



Military
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Veterans
Education
Society of
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MIS VETERANS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ALOHA, MEMBERS

The officers and board of directors for this year took office on January 28 at the MIS Veterans Society's annual shinnenkai luncheon (see story on page 2).

SHINNENKAI

Our shinnenkai was well-attended and we're very grateful to everyone who attended. Kudos go to:

- **Sherman Takao** and his family, who continue to do an outstanding job in organizing these annual gatherings.
- **Ann Nagata**, for her donations of lovely floral arrangements.
- **Wilbert Toda** and his talented troupe, who provided terrific entertainment throughout the luncheon.
- **Ann Kabasawa** and **Clyde Sugimoto**, steadfast in their participation with their outstanding photography and Ann's donations of centerpieces.

OUR MISSION

As I noted in my remarks at the event, the leadership of our organization is somewhat diminished in that two officer positions—vice president and secretary—are vacant. The decline in membership, particularly among our World War II veterans and their spouses, and a general lack of involvement among members, have led to this situation.

Despite our predicament, the MIS Veterans remains steadfast in its commitment to:

- sponsoring scholarships for educational and research opportunities related to preserving the history and achievements of the MIS soldiers of World War II and
- supporting and participating in commemorative activities that educate the community about the legacy of MIS nisei and establishing partnerships with other organizations in furtherance of our goals.

Continues on page 2.

Below: MIS Veterans shinnenkai, January 28, 2024. Photo compliments Clyde Sugimoto and Ann Kabasawa.



Follow Us!

Receive news and updates about the MIS Veterans' events and activities.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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OUR WORK

We also remain active in the furtherance of our goals. As examples:

- We've resumed our shinnenkai and bonenkai, although attendance has dropped significantly in recent years.
- We held a well-attended 80th anniversary of the MIS this past August.
- We continue to represent the MIS at commemorative activities, such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and events to which we've been invited.
- Several members are leading a Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board/Tendai Educational Foundation project to publish the fourth edition of the *Japanese Eyes, American Heart* book featuring the MIS nisei.
- We maintain an MIS website, which was updated in February.
- We respond to requests from the public or writers seeking information.
- We are partnering with Pacific Historic Parks, which is the nonprofit organization that supports the national parks in Hawai'i, Guam, and Saipan, to preserve the many oral histories that Jimmy Tanabe and his group recorded about 20 years ago, and to finally post them on the web.
- We are exploring a partnership with other local veterans groups to continue the annual memorial service for nisei World War II veterans at Punchbowl held every September.
- We may also be involved with a traveling exhibit of the National Museum of the U.S. Army, which is coming to Honolulu in 2026 or 2027. It's called, "I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience."

OUR FUTURE

At the shinnenkai, I alerted members that the MIS board will be considering a restructuring of our organization to give us more flexibility in governance, particularly because of the declining participation. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

HASHISAKA HONORED

Norman Hashisaka, a 1943 graduate of McKinley High School, was inducted into the school's Hall of Honor in January. I had the pleasure of representing the MIS Veterans at the induction ceremony (see story on page 4.)

Following his service with the MIS, Norman, now 98, moved to Kaua'i where he operated a number of successful businesses. He and wife Mabel founded the popular Kauai Kookie, sold throughout the Hawaiian Islands and mainland.

Norman and his family have been very supportive of the MIS Veterans over the years and we're delighted that he was recognized for his many contributions.

Wishing you a (belated) happy and healthy 2024!

Karen Kikukawa

Karen Kikukawa
President



2024 MIS officers and directors, from left: Carolyn Morinishi, director; Sherman Takao, treasurer; Wilbert Toda, director; Karen Kikukawa, president; and Mark Matsunaga, director. Not pictured: Directors Lawrence Enomoto and Keith Matsumoto. Photo compliments of Clyde Sugimoto and Ann Kabasawa.

Members Elect 2024 MIS Leaders

MIS members elected their officers and directors for the 2024 term.

They are:

- Karen Kikukawa, President
- Sherman Takao, Treasurer

There were no candidates for vice president and secretary and so the responsibilities will be rotated among the leadership team.

Directors are:

- Lawrence Enomoto
- Keith Matsumoto
- Mark Matsunaga
- Carolyn Morinishi
- Wilbert Toda

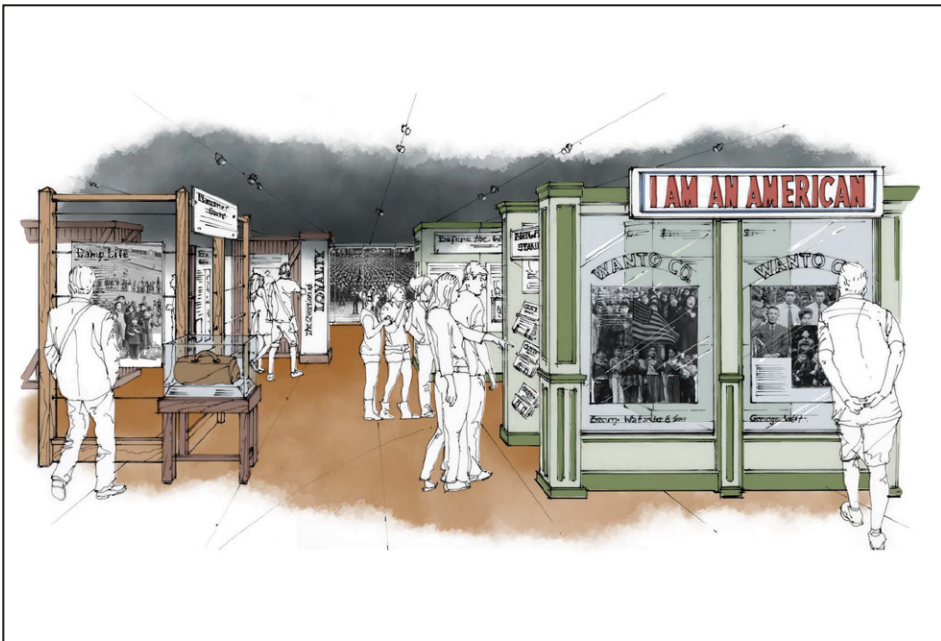
Morinishi, from Kaua'i, was a monthly columnist with the *Hawai'i Herald* and is an author of children's books. Her most recent work was *Heroes: The Nisei Soldiers of World War II*, part of the *Culture4Kids!* series published by Hawai'i Hocht, Ltd. The book was written with her mother, Marian Kubota, and illustrated by family members Kim Kubota and Melissa Morinishi. Morinishi teaches classes in Japanese dance and is an active community volunteer with the Kapa'a High School Foundation, Lihu'e Senior Center, Project Vision Hi'ehi'e as the weekly free-lunch chairperson, and her church.

Morinishi's father was Yoshio "Mike" Kubota, who volunteered with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and later served with the MIS in the China-Burma-India theater.



SCREENSHOT FROM USC DIGITAL LIBRARY WEBSITE.

To view a 2003 oral history interview with Yoshio "Mike" Kubota, go to the USC Digital Library, Go for Broke Collection <https://digitalibrary.usc.edu/asset-management/2A3BF1BOAPLQ?FR_=1&W=1788&H=1042>.



Conceptual rendering for the "I Am An American: the Nisei Soldier Experience" exhibit. National Veterans Network image.

Army Museum Exhibit Coming to Islands

Honolulu has been selected as one of 11 U.S. cities to host "I Am An American: the Nisei Soldier Experience," an exhibit now on display at the National Museum of the U.S. Army in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The exhibit is scheduled to close toward the end of 2025. In the meantime, a partnership of the museum, National Veterans Network, and Army Historical Foundation is making preparations to take the exhibition to selected cities and raising money to underwrite its cost.

The traveling exhibit is slated to open in San Francisco in early 2026 and run until the end of 2031.

According to the organizers, the current exhibit of 800 square feet will be reconfigured to 1,200 square feet. It will feature 35 objects from the war, most donated by World War II veterans. Nineteen veterans' profiles will be provided through interactive displays.

The group is seeking more objects to display and beginning a fundraising campaign to raise a total of \$750,000 for the construction of the exhibit and the tour. Half the sum has been raised through a grant of nearly \$350,000 to the NVN from the U.S. National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites program.

Items being sought include, but are not limited to, photographs of identified soldiers alone, with their comrades, or with their units; dog tags and military ID cards; objects that soldiers carried or wore during the war (cameras, watches, medic kits, etc.); U.S. Army documents, manuals, books, or notes used or written by MIS linguists while in language schools or on field assignments; soldier-produced, eyewitness artwork in any medium; and drawings, maps, or diary entries written by soldiers that describe their military experience, what they saw or felt, or battles/campaigns.

For information on the exhibit and donations, see: <https://www.classy.org/campaign/traveling-exhibition-i-am-an-american-the-nisei-soldier-experience/c462955>

Five UH Students Awarded Grants

Five University of Hawai'i students, four enrolled at Hilo and one at Manoa, are the recipients of MIS Veterans/Makiki Japanese Language School scholarships for the 2023-24 school year. The awards are made to students who are seeking to perpetuate the Japanese language and culture.

The recipients are:

- Hunter P. Bugado, senior in communication, Hilo;
- Brooklyn Geiger, sophomore in Japanese studies, Hilo;
- Kaitlyn M. Purdy, junior in Japanese studies, Hilo;
- Alexandra L. St. Sauveur, sophomore in Japanese, Manoa; and
- Jaimie E. Yap, junior in Japanese studies, Hilo.

Since the establishment of the scholarship, 70 awards have been granted to 41 students for a total of \$137,100. The estimated market value of the endowment is more than \$280,000.



MIS Website Revamped

The Military Intelligence Service Veterans website (misveteranshawaii.com) has been redesigned and updated, effective February 5.

The website was unveiled in 2015, in conjunction with the MIS national reunion held at the Army Museum of Hawai'i and Hale Koa Hotel that March.

In addition to the reformatting, the site had to be updated to use advancements in web technology for the purposes of better functionality and resistance to hacking. The editorial content was also changed in places to reflect new information. The content was provided by Mark Matsunaga.



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Hashisaka Honored by McKinley

Norman Hashisaka was inducted into the McKinley High School Hall of Honor in ceremonies held January 26 on the school campus.

Hashisaka, a McKinley alumnus, graduated in 1943 and served with the Military Intelligence Service. Following his return from the war, he moved to Kaua'i where he established several businesses. His wife, Mabel, founded Kauai Kookie in 1965. The family-run business, now managed by Hashisaka daughters Ann and Ruth, bakes 50,000 cookies and other goods daily.

McKinley organized an impressive ceremony that included a presentation at the administration building, an assembly at the gym with a JROTC color guard, the Tiger pep squad, a taiko performance, music by the jazz orchestra with swing dancers, presentation of certificates from elected officials, and a luncheon for the guests and student leaders afterwards.

MIS President Karen Kikukawa represented the organization and spoke during the event.



Right: Norman and Mabel Hashisaka with family members and JROTC cadet Shawn Kaneshiro (in uniform), who met with Hashisaka for a school project and then urged the school to induct the veteran into the Hall of Honor. Photos compliments of Clyde Sugimoto and Ann Kabasawa.



Above: The McKinley High School JROTC cadets raised their sabers in a salute to Norman Hashisaka as he made his way to the podium to deliver his remarks.