

NAKAGUSUKU SONJIN KAI

COURTNEY TAKARA

Courtney Takara, one of our youngest members, has truly embraced our Okinawan culture and heritage. She was selected as Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai's representative to the 2007 HUOA Leadership Study Tour and returned from that life changing experience with a renewed vigor and passion to serve our Okinawan community.

She exemplifies her Uchinanchu spirit as HUOA's Assistant Secretary since 2008, serves as secretary to the HUOA's Administration Committee, cooked rice on Saturday and chaired the Hospitality Tent on Sunday at the 2009 Okinawan Festival. She spearheaded the successful 2009 HUOA Community Service Project - Paiolu Kaiulu at the Waianae Civic Center.

As a Nakaguskunchu, Courtney has served as Assistant Treasurer for the past four years. Her parents, Wayne and Corinne along with the entire Nakagusuku Sonjin Kai are very proud of their 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year - Courtney Takara!



NISHIHARA CHOJIN KAI

ROY BUSUKI TOGUCHI AND HILDA HIDEKO TOGUCHI

Nishihara Chojin Kai is proud to honor the husband and wife team of Roy Busuki (age 90) and Hilda Hideko (age 86) Toguchi as this year's Uchinanchu of the Year. They have been long time supporters of the clubs Shinne Enkai, picnics, and HUOA activities. Whenever there is a need for help, the Toguchi's would be there without hesitation to assist and work tirelessly behind the scenes.

For any Nishihara Chojin Kai's auspicious occasion, Roy can always be counted to provide a prayer and words of encouragement to the club members. Hilda has dedicated her time and wisdom for many years as an advisor and board member of the club.

Congratulations to Roy and Hilda for their awesome dedication and true Uchinanchu spirit from the Nishihara Chojin Kai.



OKINAWA CITY-GOEKU SON

RICHARD R. KUBA, JR.

Richard R. Kuba is the son of the late Richard and Kiyoko Kuba. He is credited for bringing back Softball to Goeku Son. After over twenty years of not participating in the HUOA Softball League, last year Goeku was able to again field a team. Under his leadership and coaching, this year Goeku came in third in the consolation bracket, becoming one of the most improved teams this year.

As a member of a very active Okinawan family, Richard has assisted with our Chili-Oki Dog booth at the Okinawan Festival and was a part of Festival's clean-up crew this year.

Richard is kept busy with his farm, golf and contracting business and most recently becoming the grandfather of two precious girls, Paisley and McKenzie. Richard has two sons David and Daniel.

Richard thank you for all of the work you have done for Goeku. We are proud to have you as a member and our honoree.



OKINAWAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF HAWAII

ROBERT KISHABA

Robert Kishaba was born in Okinawa and raised by his grandmother until age 18. In 1945, he was drafted in the Japanese Army during World War II. His father was a U.S. citizen so he was able to come to the United States in 1948. Two years later he was drafted by the U.S. Government and served in the U.S. Army as a Japanese interpreter.

He has good knowledge of Okinawan culture and history, and has provided assistance to members of OGS as well as others in the community. He helped many people trace their Okinawan roots. He translated Japanese documents and drafted write-ups in English. Robert is an expert on many items related to Okinawan culture such as Yagoo, Koseki System, and Royalty Ranks and Hierarchy. He has good knowledge about Okinawan traditions, customs, family names, and religious rites.

Robert is an excellent leader that actively participates in all of our club functions. OGS recognizes Robert Kishaba for his fine contribution to perpetuate the Okinawan culture and heritage. We are proud to honor him as our 2009 Uchinanchu of the Year.

