



"...Our journey of honor..."





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after all these years...



"... our journey of honor will live on for generations to come," stated U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, 442nd Easy Company, at our 50th Anniversary Aloha Banquet, March 24, 1993.

This booklet reflects a pictorial slice of such a journey. It records a time of joy and happiness by men of the 442nd RCT. It also captures in pictures the private, solemn and heartwarming remembrances by many of the veterans, their families and their friends. We have tried, through this booklet, to document these experiences of the 3,000 veterans and friends who participated.

FOREWORD

George Nakasato
Chairman
50th Golden Anniversary Committee

All pictures were taken by volunteers, including those by Al Chang, ret., U.S. Army, Wayne Muromoto, members of the media and our own chapter members. To them, our heartfelt mahalo.

Finally, this booklet is dedicated to the Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT, our future "drummers" of the Go-for-Broke spirit.



The broods mature.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The White House
Washington

March 23, 1993



Greetings to the members of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team gathered in Honolulu to celebrate your 50th anniversary.

This anniversary reminds us of the monumental sacrifices you made for all Americans. You surmounted great prejudices to fight for a country you loved and to which you knew you belonged. After petitioning President Roosevelt to allow you to serve, you went on to become the most decorated Army unit in World War II. Your valor proved the President right when he said, "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." I firmly believe that America is a special kind of community that is bound together by shared values and beliefs. I commend your outstanding devotion to those ideas and values.

On behalf of the American people, I want to extend to you the deep appreciation of a grateful nation. May you have a memorable observance of your anniversary.

Bill Clinton



MESSAGE FROM GEN. COLIN L. POWELL

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
Washington D.C.

March, 1993



SPECIAL GREETINGS TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

It is a distinct pleasure for me to extend special greetings to members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as you gather for your 50th Golden Anniversary Reunion.

The 442nd has an illustrious and distinguished combat record of service during World War II. You can be justifiably proud of your contributions to the war effort. Throughout America's involvement in the war, the 442nd displayed extraordinary heroics and unwavering commitment. You remained steadfast and loyal to America, despite discrimination from your own countrymen on the mainland. You displayed courage in the face of adversity while fighting in the "Battle of the Lost Battalion." Furthermore, your bravery was a source of inspiration to the allied prisoners freed at Dachau by the 522nd Artillery Battalion detached from the 442nd.

Fifty years later, your "Go For Broke" spirit continues to serve our great nation in many important ways. The 442nd's promotion of freedom and equality will ensure that tomorrow's America, will be a better America.

Tonight as you observe this special reunion, it is most appropriate that a tribute be rendered to those who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom. Let us remember their great sacrifice, lest others forget.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to extend to you best wishes and congratulations on behalf of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the men and women of the Armed Forces. Your valorous contributions and sacrifices will always be remembered. Have a great Golden Anniversary Celebration.

COLIN L. POWELL
Chairman
of the
Joint Chiefs of Staff



KEYNOTE ADDRESS DANIEL K. INOUE

U.S. Senator, Hawaii

Aloha Banquet
March 24, 1993

This gathering is an important one — it will be a gathering of nostalgia . . . a gathering of sad memories . . . a gathering of laughter and fun . . . a gathering of good-byes for this may be our last roll call of the Regiment.

We have traveled vast distances — from every state and from many foreign lands to be together in Honolulu. We have traveled a lifetime together for this meeting in Honolulu. When did this journey to Honolulu begin?

Although this is our 50th reunion, our journey began before that date. Our fate was decided 52 years, 3 months, and 2 weeks ago on that tragic Sunday in December. Our journey began on December 7, 1941.

Soon after that tragic Sunday morning, we, who were of Japanese ancestry, were considered by our nation to be citizens without a country. I am certain all of us remember that the Selective Service system of our country designated us to be unfit for military service because we were "enemy aliens." Soon after that, on February 19, 1942, the White House issued an extraordinary

Executive Order — Executive Order 9066. This dreaded Executive Order forcibly uprooted our mainland brothers and their families and their loved ones from their homes with only those possessions that they were able to carry themselves and were granted 48 hours to carry out this Order.

Our mainland brothers were not charged or indicted or convicted for the commission of any crime — because no crime was committed. Their only crime, if any, was that they were born of Japanese parents and for that crime, they were incarcerated in internment camps surrounded by barbed wire fences, guarded by machine gun towers. They were sent to strange places with strange names — Manzanar, Tule Lake, Rohwer, Gila, Topaz. Although a few members of Hawaii's Japanese community were interned in Honouliuli (a rather well-kept secret), very few, if any of us in Hawaii, were aware of the mass internment of our mainland brothers and their families.

Although we were separated by a vast ocean and mountain ranges, we from the mainland and Hawaii shared one deep-seated desire — to rid ourselves of that insulting and degrading designation, "enemy alien." We wanted to serve our country. We wanted to demonstrate our love for our country.

After many months of petitions and letters, another Executive Order was issued with the declaration that ". . . Americanism is a matter of mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." By this Executive Order, the formation of the special combat team made up of Japanese Americans was authorized.

More than the anticipated numbers volunteered, in fact in Hawaii, about 85% of the eligible men of Japanese Americans, volunteered. Those who were selected assembled in Schofield Barracks to prepare for our departure from Hawaii. That was 50 years ago. In early April, we boarded railway flatbeds in Wahiawa and rode to Iwilei. There we got off the trains with our heavy duffel bags to march to Pier 7. But keep in mind, that most of us had less than two weeks of military training and many of us were yet to be toughened and hardened. And so we found ourselves struggling with those heavy bags on a march of over a mile. This was the farewell parade of the 442nd. For many parents this was the last sight of their sons. I cannot understand why the Army did not place those duffel bags in trucks and permit us to

march heads up and tall as we said good-bye to Hawaii. For many, the last look of their sons must have been a rather sad one because we looked like a ragtag formation of prisoners of war. I will never forget our sad departure from Hawaii.

But after several weeks, we from Hawaii and the mainland gathered in Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, the home of chiggers and ticks, sweat and dirt.

All of us were of the same ancestry, but somehow our first encounter was an unhappy one. In a few days, violent arguments and fights erupted within our area and these fights became commonplace. The men of the Regiment found themselves segregated into two camps, one from Hawaii and the other from the mainland. This relationship was so bad that the senior Army officers seriously considered disbanding the Regiment.

Many projects were initiated and many lectures were delivered to bring about unity, but all failed except the Rohwer experiment. Our Regimental records will not disclose the name of the author of this experiment, but history will show that we owe much to him.

Whoever he was, suggested that the internees of Rohwer send an invitation to the Regiment inviting young enlisted men from Hawaii to join them for a weekend of fun and festivities in the Camp. As I recall, each Company selected ten enlisted men. I was fortunate to be one of those selected by E Company. On the appointed day, these men from Hawaii, all cleanly showered, smelling of "aftershave" lotion, with their guitars and ukuleles, boarded trucks for this journey to Rohwer. Rohwer was an internment camp in Arkansas.

From the time we left Shelby in the early morning hours, this special convoy was a convoy of laughter and music. All were anticipating happy times with the young ladies of Rohwer. Suddenly, this fantasy was shattered. We came in sight of the Rohwer internment camp. In the distance we could see rows of barracks surrounded by high barbed wire fences with machine gun towers. The music stopped and there was no laughter. Keep in mind that very few, if any of us, were aware of these camps. Our mainland brothers never spoke of them, never complained, and so we did not know. When we finally came to the gate, we were ordered to get off the trucks. We were in uniform and were confronted by men in similar uniforms but they had rifles with bayo-

nets. For a moment, I thought there would be a tragic encounter, but fortunately, nothing happened as we were escorted through the gate. There we were greeted by the people of Rohwer who were all persons of Japanese ancestry — grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren. Although a dance was held that evening, I doubt if any of us really enjoyed ourselves. But it was an unforgettable evening. When we left Rohwer the following morning, the singing and the laughter and music that filled our trucks when we left Camp Shelby was replaced by grim silence. The atmosphere was grim and quiet, and I believe that all of us, as we reflected upon that strange visit, asked ourselves the question, "Would I have volunteered from a camp like Rohwer?" To this day, I cannot give an answer because I really do not know if I would have volunteered to serve our nation if I had been interned in one of those camps.

So suddenly our respect, admiration, and love for our Kotonk brothers rose to phenomenal heights. They suddenly became our blood brothers and overnight, a new, tough, tightly united military fighting machine was formed. It was a Regiment made up of blood brothers and we were ready to live up to our motto, "Go For Broke." And thus the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team was formed.

There are too many battles to recall — from Belvedere to Bruyeres, from Hill 140 to the Po Valley. But there is one we will never forget and one hopefully that our nation will always remember — the battle of the "Lost Battalion."

This battle began during the last week of October, 1944, The members of the First Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment of the 36th Texas Division, found themselves surrounded by a large number of enemy troops. This "Lost Battalion" was ordered to break through but they were thrown back and so on October 26, the 442nd was ordered to go into the lines to rescue the "Lost Battalion." On November 15th, the rescue was successfully concluded.

Two days later we were ordered to assemble in formal retreat parade formation to personally receive the commendation of the 36th Division from the Commanding General of the Texas unit. The men of the Regiment assembled in a vast field of French farm. I can still hear the Company Commanders making their reports — A Company, all present and accounted for; B Company, all present and accounted for; E Company, all

present and accounted for. It was an eerie scene. It has been reported that General Dahlquist who had ordered this formation was at first angered by the small attendance and reprimanded our Commander, who in reply is reported to have said, "Sir, this is the Regiment." As a result of the Battle of the "Lost Battalion," 200 men were in hospitals and over 300 died. The price was heavy. Although we did not whimper or complain, we were sensitive to the fact that the rescuers of the Texas Battalion were not members of the Texas Division. They were Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland internment camps. They were "enemy aliens."

I can still hear the proud and defiant voices of the Company Commanders as they made their reports. I can still see the Company Commander of E Company making his report. E Company had 42 men and though we were less than a quarter of the authorized company strength, E Company was the largest Company at that retreat parade. K Company was led by a Staff Sergeant. K Company was made up of 12 men. When I heard the last Commander shout out his report, "all present and accounted for," like many of you, I could almost feel the insulting and degrading designation that was placed on our shoulders long ago in December 1941 — the designation of "enemy alien" — fall crashing to the ground in that far away French farm. And we knew that from the moment on, no one could ever, ever, question our loyalty and our love for our country. The insulting stigma was finally taken away.

Years later, the United States Army called upon a special commission of military historians, analysts, and strategists to select the ten most important battles of the U.S. Army Infantry from the Revolutionary War to the Korean War. The Battle of the Lost Battalion was selected as one of the honored ten. Our battle is listed together with our nation's most glorious and historic battles, such as the Battle of Vicksburg during the Civil War, the Battle at Meuse-Argonne in France during World War I, and the Battle of Leyte in the Philippines during World War II. Today, specially commissioned paintings of these ten most important battles are proudly displayed in the Pentagon.

Over the years, many have asked us, "Why?" "Why did you fight and serve so well?" My son, like your sons and daughters, has asked the same questions — "Why?" "Why were you willing and ready to give your life?" We have tried to provide

answers to these questions and I hope that my answer to my son made sense.

I told my son it was a matter of honor. I told him about my father's farewell message when I left home to put on the uniform of my country. My father was not a man of eloquence but he said, "Whatever you do, do not dishonor the family and do not dishonor the country." I told my son that for many of us, to have done any less than what we had done in battle, would have dishonored our families and our country.

Second, I told my son that there is an often used Japanese phrase — "Kodomo no tame ni." Though most of us who went into battle were young and single, we wanted to leave a legacy of honor and pride and the promise of a good life for our yet to be born children and their children.

My Brothers, I believe we can assure ourselves that we did succeed in upholding our honor and that of our families and our nation. And I respectfully and humbly believe that our service and the sacrifices of those who gave their all on the battlefield, assure a better life for our children and their children.

Yes, I believe we can stand tall this evening in knowing that our journey together, a journey that began on that tragic Sunday morning, was not in vain. And so tonight, let us embrace with our hearts and minds the memory of those brothers who are not with us this evening and let us do so with all of our affection and gratitude. Let us embrace with deep love our loved ones for having stood with us and walked with us on our journey. Let us embrace with everlasting gratitude and aloha the many friends and neighbors who supported us throughout our journey. Let us embrace with everlasting love our great nation.

And finally, let us embrace our sons and daughters with full pride and with the restful assurance that the story of our journey of honor will live on for generations to come.

And so, my brothers, let us this evening, in the spirit of our Regiment, stand tall with pride, have fun, and let's "Go For Broke."



KEYNOTE ADDRESS GEN. GORDON L. SULLIVAN

Army Chief of Staff

Sayonara Banquet
March 27, 1993



Thank you, Senator Inouye, for that kind introduction.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, veterans, and families of the 442nd:

Gay and I are truly pleased to be with you this evening. We have enjoyed our stay here in Hawaii and appreciate your hospitality.

I am here tonight representing the millions of men and women who have served our nation in uniform and, in particular, those who served in America's Army. I am here to honor you all, your comrades living and dead, and all that you represent in the course of the history of our great nation.

Selfless Service to Nation

Your story is inspiring.

As I speak about America's Army, I stress selfless service to nation. I can think of no better example than the 442nd. The policies adopted by our nation amidst the anguish and anger of being thrust abruptly into war could have given you reason to turn your backs on a country that viewed you with suspicion and mistrust.

Yet, you strove and struggled for the chance to serve.

Your creed states your commitment to never lose faith, to honor America at all time, to support the Constitution, and to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Your record is a testament to your allegiance. You and your comrades received over 18,000 citations for bravery. Many of your friends and relatives gave their lives on foreign shores. Your motto "Go For Broke" describes not only how you trained and fought but the intensity of your belief in the ideals that our nation stands for.

I know that the same never-admit-defeat spirit you took to the field of battle in World War II came home with you to help America rebuild and progress. Men from the 442nd, like Senator Inouye, have been an example of courage and determination to all Americans.

It has been obvious to me in my visit to Hawaii this week that this reunion recognizes something much larger and far more significant than the battlefield events that took place in Italy and France so many years ago.

Your reunion is a celebration of the triumph of the human spirit, of the goodness in our great nation, and I personally salute you. I want to thank you and applaud your sacrifices for our nation.

Challenges of the Future

The era ushered in by our victories in World War II has come to an end. The Cold War is over. We are poised on the edge of a new century. The world is undergoing profound change. It is a world filled with uncertainty and peril, but also with promise and opportunity.

Since becoming Chief of Staff, I have traveled in many regions. And I can tell you that we are looking at the world and the Army's role in it with different eyes. Relationships among nations within the various regions of the globe are shifting as the basis of power evolves in the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Empire. Some of these changes are positive and contribute to peace and stability and the advancement of democratic ideals. Other changes and trends are less promising and raise disturbing questions in areas of interest to the United States.

I have just completed a trip to Alaska and Japan. The Pacific Basin will continue to be an area of vital interest to the United States both for economic and military reasons. The United States Army is an important member of the Defense Team in the Pacific and will remain here as an important part of the President's team.

But much is changing. Fifty years ago we were at war with Germany and Japan. Today, Japan is a valuable ally and trading partner.

It is not possible to predict the future, but I will tell you that it is clear to me that there are many potential missions for which we must be ready — ready today as we were recently in helping clean up after Hurricane Iniki here in the islands — ready tomorrow for whatever comes. We no longer have the luxury of taking time to prepare.

What the Army is Doing Today

Today we have over 26,000 soldiers in 68 countries engaged in humanitarian relief, UN peacekeeping, counterdrug, joint and combined operations.

In addition your Army maintains 125,000 soldiers forward deployed overseas in Europe and Korea.

Recently we sent a 6 man Army Survey team from USARPAC to Mongolia. Think about that — Mongolia!

While performing all these missions, we have also taken the Army force structure down by 1 corps and 4 divisions, and are preparing to inactivate two more divisions. We have separated a

net of over a quarter million soldiers and full-time civilians. The Army active duty strength is under 600,000 for the first time since before the outbreak of the Korean War. You have to go back to the 1930's to find an Army budget that, measured as a percent of GNP, is as small as the one Mr. Aspin sent to the Hill this morning.

At the same time we have been changing how we are postured, we have changed how we think. We have updated our basic warfighting doctrine, we are redesigning our organizations. We are guarding our values, our professional ethic — the values this unit, the 442nd, understood so well; by being a dynamic, innovative, 21st century organization.

Downsizing Challenges

We cannot take time from our readiness to adapt to the changes in our national strategy.

We must be ready whenever we are called. Here the monument to the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor stands as a warning beacon reaching across half a century to warn us against unreadiness. Many of you in this room know first hand the price paid for unreadiness.

For the Army, I have set forth a vision, a standard to guide us through the process of change. America's Army must continue to be a total force, with strategic capability, serving the nation at home and abroad, capable of achieving decisive victory.

The American people expect victory. You don't want to hear excuses. You hold us today to the same uncompromising standard that you measured yourselves against in the mountains and valleys of Italy and the forests and hillsides of France. It is a very simple standard — did we win? Were we successful at whatever we were asked to do?

However, readiness isn't simply the responsibility of those of us in uniform. It is a responsibility we share with the Congress, the Executive, and the people of the United States. We each play a part. It is a shared responsibility.

In the years since Vietnam, we — you, the American people, those of us in uniform, the Congress — built the finest armed forces in the world. We know what it took to do that and what it will take to maintain that.

We have spent almost twenty years to hone the fighting force that gave us decisive victory in Operation Just Cause in Panama and during Operation Desert Storm in the sands of Iraq and

Kuwait. Victory came because of our investment in tough, realistic training, leader development, modernization, sound war fighting doctrine, developing the proper mix of forces, and most importantly recruiting and retaining quality young men and women.

This formula for success is not a passing fad. It is a fundamental prescription for victory. It gives us an Armed Forces that win on the battlefield, that protect and defend the Republic, and that can accomplish whatever service the nation asks, be it fighting fires, to disaster relief, or bringing calm during civil unrest. Army must retain its capabilities, while adapting to new missions. We must preserve the essence of the uniquely American qualities of the Army.

The Essence of the Army

How do we measure that essence? What is it? Where do we find it? We find it in history.

In October 1944, the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry was cut off in the hills near Bruyeres in France. In desperation, the 36th Division Commander committed the 442nd to rescue the "Lost Battalion." In bitter fighting under murderous fire of an enemy that had been told to hold to the last man, you fought up hills and ridge lines knowing that the other Americans were holding on against incredible odds. After three days, you broke through. Your casualties were terrible. You lost more than were liberated. Your actions became legendary.

Why did you do this? Why did you fight with such tenacity and valor — so selflessly? I do not know. You may not even know. But that you did is part of the essence of our Army. It is part of our heritage. Your valor embellishes our histories.

After the battle of Vicksburg, General Sherman wrote to Ulysses Grant that during the fight he was strengthened by the fact that he knew that if he was in trouble that Grant, if he was alive, would come to his aid. That is what it means to be a soldier, you understand that, you lived that.

In a cemetery on a hill overlooking the Civil War battlefield at Antietam is a towering statue of a Union soldier. The soldier stands silent guard over fallen comrades. The inscription on the base states simply, 'Not for Self, But for Country.'

Soldiers of the American Army share a bond based in our values. These values are what we are striving to maintain.

Go For Broke. Sherman to Grant. Not for Self But for Country.

That is your legacy. It is, as Senator Inouye said, 'America's Army is stronger because of you.' We are stronger because of you.

Conclusion

We must preserve that legacy as we move the Army toward the 21st century. We will continue to need quality young Americans to step forward just as you did under very difficult circumstances and say, "Hey, Look at me! I am an American. I am willing to stand up and fight for my country."

It is as you say at the beginning of the Japanese-American creed: "I believe in America's institutions, ideals, and tradition; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future."

I trust in her future also. As we change and encounter the challenges ahead, we must learn to trust the quality of what we know, not the quantity. You of the 442nd knew you were quality. That is what the Army is all about. Americans giving the best in service to their country at the risk of their lives.

The Honolulu Advertiser today called this reunion the "Last Roll Call." They were wrong. The performances of you veterans and your comrades — the performances of the 100th Battalion and the 442 in battle — the reality of your being is part of an enduring fabric that has protected and sustained this great nation for 217 years and that will never die. Your activities this week are a beacon to a new generation. You will always be with us.

Thank you for sharing these festivities with me tonight. Thank you for all that you have done for America.

Aloha.





MEMORIAL ADDRESS DR. MICHEL OKSENBERG

President, East-West Center

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
March 28, 1993

IN HONOR OF THE
442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM



Remembering

We honor here today the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. We pay tribute to its surviving members. We remember those who have fallen. By doing so, we reflect upon our nation's history; we rededicate ourselves to our nation's ideals.

In 1776, the nation's founders committed this country to the pursuit of noble ideals. They established a union rooted in the principles on liberty, equality, and justice. They envisioned a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. They sought a spiritual vitality that only a free people can enjoy.

At that time, the American union consisted of less than three million people residing on the eastern seaboard of North America. Since then, this union has expanded across the continent and into the Atlantic and the Pacific. It had attracted millions of immigrants from throughout the world. Its noble ideals once were only a hope in the minds of a few. Today, they inspire people in the most remote and impoverished regions of the globe.

Yet, neither in its first century, not in its second, nor even today, has this nation completely fulfilled its promise. Each generation has been tested for its commitment. Each generation is remembered not for its attainment of the democratic ideal.

Eighteenth century Americans secured independence and enacted the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Nineteenth century Americans established the rule of law and abolished slavery. In this century, Americans established universal suffrage, gave protection to workers, and ended segregation.

Every step in the nation's history has engendered resistance at home and abroad. At home, struggles have taken place at the ballot box, in the courts and halls of Congress, through strikes and demonstrations, and even with bloodshed and strife. Repeatedly, foreign authoritarian rulers have challenged and attacked the nation's ideals, institutions, and even its soil. American weak-

ness and isolation have invited aggression, while resolve and constructive engagement in world affairs have helped secure peace.

Americans commemorate leaders who touched the national conscience and galvanized the national will to overcome opposition — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt and Martin Luther King. But even more importantly, countless unsung heroes and courageous citizens have written the American epic.

Fifty years ago, young Americans of Japanese ancestry joined this great tradition. They formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. They came from sugarcane fields near Hilo, pineapple packing plants in Honolulu, vegetable farms in the Yakima, San Fernando, and San Joaquin Valleys, and retail stores in Los Angeles and San Francisco. They resolutely answered the call to defend their country in war.

They did so when the American government confined many of their families in internment camps. Out of prejudice and fear, the nation doubted their loyalty. Nevertheless, they donned military uniforms of their country. They demonstrated confidence in the nation's ideals. They judged their country not on what it was but on what it was destined to become.

Many in the 442nd perished. Their valor at Cassino and in the Vosges Mountains inscribed them in the same honor roll that commemorates Americans at Valley Forge and Gettysburg, San Juan and Verdun, Omaha Beach, the Coral Sea, Porkchop Hill, Pleiku, and the Iraqi desert.

Their deeds stilled the voices of prejudice. Their bravery wove their families and their descendants firmly into the fabric of the United States of America. Their sacrifices reinvigorated the union's promise. No more illustrious page exists in American history than the one these men wrote.

It is particularly fitting that we meet today where so many members of the 442nd have found their final resting place. They are interspersed among the deceased from all the wars this nation fought in the past hundred years. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines — as well as many family members — are side by side. Immigrants reside amongst the native-born. Americans of all ethnicities are at peace together. A simple granite slab records the name, rank, service, dates of birth and death, with an unobtrusive indication of religious belief: for most, the

Christian cross, the Buddhist Wheel of Righteousness or the Jewish Star of David. Those buried here have achieved in death what they sought to attain in life: to preserve their individual dignity while merging with the larger American community.

The epic of the 442nd inspires this lesson: the nation's ideal transcends America's distinctive ethnic and cultural parts. In defense of the union, there can be no hyphenated Americans, no German-Americans, no African-Americans, no Japanese-Americans. We are one people, indivisible, dedicated to a common purpose.

Yet the nation has not demanded a suffocating uniformity from citizens. To the contrary, its creativity flows from its encouraging the vigorous clash of ideas among its free people. Its vitality comes from weaving its diverse strands together. *E pluribus unum*: out of many, one.

A new generation of citizens now carries the torch of the union that the 442nd and its generation bore so well in war and peace. Much remains to be done. This generation — our generation — must now continue the struggle against racism, sexism, and bigotry of all kind. Indigenous peoples must at long last obtain their full measure of justice. We must now extend the American dream to the most unfortunate among us — those mired in poverty and deprived of opportunity. Our generation must ensure that future generations inherit the beauty and abundance of the earth.

We also must recognize the increasing interdependence of all humanity. The fates of all human beings throughout the world are now intertwined. Americans can not be secure, free, and prosperous at home when much of humanity is oppressed, living in misery without hope or dignity.

So let the spirit of the 442nd prompt us to leave this commendation with renewed resolve. Let our generation continue to pursue the nation's ideals at home and abroad. Let us persist in the never-ending battle to become truly a union of diverse people, with liberty and justice for all.





PRE-REUNION

- Committee Work
- Coin Minting
- Government Visits
- Sons and Daughters Sale
- French Delegation



Face of frustration



and... you know... do kind...



and more bill...



Wow, is that included?

he's so cute...



The Shadow Knows...

well I'll be



The distinguished Cabinet - eat your heart out Bill C!

The sons and daughters

Karaoke champ



all...



Government Visits



Chairman's prerogative?



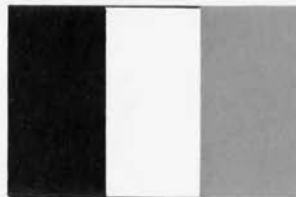


J'ai





Mahalo... Merci beaucoup



The French Delegation







DAY ONE

Registration
Aloha Banquet

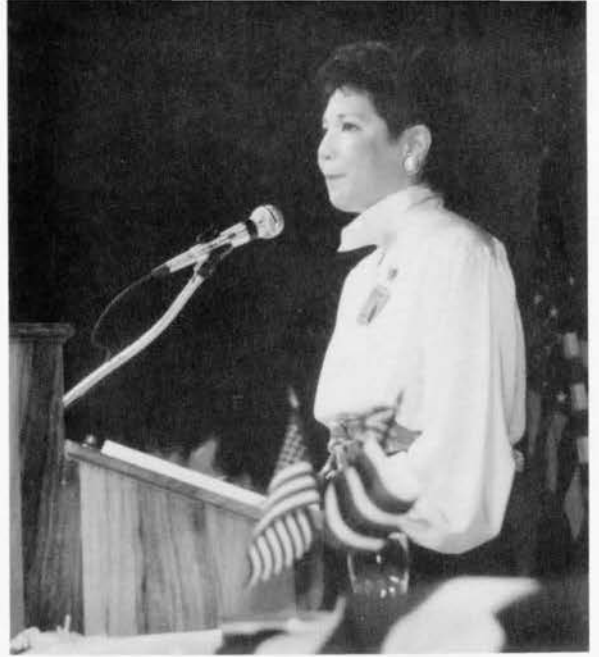


So glad we made it!

The day of reckoning.



The speaker and his agent



Classic performances



Captured audience



... and justice for all.



Looks like a long evening for us





S&D Sales... Inasohai!

POGs, POGs, POGs

Japan tourist... no, this must be the place





Proud mom and dad with Honolulu's finest



Ole pals



*One woman USO
with hubby
and friends*



Shaka!



Mom Ami

Rapture? or...



Marchons! Marchons!

Proud moment



First nighters



*More
first nighters*



*Knights of the
long table*



*and
G...*



Beauty and the Beast



DAY TWO

Golf Tournament
Fashion Show & Luncheon
Luau



energetic of duffert





More duffers





found ours!

I'm sure I made a birdie...





Fashion Show

twain have met...





Hey, I'm rejuvenated



Luau





Don't we use our fingers?



Texans



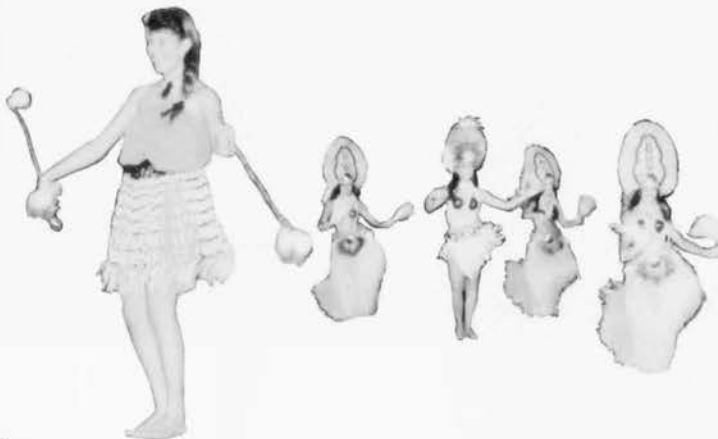
Tamure-Tamure



...but I hate poi!



Poi lovers?





DAY THREE

Chapter Night Activities
Hospitality Rooms
Exhibits & Displays



The swingers

ah... I don't remember



You know what you just ate?



What, no beer?

Hoochie Koochie

See no evil...



Oh... I don't know...



Pure contentment



One and two and...

Madame Butterfly?

Hillbillies a la Fox



Shelby was never like this!

The 'imegane' gang





Over the hill gang?

I won, I won!





Ladies in waiting





Glad I came...

More Hoodie Koochers

The Oasis



*and Daughters 442nd
Exhibits
and Displays*

*Hey ma,
that's where I was...*



That's me!



That looks like me





DAY FOUR

Parade
Sayonara Banquet



Invigorating... I love a parade!





Yea grandpa!

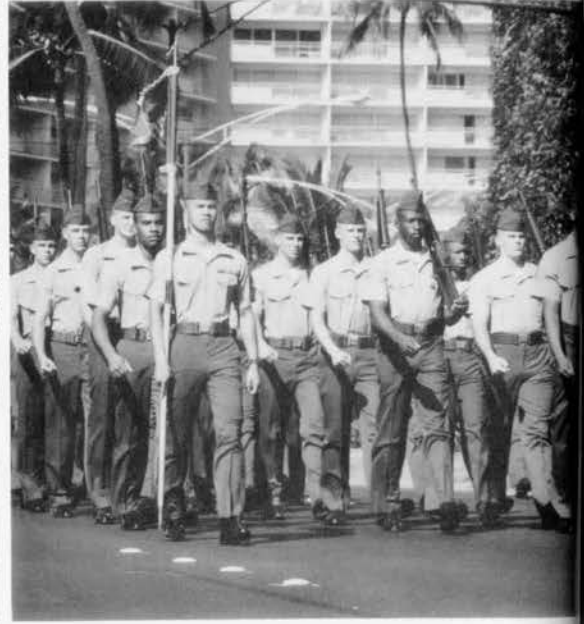
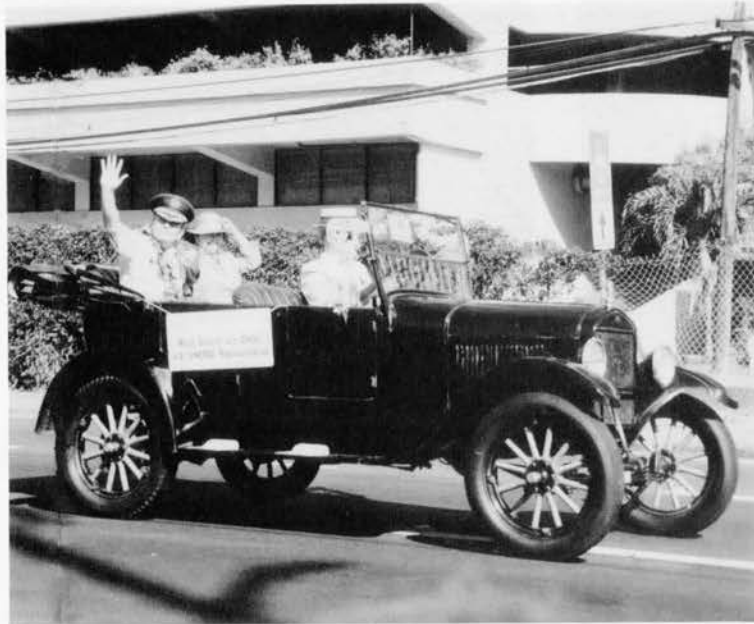


The round up



The ruler and the Four Queens









Remind you of Shelby Chris?





yaive out of step





can't make it... wanna bet?



doubt or aplomb?





... no sweat



Be careful, you have a long way to go



olley gang



Gambare!



*The promised land
in sight*



Eh brah, we goin make it!



Moses

The Exodus





Wow! Look at those boo...wahine



*On your mark,
get set...*



Ah ...



I told you don't ...



...Grampa looks tired



Unexpected accolade



... Buddheads... yea Kotonks



*Mardons...
the tricolors*



...that was some ride!



The promised land



*See, I told you
we'll make it!*



*The change of guards
... wish we had those*

The queen bee

"I can never forget"



Sayonara Banquet

"Shiyo go mai"

Dads can be helpful...

Dad looks better than what we had!



"Boyhood to War"

... yes I know



Last nighters



Can't imagine this is the last night!

Karate Kid



*the last night of the reunion...
I don't know whether
to laugh or cry!*



She could have offered it to me...



I'm on a diet...

Turn up your hearing aid...



what no recipe?

what cholesterol?



What, no seconds?



How dare they misspell my name!

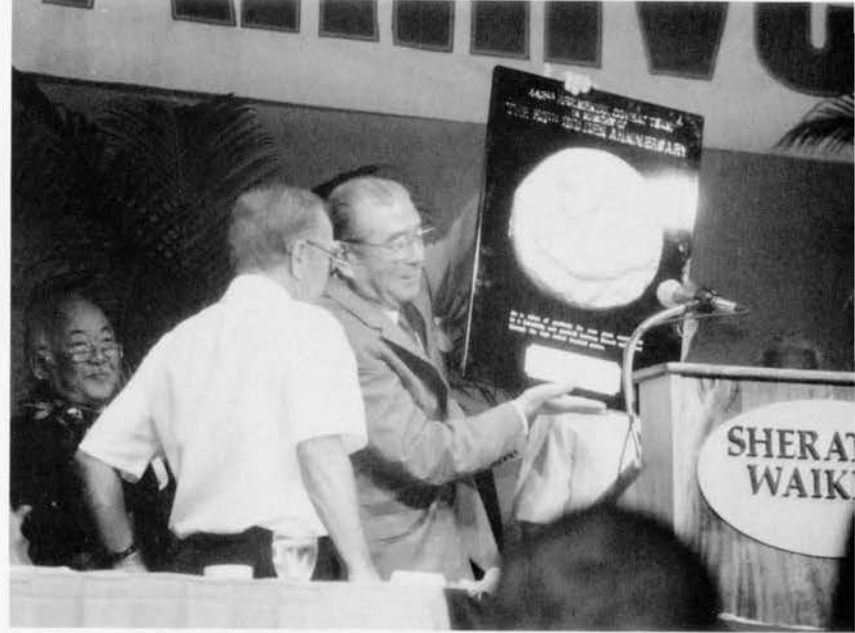
*New generation
of Torch Bearers*





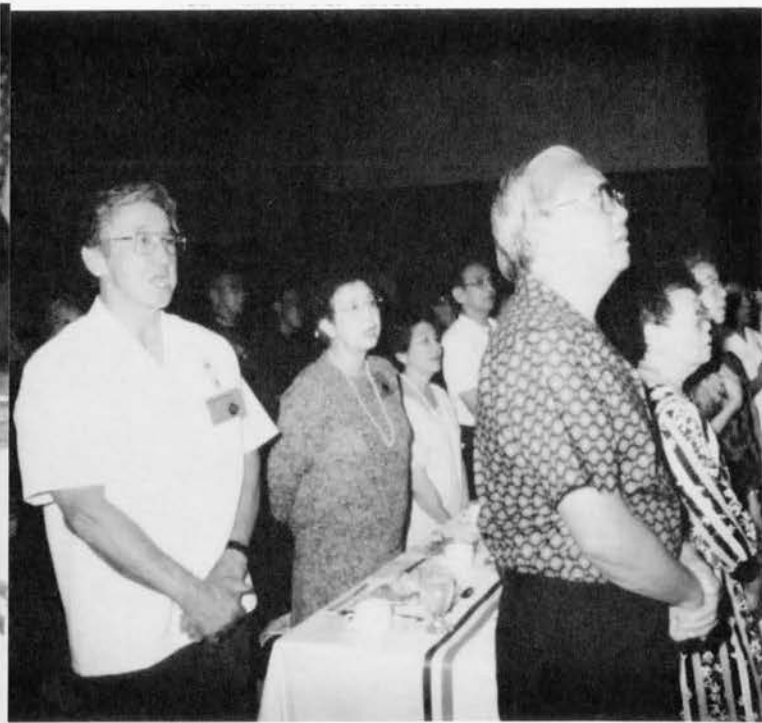
"... Your reunion is a celebration of the triumph of the human spirit, of the goodness in our great nation, and I personally salute you....!"

k-Igat slant eyes ...



Dynamic!

Taiko ... a Go for Broke performance!



"... land of the free and the home of the brave." ... may melt away but the spirit is



DAY FIVE

Memorial Service



*National Memorial
Cemetery of the Pacific
at Punchbowl*



They remember...





a poignant moment







*An expression
worthy of esteem*





*This special 50th Anniversary plaque
was created by Sean Blandhetti,
who has dedicated his life to span
the deep friendship and reverence
for all the men who served in the
100th / 442nd RCT*



442nd RCT

Memorial Service

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC
AT PUNCHBOWL — SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1993

Reflections of a Sansei Attending the Reunion

Bonnie Hashimoto Lee

The 50th Anniversary Reunion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team has been a very inspirational experience. This has been the 3rd reunion that I have attended. I have been very moved and touched to be a part of this reunion. Getting reacquainted with some veterans and getting to know others has really been a wonderful and rewarding experience. I really enjoyed their "talk stories" and memories as sad as some may have been. I have enjoyed those willing to share stories of my Dad who has now passed away 3¹/₂ years. It is living history of their experiences which they continue to share of a time that has truly made a difference for Japanese Americans. We children and our children's children have definitely benefited from their courageous experiences in the war. With great pride, we thank them for the legacy they have left for us of honor, dignity, and pride. I'm sure I can say for all — we love you and we thank you — Men of the 442nd!

THE REUNION

Bonnie Hashimoto Lee

The bond is so great
The experience so profound
The result special everlasting friendships
nowhere else can be found.

The stories are funny
The stories are sad
The stories are memorable
From the experiences they had.

These men who fought so courageously
young and deeply moved
to fight for their country
to prove what they had to prove.

They were truly Americans.
They truly love their country.
Only their ancestry, faces, and names
made them aliens.

They fought with honor.
They fought from the heart
and gave and gave and gave
and earned many purple hearts.

Oh, what determination
these men of the 442!
What honor and dignity
they brought for me and you.

I'm so proud to be among them.
I'm so proud to know them.
I'm so proud to be a daughter
of a man who fought with the 442.

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