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NEWS RELEASE
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Quarterly Maui Social Honors Veterans

Even as the Hawaiian islands were buzzing with last minute campaigns and preparations for their primary elections, the “main event” for a group of Nikkei veterans was a quarterly social honoring the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT veterans on Maui. This event was sponsored by the Maui 442nd Veterans Council and coordinated by the Maui I Company Associates. It was held at the Wailuku Hongwanji Mission. Companies K, L, and M were in charge of this social.

Maui I Company associates include (in alphabetical order): Mark Honda, Tiffany Iida, Richard Minatoya, Raphael "Guffy" Morreira, Harold and Laura Nishida, Fred Ruge, Dr. and Mrs. Sword, and Charlie Takahashi (Chairman). Members, Irvin Yamada, Susan Uyemura and Dan Waki were not able to attend this event.

The program began at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, September 18, 2010 with a greeting by President Kazuichi Hamasaki. Former President, Stan Izumigawa said a few words and then Vice President and Master of Ceremonies, Charlie Takahashi continued on with the general meeting. Gary Nakama volunteered to bless the food before they all enjoyed lunch.

Over seventy veterans, their wives, widows and a few from the Sons and Daughters organization attended this event. After lunch, everyone sang the 442nd song and Arthur Kuwahara (100th D Company) sang Danny Boy in Japanese. There was a spirited game of bingo along with plenty of prizes. The event ended around 2 o'clock in the afternoon with a moment of silence to pay tribute to members they had lost in the past year. It was a solemn moment that moved some attendees to tears.

These socials are conducted quarterly. Each social is implemented by specific 442nd companies. The executive council has assured everyone these socials will continue into the foreseeable future. "These events have become a traditional way of honoring our veterans," said I Company Associate, Irvin Yamada.

The next social will be handled by Companies E, F and Tutu (i.e., 522nd, Anti-Tank, Engineers and Service) and is scheduled for Saturday, January 15, 2011. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, or simply driving a veteran or widow to the event, please contact Charlie Takahashi at (808) 877-6072.

All 100th Battalion, MIS, 442nd RCT veterans, their spouses and widows are encouraged to attend. Bingo prizes are generously donated by local businesses and supporting individuals. If you are interested in donating items or funds, please contact Kaoru Muraoka at (808) 570-8692.



Photo by Irvin Yamada

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