



DANIEL K. INOUE
INSTITUTE

December 11, 2024

Aloha Friends!

Happy Holidays from the Daniel K. Inouye Institute. We are pleased to share our latest activities.



On October 4th, Ken, Jessica, Jennifer, Jill, and Sara joined the family and friends of the USS DANIEL INOUE (DDG-118) crew as she pulled into Pearl Harbor, returning from her maiden deployment into the Indo-Pacific region to promote regional stability and the free flow of commerce as a part of the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. Her time at sea was extended from 5 to 9 months - the carrier strike group was deployed to the Middle East to support security efforts and deter aggression in that tumultuous area.

DANIEL K. INOUE INSTITUTE FUND

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The ship and crew made port calls in Singapore, Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Guam. They even helped rescue two distressed mariners from Iran who were lost at sea. The safe rescue overcame global political tensions and placed a priority on simple humanity. It also provided an excellent training exercise for crew members.



We joined overjoyed family and friends cheering for the crew as the USS INOUE pulled into the pier with the assistance of P and R Water Taxi Company tugboats — ASD Patsy Mink and ASD Neil Abercrombie. How ironic and fitting, right! Fragrant lei and heartfelt homemade signs awaited these sailors who bravely stood the watch for a very long 262 days away from home.



USS INOUE Commander Kevin Dore's Change of Command is on December 12th. He will be replaced by Commander Ryan Kelly. The DKII team worked with Kevin as the INOUE made her way from Bath, Maine, through the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor for her commissioning. Translation: Kevin never said "No" to any "creative" requests we had – from sending Hawaii goodies and Hawaii word cards to crew members along the way, to installing artwork, medals and coins, Native Hawaiian warrior weapons and a map of the Hawaiian islands denoting Senator's favorite restaurants in the gallery.

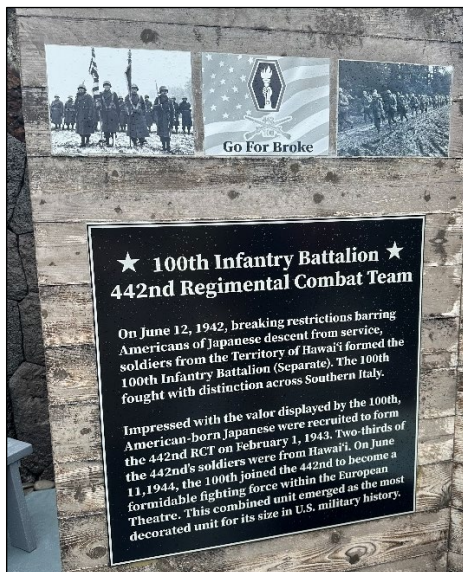
We will miss Kevin and his family, but he will always be part of the DKII ohana.



Once commissioned and settled, Kevin brought the INOUYE for weekend visits to Kona and Lahaina. When in Kona, the crew volunteered to clean the gravestones at the West Hawaii Veterans cemetery. While there, we noticed monuments honoring the sacrifices of Korean and Vietnam veterans, but none for the warriors of WWII.



After a few conversations with the nonprofit leaders who support the cemetery, DKII committed to be the lead donor for a fitting WWII recognition. There were drawings, schematics, additional fundraising, and on September 2nd, the monument was dedicated. Our very own Congresswoman Jill Tokuda provided very fitting remarks as the monument was formally opened to the public.





History of the Joint Memorial Service
Honoring the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion / 442nd RCT / MIS / 1399th

On September 29, 1946, the veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the first Japanese American segregated unit to fight in Europe, held a memorial service to honor their comrades who died in the war, for whom a formal service or ritual could not be held in the heat of battle. The veterans of the 100th continued to organize or participate in an annual memorial service, traditionally held in September on the Sunday closest to September 29 — the day that Sgt. Shigeo “Joe” Takata became the first 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate) soldier to be killed in action, in 1943.



Held as a joint memorial service since 2006, the service now honors all the men who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, that died in World War II or have since passed on. The 19th Annual Joint Memorial Service is presented by the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans (Club 100), 442nd Veterans Club, 442nd Legacy Center, Sons and Daughters of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service Veterans Hawai'i organizations. We proudly work together while continuing to carry on the identities and traditions established by the veterans of the units we represent.

On September 29th Ken, Jessica and daughter Maggie attended the Nisei Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl. Maggie was the youngest of four legacy speakers (all granddaughters) who represented each of the famed units — 100th, 442nd, MIS and Combat Engineers.



Maggie wrote her own speech that would have made her grandparents proud! Here is a link to the speech (her speech starts at the 57:41 mark).

https://www.youtube.com/live/yNp01sDrNIw?si=vKvb_IYyiYq_6xx0

Aloha, my name is Maggie Inouye.

On June 21, 2000, 21 veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team received the Medal of Honor. One of those heroes was my grandfather, Daniel Inouye. After the event, he was asked how it felt to be a part of the Greatest Generation. His answer was one typical of many Nisei veterans - that he didn't believe his generation was the greatest generation. That implies it never gets better, and that's not what America is about. He believed in an America that is always trying to improve upon itself, pursuing its goal of a more perfect union. In his words, "The greatest generation is yet to come." The Issei and Nisei made many sacrifices.

The men in the 100th and 442nd who willingly risked their lives didn't have to serve. These men, who were wrongly labeled as "enemy aliens," had to fight for the opportunity to fight. They rose to the occasion to prove their loyalty and the loyalty of their community. Their incredible acts of courage and sacrifices, both on and off the battlefield, have had a profound impact on our lives. We owe it to those who came before us to never forget what they have done for us. Many blessings, such as our freedom, and rights and opportunities we often take for granted, would not be in our lives without their hard work and sacrifice.

The greatest honor we can give these brave heroes of yesterday is to keep their legacy, the torch they passed on to us burning brightly. To not only

protect and preserve the freedom, rights and opportunities they secured for us, but to continue their story. To strive toward fulfilling the full promise of America they fought so hard for. That said, I urge us Yonsei and Gosei to recognize that our courageous forbearers were ordinary men who became extraordinary heroes, and that we too have the potential with in us to rise to the occasion, to “Go For Broke” to tackle the obstacles and challenges of our day, and be the greatest generation that we can be. A generation that our own grandchildren will admire and honor. Let us continue marching forward!

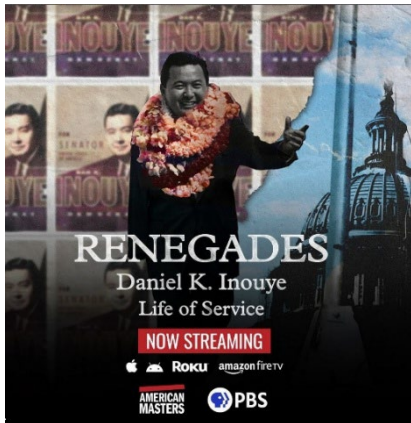


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**PBS’ recent American Masters Renegades Film Series showcased historical figures with disabilities and their contributions to society. In the initial discussion, we conveyed to Tammy TS Botkin, Director, Producer, and Writer, that Senator may not be a good fit for the series because he did not consider himself handicapped. For that reason alone, Tammy and her team wanted to feature the Senator. She flew to Hawaii and interviewed Ken Inouye and Jeff Watanabe at Zippy’s, Jennifer at Punchbowl, and Dr. Robert Stodden, Center of Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa.**

Here is the episode --

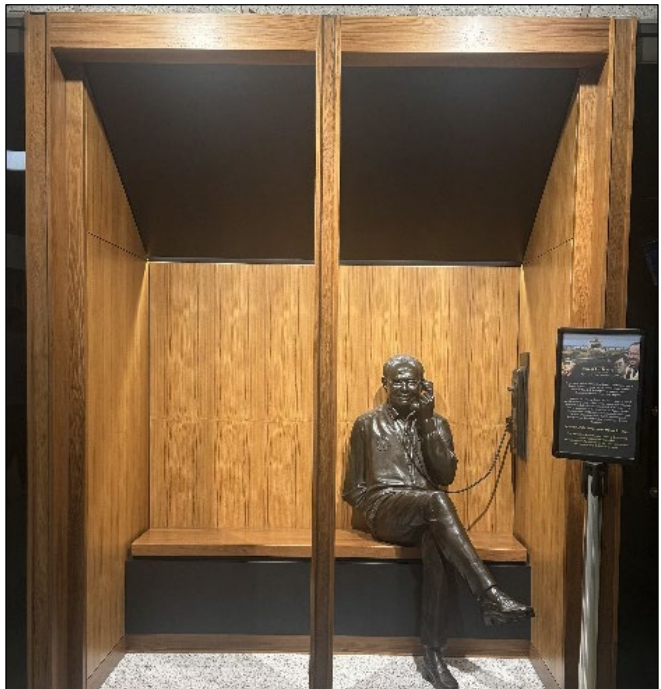
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/daniel-k-inouye-documentary/33578>



**A special mahalo to Heather Giugni, Janel Quirante, and the staff at 'Ulu'ulu: The Henry Ku'ualoha Giugni Moving Image Archive of Hawai'i at UH West Oahu, as well as Dawn Sueoka and her team at the UH Hawaii Congressional Papers Archive at Hamilton Library who provided access to video and papers from the Inouye Collection.**



**Lastly, the bronze statue of our beloved Senator at the United terminal at the Daniel K. Inouye Airport is public for all to see, visit, talk story and take a selfie! As you may remember from our last newsletter, Statues for Legends Foundation reached out to the DKI Institute, inviting us to partner with them to erect a bronze statue of Dan Inouye. Their mission is to recognize leaders of color, woman leaders, and others who may not receive the spotlight they otherwise deserve. As old-timer staff will recall, when we dropped Senator off at the Honolulu International Airport, he would check in, proceed to the United Terminal, and call us on one of the pay phones as he waited for his flight to be called. He did it for years, like clockwork, before the advent of cell phones!**



**The statue is near Gate G2 (United flights). Please make sure to stop by – sit, talk story, take a selfie and share your photos with us! Here is Congresswoman Jill Tokuda talking story just before returning to Washington D.C. last month. Plus two more friends flying out for Thanksgiving!**



**We wish you and your ohana a wonderful holiday season. Let us count our many blessings and imua forward with resilience and purpose.**

**Aloha,**

**Jennifer and Sara**