

October 10, 2005

CHARTER  
JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – Organization Name

The name of the organization is the Japanese American Veterans Association, herein referred to as JAVA. The JAVA was founded on July 24, 1992, and is a nationwide Veterans Service Organization (VSO) dedicated to representing the interests and preserving the military lineage of all American veterans, reservists, and active duty personnel, including Asian American veterans. As Americans of Asian heritage, Japanese Americans in particular have served and defended their country in every war since the Spanish American War and have established a particularly distinguished record during World War II, both in Europe and in the Pacific. Also, Japanese Americans have served with distinction in the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf Wars and other military assignments.

ARTICLE II - Organization. The Association is:

A. Incorporated under the provisions of and pursuant to the laws of the State of Maryland.

B. A tax exempt organization established under Section 501c(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE III – Purposes. The Association is dedicated to:

A. Preserving, protecting, and defending the Constitution of the United States and to the laws enacted thereunder.

B. Promoting individual and national patriotism and loyalty and to securing justice and equality for all Americans.

C. Maintaining institutional remembrance of those who served their country in war and in peace, providing fellowship, giving voice to matters of common and national concern, and providing support to one another and their families.

D. Increasing public awareness of the role and military heritage of all Americans with a special focus on Japanese American servicemen and servicewomen in the defense of our country and its treasured institutions and values.

E. Providing supporting efforts, independently and in concert with other veterans organizations and appropriate government entities, toward obtaining for veterans, reservists and active duty military personnel and their families full benefit of their rightful entitlements as veterans.

F. Pursuing charitable, social, fraternal, literary, educational, patriotic, and civic activities promoting the ideals and objectives of the JAVA.

#### ARTICLE IV - Membership

The authorized number and qualifications of Association members, the different categories of membership, the property, voting and other rights and privileges of members, and their liability to dues and assessments, the methods of collection thereof, and other relevant points, shall be as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V – Governing Body. The requirements for holding office or other elected or appointed position in the JAVA may not result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

- A. Officers – The officers and the elections of officers are as provided in the By-Laws.
- B. Board of Directors – The Board of Directors and its responsibilities are as provided in the JAVA By-Laws.
- C. Executive Council – The Executive Council shall be composed of the JAVA officers and the Board of Directors and its responsibilities are as provided in the By-Laws.

#### ARTICLE VI - Powers

The JAVA has only the powers provided in its bylaws and articles of incorporation. The fiscal year for the Association shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the same calendar year.

#### ARTICLE VII – Restrictions

- A. The income or assets of the JAVA may not inure to the benefit of or be distributed to an officer or any member. This restriction does not prevent the payment of compensation to an officer, member, or employee in an amount approved by the JAVA Executive Council.
- B. The JAVA may not make a loan to any officer or member for any reason.
- C. Other than checking and savings accounts necessary for carrying on the business of the JAVA, assets will not be invested in any type of stocks, bonds, or other financial instruments.

#### ARTICLE VIII – Duty to Maintain Tax-Exempt Status.

The JAVA shall maintain its status an organization exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

#### ARTICLE IX – Records and Inspection

A. Records. The JAVA will maintain

1. Correct and complete records of its financial accounts,
2. Minutes on the proceedings of its Executive Council, members, and any committees having the authority of its Executive Council,
3. A record of its voting members and other members under the by-laws.

B. Openness of records. A member entitled to vote may inspect the records of the JAVA for any proper purpose at a mutually agreed time.

ARTICLE X – Service of Process. The JAVA shall comply with the law on service of process on the State(s) in which it is incorporated and each State in which it carries on activities.

ARTICLE XI – Liability for Acts of Officers and Agents

The JAVA is liable for the acts of its officers and agents acting within the scope of their authority.

ARTICLE XII – Annual report

The JAVA will provide an annual report to its members for each fiscal year in accordance with the By-Laws. The purpose of the report is to inform members of the Association’s activities and other important undertakings within the past year. The report is not to be made available outside of the general membership unless approved by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XIII – Amendments to the Charter and By-Laws

The Charter and By-Laws shall be amended by a majority vote of members who are eligible to vote at a regular membership meeting or at any special meeting called for this purpose.