

Puka-Puka Parade



DECEMBER 2020

NO. 12/2020

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW 2021-2022 EBOD

Thank you to all of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans members in good standing who mailed in ballots or dropped them off at the Clubhouse on the Saturday, November 28th Election Day for the 2021-2022 Executive Board of Directors. As doing things on "Hawaiian Time" seems to be the norm for our Club, ballots were brought to "drive thru, drop off" up until the 12:00 noon deadline.

Thank you to the Nomination Committee members, **SUSAN HASHIMOTO, APRIL NAKAYAMA, JAMES NOGAWA, and JANICE SAKODA**, who began counting ballots promptly at 12:30 pm. After the ballots were all counted, the results of the Election were reported by the Nomination Committee as follows:

114 valid ballots were received;

114 votes were cast for **ANN KABASAWA** for the office of President;

114 votes were cast for **HARRY NAKAYAMA** for the office of First Vice-President;

111 votes were cast for **TSURUMI HAMASU** for the office of Second Vice-President;

111 votes were cast for **WARREN YAMAMOTO** for the office of Secretary;

114 votes were cast for **BEVERLY SHIROMA** for the office of Secretary.

A total of 557 ballots were sent to 100th members in good standing by mail. The ballot form was also

**Thank you
for voting**



included in the November *Puka-Puka Parade*. Two members were reported deceased by their families. A total of eight ballots received by the Office were excluded from the 114 total including one incomplete ballot from a member (this was mailed back to the member who did not return a completed ballot), one ballot from a non-member and six ballots that arrived in the mail after the November 28th deadline.

The highest percentage of voter turnout, not surprisingly, came from the 100th World War II veterans who are members of the Club. Out of 27 veterans, nine sent in ballots including two veterans living in California.

The remaining 105 ballots were received from descendants, wives and widows of 100th veterans and 100th/442d Reservists. While most were from members in Hawaii, we also received ballots from members in California, New Hampshire, Texas, Virginia, and Washington State.

As the 114 ballots received represented approximately 20% of the ballots sent out to members, the requisite quorum for Executive Board of Directors' elections set forth in the Club's by-laws was not met. In light of the exigent circumstances resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the current Board of Directors voted to waive the quorum requirement and accept the Election results.

The newly elected EBOD officers' two year terms of service will start on January 1, 2021 and end on December 31, 2022.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MONKU

by **ANN KABASAWA**

I can't believe that as this December Puka-Puka Parade goes to press that it is almost the end of 2020. Of course, for most of us, the majority of this year has been focused on dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. This has also been the case for me personally and as the President of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans. Let's hope that with the availability of a vaccine means that 2021 will be a much better year.

Because the Clubhouse has been closed due to Covid concerns, unfortunately, there has been an increase in suspicious activity around the building and also at the apartments. Someone dumped a sofa near the driveway one morning (*photo below*) and there have been many instances of people leaving debris like unwanted car parts on the sidewalk. Due to these incidents, treasurer **BEVERLY SHIROMA** and I met with Cam Security and based on our discussion, we will improve security at the Clubhouse by installing additional security cameras so that we have a complete view of the entire property. In case you were wondering, the existing cameras did catch the person who left the sofa!



I am very happy to report that the replacement of the railings at our apartment building will begin this month. As I have stated in many past issues, we anticipate that we will have several vacant units once **GOVERNOR DAVID IGE** lifts the moratorium on evictions so if you or someone you know is looking for a new place to rent, please contact our Property

Manager **JOHN COVINGTON** of Newmark Grubb at john@cbi-hawaii.com or (808) 441-0538.

Thank you so very much to our wonderful 100/442nd Army Reservists who spent this past Saturday volunteering to do yardwork and cleaning the Clubhouse interior as they have faithfully done throughout 2020. Thank you also to **GARY HAYAKAWA** of the Descendants Chapter for also being a part of the regular volunteer crew. Gary, the soldiers and their families truly carry on the "For Continuing Service" spirit that our World War II veterans held close to their hearts when they founded the Club.

Thank you to all of our 100th members who took the time to complete and mail in their ballots for the Executive Board of Directors Election or who stopped by the Clubhouse on Election Day to drop off their ballots. Special thanks to our World War II veterans for voting and to all of those who sent in ballots from the Mainland. Congratulations to First Vice-President **HARRY NAKAYAMA**, Second Vice-President **TSURUMI HAMASU**, and Treasurer Bev Shiroma on being elected to serve a second term in office and to Secretary **WARREN YAMAMOTO** for being elected to a third term. I am really looking forward to working along side of all of you for the next two years.

This Election would have not have been possible without the help of the members of the Nominations Committee who provided many hours of volunteer time to make sure the process ran smoothly. Big thanks to **SUSAN HASHIMOTO** of Charlie Chapter, **APRIL NAKAYAMA** of Dog Chapter, **JAMES NOGAWA** of Baker Chapter, and **JANICE SAKODA** of Headquarters Chapter for a job well done.

Doomo arigatoo gozaimasu to our friend, **TAISUKE TSURUMI** of the 100th Co. B Reenactors for sending us posters of an exhibit about the Aloha Sakura in Maizuru that was held in Osaka in October. Photographs of the exhibit and members of the Reenactment group who visited the show can be seen on Facebook at the B Co/100Bn/442RCT Reenactment Group's page and also at the personal page of Reenactment member **TOSHIKAZU HAYASHI**. (The pictures on the next page are from Mr. Hayashi's photo album which appears on the B Co Facebook page.) We hope to have the posters on display at the Clubhouse once we re-open.

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PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MONKU

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During the month of December and until further notice, the Clubhouse and Office will continue to be closed. If there is an emergency or you need to come to the Clubhouse, please feel free to call me at (808) 781-8540 or email me at diverseinnov@gmail.com and we can set a mutually convenient time to meet.

For all of you who have been asking, yes, we do still have 100th logo items for sale including t-shirts, tote bags, stickers, books and more. Please contact me if you would like to come down and do some shopping. We don't take credit cards and may not have change so please bring your checkbook with you as you may end up cutting four checks to four different vendors.

As we wrap up this year, my husband **CLYDE SUGIMOTO** and I would like to send our best to all of you for a healthy and happy 2021. I hope that one of the New Years Resolutions you make is to become more involved in the Club somehow. Please take care and stay safe.



NEW 2021 STAMP HONORS AJAS WHO FOUGHT IN WWII

On November 17, the US Postal Service revealed several new stamps to be issued for 2021, including the "Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII" commemorative stamp which recognizes the contributions of some 33,000 Japanese American soldiers, who served in the U.S. Army during World War II.



The stamp is based on a photograph of the late **PFC SHIROKU "WHITEY" YAMAMOTO** which appears on his autobiographical profile at The Hawaii Nisei Story website at <http://nisei.hawaii.edu/page/whitey>. The photograph was taken in Southern France when he was serving with the Antitank Company of the 442nd RCT.

The grassroots campaign for a stamp honoring the World War II AJA soldiers began in 2005 by three Nisei women from California: **FUSA TAKAHASHI** (widow of MIS veteran **KAZUO TAKAHASHI**), **AIKO O. KING**, and the late **CHIZ OHIRA** (widow of 442nd veteran **TED "BULL DOG OHIRA"**). 100th members may remember meeting Chiz in the Hospitality Room at the 100th Las Vegas Mini-Reunion where she was a part of the Mainland Chapter group. Many of us also enjoyed the craft and jewelry classes she led each year.

For more information on the commemorative stamp, please visit <http://niseistamp.org/>.



DA MAINLAND CHAPTER NEWS

by DAVID WATANABE

Like everyone else, we were all 'stuck' at home as Covid rampaged through LA County. However, many of us viewed the Go for Broke National Education Center's 19th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala on November 14th and the Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center's Annual Dinner Gala on November 20th. Both events were well done. It was great to see our Nisei Veterans on both programs.

Since COVID has resulted in cancelling our annual October Las Vegas Reunion and also our annual Xmas Luncheon in December, we have resorted to another 100th contest with a \$100 prize. This contest's theme was to jot down one's best Xmas memories. Below are the top 3 entries which were actually the only entries. The reason for such few entries has been attributed to deteriorating memories, *auwe!*



ENTRIES

1. One Christmas, I decided I needed Santa's autograph. Since we gave him cookies and milk every year, he owed me. My older sister helped me with the note which read: "Dear Santa: Please sign here _____." Christmas morning, the cookies were gone along with a sip of milk, but no signature. I was more annoyed than sad. My dad said that often, famous people were secretive and he thought Santa might have used invisible ink. He heated up the sheet of paper over a burner on the stove and lo and behold, it said "Santa." (As an amateur magician, he had learned that writing with lemon juice, then heating it up would make the letters appear). I was ecstatic because 1) Santa obliged, 2) my dad was a genius and 3) my friends would be so jealous! My parents looked at me very seriously and told me in no uncertain terms that I could not show anyone — that it would be unkind to make them sad that they didn't think to ask and that I should never be boastful. Thanks, Mom and Dad for humoring my whims, for a valuable lesson and for saving me the ridicule of older kids!

2. Our first Christmas in Rohwer, Arkansas was hopeless, desolate, bone-chilling cold. There was no brightly lit and decorated Christmas tree with presents under it when we awoke, just the

unbelievably freezing cold. That afternoon we were all summoned to gather in the mess hall where stood a tall Christmas tree covered with hand-made ornaments with hundreds of wrapped presents beneath and Santa handing each ecstatic child a gift. I received the most beautiful doll imaginable, about as tall as I was at 4 years. I couldn't be happier and named her **MARY BABY**. Mary Baby became my best friend and constant companion. I could confide in her and she always understood and brought so

much joy and happiness into my little life. I shared Mary Baby with my younger sister and through the years she became so attached to Mary Baby that when she married, she "dollnapped" her; and now that my sister has health issues, Mary Baby is comforting and looking after her. Mary Baby is 78 years young and all the hugging and loving have taken its toll on her but she is a constant reminder that good things did happen in camp.

3. When I was very young, about eight years old, I had always wanted a

train set, one that would chug along on its own power. Our family was struggling during those days but of course I did not know it. Well, after dropping 'hints' about what I wished for Xmas was a train set my parents came home one day a few days before Xmas with a large wrapped box. They did not let me touch the box but instead stored it up high on a closet shelf. I was sure my dream was going to come true on Xmas day.

Well, on Xmas day I got up very early and began opening the many presents, saving the best — the large box — for last. When I opened the box lo and behold what was in there was a pillow! Talk about having to deal with disappointment at such a young age! My parents had to spend wisely so this pillow was non-allergenic as I suffered from bad asthma at the time. Of course I never appreciated it and tried to hide my disappointment.

In the following years I never did get that train set but I had not missed it as my priorities changed and this time I wanted a 2-gun cowboy holster made cool by either **HOPALONG CASSIDY** or the **LONE RANGER**? Well, I never got that either. As the old saying goes "Don't expect anything and you won't be disappointed". I wished I knew that when I was a kid....

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DA MAINLAND CHAPTER NEWS

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And the winner was **JOANNE SUECHIKA** with entry #1! Joanne is the daughter of **BEN SUECHIKA (MIS)** who is 100 years old (101 in December) and going strong! Joanne attended high school in Hawaii but has forgotten all of her pidgin unfortunately. We'll have to reform her.!

We Mainland folks wish all the Hawaii folks a good Xmas and ask everyone to pray for the vaccine to be effective when it is expected to roll out in January for us old geezers.

CHARLIE CHAPTER NEWS by ARLENE SATO

This has been quite a long year. I hope everyone has been safe and healthy. Can you believe our last breakfast meeting was in January at the Ruscello Restaurant in Nordstrom at the Ala Moana Shopping Center. We had a group of ten people and the food was great. I know we all miss seeing each other at our breakfast meetings. We'll pick up where we left off next year. *Ganbatte!*



This is the last newsletter for this year so I wish you all a healthy happy holiday season! *Yoi otoshi o omukae kudassai!!*

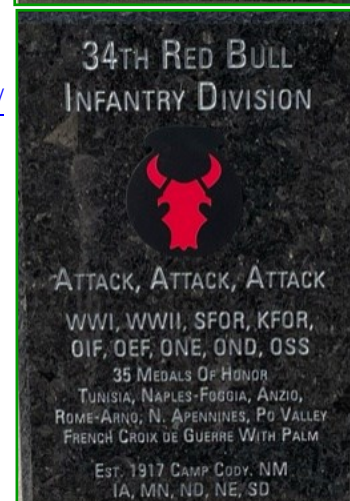
HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS by JANICE SAKODA

Merry Christmas to all. I'm sure you, like me, are disappointed that we won't be having our annual Headquarters/Medics and Charlie Chapter combined Christmas party. Just as we adjusted to celebrating to a different, quieter Thanksgiving, we will celebrate a different, hopefully slower paced Christmas season this year. May it be a special time for you to reflect on the reason for Christmas and pray for peace on earth. As for me, I'm looking forward to a relaxing Christmas season!

Thanks to **GARY IKUMA**, son of **ED IKUMA**, who was the first of the 100th descendants (that I know of) who visited the newly opened National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA). Gary lives in Virginia, very close to the Museum and was able to get a reservation to visit it shortly after it opened. Thanks, Gary, for sending me the photos below of the Nisei Gallery at NMUSA. I'm looking forward to seeing the exhibits in person when it's safe to travel again.

(PPP Editor's Note: A virtual preview of the World War II Nisei Soldiers exhibit at NMUSA is available to view at the Nisei Veteran Network's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9Hu0bBDTPA&feature=youtu.be>. The preview originally aired on November 21 and features host **DAVID ONO** and special remarks by 100th Honorary Member **GENERAL ERIC SHINSEKI**.

You can also learn more about the exhibit at the NMUSA website at <https://www.thenmusa.org/exhibit/nisei-soldier-experience/>).



Christmas — 1943 by **CHAPLAIN ISRAEL A. S. YOST**
<https://www.100thbattalion.org/archives/puka-puka-parades/european-campaigns/christmas-1943/>

In 1943 the 100th went into a rest period a short time before Christmas. We were glad to be pulled off the wintry front line in the mountains of Italy where the wet, cold weather had been causing cases of “trench feet.” The big tents were a luxury after the days and nights in foxholes.

A group of our men got together in the chaplain’s tent to practice carols, for they were determined to go caroling on Christmas Eve. Somewhere a big evergreen tree was found; it was set up in an open space among the tents. For decorations tin snips were put into action, and icicles and stars cut out of strips of tin from discarded food cans from the mess tents. One man disappeared for a few hours and returned with a fine wooden cross he had made and painted white. He planted it in a place of honor in front of our outdoor Christmas tree.

When it got dark on Christmas Eve the carolers began making the rounds of the companies. In front of one tent their singing at first was drowned out by the loud voices within where a card game was in progress. Then a voice sounded from inside the tent, “Ssh, you hear that? The chaplain has some men singing Christmas carols.” In the silence that followed, “Silent Night, Holy Night” rang out.

It was getting late when the singers reached the last tent. As the final carol died away on the cold winter’s night, the tent flap was flung back and out came a sleepy, half-dressed mess sergeant, “You men ought to have something for your Christmas spirit,” he muttered. He ushered the group into his mess tent and made hot cocoa for all.

On Christmas Day we had our worship service in front of the decorated tree. Far from home in the cold mountains of Italy the One Puka Puka remembered the birth of the Savior. Of course we missed our families and the comforts of home and the men we had already lost in combat. But the men of the 100th were not sobbing out their hearts. On Christmas Day the morale, of the battalion was as high as ever. An officer played the field organ. The chaplain wore his robes (with his combat boots sticking out below). The singing and praying were from the heart.

The chaplain of the 100th has had many experiences over the years since this Christmas of 1943 and he has been with many sorts of people in many place, but he can truthfully say that there has never been a group as responsive to his ministry as the enlisted men and officers of the Purple Heart Battalion. We had a good Christmas Day in 1943, but it was not the only good day we shared. Above the noise of shot and shell, the calling out of the dying, the dripping or rain... along with cold rations and weary marching... in spite of stupid mistakes by rear echelon commanders ... the forever going back into the front line because ours was an outfit that could be depended upon... one sure thing kept our heads high: we knew we

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100TH MEMBERS’ MAILING ADDRESSES NEEDED!!!

Ballots for the following 100th members were returned to the Office and we were unable to reach them via email. If you are one of the members listed below, please send your updated mailing address to the Clubhouse either by mail or by email to club100vets@gmail.com.

RYAN FLORENDO,
grandson of **HIROMI FUJIMURA (B)**
MYCHAELE EMIKO INAGAKI,
granddaughter of **STANLEY KIMURA (C)**

IRENE KADOWAKI,
widow of **ROBERT KADOWAKI (B)**
JENNIFER KUMURA,
granddaughter of **ISAMU NAKASATO (A)**

HARUMI YAJIMA MIYAKE,
widow of **HOWARD MIYAKE (C, A)**
REID MIZUE,
grandchild of **TADAO IBARAKI (A)**

ALLAN MIZUKAMI,
son of **KAZUO SCOTTY MIZUKAMI (B)**

ROBIN T. MIZUTA,
son of **RICHARD MIZUTA (C)**
RICHARD RIKIO NAGAO, 100th
son

WAYNE M. NAGAO,
son of **KATSUMI NAGAO (C)**

DAVIN NAKASATO,
grandchild of **WALTER MORIGUCHI (A)**

DIANE ONO,
daughter of **TOKUJI ONO (B)**
JANISE NATSUKO OSHIRO,
daughter of **YASUhide TAKUSHI (D)**

DERRI S. SAITO,
child of **HARRY T. SAITO (D)**

KIM S. SAITO,
daughter-in-law of **HARRY T. SAITO (D)**

STELLA T. SAITO,
widow of **WILLIAM SAITO (A)**

VIOLET TOMIHAMA,
widow of **ROY TOMIHAMA (B)**

GREGORY TSUDA,
son of **MELVIN TSUDA (HQ)**

SHELLEY TUALLA,
grandchild of **EDWARD SAKAI TANIGAWA**

THELMA URABE,
widow of **HIROMI URABE (D)**

THIS VETERANS DAY, A HAWAII FAMILY REMEMBERS A WWII HERO TAKEN BY COVID-19 by **JIM MENDOZA**

Hawaii News Now website, November 11, 2020
[https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/11/11/this-veterans-day-hawaii-family-remembers-wwii-hero-taken-by-covid/-](https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/11/11/this-veterans-day-hawaii-family-remembers-wwii-hero-taken-by-covid/)

SUSUMU NAKAGAWA, known by everyone as “Sus,” didn’t speak much about about his World War II service although he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. (Photograph of Susumu Nakagawa from his obituary published in the Honolulu Star Advertiser website at <https://obits.staradvertiser.com/2020/10/25/susumu-nakagawa-25102020/>).

“I think he wouldn’t consider himself as a patriot,” said his son, **KRIS NAKAGAWA**. “To tell you the truth I think he would be somewhat embarrassed that we would call him that.”

Nakagawa, who served in Charlie Company of the the 100th Infantry Battalion, was one of the “Go For Broke” Japanese-American soldiers in the highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat team.

“It’s just so commendable that he and thousands of Nisei veterans sacrificed their lives as well as their time to serve the country,” added **COLIN NAKAGAWA**, of his father.

This Veterans Day, the Nakagawa family is remembering “Sus” for his legacy of service as they also continue to mourn his loss. Nakagawa was one of more than two dozen residents at the **YUKIO OKUTSU** veterans home in Hilo who died earlier this year amid a COVID-19 outbreak.

Nakagawa died September 22, just one day after his 98th birthday.

“It was just so devastating,” Colin Nakagawa told Hawaii News Now recently. “To think he lived so long and it took just one virus to knock him out.”

After serving in World War II, Susumu Nakagawa returned to Hawaii with many of his Nisei comrades whose mindset had changed.

“What they said was, ‘We’re no longer willing to go back to plantation life. We’re no longer willing to be second-class citizens. We have shed our blood to prove our loyalty,’” said **LYNN HEIRAKUJI**, president of the Nisei Veterans Legacy.

“So they worked very hard with many others to change Hawaii for the better.”

Nakagawa earned a degree in entomology from the University of Hawaii and went on to work for the



U.S. Department of Agriculture for more than 30 years, specializing in the study of fruit flies.

“When he came home I think he just decided that this is his time to do something else and to contribute to the community, particularly in Hilo,” Kris Nakagawa said.

“Sus” took over the Seaside Restaurant and Aqua Farm in Hilo from his parents. His son Colin now runs it and is the executive chef. He said he has his father to thank.

Throughout his life, Nakagawa also remained close to his 442 buddies. They worked on projects around the restaurant and got together often. For years, they’d meet every Monday to reminisce.

His sons say it’s hard to imagine their father in an Army uniform, firing his weapon as he fought for America’s freedom. But he left behind many old photographs of his days in the 100th Infantry Battalion.

“While my dad was alive I used to walk through the photographs with him. It was heartwarming to hear some of his stories,” Kris Nakagawa said.

On this Veterans Day, the Nakagawas are filled with good memories of a man who cared deeply for his country, his family and the place he called home.

CHRISTMAS - 1943

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could rely upon each other, no matter what. My memory of faces and events and dates is getting dim with age, but my memory of the comradeship I experienced in the 100th Infantry Battalion is as clear and bright as ever.

Christmas Day reminds us that our Father God and His Son to be with us in life on earth. The comradeship of His Son is priceless. The comradeship we shared in combat service in Italy and France cannot equal His, but of all I’ve experienced of human comradeship thus far, ours during 1943 and 1944 is the most like His.

Blessed Christmas to you, one and all, and a Happy 1977, too.

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans
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DECEMBER CLUB CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| BOARD Meeting | No meeting in December |
| CRAFT CLUB | No meetings in December |
| LINE DANCING | No classes in December |
| CHAPTER MTGS | No meetings in December |



ANNOUNCEMENTS


All annual 100th holiday events including the Annual Descendants Chapter's Wreath and Poinsettia Sale, Christmas Donation Drive and the Chapter Christmas Parties have been cancelled due to Covid.

The Clubhouse and Office will be closed until further notice. In case of emergency, please contact President **ANN KABASAWA** at (808)781-8540 or diverseinnov@gmail.com.

You may also email the Office at club100vets@gmail.com. Please do not leave a message on the Office telephone as we do not regularly check the answering machine.

The *PPP* Editor and writers thank our readers for their support during 2020. We hope to bring you even more 100th news in 2021. Wishing all of you a very happy and happy holiday season.

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



Puka-Puka
Parade

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

The opinions expressed in the *PPP* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans. All articles are written by *PPP* Editor Jayne Hirata unless otherwise indicated.

Please e-mail your articles, comments or questions about the *PPP* to pukapukaparade100@gmail.com.

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

The deadline to submit articles for the January 2021 issue is December 20

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OFFICE WILL REMAIN
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**