



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE Box 391  
VIENNA, VIRGINIA  
22183-0391

Bert Mizusawa, President  
Akio Konoshima, Editor

# NEWSLETTER

---

APRIL – JUNE, 2005

VOLUME XIII – NUMBER 2

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A hearty greeting to all JAVA members! Half of 2005 is already behind us, but JAVA has made the most of those six months.

As you might know, I was called to active duty to head a team in Afghanistan earlier this year, returning last month. JAVA has been fortunate to have Terry Shima, Executive Director, ensure JAVA didn't skip a beat, and maybe even pick up the pace. As many of you may have heard, I will start a new brigadier general job at Fort Belvoir, VA next month. The not so good news is that they will need me in Korea for a while in the near future. We'll see...

JAVA has made many strides so far this year, thanks to the oversight of our Executive Council. I'd like to mention the most significant ones, of which more information is available on our website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).

Consistent with our goal to ensure we are at the leading edge of veterans issues, JAVA has joined the National Military Veterans Alliance. NMVA consists of 30 national veterans organizations that represent 4.5 million members. For details see article in this News letter.

With our focus on the future, JAVA needs to look to the wars of the latter half of the last century, as well as those occurring today, for role models for the new generations of Japanese Americans. We are therefore aggressively reaching out to Korean and Vietnam War veterans to support our speakers program and web-based information, which we hope inspire both researchers and the younger generations. JAVA thanks Bob Wada and Judge Vincent Okamoto, leaders of the Korean and Vietnam War JA organizations, respectively, for their support of this endeavor. For details see article in this newsletter.

The EC is most pleased to announce the finalization of JAVA's Orville C. Shirey scholarship program, named in honor of the G2 Intelligence Officer of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Shirey, who served with the 442nd from its inception to its return from combat in Europe, wrote the history of the 442nd right after the war. His book, "Americans, the Story of the 442nd Combat Team," remains the most definitive reference on the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT to date. The educational review committee will soon announce eligibility and procedures for the JAVA scholarship for 2006. Basically, any JAVA regular member and/or their children may apply. Keep an eye on our website for the announcement and details.

I would like to pass on the sad news that Lily Okura passed away. She and her late husband, Pat, were stalwarts of the JA community and their inspirational example of service, and their warm friendship, will be missed.

Finally, JAVA will again host an exciting event on Veterans Day. More details will be in the next newsletter, so please save the date. Hope you and yours have a great summer.

Bert Mizusawa

###

## **JAVA PLANS TO BROADEN PERSPECTIVE ON J-A VETERANS by Terry Shima**

Up until recently, JAVA speakers have been drawn mainly from the WWII veterans. But Japanese Americans in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and now the Gulf Wars have and are fighting with equal intensity, dedication and heroism as did their WWII predecessors.

JAVA, therefore, is planning background papers on the Japanese-American soldiers who served both in Korea and Vietnam. JAVA's point is that Japanese-American heroism did not stop when WWII ended. Rather, it continued into the Korean War (248 KIAs and one Medal of Honor) and the Vietnam War (115 KIAs and two MOHs).

Many Korean and Vietnam veterans have completed oral history interviews and have written their own wartime experiences for their private use. An effort should be made to pull together as many as possible of these papers and others yet to be recorded so papers on each of the wars can be written.

Bob Wada, a U.S. Marine veteran and founder-president of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans under whose leadership the Korean War Memorials were constructed in Los Angeles and in Korea, said in an All Wars Memorial Day Service in Los Angeles that "Their (the Nikkei) sacrifice was not for our generation, it was for the generations that follow us."

Wada spoke of the heroism of the more than 1,000 Japanese Americans who served in Korea not only as linguists translating documents and interrogating prisoners, but as frontline infantry and often with special intelligence squads which went in between the front lines.

There are countless stories of bravery. For example, Gene Takahashi of Westport, CN, a platoon leader who escaped while being escorted with others to the Chinese rear area headquarters, spent the night in some bushes, borrowed Korean peasant clothes and joined a trek of peasants, peeled off at a safe place and eventually rejoined and rebuilt his platoon and returned to combat.

The most highly decorated J-A veteran in the Viet Nam War, now a California Superior Court Judge, is Vincent Okamoto. In the Japanese American Historical Society Journal, he noted that approximately 4,000-5,000 *Nikkei* served in Vietnam and "While WWII Nisei veterans faced prejudice and discrimination, the Vietnam veterans were met with cold indifference and overt hostility. Thus, many Vietnam veterans responded to America's silence with silence . . . They took off their uniforms as quickly as they could and buried their medals in the bottom of a drawer and tried not to think about the most momentous experience of their lives."

Stories of Korea and Vietnam could serve as the foundation for briefs to tell the public of the honorable and patriotic service of these latter Japanese American soldiers. The stories might emphasize that:

-- the heroism of Japanese Americans in these latter conflicts was in the finest traditions of their fathers and uncles who fought in WWII.

-- Young Oak Kim, was a 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion commanding officer in a Korean War battalion and that other Japanese Americans served in all branches of the armed forces.

-- in contrast to the *Nikkei* in WWII whose highest rank in combat was that of a major, Japanese Americans in Vietnam were full colonels and naval captains and commanders, including fighter and bomber pilots. Several who served in Vietnam subsequently were promoted to the rank of generals and flag officers. One, in fact, became Army Chief of Staff (i.e. General Eric Shinseki); others commanded brigades and divisions, a proud record which needs to be told.

Korean or Vietnam War veterans, their spouses, children or friends are encouraged to contribute stories or do research on the service of the *Nikkei* in these wars. Those interested should contact Terry Shima – phone: (301) 987-6746 or E-mail: [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

####

## **JAVA JOINS NATIONAL MILITARY VETERANS ALLIANCE**

JAVA joined the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA) on June 15 to add its voice to those of other military and retired military groups seeking deserved benefits for veterans, reserves and active duty personnel.

JAVA membership is a result of JAVA president Bert Mizusawa's desire to have JAVA work in concert with other veterans' organization. The NMVA is a non-partisan organization made up of 30 veterans groups representing roughly 4.5 million members to add a collective voice in the nation's legislative processes.

Established in 1996, NMVA meets monthly for committee reports on issues such as Uniformed Services Health Care, Pay and Compensation, Survivor Benefit Plans and their improvement, Veterans' Health Care, VA Benefits, Claims and other VA issues, Commissary and Exchange Benefits, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay, Force Policy, Education Benefits, and waivers for burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Other member organizations of the NMVA include AMVETS, VFW, Naval Enlisted Reserve Organization, Vietnam Veterans of America, Korean War Veterans Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of American and the American Legion.

###

## **OSS NISEI CREDITED AS FORE-RUNNERS TO TODAY'S SPECIAL FORCES IN WAR AGAINST TERRORISM AS MATSUMOTO HONORED**

Major General James W. Parker, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Special Forces, said retired Master Sergeant Roy Matsumoto and his "fellow comrades set the stage for today's Special Forces who are at the forefront of the War on Terrorism."

The praise for Matsumoto, a JAVA member, and his colleagues came in a letter from Parker to Matsumoto as the 91-year-old Nisei was made an "Honorary Green Beret" and presented with a Green Beret bearing the Special Forces Command Flash and Regimental Crest and the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Brotherhood certificate at a ceremony June 2 in Fort Lewis, WA.

Parker's letter was in recognition of Matsumoto's "distinguished service in the Merrill's Marauders in Burma and later with the Office of Strategic Services in China." Colonel Rick Thomas, CO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), made the presentation.

General Fred C. Weyand, former Army Chief of Staff and a staff officer with General Joseph Stilwell in the CBI Theatre, said "Sergeant Matsumoto was a hero among heroes. He and his unit of Nisei intelligence specialists are widely credited by war historians as having directly contributed to the shortening of the end of the war."

Matsumoto was one of 14 Nisei (as was JAVA's Grant Hirabayashi) selected for what President Roosevelt had called "dangerous and hazardous duty" with the Merrill's Marauders who operated behind enemy lines.

The presentation in Fort Lewis was the latest honor bestowed on Matsumoto. He previously was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, is listed with 14 other Nisei on the Ranger Memorial; was cited in 1993 with JAVA's *American Patriot Award*; was inducted as a "distinguished member" into the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment; received the Burmese government's Medal of Freedom, was inducted into the MIS Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, two Distinguished Unit Citations, and five Bronze Star Medals.

###

## **MARYLAND GOVERNOR PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ASIAN, PACIFIC AMERICAN VETERANS** by Wayde Minami

Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich joined the Maryland National Guards and Asian American civic leaders to pay tribute to Asian Pacific American veterans and service personnel at special ceremonies held at the Warfield Air National Guard Base outside of Baltimore.

“Maryland recognizes the contribution made by Asian American and Pacific Islanders currently serving in the Armed Forces, including members of the Maryland National Guard and Reserves,” Ehrlich said in a special proclamation sent to ceremonies held at the Warfield Air National Guard Base on June 2.

“Our citizens wish to express our gratitude to all Asian American and Pacific Islander veterans and their families.”

The Maryland National Guard, in conjunction with the Maryland Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, sponsored the event which was highlighted by the governor’s proclamation acknowledging the contributions of Asian Americans and expressing the appreciation of the State’s citizens.

Acting on behalf of Governor Ehrlich, Dr. Warren Minami, Ms. Maria Hrabinski, and Ms. Joan Lok, members of the Maryland Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs, presented the proclamation to Brig. Gen. Charles A. Morgan III, Maryland Assistant Adjutant General for Air, and Robert Finn, Maryland Assistant Secretary of Veteran Affairs for Outreach and Advocacy.

JAVA members Joe Ichiuji and Hank Wakabayashi also were featured – Ichiuji giving a stirring account of his experiences starting out as a soldier at the time of Pearl Harbor and culminating with his participation in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau while Wakabayashi, a retired Colonel, focused on the fact that today the Asian American community has achieved a large step toward equality.

Dr. Franklin Odo, director of the Smithsonian Institute’s APA Cultural Studies Program, spoke of the prejudice and discrimination against Asian Americans before World War II and emphasized the importance of studying the effects of this cultural heritage.

The event concluded with a demonstration of traditional Japanese flower arrangement by Mary Sugiyama.

####

### **EUCOM HISTORIAN FORESEES 2006 PUBLICATION DATE FOR BOOK ON NISEI MISers by Warren Tsuneishi**

Dr. James C. McNaughton, Command Historian of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM), told a recent JAVA luncheon that the official history of the Japanese Americans in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service is expected to be published in 2006.

McNaughton said that Loyal Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence is in its final stages of editing and barring the unforeseen, is expected to be out next year. Loyal Linguists is being published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

McNaughton extended special thanks to JAVA members Phil Ishio, Stanley Falk, Warren Tsuneishi and Henry Fukuhara for reviewing selected chapters of the 800-page manuscript. McNaughton was assigned to write Loyal Linguists, mandated in 1994 by Congress on the initiative of Hawaiian Senator Daniel K. Akaka. McNaughton then was Command Historian at the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey.

McNaughton started his research, the interviewing of MIS veterans and writing whenever he could spare the time from his full-time duties at the Institute, then took his work to Hawaii, where he served as Command Historian for the U.S. Army Pacific at Fort Shafter. From 1996 to 1998 he also served as research director for the Department of the Army’s review of Asian

Americans in WWII that resulted in the award on June 21, 2000 of the Congressional Medal of Honor to 20 Japanese Americans, one Filipino American, and one Chinese American.

McNaughton told JAVA members that the search during WWII for Japanese American linguists with knowledge of the Japanese language and culture could serve as a useful roadmap in the search today for loyal Arabic linguists.

McNaughton earned his BA in history and political science from Middlebury College in Vermont, got a commission in the Field Artillery through the ROTC and served on active duty in Germany. He later earned his PhD in history from John Hopkins University and was awarded a Fulbright graduate fellowship.

He completed his military service in the National Guard and Army Reserve, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel and currently continues his government service as an Army civilian at EUCOM, the regional command responsible for U.S. military forces and activities in 91 countries of Europe and Africa.

###

### **JAVA SPEAKERS KEEP EFFORTS APACE ON PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NIKKEI MILITARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

JAVA's Speakers Bureau chaired by Dr. Norman Ikari, a Purple Heart and 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran, has been and is maintaining a high volume of speaking engagement between mid-May and mid-July in line with JAVA's goal, as stated in its charter, to build public awareness of the experiences and contributions of Japanese Americans in the military.

Eleven members of the bureau made nine public appearances since mid-May and plan another for July 9 with presentations ranging from talks from the podium, panel discussions, and interviews by students to TV talk shows.

The speakers convey two main messages: that any official move similar to the wholesale forced evacuation and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII must never occur again; and that the price of freedom is dear and has been paid for by people who have sacrificed their lives.

In the latest appearances by members of the bureau:

On May 11, Dr. Warren Minami participated in a four-person panel discussion issues of Asian-American assimilation into the American population. He called the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII "a single worst civil rights violation in U.S. history," something we must be vigilant against ever happening again.

On May 15, Grant Hirabayashi, veteran of Merrill's Marauders, and Joe Ichiuji, who served with the 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, spoke on their wartime incarceration and military experiences.

On May 25 Col. Jimmie Kanaya, Ret., spoke on the theme, "Liberty and Freedom for All," to Asian Pacific Islanders at Fort Sill, OK, of his 33-year military career including being a medic with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and his POW experiences in Poland. He stressed the need for continuing education.

On May 26 Yeiichi "Kelly" Kuwayama served on a Library of Congress panel along with syndicated columnist Art Buchwald and John Dolibois, the last surviving interrogator at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. Kuwayama, who was drafted before Pearl Harbor Day, was transferred from coast artillery, to ordnance and to Quartermaster Corps before he volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. The previous month, Kelly was the opening speaker at a Princeton Asian Alumni reunion.

On May 30 Terry Shima appeared on a 30-minute C-Span talk show and reviewed the contributions made by Japanese Americans in WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Gulf War. The program centered on the Library of Congress veteran history project.

On June 6 Joe Ichiuji spoke to about 60 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at Urbana High School in Frederick County, MD as part of their WWII history course. Earlier, on May 31 Joe was informed that his oral history interview by the Library of Congress was selected for the Library's website which debuts July 4. (Editor's note: In addition to Minami's appearance before the Maryland Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs)

On June 9 Pal Tani and Dr. Norman Ikari were with 39 other visitors to the Rocky Mountain Middle School in Chantilly, VA, during which students in groups of five, interviewed them their experiences; Tani explaining various aspects of the evacuation of Japanese Americans during WWII and Ikari talking about his combat experiences.

On June 16 Ikari and Yuka Fujikura spoke to 40 National League of Cities employees in Washington, D.C. – Fujikura about her incarceration at Tule Lake and Ikari of the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT during the WWII.

On July 8, Victor Matsui and Cherry Tsutsumida are scheduled to speak to 36 high school students at the Virginia Japanese Language Academy, a state education program in Richmond on the Japanese-American wartime experience.

####

### **JAVA & CHERRY BLOSSOMS by Warren Tsuneishi**

An exhilarating sun splashed the scene as hundreds attending the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in the Nation's capital on April 10 visited JAVA's booth and paid their respects to the *Nikkei* veterans of World War II.

A rare combination of perfect spring weather, cherry blossoms at their peak, and a parade brought a massive number of people to Washington, D.C. for the climax of the two-week Festival. The JAVA booth, located at 11<sup>th</sup> St and Pennsylvania Avenue near the parade route, was thronged with visitors, all eager to learn about Japanese American military contributions from the Spanish American War of 1898 to the present Gulf Wars, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II..

During the previous week of April 2, JAVA joined the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Freedom Walk Committee "*A Salute to Patriotism*" program at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol.

The display table contained books and posters for visitors to browse. Flyers on the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT written by the 442<sup>nd</sup> Hawaii Sons and Daughters; on the Military Intelligence Service written by JAVA's Dr. Stanley Falk, and on JAVA itself were passed out to interested visitors.

Of special interest, notably among fellow veterans were copies of American Patriots, first person accounts Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service published by JAVA, and a poster created by JAVA's Jack Hirose on the response of Japanese Americans to the call of duty for more than one century, from the Spanish American War of 1898 to the present. More than 50 copies of the book were sold.

Visitors who were familiar with the Nisei WW II experiences thanked the veterans for their wartime role to preserve freedom. Some asked how Nisei veterans fighting in the Asian Pacific theater felt about fighting against Japan while their own families were incarcerated in "relocation centers" and against a county where some of their own families and relatives lived and got the

unequivocal response: “We are Americans, loyal to our Flag.” Others asked for bibliographies; several extended invitations to speak at their schools and clubs.

Some of the copies of American Patriots were bought for collections, others for relatives, others for friends in college and in the teaching profession. Some young Japanese Americans, *sansei* and *yonsei* or third and fourth generation, said they had heard about the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> RCT but appeared surprised that the Nisei also served in the Asia Pacific theater.

The JAVA booth was located in the *Origami Tent* of the Japan America Society of Washington, D.C. The *origami* demonstration was headed by JAVA’s Marcia Mau and *origami* artist Joy Aso of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

###

### **JAVA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

JAVA welcomed 19 new members who joined its ranks since last April bringing total membership to 282 members including five wives of *Nikkei* veterans.

The group included eleven World War II veterans from the disbanded NorCal MIS and four from the Go-for-Broke National Veterans Alliance (GFBNVA), but others were from more recent conflicts.

Former NorCal MIS members joining JAVA included: NISHIMOTO, Sunny I. of Madera; ITO, Paul T. of Sacramento; HIRANO, Ben M. of Richmond; ISO, Masami Robert of San Jose; SHIOTA, H. Gary of Sacramento; ICHIKAWA, Tomio, of Suisun (who also donated \$100); HIRAMATSU, Roy Y. of Winters; KIZUKA, Shig of Watsonville; DOI, Shig of Richmond; OKA, Alexander Jiro of Honolulu, and HIROSE, Jack of San Francisco (who also donated \$250 for JAVA’s treasury).

Those from the GFBNVA included: YENARI, Ted, of Metairie, LA; OKAMOTO, Tosh of Seattle (who donated \$50); YASUI, Homer, (Capt. USNR), Portland, OR; and HOSOKAWA, Bill, of Lakewood, CO.

Other new members included: Col. (ret) Dr. TAKAFUJI, Ernest, of Vienna, VA.; KAI, James T. of Rosemead, CA; ARAMAKI, Saige, of Salt Lake City; and MINAMI, Wayde R. of Elkridge, MD.

###

### **TAPS**

**Lt. Col. (ret) Kanshi YAMASHITA** – The 82-year-old MIS veteran who served with the Army in the Philippines, the Occupation of Japan, the Korean War and Vietnam was buried June 22 with full military honors at the National Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

General Eric Shinseki, retired former U.S. Army Chief of Staff, joined by JAVA members – Dave Buto, Grant Ichikawa, Terry Shima and Paul Tani -- attended the solemn service for Yamashita, who died April 9 at the White River Junction, VT, Veterans Regional Medical Center after a brief illness.

Yamashita was born and raised with a fishing family on Terminal Island, CA, and among the first Japanese Americans to be forcibly evacuated from their homes after December 7, 1941.

He volunteered for the MIS from the War Relocation Center in Poston, AZ, served in the Philippines, was discharged, and then recalled at the outbreak of the Korean War.

He then spent the next 30 years in the Army serving in Vietnam and various other overseas and domestic posts. He was later with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and at the age of 41 completed jump school. His wife, Dorothy, said when Yamashita “put on his uniform his whole bearing would change. He felt useful and he felt satisfied. He never really found that in civilian life.”

He is survived by his wife, daughters Karen Lea Yamashita of Portola Valley, CA; Mari Yamashita deMoya of Madison, WI; and Dana Jean Yamashita of Enfield, NH, and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Iku Kanai and Kei Yamashita and his brother Tetsuo.

###

**Yoshimi (Shim) Roger HIRAOKA** – The Fresno County Superior Court passed a special resolution paying tribute to Shim, a 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran and long-time lawyer in Fresno, who passed away May 16.

Shim volunteered for the Army from the Gila River relocation camp, served with distinction in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT in Europe, later describing the brutal battles that his unit was engaged in while spearheading the attack in the Battle of Bruyeres, the Battle of Biffontaine, and the rescue of the Lost Texas Battalion in the Vosges Mountains in France.

He also fought in the battle of the Gothic Line for which the 442<sup>nd</sup> received a Presidential Unit Citation.

Shim graduated from the University of California in Berkeley and received his J.D. degree from the San Francisco Law School with the highest grades in his class, was admitted to the Bar in California in December, 1941, and after WWII practiced law in Fresno for 52 years.

Tony Capozzi, President of the State Bar Association who heard Shim speak to the Bench, Bar, Media Committee just prior to Shim's being diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, was so impressed that he sponsored a Memorial Resolution of the State Bar Association honoring Shim.

Shim is survived by his wife, Chiyo; three daughters: Shelley, Trudy and Peggy and their respective spouses, and three grandchildren: Kyle Leighton and Courtney Amanda Kurata and Emille Pankey.

Shim was a member of the United Japanese Christian, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, was a Mason, a member of the Fresno Scottish Rights, a Shriner and past president of his Rotary Club.

-- 0 --

**Herbert Masaru SASAKI** – A 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran who dedicated himself to preserving the legacy of the unit he fought with in WWII passed away during heart surgery May 13 at the Texas Heart Institute in Houston. He also served in the Korean War.

Sasaki, who earned a Bronze Star during the war, returned to the Camp Shelby area near Hattiesburg, MS, where the 442<sup>nd</sup> was formed, and married a local girl, Arnice Dyar, whom he had met at the base laundry before shipping out in 1943. The Ku Klux Klan reacted to this marriage by burning a cross in her parents' front yard, according to their daughter, Beverly Yamamoto.

After the war, Sasaki, who was born and raised in Pomona, CA, helped spearhead efforts to erect monuments to the 442<sup>nd</sup> in Hawaii, Washington, D.C., and Camp Shelby.

“He wanted to make sure that no one would forget that the 442<sup>nd</sup> fought for freedom at a time when their families were incarcerated and to prove they were Americans,” his daughter said.

Sasaki was active in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Assn. which provides major funding for the Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby, having served on the museum's board for 12 years, and was awarded the Mississippi Distinguished Civilian Service Medal for his work at the museum.

Most of his work as a civilian was as a broker with the International Paper Co.

In addition to his wife and daughter, he is survived with another daughter, Sylvia.

-- 0 --

**Bill Yutaka SHINMOTO** – The 87-year-old Sanger-born WWII veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT passed away peacefully May 31 at his home in Pasadena surrounded by his family. Yutaka, past president



of the East Pasadena American Legion Post 289, was also a member of various fishing clubs, and an avid bowler.

He is survived by his wife Sachiko, daughter Carolyn Fong; sons Scott and Allen; sisters Gloria Oki and Mary Uchida; mother-in-law Fusano Kataoka; sister-in-law Mary Shinmoto, brother-in-law George Kataoka, and grandchildren Lindsey and Melissa Fong, and Dendall and Kyle Shinmoto.

A memorial service was held June 6 at the Pasadena Buddhist Church on Glen Avenue in Pasadena.

-- 0 --

**Megumi GOTO** – The 81-year-old veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, originally from Mountain View, HI, passed away peacefully on May 17 in Los Angeles. He is survived by his sisters, Shizue Furuta and Peggy Hatayama, both of Hawaii and many nieces and grand nephews.

Memorial services were held May 27 at the Fukui Mortuary in the “Chapel in the Garden” with the Rev. Paul Nakamura of the Lutheran Oriental Church in Torrance officiating.

-- 0 --

**Takami MISAKI** – A private VFW Military Honor Guard ceremony was held in May for the 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran at the Selma cemetery followed by a Memorial Service at the Japanese Christian Church in Fresno, CA. Misaki, who was wounded during the Po Valley campaign, was a member of the local VFW post and Frank Isogawa and Donald Wakida, fellow post members, served in the Honor Guard.

-- 0 --

**Theodore Tsukahara** – Private internment services with military honors were held April 2 for the Texas-born, 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran who passed away at Seal Beach, TX. Burial was at the Tsukahara family plot in Grove Hill Memorial Park in Dallas.

Tsukahara, a decorated veteran, is survived by his son, Theodore Jr. and the latter’s wife Victoria and granddaughters, Elizabeth Tsukahara of Hawaii and Jeannine Palm of Florida, and great-granddaughter Eden Akiko Palm; sister Berta Tsukahara of Texas and other relatives.

###

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SEEKS COMMENTS ON REVISED CHARTER** by Thomas “Victor” Mukai

JAVA’s Executive Committee has revised and reviewed the organization’s 1992 charter and now seeks comments from JAVA’s general membership. Comments should be sent to Vic Mukai at: [tvictor@atglobal.net](mailto:tvictor@atglobal.net) on the revision.

## **CHARTER**

### **JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

#### **ARTICLE I – Definition and Name**

##### **A. Definitions for the purpose of this charter:**

**1. Japanese American – A citizen** of the United States **of Japanese descent.**

**2. State – Any one of the 50 states including the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States,** unless specifically identified (e.g., the State of Maryland).

B. The name of the association is the Japanese American Veterans Association, herein referred to as JAVA. JAVA was founded on July 24, 1992, and is a nationwide organization dedicated to representing the interests of all American veterans of Japanese descent. Japanese Americans have served and defended their country in every war since World War I and have

established a particularly distinguished record during World War II, both in Europe and in the Pacific.

ARTICLE II - Organization. The Association is:

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

~~B. Dedicated to the purposes as set forth in Article III.~~

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 of Japanese American servicemen and servicewomen in the defense of our country and its treasured institutions and values.

E. ~~Supporting~~ Providing supporting efforts, independently and in concert with other veterans organizations and appropriate government entities, to enhance the status and benefits of veterans and their families.

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

ARTICLE IV - Membership

~~—The membership of the Association shall consist of Japanese American veterans and other individuals who subscribe to the goals of the Association, who served in the armed forces or the merchant marine (active, reserve, or veteran) and members of their families.~~

~~ARTICLE V~~

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 discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, age, 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 ~~V~~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 01 and end on December 31 of the same calendar year.

ARTICLE ~~V~~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 or bonds.

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 correct and complete records of its financial accounts.

B. Minutes on the proceedings of its Executive Council, members, and any committees having the authority of its Executive Council.

C. A record of its voting members and other members under the by-laws.

D. 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 submit an annual report to its members for each fiscal year in accordance with the By-Laws. The report may not be published as a public document.

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.

Definitions for the purpose of this charter:

State—Any of the 50 states including the District of Columbia and the territories and possessions of the United States:

Japanese American—A United States citizen of Japanese descent.

# # # #

