

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2009 ANNUAL REPORT
Submitted to Board of Directors, December 26, 2009

JAVA has made appreciable progress in the education, operations, name recognition and organizational areas; membership has increased and JAVA is fiscally sound. The number of members applying for life membership illustrates, in a way, members' confidence. The role of volunteers, who selflessly gave their time and used their personal resources, coupled by President Nakamoto's leadership, the selfless contribution by our volunteers, and the generosity of our donors, are the keys to JAVA's advancement.

Education. A key mission of JAVA is to educate the Americans on the experience of Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact of this experience on future generations of Japanese Americans. We have promoted this cause independently and through partnerships with allied organizations. Here are the highlights of our activities:

- In a joint effort with the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAM,F), JAVA held a teachers training program for Fairfax County School history teachers on the Japanese American experience during WW II. Subsequently, JAVA speakers briefed Alexandria City Public School teachers on the same subject.

- (2) JAVA speakers were dispatched to Virginia and Maryland high schools and colleges, government entities, civic groups, military camps in Georgia and Alabama and the Francis Lewis JROTC in New York City to discuss the Japanese American story. Costs of transportation and lodging were paid by our hosts. The purpose of these speaking engagements is to publicize the Japanese American story to a wide range of people.

- (3) JAVA members Jimmie Kanaya (442nd medic) and Executive Director appeared on separate programs of the History Channel broadcasts. Kanaya was featured in the 10 series documentary on WW II and Executive Director was a panel member to discuss the value of oral history the Japanese American experience during WW II at the Library of Congress that was broadcast nationwide to 200,000 high school history students.

- (4) Part 2 Pictures (Ms Lindsay Wile), which produces films for Public Broadcasting Corporation (PBS) accessed the JAVA website to request assistance in their effort to produce a documentary on the Battle of Okinawa. In a desire to feature the MIS, she wanted names of MISers who were eye witness to the Battle so they could select persons to interview. JAVA has since given this endeavor full support in order to capitalize on a rare opportunity. When Ken Burns produced his documentary on WW II no mention was made of the MIS. When History Channel produced its epic 10 part series on WW II again nothing was said about MIS' contribution

- (5) JAVA was invited by Eric Saul to be a member of the preparatory committee to build an exhibit at the Ellis Island Museum at New York City. Commissioned by the National Park Service (NPS), the exhibit will feature the ethnic

Japanese history in America. NPS estimates 7,000 people visit Ellis Island Museum daily during the warm months.

- (6) JAVA was invited by comic illustrator and historian, Billy Tucci, to serve as a consultant for his six series comic book on the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France in October 1944. The comic books have since been bound and sold as books. Tucci's previous series, translated into several foreign languages sold two million copies.

- (7) 40 press releases were issued during 2009 on topics consistent with JAVA's mission.

Operations. JAVA has been active organizationally, in one case for 9 years, to promote JAVA's mission. This was done independently and in partnership with other organizations.

- (1) During the National Cherry Blossom Festival parade in April, JAVA co-sponsored the Freedom Walk with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation at the Memorial to Patriotism. The Walk is regularly attended by Secretary Norman Mineta and the Ambassador of Japan. Marty Herbert is JAVA's representative.
- (2) JAVA manned a booth provided by the Japan America Society, to discuss the Japanese American story with thousands of visitors to the booth. An estimated one million people attended the parade. (Mike Yaguchi is the chair).
- (3) During Memorial Day weekend JAVA (A) jointly with Washington DC JACL held a program at Arlington Cemetery including the laying of flowers at the gravesites of 69 Japanese American and Caucasian officers who served with the 442nd and the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns; (B) participated in the DOD-sponsored program at the Arlington Cemetery, where President Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and subsequently delivered his Memorial Day address to the nation from the Amphitheater., and (C) contingent marched down Constitution Avenue in the 3rd Annual National Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the American Veterans Center. AVC estimated some 300,000 people lined the parade route. Marty Herbert is Chair of parade.
- (4) On Veterans Day JAVA was engaged in 3 activities: (A) 4 JAVA members (President Bob Nakamoto, Immediate Past President BG Bert Mizusawa, Christine Sato-Yamazaki who was invited by Secretary Shinseki, and Terry Shima who was invited by Asst Secretary Tammy Duckworth) were invited to breakfast at the White House with President and Mrs. Obama and Vice President and Mrs. Biden; (B) participated in the VA sponsored Veterans Day Program at Arlington Cemetery, and (C) held its 9th annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. The keynote speaker at the latter was LTG Joseph Peterson, USA, Deputy Commander of US Ground Forces. Mike Yaguchi is chair of (C).
- (5) 442nd Veterans Hawaii and JAVA have a joint project at the National Archives and Records Administration to digitize all relevant 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and Nisei in Military Intelligence Service documents for storage at JAVA and

- 442nd Hawaii. 11,000 pages have been digitized. When completed, researchers will be able to access this information electronically from anywhere in the world.
- (6) JAVA held a formal military ceremony to award 6 Bronze Star Medals and 2 Legions of Merit to 442nd WW II veterans or widows in an official military awards ceremony during a JAVA quarterly luncheon.
 - (7) JAVA awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. In 2010 this will expand to five.
 - (8) JAVA continues to be a member of the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA), an advocate group which represents 31 military and veterans associations with a combined membership of over 3.5 million members. Mike Yaguchi is JAVA's representative at NMVA.
 - (9) JAVA is writing a manuscript, hopefully to end in a book, on Japanese Americans in US military aviation. Because of discrimination and prejudice, only 5 served as gunners in the US Air Corps. Loyalty no longer an issue after WW II, some 35 Japanese Americans served as pilots and navigators in the Vietnam War. Col Robert Kan, USAF (Ret) a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, is head of this project.

Name Recognition. JAVA is known to the White House, Veterans Affairs, the US Congress and fellow veterans organization as a “player” in the veterans community. Repeat contacts JAVA has received from the national media is a healthy sign.

- JAVA members were invited to the White House on four occasions, including one discussed above. The other 3 are: (A) for the signing of the White House Initiative on Asian Pacific Islands Americans, during which time the President recognized the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and mentioned JAVA and its Executive Director, (B) for the signing of Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act that was attended by President Bob Nakamoto and Gerald Yamada, and (C) for the year end reception.

Organizational. JAVA maintains partnership relationships with fellow Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) (such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam War veterans), PPALM (Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors, NMVA, American Veterans Center. Go For Broke National Education Center and other Japanese American think tanks, JAACL (Japanese American Citizens League), National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japan America Society, and Asian American veterans organizations.

- (1) JAVA principal official link to members is through the quarterly newsletter, *JAVA ADVOCATE*, editor of which is MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA, a member of the Board of Directors. Kay has not missed a deadline and the *ADVOCATE* is published wherever she is assigned, including her recent tour of duty in Mannheim, Germany.. In addition, Grant Ichikawa, editor, circulates a popular twice weekly electronic bulletin, called the round robin, which enjoys a wide circulation.
- (2) JAVA website, www.javadc.org, has attracted the national media, researchers, and students Dave Buto is the webmaster.

- (3) Quarterly lunches were well-attended. In addition to being opportunities for socializing these lunches feature speakers who discuss substantive matters of general interest to members.
- **JAVA COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM** award was presented to Mrs. Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin of Portland Oregon.

Administrative: JAVA functional personnel have comfortably operated from their respective homes and JAVA does not have a paid staff. President Nakamoto has generously provided JAVA considerable financial relief by dedicating a member of his staff at Base Technologies to handle JAVA matters and by underwriting the costs of printing color copies of the *JAVA ADVOCATE* and programs.

- **Membership.** 43 new members were added during 2009. Of this 43, eighteen were life members.
- **Fiscal**
- **Donations. \$4,725.** This amount does not include the large number of New York Times stock donated by Ms. Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin.
- **Personnel.** The following are **elected officers:**
 President - Robert Nakamoto
 Vice President – Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)*
 Treasurer – LTC Earl Takeguchi, USA (Ret)
 Secretary – Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret)*
 *Appointed to fill an unexpired term.

Members of Board of Directors: The above plus:
 Gerald Yamada, Esq, General Counsel BG Bert Mizusawa, USA
 Calvin Ninomiya, Esq Grant Ichikawa
 MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA Reuben Yoshikawa
 Terry Shima, Executive Director William Houston, Esq.

Honorary Chairs:
 The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, US Senator
 The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
 The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
 Barney Hajiro, MOH
 Hershey Miyamura, MOH
 George Joe Sakato, MOH

Webmaster: LTC Dave Buto, USA (Ret)

Special Jobs: Maureen Shea, Mae Nakamoto, Jillian Raju, Erika Moritsugu; John Shimabukuro, Esq

Speakers Bureau: Chair, vacant. Mary Murakami, Dr. Ray Murakami, Grant Ichikawa, Grant Hirabayashi, Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Norman Ikari, Terry Shima (regulars). Dr Warren Tsuneishi, Bob Nakamoto, Lona Ichikawa, LTC Bob Nakamura, USA (Ret), Betty Taira

Education Committee: Chair, vacant. Member: Dr. Ray Murakami.

Japanese Americans in US military aviation: Col Robert Kan, USAF (Ret)
Postage Stamp Committee: Chair, Gerald Yamada, Esq,
Membership: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)
Oral History: Chair, vacant. Laurie Nakamoto, Calvin Ninomiya, Sue Okubo, Terry Shima, Robert Nakamura, LTC Alan Ueoka, USA.
Nominating Committee: Wade Ishimoto (Chair), Bill Takakoshi, Terry Shima (Secretary)
Social Committee: Current-Grant Ichikawa, Royce Nakatani, Thomas Phan, Metta Tanikawa. Immediate past-Marcia Mau, Barbara Nekoba, Betty Taira.
Nara Digitization (National Archives): LTC Dave Buto, USA (Ret) (co-chair), Fumi Yamamoto, Coordinator, Chosei Kuge, Akira Yoshida, Dwight Gates.
Scholarship Committee: Calvin Ninomiya, Esq, (Cghair),Dr. Sue Okubo, Dr. Raymond Murakami, COL (Dr) Ed Wakayama, USA (Ret)
JAVA Advocate: MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA, editor.
Round Robin (Twice weekly electronic bulletin): Grant Ichikawa
National Cherry Blossom Festival Booth: Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), chair.
National Cherry Blossom Festival. Freedom Walk: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) chair
Memorial Day Parade: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) chair
Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery: Vacant
Veterans Day Program: Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), chair
National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA): Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Representative
[If I have missed anyone in the above listing, my apologies. Please let me know and I will gladly make the addition. Terry 301-987-6746]

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Terry Shima
Executive Director