



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

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NEWS RELEASE
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Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society Awards James T. Tanabe the “Na Lima Kokua” Award

Hawaii Pacific Gerontological Society announced its winners for their “Na Lima Kokua” Awards. James T. Tanabe was given an award for his community service conducting oral histories among the Military Intelligence Service veterans of World War II and Occupied Forces. Tanabe was recently honored at the HPGS luncheon on September 15, 2008. Tanabe volunteers his time to the MIS Club of Hawaii and to Japanese American Living Legacy.

Tanabe himself has completed over 100 oral histories on the Military Intelligence Service. His ultimate goal is to educate the public on what the MIS veterans have done and continue to do for this country. Tanabe also volunteers as the newsletter editor and assists the MISers at their gatherings and banquets. His wife, Yoshie is a staunch supporter and a fundamental part of the Tanabe team.

Tanabe is a Korean War Veteran and served in the Military Intelligence Service. He understands the environment in which linguists serve and realizes their stories are a vital part of the overall picture during any war or conflict. “It’s difficult because many of us don’t have combat stories and the few who do, cannot discuss the details of their service due to the nature of what they did and saw. So we wait patiently and remain quiet. Trying to get the men to talk about activities during World War II is difficult. Many MIS veterans suffer from some memory loss, may have health issues and geographical obstacles; however it does not deter me from getting as many stories as I can,” says Tanabe.

Currently, Jim and Yoshie reside in Honolulu Hawaii near their daughter’s family.

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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