



Military  
Intelligence  
Service  
Veterans Club  
of Hawaii

Newsletter  
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# MIS VETERANS

## Book Details Life of Harry Fukuhara and Family

by Mark Matsunaga

*Midnight in Broad Daylight*, by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto, is a highly readable, thoroughly researched book about the late Harry Fukuhara, an acclaimed MIS veteran of World War II and tireless campaigner for recognition of the MIS Nisei.

**Sakamoto will be the guest speaker at the MIS Summer Pikuniku on July 17.**

Many MIS veterans know the mainland-born Fukuhara as a member of one of the early classes at Camp Savage and as a kibe educated in Japan who appears in one of the few action photos of MIS Nisei in action during the war. Veterans say he was the driving force behind the Army's award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the MIS in 2000.

Like other MIS Nisei, Fukuhara's family was in Japan during the war while he was fighting against that nation in a GI uniform. The book's title refers to the atomic bomb at Hiroshima, where Fukuhara's mother and brothers happened to be.

Fukuhara would stay in Army intelligence after the war, retiring as a colonel and playing a key



**Pamela Rotner Sakamoto (seated) with members of the Fukuhara family at a book-signing event held earlier this year at Barnes & Noble.**

role in U.S.-Japan relations for decades. He was inducted in the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame in 1988 and last year, the 500<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade's new headquarters building at Schofield Barracks was dedicated in his name.

Author Sakamoto grew up on the East Coast and went to Japan as a graduate student in history. She was befriended by Fukuhara, who related his life story over the course of years and then finally asked Sakamoto to write it.

The result is a gripping work of non-fiction that is meticulously documented, as borne out by the book's extensive notes. Sakamoto drew from countless conversations and interviews with Fukuhara, his family, and friends. She also spent years of research on details, drawing from historic archives and published material in the United States and Japan.

Sakamoto worked on the book for more than 15 years, persevering in the face of rejection by publishers who thought interest in Fukuhara's story would be limited to Japanese Americans.

Sakamoto knew better, that the story is as thoroughly American as Fukuhara was. *Midnight* was finally published by Harper Collins.

The author is a teacher at Punahou School and has also taught at Kapiolani Community College. She and her family live on Oahu.



## MIS Summer Pikuniku

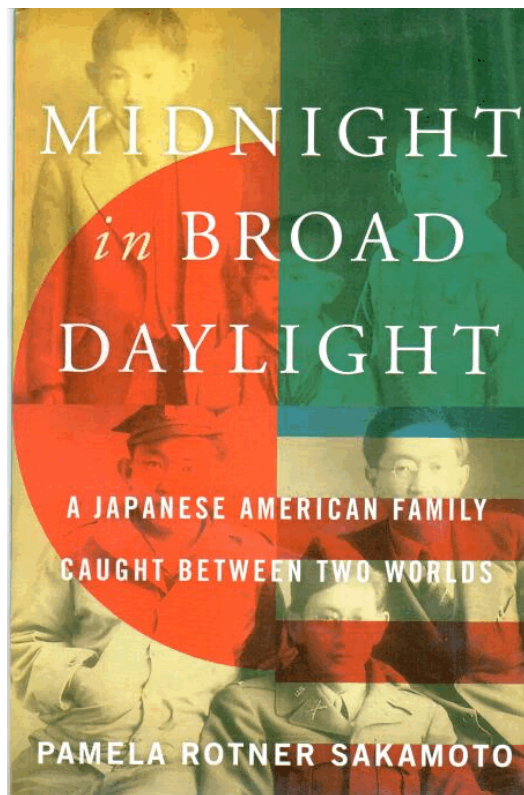
Old-fashioned  
fun, food, and  
games!

Guest Speaker:  
Pamela Rotner  
Sakamoto

Author,  
*Midnight in  
Broad Daylight*

Sunday,  
July 17

see page 3





MIS Veterans Club officers for 2016-2017 take their oaths of office

## Punchbowl Expansion Continues; In-ground Burial for Caskets Only

by Mark Matsunaga

The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific is adding space for thousands of niches for cremated remains, including 6,000 in a new columbarium complex where the cemetery office used to be.

Jim Horton, who replaced Gene Castagnetti as superintendent of the Punchbowl cemetery two years ago, recently met with some relatives of veterans. We are grateful that Horton took time from his busy schedule to get the word out.

Punchbowl is one of 134 cemeteries operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The VA recognizes that this place is different,” said Horton, a retired Air Force fighter pilot who was stationed in Hawaii in the past.

He said work on the new columbaria, on the right side of the park entrance, is underway, and niches there should be available next year. More columbaria will be added to the makai wall of the crater, near the beginning of the path to the lookout.

Horton said the type of covers for the new niches has not yet been selected. Older niches at Punchbowl have bronze plaques whose mounting screws allow for installation of optional flower vases at the family’s expense. More recent niches have solid marble covers, with names of the deceased and other information cut directly into the material. The paint that’s used in the relief letters tends to fade, however, and costs a lot to redo. The solid covers also don’t allow for mounting of vases on each niche cover. Horton said he recommended returning to the bronze plaques, but that decision will be made by higher-ups in the VA.

Horton said Punchbowl was deemed a “closed cemetery” years ago, and that triggered certain rules. Among them, cremated remains for new interments must go into columbarium niches. In-ground plots are only available for casket burials. Those burial plots are very limited and their availability depends entirely on timing. A few hundred gravesites may open up in the next few years as remains now designated “unknown” from World War II and Korea are identified and reinterred elsewhere. The VA does not maintain a waiting list. To obtain a plot or niche, you should work with your mortuary or funeral services provider to contact the VA and hope your timing can accommodate your preferences.

Improved walkways to the existing columbaria are planned. And a new administration building at Punchbowl is under construction on the outer edge of the cemetery road, now that early engineering challenges were overcome.

## MIS Officers Elected

These are the officers and directors of the Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii, for the 2016-2017 period. They were sworn in at the annual Shinnenkai in January.

The are:

### Officers

President: Lawrence Enomoto

1st Vice President: George Arine

2nd Vice President: Glen S. Arakaki

Secretary: Karen Aoyama Kikukawa

Treasurer: Gale Kumasaki Wilson

Auditor: Harry Kawaoka

**Directors (2016)** Gregg Hirata, Kenzo Kanemoto, Mark Y. Matsunaga, James Moy, David H. Sakai

**Directors (2017)** Annie Inouye, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Sherman Takao, Ted T. Tsukiyama

Horton said demolition of the old administration building eliminated the restrooms there, leaving the only available restrooms near the path to the overlook and in the Honolulu Memorial at the top of the stairs. The new administration building will have restrooms. Construction of additional restrooms inside the crater might occur in the future. Meanwhile, Punchbowl visitors should plan accordingly.



The Veterans Administration has not revealed the design for the new columbarium. The niche covers may be similar to the newer marble ones (top) or follow the model of the older bronze versions (bottom), which include an optional vase.





# MIS SUMMER PIKUNIKKU

Yes, count me in!

Complete and mail with payment:

Adults

\$15.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children (3-10 years)

\$5.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Children under 2 years free

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations of cash or prizes welcome

Yes, I'll donate (item): \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: MIS Veterans Club

Reply by: July 11, 2016

Mail to: MIS Veterans Club  
P.O. Box 3021  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

Questions: [misveteranshawaii@gmail.com](mailto:misveteranshawaii@gmail.com)  
Karen Kikukawa, (808) 341-1292  
Annie Inouye, (808) 220-5347

# MIS SUMMER PIKUNIKKU

A day of old-fashioned fun,  
food, and games!

SPECIAL GUEST

**Pam Rotner Sakamoto**

Author of *Midnight in Broad Daylight*  
(the story of MIS veteran Harry Fukuhara  
and his family)

**WHEN**

Sunday, July 17  
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE**

100th Infantry Battalion  
Veterans Clubhouse  
520 Kamoku Street

Parking at  
Ala Wai Elementary School

**REPLY BY**

July 11, 2016



M.I.S. VETERANS CLUB  
P.O. BOX 3021  
HONOLULU, HI 96802

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## Go For Broke Sponsoring Student Contest

### Deadline is June 30, 2016

The Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), a nonprofit organization that exists to preserve the legacy of the Japanese American World War II veterans, is again sponsoring its annual Student Essay, Poetry, and Video Contest.

The contest is open to high school students (grades 9-12) and college students (undergraduate and graduate). Cash prizes will be awarded to 16 winners, with \$1,000 prizes to the top

six winners. Plus, the top 30 qualified winners will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the GFBNEC's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner this fall at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in Los Angeles.

Last year, GFBNEC received more than 245 entries from 16 states and the District of Columbia, approximately 55 high schools, and 20 universities. Winners came from California, Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Idaho, and Nevada, with all four first-place winners hailing from different states.

GFBNEC has recorded the life stories of more than 1,150 veterans; taught 3,000 educators in Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Texas, Maryland, and Virginia; reached 100,000 students through teacher training and web-based digital curriculum; and welcomed 100,000 visitors to the Go For Broke Monument near downtown Los Angeles.

Information is available from the Go For Broke National Education Center <[goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org)> or the MIS website under "News" <[misveteranshawaii.com](http://misveteranshawaii.com)>.

## Help Keep the MIS Legacy Alive

Here are a few ways you can keep the MIS legacy alive.

### Learn your family's story.

You videotaped your kid's graduation and your grandchild's birthday. You can record your veteran's recollections. At least write key facts down and save your notes. Record the dates and locations of photos and especially the names of people in photos.

### Save wartime letters, documents, photographs, and memorabilia.

Each of them is irreplaceable. Efforts are under way to develop permanent storage for these priceless items, by the MIS Veterans Club and the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center. Meanwhile, store them in acid-free containers and away from direct sunlight or extreme temperatures and humidity.

However, if you don't have storage space or are desperate to discard items, please contact us for advice or assistance.

### Do some homework.

The MIS story is not a simple one because the number of wartime assignments they had

were as diverse as the soldiers themselves, and their achievements were cloaked in secrecy. But you can begin with something as effortless as a Google search; enter the veteran's name along with a keyword like "Army," "World War II," or "military intelligence service," and see what comes up. Several books have been written about the MIS, many more about the war. Reading can give you a better understanding of what your veteran did during the war. Maybe you can write a book someday, because much remains unrecorded for history.

### Set the record straight.

For more than twenty years, a number of independent researchers have been compiling a database containing the service information of MISers who served in World War II, the Battle of Okinawa, and the occupation. Unfortunately, due to the secrecy of the assignments of the MIS personnel, about 2,000 Hawaii MIS veterans have incomplete records. This does not do justice to their service.

For the sake of all of your families, your historical legacy, and for the education and appreciation of future generations, volunteers are being recruited to help in this research, which will be conducted entirely in Honolulu. Training will be provided; hours are flexible (weekdays, business hours) and record-copying expenses furnished. Service learning credit may be awarded to qualifying students. Please contact Drusilla Tanaka, (808) 235-1343 or (808) 372-4840, or e-mail at [drusillatanaka@gmail.com](mailto:drusillatanaka@gmail.com) to participate. **Join the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii and get involved.**

Veterans and their descendants are eligible for membership. Fill out an application provided in the "Join Us" page on the MIS website <[misveteranshawaii.com](http://misveteranshawaii.com)>. The club does not have a paid staff, nor resources to conduct detailed research. Participation in club events, however, might steer you to people and source material.