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“Dr. Shakahashi’s” Tribute to the Men of the 100th/442nd

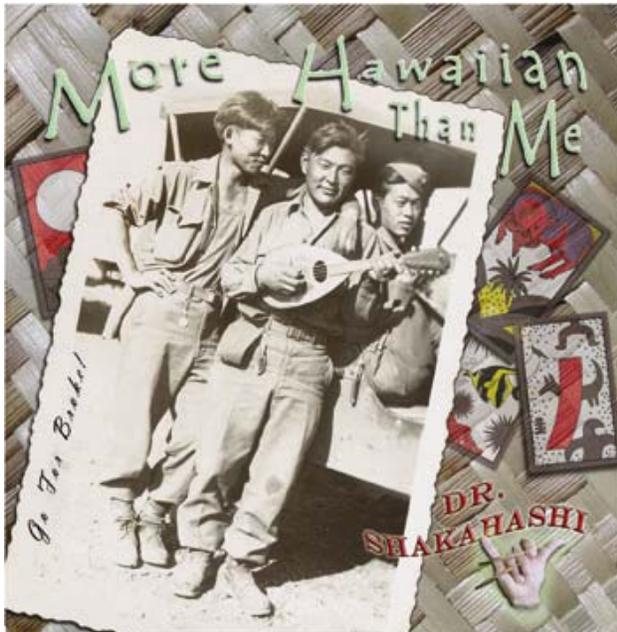


Photo caption: CD Cover for “More Hawaiian Than Me”

Born in Kalihi, Hawaii, Kenneth Kudo (also known as “Dr. Shakahashi”) has produced his first CD titled “*More Hawaiian Than Me.*”

His tribute song “Go For Broke” was originally written by Harry Hamada over 60 years ago. Kudo added more lyrics and professional musicians to give the song an upbeat feel. Kudo worked with Jake Shimabukuro on the ukulele, Brian Kessler (Grammy Award winning guitarist) along with Kit Ebersbach, Steve Jones, and Noel Okimoto. Kudo says, “This song goes out to ‘all veterans’ regardless of locale. I hope they can view the focus on Hawaii as symbolic of their homeland. The title of this album is nobody else can be, ‘*More Hawaiian than Me*’ and in truth, we are all a part of this land, and nobody can be more Hawaiian than us.” Right now, his Youtube video (web address: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=ZRHbJP2TDuY>) of this song is getting more than 100 hits per day since being discovered by Susan Uyemura. Uyemura said, “I was surfing for videos on the 100th/442nd when I clicked on his video. After watching it for one minute, Jim Yamashita and Nobo Ikuta were featured in their famous ‘barbell club’ photo taken in Camp Shelby in 1943. I immediately forwarded the video to Jim Yamashita. It didn’t take long before this link was forwarded all over and back again. I received emails with the original link I had sent out! After that it became a personal quest to find ‘Dr. Shakahashi’ so I could compliment him on his tribute. Within 24 hours, I had received an email and we began to correspond. I invited him to the 442nd 65th Anniversary celebration in Honolulu in March 2008. I

look forward to shaking his hand.” Kudo accepted the invitation in hopes of meeting his heroes – the men of the 100th/442nd.

Kudo’s Nisei parents, Alfred and Ellen Kudo are also from Kalihi. His father worked at Hickam Airforce Base as a carpenter. Growing up on the island, Ken attended Farrington High School. In 1965, Kudo joined the army reserve 100th/442nd infantry. He became an infantry rifleman, private first class. Kudo completed advanced infantry and jungle training at Scholfield and consequently was in the first wave to be sent to Vietnam with the 29th Brigade. He completed his tour in Vietnam and left the Army in 1969 at the rank of Specialist 4.

Currently, Kudo lives in Hilo, Hawaii and runs a palm tree nursery. For 28 years he has been a licensed contractor who specializes in moving structures. Kudo lives an organic lifestyle and promotes healthy living.

“Doing a tribute to the men of the 100/442 is an honor for me, and the least I can do.”
~ Kenneth Kudo

Ken Kudo’s album “More Hawaiian Than Me” is available on his website: www.starlei.net. Part of the proceeds will be donated to the 442nd Clubhouse of Hawaii. For more information, please contact Kenneth Kudo at Kennethkudo@yahoo.com

Japanese American Living Legacy is a nonprofit (501c3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (714) 278-4483.

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