



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

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NEWS RELEASE
April 12, 2010

Like Like Drive-In: Tuesdays with the Gang

Two Korean War Veterans, Mr. Francis Yasutake and Mr. Michael Ho, began meeting once a week for breakfast in 1989 at the Like Like (pronounced “Licky-Licky”) Drive-In Restaurant in Honolulu, Hawaii. Today, there are anywhere from twenty to thirty Korean veterans who meet there for breakfast regularly. It has become so crowded that the diner gives them their own section with two dedicated waitresses.

Over the years, it has become more than just a breakfast gathering. Many of these men rely on each other for support. They check on each other, provide information on the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Purple Hearts Association and other community and veterans information. They share jokes, books, and service photos. More recently, they have adopted Japanese American Living Legacy, CEO, Susan Uyemura as one of their own.

Uyemura shared, “I am privileged to call these veterans my friends. Every Tuesday around 11 AM PST, my cell phone will ring with one of them calling from the diner – they pass the phone around and sometimes I'm not even sure whom I'm chatting with, but we joke and it gets so loud that sometimes I cannot hear them. Once a year, I fly to Hawaii and I make sure that the “Like Like Gang” is on my schedule. I try to make it to at least two breakfasts. Surprisingly, there are always some new additions to the group. This last trip, the group reached 37 breakfast club members. Members come from all over, some come from as far as Kaneohe and Mililani.” Uyemura continued, “The Like Like gang has attended the Nisei VFW reunion and a small group attend Nisei Week to participate in the parade every year. They are my extended family.”

Uyemura is not alone in being accepted into this veteran fraternity; Gwen Muranaka, editor for the Rafu Shimpo newspaper, was also visiting the islands recently with her father when they stopped by Like Like for morning breakfast. **[Gwen please elaborate here ...]**

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 (657) 278-4483.

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