



JAPANESE AMERICAN  
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

**JAVA NEWSLETTER JULY – SEPTEMBER, 2005**

**VOLUME XIII – NUMBER 3**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of Jack Tashiro's passing. Jack has been extremely supportive of JAVA, both as Treasurer until earlier this year and as a member. I am pleased to announce that a Jack Tashiro Memorial Scholarship is set up in his honor. JAVA now has two scholarship funds, the other being the Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund.

We will certainly miss Jack – his energy, spirit and dedication belied his chronological age. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marie, son Jon and Ken and daughter-in-law Dawn, as well as granddaughter Kandra.

Also passing was a JAVA overseas institution – George Watanabe, who resided in Leghorn, Italy, where he worked at Camp Darby. George, known to his friends as "Joji" was an avid student of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT military actions in Italy. He got many Italian writers interested in their battles and they have written books and articles for the Italian press.

I'll always remember him for his generous offer to put up any JAVA member who visited his part of Italy. Our thoughts and prayers also are with Gracie and her family.

JAVA will host its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism on November 11 at 2 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rear Admiral Ken Moritsugu, the Deputy Surgeon General of the United States. We will also present an award to Sandra Tanamachi, a Texas school teacher, for her 12 year struggle to remove the term "Jap" from a Texas street sign. Her ultimate success, aided in part by JAVA's efforts, resulted in two other Texas counties removing similar derogatory street signs.

JAVA's book, American Patriots, has completed its third printing. The book has enjoyed steady sales. Authors are JAVA members, Warren Tsuneishi and Stanley Falk.

JAVA members continue to be in demand as speakers by schools and civic organizations. Also, film makers and book publishers, attracted by our website: [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org), have requested JAVA to arrange interviews with our veterans. A large number of these requests came during the Asia Pacific Week.

Best wishes to everyone as we enter another fall season, another fiscal year, and early preparations for the holidays.

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## **INOUE & MYERS TO KEYNOTE TRIBUTE NOVEMBER 11 TO J-A WWII VETERANS**

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye and recently retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Myers, will be the speakers at a special Veterans' Day tribute to Japanese American World War II veterans at the University of Washington in Seattle.

The focus of the event on November 11 will be the contributions made in Europe and the Pacific by Japanese American soldiers during the worldwide conflict.

The event, to be held in the University's Mean Hall, is being sponsored by Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project. Major sponsors of the event are the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and Boeing Company.

Tom Ikeda, Densho's executive director, said in announcing the event that although he had seen the veterans around, "I didn't know who they were...It wasn't until I was a middle-aged adult did I start learning more about these men ...(until) I was purposely seeking out the stories and started talking to some of these men. Over cups of weak coffee or sips of weak beer I started hearing hushed stories coming out of these quiet, humble men.

"Each story was unique and precious. The powerful moments came when some shared their pain, their dreams, their fears and their tears..."

Special gifts are planned for all *Nikkei* who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII who attend the Veterans' Day tribute.

Tickets will be free but required for the event with a full house, including more than 100 Japanese American veterans, expected. The tickets (limited to four per request) are available: by mail from Densho, 1416 S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98144; by FAX (206) 320-0098, or E-mail: [info@densho.org](mailto:info@densho.org).

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## **MORITSUGU & TANAMACHI TO HIGHLIGHT JAVA VETERANS DAY PROGRAM**

**by Calvin Ninomiya**

Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, Deputy Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, and Ms. Sandra Tanamachi of Lake Jackson, TX, will share the spotlight as JAVA marks Veterans Day November 11 at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in the nation's capital.

Moritsugu will be the principal speaker during special ceremonies at 2 p.m. as JAVA members, their families and friends pay special tribute to the *Nikkei* who served in the nation's armed forces, particularly those killed in action during World War II. The names of these WWII *Nikkei* are etched on the Memorial's Wall of Heroes.

Ms. Tanamachi will be awarded JAVA's first "Courage and Patriotism" award for her successful struggle, after 12 years, to have the derogatory word "Jap" removed from a street sign in Jefferson County, TX.

Because of her efforts, Ms. Tanamachi, a school teacher, was subjected to abuse, threats and destruction of property, yet she refused to be intimidated, even when, for long periods, she had to protest alone. Her friends had given up hope of ever resolving the issue, but her steadfast resolve ultimately led two other Texas counties as well to remove without challenge, similarly worded street signs.

JAVA's executive council, in deciding to make the award, felt that Ms. Tanamachi personified the ideals of JAVA. In further recognition of her efforts, Col. (Retired) Jimmie Kanaya has underwritten the costs of her trip to and hotel accommodations in Washington, D.C.

A buffet lunch will start 12 noon at the Hyatt Regency Park Promenade restaurant, located just a half block away from the Memorial. The cost of the buffet will be \$19 per person, including tax and gratuity. Those planning to attend should contact Betty Taira (202) 347-1699 – E-mail: [bettytaira@verizon.net](mailto:bettytaira@verizon.net); Calvin Ninomiya (301) 652-8135 – E-mail: [calvinnino@aol.com](mailto:calvinnino@aol.com) or Terry Shima (301) 987-6746, E-mail [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

## **WAKABAYASHI'S RELOCATING TO CALIFORNIA**

Longtime active JAVA members Hank and Seiko Wakabayashi announced that they will be moving to Palo Alto, CA, in November to the Classic Residence by Hyatt, a retirement and continuing care community adjacent to the Stanford University campus.

"It's been a wonderful and rewarding life here (in the D.C. area), but its time to move on to enjoy the remaining golden years of our lives in a comfortable (no snow) and secure environment," they said in a farewell letter.

"In a sense it will be like moving to be near our only grandson, Kyle, who I a freshman at Stanford this semester."

Hank served two terms as president of JAVA and Seiko as a member of the executive council from 1993 to 2003. The two have lived in the D.C. area for more than 50 years.

Hank and Seiko expressed their gratitude and appreciation of their many friends and colleagues and are looking forward to seeing them should they be in the Bay area. They also hoped to return to the D.C. area from time to time to renew life-long friendships.

Their new address will be:

Classic Residence by Hyatt  
620 Sand Hill Road, #2110  
Palo Alto, CA 94304

*(Editor's Note: An informal farewell luncheon for Hank and Seiko will be held 11:30 a.m., Saturday, October 22, at the China Garden Restaurant in Roslyn. Cost of the luncheon will be \$18 per person. Reservations and checks should be made out to JAVA and sent to Marsha Mau, 1612 Mont Morency Dr. Vienna, VA 22182 or Grant Ichikawa, 114 James Dr. SW, Vienna, VA 22180. Parking in the basement is free.)*

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## **THE UNTOLD AND UNKNOWN STORY OF NISEI IN THE KOREAN WAR by Sam Miyamoto**

Though never told, Nisei officers and soldiers made a unique and vital contribution during the Korean War. The Nisei linguist soldiers, as a distinct group, served in a very special way, doing what no one else could do - with the use of the Japanese language.

This story even today remains generally unknown, even among the Japanese American community; and because of the highly sensitive nature of Military Intelligence Service, the full contribution of the Nisei soldier to the war effort is not recognized.

The MIS activities were militarily and politically very sensitive but a vital and necessary function. Intelligence gathering remains a serious business, as the explosive political situation in the Korean peninsula continues to place our American soldiers in Republic of Korea as well as our military installations in Okinawa and Japan at risk.

I was one of more than one thousand Japanese American linguists who served in the Korean War as interrogators, translators, message interceptors, or interpreters within all branches of the Armed Forces. Though we were ordered not to operate behind enemy lines to collect intelligence; some Nisei infiltrated the enemy lines; some were never heard from again.

At the time, the U.S. was fighting two Asian armies, North Korean and Chinese, with hardly anyone able to communicate in the other's language. The Nisei were the only ones available who were able to bridge the communication gap using an unrelated fourth language, Japanese.

These Nisei soldiers, trained as interrogators, were assigned at every level, on the front with the U.S. and South Korean units at regimental, corps and Army levels as well as the POW camps on Koji Island.

With the surprise entry of China into the war, the need to know about the enemy was more critical than ever. Unlike the relatively large number of Nisei linguist soldiers, there was a severe shortage of Korean-American and Chinese-American linguist soldiers in the U.S. Army.

Military strategists then chose to use tri-lingual Koreans as interpreters. These Koreans had grown up in Manchuria and spoke fluent Korean, Chinese and Japanese. But this often proved ineffective because these interpreters could not speak English. The only possible communication was through the Nisei linguist. Many Nisei soldiers were sent to a six-month Korean course at the Army Forces Far East Command Intelligence School at Camp Drake, Chiba Prefecture, Japan.

Due to the contribution of the Nisei soldiers, countless American lives were probably saved. Each POW interrogated was subjected to detailed interrogation at different levels, for immediate tactical information at the front line to detailed broader interrogation at Corps and Army levels. Almost everything about the enemy was an open book—enemy dispositions, weaponry, movements, organization, morale, training state, names of commanders, re-supply status, potential targets.

The major contribution of the Nisei soldiers as a distinct group doing that which no one else could do was their unique role as interrogators. The total number of enemy POWs exceeded 100,000 North Korean and 20,000 Chinese enemy soldiers, with almost all POWs being subjected to a series of interrogations at different levels. The sheer magnitude of the operation was hard imagine.

Many Nisei were not selected by the Intelligence Service and remained with their original units. But the U.S. military was indeed fortunate to have had this pool of bi-lingual soldiers within its ranks. The irony was that many of these American soldiers had spent their teen years in confinement in internment centers, because of their Japanese heritage but later were considered absolutely essential for the U.S. Military during the Korean War precisely for that very same reason.

*(Editor's note: Sam Miyamoto is from Monterey Park, CA)*

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### **KOREAN WAR VIGNETTE by Lt. Col. (ret.) Shigeki Sugiyama**

The recent revelation of the abduction of Japanese nationals by the North Korean Government in the 1970's reminded me of an incident concerning some Japanese women in Pukchong, North Korea, in October 1950.

I was airlifted from Pusan, South Korea, to Wonsan, North Korea, on October 20 with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's G2 as a member of the division's forward command group; then traveling by lone jeep (accompanied by the Assistant G4 and an engineer reconnaissance officer) from Wonsan to the Hamhung-Hungnam area; we then reached Pukcong on or about October 24 where the local high school was selected to be the division's command post.

We anticipated that the division headquarters and the rest of the division would begin landing at Iwon beach the following days to begin division's advance to Hyesanjin and the Yalu River.

About the same time, some men of the division's aviation section were flown in by light aircraft to set up an air strip on the grounds of the school.

It was approaching dusk when one of the aircraft mechanics, who was serving as a sentry, came to me in the classroom designated from the G2 Section and said there was a Korean gentleman who wanted to speak to me. I couldn't imagine who it might be since I didn't know anyone in North Korea. But I had driven to Iwon and around Pukchong the day before to become familiar with the lay of the land and had undoubtedly been seen by the local people, even though they themselves had pretty well kept out of sight.

So I told the sentry I didn't know anyone in Pukchong, but to bring him in so that I could find out what he wanted. When the man was brought to me, he began speaking to me in Japanese and asked "When is the rest of the Japanese Army coming?"

I responded that there was no Japanese Army, so there would be no Japanese troops coming to North Korea, and that I was not a Japanese Army officer, but was a U.S. Army officer. He insisted that the Japanese were coming and that I was Japanese. The North Korean government had been propagandizing that the Japanese were being re-militarized and were supporting the U.S. "invasion" of North Korea. So his belief was not unusual. And, of course, all the time I was telling him I was not Japanese, we were conversing in Japanese. The crossed rifle infantry insignia and silver lieutenant's bar on my fatigue uniform would not have been meaningful to him.

I continued trying to convince the gentleman that I was not a Japanese officer, but he could not be convinced. Finally, he said, "If you say so," then continued by telling me that his wife was Japanese and that there were seven Japanese women in the town who all wanted to return to Japan and asked if I could help them get to Japan.

I wished that there was some way I could help the Japanese women, but there was none that I could think of. We were in the midst of a war and continuing our advance to the Yalu River. So I had to tell him that I could not help him. However, I optimistically added the war would soon be over, that the Republic of Korea government would soon be in charge, and perhaps something could be worked out at that time.

Although not really satisfied with my response, he thanked me and said his wife was outside and would like to meet me. When I told him I would like to meet her, he went outside and returned with his wife, who carried a basket of apples. She seemed embarrassed and it was rather an awkward situation, but she finally asked if I want to buy some apples. I said I would be glad to and when she gave me her apples, I gave her some North Korean currency that I had withheld from some captured enemy documents. She and her husband then took their leave and trudged off into the darkening twilight, and I never saw them again.

As fall turned into winter, and the temperature dropped to a mind-numbing 35 degrees below zero, the 7<sup>th</sup> Division's 17<sup>th</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiments fought their way north against remnants of the North Korean Army and reached the Yalu River without encountering any Chinese Communist forces. In the meanwhile, the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division was engaged by the three divisions of the Chinese Communist 42<sup>nd</sup> Army and became bogged down on both sides of the Chosin reservoir.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Division's 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry was then ordered to relieve the 7<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment on the east side of the Chosin reservoir and the 7<sup>th</sup> Division command was moved back to Pukchong from Pungsan. But as soon as the division CP was set up at Pukchong, all hell broke loose in the Chosin reservoir area with the CCF unleashing a newly committed army group against our forces.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Division's two infantry battalions and an artillery battalion east of the Chosin were decimated. And as the Marine division and remnants of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division struggled back toward the

Hungnam perimeter, the remainder of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division conducted a hasty withdrawal from the Yalu River down through Pungsan and Pukchong into the Hungnam perimeter.

A small divisional detachment was left at Pukchong to clear out as much as possible of the ordnance and quartermaster depots and to remain there until all the division's elements had passed through. Again I was designated to stay back as the G2 representative.

When I asked how long we were to stay at Pukchong, I was told "Until you get a call to haul ass." When I asked when that might be, I was told "When it looks like they're going to cut the (only) road to Hungnam." Two days later, after the last of the division's units had passed through, we were ordered to pull out and rejoin the division headquarters at Hungnam.

In my last few days at Pukchong in December 1950, the Japanese women in Pukchong were far from my mind as other tactical matters became of more immediate concern. But with the passage of time, I often wonder, not without a bit of a guilty feeling if I could not have done anything for them, "Did they ever get out of North Korea?" "Were they able to survive?"

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**"KANJI AND CODES-LEARNING JAPANESE FOR WORLD WAR II" by Irwin L. & Carole E. Slesnick – Book Review by Grant Ichikawa**

This is a complete book on the role of linguists, both Nisei and Caucasian, before, during and after World War II. This book belongs in the library of every MIS veteran. It is the first time, to the best of my knowledge, that the role of Caucasian linguists in Japanese language program during WWII was published in such detail including the here-to-fore lesser known pre-war school in Tokyo, the Stillwater School (Navy) in Oklahoma, and the enlisted marine school in Camp Lejeune, NC.

In the chapter on "Army Japanese language Schools", in addition to the wealth of information, there is a full page photo of members of Barracks F, Camp Savage of the December 1942 class. Most of those in Barracks F were volunteers from Gila River Relocation Center.

In the chapter on "Military Intelligence Service at War," many significant campaigns are mentioned with some names of both Caucasian and Nisei linguists who were involved in those campaigns. This chapter is a thumb-nail sketch of the war in the Pacific.

The chapter, "The Occupation," again covers the most significant events which formed the basis for the democratic Japan of today. It identifies key persons, including a number of Nisei, who made significant contributions during the occupation period. This chapter covers the war crimes trials, the repatriation of Japanese military and the U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey teams.

The final chapter on the "Post War Careers" of selected Japanese language interpreters include that of four Nisei linguists: Toshio Tsukahira -- diplomat; Warren Tsuneishi --Librarian, Asia Specialist; John Okada -- writer, and Grant Ichikawa --CIA.

**How to Order the book *Kanji and Codes*.**

Price is \$20.00 for the 370-page paperback book, plus \$2.50 postage for the first book and \$1.00 for each additional book in the same order.

Please send your check and order to: Carole Slesnick, P.O. Box 1393, Bellingham, WA 98227

*(Editor's Note: The American Patriot, a book of first person accounts of Japanese Americans and other MIS veterans of the CBI and Pacific theaters remains on sale. Priced at \$10 plus \$2 for shipping, the book is available by writing to: JAVA, P.O. Box 59, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.)*

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## **SEATTLE CITY AND KING COUNTY COUNCILS HONOR NISEI WWII MIS VETERANS ON 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY**

The Seattle City Council and the King County Council each passed resolutions on August 15 honoring the Nisei MIS veterans on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese surrender announcement.

“These men and women were instrumental in turning a former enemy into an ally, and in having Japanese veterans take part in the rebuilding of Japan,” President Jan Drago said in introducing the resolution before the Seattle City Council.

After noting that the Nisei contributions to the U.S. Army’s Military Intelligence Service remained shrouded in secrecy long after the war was over, Drago said “They were indispensable and irreplaceable and today we honor them with no less gratitude than if we had been allowed to show our admiration and respect directly at the end of World War II.”

Dow Constantine, who introduced the resolution in the Metropolitan King County Council, said, ‘Ironically, these loyal soldiers didn’t get the credit they deserved after the war because their work was so important that it was considered classified information. On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war in the Pacific, we want to honor their work and thank them for their service to their country.’”

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## **JAVA MEMBERSHIP GROWS**

JAVA’s membership grew as some 20 veterans and a marine still on active duty recently joined its ranks. The marine, Lt.Col. Timothy C. Abe, is on active duty in Virginia Beach, VA.

Of the 20 veterans, 14 were from the Go-for-Broke National Veterans National Veterans Alliance. They are:

Jack K. Nagano of Rosemead, CA; John Sakamoto, of Montebello, CA; Shokichi Tokita of Renton, WA; Satoshi Don Shimazu of Honolulu, HI; Arthur Iwasaki of Portland, OR; Floyd H. Tanaka of Denver; Hideo Watanabe of Palm Desert, CA; Samuel Osamu Mayeda of Irving, CA;

Frank Y. Morimoto of Monrovia, CA; Yoshio Taguma of Kaaawa, HI; Henry S. Asai of Los Angeles; Shig Doi of Richmond, CA; Alexander Jiro Oka of Honolulu; and Hiroshi Takusagawa of Gardena, CA.

Three from NorCal MIS were Jack Hirose of San Francisco; Paul T. Bannai of Gardena, CA, and Kiyoshi Fujihara of Pasadena, CA.

Others included Floyd H. Tanaka of Denver from Co. B of the 100<sup>th</sup> /442<sup>nd</sup> RCT; Matao Matt Shigio of San Francisco (formerly with the MIS ATIS at the war crime trials); and James H. Mukoyama, Maj. Gen. (retired) of Glenview, IL.

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## **JAVA’S INFORMAL “PROJECT WELCOME” GREETES CWO Okada by Warren Tsunieshi**

JAVA is increasingly a nation-wide association with far flung members far from its headquarters in Washington, D.C. making face-to-face meetings of all members difficult to arrange, so when members from afar come to the nation’s capital, meetings are arranged under an informal “Project Welcome” program for visitors to meet local members.

One such opportunity arose October 3 when Chief Warrant Officer (Ret) Howard S. Okada, a JAVA member, arrived from Honolulu to attend the annual meeting of the Army of the United States Association of which he is a member.

Born in Watsonville, CA, in 1928, reared in Fresno, interned at the Jerome Relocation Center, drafted in 1950, he rose from medic and company clerk in Korea to Sergeant First Class when he was discharged in 1957. He was recalled 1961 as a Chief Warrant Officer; in 1967 was assigned as administrative assistant to the Commanding General, I Field I Field Force, Vietnam and later returned to serve under General Fred C. Weyand, Commander of U.S. Army Assistance Command.

In 1985 Okada retired from the military after 30 years of service and was immediately appointed to a civilian position as chief of protocol, U.S. Army Pacific and now serves as administrative officer for General Weyand, trustee, Estate of S.M. Damon, Honolulu.

Okada told the luncheon that an unanticipated consequence of the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast was that their dispersal throughout America created opportunities they could take advantage of.

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### **BATTLE OF OKINAWA REVISITED**

Okinawa was the “Hellish prelude to the coming invasion of Japan proper,” Warren Tsuneishi said in his report at a recent symposium of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg, TX, Nimitz’s hometown.

Warren, who was on the island during “the last and bloodiest single combat operation” of WWII, was one of 19 veteran speakers at the symposium on “Okinawa, A Hellish Prelude,” held September 16-18 at the Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg, TX, Nimitz’s home town.

The symposium combined formal lectures by historians with stories of life and death struggles in the front lines such as the “bloody and hellish attacks,” the *kamikaze*, and the life and death struggles.

“When the time came for me to make my 10-minute talk, I first explained briefly why I had volunteered for the MIS despite the fact that my family was detained in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center...it was a matter of honor...especially since I was born on July 4, 1921... a real life nephew of my Uncle Sam,” Warren said.

Warren is the second JAVA member invited to participate in the symposium. Grant Hirabayashi was invited to participate in a symposium on the China, Burma, India Theatre of Operations and Merrill’s Marauders, of which he was a member.

*(Editors note: The full version of Warren’s report is available on the JAVA website: <http://www.javadc.org/>.)*

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### **TAPS**

**Lt. Col. John (Jack) Alois Herzig** – A veteran paratrooper of the Pacific War and an active supporter of *Nikkei* causes, Jack passed away August 21 in his home in Gardena, CA. He had colon cancer.

Jack, a long-time JAVA member, was a paratrooper during WWII and made some 32 jumps including one onto Corregidor in 1945. As noted in the Washington Post, he and his wife Aiko, “played an instrumental role in gaining redress from the United States for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.”

The couple is credited with uncovering documents in the 1980’s in the National Archives and other repositories that showed government prosecutors suppressed, altered and destroyed evidence during its prosecution of the Korematsu case which enabled Asian American lawyers to



have the conviction against the Japanese American who refused to report to an internment camp during WWII overturned..

After the redress bill, Aiko and Jack helped identify Japanese Americans who were interned and entitled to receive a public apology and token payment from the federal government as mandated by an act of Congress.

The Washington Post quoted Dale Minami, a civil rights lawyer in the San Francisco Bay area, as saying “Jack Herzig is one of those unrecognized giants of redress for Japanese Americans.”

In addition to his wife Aiko, Jack is survived by four children.

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**Jack T. Tashiro** – A former senior officer at the Central Intelligence Agency and winner of the Distinguished Intelligence Medal as well as multiple commendations, died September 4 of an intracranial hemorrhage at the Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Tashiro, 80, worked for the CIA’s Directorate of Science and Technology with assignments in the United States, Europe and East Asia and was deputy director of the CIA’s Office of Technical Service when he retired in 1980.. He also served as JAVA’s treasurer.

Born in Portland, Ore., he spent a year in Japan as a youth, studying the language and culture, was interned at the Tule Lake Relocation Center for a year before finishing high school in Idaho and then was drafted into the U.S. Army.

Because of his knowledge of Japanese, he was assigned to the MIS Language School in Fort Snelling, MN. Later, he attended the Tokyo war crimes trials where his duties included interpreting for general officers. He also interrogated suspected war criminals and translated military documents, then later taught Japanese courses until his discharge in 1947.

He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1950, received a Master’s Degree in public administration from the University of Minnesota the next year and moved to Washington in 1952 and joined the CIA.

After leaving government, he worked for 15 years with VATEC Inc., a high-tech security company based in Laurel outside of Washington, D.C.

Jack is survived by his wife of 53 years, Marie; two sons, Ken of Bethesda, and Jon of Derwood, and a granddaughter.

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**Paul Shinji Matsuki** – A graduate of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage in February, 1944, Matsuki, of Silver Spring, MD, outside the nation’s capital, died September 20. He was a JAVA member.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine, and their offsprings – Sharon Little, and sons Michael, Sean, Peter Joe, and Christopher – and grandchildren Melissa and Alyoia Little, Mathew and Jennifer Matsuki; Sean, Ryan and Katie Murray – brother, Joe Matsuki.

The mass of Christian burial was at the St. Catherine Laboure Church in Wheaton, MD, and interment at the Gates of Heaven Cemetery outside of Washington, D.C.

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**T/Sgt Shigeru Yamashita** – A California-born but Japan-educated draftee prior to the entry of the United States into World War II, Shigeru Yamashita was among those who helped prove the worth of the *Kibei*. Yamashita, 86, passed away last February 13.

Yamashita, who was born in Irvine, was sent to Japan with his grandparents when only three years old, graduated from a Japanese high school in 1937, and rejoined his parents who were then

farming in Overtone, NV, in 1937, went back to high school there to learn English, then moved to Los Angeles to further his education at Polytecnic there.

Drafted in early 1941, he was one of the first to enter the U.S. Fourth Army's Japanese-language program in San Francisco under Captain Kai Rasmussen and arrived in Neumea, New Caledonia, in early June, 1942, with the linguistic team.

He also saw service on Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, Bougainville, Cebu, among other places. His awards included the Legion of Merit, Letters of Commendation for Outstanding Service from Lt. Gen. M. F. Harmon, Commanding General of U.S. Forces in the South Pacific Area and General John R. Hodges, Commander of the Americal Division, and the Bronze Star for meritorious service in action on Bouganville.

private funeral service for Yamashita was held February 13. In 1947 he married Helen Okazaki, and they had two children, Cheryl and Mark.

*(Editor's Note: the above is a very shorten version on what appeared on the JAVA Website last February and is included in JAVA News for the benefit of those who do not have access to E-Mail.)*

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**Ben Tomaru Honda** – Honda, 87, a veteran of the fighting in the South Pacific during WWII, died in early September in Chicago. A graduate of the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage in December of 1942, he served in the fighting against the Japanese on Saipan, Kwajalien, Majuro and Okinawa.

After WWII he became an architect and helped design Marina City in Chicago.

He was the husband of the late Toshiko Mori, and the father of Gene and Janice Honda and brother-in-law of Matsue, Hatsy, and Shiz Honda. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

He was interred at the Montrose Cemetery in Chicago.

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### **SHORT BUT SIGNIFICANT**

**DAV Growth** – JAVA's Yeiichi "Kelly" Kuwayama reported on the signal growth of various programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs from 48 hospitals and 30,000 employees after its creation on July 21, 1930 to today's 157 hospitals and 237,000 VA professionals.

"It was an interesting and heart warming experience to be reminded of what the Department of Veterans Affairs does," Kelly said in speaking of a gathering at the DAR Constitution Hall marking the DAV's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Kelly and JAVA's Jimmie Kanaya, both previously honored with the French government's Legion of Honor, were among other veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Middle East wars assembled for the occasion which had Vice-President Richard Chaney and DAV Secretary R. James Nicholson as speakers.

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**Maggie Ikeda** – a lifetime member of JAVA who moved to New Jersey no more than two years ago, has moved back to Honolulu to be near her second son who moved back to Hawaii a few years ago. Her late husband, Chick Ikeda, is buried in the Punchbowl Cemetery. She has moved into newly-built Kahala Nui. Her address: 4389 Malia St., # 679, Honolulu, HI 96816; her phone: (808) 218-7181.

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