



MIS NORTHWEST
Seattle, Washington

Veterans of
Military Intelligence
Service

THE MIS NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE..... Roy Inui

This is our final Newsletter for 1991. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the membership, my fellow officers and the Executive Committee for the support given me during my term in office. I leave with very fond memories of the many friends that I made.

Yute Hirano is our new Editor and I wish to thank him for stepping forward to replace Harry Fujita. Our past president, John Ishii, commented at the 1990 Reunion Dinner that our Newsletter is the glue that binds our organization. I understand that Harry has the distinction of being our original Editor followed by Mitzi Matsui and Chuck Nakata. Thanks to these individuals for their years of dedicated service.

I had the pleasure of attending the GO FOR BROKE/NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION (GFB/NVA) Seattle meeting held in May. Mr. Robert Bratt from the Office of Redress Administration reviewed the eligibility of those of you who were in service when Executive Order 9066 was issued. Please refer to the page on "WW II Veterans and Redress Eligibility". Those of you who are eligible but have not registered should act immediately to establish your eligibility.

The GFB/NVA agenda also included a detailed discussion on the subject of erecting a monument in Washington D. C. I would like to call your attention to the GFB/NVA brochure that was a last minute insert in our June Newsletter.

On my last furlough in 1945, prior to shipping overseas, I visited Washington D. C. In my wanderings through the Arlington Cemetery I came upon a monument dedicated to those who perished in the sinking of the battleship Maine. This monument, to my great surprise, included the names of several Japanese Americans. This happenstance has left me with an indelible memory of the role that our forebearers played in our nation's history.

A monument in our nation's capitol dedicated to the "GO FOR BROKE" spirit of our Issei parents and all subsequent generations of Japanese Americans would be a most befitting memorial. I believe that the goals of this Association represents all of our interests. Likewise, it is under the direction of a group of very knowledgeable and accomplished individuals. May I suggest that you give your support to this organization by subscribing to a membership. I have done so by becoming a Life Member.

Taps was sounded on June 26th with the passing of Mike Masaoka. We have lost an exceptional American. His obituary will be covered by Yute Hirano.

The response to my theme "LET'S GET INVOLVED" was well received. Shall look forward to seeing you at our ANNUAL REUNION DINNER on September 27th and at the MIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION in the Bay Area.



WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND REDRESS ELIGIBILITY

Individuals who served in the military during World War II may be eligible for redress payments even if they were **not** interned. To be eligible, an individual must have been on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at the time of mandatory evacuation and domiciled in a prohibited zone. There are two ways an individual may be eligible:

1. **LOSS OF PROPERTY:** The individual must have lost real or personal property of any value as a result of being prohibited by the U.S. government from entering a prohibited zone to safeguard their property, or had property seized by the government, **and/or...**
2. **DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY:** The individual must have been prohibited from visiting family who were interned, or forced to submit to undue restrictions amounting to a deprivation of liberty prior to visiting family.

If you believe you may be eligible as a military veteran, or know someone who may be eligible, you should send a letter to ORA including:

- * the individual's name
- * current address
- * date of birth
- * telephone number
- * dates of military service

After ORA has reviewed the case and determined that the individual is potentially eligible for redress, we will then send a **verification letter** for military cases, requesting a description of the recipient's case which may fall into one or both of the categories listed above. You will be asked to complete a declaration in support of your claim, and to submit:

- * corroboration from two individuals concerning the deprivation of liberty and/or loss of property and...
- * A copy of your military discharge papers, (ORA will obtain copies of the discharge papers on behalf of the recipient; however, this could delay the confirmation process).



*MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion
Nisei Soldier*

San Francisco - Monterey, California
Oct. 29 - Nov. 2, 1991

P. O. Box 2350 • San Jose, California 95109-2350 • Tel. No. (408) 292-5037

For the first time in person, the unheralded story of an outstanding Nisei intelligence agent, Richard Sakakida, will be heard at the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion Dinner, it was reported by Barry Saiki of the reunion committee. The dinner will be held on Oct. 31st at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey.

Nine months before Pearl Harbor, Sakakida and Arthur Komori, two bilingual Nisei were recruited in Hawaii by a Nisei officer for duty with the Corps of Intelligence Police (CIP), later renamed as the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC).

Sakakida and Komori, now a retired lawyer in Hawaii, were hastily trained and sent to the Philippines, posing as crewmen. Then operating under guidance of CIP, based on an American military base, they registered in small Japanese-operated hotels.

Sakakida acted like a draft dodger, a plausible story since several thousand Nisei were already serving in the U.S. Army before Pearl Harbor. Sakakida posed as a sales rep for Sears Roebuck while Komori found a job as an English teacher at the Japanese Cultural Hall. Each passed the information they collected about the Japanese community to their handlers by prearranged methods.

After the Japanese invasion, the Filipino police arrested them as Japanese collaborators; they were rescued from prison by CIP before the Japanese reached Manila. The two were sent to Corregidor to handle the linguistic work for General MacArthur's headquarters.

As surrender became imminent, with mounting losses from combat, malnutrition and disease, both men were ordered to leave Corregidor, but Sakakida offered his space to another Nisei linguist. Komori reached Australia and wrote a guideline on interrogation of POWs. He next worked at ATIS under Col. Sydney Mashbir.

Captured on Corregidor with General Wainwright, Sakakida was variously tortured for six months before imprisonment in Manila. He escaped execution, mainly because his mother had cancelled his dual citizenship before the war. The sequel as to what happened to Richard Sakakida from 1943 to August 1945 will be unfolded on October 31 and should prove doubly interesting to everyone.

RAFFLE REMINDER: Members are reminded to send in their raffle money and stubs which we were asked to help sell. The books had 11 tickets which were to be sold for \$2 each with the extra ticket for the seller. First prize is round trip airfare tickets to Japan for two.

COMMEMORATE AND MEMORIALIZE THE 6000 MIS SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE
PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II AND
OCCUPATION OF JAPAN.

HIGHLIGHTED BY TAKING PART JOINTLY WITH DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN
PRESIDIO OF MONTEREY, TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE LANGUAGE SCHOOLS. ALSO COMMEMORATE THOSE MIS
NISEI SOLDIERS WHO DIED SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

Sponsored by the Military Intelligence Association of Northern California

MIS GOPHERS

Throughout the year on Thursdays there are about 20 gophers looking for the best way to find the nasty holes in the middle of nice lawns. Believe it or not, says Harvey Watanabe, right in the middle of summer travel season 16 show up to (do their thing?) We do have fun and lots of fellowship. Some have already paid up to play in San Francisco and Monterey during the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Tak Matsui up-dates the handicap twice a year and we'd like to think that something is wrong with him. The numbers keep creeping up and our strokes keep adding up --- such is life! At our last outing we enjoyed the company of Kenzo Kanemoto of Hawaii - a fellow MISer who brought his low handicap, Hawaiian friendliness and great weather from the islands. He has family in the Pacific Northwest - undoubtedly the best place in our universe as a place to live, work and retire -- maybe next to Hawaii, according to Kenzo.

MISers and associates, local or travelers passing through, can call to join or can play with the Gophers. Guests are always welcome, Harvey says. Besides this is a good place to get the latest hot news since our president, vice president and many of the board members are regular Gophers. Call Ken Tanaka 641 - 1618 or Shogo Kusumi 747 - 2330 or any other player and join the golfers.

MIS 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

MIS Northwest's minimum sponsorship donation was received just in time to be published in the commemorative booklet, publicist for the MIS 50th Anniversary Reunion Barry Saiki notified Yosh Iwamoto. The response to date has been excellent with several MISers coming from Japan, at least 30 from Hawaii, contingents from Eastern states, Rocky Mountain area, Southern Cal and the Pacific Northwest.

Walter Tanaka, Steering Committee Registrations (San Jose), informs us through Yosh that they were very appreciative of 20 copies of the "Uncommon American Patriots" that were sent by Pres. Roy Inui to them. They recalled and remembered Ken Omura from the days with ATIS, Australia, and others from having served in the same division when he was in New Guinea. The MIS Association of Northern California was most appreciative by sending a generous donation to Nisei Veterans Committee of Seattle for the "Uncommon American Patriots" and the donation of sponsorship for the MIS commemorative booklet. In mid-July they had over 400 registered for the MIS 50th Reunion, Iwamoto said, and quite possibly hit the 500 mark when the early August date for registration was to have expired.

From Santo Gogai, Rocky Mountain MIS Veterans Club:

President Al Kushihashi views the MIS Veterans as primarily as a social organization with some community obligations. As such he recognizes that the club has rather modest financial needs. He feels, however, that the club should stand ready to participate in any community function where the special talents within the club can be brought to bear and where the individual members can make the time available.

Editor Kent Yorimoto said Pres. Kushihashi plans to conduct the meetings using the proper parliamentary procedures but recognizes that most of our meetings are rather informal.

An interesting article in the Gogai was about the innovative redeployment of educational assets with Regis College bringing Japan to Denver when it entered into a "Joint Educational Enterprise" with internationally recognized Teikyo University of Tokyo. The program began last fall with 360 freshmen and the program is expected to grow to some 2000 students in future years. The site is the Loretto Heights College campus which Teikyo U has agreed to acquire and manage.

MIS ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

President Roy Inui announced that Dr. James Doi has contacted and confirmed that Representative Gary Locke of the Washington State House of Representatives will be the guest speaker at the Annual Reunion Dinner Meeting on September 27 at Anthony's Home Port.

Locke represents the 37th district in Southeast Seattle. He was first elected in 1982 and is now serving his fifth term. He chairs the House Appropriations Committee and represents the House in writing the state's budget. Gary also serves on the House Judiciary Committee. He is a community development manager with US West Communications and is a former King County deputy prosecutor and legal advisor with the Seattle Human Rights Department.

The 1990 Seattle Times' poll rated Locke #1 among Seattle-area legislators and the Daily Olympian poll rated him #3 among all legislators in the state. He received the 1990 Legislator of the Year awards from both the Washington State Medical Association and the International Federation of Technical and Professional Engineers, Local 17.

A Seattle native, Locke received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and a law degree from Boston University. Gary is active in many community activities, including serving on the boards of the Market Foundation, the Seattle Arts Fund Stabilization Committee, Planned Parenthood of Seattle-King County and on the advisory board of the Northwest Women's Law Center.

MATERIAL SOUGHT FOR BOOK

Sylvia Kobayashi, wife of MIS Northwest member Hisao Kobayashi, is still seeking contact and material from MIS veterans who took part in the Aleutian campaign during WWII. The Kobayashi's are planning to attend the Annual Reunion Dinner, flying in from Anchorage.

Tooru Kanazawa, A Japanese American novelist who spent part of his childhood in southeast Alaska, will visit Anchorage in August, writes Sylvia. The 84-year-old writer was to have been a guest of the Kobayashi's early this month. The Kanazawa family's experiences will be in the forthcoming book about the contributions of Japanese pioneers to the development of Alaska.

Kanazawa is author of "Sushi and Sourdough," a novel about the Japanese pioneers who explored and settled in Alaska at the turn of the century. He was to be featured at a book-signing at Cyrano's Bookstore August 10 and was to be honored at a reception at the Kobayashi's home.

Kanazawa's family moved to Juneau in 1912. He attended elementary and high schools there. He earned a journalism degree from the University of Washington and returned to Juneau during the Depression. Tooru volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Retired from the travel service business, Kanazawa is working on his second book, based on his Army experiences with the 442nd RCT.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS: Besides materials borrowed from newsletters of other veterans and other newspapers, thanks to many individuals for their contributions and assistance, especially to Harry Fujita, Roy Inui, Yosh Iwamoto, Ken Kawaguchi, Harvey Watanabe, Howard Minato and Jack Uchida.

IN MEMORIAM

HAJIME "JIMMY" FUJITOMI

Services were held for Hajime "Jimmy" Fujitomi on June 4 in Seattle Buddhist Church. Graveside services were on the following day at Washington Memorial Park.

During WWII, Fujitomi was in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service. He was a life member of Nisei Veterans Committee. Fujitomi was also a member of Seattle Buddhist Church and Gojikai, Postal Workers Union, past member of Puget Sound and Mint golf clubs, and Seattle JACL.

Fujitomi is survived by his wife, Ayako; two daughters, Irene Fujitomi and Linda Fujitomi, both of San Francisco; one granddaughter, Lauren Kawasaki; a brother, Takeshi Roy of Seattle; and a sister, Maria Yamamoto, Los Angeles.

MIKE MASARU MASAOKA

Mike Masaru Masaoka, 75, a decorated combat veteran of the 442nd RCT and Nisei civil rights activist, died in his sleep from a heart-related condition on June 26 in Washington, D.C.

Masaoka was most noted for his leadership of JACL and is credited with influencing the course of Japanese American history. During WWII, Masaoka, as leader of the national JACL, helped make the still-controversial decision for JACL to cooperate with the evacuation and internment orders. He also assisted in convincing the U.S. Army to form the legendary, all-Nisei 442nd RCT.

Born in Fresno, he grew up in Salt Lake City. Graduating from University of Utah, he then went to work for JACL, becoming its first national secretary. He and JACL succeeded in repealing the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924, the law which prevented Japanese immigrants from becoming American citizens and owning land.

He and his four brothers volunteered for the 442nd RCT. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Italian Cross for Military Valor.

In 1948, he helped persuade Congress to pass the Evacuations Claims Act of 1948, which compensated Japanese Americans for some of the losses they suffered during their internment. In 1952, Masaoka formed his own lobbying firm, now called Masaoka & Associates, and he was its chairman at the time of his death. Over the years the company represented not only JACL but also a broad range of enterprises, from agricultural interests to Japanese companies doing business in the United States and American firms doing business in Japan.

Masaoka was instrumental in lobbying the U.S. government for Redress legislation. President Nixon in 1972 presented him with a commendation for his "exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition." He also received the highest honors that the Japanese government could bestow on a non-citizen. He was the first recipient of JACL's "Nisei of the Biennium" award in 1950. JACL, in 1970, established the Mike Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award.

Masaoka is survived by his wife Etsu Mineta Masaoka, sister of Rep. Norman Mineta of California; granddaughter Michelle Amano of Chevy Chase, Md.; sister Mrs. Kiyoko Ito of Chicago; and brother Tad Masaoka of San Mateo, Calif.

FREDERICK M. MUNEKIYO

MIS veteran Frederick M. Munekiyo of Spokane died on April 30 at age 71. The Yakima-born University of Washington graduate, class of '38, was a hotel operator and Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical machine operator (1953-1978).