

# Speeches and messages: 1968 (1 of 2): Message - 25th anniversary of the 442nd Veterans Association of Hawaii

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

Speeches, Speeches and messages, Box SP2, Folder 4

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21 March 1968

Mr. Etsuo Kohashi, Chairman  
442nd Silver Anniversary Committee  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Etsuo:

Please permit me to join with you and the 442nd Veterans Association of Hawaii in commemorating our 25th Anniversary.

Time has healed many wounds and erased many bitter memories of doubt and recrimination. History, however, will remember our efforts in time of war and peace. We can recount with pride the vindication of our belief that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart.

We should now, in these times of stress, rededicate ourselves to support the high ideals and aspirations of our nation. We can debate the issues, disagree with policies, and voice our objections as free men. But when the chips are down and a commitment is made, we must dedicate our hearts and minds to our common purpose--the quest for peaceful existence of all men and nations. Let us firm up this pledge now as we did twenty-five years ago.

Please extend my best wishes and aloha to the boys of the 442nd and our many friends who have maintained their faith in us and our efforts to remain a contributing force in our community.

Warmest aloha.

Sincerely,

DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

DKI:ps

# 442nd's Silver Anniversary To Be Marked This Saturday

Thurs. 1944

The 25th anniversary of the founding of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team will be observed by members of the 442nd Veterans Association Saturday at the AJA Memorial Clubhouse.

The announcement was made by Richard Miyamoto, president of the Association.

The 442nd regiment, one of the most decorated units in the United States military annals, was activated on Feb. 1, 1943, on order by the War Department.

John J. McCloy, assistant secretary of war, and Col. William P. Scobey, his executive officer, were instrumental in securing the activation of the combat team.

The story of the 442nd from the activation of the unit, its training in Camp Shelby, Miss., and finally its participation in combat in Italy and France during World War II is told in the book "Americans," by Maj. Orville C. Shirey, published in 1946 by the Infantry Journal Press.

In the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the com-

bat team was a great military experiment designed to prove that "Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart" . . . and that "Americanism is not, and never was a matter of race or ancestry."

The wartime president said at the time of the unit's activation:

"The proposal of the War Department to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent has my full approval. No loyal citizen of the United States should be denied the democratic right to exercise the responsibilities of his citizenship, regardless of his ancestry.

"The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy.

"Every loyal American citizen should be given an opportunity to serve this country

wherever his skills will make the greatest contribution—whether it be in the ranks of our armed forces, war production, agriculture, government service, or other work essential to the war effort."

The War Department's letter directed that a Japanese American Combat Team should be activated on Feb. 1, and should be composed of the 442nd Infantry Regiment, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 232nd Engineer Combat Company.

In accordance with the General Orders, Headquarters 3rd Army, Col. Charles W. Pence took command of the 442nd, with Lt. Col. Merritt Booth as executive officer. Lt. Col. Keith K. Tatom commanded the 1st Battalion; Lt. Col. James M. Hanley, the 2nd Battalion, and Lt. Col. Sherwood Dixon, the 3rd Battalion; Lt. Col. Baya M. Harrison, the 552 Field Artillery and Captain Pershing Nakada, the 232nd Engineers.

Etsuo Kohashi is general chairman of the celebration committee.

More details on the Silver anniversary observance will be announced later, said Miyamoto.

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 19, 1968

Dear Boss:

From the Honolulu newspaper article, I see you have a very heavy speaking engagement while in Honolulu but would appreciate if you could send an message of "Congratulations and Best Wishes" to the 442nd Veterans Association of Hawaii on their 25th Anniversary which will be held this Saturday, 23rd at the A. J. A. Veterans Memorial Building.

Please address message to:

Mr. Etsuo Kohashi, Chairman  
442nd Silver Anniversary Committee  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

and send it in care of me since I'll be attending the banquet also. I hope I will be able to get the message by this Saturday.

Enclosing news article appeared in to-day's Tribue Herald.

Also coments from our Democratic Party chairman, William Bonk of Hawaii County in regards to the announcement made by Senator Robert F. Kennedy on the Presidential race. Yours and Sparky's coments also came out on to-day's paper.

George



1974 - Tues.

# Bonk Says RFK Offers Demos Another Choice

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's entry into the Democratic Presidential race is seen by a Big Island Democratic leader as presenting another "choice" to his fellow Democrats.

William Bonk, chairman of the Hawaii County Democratic

Committee, said Monday, "now there is another person to give us a choice."

"This means the convention is going to be open," he noted, adding "It's going to be an active one."

Bonk, however, declined to predict if the State delegation would go with Kennedy. Most state officials have said the Hawaii Democrats will endorse President Johnson.

"I have no idea," he said, "it will depend so much on the Democratic State Convention May 11."

## Inouye To Stay With Johnson

HONOLULU (AP) — U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye said Sunday he is with President Johnson and "shall remain with him."

Inouye said he is in full support of the president and does not believe the Robert Kennedy candidacy will split the party to a degree that a Republican could win in November.

The Democratic U.S. senator said in an airport interview that intra-party disagreements are nothing new for Democrats.

Inouye arrived Sunday from Washington, D. C.

## Inouye, Sparky Back LBJ

HONOLULU (AP)— Both Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and Rep. Spark Matsunaga have indicated that they will be supporting President Johnson all the way in the developing party fight for the Democratic nomination.

The Honolulu Star Bulletin's Washington correspondent — Frank Hewlett— reported that Rep. Patsy T. Mink is expected to make a statement on her position in the Democratic race today.

It is believed that Mrs. Mink will support the President even though she has not always agreed with him in the Vietnam war issue.

Inouye said that because of Vietnam, many are overlooking the leadership Johnson has provided on the domestic scene.

Matsunaga expressed his feeling in these words, "How can we turn our backs on a man who undoubtedly will go down in history as one of our greatest presidents?"

He said Kennedy's candidacy was encouraged by Sen. Eugene McCarthy's gain in the New Hampshire Presidential primary last Tuesday.

Bonk said he had anticipated Kennedy's announcement for the past few weeks.

"In the past few weeks I was sure it was going to happen," the UHHC professor said.

In the 1960 National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, 3 of 12 Hawaii State delegates voted for the late President, John F. Kennedy, Bonk noted.

The Hawaii County Democratic Convention will be held here at the University of Hawaii Hilo Campus April 6, Bonk added.

County Chairman Shunichi Kimura, another Big Island Democratic leader, was unavailable for comment.

# COPY

21 March 1968

Mr. Henry Takitani  
President, 442nd Infantry Club  
Iao Heights  
Wailuku, Maui

Dear Hank:

I join with you and the 442nd Infantry members of Maui in commemorating the 25th anniversary of our combat team.

The passage of time has dimmed many memories of hardship and heartbreak, but the bonds woven in war have endured and will endure forever.

Let us, on this occasion, re-dedicate ourselves to continued service to our community at large. Let us resolve to perpetuate the high ideals that gave birth to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Please extend to the boys and our friends on Maui my heartfelt gratitude for permitting me to share in the glory of this proud anniversary.

Warmest aloha.

Sincerely,

DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator

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DANIEL K. INOUE  
HAWAII

STATE OFFICE:  
CAPITAL INVESTMENT BLDG.  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
MORIO OMORI  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 16, 1968

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Senator from Hawaii  
1833 FAA Bldg.  
Kalakaua Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Dan,

On Thursday, March 14, I attended the dedication ceremonies of the G. Fred Bush Jr. Memorial Treatment Center of the Easter Seal Society of Maui at Spreckelsville, I was very happy and honored to be able to represent you personally at this dedication.

The 442nd Infantry club of Maui, led by Mr. Henry Takitani will commemorate the 25th anniversary of this gallant team of fighting men with memorial services on Saturday, March 23 at the Hakawao Veterans Cemetery. I plan to attend the ceremonies in your behalf. However, will you please send a message to the club which may be read at the services. Please write to:

Mr. Henry Takitani  
President, 442nd Infantry Club  
Iao Heights  
Wailuku, Maui

With fond aloha,

