Oahu AJA Veterans Council Club members and their families who participate in the parade (either riding or watching). We have invited the MOHers and their families, too, as well as the MOH Celebration Steering Committee members.

**August 27 (Sunday):** Luncheon Banquet (noon-time) at the Hawaii Convention Center Ballroom. Guest speaker is General Eric Shinseki. This will be a first-class banquet to honor all of the Medal of Honor recipients. Seats are \$35 each and may be reserved through Club 100, using the enclosed Reservation Form. Parking in the Convention Center is \$5 per car. Free parking at the City Municipal Parking Lot. Dress is Club Shirt or Aloha Attire. Registration begins at 10 a.m. Doors open at 11 a.m. No bar service. Luncheon service about 12:45 p.m.

**HELP IS NEEDED:** Please call Denis Teraoka at 734-3842 if you can help with the Post-Parade Reception and Open House. Food and beverage servers; strong backs for setting up and taking down tables and chairs; parking lot attendants, clean up crew are needed. We have only a short time to plan, so everyone's kokua will be appreciated.

**DRIVERS NEEDED:** At the July Board of Directors meeting, the board invited the Mainland and Neighbor Island Chapter Presidents to Honolulu to participate in the MOH "Salute" events rather than wait until September for their annual visit. All four will be coming. If you can help with providing ground transportation for Muggsy Morikawa (Kauai), Stanley Izumigawa (Maui) and Motoyoshi Tanaka (Hawaii), please call the clubhouse office at 946-0272. They will be staying at the Pagoda Hotel.

**DONATIONS INVITED:** *Hawaii's Medal of Honor Salute* is a massive undertaking by the Oahu AJA Veterans Council, the US Army Pacific, the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the State Office of Veterans Services, the City and County of Honolulu, the National Cemetery of the Pacific, and many other state and county agencies. The Club 100 Mother Club has donated \$1,000.00 toward the fundraising efforts, but much more is needed. If you would like to make a donation, please send it to Club 100, 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu Hawaii 96826 and indicate that it is for the "Salute." The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Foundation will be acknowledging all tax-deductible contributions.

### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

by Drusilla A. Tanaka

**Club Caps and Shirts:** The caps and shirts have been delivered. Please call 946-0272 before you go to the clubhouse to pick up your order. This is to make sure that someone will be there to help you with your order. The caps are \$9 each and the shirts are \$40 each. (slight increases since 1995) If you



didn't order a cap, but would like to buy one now, there is a small inventory available for sale. Sorry, the shirts are sold out, except for Extra Large size (XL).

Please remember to send in your "Registry of Potential Members and Associate Members." We will send an application form to each of your eligible descendants. The first 10 to send in their "Registry" are: George "Oscar" Miyashiro (C), Edward Harada (D) with 3 pages of descendants—omedetoo! Third was Stanley Hamamura (HQ), followed by Atsushi Watanabe (C/Kauai), Yoshiyuki Tomiyama (C), Seiju Ifuku (C), Bernard Akamine (B), Sonsei Nakamura (B), Jun Enomoto (Medics), and Robert Aoki (B). Remember to write in your grandchildren and great-grandchildren, even if they are minors and to write in the names and information for your children's spouses, as they are eligible for Associate membership.

***Mahalo nui loa*** to the following donors for their thoughtful and timely gifts to Club 100:

- \$50 from Cary Matsumoto (A)
- \$100 from Wallace Onuma (HQ)
- \$100 from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$50 for the Memorial Service from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$50 for the Fort Benning Monument from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$100 for the Club 100 Scholarship Fund from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$100 for the Club 100 Scholarship Fund from Masato Kodama (HQ)
- \$100 from Isamu Inouye (A)
- \$100 from Kenneth Saruwatari (HQ)
- \$100 for the Memorial Service from Doris Tamashiro
- \$100 for the Club 100 Scholarship Fund from Lillian Murakami
- \$100 from Lillian Murakami
- \$100 for the Fort Benning Monument from Lynette Shiroma in memory of Miles Shiroma
- videotapes of the May 31 Dedication Ceremony of the Spark Matsunaga VA Medical and Regional Office Center and of the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Las Vegas are now in the videotape library, filmed, edited and donated by Kunio Fujimoto (A)

**Club 100 thanks the following donors to the PukaPuka Parade:**

- \$25 from Lillian Tokujo
- \$50 from Eleanor Fujiwara
- \$25 from Frances Hirata in memory of her brother, Kent "Bon-san" Nakamura (Medics/HQ)
- \$100 from Wallace Onuma (HQ)
- \$100 from Shigeru Tsubota (D)
- \$50 from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$100 from Sophia and Jesse Imai in honor of Hiromi Suehiro (C)
- \$20 from Marian Hayashi
- \$25 from Hideo Nakamine (442/522 FAB)
- \$50 from Frank Wada (B/Mainland)
- \$50 from Kenneth Mun, in memory of Masayoshi Nakano (C)
- \$100 from Kow Ito (B/Mainland)

Many of the donations listed above came to Club 100 by way of the Sons and Daughters of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. Mahalo for your gifts and we apologize for the delay in acknowledging your contributions. Thank you to the Sons and Daughters, and especially to Treasurer Art Nakayama for keeping good records and forwarding the donations to us. The task of sending out thank-you letters was handled by Jill Thalmann and now by Joyce Doi. We appreciate your support and service!

**A WORD FROM MEL OZEKI, PUBLISHER OF "OHANA MAGAZINE."** Mel will be featuring the 100/442 in future issues of the magazine. He wants to hear from you—your stories—in training, on the battlefield, at home (wives, are you listening?) and after you returned. Consider a gift subscription for your friends and relatives here or on the mainland. Call the office for a subscription form or for information on how to contact Mel.

**ATTENTION! ALL REPLACEMENTS TO THE 100<sup>TH</sup>:** On September 23, 2000, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Clubhouse, there will be a gathering of all replacements to the 100<sup>th</sup>—just to "shoot the bull" about our days in combat. We will also discuss whether to hold the gathering once a year or more. The cost will be \$10 per person which includes a Chinese lunch with cold drinks and beer. We now have about 25 people interested and I'm hoping we'll have at least 50 or more. Wives are welcome, too. I know lots of you haven't seen each other for many, many years. So, let's get together, talk stories and get reacquainted. I know this will be a real FUN kind of an afternoon. So, if you

haven't yet registered, call Stanley Akita at 734-8901 or Hiromi Suehiro at 941-3582. Remember, ANY replacement, regardless of the day you joined the battalion, is welcome to participate. Call right away. Don't miss this fun day.

Note: This is the same day as the decorating of graves at Punchbowl for the Memorial Service the next day. Please come to the clubhouse as soon as you are done with your duties at Punchbowl. Park at Ala Wai School.

**Remarks by General Eric Shinseki, Chief of Staff of the Army, at the Hall of Heroes Induction for Asian Pacific American Medal of Honor Awardees, The Pentagon, June 22, 2000 (via the internet)**

Senator Akaka; Congresswoman Mink; Distinguished Members of Congress; Secretary De Leon; Secretary Caldera; Distinguished Honorees -- family members and friends; Fellow general and flag officers; Other distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen:

This week has been a humbling experience. The Medal of Honor is not something soldiers seek. No one can train for it. In fact, no one expects people to make the kinds of sacrifices required in order to receive it. No, in truth, the feats of bravery associated with the Medal of Honor are so far beyond our expectations that, had any recipient failed to act, no one would have criticized him. And yet, incredible as it is, those feats were performed -- 22 times over -- and the soldiers who rose to such heights of uncommon valor were recognized by the President and our Nation yesterday.

A unique bond develops between soldiers in combat. Fear, certainly, unites them. But fear is not the bond I refer to because fear encourages inaction, hesitation, tentativeness, even paralysis. And from the eloquence of the citations read yesterday describing what these men did on those days that set them apart from the rest of humanity, you know that these are men of action, not inaction. And their actions took them beyond fear and beyond pain and beyond concerns about personal welfare. The bond I refer to is one based on trust. In the deadly chaos of battle, soldiers hold to trust, and when they fight, they fight for each other because of that trust resident in one another. It is a bond that defies intellectual understanding. You can't quantify it, and you can't explain it, but the men we honor today are proof that it exists.

I'm talking about uncommonly brave men from a variety of common backgrounds who felt that bond for others with whom they served and who never betrayed the trust others had placed in them. Let me call their roll one more time:

Staff Sergeant Rudolph Davila  
Private Barney Hajiro  
Private Mikio Hasemoto  
Private Joe Hayashi  
Private Shizuya Hayashi  
Second Lieutenant Daniel Inouye  
Technical Sergeant Yeiki Kobashigawa  
Staff Sergeant Robert T. Kuroda  
Private First Class Kaoru Moto  
Private First Class Kiyoshi Muranaga  
Private Masato Nakae  
Private Shinyei Nakamine  
Private First Class William Nakamura  
Private First Class Joe Nishimoto  
Sergeant Allan Ohata  
Technician Fifth Grade James Okubo  
Technical Sergeant Yukio Okutsu  
Private First Class Frank Ono  
Staff Sergeant Kazuo Otani  
Private George Sakato  
Technical Sergeant Ted Tanouye  
Captain Francis Wai

By now, we've all heard their stories. They fought in Italy and France and in the Philippines; they wore the insignia of the 7th Infantry, the 34th Infantry, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and the 442d Regimental Combat Team. We can all be proud of their accomplishments and should be humbled by their own humility -- these quiet men, small in stature, who performed unbelievable acts of bravery; they were tigers in battle. Quiet professionals, they performed



their duty without fanfare -- deflecting praise and avoiding recognition. It is unfortunate that it has taken 50 years for these men to receive this proper acknowledgment of their heroism. And while the causes are several, one of the reasons is understandable -- and it had to do with their near legendary modesty, a refusal to talk about themselves and their exploits.

You see, as I told you yesterday, I grew up listening to stories about men just like these -- fascinating stories. And when I encountered them in person, they never talked about themselves or their own acts of bravery.

Whenever I attend a function of one of these units, like the 442nd, I am always struck by this same kind of reticence, this unwillingness ever to bring attention upon oneself. In fact, it usually takes a friend to tell the story of another friend, which is why sometimes even family members of those veterans have never heard those stories. They are unaware of the fact that someone they've known only as a father or husband or uncle or a brother is, to many others, a hero of magnificent proportions.

It is because of the dignity and humility of these simple men that, in some ways, I am not surprised it has taken 50 years to arrive at this ceremony.

I know that this week has brought with it many deep and complex emotions. Those of you who survived the war know many others -- friends who fought and friends who died -- who made it possible for you to be here today. I understand it's not easy to accept such recognition when you know in your hearts that there are so many other heroes who will never be recognized -- some who lived, some who died, and some whose stories of valor are known only to God.

I know that as you participate in these ceremonies your thoughts often return to those men and to the places where you shared with them what seemed like a lifetime. With them, you shared your letters from home, your coffee, your rations, your photographs of loved ones. With them you celebrated births and anniversaries and holidays.

With them you faced danger, confronted fear, nurtured your hopes, and chanced to dream. With them you shared that strange mixture of laughter and sorrow that only a soldier recognizes and understands.

Those men -- to you, perhaps real heroes -- are with you always. The bonds of trust you forged together in battle are still intact. They cannot be broken. So as you accept the recognition of your Nation, a recognition so justly deserved for the heroism you performed on days when your units, your Army, your country needed you to provide that spark of inspiration, accept it with that trust in mind. Those men -- your friends -- trust that you will represent them well. You and the recipients, who are no longer with us, served this Nation over 50 years ago, but you are serving it again today. You are serving the Nation by accepting this recognition. And those men with whom you shared so much are certainly with us here today. Their young faces are looking down on us with great pride as each of you honors your commitment to a soldier's trust. With you, they share in this honor.

This experience has reminded me just how much all of us -- and I do mean all of us -- owe these remarkable Americans. In this country, a surprise attack had bred serious mistrust amongst a diverse population, a mistrust that was overturned only by acts of such supreme sacrifice to prove a loyalty that needed no proving. But because of those demonstrations of loyalty, you have Americans of Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage today serving at the highest levels in the Nation. It has indeed been very humbling and gratifying to have these men as our role models. They gave us examples of honor and sacrifice we could only hope to emulate.

Unfortunately, even as we induct these brave Americans into this hallowed place -- this Hall of Heroes -- many people in this country are not aware of them or of the many other true heroes who have sacrificed so much to give us our freedom, our privilege, our life of comfort. This is a shame. We have a responsibility to raise their awareness so that our children and our children's children never take the heroism of men like these for granted.

It has been said that "Poor is the nation that has no heroes, but beggared is the nation that has and forgets them." The men we honor today answered their call to duty, and in doing so, they honored their heritage and their people.

Now, it's our duty to honor the legacy of these men by introducing them to young Americans everywhere, especially those considering service to the Nation. There will be other calls to duty that will have to be answered by other young Americans on battlefields yet to be defined. We want them to know about these men so they can understand the price of freedom.

Youngsters today are searching for something to believe in, something greater than themselves that they can look up to and respect. We can provide that something by telling all of your stories.

We will prevail as a Nation, and it will be because this Army and our young people recognize the importance of service and sacrifice. It will be because they understand that previous generations made sacrifices for them -- sacrifices that earned them the opportunity to compete to enjoy the fruits of freedom and equality. Moreover, it will be because they understand that when it came time to defend our freedoms, those same ancestors answered the call of duty, many making the supreme sacrifice to secure those freedoms for future generations. And finally, we will prevail because today's young men and women acknowledge that our way of life must not be taken for granted.

I am proud to be an American Soldier, and it has been a profound honor for me to participate in this week's ceremonies. It fills me with tremendous pride to see you here -- all of you. Thank you for giving us such a dignified and honorable example to follow and for being an inspiration to us all.

God Bless each and everyone of you, and God Bless America.

## **HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Ed Ikuma**

Old news is better than no news.

Participating in the recent 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion in Vegas were the following from the HQ Chapter: Nancy Nakamura, Elsie Oshita, Tsugi Takemoto (Kauai), Dorothy Tamashiro, Jane Tonaki (Warren) and Carl Tonaki, Shigeru and Kazuko Ushijima, Stanley and Kay Ushijima, (both Ushijima's from Hilo), Irving Akahoshi with Dorian Best and Corrinne Akahoshi, Akira and Pat Akimoto, Wilfred Fujishige, Roy Honbo, Jeff Fukawa and June Fukawa, Stanley and Fumie Hamamura, Margaret Higa and sister, Michi Mukaigawa, Jean Kawasaki, Arthur and Frances Komiyama, Edward and Hazel Ikuma and Gary Ikuma. Gary had to leave in the middle of the banquet to catch a late night flight back to Washington, D.C. to attend the White House MOH ceremony the following morning.

Judging from the smiles on the faces of Dorothy Tamashiro, Marge Higa, Elsie Oshita and Pat Akimoto, it appeared that they were able to beat the Vegas odds. Not by a truckload, maybe, but enough to go back in October for the Mini Reunion.

It was good to see the Hilo Ushijima's in great shape.

As usual, the So. California 100<sup>th</sup> guys and gals did a tremendous job of hosting the event. Thank you, Ben Tagami, Sam Fujikawa, Hank Yoshitake, and all the people that helped out.

A very important club project coming up in August is the 3-day MOH celebration. It is scheduled for August 25, 26, and 27. Some details were in the July PPP and also in other sections of this issue. Be sure to send in your reservation form and payment as soon as possible. Deadline is August 7. Set the above August dates aside for your participation, as the MOH men really deserve our respect and support. Prexy Ken Saruwatari desires that HQ Chapter show up in force for these events.

Our next chapter get-together will be announced by Saru soon. HQ Chapter's Christmas party is set for December 16, Saturday. Stay tuned.

## **BAKER CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Joe Muramatsu**

We had a pretty good turnout at our July meeting. A long-time-no-see at meetings is Lefty Tanigawa. Perhaps he was chased out of his house by his wife, but it was good to see him. Maybe some other stay-away guys should come to our meetings and let us see how they are doing. Lefty brought envelopes of photos he snapped in Las Vegas and passed them around. Thanks, Lefty!

Our August Family Night has been cancelled because it will conflict with the MOH celebrations.

The MOH Celebration, officially called "Hawaii's Medal of Honor Salute," or "Salute" for short, is coming along smoothly. Tokuji Ono and I are on the Sunset Memorial Service Committee. The memorial service will be held at Punchbowl on Friday, August 25, at 5:00 p.m. Parking will be a problem at all events, so things are being worked out with the military and other State and City agencies.

All WWII veterans will be asked to ride in the parade. Most of us are too old or crippled to walk the length of the parade.

Only 2,000 seats are available for the banquet, so send in your reservation form and payment to the club office if you are planning to attend. The cost is \$35 per person, plus if you plan to drive, add \$5 more for parking. The luncheon will be held at the Convention Center. You can be assured that it will not be a SPAM musubi lunch.

Keep September 24 open, as that is the day of our Memorial Service.

Saw Isa Nadamoto a few days ago, and he is looking great. We wish him well.

## **CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS (via the internet)**

**by Hiromi Suehiro**

Ladies first! From Arlene Sato, daughter of Hideshi Niimi, phone 734-7068: From the Ladies' Corner: Join us for lunch at the beautiful Waioli Tea Room in Manoa Valley on September 30, Saturday at 11:00. Cost is \$19.80. Menu includes: fresh roasted Turkey Breast stacked high with shredded carrots, cucumbers, alfalfa and sunflower sprouts, and muenster cheese served on bakery fresh 10-grain bread, fresh vegetable salad, a special dessert made by the pastry chef, Iced Tea and Kaanapali Coffee. RSVP to Beatrice Niimi by September 10. Waioli Tea Room is so popular, reservations were very difficult to get even two months ahead! Please come and enjoy the cool Manoa atmosphere, the good food and hear all the latest chatter.

Our regular reporter, Warren Iwai, and his wife Betty are visiting their daughter in the state of Washington, so here I am, again.

Fifteen members attended this month's meeting and we have been blessed with attendance numbering between fifteen and nineteen for the last four months. We think Charlie is the best chapter in the Club, a claim which is going to make Goro Sumida (A) one unhappy fella \*?#!?\*

Our annual Fun Nite at Nuuanu Onsen will be held on September 15, Friday. Flyers will be mailed in August. This is the one event everyone looks forward to because we get to see members we seldom see during the year. Anyone who wants to try his talent as M.C., please contact Warren, but me thinks no one does it better than Warren.

The following are few items of interest:

1. Warren ran into Mrs. Betty Ajitomi, sister-in-law of Matsuei and Tokio Ajitomi at the L.A. Memorial monument site.
2. Tad and Takako Umamoto's grandson, Sean, is a student at the University of California at Berkeley and may enroll in a medical school upon his graduation.
3. Lawrence and Regina Kamiya's son, Jason, Chief of Staff of the 101 Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, will be reassigned to the Pentagon. He was awarded the Legion of Merit. When Jason was recently promoted to Brigadier General, our Executive Secretary sent him an e-mail, addressing him as General Kamiya. He wrote back right away, "...Probably won't be actually promoted for another year, so please help me keep things in perspective and my feet on the ground now and even after the promotion. 'Jason' is the name, not General, not Sir, or otherwise (smile). I get my own coffee and cut my own grass." What a guy!
4. At the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet in Vegas, the hotel prepared two ceremonial cakes. One for the Anniversary Banquet (with the beautiful full color battalion insignia) and another rather plain one for the Charlie Chapter Night party. The two cakes must have been of the same size because the pantry delivered the anniversary cake to the Charlie Chapter party on Monday night and delivered our cake to the Anniversary Banquet on Tuesday night. We learned about the switch only after the cake was cut and eaten. The best laid plans of mice and men....

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:** The much-awaited reunion of the Replacements who joined the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion will be held on Saturday, September 23, at the Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 3,4,5 p.m. \$10 per head will be assessed. This will be a husband and wife event, so please make every effort to attend. Those who are decorating the graves at Punchbowl, you should have enough time to place your flowers and then come to the clubhouse for this event. You will be notified when to mail in your payments next month to attention of either Stan Akita or Hiromi Suehiro. Ala Wai School parking lot is available for parking. Lunch and beverages will be provided.

I read an article a while back about a professor at Stanford University who conducted a research on "Why People Gamble." He traveled all over the world, interviewing the world's biggest gamblers. He traveled from L.A. to Vegas, then on to Chicago, New York, New Orleans, Miami, London, the Middle East, back to Europe and ended up in the Orient. He interviewed men like Rothschild who would bet a million dollars on a high card. He asked everyone the same question, "Why do you gamble?" He jotted down the name of the gambler and his reply on a 3x5 index card. Upon his return to Stanford, he studied the cards and much to his astonishment, the majority replied they gambled for

the thrill of losing. It's insane for anyone to enjoy losing money in the natural reaction of almost anyone. Now, why do people keep going back to Las Vegas, knowing that coming home a winner is slim to none. Ask any of your friends who recently returned from Vegas and ask them how did they do. And they'll tell you they lost, but feel no pain. They even laugh at the money they left behind at Vegas. There is no sense of loss. In short, folks, they enjoyed losing their money.

Why do we keep going back to Vegas? Is it because Las Vegas is like a beautiful woman? Like a beautiful woman, Las Vegas is an alluring and exciting place; like a beautiful woman, Las Vegas holds out a promise; like a beautiful woman, Las Vegas entices and lures you...this time you might get lucky.

I am going back to Vegas in October for the mini-reunion. And I am going back because the beautiful woman might succumb to my charm, or am I going back to savor the thrill of losing?

I will be back in October because I am the "official" Las Vegas reporter. 'Til then, stay healthy and learn to live one day at a time and make each day meaningful.

## **MAUI CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Tom Nagata**

Maui Chapter members, wives and widows enjoyed their first chicken hekka dinner of the year at the Kahului Community Center on the evening of July 7, Friday. Group one and two under the leadership of Satoji Arisumi and Tsukio Yamagata and ably assisted by their wives, and members and wives, prepared a delicious dinner that all present enjoyed. Chapter President Stanley Izumigawa called on Wataru Kaneshina to bless the food and it was ladies first at the buffet table. Following dinner, a short business meeting was called by President Izumigawa, and the rest of the evening was spent in playing BINGO games with Masao Sato and Akira Ishikawa in charge. There were 19 members, 17 wives and 4 widows present.

Our next scheduled event will be our general meeting on September 5, Tuesday, at the Tasty Crust Restaurant, at 11 a.m. Also on Sunday, September 24, our annual Club 100 Memorial Service will be held at the Makawao Veterans Cemetery at 2 p.m. with Goichi Shimanuki in charge. Due to declining attendance at our August picnic, it will not be held. If there is no news in August, I will not submit my monthly article next month.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Torao Kawano, who died on June 22, 2000, at age 86. Funeral services were held at the Nakamura Mortuary. He was in the Medics, assigned to C Company.

## **DOG CHAPTER NEWS**

**by Helen Nikaido**

REMINDER: ONE PUKA PUKA tour escorted by "Opu" Hiranaka will meet on September 20, 2000 (Wednesday) at 10:30 a.m. at the clubhouse. Please have your payment ready or bring your check book.

Dog Chapter meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> was attended by Saburo Nishime, "Doc" Hosaka, Ken Mitsunaga, Denis Teraoka, Martin Tohara, "Jits" Yoshida, and Mary Hamasaki.

The next meeting is August 19, at 9 a.m.

Remember fellow Doggie, Fred Toyama and his wife, Fumi? They were very active at one time. Fumi used to dance and play the shamisen. I called Fumi to see how they are doing. Fumi tells me Fred has medical problems and also had an operation. He's coming along and walks with a walker. Take care, Fred. Nice talking to you, Fumi.

I also called Conrad Tsukayama to see how he and Yoshi are doing. They are doing okay. Conrad doesn't drive anymore, so haven't seen them for a while.

Talked to Stella Nakayama recently. That gal is so busy, if she's not going on a trip, she goes on excursions around Oahu with her senior citizen group. She just went to Waialua Coffee Visitors Center. The tour shows how the coffee is processed. Very interesting. She went on a glass bottom boat ride, also. Next, she will be going to Sea Life Park, just like a tourist.

## **HAWAII CHAPTER NEWS**

**(via the internet)**

**by Jimmy Maeda**

The annual AJA Veterans Council annual Fourth of July get together was held as scheduled on July 4 at the AJA Veterans Memorial Hall. Members of Club 100, 442nd and Interpreters and wives were present at the luncheon affairs. YUKIO OKUTSU, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor was

honored at the gathering. He was a former member of Co. F, 442nd Inf. Regt, residing in Hilo. Wife of the honoree, Elaine Okutsu, was also present. Wataru Kohashi is the president of the AJA Veterans Council this year.

MASAO FUJIMOTO, long time member of Hawaii Chapter died suddenly on Sunday morning, July 16, at the Hilo Medical Center. He was 82 years at time of death. It was ironic that Masao celebrated his 82nd birthday on Saturday night, July 15. He was a former member of "F" Company and was the retired owner of M. Fujimoto Masonry Contractor. Funeral service was held on Friday afternoon, July 21 at the Dodo Mortuary Chapel. Members of Hawaii Chapter Club 100 were honor guard at the service. Our prayers of sympathy to wife, Jill Fujimoto; son, Elsworth Fujimoto; brother, Larry; sisters, Harriet Higashi, Pat Hakoda and other relatives.

## **DIS AND DAT**

**by Ray Nosaka**

According to Kiyoshi Kami, there are now only ten seats available for our group leaving Honolulu on United Airlines to the Las Vegas/Mini Reunion. Departure time is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday morning, October 22, with arrival time in Las Vegas at 9:30 p.m. The return flight is scheduled for October 26 at 3:30 p.m. with arrival time in Honolulu at 9:48 p.m. The seat reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis, so if you have any desire to go to the mini-reunion, please call Kiyoshi immediately at 593-8808 (City Travel) or in the evenings at 247-1522.

Those that have already signed up are: Akira and Pat Akimoto, Yoshio Anzai, Wilfred Fujishige, Matsue Furushima, Walter and Jane Furukawa, Shizuya Hayashi, Mimi Nakano, Margaret Higa, Michiko Mukaigawa, Yoroku and Ayako Ito, Dorothy Kikuchi, George and Hisako Miyashiro, Cary Miyashiro, Earl Miyashiro, Fusako Murai, Rusty and Alice Nakagawa, Hiroshi Shimazu, Leighton Sumida, Hiromi Suehiro, Seiji and Kinuye Tanigawa, Dorothy Tamashiro and Kiyoshi and Alice Kami.

In commemoration of the Medal of Honor upgrades for Asian and Pacific Americans, there will be a three-day celebration held here in Honolulu. We urge all of you to attend all three events, starting with the Sunset Memorial Service at Punchbowl National Cemetery. The second day's event will be a parade through downtown Honolulu, and the finalizing event on August 27 will be a Luncheon Banquet at the Hawaii Convention Center. Club 100 is hosting an open house and reception after the parade on Saturday, for all who participate in the parade either by being in the parade or by watching or by working as a volunteer. We want to encourage everyone who can to come out and show your support for our "boys" who are "heroes" in the eyes of the state, the nation, and the world.

We've noticed that lately more and more couples have been coming together to help with the collating. It is always nice to see husband and wife participating together in the various activities. Namely, some of the couples are Rikio and Evelyn Tsuda, Lawrence and Regina Kamiya, Denis and Joy Teraoka, Tamo and Yoneko Shimizu, Kaoru and Sadako Yonezawa, Don and Kimi Matsuda, Shigeru and Fumi Inouye and Ray and Aki Nosaka.

Last night, as I watched my family collate, staple and fold 400 letters to be mailed to the Sons and Daughters, I felt grateful that the work continues on in the effort to build up the Sons/Daughters organization. I only hope that all of the Sons and Daughters will take the time to read the letter and to take interest in the seminars scheduled throughout the next six months. We parents are invited to participate in these free seminars which will be held at the clubhouse. The first one will be presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs and will be held on August 12, Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Watch for the announcements of the dates and subjects of the future seminars in each PPP.

## **NEWS FROM THE MAINLAND CHAPTER**

**by Sam Fujikawa and Ben Tagami**

We have temporarily lost our valuable reporter, June Kurisu, due to George's unfortunate stroke which has put him in the hospital. We all wish him well and "gambatte 100th style and get better soon". We also wish June best wishes and to take care of herself, too.

Short but important news is we will still have the annual mini-reunion from Oct. 22-26 at the California and Main Street Hotels. The application forms will be mailed out this week for everyone to fill in and send in as soon as possible although the deadline is Aug. 27, 2000. We hope to see many people there as these reunions are becoming such memorable gatherings for everyone.

## **FOX COMPANY NEWS**

**by Kenneth M. Higa**

Here is the latest news about the luncheon to be held at the Wisteria Restaurant on Saturday, September: The head count so far is 45, including the following neighbor islanders: From the Big

Island, Seitoku and Shizu Akamine, Hiromu Kobayashi and Shinsuke Shimabukuro; from the Garden Island, Kazue Kawamoto, Choichi and Doris Shimabukuro. The menu includes nine courses: crab salad, namasu, beef teriyaki, sushi (variety), chicken, shrimp tempura, chow mein, chicken umami, and roast pork. The good news is the cost per person is very cheap for all that food. It is only \$10. The balance of the menu cost, tax and tip will be paid out of the F Company Fund. Only members and spouses (widows and guests are exempt) will be assessed a fee of \$5 to cover incidental expenses such as soda, pupus, etc. If you have any questions, call Charles Nishimura at 247-3215 or Kenneth Higa at 536-2486.

It was really wonderful to read in last month's PPP that one of the winners of the One Puka Puka Achievement Scholarship was Amanda Arakaki of Kauai High and Intermediate School. Her proud grandparents are Choichi and Doris Shimabukuro. Choichi must be a caring, inspiring and motivating grand-dad because Amanda gives credit for her success to him. Hearty congratulations to you, Amanda! May the years ahead be blessed with good health and continued success in your endeavors to attain your lifetime goals.

A popular Fox Clan member from Hawaii has left us to meet his Maker. Masao Fujimoto of Hilo, a retired owner of M. Fujimoto Masonry Contractor, passed away on July 16 in Hilo Hospital. He was a member of the third platoon. Memorial services were held on July 21 at Dodo Mortuary.

Hisako Mekaru of Gardena, California, a retired secretary for the federal government, passed away on July 3. Born in Paauilo, Hawaii, she was the sister of Ted Hamasu. Memorial services were held in Gardena on July 12.

To the Fujimoto and Hamasu families, we extend our deepest sympathies for the loss of their loved ones. May they rest in peace.

#### ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Save the date, Sunday, September 24, 2000, for the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service at Punchbowl. The Committee, through immediate past president Joe Muramatsu, has invited General David Bramlett to be the guest speaker. General Bramlett, now retired, is a strong supporter of the World War II AIA veterans. Back as emcee by popular demand is Pauline Sato, daughter of Robert and Kazue Sato (A). Rev. Sidney Sumida, son of Leighton and Gladys Sumida (A) and Archbishop Ryokan Ara will provide both Christian and Buddhist prayers. The Pearl City Community Church Choir will furnish the anthems and the 111<sup>th</sup> Army Band of the Hawaii National Guard will perform. The 100/442 Army reservists will carry the colors and render the 21-gun salute. Paul Kusunoki (A) and his Boy Scouts will decorate the graves with miniature American flags. Shigeru and Fumi Inouye (Medics) and their entire family and faithful volunteer crew will prepare and serve refreshments as they have done for the past 39 years. **IMPORTANT:** Grave decorating on Saturday, September 23—**EVERYONE** meet at 8:30 a.m. under the "Refreshment Canopy."



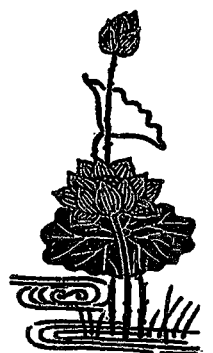
#### IN MEMORIAM

William Saito (E/A)  
June 24, 2000

Masao Fujimoto (F/Hawaii)  
July 16, 2000

*May they rest in peace.*

*The Club 100 Ohana extends deepest sympathy to their families.*



**SONS AND DAUGHTERS NEWS** (via the internet)

**MEDAL OF HONOR CELEBRATION PARADE...SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2000**  
**HELP!!! HELP!!! HELP!!!**

We need a lot of MANPOWER from the sons and daughters to make this parade a rousing success. If you can help in any way, please call Ann Kabasawa at 734-0841 or e-mail me at [annkaba@aloha.net](mailto:annkaba@aloha.net)



## **Sons and Daughters News, continued**

### **VA BENEFITS SEMINAR - SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2000 8:00 am-noon Club 100**

Presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, this seminar will present an overview of the benefits provided by the VA.. It will also touch upon other agencies may provide under unusual circumstances. This is a free seminar and is open to the public. Sons and daughters are encouraged to attend.

Future seminars are: **Memorial Education Seminar**, Saturday, September 9, 9 am – 12 noon; **General Care for the Elderly**, Saturday, October 14, 2000, 8 am to 12 noon; **Advanced Planning Seminar**, Wednesday, November 1, 2000, 6 pm to 9 pm, and **Financial Planning Seminar**, date, time and place to be announced.

**MEMBERSHIP** A sons and daughters newsletter has been mailed out to all sons and daughters on our mailing list. Please take the time to read your newsletter and mail back the membership form. If you have any questions, please call Ann Kabasawa at 734-0841 or e-mail me at [annkaba@aloha.net](mailto:annkaba@aloha.net)

#### **Mahalo nui loa to the following donors to the Sons and Daughters:**

- \$100 from Yukie Taoka in memory of Hakaru Taoka (F/B/Rural)
- \$50 from Ken Iha (B/Rural)
- \$35 from Kenneth Saruwatari (HQ) in memory of Mrs. Thelma Tomai
- \$50 from Gladys Yamamoto
- \$100 from Helen Nikaido in memory of Kenji Nikaido (D)
- \$200 from Yasuko Tanaka
- \$85 from the Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board
- \$250 from an anonymous donor
- \$50 from Gladys Kawakami
- \$1,000 from Rainbow Drive In

#### ***The Sons and Daughters Scholarship Fund has received the following contributions:***

- \$20 from Rural Chapter in memory of Betty Tomihiro
- \$20 from Rural Chapter in memory of Satoshi Kashimoto
- \$25 from Company B in memory of Takeshi Tanaka
- \$15 from Company B in memory of Thelma Tomai
- \$100 from Kow Ito (B/Mainland)
- \$40 from Co. C in memory of Minoru Murakami
- \$25 from Rita Gora in memory of Francis Gora (B)
- \$1,000 from Mildred FencI

Christine Ota DeRosa sent in her “eye-witness” account of the Medal of Honor ceremonies in Washington, D.C. Chris is the daughter of Susumu and Margaret Ota and lives with her family in Virginia. When the MOH announcement was made, Chris contacted her parents and invited them to stay at her home whenever the MOH awards were to be made. Unfortunately, Sus and Margaret were already committed to attend the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Las Vegas. Sakae and Bette Takahashi and Bert Turner readily agreed to go, but when the Chapter Presidents and Board Officers could not find enough “takers” for the rest of the 14 tickets to the Army events, President Don Matsuda decided to extend the invitation to sons and daughters. At the Army’s instructions, they would have to pay their own way. Chris, Gary Ikuma and Frances Omori were logical candidates since they live and work in the DC area and would not have to worry about air fare or hotel expenses. Thank you for taking time off your busy work schedules to help represent the 100<sup>th</sup> from Hawaii. And thanks to Chris for her e-mail:

Dear Don Matsuda and Members of Club 100,

I want to extend my sincerest aloha and mahalo for the opportunity to attend the Medal of Honor ceremonies in Washington, D.C., in June. They were truly memorable events which my husband and I were honored to attend. We only wish that my father, Susumu Ota, and all the members of Club 100 and the Sons and Daughters could have attended.

We were surprised to also receive an invitation to the White House, since we understood that we were to attend only the Army events at the Pentagon! After nearly 25 years in the Washington area, we were finally invited “to tea”!

Wednesday, June 21, 2000

Dean and I drove from our home in Arlington, VA, to D. C. on a hot, typically-humid summer day in Washington. Found a parking garage near the White House (\$15 for 3 hours!) and walked the few blocks to the East Executive Avenue pedestrian walkway between the White House and the Treasury Department. Waited in the cool shade outside the White House gate. Others were there, including active and retired military officers,

including 1 or 2 who wore the Medal of Honor around their necks. We saw "Dr. Sulu" (George Takei) of Star Trek fame. I met a few members of Senator Inouye's staff, including a fellow Leilehua High School grad, Margaret Kuminsky (sp?), Class of '75. I was a '68 grad, and we couldn't quite figure out if we'd met in Wahiawa - we looked very familiar to each other.

Finally, it was time to go in. We followed the directions to use 2 entry points, presented our invitation and ID's, then followed the other guests through the gates into the White House. We were ushered through the hall, past floor-to-ceiling windows that looked out onto the beautifully sculptured garden outside. A U. S. Army string ensemble played as we turned the corner, and walked up the stairs. Another string quartet greeted us at the top of the stairs and we were directed to one of two reception rooms at either end of the hallway.

We found ourselves in one of the dining rooms, lined with windows that overlooked the South Lawn and the White House grounds. One set of tables was beautifully laid out with glasses of wine and other beverages. A longer table set up in the middle of the room was decorated with large bouquets artfully arranged and laden with hors d'oeuvres and sweets. A portrait of Abraham Lincoln looked down on all assembled in the room. We hadn't expected any refreshments, so we were quite delighted. We got something cold to drink (I'm glad I threw away the bottle of water before entering the White House--how tacky that would have been!). The table of food tempted us, but we didn't want to be the first to get a plate. Finally another guest sampled some food; we followed their lead. My favorite was the bite-size makizushi, while Dean enjoyed the smoked salmon.

We talked briefly with a few of the other guests, including a very nice woman from the Capitol Hill area of Washington, D.C. It turns out she is the mother-in-law of David Turner, Punahou's chaplain, and grandson of Farrant Turner.

After a while, we wandered through the smaller reception rooms towards the other larger reception room, admired the portraits and fresh flower arrangements, the fabrics and the drapery. I followed the lead of other guests, sat in a chair in the Red Room, and urged Dean to take my photo! Normally, during public tours, ropes keep visitors away from the furniture, so this was quite a VIP opportunity!

The second reception hall was also quite large, and much more crowded. Senator Inouye was, not surprisingly, surrounded by well-wishers. After a few inquiries, I found Mr. Shizuya Hayashi, whose brother Bill was married to my Auntie Helen (my dad's sister). Mr. Hayashi was seated with Hung Wai Ching, who was a guest of the Hayashi's. They both looked very well, though Mr. Hayashi said that they were being kept busy with ceremonies and tours from morning til night. I laughed when he admitted that he almost would have preferred being at the reunion in Las Vegas instead! We met Mr. Hayashi's son and two daughters. I enjoyed speaking with daughter Mimi Nakano for several minutes. Later, as I walked back toward the first reception/dining room, Mimi came hurrying after me, asking, "Do you know someone named Whitey?" Indeed I did. Mimi's brother-in-law, Clyde "Whitey" Kamimoto and I were friends many, many years ago during our "dorm days" at the UH. What a small world!

Just as we were beginning to wonder if there would be a ceremony, an announcement was made, directing us to board the trolleys outside to the Pavilion. We did as we were told, and rode the trolleys (similar to the ones at Waikale) a few hundred meters down the South Lawn driveway to a huge white tent, the Pavilion. Inside the air conditioning was refreshing, the chandelier sparkled, and the Army band played patriotic music.

Dean and I found terrific seats in the fourth row! Neil Abercrombie greeted many of us, as did Senator Akaka and Patsy Mink later. Many members of the Senate and House were in attendance, including Bob and Elizabeth Dole, who sat in the row just ahead of us; Ted Kennedy & his wife were 2 rows directly in front of us. I wondered whether there were more Senators in attendance than at other Medal of Honor ceremonies because of their long service and friendship with Senator Inouye. (They gave him a standing ovation after he received his medal.)

Dean and I sat next to former Senator and Mrs. Sakae Takahashi. Senator Takahashi described the heroic actions of "his boys" and was understandably proud and grateful to see some of them finally receive the honor they'd been due 55 years ago. There were many more, however, that he felt deserved the honor as well, who were not receiving the Medal.

Shortly before 5 p.m., the ceremony began. The 7 honorees and 15 relatives of honorees, escorted by soldiers, walked, some of them gingerly, up the aisle towards the stage. Tears immediately filled my eyes (I'm so sentimental). From my seat across the room, I watched President Clinton follow them to the stage.

The President's speech was moving, eloquently delivered. You've probably read it. Near the end, he read the last names of the 22 honorees - I was impressed by his near-perfect pronunciation of those Asian names, which others so often stumble over. It was obvious that the President had spent quite a while practicing the names of these men, whom he sincerely and humbly admired. In that act alone, I felt he was demonstrating great respect for our brave fathers, uncles, brothers, husbands.

At the conclusion of his speech, each honoree or his surviving relative stood in front of the President as a representative of the Army read the citation for each honoree. President Clinton then fastened the blue ribbon around each living honoree's neck, and shook hands with him. To the relatives of the now-deceased honorees, he presented the medal mounted in a simple, yet elegant wooden shadow box.

It was a very moving ceremony. I was very humbled - I cannot imagine what these men and all the veterans, the members of the 100th Battalion - our fathers and uncles and husbands and brothers - experienced - the incredible bravery they displayed. I wish that all of the members of the Club 100 and the Sons and Daughters could have witnessed the very moving ceremony and been a part of that day.

Thank you, President Matsuda, and the members of Club 100, for allowing my husband and me the honor and privilege of representing, in a very small way, all of you at the White House Medal of Honor ceremonies. It was a day that we will truly never forget.

And thank you to my dad and all his Club 100 comrades, who sacrificed so much, and paved the way for a better world, so that we children and grandchildren would have a brighter world of opportunities open to us in this great country. - Chris DeRosa, daughter of Susumu Ota (D/Rural)

**CLUB 100 REGISTRATION FORM**  
***Hawaii's Medal of Honor Salute***  
 August 25, 26, 27, 2000  
 Honolulu, Hawaii

**Please print clearly. Keep this copy as your reminder. Return the completed copy with payment (if applicable) to Club 100, 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu HI 96826 no later than August 7, 2000.**

Member's Name: _____		Chapter _____	Check if deceased <input type="checkbox"/>
If deceased, name of person who will be attending events: _____			
Mailing Address: _____		Daytime Phone: _____	
		(Area Code)	
City/State/Zip: _____		Alternate Phone: _____	
		(Area Code)	
Emergency Contact: _____		Relationship: _____	
Daytime Phone: _____		Alternate Phone: _____	
(Area code)		(Area Code)	

To help the "Salute" committees with their planning, please indicate whether you will participate in the following events. The only event which requires a payment is the luncheon banquet on Sunday, August 27, at the Hawaii Convention Center.

- ☐ Yes, I will attend the **Sunset Memorial Service** at Punchbowl on August 25, 2000, beginning at 5 p.m. Approximate number of people who will be attending with me: \_\_\_\_\_ (do not include other members who are signing up on their own sheet)
- ☐ Handicapped parking requested.

Note: Parking will be limited. Bus shuttle service from nearby schools will be provided. Number of people who will be using the shuttle bus service: \_\_\_\_\_ (do not include other members who are signing up on their own sheet)

- ☒ Yes, I will participate in the **"Above and Beyond"** parade on Saturday, August 26, 2000.
- ☒ Yes, I plan to park at the Ala Wai School and will ride the Army trucks to the start of the parade.  
Note: At this time, the ride on the Army trucks is for VETERANS ONLY.
- ☒ Yes, after the parade, I plan to ride the truck back to the clubhouse.
- ☐ No, I do not need transportation to the start of the parade or back to the clubhouse.
- ☒ Yes, I plan to attend the **post-parade Open House and Reception at the Clubhouse**  
 Approximate number of people who will be attending with me: \_\_\_\_\_ (do not include other members who are signing up on their own sheet)
- ☒ Yes, I will volunteer to help with this event.
- ☒ Yes, I will attend the **Luncheon Banquet** on Sunday, August 27, 2000. (Doors open at 10 a.m.)  
 I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats at \$35.00 per seat. Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made out to Club 100 Salute.
- ☐ I would like to sit at a table of 10 with the following persons seated at the table: (There must be 10 names. Please be sure that each one is attending the luncheon banquet.)

- ☐ Yes, I will volunteer to help with transportation for the Neighbor Island Chapter Presidents.

-----  
 LEAVE BLANK -- FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Rec'd by: \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Service 8/25	Parade 8/26	Open House 8/26	Luncheon 8/27
Handicap parking _____	Park Ala Wai _____	Count: _____	Count: _____
Bus ride to: _____	Truck ride to: _____		Table: _____
Bus ride from: _____	Truck ride from: _____		

**CLUB 100 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2000**

ABLE.....	Saturday, August 19 (change) .....	8 a.m. ....	Lounge
BAKER.....	Saturday, August 19.....	1 p.m. ....	Lounge
CHARLIE .....	Monday, August 21.....	10 a.m.....	Board Room
DOG.....	Saturday, August 19.....	9 a.m. ....	Board Room
RURAL .....			
MAUI.....	Tuesday, September 5.....	11 a.m.....	Tasty Crust Restaurant
HAWAII.....	Thursday, August 24		AJA Veterans Memorial Hall
BOARD.....	Friday, August 11 .....	9 a.m. ....	Board Room
S&D BOARD.....	Friday, August 18 .....	7 p.m. ....	Board Room
GREEN THUMB.....	Monday, August 7.....	10 a.m.....	Lounge
KARAOKE FUN NITE.....	Friday, August 11.....	6 p.m. . ....	Turner Hall
MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE...	Monday, Aug. 14 .....	10 a.m. ....	Board Room

Dedication of 100/442 KIA Memorial Wall....442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, 933 Wiliwili Street, 10 a.m,  
Saturday, August 5 – all are invited to attend the dedication ceremony.

VA BENEFITS SEMINAR...Saturday, August 12.....9 a.m.....Turner Hall  
*Hawaii's Medal of Honor Salute*....August 25, 26, 27...Registration Deadline...August 7

**HELP WANTED:** Editor-in-Chief, Puka Puka Parade. Long hours, no pay, but lots of fringe benefits, such as letters of praise and gratitude from an appreciative and faithful readership, and your own space in which to rant or rave every month. Interested applicants, please contact Don Matsuda at 946-0272 for a complete job description. Note: The Editor no longer has to type, proofread, or duplicate the newsletter.

Deadline for articles for the September 2000 issue is Tuesday, August 22, 2000. Reporters, your cooperation in heeding this deadline will be very much appreciated. E-mail articles to [sillanstan@aol.com](mailto:sillanstan@aol.com) or fax to (808) 946-0273.

The PukaPuka Parade collating will be on **Thursday, August 31, at 8:30 a.m.** Able and Charlie Chapters are responsible for providing the manpower and refreshments, but everyone else is welcome to help.

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520 Kamoku Street  
Honolulu HI 96826-5120

*AUGUST 2000 ISSUE*

