



# JAVA ADVOCATE

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## JAVA active on Veterans Day at White House, Arlington Cemetery, and JA Memorial in DC

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

WASHINGTON — JAVA participated in two events on Veterans Day, November 11, 2009. The first event honored veterans past and present. The second event honored the 360 thousand Asian Pacific American veterans, including an estimated 60 thousand Japanese Americans, who have served in the US armed forces.

the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC), a Department of Veterans Affairs entity which coordinates the national Veterans Day programs, JAVA President Robert [continued at Veterans Day on page 4]



In the White House East Room, L-R: Christine Sato-Yamazaki; Robert Nakamoto; BG Bert Mizusawa; MG William M. Matz, Jr, USA (Ret), President and CEO of National Association for Uniformed Services. (Christine Sato-Yamazaki)

By virtue of its membership in

## Sec Shinseki keynote speaker at JAVA winter luncheon, will receive JAVA's highest award

FALLS CHURCH, Vir. – General Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Department of Veterans Affairs, has accepted JAVA's invitation to attend its winter luncheon on January 16 2010 in Falls Church, Virginia. On that occasion, Secretary Shinseki will receive JAVA's highest award, *COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM*, for his outstanding contribution to the US Army and to the Department of Veterans Affairs. As the keynote speaker, he will discuss the status at the Veterans Affairs and its direction in the coming years.

A graduate of the Military Academy at West Point and twice wounded in the Vietnam War, General Shinseki's Army career advanced steadily to be appointed as the 34th Chief of Staff of the US Army, a position also held by General George C. Marshall and General Dwight D. Eisenhower.

[continued at Shinseki on page 3]



General Eric Shinseki awarding Presidential Unit Citation to COL Marvin Uratsu, USA (Ret) in San Francisco. (Courtesy of Lloyd Kurihara)

## President's Message



I hope 2009 was a great year for you and 2010 will bring you continued success, good health and good fortune.

JAVA continued to make productive gains in the past three months in the areas of (1) education, to publicize the Japanese American experience during WW II and the impact of this experience on future generation of Japanese Americans, and (2) name recognition for JAVA. In addition to schools and colleges, JAVA speakers appeared twice on THE HISTORY channel's nationwide broadcasts. COL Jimmie Kanaya, USA (Ret) was featured in HISTORY'S ten-series documentary on WW II. Executive Director was a member of the HISTORY panel to discuss Oral History which was broadcast live to 200,000 students nationwide. JAVA members were invited to the White House on four occasions: (1) President Obama signing of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, (2) breakfast on Veterans Day with President and Mrs. Obama and Vice President and Mrs. Biden, (3) the year end reception, and (4) President Obama signing an executive order to re-establish the White House Committee on Asian Pacific Islands Americans during which occasion the President, in his remarks, recognized the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and mentioned JAVA and its Executive Director.



President Bob Nakamoto (left) and Secretary Eric Shinseki at the Veterans Affairs reception for veterans service organization officials on December 16, 2009, at Secretary Shinseki's office in Washington, DC. JAVA will present Sec. Shinseki the Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award; description of award on page 13. (Department of Veterans Affairs photo)

I wish to offer congratulations to Ambassador Fujisaki for inviting, for the first time ever, the entire Japanese American community in the WDC area to his Residence and thank Irene Hirano Inouye and Dr. Craig Uchida, who represented the Japanese American community in this endeavor. JAVA supports the Ambassador's efforts to reach out to the Japanese American community to build strong relations between the government and people of Japan and the Japanese Americans. Congratulations also to Vice Admiral Harry Harris, USN, for his assumption of duties as Commander of the US 6th Fleet in Naples, Italy, and to the NJAMF for its enormously successful reunion of WW II veterans in Houston, Texas.

2009 was a banner year for JAVA in terms of promoting our programs. I recommend you read carefully the summary of Executive Director's 2009 Annual Report [story on page 14]. His full report was circulated via the Round Robin, the twice weekly electronic bulletin.

We are developing two significant events in the next quarter. In just a few days on January 16, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki will participate in JAVA's quarterly lunch, when he will receive JAVA's COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM Award. Also, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, Bob Filner, has invited JAVA to attend a roundtable conference to discuss veterans issues. In addition to submitting a written testimony on issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans, we were also

asked to present an oral testimony. JAVA has presented written testimonies to the US Congress, but not oral.

Please be assured that JAVA, a strictly volunteer organization, remains a strong and viable organization. During the year we have added 43 new members, 18 of whom elected to be life members. This tells me of your confidence in JAVA. We are in excellent financial condition and will end the year in better shape than we started. We will offer more scholarships in 2010 than we did in 2009. We are always seeking volunteers for the many projects we have, so please contact any board member if you have some spare time.

Thank you for your support and confidence in JAVA.

—Bob Nakamoto

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Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate  
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### JAVA ADVOCATE

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# JAVA officials invited to signing of Veterans health care bill

By Gerald Yamada, Esq.

THE WHITE HOUSE — Robert Nakamoto, President of JAVA, and Gerald Yamada, JAVA General Counsel, were invited to the White House on October 22, 2009, to witness the signing ceremony of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act. This landmark legislation fundamentally reforms how health care for our veterans is funded.

The purpose of this Act is to provide appropriations for veterans' medical care a year in advance. With advance appropriations, the VA will have more time to budget, to recruit high-quality professionals, and to invest in new health care equipment for VA hospitals and clinics.

President Obama said that he takes special pride in this legislation because "as a senator I was a proud co-sponsor of this legislation. I served on the Veterans Affairs Committee. In the campaign last year, you all remember, I made a promise to pass it. And today as President, I'm

fulfilling that promise and I'm going to sign it into law."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senator Daniel Akaka were among the Members of Congress recognized by the President as leading the fight for passage of this legislation. The President also thanked VA Secretary Eric Shinseki for his efforts in building a 21st century VA.



Above: President Obama signs Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act in the presence of VA Secretary Shinseki and Speaker Pelosi, Senator Akaka, and other Members of Congress. (Gerald Yamada)

## HOR invites JAVA to represent APA veterans



Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Congressman Bob Filner, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs, has invited JAVA to participate in a roundtable discussion of veterans issues at Capitol Hill on January 20, 2010. JAVA plans to provide oral testimony based on suggestions presented by Asian Pacific American veterans and veterans organizations nationwide. JAVA has sent solicitation notices and appreciates the suggestions it has received. President Bob Nakamoto will present the testimony.

Chairman Bob Filner's priority is to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they deserve and that Congress keeps the promises they have made to veterans. He has devised symposiums like this to raise the level of awareness on issues important to veterans and their dependents. He continues to fight to ensure that Congress keeps the promises that have been made to our veterans, not only the new generation of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan but also the generations from past conflicts. Chairman Filner has been a principal advocate to restore honor and benefits to Filipino veterans of WW II. In the Senate, the principal advocates are Senator Daniel Inouye, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Senator Daniel Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. Both Inouye and Akaka are JAVA Honorary Chairs.

## Shinseki (from page 1)

General Shinseki's innovations for modern warfare, questioned by a segment of the Army, applied in the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, confirmed the correctness of his judgment. He has changed the Army's methods of doing things for years to come and has left an indelible military legacy.

Only a year at the VA, Secretary Shinseki has initiated long term structural and program changes in various areas, including veteran benefits, health care, homelessness, and education.

JAVA members, including Secretary Norman Mineta, flag rank officers, veterans of WW II, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, widows and families plan to attend the lunch to celebrate "Shinseki's Day".

Mrs. Patricia Shinseki regrets she will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment.

To attend the luncheon, please contact Grant Ichikawa (703-938-5857; [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)) or Terry Shima (301-987-6746; [tshima@comcast.net](mailto:tshima@comcast.net)).

## Veterans Day (from page 1)

Nakamoto and immediate past president Brigadier General Bert Mizusawa joined leaders of other veterans organizations in a White House breakfast hosted by President Barack Obama. Mrs. Michelle Obama and Vice President and Mrs. Biden also mingled with the approximately 200 veterans organizations representatives. Following the breakfast, the group was transported by police escort convoy from the White House to Arlington Cemetery to participate in the National Veterans Day event.

Ms. Sato-Yamazaki, President and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), attended the White House Breakfast, the wreath laying ceremony, and the program at the Memorial Amphitheater, as the guest of Secretary Eric Shinseki.

Meanwhile, JAVA members enjoyed lunch and socializing with Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson, Deputy Commander US Forces Command, Mrs. Peterson and Ms Sato-Yamazaki, near the National Japanese American Me-

morial to Patriotism. Following lunch, the party moved to the Memorial, where a series of martial music preceded the start of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day program. General Peterson, Ms. Yamazaki and Mr. Nakamoto laid a wreath at the granite wall etched with over 800 names of Japanese Americans and Caucasian officers who made the ultimate sacrifice during WW II. Nakamoto then delivered the annual Veterans Day message and introduced the speakers.

LTG Peterson discussed today's Army saying "your military is the finest we have ever had. "Of the men and women in uniform today," he said, "reminiscent of our last greatest generation, our army, air force, navy and marines have taken on the challenge of this war and clearly demonstrated a resolve you can be proud of." He said "they joined the military as a duty—not as a privilege—they understand the principle of selfless service and they demonstrate loyalty, integrity, respect, honor and personal courage in the execution of their duties every day". General Peterson paid high trib-

ute to the men who served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and the Military Intelligence Service.

Ms. Yamazaki said on Veterans Day we "express our gratitude for what the Nisei generation did 65 years ago. They made a difference in how we live today, without suspicion cast upon us. They paved the way for us to compete for important positions in the government, military, sports and academia. They allowed us to transition from being Japanese to being 'just Americans'. GFBNEC has had a productive partnership with JAVA and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation for teachers training program in the Washington DC area."

Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) is chair of Veterans Day Program at the Memorial and Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) was the master of ceremonies. Hollywood announced that Yaguchi has already started planning for the Tenth Veterans Day Program on November 11, 2010.

## Library of Congress and Smithsonian programs



Members of JAVA participated in the Library of Congress Commemorative Program honoring Asian Americans on October 26, 2009, at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. [See story on page 12]

Pictured L-R: Terry Shima, Dr. Norman Ikari, Charles Hoke (Asian Studies researcher), Ranger Hall of Famer Grant Hirabayashi, unidentified. (Courtesy of Grant Hirabayashi)

Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program presented A Tribute to Filipino American World War II Veterans on October 23, 2009, at the Rasmuson Auditorium, National Museum of the American Indian. Speakers were Congressman Bob Filner (3rd from right), Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Chow (far left), JAVA President Robert Nakamoto (not pictured), and Brigadier General Victor Corpus, Armed Forces of the Philippines (Ret) (not pictured). (Noriko Sanefuji)



## Texans reunited after 65 years; Mullen, Wright, Mineta pay tribute

[Condensed from National Japanese American Memorial Foundation press release]

HOUSTON, Tex. – November 1, 2009. 65 years after the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion, veterans from the Texas 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment and the Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team – later to become honorary Texans – were reunited at the “Homecoming of Heroes” tribute in Houston hosted by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. The event was co-hosted by former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst. 40 WW II veterans attended from all over the United States.

Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in his keynote address, said, “I am truly humbled to be in the midst of such heroes. They were—and are—men of the noblest hearts, the utmost courage, and the keepers of a steadfast commitment to their families, their American brothers-in-arms, and their common country.”



Lost Battalion reunion in Houston. L-R: Robert Camaiani, Sr., D Co, 1 Bn, 141st Inf Rgt (rising from wheelchair); Harry Kanada, K Co, 3 Bn, 442nd RCT; Kenneth Takehara, H Co, 2 Bn, 442; Mark Nakazawa, D Co, 100 Bn, 442; Kenneth Inada, K Co, 3 Bn, 442; Jack Wilson, D Co, 1 Bn, 141; Michael Doi, A Co., 100 Bn, 442; Millard Black, A Bn, 131 Field Artillery, 141; George Sakato, E Co, 2 Bn, 442 (saluting). (Kris Ikejiri)

This historic evening recalled the rescue of “The Lost Battalion” on a French battlefield by the *Nisei* 442<sup>nd</sup> – a rescue that brought together two uniquely American communities, one which fought in the US Army even as tens of thousands of their civilians were held forcibly in US government internment camps. A segregated Japanese American unit, the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT trained in Camp Shelby MS and joined the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, also a segregated Japanese American unit which was already fighting in Italy. On October 24, 1944, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 141<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was surrounded by Nazi forces in the Vosges Mountains of northeastern France. The 141<sup>st</sup> had a superior combat record having liberated the Italian towns such as Salerno, San Pietro, and Anzio in Italy. When elements of the 141<sup>st</sup> failed to rescue the trapped men, the 442<sup>nd</sup> was assigned the task. In the next 5 days of combat the 442<sup>nd</sup> was engaged in one of the most fiercely fought battles, including hand to hand combat and a “*banzai*” charge, against crack German troops with supe-

rior weaponry under conditions of mud, snow, rain and cold. The casualties sustained by the 442<sup>nd</sup> were three to four times the 211 Texans who were left to be saved.

Lt Erwin Blonder of the trapped battalion, who operated the battery-powered radio link to the 141<sup>st</sup> headquarters, said, “It’s truly amazing we were able to get together and reconstruct the events that happened so many years ago. This historic event represents closure for many of us.”

“We had a wonderful and nostalgic gathering of the Lost Battalion group,” said Dr. Susumu Ito of Wellesley, MA, a forward observer attached to I Company. “I regret there are so few of our comrades remaining, but rest assured that those who have passed away will not be forgotten,” he said.

“The soldiers who fought in the War and who were united against a common enemy weren’t the only winners 65 years ago. Many American ideals were rescued on that French battlefield,” said Dr. Craig Uchida, Chairman of the Board of NJAMF. “Forced to prove their loyalty to the United States, they did first by volunteering to serve and second by giving every measure of sacrifice requested,” he said.

Former Speaker of the US House of Representatives Jim Wright, who was instrumental in passing the landmark American Civil Liberties Act of 1988, received the *Award for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights*. “Very few causes have been so firmly entrenched in my mind . . . [The internment] is a painful conviction that we had betrayed our own fundamental national principles by confining American citizens in prison-like detention solely on grounds of their ancestry,” he said.

Members of former Governor John Connally’s family were on hand to receive *The Chairman’s Award*, which was awarded to the Governor posthumously for his efforts to make the 442<sup>nd</sup> “Honorary Texans” in 1963.

Donations to this event will be used to build replicas of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, particularly the crane entangled in barbed wire, in select cities throughout the United States.

Kris Ikejiri, Program Director of NJAMF said, “Robert Camaiani, Sr., D Co., 1 Batt, 141st died on December 2, 2009. Also, we learned that Henry Ikemoto (not pictured) Anti-tank Co., 442<sup>nd</sup>, died on December 1st. To have two veterans die within a month of the Tribute dinner and days apart brought a special reminder that we must honor the veterans while we can.”

JAVA President Robert Nakamoto congratulated NJAMF for convening this historic event.

## FFNV hosts Vegas reunion; Vegas proclaims Sep 30 as JA WWII Vets Day

By Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret)

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — “Recognizing Japanese-American World War II veterans throughout the United States and in the City of Las Vegas, the Mayor and members of the City Council urge all citizens of Las Vegas to join with us in celebrating the proud and historic contributions made to the United States by World War II Japanese American veterans,” Councilman Steve Wolfson told some 200 farewell banquet attendees on September 30, 2009 of the Nisei Veterans’ Reunion at California Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Wolfson, who represented the Mayor, read the Proclamation and, upon completion, presented it to Lawson Sakai, President of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV). In addition to California and Nevada, attendees came from 10 states.

Nearly 60 veterans of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (442<sup>nd</sup> RCT) and the Military Intelligence Service and a large number who traveled with the Sakai group to France in July 2009 attended the four-day reunion (September 27 – October 1). Keynote speaker for the banquet was Judge Vince Okamoto, the highly decorated (Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, three Purple Heart medals) Vietnam War veteran. His speech was both informative and inspi-

rational.

Another guest at the welcome banquet was Billy Tucci the creator of highly acclaimed six-part comic miniseries: *Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion*. He was most generous in donating an original sketch of a 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT soldier which will be displayed at the USS Hornet

Aircraft Carrier Museum, Alameda, CA where FFNV has created a Nisei Veterans’ Exhibit.

The next FFNV reunion will be held on September 26-30, 2010. Anyone wishing to attend the next FFNV Nisei Veterans’ Reunion should contact Brian Shiroyama at [bshiroyama@yahoo.com](mailto:bshiroyama@yahoo.com)



Photo of L Company veterans at FFNVG (442nd RCT/MIS reunion) at the California Hotel, Las Vegas. Top Row, L-R: Paul Matsumoto (HQ/President of the L Co/442nd RCT Club, Honolulu); Mits Takahashi (Lives in Seattle/Second Platoon); Kaz Taniguchi; Sam Yokota (Second Platoon); Tak Wada (4th platoon); Hiro Nishikubo; Joe Onchi; Sam Ikari; Front Row, L-R: Ken Higashi; Don Seki; Genro Kashiwa; Vincent Okamoto (Vietnam/DSC); Joe Sakato (MOH/E Company); Roy Fujiwara; Joe Tamura. (Tom Graves)

## JAVA's October quarterly lunch



FALLS CHURCH, Vir. — Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF (pictured), is addressing the JAVA quarterly lunch on October 17, 2009. Maj Gen McKeague, Assistant for National Guard Matters to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the keynote speaker. He assured the JAVA members that the US Air Force is ready and prepared to meet the Commander in Chief's requirements foreign and domestic. A native of Hawaii, he also discussed his career in the US air force. General McKeague received his commission in 1981 through the Georgia Institute of Technology Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program. He obtained a Master of Science degree in industrial engineering also from Georgia Tech in 1987. He began his military career as a civil engineering officer and has served in various staff and command positions in a number of domestic posts and overseas. Prior to his current assignment, General McKeague served as the Chief of Staff, National Guard Bureau. His many awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf cluster. (Photo by Matt Moul)

## Sec. Shinseki delivers “State of VA” message to US Congress

*Excerpted from Secretary Shinseki’s 15 page written statement.*

WASHINGTON – On October 13, 2009, after 9 months in office, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki delivered his “State of VA” testimony to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Shinseki told the Committee VA’s “mission is to serve Veterans by increasing their access to VA benefits and services, to provide them the highest quality of health care available, and to control costs to the best of our ability.”

Based on his visits to VA facilities and speaking to veterans nationwide, Shinseki identified three areas of concern: (1) Access. Of the 23.4 million veterans 5.5 have used VA medical facilities. A major initiative which will expand access is the President’s decision to relax the income thresholds established in 2003, which prohibited new Priority Group 8 enrollments. We expect up to half-million new Priority Group 8 enrollees in the next four years. Our next major leap in health care delivery will be to connect flagship medical centers to distant community-based outpatient clinics.

(2) The disability claims backlog: Reduction of the time it takes for a Veteran to have a claim fairly adjudicated is a central goal for VA. The total number of claims in our inventory today is around 400,000, and backlogged claims

that have been in the system for longer than 125 days total roughly 149,000 cases. Regardless of how we parse the numbers, there is a backlog; it is too big, and Veterans are waiting too long for decisions. VA and DoD have instituted Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) that will track the soldiers from the day they put on the uniform, through their time as Veterans, until the day they are laid to rest.

(3) Homelessness: Veterans lead the Nation in homelessness, depression, substance abuse, and suicides. We now estimate that 131,000 Veterans live on the streets of this wealthiest and most powerful Nation in the world, down from 195,000 six years ago. Effectively addressing homelessness requires breaking the downward spiral that leads Veterans into homelessness. We have approximately 500 partners in nearly every major town and city across the country helping us get homeless Veterans off the streets.

The President kicked off a new GI Bill program on 3 August, 2009. 267,000 Veterans have applied and been found eligible to participate in this benefits program this year, and we project that as many as 150,000 more may apply next year. The WW II recipients of GI Bill went on to provide the leadership that catapulted our economy to the world’s largest and our Nation to be the leader of the free world and victor in the cold war.

## JAVA scores big with HISTORY™ on 2 projects

*[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]*

WASHINGTON — HISTORY™, formerly known as History Channel, featured members of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) in two of its important events recently. In November, HISTORY™ premiered *WWII in HD*, a 10-hour television series.

People throughout America were given the opportunity to see the story of the war as they have never before — viewed through the eyes of 12 Americans who fought in or contributed to the war effort. Colonel Kanaya, a 442<sup>nd</sup> medic who was commissioned by General Mark Clark in Italy, is featured in this extensive documentary.

On October 21, 2009, HISTORY™ and the Library of Congress (LOC) held a National Teach-In on Veterans History at the Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building, Library of Congress. A webcast with several high schools in the audience and approximately 200,000 students from registered schools nationwide viewed the presentation live online.

The panelists for the Teach-In were Robert Patrick, Director of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project (LOC VHP); Terry Shima, Dr. Darlene Iskra, the first woman to command a US Navy ship; and Jonathan Bickel, a teacher of gifted students at Eastern Lebanon County High School in Myerstown, PA, and whose students have actively participated in the LOC VHP.



Dr. Libby O’Connell, Moderator; COL Robert Patrick, USA (Ret); Terry Shima; Dr Darlene Iskra; and Jonathan Bickel at the Library of Congress. (Cara Tocci, HISTORY™ photo)

The Teach-in was the largest educational event in the history of the LOC and HISTORY™ was instrumental in the conception, development and production. Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, who provided the welcoming remarks, said the OHP has collected 67 thousand oral histories and will soon enter its 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Congressman Ron Kind of Wisconsin, author of legislation which created the OHP, provided the genesis of the OHP and described its value to historians and future generations. Libby

H. O’Connell, PhD, Chief Historian and Senior Vice President for Corporate Outreach, of HISTORY™ was the moderator.

## Highlights from the Department of VA

[Drawn from DVA announcements]

**September 17, 2009.** VA has warned Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information. "America's Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the VA." VA simply does not call Veterans to disclose personal financial information over the phone," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Under Secretary for Health.

**September 27, 2009.** Georgia's Columbus Ledger-Enquirer (9/27) reported that the Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley flew 100 WW II veterans to Washington to see the WW II memorial. They were escorted to their plane by Ft Benning soldiers in formation, the group was greeted on landing in DC by a general and a reception committee, and had a police escort from the airport to the Memorial. There, former Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole greeted the group. At the Columbus airport upon their return, there were about 1,400 people waving flags, ROTC units saluting and thanking them, sincerely saying "Thank you for your service."

**November 2009.** Vietnam veteran

Paul Middleton of Charleston, SC, a PTSD patient at the VA hospital was told by his doctor "the only way to get past the anxiety is face it, not to avoid it." Middleton then visited the Vietnam War Memorial and soon was in tears as he saw the names of his buddies. After a quiet moment of reflection there was pride in recalling their memories. Then, as a beautiful coincidence of the day Middleton saw a triple amputee in a wheel chair: Max Cleland, former US senator and Administrator of Veterans Administration. Cleland gave Middleton a US flag that a lady had given him, and the two embraced. The coincidental meeting of these two heroes touched many of the bystanders who witnessed them. The doctor was right: PTSD was cured.

**November 1, 2009.** The Lafayette, Indiana-based Journal and Courier reported that "schools across the country are seeing a new class of veterans coming to campus for an education completely paid, for some, by Uncle Sam," thanks to the Post 9/11GI Bill. VA said the bill is expected to bring as many as 440,000 students to campuses in fiscal year 2009-2010, up from 305,000 the previous year.

**December 2, 2009.** Beginning in January 2010, the VA/DOD Disability

Evaluation System pilot program will expand to 6 medical facilities at Ft. Benning, Ft. Bragg, Ft. Hood, Ft. Lewis, Ft. Riley, and Portsmouth Naval Med Ctr. 27 other military facilities already take part in the program. The pilot program began in Nov. 2007 within the National Capitol Region and affects service members separated from the military under honorable conditions for service-related injuries.

**December 7, 2009.** Despite problems in the nation's housing market, mortgage loans backed by the VA had a lower foreclosure rate than any other type of home loan in the industry, as of the end of the last fiscal year. "The dedication of VA's loan professionals, the support of our partners in the mortgage industry and most importantly, the hard work and sacrifice of our Veterans have made this possible," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki.

**December 15, 2009.** The White House and the U.S. Department of Commerce have announced that a VA research facility in Albuquerque, N.M. (VA Clinical Research Pharmacy Coordinating Center) is the recipient of the 2009 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest award for organizational excellence. The Baldrige award is America's highest honor for innovation and performance excellence, presented annually by the President to U.S. organization.

## Friday Harbor declares May 5 "M/SGT Roy Matsumoto Day"

[Reprinted with permission from American Veterans Center Newsletter]

FRIDAY HARBOR, Wash. — May 5, 2009 was proclaimed "M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto Day" by the Mayor of Friday Harbor at a surprise 96<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration by the San Juan Lion's club of Friday Harbor.

Mayor David Jones of Friday Harbor, read a Proclamation in appreciation of M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto as follows:

"Whereas in the Fall of 1942, Roy Matsumoto volunteered to serve in the US Army, despite being placed in an American Concentration Camp by the US Government during WW II, and

"Whereas after 20 years of service in the US Army, M/Sgt



Ranger Roy Matsumoto and wife Kimiko.  
(Courtesy of Roy Matsumoto)

Roy Matsumoto has since been inducted into the Ranger hall of Fame, Military Intelligence Hall of Fame, receiving the American Patriot Award and honorary member in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, and

"Whereas M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto received the Legion of Merit, five Bronze Stars, two Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantryman's Badge,

"Therefore, I, David F. Jones, Mayor of Friday Harbor, proclaimed May 5, 2009 as "M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto Day" and

urged all citizens of Friday Harbor to join in acknowledging the many accomplishments of M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto and to raise their voices in celebration and song for his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday."

Roy is a proud member of JAVA.

## Pearl Harbor Day commemorated at WWII memorial

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service and Friends of the National World War II Memorial held a special commemorative event at the Memorial in Washington, D.C. on December 7, 2009 at 7:53 a.m. in remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day. The ceremony paid special recognition to all World War II veterans, especially those who were stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Lieutenant General Claude “Mick” Kicklighter, Chairman of the Board of Friends for the National World War II Memorial, said in his keynote address that American population rose to the provocation by Imperial Japan and committed themselves on the war and home fronts to defeat the Axis forces. He recognized the Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) for their loyalty and courage during a time of intense discrimination.

Lieutenant Colonel James Fisher, Executive Director of the Friends for the National World War II Memorial, organized the event and served as master of ceremonies.

The early morning program began with the posting of colors by the Military District of Washington’s Armed Forces

Color Guard, a special program consisting of musical selection by the United States Army Brass Quintet and the laying of wreaths at the Gold Stars on the Memorial’s Freedom Wall.

JAVA board member Grant Ichikawa, who served in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during the



Above: At the WW II Memorial with Lincoln Monument in the background. L-R: LTG Claude "Mick" Kicklighter; Terry Shima; LTC Jim Fisher; Grant Ichikawa; Kevin Secor, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veteran Affairs. (Robert Turtill, Veterans Affairs)

Philippine liberation in WW II, said that the recognition of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT touched him deeply. He was reminded that 68 years ago on this day all Americans of Japanese ancestry were condemned by the government and the American people as saboteurs and collaborators of Imperial Japan. Ichikawa said that “volunteers who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> and the MIS, including the over 800 who made the ultimate sacrifice to prove their loyalty, can say their mission was accomplished. It was humbling to hear the General’s

remarks about the Japanese Americans. This tells me what a Great Nation this is.” A total of 33,000 Japanese American men and women served in the US Army during WW II. Ichikawa’s interview appeared in the evening radio program and his photo appeared in the Washington Post.

## 442nd and JAVA mentioned in Pres Obama’s remarks on Asian American and Pacific Islanders

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

THE WHITE HOUSE — In a White House East Room ceremony on October 14, 2009, the President’s Advisory Commission and White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), begun by President Bill Clinton in 1999, was reactivated by President Barack Obama. The mission of the Commission is to improve the health, education and economic status of the AAPI communities.

The President commended the AAPI’s “industry and entrepreneurship to help build this nation.” He recognized the disparities faced by AAPI communities in health, education, economic

and employment sectors in pursuit of these goals as well as language barriers new immigrants must overcome and hate crimes experienced in some AAPI communities. The initiative and commission will be housed in the Department of Education, and will be co-chaired by Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Commerce Secretary Gary Locke.

President Obama recognized “the courage and the patriotism and sacrifice of heroes like the members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who served in World War II, including Terry Shima. Please give him a big round of applause. Mr. Shima is the Executive Director of the Japa-

nese American Veterans Association (JAVA), and we are grateful that he took the time to be here today.”

JAVA views the President’s remarks about the 442<sup>nd</sup> as a tribute to stalwarts who have promoted the Japanese American cause, such as Irene Hirano Inouye, Akemi Kikumura, Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Rosalyn Tonai, Tom Ikeda, Floyd Mori, Craig Uchida, Bob Nakamoto, Grant Ichikawa, Bob Wada, Sam Mitsui, Judge Vincent Okamoto, Ken Hayashi, William Thompson, Ted Tsukiyama, Jim Tanabe and the thousands of volunteers.

# Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the U.S. armed forces. The present count is that 92 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the US Army's 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the other 91, 55 served in the US Army, 17 in the US Air Force, 15 in the US Navy, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the US Marines and US Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 39 are Japanese Americans, 23 Chinese Americans, 19 Hawaiian Pacific Islands, 10 Filipino Americans, and one Korean American.

## Brig Gen Cary C. Chun



Brigadier General Cary C. Chun, USAF, is the Deputy Commander for Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, and the Director of Mission Operations, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Virginia. These are two senior executive level positions responsible for the national security of the U.S. and its allies.

Brig Gen Chun was born in Cavite, Philippines, at Sangley Point Naval Air Station. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1985. He is a distinguished graduate of the Space Warfare Center's Space Tactics School, has earned three Masters degrees, and was a Senior Executive Fellow at Harvard University. General Chun has commanded the 614th Space Operations Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, California; NRO Operations Group at Onizuka Air Force Station, California; Space Operations Wing at the Aerospace Data Facility, Buckley AFB, Colorado; and 50th Space Wing, Schriever AFB, Colorado. He has also served as the Director of Space Forces while deployed to Southwest Asia for Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The Chun family has served our nation for two generations, totaling over 110 years of combined service. General Chun's younger brother, CAPT Conrad Chun, USN, a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, serves on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. His older brother, Chris, is a 20 year navy retiree, and his father, HuKeong, retired from the U.S. Coast Guard as a Master Chief after serving 23 years. General Chun's wife, Angel, retired from the US Air Force after 20 years of service.

Asked why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, General Chun said, "I chose to serve because I wanted to do something meaningful with my life, something important; I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to help ensure that future generations have the same opportunities that I enjoyed growing up. And now, I want my three children, who have expressed an interest in the armed forces, to have these same opportunities so that they can reach their greatest potential and realize all their dreams."

## Brig Gen Myron N. Dobashi



Brigadier General Dobashi, USAF (Ret), a 3rd generation Japanese American, served as the Assistant Adjutant General - Air and Commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) from early May 1999 to the end of August 2003. He was responsible for overseeing the training and readiness of the HIANG with an authorized strength of 2,515 men and women.

The main base for the HIANG is located at Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu with other units located at Wheeler Army Airfield, Kalaeloa (formerly Barbers Point NAS), and on the islands of Maui, Kauai and Hawaii. The HIANG has a dual mission: (1) the State mission to protect Hawaii and its residents from mass violence, resulting from natural or human-caused disasters, and (2) the Federal mission to provide trained units and individuals for active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

Dobashi was born on August 1, 1943, in Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii. He graduated from Central Washington State College in Ellensburg, Washington and received his commission through the Air Force ROTC program in 1965. His domestic assignments were in Wisconsin, Oregon, Colorado and Hawaii. His overseas duty was at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand from 1967 to 1968 as the Master Weapons Controller to support air operations over North Vietnam. He joined the HIANG in mid-October 1969 until he retired at the end of August 2003.

Brig Gen Dobashi received various decorations, including the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal. His father served in the Military Intelligence Service, and his uncle served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. They influenced Dobashi to choose the armed forces as his career. He learned from his mother and father that serving in the armed forces was a patriotic thing to do, to gain new experience and develop personal responsibility and accountability. He loved airplanes but was disqualified from flight school because he failed the sight test.

Brig Gen Dobashi and his wife reside in Lihue, Kauai. They have three children.

Brig Gen Dobashi is a JAVA member.

## Big four of Hawaii veterans organizations handle common issues through consensus

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Whenever Hawaii's Japanese American veterans are faced with an issue of common interest, a meeting of the Oahu AJA (Americans of Japanese Ancestry) Veterans Council is convened to resolve it. Incorporated on February 12, 1997, the Council consists of four autonomous organizations: the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, Military Intelligence Service Veterans Club of Hawaii, and the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion Veterans. Their goal is to develop a unified approach to such issues as the erection of the "Brothers in Valor" monument at Ft. DeRussy, Waikiki, the 100-442 postage stamp project, and the Joint Memorial Service (JMS) held each year at the National Military Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on the last Sunday of September. This date was selected because it is the closest date to the first Nisei killed in combat.

Meetings are held ad hoc when the President of the Council deems a meeting is necessary. The Council does not have enforcement powers and decisions are made by consensus reached through collegial discussions. The President rotates annually at the beginning of the year. The host of the JMS is normally the organization of the sitting Council president, who appoints the JMS chair from his organization. In 2009 the host organization was the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion veterans and in 2010 the host organization will be rotated to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry veterans and its President, Michael Harada, will also be President of the Council.

Following is a brief description of the presidents of the four AJA veterans organizations:

Arling Nakayama, President of the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, was born on Oahu and is a retired employee of Lewis & Cooke where he served as manager of their plumbing division. Presently he is living in a senior assisted care facility. Tsutomu Oi, who carries a big load in the 1399<sup>th</sup>, served as Chair of the 2009 Memorial Service. Born and raised in Honolulu, Oi was inducted into the US Army in April 1944, received his basic training at Schofield Barracks, and was assigned to the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion as a medic. Oi had three brothers who served in the Military Intelligence Service.

Michael (Mike) A. Harada, a Sansei, is President of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club Board of Directors, a two-year term (2009-2010).

He is the son of Edward Komao Harada, a 100<sup>th</sup> veteran. Mike served as the club's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President during the previous term (2006 – 2008) and in various capacities in previous years. His goals are to care for the Club's seniors and prepare the organization for future generations. The Club has over 500 members of which 300 plus are WW II veterans or spouses. The remaining 230 are descendants of veterans who will ensure that the 100<sup>th</sup> legacy is perpetuated.

William Y. Thompson, Sansei, President of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, is a native of Hilo, Hawaii. He served with the Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup>. A graduate of the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering, his career encompassed engineering and administrative positions. He served with the Hawaii County Water Department for 17 years and in 1969 accepted positions with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources in Honolulu, where he served for 7½ years. He has since been in semi-retirement, serving as a consultant to various engineering firms.

Edgar A. Hamasu, a Korean War veteran, is President of MIS Veterans of Hawaii. Following graduation from Honokaa High School, located on the Big Island, he joined the Army and was sent to the Army Language School in Presidio of Monterey for Japanese language training. He was assigned to Korea where he interrogated North Korean and Chinese Communist prisoners of war. Following his discharge from the Army, he attended colleges in Michigan and California and subsequently served as head of the County, State and private land planning and development agencies.



L-R: Edgar Hamasu, Tsutomu Oi; Bill Thompson; MG Vern Miyagi, HARNG, Arling Nakayama, Mike Harada. (Wayne Iha)

## Japan Ambassador holds reception for Japanese Americans

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

WASHINGTON — Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Ichiro Fujisaki, for the first time ever, held a reception at his official residence on October 20, 2009, for Japanese Americans residing in the Washington, DC area. The purpose of the reception was to foster friendship and goodwill between the government and people of Japan and the Japanese Americans. Over 300 Japanese Americans ranging from members of Congress to veterans, employees of private and public sectors and students spent a gala two hours of camaraderie with Mrs. Yoriko Fujisaki and officials of the Embassy of Japan. JAVA was well represented in this event, and provided a guest list of Japanese Americans. Minister Kenji Shinoda, Deputy Chief of Mission, represented Ambassador Fujisaki, who had been recalled to Japan on short notice for state business.

In his remarks to the guests, Minister Shinoda reaffirmed Ambassador Fujisaki's commitment to reach out to the Japanese American population and read a personal note from the Ambassador expressing his regrets that he could not attend this function. In his message the Ambassador added, "While I cannot be there with you in person, please know that I am with you in spirit. Tonight is a true celebration of our deep friendship and our commitment to being the bridge that brings our two countries closer together. I look forward to our next meeting".

The US Japan Council (USJC), headed by Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, and the Japanese American Network (JA-Net)

served as co-hosts. The USJC promotes people to people connections to build US-Japan relations.

Senator Daniel Inouye, former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, and Dr. Craig Uchida also spoke of the importance of building a firm bond between the Japanese Americans and the country of their racial heritage. Dr. Uchida and John S. Tobe, Senior Advisor at the Embassy of Japan, are co-chairs of JA-Net which promotes interaction between the Japanese American and Japanese nationals in the Washington, DC, area and is designed to strengthen US-Japan relations.



L-R: Congressman Mike Honda, Mrs. Yoriko Fujisaki, Former Secretary Norman Mineta, Mrs. Deni Mineta, Congressman Neil Abercrombie, Senator Daniel Inouye, Mrs. Irene Hirano Inouye, DCM Kenji Shinoda. (Kris Ikejiri)

## Library of Congress program to honor Asian American Veterans

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON — The Library of Congress Asian Division Friends Society and the Veterans History Project co-hosted a special commemorative program entitled, *Unsung Heroes: Asian Pacific American Heroism during World War II*, on October 26, 2009, at the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. JAVA members were invited to participate in the all day program along with Filipino American, Chinese American and Asia Pacific American women representatives.

Madame Anna C. Chennault, wife of Lieutenant General Claire L. Chennault, Commander of the American Volunteer Group "Flying Tigers", was an honored speaker and active participant of the event. The Asian Division and the Veterans History Project are headed by Peter Young and Colonel Robert Patrick, USA (Ret), respectively.

tively.

Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, opened the program and Major General Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), was the keynote speaker. He was followed by Tammy Duckworth, Veterans Affairs Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental affairs. Members of Congress Mike Honda of California, David Wu of Oregon, and Judy Chu also of California, and former Senator Ted Stevens each spoke during the course of the program.

Two speakers and a panel of Filipino Americans discussed the Filipino contributions to the war effort. The Filipino guerilla resistance to the Japanese invasion during WW II is considered by military historians as the most active and effective guerilla movement of the Pacific War.

Over 13,000 Chinese Americans served in the Army Ground Forces and the

Army Air Corps. Two Chinese American units based in China, the 407<sup>th</sup> Air Service Squadron and the 987<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, provided service to the "Flying Tigers" and its successor. Some 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the US Army during WW II. Approximately 13,000 served with the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in the European theater. Over 3,000 Japanese Americans served in the Asian Pacific theater as translators, interrogators, communication interceptors and in the special forces units including Merrill's Marauders. Another 3,000 linguists served in the Occupation of Japan. Asian American women served in the Women Army Corps (WAC), the Army Nurses Corps, the WAVES, the Women Air Service Pilots (WASP), as a bomber co-pilot, and the Volunteer Emergency Service. Filipino American women performed some of the most daring feats during the war as members of the Philippine underground.

## News from other Veterans organizations

FULLERTON, Calif – *Japanese American Korean War Veterans Newsletter* November 2009 edition, reported that 183 people, many of them former internees of Santa Anita Assembly Center, returned for a reunion at the Center on October 30, 2009. They toured the stables where over 8,500 internees lived while 10,000 more were in barracks in the parking lot. The stable tours were led by Min Tonai, Bacon Sakatani and Horse Yoshinaga. After 6 months at Santa Anita the internees were bused back to Los Angeles and taken by train to Rohwer, Arkansas.

HONOLULU, Hawaii – *Go For Broke Bulletin* of the **442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club** said the Joint Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, hosted by the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers, was held on September 27, 2009. MG Vern Miyagi, USA (Ret) was the keynote speaker. Following his description of the heroism of the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS, and the contribution of the 1399<sup>th</sup>, MG Miyagi said “I will never forget the freedom and rights you earned for us with your heroism, your sacrifice, and your blood. It was only because of your efforts a Sansei ... could eventually become commanding general of the Hawaii National Guard.”

HONOLULU, Hawaii – *M.I.S. Veterans Newsletter*, December edition, reported that the Central Pacific Bank headquarters building has featured an exhibit of the 442<sup>nd</sup> rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion. The exhibit also features the Varsity Victory Volunteers, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service.

HONOLULU, Hawaii – *Puka Puka Parade*, monthly newsletter of the **100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans**, November 2009 edition, reported that 100<sup>th</sup> veterans visited Kamehameha Middle School. Students were interested in the US Army training of dogs to sniff out Japanese soldiers. Tokuji Ono, who participated in the Cat Island dog training program, located near Mississippi, described his experience. The US Army used Nisei to pose

ostensibly as Japanese soldiers for dogs to sniff out. The TOP SECRET project failed because the dogs could not distinguish the smell of Nisei from the Caucasians. Clearly, the dogs knew something Washington officials did not.

SEATTLE, Wash – *Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter*, November issue, reported that on November 11, 2009 eight University of Washington Alumni who received the Medal of Honor were memorialized in a Memorial located on the campus of the University of Washington’s Memorial Plaza. Among the 8 MOH recipients, included a 442<sup>nd</sup> hero, PFC William K. Nakamura. Earlier, on August 29, Bill Nishimura was featured on the NVC Speakers Series presentation. Bill is a MIS veteran who served in the Philippine liberation.

TORRANCE, Calif – *The Torch, Go For Broke National Education Center* Fall issue, reported that on June 6, 2009 GFBNEC unveiled its black granite Legacy Wall that will be inscribed with 15,000 names of Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces during WW II. This will be in addition to the 16,000 names already engraved on the GFBNEC monument. The approximately 31,000 names represent all Japanese Americans who answered their nation’s call. [Ed note: A couple blocks away at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center courtyard there is the National Japanese American War Memorial, a hallowed granite wall inscribed with names of all Japanese Americans who were killed in action in all wars, including the 7 Japanese national US Navy seamen who sank in the USS *Maine* in Havana Harbor in 1898.]

SEATTLE, Wash. — In the December 2009 **Densho** eNews, Founder/President Ikeda said although Densho’s website reached 10,000 visitors from every state and 75 countries, he was not satisfied. He is planning to create by 2016 an educational resource to tell the Japanese American WW II story to one million people each month.

## What is JAVA’s Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award?

The COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM AWARD is bestowed by JAVA on persons or organizations that exemplify the spirit of courage, honor, and patriotism shown by World War II *Nisei* soldiers.

In the face of intensive mass hysteria against them and denial of their constitutional rights, those *Nisei* soldiers courageously stood by the Constitution, fulfilled their duties as American citizens with honor, and displayed steadfast patriotism. While their family, friends, and other Japanese Americans were unjustly imprisoned in America’s concentration camps, they served defending America in Europe and the Pacific, displaying acts of bravery and valor yet to be surpassed. They carried with them into harm’s way the values that they learned from their *Issei* parents and family – courage, honor, and patriotism.

The heroic war record of the *Nisei* soldiers continues to benefit all Japanese Americans. Their exemplary spirit lives to motivate all Americans.

Recipients of the COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM AWARD clearly demonstrate by their personal or professional activities to have the courage of their convictions in the face of strong criticism (courage), have achieved a high level of public esteem (honor), and have shown devoted loyalty to America (patriotism).

## JAVA Executive Director 2009 Annual Report

[Full report available at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).]

JAVA HEADQUARTERS, McLEAN, Vir. — JAVA Executive Director's 2009 annual report disclosed advancement in reaching a wide audience and in expanding JAVA name recognition. The following is a summary of the Executive Director's report:

To discuss the Japanese American experience during WW II, (1) JAVA, the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAM,F) jointly held a teachers training program for Fairfax County School teachers. (2) JAVA sent speakers to Virginia and Maryland high schools and colleges, government entities, civic groups, military camps in Georgia and Alabama and the Francis Lewis JROTC in New York City. (3) JAVA members Jimmie Kanaya (442<sup>nd</sup> medic) and Executive Director Terry Shima appeared on separate programs of the HISTORY channel broadcasts. Kanaya was featured in the 10 series documentary on WW II and Executive Director was a panel member at the Library of Congress program that was broadcast nationwide live to 200,000 high school history students. (4) JAVA is a consultant to Eric Saul, who is building an exhibit at the Ellis Island Museum at New York City, which is visited by 7,000 people daily. (5) JAVA was a consultant to comic illustrator and historian, Billy Tucci, for his six series comic book on the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges Mountains of north-eastern France in October 1944. (6) JAVA manned a booth at the National Cherry Blossom Festival parade, which was visited by a portion of the one million spectators. (7) JAVA is writing a manuscript, hopefully to end in a book, on Japanese Americans in

US military aviation. While only 5 served as gunners during WW II, some 35 served as pilots and navigators in the Vietnam War. Col Robert Kan, USAF (Ret) a fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, is head of this project.

During Memorial Day weekend JAVA, jointly with Washington DC JACL, laid flowers at the gravesites of Japanese American and Caucasian officers. Also, a JAVA contingent marched down Constitution Avenue in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the American Veterans Center. Also, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hawaii and JAVA continue to digitize all relevant 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and Nisei in Military Intelligence Service documents at the National Archives and Records Administration for storage at JAVA and 442<sup>nd</sup> Hawaii. When completed, researchers will be able to access this information electronically from anywhere in the world.

JAVA maintains partnership relationships with fellow Veterans Service Organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars, Korean War Veterans Association, Vietnam War veterans, Gold Star Mothers, and also with Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM), Go For Broke National Education Center, JACL, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and Asian American veterans organizations.

On a visit to the Army Human Resource Command, JAVA learned of the opportunity to acquire Bronze Star Medals for combat veterans. JAVA obtained 6 Bronze Star Medals and 2 Legions of Merit and held a formal military awards ceremony. JAVA also assisted 100-442 veterans and other non-Nisei veterans and next of kin nationwide to obtain the BSM.



Above: Students at Linganore High School, Frederick County, MD with JAVA speakers Mary Murakami and Terry Shima. Photo by Wayne Coblentz.

### Reminder for Membership Dues

JAVA has sent notices to some members to remind them to pay their 2010 membership dues. If you have not sent it in as yet, please do not procrastinate, send your check in promptly and forget this chore until you get the next reminder. If you have already submitted your payment, please accept our thanks for your prompt action. Some of the Associate Members paid \$30 instead of the correct amount of \$20. Any overage will be applied to your 2010 dues. Executive Director regrets the misleading statement in his notice. The annual dues schedule is as follows:

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

### Welcome New Members!

BG James T. Cook (California)  
 Roy H. Doy (California)  
 George S. Kanatani (California)  
 Vincent Matsui (New York)  
 Veronica Tanikawa (California)  
 Shokichi Tokita (Washington)  
 Dick Uyehara (Colorado)

## Dr. Robinson discusses his new book at JAVA luncheon

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

ROSSLYN, Vir. — During the course of a return visit with members of the Japanese American Veterans Association in Washington, D.C. on November 9, 2009, Greg Robinson discussed his recently published book, *A Tragedy of Democracy: Japanese Confinement in North America* at a luncheon in Rosslyn, Virginia. A native of New York City, Dr. Robinson is associate professor of history at l'Université du Québec à Montréal and author of another book, *By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans*.

Robinson said *A Tragedy of Democracy* offers a “fresh look at a familiar subject, Executive Order 9066 and the removal and confinement of West Coast Japanese Americans during World War II (commonly called the Japanese internment).” He wrote of events beyond the wartime period and discusses the postwar and prewar years. He said “the book reveals for the first time the massive government surveillance of Japanese communities during the 1930s, and the construction by the Army and the Justice Department of what were termed concentration camps for enemy aliens. All of this helps show how much of a momentum for mass suspicion and arbitrary treat-



JAVA lunch at China Garden, Rosslyn, Virginia. Seated, L-R: Robert Nakamoto; Reuben Yoshikawa; Greg Robinson, Linda Aoyagi, Grant Ichikawa. Standing, L-R: Taz Hofmann; Miyako Tanabe, Terry Shima, Aki Konoshima, Lida Konoshima, Gordon Aoyagi. (Grant Ichikawa.)

ment of Japanese Americans on a racial basis had been created even before the war.”

More importantly, *A Tragedy of Democracy* is the first-ever North American history of confinement. The book breaks new ground by looking at the history

of the camps in the United States alongside the Canadian government’s wartime removal of 22,000 citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry from the Pacific Coast of British Columbia. Robinson said “I also compare official policy toward Japanese Americans with that in wartime Hawaii, where fears of “local Japanese” led to a declaration of martial law after Pearl Harbor, the establishment of a military dictatorship, and replacement of civilian courts by military tribunals. I also shed new light on the histories of the Japanese Latin Americans kidnapped from their home countries and interned in the United States, plus the 5,000 Japanese expelled from Mexico’s Pacific Coast.”

## BG Carvalho visits with JAVA members



ROSSLYN, Vir. — JAVA members had lunch with JAVA member BG (Dr) Joseph Carvalho, Jr, Commanding General, Southern Region Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX on December 2, 2009 at the China Garden at Rosslyn , VA. BG Carvalho was in WDC for meetings, including a call on US Senator Daniel Inouye, JAVA Honorary Chair.

Pictured Front Row, L-R: Mary Murakami, BG Carvalho, Bob Nakamoto; Middle Row, L-R: Grant Ichikawa, Lida Konoshima, Dr. Ray Murakami, Aki Konoshima, MG Antonio Taguba; last row, L-R: Jonathan Shafran, Keegan Doherty, CAPT Maxwell Smith, USA. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)

## VADM Harris assumes command of 6th Fleet

NAPLES, Italy — In a change of command ceremony held at the Naval Support Activity in Naples Italy, headquarters of the US 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet, Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris succeeded Vice Admiral Bruce W. Clinigan. In addition to this position, Harris will have the following titles: Deputy Commander, US Naval Forces Europe and Africa; Commander of Joint Forces Maritime Component, Europe; and Commander, Striking and Support Forces, NATO. VADM Clinigan will return to Washington, DC to serve as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy. Harris' last position was Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Communications Networks and Deputy, Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer.



VADM Harry B. Harris (left), renders honors to VADM Bruce W. Clinigan during a change of command ceremony in which Clinigan passed command of U.S. 6th Fleet to Harris on Naval Support Activity Naples. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Gary Keen)

hours. His domestic assignments included command of the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo, Cuba.

Selected for the Navy's Harvard/Tufts Program, he attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, graduating in 1992 with a Master in Public Administration degree. Selected as an Arthur S. Moreau Scholar, he studied international relations at Oxford and Georgetown Universities, earning a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the latter in 1994. While at Georgetown, he was a Fellow in the School of Foreign Service. He is also an MIT Seminar XXI Fellow.

Born in Yokosuka, Japan, and reared in Tennessee and Florida, VADM Harris graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 with a designation of Naval Flight Officer. He was assigned to various assignments in the US and overseas, including Operation Enduring Freedom, flying nearly 1,000 combat sorties over Afghanistan. He has logged 4,400 flight hours, including over 400 combat

Vice Admiral Harris' personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (3 awards), the Legion of Merit (3 awards), the Bronze Star (2 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), the Air Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (5 awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit decorations. He is a recipient of the Navy League's Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Competence.

## VADM Harris makes surprise visit to Seattle's Nisei Veterans

[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

SEATTLE, Wash. — Seattle's Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) members were pleasantly surprised by a brief courtesy visit to NVC Clubhouse by Navy Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, deputy chief of Naval Operations for Communication Networks, on Friday, October 16, 2009. VADM Harris was welcomed by Commander Keith Yamaguchi, Commander Emeritus Dale Kaku, and 10 other officials with spouses.

Admiral Harris enjoyed a tour of the recently refurbished Clubhouse. He congratulated the NVC leaders for the displays of memorabilia, donated by members, and on the significant accomplishments by Japanese American soldiers of the Northwest Pacific. He said the courage, sacrifice, valor and loyalty of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the Nisei in the MIS during WW II greatly benefited succeeding generations of Asian Americans like himself. He said he has personally seen the progress made in the U.S. Navy to diversify their ranks to better represent the nation they serve.

NVC Members attending were: Art and Kay Abe, Sam & Matsue Watanabe, Dale & Shizue Kaku, Art Yorozu, Steve Finley, Tom Ohtani, Takashi Matsui, Teruo Yorita,

Tosh Okamoto, Keith Yamaguchi, Frank Shinoda and May Sasaki. [Adapted from a report provided by May Sasaki, Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle]



NVC Clubhouse. Seated: Lt. Michaela Trudell, USN, Aide to VADM Harris, and VADM Harry Harris, USN. Standing: L-R: Kay Abe, Art Yorozu (partially hidden), Tak Matsui, Art Abe (partially hidden), Mats Watanabe (partially hidden in back), May Sasaki, Sam Watanabe (partially hidden), Steve Finley (tall person partially hidden in back), Frank Shinoda, Dale Kaku, Keith Yamaguchi, and Teruo Yorita. (NVC photo)

# JAVA Speaker's Bureau

JAVA Speaker's Bureau had an active schedule during the past three months. The topic of discussion at each of the following events included the Japanese American experience during WW II:

Mary Murakami, Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima spoke at three high schools, one elementary school and two colleges. The latter gave honorariums of \$500 each which were sent to JAVA treasurer.

President Bob Nakamoto was invited to speak at the Filipino American symposium sponsored by Smithsonian Institution at the Native American Museum Building.

Terry Shima was on a History Channel panel at the Library of Congress to discuss oral history. *[See story on page 7]*

Dr. Norman Ikari, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi and Terry Shima spoke at the UNSUNG HEROES: Asian Pacific American Heroism During WW II, an all day symposium sponsored by the Library of Congress. *[Story on page 12]*

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency requested speakers on Japanese American contributions to WW II (Mary Murakami, Grant Ichikawa), Korean War (Bob Nakamoto), Vietnam War (LTC Robert Nakamura USA (Ret)), and Gulf Wars (Lona Ichikawa). This is the first time JAVA has been requested to cover all these topics.

Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, one of the most active members of the Speakers Bureau, was not able to participate because of two surgeries. Kelly said he is mending well and we hope to see him soon back on the speaking circuit.

From time to time JAVA incidentally learns about the sterling work members living outside of the Washington, DC area are doing to publicize the Japanese American story.

JAVA heard from Allen H. Okamoto, a 442nd veteran who lives in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area that he has made over 100 speeches to libraries, churches, retirement communities, schools including Penn State University, and business corporations. Okamoto said "they were all interested because most of them never heard of the Japanese Unit fighting in the WWII and they were curious to hear about my war experience."



South Lakes Elementary School, Gaithersburg, Maryland. JAVA speaker Mary Murakami responding to question. On the right is Teacher Rodney Hymel. (Gail Woolf)



South Lakes High School, Reston, Virginia. Grant Ichikawa and students of South Lakes High School in Fairfax County, Virginia, after a JAVA speaking engagement. (Gail Woolf)

## Thank you Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends.

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- Roy H. Inui
- Susumu Ito
- Mamoru Yokoyama
- Minoru Nagaoka
- Sylvia Kobayashi
- Connie Ishio (for Phil Ishio Scholarship)

Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF, Chief of Staff, National Guard Bureau, presented the Army Freedom Team Salute certificate to LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret) on October 17, 2009 at the JAVA quarterly lunch. Azama, a West Point graduate, served in the 101st Airborne Division. L-R: Maj Gen McKeague, LTC Azama, President Robert Nakamoto. (Matt Moul)



## TAPS TERRY FUKUHARA SUCCUMBS TO CANCER

Honolulu, Hawaii. Terry Fukuhara (82), wife of MIS veteran COL Harry Fukuhara, USA (Ret), passed away on November 28 at 5:07 p.m. at Kahala Nui, Honolulu, Hawaii. A memorial service is scheduled on Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Willow Glen Funeral Chapel, 1039 Lincoln Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125. She will be interred in the National Cemetery at San Bruno, near San Francisco, at an undetermined later date.

Mrs. Fukuhara was born in Napa, California. At the age of 12 she went to Japan with her parents. Harry met Terry in Toyama Prefecture during the Occupation of Japan in 1947, when Harry was the head of the CIC Detachment there and Terry was working for the American Occupation office. They married in 1949.

COL Fukuhara went to Japan as a youth but returned to Seattle before the war began. He volunteered for the MIS and served in New Guinea and the Philippines as a front line interrogator and translator. While he had enough points to return to America, he elected to remain with his unit for the invasion of Japan. Fukuhara's unit landed in Japan one month after the end of the war. Soon after his arrival, he visited Hiroshima City, where he found his mother and three brothers who survived the Atom Bomb. His eldest brother, however, died from effects of the A-Bomb. All three brothers were conscripted into the Japanese Army.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 442<sup>ND</sup> CO H COMMANDING OFFICER BURIED AT ARLINGTON CEMETERY WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS

Arlington National Cemetery. COL Christopher R. Keegan, USA (Ret), (94) a 30-year career US Army officer, was buried at Arlington Cemetery on December 29, 2009, with full military honors. Kelly Kuwayama (442), Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), and Terry Shima (442) participated in the service as the JAVA contingent. Kuwayama and Shima also served as representatives of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT).

Keegan was born in New York City, raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, and drafted into the US Army in March 1941. He arrived at Camp Shelby on February 3, 1943 serving as commanding officer of Co H, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Except for the time he spent in field hospitals, Captain Keegan served in all 442<sup>nd</sup> campaigns: Rome-Arno, the liberation of Bruyeres, Belmont and Biffontaine in the Vosges forests of northeastern France which the Army called the Rhineland, Appenine, and Po Valley campaigns.

Keegan received three Purple Hearts for wounds sustained on three occasions. The first was in July 1944 near the town of Pastina in the Rome-Arno campaign when shrapnel was embedded in his hand. The second was in Bruyeres when an enemy artillery barrage lodged shrapnel in his back. He was confined to the Field Hospital during the

rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges. In this operation the 442<sup>nd</sup> sustained casualties three to four times the 211 men who were to be saved. The third was in Italy at Mt. Belvedere, the western anchor of the German Gothic Line, when more than 50 pieces of shrapnel hit him and severed his Achilles tendon.

Captain Keegan was discharged after WW II but was recalled in August 1947 and assigned to Korea with the 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry on the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. During the Vietnam War he held the rank of Colonel and was assigned to Honolulu from where he made frequent trips to Vietnam. In addition to the Purple Heart medals he was awarded, he received three Legion of Merit Medals, a Meritorious Service Medal, two Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and many additional awards for combat and meritorious service.

Of his men in the 442<sup>nd</sup>, COL Keegan, according to *Grains of Rice*, said, "My men in H Co were astounding individuals ... it's a great honor to have served with them. You might call it gallantry, you might call it bravery ... but I think it was more fighting for their honor than ... to get medals." Isami "Mike" Tsuji of Los Angeles, who served under CPT Keegan said, "He was a straight shooter, very strict but very compassionate. You usually don't get very close to the officers (during war), but after the war friendships blossomed. . . . There was mutual admiration." COL Joseph T. Kuroda, a former Hawaii State Senator, who along with three other brothers answered the call to duty, including Robert, a Medal of Honor recipient, said "COL Keegan had a nice sense of humor and was a friendly person. However, he was also a serious and stern military leader, and I sensed that the veterans of H Company viewed their WW II company commander as a great leader."

Following his retirement in 1970 after 30 years of service to his country, COL Keegan settled in San Diego where he became a community leader receiving various community and government awards including a resolution from the U.S. House of Representatives, the California State Assembly, and the County of San Diego commending him for his lifetime of community service. He is survived by five children—Kathlyn Clare (spouse Joseph), Christopher (Denise), Timothy (Mary), Dennis (Karen), and Thomas (Laura), 17 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.



Captain Keegan leading Company H to a 2nd Battalion honor guard formation in Italy for a review by King George VI of England. LTG Mark W. Clark requested the 2nd Battalion.

# From the Editor

In October my family and I visited relatives in Denver, Colorado. We had the honor of having dinner with Medal of Honor Recipient George "Joe" Sakato and his gracious daughter Leslie.



On Memorial Day 2008, Mr. Sakato and I had participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I looked forward to visiting with him in Denver, his hometown. Naturally, for weeks beforehand I made no secret of my visit, telling everyone where I

work (4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division) that I would be chatting over dinner with a war hero. My brigade commander, COL Louis Lartigue, entrusted me with his Commander's Coin to present to Mr. Sakato. Joe was noticeably delighted to receive it (pictured at right, Joe displaying the coin).

We were all delighted to share some time together. A huge Broncos fan, Joe brought along a transistor radio to listen for the score of their game on Monday Night Football, but we imposed on our server to keep us posted from the TV in the bar. So, we got Joe's full attention, while Leslie warmly entertained our twin boys.

Leslie told us that only when she was in high school did she start to understand her father's wartime experiences, and that he really didn't discuss them much. With the passage of time and the belated award of Joe Sakato's Medal of Honor in 2000, he

shows no hesitation now to describe what happened in World War II. When his good friend Saburo Tanamachi died in his arms during a battle to rescue the "Lost Battalion", "Machine Gun Joe" mounted a one-man offensive. I urge you to read the account of Joe's experience in a fine book about Japanese Americans in Robert Asahina's book *Just Americans*.

After our dinner, the Broncos won the game, so I know Joe was happy. We left him and Leslie and promised to stay in touch. Hope to see you next time I'm in Denver, Joe!  
—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 9, 9AM:** PPALM Board of Directors meeting.

**Jan 12, 10AM:** Embassy of Japan New Year reception, Washington, DC.

**Jan 16, 11:30AM:** JAVA quarterly lunch. Secretary Shinseki, principal speaker.

**Jan 20, 10AM:** House Veterans Committee Round Table, U.S. Congressman Filner.

**Feb 3, 11:30AM:** Lunch with Shig Yabu, author of *Hello Maggie*. China Garden, Rosslyn, Vir.

**Mar 20, 10:30AM:** JAVA Board of Directors meeting at Base Technologies Inc., McLean, Vir.

**Apr 3, 10AM:** Freedom Walk, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

**May 8:** Opening of Eric Saul's exhibit on Japanese American Experience During WW II at Ellis Island, New York, N.Y. Exhibit on display for 5 months.

**May 15, 11:30AM:** JAVA quarterly lunch.

**Jul 24, 11:30AM:** JAVA quarterly lunch.

**Oct 16, 11:30AM:** JAVA quarterly lunch.

## 65th Anniversary of the Rescue of the Lost Battalion



Painting of "The 442nd Rescue of the Lost Battalion in Vosges, France" by Charles McBarrow. Courtesy of the Army Art Collection, U.S. Center of Military History. An enlarged picture hangs just a few paces down from GEN Eric Shinseki's official portrait on Corridor 4-5, second floor, just off the A-ring at the Pentagon. To read the account of the battle, please see press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org). (Photo by Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret).)