Gofor Broke

BULLETIN

442 VETERANS CLUB

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION

VOL XLVIII No. 2 APRIL-JUNE, 1997

SPECIAL MEMORANDUM

Proposed Amendment to By-Laws





Happy 54th Chiniversary



VOL XLVIII No. 2 APRIL-JUNE, 1997

442 OFFICERS

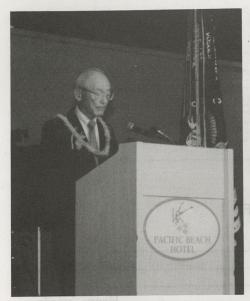
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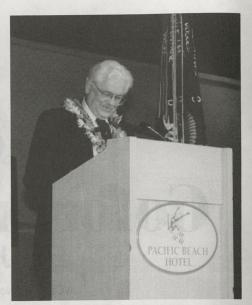
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by Robert Katayama

The 54th Anniversary of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team began and ended successfully with the morning Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and the evening Banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on Saturday, March 22, despite an earlier weather forecast that the rains that drenched the Islands on Sunday were supposed to have arrived on Saturday. The theme of the 54th Anniversary was to honor the officers who had led the 442nd RCT from its training in Camp Shelby to combat in Italy and France.

As the beneficiary of a sunny and warm morning, various sections of the Cemetery were dotted with miniature American flags placed by the respective Chapters at the graves of our buddies who were no longer with us. The Memorial Services moved along briskly under Master of Ceremonies, Glenn Mirikidani. The keynote speaker, Walter Ozawa, presented an anecdotal message reciting his childhood experiences in various relocation camps and his subsequent achievements in public service. This year's unique features included the participation of the Honolulu Boy Choir and the formation of a receiving line comprised of the Director of the NMCP and the Presidents of the Club 100, MIS Veterans Club, 1399th Veterans Club, and the 442nd Veterans Club, who received the VIP guests. Thanks to the continuing active support of the Sons and Daughters Chapter members led by its President, Alan Kubota, the planning and execution of the Memorial Service lived up to its superior prior billings. Without the participation of the active Army's 25th Infantry Division Band and the USAR's color guard and rifle team, the ceremony would have been dull and colorless. The pledge of allegiance by yonsei Koa Yamashita was recited flawlessly.

Perhaps motivated by the limited parking space available at the Pacific Beach Hotel, the Banquet guests arrived at the Ballroom early. This allowed them time to view the various exhibits displayed in the reception area, particularly, those photos, artifacts, and other memorabilia carefully laid out by Katherine Collins and her team from our Archives & Learning Center. The Sons & Daughters Chapter had its assortment of publications, tapes, and other souvenir items to be scanned and purchased by the guests. During the cocktail hour entertainment was provided by our musical combo of Larry Ishida, Wayne Shishido, and Jiro Watanabe, and our men's hula troupe consisting of George Nakasato, Hichi Matsumoto, and Paul Matsumoto. The level of skill of our amateur entertainers would put some of the professionals to shame. The Club members should be pleased to know that the VIP list was pared down to almost half of the number invited in past years. Judge Ken Saruwatari in his inimitable style handled the MC function by keeping the guests in stitches with his sparkling humor delivered in "local boy" fashion. Kristi Kashimoto rendered the National and Hawaii anthems immaculately despite the absence of any musical accompaniment, and Ed Kanaya, our flautist par excellence, played the Lord's Prayer. The chorale group impressed one of our guests so much that it brought forth the unsolicited compliment: "Despite their seniority, they sing with such youthful voices!" The highlight of the evening was the personal reflections of three former officers of the RCT, which were shared by Bert Nishimura, Col (Ret), (Hq 2nd Bn); Chris Keegan, Col (Ret), (Howe Co); and Gerald Gustafson, Maj (Ret), (Cannon Co). This year's Kansha Medallion was awarded to Richard "Sus" Yamamoto (Hq 2nd Bn) for his outstanding endeavors in reviewing, copying, and collecting documents and photos at the National Archives in Washington, DC for delivery and retention in our Archives. Receiving Sus's award as his proxy was Bill Thompson (Hq 2nd Bn).

The success of the 54th Anniversary would not have been possible without the timely and Herculean efforts of the 54th Anniversary Committee chaired by George Nakasato (Fox Chapter).

As I announced in my remarks at the Banquet, in 1998, the four AJA veterans clubs have agreed to hold a joint memorial service and banquet, so it may be that this 54th Anniversary will have been our last separate event. As the veterans of these clubs are mov-

ing along in age and lowered physical activity, the sons and daughters have generously consented to lead the charge for the 1998 joint events as part of their *oya kohkoh* response. No date or site has yet been decided upon. The joint committee will consider these matters as well as a myriad of others in the coming months and they will be reported to you as they develop.

During the past quarter, the Club has been invited to participate in several events sponsored by various civic groups. The Hawaii Holocaust Center at Temple Emanu-El has asked for our participation in providing insight by elements of the 522nd Artillery Battalion when its members liberated one of the Dachau complexes. The Hawaii Foodbank will be sponsoring the Club as the honoree at its July "Patriot's Celebration." The Club has been invited and has accepted becoming an Associate Member of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, which is charged with building a memorial in our Nation's Capitol to honor the patriotism of Japanese Americans during World War II. The Club was the recipient of a plaque from the Corning, Iowa Rotary Club, which honors us for our contribution to the heroic achievements of the 34th Infantry Division in Italy. In this connection, Ron Oba and Katherine gave brief descriptions of the 442nd and Archives to the members of the Rotary Club of Pearl Harbor, who presented this award on behalf of the Corning Rotary Club.

The Sons & Daughters Chapter generously purchased 17 streamers (representing campaign, distinguished unit, and combat infantry designations) to be attached to our Regimental Colors.

For the first time, the Club will be collecting foodstuff and cash to donate to the Hawaii Foodbank. This project was the inspiration of several directors of the Board when we were invited to be honored by the Hawaii Foodbank. Ed Goto will head a committee to handle these collections.

Finally, our ongoing projects are at various stages of development. That is, the Brothers in Valor Monument is now scheduled for completion, hopefully, in the Fall. The French Crossing exhibit is planned for opening in October at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. The Unabarakai Reunion to be held in

Japan between October 17 and 27 is beginning to take more definitive shape. The Memorial for the Clubhouse entrance in still under consideration.



by Ed Goto

Many kind words of appreciation were received concerning our special edition. Also voiced were a number of concerns over our error in not listing all the officers of the RCT. We actually received letters from William Perry Wright, Jr. Colonel, US Army Retired of the 522nd FABN, and Al Binotti of the 232nd Engineers, both writing from Texas. Hopefully, those concerns were satisfied by our mailing of the addendum about a week later. If any of you did not receive the addendum which added the officers of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the 232d Engineer Company (C), please let us know.

This current issue primarily covers events of the 1st quarter of 1997, which of course includes the 54th anniversary memorial and banquet. Therefore, you'll find that the issue is a little "thicker" than what we have managed to achieve in the last few issues with the cooperation of your reporters. Still, our changes in type style and size has helped to still keep the bulletin out of the cost danger zone.

Bulletin Staff

Jackson Morisawa, Claire Mitani, and Gail Onuma continue to be the mainstays of your bulletin staff who put together what you see every quarter. Any praise I receive from you concerning the fine work done on the bulletin I accept on their behalf. These are not just words; I have very little to do about actually producing the bulletin accept making some of those hard choices over what *not* to include this time around, no matter how worthy.

When you see Jackson, Claire, or Gail, please extend your thanks to them for all their hard work. They

richly deserve all the praise you can give them.

An Editorial: "Tiger" and the Legacy

I'm sure many of you out there were doing what I was doing for a good number of hours over the weekend of April 11 and 12: watching the Master's Golf tournament and the marvel of Tiger Woods' domination of the game. Only some of you, however, may have seen a letter to the editor of the Honolulu Advertiser (those of you not in Honolulu are excused).

That letter commented on how the media makes much of what Tiger is doing for "people of color" and how as long as the world continues to do so, we will have a hard time getting to the place where we can forget about race and color and think of us all as just people, without the labels. There are thoughts floating among your own about how we should move away from emphasizing the "Nisei" factor in the legacy of the 442 RCT.

This is a tough call for me. My wife and I speak with a degree of pride in pointing out that our younger daughter is something of a "color blind" social butterfly. First because she has definitely never been a wallflower when it comes to attracting the attention of young fellas. But more importantly because, like many parents, we have a collection of prom pictures on our book shelves showing our daughter with Japanese, Filipino, "haole," and, yes, even African American boys. Her circle of admirers has also included an even greater mix of race and color. (She is not a "boy collector," by the way - to avoid embarrassing her. She's just an easy-going, amiable person who's been in and out of several relationships.)

Yet, I still do want her to keep that part of her which is rooted in her heritage. The trick is how to do that without making it just "heritage" but the better choice in how to be.

Your legacy comes out of the adversity which all minorities face from being different than the majority. You did what you did to show that you were just as American as the majority. But I like to think that what you did demonstrated the best side of what all of humankind can be, not just what a man of Japanese ancestry can be, or worse, what *just* a man of

Japanese ancestry can be.

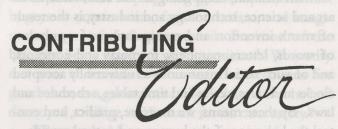
So, when I see Tiger Woods and what he is doing, I hope, perhaps like that writer to the editor hopes, that we can eventually see in him what we like to see in everyone: an honorable, conscientious, responsible person, fervently doing the best he can for himself, his family, and his fellow man - not *just* a talented man of color besting the white guys, breaking ground for blacks/Asians, and making a name for himself.

And when I think of the Legacy of the 442nd RCT, I would hope that we can all eventually see a whole bunch of honorable, conscientious, responsible people, who fervently did the best they could for themselves, for their families, and for their fellowman - not just a gung-ho bunch of Japanese Americans who did better than the white guys, breaking ground for Japanese Americans, and making a name for themselves.

I am proud to be Japanese. I am proud to be American. I look forward to the day when we can all be just people with diverse backgrounds living together in peace and harmony.

Aloha

And so, I hope I didn't just infringe too much on the philosophical turf of Associate Editor Morisawa. I also hope I didn't ruffle too many feathers out there. Your leaders gave me "the pen." Let them know if you want them to take it away.



by Jackson Morisawa

Review of "Does it Matter" by Alan Watts

Alan Watts, a philosopher, is the closest advocate of Eastern Zen awareness in the West. His essays touch on the astonishing problem of man's relationship to his material environment. He looks at man's

confused state of mind which relies on symbols instead of reality, whereby attention is locked upon numbers and concepts, thus, becoming increasingly unconscious of nature, the absolute reality.

Alan Watts' essays appropriately touch the problem of modern society where man is slowly choking himself out of existence through his absurdity of "preferring money to wealth and eating the menu instead of the dinner." "Civilized" people need to be liberated and dehypnotized from their systems of symbolism, and, thereby, become more intensely aware of the living vibrations of the real world. Lacking awareness of nature and failure to embrace it, our daily consciousness and consciences have become calloused to daily atrocities, war and ecological problems.

I would like to quote from Alan Watts' essays because they are fascinating entry into deepest ways of understanding human character.

Wealth versus Money

"Not long ago Congress voted, with much patriotic rhetoric, for the imposition of severe penalties upon anyone presuming to burn the flag of the United States, yet the very Congressmen who passed this law are responsible by acts of commission or omission, for burning, polluting and plundering the territory that the flag is supposed to represent. Therein, they exemplified the peculiar and perhaps fatal fallacy of civilization: the confusion of symbol with reality.

"Civilization, comprising all the achievements of art and science, technology and industry, is the result of man's invention and manipulation of symbols of words, letters, numbers, formulas and concepts, and of such social institutions as universally accepted clocks and rules, scales and time tables, schedules and laws. By these means, we measure, predict, and control the behavior of the human and natural worlds—and with startling apparent success that the trick goes to our heads. All too easily, we confine the world as we symbolize it with the world as it is. As semanticist Alfred Korzybski used to say, "it is an urgent necessity to distinguish between the map and the territory and between flag and country."

By dwelling on the fundamental confusion be-

tween money and wealth, Alan Watts explains the major obstacle to save human technological progress. He remembers the Great Depression of the Thirties when flourishing consumer economy suddenly was consumed by unemployment, poverty and bread lines. He states that the physical resources of the country-the brain, brawn, and raw materials-were in no way depleted, but there was a sudden absence of money, a financial slump. Complex reasons for this kind of disaster can be elaborated at length by experts on banking and high finance "who cannot see the forest for the trees." It was just as if the carpenter came to work on the morning of the Depression to build the house. The boss said, "sorry, we can't build today. No inches." "Whaddya mean, no inches? We got wood and metal. We got tape measures." "Yeah, but you don't understand business. We been using too many inches and there's just no more to go around." You can see how absurd this scene is, but would be surprised that such human behavior exists in the confused world of symbol over reality.

People were saying that Germany couldn't possibly equip a vast army and wage a war because it didn't have enough money. We experienced WWII because of the German might. What the people didn't understand then, and still isn't understood today, is that reality of money is of the same type as the reality of pounds, grams, hours, or lines of longitude, man-made symbols of measure but not necessarily the reality. Similarly, money is a way of measuring wealth but is not wealth in itself. A chest of gold or a wallet full of big bills is of no use whatsoever to a wrecked sailor alone on a raft. He needs *real* wealth, in the form of a fishing rod, a compass, an outboard motor with gas, and a female companion to boot.

But this ingrained confusion of money with wealth is the main reason for our technological genius for production of more than adequate food, clothing, housing and utilities for every person on earth is lagging. It can be done for electronics, computers, automation techniques, and other mechanical methods of mass production which have potentially lifted us into an age of abundance in which the political and economic ideologies of the past are simply obsolete.

Alan Watts maintains and predicts that:

"If we get our heads straight about money, I predict that by AD 2000, no one will pay taxes, no one will carry cash, utilities will be free, and everyone will carry a general credit card. This card will be valid up to each individual's share in a guaranteed basic income or national dividend, issued free, beyond which he may still earn anything more that he desires by an art or craft, profession or trade that has not been displaced by automation.

"Naturally, such outrageous proposals will raise the old cries, 'Where's the money going to come from?' or 'Who pays the bills?""

What he is pointing out is that money doesn't and never did come from anywhere like natural material wealth, the lumber, metals and hydroelectric power. Money is a measure of wealth, and people invent money as they invent the Fahrenheit scale of temperature or measure of weight and scale. But true wealth is the sum of energy, technical intelligence, and raw materials. Gold itself is wealth only when used for such practical purposes as filling teeth. As soon as it is used for money, kept in vaults, it becomes useless for anything else and thus goes out of circulation as a form of raw material, the real wealth.

"If money must be gold or silver, the expansion and distribution of vast wealth in the form of wheat, poultry, cotton, vegetables, butter, wine, fish or coffee must wait upon the discovery of new gold mines before it can proceed. This obviously ludicrous predicament has, therefore, been circumvented by increasing the national debt by which a nation issues itself credit or purchasing power based, not on holdings in precious metals, but on real wealth in the form of products and materials and mechanical energy. Because national debts far exceed anyone's reserves of gold or silver, it is generally supposed that a country with a large national debt is spending beyond its income and is well on the road to poverty and ruinno matter how enormous its supplies of energy and material resources. This is the basic confusion between symbol and reality.... By issuing national credit, a given population gives itself purchasing power, a method of distribution for its actual goods and services, which are far more valuable than any amount of precious metal.

"Because we confuse wealth with money, we con-

fuse issuing ourselves credit with going into debt. No one goes into debt except in emergency; and therefore, prosperity depends on maintaining the perpetual emergency of war.

"What the nations of the world have spent on war could, with our technology, have supplied every person on earth with a comfortable living.

"We are reduced, then, to the suicidal expedient of inventing wars when, instead, we could simply have invented money—provided that the amount invented was always proportionate to the real wealth being produced. We should replace the gold standard by the wealth standard."

If we shift from gold to wealth standard, prices must stay more or less steady and everyone will discover that he or she has enough money for everyday needs and even more. Instead, we are playing "catchup." As new money circulates, prices go up. As material wealth grows, the monetary unit goes down. We are forever chasing our own tail.

Man's inattention to nature rises from false intellect of human rationale, that is, the abstract ego creates an illusion that it can do anything to bring radical improvement either in itself or in the world.

This is as impossible, physically, as trying to lift yourself off the floor by your own bootstraps. Ego is like money a concept, a symbol, even a delusion, not a biological process or physical reality.

"Practically; this means that we stop crusading—that is, acting for such abstract causes as the good righteousness, peace, universal love, freedom, and social justice, and stop fighting against equally abstract bogeys as communism, fascism, racism, and imaginary powers of darkness and evil. For most of the hell now being razed are well intentioned. We justify our wars and revolutions as unfortunate means for good ends, as a general recently explained that he had destroyed a village in Vietnam for its own safety."

When each side meets at a conference table, there is no genuine agreement, only unsatisfactory compromise because both sides believe they are acting for the best motives for the benefit of the world. However, it is somehow a relief to realize that these abstract ambitions are total nonsense and wasting our mind and physical energy in an idiotic enterprise. For when we are able to understand that trying to have

good without evil is as absurd as trying to have white without black. There are real things that can be done, like diverting to specific, material undertaking such as farming and cooking, mining and engineering, making clothes and building houses, traveling and learning, art, music, dancing, and even making love.

"Surely, these are excellent things to do for their own sake and not for one's own or anyone else's improvement."

(next issue - "Murder in the Kitchen")



by Mary Sakai, Carol Sakai-Feiteira, Patti Laba

Report from Tak Hattori

Informational letter about mainland buddies: Kiyo and Mary Fujimoto moved to Tucson, Arizona to be closer to daughter, Janet, as Mary has been hospitalized 6 times this year. Mary has had heart problems since the early 1960's, but never complaining and courageously living each day. Kiyo started a day care program two times a week. Grandchildren are excelling. David, a high school junior, drives grandparents to appointments and such. Freshman Matt has 4 honors classes and maintains a 4.0 GPA while participating in basketball, tennis, and playing the electric guitar. He also volunteers at a retirement home. Seventh grade Corey plays the trumpet and will perform at Disneyland in April. Son-in-law John works for Hughs on the Missile Program and travels to Washington, D.C. at least once a month. In her spare time, Janet is a school nurse.

The telephone area code for some Anti-Tankers has changed. The 310 area code for the cities Pico Rivera, Whittier, LaHabra, Downey, Norwalk, Paramount, Lakewood, Los Alamitos, and Long Beach has changed to 562.

Private funeral services for 75-year old Kimi Mary Hisatomi was held December 5 at Memorial Chapel of Kubota Nikkei Mortuary. The Ogden, Utah-born nisei was a resident of Los Angeles.



Report from Henry and Mildred Ikemoto

On January 18, 1997, the 100th/442nd Veterans Association held their 37th Annual Installation. The Association's new President is Kiyo Yamate, "E" Co, and Henry Ikemoto, "AT" Co, is the new Past President.

While Henry and wife Mildred were in the East Coast, they saw Captain and Mrs. Ferris in September 1996. "On the night before we met, the wind was so strong in the Ferris's neighborhood that their power was cut for several hours by trees that were knocked down by the wind. Some neighbors had much worse luck and had some of the large trees fall into their houses. There were tree branches all over the street when we drove up. I called before we got close to see if we should meet. They wanted to get out of the house anyway. They have a lovely house. He was a key man in the New York Stock Exchange after the war. He did well."

Their youngest granddaughter was recently married in the West Coast so they had been there. "Frank Seto and I drove up from LA. Eddie Murakami and Tom Nakata drove in from Stockton and Manteca. In my catalog of military facilities, I noticed a USMC Hotel and Restaurant in downtown SF. The hotel was built during the war for the women of the Armed Forces. After the war, the USMC took it over and

made it into an R&R center for themselves and other services. It's still the same and I qualify because I am retired Army." Mrs. Ferris couldn't come to lunch. 81 years looked good on Mr. Ferris. He remembers going to Kona and visiting the hotel where Kokubun is and he really enjoyed that. He said if any one of us gets a chance to get to Kona, be sure to say hello to him and the others. "A Lt. from Hawaii came to Shelby with his wife and they could not find an apartment or place to stay so he invited them to stay in their apartment the first couple of days. The Lt.'s name was something like "Enomoto" he thought, but he was killed the first day of combat when he was going from the AT Co to the 100th headquarters. He remembered the glider training and the flight to Southern France. He was scared but couldn't show it. He and his driver, Coz, were busy tearing up the operation Orders for the invasion and throwing shredded pages out of the opening from the glider. There was a 'ton' of files, he recalled." He was sent home around Christmas, 1944.



Report from Wally and Yori Kagawa

AT Chapter meeting was held February 12, 1997 at the Pearl Country Club. Twenty-seven members and wives signed up for the annual Banquet and Memorial Service and the Hand Shaking Ceremony on Oct. 16, 1997 in Tokyo.

Mineo Inuzuka recalled his solo voyage around the world. Born in Portland, Oregon, Mineo entered the Army from Minidoka Relocation Center. In the 442, he was with Fox Co. He won numerous decorations including DSC, Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, and Purple Heart. After retiring from the Army in 1968 as a Lt. Colonel, he settled in Hawaii in 1970. After his 3 daughters completed college, Mineo started on his life-long dream to circumnavigate the world. In 5 years, he completed a 50-foot steel-hulled ship named "Go for Broke." With a companion, he set forth on May 31, 1994, hitting several squalls and storms. After barely making it to Pago Pago with a battered ship, his companion left having enough maritime adventure. Mineo sailed by himself for two and a half years around the world by way of Darwin, Australia, Durban, South Africa, Cape Horn, across the Atlantic, Panama Canal, and across the Pacific back to Hawaii where he received a hero's welcome.

Constant danger and perils included hitting reefs, squalls with 60 feet high waves, violent winds, doldrums. His head was gashed open when he hit a steel beam during a storm. His sail was torn to shreds several times and his mast was damaged. His engine had to be repaired several times. His auto-pilot broke down constantly. A decrepit fishing boat with a dozen men asked if he wanted to be towed. Mineo answered "no" thinking they may be pirates intent on hijacking his ship when they asked him the second time. One of the nicest experience Mineo had was in Durban, where the people were exceptionally nice to him. Several people whom he met on the dock while waiting for his ship to be repaired invited him to their homes for dinners or for over-night stays. He still corresponds with them. Mineo should be commended for his courage and valor in war and peace, and on land, air, and sea. He is truly a "Man for All Seasons."

Report from George and Maly Tamura

Mac Mamiya has moved to Mt. Vernon, Washington to live in a great big home with daughter Penny and Steve Sakuma and grandson Ryan.

Report from Ko and Janet Hata

Wally did a great job at the interesting meeting. I can't imagine someone like Mineo Inuzuka going around the world in a boat!