

"Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"

Honoring the Legacy of the Nisei Veterans of WWII



MARCH 2, 2017
POMAIKA'I BALLROOMS • DOLE CANNERY IWILEI
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Message from the President of the Nisei Veterans Legacy



Wesley Deguchi

Aloha!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Nisei Veterans Legacy, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the first annual NVL fundraiser event. An event like this could not have occurred without support from the local community, sponsors and volunteers.

I would like to express my Mahalo to the fundraising committee led by Ms. Jennifer Okubo, whose grandfather served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Their hard work made this event possible. Jennifer is a living example of the theme of our event tonight, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future". As a member of the younger generation of Japanese Americans, she represents the future of the Legacy of the Nisei Soldiers, for whom we are all here to honor tonight.

We are very excited about the recent completion of the permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport last October. I hope you have had a chance to see it. If not, please look for it just outside the Hawaiian Airlines lounge on your next interisland trip.

We are already forming committees to work on a Japanese version of the kiosk exhibit in Honolulu near the Japan Airlines gates, as well as another major exhibit at the Maui Airport, which will involve the Maui Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

It is a great honor to have Governor George Ariyoshi as our keynote speaker tonight. As a Nisei veteran and proud member of the Military Intelligence Service, he has been a leading advocate for the preservation of the Nisei soldier legacy and building bridges between the United States of America and Japan for a Future of Peace in the Asia-Pacific.

Thank you to each and every one of you for making this event a success. We appreciate your support to allow us to continue the preservation and promulgation of the Nisei soldier legacy.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Wesley Deguchi

President

Nisei Veterans Legacy

Tonight's Program

Nisei Veterans Legacy Fundraiser **"Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"**March 2, 2017 - Dole Cannery Pomaika'i Ballroom

Silent Auction......Steve Uyehara and Liz Chun, Masters of Ceremonies

Happy Birthday Governor Ariyoshi......Steve and Liz

Welcome Remarks.....Steve and Liz

President's Address.....Wesley Deguchi, NVL President

Recognition of Veterans....Wesley Deguchi, NVL President

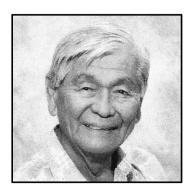
Keynote Speaker.....Governor George Ariyoshi

Fund the Future......Glenn Goya, NVL Treasurer

Mahalos.....Jennifer Okubo

Closing Remarks.....Steve and Liz

Keynote Speaker



Governor George R. Ariyoshi

Governor George Ryoichi Ariyoshi was the first Japanese American governor in the United States. He was the third Governor of Hawaii from 1974 to 1986. He is considered an elder statesman of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

He served as an interpreter with the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service in Japan after World War II. After the War, he enrolled at the University of Hawaii, later transferring to Michigan State University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in 1949. He then went on to receive his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1952.

After serving in the Territorial and State Legislatures, he was elected Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii in 1970 with Governor John A. Burns. After Governor Burns fell ill in October, 1973, he served as acting governor until election to Governor in 1974.

He has served as the President of the Hawaii State Bar Association and numerous boards of directors for prominent businesses in Hawaii.

He was one of the speakers at the recent reception for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in December, 2016. He spoke eloquently of the special relationship between the United States and Japan and the role that Japanese Americans play in the enhancement of the friendship between our two nations.

We are indeed honored to have Governor Ariyoshi as our keynote speaker this evening.

NVL Mission

The mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy is to preserve, perpetuate and share 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 the 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 comprised primarily of Japanese American Nisei (second generation) 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.

The Nisei soldiers had a profound effect on the United States after the War. In California, more than 500 laws related to civil rights discrimination were repealed. They fought for citizenship rights for their Issei (first generation) parents, which were granted in 1954. Working with the Japanese American Citizens League, they strove to have Executive Order 9066, which singled out Japanese Americans as "enemy aliens", rescinded by President Gerald Ford in 1976.

Through the efforts of veterans like Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel K. Inouye, they submitted House Bill 442, which was later signed into law as the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This resulted in reparations payments and a national apology, which was unprecedented in American history.

In Hawaii, the Nisei veterans played an important part in the growth of the Democratic Party and eventual Statehood in 1959. They helped to shape the social, political and economic fabric of the State, evolving it from a "plantation society" that existed before the war.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL), incorporated in 2012, is a non-profit organization as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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

The permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport opened in October 2016 and is now accessible to several million visitors and locals transiting the Interisland Terminal.

In 2015, we launched our website (nvlchawaii.org) which was a major step in our campaign to promote the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of World War II. For the past four years, the NVL has sponsored and organized the Joint Memorial Service in September to honor the fallen members of all four Japanese American units in World War II.



Nisei Veterans Legacy website (nvlchawaii.org)

""Go For Broke" Traveling Exhibit



Permanent Exhibit at the Interisland Terminal, Honolulu International Airport

Exhibit at Central Pacific Bank



Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl

A Message from Senator Brian Schatz

BRIAN SCHATZ Hawai'i



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Message from U.S. Senator Brian Schatz Presented in Recognition of the

Nisei Veterans Legacy "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future" Fundraiser

March 2, 2017

I extend my warmest greetings of *aloha* and welcome to everyone gathered to honor our Veterans at the Nisei Veterans Legacy "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future" fundraiser.

Since its founding in 2012, the Nisei Veterans Legacy has been committed to preserving, perpetuating, and sharing the stories of Hawai'i's Nisei Soldiers. Through educational programs, photo exhibits, and sponsorship of the annual Joint Memorial Service, the Nisei Veterans Legacy honors their achievements and ensures that future generations will always remember the heroism of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion.

I join you in celebrating the brave service of the Japanese American Soldiers of World War II. Throughout the war and in the years since then, their accomplishments had a lasting impact on Hawai'i's social, political, and economic landscape and made it what it is today.

Mahalo to the leadership, members, and supporters of Nisei Veterans Legacy for your efforts to honor our country's WWII Veterans of Japanese ancestry. Best wishes for a memorable event.

Mahalo,

Brian Schatz

United States Senator

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www.schatz.senate.gov

A Message from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

MAZIE K. HIRONO

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1104

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MESSAGE FROM U.S. SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

In Honor of the Nisei Veterans Legacy "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"

March 2, 2017

Aloha and welcome to everyone attending the Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL,) fundraiser event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

In World War II, service members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion fought to protect the United States at a time when the loyalty of all Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) was called into question. It has been the mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy to share their stories and honor their legacy.

The NVL has assumed responsibility of the annual Joint Memorial Service from the Oahu AJA Veterans Council, which pays tribute to the more than 700 Nisei veterans who served in the 100th and the 442nd that were killed in action, and those that have passed since.

They have also sponsored the showings of two historic photographic exhibits, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts," and "Unlikely Liberators." In October 2016, I was honored to join and participate with several Nisei veterans at the opening of permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport which serves to educate the general public.

Mahalo to the members and supporters of the Nisei Veterans Legacy for your dedication to sharing this important part of our history, and to the Japanese American WWII veterans for your service to our nation. My best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

Mazie K. Hirono United States Senator

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Megi K Diano

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A Message from Representative Tulsi Gabbard



Congress of the United States

A message from

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TULSI GABBARD

in recognition of the

Nisei Veterans Legacy Center "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"



Mahalo nui loa to each of the veterans, their families and friends, and everyone gathered here for supporting the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, which is actively "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future." Thank you for all that you do to further honor the devoted service of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry who selflessly served our nation during World War II.

Events like this are an opportunity for each of us to express our deepest gratitude and admiration to the Nisei veterans who served honorably and selflessly during one of the darkest chapters of American history in World War II as members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion.

It gives me chills to think of the chaos that occurred on our islands on December 7, 1941. But I am also full of pride, admiration, and great hope when I think of the patriotism displayed by the Nisei soldiers who soon thereafter stood up and chose to serve America despite their Japanese parents, Buddhist clergy, and Japanese language teachers being interned or whose loyalty to Hawai'i and America was questioned.

For those of us who were not yet born or did not experience the attack on Pearl Harbor, we are enriched by the stories of that era told by kūpuna and written by the men and women who witnessed that day of infamy. The Nisei Veterans Legacy Center's mission is to continue honoring their legacy and preserving their stories for the benefit of future generations. They do this through the sponsorship of the annual Joint Memorial Service, which they assumed from the Oahu AJA Veterans Council a few years ago. This event honors the Nisei veterans that have passed away, over 700 during the war, and those who have subsequently followed their brothers-in-arms.

The Bushido spirit, which was in the heart of the Nisei soldiers, carried AJA units through World War II and also bonded them after the war. It is our duty, as the beneficiaries of their valor, to keep their legacy alive. Thank you for doing just that by supporting the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center and their incredible mission. We will forever remember how these heroes changed our country—and the world—for the better.

Tulsi Galdbard

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard Serving the People of Hawaii's 2nd District

Presented on this 2nd day of March 2017

A Message from Representative Colleen W. Hanabusa



SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM U.S. REPRESENTATIVE COLLEEN W. HANABUSA in Recognition of the

Nisei Veterans Legacy Fundraiser "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"

March 2, 2017

On behalf of the First Congressional District of Hawaii, I extend my warmest aloha to everyone gathered at today's Nisei Veterans Legacy fundraising event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

The recent commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor provided us an opportunity to reflect on the service and patriotism of the Nisei Soldiers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. As a *yonsei*, a fourth generation American of Japanese ancestry, whose grandparents were interned during World War II, the stories of this era are deeply personal to me. We are indebted to this segment of our country's Greatest Generation for the sacrifices and contributions they made to prove their loyalty to the United States and to help shape Hawaii as a place of equal opportunity for all. As we honor the men who fought to build a brighter and better future, we do so with great gratitude for their uncommon valor and courage. We also give thanks to the families and loved ones who supported our soldiers during and after the war, and to the sons and daughters who have committed themselves to ensure that their legacy lives on. We send our aloha to those who have departed as they smile down upon us, and we show our eternal appreciation for the men who served their country with dignity, honor, and respect.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy helps to ensure that the contributions and sacrifices of all of the Nisei veterans, regardless of unit association, will never be forgotten. Their sponsorship of the annual Joint Memorial Service, photographic exhibits, and educational programs helps to educate our communities about the valor and dedicated service of the Nisei soldiers both during and after World War II.

Mahalo to the leadership, members, and supporters of the Nisei Veterans Legacy. Please accept my best wishes to for a memorable event.

Aloha,

COLLEEN HANABUSA Member of Congress

A Message from the Consul General of Japan Yasushi Misawa

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

January 18, 2017

Mr. Wesley Deguchi President Nisei Veterans Legacy

Dear Mr. Deguchi:

I would like to extend my greetings to everyone gathered at the Nisei Veterans Legacy's fundraising event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future," and a very special "Aloha!" to the guests of honor at your event, the Nisei veterans of World War II.

I applaud the Nisei Veteran's Legacy, which has worked tirelessly and diligently to uphold its mission to preserve, perpetuate and share the legacy of the Japanese-Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II.

This past year has been an especially momentous one for the organization, with the opening of its exhibit honoring the Nisei Veterans of World War II at the Honolulu International Airport. And 2017 promises to be equally memorable, with plans underway to create a Japanese version of this exhibit near the Japan Airlines gate, as well as to bring a special traveling photographic exhibit to Japan, to share with its people the remarkable story of the Nisei Veterans and the Japanese-American experience in Hawaii.

I truly believe that as the people of Japan begin to learn more of the sacrifices made by the Nisei Veterans, and of their patriotism and loyalty to the United States in the face of war, they can be inspired to understand how Japanese cultural values helped these soldiers serve their country with pride and courage.

The recent series of commemorative events marking the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, which culminated with Prime Minister Abe's visit to Arizona Memorial together with President Obama last December, strongly reaffirms the commitment of both the United States and Japan to continue to work together to ensure peace in the Asia-Pacific region for decades to come. The Nisei Veterans Legacy's upcoming endeavors are both timely and significant in this regard.

I take this moment to express my sincere, most heartfelt gratitude to the Nisei Veterans Legacy for their contributions to the strengthening of the relationship between our two countries.

Sincerely,

Yasushi Misawa

Consul General of Japan

In Honolulu

A Message from Governor David Y. Ige



Special Message from Governor David Y. Sge In Recognition of the

> Nisei Veterans Legacy Fundraising Event "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future"

March 2, 2017



On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, I send a warm aloha to tonight's honored guests, the Nisei veterans of World War II, and also members, families and friends of the Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL). This event supports your ongoing mission to pay tribute to the service and valor of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II who served in the famed 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and 1399 Engineering Construction Battalion.

Despite having their civil liberties denied to them and their families at the onset of America's involvement in World War II, these service members exhibited patriotism and loyalty to the United States by serving on the frontlines of battles in Europe and the Pacific Theater. After the war, they returned to Hawai'i to

reshape the political, economic and social environments, as exemplary role models and inspiration to young Hawai'i citizens of all colors and ethnic backgrounds.

My wife Dawn and I are proud to be children of members of the 100^{th} Infantry Battalion who earned their nickname "The Purple Heart Battalion" on the battlefields of Africa and Europe.

While still a fairly young organization, the NVL is helping to ensure that the stories of the Nisei soldiers are preserved and passed down to future generations. The NVL has sponsored the annual Joint Memorial Service for the past four years, supported the "Go for Broke" traveling exhibits, and installed a permanent display in tribute to the Nisei Veterans at the Honolulu International Airport.

With great appreciation to the NVL for their unwavering mission to "Preserve the Past, Inspire the Future," I thank everyone attending tonight's celebration for your support and dedication. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable evening and continued success.

With warmest regards,

DAVID Y. IGE

Governor, State of Hawai'i

A Message from Mayor Kirk Caldwell



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL



It gives me great pleasure to send my warmest aloha to everyone gathered at Pōmaika'i Ballrooms for the Nisei Veterans Legacy Fundraiser, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

Having recently commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i was reminded of the sacrifices by the Japanese Americans who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service. These soldiers chose to defend their country, even when their own rights and those of their families were denied, and their loyalty was cast under suspicion.

The Nisei Veterans Legacy helps to perpetuate the history of these World War II veterans through sponsorship of the annual Joint Memorial Service, exhibits and educational programs. Thank you for your commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of their important contributions, both during and after the war, which helped to foster statehood and greatly impacted the society that we all enjoy today.

A special mahalo to the members and supporters of the Nisei Veterans Legacy, and best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

GO FOR BROKE!

Kirk Caldwell

A Message from General David A. Bramlett (Ret.)



Mr. Wesley Deguchi President, Nisei Veterans Legacy PO Box 2476 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804 January 16, 2017

Aloha Wes:

Please extend my Best Wishes to everyone attending the Nisei Veterans Legacy fundraising event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future."

It is an honor to support the mission of the Nisei Veterans Legacy in preserving and passing on the legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion. These men set standards of excellence on the battlefield as well as in their civilian lives upon their return to Hawaii. I can only hope our nation finds their equal in future years.

Events such as the annual Joint Memorial Service in September not only pay tribute to the Nisei soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war and those that have subsequently passed, but also they serve to remind the general public of the sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers despite experiencing discrimination and having their loyalties questioned by the United States. The new exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport Interisland Terminal will also help to educate many visitors to the State that are not familiar with the Nisei veterans story.

Nora and I were pleased to attend the tribute to the AJA veterans Luncheon that was part of the 75th anniversary commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a very fitting tribute to the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of World War II. We hope that the Luncheon and the other commemoration events along with the efforts of the Nisei Veterans Legacy will help to raise awareness among the younger generations about the impacts of the War and how we can apply the lessons learned as we look to the future.

Sincerely,

David A. Bramlett

General, US Army (Retired)

David a. Branitett

A Message from Major General Robert G.F. Lee (Ret.)



January 12, 2017

Mr. Wes Deguchi President Nisei Veterans Legacy P.O. Box 2476 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Dear Mr. Deguchi,

Please extend my warmest Aloha to the honored guests, family and supporters of the Nisei Veterans Legacy attending your fundraising event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future".

I heartily support the efforts of the Nisei Veterans Legacy to preserve and disseminate the legacy of the Japanese American Soldiers of World War II who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and 1399 Engineering Construction Battalion.

Congratulations on the recent opening of the permanent exhibit at the Honolulu International Airport paying tribute to the Nisei soldiers of Hawaii that served their country during the War to prove their loyalty beyond all doubt. This exhibit, along with the annual Joint Memorial Service helps to educate the general public on the sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers despite suffering from discrimination and having their loyalties being questioned by their own Country.

They set a sterling example for the soldiers and veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment (USAR) who have proudly carried on their tradition in combat while serving in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sincerely,

Robert G.F. Lee Major General US Army (Retired)

Robert Ist. Dec

A Message from Brigadier General James T. Hirai (Ret.)

Honolulu, Hawaii

2 March 2017

Mr. Wesley Deguchi President, Nisei Veterans Legacy PO Box 2476 Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Dear Wes,

Best Wishes to you, the honored guests, family and supporters of the Nisei Veterans Legacy attending your fundraising event, "Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future". I also extend our Best Wishes to Nisei Veterans Legacy supporters who could not attend but who join us in spirit.

The efforts of the Nisei Veterans Legacy to preserve the legacy of the Japanese American Soldiers of World War II is important and commendable. The lessons from their wartime and post-war contributions to our Nation are applicable as much today as ever and will likely be needed even more in the future. As the son and nephew of MIS veterans I had the honor of following in their footsteps through my U.S. Army career. I have personally benefited from their hard earned battlefield reputation. They were and continue to be quintessential role models.

It has been my honor to participate in the annual Joint Memorial Service as a keynote speaker and wreath presenter over the years. This event pays tribute to the soldiers that made the ultimate sacrifice during the war and their brothers in arms that have followed them along the years. The volunteers who work hard to plan and conduct the service reflect the best of the veterans' legacy.

The informational exhibits at the Honolulu International Airport and downtown branch of Central Pacific Bank are thoughtfully crafted and pay fitting tribute to the Nisei soldiers of Hawaii. Through these permanent exhibits and the traveling exhibits, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts" and the "Unlikely Liberators", the Nisei Veterans Legacy has done much to honor the Nisei Veterans and to help educate the younger generations about their history and contributions to modern Hawaii.

Good Luck on a successful and entertaining event. GO FOR BROKE!

Sincerely,

Brigadier General (Retired) U.S. Army

Mahalo

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