



The real story. Japanese American History told by those who lived it.

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NEWS RELEASE

April 12, 2010

Go For Broke! Mineo Inuzuka's Biography to be published by Nikkei Writers Guild

Mineo Inuzuka was the builder of the boat, "Go For Broke" which he built from blueprint he purchased to fulfill his desire to travel around the world at his pace. Yes, being a retired officer (Lt. Colonel) of the U.S. Army, he could have travelled on "space available" status but it would not have given the freedom he felt he wanted. Once he saw that his three daughters were done with college education, he felt it was his turn to do as he desired for a change. If he liked a certain place he would stay indefinitely and not be bound by a schedule or any artificial timetable. That was his primary motivation for building the boat and travel at his leisure. Not pragmatic in term of cost but that is my input, not his! (My hindsight opinion which nobody asked but I had to interject here knowing his background history).

The "Go For Broke" symbolism came from the attitude the Japanese American volunteers for the 442nd RCT took to prove their Americanism. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack they were re-classified 4C (enemy alien) and ineligible to serve in the armed forces. This was an insult to their patriotism and they felt they have nothing to lose but to show the country that they were as good Americans as anybody else. They were willing to die for America if need be. In the crap game, it is tantamount to putting everything on the line on one roll!

Mineo Inuzuka is a veteran of three wars: WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. He was originally drafted in the US Army at Ft. Douglas, Utah on August 5, 1944 while he was interned at Minidoka Relocation Camp. After basic training, on/about 23 Nov. 1944 he was dispatched overseas as a replacement to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) at Sospel, France. The 442nd had suffered devastating losses in the rescue of the Lost Battalion (1st Bn, 141st Regt, 36th Div) in the Vosges Mountains between 25-30 Oct. 1944 and was in the process of replenishment of its rank. Mineo joined Co. F, 2nd Bn, 442nd RCT. Following more combat training, the 442nd RCT was recalled to the Italian front to participate in the Gothic Line penetration and eventual Po Valley Campaign that ended the war in Italy on 09 May 1944.

Mineo Inuzuka is the proverbial “cat with nine lives” in the Korean War. He was awarded more than 35 combat medals including 2 DSC’s (one of which is an upgrade from a Silver Star), SS, BS w/V pendant, DFC, 3 Air Medals, 2 CIB, Purple Heart, etc. He even received the Korean Government Wharang and Chungmu Distinguished Military Service Medals. He volunteered for combat duty in mid-Aug 1950 and held a rank of Corporal then. By Sept, 1951, he held the rank of 1st Lt in Co. F, 2nd Bn, 17th Inf Regt, 7th Division.

The details of combat activities and his promotions will be elaborated in my book tentatively to be published in the summer of 2011. There is a lot more to cover about his Viet Nam tour of duty but it involves more logistical aspect since he was a field grade officer by then. Mineo Inuzuka is a unique Ripley “Believe It or Not” type of character.

The Title of this book has yet to be named as I continue to struggle on a daily basis writing about this humble man who has accomplished so much in life.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit (501.c.3) 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 / Nikkei Writers Guild please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 278-4483.

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