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September 2023

NVL Presents the 18th Annual Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl)

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023 • 9:30 am

The Nisei Veterans Legacy will honor the nisei soldiers who bravely served in World War II at the 18th annual Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) on Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023, beginning at 9:30 am. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

The annual ceremony is being presented in partnership with other local nisei veteran organizations, including the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Organization, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

The event's keynote speaker is **Minda Yamaga**, a senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Hawai'i, and board president of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter. Yamaga's mother was born at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming, where Japanese Americans were incarcerated after the 1941 bombing of Oahu.

Jon Teraizumi, senior vice president with Central Pacific Bank and grandson of nisei veteran **Makoto Kunimune**, will emcee the ceremony.

This year's event carries on the tradition of celebrating the unquenchable spirit of the nisei soldiers with a presentation of colors, wreaths, songs, and a rifle salute. The 111th Army Band, student presenters, and Junior ROTC cadets will also participate in the annual event.

Please join us at the

18th Annual Nisei Soldiers Memorial Service

NATIONAL MEMORIAL CEMETERY OF THE PACIFIC
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023, 9:30 A.M.

A tribute and celebration highlighted by the presentation of colors, laying of wreaths, and offerings of songs, remarks and a rifle salute. Featuring Minda Yamaga of the Japanese American Citizens League, Honolulu Chapter. 111th Army Band. Student Presenters. JROTC cadets. Veteran Organizations.

Presented by the Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL)
To learn more about the legacy of the Nisei Soldiers of WWII and the NVL go to: nvichawaii.org or contact us at inquire@nvichawaii.org.
The NVL is a Hawaii non-profit dedicated to the telling of the Nisei Soldiers story.

Watch live
on 'Ōlelo, channel 53, or on facebook.com/olelocommunity, or anytime on-demand after Oct. 23 on olelo.org/olelonet/ Search "nisei" Mahalo to 'Ōlelo Community Media!



The memorial service will be broadcast live on Sunday, Sept. 24, beginning at 9:30 am on 'Ōlelo, channel 53. You can also watch the event on facebook.com/olelocommunity. After Oct. 23, the memorial service can be viewed on-demand at olelo.org/olelonet/ Search "nisei."

Support Maui in the Spirit of the Nisei Soldiers



The NVL is grateful to support the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Organization's (100th) effort to encourage the nisei veteran community to donate to the Hawaii Community Foundation's (HCF) Maui Strong Fund to help victims of the recent Lahaina wildfires.

HCF is waiving its customary fees and will provide all donations to those in need. Donations can be made through the HCF website or on Saturday, Sept. 16 in person at the 100th Clubhouse, at 520 Kamoku Street in Honolulu from 10 am to 4 pm. Only monetary donations will be accepted.

As a bonus, the 100th will be showing the **Hiroyuki Matsumoto** film, "Go For Broke! Memories of Hawaii Japanese Niseis" at the Clubhouse that day at 1 pm. For more

information, contact the 100th at info@100thibv.org.

"The nisei soldiers and veterans gave so much to all of us and we think it's important to perpetuate their legacy by living their values and asking ourselves what they would do about the disaster occurring right in our islands. We want to carry on their generous spirit and continue to give back," said **Lynn Heirakuji**, former NVL president.

Hawaii Student Receives Award for MIS Documentary



Micah Benavitz, left, NVL board director and a Mililani High School teacher who focuses on modern Hawaiian history has a good reason to be proud of his contributions to perpetuate the legacy of the nisei soldiers.

A documentary, Military Intelligence Service: A Frontier to Fight Prejudice, produced by one of his students, **Althea "Allie" Juan**, received an award at the National History Day finals in Washington, D.C. in June 2023. She also received a scholarship for her work.

Benavitz, whose grandfather was in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and whose granduncle was in the 100th Infantry Battalion, chaperoned a Hawaii contingent of students to the event.

Juan's 10-minute video explains how nisei soldiers in the MIS used their knowledge of the Japanese language and culture to support the war effort. However, because of the secret nature of their work, the MIS was never fully recognized. Juan notes that the lessons learned from the past are shaping current policies. For example, nisei advised President George Bush against discriminatory policies and practices of Muslims after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

To view the video, visit the NVL website, click on "News and Events" tab, then scroll down to "Latest News" on the pull-down menu or click [here](#).

The Give Aloha Program is Back...Support NVL!

Make a donation to the Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) at any Foodland, Sack N Save and Foodland Farms statewide, now through Sept. 30, and Foodland and the Western Union Foundation will increase it via a pro-rata match. It's a great way to support the nisei soldier legacy.

Here is how the Give Aloha program works: As a Maika'i member, you can donate up to \$249 to the NVL (code 79019) and your donation will be matched. Donations exceeding \$249 and those made without a Maika'i account will not be matched. If you do not have a Maika'i account, you can establish one at checkout.

Donations may be made by cash, check or credit card (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and JCB). Donations must be made payable to Foodland, Sack N Save or Foodland Farms. If you wish to be acknowledged by the NVL, please send an email requesting this to: inquire@nvlchawaii.org. Questions may be directed to **Phyllis Hironaka**, NVL board director, at phironaka@gmail.com.

