

MIS

EULOGY

Herbert Y. Miyasaki: Born March 12, 1915; deceased January 26, 1988.

Delivered by Howard H. Furumoto: February 4, 1988; Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mr. Master of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It seems only yesterday when Herbert Miyasaki stood at the podium in a similar setting to deliver the eulogy for his fallen senpai. The emotional tribute he paid to his fellow Merrill's Marauder interpreter and close friend in his stirring rendition of the famous Japanese battle song, "shingaporu no Machi no Asa" still rings clearly in my ears. And so today, it is my distinct honor and privilege to pay my final respects to Herbert Miyasaki on behalf of his many friends and relatives and his fellow nisei veterans.

Herbert Yoshiki Miyasaki, devoted husband and father, career soldier and veteran of World War II, and successful business executive, left a lasting impression wherever he went, whatever he did, whomever he met. A born leader attuned to the needs of the people around him, he was a tower of strength and comfort to all who had the good fortune of knowing him. Outspoken and honest, generous and trustworthy in his dealings with friends and adversaries alike, he was, above all, a true champion of the Japanese in America in their greatest hour of need.

A short time ago, the citizens of Hawaii commemorated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first contingent of Kanyaku Imin to the Hawaiian Islands. The elaborate and protracted period of celebration marking the humble origin of the Japanese in Hawaii might have been just a passing historical event had it not been for the contribution and sacrifices of the nisei soldiers in World War II.

Today, young Americans of Japanese ancestry and other ethnic minorities can bask in the knowledge that they are entitled to the inalienable rights of citizenship and of equal opportunities in this great land of freedom and abundance. Yet, there was a dark chapter in America's recent past when these inalienable rights were taken away from a group of citizens whose only purported crime was to be born of Japanese parentage. And until their loyalty to the country of their birth was proven beyond the shadow of doubt, following the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Americans of Japanese ancestry were, at best, treated as second class citizens, and at worst, as prisoners within barbed wire encampments. In stoic silence Herbert Miyasaki, along with thousands of niseis in Hawaii and in the mainland, endured this gross miscarriage of justice and served with honor and distinction in World War II. In so doing they not only erased the stigma of questionable loyalty but they also firmly established themselves as the most courageous, intelligent, resourceful and trustworthy soldiers in the annals of American military history. Their action under fire spoke louder than a thousand words of praise. This then is the priceless legacy of the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of which Herbert Miyasaki was an officer and member of Executive Board at the time of his death.

Page Two  
Eulogy, Herbert Y. Miyasaki

The internationally acclaimed independent film maker, Loni Ding, in producing the award winning documentary entitled "The Color of Honor," readily recognized Herbert Miyasaki's natural talent and leadership in the portrayal of the role of nisei interpreters in the far-flung Asiatic and Pacific Theaters of War in World War II. The film is indeed a fitting final tribute the "Herb," son of a Big Island storekeeper who rose from the ranks of the enlisted soldier to the lofty rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U. S. Army Reserve.

In conclusion I wish to share with you selected passages from "A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, which poetically expresses the substance and style of Herbert Miyasaki's colorful and distinguished career.

In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act -- act in the Living Present!  
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing  
Learn to labor and to wait.

And now, dear senpai, thank you for a job well done, and may you rest in eternal peace and tranquility as we bid you a fond sayonara!



Aloha Animal Hospital Associates

March 23, 1988

Dear Loni,

I was asked to deliver the eulogy at Herbert Miyasaki's funeral service by the 1715 Veterans Club. I ran off a few copies for Herbert's family, close friends and organizations to which he belonged.

When your note announcing your return showing of the "Color of Honor" arrived I thought you may wish to have a copy of the eulogy also.

I look forward to seeing you again ~~at~~ the Sunday showing.

Sincerely,

J. Howard