

SEPTEMBER

2020 *PUKA-*

PUKA PARADE

ADDENDUM

ALL THE STUFF THAT WOULDN'T
FIT IN THE PRINTED PPP

GRAVESITE DECORATING HISTORY

With the cancellation of not only the Joint Memorial Service but also the 100th Grave Decorating event due to concerns over COVID, I wanted to learn more about the history of our annual event in which volunteers placed flower bouquets at the final resting places of 100th Infantry Battalion men who were killed in action during World War II or had passed away post-War. I had always assumed it was something on the “newer” side, started when a lot of the Club members who were veterans began to pass away, but a review of the online *Puka-Puka Parade* archives (well, the September and October issues of each year) revealed that a floral tribute has been a part of the Club’s dedication to the motto of “For Continuing Service” for a very long time.

The first Memorial Service for those killed in action and deceased members of the then Club 100 was held on September 29, 1946 at Central Union Church. As part of the service, the War Memorial in front of the Territorial Building was decorated.

On September 29, 1948, the 100th Memorial Service was held at the Hongwanji Mission where 345 deceased men of the 100th Infantry Battalion were honored. A “100th Battalion” pine tree was dedicated adjacent to the War Memorial.

On September 30, 1951, the Memorial Service was moved to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, otherwise known as Punchbowl. It was co-sponsored by the Military Intelligence Linguist Club. No mention of any floral presentations.

In 1956, the 100th Memorial Service was held at the Club on September 30, because the PA system at Punchbowl was determined not to be up to par. A basket of chrysanthemums was offered in memory of those 100th veterans who had passed away. The service was conducted in English and Japanese.

In 1957, the 100th Memorial Service returned to Punchbowl. Each grave of 100th soldiers killed in action was decorated with flowers provided by all of the Club 100 chapters. The flowers were placed at the graves early Sunday morning (before the start of the Memorial Service) by a group of volunteers representing all chapters.

Before the start of the 20th Anniversary of the 100th Memorial Service in September 1965, volunteers placed flowers on the graves of the deceased at Punchbowl. Members were urged not to stand under the shade of the trees to keep cool but to take seats in the ceremony area under the hot sun out of respect for those being remembered.

I could find no mention of grave decorating until the Memorial Service held on September 26, 1976. It seems that each chapter was responsible for decorating the graves of veterans who belonged to their Company. The Baker Chapter News for the October 1976 *PPP* reported that forty members of Baker Chapter, many of whom were waiting at the entry gate to Punchbowl at 8:00 am, were assigned specific grave responsibilities. "Within minutes after the gate was opened, these members started to place flowers at the grave markers of fallen comrades who gave their lives in Italy, France, Korea and some during post-war years. The surprising large turn-out of members two hours before the service clearly attests to their compassion for their comrades in arms even after thirty odd years. Each member present displayed a sincere desire to pay tribute to those who gave their full devotion. Members of Baker Chapter placed flowers on 70 graves of fellow B, E, and F Company members. By 9:00 a.m. the members completed their responsibility and were ready to attend the memorial service."

With the 1991 Memorial Service, the Boy Scouts joined the volunteer crew and placed floral bouquets as well as American flags at the grave of the 100th men interred at Punchbowl. This was still done in the hours before the start of the Memorial Service on Sunday.

At the 49th Annual Memorial Service on September 25, 1994, members of the Sons and Daughters Chapter volunteered to place flowers at the graves but it was reported that "So far, only Baker and Dog Chapters have asked for their help."

The earliest mention of Gravesite Decorating moving to Saturday (the day before the Memorial Service) that I found was in 1999 with the 54th Annual Memorial Service held on September 26. Here's how the call for volunteers read: "The day before, Saturday, September 25, will find the members and sons and daughters decorating the gravesites with fresh flowers. All hands will be needed for this important job. Bring your garden gloves, a hat, weeders, trowels, buckets, watering cans, sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Meet at the Inner Drive area. Charlie Chapter will start at 8 a.m., Able Chapter and Headquarters at 9 a.m. and Baker Chapter at 10 a.m. More hands make light work, and there is no age limit for this intergenerational activity. The flowers are beautiful tokens of remembrance and will help the Boy Scouts to easily find the gravesites when they place the flags there on Sunday morning. Did you realize that for some of the gravesites, the only time they are decorated with flowers is for the Club 100 Memorial Service, and the national holidays, when school children make leis for all of the graves." Each Chapter was given a specific time to start decorating the graves of those graves belonging to men in their Company: "Charlie Chapter will start at 8:00 a.m. Headquarters and Able Chapter will be assisted by the Sons and Daughters starting at 9 a.m. and then help will be given to Baker Chapter at 10 a.m. Volunteers from the Hawaii Air National Guard will be helping, too."

In 2002, there was discussion by the 100th Board of Directors regarding having a combined Memorial Service with the 442nd Veterans Club. The Chapter President voted as follows: Able Chapter - No, Baker Chapter - No comment, Charlie Chapter - Yes, Dog Chapter - Yes, Headquarters Chapter - Yes, Rural Chapter - No meeting (issue to be discussed at their next meeting). The Board reported that a majority of 100th members were in favor of a joint memorial service which would start in 2004 and discussions with the 442nd would commence if both sides agreed. \

Discussions between the 100th and the 442nd regarding a joint memorial service continued in July 2003 with the 100th proposal reading as follows: "Part I: That the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization would conduct the service on a Sunday closest to Sept. 29 as is currently observed each year. This memorial service commemorates the anniversary of the first 100th Inf. Bn. soldier killed in action on Sept. 29, 1943. Part II: That the 442nd Veterans Club would be responsible to conduct the service in Marc~ the month in which it was organized. NOTE: The services would be alternated each year, with only one service to be conducted each year. "

The 442nd Veterans Club representatives presented the following proposal: "a. That the event be designated as the '100th/442nd Veterans Memorial Service' to be held each year on the Sunday closest to June 26 (the day in 1944 when the 100th Inf Bn. was assigned to the 442nd Reg. Combat Team in Italy during World War II). They strongly recommended the implementation of their proposal in June 2004; and that they

would be most happy to assume responsibility for the first combined memorial service. The 100th Inf. Bn. Veterans organization would assume responsibility in 2005. b. That the joint memorial service committee would consist of three representatives from each organization and additional representatives from each of their respective Sons and Daughters organization. c. That the organization responsible for the service would cover all monetary expenses.”

The 100th Board approved the proposals and a ballot was published in the September 2003 *PPP*. All Club members (then only 100th veterans) and members of the Sons and Daughters Chapter who lived on Oahu were given the opportunity to vote on the proposals but as reported in the October 2003 *PPP*, only 28 ballots were received.

In 2003, a call for volunteers went out to veterans, sons, daughters, and grandchildren to decorate the more than 500 graves and niches with flowers on Saturday, September 27 at 9:00 am. The Boy Scouts continued to decorate the graves with American flags.

In 2005, volunteers were asked to come to the Clubhouse on Friday, September 23 starting at 10:00 am to help with bundling the flowers. Volunteers were also being sought to decorate the 100th gravesites and columbarium niches at Punchbowl on Saturday, September 24 starting at 8:30 am as the “troops are dwindling”. Members were encouraged to make it a family event by involving their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, “We need plenty of help, so youngsters are encouraged to help out, too. We will be happy to send a report to the youngster's school for community service credit for this or any of the other tasks.” Help was also needed to decorate the gravesites at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery at Kaneohe and the temples and cemeteries in Nuuanu Valley as “our regular volunteers are not able to cover these areas”.

In 2006, a Memorial Church Service was on May 23, 2006 at Wesley United Methodist Church to honor the veterans of the 100th, 442nd, MIS, 1399th and various branches of the current US Armed Services. On September 23, veterans and volunteers worked under the scorching heat to place flags at the final resting place at Punchbowl of EVERY member of the 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th who had been killed in action during World War II or had passed away in the decades since. It was not only a physically demanding job but also mentally taxing as volunteers had to make sure the flags honored the right person from the correct unit. The next day, September 24, the First Annual 100th/442nd/MIS/1399 Joint Memorial Service was held at Punchbowl to honor all fallen comrades from the four units of service during World War II. It was viewed as a special day of remembrance that the AJA veterans has been working toward.

In 2009, the number of deceased 100th veterans had grown so large that the Board of Directors asked for donations of cut flowers such as ginger, heliconia, anthuriums, chrysanthemum or anything long lasting or monetary donations to buy flowers so that every 100th grave at Punchbowl, Kaneohe Veterans Cemetery, Hawaiian Memorial, Oahu Cemetery and Diamond Head Cemetery had a bouquet tribute. Rural Chapter was responsible for decorating the graves at the Mililani Cemetery. Volunteers came to the Clubhouse on September 25 to bundle the flowers into bouquets. A donation of fresh flowers was made by Ala Wai Elementary School. Grave decorating was held on September 26 bright and early starting at 7:30 am.

Having enough flowers for the September 24, 2011 grave decorating event was no longer a concern thanks to the contributions of the Club and a generous anonymous donor. That year, there were 650 graves at Punchbowl, 8 at Diamond Head Cemetery, 38 at the Kaneohe Veterans Cemetery and 22 at Mililani Cemetery. Volunteers were rewarded with light refreshment at Punchbowl and lunch at the Clubhouse after grave decorating had been completed. Those who were up to even more volunteering that day were encouraged to stick around to help with *PPP* collating.

In 2013, the same anonymous donor covered the entire cost of the 200 dozen (2,400) anthurium bouquets that were flown in from Hilo to decorate the 100th graves at Punchbowl, Kaneohe, Mililani, Nuuanu and Diamond Head. The number of bouquets had gotten so large that a call for help was made for volunteers with vans or trucks to transport the flowers to Punchbowl! Those who showed up to help to decorate the 750 graves at Punchbowl on September 28 were treated to lunch at the Clubhouse and asked to stay for *PPP* collating.

In 2014, over 900 bouquets were unwrapped at the Clubhouse on September 26 with 700 placed at 100th gravesites at Punchbowl the next day. Volunteers also placed bouquets at the Kaneohe State Veterans Cemetery and Diamond Head Memorial Park. Lunch was again served at the Clubhouse with volunteers asked to help with *PPP* collating.

In 2015, thanks to the continued generosity of the anonymous donor, over 1,200 anthurium bouquets were flown in from Hilo for the September 26 grave decorating event. Two trucks were now needed to transport 900 bouquets up to Punchbowl with the remaining 300 going to Kaneohe, Diamond Head, Mililani and Nuuanu.

In 2016, the count for graves at Punchbowl increased to 1,000 and again, the cost of the 1,200 anthurium bouquets from Hilo were paid for by the anonymous donor. There were now over a 100 graves to be decorated at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe and 12 graves at the Diamond Head Cemetery on September 24.

In 2017, volunteers again unpacked 1,200 anthurium bouquets at the Clubhouse on September 22 and over 1,000 were placed at gravesites at Punchbowl on September 23. 115 graves were decorated at the State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe, 12 graves at Diamond Head and 33 graves at Mililani. The **YAMASAKI** family volunteered to cover Nuuanu Cemetery.

Due to COVID concerns, the grave decorating event was cancelled in 2020 and for 2021.

PROFILE OF HIROSHI MIYAMURA, KOREAN WAR - US ARMY **CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY, STORIES OF SACRIFICE**

<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/hiroshi-miyamura>

DETAILS

Rank: Corporal (Highest rank: Staff Sergeant)
Conflict/Era: Korean War
Unit/Command: Company H, 2d Battalion,
7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division
Military Service Branch: US Army
Medal of Honor Action Date: April 24, 1951
Medal of Honor Action Place: Near Taejon-Ni, Korea

CITATION

CPL. HIROSHI MIYAMURA, a member of Company H, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. On the night of 24 April, Company H was occupying a defensive position when the enemy fanatically attacked, threatening to overrun the position. Cpl. Miyamura, a machine-gun squad leader, aware of the imminent danger to his men, unhesitatingly jumped from his shelter wielding his bayonet in close hand-to-hand combat, killing approximately 10 of the enemy. Returning to his position, he administered first aid to the wounded and directed their evacuation. As another savage assault hit the line, he manned his machine gun and delivered withering fire until his ammunition was expended. He ordered the squad to withdraw while he stayed behind to render the gun inoperative. He then bayoneted his way through infiltrated enemy soldiers to a second gun



emplacement and assisted in its operation. When the intensity of the attack necessitated the withdrawal of the company Cpl. Miyamura ordered his men to fall back while he remained to cover their movement. He killed more than 50 of the enemy before his ammunition was depleted and he was severely wounded. He maintained his magnificent stand despite his painful wounds, continuing to repel the attack until his position was overrun. When last seen he was fighting ferociously against an overwhelming number of enemy soldiers. Cpl. Miyamura's indomitable heroism and consummate devotion to duty reflect the utmost glory on himself and uphold the illustrious traditions on the military service.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Accredited To: Gallup, McKinley County, New Mexico

Awarded Posthumously: No

Presentation Date and Details: October 27, 1952. The White House, presented by President Dwight D. Eisenhower

Born: October 6, 1925, Gallup, McKinley County, New Mexico, United States

WEBINARS

Miyamura, Hiroshi - Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient <https://vimeo.com/398904371>

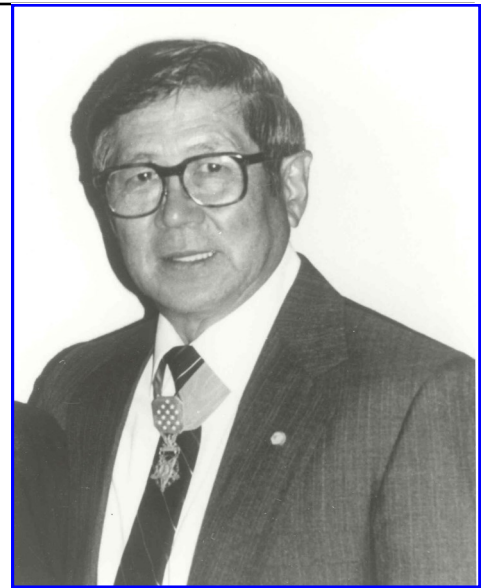
Interview with Medal of Honor Recipient Hiroshi Miyamura <https://www.cmohs.org/news-events/webinars/interview-with-medal-of-honor-recipient-hiroshi-miyamura/>

Medal of Honor Recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura <https://www.cmohs.org/news-events/webinars/medal-of-honor-recipient-hiroshi-hershey-miyamura/>



MORE PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE

//
//
//
//
//
//
//
//



JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCHORD

Official Website: <https://home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php>

Joint Base Lewis McChord, located in Washington State, is the home of I Corps and the 62nd Airlift Wing and will be the new home of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment's Charlie Company later this year.

HISTORY (<https://home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php/about/history>)

Named after **MERIWETHER LEWIS** of the famed Lewis and Clark expedition, Fort Lewis was born out of World War I. In 1917, the Pierce County Electorate voted to bond themselves for \$2,000 to purchase 70,000 acres for donation to the federal government for use as a military base. Camp Lewis was the first military installation to be created as the result of an outright gift of land by the citizens themselves. Construction began July 5, 1917.



In 90 days, about 10,000 men built 1,757 buildings and 422 other structures — lighted, plumbed and heated. Streets, roads and railroad spurs were underway. When the buildings were completed, the workers subscribed \$4,000 to build the main gate, which is still standing.

The 91st "Wild West" Division trained at Camp Lewis from September 1917 until it departed for France in June 1918. The 13th Infantry Division was in training when the Great War ended.

With peace, military appropriations were sharply reduced, and Camp Lewis fell into neglect. Tacoma civic groups and newspapers demanded that the War Department return the land. In March 1926, Congress passed a 10 year building plan to revitalize several Army posts, to include camp Lewis. The post was to have a new lease on life.

On September 30, 1927, Camp Lewis was redesignated a fort. In 1938, the addition of an Army Air

Corps field was approved at a 1,800-acre site north of Fort Lewis, which Pierce County transferred to the War Department. This facility, then part of Fort Lewis, was named McChord Field in 1940 in honor of **COLONEL WILLIAM MCCHORD**, who had been killed in an aviation accident in 1937. McChord Field became independent of Fort Lewis in 1947 and was renamed McChord Air Force Base following the creation of the U.S. Air Force.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord — now simply known as JBLM — became one of 12 joint bases across the Department of Defense in 2010 when Fort Lewis and McChord Air Force Base merged: an outcome of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

Installation priorities are to train the joint force, sustain the base infrastructure, protect the installation and take care of service members and their families. Joint Base Lewis-McChord is a strategically-vital, joint force power projection platform. In other words, the almost 50 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft that give JBLM global airlift capability, coupled with multiple sea ports and a robust rail and road network, allow JBLM to project combat power anywhere in the world.

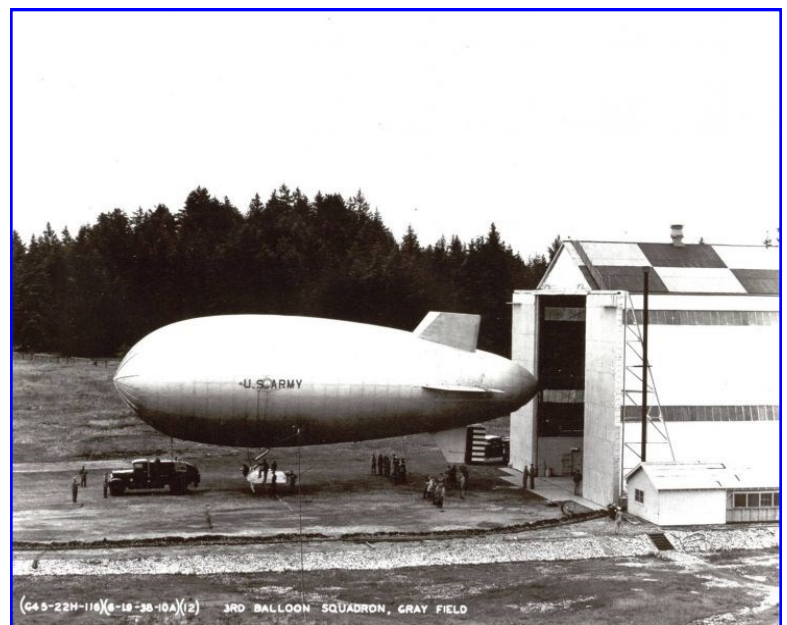
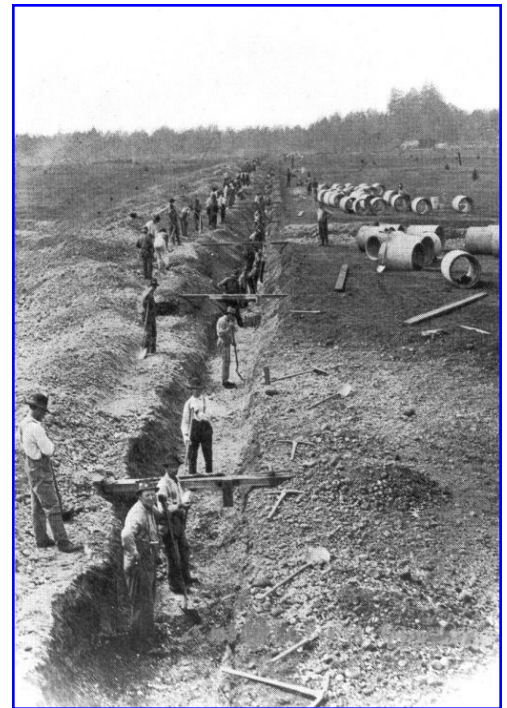
Today, JBLM encompasses 413,714 acres — 90,283 acres at the joint base, and 323,431 acres at the Yakima Training Center. Troops may train in a high desert environment at YTC, or in dense woods or conduct amphibious operations at JBLM. Both installations are key to service member readiness, allowing troops to maneuver in more than 50 training areas, fire at more than 90 ranges, or shoot artillery, mortars and other munitions into multiple impact areas.

Joint Base Lewis-McChord supports more than 40,000 service members, including active duty, National Guard and reserve members, approximately 14,000 full-time civilian employees — including Department of Defense contractors and other civilian employees — and more than 90,000 family members, veterans and retirees.

For a more detailed history of Fort Lewis from 1917 to 2010, visit <https://www.historylink.org/File/8455>.

The Lewis Army Museum collects, preserves, displays and interprets artifacts pertinent to the history of Camp Lewis, Fort Lewis and Army components of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the units which have served here and the role of the U.S. Army in the exploration, defense and development of the Pacific Northwest. The Museum features an outstanding collection of uniforms, weapons, military art and memorabilia. Please visit <https://lewisarmymuseum.com/> for more information.

The McChord Air Museum is the official U.S. Air Force organization whose mission is to portray the history of McChord Field, the aircraft woven through that history and the people who made that history part of our heritage. That mission is accomplished by the exhibit of aircraft, scaled models, unit exhibits, extensive collection of armament, instruments, paintings and art from the USAF art collection, photographs, vintage uniforms and other memorabilia. Please visit <http://www.mcchordairmuseum.org/>.



As you might guess, the weather in Washington State is a little different from the weather in American Samoa so here are some links that should be helpful for our Charlie Company reservists:

The link to the national Weather Service local forecast for Seattle, Washington is at <https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=47.0968&lon=-122.6312#.YTPW345KiUI>

The link to on base road conditions is at <https://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/roadconditions/roadcon.pdf>

This region is subject to inclement weather with ice, snow, freezing fog and black ice any morning in the winter. Commuters should always slow down and drive for the conditions. When inclement weather occurs, JBLM information will be communicated via:

- JBLM Website, <HTTPS://HOME.ARMY.MIL/LEWIS-MCCHORD/>
- Weather and Road Conditions pdf at <HTTPS://WWW.LEWIS-MCCHORD.ARMY.MIL/ROADCONDITIONS/ROADCON.PDF>
- JBLM Facebook page, <HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JBLEWISMCCCHORD/>
- JBLM Twitter page, HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/JBLM_PAO
- JBLM Digital Garrison App's "Push Notifications" – download it for free on the Apple App Store and Google Play
- JBLM Alert. To sign up go to <HTTPS://HOME.ARMY.MIL/LEWIS-MCCHORD/INDEX.PHP/MY-JOINT-BASE-LEWIS-MCCHORD/ALL-SERVICES/JBLM-ALERT>
- Recorded weather message on AM 1500
- Inclement Weather phone message on 253-967-1733
- Direct phone alerts from the Watch Office to JBLM units
- Or talk with your supervisor or leadership.

CONRAD KURAHARA, B COMPANY

<https://www.100thbattalion.org/archives/photos/h-m/kurahara-conrad/>

CONRAD KURAHARA was from Sacramento, California. His family was incarcerated at Tule Lake. After he enlisted while in camp, he was sent as a replacement for B Company. Kurahara was an anchor in the 100th/442nd color guard. His twin brother, **LAVERNE KURAHARA**, served as the other anchor in the color guard.

Kurahara was wounded in the Gothic Line campaign. Laverne was wounded the same day elsewhere in Europe. Since his injury was less severe than Laverne's, Kurahara visited him in the hospital. When a nurse saw him, she was shocked and asked what he was doing out of bed. Kurahara responded that he was looking for his twin brother.

Kurahara continued serving in Europe after the war ended and performed guard duty of German POWs. At this point, he had an opportunity to try out for the 442nd basketball and football team. The twins played many basketball games throughout Europe.

Kurahara returned to the mainland after his time in the service ended and met his wife, **JANE**. They lived in several places on the mainland before returning to her home state of Hawaii.

2012 JAVA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ESSAY BY ROYCE KURAHARA

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION, JAVA ADVOCATE, SUMMER 2012

<https://javadc.org/news/java-advocate/JAVA-Advocate-Summer-2012.pdf>

“Winning a 2012 Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) scholarship will mean much more than winning a cash prize. ... it will also stand as a landmark in honor of my grandpa, **LAVERNE KURAHARA**, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy and France,” said **ROYCE KURAHARA**, a resident of Sacramento who plans to attend UCLA this fall and study aerospace engineering.

Kurahara, winner of the **JOSEPH ICHIUJI** Scholarship, is one of 10 high school graduates representing

seven states who were awarded JAVA's scholarships to enroll in universities in five states and the District of Columbia. Three are from Southern California. (Photograph of Royce Kurahara is from JAVA).

“To Grandpa

“I have never met him. I have never met the Japanese-American man who served in the historic and renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army; the man who was a piece in the puzzle of history. I have never met the man who was deemed a hero. I have never met the man who came out of the war on the fronts of Europe, only to be thrown into another once he arrived home. I have never met him, not even once. I have never met my grandfather, Laverne M. Kurahara.



I have read the history books and many accounts of not only what Japanese-Americans went through during World War II, but all Americans. It is incredible to believe that these events occurred only about 65 years ago, and even more amazing to realize how closely related I am to an individual who took part in such historic events. Since I have never met him, the stories, reports, and pictures seem larger than life, forever encased and enshrined in history. Some may say this creates a gap between me and my grandfather, as I have never gotten to see what he was truly like while still living. However, I believe my relationship with my grandfather Laverne to be stronger than anything imaginable, for I am able to clearly witness not his words, but instead the honorable and heroic actions of his life. I see an eighteen year old boy, fresh out of high school, applying into the army despite weighing only 130 pounds. I see a courageous young man, fighting overseas in the name of our country, not knowing how long he has left to live. I see a husband and father, kind and gentle to all who knew him, raising a family in peace and happiness. And then I see the remembrance of a life full of achievement; a life well spent.

Winning a 2012 JAVA Scholarship will mean much more than winning a cash prize. Not only will it greatly help out my challenge with financing college, but it will also stand as a landmark in honor of my Grandpa Laverne. Being eighteen, I can hardly imagine what it would be like entering the army with a war looming at my age. Instances like these have established an unparalleled amount of respect and admiration I have for my grandfather, and as I have come of age, I believe it is my duty to preserve and uphold his image however possible. Receiving a JAVA scholarship will fully be in his honor, and it will serve as another reason to cherish and respect my history-filled Japanese-American roots. Although I have never been able to speak a word to him, I will now. You are truly my hero, Grandpa. This one is for you.”

(PPP Editor's Note: According to Royce Kurahara's LinkedIn page at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/royce-kurahara>, he achieved what he promised to do when he was awarded a JAVA Scholarship. He graduated from UCLA in 2016 with a Bachelor's Degree in Aerospace, Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering and is currently working as an engineer).

MEMORY WARS: WORLD WAR II AT 75 AND BEYOND

THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM
website

[https://www.nationalww2museum.org/programs/
memory-wars-world-war-ii-75-and-beyond](https://www.nationalww2museum.org/programs/memory-wars-world-war-ii-75-and-beyond)

The National WWII Museum is hosting a first-of-its-kind international conference to discuss the shifting landscapes of popular memories of this world-altering conflict. Memory Wars: World War II at 75 and Beyond is an all-virtual event that will bring together experts from around the



globe to explore a wide range of provocative questions and issues on **September 9–11, 2021**.

Memory Wars will explore World War II's place in public memory through a global prism, examining how museums, filmmakers, media, memorials, and historians (both academic and public) help shape memories of the conflict.

The event is free but you must register at the museum's website at http://support.nationalww2museum.org/site/Calendar/1686516098?view=RSVP&id=128781&_ga=2.7719665.2146370665.1629386304-1486281182.1608137592.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE (Subject to change. All times Central)

DAY ONE: Thursday, September 9, 2021

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Conference Opening Remarks by **STEPHEN J. WATSON**, President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. “Did Hollywood Really Go to War? Myth and Meaning in WWII Film”
This discussion will look at the role that movies have played in generating, shaping, and altering popular memory of World War II, as well as how some productions go to great lengths to ensure the highest historical accuracy and proximity to reality. Chair: **GORDON H. “NICK” MUELLER**, PhD, President & CEO Emeritus, The National WWII Museum, **NICHOLAS J. CULL, PhD**, Professor, University of Southern California and Past President, the International Association for Media and History, and **KIRK SADUSKI**, Executive, Playtone

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Break

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. EA/Respawn “Medal of Honor: Above and Beyond” – Behind the Scenes
PETER HIRSCHMANN, Respawn Game Director, will discuss the latest instalment in the “Medal of Honor” videogame series. Providing behind the scenes insights and clips and going into the lengths their team went to providing a realism to their work, Hirschmann and Zampella will discuss their battlefield tours and veteran interviews that helped them in their process. The session will also include a screening of the 2021 Academy Award winning documentary (short) “Collette.”

DAY TWO: Friday, September 11

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. “Never Again? The Holocaust in Public Memory and Discourse”
This session will discuss how the Holocaust is remembered today, by whom and for whom. How will its lasting relevance be maintained in public memory? Chair: **LEORA AUSLANDER**, PhD, Professor, University of Chicago, **SARA J. BLOOMFIELD**, Director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, **RONALD LEOPOLD**, Executive Director, Anne Frank House, **DARIUSZ STOLA**, PhD, Director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. “Was It Really Such a Good War? The Myth and Reality of America's War”
Was World War II really a “good war”? In this roundtable session, historians will debate America's various contested memories of World War II, from the still-popular view of the “good war” to other alternative memories presented at home and abroad. How was the notion of the “good war” shaped during the war and afterwards? Was World War II really a “good war”? In this roundtable session, historians will debate America's various contested memories of World War II, from the still-popular view of the “good war” to other alternative memories presented at home and abroad. How was the notion of the “good war” shaped during the war and afterwards? Chair: **ROB CITINO**, PhD, **GORDON H. “NICK” MUELLER**, PhD, President & CEO Emeritus, The National WWII Museum, **TOM BROKAW**, Author of *The Greatest Generation*, and **KEITH LOWE**, Author, *Prisoners of History*

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Screening of “Price For Peace”

The Museum's own documentary, executive produced by **STEVEN SPIELBERG** and **STEPHEN AMBROSE**. The film, which chronicles the events of the Pacific Theater in World War II, from Pearl Harbor through the occupation of Japan, consists of interviews with both American and Japanese veterans

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. “How Video Games Shape Our View of World War II”

With the advance of video games in the 21st century, this roundtable session will discuss how World

War II is portrayed in games, while also providing a new media for history. Chair: **JASON STEINHAUER**, Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute and author of History, Disrupted, **ROBERT WHITAKER**, PhD, Professor, Collin College, Creator and Host of History Respawned, Peter Hirschmann, Game Director, Respawn Entertainment, and **NICHOLAS MORAN**, “The Chieftain,” Historian, Wargaming.net.

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. “How Important Are Museums? Narrative and National Memory of the War” Museums can be places for education, reflection, and memory. This session will explore how museums construct their exhibits around narratives of World War II. Chair: **PATRICK GALLAGHER**, President, Gallagher & Associates, Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, PhD, President & CEO Emeritus, The National WWII Museum, **DR. BRENDAN NELSON AO**, President Boeing Australia, New Zealand & South Pacific, Director Emeritus Australian War Memory, and **JÖRG ECHTERNKAMP**, Research Director, Center for Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw), Potsdam

4:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Break

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. “Representations of World War II in Popular Culture” From popular films to sports, literature, and art, World War II left its enduring mark on American popular culture. In this conversation, cultural historian **RANDY ROBERTS** discusses how the war remained present in daily life long after the fighting ended. Chair: **BRIGADIER GENERAL (RET.) TY SEIDULE**, PhD, Professor Emeritus of History, United States Military Academy at West Point, and Randy Roberts, PhD, 150th Anniversary Professor and Distinguished Professor of History, Purdue University

DAY THREE: Saturday, September 11, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. “Is There Life Between Hitler and Stalin? Mass Murder and Memory in Eastern Europe”

World War II ravaged the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and the latter then suffered Soviet occupation for the next 50 years. This panel will compare and contrast the complex, often irreconcilable ways in which Eastern Europe and Russia remember the war. Chair: **ALEXANDRA RICHIE**, DPhil, Professor, Collegium Civitas, **OMER BARTOV**, PhD, **JOHN P. BIRKELUND** Distinguished Professor of European History, Brown University, and **PAWEL SAWICKI**, Press Officer and Guide, Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial and Museum

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Break

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. “These Honored Dead: How Should We Remember Our Fallen?” This session will explore how various countries—the United States, the UK/Commonwealth, and Germany— memorialize World War II in cemeteries, historic sites, and museums. Chair: **KATE CLARKE LEMAY**, PhD, Historian, National Portrait Gallery, **BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN SLOAN BROWN**, USA (Ret.), Historian, American Battle Monuments Commission, Jörg Echternkamp, PhD, Research Director, Center for Military History and Social Sciences (ZMSBw), Potsdam, **GEORGE HAY**, Official Historian, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and **GENERAL DIRK BACKEN**, Secretary General, Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. “War and Memory in China”

The world’s most populous nation’s experiences of the “long war” from 1931-1949 have often been overlooked in the west. In this conversation, Rana Mitter explains how China experienced this terrible conflict and remembered it afterwards. Chair: **ROB CITINO**, PhD, Senior Historian, The National WWII Museum and **RANA MITTER**, PhD, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, St. Cross College – University of Oxford

12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Break

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. “Living in the Shadow of Auschwitz: How Do Germans Remember?” Since the end of World War II, how have Germans chosen to remember the horrors of that conflict? This session will discuss how Germans remember, or forget, World War II, and how the war is portrayed in their museums and memorials. Chair: **MARC PACHTER**, Historian, Smithsonian Institution, **GÜNTER J. BISCHOF**, PhD, University Research & Marshall Plan Professor of History, Director, Center Austria, University of New Orleans, and **SUSAN NEIMAN**, PhD, Director, Einstein Forum

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. “E Pluribus? Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Memory from World War II to the Present”

How do various communities within the United States remember World War II? This session discusses the complex legacies of the conflict for women, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans; all of whom developed their own narratives of the conflict. Chair: **JOHN MORROW JR**, PhD, Franklin Professor of History, University of Georgia, **CHRISTINE SATO-YAMAZAKI**, Executive Director, National Veterans Network, **BETH BAILEY**, PhD, Foundation Distinguished Professor, University of Kansas, **MAGGIE RIVAS-RODRIGUEZ**, PhD, Professor, The University of Texas at Austin, Founder of Voces Oral History Center

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Break

4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Conference Closing Session: “Days of Infamy: December 7th and September 11th in American History and Memory” – Conversation with **CAROL GLUCK**, PhD, Columbia University
Two events and dates stand out most in American memory for disaster and devastation, Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and the attacks of 9/11. 20 years after the more recent attack, this conversation will discuss how these two events were reacted to, how they are remembered and both the differences and similarities between the two. Introducer: **JAMES GROSSMAN**, PhD, Executive Director, American Historical Association, Interviewer: Robert M. Citino, PhD, Senior Historian, The National WWII Museum, **CAROL GLUCK**, PhD, Professor, Columbia University, and Commentator – Tom Brokaw, Author of *The Greatest Generation*

5:45 p.m. Conference Closing Remarks

Stephen Watson, President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE AUTHOR: JULIET S. KONO

NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER website

<https://www.nvmc.org/event/afternoon-with-the-author-juliet-s-kono/>



An Afternoon with the Author

Juliet S. Kono

Saturday Sept 18
1:30pm HST
Via Zoom

Register @ nvmc.org
(808) 244-NVMC

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

Anshū
DARK SORROW
a novel

About the book:

Based on historical events, *ANSHU* is a tale of passion and human triumph in the face of extraordinary adversity, spanning the cane fields of Hawai'i and the devastation in Hiroshima. A pregnant and unmarried Hilo teenager, **HIMIKO AOKI**, finds her Hawai'i Japanese American identity clashing with Japan's cultural norms when she is sent to live with relatives in Tokyo in 1941 and becomes trapped there with the outbreak of war. When America drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Himiko finds herself adapting in unexpected ways just to survive.

About the author:

JULIET KONO was born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i and is a survivor of the 1946 Tsunami. She has written extensively about the JA experience across the generations. She seeks to give voice to those who would have otherwise faded into oblivion. She especially wants to give voice to the women immigrants who came to Hawai'i as contract laborers, depending on the tensile strength of their memories. She has written two books of poetry, *Hilo Rains & Tsunami Years*, a short story collection, *Ho'olulu Park and the Pepsodent Smile*, a novel called, *Anshū* and two books of linked poetry with three other women poets called *No Choice to Follow* and *What We Must Remember*. She is presently working on another novel, *Misao's Body*.

She is a recipient of the Hawai'i Award for Literature, American Japanese National Literary Award, the US/ Japan Friendship Commission Creative Artist Exchange Fellowship, the Po'okela Award for *Tsunami Years & Anshū*. She is retired and lives with her husband in Honolulu.

About the Series:

“An Afternoon with the Author” invites published fiction and non-fiction writers from around Hawaii and the mainland into our homes.

By means of ZOOM, the Center will host a different author each month to talk about their work, the story behind the story, and their personal journey on the way to having their work published.

Chosen because of its tie to the Japanese-American experience, each author’s work connects individuals with larger truths and ideas about society. After all, everything that happens in the world can be written and learned from literature which through the centuries has shaped civilizations, changed political systems, exposed injustice and observed the human condition. Literature is the foundation of humanity's cultures, beliefs, and traditions.

Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_baFIR1bMTE6H0VhkPcab7g

FROM THE NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER’S ARCHIVES
WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE, email from the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center,
August 25, 2021



Here's a treasure that we received from the family of veteran **TADAYOSHI HAMASAKI**. While training at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, Hamasaki got some of his buddies to sign this pennant, creating a one-of-a-kind souvenir of his early days in the 100th Infantry Battalion. [#100ifb](#) [#campmccoy](#) [#nvmcarchive](#)

The NVMC is honored to be the repository of over 200 special collections of Maui's Nisei Veterans. We thank the veterans and families for entrusting us with these precious items to share with current and future generations. If you have any questions about the archives or are considering a donation of items to the Center, please contact **MELANIE AGRABANTE**, Research Archivist, at (808) 244-6862. Mahalo for your support.

//
//
//

TADAYOSHI HAMASAKI, D COMPANY

<https://www.100thbattalion.org/archives/photos/h-m/hamasaki-tadayoshi/>

TADAYOSHI HAMASAKI was born in Kipahulu, Maui. His family lived in several different places on Maui – Waihee, Waikapu, Lahaina, and Wailuku. The fourth of eight children, Hamasaki had to quit school after the 8th grade to help his family. After the war, he went back to school and earned his GED.

An original member of the 100th (D Company), he was inducted into the Hawaii National Guard on March 25, 1941. His youngest brother, **KAZUICHI**, later joined the 442nd. In Italy, Hamasaki was severely injured by a bomb blast which threw him across the room. He was in a body cast for six months. While recuperating in a Battle Creek, Michigan hospital, he met his future wife **MARY** through a friend.

When he was young, Hamasaki played softball. After the war, he continued to play softball on Maui in the “old man’s league.” He also enjoyed fishing, especially for ulua, was considered a “jack of all trades” and had a green thumb.

Hamasaki was a very quiet and kind man who took good care of his family. He played mahjong on Sundays, but always took his family to eat saimin for lunch and then returned to continue playing. His friends called him Taddy and knew he was always willing to help them out.

His wife Mary called him Ted and nursed him as he endured severe medical problems during the last seven years of his life.

Read the newspaper article by **BEN TAMASHIRO**, *Mary Hamasaki: Unbreakable Spirit* at <https://www.100thbattalion.org/archives/newspaper-articles/ben-tamashiro/mary-hamasaki-unbreakable-spirit/>.

SUBTITLED/UPDATED VERSION OF THE JUNE 4TH GO FOR BROKE: JAPANESE AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF WORLD WAR II STAMP LIVE-STREAM IS UP!

E-mail received from **ROBERT HORSTING**, August 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Los Angeles Ceremony SUBTITLED

This UPDATED/SUBTITLED version has been color and sound adjusted, has HD prerecorded segments as well as additional Nisei World War II veteran comments, in addition to **JAKE SHIMABUKURO**'s “Go For Broke: An Origin Story” movie theme video courtesy of **STACEY HAYASHI** and Jake Shimabukuro. Music performances by **KIMO CORNWELL** and **JUNE KURAMOTO**, spoken word by **KAZE JONES**, and WWII-era letters read by actor **DEREK MIO**. ABC7 News Anchorman **DAVID ONO** is the MC.

This video documents the live-streamed Los Angeles Unveiling Ceremony and Dedication for the Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Forever US commemorative postage stamp. The event took place on June 4th, 2021, at the Japanese American National Museum's National Center for the Preservation of Democracy.

We extend a special “Thanks” to the veterans, family members, and friends for their recorded statements:

YOSHIO C. YOSH NAKAMURA / LINDA NAKAMURA OBERHOLTZER

RALPH MATSUMOTO / JOHN & DEBRA MATSUMOTO

DON MIYADA / WAYNE OSAKO

SHINYE GIMA / CLYDE SUGIMOTO

TOKUJI TOKE YOSHIHASHI / PAULINE YOSHIHASHI

VIRGIL WESTDALE / FRED WESTDALE

SHIGEMI HASHIMOTO / GWEN HARMS

ENOCH KANAYA / LAURA HADLEY

GEORGE SHIMIZU / TOMMY HIRABAYASHI

HIROSHI "HERSHEY" MIYAMURA / KELLY HILDAHL

TERRY SHIMA / EILEEN ROULIER

Lastly, this contains production Credits and messages of “Thanks” to the many people and organizations (It’s impossible to remember everyone over this 16-year journey, so please accept our apologies if we missed your name.) who have helped and given their support to the Stamp Our Story Campaign in the successful effort to honor the Nisei veterans of WWII with their stamp.

Link: <https://youtu.be/AROA0UDb9yg>

Please share this video and honor the Nisei veteran story.

With gratitude, The Stamp Our Story Committee

THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD WAR II

NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM website

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/programs/14th-international-conference-world-war-ii>

The International Conference on World War II is the premier adult educational event bringing together the best and brightest scholars, authors, historians, and witnesses to history from around the globe to discuss key battles, personalities, strategies, issues, and controversies of the war that changed the world. Joining the featured speakers are hundreds of attendees who travel from all over the world to learn to connect with each other through engaging discussions, question-and-answer periods, book signings, and receptions throughout the weekend.



The 14th International Conference on World War II features a daylong, pre-conference symposium “Pearl Harbor at 80.” Two subsequent days of Conference sessions will explore an array of topics, including the Wannsee Conference, female WWII correspondents, WWII historical fiction, WWII espionage, and more.

Register at <https://travel.nationalww2museum.org/Account/Register?returnUrl=%2FBooking%2FStart%2F3614%2FTOUR&Option=booking>.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM – PEARL HARBOR AT 80: **Thurs., November 18**

The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center Arcadia Terrace and Ballroom, 2nd Floor

As the country and the world begin to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, this pre-Conference symposium will focus on the latest and greatest findings and works on this launching point of American entry into the war. Find an early look at the day’s schedule below.

6:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Higgins Hotel and Conference Center: Arcadia Terrace, 2nd Floor

Symposium Welcome and Opening Remarks by **STEPHEN WATSON**, President and CEO

Session 1 “Pearl Harbor: The Road to War—The Americans”

Chair – **ALLAN MILLETT**, *The Long March to December 7* – **RICHARD FRANK**, and *Those in Those in Charge: The Commanders* – **RUSSELL HART**

Session 2: “Pearl Harbor: The Road to War—The Japanese”

Chair – Richard Frank, *Japan 1941* – TBD, *Hirohito and His Commanders* – TBD

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch break and book signing

Session 3: “**DORIE MILLER**, Double V, and the Effects of Pearl Harbor on African Americans”

Chair – **STEPHANIE HINNERSHITZ**, The National WWII Museum, *The Use and Misuse of Doris Miller in World War II and After* – **ROBERT CHESTER**, “*America's got lots of problems, but Hitler won't fix them*”—*African Americans' Contributions to Victory* – **JOHN MORROW**

Session 4: “Pearl Harbor ‘What Ifs’ — A Roundtable Discussion”

Chair – **CONRAD CRANE**, Panelists – Allan Millett, **JON PARSHALL**, **IAN TOLL**

4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Symposium closing remarks

Attendees exit for Conference Opening Reception

CONFERENCE DAY 1: Thurs., November 18, 2021

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Opening Reception

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. International Conference on World War II Opening Keynote Address

Opening Remarks – Stephen Watson, President & CEO, The National WWII Museum

Welcome Remarks – Representative from Presenting Sponsor, Pritzker Military Museum & Library

Session 1 OPENING SESSION – “Pearl Harbor at 80: Lasting and New Legacies”

Speakers TBD

7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Book Signing

CONFERENCE DAY 2: Friday, November 19, 2021

US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center

6:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Higgins Hotel & Conference Center: Arcadia Terrace, 2nd Floor

Session 2 “By Land, Sea and Air: The Experiences of Fighting the Pacific War – A Roundtable Discussion”

Chair – JAMES SCOTT. Panelists – JOHN MCMANUS (Land); Ian Toll (Sea); TBD (Air)

Session 3 “Double V Deferred: African American WWII Veterans and the Civil Rights Movement”

Chair – TBD, JOHN MORROW – University of Georgia and ROBERT JEFFERSON – University of New Mexico

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Lunch break and continued book signing

Session 4 “The GEN. RAYMOND E. MASON Distinguished Lecture on World War II – The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food”

LIZZIE COLLINGHAM and Interviewer – JASON DAWSEY, The National WWII Museum

Session 5 “Out of the Shadows: Heroines of World War II”

Chair – JENNIFER POPOWICZ, The National WWII Museum, *The Nine: The True Story of a Band of Women Who Survived The Worst of Nazi Germany* – GWEN STRAUSS, *The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line: Untold Stories of the Women Who Changed the of World War II* – MAJOR GENERAL MARI EDER

Session 6 “Navigating the Troubled Waters of WWII History”

Chair – GORDON H. “NICK” MUELLER. Panelists – John Morrow, ALEXANDRA RICHIE, RICHARD FRANK, DONALD MILLER

4:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Book Signing, followed by Museum Open House

CONFERENCE DAY 3: Saturday, November 20, 2021

US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center

6:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Higgins Hotel Conference Center: Arcadia Terrace, 2nd Floor

Session 7 “The Wannsee Conference: War and Genocide”

Chair – GUENTER BISCHOF, *The Master Plan for the Final Solution* – Alexandra Richie, *The Global Ramifications of Pearl Harbor* – GERHARD WEINBERG

Session 8 “Dateline Liberation: Female Correspondents Reporting the End of the War”

Chair – Donald L. Miller, MARTHA GELLHORN – JANET SOMERVILLE. LEE MILLER – HILARY ROBERTS

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Lunch break and continued book signing

Session 9 “The GEN. RAYMOND E. MASON Distinguished Lecture on World War II – Citizen Soldiers: From Minutemen to GIs”

RICK ATKINSON, Interviewer – Rob Citino

Session 10 “Fast Friends and Future Foes: Germany, the Soviet Union and the West”

Chair – Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, *Faustian Bargain: German-Soviet Relations in the Interwar Years* – IAN JOHNSON, *Stalin’s War* – SEAN MCMEEKIN

Session 11 “The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and the Longest Night of the Second World War”

Presenter – MALCOLM GLADWELL. Roundtable discussion with DONALD MILLER and CONRAD CRANE

5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center closed

6:00 p.m. Optional screening of *Beyond All Boundaries* in the Solomon Victory Theater (limited capacity—first come, first served)

7:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Dinner

Session 12 “Closing Banquet and Presentation: A Conversation on the Works of Best-Selling Author JENNET CONANT with Rob Citino, PhD”

OFFICIALS SIGN WWII-ERA FLAG TO HONOR JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS, INTERNMENT CAMP SURVIVORS by **JAYNA OMAYE**,

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser, August 12, 2021

<https://news.yahoo.com/officials-sign-wwii-era-flag-161300934.html>

August 12—Revered nisei veterans **Shinye Gima** and former **GOV. GEORGE ARIYOSHI** joined leaders and community members Wednesday in signing a World War II-era U.S. flag as part of a national initiative to honor Japanese American soldiers and internment camp survivors.

The two flags, part of a project started by a California judge, have been signed by more than 400 nisei soldiers, internment camp survivors and their families, and other Japanese Americans affected by World War II from cities throughout the West Coast and from Washington, D.C. The flags will be signed by about 25 people in Hawaii before they head back to the mainland for more signatures.

"The nisei veterans played a vital role in the war in Europe and the Pacific, said Ariyoshi, who served as an interpreter in Japan with the Military Intelligence Service. "I felt it was important that I come."

Other officials and community members who signed the flag at the Wednesday event, which was held at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, include the Honouliuli National Historic Site's first superintendent, **HANAKO WAKATSUKI-CHONG**, whose family was incarcerated in war relocation centers at Manzanar and Tule Lake in California and Minidoka in Idaho ; University of Hawaii professor **DENNIS OGAWA**, who was born at Manzanar and pioneered the first courses on Japanese Americans at UH ; and **LARRY MIWA**, a Honolulu resident and Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor.

After Pearl Harbor was bombed, **PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT** signed Executive Order 9066, resulting in the mass incarceration of about 120, 000 Japanese living in the U.S., many of whom were American citizens. Although more prevalent on the mainland, about 2, 000 Japanese from Hawaii were also incarcerated. Years later in 1988, the U.S. Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, acknowledging the injustice of the incarceration camps and paying \$20, 000 in reparations to internees.

During World War II, more than 20, 000 nisei from Hawaii and the mainland served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, despite the U.S. government classifying them as enemy aliens and incarcerating many of their families. Because of their courage, service and bravery during and after WWII, nisei soldiers from these three units were awarded thousands of medals, including Purple Hearts, Medals of Honor and an unprecedented number of Presidential Unit Citations. In 2011, the 100th, 442nd RCT and MIS were also presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress.

For Gima, who served in the Military Intelligence Service, he said it's important to perpetuate and honor the stories of the nisei soldiers and Japanese Americans today. The signed flags, he said, will be objects of reverence.

"The idea that people from our states are looking for mementos to honor the nisei is great, " said Gima, 96. "I give people credit for thinking of new ways to honor nisei soldiers. This is a new way."

Santa Clara County Superior Court **JUDGE JOHNNY GOGO**, who started the flag signing project as a way to honor activist **FRED KOREMATSU**, who challenged the constitutionality of internment camps, and other Japanese Americans said he plans to donate the flags to the Japanese American Museum of San Jose and the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Gogo, who is originally from Guam and is not Japanese, said he plans to travel to five more cities, including Portland, Ore.; Palo Alto, Calif.; and Fresno, Calif., over the next couple of months and to visit all 10 internment camps on the mainland. So far, he's visited several cities—Seattle ; Sacramento, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; and Salt Lake City—to collect signatures.

"It's been a very moving and powerful experience to hear their stories, " Gogo said Wednesday. "We need to keep these types of stories going so future generations can learn from them and prevent this from

happening. Racism still exists, so it's important to continue reminding people of these lessons”.

SEE THIS NOW: 'RIGHTING A WRONG' AT SOLDIERS MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM by **CHRIS NAFFZIGER**

St. Louis Magazine website, August 30, 2021

<https://www.stlmag.com/history/righting-a-wrong-soldiers-memorial-military-museum/>

A new traveling exhibit is on display at the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum in downtown St. Louis, and it highlights the experience of Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps during World War II. *Righting a Wrong* combines the stories of local residents with the overall history of internment camps throughout America. It runs until October 10 in the special exhibit galleries of the lower floor of the memorial.

The effects of Order 9066, which **PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT** signed on February 19, 1942, have reached into present day, not just in St. Louis, but across the country. The exhibit begins with the background of Japanese immigrants in the United States, which began with the arrival of agricultural workers to Hawaii in the 1860s, shortly after the annexation of that island chain by America. For much of the 19th century, anti-Asian prejudice and violence had been directed toward Chinese immigrants who arrived in much greater numbers to the U.S. mainland, which I wrote about in 2019. However, as more Japanese immigrated to Washington, Oregon, and California, in the 20th century, prejudice and laws legalizing discrimination began to appear. One example was Oregon's 1923 Alien Land Law, passed to specifically prevent the purchase of orchard land by Japanese immigrants. It was spurred by jealousy of the success of Japanese orchard owners in the Hood River Valley.

Then the attack on Pearl Harbor happened, and racism and prejudice toward Japanese Americans came out in full force. Months after the declaration of war and the signing of Order 9066, 75,000 Japanese American citizens and 45,000 non-citizens of Japanese descent were ordered to report to assembly centers. While the government didn't technically seize any property, Japanese Americans were forced to sell their houses and businesses so quickly—sometimes in a matter of days—that many if not most ended up settling for ridiculously low offers that exploited their desperation. The few lucky ones were sometimes able to get their white neighbors to hold onto their property, not knowing when or if they would ever be able to return to claim it. Chinese Americans were now seen as the allies of the war effort.

Perhaps one of my favorite items on display is a cactus wood walking stick. It literally represents the harsh, arid, and inhospitable living conditions of many of the camps located in the desert Southwest. It also figuratively and spiritually symbolizes the ability of Japanese internees to find beauty and purpose in their plight and confinement, held without charges in the United States. Another object consists of a lotus flower made out of shells found by an internee, carefully put together one by one. (*Photograph on the right of a flower corsage created from shells for HARU TANAKA, courtesy of Haru Tanaka*). And as the exhibit explains, life went on, and another object on display is a Bureau of Indian Affairs diploma, but in this case, granted to a Japanese American held in an internment camp.



Out of the forced relocation also came generosity, when Washington University offered a path out of the camps for several talented young men. **GYO OBATA** was originally from San Francisco, but his family was interned at a camp. Only Washington University was accepting Japanese Americans during World War II, and Obata settled in St. Louis, establishing one of the most prominent architecture firms in the world, HOK. Two of the most elegant designs of Modernist architecture in St. Louis—the Priory and the Planetarium—are works that came out of Obata's move to the Gateway City. **RICHARD HENMI**, who was also held in an internment camp, came to St. Louis at Washington University's invitation, and we have the "Flying Saucer" building in Grand Center to our benefit.

Yet despite the injustices done to Japanese Americans, they remained steadfast in their loyalty to the

Yet despite the injustices done to Japanese Americans, they remained steadfast in their loyalty to the United States, even in the camps. Tens of thousands of Japanese Americans served in the armed forces in Europe, including the 100th Infantry Battalion in Italy.

Finally, **MITSUYO ENDO** filed a lawsuit, *Ex parte Mitsuye Endo*, that traveled all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled in October 1944 that the holding of American citizens without charge was unconstitutional. The camps were closed, but the war was now drawing to a close.

The exhibit closes with what happened after the war, as Japanese Americans rebuilt their lives and sought justice from the United States. Government efforts after the war were surprisingly bipartisan, beginning with **GERALD FORD** formally terminating Order 9066 on February 19, 1976. **JIMMY CARTER** signed legislation creating the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which released a report in 1982, "Personal Justice Denied," officially stating there was no military basis to Order 9066, and that the decision to issue the forced internment of Japanese Americans was based more on prejudice than reasonable fears. Then, during the presidency of **RONALD REAGAN**, the Civil Liberties Act was passed, leading to payments of \$20,000 during the **GEORGE BUSH** administration. But as the decades pass by since the Second World War, and the memory of the injustices inflicted on Japanese Americans fades, we are in need of reminders of a period of American history that wasn't our proudest.

[*PPP Editor's Note*: The *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II* exhibit is on display at the Missouri Historical Society's Soldiers Memorial Museum. It is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian, which examines the complicated history and impact of Executive Order 9066 that led to the incarceration of 75,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 45,000 Japanese nationals following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Young and old lived crowded together in hastily built camps, endured poor living conditions, and were under the constant watch of military guards for two and a half years. Meanwhile, brave Japanese American men risked their lives fighting for the United States. Some 40 years later, members of the Japanese American community led the nation to confront the wrong it had done—and urged Congress to make it right. Visitors will also be able to experience St. Louis voices in a small local component developed by the Soldiers Memorial Military Museum. Visit the exhibit at the museum's website: <https://mohistory.org/exhibits/righting-a-wrong>

There are several related stories about the Japanese American experience in the St. Louis, Missouri area that can also be found at the website. One is about brothers **JOSEPH, CHESTER AND EDWARD TANAKA** who all served in the 442nd RCT during World War II (<https://mohistory.org/blog/tanaka-brothers>). Another article is entitled *Language and the Legacy of Japanese American Incarceration* (<https://mohistory.org/blog/japanese-american-incarceration>). A third article is entitled *Remembering and Righting a Wrong* (<https://mohistory.org/blog/remembering-and-righting-a-wrong>).]

NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK HOLDS SPECIAL EVENT CELEBRATING NISEI SOLDIER EXPERIENCE EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE U.S. ARMY

JOHNSON CITY PRESS website, September 3, 2021

https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/national-veterans-network-holds-special-event-celebrating-nisei-soldier-experience-exhibit-at-the-national-museum/article_e7b8a29b-8f91-50f0-a63b-da7ea273f47c.html

FORT BELVOIR, Va., Sept. 3, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- Invited by the National Veterans Network to view the recently unveiled Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir, VA, Japanese American WWII Nisei veterans **COLONEL (RET) CHARLES MORIYAMA**, 96, of Honolulu, and **RALPH MATSUMOTO**, 100, of Paramount, Calif., traveled across the United States to visit the Museum and the historic exhibit. Although they had never met, they shared service to the United States as linguists in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service during WWII.

The Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit is the National Museum of the U.S. Army's first special exhibit that showcases an unprecedented collection of Japanese American artifacts that capture the rarely told story of the

Nisei Soldier Celebration Event

August 28, 2021



Japanese American Nisei Soldier during World War II. The exhibit highlights their struggles both at home and abroad, their courageous acts on the battlefield and their long-awaited recognition culminating in the Congressional Gold Medal awarded in 2011.

The importance of their service and the significance of the WWII veteran's visit the Museum was highlighted by multiple visits with high-level United States government officials.

GENERAL ERIK K. SHINSEKI (Retired) introduced **GENERAL PAUL M. NAKASONE**, Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Services, for keynote remarks. Gen. Nakasone discussed his father's service in WWII veteran who also joined the Military Intelligence Service. **COL. EDWIN "BUD" NAKASONE** was born on April 29, 1927 near Wahiawa, Oahu, one of 10 children born to Issei parents. He was 14 years old when Pearl Harbor was attacked and recalls seeing Japanese planes flying overhead on their way to Wheeler Field, a U.S. Army airfield. Drafted in 1945, Nakasone went on to serve in Military Intelligence Service. Nakasone was assigned as part of the U.S. Army military forces in the occupation of Japan and the 168th Language Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division where he assigned people to translation projects in the War Crimes Trials and HQ's daily translations. Discharged in 1948, Nakasone went on to teach history at White Bear Lake High School, MN, and Century College, White Bear Lake, MN until his retirement in 2000. Nakasone remained active in the Army Reserves and retired as a Colonel in April 1987 after nearly 42 years of service.

"The contributions of the Nisei Soldiers during WWII amplified the value and strength that inclusion and diversity, coupled with a strong sense of service can bring to our Nation," Gen. Nakasone said. "They paved the way for future generations of Japanese Americans, myself included."

ERIKA MORITSUGU, deputy assistant to 47th President of the United States, **PRESIDENT JOSEPH BIDEN**, shared her personal connection having two uncles who served during WWII and received Medals of

Honor.

"The new exhibit at the National Museum of the U.S. Army and the longstanding work of the National Veterans Network underscore how critical it is to honor and remember the Nisei Soldiers during World War II for their distinguished service fighting for our country," said Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to 47th President of the United States, President Joseph Biden. "We will never forget their allegiance and their gallantry. It is part of our legacy and inspiration and a critical part of our American history."

Just the day prior, the Army Chief of Staff, **GENERAL JAMES C. MCCONVILLE** joined a social reception at the National Museum of the U.S. Army to meet with the two WWII Veterans and Medal of Honor families.

Gen. James McConville, 40th Chief of Staff of the Army visited with the veterans and families and told them, "Our Soldiers today stand on your shoulders and strive every day to live up to the legacy you left us."

Moriyama and Matsumoto were greeted by General Eric K. Shinseki (Retired), 34th U.S. Army Chief of Staff and **CHRISTINE SATO-YAMAZAKI**, executive director of the National Veterans Network, and joined by three families of Medal of Honor recipients: **PFC. KAORU MOTO**, 100th Infantry Battalion; **PFC. SADAO MUNEMORI**, 100th Infantry Battalion; and **PFC. GEORGE SAKATO**, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, along with other WWII Veteran families at events at the Museum.

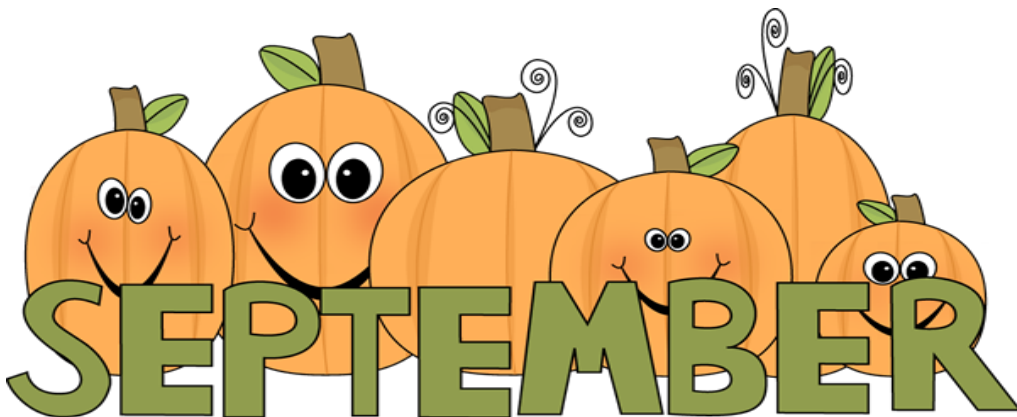
COL. (RET) CHARLES MORIMOTO shared "My wife **HELEN** and I made the decision in 2019 that we would visit the Museum when it opened. Nothing could have stopped us from coming for this historic event. I wish more of my fellow Nisei Veterans were still here to see this exhibit that honors the sacrifice, service and honor of our units during WWII. I thank everyone who worked so hard for this exhibit, especially the National Veterans Network."

"I never thought a day or exhibit like this would happen in my lifetime. I am so grateful to everyone who made this exhibit a reality," said Ralph Matsumoto, WWII veteran. "I am grateful to the National Veterans Network for their commitment to telling our story."

Over 26 wartime objects of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) are on display, along with nine life stories and interactive maps that allows visitors to learn about the campaigns and battles fought by the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT in the European Campaign and MIS in Pacific Campaign. From 2017 to 2020, the National Veterans Network worked together with the National Museum of the United States Army to gather artifacts and develop the historical content for the Nisei Soldier Experience exhibit.

"For the Japanese American WWII veterans and the families of the 100th, 442nd and MIS, this is an important and significant recognition by the United States Army. Despite being discriminated based on their race, these young men and women rose above fear and prejudice in WWII to demonstrate their loyalty to the United States. It is our hope that many will come to learn to the Museum to learn this American story," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director, National Veterans Network.

Please visit us at www.nationalveteransnetwork.com, and follow the NVN on Facebook (NationalVeteransNetwork), Twitter (@NtlVetNetwork) or Instagram (nationalveteransnetwork).



PAU