



Military
Intelligence
Service
Veterans Club
of Hawaii
Newsletter
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September 2013

MIS VETERANS

Saul Lauds Nisei Veterans

Military historian Eric Saul saluted Nisei veterans for their courage in war and against racism, in a speech delivered August 4 in Honolulu. The MIS Veterans Club organized the event.

Saul is the former curator of the Presidio's Military Museum and a noted historian on

the contributions of AJAs and other minorities to the U.S. military. He has designed exhibits on the military contributions of AJAs, co-founded the Go for Broke 100th/442nd/MIS Foundation, consulted on documentary films on

the Nisei, and co-authored or edited several history books.

In his remarks, Saul said, "It has now been 72 years since the Japanese language school was founded at the Presidio of San Francisco in November 1941. It has been 71 years since the 100th Infantry Battalion was created here in Hawaii. And it has been 70 years since the 442nd was created on February 1, 1943.

"Many of your comrades have left us. But your legacy of honor, duty, and country lives on and will live on forever. It will live on in the success of Japanese in America, and in the success of your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren ... and forever."

In addition to recounting the contributions of the 100th and 442nd, Saul described the work of MIS soldiers: "From the frozen tundra of Attu, to the coral atolls of the Pacific, the jungles of New Guinea, the Philippines, and

Burma, the lava terrain of Iwo Jima, and the bloodied escarpments of Okinawa, you Nisei were everywhere, obtaining intelligence from enemy documents, POWs and enemy communications, and calling upon the enemy to surrender. When needed, you operated behind enemy lines and parachuted on assignments without real parachute training. In Burma and elsewhere, you crept to within hearing distance of enemy troops to learn

Continues on next page

President's Message

WOW! What an educational experience! Eric Saul, noted historian of Nisei veterans, spent almost three weeks in Honolulu interviewing World War II veterans; meeting with members of the MIS, 100th Battalion, and 442nd RCT veterans clubs; and promoting his project to bring his 2010 Ellis Island exhibit to Hawaii in June 2014.

The MIS Veterans Club sponsored a luncheon for Eric on August 4 and his speech was recorded for historical purposes. I gave him a tour of the Battleship *Missouri* and the Pacific Aviation Museum on August 15. He's a battleship buff so showing him the interior of the 16-inch gun turret was one of the highlights of his trip.

For your information, MIS events coming up are: Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl Memorial Cemetery on September 29 and Bonenkai luncheon at Natsunoya Tea House on October 27. The Bonenkai will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the forming of the MIS. Hope to see you all there!

George Arine



Eric Saul at MIS luncheon

First row, left to right: **Herbert Yanamura, Glenn Masunaga, Eric Saul, Ted Tsukiyama, and Takejiro Higa.** Second row: **David Sakai, George Arine, Edgar Hamasu, Tony Koura, Joe Ohbayashi, and Harry Kawaoka.**

Bonenkai 2013 • Sunday, October 27 • Details on page 3

Vets to be Honored on Mighty Mo

The USS *Missouri* Memorial Association has the honor each year of bringing Veterans Day and Armistice Day observances around the world to a close with a sunset ceremony aboard the Battleship *Missouri* at Pearl Harbor.

Although the ceremony is a tribute to all veterans, this year's ceremony will honor the legacy of the Nisei soldier.

The event will be free and open to the public. Invitations will be mailed to the MIS, then distributed to interested members and spouses. Veterans who are certain they're attending can request a printed or electronic invitation by contacting: RSVP@ussmissouri.org

**Veterans Day
Sunset Ceremony
Monday, November 11
4:45 – 5:45 p.m.**

**Battleship *Missouri*
Memorial**

Saul Lauds Nisei Veterans

(Continued from page 1)

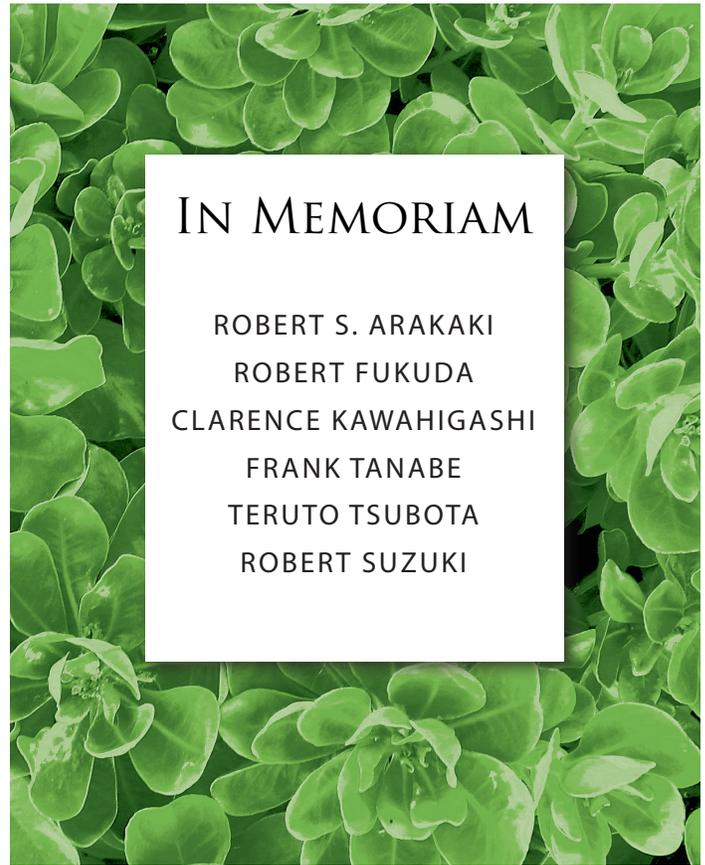
their movements, at times tapping and listening to the enemy's telephone communications."

Said Saul, "When the war ended in August of 1945, your work was not over The U.S. occupation of Japan was one of the most benevolent and benign in world history. Japanese Americans helped write new laws and create new institutions. You helped in the institution of the modern Japanese constitution. You helped institute progressive land reforms and civil rights for Japanese women. One of the reasons Japan is the modern industrial giant that it is today is due to the role of you Japanese Americans in facilitating the transition from a military state to a democratic one. More than 5,000 Japanese Americans worked in Japan during the occupation, from 1945 to 1952.

"Like the Nisei who served ... in Europe, you MIS Nisei fought two wars—one against the military enemy and the other against racial prejudice and distrust toward you at home. By fighting the first, you would overcome the other.

"For you Nisei of MIS, further, there was a certain compassionate dilemma to be resolved in your hearts and minds. Being Japanese by blood, whose parents had come from Japan, you would literally be fighting your kin, but your loyalty to country had to be upheld. You had been taught at home, 'To thy parents be truly respectful and to thy country be utterly loyal.' For the samurai of old Japan, the path of loyalty would have been the only honorable one to take, even at the price of warring on one's own kin. Because you were so resourceful and also loyal, you MIS Nisei have been appropriately called the 'Yankee Samurai of World War II.'"

"We owe a great debt of honor to you Nisei for what



Joint Memorial Service on September 29

The Oahu AJA Veterans Council's annual Joint Memorial Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 29, at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard will deliver the memorial address.

The Joint Memorial Service is organized by the Oahu AJA Veterans Council to honor the fallen members of all four segregated U.S. units in World War II made up primarily of Americans of Japanese ancestry: the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The service is open to the public. Veterans of the units, spouses, widows, and family members are strongly encouraged to attend.

you did for our country and for democracy. So, after 70 years, you can be assured that you have earned your place in the Pantheon of American history for your contributions to democracy. All Americans owe you a debt of honor and a debt of gratitude. A debt, as I have said before, that we probably can't ever repay."

For the complete text of Eric Saul's remarks, send an e-mail request to misveteranshawaii@gmail.com

"Forget the Year!"

MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii's

Bonenkai 2013

Sunday, October 27, 2013

11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Natsunoya Tea House

1935 Makanani Drive (Alewa Heights)

Valet parking from 10:30 a.m.

Complete & Mail Your RESERVATIONS by Oct 11

Return this form to:

MIS Veterans Club
P.O. Box 3021
Honolulu, HI 96802

Inquiries:

Lawrence Enomoto
Phone: (808) 255-8971
E-mail: lawrence.enomoto@gmail.com



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail _____

Number
Attending:

X \$30 per person =

Total
Enclosed:

\$_____

Make checks payable to:

MIS Veterans Club

Submit by:

Friday, October 11, 2013

Punchbowl Recruiting Docents

The Saturday docent program at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific urgently needs new volunteers.

Docents assist visitors in locating gravesites of loved ones and noted veterans, provide information about the cemetery and AJA experience, accept reports of problems with gravesites, and help Punchbowl employees in emergencies.

The program began in 1991 with veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club staffing the Punchbowl Information Center on Saturdays. Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Veterans Club soon joined the ranks, followed by spouses and descendants. Today, only one 100th and one 442nd veteran remain as docents, with siblings, spouses, and descendants filling the shoes of the original volunteers.

Volunteers will be trained and serve four Saturdays a year.

Recruitment is ongoing. If unable to participate at this time, consider it for the future.

One of the original docents, who retired after 19 years of volunteer service, described his commitment to the program, saying, "My work here at Punchbowl helps me remember those who died so that their sacrifices were not in vain."

Contact Drusilla Tanaka to sign up or for more information (235-1343 or drusillatanaka@gmail.com).

Building 640 to Open

The Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center, better known as Building 640, will open to the public on Veterans Day, November 11, at 9:00 a.m. The address is 640 Mason Street in San Francisco's Presidio district.

The event is being sponsored by the National Japanese American Historical Society, Presidio Trust, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Building 640 was the U.S. Army's original training center for the MIS.

MIS Club Calendar

Brothers in Valor Memorial cleanup

September 28, 7:00 a.m.
Fort DeRussy

Joint Memorial Service

September 29, 9:00 a.m.
National Memorial Cemetery
of the Pacific

Bonenkai

October 27, 11:45 a.m.
Natsunoya Tea House

Missouri Memorial Association

Tribute to Nisei Veterans

November 11, 4:45 p.m.
USS *Missouri*

Christmas Party

December 8
Masa's Cafeteria

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