



DECEMBER 2019 PPP ADDENDUM

ALL THE STUFF THAT WOULDN'T FIT IN THE
PRINT VERSION



HAWAII'S OLDEST LIVING WORLD WAR II NISEI VETERAN HONORED

by **KRISTEN CONSILLO**, The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

www.westhawaii.com/2019/11/11/hawaii-news/hawaiis-oldest-living-world-war-ii-nisei-veteran-honored/

HONOLULU — At 100 years old, World War II veteran **EDWARD IKUMA** vividly remembers the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that led America into the deadliest war in history.

Born in Waikiki in 1919, Ikuma was drafted into the Army in March 1941, nearly nine months before the December 7th Pearl Harbor bombing.

As a Nisei, born in the United States to immigrant Japanese parents, it was not easy for Ikuma, whose grandfather was taken to internment camps on the mainland during the war.

Ikuma, an original member of the 100th Infantry Battalion who participated in every battle of the 100th in Italy and France, and 21 other veterans were honored Friday at their home, the circa-1950 Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Kaimuki.

“I fought the Japanese. Being Japanese, too. But people respected me so I was able to serve throughout World War II,” said Ikuma, who was wounded twice in combat and awarded two Bronze Star and two Purple Heart medals, as well as France’s highest decoration, the French Legion of Honor. “I still remember those days. I lost my cousins, my aunty, my uncle.”

They were casualties of war when their home and adjacent saimin shop were bombed on Oahu.

Maunalani Nursing has 165 employees who care for 100 patients, the youngest a 66-year-old Vietnam War veteran.

Punahou School JROTC cadets served as the color guard Friday, while officers and soldiers of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment sang for the veterans during a ceremony that included a dedication on behalf of **GOVERNOR DAVID IGE**, who drafted a proclamation honoring Ikuma for being the oldest World War II Nisei veteran living in Hawaii.

“We’ve been doing this now for the last 14 years because we want to provide our veterans with dignity and with the respect and honor that they deserve. Many of them used to go to Punchbowl and they used to celebrate Veteran’s Day with their families outside visiting burial sites all over the island,” said **CZARINA TABILAS-PALMEIRA**, the center’s community life director. “Some of them can’t go anywhere. Since last Veteran’s Day we lost 10 veterans. That’s why we always treasure them and we want to honor them as much as we can.”

Ikuma’s granddaughter **CARLY IKUMA**, who attended the event with her husband, Marine **LT. COL. MICHAEL ALDRIDGE**, added that it’s especially important to capture the memories of the veterans while they’re still here.

“One of the amazing things is he didn’t used to talk about the war too much. Within the last several years he began to talk about it a lot more. We really try to take note of everything he tells us because it’s important to preserve their stories.”

For Ikuma, who is still in good health, he said it’s a “privilege to be this old and still participate in functions.”

“It’s an honor for me,” he said. “I’m enjoying whatever number of years I have left. I hope it’s a long time.”

PROCLAMATION BY HAWAII GOVERNOR IGE DECLARING OCTOBER 20, 2019 “BRUYERES LIBERATION DAY”

“PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, during World War II, France was occupied by the German Army in June of 1940; and

WHEREAS, in the Fall of 1944, U.S. military forces, along with the Allies, advanced toward the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France for a final push into Germany; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) 100th Infantry Battalion - consisting entirely of Japanese American GIs - arrived in France in October 1944; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of the 442nd RCT 100th Infantry Battalion were Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) from Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd RCT 100th Infantry Battalion was instrumental in helping to liberate several towns in France, including Bruyeres (liberated on 18 October 1944) and Biffontaine (liberated on 23 October 1944); and

WHEREAS, In one of the most epic struggles in American military history, the 442nd RCT 100th

Battalion continued forward and fought in the dense, hilly terrain of the Vosges Mountains under harsh wintery conditions to rescue the Lost Battalion, soldiers of the 141st Regiment, 36th Infantry Division who were trapped behind enemy lines; and

WHEREAS, the 442nd RCT 100th Infantry Battalion suffered over 800 casualties; and

WHEREAS, the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial at the foothills of the Vosges Mountains is the final resting place for 5,255 Americans who were killed in France and Germany during World War II, including men of the 442nd RCT 100th Infantry Battalion; and

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres and Biffontaine, and the international friendship between Hawaii and France will continue to be celebrated and nurtured;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawaii, do hereby proclaim October 20, 2019 as

‘BRUYERES LIBERATION DAY’

in Hawaii and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres, honoring the courage and sacrifice of American soldiers and French resistance fighters and recognizing the support and friendship of France.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawaii, this tenth day of October 2019.

(signature of) DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, State of Hawaii.”

**PROCLAMATION BY HAWAII GOVERNOR IGE DECLARING OCTOBER 19, 2019
“BIFFONTAINE LIBERATION DAY”**

An additional Proclamation signed by Hawaii Governor DAVID Y. IGE was signed on October 10, 2019. The language of this Proclamation is the same as the first nine paragraphs of the Proclamation establishing October 20, 2019 at “Bruyeres Liberation Day” but the remainder of the Biffontaine Proclamation is as follows:

“THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor of the State of Hawaii, do hereby proclaim October 19, 2019 as

‘BIFFONTAINE LIBERATION DAY’

in Hawaii and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Biffontaine, honoring the courage and sacrifice of American soldiers and French resistance fighters and recognizing the support and friendship of France.

Done at the State Capitol, in Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawaii, this tenth day of October 2019.

(signature of) DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, State of Hawaii.”

**75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BRUYÈRES
OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE CONSUL GENERAL OF FRANCE IN SAN FRANCISCO**
<https://sanfrancisco.consulfrance.org/spip.php?article4110>

Mid-October was celebrated the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyères by the 100/442nd Regimental Combat team (RCT), American infantry unit, in the presence of **ED CASE**, Congressman, and **KIRK CALDWELL**, Honolulu Mayor, and **GUILLAUME MAMAN**, Honorary Consul of France in Hawaii, who travelled to Bruyères for this occasion.

The ceremony was dedicated to the 800 soldiers of the 442nd regiment of the US Army who died 75 years ago to free Bruyères and save the "lost battalion" of Texas. A hundred descendants of these Nisei fighters

crossed the Atlantic to be closest to their missing parents who never saw Hawaii again. The children of the soldiers of the "lost battalion" also made the trip to pay tribute to them. Twenty-three Legion of Honour medals were presented.

The Battle of Bruyères (Dogface operation) took place in October 1944 near Saint-Dié-des-Vosges during World War II. The particularity of the 100/442nd RCT is to be essentially formed by AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry), Japanese-Americans coming mainly from California and Hawaii while their parents (first generation of immigrants) were imprisoned in concentration camps in the United States for suspicion of espionage.

This battle is one of the worst battles of World War II. Less known than the Battle of Normandy, it caused more deaths with 35,000 killed and wounded on the Allied side and 70,000 on the German side. The 100/442nd RCT became the most decorated unit in the history of the American army for a unit of this size and such a brief operation. Almost all soldiers received at least one Purple Heart medal and some two or even three.

Today, a monument dedicated to the Americans is erected as a souvenir in the forest of the Helledraye massif whose view overlooks Bruyères and its surroundings. Bruyères is twinned with Honolulu since October 15, 1961, on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyères.









All photos on the previous pages are from the Consul General of France in San Francisco's website.



ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS by SHELLEY SANTO



LOST IN FRANCE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

by the **WEST HAWAII TODAY STAFF**

<https://www.westhawaii.com/2019/10/22/hawaii-news/lost-in-france-but-never-forgotten/>

(As shown in the photograph on page 9 of the *PPP*), **JUDGE MARGARET MASUNAGA**, kneeling, with **HONOLULU MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL**, right, and **BRUYERES, FRANCE MAYOR YVES BONJEAN**, pay their respects Monday at the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial honoring the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat team soldiers buried in France. (Photo on the right is of Judge Masunaga and her husband, **GAIL**, at the monument dedicated to the 100th and 442nd near Bruyeres, France).

Those perished include **TERUO FUJIOKA** (442nd), **YOSHIO TENGWAN** (442nd), **TOMOSU HIRAHARA** (100th, Baker), **GEORGE SUYAMA** (100th, Able), **BOB KAMEOKA** (442nd), **JOSEPH BYRNE** (442nd), **EDWARD OGAWA** (100th, Charlie), **MITSULU MIYOKO** (100th, Able), **MINORU YOSHIDA** (442nd), **HACHIRO MUKAI** (442nd), **UETARO SANMONJI** (442nd), **BEN ROGERS, JR** (442nd) and **HIDEO YASUI** (442nd).

The dignitaries gathered to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the towns of Bruyeres, Biffontaine and Belmont and the freeing of the Texas Lost Battalion during the final days of World War II.

'UNDERDOG BOOK' BY RIVER FALLS WOMAN HIGHLIGHTS WWII JAPANESE -AMERICANS IN WISCONSIN, HITS NO. 1 ON AMAZON

by **RACHEL HELGESON**

www.rivertowns.net/community/people/4773184-Underdog-book-by-River-Falls-woman-highlights-WWII-Japanese-Americans-in-Wisconsin-hits-No.-1-on-Amazon

The young adult historical fiction novel will be read and discussed at the River Falls Library, November 17 by the author herself.

RIVER FALLS — **CALLIE TRAUTMILLER** expected more from her social studies textbook in middle school.

Only one line mentioned the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Trautmillier was unable to round up more information about the event even after asking about it as a student.

Now the River Falls woman is a hot list Amazon author of a young adult novel detailing the history

behind World War II's Japanese-Americans in the 100th Infantry Battalion.

The story follows a Japanese-American girl and her brother, who goes on to fight in the decorated battalion for the United States despite the extreme racism they suffered.

"My sole purpose was to educate. A lot of people in the Midwest don't realize that the 100th Battalion, which was comprised of almost entirely Japanese-Americans, secretly trained in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin to avoid being interned," Trautmiller said.

Her full-length novel "Becoming American: A World War II Novel" is a brainchild of nearly five years of research, fictional character creation, and dozens of manuscript edits and rewrites completed at night when Trautmiller couldn't sleep in her River Falls home.

"I do not sleep well. So I keep a notebook beside my bed and that's when a lot of my ideas come to me. Sometimes I'll just get up for a couple hours and I'll just hash out an idea or plot line or a chapter," Trautmiller said.

She dedicated time to reading 14 books about the historical event before writing her own story. Trautmiller meticulously worked to line up dates and locations for a historically accurate plot line. She even traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii to hear from the descendants of those who experienced the war first-hand.

"After meeting with them, I realized I was missing a huge piece of the story from World War II so I came back here and wrote in an entirely new story line and character about a month before the manuscript was due to honor their story. And actually that piece has become everyone's favorite part of the book from all the feedback I get ... Meeting these people involved made me want to honor their story in a way that they would approve of," Trautmiller said.

Both of Trautmiller's grandfathers also fought in World War II, serving as more inspiration and fuel for her storytelling fire.

The publication quickly rose to the No. 1 spot as a new release on Amazon's list of teen and young adult military and historical fiction.

Trautmiller said her Green Bay-based publisher, **BRITTANY KOREN** from Written Dreams Publishing, asked her to track the novel online in order to catch a chance for publicizing its success. Trautmiller said she wasn't going to bother checking, but her husband found it listed on Amazon's top rank.

"We did a happy dance and a lot of screaming," Trautmiller said.

Trautmiller describes her novel as an "underdog book" for its down-home birth and publication at an independent publisher.

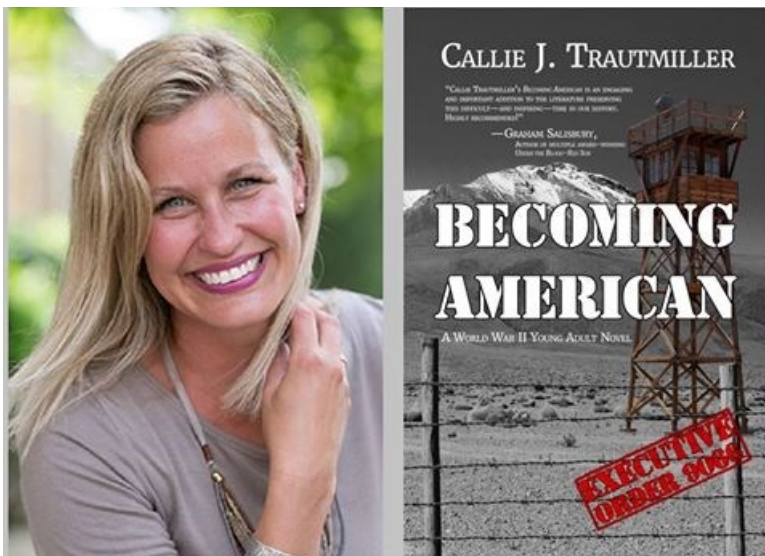
"It's gratifying to see it on the number one list for the fact that it's an underdog book," Trautmiller said.

In the wake of the novel's success, Trautmiller turns her appreciation to the literature-savvy community around her.

Trautmiller said she is grateful for the supportive network she found in a River Falls community education class, the Kinnickinnic Valley Writers Cooperative and local book stores in River Falls and Hudson.

"I want to remember who brought me to the dance. I want to give them credit and accolades for their support. There's such a network of great writers in this community and they offer a really good support system Writing can be a really solitary act," Trautmiller said.

From 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, Trautmiller will appear at the River Falls Public Library for an author



reading and discussion.

Her book is available for sale at Fox Den Books in River Falls, through Written Dreams online store at writtendreams.com/store, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

More information about Callie Trautmiller may be found at callietrautmiller.com.



PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS taken by **CPL MARIO RAMIREZ**
<https://www.marines.mil/Photos/?igphoto=2002209645>

November 12, 2019

Medal of Honor recipients and grand marshalls of the 2019 New York City Veterans Day Parade Army Staff Sergeant **HIROSHI “HERSHEY” MIYAMURA**, Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer Four **HERSHEL “WOODY” WILLIAMS** and former **SENATOR BOB KERNEY** are pictured during the parade. The 2019 parade marked its centennial anniversary and honored the Marine Corps as its featured service. Formed November 10, 1775, as naval augment forces capable of fighting both at sea and on shore, the Marine Corps had secured freedom in every major conflict America has faced. Together, the Navy-Marine Corps Team enables the joint force to partner together and operate on behalf of national defense in this era of great power competition. Steeped in the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Marines bring moral, physical and intellectual strength to every situation. When their time in uniform is done, Marines use those qualities to continue to serve their communities.

PAU