



Military
Intelligence
Service
Veterans Club
of Hawaii

Newsletter
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MIS VETERANS

President's Message

Thank you very much for electing me as your president for 2017. It is a great honor and responsibility, but I have a strong supporting cast of veterans and sons and daughters to assist me in my duties.

I was also MIS president in 2013 so this is my second time around. Frank Takao served as president for six years, the most since the club was formed in 1946. Frank shouldn't worry about his record because I won't be surpassing it.

I am still a tour guide on the USS *Missouri* and would like to point out the deep connection between the ship and the MIS veterans. First, on September 2, 1945, when the surrender ceremony was held on the ship to end World War II,

there were three MIS veterans who witnessed the ceremony: Noby Yoshimura and Tom Sakamoto from the mainland and our own Jiro Yukimura from Kauai. They were members of General Douglas MacArthur's staff in the Philippines and they accompanied him to the event. Jiro was honored on the USS *Missouri* at the sunset ceremony on Veterans Day 2013.

Second, when the ship was opened to the public in January 1999, several MIS veterans were the first bilingual tour guides. The *Missouri* management reached out to the MIS Veterans Club for volunteer tour guides and the following members eagerly pitched in to share the story of the *Missouri* and her place in history: Kenichi Watanabe; Edwin Kawahara, who later became a member of *Continues on page 3.*



Okinawa Association Salutes MIS Veterans

by Mark Matsunaga

More than 300 people gathered at the Hawaii Okinawa Center in Waipio on June 22 to commemorate Okinawan Memorial Day and to honor the nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service who served there.

Six MIS veterans of World War II attended and were recognized by the Hawaii United Okinawa Association at the "Irei No Hi" event. The six were Shinye Gima, Takejiro Higa, Herbert Matsumoto, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ted Tsukiyama, and Herbert Yanamura.

HUOA President Vince Watabu presented them with a beautiful certificate

of recognition "for the exemplary service of the nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service during World War II in the Pacific and for their compassionate and selfless efforts in helping the people of Okinawa during and after the Battle of Okinawa."

The commemoration date was chosen to coincide with Okinawa's observance of the anniversary of the formal end to the battle, June 23, 1945, although the fighting and suffering continued long after that. (Because of the time difference, June 23 in Okinawa is June 22 in Hawaii.)

The commemoration was co-chaired by Gwen Fujie and Ann Oshiro Wong, Yoshinobu Oshiro's daughter.

MIS veterans receive a certificate of recognition from the Hawaii United Okinawa Association at the June 22 "Irei No Hi" observance. From left, veterans Herbert Yanamura, Takejiro Higa, Herbert Matsumoto, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Ted Tsukiyama, and Shinye Gima, HUOA President Vince Watabu, Hawaii First Lady Dawn Amano Ige, and Japan Consul General Yasushi Misawa.

The commemoration included music and dance performances and a showing of "Senju No Chimugukuru," the NHK documentary about Thomas Taro Higa, the Hawaii nisei who was wounded in Europe with the 100th Infantry Battalion. After convalescing, Higa volunteered for duty in the Pacific and returned to Okinawa, where he had spent part of his youth, and was able to help many civilians there.

Ted Tsukiyama Publishes Memoir

by Mark Matsunaga

Scholars, fans, and offspring of nisei veterans could always count on Ted Tsukiyama to speak authoritatively and answer questions about the Americans of Japanese ancestry whose heroic service in World War II earned first-class U.S. citizenship for all Japanese Americans.

Ted was one of those soldiers himself and served for many years as the historian for both the Military Intelligence Service and 442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans clubs. He served in five different American uniforms during the war. Afterwards, he was the first AJA to earn a law degree at Yale University then and returned to Hawaii where he established a successful legal career, earning recognition nationally as a pioneering labor arbitrator and globally as a bonsai cultivator.

Now 96, Tsukiyama shares his story in *My Life's Journey: A Memoir*. The book is published by Honolulu-based Watermark Publishing. It is the next best thing to talking story with Ted himself.

In some ways, he is typical of the World War II nisei from Hawaii. But he displayed an unusually keen awareness of events and people around him and a unique ability to reflect on and write about them. Ted has been a prolific, facile writer, and, thankfully, saved much of his correspondence and writing over the years.

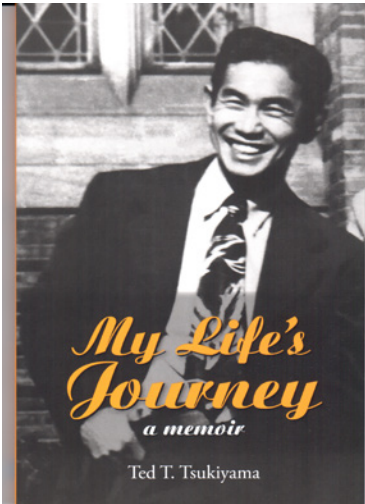
The book begins by tracing Tsukiyama's roots in Japan, and how his parents came to Hawaii. Ted describes growing up in a multi-ethnic Kaimuki and attending Aliiolani and Roosevelt schools, English Standard institutions that were out of reach for most AJAs. Each school day, he also attended Kaimuki Japanese

Language School, a common practice for nisei of the period.

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Ted was a junior at the University of Hawaii and first sergeant of B Company of the UH ROTC. He was one of hundreds who answered the call to arms that day. The cadets—three-fourths of them AJAs—became part of the Hawaii Territorial Guard, defending against a possible invasion. Six weeks later, however, the Guard dismissed its AJA members because of doubts about their loyalty.

"If a bomb had been exploded in our midst, it could not have been more devastating," Ted writes.

On the advice of community leader Hung Wai Ching, the rejects overcame their anger and disappointment to form the Varsity Victory Volunteers. They did manual labor for the Army for nearly a year to demonstrate their loyalty to America. In early 1943, the VVV disbanded in order for its members to volunteer for a new, all-nisei unit, the 442nd RCT. Ted was among those accepted. (The book erroneously states when AJAs were



Ted Tsukiyama autographs of copy of his memoirs for Lawrence Enomoto of the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii.

reclassified to be eligible for Selective Service induction. That actually happened in 1944.)

While training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in the summer of 1943, Ted was one of 250 who were transferred from the 442nd to the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota. Ted liked Minnesota more than Mississippi, but missed his 442nd friends and hated the language school's "dog-eat-dog atmosphere." He eventually deployed to Burma, where he served with the 6th Army Air Force Radio Squadron Mobile, intercepting and translating Japanese radio communications. He found Burma interesting, but concluded, "My ultimate military intelligence service was undistinguished, trivial and exiguous, merely stealing enemy signals from the safe and comfortable confines of the rear line areas."

Ted's description of his post-war years is filled with personal details, such as his chance meeting in Washington, D.C., with Fuku Yokoyama, a Californian whose family was interned during the war, who became his wife and partner until her death in 2014.

Tsukiyama's book is a treasure for anyone interested in the AJAs from Hawaii who volunteered by the thousands to fight for a country that couldn't distinguish them from the enemy, and then came home to transform Hawaii into the 50th State.

IN MEMORIAM

Satoru Amaki	Richard Omori
Minoru Iwatake	Thomas Oshiro
Kenneth Kihara	Kiyoshi Sasaki
Harold Kimura	Thomas Tsubota
Tamotsu Koyanagi	Jiro Yukimura
George Maeda	

Club Honors Veterans

MIS Veterans Club members and Girl Scouts from several troops placed flowers on the graves of MIS veterans at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

MIS Veterans Club President George Arine organized the annual event.



Girl Scouts Troop 558's Lourie Brooks, Kristen Kop, Malia Brooks, Linda and Taylor Venenciano, and Alexis Sanehisa, with Keith and Phyllis Harada, George and Hiroko Arine, and Mark Matsunaga.



Girl Scout Troop 443's Joyce and Haley Yanagisawa, Wynette Sheehan, Abigail Sheehan, Leslie Balmilero, Summer Royal, Kay H., and Annamaria Miru, with Calvin Sumida, Richard Nishi, Karen Kikukawa, George Arine, and Mark Matsunaga.



Kevin and Pikake Kimata, Mauhia and Kamalau Kimata, Chris, Matthew, and Maia Mashiba, Jenelle and Logan Henderson, Keahi Renaud, Leilani Dawson, Eric Sasmor, and George Arine.

Club Year Begins with Celebration

by George Arine

The MIS Veterans Club celebrated its Shinnenkai at Natsunoya Tea House in late February.

It was a full house with 72 attending. Guests included Consul General of Japan Yasushi Misawa; Lloyd Kitaoka, past president and Harry Nakayama, current president of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans; Wes Deguchi, president of the Nisei Veterans Legacy; Karleen Chinen, editor of the *Hawaii Herald*; and Kazuo Nakamine, editor of the *Hawaii Pacific Press*.

The program included the installation of new officers and directors for 2017, with immediate past president Larry Enomoto administering the oath of office.

The officers and directors are George Arine, president; Sherman Takao, first vice president; Glen Arakaki, second vice president; Karen Kikukawa, secretary; Gale Wilson, treasurer; and, Harry Kawaoka, auditor. The directors for 2017 are James Moy, Gregg Hirata, Mark Matsunaga, and Kenzo Kanemoto. The directors for 2017–2018 are Annie Inouye, Yoshinobu Oshiro, and Robert Honke.

Keynote speaker was Consul General Misawa, who spoke about the events he attended for the 75th anniversary commemoration of the Pearl Harbor attack and on his father's experience as a soldier during World War II.

Special recognition was given to Frank Takao, who served as MIS president for six years, the longest tenure to date, and to Shigeru Akiyoshi, who celebrated his 100th birthday.

The club provided many door prizes, with contributions from Shigemi Hashimoto, Yoshie Tanabe, Wally Hirai, Gwen

Fujie, and Glenn Goya, NVL director.

Tad Fukumoto provided the musical entertainment with an array of nostalgic Japanese and American songs. Thanks go to Mark Matsunaga and Sherman Takao who were in charge of drinks and snacks. Annie Inouye sold MIS logo items. Hiroko Arine created the table decorations, while Gale Wilson handled the registration and tickets for the door prizes.

President's Message (continued from page 1)

the *Missouri* historical research committee who identified the kamikaze pilot who crashed into the ship off Okinawa on April 11, 1945; Mike (Michio) Harada; Ted Tsukiyama; Robert Honke; Kenzo Kanemoto; and Sam Isokane. Sam was the last of the original MIS tour guides and I met him when I started as a tour guide in March 2002. He wasn't doing tours then, but I remember him showing his photo album and talking about his MIS experiences to tourists on the surrender deck. Sometimes my supervisor asks me about Kenzo and I tell him that Kenzo is doing very well and is an active member of the club.

The MIS Veterans Club is currently at a crossroads to increase our declining membership. We need more descendants and sons and daughters to continue the existence of the club. Please visit our website <misveteranshawaii.com> to learn more about the club and how to join. Changes are also on the horizon and they are for the better to improve and streamline club operations.

Aloha,
George Arine



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Your MIS Membership Status

We are providing your MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii membership status in the box above.

Your membership dues help the club publish this newsletter, maintain our website, and organize our various activities, including the Shinnenkai, Bonenkai, and other events.

If you haven't paid your annual dues, please send a check for \$20.00, made payable to "MIS Veterans Club" to us at:

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

Questions:
misveteranshawaii@gmail.com

Odds and Ends

Mahalo from Oahu Veterans Center

Jenny A. Chanko, executive director of the Oahu Veterans Center, has thanked the MIS Veterans Club for its donation of \$150.

The club holds its monthly board meetings at the center, which is located near Radford High School. Many other veterans organizations use the center for their activities.

Chanko reported the money will enable the center to continue its services for veterans, including the post-traumatic stress disorder resident recovery program and the Wounded Warrior Project.

Scholarship Recipient Says "Thanks"

Rhonda A. Akano, a senior at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, sent a letter of appreciation to the MIS Veterans Club for the scholarship she received for her Japanese studies.

The awards, made in the name of the club and Makiki Japanese Language School, are made to students at the University of Hawaii's campuses who are pursuing their studies in Japanese and related fields.

Akano wrote, "I am delighted to report that I have been successful in all courses of my Japanese studies major. This achievement has been possible with your grant and support as your scholarship will yet again help me to focus on my academics without financial worries. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity. Once again, I can promise I will

work hard to demonstrate myself worthy of this opportunity you have given me."

Club Receives Flag Flown Over USS Arizona Memorial

The MIS Veterans Club has received a flag that was raised and lowered on the USS Arizona Memorial on December 7, 2016, the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. The flag was presented by the commander of the Navy Region Hawaii and World War II Valor in the Pacific National Museum.

The club has participated in Navy and National Park Service wreath presentation ceremonies at Pearl Harbor on special occasions.

MIS Members Invited to Club 100 Family Summer Fun Day

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans' Baker Chapter has invited MIS Veterans Club members to a Family Summer Fun Day on:

Saturday, August 26

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

100th Infantry Veterans Clubhouse
520 Kamoku Street

(parking at Ala Wai Elementary School)

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$8 for youth 6-12,

free for children. **RSVP form available at**

<misveteranshawaii.com> under "Events."

Questions: Mary Ann Tanabe, 256-6816.