

# 100th/442nd NEWSLETTER



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## MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY

On June 21, 2000, in a White House ceremony President Bill Clinton met with the seven living veterans and the next of kin of those who were killed in action or who have died to present to each the Medal of Honor.

The seven living veterans walked to the center of a stage under a tent on the White House South Lawn and faced the commander in chief.

After reading the narration of their heroism, President Clinton leaned over and secured a blue ribbon around their necks, the Medals of Honor resting against their chests.

JIMMY MAKINO, of G Company Chapter who attended the ceremonies submitted the following account of his activities. Four of the Medal of Honor recipients were in G Company: WILLIAM NAKAMURA, JOE NISHIMOTO, FRANK ONO and KAZUO OTANI.

Tuesday, June 20. LAX to Phoenix and then nonstop to Baltimore aboard the no frills, no fanfare, no

music, no food, Southwest Airlines. Arrived in Baltimore at 7:00 p.m. and we rented two small vans to accommodate the twelve of us from the Southern California area. They were: JAMES and YURIKO AJIOKA, FRANK and YURI MORIMOTO, JACK TAGAWA, OCEAN MIYAKE, DAVID KATAGIRI, RUSSELL NAKAISHI, DOUGLAS TANAKA, SEIJI and EVELYN OSHIRO and myself.

We drove to the Washington Hilton Towers Hotel where Medal activities were to be held. We were lucky to get the last few rooms.

On Wednesday morning seven busloads of people went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where a wreath was laid.

Then came the full show, all military in full dress, a 200 man band, taps. It was a very impressive event. Assigned to each MOH family were two escorts helping families where needed. These escorts were all of Major rank or up and stayed with the families during the entire program.

Went to the Post Chapel at Fort Myers where a special service was held.

Then back to the hotel for lunch and rest. About 3:00 p.m., we boarded the bus again for the trip to the White House.

On arrival the MOH honorees and next of kin only were shown to another room where President Clinton met with each of them. The rest of us were taken to the back court area where a huge white tent was set up. There were many recognizable big name spectators in attendance.

All Medal of Honor recipients and next of kin were called and presented with the citations which read of the Distinguished Service Cross upgrade to Medal of Honor. This was a very emotional ceremony with the flag salute, band music.

Upon completion of the program, President Clinton came down from the platform and in going to the exit he stopped to shake hands here and there. When he stopped to say hi to his golfing buddy, FUKUHARA. I reached out for a left hand shake with President Clinton.

We then went back to the Washington Hotel for an evening buffet dinner.

On Thursday morning around 11:00 a.m., we went to the Hall of Heroes in the Pentagon for another reception. The military dress spit and polish was a sight to see. All high ranking brass came to greet us and show us around and then led us into a big tent for us to be seated for another impressive program. A very touching part of the program

was conducted by Chief of Staff, General ERIC SHINSEKI.

Then back to the hotel for a buffet dinner where at the end of the evening an announcement was made that Congress had passed the bill for full recognition of the men who served in the Pacific in the Military Intelligence Service.

On Friday, June 23, it was time to return home after a visit to the Smithsonian Institution. We all stuck some food in our carry-ons for our return flight on the no frills airline.

## 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

#### ONE YEAR LATER

With this issue I begin my second year as editor of the *100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association Newsletter*. I hope I have lived up to some of your expectations.

Inputting your reports is no problem and I do appreciate the observance of deadline dates.

As far as the content of the first page is concerned, it is reserved for general notices and any editorializing that might be appropriate. I have my own hesitations inasmuch as I do not share combat experience with the veterans.

In reference to articles about Association activities, I have continued to report them in the *KaMai Forum* mainly because of their length. However, in the

March and May issues I placed materials that did not lend themselves to columnar format and other materials of general interest at the end of the chapter reports calling them Addenda. If this is satisfactory I will start including installation luncheon speeches and other materials that specifically apply to the veterans in addenda pages after the chapter reports and board reports.

Slowly as I get into the rhythm and wave length of the Association, the character of the Newsletter should manifest itself and together with your communications we should create a newsletter that will reflect the voice of the veteran of the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>.

Bear with me. Momoko

### **ONE PUKA PUKA**

By June Kurisu

The 100th's 58th Anniversary banquet stretched to five days when it was held at the Cal Hotel in Las Vegas from June 18 to 22. It was estimated that nearly 350 were in attendance. The banquet stretched from the Ohana Room into the Maile Room. Because of the crowd, the meal was served, which was a nice change from the buffet line we oldies have endured in the past, but that's okay, right?---whatevah. Da

Aikanes entertained during the cocktail hour and Kauai entertained during dinner. Four 442nd ladies danced the hula and DORIS KIMURA sang "America."

Business meetings were held after slots tournaments on two mornings. Following the business meetings stalwart folks went to Belz Outlet Mall on one day of the Reunion; four Strip casinos which are located on four corners of an intersection: New York-New York, MGM Grand, Tropicana, and Excalibur on another; and to Treasure Island, The Mirage, Caesar's Palace and Fashion Show Mall, and addition this year, on another. The nighttime entertainment offered this year was "Jubilee" at Bally's. Ninety-two went by bus and two shuttles. It seemed like the costume mistress lost a lot of bras and the poor show girls had to appear without. The costume mistress should also have taken a bow. How she ever managed to keep track of the myriad of costume changes for the large cast, I'll never know. The illusionist and magician were great.

As usual, there was lots of good food in the Hospitality Room. Upon arrival, we women from the LA area made the rice forms for the sashimi sushi. HISA MIYA painstakingly brushed wasabi on the rice before the sashimi was laid on top. The next time I went to the room, there was no more left, all gobbled up.

Loads of fruit made a nice change for our palates.

Thanks to all of you who helped JEAN TAGAMI, TERI FUJIKAWA, and MITSI FUCHIGAMI in the Hospitality Room. TERI hand printed all the names on the name tags, a sure way to get writer's cramp.

Thanks to the following for your donations to the Hospitality Room: MARGIE HIGA, MICH MUKAIGAWA, GEORGE and FLO KINOSHITA, RIKIO and EVELYN TSUDA, ROY TERADA, FRED KANEMURA, SAM and SARA TERASAKI, TED SATO, TOSHIO and SUE HAMATAKA, STAN IZUMIGAWA, MAS ISHIDA, ROY KATAYAMA, GORO SUMIDA, PAUL YASAKI, YEIKI MATSUI, KO ITO, DON MIYADA, KATSUMI MAYEDA, BEN and JEAN TAGAMI, and SAM and TERI FUJIKAWA, and lastly, GEORGE and JUNE KURISU, celebrating 50 years together. Thank you, KAY KOBASHI, for the peaches and nectarines we all enjoyed.

Many thanks to TOK YOSHIHASHI who drove a pick-up truck laden with food and crates of fruit for the Hospitality Room even though he was very worried about his wife, RAE who was in the hospital. We all hope she is on the road to recovery.

Sign up early for the October mini reunion. Tours will go to Belz Outlet Mall on one day; to Ethel M

Chocolate Factory; the World of Cranberries, the clown factory, and the marshmallow factory, which are all in the same direction, on another day. We'll try to plan a tour of the casinos we haven't seen in a while: Luxor and Mandalay Bay which are connected by monorail and then on to the Rio to catch the beads the showgirls toss to us. Another night tour to the Strip can be scheduled if you desire. With so many offerings to choose from it seemed hard to plan a night club outing, but with the success we just had, we can try again. The sign-up sheet is more to see that we have a minimum of 20 passengers. Come to the bus at departure time if you would like to go; it seats 52. We are so lucky to have JAMES WILSON, our very accommodating bus driver.

Dog Company ERIC ABE, formerly from Maui, and his wife, IRENE, formerly a MIYAKE from Kauai are both in Westside Health Care at 1020 South Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019, if you would like to drop them words of good cheer. Their son CRAIG is keeping "the home fires burning."

GEORGE KURISU suffered a stroke on June 30. JUNE KURISU'S brother, KEN KATO died on June 30, at the VenCor Hospital in Westminster, California after a five year struggle against olivo ponto cerebellar atrophy (OPCA) a form of ataxia. In lieu of flowers the family requests

that donations be sent instead to support ataxia research in Ken's memory:

National Ataxia Foundation  
2600 Fernbrook Lane,  
Suite 119  
Minneapolis, MN 55447-4752  
763-553-0020

### EASY DOES IT

By Robert Ichikawa

### E COMPANY MUDDAHS DAY

Saturday, 13 May 2000.  
About 38 E Co members and wives gathered at the Hong Kong Gardens Restaurant in Carson for a Muddahs Day luncheon. Thanks to maitre d' Stanley for the great menu. There to enjoy were: R. AKIYAMA, M. FUJITAS, R. ICHIKAWAS, E. ITO and GARY, G. KANATANI, H. KAWARATANIS, S. KIYOMURAS, G. KUBO, M. KUNIHIROS, G. KUSUNOKIS, J. OKITSUS, R. OZAWAS, T. SHIOMICHIS with sis, EDNA and helper, S. SUGA, M. TAKAMINES, L. URASAKI, B. YAMANAKAS, K. YAMATES AND LYLE, and R. YANAIS. To round out the afternoon some gathered at the ICHIKAWAS' home for poker and rummy. Thanks to CHRIS for allowing us in.

### NOCAL MEMORIAL

Saturday, 13 May 2000. E Co NOCAL held a Memorial Service at the 100/442 Redwood Tree in Roberts Park, Oakland, California. LAWSON SAKAI welcomed the group and the service began with the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. MAS KAWASHIMA and a memorial lighting of candles for the members who have passed on this year. Commentary by LORI YOW (IKEGAKIS daughter), M. HANLEY (son of Col. HANLEY), M. FURUKAWA, J. SAKAI, M. HASHIMOTO, J. NIIZAWA, S. SUGA (SOCAL) and M.SNAPP followed. The ceremony ended with the benediction by the Reverend KAWASHIMA; taps and *oshoko*. The Redwood Tree was planted by E Co NOCAL in 1992, marked with a bronze plaque nearby and a park bench also identified with a plaque. The tree is now about ten feet tall. I think we should cultivate around it and feed it some good fertilizer. See *E Company Addendum*, page 17 for *Martin Snapp's column*.

After the Memorial Service we all had a delicious pot-luck picnic lunch in the picnic area. Thanks to the ladies of NOCAL for a delicious and splendid meal fit for a king. Thanks also to all of the folks who provided us places to stay at their homes. They were: VIOLET HORI, LAWSON SAKAI and JOHN TOGASHI. E Co members there were: R. ICHIKAWAS, G. KANATANI and MEG, G. KUSUNOKIS, J. OKITSUS, S. SUGAS and B. YAMANAKAS. We heard the

SUGAS and YAMANAKAS taught the SAKAIS how to play rummy, Shanghai, that is.

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AIRBORNE PICNIC

In mid May JAXON ONO attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Airborne and Sky Diving Picnic at Browns Field. Councilman ARCHULETA of LA spoke about the accomplishments of the 100/442. The program was hosted by REUBEN DELGADO, President of the Hispanic American Airborne Association of San Diego. Represented were the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne, Coachella Valley, 82<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, Hispanic America LA and the Inland Empire associations.

#### MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, 29 May 2000. The Annual Memorial Day Service was again held at the Evergreen Cemetery, sponsored by the NVCC; chaired by JIM MITA of the MIS.

M/C was TOY KANEGAI. Order of ceremony: colors by the Marine Corps ROTC of El Rancho Hi, Pledge by JIM MITA, anthem by ROSE KANESHIGE, invocation by Rev. PAUL NAKAMURA, address by DAVID AISO. E Co members present were: M. FUJITAS, R. ICHIKAWAS, M. KUNIHIROS, G. KUSUNOKIS and M. TAKAMINE.

#### MONUMENT ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, 3 June 2000. The 100/442/MIS Educational Foundation held an Anniversary Celebration at the Go For Broke Monument in LA; M/C'd by PAT MORITA with opening remarks by

ROBIN MORISHITA, Co-Chair Educational Foundation. E Co members in attendance were: M. FUJITAS, R. ICHIKAWAS, G. KANATANI, H. KAWARATANIS, S. KIYOMURAS, M. KUNIHIROS, G. KUSUNOKI, J. OKITSU, J. ONO, M. TAKAMINE, H. WACHIS, B. YAMANAKAS and K. YAMATES.

Thanks to all for another fine program.

#### FADDAHS DAY

Saturday, 17 June 2000. The Annual Faddahs Day pot-luck was held at the 100/442 Hall. A short meeting was conducted by Vice President GEORGE KUSUNOKI reviewing the up and coming mini-reunion program. After the meeting we all dug in to another delicious pot-luck cooked by the ladies of E Co. Thanks again.

In attendance were: M. FUJITAS, R. ICHIKAWAS, E. ITO and GARY, G. KANATANI, S. KIYOMURAS, G. KUBO, G. KUSUNOKIS, J. OKITSUS, J. ONOS, M. TAKAMINES, H. WACHIS, B. YAMANAKAS, K. YAMATES with LYLE and R. YANAIS..

Everyone had an enjoyable time, rounding out the afternoon with poker and Shanghai rummy,

#### IN THE NEWS

The May 16<sup>th</sup> issue of the Redlands *Daily Facts* had a front page story about Medal of Honor recipient, GEORGE SAKATO with a picture of him and BESS. He was a 1941 graduate of Redlands Hi.

Incidentally, GEORGE KANATANI was also graduated from there in 1936, The article described why he volunteered and how he earned his medal.

#### ON TV

Tuesday, 20 June 2000  
GEORGE SAKATO was interviewed on the Channel 7 Evening News.

Wednesday, 21 June 2000.  
DAN INOUE was interviewed by TOM BROKAW. Congratulations to our Medal of Honor recipients from all of us in SOCAL.

Monday, 29 May 2000. On Channel 4, R. ICHIKAWA, K. YAMATE and others of the 100/442/MIS who made the trip to Pietrasanta, Italy were interviewed by GORDON TOKUMATSU.

#### GRADUATE

AMIE ICHIKAWA graduated from Narbonne Hi on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congrats, AMIE.

#### TRAVELERS

In early June the SUGAS visited their daughter and grand kids in Utah, Salt Lake City, that is.

The YAMANAKAS were in Las Vegas, May 5,6,7 and the first week in June.

The ICHIKAWAS were there on May 5,6,7 and on June 5,6,7. Hit a lot of jackpots but left a little in the end. The YANAIS were there at the same time and trying for the biggie.

ROY OZAWA enjoyed Idaho in mid-May visiting relatives and fishing.

OKITSUS catching the big ones at Mammoth Lakes and Crowley Lake.

#### SICK CALL

TSUNE TAKEMOTO underwent a valve replacement and is in serious but stable condition.

#### SORRY TO HEAR

DUANE EBATA (49) passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, He was the artistic director of the JACCC and the son of the late STANLEY EBATA of E Co. Our heartfelt sympathies go to the wife DONNA and family.

#### FOX HOLE NEWS

By Frank Morimoto

GEORGE NAKAMURA, brother of KAYE MUSASHI, who was an honorary member of F Company passed away recently. Funeral service was held at the Green hills Memorial Cemetery in Wilmington. HELEN and ROY YAMADA, MAS TAMAYEI, MAS MIYAMOTO, EMI and HIRO TAKUSAGAWA, OCEAN MIYAKE and FRANK MORIMOTO paid their last respects. After the service the family held a reception at the Tin Sing Restaurant, Gardena. KAYE and SAM recently made a sizable donation to F Company in his memory for which we thank them.

JACK MUNEMURA, TOSHIO "HOXIE" NAGAMI, Lt. Col. JOHN D. PORTER are other F Company members who went

to their final resting grounds and we send our condolences to their families.

F Company mainlanders who went to the Reunion in Honolulu on March 23-26, 2000, were YURI and JIM AJIOKA, OCEAN MIYAKE with son, MICHAEL, STEVE SATO, FRANCES and MUNRO SHINTANI, SUNAO FURUSHO and GRACE HAYAMI. They stayed at the Pagoda Hotel. Chief of Staff, General ERIC SHINSEKI and Colonel MARTY HIGGINS, who represented the 141<sup>st</sup> Lost Battalion were the keynote speakers.

OCEAN MIYAKE stayed a few days longer and visited with SADAO NISHIDA of Hawaii, TOSHIO "NANCY" ENDO of Maui and KATS NAKAMURA of Oahu.

Making the trip to Pietrasanta, Italy, 17-29 April 2000 were F Company members: EMI and YUKE IGUCHI who was suffering from a case of gout and was miserable; YURI and JAMES AJIOKA, 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon; KAZUE and GEORGE KAWAKAMI of Lihue, Kauai; JACK TAGAWA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Hdqtrs; SUZIE SUGIMOTO, widow of KAZ SUGIMOTO, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn Hdqtrs with her friend, YURIKO TANAMACHI of Ohio. ADELITA and DAVID KATAGIRI met the tour in Florence and went to Pietrasanta for the dedication after which they returned to Florence for shopping and sight seeing. DAVID said that for \$4 a

person can ride a bus around town for two days.

At the Pietrasanta tour group's last dinner in Florence at a huge restaurant, they were sitting with a friend, ALLEN MAYER, a Caucasian MIS veteran. At this restaurant there was also a large group of Japanese nationals. They assumed these people were Chinese until ALLEN heard their conversation. ALLEN then explained who the Japanese in his group were. One person in the group came over to the table full of nisei veterans and bowed in the traditional Japanese manner.

At Pietrasanta the life sized bronze statue of SADAO MUNEMORI was unveiled. The speech by his sister was very inspiring as she related to the audience, especially the children, that war is terrible and should never occur again. The audience was very large for such a small village and the ceremony was very emotional. DAVID has made several trips to Italy where he saw combat and has met and become friends with several Italians. One, BRUNO of Azzano came to the ceremony with his wife and two married sons and their wives. DAVID took many photos of his trip. We enjoyed looking at them and we thank him for sharing them with us.

The annual Armed Forces Day Parade in Torrance was held on May



20, 2000, and the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association was again invited and participated. The Regimental colors were carried by Associate Chapter President, DAVE SUNAHARA, 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association president, RUSSELL NAKAISHI, MARK SUSUKI and NOBU IKUTA. Riding in the jeep and weapons carrier were SAM FUJIKAWA, BEN TAGAMI, TAK SUSUKI, MILLARD BLACK, a rescued member of the "Lost Battalion," TED OHIRA, MIKE TAKAMINE, FRANK MORIMOTO and Mrs. DAVE SUNAHARA and daughters.

SAM FUJIKAWA has always been the 100/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association's liaison with the City of Torrance and we thank and appreciate his service. For us, participating in the parade is very emotional and it is gratifying to receive the plaudits of the spectators.

The Memorial Day Service was held on May 29, 2000, at the Evergreen Cemetery and was chaired by the MIS group. This is a chance to honor our comrades who gave their lives in combat and we should take this opportunity to do so!!!! F Company members who attended were: EMI and HIRO TAKUSAGAWA, MARGE and MAS YOSHIDA, YURI and FRANK MORIMOTO, OCEAN MIYAKE, MAS MIYAMOTO, YUKE IGUCHI and HELEN and ROY YAMADE. As is F Company custom, the group then

went to lunch at Paul's Kitchen in Monterey Park. ROY YAMADA and EMI and HIRO went to Westminster Cemetery to honor KAZUO MASUDA.

The 100/442/MIS Memorial Foundation held its First Anniversary Celebration of the unveiling of the Go For Broke Memorial on June 3, 2000 and it was a success. PAT MORITA, was the master of ceremonies. TAK SHINDO composed new songs dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> and the MIS and the premiere performance was by the Los Angeles Police Band. New names had been engraved on the main monument and on the pillars. The most eye appealing were the names of twenty Medal of Honor recipients engraved on a pillar. They will be recognized by President Clinton at a White House Ceremony on June 21, 2000.

### **LET GEORGE DO IT**

By Mary Karatsu

*The following comprises the balance of the G Company report for July 2000.*

Thanks, Jim, for your first hand report of a once in a lifetime experience. Jim mentioned that ROY MACHIDA and CLEM MIYAYA of G Company were also in D.C.

We have had quite a few "G" people on the sick roster lately and want to wish a speedy recovery to the following: STAN SERIKAKU, SACHI MOCHIZUKI, JUN FUKUZAWA and to DOLORES IDA. Let's all keep "get well" thoughts in our minds and hearts for all of them.

On a happy note, FRED IDA reminds us that he has set March 13<sup>th</sup> for the next mini-reunion in Las Vegas. FRED has undergone cataract surgery.

### HOW IT'S DONE

By Mike Tsuji

The usual monthly meeting of the group was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June at the Memorial Hall. Business for the day focused on the Association's Reverse Raffle to be held on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. H Company is in charge of this year's event, meaning that H Co must provide man power to handle the various chores necessary, like the drawing and calling out of numbers. President TOM SHIMAZU is counting on members to show up, ready to go and get the job done in the enthusiastic "H Co way."

Veteran Reverse Raffle experts TED OHIRA and DUKE OGAWA will be directing this operation. Tickets for the 2:00 p.m. event are already "sold out" as of the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. All winners will be paid on the spot.

Tireless members of the beloved 100<sup>th</sup> Chapter will be on hand again to cook their trademark gourmet grilled steak, chicken and fish entrees and accompanying salad and vegetables to go with all the rice to be provided by whoever has been selected this year for that function.

All present at the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> were invited to the gala Koreisha Chushoku Kai's (Luncheon Program for Seniors) annual banquet at the New Otani Hotel by EMI YAMAKI, Executive Director and wife of JOE YAMAKI. The program is in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of serving seniors nutritious lunches each weekday at Union Church. JOE YAMAKI and TED OHIRA are mainstays of the large group of volunteers who have worked on this program for all these many years.

Our CONGRATULATIONS.

The end of June commemorates again on the 26<sup>th</sup>, the 442<sup>nd</sup>'s baptism in combat, fire-fight, brutal enemy action, wounded and dead. It started out as a bright and sunny Italian morning along the coastline west of Rome. Life changed for everyone in an instant. It was no more fun and games from then on.

H Company had its first two heroes that day when BOB KACHI and PAUL TAHARA were awarded Silver Stars for gallant action, thanks to our ever alert Captain KEEGAN who had very quickly written their citations.

Battle lines changed several times since then, even on to France and then back to Italy. Many friends were lost along the way. Among them were BOB KURODA of the Third Platoon and Lt. CHARLES FARNUM who was once with H Co in Camp Shelby. They were both killed in action outside of Bruyères, France, in October of 1944, and awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star respectively for their roles in the battle.

BOB'S DSC was upgraded to Medal of Honor at White House ceremonies on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, along with eighteen others of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> who had their DSC's similarly upgraded by an act of Congress. JOE KURODA, BOB'S brother reports that he and others of his family, including another brother, RONALD who was also awarded a DSC as a member of B Co., 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion were invited to attend the solemn ceremony.

As we all know another person at the ceremony was Senator DANIEL INOUE, who was a platoon leader in Italy in April of 1945.

Several members of the local 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association were invited to the Washington, D. C. event. Perhaps we will see reports of their experience in the next Newsletter.

The latest visit to Italy by members of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> occurred when several went for the dedication of the SADAO MUNEMORI

statue in the city of Pietrasanta, the region where the battle for the German Gothic Line took place in the spring of 1945.

H Company's TED and CHIZ OHIRA were in the tour group that made the trip. BOBBIE ICHIKAWA (E Co.) and HIRO NISHIKUBO (L CO.) had some vivid narratives of that trip in the latest issue of this Newsletter. Appears that HIRO spent some time in the northern Italian area after the war was over. They both displayed remarkable memories, commenting on places they expected to see and also BOBBIE'S remembering an Italian from those days and then finding him

#### ITEM BY ITEM

By Marian Yamashita

Reports very little happened in the last two months. Will report next time.

#### LOVE NOTES

By Hiro Nishikubo

It's time for a few notes on our activities.

The annual L Company mini-reunion was held on May 22, at the Fremont Hotel in Vegas. We had a good turnout as there were 91 of us there. A talk-story session was held on Tuesday night and the annual

banquet on Wednesday night. We did not have a hospitality room this year so our get-togethers were well-attended and fun. Golf was not scheduled because of the heat. Most of our time was spent indoors at the hotel casinos. Some braved the heat to tour the Strip.

The only big winner I heard about was PAT YOSHINO from Chicago who hit two big pots, one for 8 grand and another for 4 grand. Not bad for the first day. I did not follow up to find out how she did the next two or three days but I'm sure most of that loot went back to Chicago with her.

This writer had no luck at all. In fact, I had to be replenished by BETTY for the last day and a half. But all in all, we had a great time getting together and talking stories.

P. K. MATSUMOTO is already working on our next year's reunion. He asks that we please keep in mind that all of us are getting older and some of us will be more restricted regarding travel and won't be able to visit with each other. Our numbers do get smaller each year.

On Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, we had our luncheon meeting at the Tin Sing Restaurant in Gardena. DON SEKI reported on the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Association Board meeting. The date of the Reverse Raffle is July 22, Saturday. The Nisei Week Parade this year will focus on the new Medal of Honor recipients. L Company wishes to add its

congratulations to all the recipients. They were well deserved. In the Parade there will be a special section for the 100/442 and we are asked to participate in that section. I hope L Company will be well represented. There will be vehicles to ride if we cannot walk.

There being no other business to take care of we went back to talking stories. Those attending and taking part in talking stories were our president, REED SADAHIRO and wife, DODIE; DON and SUMI SEKI; BEN and FUDGE KITAGAWA; TOM and YO MORI; SEIGI and HAZEL IMAMURA, KIYO TAKABAYASHI, MARYE ODA, MINO KAMINISHI, STANLEY TAKEMOTO and HIRO and BETTY NISHIKUBO. We missed SAM and YO IKARI, TAK and RUTH HASHIMURA, and EM MIYOSHI. Maybe our next luncheon should be held in Orange County?

I heard some sad news from KEN NIHEI of Oakland. He told me that our friend, GEORGE NISHIMURA passed away in Oregon. We don't know is most recent address but he was formerly from Gresham, Oregon. We trained together in Florida and were shipped overseas together. He was in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. Our condolences go to his family. I also received word that Lt. HATHWELL CORBIERE has passed away. He was in ill health for a long time. Our condolences go to SHANI and family.

I almost forgot. Attending our recent mini-reunion was one of our

original officers, Lt. MILTON BRENNER of Texas. The old timers had a ball reminiscing with him about Camp Shelby. Apparently he was wounded fairly early so some of us didn't know him but we certainly heard about him from the original guys. Anyway, it was good to see him. I understand our next goal is to get Capt. EUGENE HARRISON to our next reunion. So you guys, keep in touch.

I haven't heard of any local people on sick call lately except for the usual aches and pains and sore muscles. So until the next time, keep well and keep the little white ball in the fairway..

### TANKBUSTERS

By Henry Ikemoto and Chappie Kishaba

The awarding of the twenty Medals of Honor to the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> men has been very gratifying. We can stand taller. Our children and their children and the entire Japanese American community can join us and be grateful for these men who went the "second mile."

Our ever energetic octogenarian, FRANK SETO has been a good patient. Obeying his doctors and his wife, EVELYN, he is on his way to complete recovery. FRANK'S three times a week dialysis is now down

to once a week. He has been able to join the "gang" for Wednesday breakfast at Bob's Okazuya in Gardena. Much of his energy seems to have returned. His voice is much clearer and stronger. He walks more like he did before his first visit to the hospital in March, 2000. He attended the First Anniversary Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS WW II Veterans Monument on June 3, 2000, with DAVE KAWAGOYE.

FRANK, keep up whatever you're doing. We will continue to cheer for you.

On a sadder note, four of us attended the funeral service for MATT KOBAYASHI on June 13<sup>th</sup> in Brawley, CA, Imperial County. YOSH HAMADA received the call from the family. ROY NISHIO drove his new Mazda van and met us at Denny's where we meet each month. YOSH HAMADA, CHAPPIE KISHABA and I rode with ROY the 170 plus miles to Brawley. TETSU UYECHI, who lives in Westmoreland near Brawley, greeted us. Although his body was bent, his handshake was firm and his smile warm. We presented an envelope from the AT treasury and later mailed a tracing of MAT'S name from the Monument, framed, to ALEJANDRINA and the children from the Chapter.

## **HIGH ANGLE**

By Tadd Tokuda

Reports there is nothing to report.

## **SONS OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup>/442<sup>ND</sup> VETERANS**

By Don Kochi

Gone fishing.

## **BOARD HI-LITES**

*May 6, 2000*

The Association made presentations to deserving ROTC cadets at USC, UCLA and Loyola University

Volunteers from the "Hanashi" program have now finished interviewing 100 veterans. They are going to continue and hope to double their interviews this coming year. Veterans, please give them your support.

Received a letter from Robert Nishinaka thanking the Association for the beautiful 442 shoulder patch floral wreath for his father's funeral. This floral wreath is given by the Association at all funerals of past Presidents. Also enclosed was a donation to the Association for

\$200.00. Also received a \$500.00 donation from Michi Osaki in memory of her husband, Kenso.

M/S/C that the Memorial Hall be put on the market to be sold. George Ishihara, Ken Yamaki, Jim Yamashita, Kiyoko Yamate and Hank Yoshitake will be the committee to act on behalf of the Association.

The June 30 National JACL Convention, "Salute to Japanese American Military Veterans of All America's Conflict" was discussed.

*June 10, 2000*

The Association will participate in this year's Nisei Week Parade as a separate entry. M/S/C to pull our colors out of the mass colors of the NVCC and to lead our entry. We want to give special honor to our twenty 100/442 men who were awarded the Medal of Honor. Russell Nakaishi will let NVCC know of our decision.

The Association has been contacted by the Secretary of the Army's office that we will receive 25 invitations to attend the June 22 ceremony at the Pentagon installing twenty additional Medal of Honor recipients of the 100/442 into the "Hall of Heroes." They also said that they will try to get some veterans into the June 21 White House

Ceremony. All chapters have been notified.

MIS Steak Bake, help cook. Noon at Maryknoll Church

**IN MEMORIAM**

**TAPS**

The Board of Directors extends its deepest condolences in the passing of these buddies.

- Ben Ujihara 100<sup>th</sup>
- Thomas Sakamoto M Co.
- Eiro Yamada L Co.
- Waichi Takemoto E Co.

In Tribute and Respect to their memory, all Directors stood in Reverence as the Board adjourned its meeting.

**ASSOCIATION UPCOMING EVENTS**

*July 22*

Association Reverse Raffle drawing, at Memorial Hall.

- 9:30 a.m. Kitchen help
- 10:00 a.m. Set-up help
- 1:00 p.m. Happy hour
- 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:30 p.m. Drawing

*July 23*

July 30

Nisei Week parade, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Central Ave., 3 p.m. "Honoring our 100/442 Medal of Honor Recipients" Wear white shirts, dark pants, association caps. Walk, ride 6 blocks.

*August 25-27*

Honolulu. 100/442 Medal of Honor Awardees' Ceremonies, parade.

*August 26*

Memorial Hall clean up.

*September 9*

Association Board Meeting at Memorial Hall

*September 30*

Hispanic American Veterans Celebration. Patriotic Hall, Los Angeles

*Late October*

Southern California Medal of Honor Recipients' Ceremonies.

Next Newsletter deadline: September 1.

Momoko's e-mail address: Momobib@earthlink.net

100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association

President: Russell Nakaishi

Coordinator: Hank Yoshitake

Regular monthly board meetings:  
First Saturday of each month, 10:00  
am at the Memorial Hall, 1438 Oak  
Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Chapters:

100<sup>th</sup> Bn Sam Fujikawa

E Co Sterling Suga

F Co Hiro Takusagawa

G Co Jim Makino

H Co Tom Shimazu

I Co Shoji Taketomo

L Co Reed Sadahiro

Anti Tank Henry Ikemoto

522 FAB George Ishihara

232 Eng. George Yamada

Associate, Dave Sunahara  
Sons

**HUMOR**

An inveterate gambler is always spending money on gambling. Every dime he gets he blows at Vegas or at the racetrack. One day his wife gets very ill, and is rushed to the hospital.

The man goes to his friend. "You've gotta help me," he pleads. "I need some money to pay for these hospital bills."

His friend refuses. "I'm not going to give you money. You'll just blow it betting on the horses."

"No, I won't! I promise!" says the gambler. "I've got money for the horses."



# Touching greatness and remembering a generation of heroes



MARTIN  
SNAPP

Snapp Shots

HILLS NEWSPAPERS • FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2000

Remember the scene toward the end of "Saving Private Ryan" when the dying Capt. Miller whispers in Pvt. Ryan's ear, "Earn this"?

I think what he meant was that Ryan should try to live the rest of his life in a way that would justify the sacrifice of those who died.

Well, I happen to be friends with some Private Ryans, survivors of some of the bloodiest battles of World War II, including Anzio, Montecassino, and the rescue of the Lost Battalion.

They are the men of E Company, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team — the Japanese-American regiment that won more medals, per capita, than any other unit in American military history.

And I can assure you: In the years since the war, they have indeed "earned" their buddies' sacrifice. (Although they don't think so. Whenever someone calls them heroes, they protest, "We're no heroes. The real heroes are our friends who didn't come back." But, of course, that's the way heroes always talk.)

They were only boys when they enlisted. But unlike most Americans, they weren't in high school or college when they volunteered; they were in concentration camps

— American concentration camps. These camps weren't death camps, like the Nazi version, but they were a national disgrace just the same.

I ask you, if the government was imprisoning your parents and your little brothers and sisters behind barbed wire, would you volunteer to fight for that government? But that's exactly what the men of the 442nd did. It's hard to think of another such example of returning good for evil in all of human history.

After the war, they came back, got their families out of the camps, and set about rebuilding their lives. Despite their battlefield heroics, they still faced "Japs not wanted" signs when they returned home.

Nevertheless, they became exemplary citizens. Some became businessmen. Some became farmers. Others became doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

John Togashi of Palo Alto invented the main process for making freeze-dried coffee. (He still holds the patent.) Tad Masaoka of Menlo Park became HUD's environmental staff director for the entire Northern California/Nevada region. Ike Ikegaki of El Cerrito became the quality assurance supervisor for aircraft engines at the Alameda Naval Air Station. And

# Touching greatness and remembering

## a generation of heroes

100th Bn  
E Co  
F Co  
G Co  
H Co  
I Co  
L Co  
Anti-Tank  
522 FAB  
232 Eng.  
Associate,  
Sons

Daniel Inouye became a senator from Hawaii.

But beyond their professional accomplishments, they also became exemplary human beings. Their wives, children, friends, co-workers and — most tellingly — the people who worked for them could testify to that.

I have so many stories myself, but I'll just tell one: One day back in 1992, a half dozen 442nd vets and I went to lunch at a restaurant at Jack London Square. The waitress was having a very bad day. When our orders arrived, they were all wrong. Nobody got anything even remotely close to what he had ordered.

I was all for sending the stuff back. But the 442nd vets wouldn't hear of it. "Hey, this is good enough," they said. "I can eat it. What's the problem?" Then it hit me: When you've done what they've done, you don't have to push a waitress around to prove you're a real man.



Of the six men I went out to lunch with that day, only three are still living. Every day, I think about the three who are gone — Shig Futagaki, Ike Ikeda and Tad Masaoka — and how much I miss them. And how grateful I am that Lawson Sakai, John Togashi and Mas Tsuda are still here, for me to revel in their company and bask in their goodness.

What's true for me is also true for you. Our time with "the Greatest Generation" is growing short. Each one of us has a G.I. or a Rosie the Riveter in our life. It could be your grandmother or your grandfather. Or the old guy who lives across the street. Whoever it is, your chance to say "thank you" is quickly passing you by.

Please don't waste this irreplaceable opportunity. Sit down with them and ask them to talk to you about their memories. If you can, tape them. They'll be shy, but don't give up. I guarantee: You'll

# 100th / 442nd NEWSLETTER



Volume 39

Number 4

July 2000

hear stories that will make you see them in a whole new light. Besides, you owe it to your own children. Every kid needs a real-life hero to look up to.



The reason I'm writing all this now is that tomorrow the men of E Company will come to Oakland from all over Northern California for their annual memorial service at Roberts Park. And they extend a heartfelt invitation to you to join them.

"This isn't just for the 442nd," says John Togashi. "This is to honor all veterans of World War II."

If you'd like to touch greatness, come join them. We'll all meet in the second parking lot just before 11 a.m., then walk 100 yards or so to the "Landmark Trees" sign and the Blossom Rock Monument, which is where the 422nd Memorial Redwood is located.

Even if you can't make it to tomorrow's service, you can still join

a new, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to making sure the story of the 44nd is never forgotten. It's called "Friends & Family of Nisei Veterans." Membership is 20 bucks a year, which you can mail to the Acting Secretary, Mike Furukawa, 3462 Ellery Common, Fremont, CA 94538. A Web site is also under construction; I'll let you know when it's up.

I hope to see you tomorrow. Take it from me, you haven't heard anything until you've heard these men sing "The Star Spangled Banner." It sends chills up and down your spine, because they really mean it.

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail him at [catman@california.com](mailto:catman@california.com).

JIMMY MARRIO, of G Company Chapter who attended the ceremony, submitted the following account of his activities. Four of the Medal of Honor recipients were in G Company: WILLIAM NAKANAKA, JOE NISHIMOTO, FRANK ONO and KAZUO OTSUKA.

Then came the full show, all military in full dress, a 200 man band, taps. It was a very impressive event. Assigned to each MOH family were two escorts helping families where needed. These escorts were all of Major rank or up and stayed with the families during the entire

100th/442nd VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION  
2000

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

- Association Membership Dues: \$20.00 Includes the Newsletter  
 Newsletter Subscription: \$10.00 For Newsletter only

**If you are already a member of a Local Chapter Dues have been paid**

Make Check Payable to: 100th/442nd Veterans Association  
Mail to: 1438 Oak Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

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