



# Puka-Puka Parade



APRIL 2021

NO. 4/2021

## DA PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MONKU by ANN KABASAWA



Hope that all of you folks are doing okay and that most of you folks have or will be getting your COVID shots.

We held our first Board Meeting for 2021 after not meeting for several months. Many items were discussed. (*PPP Editor's Note:* The photo of the 2021-2022 Board of Directors was taken by **CLYDE SUGIMOTO** at the close of the BOD meeting on March 20. Standing from left to right are First Vice-President **HARRY NAKAYAMA**, Rifle Chapter President **KEITH HORIKAWA**, Charlie Chapter Representative **IRENE ANZAI**, Second Vice-President **TSURUMI HAMASU**, and Treasurer **BEVERLY SHIROMA**. Sitting from left to right are Baker Chapter Representative **MARYANN KATAHARA TANABE**, Secretary and Charlie

Chapter President **WARREN YAMAMOTO**, Dog Chapter President **APRIL NAKAYAMA**, Headquarters/Medics Chapter President **DOROTHY "DOT" TAMASHIRO**, and President **ANN KABASAWA**).

The tree near our apartment building was finally taken down by the city. Unfortunately, the roots have done damage to the parking area and we will have to get that fixed too. We still have many improvements that need to be taken care of.

Loyal Thursday Wine Gang member and 442nd veteran **PAUL WATANABE** of the 442nd, was laid to rest on Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at Punchbowl. Our 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Reserve guys were right there to honor him.

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## DA PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MONKU

*Continued from page 1*

Go For Broke National Education Center has started a new project called "Letters to Home" with **DAVID ONO**, ABC7 News Anchor. They are asking for all the Nisei veterans and their families to share any letters, diaries and other correspondence written to and from the Nisei veterans during WWII. More details below. Hope that you will be able to share these.

The Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution is holding an annual "Adventures in Peer Mediation" from April 7 to April 30. This is bringing together youth peer mediators and is open to all. For more information, turn to page 5.

If you are interested in applying for scholarships, information on the JAVA program is on this page. Go For Broke National Educational Center has an Essay and Poetry Contest with information on page 6.

The following link is a very touching story about veteran **FERNANDO SOSA MASUDA**. Please take the time to look at it: <https://youtu.be/Dtk2edAw6h4>. This is part of the Go For Broke National Education Center and the link is to "I Feel With My Heart".

The Go For Broke Stamp Issue Date will be on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please see more information on page 7.

The Clubhouse and Office will continue to be closed but please call me at (808)781-8540 or email me at [diverseinnov@gmail.com](mailto:diverseinnov@gmail.com) if you need to go to the Clubhouse or have any questions.

My best to all of you. Take care and stay safe.

### GFBNEC'S "LETTERS TO HOME" PROJECT

<https://www.goforbroke.org/>

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) is launching a new project, "Letters to Home" with **DAVID ONO**, ABC7 News Anchor, Documentarian and a member of GFBNEC Board of Directors. All Nisei veterans and their families, friends and colleagues are asked to share any letters, diaries or other correspondences written to and from Nisei veterans during WWII. Currently, digital scans are preferred and will be reviewed for consideration in future GFBNEC media productions and educational programming purposes. Please email [takeaction@goforbroke.org](mailto:takeaction@goforbroke.org) with scans of your documents or questions. Submission deadline is **Wednesday, June 30, 2021**.

## IN MEMORIAM

### MASAYOSHI TSUIDA

(Charlie Company)  
of San Diego, CA

passed away on January 31, 2021  
at the age of 101

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY,  
FRIENDS AND FELLOW 100TH VETERANS

### THE 2021 JAVA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS OPEN

<https://java.wildapricot.org/JAVA-Memorial-Scholarship-Program>

Applications are now being accepted for the Japanese American Veterans Association's (JAVA) annual Memorial Scholarship program for 2021. The scholarships benefit graduating high school seniors, undergraduate students, post-graduate and professional education students.

The scholarships include the Senator **DANIEL K. INOUE** Memorial Scholarship (\$3,000), the JAVA Founder's Scholarship in honor of the **ISHIO** family (\$3,000), the **KIYOKO TSUBOI TAUBKIN** Legacy Scholarship (\$2,000), and ten JAVA Memorial Scholarships (\$1,500 each).

Descendants of those who served in the 100th, 442nd, MIS, 1399th, or other US military units are encouraged to apply for all of the scholarships. Past or present members of the 100th/442d are eligible to apply for the Inouye Memorial Scholarship. Applicants should demonstrate their lifelong commitment to public and uniformed service leadership for the nation. Applicants should review rules and forms at the JAVA website listed above.

Applications and supporting documents must be electronically submitted no later than **11:59 pm EST (5:59 pm HST) on Friday, April 30, 2021** to [javascholarship222@gmail.com](mailto:javascholarship222@gmail.com). Applications not received by that date or fail to meet the submission requirements will NOT be considered. Applicants will be notified of a decision by early June 2021 and awards will be presented on July 27, 2021.

## DA MAINLAND CHAPTER NEWS

by DAVID WATANABE

Sorry to report sad news. We lost Nisei veteran **MASAYOSHI TSUIDA**, 100th Infantry

Battalion, Company C, veteran from San Diego. He and his wife, **GRACE**, have been members of our 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club for years. He passed away on January 31, 2021. In November 2020 he was in the lineup of living veterans of the Living Tribute and was 101 years old! (Photograph from <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sandiegouniontribune/obituary.aspx?n=masayoshi-tsuida&pid=198038827>).

During World War II, his family was interned at Poston, AZ. Mas was a recipient of several military medals such as the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Congressional Gold Medal and the French Legion of Honor Medal.

**SUMI SEKI** passed on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She was **DON SEKI**'s (442<sup>nd</sup>) wife. We lost Don in August 2020. I really am going to miss Sumi, she was such a joy to talk to and she was very animated. Lot of fun to be around her. (Photo of Sumi Seki, courtesy of her daughter, **TRACEY**).

**ROBI SHIBAO MARTIN** packed her bags and headed for the great Northwest. She couldn't stand all the LA sunshine and preferred rain. I think Robi has been breathing too much of LA smog. We are all going to miss her too.

Since this month's report is all sad, here is one more. Due to the pandemic lockdown I'm sure many of you have read more books than normal. One book I read was *Honor by Fire* by **LYN CROST** who was a war correspondent and worked for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin. Hope this is not too grim a story but it

shows the heartbreaks suffered by the soldiers and their families. She writes, "After the war, when bodies were being transported back to the U.S. for reburial at home, the people of Bruyeres wanted to

keep one grave at Epinal in memory of the Japanese Americans who died in the battle to free their town. They asked the family of **SSGT. TOMOSU HIRATA** of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion to leave him buried at Epinal. He had been killed the first day of the Battle for Bruyeres, October 15, 1944.

Tomosu was the youngest child of a close-knit Hawaii family. They were torn by the request: some felt that leaving Tomosu's body at Epinal would look as though they didn't care about him. But one brother, who had been a medic in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, felt that Tomosu would have wanted to remain buried in the cemetery that had sheltered many of his friends. So the family decided to let its son stay in Epinal, where his grave is carefully tended by the people of Bruyeres."

Happy Easter to everyone.



(*PPP Editor's Note*: Lyn Crost Stern was elected an Honorary Member of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization in 1986. Her bio from the our website follows: "A reporter for the Associated Press in Washington, D.C., Ms. Crost was hired by the Honolulu Star Bulletin in December 1944 as its European war correspondent to cover the 100th, 442nd and other soldiers from Hawaii who were fighting in Europe. She wrote, not about the battles, but about the soldiers – their feelings, spirit, and closeness as a unit. After the war, she maintained close ties with the veterans and supported the causes of Japanese Americans. Her book 'Honor by Fire: Japanese Americans at War in Europe and the Pacific' was published in 1994.

It told the story of the outstanding military service of the Nisei soldiers during World War II. More information on Mrs. Stern can be found in the October -December 1986 issue of the *Puka-Puka Parade*.)"

## HEADQUARTERS CHAPTER NEWS

by JANICE SAKODA

Happy Children's Day, formerly known as Boys Day. Our grandson



was born in November 2020 so we will be flying a *koi nobori* this year. According to <https://koinobori-japan.jp/koinobori.html>: “*Koinobori*, carp windsocks, streamers or banners, decorate the landscape of Japan from April through early May, in honor of the Children's Day (originally the Boys' Festival) on May 5. In Japanese culture, the carp symbolizes courage and strength because of its ability to swim up a waterfall. The Boys' Festival was originally an event, expressing hope that each boy in the family will grow up healthy and strong like wild carps.”

And as we remember Boys Day, let's also remember “our boys”, **ED IKUMA** and **HIDENOBU HIYANE** who are isolated due to COVID-19. If you would like to write them, I'm sure they'd be thrilled to receive a letter from you.

If you've tried calling **DOT TAMASHIRO** and have not been able to get through, her telephone is out of commission since the heavy thunder and lightning two weeks ago. According to the phone company (I can't remember which service she uses), they are unable to pinpoint the trouble so it may take a while longer to resolve this issue. If you need to reach her, please email me and I will make sure she gets your message.

## DOG CHAPTER NEWS

(*PPP Editor's Note*: The “Small World” article was sent to me by our “First Man” **CLYDE SUGIMOTO** who asked that it be included in the *PPP* and stated that it was part of the Rearview Window column by **BOB SIGALL** published in the Honolulu Advertiser. I haven't been able to find the original article in its entirety in my search so I'll take Clyde's word for it regarding the author and source. Since it is about the family of the late **DR. DENIS TERAOKA** who served in Dog Company, I thought I'd include it under Dog Chapter News.)

### “Small world

**DENISE TERAOKA** said, “My mother, **JOY TAKESHITA TERAOKA**, was born in Los Angeles and lived there until the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and forcibly moved with her family and 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, citizens or not, to inhospitable parts of the United States.

Her high school junior year was spent at Heart Mountain Internment Center (Wyoming). One of her teachers was Hawaii-born **MR. TADAYOSHI KAWAHARA**, who had been a graduate student at USC or UCLA on the West Coast of the mainland at the time. He, too, found himself incarcerated.

In 1947, after falling in love with 100th Infantry Lieutenant Denis Teraoka, my mom took a train across the country and a ship across the Pacific to marry him in Honoka'a, Hawaii.

She was flabbergasted to see none other than Mr. Kawahara walking down the main street of that small town. Not knowing anyone besides my dad and his family members, she enthusiastically invited her former teacher to her wedding.

Fast-forward 60 years. My parents moved into Kahala Nui Senior Living Community, comprised of several hundred residents. Who should be walking down her corridor? Mr. Kawahara, who moved in a few doors away!

It also turns out that several of the residents knew Mr. Kawahara, having taught with him at Honoka'a High and other Oahu schools.

This should qualify as evidence of a Small, Small World.’

It does.”

Since we are on the topic of Joy Teraoka, some of you may remember a concert by the group No-No Boy which we held at the Clubhouse a few years ago. During that concert, we were treated to a special appearance by Joy who sang a few nostalgic tunes along with then members of the group, 442nd granddaughter **ERIN AOYAMA** and **JULIAN SAPORITI**. The duo surprised Joy with the debut of a new song called “The Best God Damn Band in Wyoming” which told the story of her performing with the George Igawa Orchestra while they were incarcerated in Heart Mountain from 1942-1944. The official music video of this song was recently released at the Smithsonian Folkways YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lepePDvpugE>. Julian dedicated the video to his “Japanese Grandma” Joy Teraoka and her bandmates in the George Igawa Orchestra.

## **SIGN UP NOW FOR “ADVENTURES IN PEER MEDIATION”**

Join the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution for the virtual 34th Annual Peer Mediation Conference from **Wednesday, April 7 to Friday, April 30**. The event is free and open to everyone who wants to learn more about peer mediation. Youth and adults who work with youth are especially encouraged to attend. Information can be found at <https://peaceinstitute.manoa.hawaii.edu/>.

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans is one of many community partners who are supporting the Conference.

The Conference will commence with “The Adventure Begins” Opening Panel on **Wednesday, April 7 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm** which will be an opportunity to learn about peer mediation programs in Hawaii. Register here at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adventures-in-peer-mediation-the-adventure-begins-opening-panel-tickets-144084236831?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.

16 different Peer Mediation Skill Workshops are scheduled for **Thursday, April 8 through Thursday, April 29**. For each skill workshop you attend, you will receive a digital raffle ticket entering you in a drawing for a variety of gift cards. The more workshops you attend, the more digital raffle tickets you will receive. The raffle ticket drawing will be held during the Opening Panel and you must be in attendance to win. The schedule is as follows:

**Thursday, April 8 at 2:00 pm**  
“How To Be A Good Friend” presented by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://goodfriend.eventbrite.com>

**Thursday, April 8 at 2:45 pm**  
“How To Reduce Anxiety In The Time Of COVID -19” by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://howtoreduce.eventbrite.com>

**Tuesday, April 13 at 2:00 pm**  
“Assertive Communication Training” by **MAJIDAH LEBARRE**  
Register at <https://communicationtrain.eventbrite.com>

**Tuesday, April 13 at 3:00 pm**  
“The 5-Step Process” by **ANNALEAH ATKINSON**  
Register at <https://5step.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 14 at 2:30 pm**  
“Story In The (Virtual) Round: Active Listening, Listening, And Hearing” by **NOELANI ANDERSON**  
Register at <https://storyvirtual.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 14 at 3:30 pm**  
“Opening The Gridlock” by **JIAQI LI**  
Register at <https://opengridlock.eventbrite.com>

**Thursday, April 15 at 2:00 pm**  
“What Is Your Conflict Style?” by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://conflictstyle.eventbrite.com>

**Thursday, April 15 at 2:45 pm**  
“We All Feel These Things” by Annaleah Atkinson  
Register at <https://weallfeel.eventbrite.com>

**Tuesday, April 20 at 2:00 pm**  
“Communicating Emotions and Needs Training” by Majidah Lebarre  
Register at <https://needstraining.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 21 at 2:30 pm**  
“It's A Vibe: Nonverbal Communication” by Noelani Anderson  
Register at <https://itisavibe.eventbrite.com>

**Thursday, April 22 at 2:00 pm**  
“Reframing” by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://reframingskill.eventbrite.com>

**Tuesday, April 27 at 2:00 pm**  
“Hot Buttons” by **ANNE SMOKE**  
Register at <https://hotbuttons.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 28 at 2:00 pm**  
“Launching A Successful Peer Mediation Program” by **SUSAN CHANG**  
Register at <https://launching.eventbrite.com>

**Wednesday, April 28 at 3:00 pm**  
“Mediation Through A Cultural Lens” by **ĀNUENUE MOSE**  
Register at <https://lens.eventbrite.com>

**Thursday, April 29 at 2:00 pm**  
“How To Ask Open-Ended Questions” by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://howtoask.eventbrite.com>

**“Thursday, April 29 at 2:45 pm”**  
Peer Mediation Simulation by Kailua High School students  
Register at <https://peermediation.eventbrite.com>

The Conference will draw to an end with the “What’s Next? The Peer Mediation Adventure Continues” Closing Panel on **Friday, April 30 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm** where alumni peer mediators who will discuss how their training contributed to their current personal lives and in their professional careers. The raffle ticket drawing for gift cards will also be held during the closing panel. You must be “present” to win so register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/adventures-in-peer-mediation-whats-next-closing-panel-tickets-144104100243>.

## 2021 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENT ESSAY, PERFORMANCE, AND POETRY CONTEST; LAWSON IICHIRO SAKAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER WEBSITE

[https://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual\\_events/studentcontest/index.php](https://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual_events/studentcontest/index.php)

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) supports the legacy of Japanese American WWII veterans who served their country at a time when the United States denied their civil rights. Join us in advocating for civil liberties and equality, the cornerstone of our American democracy, by entering our 2021 contest.

In addition to monetary award prizes, first place winners from each category will be acknowledged in our 20th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala on November 6, 2021. All winning entries will be published in an online booklet on our website.

**TO ENTER:** Submit a 400-500 word ESSAY, or a work of POETRY (2 typed pages or less) on one of the following topics:

- The Japanese American WWII veteran experience remains relevant to our society today. Explore one of the ways this is true.

- One goal of GFBNEC is to inspire new generations to embody the Japanese American veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. How has the Nisei veterans' story impacted your life, identity and/or values? How do you embody any or each of these values?

**DEADLINE:** Email entries by **Wednesday, June 30, 2020, 11:59 PST** as a Word doc to [studentcontest@goforbroke.org](mailto:studentcontest@goforbroke.org). Include: category you are entering; phone number; school/university currently attending; title of your entry; and 2020-2021 grade/level.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Contest is open to all high school (9th through 12th grades) and college (undergraduate and graduate) students.

- 2020 winners are ineligible for entry in the same category, but may submit an entry under a different category.

- Applicants who wish to be considered for the "LAWSON IICHIRO SAKAI Memorial Scholarship" must also submit an essay or poetry entry in the GFBNEC Student Contest. Contest applicants are not required to apply for the scholarship.

**NOTE:** All submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by GFBNEC. Winners will be notified by Friday, July 30, 2021. In order to stay informed on GFBNEC news and updates, all participants will be added to the eTorch online subscriber list.

### CONTEST PRIZE AWARDS

In total, 12 monetary awards based on category and level will be distributed.

All first place winners will be acknowledged in our 20th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala on November 6, 2021. All winning entries will be published in an online booklet on our website.

## NEW - LAWSON IICHIRO SAKAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

GFBNEC is pleased to announce the launch of the "Lawson Iichiro Sakai Memorial Scholarship," an



annual scholarship established by family and friends of the Nisei WWII veteran to recognize students with outstanding community service. (Photograph of Lawson Sakai with his granddaughter, CARA). One high school student and one college (undergraduate/graduate) student will be selected based on active participation and support of their community. For 2021, a \$500 scholarship will be given to each student. **Only applicants who participate in the 2021**

**GFBNEC Student Essay and Poetry Contest are eligible for consideration.**

Apply online at the GFBNEC website or at this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgXi9W9ctKIIJZ\\_yliGxNB6aZeAD0rTn89wUqvCI0dTuZFLw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgXi9W9ctKIIJZ_yliGxNB6aZeAD0rTn89wUqvCI0dTuZFLw/viewform)

# YOUR ARMY: THIS JAPANESE-AMERICAN ARMY UNIT IS THE REASON WE CELEBRATE NATIONAL 'GO FOR BROKE' DAY

by **JOSHUA AXELROD**

[armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/04/05/this-japanese-american-army-unit-is-the-reason-we-celebrate-national-go-for-broke-day/](http://armytimes.com/news/your-army/2019/04/05/this-japanese-american-army-unit-is-the-reason-we-celebrate-national-go-for-broke-day/)

Happy National "Go For Broke Day!"

That phrase was allegedly coined by Hawaiian Pidgin craps players to mean "bet everything on a single roll." But it was popularized as the motto of the Army's famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II.

In fact, National "Go For Broke" Day is celebrated on April 5 every year likely because it was on April 5, 1945, that **PFC. SADAO MUNEMORI** — the 442nd RCT's first Medal of Honor recipient — was killed in action near Seravezza, Italy, according to a Department of Defense history of that highly decorated unit.

The 442nd RCT was made up entirely of Japanese-American soldiers and was formed during a time when that ethnic group was banned from military service after the attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor.

The Army eventually allowed Japanese-Americans (known as "Nisei") to serve through the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service and the 442nd RCT, which was officially activated on February 1, 1943.

After finishing their training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, the soldiers of the 442nd RCT deployed to Italy in June 1944 to fight alongside the 100th IB. By mid-August, the 100th was absorbed into the 442nd and the "go for broke" motto became an ingrained part of the unit's identity.

In September 1944, the 442nd was reassigned to southern France where they helped liberate a few cities from German control. They were reassigned again in March 1945 and helped — along with the 92nd Infantry Division, an all-black unit — drive German forces out of northern Italy.

Their accomplishments in battle inspired the

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## GO FOR BROKE STAMP DEDICATION

Email from **WAYNE OSAKO**,  
Co-Chair Stamp Our Story Campaign, March 22, 2021  
[www.stampourstory.org](http://www.stampourstory.org)

On behalf of Stamp Our Story Campaign Founder/Co-Chair **FUSA TAKAHASHI** and our committee, thank you. We deeply appreciate all of the support for the stamp movement over the years.

After receiving the input from Stamp Our Story coalition partners that included JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association), JACL (Japanese American Citizens League), GFBNEC (Go For Broke National Education Center), NJAMF (National Japanese American Memorial Foundation), Nisei Veterans Legacy, Friends of Minidoka, National Park Service, among others, the US Postal Service



made the first day of issue announcement for the Go For Broke Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Forever Stamp last week on March 18th. Their decision was as follows:

First Day of Issue: June 3, 2021

First City of Issue: Los Angeles, CA.

Special regional dedications are being allowed by USPS across the country where there is interest, and local postal officials will assist by request. Please find the attached press release for more information, and you can consult our website, [www.StampOurStory.org](http://www.StampOurStory.org).

We continue to work with the US Postal Service regarding details of the Go For Broke Soldiers Forever Stamp's release and will keep you updated. Besides the local stamp dedications, we are also helping create the USPS national dedication video, which will feature a number of voices from the community to tell the story behind the stamp.

Stamp Our Story Campaign represents the three California Nisei women who started the effort: Fusa Takahashi (93) of Granite Bay, who is the widow of the late MIS veteran **KAZUO TAKAHASHI** of San Francisco, CA, **AIKO O. KING** (93) of Camarillo who was an avid Ventura JACL member for many years and good friend to many veterans, and the late **CHIZ OHIRA** of Gardena who was the widow of 442nd veteran **TED OHIRA** of Makaweli, Hawaii.

## 442ND WOULD WEAR MASKS

MAUI NEWS EDITORIAL, APRIL 3, 2021

<https://www.mauinews.com/opinion/editorial/2021/04/442nd-would-wear-masks/>

Charging straight into enemy fire, **PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SADAO "SPUD" MUNEMORI** had just knocked out a pair of gun emplacements with grenades and was withdrawing under withering fire when an enemy grenade bounced off his helmet and rolled toward a bomb crater where two of his comrades sheltered.

In one final heroic act, Munemori dove on top of the grenade to smother its blast and save the lives of his fellow soldiers. Monday marks the 76th Anniversary of that World War II battle in the mountains above Seravezza, Italy. A Nisei, or second-generation Japanese American, Munemori was part of the United States Army's famed 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery and sacrifice.

Monday is National Go For Broke Day in honor of Munemori and the rest of the 442nd, a segregated, all-Japanese American unit that suffered grave losses and is one of the most decorated regiments in U.S. Army history. On Maui, we also remember the soldiers of the 100th and 442nd for what they did after they returned home.

Drawing on teamwork, self-sacrifice, community involvement and patriotic pride, they became teachers, civil servants, business leaders, union representatives, legislators and hard-working laborers. Off-hours saw many of them donating their time as coaches and volunteers, running everything from scout troops, sports leagues and swim meets to fundraising carnivals and fairs. A big part of their legacy is how much they helped others, how they made community a priority.

We wonder what brave Sadao Munemori would think of the me-first polarization of American politics, the penchant people have these days for placing themselves and their interests No. 1. Would he refuse to wear a mask though it has been proven to protect others? Would he be afraid to be vaccinated even though it would help the island reach herd immunity?

The military teaches soldiers to use the best, most recent intelligence available. That means drawing on trusted sources that can be vetted and confirmed. It also entails weeding out misinformation, separating conjecture from proven facts.

Health experts across the spectrum say masks help protect us from spreading and contracting COVID-19. Masks aren't perfect, but they are one of the few tools we have to slow the contagion. The new vaccines are far better than we could have ever hoped for a year ago.

We are still learning about how long the vaccines will protect us from the coronavirus, but so far, they have proven to be safe and up to 95 percent effective in preventing moderate or severe disease and 100 percent of hospitalizations.

Sadao Munemori strikes us as the kind of man who would have done everything he could to protect his family and community. Happy Go For Broke Day.

\* Editorials reflect the opinion of the publisher.

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## GO FOR BROKE DAY

*Continued from page 7*

U.S. to reinstate the draft in Japanese-American internment camps back home to allow them to fight as well.

The 442nd RCT was inactivated about a year after the war ended. It was only around for two years, but soldiers in the 442nd RCT and 100th IB earned seven Presidential Unit Citations, two Meritorious Service Plaques, 36 Army Commendation Medals and 87 Division Commendations between them.

Individual soldiers from both units earned 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 15 Soldier's Medals and 9,500 Purple Hearts, among many other honors.

On a more somber note, 650 men from those two units were killed during WWII, 3,700 were wounded in action and 67 were declared missing in action.

In 2011, 450 Japanese-American soldiers from the 442nd RCT and 100th IB were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the United States' highest civilian award for service.

That unit also inspired a 1951 Hollywood movie aptly titled "Go for Broke." (You can watch the entire film at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRqwLrZKDw0>.)

So today, remember the 442nd RCT and the 100th IB for their groundbreaking role in re-integrating the military and the motto with which they served their country.

# NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION ABOUT THE 100TH AND 442ND

by **PETER WAKAMATSU**

I can't count how many inquiries I've received over the years asking for information on fathers, uncles and grandfathers who were in the 442nd during the war. All of these people have the totally mistaken idea that the 442nd Regimental records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) contain personnel records. I bluntly tells folks that there are NO personnel records at NARA. The records at the National Archives are of the units and organizations that participated in the war. In the regimental records there were documents that contained information on individuals, e.g. General Orders for medals and citations for men in the outfit, but the vast majority of the documents contain virtually no information on individuals. Why? The paperwork generated by military units was about the units and pertained to the details of the operations of units. There aren't any records about **PFC MAS SUZUKI** who was in K Company or any other individual.

People are getting the idea that they can find information on their long dead relatives since they watch all of those genealogy shows on PBS. Those shows are entertainment and they are not showing how professional and academic scholars do research. Finding out even vague details of a dad who was in the 442nd from Archive records is like finding a needle in a hay stack. Over 10,000,000 men served in the military during the war. Just do the math...

I think that it would be useful to provide information on the records that were kept on individuals by the government.

1. DD214 Separation document. This was the document given to all servicemen when they left the service. It contained all of the information of the service history of the individual. There was only ONE copy of the DD214—people were strongly reminded not to lose or destroy their DD214 since the data contained on it was not recorded anywhere else. Unfortunately, once a veteran dies their DD214 get tossed because documents and papers are frequently the first possession to be disposed of when houses and estates are cleaned out.

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

2. National Personnel Records Center fire in

1973. In 1973 a devastating fire at the NPRC destroyed 16-18 million "Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) documenting the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912 to 1964." Virtually all of the personnel records of men who served in World War II were destroyed. There were no backup copies of these files.

<https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/archives-recalls-fire>

[https://dd214.us/nprc\\_73fire](https://dd214.us/nprc_73fire)

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>

3. If a veteran received services from the VA, it is possible that they have a copy of a DD214 or are in possession of other service related documents. In my dad's VA file, I think that a copy of his DD214 was there, although the source of the document may have been my father. It's a long shot but it is available:

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

4. For a person who is experienced in doing real research, information on their 442nd dad or relative may be recorded on the Morning Reports. These are the daily reports filled out every day to account for all the members of a company and also contained summaries of the previous day's events. If a man was wounded, killed or left the company because of illness or transfer etc., it would be noted in the Morning Report. However, it is extremely difficult to search the Morning Reports.

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel/morning-reports-and-unit-rosters>

You have to visit the Archives in St. Louis and scan microfilms of the reports—they are only cataloged by unit and date so you have to scan each report looking for a name that may not even be there. I have some morning reports that I received from a researcher who was the unofficial historian of the 34th Division. He spent years going to St. Louis and making copies of 34th Division Morning Reports. He also copied many 442nd Morning Reports, but the Morning Reports copied were only those which listed men who had been Killed In Action. It would have been impossible to copy all Morning Reports. I may get around to scanning my Morning Reports and putting them on my website. But given the fact that hardly anybody is

*Continued on page 10*

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

*Continued from page 9*

even looking at any of the archival records I've made available, this is a very low priority task. Spending many hours of work putting documents online that are never going to be viewed is a waste of time and energy, and it's MY time and energy.

Also, a high proportion of the microfilm copies are very difficult to read—the quality of the documents are in general just barely acceptable. So they are a pain to read.

5. The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) has many NARA documents online. They use Optical Character Recognition Software (OCR) so it is possible to do text searches (eg, names).

<https://java.wildapricot.org/Research-Archive>

However, they do not have all of their NARA documents in the database. Also, OCR is not foolproof but more importantly, if a person's name is not on a document, then there is nothing to find.

Check out my short bio on the "Four-Four-Two, F Company at War" page on my website at <http://www.the442.org/442fcompanyatwar.html>. I'm not an amateur researcher. Anyways, if you do use any of this information, please use my website email address for contact with me: [army@the442.org](mailto:army@the442.org)

**(PPP Editor's Note:** On February 28, the Club received the following email from **PETER WAKAMATSU:**

"Hello,

I run the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Legacy website. I visited the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, three times and scanned a considerable portion of the NARA documents pertaining to the 100th and 442nd. All of these documents are available online in PDF format at: <http://www.the442.org/archiveddocuments.html>

Unlike other collections which have NARA documents, mine are directly available and accessible to anyone with an internet connection. The website also has several published works on the 442nd available in PDF format.

In the next few months, I am going to upload on YouTube all of the U.S. Signal Corps film footage shot of the 442nd during the war. I obtained these films from NARA and used parts of them for my documentary film on F Company, where my father

was First Sergeant. I believe that I found all of the films of the 442nd shot by the Signal Corps with the possible exception of one reel. But all of the commonly seen Signal Corps 100th/442nd films are included in the videos that I will be uploading.

I'll let you know when the videos are available on YouTube."

Mr. Wakamatsu and I maintained an email correspondence in which we commiserated over the glut of people contacting us who searching for long-lost relative they believed were Japanese American World War II veterans. The hunt seemed to have boomed during COVID. I *monku*-d about those who contacted me with minimal information, sometimes not even the name of the veteran or whether he even served in the 100th or any AJA military unit in World War II, and with the expectation that I would do all of the tedious research for them. Mr. Wakamatsu shared his own experiences and included all of the information found in this article which I thought would be helpful to 100th members.

Mr. Wakamatsu's bio from the website at <http://www.the442.org/aboutus.html> is as follows: "His father was **JACK K. WAKAMATSU**, the First Sergeant of 'F' Company. Peter has conducted independent research on the history of the 442nd since 2003 and has visited the National Archives at College Park, Maryland, three times. He has also visited the 442nd Archives located at the 442 Club in Honolulu, the University of Utah archives in Salt Lake City, and the Margaret Herrick Library in Beverly Hills, California."

### WATCH THE INTERNATIONAL WWII CONFERENCE ON YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmTCST8yVyVMctEYY9WeMWw>

If you were unable to attend the virtual International World War II Conference on March 5-6, 2021, it is now available at the National World War II Museum's YouTube Channel in the entirety.

Day One of the Conference can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJjqPtwmEc>.

Day Two of the Conference can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doNH0smnsSA>.

The programs were recorded in the entirety and therefore are several hours long. You will need to do some hunting as the individual selections are not time-stamped.

## KISUKE "RICHARD" KUSAKA'S STORY

by RANDALL KUSAKA

(PPP Editor's Note: The Club received an email from **RANDALL KUSAKA**, the son of the late 100th veteran **KISUKE "RICHARD" KUSAKA** who was a member of Able Company. To honor his dad's 100th birthday in 2019 [Richard passed away in 2000], Randall put together a booklet about his father's life based on the stories that Richard told him in response to Randall's many childhood questions about Richard's wartime experience and how his father lost his leg.

Thank you Randall for the great memories. Unfortunately, due to space, I couldn't include the entire article in the print version of the April *PPP* but it is included in the Addendum to the email version).

Kisuke Kusaka was born into a family of sugar cane plantation laborers. His father, **KIICHIRO**, and paternal grandfather, **OKISABURO**, worked in the fields around Kalaoa Camp, near Papaikou on the Big Island.

He was 12 when he started part-time work at the plantation to help feed the growing family. He dropped out of English school after the eighth grade for full-time plantation work. He continued Japanese schooling for two more years before dropping out. Some of his English school teachers could not pronounce his name, so each gave him a haole name. One year he was called Paul. Another year he was Richard, after English King Richard the Lionhearted. He liked Richard and used it when he was an adult. He identified himself as Richard K. Kusaka or **KISUKE R. KUSAKA**.

He saw no future as a plantation laborer, so in 1939 he ran away from his Big Island home for what had to be a better life in Honolulu. He worked short stints at Pearl Harbor and a bakery in Palama. His Army discharge paper listed his prior civilian occupation as "plumber."

His civilian life ended when he was drafted into the Army on November 14, 1941. He was at Schofield Barracks when Japanese warplanes attacked Oahu on December 7, 1941. He put on his uniform and rushed to report for duty, but when the *haole* soldiers looked at his face and name, they arrested him and locked him in the stockade, where he was joined by other Japanese American soldiers.

One day, soldiers drove him and other Japanese American soldiers to Waimanalo, where they were ordered to look out for Japanese ships. The military feared the Japanese would return to invade Oahu. They were given rifles but no bullets. He said the soldiers feared the Japanese Americans would shoot them in the back.

If they saw the invading fleet, they were to contact a command post at the Pali lookout. Where's the walkie talkie, one of them asked. The answer was they wouldn't get one. The authorities didn't want them using any radio equipment to contact the enemy. So how were they supposed to warn the command post? The answer: Send a runner.

Imagine, the Japanese invading Oahu and someone having to run from Waimanalo up to the Pali lookout. That's how ridiculous it was for them at that time, he said.

In 1942, he and other Japanese American soldiers formed the 100th Infantry Battalion, the famed "One Puka Puka" whose battlefield courage, heroism and sacrifices earned the nickname "Purple Heart Battalion."

He was injured three times while fighting in Europe. The first time, shrapnel hit the bridge of his nose and knocked him to the ground. When he opened his eyes, he was shocked to find he could not see. For a moment he feared the shrapnel blinded him, but he quickly realized blood covered his eyes. After wiping



*Continued on page 12*

## **KISUKE "RICHARD" KUSAKA**

*Continued from page 11*

away the blood, he was relieved he could see.

The second injury was a minor wound to his left leg on November 30, 1943, near Scapoli, Italy.

The third injury occurred when he stepped on a landmine about a month before Germany surrendered in 1945. After being drafted into the Army before the war started, after going through hell all those years and surviving relatively uninjured, it was the cruelest of fates for him to step on a landmine just a month before the war ended.

He was his squad's point man. Prior to that campaign, his commanding officer told him that he had spent enough time at point and it was time for someone else to take that hazardous position. He refused to give it up, because a new guy wouldn't have the experience he had and could get hurt or killed.

On April 6, his squad was sitting on a rise in the vicinity of Seravezza, Italy, and waiting for orders to move out. He sent a runner to find their lieutenant, but the runner returned after failing to find him.

Looking down the slope, he could see other squads bunching up behind his. It was like a traffic jam, and dangerous for the soldiers who were potential sitting ducks. He decided they had to move. He used his bayonet to probe the ground in front of him to make sure it was clear. He looked back at his squad, raised his hand, barked "Let's go!" and took a step forward.

Boom!

When he opened his eyes, someone was tying a tourniquet around his mangled left leg. He told them to remove his grenades. He was surprised the explosion had not set them off. Someone picked him up and ran him back to the medical area.

Where was the landmine? After all, he had used the bayonet to make sure the ground was safe. He extended his arm, made the probing motion, and said, "It was under my elbow."

He shared other stories of his wartime experiences:

After an exhausting day of fighting, he and other Able Company soldiers started digging fox holes in the frozen ground. He and his friend next to him managed to scrape out shallow holes.

The breaking light of dawn woke him up. He was cold and hungry, his bones felt frozen in place and his muscles ached from a night of constant shivering. He turned to the fox hole next to his and called out to his friend, who was sitting upright, his chin resting on his chest, his eyes closed.

He called his name, but instinctively knew there would be no response. He touched the body and it was frozen stiff. Of the many deaths he witnessed, this one still gave him chills decades later.

He said that wartime soldiers had few personal items they carried in the field from battle to battle. Soldiers carried Zippo lighters, letters from home, Bibles, photographs and other small personal objects, but he possessed something few had: a fountain pen.

After a hard-fought firefight, a wounded friend called his name. He knelt by his buddy's side as a medic patched his wounds. The friend asked to borrow his pen because he wanted to write a letter to his mother back in Honolulu. He promised that after he recovered he would find him and return it.

He was reluctant to part with his pen because it was his cherished connection to his civilian life and he didn't know where or when he would find another. But this was his friend and for his friend's mother, so he took it out of his pocket and placed it in the man's hand. His friend smiled and promised again he would give it back.

But fate intervened. He stepped on a landmine a month before the European War ended. He went to a hospital in Michigan, where he stayed a year, and transferred to another hospital for six months of rehabilitation. He returned to Honolulu and was discharged at Tripler Hospital in 1947.

He remembered the friend who had his pen. The friend had probably recovered from his wounds and might be living at his family home. He didn't blame him for not returning the pen because war made such promises hard to keep. He found the friend's address and decided to visit.

He walked up to the man's house. Behind the fence an elderly woman tended her flowers. He caught her attention and, speaking Japanese, asked if his friend was living there.

The woman looked quizzically at him and questioned why he was asking for her son. He introduced himself and said he was a friend from the Army.

*Continued on page 13*

## KISUKE “RICHARD” KUSAKA

*Continued from page 12*

Tears came to the woman's eyes and she beckoned him to enter her home. She said nothing as she led him into the living room toward the family shrine. Her tears made him suspect his friend had not survived. The friend's photograph in front of the shrine confirmed it.

And in front of the photograph, on a small wooden stand, was his fountain pen.

The mother said her son's last letter mentioned how he borrowed a fountain pen from his buddy, Kisuke Kusaka, to write to her. He had promised to return it after his wounds healed. So when she found the pen among his possessions returned to her, she put it in an honored place awaiting the day she could fulfill that promise.

Although it was one of the saddest days of his life, he felt some joy that his pen allowed the man to write a final note to his mother.

While he willingly shared some wartime stories, other stories upset him. For example, when asked how many men he killed, he reacted with an ice-cold glare, but after a moment, he answered he killed seven men. There might have been an eighth, but the soldier fell off a cliff and he could not see the body to confirm the kill.

He was also upset by how movies and television programs portrayed fighting soldiers. He grumbled that he never bit down on a grenade pin to pull it out. He used a plier to remove the pin and then taped the handle in place. 1-2-3...tear off the tape, flick off the handle and throw the grenade.

He shook his head when he saw movie soldiers brace their Browning Automatic Rifle on their hip to shoot as they ran across a town square. He said not only was it difficult to aim that way, the recoil would injure their hip and even break their hip bones.

He was awarded Purple Heart Medals for his second and third injuries. His other decorations included the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, six Battle Stars, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon.

He died in 2000 and his ashes are interred at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. He was 80 years old, just a little more than four months short of his 81st birthday.

## NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/events-programs/events-calendar>

On **Thursday, April 22 from 12 pm to 1 pm CT (7 am to 8 am Hawaii time)**, the National WWII Museum will be presenting “S. Neil Fujita: Cover To



Cover”, an online webinar for students and teachers. According to the Museum’s website, “**S. NEIL FUJITA** was an American citizen born to parents of Japanese American ancestry. Like more than 120,00 other Japanese Americans, Fujita and his family were forcibly relocated and incarcerated during WWII. After serving with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe, Fujita embarked on a

brilliant art career, designing some of the most iconic album, book, and movie artwork of the mid-20th century; some you may know, some you may even have hanging on your bedroom wall.” Register at [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_JRfrkYtFS9eOISAZh9M0eA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JRfrkYtFS9eOISAZh9M0eA).

I know if the 100th and 442nd veterans who were a part of our Thursday Wine Gang were still around, they would have gotten a kick out of the Museum’s programming in April about alcoholic beverages during World War II including their “Lunchbox Lecture: The Shake and Stir of Change: How Cocktails Changed in America after World War II” which will be live-streamed on **Wednesday, April 21 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm CT (6:00 am to 7:00 am Hawaii Time)**. The lecture is described as follows: “When troops came home after World War II, they brought their international experiences with them—including their taste for liquor widely excluded from the American market. Tiki bars popped up in city centers and burgeoning suburbs alike; while bar carts, swizzle sticks, and shakers bloomed in homes of Americans looking to take a collective breath after the war. Aided by the advent of plastics and high fructose corn syrup, and paired with rising international trade, American drinking culture underwent massive changes due to World War II. In this program, join Jennie Merrill, Director of Education at the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, as we explore just how the war made such a far reaching impact on this piece of American culture.” You can watch live on April 21 at <https://vimeo.com/event/825856>

## NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER HOSTED RETIRED US ARMY GENERAL FOR LEADERSHIP TALK

<https://mauinow.com/2021/03/20/nisei-veterans-memorial-center-hosts-retired-us-army-general-for-leadership-talk/>



*(PPP Editor's*

*Note:* Although this presentation by 100th Honorary Member

**GENERAL DAVID BRAMLETT** has already gone “live”, it has recently been posted to the NVMC YouTube page and is available for viewing at [https://](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enh06OZRueM)

[www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enh06OZRueM)

[watch?v=Enh06OZRueM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enh06OZRueM). Watching General Bramlett’s talk would be a great way to celebrate National Go For Broke Day as he not only gives a detailed history of the 100th Infantry Battalion but also profiles every 100th Medal of Honor awardee and several other notable 100th veterans. I was brought to tears many times and learned a lot of new details about the 100th also, The article has been edited to reflect that the event has already occurred).

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center presented retired US Army General, David Bramlett for its March Ta-Ke leadership talk on Thursday, March 25 via Zoom.

Retired US Army General Bramlett continued his series “The Nisei Soldier in WWII” with an in-depth look into the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

The 100th Infantry Battalion, initially made up almost entirely of Japanese Americans from Hawai’i already in the army prior to World War II, represented the first group of Japanese Americans to see combat during World War II. Their highly publicized exploits in basic training and combat in Italy helped change the minds of military and political leaders who had banned the enlistment and drafting of Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor, paving the way for large scale participation in the war effort by Japanese American soldiers. The 100th eventually became a part of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat

Team.

The Ta-Ke (which means bamboo in Japanese) series features outstanding leaders in our community sharing their insights on modern day society, current issues we are collectively facing, and how through the lens of the Nisei Values, we can get past today’s obstacles for a brighter tomorrow as we resume our daily lives after months of social distancing.

In Japan’s bygone years, people were told to run for safety into bamboo groves in the event of an earthquake because the bamboo’s strong root structure would hold the Earth together. Perhaps in today’s societal and political atmosphere it is more important than ever to seek inspiration in that which holds the Earth together, that which holds us together. “The Nisei values of courage, respect, humility, perseverance, resiliency, compassion, obligation and patience offer a perfect template for these discussions,” organizers said.

### UPCOMING NVMC EVENTS

**Thursday, April 8 at 4:00 pm**

#### **EAST MEETS WEST: A CROSS CULTURAL JOURNEY**

**JOHN DE FRIES**, President and CEO of the Hawaii Tourism Authority, and **DR. MUNEHICO HARADA**, President of the Osaka University of Health and Sports Sciences, will discuss socially relevant topics and how their cultures influence and determine the way they navigate their work and lives. Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pDrhVZrzTCWIr9Da1BPvWg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pDrhVZrzTCWIr9Da1BPvWg)

**Saturday, April 17 at 1:30 pm**

#### **AFTERNOON WITH THE AUTHOR: JOHN TATEISHI**

**JOHN TATEISHI** will speak about his book, “Redress: The Inside Story of a Successful Campaign for Japanese American Reparations”. Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_YTWx3hIWQYajO9TK41Ki9A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YTWx3hIWQYajO9TK41Ki9A)

**Tuesday, April 27 at 4:00 pm**

#### **THE NISEI NARRATIVE: 4 GENERATIONS, 2 SISTERS, 1 DREAM**

The returning WWII Nisei soldiers adopted a motto of “Continuing Service.” Their values of honor, responsibility and “*kodomo no tame ni*” (for the sake of the children) are as relevant today as they were 75+ years ago.

Sisters **ANN AND LORI TERANISHI** are leaders in their respective occupations, paving the way for female professionals across the state and will discuss their family’s value structure and dream to make this place better for the next generation.

## HANAKOKOLELE

Your *PPP* Editor received the following email from **MARK MATSUNAGA**, a Military Intelligence Service descendant. Mark is my “go to” if I have any questions about the World War II Japanese Americans who served not just in the MIS but also the 100th, 442nd and any other military unit. Thank you Mark for taking the time out of your always busy schedule to send out the corrected information:



“The March 2021 *PPP* is interesting and informative, as usual.

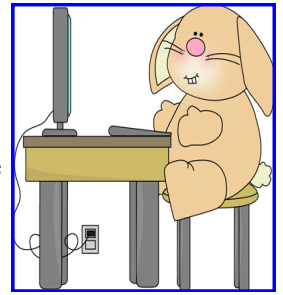
However, on page 8, in the article about corrections to the list of 100th Battalion soldiers KIA, Mizutari's first name is misspelled. It should be **YUKITAKA MIZUTARI**. See attached page from "In Freedom's Cause." He actually went by Yukitaka "Terry" Mizutari and was one of the five dozen 100th Battalion soldiers who were transferred from Camp McCoy to the MIS Language School in December 1942. These were the group that became known as the "*senpai gumi*." See **DICK OGURO**'s book.

These Hawaii AJAs were praised for raising the level of soldiering at the language school, and were among the earliest Hawaii nisei to deploy against Japan. Mizutari was a natural leader and became a good buddy of **HARRY FUKUHARA** (subject of "Midnight in Broad Daylight" by **PAMELA ROTNER SAKAMOTO**). Mizutari participated in the New Britain campaign and **GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR**'s long slog up the New Guinea coast. He was killed defending the 6th Div command post against a night attack. He received a posthumous Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Your website includes an article by a **SSGT HOWARD OGAWA** that appeared in the Pacific Citizen in 1944 and was reprinted in the 1987 45th reunion booklet. <https://www.100thbattalion.org/archives/puka-puka-parades/veterans/killed-in-action/the-death-of-a-hero/>

Also, Mizutari is included in the list of "World War II Decedents" in **THOMAS D. MURPHY**'s "Ambassadors in Arms" on page 318. It appears the veterans thought he belonged with them. Many of the MIS *senpai gumi* -- but not all -- also appear in the book's list of 100th veterans with no special notation that they were transferred to the MIS.”

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



The feedback I get from *PPP* readers is they don't so much care about what I write about the Club but want to know what is going on in my home life. I always get the comment “You should write a book about your family” but my response is that nobody would believe it is true. So, by request, here is this month's episode of the Buddhahead soap opera, “My Crazy Hirata Family”

For the past few weeks, the zoo that my house has become has seemed more like a hotel with a lot of coming and going. My daughter is now in DC working for a senator from Hawaii and as my younger son returned to “in person school” meaning I have to get up early in the morning like a real working person instead of sleeping until one of my nine pets wakes me up to feed them. Clearly this love of snoozing is genetic as oldest son who starts a new job working for a governor who is an Able descendant, wondered why he had to report to work “so early” at 7:45 am and was crushed when told that is the regular start time for a Hawaii State employee.

Speaking of work, you may not know that when I started at UH-Manoa back in the stone ages, my major was in fine arts but I had to find a new career path when I developed an allergy to paint fumes. Somehow I went from starving artist to stressed out lawyer and recently, back to artist again when I was invited to participate in two art shows. I am grateful to **LOFA LEI** of Umi Toys and **ERIC NAKAMURA** of Giant Robot in Sawtelle, Japantown (blocks from where I lived when I went to law school in Los Angeles) for making me get off of my ever expanding *okole* and putting my long dormant brain back into operational mode.

With my brain functioning at semi-normal levels, I have also been putting in some time in the Office but with those COVID numbers rising here and with me not yet being old enough or essential enough to get the vaccine, I don't see a return to regular hours at the Club for a while. It was great to see the old, familiar faces of the new Board at the first meeting in March and I spent much of my time analyzing why these chose the face masks they did. Until we get an all clear” from my son's new boss or I am finally legal to get vaccinated, I'll still be spending the majority of my work hours at home.

100th Infantry Battalion Veterans  
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## **APRIL CLUB CALENDAR**

*All times are HST unless otherwise indicated*

**BOARD Meeting** Saturday, April at 9 am at the Clubhouse  
**CRAFT CLUB** No meetings in April  
**LINE DANCING** No classes in April  
**CHAPTER MTGS** No meetings in April

### **CLUB AFFILIATED EVENTS**

Wednesday, April 7 to Friday, April 30 Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution's 34th Annual Peer Mediation Conference


### **OTHER EVENTS**

Thursday, April 8, 4 pm East Meets West: A Cross Cultural Journey (NVMC)  
Saturday, April 17, 1:30 pm Afternoon with the Author: John Tateishi (NVMC)  
Wednesday, April 21, 6 am Lunchbox Lecture: The Shake and Stir of Change: How Cocktails Changed in America After World War II (National WWII Museum)  
Thursday, April 22, 7 am Neil Fujita: Cover to Cover (National WWII Museum)  
Tuesday, April 27, 4 pm The Nisei Narrative: 4 Generations, 2 Sisters, 1 Dream (NVMC)  
Friday, April 30, 5:59 pm Deadline to apply for the Japanese American Veterans Association's Scholarship Program (JAVA)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Clubhouse and Office will remain closed until further notice. In case of emergency or if you need to come to the Clubhouse, please contact President **ANN KABASAWA** at (808)781-8540 or [diverseinnov@gmail.com](mailto:diverseinnov@gmail.com).

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS CLUB



**Puka-Puka**

# Parade

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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](mailto: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 May 2021 issue is April 20

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OFFICE WILL REMAIN  
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE**