



Star Advertiser

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Moiliili resident was a kamikaze

Capt. William M. Callaghan decided to give a dignified burial to a Japanese pilot who had crashed a Zero into the USS Missouri ("Letters from the 'Tokko-tai,'" Star-Advertiser, April 9). That decision took moral courage.

Do we have the moral courage to give a dignified metaphorical burial to sons and daughters of Hawaii who gave their lives in World War II while — by choice or circumstance — wearing the uniforms of their ancestral land?

Clifton Takamura was among those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Clifton grew up in Moiliili, distinguished himself at McKinley High School and the University of Hawaii, and traveled to Japan for further studies. Drafted into the Army, he volunteered for "special attack" (kamikaze) operations and was assigned to a unit at Chiran, Kagoshima Prefecture. On June 3, 1945, Clifton took off for Okinawa in a Type 97 fighter. He never returned.

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