



JAPANESE AMERICAN
VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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Bert Mizusawa, President
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NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope each and every one of you are enjoying the holiday season with your loved ones. Two thousand five has been a busy year and one that should make us proud of our organization. On behalf of the Executive Council, I am pleased to recap our activities for the year:

-- Held three annual programs: (1) Booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival, (2) Freedom Walk Program held jointly with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and (3) Fifth Annual Veterans Day ceremonies at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

-- Joined the National Military Veterans Alliance, which represents a total of 3.2 million members, to work on veterans issues important to JAVA's constituency.

-- Restructured joint JAVA-442nd Hawaii project to collect, catalogue and store electronically all pertinent information on the 100th Bn, 442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service, 1399th Engineer Construction Bn and the 1800th Engineer General Service Bn available at the National Archives' two locations. When completed, the data will be accessible to researchers electronically all over the world.

-- Responded to 15 requests by schools and organizations for speakers to discuss Japanese American military contributions, including one in Texas and one in Oklahoma.

-- Established a second scholarship fund – the Jack Tashiro Memorial scholarship fund.

-- Recognized Sandra Tanamachi with the JAVA *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*.

-- Elected Col. (Ret.) Phil Ishio as Honorary Chair to join Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Daniel K. Akaka, and Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

-- Reconstructed the JAVA website (www.javadc.org). Now more user friendly, the site has been visited by an average of 7,000 annual viewers, including scholars, press personnel and film makers since its inception in 2001.

-- As a result of this reconstruction, we assisted FOX NEWS in contacting Nisei veterans for its one-hour documentary on Japanese American contributions (with JAVA on the credit line). Also, the daily Tokyo Shimbun interviewed JAVA members in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Honolulu to do a story on the 60th anniversary of the end of WWII. JAVA also assisted NHK TV New York with strategy and leads for a documentary on Japanese Americans.

-- Conducted five oral history interviews, including Congressman Honda and two Nisei veterans of Merrill's Marauders. Senator Akaka is being scheduled for his interview. The oral histories of three JAVA members (Warren Tsuneishi, Kelly Kuwayama and Norman Ikari) appeared in two Library of Congress books published by the National Geographic Society. The three also appeared at various book signings and panel discussions with the coordinator of the program to discuss Japanese American contributions to various wars.

-- Issued 18 press releases to Japanese American and Asian American newspapers and veterans organizations on the mainland and in Hawaii. These releases also went to 13 Japanese dailies and news agencies.

- Had 103 new members, including people on active duty in Iraq, join JAVA.
- Sadly lost eleven members including the recent premature passing of Douglas Ishio, son of JAVA founder Phil Ishio.

For 2006, JAVA's Executive Committee, will pursue three general goals: (1) gain JAVA membership on the Veterans Day National Committee, (2) represent the interests of various veterans through interaction with appropriate organizations and agencies including Congress, and (3) increase coordination with other Japanese American organizations (JAACL, NJAMFm etc,) to ensure our efforts are mutually-reinforcing of behalf of Japanese Americans nationwide.

For now, Best wishes to the JAVA family for a **SAFE, PROSPEROUS and HAPPY 2006.**

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JAVA HONORS FOUNDING PRESIDENT PHIL ISHIO

JAVA's Executive Council by unanimous vote at its December 2 meeting elected Colonel (Ret.) Sunao "Phil" Ishio, the association's founding president, as an Honorary Chair of the Council, its governing body.

Phil joins Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel K. Inouye and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, the other members of the prestigious group.

JAVA's current president, Bert Mizusawa, praised Ishio's foresight 13 years ago for activating and laying a viable foundation to launch the organization which serves the interests of Japanese American, Asian American and other veterans.

Mizusawa noted that JAVA, which started with a handful of former MIS veterans, has grown to an organization serving veterans of all wars since WWII. He said the growth and size of the organization has significantly increased the visibility of the military service of Japanese Americans to the nation.

"We have come a long way," Mizusawa said, but added that younger Asian Americans veterans should be encouraged to join and get involved with JAVA's efforts to promote the interests of those who have served the nation.

Ishio, who said he was deeply moved by this recognition, expressed his satisfaction with the substantive role JAVA, in concert with other veterans organizations, is playing to represent the interests of Japanese, Asian and other American veterans.

A pre-WWII inductee, Ishio was with the first class of the MIS Language School at Camp Savage, MN; Ishio was shipped to Papua, New Guinea, saw action there, in the Philippines, and elsewhere.

Ishio and his wife Connie live in Silver Spring, MD. His son resides in nearby Burtonsville while his daughters live in San Francisco and Atlanta.

(Editor's note: For a much fuller account of Phil's service, please go to the JAVA Website: www.javadc.org.)

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JAVA'S ANNUAL MEETING TO HIGHLIGHT KUDOS FOR FUMIE YAMAMOTO & ARCHIVIST BOYLAN, RECOGNITION OF MAGGIE IKEDA TO FOLLOW

JAVA will extend special recognition at its upcoming general meeting January 28 to Fumie Yamamoto and National Archivist Richard Boylan for the research credited in great part for the upgrading of lesser awards to Medals of Honor for 20 Nisei soldiers in WWII.

Mildred "Maggie" Ikeda, another key member of the research team currently living in Hawaii, will be recognized separately at a later date.

Fumi and her late husband, Dr. Richard Yamamoto, are being recognized for hard copying 25 lineal feet of 100th and 442nd documents for the Project, while Boylan “went over and beyond his duties to assist the researchers. Maggie was part of the Yamamoto team.

At the same meeting, Grant Ichikawa and Paul Tani will present the results of their four years’ work on the three separate Military Intelligence Registries total more than 12,000 names. The Registries, updated to 11 November ’05, are on a CD-Rom and will be available to those who may wish a copy.

JAVA president Bert Mizusawa will speak on the organization’s state of health and future direction.

Also on the agenda are the Treasurer’s report and a summary of activities in 2005.

The Saturday meeting at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, VA (phone: 703-573-6000) will start at 11:30 a.m. Costs and directions to the restaurant will be provided at a later date.

###

JAVA’S VETERANS DAY PROGRAM HONORS TANAMACHI; REAR ADM. MORITSUGU KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JAVA honored Texas school teacher Sandra Tanamachi with its Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award at its 5th Annual Veterans Day Program November 11 at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, Deputy Surgeon General of the United States, delivered the keynote address.

In presenting JAVA’s *Courage, Honor, Patriotism* Award to Ms. Tanamachi, JAVA President Bert Mizusawa said that her 12-year struggle to remove a racial slur from three Texas street signs exemplifies the ideals of JAVA and the sacrifices of Japanese American men and women who served in the Armed Forces.

Master of Ceremony Calvin Ninomiya, former chief counsel at the U.S. Treasury Dept.’s Bureau of Public Debt, said that JAVA, though not a civil rights organization, “would sense the fundamental merit of the efforts that Sandra Tanamachi waged in the Beaumont, Texas.” Through her initiative offensive “Jap Road” signs in the Beaumont area were changed.

Ms. Tanamachi, in response, said “Many people have asked me why I worked for over 12 years on changing the names of the roads in Texas. I tell them it is my small way of saying thank you to my mother and her two brothers who were forcibly placed in internment camps, for her uncle, a Texan and member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who was killed during the rescue of the trapped Texas battalion in eastern France, and for my son and his future generations.”

Twenty members of the Tanamachi family were present. Also recognized was Thomas Kuwahara, a Louisiana resident and veteran, who assisted Tanamachi in the street sign removal endeavor.

Admiral Moritsugu, whose father was a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service who served in the Pacific Islands and Okinawa, said that Niseis, “who identified America as their own, stood up to serve, when their own government did not trust them, in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in the 100th Infantry Battalion, and in the Military Intelligence Service in Europe and in the Pacific.”

Moritsugu noted that “In WW II, our fathers and grandfathers were not allowed to serve, except in specified, segregated units: mostly in the infantry, a few in the Air Corps (although not in the cockpits), and a sole member in the Navy. During the Vietnam War, Japanese Americans

served in all branches of the armed forces, on bridges of Naval vessels, and in cockpits as pilots of fighters and bombers.

“Now opportunities for selfless service abound: general and flag officers commanding brigades and divisions; and public servants holding ranking positions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. And I note particularly, Brigadier General-select Bert Mizusawa, another veteran in our midst.”

Donations for the program came from Colonel Jimmie Kanaya (Ret.), Colonel and Mrs. Phil Ishio, (Ret.), Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Kikuchi, and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

The colors were posted by Kim Luoma (Vietnam War era), Robert Nakamoto (Korean War), Minoru Nagaoka (442nd) and Aki Konoshima (MIS). Boy Scout Grant Mukai of Troop 1115, Springfield, Virginia, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Invocation was delivered by Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives.

A wreath at the Wall of Heroes was laid by Etsu Mineta Masaoka and Joanne Obata (widows of veterans); Ninomiya; Chosei Kuge and Hiroko Tanamachi Edwards (next of kin of WWII fatalities). The sounding of the Memorial Gong by Paul Y. Tani was followed by taps by a military bugler.

####

NISEI FEATURED IN LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BOOKS

Three JAVA members – Dr. Norman Ikari, Yeichi “Kelly” Kuwayama and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, and a nisei nurse, Carolyn Hisako Tanaka of Cleveland, Ohio – are featured in two recent Library of Congress publications under its Veteran History Project (VHP).

The book, *Forever A Soldier*, published November 8, uses the own words of veterans culled from oral histories, letters and diaries. Ikari, Kuwayama and Tanaka are among 37 men and women, all of diverse background and ethnicity. Kuwayama and Ikari participated in the launching of the book September 24 at the Library’s 5th Annual National Book Festival.

Tsuneishi’s story in *Voices of War* was among those selected from some 30,000 oral history interviews, chosen to present a wide selection of viewpoints. *Voices of War* was introduced during the National Book Festival a year earlier.

Library historian Tom Weiner, who edited *Voices of War* and authored *Forever a Soldier*, said “We want our readers to know what sacrifices these men and women made; what incredible courage they displayed, whether in the battlefield or in a prison camp for in a field hospital...”

Weiner said “Ikari and Kuwayama’s profiles were selected for *Forever a Soldier* because they overlapped and also because they showed how two men from opposite ends of the country – with very different family experiences during the war – wound up in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit of its size in U.S. Army history.”

He said Tsuneishi’s profile was selected because “I was interested in someone being named for a president of the U.S., growing up as a second-generation Japanese American, and seeing his family scattered across the country by a wrongful act of our government – and all through that, still willing to put his life on the line for that government...”

“Tanaka’s story attracted me for the central fact that her family was victimized by the relocation order of 1942 but she chose to serve her country over 20 years later in Vietnam in spite of that fact.”

####

“MUST BOOKS” FOR WWII HISTORY BUFFS by Warren Tsuneishi

Two recently published “must books” now are available for the personal libraries of WWII history buffs, especially those interested in Japanese language specialists who served in the Pacific and CBI Theaters.

The first, Kanji and Codes: Learning Japanese for World War II by Irwin Leonard Slesnick and Carole Slesnick, has a publication date scheduled for 2006. It is soft-covered and has 370 pages with illustrations and maps.

The second is entitled: Hell’s Anvil: the Forging of a Fanatic Fighter, written by Edward Rasmussen, is an annotated translation of an anonymous battlefield diary of a Japanese Army officer killed in Luzon, the Philippines, in 1945.

Slesnick, a product of the virtually unknown Marine Corps Japanese Language School for Enlisted Men, was trained to serve as an interpreter at the battalion level as were other enlisted Marines and participated in frontline action on Okinawa, a story he tells in the opening chapter of the book; but the book then covers not only the Marine Corps program but also the MIS Language School and the Navy School in Boulder, CO, to train both Navy and Marine officers.

A preliminary print of 200 copies has been sent to potential publishers and can be ordered now from Mrs. Carole Slesnik, P.O. Box 1393, Bellingham, WA98227 by enclosing a check for \$22.50 (includes postage and handling).

Rasmussen (no kin to Col. Kai E. Rasmussen, Commandant, MISLS), found the diary in the War Documents Center near Baltimore and was taken by its fine calligraphy and literary style. Rasmussen said it took decades for him to learn the identity of the diarist, a poet-calligrapher, Fukuzo Obara, a native of Akita Prefecture.

The diary, which traces the change of a sensitive humane poet into a fanatic ultra nationalist, was returned to the Obara family and now sits in an air-conditioned glass case in the Akita Prefectural Library.

The book is available from Xlibris Corporation, \$27.89 (hardcover) or \$17.84 (soft cover) plus \$5.19 for handling and postage for either copy.

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AMERICAN PATRIOTS – MIS in the War Against Japan, is now available in its third printing. The soft-cover book of 142 pages contains the personal experiences of 24 veterans as related at the 1993 MIS Reunion in the nation’s capital. The stories were selected from among thousands who served in all major battles of the war in the Pacific and CBI theaters and the Occupation of Japan as Military Intelligence Japanese language specialists.

American Patriots, priced at \$10 plus \$2.00 postage and handling, may be ordered by sending a check to: JAVA Books, P.O. Box 59, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

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JAVA - 442ND HAWAII SEEKING TO EXPEDITE 100TH BN, 442ND R.C.T. AND MIS DOCUMENTS DIGITIZATION PROGRAM.

The Japanese American Veterans Association and 442nd Hawaii have intensified their joint program to digitize all relevant information in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), located in Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland, that pertain to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. When the project is completed it will represent the largest collection of such records outside of NARA that will be accessible via computers to historians, researchers and film makers from anywhere in the world.

This effort builds on the hard copy document retrieval program developed by the late Dr. Richard S. Yamamoto, Mrs. Fumie Yamamoto, Kensington, Maryland, and Mrs. Maggie Ikeda, Honolulu, Hawaii. These documents, collected over a 12 year period and measuring 30 linear feet, now reside in the 442nd Hawaii archives and the University of Hawaii Hamilton Library.

The Yamamoto-Ikeda collection played a highly significant role in the review of awards that resulted in the upgrade in 2000 of 19 Distinguished Service Cross awards and one Silver Star to Medals of Honor, the nation's highest decoration for gallantry over and beyond the call of duty.

David Buto, JAVA Secretary and Webmaster, has since moved the paper copy collection effort to a computerized system. Since the conversion, all data on 442nd, 100th, and MIS that was not already copied by the Yamamoto-Ikeda team is being transferred electronically to the JAVA website (www.javadc.org) and to 442nd Hawaii. Ted Tsukiyama, historian of 442nd and MIS Hawaii, has as his goal the digitization of the Yamamoto-Ikeda hard copy collection. Buto and Tsukiyama's efforts will be integrated.

In addition to the hard copy collection and Buto's digitization, there are many more documents pertaining to the history of WW II Nisei military service still stored at NARA which are vitally important to the completion of the collection effort. These documents will be screened and, if relevant, identified and digitized.

There are two principal differences between the present NARA collection and the JAVA-442nd Hawaii effort: first, documents at NARA's vast storage facilities pertaining to Nisei WW II military duty are scattered in two buildings, one located in downtown Washington, D.C. and the other at College Park, Maryland, whereas the JAVA-442nd Hawaii effort will have all the relevant documents in one location, the joint JAVA-442nd Hawaii website.

Second, NARA's collections are in paper copy, which will become increasingly fragile, and access is possible only by a personal visit to Washington, D.C. and College Park whereas the JAVA-442nd collection will be digitized and thereby accessible to national and international scholars, researchers, film makers and other interested inquirers through their computers from anywhere in the world. NARA archivists have been most supportive in assisting JAVA and 442nd Hawaii achieve their goal.

JAVA is currently enlisting volunteers from its members, families of members, friends and any interested supporter to identify documents that need to be digitized and to scan the document into the computer. Anyone, including retirees, full-time workers willing to devote one or more of their vacation days, spouses of all veterans, high school or college students who wish to help advance the JAVA-442nd Hawaii endeavor, is invited to contact Terry Shima (301-987-6746, email: ttshima@worldnet.att.net)

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JAVA TO COSPONSOR SMITHSONIAN PLAY ON WWII LOYALTY QUESTIONS

JAVA has agreed to co-sponsor a play with the Smithsonian Institution on the so-called "Loyalty Questions" imposed on Japanese Americans incarcerated in Relocation Centers during World War II.

The play, written by Chay Yew, a Chinese American play write, will be held at the National Museum of American History's Carmichael Auditorium on the February 28th, the so-called "Day of Remembrance," the anniversary of President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 authorizing the removal of all Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II.

The Smithsonian brochure announcement on the showing, said:

“In the wake of America’s entry into World War II, more than 120,00 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to leave their homes, possessions, and communities and report to relocation centers and internment camps.

“This federal action...led to the suspension of many civil rights of Japanese Americans. Every February 19, the internment of Japanese Americans is remembered both for the hardship it caused and the lessons that can be learned with the hope that history will not repeat itself.

“One lasting legacy of the internment experience was the so-called ‘loyalty questionnaire’ which was designed to test the loyalty of the incarcerated Japanese Americans. Two questions, #27 (willingness of serve in the U.S. Armed Forces) and #28 (willingness of swear unqualified allegiance to any other nation or government), were both disturbing and confusing to the internees.

“Using these questions as a focal point to reveal the unfair treatment of the internees...(Chay Yew) vividly brings to life not only the experiences of the imprisoned Japanese Americans, but also of their non-Japanese Caucasian contemporaries...Told exclusively through the perspective of women, this play is based on verbatim excerpts from oral histories and interviews.”

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NISEI VETERAN S OPEN EXHIB IT ON USS HORNET

Lawson Sakai, president and founding president of the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans of North California officially opened an exhibit of the 442nd RCT and the MIS on the USS Hornet November 12.

Sakai told 100 guests that with the exhibit aboard the famed WWII aircraft carrier, northern California now has its own exhibit to honor the Nikkei men and women who served in Europe and the Pacific as well as the home front during WWII.

A “grand opening” of the exhibit is scheduled for early next year when construction of the full exhibit is completed, Sakai, the exhibit director, said.

The display will consist of pictures, maps, and combat memorabilia and will be located in Hanger Deck 3 of the vessel that attract more than 100,000 visitors. The display will have its own combat veterans to answer questions and serve as guides on weekends and on special occasions. In addition there is a 54-inch TV set available for continuous viewing.

Col. (Ret.) Harry Fukuhara, an MIS veteran of New Guinea and the Philippines campaigns, said on seeing the exhibit that the general public knows very little about the Nisei soldiers. Lawson Sakai and Brian Shiroyama (exhibit coordinator, a retired Air Force veteran) are focusing their attention in the right direction.”

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. Admission fees are \$14 for adults, \$12 for senior citizens, military personnel and students and \$6 for those under 17.

Checks to support the grand opening should be made out to FFNV and sent to Exhibit Director Lawson Sakai, P.O. Box 308, Gilroy, CA 95021, E-mail Isainc@garlic.com, (phone: (408) 842-3718, or to Shiroyama, E-mail bshiroyama@yahoo.com, phone: (408) 776-0361.

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TAPS

Major (Ret.) Kan TAGAMI – The Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame member passed away November 24 in Hawaii. Drafted into the U.S. Army prior to Pearl Harbor, he was one of 19 soldiers identified as fluent in Japanese because of his elementary schooling in Japan and in 1942 was assigned to the then newly-established Military Intelligence Service Language School.

He attended the first class at the school in Camp Savage, MN, became an NCO instructor after performing at the top of his class, but later volunteered as a team leader of a 15-man

language detachment and from July 1944 to April 1945, he was assigned to the 124th Cavalry in Burma with a unit that was part of the MARS task force fighting behind Japanese lines.

He volunteered for many combat intelligence patrols. On one such patrol, he helped capture and interrogate Japanese POWs, getting information which enabled the Allies to capture Lashio, opening the Burma Road for transporting U.S. supplies into China.

After the Japanese surrender, Tagami returned to Washington, was assigned to the Central Intelligence Group, then asked to be transferred to Tokyo. In December, 1946, he became the personal language interpreter for General Douglas MacArthur for the next four and a half years.

Tagami was the only person to have a single audience with the Emperor Hirohito, when they met privately to discuss a personal problem facing the Emperor.

Among other honors, he received a commendation from Brig. Gen. John P. Willey of the MARS Task Force and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

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Susumu (Sus) TOYODA – Sus, a JAVA member who served as an aide interpreter to several CINC of the U.S. Army’s Far East Command including Generals Mathew B. Ridgway, Mark W. Clark, John E. Hull and Maxwell Taylor, passed away October 13 in Carlsbad, CA.

Sus received a battlefield commission as a Second Lieutenant while serving as a POW interrogator/interpreter in Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, and after the end of WWII became an aide interpreter to the generals mentioned above.

His military decorations include the Soldiers Medal for Heroism, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, WWII Occupation Army (Japan), Korean Service, Philippine Liberation, Philippine Independence, United Nations Service (Korea), and Civilian Service in Vietnam.

Sus was born Oct. 3, 1919 in San Gabriel, CA, and is survived by his wife, Hiroye, children Paul and Kathleen, brother Bob, sister Dorothy, seven grandchildren, three great grand children and several nieces and nephews.

Sus was to be interred in December in a private gravesite ceremony with full military honors at the Eternal Hills Memorial Park in Oceanside, CA. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations in Sus’ name to the Go For Broke Educational Foundation or the Japanese American National Museum.

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Ichiro FUKUTOME – A veteran with the 442nd RCT in Italy during WWII, Fukutome, 86, died September 30 with his family by his side. Born in San Francisco and raised in Berkeley, he graduated from the University of California in 1942 and was interned at the relocation center in Topaz before he joined the Army.

A long time resident of Sacramento, he retired as a civil engineer with Caltrans after 37 years of service. A memorial service was held October 16 in El Cerrito.

He is survived by Lily, his wife of 63 years, daughters Nancy Kakigi, Susan Iida, and Sharon, and grand and great grand children.

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Douglas Kazumi ISHIO – JAVA member and son of JAVA founder Colonel (Ret) Sunao “Phil” and Constance Ishio passed away December 25 at his home in Burtonsville, MD.

Born in Washington, D.C. Douglas obtained an electrical engineering degree from the University of Maryland and was an electrical engineer with Litton Industries.

He is survived by his parents and sisters, Julie Tsuchiya Sloneker of San Francisco and Holis Molden of Atlanta, GA.

Funeral services were being held at 2:00 p.m., December 30, at the First Baptist Church of Wheaton, 10914 Georgia Ave., Wheaton, MD 20902. Internment will be private. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Wheaton.

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SHORT BUT SIGNIFICANT

JAVA dues for 2006 should be sent to JAVA Treasurer Earl S. Takeguchi, 7201 White House, Springfield, VA 22153 with checks made out to JAVA. The annual dues for veterans and active duty personnel is \$25 if paid before April 1 and \$30 as of that date; for associate members (i.e. wives, non-veterans) \$15 or \$20; life membership dues are \$250 before April 1 and \$300 thereafter.

Anyone wishing to join JAVA should contact Grant Ichikawa, 114 James Dr. SW, Vienna, VA 22180, or E-mail g.ichikawa@cox.net; phone: (703) 938-5857 or FAX (703) 938-5536. Grant will E-mail or send application forms.

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Jimmy Tanabe of the MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii reports that the Okinawa government will be paying tribute in early 2006 in a special ceremony in Hawaii to all former MIS'ers and the families of deceased MIS'ers who served on Okinawa during WWII through the mid-1950's.

Tanabe asks that the MIS'ers or the families write to the MIS Veterans Club, P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, HI 96802, with full name, address, serial number, unit(s), and location on Okinawa, and their mission/function and period(s) of time served on the island.

He said the Okinawa government would like to send notices of the tribute ceremony and appreciation certificates to all those veterans who can not attend the ceremony. (The date of the ceremony will be announced later.)

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JAVA's Joe Ichiuji was the speaker for the Veterans Day Program November 10 at the Senate Pages School on Capitol Hill, talking to 29 of the students about his interment and his services with 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd RCT in WWII. The pages are all high school juniors from all parts of the country who work for one semester on the Senate floor.

The pages all had read about Senator Daniel K. Inouye's account of his youth in Hawaii and his heroics in WWII and were eager to meet someone else who had served with the 442nd. Questioned raised by the teacher and students centered on the grave injustice done to Japanese Americans during WWII.

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JAVA member James H. Mukoyama, Jr., a retired Army reserved major general and Vietnam veteran, has been appointed to the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson announced November 9. The panel, established in 1995, makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes.

"This advisory committee contributes to the success of VA programs affecting minority veterans," Nicholson said. "It helps VA strengthen health care, benefits, rehabilitation, outreach and other programs for minority veterans."

There are approximately 4.5 minority veterans in the United States and its territories, making up about 18.7 percent of all veterans of the U.S. military.

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JAVA's Executive Director Terry Shima said that if conditions warrant, JAVA plans to seek a slot to testify before the joint Senate-House Veterans Committee and that if anyone has any

issue that should be raised, it should be sent to him at ttshima@worldnet.att.net; by phone (301) 987-6743, or 415 Russell Ave., #1005; Gathersburg, MD 20877.

Terry's request follows on the heels of House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer's announcement that he will hold full committee hearings starting next February so that veterans' groups can present their priorities and offer guidance earlier in the budget process.

Previously these hearings were held weeks after Congress already had developed "its views and estimates" in response to the President's budget request in March. Buyer said moving the hearings forward will ensure that input from the veterans groups are more relevant in the budget process.

###

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AMENDS JAVA CHARTER by Vice-President Tom Victor

Mukai

JAVA's Executive Council has amended the JAVA Charter to conform to its broaden scope of interest to cover all veterans, reservists, and active military personnel. Final comments on the charter should be made to JAVA Vice-president Victor Mukai at: tvictor53@gmail.com prior to November 31. The text to the amended charter follows:

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, to strive to obtain 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.

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