

# Go For Broke

National Veterans Association  
NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 1993

## "ARE WE THERE YET?"

By William Marutani, President

**REMEMBER THE GOOD OLE' DAYS** when we piled the kids into the family jalopy (or chariot for some), headed for the beach (or mountains) when, from the back seat one of the kids pipes up: "Are we there yet?" At that point, you had hardly left the city limits and the drive remaining means well over an hour. Remember? Well, if it has been so long ago that memories are somewhat dimmed, perhaps they're now being renewed by the grandkids popping the same question as they sit in Grandpa's (or Grandma's) late model luxury sedan.

**AH, LIFE HAS BEEN GOOD.** (And you earned every dog-goned dollar of it.)

**AS LIFE TURNS** to complete its full cycle, perhaps some of us ole' codgers may get impatient with how things move, or don't move. Or don't move fast enough. Just ask the *oku-san*. (In some cases you may not need to ask; she'll just tell you.)

**ALL OF WHICH FOCUSES** upon the Washington, D.C. project for the Nikkei monument to pay tribute to Nikkei commitments and sacrifices in the United States. There are numerous aspects of the project which must converge with coordinated timing: site selection (in progress), preparation of informational brochures (also in progress), organizing a fund-raising set-up (being addressed) – all of which, in turn, involves personnel, sponsors, location, budget, planning, etc. All being done essentially by volunteers up to this point. We need to have every soul within the organization as well as those outside – for this project very much touches and very much involves non-veteran Nikkei – involved in various phases of the volunteer work. There is much to be done.

**"ARE WE THERE, YET?"** No, but we're headed toward the common goal. Be prepared to be called upon for your personal involvement. While you're at it, prepare a roster of potential volunteers that also ought to be enlisted and submit the list.

## Thank You, Disabled Am Vets Nisei Chapter 100

In their recent newsletter, the Chapter endorsed GFB-NVA's effort on the monument by printing our membership form in it. Four members responded: Yuriko Fujino, Don Matsuda, Leo Meguro and Yukio Tamura. Welcome aboard!

please see DAV NISEI, page 4

## JAVA MIS Reunion To Honor MISers Serving In Philippines

WASHINGTON, D.C.—GFB-NVA has just been informed that the Ambassador of the Philippines, or its representative, is scheduled to be present at the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) MIS Reunion to present medals to the Nisei serving in the Philippines before and during World War II.

In an interview with JAVA president Sunao Ishio, this extraordinary gesture on the part of the Philippine government came about when the reunion committee invited the Philippine Ambassador to their event, who in turn responded with a list of Philippine medals and ribbons that MISers may be eligible for.

please see JAVA MIS, page 14

## Annual Meeting in Las Vegas Gold Coast Hotel and Casino Oct. 13 - 14, Wed - Thur

Final arrangements were made to have the GFB-NVA annual meeting at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas in conjunction with the "L" Company reunion, also being held at the same hotel, Oct. 10 - 14.

Due to a 1,300 person bowling tournament and the "L" Company event, GFB-NVA was only able to get 10 rooms allocated for the nights of the 13th and 14th—the hotel is completely sold out for the week.

please see ANNUAL MEETING, page 14

## Second Fund Raising Meeting Held in L.A.

The Fund Raising Committee held its second meeting at the Hacienda Hotel, Los Angeles, on Friday-Saturday, June 4-5, 1993. In attendance were Pres. Bill Marutani, Slim Yei, Jack Nagano, Turk Suzuki, Harold Harada, Peter Okada, Tosh Okamoto, Orville Shirey, Tom Masamori, Mike Shimizu, Mas Ishida, Paul Bannai, Jun & Bev Yamamoto, Jimmie Kanaya, Kaz Oshiki and Bacon Sakatani.

Mark Randall and Tom Tabella of Mark Randall and Company, fund raising consultants from Malibu, talked about a feasibility study to identify the leadership in each community who are willing to give, as the leaders will set the pace of giving.

please see FUND RAISING, page 13



## GFB-NVA Enters "Jap Road" Controversy in Texas

President Bill Marutani has sent a letter on behalf of GFB-NVA to Commissioner Mark L. Domingue of Jefferson County, Texas, to rename "Jap Road" in the city of Beaumont. This street was originally named to designate that at one time there were a group of pioneer Issei farmers in the area.

The Houston Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League is leading the effort to have the name changed. Other groups have entered the controversy in support of the name change, including the 36th Division Association of Texas.

The following is the Marutani letter to the Commissioner:

Dear Commissioner Domingue,

As President of "Go For Broke National Veterans Association" (GFB-NVA), a national organization comprised largely of American veterans of Japanese ancestry (AJA), this appeal is made to the good citizens of your precinct #2, Jefferson County, Texas, to retire the designation "Jap Road" for one that is not racially offensive.

please see **CONTROVERSY**, page 4

## 36th Inf Div Assn Letter on "Jap Road"

To Commissioner Mark L. Domingue  
Ref: Renaming of JAP ROAD

It has been recently brought to my attention that there exists a road name JAP ROAD in Jefferson County, Texas and that the GO FOR BROKE National Veterans Association is requesting that this name be changed. I can well understand their feelings.

My unit, 141st Inf. Regt., 36th Inf. Division (Texas) and the GO FOR BROKE REGT. COMBAT TEAM fought together in France during WWII. These Americans of Japanese ancestry volunteered to serve their country in combat. Their only difference was their facial features, but who in this wonderful country of ours

please see **36TH INF DIV**, page 6

## More on the "Road" From Marutani

The Honorable Richard LeBlanc  
Commissioner, Jefferson County  
Dear Judge LeBlanc,

It being reported that at the meeting of the Commissioners of Jefferson County held on July 12th this past Monday, an opinion was said to have been articulated by you that the term "Jap" was not racially offensive, I wish respectfully to correct this misconception. Toward this end, I enclose a copy of my letter of July 8th to Commissioner Mark L. Domingue, which hopefully, is self-explanatory.

please see **MORE ON ROAD**, page 6

## MIS Hawaii 50th Anniversary Reunion at Honolulu

*Condensed from Ted Tsukiyama's report*

The MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii observed the 50th Anniversary of the first MISLS volunteer group from Hawaii with a highly successful MIS Veterans Convention and Reunion held July 8-10, 1993, at the Pagoda Hotel, Honolulu.

The Convention exceeded all expectations and received warm praise in every respect, with total registration exceeding 590, when originally 300 were hopefully expected.

The early arrivals were greeted with leis, hustled to the hospitality room loaded with "gochiso", "puupuus," drinks and renewed old friendships with "mukashi-banashi," along with an informal "karaoke."

Thursday, July 8th, opened up with 92 divot diggers teeing off at the Ala Wai Golf Course, while non-golfers took in a cross-island bus tour.

That evening, over 500 MIS-ers, wives and friends crowded into the Pagoda Hotel dining hall to enjoy the Aloha Banquet dinner. After the welcome by MIS Hawaii president George Takabayashi, the evening program centered upon the recognition of ten Hawaii-related MIS'ers singled out for distinguished and extraordinary service during World War II.

The first four were pre-war MIS "senpai": the late Col. Gero Iwai who enlisted in the Army G-2 from 1931 to fulfill a 26-year career in Military Intelligence; Commander Douglas Wada, the only Nisei known to have been recruited and served as a naval intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy with 38 years of service; Arthur Komori and Dick Sakakida, both recruited 9 months before the Pearl Harbor attack to serve as undercover agents in the Philippines, both rendering valorous service to the U.S. Army up to the fall of Bataan/Corregidor, with Sakakida being one of two known Nisei to suffer capture and torture by the Japanese army during World War II.

please see **MIS REUNION**, page 11

## Sadao Munemori Army Reserve Hall Dedicated

### Medal of Honor Winner honored

On a beautiful Sunday morning on June 6, 1993, (it rained heavily the day before), an impressive building dedication ceremony was held in honor of Private First Class Sadao S. Munemori. Two hundred Japanese Americans plus some one hundred military personnel were in attendance at this event.

After the presentation of Colors and the playing of the National Anthem, an unusual situation took place where Rev. George Aki, former chaplain of the 442nd, gave the Christian blessings and Rev. Lee Rosenthal gave the Buddhist blessings.

please see **MUNEMORI**, page 6



## Camp Shelby Museum Dedication, Anniversary

*Reported by Hiro Takusagawa*

Met Ronald Oba, President of the 442nd Club of Honolulu, at Los Angeles and boarded a flight together to New Orleans, Louisiana on May 6, 1993, where we were met by Lt. Col. Herbert M. Sasaki, Mississippi State Guard and Dr. Ted Yenari, MIS. Then went to the Camp Shelby Museum early to help Ted set up two television monitors which he had provided to show continuing tapes of the MIS and the 100th/442nd RCT.

Reported to the Post Theater and was seated in the front of the reserved area right behind the "reserved for Generals" section. During the ceremonies, which were also in celebration of the 76th Anniversary of Camp Shelby, there were very few VIP introductions and only Ted Yenari representing the MIS, Ron Oba representing the 442nd Veterans Club of Hawaii and Hiroshi Takusagawa representing 100th/442nd Veterans Association were singled out for introductions. Our units were also mentioned by the speakers.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Museum, we were again mentioned, and inside we were the only group given a separate room in which to install our display which was furnished by the National Japanese American Historical Society whose Veterans Affairs Coordinator is Major Thomas K. Kawaguchi (Ret.).

There were many favorable comments heard in the exhibit and many individuals from Generals on down approached us to congratulate us and express their appreciations. Also, many others identified themselves with the various units that were in Camp Shelby during the time that we were there and recalled incidents involving our units. They all seemed proud to have had the contact with us.

please see **CAMP SHELBY**, page 12

## "U.S. Samurais in Bruyeres"

Ran across another book on the exploits of the 100th/442nd – an English translation of the original French version. It covers a quick history of Bruyeres, France, noting its strategic military importance, start of WWII, how Bruyeres was quickly overrun by German troops in June, 1940, the landing of Normandy, June 6, 1944, and the fall of Paris on August 25, 1944.

Then the book covers the day-to-day accounts of the Battle of Bruyeres beginning September 1, 1944. The German forces are occupying Bruyeres, taking over homes and taking hostages, deporting them to Germany. Very detailed account of what happened to both Germans and French. Then the 100th/442nd arrive in October, how the Texas "Lost Battalion" fell into a clever German trap, then President Roosevelt gave a personal order for its rescue – these are all captured in "One of the ten greatest battles in the history of the U.S."

please see **U.S. SAMURAI**S, page 12

## "FOO, A Japanese-American Prisoner of the Rising Sun"

GFB-NVA is privileged to have as a member in Frank "Foo" Fujita of Abilene, Texas, who just recently came out with his memoirs on World War II. Fujita was one of two known Japanese Americans captured by the Japanese forces at the beginning of the War, the other being Richard Sakakida.

Foo's father came to the U.S. in 1914, settled down in Oklahoma and married a Caucasian-Indian girl in 1919. Foo ("they just dropped the L", he says) is the second son, and grew up as a happy-go-lucky, fooling-around prankster, learning to drink and brawl in a "dry" state.

At age 17, while still in school, he lied about his age and weight and enlisted in the Texas National Guard, then left home rather than follow the strict orders of his father due to his failing grades.

With war looming, the Texas 36th Division was mobilized in November, 1940, and the following November, 1941, the 2nd battalion was ordered to the Philippines. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, the convoy was diverted to Australia. From there, they were rushed to Java, where it quickly fell to the onrushing Japanese forces.

Foo writes in detail the fall of Java, the behavior of the Dutch, how he donned civilian clothing and mingled with the locals, his subsequent capture and placement in Japanese prison camps – first in Singapore, then as a slave laborer in a Nagasaki, Japan, shipyard, being found out as half-Japanese and sent to Tokyo for propaganda programs.

He describes the conditions of the camps, beri-beri, the nightly ritual of taking off his clothes to remove lice, then sleeping with bedbugs and fleas. Because of his poor performances in propaganda broadcastings, he was assigned as the "benjo honcho."

Interesting facts are how he broadcasted radio messages to his family, received letters and packages from them, wrote return letters, made secret electric hotplates and stole food from the prison supply room.

He kept a diary and drawings throughout his three and a half years as a POW. Just prior to his release, he left his diary and drawings boarded up in a wall of his prison cell. One year after his liberation, he diagrammed the whereabouts of these to the military searchers, were found and used in the war crimes trial.

Foo's memoir makes very interesting reading, and as it says in its introduction, "A saga of brutality, torture, starvation and suffering." Hard cover, 384 pages, 31 B&W photos, 14 illustrations, 6 maps, \$24.50.

For autographed copies, write directly to Fujita, 3301 S. 14th, #16-120, Abilene, TX 79605. Texas residents, add 8.25% sales tax. Post/hndl, US \$3.00; foreign \$5.00.

Hawaii, move over. There's mean "Buddhaheads" in Texas also.



## Brochure Committee Meets

The Brochure sub-committee of the Monument Fund Raising Committee met at the Hollywood, Calif., residence of Jun and Bev Yamamoto on July 15, 1993. After a quick tour to see the famous "HOLLYWOOD" sign nestled in the hills close by, Kaz Oshiki (newly moved to Southern Cal from DC), Jack Nagano, Mike Shimizu and Bacon Sakatani discussed the fund raising campaign and the brochure needed.

Kaz discussed his report sent to President Marutani on the subject of "Organizational Structure for Campaign to Build Memorial/Monument in Washington, DC, Area." He brought out the need of a persuasive statement that "...clearly justifies the monument..." He suggested that this can be summarized from statements already made about the proposed monument by Marutani, Rep. Norman Mineta and Sen. Daniel Inouye.

Kaz thought that an "Organizing Committee" should be formed to plan the overall campaign strategy.

"This committee should have seven to nine members and given full authority to act on behalf of GFB-NVA Foundation. P/R will be needed to keep the public informed and enthused. It is important to have influential names in each region willing to work on our working committee," he stressed.

Jack Nagano has contacted various professionals in brochure planning and printing and has submitted ideas to committeeman Orville Shirey.

Mike Shimizu brought his famous home-made manjus that he baked himself for all to enjoy.

## Controversy

### Continued from page 2

Members of our GFB-NVA include veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. (Our World War I member passed away last year.) In World War II alone, some 33,000 AJA Veterans served in our Armed Forces, against Nazi forces in the European Theatre as well as against the Japanese Imperial Forces in the Pacific. Along with fellow Americans, we did so not only to safeguard our Nation from external threats but also to provide within our own land a system free of bigotry and hatred.

That the term "Jap" carries a racially derogatory meaning is officially recognized by dictionaries including Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary (page 646); further, in actual practice that this racist term can be and was used against AJAs is confirmed not only in personal life experiences of AJAs but also by the 1942 forced uprooting of some 115,000 AJAs and their parents and their confinement in barbed-wire camps solely for being of the Japanese race. Indeed, there were three camps in Texas itself - Crystal City (Zavala County), Kennedy and Seagoville - where folks were confined solely for being of Japanese ancestry. Lt. General John L. DeWitt, Western Defense Commander in 1942, who promoted the uprooting and confinement of some 115,000 AJAs and their parents, effectively invoked the racist term

"Jap" by declaring: "Once a Jap always a Jap; you can't trust a single one."

From these barbed-wire camps thousands of AJAs nonetheless volunteered, eventually some 33,000 AJAs serving in our Armed Forces during WW-II. The all-AJA 100th/442nd Regiment which served in Europe was recognized with no less than seven Presidential Unit Citations, and was personally greeted by then-President Harry S. Truman who declared: "You fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice - and you won."

It is our hope that President Truman's declaration remains true today, and that the good people of Precinct #2 would take necessary steps to remove a label which has been used to disparage AJAs among us.

Some may say that the members of the GFB-NVA as well as myself are "outsiders" and thus should have no "say" in what takes place in Jefferson County, Texas. To this, I can only respond that for me, as an American, the whole of Texas is very much part of my country, the United States of America; that when we served in WW-II, we served to defend the entire United States, including very much, Texas. Indeed, Governor John Connally made members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team "honorary Texans" in tribute to the action of the 442nd in rescuing members of the Texas "Lost Battalion" (141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Division) when it was trapped by German forces. In effecting the rescue, the 442nd rescue group suffered casualties that about equaled the number of Texas men rescued.

In so doing, no one asked whether one was from Texas or not. We're all Americans.

And so it is as Americans - and if need be, as "honorary Texans" - that we call upon our fellow Americans (or fellow Texans) to understand why we look to you to drop the opprobrious term "Jap" in naming a road in Jefferson County, Texas.

Some day, I'd like to visit that area of Texas and be able to see that the good folks "did right" by replacing the name of the road with a new name that does not raise racially offensive memories.

## DAV NISEI

### Continued from page 1

In addition to the new members, the Chapter voted unanimously to continue their membership as an organization **FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS, AT \$100 PER YEAR.**

They wrote: "You 'shakers & movers' involved with GFB-NVA have and are doing a remarkable job...and believe me, we in the trenches appreciate your efforts. Is just kind of sad that Mr. Mike Masaoka will not be here to see the fruition of one of his dreams."

Our sincere thanks to Commander Jack Matsukawa and Adjutant Hideo Okanishi.

## Obituary

Moteki, George Seichi, 69, died Jan. 10, 1993. Born in Pasco, WA, F Co, 442nd RCT, Korea, Vietnam, USAF retiree in 1971. Survived by wife Chidori, Akigawashi, Japan; brother Robert, Brooklyn, NY.



## Japan and GFB-NVA

By Peter Okada

At our GFB-NVA meeting held in Los Angeles in late Jan. 1993, president Bill Marutani appointed the trio from Seattle consisting of Tosh Okamoto, Turk Suzuki and Peter Okada to head the Finance Committee.

With the objective of the monument being expanded to include our parents, the Isseis, Japan was viewed as a possible source of contribution.

Having spent so much time in Japan, Peter Okada volunteered to explore this potential. After several meetings, a basic policy on two paramount issues were decided: (a) we would not grovel for donations but present the background and the reasons for the memorial in a dignified fashion, and (b) that the project was first and foremost an American monument.

It was decided a trip to Japan to explore possibilities would be in order, so in mid-May Okada took off for Japan. Prior to his departure, he contacted his old friend, Sen Nishiyama, who agreed to chair an ad-hoc committee in Japan.

Mr. Nishiyama is a well known Nisei who elected to become a Japanese [citizen]. A brief biographic history was given as a renown interpreter for the late Ambassador Reishchaur, the late Robert Kennedy, one of two innovator and originator of the simultaneous interpreting method, a system currently employed by the world and advisor for Mr. Morita of Sony Corporation.

He has written a number of books in Japanese, his latest edition being "Pearl Harbor and the Japanese Americans," an episode of the Nisei contributions to the war effort resulting in a favorable reception by the Japanese and companies invested in USA. [Ed. note: Nishiyama has been GFB-NVA member since 1990].

Upon arrival in Tokyo and several meetings with Nishiyama, a committee was formed with the following:

Mr. James Adachi, sole surviving Nisei lawyer in the immediate post-war Japan, recently decorated by the Emperor

Mr. Ted Shigeno, long time Nisei resident of Japan and recent retiree from the world of investments

Mr. Yoshikatsu Mayeda, president of an employment firm very interested in Nikkei activities in the USA, has attended many Nisei veteran functions both on mainland and Hawaii

During Okada's sojourn in Tokyo, he met a number of mostly young Sanseis making their way in Tokyo. He was impressed with a graduate of Keio University, Chikara Nagano, who spent his youth in USA, and Carl Wakamoto, a Gosei from San Fernando, Calif., on his 10th year in Japan and who would be traveling to Los Angeles about the time of our confab in June. Carl was invited to attend to get a closer understanding and to meet members of our organization. He did indeed join our meeting and participated with a brief report on possibilities from the youths of Japan.

It was also decided to invite Ambassador Emeritus Henry Shimanouchi as an advisor to this committee. Mr. Shimanouchi also served as Consul General in Los Angeles and was Grand Marshall during one of its Nisei Week festivities.

Subsequent to lengthy meetings, it was decided that the initial task for the committee would be to:

- Explore Japan's tax structure focusing on gifts
- Identify likely corporations and foundations with propensity for giving
- Prepare format and text for a Japanese brochure, letterhead, receipts, etc.

A number of requests and suggestions were made by members of the committee, such as:

- Would like copy of Articles of Incorporation
- Davis Buckley's proposal on our monument
- Since "Go For Broke" translation has a negative connotation in Japanese, the committee wondered if a more suitable name for the memorial can be conjured for funding purpose in Japan
- Desires to be on the mailing list for the newsletter
- Desires letterhead with list of endorsers
- Recommended Ron Wakabayashi of Los Angeles a fund raiser. Claims excellent record with United Way
- Desires monument picture to include in Japanese flyer

Okada completed his report citing some reaction from some of his friends with whom he met on his trip.

A scion whose father was very closely related to the founder of one of the world's leading ceramic company was favorably impressed and suggested that we contact their Foundation for a contribution to our cause.

Another couple where the husband is in the hierarchy of a world ranking conglomerate called Okada several days after his return from Japan and mentioned that they would like to make a modest personal donation. Further, after Okada's departure to USA, they discussed Japan's participation and concluded that due to its tax ramifications if someone would approach Ambassador Kuriyama in Washington, D.C. and relate the monument story, he could possibly make suggestions to subsidiaries of large Japanese corporations which could collectively result in a sizable amount.

The last reaction was a FAX from the chairman of the American Football Association in Japan which was received during the two-day conference in Los Angeles last June which read:

"I admire 442/100 group and was so excited when I met veterans of the 442/100 20 years ago in Maui. I wish to donate small money for the monument respecting great job they have done in Europe."

The Seattle Trio shall continue to maintain close liaison with the committee in Tokyo and endeavor to bring about a good working relationship.



**36TH INF DIV**

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isn't a descendant of a foreign country with the exception of the native American Indians.

These Japanese American veterans at one time broke the German lines to relieve the 1st Battalion of the 141st Infantry Regiment from possible catastrophe. The price they paid was heavy but they fought to save their comrades. To quote "MAN HATH NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIEND."

Today the GO FOR BROKE veterans simply ask that road name be changed because it is a reminder of a time in their lives when it was used as a means of identification. It recalls a time in their lives when, because of the Pearl Harbor attack by the Japanese Empire, they and their families were discriminated and placed in detention camps. All this died with the end of World War II and in this case the word JAP should also be retired.

I ask, as a WWII veteran whose unit was closely associated with these valiant men, to hear their plea and comply with their request.

Alfred Dietrick

Executive Vice President

36th Infantry Division Association

**MORE ON "ROAD"**

Continued from page 2

I might supplement the reference to dictionary definitions that Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (New Twentieth Century, 2d ed.) at p. 980, gives the following explanation:

Jap, n. [noun] and a. [adjective] Japanese; a short ~~and~~ form often expressing contempt, hostility, etc. [underlining added]

As an American of Japanese ancestry, I can assure you that whenever I heard the term "Jap" it was invariably in a hostile context. The last time was when I was presiding as a judge here in Pennsylvania when a witness in a matter before me referred to the judge (myself) as "Jap who bombed Pearl Harbor." I can report to you that as a good American I claim to be, I promptly held the gentleman in contempt of court in seeking to disrupt the court proceedings and had the declarant promptly committed to jail detention. I served in the period 1975-1986 as judge of general jurisdiction in Pennsylvania. I stepped down in 1986 to return to private practice of law.

If the report was accurate as to the opinion ascribed to you as the term "Jap" being non-offensive, as one American to another, your reconsideration of the point is invited. I'm sure you agree that racism ought not be perpetuated amongst us, particularly by someone holding an official position who is looked upon with respect by the citizenry.

**ATTN: HONORARY TEXANS**

In case you wish to write to Texas:

Commissioner Mark L. Domingue

Jefferson County

2748 Viterbo Road, Box 2

Beaumont, TX 77705

The Honorable Richard LeBlanc

Commissioner, Jefferson County

1149 Pearl Street

Beaumont, TX 77701

Mr. Alfred Dietrick

Executive Vice-President

36th Infantry Division Association

322 West Glen Ave.

San Antonio, TX 78228

**MUNEMORI**

Continued from page 2

Maj. Gen. Robert Lame, Commander, 311th COSCOM, pointed out they discovered their building had never been formally dedicated. They searched for a Medal of Honor winner to name their Hall for and the day's event was the result - "A Grateful Nation's Remembrance" in honor of PFC Munemori.

He brought out that Japanese Americans, like Sadao Munemori, battled against bigotry and prejudice in addition to a ruthless enemy.

"By dedicating this building to Sadao Munemori, future generations will know that Japanese Americans were strident in their service, true patriots of this great nation, and still are," he concluded.

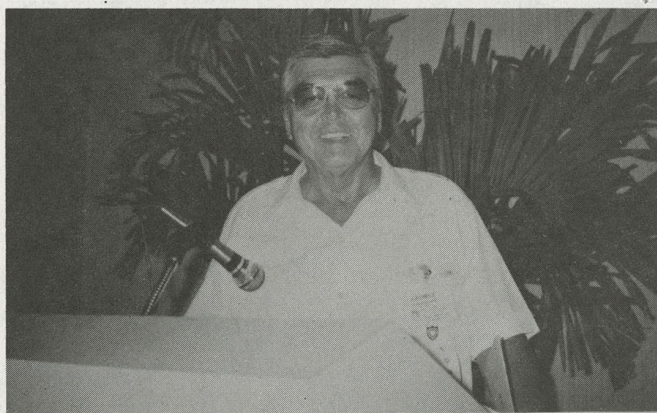
GFB-NVA member Maj. Gen. James Mukoyama, as the highest-ranking Asian officer in the Reserve, spoke as a Sansei in deep gratitude for the Isseis and Niseis.

Jack Wakamatsu, 1st sergeant of A Co., 442nd RCT, spoke of the history of the group and his experiences. Also speaking was Ben Tagami, longtime friend of Munemori. In a touching talk, Jimi Oda, whose life was saved by Munemori's heroic action, gave his account of that day.

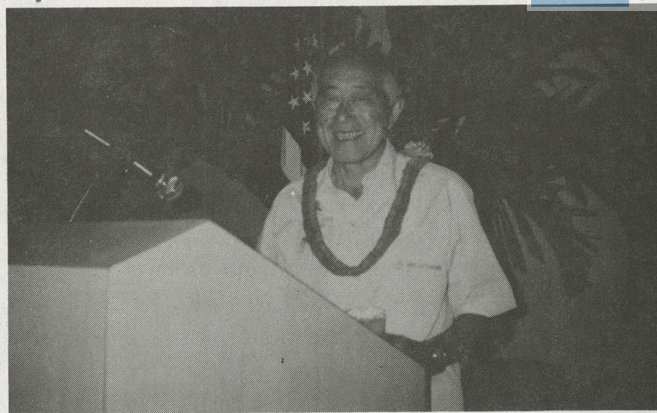
Col. Young Oak Kim read the Medal of Honor certificate - "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life." The plaque honoring Munemori was unveiled by family members, friends and dignitaries. It stated: "PFC Munemori of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, on April 5, 1945 near Seravezza, Italy single-handedly destroyed two German machine guns, killing three and wounding two of the gunners. He then gave his life by hurling himself upon an exploding grenade, saving the lives of two of his comrades."

In attendance were Munemori's Platoon Leader Lt. David Novack and squad leader Staff Sgt. Kei Yamaguchi, both of whom were severely injured and as result Munemori took over the squad.

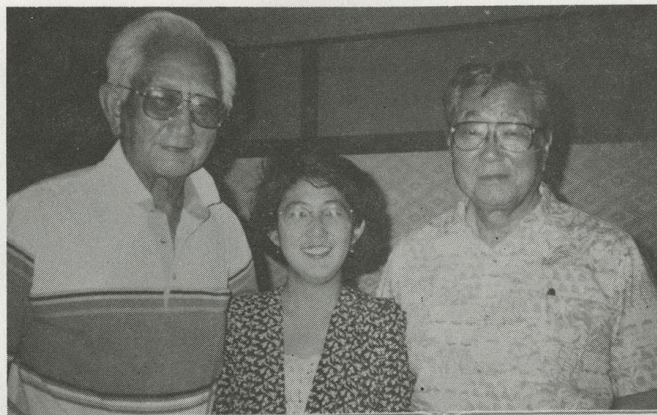




MIS Pres George Takabayashi



Keynote speaker Shigeya Kihara



Harry Fukuhara, Sheryl Narahara, Hakobu Kumagai



Honored Guests Dr & Mrs J Alfred Burden



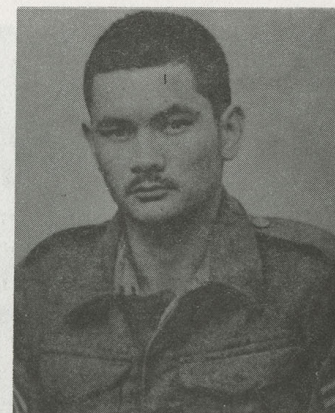
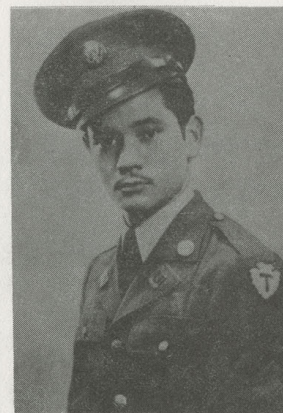
Shig Kihara, Fuku Tsukiyama, Hoichi Kubo



Honored Guests Richard & Cherry Sakakida



"US Samurai in Bruyeres" book signing  
Geo Nishinaka, Pierre Moulin, Jun Yamamoto



Frank "Foo" Fujita  
Before and after as POW in Japan





**Blessings by Rev. George Aki**



**Colonel Young Oak Kim**



**David Novack**



**Jimi Oda**



**Kei and Chisato Yamaguchi**



**Unveiling of Plaque**