

Albert Akana was principal at various schools in Kona. Morris remembers Albert as a key leader in establishing the Honaunau school May Day program as a major community event and school fundraiser.

***Albert Akana was a teacher and administrator. He was principal at Alae School from 1946-50, Hookena from 1950-65 and Honaunau from 1965-71. He is credited with starting the Saturday May Day and ho'olaulea at Honaunau School. His famous prune cake always garnered "big bucks". He was the District Governor for District 50 of the Lions Club and served as the president of the Kona Community Federal Credit Union from 1957-74. He was also on the Bishop Estate Advisory Board and the Kona Hawaiian Civic Club.***

### **Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rodney Yano, Class of 1961**

Rodney Yano was a United States Army soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration -the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Vietnam War. Sergeant First Class Yano distinguished himself while serving with the Air Cavalry Troop for his actions near Bien Hao, Republic of Vietnam on January 1, 1969. Sfc. Yano was performing the duties of crew chief aboard the troop's command-and-control helicopter during action against enemy forces entrenched in dense jungle. From an exposed position in the face of intense small arms and antiaircraft fire he delivered suppressive fire upon the enemy forces. A grenade, exploding prematurely, covered him with burning phosphorous, and left him severely wounded. Flaming fragments within the helicopter caused supplies and ammunition to detonate. Dense white smoke filled the aircraft, obscuring the pilot's vision and causing him to lose control. Although having the use of only 1 arm and being partially blinded by the initial explosion, SFC Yano completely disregarded his welfare and began hurling blazing ammunition from the helicopter. In so doing he inflicted additional wounds upon himself, yet he persisted until the danger was past. SFC Yano's indomitable courage and profound concern for his comrades averted loss of life and additional injury to the rest of the crew.

### **Emiko Iwashita Kudo, Class of 1940**

**\*worked in Department of Education, Superintendent's Office**

**\*Director of Parks and Recreation, City and County of Honolulu**

RE: Emiko Iwashita Kudo. (The following is from Chi Kudo, who is trying to verify some facts) One of four sister and two brothers of a Kona coffee farming family, Emiko received her (B.A. - need to verify) from the University of Hawaii. She continued her education at Penn State receiving her (Masters?).

(Morris Kimura remembers): Emiko was instrumental in finding federal funds to purchase equipment and develop the vocational education program at Konawaena in the early 1970's.

**Dr. Unoji Goto, Class of 1939**

Dr. Goto, who graduated from the University of Cincinnati Medical School in 1948, was the first Japanese physician to join the Honolulu Medical Group, in 1956. He introduced cardiac catheterization to Hawaii. He was a member of a cardiac team that performed the first open-heart surgery in Hawaii in November 1959.

**Minoru Inaba, Class of 1925**

Minoru Inaba was one of five members of the first graduating class of Konawaena High School and was a noted baseball player. Inaba served as a teacher, vice principal, and baseball coach at the school for 38 years. The school's baseball field is named in his honor. After retiring from the Department of Education, he went on to serve five terms in the state House of Representatives.

**Glenna Kimura Ewing, Class of 1936**

Glenna Ewing was a registered nurse and director of nurses for Kona Community Hospital. In 2000, she was selected as a recipient of the Living Treasures of Hawai'i. This program was created by the Buddhist temple Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai'i to honor residents of Hawaii. The criteria for selection are, "First, the designee must demonstrate continuous growth in his or her field; second, the potential Living Treasure must have made significant contributions toward a more humane and fraternal society (and this perhaps is the most important criteria); and finally, he or she must have shown an on-going striving for excellence and a high level of accomplishment."

**Ellison Onizuka, Class of 1964**

Ellison Onizuka graduated from the University of Colorado with a Bachelors and Masters degree in aerospace engineering. In January 1970, Onizuka attended the US Air Force test pilot school and was assigned to the Test Flight Center at Edwards Air Force Base. In 1978, he was selected for the astronaut program. His first space mission took place on January 24, 1985. After 48 orbits around the Earth, Discovery landed at the Kennedy Space Center; Onizuka had completed 74 hours in space. In 1985, Onizuka was assigned to the mission on the Space Shuttle Challenger. On January 28, 1986 Challenger was destroyed 73 seconds after its launch, killing all aboard. At the time of his death, Onizuka held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

**Albert Akana, Class of 1926**

RE: Albert Akana. Morris Kimura suggested that we try to contact Albert's sisters (if they are still alive - Albert had no children). Morris recalls that Albert's sisters are Rose Fujimori (she used to be in charge of Puuhokola Heiau near Kawaihae) and Martha Keliiaa (beauty shop owner in Kealakekua below the hospital, her husband was a police officer).