



Mission

The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center is to preserve, perpetuate, and share the legacy of Americans of Japanese Ancestry who served in the United States armed forces in World War II: the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. We are committed to ensuring that future generations learn Hawaii's story of the Nisei soldier legacy as we honor the four World War II units and the men who served in them from throughout our island state. We are committed to sharing their remarkable life stories, from plantation villages to military service, their driving force behind statehood, and how they re-shaped the social, political, and economic fabric of our islands into the vibrant state it is today.

Leadership

President
Wesley Deguchi

Vice President
James Nakatani

Secretary
Juanita Allen

Treasurer
Glenn Goya

Directors
Lawrence Enomoto
Lynn Heirakuji

Message from the President

Dear Friends:

As an organization dedicated to telling the extraordinary story about the Nisei of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and



1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, we have made significant progress over the past few years. Thanks to our members and volunteers alike, the NVLC has been successful in promoting its mission and creating awareness within the community.

We're presently working on a strategic plan, which will allow us to further define and promote our goals and capabilities. As part of the planning process, we have updated our vision and mission statements. Our new vision statement, *"A community, in which we live by the values of the Nisei veterans,"* emphasizes the importance of the Nisei's wartime accomplishments to society today. Values such as honor, loyalty, gratitude, and humility transcend time and culture. Our mission is to promote these values through the legacy of the veterans.

One of the organization's goals is to create a website designed to serve as a central resource for information related to the four Nisei units, to link other Nisei-related websites, and to promote a comprehensive awareness of the Nisei legacy. We were able to successfully launch our website last November.

Traveling and permanent exhibits are at the heart of what we do. Our current goal is to take the story of the Nisei out to the community and by doing so, get everyone involved. The exhibit program provides a tremendous opportunity for community interaction. Organizations such as the Lions Club, Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce, and Hawaii State Teachers Association-Retired have all participated in our exhibit program.

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NVLC Launches Website

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center has launched its website (nvlcchawaii.org), a major step in the organization's campaign to promote the legacy of the Nisei of World War II.

The website provides historical information on the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. As the website expands, it will elaborate on the Nisei influence on the United States and Hawaii after the war and show the impact on current and future generations.

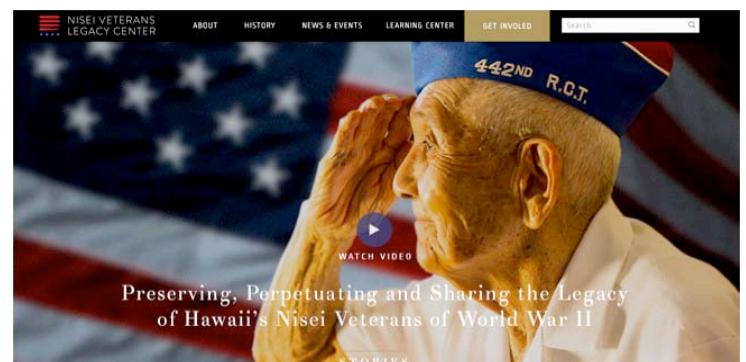
It also suggests ways to support the mission of the organization through membership, donations, volunteerism, and participation in NVLC-sponsored activities.

The NVLC website holds the distinction of being the only website that recognizes all four units, clearly identifying each unit with its own section. It will serve as a central resource for information by linking to other Nisei veteran-related organizations in Hawaii and elsewhere.

The Nisei had a profound effect on the United States after the war. In California, more than 500 laws related to civil rights discrimination against Japanese Americans were repealed. In 1954, American citizenship was granted for the Issei. Executive Order 9066, which singled out Japanese American as "enemy aliens," was rescinded by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

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The NVLC's website is at nvlcchawaii.org and features information on the organization and veterans groups.



We Need Your Kokua!

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center is a great cause and one worthy of your support. You can help in a number of ways:

- Join the NVLC (\$25.00 a year)
- Volunteer for programs or projects
- Donate to the center to support our activities

Visit our website for more information (nvlcchawaii.org).



Joint Memorial Service to be Held September 25

The 11th annual Joint Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m., at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

The yearly observance, which is traditionally held on the last Sunday in September, honors the fallen members of all four segregated U.S. units in World War II made up primarily of Japanese Americans: the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

It has been sponsored and organized by the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center for the past three years.

The service is open to the public. Veterans of the units, spouses, widows, and family members are strongly encouraged to attend.

Veterans to be Showcased at Airport

The NVLC is producing an exhibit for the Honolulu International Airport's Interisland Terminal highlighting the courage and sacrifices of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

The NVLC's proposal for the exhibit was approved by the Hawaii Department of Transportation's Airports Division.

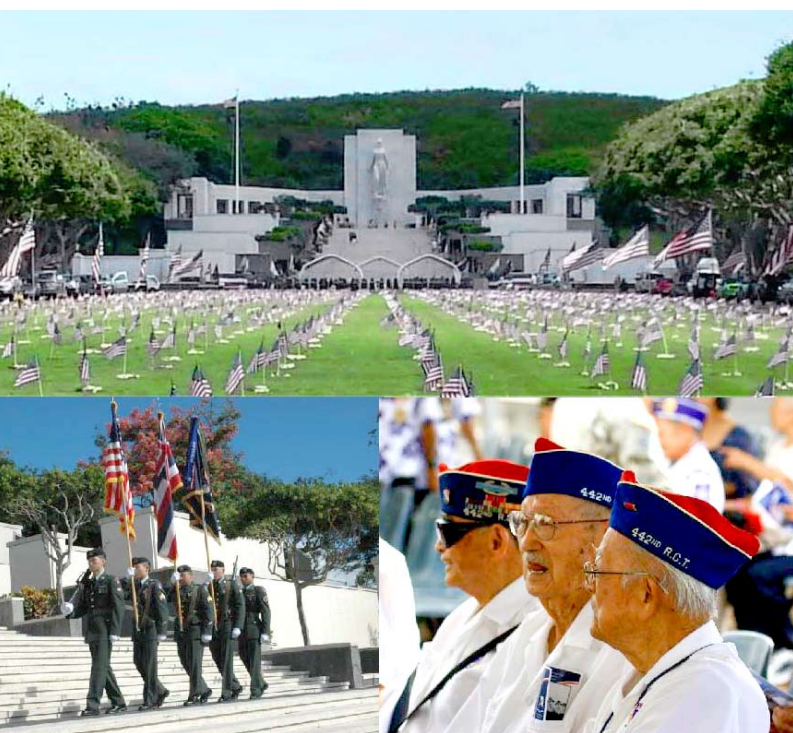
The exhibit, which is in the preliminary design phase, will include photos, text, video, and World War II memorabilia. It will be housed in a koa and glass display case that is 30 feet long and nearly ceiling high. Architects, graphic designers, and other volunteers are contributing their expertise to the project.

The NVLC will provide the \$60,000 to produce the display, using funds appropriated by the Legislature.

The airport now hosts a smaller exhibit, located in the International Terminal of the Ewa Concourse. The four panels provide a brief history of the aforementioned military units, as well as featurettes on several veterans who went on to lead Hawaii.

According to airport officials, three million visitors and residents use the interisland terminal every year, giving the Nisei story the prominence it richly deserves.

ABOVE: A team of volunteers installed a temporary sign marking the location of the future NVLC exhibit at Honolulu International Airport. They are, from left: Harlan Yuhara, Clay Ito, Jonathan Ego, Glenn Goya, Irvin Yoshino, and chairperson Reid Mizue.





LEFT: 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veterans, family, and supporters at the Temple Emanu-El exhibit opening, from left: Masayuki Higa, Wayne Urada, Masaru Nakahira, Lynn Nakahira, Joe Obayashi, Phyllis Hironaka, Ted Tsukiyama (Military Intelligence Service), Gwen Fujie, Chiyoko Shimazu, Harold Ueoka, Mitsuru Kunihiro, and George Tanna.

522nd Exhibit Closes Successful Run

A photo exhibit featuring the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, a unit of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, closed two well-attended runs at Temple Emanu-El in Nuuanu and the Kahala Mall late last year.

The exhibit was sponsored by the NVLC and was entitled "Unlikely Liberators." It was curated by military historian Eric Saul.

In the closing days of World War II, GIs from the 522nd came across prisoners from the sub-camps of Dachau. These prisoners had been forced to march as the Nazis attempted to destroy evidence of the Holocaust. The 522nd soldiers, some of whom had volunteered from U.S. internment camps where their families were imprisoned, assisted the Dachau prisoners.

One of the Holocaust survivors, Solly Ganor, recalled the day he was liberated by the 522nd. He wrote: "One of the men came up and knelt in front of me. He gently touched me on the shoulder and said, 'You are free, boy. You're free now,' he said, and then smiled. That smile

has been with me ever since. It wreathed his whole face and made his eyes nearly disappear. ... 'Who... are you?' I whispered. Now he was surprised. 'Hey,' he called back to the others, 'He speaks English.' 'Who ...' I said again. 'Americans. Americans,' the angel said. 'Nisei. Japanese Americans. My name is Clarence,' he added. 'What's yours?'"

The exhibit included photographs still held by the veterans and their families. In addition, photographs were collected from museums and archives all over the world, including the National Archives, Holocaust Memorial in Washington, D.C., Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem, Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, and KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau (Dachau Memorial Museum) in Germany. The exhibit also included personal photographs from Jewish survivors who were liberated.

The exhibit was created 20 years ago and has been shown all over California and in Israel.

Exhibit curator Saul is the founder and executive director of Visas for Life and Institute for the Study of Rescue and Altruism in the Holocaust, whose mission is to document a comprehensive history of the Holocaust. He has produced a number of exhibits on the contribution of minorities to the U.S. military, including the Japanese American soldiers of the famed Army units.

President's Message

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This year will mark the 11th Annual Joint Memorial Service, which pays tribute to the fallen comrades of the four units. The service is open to the community. We are honored to organize and sponsor this solemn event, which is held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on the last Sunday in September of each year.

The formation of the NVLC in 2011 relied on the financial support from other Nisei veteran organizations. Last year, we began fundraising efforts to support our initiatives and were able to raise approximately \$75,000. In addition, the State Legislature appropriated \$90,000 to be used for our programs this year.

Some consider the Nisei as part of the greatest generation in Hawaii's history. Their accomplishments have shaped our world and impacted our lives. As role models for future generations, we have a responsibility to promote their legacy. The NVLC is an all-volunteer organization, whose success depends on individuals who share in the importance of our mission. I invite you to join us, get involved, and make a difference.

Sincerely,

Wes Deguchi



GO FOR BROKE: HAWAII NIKKEI STORY



A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT OF THE UNIQUE JAPANESE AMERICAN CULTURE OF HAWAII



"Go For Broke" Japan Tour Planned

The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center is finalizing a plan to show the "Go For Broke" photo exhibit in several Japanese cities next summer.

The proposed exhibit will include photos and descriptions of Japanese immigration to Hawaii and the United States, the pre-war experience, and the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and subsequent internment of Japanese Americans, before delving into the service of the Japanese American soldiers in World War II. The post-war photos depict soldiers returning home, the redress movement, and the legacy of the soldiers to the progress of Hawaii and the nation.

Exhibit Chair Byrnes Yamashita said, "The goal of taking the 'Go For Broke' exhibit on the road to Japan is to expose the Japanese people to the contributions of Japanese Americans to America. There's a lot of curiosity there in the Nikkei experience, and we hope this tour will stimulate even greater interest in our community and the work of the NVLC.

"It will also promote goodwill between Japan and the United States, while generating awareness of cross-cultural values and the similarities and differences between Japan and Hawaii."

The project is co-sponsored by the NVLC and Japan America Society of Hawaii. Advisors are Bishop Ryokan Ara, Tendai Educational Foundation and Ryoji Koike, Pacific Aviation Museum. Japan liaisons are Masanori Soma and Michiko Shigeeda. Ms. Shigeeda is the wife of former Consul General of Japan in Honolulu Toyoei Shigeeda.

Potential exhibit locations include Tokyo, Hiroshima, Kagoshima, Ibaraki, Fukushima, Okinawa, and Hokkaido. Funding for the tour will come from the NVLC, donors, and prospective Japanese sponsors.

The "Go For Broke" exhibit was created in 1980-1981 through the efforts of more than a hundred Nisei veterans in California and noted military historian Eric Saul. The exhibit was shown at the Presidio of San Francisco and toured throughout the United States for nearly 10 years. It then formed the basis for Saul-produced exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution and Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York. Most recently, it was featured at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Saul has documented the Holocaust, the contributions of minorities to the U.S. military, and other history.

Locally, the exhibit has been shown by the NVLC at the State Capitol, University of Hawaii at West Oahu, Honolulu Hale, Central Pacific Bank, Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, Arizona Memorial Visitor Center, Hawaii Community Federal Credit Union in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii Japanese Center in Hilo, and Kauai Veterans Memorial Center.

Website

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The military success and war record led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which resulted in reparations payments and a national apology, which was unprecedented in American history.

In Hawaii, Nisei played an important part in the growth of the Democratic Party and eventual statehood in 1959. Prominent Nisei leaders like U.S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga helped to shape the social, political, and economic fabric.

NVLC President Wes Deguchi said, "Hawaii is the home of the Nisei soldier story and it's vital that future generations learn about the Nisei story. It's a story about overcoming adversity. It's a lesson in American history that should not be forgotten or repeated. And it's a story about how one ethnic group's perseverance helped to make America a better nation."

NVLC Committee Lineup

The NVLC has seven committees directing programs or projects being sponsored by the organization. The committees and chairpersons are:

Membership Lawrence Enomoto

Fundraising Jennifer Okubo

Website Ada Akimoto

Airport Exhibit Reid Mizue

522nd FAB Exhibit Phyllis Hironaka

Go For Broke Exhibit Byrnes Yamashita

Joint Memorial Service Lynn Heirakuji, Andy Tamori

NVLC news is published by the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, P.O. Box 2476, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804, 808-971-1060, inquire@nvlchawaii.org.

Honoring the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion.

