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Nisei Sculptor's Sentinels Guard Bridge

Baal, The Netherlands. On May 2, 2007, her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands unveiled four giant statues guarding the bridge over the Maas River, locally called Maasbridge, which connects the towns of Venlo and Blerick. The statues were made by world-famous Nisei sculptor and JAVA member Shinkichi Tajiri, one of the leading sculptors in the Netherlands and famous throughout Europe for his creations in diverse fields of art.

Born in California, Tajiri is the brother of the late Larry Tajiri, longtime journalist and Editor of the Japanese American Citizens League's newspaper, *The Pacific Citizen*. Another brother, Vincent, was photo editor of *Playboy Magazine* from 1953-1971. Tajiri was incarcerated in 1942 along with his mother, sister and two younger brothers at Santa Anita Assembly Center and Poston 3, Arizona. His confinement, he later said, "put an end to my youthhood at age 18."

While at Poston 3, Tajiri volunteered for the 442nd RCT. He was not a "gung ho" patriot, he later explained, but wanted "to get out of the damn camp." After training in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where Tajiri joined the art staff of the unit's yearbook, the soldiers of the 442nd arrived in Italy on May 29, 1944. He was seriously wounded on July 9, 1944. After spending 5 months in the US Army hospital in Rome, he rejoined the 442nd in France and Germany until the end of the War.

During his early life as a sculptor, Tajiri made his first warrior/samurai, a theme which occurs regularly throughout his 60 years career. "Since time immemorial a defensive sentinel mentality has played a fundamental part in our civilization. By a continued alertness day and night, vigilance and a power to resist they protect communities against dangers," Tajiri said.

In the late 1990's, the Dutch Ministry of De-



Above: Sentinels created by sculptor Shinkichi Tajiri. **Below L-R:** Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, Suzanne Tajiri and Sculptor Shinkichi Tajiri on Maasbridge, May 2, 2007. Photos courtesy of Shinkichi Tajiri.



fense abolished the draft and the last group of draftees asked Tajiri to make a monument. He decided to make a figure which was inspired by the 47 *Ronin*, who engaged in a historical act of bravery and honor during the 1700s in Japan. He made a bronze sculpture titled "Sentry." This figure served as models for the Maasbridge "Sentinels." Tajiri also expressed his deep yearning for peace and interconnectedness, as well as his sense of fundamental life forces, in the creation of giant knotted forms, such as the "Friendship Knot." The "Friendship Knot" stands in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and in Bruyeres, France to recognize the 442nd RCT rescue of the "Lost Battalion" of the 36th Texas Infantry Division and the liberation of Bruyeres.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

President's Message



I am pleased to report that we made headway on various fronts during the past quarter. JAVA will award its first scholarships in

May 2008. Applicants should check our website (www.javadc.org) for details. In the education field we have joined forces with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and the Go For Broke National Education Center to work with Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools, our pilot project, to enhance the Japanese American WW II experience at the high school level. Having completed oral history interviews of most of the WW II veterans, JAVA, under Chair Dr. Warren Minami, has embarked on its second phase interviews, which will include the post-WW II veterans. Two US Navy Rear Admirals and a US Senator have been interviewed recently.

A number of JAVA members have been recognized during this period. Ranger Vincent Okamoto, California Superior Court Judge, was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia; MG James Mukoyama, USA, (Ret) was appointed by Secretary of

Veterans Affairs James Nicholson to serve as Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, which is mandated by Congress; Major General Antonio Taguba received the Outstanding American by Choice award from the US Citizenship and Immigration Service; MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA, Editor of *JAVA ADVOCATE*, was appointed to the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law; Sculptor Shinkichi Tajiri's, 442nd veteran, sculptured work in the Netherlands was opened by Queen Beatrix; the story of Ben Kuroki, who was a gunner on 58 combat missions in Europe and Asia, was broadcast nationally on PBS; Steve Nakamoto, a West Point graduate and combat veteran of Iraq, was recognized by the Department of Defense for recommending the state of Tennessee as a model employer; Dr. Norman Ikari and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, both WW II combat veterans, were featured prominently in *Soldiers' Magazine*; and Grant Hirabayashi, Merrill's Marauders and an inductee of Ranger Hall of Fame, received the Department of the Army Certificate of Appreciation in a program that featured Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, co-producers of *THE WAR*. At Burns and Novick's request to PBS, JAVA has provided PBS with Nisei names nationwide to interview for local promotionals.

Visitors to Washington, D.C. included Dr. James C. McNaughton, Command Historian of European Command and author of *Nisei Linguists*, and wife Pam; a school teacher from Ehime Prefecture Japan and two students to interview 442nd and

MIS veterans; and COL James Nagahiro of Rindge, New Hampshire, a B-52 bomber pilot who was shot down in North Vietnam and incarcerated in "Hanoi Hilton." Visitors in October will include Greg Robinson, author of *By Order of the President*; Brian Hayashi, author of *Democratizing the Enemy: The Japanese American Internment*; and Susan Uyemura, Executive Director of Japanese American Living Legacy. I presented JAVA's *COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM* award to Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson.

I wish to invite your attention to the vacancy notice on page 10. We need your expertise and energy to help JAVA move forward. Help us if you can.

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Dr. James C. McNaughton and wife Pam have lunch with JAVA members on August 10, 2007. See story on page 3. L-R: Dr. James C. McNaughton, Pam McNaughton, Bob Nakamoto, Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

NAFVE Seeks Support for Filipino Vets Equity Bill

The National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE) is seeking Congressional approval of the Filipino Veterans' Equity Bill. Earlier this summer, the bill was approved by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The Bill (1) restores to 18,000 living Filipinos "U.S. veterans' status" for purposes of receiving veterans' benefits; (2) permits Filipino WW II veterans and survivors living in the US to receive pension and death pension paid at the same rate and conditions as other US veterans; (3) provides Filipino WW II veterans living in the Philippines a special pension and death pension.

On July 26, 1941, shortly after Japan invaded the Philippines, then a colony of the United States, President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) issued an executive order calling all organized military forces of the Philippines into service of the US Armed Forces. Approximately 250,000 Filipino soldiers fought as American nationals under the American flag and direction of US military leaders. FDR promised these Filipino soldiers the same benefits accorded to veterans of the US. In 1946, however, US Congress passed the Recission Act which divested the Filipino veterans of their "US veteran status."

In his letter to members of Congress earlier this month, JAVA President Robert Nakamoto wrote "The Filipino soldiers' dedicated and heroic performance contributed substantially to preserve Freedom and to hasten the end of the Asia Pacific War, saving countless American lives. One Filipino soldier was awarded the US Congressional Medal of Honor, highest award for valor, and 55 were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor."

Filipino WW II veterans currently have token benefits: burial benefits, VA medical facilities, and some social security benefits if they return to the Philippines. Filipino veterans, however, still do not receive equality promised to them. In 1946 President Truman said, "I consider it a moral obligation of the United States to look after the welfare of the Filipino Army veterans."

NAFVE National Campaign Coordinator Ben de Guzman said, "We are seeking to correct the grave injustice done to Filipino



At WWII Memorial, WA D.C. L-R: Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa; Art Caleda (Filipino WWII Veteran from Hawai'i); Gen. Del Lorenzana, Philippine Embassy Office of Veterans Affairs; Benito Valdez (Filipino WWII Veteran from Seattle, WA); US Senator Daniel Inouye. Photo courtesy of Benjamin de Guzman.

veterans when the Recission Act stripped them of their rightful US veteran's status. By 'equity,' we mean the simple principle that they should be treated the same as the American soldiers with whom they stood shoulder to shoulder on the field of battle."

Key supporters of this legislation in Congress include Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chair Mike Honda (D-CA), and Darrell Issa (R-CA) in the House of Representatives and Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) in the Senate. If the bill is passed in both houses, it would go into Conference Committee and then to the President for final passage.

Activated in 2006, NAFVE is a coalition of over 60 organizations and individuals in the US and Philippines committed to securing full equity for Filipino World War II Veterans. For more about NAFVE and the Filipino Veterans Equity Act visit the NAFVE Website www.nafve.org or contact Ben de Guzman, c/o Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, 815 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202-422-4909; email nafve2007@gmail.com.

Lunch with Dr. McNaughton

Dr. James C. McNaughton, author of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* and Command Historian for the US European Command, Germany, and Mrs. Pam McNaughton met with JAVA members on August 10, 2007, at China Garden Restaurant, Rosslyn, Virginia. Dr. McNaughton was in Washington, D.C. for the Conference of Army Historians.

JAVA President Robert Nakamoto welcomed the McNaughtons. Dr. McNaughton said that since the book launch on Capitol Hill in March 2007, he has visited California and spoken at functions sponsored by the Go For Broke National Education Center in Torrance, the National Japanese American Histori-

cal Society (NJAHS) in San Francisco, and at Defense Language Institute on the Presidio of Monterey. He said it was a rewarding experience to meet the veterans he had written about and their families, and to hear their reactions to the book. The Hanashi Oral History Program recorded an extensive interview with him about his research.

NJAHS used the occasion of Dr. McNaughton's visit to promote its project to refurbish and old airline hanger, which served as the first MIS Language School, at the Presidio of San Francisco, and to convert the hanger into an MIS museum and learning center. Dr. McNaughton said "it's a great story. It's an important story to tell here."

A foreign publisher has expressed interest in translating and publishing McNaughton's book abroad.

Ranger Okamoto Inducted into Hall of Fame tion to all Americans."

Fort Benning, Georgia. On August 8, 2007, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Vincent Hichiro Okamoto was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame (RHOF), the first post WW II and the fourth Japanese American to receive that prestigious honor. COL Paul J. LaCamera, Commanding Officer of the 75th Ranger Regiment, presented a medallion and lapel pin to seventeen 2007 inductees at the Marshall Auditorium, Fort Benning, Georgia, where the Regiment and RHOF are located. Over 2000 attendees, including Mrs. Mitzi Okamoto, wife of Vincent, witnessed the induction ceremony along with Ranger trainees. Okamoto's name will be engraved on the Ranger Memorial Wall.



Ranger Vince Okamoto (left) and Ranger Phillip B. Piazza, President, Merrill's Marauders Association, immediately after induction ceremony. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

The RHOF was formed to honor and preserve the spirit and contributions of America's most extraordinary Army Rangers. The history of American Rangers goes back to the American colonial period and Rangers have been deployed in every war since then. To qualify for induction into the RHOF, one must have served with distinction in a Ranger unit. Also, after leaving the armed forces, one must have served in a

local, state or national government position or displayed outstanding character and leadership in the private or business sector.

"Judge Okamoto is truly deserving of this honor," said U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a combat veteran of World War II and a recipient of the Medal of Honor. "Judge Okamoto has served our country with distinction as a soldier, and out of uniform as a lawyer, and now as a judge. He is an inspira-

In his acceptance remarks, Okamoto said "I would like to thank the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Committee; Ranger Grant Hirabayashi of Silver Spring, Maryland; Ranger Phillip B. Piazza, President, Merrill's Marauders Association; and Ken Hayashi of Yorba Linda, California for allowing me to join the gallant band of courageous warriors. Although I stand before you this afternoon as an individual, I accept this award in a representative capacity for all the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and never received the recognition and honor they deserved when they got home. On their behalf, I accept the award with my humble thanks."

Okamoto joins three Nisei WW II soldiers in the ranks of the RHOF: Roy Matsumoto of Friday Harbor, Washington; Henry Goshio of Seattle, Washington; and Grant Hirabayashi of Silver Spring, Maryland. The latter three were members of the Merrill's Marauders, a Special Forces unit which operated behind enemy lines in Burma in WW II.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Japanese Students Research JA WWII Experiences

A Japanese school teacher and two students visited Washington, D.C. in early August 2007 to conduct research on Japanese American experiences during WW II. They met for four hours with five JAVA veterans, spent the day visiting the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and other WW II military related historical sites, and conducted research at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

English teacher Fumiaki Fujimoto and two students, Hitoshi Nakamura and Jun Katakami, of Imabari Meitoku Yata Branch High School, located at Imabari City, Ehime Prefecture, Shikoku, Japan, interviewed 442nd veter-

ans Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji, Norman Ikari, and Terry Shima and MIS Merrill's Marauder veteran Grant Hirabayashi at the Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, Maryland, on August 4, 2007.

(see Student Research on page 5)



L-R: Grant Hirabayashi, MIS Merrill's Marauder; Joe Ichiuji, 442nd RCT; Norman Ikari, 442nd RCT; Hitoshi Nakamura, Jun Katakami. Photo by Fumiaki Fujimoto.

Masuo Chomori Receives Belated Bronze Star

Los Alamitos, CA. In a dignified ceremony at the Joint Forces Training Base on July 13, 2007, Masuo Chomori, veteran of F Company, 442nd RCT, was recognized for his service in WWII. With his wife, children, grandchildren, four F Co. veterans and Congresswoman Jane Harman's representative watching, BG James P. Combs solemnly pinned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart to the chest of 2LT Chomori.



BG James P. Combs pins the Bronze Star and Purple Heart on Masuo Chomori.

The story of this belated recognition begins with Peter, Mark and John Wakamatsu, sons of 1SG Jack Wakamatsu of F Co. They all knew Chomori as they grew up in the F Co. family. They heard their father regularly speak about Chomori having done some brave but unrecognized things in WWII. In his book, *Silent Warriors*, 1SG Wakamatsu wrote about the bravery of the men of F Co. Some of them, including Chomori, never received recognition for their actions. To the Wakamatsu brothers, it was about time that something was done about it. Peter had done an Oral History interview and found that Chomori did not receive the Bronze Star. Mark went to Congresswoman Harman, who saw to it that Chomori's record was amended to include military awards to which he was entitled but never received.

The Wakamatsu brothers arranged the presentation ceremony. Patricia Broughton presented Chomori with a proclamation and a US Flag that flew over the US Capitol. BG Combs said that the Nisei Soldiers, including Chomori, serve as a living example of the Army values. What they accomplished in military service and combat exemplify these values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Sacrifice, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. He gave examples of the accomplishments of the Nisei Soldiers that relate to each of the values. Notably, the fact that some of these soldiers had volunteered for

service from internment camps set up by the very government that distrusted them. Combs said that the record of the 100th and 442nd is well known in the US Army and is regularly taught to Soldiers. His closing remark focused on Chomori's grandchildren; he was especially heartened to see that these values will be passed on to the future generations.

At the end, the Wakamatsu brothers, representing F Co, 442nd RCT Chapter, presented the Chomori family with a framed shadow box set of the medals, his rank and unit insignia. Chomori let out a hearty "Thank you!" for the awards and smiled.

Student Research (continued from page 4)

The students' questions centered around Nisei who volunteered to serve the US Government that distrusted them and imprisoned their families. The Nisei responses were consistent and uniformly straight forward: they were US citizens and wanted to prove their loyalty.

The visitors were escorted to various historical sights in the Washington area by Paul Y. Tani, Senior docent at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. In addition to this Memorial, they were escorted to Arlington National Cemetery. They visited the gravesites of two Japanese Americans

and General Hap Arnold. They were not able to visit the gravesite of General Curtis LeMay. Arnold and LeMay were commanders of the Air Corps and architects of air deployment in the Pacific.

At their request, Tani drove them to the Air and Space Museum to view *Enola Gay*, the plane that dropped the A-Bomb over Hiroshima City. The students were well-read, including of Arnold and Lemay, and asked highly intelligent questions. The visitors spent two days at NARA, concentrating most of their time re-

searching in the motion picture department for footage on the 100th-442nd RCT.

Following their return to Japan, articles of their research journey were published in the local Ehime newspaper and national newspapers such as *Mainichi Shimbun*. The regional television station also broadcasted material the students provided. One elderly writer from Osaka said she was impressed that the two students were studying the Nisei story which is not well-known to the young Japanese people. Another writer was Joe Ichiuji's cousin, a Tokyo resident, who said he and his friends are writing a book on Nisei.

100th Inf Bn Vets Hawaii Celebrates Anniversary

[From the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club Puka Puka Parade August 2007 issue.]

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club of Hawaii celebrated three days of festivities that culminated in the 65th Anniversary banquet luncheon on July 24, 2007, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Over 600 veterans, family members and friends from Oahu, outer islands and the Mainland, including Shizuya Hayashi, Medal of Honor awardee, Pat Skelly, an official from the 34th Red Bull Division Association, and MG Robert G.F. Lee, Adjutant General, Hawaii National Guard, enjoyed the Hawaiian food, music and aloha.

MG Jason Kamiya, USA, Commanding General of the Joint War Fighting Center of the US Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Virginia and son of Lawrence Kamiya of C Company, 100th Infantry, was the keynote speaker. Kamiya said it

was a unique honor to address the Japanese American veterans of the Greatest Generation whose combat record, discipline and loyalty opened opportunities for future generations of Japanese Americans like himself to compete for any position in every branch of the armed forces. Kamiya told the veterans "the time has come to pass the torch to the next generation. The present and future generations who freely accept the torch do so with the obligation to preserve the memory of the 100th, for 'to forget one's ancestors is like a brook without a source or a tree without roots.'"

The Reunion's center of activity was the 100th Clubhouse, which was built through monthly assessments while the men were in uniform. Reunion participants gravitated there to enjoy food and drinks, to review exhibits of wartime memorabilia and pictorial

displays, to watch videos of 100th experiences, to

learn about future plans such as the activation of an educational center, and to talk stories.

Following the event 100th Veterans Club President Robert Arakaki expressed his gratitude, "First of all, I am proud of the descendants for working so hard to make this 65th Anniversary Celebration such a successful and memorable event for the veterans, their families and friends. It was heartwarming to see so many folks from the community come out and support our club and celebrate with us. What touched my heart most was seeing veterans come to the banquet who have not come around for decades. Also, there were a few veterans who attended the banquet who did not join the club and haven't seen the other 'boys' for 65 years. That, to me, meant more than words can say. They came back home."

JACL Awards Dinner a Success

By Meilee Wong, JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

The Inaugural National Japanese American Citizens League Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions," was held in Washington, D.C. on September 12, 2007. Emceed by actor George Takei. The event drew about 310 guests.

Former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, honorary chairman, introduced JACL officials and VIP attendees with his usual charm. The awardees for the night, named "Champions" for their leadership in the Asia Pacific Islands American (APIA) community, included State Farm Insurance, Karen Narasaki, Esq, President and Executive Director of the Asian American Justice Center, Japanese Ambassador Ryozo Kato, Senator Daniel K. Inouye and Senator Larry Craig.

State Farm was recognized for its "deep commitment and active involvement in the APIA community" Vance Yoshikawa, State Farm's vice president, accepted the award. Narasaki, was honored as one of the na-

tion's leading voices advocating for the rights and interests of Asian Americans. Ambassador Kato, was recognized for his contribution to the expanding the role of Japanese Americans in U.S.- Japan bilateral relations. Senator Inouye, was honored for his efforts as a leader, dedicated public servant and champion for the Asian Pacific American community. Senator Craig was recognized for sponsoring the legislation to preserve Minidoka as a national historic site.

Violin virtuoso Tamaki Kawakubo provided entertainment for the evening. She performed three short pieces by

Gershwin and Tchaikovsky on her Stradivarius to the enraptured crowd.

"This event really puts JACL back on the map. People went away feeling good about themselves and about the JACL," said Floyd Mori, national director for the JACL. "This is a credit to all who helped with the evening and supported a great cause. Our committee and program participants went way beyond the call of duty and deserve a very special thank you."



Top row L-R: Debee Yamamoto, JACL Director of Public Policy; Floyd Mori, JACL National Director; Tamaki Kawakubo, violinist; George Takei, actor. Sitting L-R: Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Karen Narasaki; Vance Yoshikawa, State Farm Insurance; Larry Oda, JACL National President.

JAVA Presents Award to VA Secretary Nicholson

Washington, D.C. On September 25, 2007, President Robert Nakamoto presented JAVA's COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM Award to Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson. This presentation at the Secretary's office at the Department of Veterans Affairs followed a farewell ceremony in his honor, which was attended by former VA secretaries, representatives of other Departments, members of Congress, and Veterans Service Organizations (VSO).

In presenting the plaque, Nakamoto thanked Nicholson for his service to veterans since 2005, especially the 360,000 Asian Pacific Americans veterans. Nicholson has been particularly helpful to JAVA, including approval of JAVA's membership in the

Veterans Day National Committee, participation in his conference calls with other large VSOs to discuss critical veterans issues, and approval of a JAVA member to chair the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, which is mandated by Congress. Secretary Nicholson thanked JAVA and Asian Pacific Americans for their active support of the veterans cause.

Nicholson is the principal advocate for veterans in the US government and directs the nation's second largest cabinet department, which employs more than 240,000 people. Prior to his nomination as VA Secretary, Nicholson served as US Ambassador to the Vatican from 2001-2004. In May 2005 the US Military Academy, from which he graduated, presented Nicholson with the 2005 Distinguished Graduate



JAVA President Robert Nakamoto and Secretary R. James Nicholson. Award inscription: "In Recognition of Your Steadfast Support for Veterans of the US Armed Forces". Photo courtesy of Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Award in ceremonies at West Point, New York.

Veterans' Home Named After 442nd Veteran

Hilo, Hawaii. **HAWAII VETERAN**, a quarterly newspaper of the State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services, May-June 2007 issue, reported that "the State of Hawaii's first veterans' home, the Yukio Okutsu State Veterans' Home, will celebrate its grand opening on November 12, 2007. Okutsu, a native of Hilo and a platoon leader of Fox Company, 442nd RCT, is a Medal of Honor awardee. The Home will be a 95-bed facility with Medicaid and Medicare certifications. It is an intermediate care facility and skilled nursing facility. Adult day health services will also be available. An applicant must be a veteran in good standing and meet general eligibility for VA benefits to be admitted to the Home.

"An applicant should be either a resident of the State of Hawaii prior to his/her induction into the military, and/or a resident of the State for more than one year prior to consideration of his/her application. Interested applicants should contact the Home's administrator, Mr. Neil Oyama at 808-927-0950," the *Hawaii Veteran* said.

Following his visit to the Home on August 28, US Senator Daniel K. Akaka told the *JAVA ADVOCATE* "I am delighted that the first State veterans' home, named in honor of a distinguished Japanese American WW II veteran, is finally ready to open. This much-needed facility will provide Hawaii veterans with long-term care, a significant need in



Senator Daniel K. Akaka meets with staff at the new Yukio Okutsu State Veterans' Home.

our State. The construction and operation of this truly splendid new facility reflects the collaborative efforts of federal, state and county officials, as well as Hawaii's veterans' community. I am pleased to have played a role in its creation and will continue to ensure that Federal dollars will be available to support this State home and other facilities nationwide."

Ron Oba, former Editor of *Go For Broke Bulletin* and historian of Fox Company, described the late Tech Sergeant Okutsu as a fiercely courageous platoon sergeant who led his men into action throughout the Italian and French campaigns. Oba said, "In advancing toward Massa-Cararra in the final Po Valley campaign, Okutsu's platoon was halted by interlocking crossfire of three machine guns. He crawled within thirty yards and while exposing himself he destroyed the position with two accurately placed hand grenades, killing two Germans and forcing two others to surrender. Seeing a third machine gun nest which obstructed the advance, he moved forward through heavy small arms fire and was stunned momentarily by rifle fire which glanced off his helmet. Recovering, he fearlessly charged several enemy riflemen with his submachine gun, forcing them to withdraw from their positions. Then, rushing the machine gun nest from the flank, he captured the weapon and its entire crew of four."

Meet the Flag Officers

For this issue of the *JAVA Advocate*, we are featuring two female officers who have attained the highest ranks in the military.

Thus far, JAVA research knows of 75 APA general and flag officers. The breakdown is as follows: Chinese American – 19; Filipino American – 6; Hawaii and Pacific Islands – 17; Japanese Americans – 33. Of the

75, there are 36 one-stars (BG); 34 two-stars (MG/RADM); 4 three-stars (LTG/VADM); and 1 four-star (General). The distribution among services is as follows: Army – 48; Navy – 9; Marine – 1; Air Force – 17.

RADM Connie Mariano



Rear Admiral (Dr.) Eleanor Concepcion (“Connie”) Mariano, USN (Ret), the first Filipino American to hold flag officer rank and the first military woman to be appointed White House Physician, was born in Sangley Point, Philippines, the eldest daughter of a career US Navy Master Chief and his wife, a dentist. Her family moved to Hawaii when she was 2 years old and moved frequently during her father’s navy career.

Dr. Mariano graduated as valedictorian from Mar Vista High School in Imperial Beach, California, in 1973. She received her Bachelor’s Degree with honors from Revelle College at UC San Diego in 1977, and her medical degree from the Uniformed Services University School of Medicine in 1981. She was commissioned a Lieutenant in the US Navy upon graduation.

Dr. Mariano became board-certified in Internal Medicine, served as Medical Department Head aboard a destroyer tender in the Pacific, and in two naval hospitals in California, including Division Head of General Internal Medicine. In June 1992, Dr. Mariano became the White House Physician, and in 1994 was named Director of the White House Medical Unit and personal physician to 3 sitting Presidents. On July 1, 2000, Dr. Mariano was promoted to Rear Admiral. After 24 years of service, she retired from the Navy.

Dr. Mariano became a consultant in the Executive Health Program at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale from July 2001 to October 2005. She founded the Center for Executive Medicine. Dr. Mariano is a frequent speaker on the topics of care to VIPs, presidential disability, travel medicine, and optimizing quality of care.

When asked whether she would recommend the Navy as a career option, Dr. Mariano says, “Opportunities are available now more than ever in the US Navy for any woman, especially one of Asian Pacific heritage, who seeks purpose, opportunity and service to country.” She adds, “I have been blessed throughout my life with numerous opportunities to learn. Education has always been the cornerstone of my survival and achievement.”

Dr. Mariano is married to attorney Richard Stevens, and they have two sons, Jason and Andrew.

BG Susan Mashiko



Brig Gen Susan K. Mashiko, USAF, the first Japanese American woman to be promoted to flag rank, is Commander, Military Satellite Communications Systems Wing, Space and Missile Systems Center, Los Angeles Air Force Base, California. She directs acquisition planning, programming, budgeting, execution and congressional activities for a \$46 billion portfolio for military satellite communication systems.

Born in Glendale, California, Mashiko grew up in San Jose and Redlands, California. She entered the United States Air Force (USAF) in 1980 following her graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. Her career has spanned a wide variety of space and acquisition assignments. Mashiko served in USAF posts in California, Alabama, Maryland, Florida and Washington, DC.

Mashiko has a Master’s degree from the Air Force Institute of Technology, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, and from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC. She also graduated from the National Defense University at Fort McNair. Her major awards include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal and other prestigious decorations.

Brig Gen Mashiko said “I love to be challenged. The unique opportunities were presented when President Ford opened the service academies to women. This was precisely the type of challenge that appealed to me. It was the opportunity to receive a world-class education and make a unique contribution to the nation at the same time.” Asked why the Air Force was her career choice, she said, “I chose the Air Force because of its preeminent role in space and also because of its belief in ‘mission first and people always.’ Advancement is based on merit rather than gender or ethnicity. This was and continues to be an ideal environment in which to serve our great nation.”

Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, who nominated Mashiko to the USAF Academy, is proud of Brig Gen Mashiko’s achievements and said, “She is an excellent role model for Asian American women and a shining example of American women in uniform today.”

Tennessee Receives Employer Freedom Award

On September 12, 2007, the State of Tennessee received the prestigious US Secretary of Defense Employer Freedom Award "for their support and sacrifice for the Army reserve component." The award was presented to Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen in a formal ceremony in Washington, D.C. by the Employee Support for the Guard and Reserve, a federal agency. The award is presented to employers "who go above and beyond the call of duty for the men and women soldiers under their employ." Tennessee and 20 other awardees were selected from over one thousand employers recommended by members of the armed forces.

According to the US Army News

Service press release, former SGT Robert Steve Nakamoto, Company M, 3rd Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Division, Tennessee National Guard, who served in Iraq in 2004, nominated his state for the award. "We all have to sacrifice when we are a nation at war; unfortunately, this is true for our employers too. Without their support, our situation would be truly bleak. When I got back from deployment, I realized I had a lot of people to thank," Nakamoto said. "I owe a giant debt to the state of Tennessee, my co-workers and my family."

As the result of wounds he sustained on combat duty, Nakamoto was required to be away from work for a period of time longer than he

wanted. While he was deployed, the state of Tennessee paid 100 percent of the cost of his civilian health, dental, disability and life insurance benefits. They also supplemented his National Guard salary with \$1,000 in monthly pay. Sgt. Nakamoto was able to accumulate sick leave, vacation leave, seniority time and time toward retirement as if he were on the job, and the state continued paying into his retirement.

Nakamoto is an environmental protection specialist, revising and interpreting Tennessee's hazardous waste regulations and monitoring the state's hazardous waste and used-oil inspections. He is the son of JAVA President Robert Nakamoto.

New Army AAPI Mentoring Organization: PPALM

By Rebecca Samson, US Army

The vision of a mentoring organization for Asian American Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the Army will finally become reality when the Pan American Leaders and Mentors Organization (PPALM) is launched on Veterans Day 2007.

I was lucky to have been mentored by Army leaders, both officers and NCOs during my 25 years in the Army. Until the last few years, all my mentors in the Army had been Caucasian men. When I finally reached the rank of a field grade officer, it was refreshing to see the likes of GEN Eric Shinseki and MG Tony Taguba at the top of the Army hierarchy. Today, I proudly work for LTG Ann E. Dunwoody, the Department of the Army G-4, a brilliant logistician and a female.

Many sacrifices of past generations paved the way so others like me can excel. Those of us currently serving must continue the legacy of selfless service and serve our nation with pride and distinction. Joining PPALM is one way to make a difference, both for those who seek mentorship and professional development in the Army, and for those who can help lead our future leaders and mentors.

PPALM is a voluntary, non-profit organization approved by the State of Virginia in June 2007; it has applied for 501(c)(3) status. PPALM aims to build active support for



PPALM officials briefed GEN Eric Shinseki, USA (Ret), and other generals on September 29, 2007 at Fort Myer Officer's Club. L-R: COL Tony Moreno, USA, (RET), PPALM founding member; MG Thomas Bostick, Commanding General (CG), US Army Recruiting Command; COL Tony Reyes, USA, Director, Diversity Office, US Army G-1; GEN Shinseki; MG Jason K. Kamiya, Director, CG, Joint War fighting Center, US Joint Forces Command; LTG Mike Rochelle, US Army G-1; and LTG Joseph F. Peterson, Deputy CG US Army Forces Command.

Army diversity by championing AAPI opportunities in the Army. Although the focus is on developing and fostering AAPI leaders in the Active, Reserve, National Guard, and Civilian forces, membership is open to all who wish to volunteer and join the organization. Spread the word and make a difference!

The website www.ppalm.org will provide information on membership and the organization. PPALM plans to establish links with various Asian Pacific American and other veterans' organizations, including JAVA which has been part of the founding process.

Oral History Program in Post-WWII Phase

Dr. Warren Minami named Chair for this Phase

Having completed 39 interviews of largely WW II veterans, the JAVA Oral History Project has moved into the post-WW II phase. The chair for this phase is Dr. Warren Minami of Potomac, Maryland (pictured). The interviewees will continue to be Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., Dr. Sue Okubo, Paul Y. Tani and Terry Shima. The videographer/interviewer is Robert Nakamura, who has succeeded Grant Hirabayashi.



1st Lieutenant, then worked for NASA, Smithsonian, Federal Reserve, Chase Manhattan Bank, and American Security Bank. He was CEO of the EFT Group

which founded the "MOST" ATM network, and was Chief Information Officer of the International Monetary Fund. He was also in private business and taught at Johns Hopkins University and two other universities.

JAVA is a partner of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP), which is mandated by the US Congress. VHP has featured JAVA veterans in its books published jointly with the National Geographic Magazine. Life stories of Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama and Dr. Norman Ikari have appeared in two books and Grant Hirabayashi will be featured in the forthcoming book.

Born in San Francisco, Dr. Minami and his family were interned at the Gila River internment camp and later settled in Washington, DC. He served in the US Air Force as a

Minami previously headed the Japanese American National Museum oral history program for the DC area and served as Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. He served on the boards of the Japanese American National Museum, Japanese American Citizens League, Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce, and other fraternal/business organizations. He is also a

member of the Maryland's Governors Commission on Asian Pacific Affairs.

Senator Daniel K. Akaka and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, both honorary chairs of JAVA, will be interviewed in this post-WWII phase. If you wish to be interviewed, please contact Dr. Minami (301-279-8742; wminami@comcast.net). A complimentary copy of the interview tape is presented to each interviewee. These tapes will become increasingly valuable to descendants three, four or more generations to come.

Welcome New Members!

John Caughman (Fort Washington, MD)
Bruce Hollywood (Stafford, VA)
Lucius H. Horiuchi (Sonoma, CA)
Paul Hosoda (Bellevue, WA)
George T. Shimizu (Greenbrae, CA)
*Dale Shirasago (Woodbridge, VA)
*Norio Uyematsu (Anaheim, CA)
Thomi Yamamoto (Los Angeles, CA)

(*denotes Life Member)

Volunteers Needed

Chair, Education Committee. The goal is to educate students, organizations and the general public of the legacy of the WW II generation and Sansei and Yonsei contributions to national defense. JAVA, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and Go For Broke National Education Center have developed a joint program with the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) that will educate students on the Japanese American experience during WWII. If successful, this project will be adapted for expansion to other counties in Maryland and Virginia. This committee also responds to requests for speakers and develops Korean/

Vietnam/Gulf War veterans' capabilities to also discuss Japanese American experiences during WW II. Dr. Ray Murakami is a member of the Committee.

Chair, Memorial Day Weekend Activities. JAVA is in a joint endeavor with JAACL-WDC for three events occurring the last weekend of May. On the Sunday preceding Memorial Day, JAACL and JAVA jointly holds a memorial program at the pavilion near the Columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, laying flowers at the some 60 Japanese American gravesites and the USS Maine, followed by lunch at China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, VA. On Monday, Memorial Day, JAVA-JAACL participate in

the DoD-sponsored program at Arlington National Cemetery where the U.S. President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and addresses the nation from the Amphitheater. This is followed at 1:00 PM by a march down Constitution Avenue in the Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the National Veterans Center. A Chair is needed to handle all three events or any one or two of the three events.

Cameraman, Oral History Project. See article above.

Researchers and Scanners of documents at National Archives. WW II Nisei Archives Project.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Shima (301-987-6746; ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

Tsuneishi and Ikari Featured in WWII Magazine

Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, MIS, and Dr. Norman Ikari, Co E, 442nd RCT, are featured in the September 2007 issue of *World War II* magazine. The 8-page article, which contains war time photos, was written by Gene Santoro, reviews editor of *World War II* and who covers pop culture for the *New York Daily News*. While Ikari and Tsuneishi served their nation in combat, their families were incarcerated in internment camps.

Santoro portrayed Tsuneishi to represent the 3,000 Nisei who served in every US front line and rear echelon operational unit and with Allied military forces in the Pacific Theater as translators, interrogators, communication interceptors, and Special Forces, operating behind enemy lines in Burma to collect intelligence and to sabotage enemy operations. The author portrayed Ikari to represent the 13,000 Japanese Americans who served in the legendary 100th Inf Bn and the 442nd RCT which



Cover of World War II magazine, Sep 2007 issue.

fought in Italy, France and Germany and were awarded 8 Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations and over 18,000 individual awards, including 21 Medals of Honor.

Ikari was drafted into the US Army in January 1942 and assigned to a medical detachment in Camp Grant, Illinois, but he took a cut in rank from Tech 4 to Private to join his brother in the 442nd in November 1943. He shipped out with the 442nd for Italy on May 1, 1944, and was severely

wounded in combat in Tuscany, Italy, shattering both legs that required four months to recover.

Tsuneishi, “with bad eyes and flat feet”, volunteered for the MIS in August 1943 following his graduation from Syracuse University, New York; he joined his 3 brothers in the MIS. Following months of intensive language and infantry training, he was shipped to Leyte, Philippines. In April 1945 his unit landed on the beaches of Okinawa. Following Japan’s surrender, he was shipped to Korea as a frontline translator of enemy documents.

Following their discharge from the military, both Ikari and Tsuneishi earned PhDs and served in senior positions in the US Government. Tsuneishi said that while America makes mistakes, he affectionately refers to the United States as “a nation that’s always in the process of trying to live up to its dreams.”



Tsuneishi (left) and Ikari outside their suburban Maryland Homes. Photos by World War II Magazine.

[for full article, email javaadvocate@gmail.com]

Taguba Receives USCIS Award

On July 24, 2007 Major General Antonio M. Taguba, USA (Ret) was one of two outstanding Americans by Choice recognized by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Emilio Gonzalez for their outstanding achievements and citizenship. The American by Choice initiative recognizes the significant achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens through civic participation, professional achievement, and responsible citizenship. Recipients of this honor have demonstrated their commitment to our Nation and to the common civic values that unite us as Americans.

Taguba was a distinguished Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In 2004, he directed and conducted an informal investigation in the allegation of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. Taguba recently retired after an outstanding military career spanning 34 years.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Wakatake Appointed to SCAFL

This past summer the President of the American Bar Association (ABA) appointed Major Kay Wakatake to the ABA Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law (SCAFL); the appointment is for a three-year term. Wakatake is an attorney on active duty in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.

SCAFL is dedicated to working with its various military and civilian liaisons and advisors to ensure that the military justice system, the environment for the practice of law, and the protection of service member’s rights, remain the best it can be. Wakatake received her B.A. from the University of Notre Dame, her J.D. from Pepperdine University, and her L.L.M from the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School. She is a member of the bars of the United States Supreme Court and the state of California.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Survey of Japanese American Military Aviators

Col Robert S. Kan, USAF (Ret), a native of Honolulu, Hawaii, has recently initiated a survey of Japanese Americans (JA) who served as combat pilots and navigators during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. The objective is to assess JA advancement and competitiveness in the aviation branches of the armed forces since WW II. Kan was one of several JAs who flew into North Vietnam early on (1965-1966), with 168 day and night fighter combat mis-



Photo of Col Robert S. Kan during the Vietnam War.

sions in the F4C Phantom jet

fighter-bomber.

During WW II, JAs were not allowed to serve in cockpits of military aircraft as pilots and navigators. Only three flew in military aircraft as gunners. Nisei contributions during WW II clearly settled the question of loyalty in the armed forces, and paved the way for future generations of Japanese Americans to take

up higher levels of authority and leadership. Since WW II, official Defense Department personnel

records do not list "Japanese-American" personnel as a separate category. Thus it is difficult to gather data related to this particular ethnic background.

JAVA is seeking information regarding any JA Korean and Vietnam combat aircrew members. Please e-mail or call Bob Kan at juvat72@cox.net or 800-883-8185 (toll free). Details such as rank, dates of service, aircrew position, decorations, type of aircraft flown, combat missions, when and where, and career accomplishments are appreciated.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

JAVA Scholarship Information and Application

In May 2008 JAVA will present three scholarship awards of \$1,000 each from the Shirey, Tashiro and Ishio Memorial Scholarship Funds (MSF). Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. Preliminary information on these scholarships was provided in the last issue of the *JAVA ADVOCATE*. A summary of the rules that govern the program is provided on the following pages, as well as a copy of the application form. Complete rules and the application form appear on the JAVA website www.javadc.org.

Rules governing Applications

Persons applying for an MSF award should use the official application form (on pages 14-16 in this issue or download it from the JAVA website). The deadline for the receipt of applications is April 1, 2008. Only complete applications *received* by the deadline date will be considered.

The awarding of the scholarships will be based solely on the application and supporting documentation. No personal interviews or letters of recommendation are required.

Applications must be mailed; candidates may use expedited delivery services. Applications sent via fax or email will *not* be accepted. Applications and supporting materials will not be returned.

Scholarship winners will be announced at the JAVA luncheon in May 2008. Attendance of the awardees is not required. Winners will also be announced in the *ADVOCATE* and JAVA'S Round Robin email message. No distinction will be made as to the source of the Memorial Fund from which the award is made, but each one, in the amount of \$1,000, will be identified by the name of the person in whose name the award is made.

All applicants will be deemed to have consented to having their names, photos, submissions, etc., used in connection with JAVA's publicity of its scholarship program.

The scholarship award will ordinarily be paid direct to the treasurer or bursar of the institution where the applicant will be, or has been, attending.

Reservation of Rights

The JAVA Executive Council reserves the right, where exceptional circumstances warrant, to withhold the making of one or more scholarship awards in a given year, or to award more than three scholarships in one year.

If you have further questions after reading the rules and the application form, contact Calvin Ninomiya, Chair, Scholarship Committee (calvinnino@aol.com; 301-652-8135)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION & INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Use of this form: This form should be used to apply for an award from the Japanese American Veterans Association's (JAVA) Memorial Scholarship Program in honor of Orville Shirey, Jack Tashiro, and Douglas Ishio. Only one application is required to apply for an award from the three funds separately established in their names, as they are being administered together.

Eligibility: The JAVA scholarship program is open to any applicant who is, or who is related by blood or marriage to (1) a person who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, including the 100th Battalion, and all other units that were associated with them, e.g., the 552nd Field Artillery Battalion; or, (2) a person who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service during and after World War II; or (3) a person of Japanese ancestry who serves or has served in the Armed Forces of the United States and was honorably discharged; or (4) a person who is a member of JAVA for a period of no less than one year prior to the date of submission of this application.

Conditions: A statement explaining the policies, procedures and rules governing the JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program (MSP) is available on the JAVA website at www.javadc.org. All applicants are strongly urged to read the statement before completing this application.

In brief, the MSP document provides that all applications must be accompanied by documentation showing that the applicant has been admitted by an accredited academic institution, i.e., a college, university, professional school, or by an accredited institution that provides specialized, post-high school training or education. The documentation requirement may be satisfied by the submission of a complete copy of the application that was submitted for admission to the school or institution where the applicant will be studying or training. It should include any essay or other writing that was submitted therewith. In addition, a copy of the notification of admission from the school or institution should be provided.

A true copy of the applicant's high school transcript is required if the applicant is just beginning his post-secondary education studies. If the applicant is already in college, etc., a certified copy of the latest transcript from the institution he or she is attending, should be submitted. In addition, the applicant should provide a copy of the essay or written statement that accompanied his/her original application for admission to the school of enrollment, or, in lieu thereof, an essay that provides information about the applicant's interests, career plan, etc. An applicant who is attending a school that provides specialized education, e.g., vocational/trade, computer, business, etc., should furnish evidence of he or she has been a student in good standing, and there should be submitted, in addition, an essay or written statement descriptive of his or her interests and pursuits.

Information about the applicant's latest SAT (or other) scores may also be submitted.

Amount of Award: An award in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (\$1,000.00) will be made annually, one from each of the scholarship funds identified above. JAVA reserves the right to withhold the granting a scholarship award(s) in any particular year, and it also reserves the right to award more than three scholarships in a given year where exceptional circumstances justify doing so.

Delivery Instructions:

If sending by U.S. Postal Service (USPS), mail the completed application and accompanying documentation to:

JAVA Books - Scholarship Program
P.O. Box 59
Dunn Loring, Virginia 22027

If sending by non-USPS (e.g. FEDEX), mail the completed application and accompanying documentation to:

JAVA Books - Scholarship Program
Attention: Calvin Ninomiya
4828 Drummond Ave
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5429

DOCUMENTATION

I plan to begin my post-high school studies, and I have enclosed a complete copy of the application form that I submitted to the institution identified above, including my high school transcript, together with the letter or notification of admission that I received. Also included is a copy of the essay or other composition that I submitted with my application. [Note: If no essay or other evidence of your writing was provided with the school application, please submit a sample of your written work, and explain for what purpose the material was prepared.]

I am presently enrolled at an accredited college, university or professional school, or at an accredited school providing special training or education, and I have enclosed my most recent transcript, together with a copy of the essay that I had submitted with my original application to the school identified above, or a statement that I have now prepared describing my educational goals, career aspirations, etc., or my interests and concerns about a particular subject-matter. [Note: If you are starting graduate or professional school studies, a copy of the complete application you submitted for admission, including all required supporting documents, should be submitted in lieu of the materials being requested of those already enrolled in a course of studies.]

I expect to graduate or complete my schooling/training on or about _____
(Month / Year)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

I am related by blood or marriage to: _____
(Name of person to whom following information applies)

Check all that apply:

- Who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, or one of the other units associated with them
- Who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service
- Who is of Japanese ancestry and is serving or had served in the Armed Forces of the United States
- Who is currently a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association, and whose membership extends back for a period of at least one year prior to the date of this application.

Explanation of my family relationship to the above-named individual:

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP MONIES

If I should be awarded a scholarship, the JAVA check should be sent to the Treasurer or Bursar of the college, university, professional school, or other institution I am or will be attending, with a request that the payment so made be credited to my account. The office and address to which the payment should be sent is:

Name of School and Office (e.g, University of Washington, Attention: Student Fiscal Services)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

This form has been completed by the undersigned to apply for an award under the Japanese American Veterans Association's (JAVA) Memorial Scholarship Program

All of the information herein provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and all documents submitted in support of this application are true copies of the originals. By virtue of my submission of this application, I acknowledge and consent to all of the policies, procedures and rules that JAVA has published on its website governing its Memorial Scholarship Program.

I am aware that my completed application, with supporting documentation, must be received on or before April 1, 2008, at either of the addresses shown below, in order for it to be considered for the 2008 JAVA memorial scholarship award program.

Date of application: _____

Signature: _____

Quarterly Lunch

The guest speaker at JAVA's quarterly lunch on July 21, 2007, Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret), encouraged JAVA's continued support to the National Japanese American Historical Society's (NJAHS) project to convert Building 640 into a MIS education center and also invited JAVA members to visit the Japanese American exhibit on the former aircraft carrier, USS Hornet, at Alameda, California. Building 640 is

the first MIS Language School at the Presidio of San Francisco. The Hornet exhibit is sponsored by Friends and Families Association, headed by Lawson Sakai, 442nd Co E, veteran.

Shiroyama received his Air Force commission in 1966 and served in Japan on several tours specializing in security and criminology. After retiring from the Air Force in 1996, Shiroyama worked for a private security firm. Now fully retired, he

devotes most of his time telling the story of Nisei soldiers during World War II and preserving their proud legacy at two exhibits: Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, California, and the USS Hornet.

Special guests at the luncheon were Ronald M. Sagudan, Center for Minority Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs and Yudai Ueno, Second Secretary, Management and Coordination, at the Embassy of Japan.

DVD Available *The Face Behind the File - Japanese Americans* (28 minute DVD) a story of

Japanese American advancements in the Armed Forces from WW II to the present. It was produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The narrators are from WW II (Lawson Sakai), Korean War (Bob Wada), Vietnam War (James Nagahiro), and one historian (Eric Saul). Copies are available at tax deductible donation of \$5.00 for shipping. Produced by Department of Veterans Affairs. Contact Terry Shima, 301-987-6746, ttshima@worldnet.att.net, 415 Russell Ave, #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

From the Editor



We had a very busy quarter with much to report, so I have shortened my Editor's note. I just want to say that I am continually amazed at and inspired by the energy of all JAVA volunteers, especially my special friends from the Nisei generation: Grant Hirabayashi, Grant Ichikawa, Joe Ichiuji, Norm Ikari, Kelly Kuwayama, and Terry Shima. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. I miss you all!



JAVA Membership Application

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Membership: New Renewal Transfer

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

(Cellular) _____

Facsimile: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues:

Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30
Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20
Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
Life Membership: \$300

Military Experience (if applicable): _____

Rank: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Military Campaigns: _____

Awards/Decorations: _____

Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

	Yes	No
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awards/Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006**



Visit our website:
www.javadc.org

Postage

Please send correspondence to:

General: Terry Shima, ttshima@worldnet.att.net;
301-987-6746
Michael Yaguchi, yaguchim@u.washington.edu;
703-729-1243
Membership: Cal Shintani, cshintani@verizon.net
Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net
Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, javaadvocate@gmail.com
Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (temporary),
ttshima@worldnet.att.net; 301-987-6746
National Archives Research:
Joe Ichiuji, joe.ichiuji@verizon.net; 301-530-0336
Fumie Yamamoto, yamamotoff@yahoo.com;
301-942-3985
Quarterly Lunch: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 8, 11:30 am: Lunch w/ Greg Robinson, author of "By Order of the President {FDR}"

Oct. 27, 11:30 am: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Rest., Falls Church, VA

Nov. 8, am: American Veterans Center Annual Conference, Crystal City, VA. Nisei WW II Panel (Harry Fukuhara, Grant Hirabayashi, George Sakato, Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji)

Nov. 9, pm: American Veterans Center Annual Conference, Crystal City, VA. Medal of Honor Panel (includes George Sakato)

Nov. 10, Dinner: American Veterans Center Annual Conf., Crystal City. 442nd RCT to receive Audie Murphy Award

Nov. 10, Dinner: Go For Broke National Education Center will recognize JAVA.

Nov. 11, am: Veterans Day Breakfast, White House.

Nov. 11, 2:00 pm: JAVA 7th Annual Veterans Day Program, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

JAVA Scrapbook



Above: MG Antonio Taguba, USA, retirement in Jan. 2007 at the Pentagon. L-R: Capt Paz Gomez, USN; COL Rebecca Samson, USAR; MG Taguba; COL Cedric Jasmin, USAR; COL Ed Domingo, USAR; LTC Howard Bishop, USAR.



Left: BG Bert Mizusawa with sons Michael and Mark at JAACL "Salute to Champions" gala dinner. **Bottom left:** Michael and Mark Mizusawa lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Photos by Jennie L. Ilustre. (story on page 6)



Above right: COL Craig Ono, Cdr, Army Reserve Medical Cmd, HI (orthopedic surgeon, son of LTG Allen K. Ono (Ret), USA); and COL Miyako Schanely, Cdr, 6th Bde, 98th Div, NY; (USMA 1986, daughter of JAVA members Miyako and Harry Tanabe) graduate from Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA, on July 27, 2007. Photo courtesy of Miyako Tanabe.