



Military
Intelligence
Service Veterans
Education Society
of Hawaii

Newsletter
Vol. 25, No. 3
Dec. 2019

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MIS VETERANS

President's Message

At this joyous time of the year, Yuriko and I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We appreciate the support we have received from members of the MIS Veterans. *Domo arigatou gozaimasu!*

Some of you may know that at our next Shinnenkai at Natsunoya Tea House on January 26, I will finish my final term as your president and Dr. Shinye Gima will begin his first term. If elected as director, I will continue to support him as the new leader of our organization.

During 2019, Dr. Gima organized and directed in my absence the Nisei Veterans' Summer Special program held on Saturday, June 27, at the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Education Center. This program featured an overview of veterans' benefits by Colonel (USAF Ret.) Ron Han, director of the Hawaii Office of Veterans Services; a presentation by noted author Tom Coffman about his latest book, *Tadaima! I Am Home: A Transnational Family History*; a storytelling entitled "Oka-san" by Nyla Fujii-Babb and Dann Seki; and musical entertainment during lunch by the Kealoha Paule group.

To honor the legacy of nisei linguists who served from 1941 to 1952 in the Military Intelligence Service, Mark Matsunaga, a member of our board of directors, has spearheaded an MIS Veterans project to design and produce the unit tribute plaque that will be displayed along the Path of Remembrance at the National Museum of the United States Army, still under construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. All members and friends of MIS Veterans are asked to donate generously toward the \$5,000 cost of the plaque. You can help by making your donation at <https://armyhistory.causevox.com/mis-veterans-hawaii>

Apparently, the Internal Revenue Service did not receive our MIS Veterans application for tax-exempt status as a public charity under IRS code section 501(c)(3), submitted earlier this year. It may have been lost in the mail. The IRS Form 1023 will have to be prepared again and submitted with the required fee. I apologize for not sending the first application by certified mail, return receipt requested. Although the MIS Veterans remains a veterans organization, we should strive to promote educational opportunities under our new name: Military Intelligence Service Veterans Education Society of Hawaii.

Finally, I extend my gratitude to all the MIS Veterans officers and directors who served with me during 2019. Their volunteer efforts have been outstanding and very much appreciated. I especially want to thank Gregg Hirata, newsletter editor and webmaster, for his expertise and endeavors to promote MIS Veterans both in print and online!

Mahalo nui loa,

Lawrence M.G. Enomoto
President



**Help Honor
the MIS Linguists;
Your Donations
Needed
see page 4**

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2020
11:00 a.m.

MIS Veterans SHINNENKAI 2020

Natsunoya Tea House
SEE PAGE 3

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Mele Kalikimaka**



**Best Wishes for
the New Year!**



MIS linguists Technical Sergeants Herbert Miyasaki of Paauiilo (left) and Akiji Yoshimura of Colusa, California, take a break from jungle fighting in Burma with Brigadier General Frank Merrill, commander of the 5307th Composite Group, Provisional, better known as Merrill's Marauders.

MIS Hawaii Supporting Gold Medal for Merrill's Marauders

The MIS Veterans Educational Society of Hawaii is endorsing a proposal to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the famed Merrill's Marauders, which counted nisei soldiers in its ranks.

The medal, which requires the approval of Congress, is being proposed through Senate Bill 743, co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, and House Bill 906, co-sponsored by Congressman Ed Case.

In a letter to Hawaii's Congressional delegation, MIS Veterans President Lawrence M.G. Enomoto stated, "It is important to recognize their bravery, loyalty, and grit, given the horrific circumstances [the nisei] faced in the Burma jungles, and honor their amazing accomplishments during World War II."

Merrill's Marauders, named after Brigadier General Frank Merrill, commander of the 5307th Composite Group, Provisional, were the first American troops to fight the Japanese on land in Asia. The group not only battled the enemy but suffered from malaria, typhus, and dysentery and faced monsoons, isolation, and other jungle conditions.

With no motorized vehicles available, the troops carried their supplies or used mules and made history by walking farther—nearly 1,000 miles—than any other fighting unit in the war. After the Marauders climbed the 6,100-foot Naura Hkyat Pass in Burma's Kumon mountains, only several hundred exhausted, ill soldiers remained to seize their objective, the critical Myitkyina all-weather airstrip.

General Merrill has said of the MIS nisei, "As for the value of the nisei group, I couldn't have gotten along without them. Probably few realized that these boys did everything that an infantryman normally does, plus the extra work of translating, interrogating, etc."

The U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment honors the legacy of the Marauders by wearing the unauthorized Marauder patch as their crest.

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD "DICK" NOBORU
HAMASAKI

SADAO KAWAMOTO

TAKASHI KOBUE

YOSHIO MITSUZAWA

IWAO NAGATA

KENICHI KEN NAKAGAWA

JAMES TOSHIHARU OSHIMA

RICHARD EISEI OSHIRO

RONALD MASAMI TAKAHATA

DOUGLAS KUNIOMI TAKATA

MASATO TASAKA

TAKEO YAMAUCHI

TY TAMISHIGE YOSHITAKE

INFORMATION COURTESY ROGER EATON



MIS Veterans Education Society of Hawaii

Shinnenkai 2020

Sunday, January 26
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Natsunoya Tea House
1935 Makanani Drive (Alewa Heights)
Valet parking from 10:30 a.m.
RSVP by JANUARY 17

Return this form to:
MIS Veterans Hawaii
P.O. Box 3021
Honolulu, HI 96802

Make checks payable to:
MIS Veterans Hawaii

Inquiries:
misveteranshawaii@gmail.com



WHY, YES, COUNT ME IN!

Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Phone number(s)

E-mail

COST: \$40.00 per person



**Number
Attending**

**Total
Cost**

_____ X \$40 per person =

Enclosed: _____



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Unit tributes will line the Path of Remembrance leading up to the Museum.

illustration from armyhistory.org

Help Honor the MIS Linguists; Your Donations Needed

Your donation is needed to ensure proper recognition of the American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who served as language specialists in World War II and the occupation of Japan. The recognition would be in the form of a unit tribute plaque at the National Museum of the United States Army, which is nearing completion near Washington, D.C., and scheduled to open on June 4, 2020.

The MIS Veterans thanks those who have already contributed toward the plaque dedicated to the nisei linguists of the Military Intelligence Service. More is needed in order to reach the \$5,000 goal. You can help by making a donation at <https://armyhistory.causevox.com/mis-veterans-hawaii>

Unit plaques, each measuring 12 by 18 inches, will be displayed along the Path of Remembrance at the museum at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; about 50 unit plaques are already in the works. The Army Historical Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is raising \$200 million to finance the museum,

which will be the first with a comprehensive view of the Army of the United States and its grand history. MIS donations in excess of \$5,000 will go to the museum. For more information about the museum and the foundation, see <https://armyhistory.org/>

MIS Veterans Hawaii volunteers have worked with the foundation and other groups to ensure the MIS veterans are recognized along with the AJAs who served with the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team.