

442 PROFILES (FOR THE DOR BOOKLET)Bones Taono

James Taono, known to all of his friends and associates as just "Bones," was born and raised in Wailuku, Maui. A stand-out athlete, especially in basketball, Bones was offered basketball scholarships from the University of Hawaii and the University of Redlands. However, he was drafted before the war, and sent to the 100th Infantry. In 1943 when Bones came to New York on a furlough, he met Yuri Sugimoto of Yuma Arizona who was also vacationing in the "apple." A whirlwind courtship resulted in wedding bells several months later in Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Yuri worked at the Aloha USO in Hattiesburg while Bones served in the cadre of the 171st Battalion (a training group for the 442) before he was shipped to Italy. Bones and Yuri's Hattiesburg house owned by Mr. Earl Finch, became a popular 'hang-out' for 171st/442 Buddaheads and Kotonks. Yuri's brother, Sam Sugimoto, a volunteer from Poston Relocation Center, was also stationed briefly at Shelby before embarking for Europe. Both Bones and Sam were placed in Headquarters 3rd Battalion.

Jimmy Konno

Jimmy Konno of Azusa, California, was interned at Heart Mountain Relocation Center where he was drafted. From there, he was sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi to the 171st Battalion, a replacement training camp. As a member of Co. A, Jimmy was in one of the last groups to be sent overseas. He caught up with the 442 Regiment in the Po Valley in Italy. After returning from the war, he moved to New York City where he met Kathy Eddy, a college drama student from Colorado. They were married in April of 1955. (Kathy was one of the 442 Queens at the annual 442 dances). Jimmy, who became a social worker, earned his Masters at Columbia University, and retired in 1987 as a clinical supervisor. Kathy is a school teacher in Pearl River.

Ted Sakai

Ted Sakai grew up in Seattle, Washington, and came to New York after doing his stint in the army at Camp Shelby with the 171st Battalion. He attended art school and became a sign painter. (Ted, who has been attending Day of Remembrances for many years, generously offered his skill to the DOR Committee by painting the Relocation Camp placards for the annual candle-light ritual. His New York wife, Adele, operated a beauty parlor some time ago on the westside. She had been attending Nisei events but since Ted's passing several years ago, 442 members have not seen her. We hope she is in good health.

Roy Greene, George Jones, and Gene Herbert

Roy, George, and Gene are products of New York and are all part-Japanese, who were sent to the 442nd Outfit because of their part-Japanese ancestry. They are proud of their 442 affiliation, and were active members of the New York 442 Club. Roy and George were attached to Co. G, while Gene joined the 442nd after finishing training with the 171st Bn. and was assigned to Co. C, 100th Bn. Gene passed away in New Jersey in 1991.

Dick Koga

Dick Koga was born in Kauai, but grew up in Kapahulu District, Honolulu. Dick was one of the anxious ones who wanted to see action early, and volunteered for overseas duty to join the first replacement to the 100th with Baker Company Medics. He returned from the front with a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and a Silver Star with clusters. His wife, Jane, whom he met and married in New York, is also from Hawaii. They raised their family here, before moving on to Pennsylvania, where he built their own house. As an industrial designer, Dick also made all the furnitures in their home. Jane, a clothes designer, was a specialist in samples, and sewed all the family clothes. Dick passed away several years ago and is buried in Arlington.

Tom Fujiwara

Tom Fujiwara, part Blackfoot Indian and part Japanese was born in Washington DC, and grew up in Baltimore. He volunteered from New York City, and was sent to the 442 Regiment. He became a member of Co. G. the same company as fellow-New Yorkers, Roy Green and George Jones. He was injured twice, and was awarded the Purple Heart with two clusters. Five weeks after he returned to New York in 1946, he married Mary Mosco, a New Yorker. While overseas in Naples, Italy, which was the home town of Mary's family, he made friendly exchanges in Italian bantering with villagers there. He passed away 6 years ago. "If he was alive, this year would have been our 50th anniversary," said Mary. Their 4 children grew up in Manhattan and Staten Island. Mary has seven grandchildren and one great grand.

Norman Kurlan

Norman Kurlan, a Pennsylvanian, was assigned to the anti-tank company of the 442nd Infantry, and found himself in a regiment of Japanese Americans from Hawaii and the mainland. Although an officer, he mixed readily with "the boys" and

developed a close kinship with them. After the war, he went to Hawaii and spent 6 months visiting the families of all the members of his company who were killed in the war. In 1981, Norman also testified at the War Relocation Hearing in New York to express his support for redress for Japanese Americans. He passed away in 1987 and is buried in the Arlington Cemetery. His wife, Gerri, who was once a ballet dancer with the Philadelphia Opera Company, is now living in California. Over the phone, she spoke emphatically how proud Norman was in being part of the All-Japanese American Combat Team. She quipped, "Norman is in 442 Heaven." She sends her warmest to Hiroshi Kaku, an anti-tankman, and Kelly Kuwayama, a medic, who attended Norman's funeral. The Kurlans are also the Godparents of Bill and Yuri Kochiyama's son, Eddie.

Irving Akahoshi

Irving Akahoshi, an original 100th Infantryman from Hawaii, who has been living in New Jersey for most of his post-war years, is considered one of the war heroes with officer, Young Oak Kim. At one of the most crucial juncture in the Italian Campaign, when the Germans and the 100th Bn. were locked at the Anzio Beachhead, Irving and Capt. Kim volunteered to crawl behind enemy lines, through minefields, to locate the whereabouts of a tank outfit. In a daring maneuver, the two managed to get behind the lines without being detected, and capture two German soldiers for interrogation. For their heroic exploit, they were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Irving is a permanent transplant from Hawaii to the East Coast. His deceased wife, Fude, also from Hawaii, was a teacher in the public school system. Kim was the lone Korean member in the 442/100th, was commissioned a Colonel, and was endeared by the JAs.

Lloyd Ikefuji

Lloyd Ikefuji, the only known Japanese American from the Tri-State area who was killed in action on a combat front during World War II, was a native New Yorker from Staten Island. He was a member of the 442nd Combat Regiment, and had been in service less than a year when he was killed in Cassino, Italy on April 7, 1945, just before the war ended. He was 21 years old. According to a news clipping, his memorial was held three years later in 1948. His brother, Alfred and William, also served during World War II, while brothers, Robert and David, were in active duty during the Korean War. The Day of Remembrance Committee relays their deepfelt salute to Lloyd and their warmest condolence to his family.