



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

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NEWS RELEASE
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Remembering Francis Yasutake

There will be one less veteran this coming Tuesday at Like Like Drive-In in downtown Honolulu. Francis Yasutake, co-founder of the “Tuesdays at Like Like Drive-In” died on Sunday, October 28, 2012. Tuesdays at Like Like Drive-In have become so popular among the Korean War Veterans on Oahu that the restaurant dedicated a private section and two waitresses to handle the weekly crowd.

Yasutake never had any intentions of turning “Tuesdays” into a huge gathering but nothing pleased him more to have newcomers join in and become part of the family. This all began because Yasutake and another Korean War Veteran, (late) Michael Ho would meet to “talk story” at the local-style restaurant. It didn't take long before they invited other veterans to join them at the breakfast table. Soon, Like Like was more than just a breakfast gathering. Many of these men rely on each other for support. They check on each other's health or well-being, provide information on the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Purple Hearts Association and other community and veterans information. They share jokes, books, stories and service photos. They are family. For some, their spouses have joined in on the fun.

Yasutake was born on Oahu, was a Farrington High School alumnus and retired from the US Postal Service. His life is similar to many other Nisei during the same time period. He served during the Korean War, returned home, married and had children. He never gave much thought to the Korean War until one night he woke up with symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He had no idea what triggered it or why it would bother him so many years later, but meeting and talking about it with other Korean War combat veterans seemed to give his personal experience validation. Like Like Drive-In would become his savior. He rarely missed Tuesdays at Like Like and until recently could always be found there. In August 2012, Yasutake was diagnosed with inoperable tumors and began treatment. His last trip to the mainland was to Nisei Week here in Los Angeles this past summer.

If you happen to be in Honolulu on a Tuesday morning and you're interested in learning more about the Korean War, please stop by the Like Like Drive-In and look for the

“closed” section. They welcome all veterans and non-veterans who are interested in learning about the “Forgotten War.” Eat, talk story and enjoy the company. Listen to history by those who lived it.

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 (714) 515-5501.

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