



Puka-Puka Parade



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President's Message

by Lloyd Kitaoka

By the time you read this message, the deadline to get our survey in would have come and gone. I really hope you found the time to complete it so we can get an idea of how our membership feels about our future. To those of you who completed it, I know it took some time and I thank you very much. For those of you who may have missed the deadline but would still like to share your thoughts, please take the time to finish the survey and send it in as soon as possible. As I said previously, any organization needs a long term goal. We cannot just maintain the status quo because if we do, the organization will just fade away. We need a long range goal/vision to shape how we face the future. The survey is just one part of an overall plan that will give us your views and, together, we will be able to formulate a vision for our future.

Our presentation at the Bishop Museum was a total success. We had an overflow crowd and the feedback has been great. My thanks goes to our moderator, Dr. Tanabe, and our panelist (my dad, Ed Ikuma, Don Matsuda, and Kazuto Shimizu). Thanks also go to Major General Bob Lee, who presented Bronze Stars to the families representing Masao Kitagawa, Henry Nakasone, and Goro Sumida, and also to Charlie Tanaka and Kazuto Shimizu who were there to receive the medal personally. It was a very touching hour and a half. I was quite anxious for a few days before the event wondering if we were going to get a good turnout but my fears disappeared the day of the event as the room filled up very quickly. Thank you to all that took the time to honor and support our vets.

My only regret is that this Congressional Gold Medal celebration should have happened a long time ago. Most of our vets are long gone. We celebrate and honor the living, but what about those who have left us. All my dad's Club 100 buddies are gone. I would have loved to have seen them honored when they were alive. Did I have a chance to honor them while they were alive? Yes, but did I? No, they were just dad's friends. Too late now...but what did I know? I have to cling to the hope that they know that we are honoring them now and that they are celebrating with us. Cherish those we have left and thank them because you might miss your chance.

We are still without a permanent Office Manager and we are still taking applications. If you or anybody you know has a heart for our vets and has the necessary skills and experience, please contact our office or email us. I ask you again to please be patient with the office as we move through this transition. In the interim, Char Dote will be assisting in improving our office procedures and databases for the next three months.

Lloyd Kitaoka



Lloyd and temporary office coordinator Maydean Rahne. We thank her for her excellent work.

In Memoriam

Akira John Ishikawa (HQ)

Passed away on March 19, 2013

Tsukio Yamagata (C)

Passed away on March 24, 2013

Stanley Kimura (C)

Passed away on March 27, 2013

Robert Arakaki (B)

Passed away on April 5, 2013

Our deepest sympathy to their families.



Memorial to Robert “Bob” Arakaki

by Joy Teraoka



We have lost a dear, dear friend —Robert Arakaki of Baker Chapter. There have been few members as devoted as Bob. The concerns of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans organization have always been among his top priorities. How well I remember and appreciate those many years in which I served as editor of the Puka Puka Parade when each month it

was time to print the newsletter, Bob and “Suey” Hiromi Suehiro were always there to help Mary Hamasaki and me churn out the pages. In those days, after we rolled the Risograph printing machine into the Board Room, we tore open the reams of paper to feed the printer, starting with the blue colored first page followed by the succeeding white pages. In all we averaged printing 1,200 copies of an average 18 to 20-page edition. Bob was always there bright and early, ready to begin tackling the job. He often brought his boom box and cassette tapes to play music while we went about the task. With his mischievous smile, he delighted in telling us jokes to keep things light-hearted. Arriving early on collation day, he joined the volunteers to gather the pages for stapling, labeling and mailing the newsletter. Today, the Puka Puka Parade is outsourced, and the hands on printing is a thing of the past, but my memories of Bob’s commitment to keeping his 100th buddies connected will remain forever.

Bob served as president of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans for several terms. Besides being responsible for everyday official matters of the club, he often rolled up his sleeves, got on his hands and knees to sand and paint the rusted railings of the apartment complex. He even took care of electrical problems with the refrigerators, and fixed other handy-man jobs at the clubhouse.

Bob was ever devoted to his veteran buddies. One of his great pleasures was in joining the “Wine Gang” on Thursdays to share fellowship with his friends. He gladly provided transportation to vets and others so they could join in on club activities. Bob constantly voiced his belief in having the veterans pull together to accomplish their desires and goals of perpetuating their legacy. To the end, he whispered this as he held our hands in friendship and love.

Our deepest sympathy to his devoted wife, Nancy, and the Arakaki ohana. May they find comfort in knowing our thoughts and prayers are with them in their time of sorrow.



The Congressional Gold Medal Tour

by Susan Muroshige

Many of you who live in Honolulu were fortunate to be able to attend the opening ceremonies at the Bishop Museum for the exhibit of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM). After Honolulu, the tour continues to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Chicago and Houston before returning to its permanent home in Washington, D.C. at the National Museum of History's "The Price of Freedom" exhibit.

A component of this CGM tour that some visitors may not have noticed is a kiosk which includes an iPad showing the website that was developed for the tour. It contains an educational feature centering on the following character values: courage, respect, humility, perseverance, compassion and citizenship.

Last fall Pauline Sato, Board President, and Lloyd Kitaoka, head of the Education Center, were asked by the tour's organizer if examples of these character values could be provided from the stories on the 100th Education Center website. It was a wonderful opportunity to educate more people about the 100th and increase exposure to the website. After Pauline and Lloyd asked me to make these selections, I chose to feature the stories about two officers,

a chaplain, a medic, a litter bearer and an infantryman. Only part of the story is on the CGM website, but the reader can click a link to the full story and photographs which reside on the 100th website. Following are abbreviated versions of what was submitted.

COURAGE: The Courage of a Medic

While most casualties in combat are soldiers, the medics who did not carry weapons also served under dangerous conditions. Kiyoshi Shiramizu was a medic in the 100th during World War II. Most of the enlisted men in the original contingent that landed in Italy were from Hawaii. He was one of the few men from the mainland United States. While his family was incarcerated in the Poston, Arizona internment camp, Shiramizu was serving in the battalion. In January 1944, he volunteered to help rescue some wounded men and was caught in a mortar barrage and severely wounded. The battalion's chaplain Israel Yost recounted in his memoirs that when Shiramizu was going to be evacuated, he said to take other wounded men first because he was a medic and could handle his condition. He died four days later. Read his story and that of the son who learned of his father's courage decades later.

RESPECT: A Respected and Beloved Commander

The 100th had many outstanding officers, leaders not only in war, but in their communities after the fighting was over. When the battalion was formed, the men were fortunate to have a commander who led their unit through the uncertain times when those of Japanese ancestry were viewed with suspicion and hostility. Born in Hawaii, Lieutenant Colonel Farrant Turner never wavered in his belief that the Japanese American soldiers were loyal to the United States and in his confidence that they would be a strong fighting unit. He did not hesitate to confront his military superiors as he protected the interests of his men. After arriving in Africa, he fought against the plans to assign the battalion to guard duty, arguing that his men wanted to prove their loyalty in combat. At 48, he was older than the norm for a combat role and after a month of combat was relieved of his command. When he returned to Hawaii, he continued to support "his boys."

The love and respect his men felt for him is reflected in a March 11, 1944 letter to the Colonel from S/Sgt J. Akamine: "...I am writing because I want you to know that I've been thinking of you a great deal - just as the

other boys of the 100th has. It seems that every time I come across a 100th man the subject eventually switches to you. Everybody has but the highest regard for you and realize that you have done more for the 100th than any single man. That is why every body still able to are fighting so hard up there ... Believe me, the good work of the boys up there is because of your faith and belief in them. That is why I'm writing you this for I'd never be able to tell you so and you probably wouldn't listen ..."

HUMILITY: We Will Never Forget Them

When the men of the 100th returned to their homes in Hawaii, they began the next phase of their lives - finding jobs, going back to school, marrying and raising families. Many had to recover or learn to cope with the wounds they suffered in combat. They were proud that they had served their country well and upheld the honor of their families and communities. But they were humbled by the knowledge that they were the lucky ones and never forgot their fallen comrades. Every year a memorial service has been held at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on the Sunday nearest the date the first member of the battalion was killed. Photo albums of the veterans that have been digitized for the 100th Education Center website include images of their friends who were later killed in action.

One of the most poignant images was from an album created by William Takaezu. On the first page he had copied a poem titled "A Letter to Saint Peter" that was written in 1942 by Elma Dean, an Oakland, California woman. In a December 1961 interview, she recalled the war was not going well for the United States. The poem conveyed her sorrow for the young men who were being killed, including some of her friends' sons. Takaezu listed eight of his friends who had been killed, including Shigeo Joe Takata, the first 100th soldier to die in combat. A photo of two of his friends flanked each side of the poem. Sadly, this poem still resonates today, many wars later.

PERSEVERANCE: The Inspiring Story of Kenneth Otagaki

Recorded in 2005, the life history of Kenneth Kengo Otagaki, an original member of the battalion, provides extraordinary examples of perseverance. He was born in a plantation camp on the island of Hawaii and moved to Honolulu at the age of 14 with \$5.00 and no family support. Working at a multitude of jobs, he made his

way through high school and graduated from the University of Hawaii. After being drafted, he served as a litter bearer in Italy where he was severely wounded. Otagaki lost a leg, two fingers and part of his chest, plus sight in one eye. Determined to contribute to society, he eventually earned a PhD in animal sciences, becoming a professor at the University of Hawaii, director of the State Department of Agriculture and a well known agriculture consultant.

(continued on page 9)



Snapshots from the 442 70th Anniversary Banquet on March 23, 2013

Mahalo nui loa to the 442nd Sons & Daughters and the Banquet Planning team for a terrific series of events to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the formation of the 442nd RCT. We were so pleased to be included in the events. Well done!



Top left: Milton Tanaka carried the guidon and led the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans into the Banquet at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Top right: Gary Nakayama escorts Ray Nosaka (B) into the banquet room.

Below: Over 1,000 people attended the banquet!



Left: Mr. & Mrs. Sonsei Nakamura (B) were proud winners of a centerpiece.

Right: Bob (A) and Kazue Sato enjoyed the banquet



71st Anniversary Banquet of the 100th Infantry Battalion “Celebrating the Club 100”

by Janice Trubitt

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2013

Place: Honolulu Country Club

Time: 10 am - 2 pm

Please sign up for our 71st Anniversary Banquet!! The deadline is June 8, 2013 and the registration form was in the April PukaPuka with your choice of lunch entrees. We will be "Celebrating the Club 100" (our theme for the Banquet) with a slide show of all sites in the State of Hawaii related to a 100th veteran or the 100th Infantry Battalion. We will be making a presentation honoring Senator Dan Akaka, who just retired as a Senator to Congress. We are still awaiting acceptance of our Keynote Speaker, so it will a big surprise for everyone. Spread the word around that this banquet is taking place and we would like to have both present members of the Club 100 and those who are interested in becoming active in our organization attend this 71st Anniversary Banquet. Let's continue the legacy of our 100th veterans!!!

Veterans - Please wear your 100th shirt and the special red/white/blue lei for picture-taking at 10:30am in the Honolulu Country Club lobby. At 10:50 am you will be escorted into the Banquet room and with a roll call announcement of your name and company.



100th Battalion Annual Mini Reunion in Las Vegas

Yes, there will be another 100th Mini Reunion in Las Vegas from October 20 – 25, 2013 at the California Hotel. We welcome all who are interested in seeing veterans from all the units, friends and relatives. A \$75 deposit is needed to hold your reservation. Registration forms will be at the Clubhouse or I can mail or e-mail it to you. If you have any questions, please call me...Ann Kabasawa at 781-8540 or e-mail me at diverseinnov@gmail.com. Hope that all of you can make it!!



Green Thumb Club aka The Gardening Club

by Jan Sakoda & Jan Nadamoto

There's enough interest in gardening that we thought we'd resurrect the Green Thumb Club, only this time around, our focus won't be solely on orchids. We plan to discuss various aspects of gardening (such as methods of composting, container gardening, lasagna gardening, vermiculture, aquaponics, and hydroponics), as well as discuss ways people have dealt with weeds, slugs, snails, aphids, white flies, and other pests. We hope to pool our knowledge to improve our skills in gardening.

Our first meeting is scheduled for noon on Saturday, May 25, right after collating. Feel free to bring a bento lunch while we plan our gardening calendar. Hope to see YOU there! This meeting is open to both members and friends of members so if you're reading this, you're welcome to join us.



Iolani Students Volunteer at Clubhouse

On March 25, 2013, Iolani School 8th graders, led by teachers Allison Ishii and Debra Otsu, came to the Clubhouse to do whatever was needed to help out. After a brief educational presentation by President Lloyd Kitaoka, the students performed a variety of tasks, including cleaning the Clubhouse. Mahalo to Iolani School



and to Lloyd Kitaoka, Dot Tamashiro, and Bert Hamakado for working with the students.



More Iolani Volunteers Coming to Landscape

by Pauline Sato

On May 18, a large group of students and adults associated with Iolani School will volunteer at the Clubhouse to further work on the landscaping in front of the building. They will work on installing irrigation and grass near the flagpole area. And they will not be working alone. Russell Nonaka, who mentored Garin Fukushima on the other landscaping project has volunteered again to support us, including obtaining donated materials. We are so fortunate that all of these generous people are giving their time, expertise, and materials to make our Clubhouse look beautiful! Please note that we will need to let the grass grow before cars can be parked in that area again. Mahalo for your kokua.



Congressional Gold Medal T-shirts for Sale



The Descendants Chapter has Congressional Gold Medal T-Shirts for sale. We have sizes Small to XXL. If interested please call the Clubhouse at 808-946-0272 on M, T, Thu, F from 9:00a.m. – 1:00p.m and Wednesday from 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. or email: club100dc@gmail.com for sizes and price.



Chapter News

Baker Chapter News

by Cecilee Tanaka

At April's meeting, there were 15 members and three guests present. It was good to see Jack Nakamura, again. Mr. Taku Hara from Nagao, Japan, came to see Robert Arakaki and was so disappointed to learn that he passed away the day before. There was some lively discussion about the long-range plans of the Organization and clubhouse. Baker Chapter members voted unanimously in support of a motion to do whatever is necessary to preserve the clubhouse and apartment building for more than 10 years and that this be a top priority of the organization.

President Randy made it back from Japan just in time for the meeting and brought *manju* for us. Thanks to some of the other members, there were lots of goodies to eat. Thanks to retired MG Robert Lee for all of his efforts to award the Bronze Star medal to 100th veterans who had not previously received them. At this writing, Baker honorees include Charlie Tanaka, Ukichi Wozumi, Robert Arakaki, and the late Yoshio Hirose. Thank you to the Editors for allowing us to squeeze in photos of the award presentations to "Uki" and to Cheryl Mokuau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hirose.

Our deepest condolences to the families of Robert Arakaki, former chapter president and club president, and Lillian Matsumoto, widow of Koyei Matsumoto. Robert passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He continued to be active with the club and chapter until just a few weeks before he passed. May they rest in peace.

The next meeting will be on Sat., May 4 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 Kuioka at 396-6033.



Retired Major General and former State of Hawaii Adjutant General, Robert Lee presented the Bronze Star Medal to Baker Company veteran Ukichi Wozumi, above left, and to Cheryl Mokuau, daughter of Baker Company veteran the late Yoshio Hirose, above right. Each received a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh.



Dog Chapter News

by Joy Teraoka

In lieu of Dog Chapter News, please see my "Memorial to Robert 'Bob' Arakaki" elsewhere in this edition of the Puka Puka Parade. Our next Dog Chapter Meeting will be on May 4, at 9:30 a.m.



Headquarters/Medics Chapter News

by Janice Sakoda – 737-7778

Daughter of Gary K. Uchida

Our April meeting had one of the lowest attendance that I can remember; only Elsie Oshita, Dot Tamashiro, Janice Trubitt, Carol Matsunaga, and Janice Sakoda were there. Because it was just us "four musketeers", the meeting was rather informal (read lengthy) and fun. The club's president, Lloyd Kitaoka, stopped in for a little bit and joined our "talk story" session. We took the opportunity to ask him questions about the club, and he was able to clarify some muddled issues. Everyone enjoyed the dim sum from Tai Pan in Chinatown, especially the "carrot" which was really a deep fried mochi with custard filling.

Hope you all take the time to register for our 71st Anniversary Banquet; hope to see as many (or even more!) Headquarters and Medics members as last year.

My husband Ed and I will be flying to Southern California in May for our younger son's graduation from Chapman University's Doctor of Physical Therapy. We'll have time to explore the San Diego area, including the Flower Fields which I hear is absolutely beautiful. We also plan to visit the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego.

Come join us for our May 11th meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. We'd love to have more family members join us



Descendants Chapter News

by Bert Hamakado

The Descendants Chapter will host a seminar on May 11, 2013.

What: Pre-need Funeral Plan

When: May 11, 2013

Where: 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse (Turner Hall)

Time: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (Light lunch after presentation)

Parking: Available at Ala Wai Elementary school

Don't have a funeral plan? Looking for info on funeral plans? Need to upgrade your funeral plan? To answer some questions you may have regarding funeral services and pre-need plan, we have asked Mrs. Pamela Muraoka, a Certified Preplanning Consultant, to be our guest speaker. She will provide options and guidance for pre-planning your funeral services so that the surviving family members may be spared from stress, anxiety and expense while coping with their loss. For attendees who have already set-up their pre-need plan, Pamela will gladly do an independent review of your plan so bring it with you if you want her to review it.

Veterans' benefits, end-of-life decisions, cremation/burials, difference between burials and funerals, after-death charges, Medicaid and long term care per Hawaii State guidelines will also be discussed.

Guest speakers will also include Asa Kajihira, AAMS (Financial Advisor); Dean Park (Principal-Attorney at Law - Estate Planning Group); and Shane Chan (CPA). They will be available to answer any questions within their scope of expertise.

Please RSVP by May 10, 2013 by calling the Clubhouse at 946-0272 or email at club100dc@gmail.com or sign-up on the Clubhouse bulletin board.



Puka Puka Parade Contributors: Please note that from here forth, we are moving up the article submission deadline by a few days to ensure we can put together a quality publication. The next deadline will be May 8, 2013.

In Appreciation

Thank you so much for the generous and thoughtful donations which were received between March 11, 2013 and April 10, 2013.

General Operating Fund

- \$1000 Skip Tomiyama in memory of Yoshiyuki 'Papoose' Tomiyama
- \$100 Bob & Kay Ogata
- \$100 Bryan Yagi in memory of Robert Takashige & Goro Sumida
- \$50 Michael & Susan Yancey in memory of Tsukio Yamagata
- \$100 Ernestine Enomoto in memory of Misao Enomoto

Education Center

- \$25 Paula Howe in memory of Tsukio Yamagata
- \$20 Margaret Poole in memory of Tsukio Yamagata
- \$500 Mary Hamasaki, Trustee of the Francis & Hisako Kudo Trust
- \$25 Baker Chapter in memory of Robert Arakaki
- \$15 Baker Chapter in memory of Lillian Matsumoto

Thank you all for your generous donations!

Photo Pop Quiz!



In the last issue of the Puka Puka Parade, we pondered, "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?"

Congratulations to Carolee Tanaka for her correct answer of "Green Thumb" club. And guess what . . . it's BACK (in a new form. See page 5 regarding the Green Thumb club meeting)!

Here's the next quiz:

Where is the proposed "Nisei Veterans Legacy Center" to be housed? In what city and in partnership with what institution?



Please send your answers to pukaparade@gmail.com

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PUKA-PUKA PARADE - May 2013 ISSUE 04/2013

May 2013 Calendar of Events

EBOD Meeting	Saturday May 18, 8:30 am
BOARD Meeting	Saturday May 18, 9:30 am
ABLE Chapter	Saturday May 26, 8:00 am
BAKER Chapter	Saturday May 4, 1:00 pm
CHARLIE Chapter	Saturday May 25, 10:00 am
DOG Chapter	Saturday May 4, 9:30 am
HQ/MEDICS Chapter	Saturday May 11, 10:00 am
RURAL Chapter	To be announced
DESCENDANTS Chapter	Saturday May 11, 11:00 am
ANNIVERSARY BANQUET	Saturday May 4, 10:30 am
LONG-RANGE PLANNING	To be announced
SCHOLARSHIP Committee	To be announced
GREEN THUMB	Saturday May 25, 12:00 pm
LINE DANCING	Every Wednesday, 9-11 am, Turner Hall
CRAFTS	Every Tuesday, 9:00 am
PUKA PUKA PARADE	Collating on Saturday, May 25, 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 June 2013 issue is
May 8, 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

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COMPASSION: The Compassionate and Courageous Chaplain

Israel Yost served as the chaplain of the 100th for almost the whole time the battalion was in combat. A Lutheran pastor from Pennsylvania, he conducted memorial services, wrote letters of condolences to families and listened to soldiers who needed a confidant. Often working under dangerous conditions, he tried to provide comfort to the dying and wounded, often going with the medical teams to bring the soldiers back to the aid stations. As casualties mounted, this work took a heavy emotional toll on him. But when the 100th was attached to the newly arrived 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Chaplain Yost requested and was granted special permission to remain with the battalion. The bond he formed with the 100th soldiers lasted for the rest of his life. In 1947, 1983 and 1992, he conducted memorial services in Hawaii. And, in 1962, when he needed help for his family, he turned to Captain Katsumi Kometani of the 100th. Kometani and other veterans assisted the chaplain and his family when they moved to Hawaii for several years.

CITIZENSHIP: An Extraordinary Citizen

Sakae Takahashi was one of the original Nisei officers of the 100th and a highly regarded battlefield commander. In his essay, "Sakae Takahashi: Leading the Way in War and Peace", author Tom Coffman writes of the man who is credited with being the first to lead discussions among the Japanese American soldiers that they had to prove themselves in battle and then use their accomplishments as a foundation to change post war Hawaii. Takahashi felt they were fighting two wars, one for American democracy and one against the prejudice Japanese Americans were facing in the United States. In 1944, while recuperating from his injuries in the same hospital as Daniel Inouye of the 442nd, he persuaded Inouye that to change Hawaii they must get into politics. A teacher before the war, he used the G.I. Bill to get a law degree. In 1950 he won a seat on Honolulu's City Council, becoming the first Japanese American veteran to win a political office after the war. Three years later, he was one of the Nisei veterans who gained a legislative seat in the Democratic "revolution" which swept the Republican Party from power. Takahashi believed that increasing business opportunities for Japanese Americans would also help transform their communities. He became the key figure in the creation of Central Pacific Bank, making funds

available to those who could not get loans from the existing banks, and played a significant role in numerous nonprofit organizations and community projects.



Snapshots from the 442 70th Anniversary Banquet on March 23, 2013





Baker Chapter News



Retired Major General and former State of Hawaii Adjutant General, Robert Lee presented the Bronze Star Medal to Baker Company veteran Ukichi Wozumi, above left, and to Cheryl Mokuau, daughter of Baker Company veteran the late Yoshio Hirose, above right. Each received a certificate signed by the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh.



Iolani Students Volunteer at Clubhouse

