

Dr. Yoshinobu D. Oshiro



Dr. Yoshinobu Oshiro

uses the *Uchinaaguchi* word “*Yaaningyu*” (family member) to describe his affinity for those around him in family, organizations and community. With everything Dr. Oshiro touches, he shows the same care, dedication and commitment to *Obana* (Hawaiian word for family), which allows him to continue to positively affect countless lives.

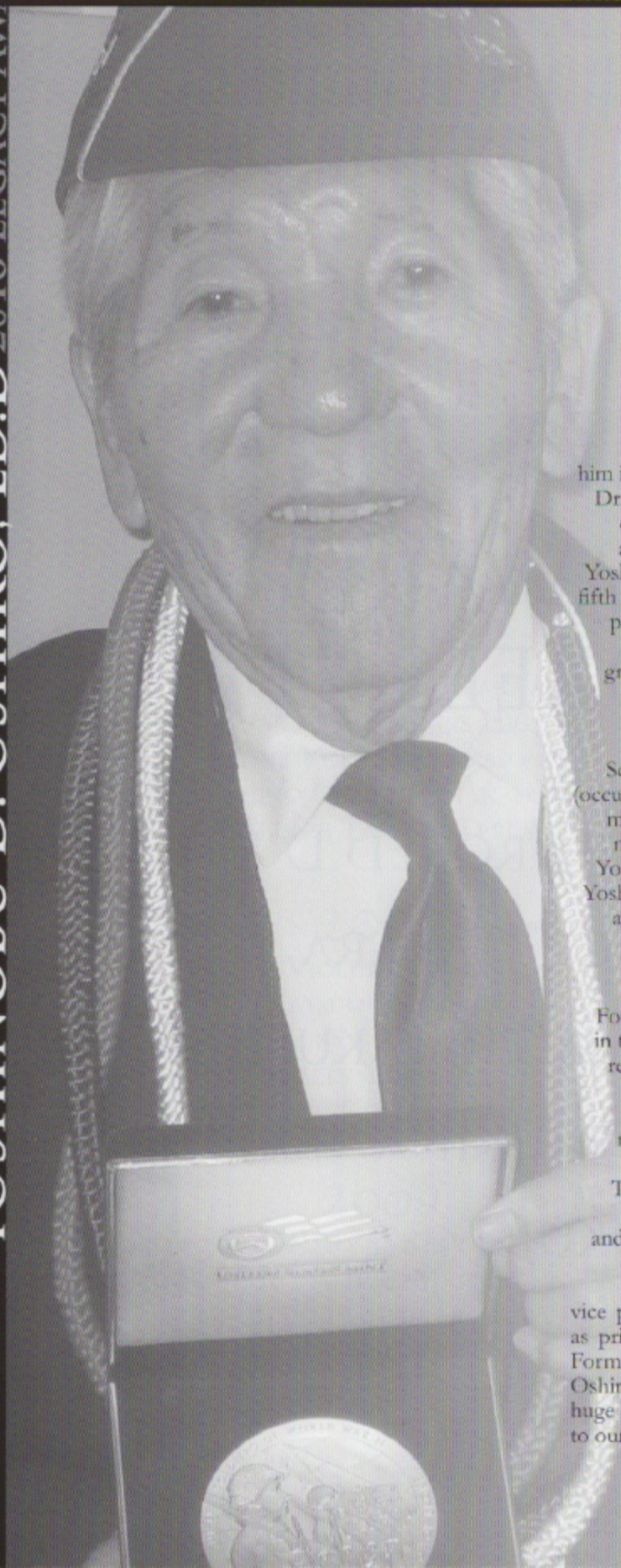
Yoshinobu was born in Ewa Plantation on May 11, 1928, the fifth son of the nine children of Hoko and Uto Oshiro, sugar plantation contract laborers who emigrated from Haebaru Son, Okinawa. He attended Ewa Elementary School, graduated from Waipahu High School in 1946 and enjoyed helping with the family’s chicken and pig farms.

After high school, Yoshinobu served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps, Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and was assigned duty in Kobe and Maizuru (occupied Japan) from 1946-1950. While on leave, Yoshinobu made the arduous trip to war-torn Okinawa to bring much needed food to his family whom he met for the first time. Yoshinobu’s maternal grandmother spoke *Uchinaaguchi* and Yoshinobu could barely understand her, but nodded his head and smiled indicating everyone in Hawaii were doing well.

Upon discharge from the Army, Yoshinobu attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa and earned a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture and a Commission in the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a 2nd Lieutenant. After college, he worked in the pineapple industry for Libby McNeil on Molokai, but returned to Oahu to help his ailing father with the chicken farm and to return to school to become a teacher.

While teaching at Ewa Elementary School, Yoshinobu realized the intrinsic rewards of teaching – giving back to his hometown community. He met and married Nancy Tamanaha of Paia, Maui who worked for the Department of Education (DOE), and they raised two children, Earl and Ann. Nancy eventually retired as a school principal and passed away in 1992.

Yoshinobu has been a well-respected DOE teacher, vice principal, principal, curriculum specialist and he retired as principal of Chester Nimitz Elementary School in 1985. Former student, U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono, recalls that “Dr. Oshiro showed me that caring competent teachers can make a huge difference in the lives of students,” and her commitment to our public school system is based on Dr. Oshiro’s influence.





Earl and Ann, Dr. Oshiro's children, experienced his dedication and caring nature both at school, and those same qualities at home - "Study hard and behave." They always remembered that the last thing you'd want, is to be sent to the Principal's office, since that's where Dad was! Through the years, he was the best role model: Honest, caring, straight-forward, always taking the time and effort to listen and contribute.

In 2000, Yoshinobu married Anna Nabarrete, a former Waipahu High School classmate. Together, they have learned much about each other's backgrounds and cultures, support the community, and bring their infectious caring nature to their community service volunteer activities.

Yoshinobu's Air Force Reserve duties included assisting Department of Defense Dependent Schools Pacific (DOD schools in Japan and Asia), which culminated in his Utah State University doctoral dissertation. He retired as a Lt.

Colonel in the Air Force Reserve and is a proud Veteran, maintaining his military connections through participation in wreath laying ceremonies, fundraising, and other activities, and his leadership in the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii and as Former Commander of the MIS Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 110. Dr. Oshiro and his MIS comrades were also awarded the Congressional Gold Medals in 2011 in Washington, D.C. for their exemplary service during World War II.

Yoshinobu has served the Okinawan Community in many ways - as President and Vice President of Haeburu Sonjin Kai, he rallies members to participate in events and activities; has donated proceeds from the sale of Oshiro family's Haeburu property to purchase equipment for the Haeburu Community Center; and has assisted the Haeburu International Student Exchange Program (*Seishonen Kokusai Koryu*), since it began in 1993. Over 270 student have participated and visited Hawaii, home-stayed with a host family, attended Washington Middle School classes and toured Oahu. In return, young adults from the Hawaii Haeburu Club have received paid trips to Haeburu-Cho. Haeburu Mayor Shiroma and former students have expressed appreciation for this valuable program and their fond memories of Hawaii. Through Yoshinobu's efforts, Haeburu Club has strengthened ties to Okinawa; and is an example for other HUOA Clubs, who are making similar connections with their ancestral villages.

Yoshinobu is thankful for the support of his family and the Okinawan Community, and for the opportunity to work with his "Yaaminjyu" - the Haeburu Club, Haeburu Town, MIS Veterans, VFW Clubs, his students, and DOE colleagues

