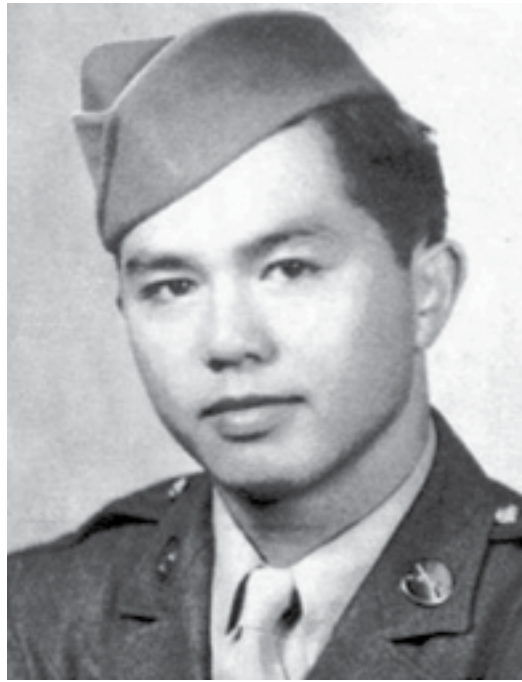




History and Formation of **KAZUO MASUDA MEMORIAL POST 3670** **VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**



Army barracks in Huntington Beach



Bank of Tokyo, Santa Ana



Boys and Girls Club of Cerritos



Sumitomo Bank, Anaheim



Current Building, Garden Grove

This history was compiled by information from files of Robert M. Wada, Norio Uyematsu, VFW Auxilliary members, Susan Nishiwaki, Mae Shimazu, Linda Tamura, and from the membership of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 through the decades of its operation.

Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 - Veterans of Foreign Wars

Formation of VFW Post 3670

The Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) was officially mustered/organized on November 2, 1957. VFW Post 3670 was organized by two World War II veterans, Mamoru Sadakane and Seiji Yamauchi with the assistance of Claude F. O'Hara U.S.N. (Ret.). The 32nd Annual Kazuo Masuda VFW Reunion booklet was dedicated to Claude O'Hara as being the father of Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 since he was instrumental in organizing the first Nisei Post in Orange County.

It was during an era where Japanese American veterans could not become members of a Caucasian veteran's organization. It was then that Seiji Yamauchi decided to organize an all-Japanese American Veterans organization. With Seiji being a newcomer to Orange County, he was able to work with Mamoru "Mamo" Sadakane, who was a native Orange County resident. Both of them contacted sixty-two Orange County Japanese American veterans to be members of this new VFW organization.

To qualify for membership in the VFW you MUST meet the following TWO requirements:

1: **Honorable Service** – must have served in the Armed Forces

of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.

2: **Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters***. This can be proven by any of the following:

- An authorized campaign medal (see a full list of qualifying medals and badges)
- Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)
- Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days



Mamo Sadakane



Seiji Yamauchi

Charter Members

Shiro Aoki	Hideo Kawaratani	James Nishiwaki	George Shinto
Ken Doi	Hajime Kayano	Mitsuo Nitta	Jimmy Shinto
George Fujita	Isao Kusuda	Wilson Ogawa	Harry Takahama
Bob Fukutomi	Mike Kusuda	John Ohta	James Takahama
Takaji Goto	George Kusumi	Teddie Oka	Hideo Tamura
Nobuo Honbo	Samuel Maehara	Yutaka Okada	Stephen Tamura
Toru Imamura	Masao Masuda	Kay Osumi	Isamu Tanaka
Shigeru Ishii	Akira Miyoda	Joe Otsuka	Masaru Tanaka
Sets Iwakoshi	Frank Mizusawa	Ken Otsuka	Paul Tanaka
Sho Iwakoshi	Yukito Murakami	Mamoru Sadakane	Arthur Tatsuno
Toshio Iwata	Ben Murata	Masuo Sadakane	Ray Uyemori
Masaru Kadowaki	Yo Nagayama	Nozomu Sadakane	Kenji Uyesugi
Masato Kaihara	Eichi Nakamura	Paul Sakaguchi	Hiromu Wada
George Kanno	Henry Neishi	Kaz Sato	Geo Yamaguchi
Tadashi Kato	Henry Niizawa	Sam Sechi	Seiji Yamauchi
Tatsuo Kato	Bruce Nishiwaki	Ben Shimazu	Ken Yasukochi

Mamoru Sadakane and Seiji Yamauchi were able to sign up 64 charter members. Seiji Yamauchi was the first Commander of the VFW Post 3670.

Past Commanders

Seiji Yamauchi	1957 – 1959	Norio Uyematsu	1976 – 1977
Mike Kasuda	1959 – 1961	Nozomu Sadakane	1977 – 1978
Mamoru Sadakane	1961 – 1962	Bruce Nishiwaki	1978 – 1979
Kenji Uyesugi	1962 – 1963	Hide Tamura	1979 – 1980
Ben Shimazu	1963 – 1964	Jim Tsutsui	1980 – 1981
Ken Doi	1964 – 1965	Robert M. Wada	1981 – 1982
Frank Sagara	1965 – 1966	John Yamano	1982 – 1983
Hideo Kawaratani	1966 – 1967	Jim Motokane	1983 – 1984
Kazuo Sato	1967 – 1968	Seiji Yamauchi	1984 – 1985
Ernest Tsuji	1968 – 1969	Mike Kusuda	1985 – 1986
Ben Murata	1969 – 1970	George Kanno	1960 – 1961
Ace Kasuda	1970 – 1971	Norio Uyematsu	1986 – 1987
Hideo Kawaratani	1971 – 1972	Gilbert Takenaga	1987 – 1988
Ben Shimazu	1972 – 1974	John Yamano	1988 – 1989
Frank Sagara	1974 – 1976	Ben Shimazu	1989 – 1990

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Past Commanders (Continued)

Robert M. Wada	1991 - 1992	Paul Takahashi	2004 - 2005
Deen Matsuzawa	1992 - 1993	Geoff Chow	2005 - 2006
Ben Murata	1993 - 1994	Sam Toda	2006 - 2007
Norio Uyematsu	1994 - 1995	Geoff Chow	2007 - 2008
Mike Kusuda	1995 - 1996	Paul Takahashi	2008 - 2009
Paul Takahashi	1996 - 1997	James Masaki	2009 - 2010
Geoffrey Chow	1997 - 1998	Geoffrey Chow	2010 - 2015
Nozomu Sadakane	1998 - 1999	Timothy Murray	2015 - 2017
Tak Fukushima	1999 - 2000	Ray Kawahara	2017 - 2018
Robert M. Wada	2000 - 2001	James Nakamura	2018 - 2023
Tom Imagawa	2001 - 2002		
James Masaki	2002 - 2003		
Robert R. Anuba	2003 - 2004		

Post 3670 founder's Seiji Yamauchi and Mamoru Sadakane, along with new members, decided to name the post "Kazuo Masuda Memorial" after decorated WWII Japanese American veteran, Sgt. Kazuo Masuda of Fountain Valley, California, who died while serving in the Army with Company F, 442nd Regimental Combat. Campaign. Masuda was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his gallantry in combat and the Purple Heart for sacrificing his life for his country.



Kazuo Masuda



Distinguished Service Cross and Ribbon

Link to Smithsonian Institute history for Kazuo Masuda below:

<http://cgm.smithsonianapa.org/stories/kazuo-masuda.html>

Kazuo was killed in action and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

SSgt Kazuo Masuda, Santa Ana, California on December 7, 1941, Pvt. Kazuo Masuda was stationed at Ford Ord, California. On February 6, 1942, he sent this letter to authorities in Washington D.C.:

"On December 7, 1941, my father, Gensuke Masuda, Rt. 4, Box 533, Santa Ana, was imprisoned in the Orange County jail by the county sheriff. The reason for his arrest is unknown to him, his family and friends. About 10 days later, after being questioned by F.B.I. agents, he was transferred to Fort Missoula, Montana, where he is now interned.

I cannot believe that my father has done any act of disloyalty towards the United States. He has been a resident of this country for over 40 years...He has been a farmer for over 35 years...

In all the 23 years I have lived with my father, he has never uttered a single word against the United States. He

has always considered this nation his country, and I believe he has done his part in making it the great nation that we are. He did not, as so many others have done, send any of his children to Japan for any part of their education. He wanted his children to be Americans....

I believe sincerely that his arrest and his subsequent imprisonment and internment was based on mistaken facts..."

Kazuo Masuda, Pvt.

Hq & Hq Sec, CASC Unit #1962

Gensuke Masuda was released from Federal custody and the Masuda family was interned in Jerome Relocation Center, Arkansas. The Masuda family was relocated to the Gila River Relocation Center, Arizona where they were interned from June 1944 until they were released on July 19, 1945.

On August 27, 1944 while leading a patrol across the Arno River in Italy, SSgt. Kazuo Masuda was killed when he encountered a German machine gun nest. SSgt. Masuda fired 18 rounds from his Thompson submachine gun before he was cut down by the German machine gun bullets. SSgt. Masuda was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. By direction of the President of the United States, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, the Distinguished Service



Cross is awarded posthumously to Staff Sergt. Kazuo Masuda, Infantry, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action on 6 July, 1944, near Molino a Ventoabbato, and from 27 to 28 August 1944, on the Arno river near Florence, Italy.

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On 6 July, 1944, while his advanced observation post was the target of heavy mortar and artillery barrages, Staff Sergeant Masuda crawled 200 yards to the mortar section, secured a mortar tube and ammunition, and returned to the observation post. Using his helmet as a base plate, Staff Sergeant Masuda single-handedly directed effective fire upon the enemy for 12 hours, inflicting heavy casualties and repulsing two major enemy counter-attacks.

On 27 August, 1944, Staff Sergeant Masuda voluntarily led two men on a night patrol across the Arno river and through the heavily-mined and booby-trapped north bank. Hearing movements to his right he ordered his men to cover him while he crawled forward and discovered that a strong enemy force had surrounded them. Realizing that he was trapped, he ordered his men to withdrawal while he boldly engaged two enemy automatic weapons. At the sacrifice of his life, he enabled his comrades to escape with valuable information which materially aided the successful crossing of the Arno river.

The gallant heroism and selfless devotion to duty of Staff Sergeant Masuda exemplify the finest tradition of the Infantry of the Army of the United States.

Presentation is made to his next of kin, his sister, Mary Masuda.

When Mary Masuda returned to Orange County in 1945, she was threatened by five men who did not want her and the Masuda family to return to Orange County from the Gila River Relocation Center. This was widely reported in newspapers:

WASHINGTON--The War Relocation Authority on May 14 took steps to end threats against an American girl of Japanese ancestry who has four brothers with honorable army service records.

The WRA announced it is prepared to turn over to law enforcement officials the names of five men who have threatened Mary Masuda of Talbert, Orange County, California, with bodily harm unless she moves out of the county in which she resides with the Caucasian Family named Trudeau.

On December 10, 1945 General Joseph W. (Vinegar Joe) Stilwell presented Mary Masuda the Distinguished Service Cross in honor of her brother, SSgt. Kazuo Masuda, at a ceremony at the humble Masuda farm home in Talbert, Orange County (near Santa Ana). Later at a rally in honor of SSgt. Masuda held at the Santa Ana Municipal Bowl organized by the Council for Civic Unity and Santa Ana civic organizations, General Stilwell said:

"The Nisei bought an awful big hunk of America with their blood. Those Nisei boys have a place in the American heart, now and forever. We cannot allow a single injustice to be done to the Nisei without defeating the purpose for which we fought... Who, after all, is the real American? The real American is the man who calls it a fair exchange to lay down his life in order that American ideals may go on living.

And judging by such a test, Sergeant Masuda was a better American than any of us here today."

An Army Captain named Ronald Reagan made these remarks at the rally:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way--an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way. Mr. and Mrs. Masuda, just as one member of the family of Americans speaking to another member, I want to say for what your son Kazuo did, thanks!"



General Joseph Stilwell, Mary Masuda, Masao Masuda, Mr. & Mrs. Gensuke Masuda

When the body of Kazuo Masuda was brought home to America in 1948, the Masuda family attempted to have his remains buried at the Westminster Memorial Park cemetery in Orange County, California. The cemetery refused to allow Sgt. Masuda's remains to be buried in the Memorial Park because "restrictive covenants" barred persons who were not of Caucasian ancestry. After considerable adverse publicity and pressure from the government, organizations and individuals, SSgt. Kazuo Masuda was allowed to be buried in his home county.

VFW Post First Meeting



VFW Post 3670 meeting held in Army barracks on Yorktown Street Westminster, California

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The first meeting of the VFW Post 3670 was held at a converted two-story Army barrack located on Yorktown Street in Huntington Beach California. The meeting was held upstairs and after the conclusion of the meeting, everyone went downstairs where there was a bar and tables to play cards. Subsequent meeting were held once a month.

The VFW Post 3670 eventually had to move from the building. Ben Shimazu who was employed by Bank of Tokyo, Santa Ana branch allowed the VFW Post 3670 to move to a vacant room upstairs. The room was a former radio broadcast station.



Ben Shimazu



Bank of Tokyo building in Santa Ana.



Sumitomo Bank building in Anaheim.



Boys and Girls Club building in Cerritos

When the post was evicted from the bank building, the post was lucky enough to jointly share a headquarters building with the Charles Knauss Post in Los Alamitos, California across the street from the Los Alamitos Race Course. After a few years, Knauss post was forced to vacate the city owned facility and Post 3670 was once again without a headquarters.



Current Post building in Stanton.

Coincidentally, a District 2 official, friend with Post 3670 members, approached comrade Robert Wada with information that a Garden Grove Post is disbanding and has a building available. The official suggested and highly recommended Post 3670 accept the offer of the building. It is an old fire station building donated to the Garden Grove Post, with the stipulation the building must always be used for veteran's purposes only.



Robert Wada

After convincing the skeptics, who were afraid of such a huge commitment, Wada was able to overcome the negativism and the Post accepted the offer. The Post is currently occupying the building together with the Post Youth Group.

Many of the Post community activities included the Orange County Buddhist Church Obon Carnivals, where the Post maintained a ball throwing booth as a fund raiser. The Post was the only Non-Church related organization allowed to participate. Proceeds were donated to the church. Post contact and liaison with the church was comrade Jim Motokane.



Jim Motokane

Another Post community activity was the participation of the Post in a Post fund raising Teriyaki Booth at the Annual Labor Day Weekend International Food Fair in the City of Orange. It was a lucrative, but a manpower demanding effort for a number of years. All the Pre-cooked preparation of the skewered meat was done in the Buddhist Church Kitchen. This event is the annual City of Orange Labor Day International Food Fair. Post 3670 helped set up the Japanese section of the International Food Fair and operated jointly together with many other local Japanese American organizations.

VFW Post 3670 Youth Group Sports

The beginning, of an organized Japanese American youth athletic program in Orange County, began with the initial formation of the South East Youth Organization more commonly known as SEYO.

In 1963 Robert M Wada organized the South East Youth Organization(SEYO) in the La Mirada/Whittier area put together an idea of forming a baseball league. A year later he met Nori Uyematsu and he asked Nori if his VFW Post would like to enter a boys and a girls baseball team in the fledgling SEYO Youth group. Nori went to his post meeting and presented a proposal to enter boys and



Norio Uyematsu

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girls baseball teams into this new SEYO Youth organization. It was voted approved by the Post members and Ernie Tsuji immediately became interested and organized a boys and girls team entering them in SEYO.



Ernie Tsuji

At first, they started with only a small boy's baseball league with five teams patterned after the CYC (Community Youth Council) Youth League in Los Angeles. CYC rules were adopted with a slight modification of ages to fit the local age differences in the area.

For the rules, they used the CYC League guidelines and substituted every mention of CYC with SEYO. The league started with five teams from Whittier, La Mirada, Anaheim, Norwalk and an East Los Angeles VFW Post, presumably VFW Post 9902. Boys, on the teams, were 8 – 12 years old, so there was quite a difference in size.

Also organized was a teen club within SEYO, which was very successful. Years later when the teenagers left high school, the club was disbanded, but not before a very successful program.

Ernie became the manager and coached the teams at the very beginning with the help of a few other Post comrades who were fathers of the players. In 1969 a new permanent SEYO Board of Directors added a new boys and girls basketball format because basketball was becoming popular. Following the establishment of basketball, a few years later the baseball program was abandoned. A small group of parents tried to reestablish baseball, but the basketball interest prevailed

In 1968, SEYO expanded by bringing in local church and other organizations. That was also the year SEYO was incorporated. After five years of being president, Robert Wada said it was time for a change of officers. As in most cases of Japanese American organizations, no one wanted to be president. Shortly before initiating the current SEYO organization rotation system for incoming officers, the second president to take over, in 1970, was John Miyawaki. He was coaching the Wintersburg Church teams but was also a VFW 3670 member, as well. The Vice president for that term was VFW Post 3670 member Ernie Tsuji and treasurer was VFW Post 3670 member Gilbert Takenaga.



Gilbert Takenaga

SEYO was the stepping stone for the beginning of the Suburban Optimist Club of Buena Park with Bob Wada being the Suburban Optimist charter president. The Suburban Optimist Club (SOC) then sponsored and organized the Orange Coast Optimist Club (OCO). Many of the youth groups from local churches, organizations, and the VFW Post 3670 were organized and recruited to form the growing nucleus of SEYO.

The history of Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 Youth Group initially began with the creation of SEYO. In 1968, during Ernie Tsuji's commandership, Bob Wada, who was the Charter President of SEYO and an active member of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670, approached the VFW post members and discussed the possibility of entering a team into the new SEYO baseball program,

The VFW post members agreed and entered the first baseball team with Nori Uyematsu as the coach and then later in 1969, the team was taken over by Joe Natsuhara and Herb Karimoto. The first VFW team was made up of the following players:

Brian Aratani	Bruce Miyoda	Randy Tamura
Derek Karimoto	Ed Natsuhara	Mike Uyematsu
David Katayama	Steve Natsuhara	Jon Kato
Tim Ogata	Marvin Masuda	Craig Oka

The VFW Post soon vastly expanded and Ernie Tsuji organized a few parents and set up the VFW Post 3760 Youth Group. This early set up continued for a few years until the late 1980s when the post unexpectedly ran out of funds and was unable to continue to fund the youth program. It was voted by the Post members to disband the Youth Group.

Since 1968, the VFW Youth Group program has grown in numbers. With the tremendous expansion of the SEYO basketball program in 1969, it has grown to what it is today. The first SEYO booklet was published by co-editors Robert Wada and Nori Uyematsu in 1969.

A paragraph written by Robert Wada in the inside front cover of the first SEYO booklet reads:

"Where we will be in the years to come is beyond our vision, but we can only predict that with the continued support of the parents, the service organizations and most important, the coaches and managers, who so willingly give so much of their time, money and educational support, we can safely say that the South East Youth Organization is now in permanent orbit."

In 1977, the parent organization, the VFW Post 3670, could no longer financially sustain the SEYO youth organization so the VFW Youth Group was formally organized to handle the responsibility of financially maintaining the program. The VFW Youth Group began and continued, without financial support from the VFW Post 3670, because of the increasing financial demand created by the many new teams participating.

However, a group of parents who had children participating in the sports program did not want to see this opportunity abolished so they organized themselves into a youth group Fundraising Committee. This committee was so determined to continue, one of their main primary fundraising projects was selling Christmas trees, which was extremely difficult to accomplish, but financially successful. The selling of the trees required them to carry the trees to homes on steep hills.

Kazuo Masuda VFW Post 3670 – Youth Group of Orange County is a Non-Profit organization that helps foster children by using Youth Development Programs.

Eight key people took over the VFW youth program, in 1977, to raise funds and create a viable organization which still exists today. In 1980, the VFW Youth Group initiated the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670 Basketball Tournament. Recognition is given to the following people for taking over

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and assuring the success of this program and the creation of this initial 1980 tournament. They are Linda and Gary Honda, Arlene and Henry Ito, Julia and Jon Kawada, and Linda and Dave Tamura, who volunteered their time and efforts to create the framework for this endeavor. Henry Ito was the charter president in the early beginnings of the group. The VFW Youth Group of Orange County Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament is now in its 46th year.

Mission: To promote, develop, foster and encourage the development of youth and service to the community. Programs include community youth athletic programs that teach and foster good sportsmanship and to promote healthy activities.

Developmental basketball programs for children ages 7 to 18. 300+ children participate on basketball teams. Organization provides gyms for practices and games as well as coaches and parent supervision.

Keiki Kodomo basketball program for children beginning in the sport. Ages of the children are from 5 to 7 years old. 110 children have participated in the program. Volunteers are middle and high school students – mostly those that participate in the developmental basketball program.

High School recognition awards for graduating seniors. Multiple high school seniors are recognized every year for their scholastic achievement, service to their community and personal achievement.

Grants to fund veterans activities including maintenance of post building and installation dinner.

Grants to various organizations to help fund sports and community events. Source: <https://vfwyouthgroup.org>

They assumed the responsibility of the Youth Group after the early years went by and today the youth group operates successfully and is well organized. Initially the first officers after Ernie Tsuji's tenure in the 1960s to 1980s was Henry Ito, then the president in the mid 90s was Tom Kiyomura, who was succeeded by Lance Aoyagi in late 90's, Gary Ishii from 2000 to 2003, Alan Ishii from 2003 to 2015 and Allen Goya has the assumed the President's responsibilities at this time. Unfortunately Allen Goya past away in 2021 and his wife Gayle has assumed the responsibilities.

The Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 Basketball Tournament, sponsored by the VFW Youth Group, had become one of the largest Nikkei basketball tournaments in Southern California. There were 350 teams, ranging from the Third to Twelfth grades, along with adult teams. Over 3,500 basketball players, in all, participated in our annual tournament.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s the Post was supported by a VFW Post 3670 Ladies Auxiliary. Maintaining the Auxiliary in accordance with the National VFW mandates became difficult so the Auxiliary was disbanded. First president in 1979 was Keiko Sadakane, 1980 Alice Tamura, 1983 Jeanne Tustsui. The ladies remain as their own private group the "Ladies of Post 3670." Throughout the years, Kay Kato was the perennial treasurer from 1994 to 2005 even though the presidency was always changing.

In past successful years, the Post has held annual Installation

and Scholarship Award dinners jointly with the Youth Group at alternating locations, including the early days at Kona Hawaii restaurant in Santa Ana, Holiday Inn La Mirada, Knott's Hotel at Knott's Berry Farm and most recently at the Mile Square Golf Course facility.

Included during each past Post year was always the annual extremely lively All California Nisei VFW Posts Reunions held alternately at different location every 10 years. Orange County hosted over five reunions with the last three reunions in 1982, 1991 and 2001, of which 2001 was the last reunion hosted by Orange County. The 1982 reunion had almost 800 people in attendance at the Saturday night Banquet, in 1991 attendance dropped to around 500, but in 2001 drastically dropped to around 300... soon thereafter, the reunions were hosted annually by the combined Sacramento Post number 8985 and Monterey Post 1629. A few years later the reunions were cancelled due to the lack of membership support by other Posts and sharply dwindling attendance. Sacramento began annually hosting the Reunions in Reno in 2015. However, the last one was in 2019. Since then, the Reunions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-23.

State Nisei VFW Posts Reunions

During each of the last three Post 3670 hosted reunions, they were under the chairmanship of Nori Uyematsu and Commander Robert Wada.

The Post for the hosted reunions conducted a bowling tournament, golf tournament, fishing derby and arranged field trips for the ladies. The unique fun part of the reunion and highlight were always the hospitality rooms with tons of savory foods and open bars.... each post maintained their own hospitality room and served their own specialty food. For example, San Francisco always served fresh crab, San Fernando served authentic tasting Menudo, Los Angeles Post brought sushi, Sacramento had Hawaiian food/udon and Sierra post brought fresh fruits. Post 3670 Ladies went way out of their way to provide a variety of their special delicious dishes. It was always days and evening of indescribable eating, drinking and fun. The reunions were held from Friday morning registrations to noon on Sunday. Wives, widows, relatives and friends participated.

A serious and special part of the reunion was always on the final Sunday morning with a very special solemn memorial service for the comrades who passed away since each prior reunion.

State Nisei VFW Posts participated in the Annual Nisei Reunions

Post #	Name	Location
1629	Monterey Nisei	Monterey, CA
1961	4th District Nisei	Gardena, CA
3670	Kazuo Masuda Memorial	Orange County
4140	San Fernando Nisei	San Fernando, CA
4851	San Diego Nisei Memorial	San Diego, CA
5869	Nisei Liberty	Hanford, CA
8499	Sierra Nisei	Fresno, CA
8985	Sacramento, CA	Sacramento, CA
9902	6th District Nisei	E. Los Angeles, CA
9879	Golden Gate Nisei	San Francisco, CA
9938	Los Angeles Nisei	Los Angeles, CA
9970	San Jose Nisei	San Jose, CA

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Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 Sponsors

“Miss Orange County” Queens

Each candidate represented the post and Orange County in the Nisei Week Queen contest in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. The Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 was the first Orange County organization to sponsor a queen candidate to Nisei Week. The post was less than one year’s old when it decided to sponsor a candidate.

Sponsor: Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670
Representing Orange County as Miss Orange County (13 Queens from 1958~1970)

- 1958 Mary Murai
- 1959 Irene Morioka
- 1960 Doris Fujino
- 1961 Dianne Kubota – Nisei Week Queen

- 1962 Carol Nishizu
- 1963 Terri Kakuda
- 1964 Gwen Fujino
- 1965 Carol Kunitsugu – Nisei Week Queen
- 1966 Marilyn Shizue Wada
- 1967 Patricia Kusuda
- 1968 Beverly Hayashida – Miss Tomodachi
- 1969 Gwen Okumura– 1st Runner Up
- 1970 Gail Konishi

As of 2023, there have been 55 young women who have represented Orange County in Nisei Week representing the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, the Suburban Optimist Club of Buena Park, and the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council. Fifty three are still living and they held their first reunion on September 9, 2023 with 28 queens attending.



1958 Mary Murai



1959 Irene Morioka



1960 Doris Fujino
Miss Tomadachi



1961 Diane Kubota
Nisei Week Queen



1962 Carol Nishizu



1963 Terri Kakuda



1964 Gwen Fujino



1965 Carol Kunitsugu*
Nisei Week Queen



1966 Marilyn Wada



1967 Patricia Kusuda



1968 Beverly Hayashida*
Miss Tomadachi



1969 Gwen Okumura
1st Runner Up



1970 Gail Konishi



1958 Mary Murai (second from left) at Nisei Week Coronation Ball



1961 Nisei Week Queen (Diane Kubota, center) and Court



1964 Gwen Fujino VFW Queen



1965 Carol Kunitsugu - NW Queen



1968 Beverly Hayashida (Miss Tomodachi, far right) and Nisei Week Court

* Deceased

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VFW Post 3670 Joins the OCNCC

In 2018 Kazuo Masuda Memorial Post 3670 unanimously accepted to be part of the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council (OCNCC), which was founded by Jesse James.

To view more on what the OCNCC is about click this link:

<https://www.ocncc.org>