



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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i'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
Lawrence Enomoto
Phyllis Hironaka
Lloyd Kitaoka
Janice Trubitt
Warren Yamamoto

Advisors:

Warren Haruki
Lynn Heirakuji
Irene Hirano
Dr. Fujio Matsuda
Gary Okuda
Barbara Tanabe



Mentors and JROTC cadets visited the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse to hear NVL representatives talk about the Hawai'i Nisei soldiers and their post-war legacy. The event was sponsored by the Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM).

PPALM Presentation

NVL Board members Lloyd Kitaoka and Lynn Heirakuji gave a presentation on the Nisei Soldier units and their post-war legacy to JROTC cadets at the 100th Infantry Battalion Clubhouse on May 11, 2019. The Hawaii Chapter of the Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) organization sponsored this event. The NVL's Nisei Soldier Post-War Legacy Exhibit was also displayed at the event. About 30 cadets attended along with several PPALM members including MG Suzanne Vares-Lum, USA; BG (Ret) Jim Hirai, USA; BG (Ret) John Ma, USA; LTC (Ret) Bob Takao, USA; and Lenn Sakata, whose father was a member of the 442nd RCT. This was particularly significant because the NVL was able to connect with many young people.

About the Joint Memorial Service

The Joint Memorial Service honors the Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs) who served in World War II. The NVL sponsors the hour-long service which is held on the last Sunday of September each year. The end of September is chosen because it is when the first AJA soldier died in battle. This year's keynote speaker is Major General Suzanne Vares-Lum of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command at Camp Smith. The program will include a wreath presentation ceremony from 16 veteran related organizations. The public is welcome to attend.

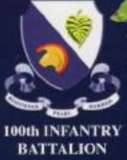
14th ANNUAL JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Honoring Hawaii's Japanese American Soldiers who served during WWII


"A Legacy for Generations"

SEPTEMBER 29, 2019 • 9:30 am


NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC AT PUNCHBOWL




100th INFANTRY BATTALION





442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM





MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE



1399th ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION BATTALION

ihphoto

Transportation provided to Hawaii's Japanese American Veterans who served during WWII.

Call 808-949-7997



Byrnes Yamashita leads a tour of the Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit at the Pearl City library

Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit Completes Japan Tour; Continues in Hawai'i

The Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit completed its tour of sites in Japan with an exhibition in Miyagi Prefecture at the Miyagi City Hall in February 2019. The exhibit continued its tour of Hawai'i with showings at the Honolulu Festival (March 9–10), Waimalu Shopping Center (May 24–June 2), State Veterans Summit (June 21–22) and the Pearl City Library (July 13–August 29). Organizations interested in showing the exhibit can contact Byrnes Yamashita at (808) 728-9900.

Selected posters from the Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit were displayed at the VIP Reception for the opening performance of the play, *Allegiance*, on March 28, 2019, at the Hawai'i Theatre. The event was sponsored by the Central Pacific Bank Foundation. Byrnes Yamashita coordinated this event.

The Nisei Soldier Post War Legacy Exhibit was shown at the Doris Duke Theatre, Honolulu Museum of Art on May 5, 2019. The AARP invited us to display the exhibit in conjunction with its showing of the film, "Voices Behind Barbed Wire" and a follow up Q&A session with film Director, Ryan Kawamoto, and JCCH President, Jace Mikulanec. Lynn Heirakuji hosted the Exhibit and also gave short remarks to the audience of about 200 individuals.

Byrnes Yamashita represented the NVL at the May 13, 2019, HSTA-R (Hawai'i State Teachers Association - Retired) Mahalo Luncheon, during which HSTA-R celebrated its members participation in a number of community events. During the event Byrnes had an opportunity to thank HSTA-R for its support of the NVL, including HSTA-R providing members to serve as greeters at the Kahala Mall showing of the Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit last year.



Six Nisei Veterans presented Legion D'Honneur

The *Legion D'Honneur Conferment Ceremony* was held on June 1, 2019, at the Hawai'i Convention Center. The Consul General of France, based in San Francisco, Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens, assisted by Guillaume Maman, the Honorary Consul of France in Hawai'i, presented medals to six Nisei Veterans in a dignified ceremony. The six Veterans were: Royce Higa (522nd FAB, 442nd), Hidenobu Hiyane (100th), George Oide (522nd FAB, 442nd), Clinton Shiraishi (522nd FAB, 442nd), Koichi Tokushige (522nd FAB, 442nd), and Paul Watanabe (232nd Combat Engineer Company, 442nd).

The Planning Committee, consisting of Jeff Morita, Grace Fujii, Mae Isonaga, and Lynn Heirakuji worked closely with the Honorary French Consul's office to schedule this important event. Jeff Morita has been instrumental in coordinating the solicitation, submission and monitoring of nominations for this prestigious award for the Nisei Veterans.



President's Message

Dear Friends,

This year marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day. On June 6, 1944, more than 160,000 Allied troops invaded the northern coast of France, overwhelming German forces in what proved to be the turning point in World War II. A few



weeks later, on June 26, 1944, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team joined the 100th Infantry Battalion in their first combat near Suvereto, Italy. Together, the men of the 100th and 442nd began a journey that would change not only their

lives, but also those of future generations of Japanese Americans.

Under suspicion and bigotry they answered the call to serve their country. They fought with honor to prove their loyalty to the United States. Their wartime accolades are unmatched in U.S. military history. After the war, the veterans had a profound effect on the Hawai'i community. Many became successful businessmen and community leaders and set the foundation for culture of Hawai'i today. The Nisei Veterans have undeniably earned the right to be considered a part of America's "greatest generation."

Today, in their twilight years after successfully navigating the challenges of life, Nisei Veterans epitomize the definition of good citizens. They exemplify noble values, such as humility, gratitude, and patriotism.

If you ask the Nisei about their values, they'll undoubtedly acknowledge their parents, the Issei or first generation Japanese Americans. At a young age, Nisei were instilled with such ideals as: giri (duty), oyakoko (for love of family), haji (don't shame the family), gaman (internal fortitude, bear with it), shikata ga nai (some things cannot be helped) and kodomo no tameni (for the sake of the children). These are basic social principles which we can all live by and nurture within ourselves, our families, and our communities.

The NVL is committed to keeping the Nisei veteran values and spirit alive. We honor all those who served our country with unmatched patriotism. Through the NVL's educational projects, programs and events, we will continue to share their story with future generations. We hope the values they believed in will live on in all of us.

Warm Regards,
Wes Deguchi



LEFT TO RIGHT: Socializing after the program; A rapt audience during the dramatic reading; Author Tom Coffman addressing the audience



Members of the Nisei Veteran community gathered at the 100th Infantry Battalion clubhouse on Saturday, July 27, 2019, for a day of fellowship and learning.

Event organizer and emcee Dr. Shinye Gima welcomed all the guests and explained the agenda. Representatives of the various sponsoring Nisei Veteran organizations provided brief explanations of their organizations and activities. The Nisei Veterans Legacy was one of several sponsoring organizations.

Colonel Ron Han (USAF Retired), Director of the State of Hawai'i Office of Veterans Services, expressed his appreciation for the contributions of the Nisei Soldiers and explained the services provided by his organization.

Author Tom Coffman discussed the intriguing story of the Miwa family described in his recent book, "TADAI MA – I am Home". The book details five generations of a family that has roots in both Hawai'i and Japan and their experience in being "transnational" which included surviving the Atomic Bomb attack on Hiroshima and later returning to Hawai'i.

The program highlight was a dramatic story telling of "OKA-SAN," by Nyla Fujii-Babb & Dann Seki, local actors who created an original play describing a hapa haole man's search for his Japanese birth mother.

"Kealohapau'ole" (Nolan & Liz Santa Ana) provided musical entertainment.

MIS Summer Event

Hawai'i Tourism Japan Honors NVL with a Donation

Hawai'i Tourism Japan (HTJ) made a generous donation to the Nisei Veterans Legacy on May 3, 2019, in connection with their educational program, the Aloha Program. Donations are awarded to Hawai'i non-profit organizations involved with educational, cultural and sustainability efforts.

On May 28, 2019, Lynn and Byrnes again met with HTJ representatives to discuss our continuing relationship and shared desire to share with the Japanese public stories of the Japanese Americans in Hawai'i and the Nisei Soldiers. Potential future collaborations include additional showings of the Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit in Japan, assistance in providing Japanese translation capability to the NVL website, and conducting seminars for Japanese tourists on the Nisei Soldier story.



Byrnes Yamashita, Education Committee Chair (left), and Lynn Heirakuji, Vice President (second from left), represented the NVL in accepting the award from Hawai'i Tourism Japan. HTJ Vice President Mitsue Varley is on the right.



NVL is on Instagram With the goal of attracting interest from the social media generation, the NVL initiated an Instagram account in February 2019. As part of the NVL Publicity Committee, Kristen Nemoto, created and maintains the account. We invite you to check out postings at: [nvlchawaii](https://www.instagram.com/nvlchawaii). A new photo and narrative is posted weekly. The site currently has 104 followers.

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NVL's New Home at JCCH The NVL is now at Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. The office is located on the third floor (Suite 302) of the JCCH's office building. It includes a small conference area and two workstations. Shirley Igarashi is currently the office manager and helps with the coordination of various committee meetings. NVL members are welcome to use the office space. Please call the office for more information: 808 942-0881.



ABOVE: Lynn Heirakuji holding her father's (Walter Heirakuji) WWII Army Jacket, as she conducted the Nisei Soldier presentation. ABOVE RIGHT: Byrnes Yamashita (right) speaking to Japanese students from Usa City (photo from 2018 presentation). DIRECTLY ABOVE: Ryoji Koike, Byrnes Yamashita, and Lynn Heirakuji (front row, seated) with Rainbow Kids and Moanalua High School students.

Nisei Soldier Presentation to Japanese Students

Byrnes Yamashita made a presentation on the Nisei Soldiers to middle school students from Usa City, Oita Prefecture, Japan. The July 30, 2019 event was the NVL's fourth consecutive-year presentation. Usa City is known for having trained the Japanese Navy's lead squadron for the Pearl Harbor attack. The students spend a week in Hawai'i learning about local history and culture, as well as the impacts the Pearl Harbor attack had on Hawai'i and on Japanese Americans during World War II.

Lynn Heirakuji and Byrnes Yamashita gave a presentation to the Rainbow Kids from Tohoku, Japan on March 30, 2019, at the Nuuanu Tendai Mission. The Rainbow Foundation sponsors events for these children who lost parents in the 2011 tsunami disaster. This is the 3rd year the NVL has hosted the Rainbow Kids. This visit was especially memorable because high school students from Moanalua High School joined the Rainbow Kids during the presentation.

Byrnes Yamashita spoke about the Nisei Soldier Story to college students at the Tokai College in April 2019, at the invitation of Dr Laurence Tool. Byrnes's talks have been extremely well received and it appears that he will be a regular speaker there.

Aloha to Ambassador Shigeeda

After serving as the Consul General of Japan in Hawai'i, Mr. Toyoei Shigeeda was appointed Japan's Ambassador to Lithuania and remained at that post until 2018, when he retired from the Japanese Diplomatic Corps. Mrs. Shigeeda was the person who originally suggested the creation the Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit and as such, she had a particular interest in its current status. The Shigeedas have now returned to Japan and we hope to continue our relationship with them.



Mr. Toyoei Shigeeda, former Japanese Ambassador to Lithuania, and former Consul General of Japan in Hawai'i.

photo from Embassy of Japan in Lithuania www.it.emb-japan.go.jp/english/emb_guid.htm

4 The **GFBNEC/JCCH Pilot Education Initiative** reports that 20 high school teachers will be deploying curriculum that features the Nisei Soldier story in 12 high schools across Hawai'i. The curriculum was developed with input from several Nisei Veteran organizations including the NVL. To date, eight teachers have completed presenting the curriculum. JCCH is currently analyzing teacher and student feedback.

A small NVL crew consisting of Reid Mizue, Stan Matsushita, Janice Trubitt, and Phyllis Hironaka **conducted spring cleaning on the Hawai'i Nisei Veterans Airport Exhibit** on April 19, 2019. This activity occurs periodically throughout the year to ensure that the Exhibit is well maintained. The Exhibit is located in the Hawaiian Airlines terminal of the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and gets a significant amount of foot traffic.

Lynn Heirakuji was a guest speaker at the **U.S. Corps of Engineers, Leadership Development Program** for mid-level civilians at Ft. Shafter on June 11, 2019. The group of emerging leaders hail from a wide range of occupations and journeyed from Army posts in South Korea, Hawai'i, Japan, and Alaska. The Leadership Development Program serves as one of the pipelines for filling senior Army civilian leadership positions. Lynn used the Nisei Soldier story and her career experience to discuss the pathways to Federal sector executive leadership.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lynn Heirakuji also made a presentation on the Nisei Soldiers to **Officers of the 9th Mission Support Command (MSC)** on June 26, 2019, at Ft. Shafter. Her presentation was a part of the MSC's Officers Annual Training program.

NVL Website Chair, Bill Wright, arranged for Upspring Media, the Honolulu-based digital and data consultancy which supports the NVL website, to give a 2-hour online **training session on Google Analytics** to interested NVL Board members on June 13, 2019. The session provided attendees with insight into interpreting the website visitor data toward improving access to the site and encouraging greater and more effective usage of its content.

The NVL conducted its first **NVL Advisor Briefing** on April 28, 2019. NVL Board Members and Committee Chairs made presentations on the NVL Strategic Plan, progress of the various committees, and other relevant issues. The Advisors suggested that the NVL should seek to differentiate itself from the multitude of other Nisei Veteran organizations in Hawai'i; strengthen its internal structure; focus on development not just fundraising; intensify outreach to young people; and improve how it communicates. Next steps for the NVL Board include dedicating time to review the Strategic

Plan and determining how to execute the Advisors' suggestions.

There have been a few changes to the NVL leadership. Carole Hayashino has decided to step down as a director. Lynn Heirakuji is also relinquishing her position but will continue to support the organization as an advisor.

The first annual **State Veterans Summit** was held at the Hawai'i Convention Center from June 21 through 22, 2019. The Hawai'i Nikkei Legacy Exhibit and Nisei Soldier Post-War Legacy Exhibit were displayed at Ballroom C from 9 am to 4 pm on both days. Byrnes, Lynn, and NVL member Momoko Maniscalco served as greeters.

NVL news is published by the Nisei Veterans Legacy, 2454 S Beretania St., Ste 302, Honolulu, HI 96826 • 808-942-0881 • inquire@NVLchawaii.org.

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

