



Mission

The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy is to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) who served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II: the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. Through education and outreach, the NVL is committed to ensuring that future generations learn Hawaii's story of the Nisei soldier legacy. These stories include the incredible sacrifices made by the AJA during the course of World War II as well as their significant contributions to Hawaii's post war society. It is hoped that a greater sense of civic responsibility will transpire by promoting community awareness of the values of good citizenship, such as loyalty, gratitude and humility, exemplified by the Nisei veterans.

Leadership

Directors:

Wesley Deguchi
Glenn Goya
Warren Yamamoto
Lynn Heirakuji
Phyllis Hironaka
Janis Trubitt
Lawrence Enomoto

Advisors:

Warren Haruki
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Gary Okuda
Barbara Tanabe
Ted Tsukiyama
Barbara Watanabe



Gannenmono

Celebrating 150 Years in Hawaii

The year 2018 marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first group of organized Japanese immigrants in Hawaii. In the summer of 1868, 150 Japanese departed from the port of Yokohama on the ship Scioto and landed in Honolulu on June 20th. Known as the "Gannenmono" or "the people of the first year", a third of them remained in Hawaii while the rest returned to Japan or moved onto the mainland.

Twenty organizations in Hawaii have pulled together to form the Kizuna Group, which with guidance from the Japanese Consulate will coordinate various activities throughout 2018 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the Gannenmono. Highlights of the activities include the 59th Annual Convention of the Association of Nikkei and Japanese Abroad to be held on June 6, and the June 7 150th Gannenmono Commemoration Ceremony and Symposium.

The NVL is a member of the Kizuna Group. See Kizunahawaii.com for more information.

Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit

In 2017, the NVL successfully toured the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy Exhibit (HNLE) at several locations in Japan. The photo exhibit sought to educate viewers on the story of Hawaii's Japanese Americans and to promote goodwill between the two peoples via a deeper understanding of their shared cross-cultural values and customs.

The HNLE begins with the first generation Japanese immigrants (Issei); addresses Japanese American experiences during WWII (including their internment and the exploits of the second generation (Nisei) soldiers who volunteered to prove their loyalty to the US; and concludes with Post-War through modern day Hawaii (e.g., Japanese Americans assuming pivotal roles in government and politics, and merging their Japanese cultural values with those of the many other cultures in Hawaii. Prominent Japanese Americans from Hawaii are identified with the

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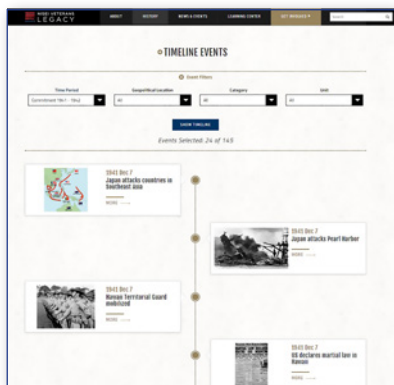
Nisei Veterans Exhibit at Daniel K Inouye International Airport

The Nisei Veterans Legacy, along with the Japan Hawaii Travel Association (JHTA), jointly created a new exhibit at gate 26 of the Daniel K Inouye International Airport in Honolulu. The exhibit features the story of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. While the images are familiar, the text is in Japanese and is catered to promote the story of the Nisei soldiers to the visitors from Japan. Along with a brief history of the four units, the visitors will be able to read about prominent Nisei veterans: Senator Matsunaga, Senator Inouye and Governor Ariyoshi, who played a major role in shaping Hawaii's future. There is also a storyline about the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award, awarded to the Nisei veterans in 2011.

The exhibit was made possible through the efforts of the Department of Transportation, the Japan Consulate of Hawaii and JHTA. It is located in front of Gate 26, where a majority of the departures to Japan occur.



Americans of Japanese Ancestry Hawaii Historical Timeline



In August 2016, work began to create a visual timeline of the historical events important to the Japanese-American community of Hawaii. The first version of the timeline was installed in the NVL display at the Daniel K Inouye International Airport. This first version is a static display as part of the 36 foot long display case in the airport terminal building. With the completion of this first phase of the timeline project, work began to make the timeline accessible via the internet. The work on this second phase culminated in August 2017 when the timeline became available on the NVL website.

The website timeline was designed for access by users visiting the NVL website via smart phones, tablets, and workstations. Access to historical information is provided by events that the user can locate by scrolling through a timeline visual display of either the entire timeline, or subsets of the timeline based on user selected time periods, geographical regions, event categories, and military units. Each event includes a summary and illustrative image, and the ability to drill down for more information, termed the "Event Story."

Currently the timeline covers the time period 1778 through 2016 with 145 events. The website has been designed to easily add more events as user requests identify the need. Of the 145 events, currently 27 have fully documented Event Stories. Phase 3 of this project is being initiated to develop the remaining Event Stories, which will primarily involve historical research efforts for each event, writing the Event Story, and conducting editorial reviews before publishing on-line. Volunteers to conduct the research and authoring of Event Stories are being sought by the NVL.

Hawaii Nikkei Exhibit

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Japanese prefectures from which their ancestors emigrated.

The HNLE was warmly received by the Japanese public at the following locations:

- Japanese Overseas Migration Museum (JOMM), Yokohama (June 24 to Sept. 18). JOMM is Japan's principal museum on Japanese emigration around the world. Special events (e.g., a film and presentation on Nisei Veterans) added breadth to the overall program. The HNLE proved so popular that its showing was extended two weeks.
- Hawaii Expo, Tokyo (July 15–17). About 18,000 people visited the event and had the opportunity to view the HNLE. Hawaii Tourism Japan sponsored the Expo, and the HNLE was a featured part of their Aloha Program, which provides education about Hawaii to the Japanese public.
- Minpo Publishing Company Exhibition Hall, Fukushima (July 19–29). The HNLE was shown during the 110th anniversary celebration of Fukushima City, which included a visit by several groups from Hawaii including the Honolulu Fukushima Kenjin Kai.
- Usa City Library (Sept. 7–16). The HNLE was at the Peace Symposium sponsored by the Pacific Aviation Museum and Usa City.
- Former Bank of Japan Building, Hiroshima (Oct.



Former Bank of Japan branch, Hiroshima, Japan (October 2017)



Hawaii Expo, Shibuya, Tokyo (July 2017)

1–14). The HNLE appeared in conjunction with a visit by the Honolulu Hiroshima Kenjin Kai as part of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Sister State relationship between Hawaii and Hiroshima Prefecture.

Message from the President

Dear Friends:

As we begin a new year, I'd like to thank our members and volunteers who have worked hard over the past year to successfully promote the mission of the NVL. Ours is an organization of volunteers; an amazing group who have dedicated their valuable time to perpetuating the legacy of the 100th, 442nd RCT, MIS, and 1399th ECB. Without their commitment, there would be no NVL.



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Japanese immigration to Hawaii. The word "Gannenmono" or "first year people" sets the theme for a year-long celebration, with many events planned by various organizations. The story of the Nisei and World War II is an important part of the history of the Japanese American culture in Hawaii. The NVL's exhibit, the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy, offers a complete story, beginning with the first Japanese immigrants to present day Hawaii.

The Nikkei Legacy Exhibit is part of our traveling exhibit program. Last year, under the leadership of Byrnes Yamashita and Ryoji Koike and co-sponsored by the Japan America Society of Hawaii and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the exhibit successfully toured Japan. Beginning with the Yokohama Migration Museum, the exhibit traveled for five months, making stops in Tokyo, Fukushima and Hiroshima.

Our second traveling exhibit is entitled, "Unlikely Liberators", the remarkable story of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and the liberation of the Dachau Death March. The exhibit was curated by military historian, Eric Saul. Under the guidance of Phyllis Hironaka and Bill Wright, the exhibit had a successful showing at Schofield Barracks on Oahu and at the Veterans Center on Kauai last year.

One of the organization's primary focus is its website. Used as an educational tool, the website is designed to serve as a central resource for information related to the four Nisei units and to promote a comprehensive awareness of the Nisei legacy. We're currently working on several projects including a Hawaii AJA Timeline, The 522 FAB Story, and the Hawaii Nikkei Legacy website version.

The story of Nisei soldiers of World War II must continue to be told. It is our mission. Their accomplishments have shaped our world and impacted our lives. I invite you to join us and make a difference.

Sincerely,

Wes Deguchi

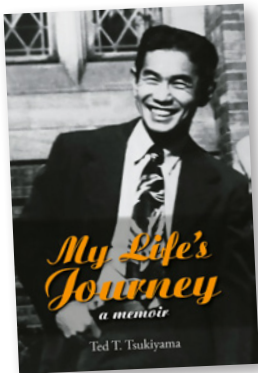
"My Life's Journey – A Memoir" by Ted Tsukiyama

The launch of Ted Tsukiyama's new book, "My Life's Journey – A Memoir" took place during a book-signing event on June 4, 2017 at the Harris United Methodist Church in Honolulu. NVL staff assisted with the event's coordination and manning of the various stations for the sale of the book and its signing.

The back cover of the book reads, "Like so many Japanese Americans born in the years following World War I, Ted Tsukiyama was shaped by the Great Depression, fought with honor in World War II – even as other Japanese Americans were exiled in internment camps – and went on to contribute much to his country's success and prosperity. In a life that has

spanned nearly a century, he has been a proud member of the U.S. Army's 442nd RCT, a military intelligence operative in the jungles of Burma, a groundbreaking Nisei student at Yale Law School, an internationally renowned attorney dubbed, 'Mr. Arbitration', and a missionary of the art of bonsai. Now at the age of ninety-six, Hawaii's Ted Tsukiyama shares his story in his own words. Here is the riveting memoir of a community leader, historian, public speaker and – above all – an ardent American citizen."

Over 100 books were sold during the book-signing event. Barnes & Noble and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii also hosted book-signing events for Ted's book.



Former Governor George Ariyoshi gives the opening remarks for the NVL exhibit at the Salt Lake – Moanalua Public Library.

Mini Exhibit at Libraries

The NVL set up a mini exhibit composed of four 4' by 4' panels, at the Salt Lake – Moanalua Library, in mid-September. Branch Manager Duane Wentzel, and Librarian Annette Anderson-Ma were extremely helpful in arranging the exhibit. They even suggested a formal opening ceremony the week of Veterans Day, Nov 4th.

The exhibit covered the WWII exploits of the all Nisei combat units of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS. Also included was the 1399th Engineers on the home front. We were able to have Governor George Ariyoshi (MIS) as our keynote speaker. Approximately 50 people from the Salt Lake – Moanalua community attended. Governor Ariyoshi spoke about the importance of remembering your family roots, cultural values, and to work together for a better community. State Librarian, Stacy Aldrich attended the formal opening ceremony to meet and hear Governor Ariyoshi. Ms. Aldrich offered her assistance in

arranging to show our exhibit at all the State Libraries.

The exhibit was at the Salt Lake library to the end of November. According to librarian, between 10 to 20 people viewed the exhibit daily. It was then moved to Aiea Library for the month of December.

On December 30, the exhibit was relocated to the Plantation Village in Waipahu for 60 days. The Plantation Village has tour buses stopping by from 10 am to 2 pm, Monday through Saturday. Tour groups range from as little as 10 people, up to 50 people. Yoshiko Yamauchi is our contact person. **We are looking for volunteer docents to speak on the Nisei veterans at the Plantation Village Monday thru Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.**

The NVL committee members for the exhibit include Glenn Goya, Lynn Heirakuji, Warren Yamamoto, Phyllis Hironaka, Edean Goya and Sue Miyashiro.

Japan War-Bereaved Families Association Visits the Arizona Memorial

Thirty-two members of the Japan War-Bereaved Families Association visited the USS Arizona on September 21, 2017, and offered floral tributes to the U.S. Sailors and Marines who died in the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. The year 2017 marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Association whose members have lost close family members in World War II.

The group also visited the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) and later flew to Washington, D.C. where it planned to offer tributes to American service members buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The visit marked a significant step in the healing of wartime wounds between our two countries. It also represented the growing friendship between America and Japan and

especially between the Japanese and the people in Hawaii. The event followed on the heels of the historic December 2016 meeting between President Obama and Japan Prime Minister Abe at Pearl Harbor, where they stood side by side on the USS Arizona Memorial.

NVL Board Member Lynn Heirakuji and NVL Member Byrnes Yamashita participated in the poignant visit by the Association and had the opportunity to talk with the group about our families' immigration journey as well as the Nisei 442nd RCT story. Many were touched by what they heard. It was an honor to share that special time with these visitors and to learn about the bonds that despite the war continue to bind us together.

We Need Your Kokua!

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

- Join the NVL (\$35.00 a year)
- Volunteer for programs or projects
- Donate to the center to support our activities

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



522nd Field Artillery Battalion Exhibit at Kauai

On 2 Sept, Bill Wright and Phyllis Hironaka worked with volunteers from the Kauai Veterans Council and Kauai Jewish Community to assemble the 522 Unlikely Liberators exhibit for showing during the month of September.

The exhibit, curated by military historian Eric Saul, documents the encounters between WWII Nazi concentration camp prisoners of Dachau and Nisei soldiers of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, a unit of Hawaii's famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It includes original photographs from veterans and their families, as well as from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial, the Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem, the Simon Wiesenthal Center archives in Los Angeles, and the KZ Gedenkstätte Dachau (Dachau Memorial Museum) in Germany.

The opening ceremony was held on 5 Sept, with guest of honor Clinton Shiraishi, a 522 veteran who lives on Kauai. The exhibit was sponsored by the NVL and the Kauai Veterans Council, and hosted at the Kauai Veterans Center in Lihue through 27 Sept 2017. The Kauai Jewish community and Kauai veterans organizations provided volunteer docents.

As a leading unit of the final attack to capture the southern part of Germany, soldiers of the 522nd discovered and liberated some of the Dachau sub-camps. Then they encountered what is now called the Dachau Death March during which thousands of Jewish prisoners were killed by their Nazi SS prison guards. An advance unit of the 522nd drove off the Nazi guards and saved about 5,000 remaining prisoners from certain death. They then gave care and assistance to the ill and starving survivors until dedicated medical and support organizations could take over.

As described by Edward Kawamura Sr., Kauai Veterans Council commandant, the purpose of the exhibit is not just to honor our WWII heroes, and to educate current generations about their sacrifices, but also to remind us that history can repeat itself. "We want to open the eyes of the public to what freedom meant and what



National Museum of the U.S. Army

The U.S. Army plans to open its new official National Museum of the United States Army (NMUSA) near Washington, D.C., in 2019 that will honor the service and sacrifice of Soldiers, Civilians and Families; support Soldier training; and share and preserve the legacy of Army stories and histories. NMUSA will be located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which is 20 miles south of Washington, D.C. Construction of the 3-story, 185,000 square foot structure is well underway. The Army Historical Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is the official fundraiser for NMUSA and once built, the U.S. Army will own and operate NMUSA.

NMUSA will include recognition of the WWII Nisei Soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT, and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in four gallery areas. The areas are the Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal Exhibit, Army and Society Gallery, Soldier Stories Gallery, and Medal of Honor Memorial Garden.

NMUSA, with the support of the National Veterans Network (NVN), a consortium of organizations committed to perpetuating the WWII Nisei Soldier story, has sought assistance from local communities in creating the Nisei Soldier sections. Specifically, NMUSA has requested nominations for individual Nisei Soldier stories, as well as, donated objects/artifacts for the Nisei Soldier display cases.

The Army has established a very aggressive and tight deadline for completing the NMUSA WWII Nisei Soldier sections.

The Hawaii POCs for the 100th Infantry

it cost in blood and lives," he said. "The young men of Hawaii were loyal citizens, but they had to go prove themselves in war and battles. The exhibit is to open a dialogue with the younger generation to make sure we don't have a mistake like this again."

Battalion, 442nd RCT, and MIS submitted several Hawaii Nisei Soldier story nominations to the NVN but no selection decisions have yet been made. The POCs continue to work with the NVN in identifying donated objects/artifacts from Hawaii Nisei Soldier Families that could be housed in the NMUSA.

For more information, please contact Lynn Heirakuji: lheirakuji@gmail.com or (240) 351-8656.

NVL Committee Lineup

The NVL currently has 7 standing committees:

- Membership
- Fundraising
- Communications
- Website
- Traveling Exhibits
- Permanent Exhibits
- Joint Memorial Service

Being an all volunteer organization, the NVL relies on the community to sustain its committees. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

NVL news is published by the Nisei Veterans Legacy, 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.

