



Military Intelligence Service Veterans Education Society of Hawaii

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MIS VETERANS



The incoming officers and directors for the MIS Veterans were sworn in at the annual Shinnenkai, held January 26 at Natsunoya Tea House. They are, from left: Keith Matsumoto, director; Karen Kikukawa, secretary; Sherman Takao, treasurer; Lawrence Enomoto, director; Lynn Heirakuji, president of Nisei Veterans Legacy and guest speaker; Shinye Gima, president; Glen Arakaki, director; and Herbert Matsumoto, director. Photo courtesy Clyde Sugimoto and Ann Kabasawa.

Message from the President

Congratulations to the new board and officers of the Military Intelligence Service Veterans Hawaii as we begin a new term. With the help, encouragement, and support of our members, we hope to carry out an active and progressive program to help meet our goal of perpetuating and promoting the legacy of the nisei veterans of World War II.

To achieve that goal, our club (a) memorializes our fallen comrades by taking part in anniversaries and ceremonies such as the Joint Memorial Service, Veterans Day Service, and so forth; (b) participates in or attends funeral services of members who pass away, and (c) sponsors or cooperates with other groups in presenting timely and appropriate programs that promote our legacy for the AJA community.

We are planning a summer event featuring

the 55-minute-long video, "First Battle," produced by Tom Coffman, the highly respected historian and writer. "First Battle" alludes to the efforts of certain leaders in Hawaii to keep the Japanese population (alien and citizen) from mass incarceration in the days prior to and following the attack on Pearl Harbor. We came so close to sharing the same fate as the Japanese on the West Coast.

On a final note, H-E-L-P! We are short two officers on our board: a vice president and a director. We ask everyone to look deeply into your psyche, and convince yourself to volunteer your services in the interest of our club. *Onegai shimasu.*

Aloha,
Shinye Gima

HAPPY YEAR OF THE RAT!



BY KITAGAWA UTAMARO

URGENT:
Volunteers Needed for Records Search
see page 4

If at First You Don't Succeed ...

by Lawrence Enomoto

I'm trying again!

I confess that I really don't know what happened to the printed copy of IRS Form 1023 that I submitted early last year with a \$600 filing fee payment check, as our "Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code."

You'll recall that **we were seeking to change our tax-exempt status, previously recognized for many years under Section 501(c)(19) as a veterans organization, to a public charity**

based on the revised bylaws adopted at our special meeting in August 2018 and new articles of association signed by the directors in September 2018.

Unfortunately, I did not submit the application form to the IRS by certified mail, so we kept waiting all through 2019 for an answer that never came.

Recently, an online version of IRS Form 1023 was released. The board reviewed a draft of our new application that will be submitted electronically after the financial data section is again completed by treasurer Sherman Takao.

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Aloha, Bob and Herbert

Two long-time MIS Veterans members passed away recently: Bob Honke and Herbert Yanamura. Bob was the club's executive secretary and Herbert served on the board, both for many years.

ROBERT HONKE



Robert Katsuto Honke, a founding member and former officer of the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, died recently at age 99.

Honke grew up in Honolulu, primarily in Maikiki and Pawaa, the second child and first son of immigrants from Hiroshima and Yamaguchi prefectures. The family moved back to Japan when he was a teenager and he attended high school in Hiroshima. With war looming, however, his family sent him back to Honolulu weeks before Japan's December 7, 1941, attack.

Honke volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in February 1943 but was not accepted, possibly because of his time in Japan. Two months later, however, the Army accepted him for intelligence service in the Pacific.

In June 1943, he was part of the first big batch of Hawaii recruits for the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage, Minnesota. As a kibeï, Honke excelled in the classes.

Honke was sent overseas to India and Burma with the 5th Army Air Force Radio Squadron, Mobile. He was a radio direction finder, pinpointed enemy transmitters, and translated intercepted voice communications. He and several other nisei also volunteered to help evaluate captured enemy equipment. Honke was sent to China for the war's final months.

After a brief stint in the occupation of Japan, he returned to Hawaii and was discharged. In 1946, he was among a group of veterans who formed the MIS Veterans Club.

He earned a business administration degree in Los Angeles and became a licensed public accountant and later was a travel agent. He continued active participation in the MIS Veterans Club for the rest of his life, as executive secretary and in other offices.

IN MEMORIAM

ROBERT KATSUTO HONKE

TOSHIMASA JAMES NITTA

RICHARD KAZUO YAMAMOTO

MASATO KAGENO

CHARLES MITSUTERU OKIMURA

RALPH TATSUO YANAGIDA

GLENN MASAO MASUNAGA

ITSUO SAKAI

HERBERT YANAMURA

ALLEN SHIGEYUKI MICHIOKA

MASARU SAKATA

CARL T. YONEZAWA

TOSHIO NAKAMURA

MASAYOSHI SAWAI

Information courtesy Roger Eaton



HERBERT YANAMURA

Like many of his nisei brethren, Herbert Yanamura had some fascinating wartime experiences. One he told for the MIS exhibit at the Army Museum of Hawaii and club website. It bears repeating here.

Herbert Yanamura of Honaunau was a 21-year-old member of the 96th Division's language team on Okinawa in 1945.

On June 21, Yanamura was with troops approaching the village of Maehira in southern Okinawa. Scouts reported many people in Maehira, so Yanamura's commander asked him to make a surrender appeal. Yanamura used a loudspeaker to call to the villagers in Japanese. Over several hours, Yanamura made repeated appeals, and more than 1,500 people emerged to enter the U.S. lines and safety. One was a 10-year-old who grew up to become a 78-year-old grandmother, Hatsuko Tomori.

In 2013, when Tomori heard that the Okinawa Prefectural Peace Memorial Museum would be honoring the nisei for their role in the Battle of Okinawa, she recalled her own experience and the Japanese-speaking GI's appeal to surrender,

which she credited with saving the lives of her family and hundreds of others.

She took her story to the event organizers, and they eventually reached Yanamura, who confirmed it was he who had communicated at Maehira that day.

In November 2013, Yanamura was invited to Okinawa for the observance and to visit Maehira, where he was greeted by Tomori, a throng of villagers, and news media.

"It was a very emotional reunion that included a number of other villagers besides Mrs. Tomori," Yanamura said. "At that time of the war, it was very gratifying that we were able to convince the villagers to surrender and avoid the terrible loss of life that had happened elsewhere in Okinawa.

"But it's even more gratifying to learn that the people we helped went on to raise families and enjoy their lives, and that they appreciate what we did for them," Yanamura said. "This was one of the most heartwarming events my family and I have ever experienced."

In November 2013, Herbert Yanamura met Hatsuko Tomori in Okinawa, 68 years after Yanamura's appeals saved 1,500 villagers, including Tomori, who was 10 years old at the time.





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MIS Plaque for NMUSA

Donations are still being accepted for a plaque at the new National Museum of the U.S. Army to recognize the American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who served as language specialists in World War II and the occupation of Japan.

About half of the necessary \$5,000 has been donated for the plaque, which will be among the 12-by-18-inch unit tribute

plaques installed on the Path of Remembrance of the museum, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. The museum, near Washington, D.C., is scheduled to open on June 4.

Donations may be made at <<https://armyhistory.causevox.com/mis-veterans-hawaii>>. For more information about the museum, see <<https://armyhistory.org/>>.

URGENT: Volunteers Needed for Records Search

Records of awards and decorations earned by veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team can be found readily in publications and on websites.

Not so for the Military Intelligence Service veterans.

Fortunately, Seiki Oshiro, a Hawaii-Island-born nisei who has been living in Minnesota after his service during the occupation of Japan, has been diligently combing service records of World War II Japanese Americans who served in the MIS.

Oshiro has been researching for more than 20 years and his current project is identifying the units in which Hawaii soldiers served in the China-Burma-India theater by reviewing the discharge documents that contain their unit assignments, awards, and decorations.

This is where volunteers are needed.

Volunteers will search the Hawaii State Bureau of Conveyances' records where veterans were invited to file a

copy of their discharge documents.

Training will be provided.

Volunteers must be able to read and write English. Computer skills are helpful but not required. Costs will be covered or reimbursed.

The bureau is located in the Public Reference Room of the Kalanimoku Building, 1st floor, 1151 Punchbowl Street (across the State Capitol). Metered parking is available in the basement, with entrances from Punchbowl or South Beretania streets.

Volunteers may work any weekday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. No minimum time is required.

Anyone interested in helping should contact Drusilla Tanaka, researchmis2k@gmail.com or (808) 235-1343.

While Oshiro's project is focusing on the MIS, volunteer assistance from any other veterans groups would be welcome. Students desiring to fulfill community service credits are invited to participate.

If at First You Don't Succeed ...

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Because our club does not have a debit or credit card, I will pay the same \$600 filing fee online by personal credit card and be reimbursed.

A mystery still unsolved is why the original \$600 filing fee payment check apparently cleared without the Form 1023 application being processed! We'll pursue this matter further after our new application is accepted and we have received the IRS determination letter which recognizes the Military Intelligence Service Veterans Education Society of Hawaii as a public charity.

We will soon be able, hopefully, to receive any and all small donations from individuals and large donations from companies to support our educational and scholarship activities.

The registered trade name on our caps, logo items, and website is: MIS Veterans-Hawaii.