



National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
Honolulu, Hawaii
Sunday, September 25, 1983
8:45 a.m.

THE SMOKE AND THE HAZE from the night-long bombardment made it difficult to tell who was winning. British or American. Suddenly, at dawn, at 7 o'clock, the mist over the harbor lifted for a moment, and Francis Scott Key saw the American flag still waving over Fort McHenry. Excited, wanting to express his feelings, he pulled out an unfinished letter from his pocket and started writing verses, words which were to become the lines for "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"The rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air" . . . Chesapeake Bay, Wednesday, September 14, 1814 . . . the lines could have been composed in anticipation of another battle, to be fought in another American fortress - Pearl Harbor, Sunday, December 7, 1941.

This morning we again gather at Punchbowl to continue our involvement in the passions and the emotions of a war four decades gone by: not because we have to, but because we do not want to forget those who have become so much a part of us. And so we dedicate a memorial, the first of its kind to be placed in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, even as the service of the Club 100 endures into its 38th year.

• The AJA Veterans Council Memorial Plaque: In primitive cultures, the ritual known as the rite of passage serves as a kind of gateway through which young men attain adulthood after undergoing and surviving a series of tests often involving extreme physical endurance. But the rites are seen as more than tests of human endurance. In a deeper sense, they extend beyond puberty, into every culture, they are, as one writer put it - "whatever we have to go through between here and there, between the aspiration and fulfillment, between the fear and the wish." Two score years after Pearl Harbor, we humbly and respectfully dedicate a memorial - a few words engraved on bronze, set in stone - to mark a particular turning point in the lives of the Americans of Japanese ancestry.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mr. Stanley Nakamoto who first proposed the idea of the Memorial Plaque and worked so resolutely towards its fulfillment.

Mr. Paul T. Bannat, Chief Memorial Affairs Director, Department of Memorial Affairs, Veterans Administration, Washington, D.C., and Mr. Maek Cochennor, Jr., Director, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl, without whose enthusiastic support and approval the idea of the Memorial Plaque would not have come to reality.

Members of the Memorial Plaque Committee for giving form to the idea

Mr. Bert Morinaka, Stonecraft Memorial, Inc., Honolulu, for assistance and technical guidance in the development of the memorial

Bishop Giho Shimpo and The Reverend Donald Asman for their acts of worship which serve as crucial underpinnings to the service.

The 25th Infantry Division for continued support: its presence a warm reminder that our military heritage, for most of us, began at Schofield Barracks, home of the "Tropic Lightning" Division.

The 100th Bn 442d Infantry (USAR) for its continued support also: its presence a matter of particular significance in that the rite of passage into maturity for a large number of AJAs of WW II was through the portals of the 100th and the 442d.

Boards of Directors of the four AJA veterans organizations for their approval and cooperation in making this special program possible.

Members of the Club 100 Memorial Service Committee for their planning and conduct of this special memorial service

MEMORIAL PLAQUE COMMITTEE

- Presidents of the four AJA veterans organizations, plus:
- Stanley Kaneshiro, Robert Sasaki, 442d, Kyoshi
- Yoshimura, Andrew Sato, MIS, Raymond Kuba, 139th.
- Eugene Kawakami, Don Kuwaye, Ben Tamashiro,
- Conrad Tsukayama, 100th.

• The Club 100 38th Annual Memorial Service. It is not enough, as Judge Shunichi Kimura said at last year's service, to recognize the valor of the men who made the supreme sacrifice: it is more important to give life to them by "going forth into the community and fulfilling the great promise of their country of liberty, of justice, of equal opportunity for all people." He said that now "the burden and the knapsack and the responsibilities" are on his back also. It is in ways like this that the purpose of the annual memorial gatherings is served: to remind us that even as we look to the future, we should remember the past.

It seems only fitting that the dedication of the AJA Veterans Council Memorial should be integrated into a program of long-standing: the annual memorial service of the Club 100, held on the Sunday closest to September 29, that day in Italy in 1943 when the 100th Infantry Battalion suffered its first KIA, fitting in that both are dedicated to the honor of the Nisei who gave their lives in defense of their country in World War II.

Overlooking the services is the statue of Columbia on which are inscribed these lines, taken from a letter Abraham Lincoln had written to console a mother who had lost five sons in the Civil War: "The solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom." Carl Sandburg has said of the letter that it is like a piece of the "American Bible." That Lincoln "performed a rite, managing language: as though he might be a ship captain at midnight, dropping black roses into the immemorial sea for mystic remembrance and consecration."

Mystic remembrance, consecration . . . we can only essay that immemorial sea in photographs like that on the back cover: a cluster of stars, and pinpoints of light, spanning the heavens.

CLUB 100 MEMORIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

- Shigeru Inouye (Medics Chairman), Sete Oshtro (Able), Tokuy Ono (Baker), Kaoru Yonezawa (Charlie), George Kurisu (Dog), Wallace Teruya (Hq), Robert Kapunai (Rural), Stanley Akita 2nd VP, (coordinator), Robert Fukumoto (Hq, Dir, Ukulele Class), Refreshments - Medics Chapter

PROGRAM

M.C. - Dr. Kenneth Otagaki

"Lili Marlene" - Club 100 Ukulele Class

Advancing of Colors - 100th Bn 442d Infantry (USAR)

National Anthem - 25th Infantry Division Band

Invocation: The Reverend Donald Asman

Pastor, Manoa Valley Church

"America The Beautiful" - Ukulele Class

Welcome: Mr. Stanley Nakamoto

President, AJA Veterans Council; President, Club 100

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PLAQUE

AJA Veterans Council

Remarks in Japanese: Mr. Steve Ohira

President, MIS Veterans Club

Dedicatory Address: Mr. Ernest Uno

President, 442nd Veterans Club

Placing of Memorial Wreath: Mr. Harold Yokoyama

President, 1399th Engineers Veterans Club

Appreciation: Mrs. Hiro (Hisako) Higuchi

representing the mothers and wives

of the heroes of our generation

"Rock Of Ages" - Mrs. Henry (Doris) Kawano

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Club 100

Remarks in Japanese - Mr. Richard Ishimoto

Placing of Wreath

Mr. Mike Tokunaga, 1st Vice President

Mr. Stanley Akita, 2nd Vice President

"Whispering Hope" - Ukulele Class

Memorial Address

The Reverend Israel Yost

Chaplain, 100th Infantry Battalion

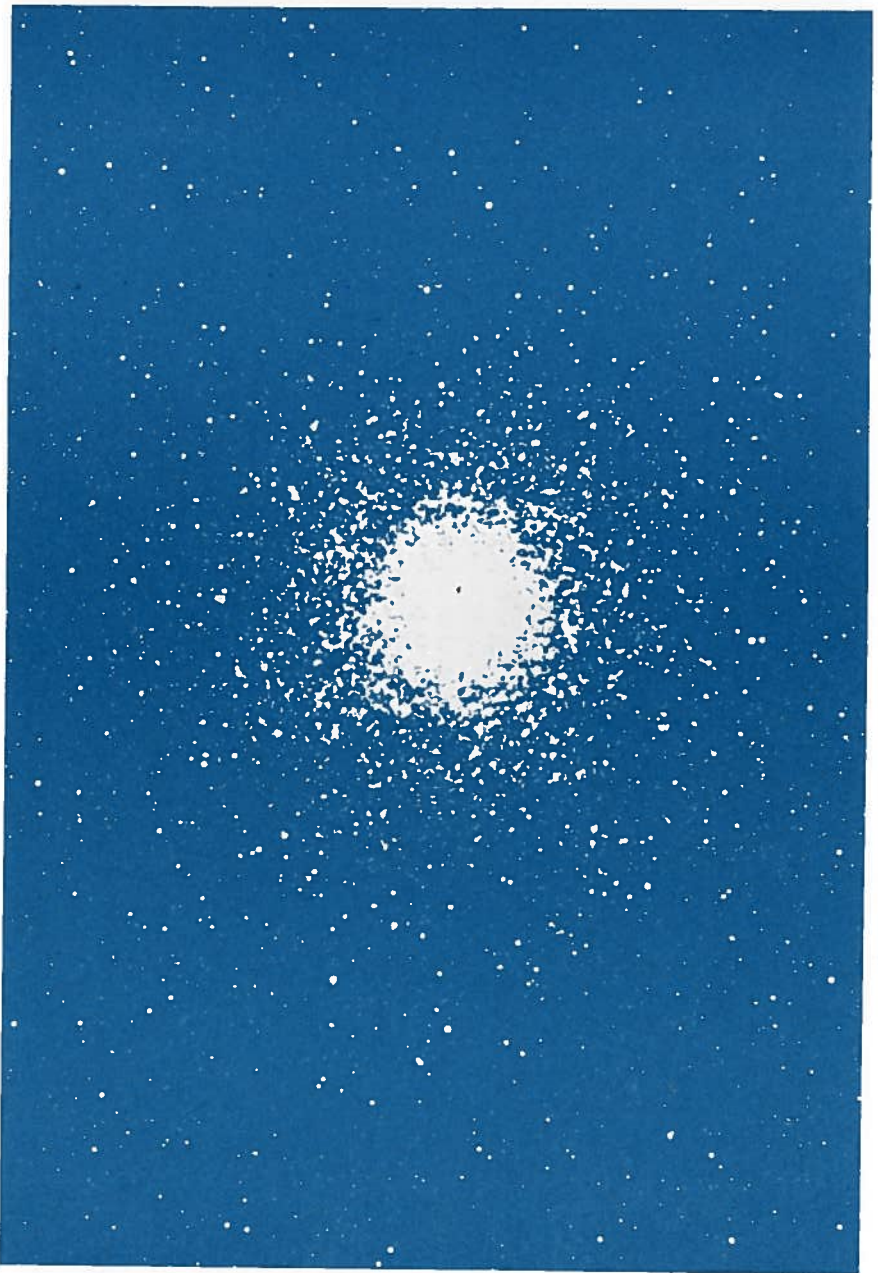
"Hawaii Pono" - 25th Infantry Division Band

Firing of Honors; Sounding of Taps - 25th Infantry Division

Benediction: Bishop Gibo Shimpo

Jodo Mission of Hawaii

Retiring of Colors - 100th Bn 422d Infantry (USAR)



A view of but a minute fraction of the Milky Way.
(Photograph - courtesy, University of Hawaii Institute of
Astronomy.)

Genesis

In the beginning
God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form,
and void; and darkness was upon the
face of the deep, And the Spirit of
God moved upon the face of the waters.
And God made two great lights:
the greater light to rule the day,
and the lesser light to rule the night:
he made the stars also.