



Puka-Puka Parade



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President's Message

by Lloyd Kitaoka

As some of you have noticed, Larissa Nielson is no longer working in the office. She has resigned and her last day was February 22. We will miss her and we wish her all the best. We thank her for her service to our organization. We have hired a temporary part-time office assistant, Maydean Rahne, who will be covering the office until we find a full time office manager. Please welcome her and be patient in the interim.

The month of March has been and will be a very busy time for us. The opening of the Congressional Gold Medal at the Bishop Museum on March 9 was very successful and well attended. The exhibit is very well done and our gratitude goes out to the Smithsonian Institution, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, National Veterans Network, and all the sponsors which made this a reality. I hope our panel discussion (March 23) will be just as successful.

As of this writing, I am also looking forward to all the activities of the 70th anniversary of the 442nd. I am proud to represent the 100th at all the activities and although it does seem overwhelming sometimes, I always come away more energized. I meet so many people at these events and the strange thing is that most of the time, people approach me to tell me how they are connected to our vets. I am always treated with such honor and respect. I could get very used to be treated like this but I know when my term is over it's going to be ... "excuse me, who are you again?" I'm not naïve to think it's me or the office I hold that deserves such respect. I know from where this honor and respect comes. It comes from those who I represent, the veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

People have such high regard for our vets and hold our organization with very high esteem and honor. Don't get me wrong, I know they weren't perfect human beings (my dad would argue that!) but collectively they did something very special that helped shape our State and Nation to where it is today. Ordinary men, doing extraordinary things. Heroes? Not to them...but certainly to us.

Our Long Range Planning committee has developed a survey to help give the Board a good idea of what our members envision for future of our organization. This is an important time for our members to voice their opinions on the crucial issues we face, particularly as our veterans leave us for a better place. If you receive the survey, I urge you to please complete it (on paper or on-line) and return it before the deadline of April 15. The survey will take some thought and more than a few minutes, but the results will shape our future plans so please give it your best, in honor of our veterans who gave their best for our country.

Lloyd Kitaoka



In Memoriam

Tom Tomio Sekimura (D)

Passed away on February 21, 2013

James Iwao Hirai (C)

Passed away on March 3, 2013

Our deepest sympathy to their families.

American Heroes Exhibit Opens at Bishop Museum

by Pauline Sato

On Saturday, March 9, veterans, wives, widows, descendants, and friends gathered at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum to officially open the new exhibit: American Heroes – World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal. Thanks to the generosity of the Museum, we were able to see the exhibit before the public and eat an enjoyable breakfast. We also were treated to a special program emceed by Howard Sugai, former Executive Officer of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.



Blair Collis, President and CEO of Bishop Museum gave a heartfelt opening address, followed by remarks by Konrad Ng, Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. Jeanne Ishikawa, Deputy Director of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation, represented Mayor Caldwell who could not be present due to illness. Her remarks were especially relevant being that her father was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. She

read a very touching letter that he had written to family back home in Hawaii while he was at Camp Shelby.

Our illustrious President, Lloyd Kitaoka, then gave his address, the first of his tenure given to such a large audience of more than 400 people. Presidents of the 44nd (William Thompson) and MIS (George Arine) then followed. Finally, Major General (Retired) Robert Lee gave the keynote address.

After the speeches and the retiring of the Colors by the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, US Army Reserve, the maile lei was untied to commemorate the opening of the exhibit at the Castle Memorial Building. It was wonderful to see the excitement on everyone's faces!

If you have not yet seen the exhibit, please make a point to see it as it is much more than the gold medal. The Museum staff has done a wonderful job at curating an informative and attractive exhibit, which will remain open until April 14.



Remarks by Major General Robert G.F. Lee, US Army (Retired)

*Congressional Gold Medal Honolulu Tour
Bishop Museum
March 9, 2013*

Good morning and Aloha!

I am proud to be here today so we can salute again a very special group of American patriots to whom we all owe so much. Distinguished in battle and yet so humble; they are the men of "One Puka Puka," "Go For Broke", and the MIS. Public Law 111-254 was passed by Congress on October 5, 2010, and signed into law three days later by President Obama. The purpose of the act was "To grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to every soldier that served with the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd

Regimental Combat team, and the Military Intelligence Service of the United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.”

The award of the Congressional Gold Medal is rare as this medal has been awarded only 147 times since the founding of our nation. On Nov 2, 2011 in Washington DC, our honorees joined the ranks of other recipients of this highest award that Congress can bestow on behalf of the American people. Our Nisei veterans are now in the same league with people of military background like George Washington, Ulysses S. Grant, George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, as well as other special units like the Navajo Code Talkers and the Tuskegee Airmen, all distinguished recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal.

It is only fitting that Hawaii be the first stop of the nationwide Congressional Gold Medal tour following the launch at the WWII Museum in New Orleans because Hawaii was where many of the soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT came from. Members of the Hawaii National Guard’s 298th and 299th Infantry formed the foundation of the 100th Infantry Battalion and many more from Hawaii joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team after the early success of the 100th Battalion in battle.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 changed so many lives forever in Hawaii. Education was put on hold, some marriages deferred, and others moved up but all of our communities sacrificed.

But the community most affected was the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA). Early fear and paranoia led to distrust and suspicion and that turned to discrimination and hatred against the AJA community.

In response to such discrimination and hatred, you AJAs demanded the right to serve and defend your country during war like all other American citizens. Out of such patriotism came the legendary units and soldiers we honor today: the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

You Nisei soldiers wrote quite a chapter in American military history. You were quiet and humble and although small in stature, you were so tough and fierce in battle. Through your actions, any questions about Soldier capabilities, or individual toughness, or loyalty to this country were put to rest once and for all.

Prior to the Congressional Gold Medal event in DC, I was honored to accompany 100/442 WWII veterans and their families along with 100th Battalion Commander LTC Horikawa and his soldiers to participate in the annual memorial ceremony hosted by the towns of Bruyeres and Biffontaine in France. The citizens of those towns, generations young and old, still remember and honor the 100/442 soldiers that gave them their freedom over 68 years ago. We met Daniel, a young boy back in October 1944, who described to us how the American Division was bogged down for weeks and could not dislodge the dug in Germans. Along comes the “Go For Broke” soldiers, rushed from Italy; how you quickly broke the German defenses....however, at great cost.

I saw your daunting objectives; the 4 monster hills that surrounded Bruyeres and Biffontaine that you needed to take in order to rescue the Lost Battalion from Texas. Weeks of bad weather covered the battlefield so you had no close air support, yet you showed your tenacity, guts, and sheer determination to take the objectives assigned.

This tough mission and many, many more from North Africa, to Italy, to France, and back to Italy resulted in over 18,000 individual awards from September 1943 to September 1945. This includes 21 Medals of Honor; 52 Distinguished Service Crosses; 560 Silver Stars, and over 4,000 Bronze Stars; A staggering 9,486 Purple Hearts for combat wounds; and seven Presidential Unit Citations for the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

No other regiment in U.S. Army history has such a battle record. You are the most decorated unit in the US Army!

But we are making it more difficult for other Army Regiments to catch up to you as we are building on your combat record with Bronze Star Medal awards to soldiers of the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT which you should have received for your service in WWII. In the last 9 months we were able to award 7 soldiers with the Bronze Star medal from the 442nd RCT and we have 12 soldiers pending approval for both the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT. I want to publically thank Colonel Robert Leshner of the Hawaii Army National Guard for pushing the US Army to authorize these deserving awards. So if you are an infantry soldier or combat medic in the 100th Battalion or 442nd RCT and did not receive a Bronze Star Medal for your combat duty in

Europe, please contact Lloyd Kitaoka for the 100th Battalion and Wes Deguchi for the 442nd with a copy of your discharge papers.

The highly classified nature of the MIS's missions hid the valor and accomplishments of its Soldiers. Officially, the MIS did not even exist until more than two decades after World War II, when their existence was declassified and because you soldiers really knew how to keep a secret. They have never been fully recognized for such operational accomplishments such as the linguist support that lead to the aerial ambush of Admiral Yamamoto, the architect of the Pearl Harbor attack. Helping Merrill's Marauders' succeed in Burma; providing the Intelligence for General MacArthur's island-hopping campaign; and seizing the strategic initiative during and after the Battle of Midway. By the end of the war, the MIS was everywhere in the Pacific Theater. General Charles Willoughby, General MacArthur's Intelligence Chief, declared that "the Nisei saved countless allied lives and shortened the war [in the Pacific] by two years." MIS soldiers contributed immensely in post-war Japan. You helped to build a democratic country that today is our closest and strongest ally.

You surviving veterans represent every soldier who served in your distinguished units, especially those who are no longer with us. You remind us all about the sacrifices which were made so that the rest of us could live our lives as we have come to enjoy them over 70 years. I thank the Smithsonian, National Veterans Network, and the Bishop Museum for sponsoring the Congressional Gold Medal tour to Honolulu **so generations of Americans of all races can learn and understand what great sacrifice it took for these soldiers to pass on the freedom and liberties we enjoy today.** That these Nisei soldiers endured the discrimination and injustice with duty, honor and love of country. They fought like heck to save our country and the world, then came back from the war to rebuild it better.

I have spent the past few minutes praising the Nisei soldiers but typical of your generation, you are not about praising yourselves. Robert Arakaki, WWII veteran from B Company, 100th Infantry Battalion and former President of Club 100 Veterans, asked me to convey this message to all in attendance: ***"I want to thank our ancestors, the Issei, who instilled courage, obedience, obligation, and pride in their culture. Thanks for all the things we***

learned from our ancestors so we were able to earn the Congressional Gold Medal."

In these times of sequestration and budget cutbacks, government can't do everything. Please join me and many others in keeping this Congressional Gold Medal tour on schedule by going on line to <http://wedid.it/campaigns/58-american-heroes-nisei-wwii-soldiers-and-the-congressional-gold-medal>. If you choose to donate by check, please send them to the Go For Broke Association, P.O. Box 88234 Honolulu, Hawaii 96830-8234. These donations are tax deductible.

I am deeply honored to be with you and look forward to seeing the real gold medal on display and learning the stories that go with it. The current price of gold on Friday March 8 is \$1575 per ounce so I understand the medal is now worth way over \$30,000. What is priceless is the gold in the hearts of one puka puka, Go For Broke, and MIS Nisei soldiers as you cared for your buddies, your families, and our nation. You have my deepest appreciation and Mahalo **because I know I am where I am** because of your patriotism, courage, and sacrifice over 70 years ago. May God continue to bless you, your families, and the United States of America!

Go For Broke!!!



Long Range Planning Survey Seeks Your Input

Attention members of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans!

Your thoughts and ideas on the future of our organization are requested via a survey designed by Long Range Planning committee co-chairs, Irene Anzai (1st Vice President) and Robert Ozaki (2nd Vice President). Either by way of US postal service or email, you should have received the survey and informational letter. At your next chapter meeting, your chapter president will be discussing this as well. Please take the time to answer the survey and provide your responses to the Long Range Planning committee by April 15. If by the time you receive this newsletter you have not received the survey, please contact the office at 946-0272. Mahalo!



Education Center: Some Exciting Developments!

by Susan Muroshige

Since the beginning of the year, the office has gotten some e-mail messages that demonstrate the 100th Infantry Battalion website is being seen and used as a resource by more people. This is a very exciting development!

One of best messages was from Damiano Parravano, a historical researcher and secretary of the Gustav Line Association (www.gustavline.it) in Cassino, Italy. This group is dedicated to preserving the memory of all the soldiers who fought at Cassino, regardless of country, 69 years ago. He wrote he was "very impressed reading the veterans' accounts and their documents" on the website and asked if we could send him additional information such as battlefield reports about the 100th when they were fighting at Cassino. Several of the important books about the battalion's history are being mailed to him, along with the battlefield reports. Later this year, I plan to send him a copy of the Roll Call video which shows all the names of the men who served in the battalion with background music by Jake Shimabukuro.

Damiano also wrote that they are working on a museum project in the city of Cassino and are doing archaeological excavations of the battlefields. They plan to have a commemorative event in 2014 for the 70th anniversary of this battle and would be very happy if a delegation of 100th families could attend it. Any artifacts or photographs that we could provide for their museum would be most welcome. I will provide more details about this event as I learn about it.

Next month ... an article about a Kyoto temple that has a stone commemorating the men of the 100th and soil from Punchbowl.



Calling all Gardeners!

by Jan Sakoda & Jan Nadamoto

Our March Bokashi class was well attended and, encouraged by everyone's enthusiasm on gardening, we thought it would be a good idea to meet quarterly to share ideas, pool resources, learn more gardening techniques (e.g., aquaponics, hydroponics, vermiculture, square foot gardening, container gardening, to name a few) and even

trade plants. If you would like to be in on the planning or have any questions, please email the clubhouse at club100vets@gmail.com. We'd like to have our first meeting in May or June.



Chapter News

Baker Chapter News

by Cecilee Tanaka

Although I missed the March meeting, I heard there was a good turnout of members that included Ukichi Wozumi and Mary Ann (Katahara) Tanabe, as well as the usual regulars. Robert and Nancy Arakaki were absent and we all send them our good thoughts. Frances Wozumi was in the hospital for rehab after a fall, so Ukichi dropped in while she was napping.

The meeting was held after the "Brainstorming Session" to discuss long-range plans for the Organization and for the clubhouse. The veterans that were there said to keep the building as is. Most would like to see some kind of "social" activities every now and then.

Thanks to Mary Ann Tanabe for her donations in memory of Goro Sumida and Jessie Nakayama. And thanks to all who brought refreshments. I heard the Brainstorming Session made folks hungry, thirsty, and exhausted.

The next meeting will be on Sat., April 6 at 1pm.

Baker Chapter members that live in Kaneohe, call Randy Kuroda at 247-0286 or Drusilla Tanaka at 235-1343 if you need a ride. Those in Hawaii Kai may call Bert Kuiuoka at 396-6033.



Dog Chapter News

by Joy Teraoka

Dog Chapter president, Harry Nakayama, has been under the weather with a lingering cold, therefore our meeting was cancelled for March. We hope Harry has recovered by April.

I ventured to Bishop Museum to see the touring Congressional Medal of Honor exhibit. On the first floor a pictorial history of the three units—the 100th, 442nd and MIS—are displayed along with a limited seating area to view dvds on oral histories pertinent to the exhibit. The actual Gold Medal is displayed on the (cont. on p. 7)

100th INFANTRY BATTALION VETERANS
 71ST ANNIVERSARY BANQUET
 Honolulu Country Club
 Saturday, June 22, 2013
 Luncheon Reservations Form (Deadline: 6/8/2013)

Name of Registrant _____ Chapter _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Menu Choices:

- A. **Chicken Florentine** w/mornay sauce atop a bed of spinach served with mashed potato and seasonal vegetables.
- B. **Sauteed filet of Mahimahi** w/shiitake cream sauce, mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables.
- C. **Vegetarian Pasta**, julienne of fresh garden vegetables and shiitake mushrooms, sautéed in olive oil with fresh basil over penne pasta

<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Veteran Spouse Widow</u>	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Wheelchair</u>	<u>Would like to sit with</u>
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
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_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____
_____	V S W	A B C	_____	_____

Make check payable to: _____ 100th Veteran/Spouse/Widow **NO CHARGE**
Anniversary Banquet Number
 Mail to: _____ Guests @ \$40 = \$_____
 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Number
 520 Kamoku Street
 Honolulu, HI 96826

DO NOT MAIL CASH **TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED** \$_____

For office use only:

Check No. _____ Cash\$ _____ Date rec'd _____ Clerk's initial _____ Batch # _____

second floor among the artifacts of the Japanese immigrants during the plantation era. The Medal is encased in a glass box with a rear view mirror which enables seeing both the front and backsides of the gold medallion. Although I anticipated a larger medal, the “real” one is the same size as the replicas the vets were given at the 2012 ceremony. However, the one from the Smithsonian Museum that is on tour is of genuine gold, whereas the replicas are gold-plated. Nonetheless, they both signify the great honor bestowed upon our AJA veterans.

We hope our next Dog Chapter meeting will be on Saturday, April 6, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. To those who usually attend the meetings, we will contact you by email or phone.



Headquarters/Medics Chapter News

by Janice Sakoda – 737-7778

Daughter of Gary K. Uchida

Just a reminder that our Spring Luncheon for the HQ/ Medic Ohana will be at 11:00 a.m. on April 17th at Tree Tops Restaurant in Manoa. Please let Elsie Oshita know by April 10 if you plan to join us so she can make final reservations.

Wishing Aki Akimoto a speedy recuperation from his recent hospital stay.

Congratulations to Edna Uchida on the birth of Addie, her 6th great grandchild, in February. Addie has three older brothers who are so happy to finally have a baby sister!

If you have any news for this column, please let me know. As you can tell by this short article, we’re always looking for news to include.



In Appreciation

Thank you so much for the generous and thoughtful donations which were received between January 12, 2013 and March 10, 2013.

General Operating Fund

- \$100 Charlyn Dote
- \$250 Reynold Kagiwada
- \$100 Carol Matsunaga

PUKA PUKA PARADE

- \$300 Richard R. Nagao
- \$225 Tommy & Barbara Nishioka in memory of Najoji Yamagata, Tsuneo Morikawa, Edward Harada, Goro Sumida, Gladys Sumida, Susumu Kunishige, Kei Yamaguchi, Monte Fujita and Ben Tagami

Education Center

- \$50.89 Donation box
- \$200 Wendy Maeda of Boston, Massachusetts

Thank you all for your generous donations!

Photo Pop Quiz!



In the last issue of the Puka Puka Parade, we asked, “Who are these talented ballroom dancers who are still lighting the floor today?” The answer: the indefatigable Evelyn and Riki Tsuda!

Here’s the next quiz:

Club 100 at one time had many different clubs within it. What was the name of the club in which our members often shared tips on growing orchids? Please send your answers to pukaparade@gmail.com



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PUKA-PUKA PARADE - April 2013 ISSUE 03/2013

April 2013 Calendar of Events

EBOD Meeting	Saturday April 20, 8:30 am
BOARD Meeting	Saturday April 20, 9:30 am
ABLE Chapter	Saturday April 7 & 28, 8:30 am
BAKER Chapter	Saturday April 6, 1:00 pm
CHARLIE Chapter	No meeting
DOG Chapter	Saturday April 6, 9:30 am
HQ/MEDICS Chapter	Saturday April 13, 10:00 am
RURAL Chapter	Saturday April 6, 10:30 am
DESCENDANTS Chapter	To be announced
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	To be announced
SCHOLARSHIP Committee	To be announced
NOMINATION Committee	To be announced
LINE DANCING	Every Wednesday, 9-11 am, Turner Hall
CRAFTS	Every Tuesday, 9:00 am
PUKA PUKA PARADE	Collating on Saturday, April 27, 2013, 9:00 am

Dates and times subject to change. Please contact your Chapter President, Committee Chair, or the Office for more information.



The *Puka Puka Parade* is the monthly newsletter of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization. It is published at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Clubhouse, 520 Kamoku Street, Honolulu, HI 96826, eleven times a year.

The opinions expressed in the *Puka Puka Parade* are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans.

The deadline to submit articles for the May 2013 issue is
April 15, 2013.

Please send your articles, comments or questions about the *Parade* via email to pukaparade@gmail.com

If you do not have access to email, please contact the office to discuss how best to submit content for the newsletter.

If you would like to be removed from the PPP mailing list, would like to receive the PPP via email, have a new mailing address, or have any questions, please contact the Clubhouse Office at (808) 946-0272 or club100vets@gmail.com or www.100thbattalion.org