

A Letter from Mrs. Spark Matsunaga

Dear Members of Club 100:

I am very pleased to join the members in this salute to the 100th Infantry Battalion's 50th Anniversary celebration. As a charter member of the famed 100th, my late husband, Spark Matsunaga, deeply cherished his association with former comrades-in-arms over the years. His friendship with members of the 100th was forged in battle in Italy during World War II, but he frequently cited the outstanding peacetime achievements of the soldiers of the Purple Heart Battalion as well as their heroic record on the battlefield. Sparky valued the advice and support of his wartime buddies over the years as he launched his own career of public service. He considered them to be among his best and closest friends.

Club 100 members, like our family, are fortunate to share many personal memories of the private side of Sparky. We like to remember him as he relaxed at home, watching the Washington Redskins while sipping green tea and eating *okoshi*. Our dog, Moki, would always beg for scraps. Sparky had a soft side — he would always melt and give in to Moki.

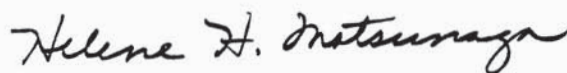
When football season was over, Sparky looked forward to baseball season. In the early days, he followed the Washington Senators. When the Senators

moved to Texas, Sparky became a Baltimore Orioles fan. He was delighted that Lenn Sakata of Kalani High School played for the Orioles. Lenn made Sparky feel as though he wasn't the only Japanese boy a long way from home.

Sparky also enjoyed watching the boxing matches, reminders of his early days as an amateur boxer. Between rounds of the matches, Sparky used to pull out his list of candidates to select for recommendations to the military academies. Sometimes he relaxed by hitting the speed bag in our basement.

I am sure this observance of the 50th Anniversary of the 100th Infantry Battalion will help to keep the members' achievements shining brightly in the eyes of the youth of Hawaii and the men and women of the United States Armed Forces.

Sincerely,



Helene H. Matsunaga

