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## JAVA participates in 2 Memorial Day events

WASHINGTON – Several hundred thousand visitors lined Constitution Avenue from 7<sup>th</sup> Street to Virginia Avenue, past the White House, to cheer veterans groups, schools and other marchers, including JAVA, in a display of patriotism at the Annual Memorial Day parade sponsored by the American Veterans Center (AVC). Robert Nakamoto, President of JAVA, and Christine Sato-Yamaguchi, President and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center, were invited to sit in the reviewing stand following a reception for VIPs. *[continued at Events on page 4]*



Leading the JAVA contingent and carrying the GO FOR BROKE banner, L-R: Clayton and Catherine Kiyonaga, children of John and Nan Kiyonaga of Chevy Chase, MD; and Anna and Carolyn Murakami Hoover, daughters of Kimi and Kenley Hoover and granddaughters of Dr. Ray and Mary Murakami of Bethesda, MD. Photo by Noriko Sanefuji.

## Congressional Gold Medal approved for Nisei units by Office of US Congressman Adam Schiff

WASHINGTON – The U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Adam Schiff's (D-CA) legislation that will pay tribute to the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go For Broke" regiments. The legislation awards these brave soldiers the Congressional Gold Medal for their dedicated service to our nation during World War II. The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress's highest civilian honor and requires two-thirds of the House to co-sponsor the legislation before it can be voted on by the House. Two weeks ago, Rep. Schiff collected the threshold 290<sup>th</sup> cosponsor and Majority Leader Hoyer quickly moved the bill to the floor for a vote. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) will introduce companion legislation in the Senate.

"These men served with pride, courage and

conviction, waging a war on two fronts – abroad against a forceful and oppressive fascism, and at home against the intolerance of racial injustice," said Schiff. "At a time when they could have easily turned their backs on a country which had sent their families to internment camps, these men chose instead to serve, and to inspire. It is long past due that Congress recognize their heroic efforts with Congress's most prestigious award."

The Go For Broke regiments earned several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars and over 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous additional distinctions. For their size and length of service, the *[continued at Medal on page 4]*

## President's Message



The most prominent news for all Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans is the recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion-442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team by the U.S.

House of Representatives with the passage of House Bill HR 347. The Bill approved the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award, to be presented to these Nisei World War II units. Following this passage on May 14, 2009, Senator Barbara Boxer of California, supported by Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, filed a corresponding Bill in the U.S. Senate. While the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service was not explicitly cited, we were informed that the citation of the 100<sup>th</sup>-442<sup>nd</sup> also represented the courage of the Nisei in the MIS and all Japanese Americans who served in the armed forces during WW II. We will keep you informed of any updates.

Thanks to our volunteers, I am pleased share with you developments over the last two months that I consider significant. The Go For Broke National Education Center, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), and JAVA jointly conducted a teachers training session for Fairfax County Public

Schools in Virginia. NJAMF and JAVA have since discussed the Japanese American experience during WW II with Alexandria City Public School social studies teachers. These sessions are designed for teachers to request JAVA and NJAMF speakers to speak at school assemblies and in classrooms. Associated with this education program is JAVA's \$1,000 scholarship awards presented in May to three high school students. JAVA speakers responded to a larger number of requests during the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month. One JAVA speaker each spoke to army units in Alabama, Georgia, and Germany, and the fourth speaker to 550 Junior ROTC students in one school in New York City.

We regret the passing of three valuable members: COL Sunao Phil Ishio (JAVA Founding President), Harry Tanabe, and Claire Minami. Over 90 years of age, Claire's speaking engagements discussed her challenge in an internment camp as a young mother trying to raise her babies. Their obituaries are presented in this issue.

JAVA participated in two National Cherry Blossom Festival events. The first was the Freedom Walk in partnership with NJAMF, and the second was the manning of a booth provided by the Japan America Society at the *Sakura Matsuri* on the day of the National Cherry Blossom Parade. On Memorial Day weekend we partnered with JACL-WDC in the laying of flowers at 63 gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery and the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. JAVA contingent marched in the National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue. In this connection, I wish to

commend Billy Tucci's comic book series *Sgt. Rock* which chronicles the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion. The recently-published Series 5 (of 6) contains Hawaiian pidgin and such references as "senninbari." Some of these events reach out to the general American public not normally reached by our press releases, and we are grateful for the favorable unsolicited responses we have received.

Finally, thanks to Floyd Mori, National Director of JACL, three JAVA members were invited to a White House briefing and reception on the occasion of Asian Pacific American Heritage month. Tina Tehen, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, and her colleagues provided a briefing on the direction and mission of the Obama administration's program. I would like to thank Tina for recognizing the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in her generous remarks.

—Bob Nakamoto



Left: Japan's Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki graciously hosted a National Cherry Blossom Festival Reception on April 2, 2009, at his residence in Washington, D.C. L-R: Floyd Mori, JACL National Director. BG Bert Mizusawa, Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Lurie Nakamoto, Terry Shima, JAVA President Bob Nakamoto. Photo by Satomi Kato, Embassy of Japan.

### Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate  
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate  
S. Phil Ishio, COL, USAF (Ret)  
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta

### Officers

Robert Nakamoto, President  
Bruce Hollywood, Col, USAF (Ret),  
Vice President  
Michael Yaguchi, Lt Col, USAF (Ret),  
Secretary  
Earl Takeguchi, LTC, USA (Ret),  
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Above Officers plus:  
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S, Phil Ishio, COL, USAF (Ret)  
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### JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus

## 4 rising leaders in JAVA assume key positions

McLEAN, Vir. — Prompted by the resignation as Vice President LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret) due to the need to avoid a perception of conflict of interest, the JAVA Board of Directors on March 21, 2009, approved the appointments of the following young officers:

Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), Secretary, to serve as Vice President to complete the unexpired term of Herbert. Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Deputy Executive Director, to serve as Secretary to complete the unexpired term of Hollywood. William E. Houston to serve as Deputy Executive Director, vice Yaguchi.

In early April 2009, **Marty Herbert** accepted the position of Majority Staff Director, House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Because JAVA is a veterans organization, Herbert decided to resign to avoid any perception of conflict of interest. Herbert will continue to be a member of JAVA and participate in various non-policy making roles. Before working on the Hill, Herbert served briefly in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Prior to that, he was a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton. Mr. Herbert retired from the US Army after 20 years of service specializing in logistics. He served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. His mother was born in Osaka, Japan. He has two college age children.

**Bruce Hollywood** entered the US Air Force as a Distinguished Graduate of Officer Training School in 1985. He served in a variety of operational space and missile assignments and staff positions in Strategic Air Command, Air Force Space Command, Headquarters United States Air Force, and the Joint Staff. He commanded the 320th Missile Squadron at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming. He is a graduate of the U.S.

Army's Command and General Staff College and the Air War College. Retired from active duty in 2007, he is currently a defense contractor serving as a Senior Military Analyst in the Interagency Planning Branch on the Joint Staff. Hollywood was born in Shizuoka prefecture, Japan. He has 2 grown children.

**Michael Yaguchi** enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as a Medical Service Specialist in 1978. In 1986 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant after graduating from Officer Training School. He has served in a variety of operational missile assignments and staff positions at Headquarters, U.S. Strategic Command; Headquarters, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and Headquarters, U.S. Forces, Japan. Yaguchi retired from active duty in 2006. Following employment with a defense contractor, he accepted a federal position in May 2008 as a policy analyst, and in April 2009, he was promoted to serve as the Director of Nuclear Policy, Office of Secretary of Defense, Global Security Affairs, a Senior Executive Service (SES) position.

**William Houston** has a rich background as a government executive, naval officer, and private sector attorney and executive. He served as Director of the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security until January 2009. Before that he was a partner and attorney at Dalton, Dalton and Houston for 12 years. Houston received his Ensign commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Ohio State University in 1978 and served on active duty and in the reserves until December 1989. From 1989 to 1993 Mr. Houston was Deputy Assistant Secretary, territorial and international affairs, Department of Interior. He served as President of TGH Enterprises, a consulting firm specializing in the Asia Pacific Rim.

## Army Secretary greets oldest living veteran

MILFORD, Conn. — Secretary of the Army Pete M. Geren recently honored the nation's oldest living Army veteran, 110-year-old Gertrude Noone, at her nursing home residence in Milford, Conn., with a special induction ceremony for seven new Army recruits. Noone is Connecticut's second-oldest resident, and as far as anyone knows she is the nation's oldest living veteran. The VA Records Management Center in St. Louis verified her service dates in the Women's Army Corps from September 1, 1943 – June 3, 1949. She was stationed in Tennessee and worked in a dispensary, leaving the Army with the rank of sergeant first class. Noone was born in Ansonia, Conn., in 1898, one of 10 children. Her parents and grandparents had immigrated from England. Her five sisters became teachers and nurses, but Noone was drawn to the business world. She went to work for Travelers Insurance after graduating from high school and, after her Army service, worked as a hospital secretary until her retirement in 1962.



## Events (from page 1)

The Grand Marshals were "Today's Heroes," two from each branch of service who distinguished themselves in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Reviewing Official was Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The AVC, the parade lead sponsor and organizer, is a non-profit educational foundation dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of service men and women from every generation. It seeks to provide an outlet for military men and women to share their experiences with the public, especially younger Americans, through its magazine - *American Valor Quarterly* - as well as documentary and speaker programs.

The JAVA contingent was commanded by Brian Ichikawa and the color bearers were John Kiyonaga, Esq., son of a 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team officer; Lieutenant Colonel Martin Herbert, USA (Ret); and Chosei Kuge, Korean War veteran. They carried the US flag, the 442<sup>nd</sup> colors borrowed from Senator Daniel Inouye, and the JAVA colors.

Reminiscent of the 442d RCT's return from overseas to the United States 63 years ago along Constitution Avenue, JAVA personnel marched or rode in Dr. Ray Murakami's van. They drew huge applause that were acknowledged by waves and shouts of "Go For Broke" and "442<sup>nd</sup>." JAVA veterans and members returned with salute and waves. Herbert, JAVA parade chair, said he was "pleased with JAVA

members' interest in participating in this very important opportunity to publicize the Japanese American role in the defense of our nation."

During the morning, Robert Nakamoto, Christine Sato-Yamazaki and Terry Shima were invited by the Department of Defense to attend the Memorial Day program at the Arlington National Cemetery, where President Barack Obama laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, followed by his address to the nation from the Amphitheater. The President pledged to give American Soldiers everything they needed, both while they were in harm's way and when they returned home. "It will be an America that is forever here for you, just as you've been there for us," Obama said.

## Medal (from page 1)

100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war. However, these regiments have yet to be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

*When Japanese Americans across the nation, including veterans of all wars, learned of the passage of the Bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100<sup>th</sup> infantry Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat by the US House of Representative,s there was uniform approbation and appreciation.*

*Bill Thompson, President of 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club (Hawaii) and a veteran of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, said from Honolulu: "It has been 64 years since WWII ended. And now, Congress has enacted a Bill to present the Japanese Americans (the Nisei), who fought in WWII, the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award the country can bestow. We are truly grateful that our Nation's leaders remember and honor us for our patriotism and achievements. We see the greatness of our nation symbolized by this Gold Medal."*

*Lawson Sakai, President of Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans and veteran of Company E, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, said from Morgan Hill, California, "What great news .... the late Tuskegee Airman Woodie Spears told me about the Congressional Gold Medal his unit received, Spears said it was his most cherished award ... I'm sure it will have as much meaning for the veterans and families of the 442nd.*



Above: U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff (left) shakes hands with a 442nd RCT veteran. Photo taken in meeting room outside the U.S. House of Representatives Chamber on January 14, 2009, when the veteran thanked the Congressman on behalf of 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT veterans. Photo credit: Congressman Schiff's office.

*RCT ... it will rank up there with Congressional Bill HR442, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988.*

*COL Jimmie Kanaya, USA (Ret), a 442<sup>nd</sup> combat medic and prisoner of war said, "Our wartime duty was conducted not only under unusually stressful conditions of combat and worry about our parents and siblings who were confined in internment centers and guarded by US Army sentries. It was a case of fighting for our country, right or wrong. I am deeply grateful to the people's representatives in the US Congress.*

*Robert Nakamoto, President of JAVA, said "When Japanese American youths volunteered for combat from the sugar plantations of Hawaii and internment camps in America to serve in Europe and the Pacific, sacrificing their lives to preserve the American way life, they did it for one purpose only: to prove their loyalty. This prestigious and rarely given Congressional Gold Medal tells me that the US Congress has mandated that the Japanese Americans have passed the acid test. We accept the recognition on behalf of the over 800 Japanese Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War II, 256 in the Korean War, and 115 in the Vietnam War. My only regret about that excellent piece of legislation is that it does not recognize the 3,000 Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service in the Asia Pacific Theater with the same valor, heroism and intensity as the 100th-442nd in the European theater."*

## Nisei Veterans honored at Pentagon Hall of Heroes

WASHINGTON – JAVA World War II veterans were honored at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes on May 18, 2009, at the Department of the Army celebration of Asia Pacific American Heritage month. Officiating the program, LTG David H. Huntoon, Jr., USA, described the Nisei bravery on the battlefields and perseverance on the home front. Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, discussed diversity in the armed forces. She said “our diversity sends a message around the world.”



Right: Photo of Nisei veterans with Ms. Duckworth, former US Army helicopter pilot who lost both legs and badly damaged her right arm when Iraqi guerillas shot down her helicopter. L-R: LTG Huntoon, Terry Shima (442<sup>nd</sup> RCT), Grant Ichikawa (Military Intelligence Service), Grant Hirabayashi (Merrill’s Marauders), Kelly Kuwayama (442<sup>nd</sup> RCT) and Dr. Lynn Heirakuji, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army.

## JAVA Hospitality Committee members recognized

FALLS CHURCH, Vir. – Marcia Mau, Barbara Nekoba, and Betty Taira were recognized by JAVA President Bob Nakamoto at the May 16 quarterly lunch at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia. The three served on the Hospitality Committee for 5 years, making all the arrangements for JAVA quarterly lunches and special functions. The lunches have grown in terms of attendance, interest and substance. Nakamoto commended them for volunteering their time and resources to build a luncheon program second to none and for other contributions each has made. Each was presented with a desk clock with appropriate inscription for her long voluntary service on this Committee.

In addition to the Hospitality Committee, all three ladies contributed in other ways. Mau made 20 leis, which made the JAVA docents distinctive at the World War II Memorial Dedication booth; she co-authored the first JAVA brochure; introduced JAVA to man a booth at the National Cherry Blossom Festival which is attended by thousands of visitors. Mau’s husband, Frank Moy, using his personal car, shuttled Metro riders from the Station to the restau-

rant.

Nekoba volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Hawaii and JAVA joint project at the National Archives and Records Administration to digitize documents for archiving in both Honolulu and JAVA so any researcher could access 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service documents electronically from anywhere in the world; served as JAVA representative on the Freedom Walk Committee which is jointly sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JAVA; and has spoken to groups and schools about her experience in the Minidoka relocation camp.

Taira served on the JAVA Speakers Bureau and spoke at schools on her experience in a relocation camp; prepared displays and presentations for exhibits; served in JAVA booths as a docent; participated as a JAVA contingent in the American Veterans Center Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue. Also, she recruited new members to JAVA.



Left to Right: JAVA Vice President Bruce Hollywood, Barbara Nekoba, Frances Kuge on behalf of Marcia Mau, Betty Taira, JAVA President Bob Nakamoto.

## Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

*[Drawn from DVA announcements]*

On April 9, 2009, President Obama, along with Secretary Gates and Secretary Shinseki, announced that the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) have taken the first step in creating a Joint Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record. Currently, there is no comprehensive system in place that allows for a streamlined transition of health care records between DOD and the VA. Both Departments will work together to define and build a system that will ultimately contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service, throughout their military career, and after they leave the military.

In January 2006, Gilbert Mendez, then an Air Force Reserve medic, was working ER at Balad Air Base, Iraq, as field medics arrived with critically wounded Bob Woodruff, ABC news national correspondent. Injured by an IED blast, "his head was swollen to double the size and there was a lot of blood and dirt," Mendez said. Woodruff recently expressed his thanks to Mendez for saving his life. Mendez, who is now a practical nurse at the VA medical center in Spokane, Washington, said a "thank you" from a wounded warrior is better than any medal the military can give.

The post 9/11 GI Bill for Education is expected to rollout on August 1, 2009. Secretary Shinseki said he expects this GI Bill to have "as monumental an impact as the original World War II-era GI Bill of Rights." Shinseki said the Post-9/11 version "has the opportunity to create in the 21st century the same kind of impact for development," social "change [and] leadership across a lot of institutions." He said, "This sends a strong, unmistakable message. I think young veterans who come back and participate in the Post 9/11 GI Bill will begin to understand how much they are valued."

After four days in her job as Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Tammy Duckworth embarked on her first major project: the launching of the Post 9/11 GI Bill, which included the Yellow Ribbon Program. GIs will not need to pay a penny to attend schools participating in this program. On May 12, 2009, DVA issued Duckworth's voice announcement which can be heard at: [http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/video/duckworth\\_gibill.asx](http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/video/duckworth_gibill.asx)

The [Calvert \(MD\) Recorder](http://www.somdnews.com/stories/05132009/rectop140509_32182.shtml) (May 14, 2009, by Joanne Malene) ([http://www.somdnews.com/stories/05132009/rectop140509\\_32182.shtml](http://www.somdnews.com/stories/05132009/rectop140509_32182.shtml)) reports, "Colleges and universities are among

those trying to respond to issues" Iraq and Afghanistan "veterans might have as they continue their education in a civilian environment after serving in the military. John Schupp, a chemistry professor at Cleveland State University in Ohio, started" the Supportive Education for the Returning Vet (SERV), "a program specifically designed to help veterans make the transition from military life to college life."

To date, DVA has received more than 25,000 claims for education benefits during the first two weeks that veterans and servicemembers can apply online for the new Post-9/11 GI Bill. The number of education benefits applications submitted in the first week was more than three times the rate of benefit applications usually received through the Veterans Online Application system (VONAPP). Veterans can apply online through the GI Bill Web site at [www.GIBILL.VA.gov](http://www.GIBILL.VA.gov). Additionally, paper applications are accepted at VA regional processing offices located in Muskogee, Okla.; Atlanta, Ga.; St. Louis, Mo.; and Buffalo, N.Y. Veterans applying now receive a "Certificate of Eligibility" and information about their benefits under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

## Korean War Recognition Day; Shinseki to be keynote speaker

McLEAN, Vir. — The Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee of McLean, Virginia, announced that the Day of Recognition ceremony of the Korean War will be conducted on July 27, 2009, at two places in the Washington, DC area. This year marks the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Korean War Veteran Memorial; the 59<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of South Korea; and the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armistice.

A commemorative ceremony will be held at 10:00 AM at the Korean War Veteran Memorial located on The Mall near the Lincoln Memorial. The keynote speaker will be Eric K. Shinseki (pictured at right), Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The Secretary of Department of Interior Ken Salazar and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea His Ex-



cellency Duk-soo Han are also scheduled to speak.

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) and JAVA will jointly lay a wreath as part of the Memorial ceremonies. JAKWV will be represented by Grant Ichikawa, a JAKWV life member and also a JAVA member.

As part of the day's commemorative program, a memorial ceremony will be held at the Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown at 2:00 PM. MG Dae Young Kang, South Korea Defense Attache, will be the principal speaker.

## War Memorial Court maintenance fundraising kickoff

by Susan Uyemura, Japanese American Living Legacy



Standing L-R: Walter Moriyama, Mits Asakura, Jerry Yamamoto, Victor Muraoka, Paul Ono, Aki Sawada, Tohoru Isohe, Ken Hayashi, Carl Miyagishima, Wally Takata, Joseph Sakamaki and Sam Shimoguchi. Sitting L-R: Robert M. Wada, Justine Iacono, Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, Terry Miyamura, Fred Hoshiyama and Mike Tsuji. Photo by Bacon Sakatani.

LOS ANGELES — A small but eager crowd gathered at the National Japanese American Veterans War Memorial Court (NJAVWMC), designed by internationally acclaimed artist Isamu Noguchi and located directly adjacent to the plaza of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, California on May 2, 2009. The NJAVWMC is a strong statement to honor those in the Japanese American community who were killed in action while defending the American way of life.

Japanese American veterans representing World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War were on hand to speak to attendees. Medal of Honor recipient, Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura addressed the crowd as guest speaker for this day's event. The general theme from each of the speakers underscored the importance of remembering our fallen community members. Isami "Mike" Tsuji stated, "This court is special because it is the only place in the world where you can find the names of every American

of Japanese Ancestry who has served and died in all the wars since the Spanish American War." He continued with, "Their sacrifice and their families sacrifice should not be forgotten."

NJAVWMC has launched a fundraising campaign for an endowment to cover maintenance costs to ensure future generations have a place to honor those who continue making the supreme sacrifice to protect our nation and each citizen's freedom. A small group of volunteers spearheads a committee to raise money for this fund. This kick-off day promoted an initial outreach to the community at large.

No donation is too small. Chairman Fred Hoshiyama said, "It is not the amount but the effort. Let's join together to honor these men."

Immediately following the morning ceremony, the public was invited to attend a planning meeting hosted by the volunteers. Fundraising strategies and the status of collected funds comprised the bulk of the discussions. Attendees were encouraged to consider creative ways in which funding goals could be achieved during this economic downturn. Representatives from Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Korean War Veterans, Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, Gold Star Mothers, Sadao Munemori American Legion, Kazuo Masuda VFW Post, JAVA, Military Intelligence Service of Southern California, Japanese American Living Legacy and various community members participated.

## National Veterans Committee Meeting set for August 14 in LA

LOS ANGELES — The second National Veterans Meeting will be held on **August 14, in Los Angeles**. The venue has been changed from Las Vegas to LA in order to accommodate a request from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

August 14<sup>th</sup> is also the weekend to celebrate "Nisei Week", an annual Japanese American festival held in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles ([www.NiseiWeek.org](http://www.NiseiWeek.org)). In joining us, we hope you will take advantage of the festivities and parade. "Since it is a busy weekend, our staff is working on blocking rooms at a special rate for you in Los Angeles. We will provide that information to you very shortly," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, President and CEO of the GFBNEC and coordinator of the National Veterans Meeting.

In preparation for the VA speaker, Sato-Yamazaki encouraged all of the veteran groups/nonprofits to submit questions they would like answered at this meeting. Please submit the questions to Teresa at [Teresa@goforbroke.org](mailto:Teresa@goforbroke.org).

## Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in military service. The present count is that 77 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 U.S. Army's 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the 77, 49 served in the U.S. Army, 12 in the U.S. Navy, 15 in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Marines. Broken down in another way, 20 are Chinese Americans, 6 Filipino Americans, 18 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 33 Japanese Americans.

### RADM Gordon P. Chung- Hoon



RADM Gordon Pai'ea Chung-Hoon was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 25, 1910, and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1934. He was a valued member of the Navy football team. When Pearl Harbor was attacked, Lt. Chung-Hoon was assigned to the USS Arizona, which is now serving as the final resting place for many of the battleship's 1,177 crew members who lost their lives on December 7, 1941.

In May 1944 Commander Chung-Hoon was Commanding Officer of the destroyer USS SIGSBEE. In the spring of 1945, while screening a carrier strike force off of Kyushu Island, Japan, SIGSBEE destroyed 20 enemy planes.

Later, while serving near Okinawa, a kamikaze crashed into the SIGSBEE, killing 23 and wounding 67 seamen, reducing her starboard engine to 5 knots and knocking out the ship's port engine and steering control. Chung-Hoon ordered his anti aircraft batteries to continue firing. At the same time he ordered intensive damage control efforts, which saved the vessel from sinking and was responsible for the SIGSBEE to reach Honolulu, its home-port, on its own power. Chung-Hoon was awarded the Navy Cross and the Silver Star medal.

On September 26, 2004, the USS CHUNG-HOON, the most technologically advanced guided missile destroyer at the time, with a crew of 330, was named after him. The destroyer was built by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems in Pascagoula, Miss. USS CHUNG-HOON is 509.5 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, an overall beam of 66.5 feet, and a navigational draft of 31.9 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the 9,300-ton ship to speeds of more than 30 knots. The ship's patch has a Hawaiian warrior's helmet and motto: "*Imua e na Koa Kai*" which means "go forward sea warriors." It is currently home-ported at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as part of the US Pacific Fleet.

"It is fitting that the ship that carries his name will be home-ported here in Honolulu in the same harbor where the Arizona memorial commemorates his fallen shipmates," said U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye, the keynote speaker at the ceremony." Inouye commended RADM Chung-Hoon for his extraordinary leadership, courage, and conspicuous gallantry.

After retiring from the Navy in 1959 RADM Chung-Hoon served as the Hawaii state Director of Agriculture. He died in July 1979.

### RDML (Select) Brian L. Losey

RDML (S) Brian L. Losey, of Tacoma, Washington, was commissioned in 1983 following graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He is currently assigned to the Executive Office of the President as a Director in the Office of Combating Terrorism, National Security Council.



His operational assignments include a full range of duties at SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV), Special Boat, and SEAL Teams. He served as Executive Officer, Special Boat Unit TWENTY SIX and Executive Officer, SEAL Team TWO. He commanded SDV Team ONE and served as Deputy Commander and Commander of Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

RDML (S) Losey completed multiple deployments to command Joint/Combined Special Operations Task Forces in Afghanistan, and deployed as a Naval Special Operations Component Commander to Joint/Combined Special Operations Task Forces in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He served as the Deputy Director for Operations to Special Operations Command Central, where he was responsible for the operational planning and synchronization of three Special Operations Task Forces with over 16,000 U.S. and coalition personnel during the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has deployed on contingency or named operations to Panama, El Salvador, Somalia, Haiti, the Balkans, and in the Pacific, and has worked extensively with Bolivian forces in establishing counterdrug riverine interdiction bases in the Amazon Basin.

His staff assignments include duty as Deputy Commander, Naval Special Warfare Task Group, U.S. SIXTH Fleet, Maritime Operations Officer and Deputy Chief of Current Operations in the Joint Special Operations Command, and U.S. SEVENTH Fleet Special Warfare Officer in USS BLUE RIDGE.

RDML (S) Losey holds a Masters in National Security Strategy from the National War College. He is a graduate of the Defense Language Institute, the Armed Forces Staff College, and Air Command and Staff. His wife is Ivy Losey.



# 100th/442nd/MIS Veterans unveil Ed Center Concept, Legacy Wall

*[Excerpt from GFBNEC Press Release]*

LOS ANGELES – At the same time Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) paid homage to its history on June 6, 2009, it unveiled the concept design for its next milestone, a new headquarters with a black-granite Legacy Wall that will stand beside its landmark Go For Broke Monument. Founded by veterans of the legendary 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and other heroic units, the GFBNEC celebrated its 20th anniversary and the Go For Broke Monument observed its 10th. In her keynote address, United States Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Downtown Los Angeles) hailed the organization for its work and praised the Japanese American veterans for their bravery and sacrifices in World War II service.

The concept model for the state-of-the-art 14,999 sq. ft. GFBNEC and Legacy Wall to be built on Temple Street on the north side of the Monument was unveiled by Congresswoman Roybal-Allard, Congressman Adam Schiff (D-San Gabriel Valley), former Assemblyman George Nakano and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Jan Perry, and veterans and GFBNEC leadership.

“This is an exciting day for us,” said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, GFBNEC president and chief executive officer. “Having a building of our own that’s designed for our unique needs is going to enrich our services nationwide. It gives us a permanent home for our educational programs, our always growing Hanashi oral history library and an interactive immersive exhibit on the Nisei veterans. It makes us accessible to everyone, including visitors to the Monument, tourists, teachers and especially students.”

The Legacy Wall of the new GFBNEC headquarters is being created for 15,000 names of veterans of Japanese American ancestry who served the United States during World War II. Names on the Legacy Wall will be in addition to the more than 16,000 already engraved on the Go For Broke Monument.



“Our education objective is to honor and teach the story of all who served, from those deployed in European and Pacific campaigns to those who supported the war effort from the Mainland United States and Occupied Japan,” Sato-Yamazaki said.

GFBNEC expects to break ground for its Go For Broke National Education Center in fall 2010 and to complete it in summer 2012. Including the building site, design and development work that has been done or is in progress, cost for the building is estimated at \$20 million. The building designer is HMC Architects and the interactive exhibits are being created by Jack Rouse Associates (JRA). Both firms have noteworthy track records for their work with educational and teaching facilities. Additional information about the Go For Broke National Education Center is available at [www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org).

*[Note: Kenneth S. Hayashi, JAVA Life Member, of Yorba Linda, California, represented JAVA at the festivities.]*

## US RECRUITING COMMAND LEADERSHIP CHANGES

*[From article by Julia Bobick, Public Information Specialist, USAREC]*



FORT KNOX, Ky. — “I will forever be in your corner, I will be cheering you on from a distance, and I am going to be celebrating your success” outgoing Commander Major General

Thomas P. Bostick, whose mother is Japanese, said at the end of his May 6 change of command remarks.

Though his more than three and a half year tenure was marked by a growing Army that needed to sustain an all-volunteer force in an unprecedented war-time recruiting environment, Bostick brought optimism, energy and unparalleled leadership to USAREC, LTG Benjamin C. Freakley, Commanding General of US Accessions Command said in the ceremony. He thanked Bostick and his wife, Renee, for their loyalty and dedication to the recruiting mission and also thanked the US recruiting team.

Eric Nishizawa, Esq. represented JAVA at the ceremony.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

JAVA congratulates Air Force Brigadier General Susan K. Mashiko, Vice Commander of Space and Missile Systems Center under Air Force Space Command, for her nomination to receive her second star!



## Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion #5 (of 6) now available

Written by Billy Tucci; Art and cover by Billy Tucci

Guest-starring The Haunted Tank! General Dahl, now facing a military disaster, has no choice but to order the Japanese American soldiers to relieve Rock's hopelessly besieged "Lost Battalion." This bloody day will see unmatched valor as the 442nd embarks on a suicide mission of mercy to rescue their fellow Americans while their own families are interned behind barbed wire back home.

Format: FC, 32 pages, LIMITED SERIES. Price: \$2.99

*[Editor's Note: This comic book series by Billy Tucci features the trapped elements of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, of the 36th (Texas) Division in the Vosges forest of eastern France. While it is a fictional novel, Tucci has attempted to describe the rescue accurately to the last detail. He talked to 100th-442nd veterans, men of the trapped battalion, pilots who attempted to air drop supplies, ammo and batteries and 36th Division level personnel. He visited the battle zone in the Vosges to recreate each day of the rescue attempt. He drank water from the pool which was used to quench the thirst of both Germans and Americans. Tucci has attempted to describe the ferocious combat as realistically as it has occurred. Series 5 and 6 feature the Nisei prominently and include Hawaiian pidgin and "senninbari," woven cloths worn as belts and believed to confer courage, good luck, and immunity from harm. The series of 6 issues will make a memorable collection. A number of books have been written about the 100th-442nd, but this is believed to be the first time the 100th-442nd have been featured so extensively in a comic book series. Billy, we are forever grateful to you for this recognition.]*



## Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk a success

WASHINGTON – The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk, a major event at the National Cherry Blossom Festival, was held on March 28, at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC. Over 200 participants, including Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and his wife, and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta attended. The Freedom Walk is

sponsored annually by National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and JAVA.

In his brief extemporaneous remarks, Ambassador Fujisaki said: "I respect the Japanese Americans who had fought bravely in the war. They had Japanese blood and American spirit. It was tragic that the Japanese Americans endured internment during World

War II. However, twenty years ago the American government, under President Reagan, acknowledged this wrongdoing and extended an apology. I think that this deed is very important and merits attention. As His Majesty, the Emperor, mentioned to Nisei Major Kan Tagami, former aide to General Douglas MacArthur, following their private meeting at the Imperial Palace in 1946, I hope the Japanese Americans will continue to be the bridge between two great nations."

Mineta said it is fitting to meet annually at the Memorial to remind us that what happened to one ethnic race must never occur again in America. Keynote speaker Ms. Francey Youngberg, a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Law School and Development consultant to Smithsonian Asia Pacific American Program, focused on Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American exhibitions and programs.

Other participants of the event were the Nen Daiko, the Seabrook Minyo dancers, and the Hurriyet Dabkeh Troupe, traditional Palestinian dancers. The chair of the Freedom Walk Committee was Dr. Karen Matsuoka. The MC was Dr. Craig Uchida, Chairman of the Board, NJAMF.



Ribbon cutting to start Freedom Walk at the entrance of Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. L-R: African American guests; Minister Motohiko Kato; Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki; Secretary Norman Mineta; Floyd Mori; Cherry Blossom Goodwill Ambassadors Grace Lee and Gregory Bennett; Dr. Craig Uchida; Mrs. Fujisaki. Photo by Chris Ikejiri.

## 442nd Veteran returns to Italy

[by Joyce Costello, USAG Livorno Public Affairs]

MASSA, Italy — A bus full of young Soldiers and Airmen from Camp Darby listened intently as Pfc. Noel Yuzuro Okamoto recalled the time when he was wounded in action in the hills by Massa, Italy. He recollected how during a rest period in Nice and Monte Carlo he got caught taking his platoon leaders jeep to visit a girlfriend and that after that he was only allowed to drive large trucks.

The tales he told didn't happen yesterday or even recently, but back when he was a Soldier fighting in World War II. The trip back to Massa was a chance for Mr. Okamoto to try to find where he was wounded in action and for the young troops to learn firsthand from a Veteran about their military heritage.

Mr. Okamoto, a Japanese American who was born in 1922 in Hawaii, joined the Army in March 1943. He was eventually assigned to the 442nd RCT, 232 Combat Engineer Company. He entered Italy from Naples and fought up through Anzio. When he arrived in Livorno, he took a boat to Marseille to "hold the line" and then came back to Livorno where he would end up driving bulldozers and jeeps to Massa.

"Orders came down through Cpt. Pershing Nakada, the 232 Combat Engineer company commander, to Tech. Sgt. (Tec/4) Edmund Ezuka (who was later injured) to lead a small group up to this certain spot in the hills above Massa and wait there for further orders," said Mr. Okamoto. A group of eight or so left Massa under the cover of darkness April 5 and traveled up a primitive road along the south side the Frigidio River that runs into the hills. "It was also completely dark and we traveled under orders to keep absolutely silent," said Mr. Okamoto. "It was a very slow pace and there were no other platoons around us; we were sent on ahead and ordered to wait in the specified area until daybreak."

He added it was just as light was beginning to show when they were hit with artillery fire. "We could see a German patrol up on the mountain; the first shell was far off and the second even farther off on our other far side," said Mr. Okamoto. "We wondered who the Germans were shelling until the third one came straight towards us—I dove under our truck but was wounded. A rescue jeep was sent up from Massa to gather us all up, and it didn't seem to take long, so where we were couldn't have been too far from the town."

He then spent several days in a hospital outside of Lucca before he asked to return to his unit that was quickly moving up towards Alexandria, Italy. He never knew where exactly he was wounded and the town of Massa had sprung up over the years changing the scenery. Nonetheless, he decided 64 years later that he would still like to try and see the spot where he was hit. Mr. Okamoto, his daughter, and granddaughter flew from America to Italy almost to the date of when he has WIA.

In what felt like an amazing coincidence, the town of Massa was having their 64<sup>th</sup> liberation celebration and invited Mr. Okamoto and his family to attend. The Mayor of Massa, Dr. Roberto Pucci, presented Mr. Okamoto with a medal, and many elderly survivors of WW II came up to Mr. Okamoto in the town's main square to thank him for his part in the liberation. After speaking to one lady who told him how she and her family were hiding in the hills when their home was bombed and her brother was a partisan who was helping the Japanese American Soldiers, Mr. Okamoto remarked that "it felt good to see people were able to come back to where they born and continue on with life."

After the ceremony, parade, and wreath laying, two volunteers from Massa took Mr. Okamoto up into the hills to try to find where he was wounded. For the accompanying

Camp Darby servicemembers, it really brought the trip alive. "I was aware of some of the battles in this area, but to come face to face and see the terrain he had to fight in makes me appreciate and have a better understanding of our military heritage," said Sgt. Gerard Tate, 511th Military Police Platoon.

Mr. Okamoto never did find the exact location where he was wounded, but he said it was "a very wonderful experience and a return journey he never thought possible."

[Editor's note: On June 21, 2006 Camp Darby erected the Pvt. Masato "Curly" Nakae Square to memorialize Private Nakae, Company A, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, Medal of Honor recipient for his heroic actions in combat on August 19, 1944, against the German forces in the Pisa area. The late George "Joji" Watanabe, a civilian employee at Camp Darby, persuaded the US Army to recognize the Nisei for their role in the liberation of the Pisa-Leghorn area. Watanabe, a historian who spent many hours visiting the combat sites to recreate the battles fought by the 100th Bn and 442nd RCT, developed cordial relations with Italian officials and people and served as the Nisei unofficial "ambassador of goodwill" to Italy until his death on September 18, 2005.]



Above: The Mayor of Massa, Dr. Roberto Pucci, presents Noel Okamoto with a medal as a token of appreciation for the liberation of Massa. Below: (Left to right) Davide del Guidice and Steven Zglinicki, WW II historians, point out known German encampments to Okamoto while they tried to pinpoint the exact location where he was WIA during WW II. The hills of Mount Belvedere and Mount Folgorito were the main sites of many battles April 5-7, 1945. Photos by Joyce Costello.



## JAVA recognizes 3 generations of JA's in armed forces



Seated, L-R: Grant Ichikawa, Stanley Sagara, Grant Hirabayashi, Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Harry Abe, Terry Shima. Standing, L-R: MG Tony Taguba; Cadet Jenna Lafferty (Army); 1/c Mace Melonas (Navy); Cadet Terikazu Onoda; Cadet Ashian Izadi Hershey Miyamura (MOH), COL Bryan Goda; Joe Sakato (MOH); LTG Joe Peterson; VADM Harry Harris; 1/c Karl Motoyama (Navy); Marisa Miyamura (USAF); Glenn Hajiro; RDM Brian Losey, USN; Bob Nakamoto. Photo by Nelson Penalosa.

ROSSLYN, Vir. – Three Medal of Honor recipients, six cadets representing armed forces academies, four flag rank officers, and six World War II veterans were recognized during a special JAVA luncheon in the packed private room at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn on April 14. President Bob Nakamoto said, “The WW II Nisei generation settled the question of loyalty once and for all and the armed forces subsequently offered unlimited opportunities to compete for any position and rank. Seventy-seven Asian Americans, 37 of whom are Japanese Americans, have attained flag rank and four of them are represented here today. They have demonstrated they can compete with the best of the best. The cadets represent our new generation of Asian American future leaders in the armed forces of America and they are challenged by unlimited opportunities.” Nakamoto presented each Medal of Honor recipient and each cadet with an inscribed Commemorative JAVA coin.

Medal of Honor recipients George Joe Sakato, Barney Hajiro (represented by his son Glenn of Honolulu) and Hershey Miyamura, as well as Dr. Harry Abe of New York City, Kelly Kuwayama, Grant Ichikawa, Grant Hirabayashi, Stanley Sagara and Terry Shima represented the WW II

generation Nisei veterans. The flag rank officers were represented by LTG Joe Peterson, USA, Deputy Commanding General of US Army Forces Command; VADM Harry B. Harris, USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Communications; MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret) and RADM Brian Losey, Director for Combating Terrorism at the White House National Security Council.

**The US Military Academy at West Point** was represented by Cadet Lieutenant Ashian Midori Izadi of Arcadia, California; Cadet Captain Jenna Suenaga Lafferty of Redlands, California; and Cadet Lieutenant Terikazu David Onoda of Irvington, New York. **The US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland** was represented by Midshipman First Class Macedonius Melonas of Orem, Utah and Midshipman First Class Karl Motoyama of Honolulu, Hawaii. **The Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado** was represented by Cadet Captain Marisa Miyamura, granddaughter of Hershey and Terry Miyamura.

The above honorees attended the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Awards Dinner Gala the previous evening. Their participation in the JAVA luncheon was inspired and arranged by Eric Nishizawa, Esq., life member of JAVA.



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## JAVA speakers carry Nisei message outside of DC beltway

Members of the JAVA Speakers Bureau were invited to speak at three locations on the eastern seaboard. The speakers were well-received and interest appeared to be high as indicated by the packed auditoriums and questions. The speakers spoke of Japanese American experience during World War II. Organizations requesting the speakers paid for the travelers' transportation and lodging.

Discussions on the Japanese American WW II experience consist of the background of the Pearl Harbor attack, Executive Order 9066, evacuation and internment, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, Military Intelligence Service, why Nisei volunteered for combat, what their performance meant in terms of future generations of Japanese Americans and also other Asian Americans.

On May 5, Kelly Kuwayama, spoke at **Fort Gordon**, near Augusta, Georgia, to 500 soldiers.

On May 22, Terry Shima was invited by the **Francis Lewis High School JROTC**, Queens, New York to speak. Over 550 students, including a large number of Asian Americans, are in the JROTC program. 13 of their alumni are enrolled at West Point and 3 more from the 2009 class have been accepted. 98% of them go to college and their JROTC teams have won 3 national titles.

On May 27, Grant Ichikawa, MIS spoke for about 25 minutes at the APA Heritage Month program, sponsored by the **Redstone Arsenal** in Huntsville, Alabama, to approximately 200 soldiers and civilians from the Team Redstone, assembled at their Bob Jones auditorium in Sparkman Center. There was high interest on the Japanese American experience during WW II including overseas and the home front. Of special interest after the speech was when Col Keegan came forward and stated his father, Christopher R. Keegan was the commander of H Company, 442<sup>nd</sup> and therefore he was deeply interested in the subject of Japanese American soldiers of WWII. Col Keegan stated that his father retired from the Army as a colonel and passed away a few years ago.

In addition, on May 11, the 3rd Infantry Division at **Fort Stewart**, Hinesville, Georgia, invited James Doi (Co G) and Michael Doi (Co A), brothers who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> and now live in Atlanta, Georgia, to celebrate the APA Heritage Observance Program. BG Thomas S. Vandal, Deputy Commanding General-Support presented James and Michael Doi with a certificate of appreciation signed by Major General Tony Cucolo, Commanding General, and Command Sergeant Major Jesse Andrews, Division Command Sergeant Major. Michael participated in the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges forests. James said, "We were honored and impressed by the friendliness and kindness shown to us at Fort Stewart. So many, including many officers, came by to shake our hands. We will never forget this day!" The keynote speaker was Dr. Franklin Odo, Director of Asian Pacific American Program at Smithsonian Institution.



Above: BG Thomas S. Vandel presents a plaque on behalf of MG Tony Cucolo, Commanding General, and Command Sergeant Major Jesse Andrews at Fort Stewart. L-R: BG Vandel, Michael Doi, James Doi. Photo by Fort Stewart Public Affairs.

Finally, on May 18, Dr. James McNaughton was invited to speak at the **U.S. Army Garrison Mannheim's** APA Heritage Month Celebration in Mannheim, Germany. Garrison Commander Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Fletcher welcomed Dr. McNaughton and thanked him for his enlightening and educational talk on the Military Intelligence Service. Two years ago, USAG-Mannheim's APA Heritage Month Celebration recognized the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT for their achievements in Europe. Dr. McNaughton's presentation this year was especially of interest to the garrison's Equal Opportunity advisor who planned the event, Sergeant First Class Stephen Barthelme, who is himself an Army-trained Korean linguist and attended the Defense Language Institute, which was created during WW II to train the Nisei linguists.

### Thank you Donors!

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

James E. Christensen  
 Brian K. Horikami  
 Arthur Kim (for Tashiro Scholarship)  
 Chosei Kuge  
 Catherine Luetze (for Shirey Scholarship)  
 Etsu Mineta Masaoka (for National Archives and Education)  
 Ellen Sawamura  
 Grace and Michael Shirey (for Shirey Scholarship)  
 Maude Shirey (for Shirey Scholarship)  
 Clarence Suzuki (in memory of Harry H. Tanabe)  
 Betty Taira (in memory of Claire Minami)  
 Ansho Uchima  
 Kay Wakatake

## JAVA outreach at local schools; Students show interest in Nisei

*Mrs. Barbara Nekoba, an internee at the Minidoka Internment Camp, located at Minidoka, Idaho, was asked by her granddaughter, Lindsay Nekoba, to speak to her 8th grade class at South County Secondary School in Fairfax Station, Virginia on March 16, 2009. The history class was studying the World War II period when Mrs. Nekoba spoke. Mrs. Nekoba explained the background of the internment of 120,000 Japanese from the west coast of the United States, the life in her camp, and what the internment means. Below are two letters from the students:*

Dear Mrs. Nekoba,

Thank you so much for telling us about your experience of World War II about the Japanese. Your speech changed my perspective on what it was like for the Japanese. I think that it is terrible that American leaders assumed that every Japanese person was involved in World War II attacks, even if they were American!

I think your father was a wise man to create that bonfire, but I feel he must have felt sad that he had to burn his cultural items. Even though you were little, I'm sorry that you had to go through that terrible experience. I also think you're absolutely, 100% right today when you said that we kids can change the future!

Go For Broke!

Faven Matheos

Dear Mrs. Nekoba,

Thank you for taking time out of your day to teach us what it was like for you in the internment camps. I was surprised to hear that the Navy and the Marines did not accept the Japanese Americans even when they were not a threat. I'm glad to hear that Japanese Americans who fought in the war were honored for their bravery in defending the U.S. and I think it's great that a memorial statue honors those men. I was very surprised when you said that the beds were cotton bags filled with hay. I was wondering if any Japanese Americans were recognized for going ashore on D-Day. If you heard of someone, I would be most interested to find out more about them. Thank you again for teaching our class about the internment camps because that situation must not be repeated in the future.

Will Jordan

\* \* \* \* \*

OSTRANDER, Oh. – In a recent email note to JAVA, 18-year-old high school senior Kyle Nappi of Buckeye Valley High School commented, "There are so many people my age who don't fully understand the magnitude (of what) the veterans...did for our country. So, overall, I am trying to obtain as many autographs/stories from veterans as I can to ensure their stories are not forgotten." He had sought JAVA through the US Department of Veteran Affairs website.

Nappi has collected autographs and stories from over 2,000 veterans in 20 countries. His oldest autograph is from a veteran who is now 112 years old and the youngest



was 14. The veterans include Pearl Harbor survivors, D-Day veteran, airmen, generals, admirals, holocaust survivors and even foreign veterans. Nappi wishes to add autographs and biographies of Asian Pacific American veterans of all wars.

Two years ago PBS interviewed Nappi and the American Legion carried a story about him in August 2008. "The more stories I have, the more I learn about our history and the brave men and women who fight to protect our way of life.

Nappi said he is still looking for a college. "I would like to pursue my interest in military history and turn it into a career, something along the lines of a military historian. I am also considering a military career," Nappi said.

100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS, 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Gulf War veterans and other Asian Pacific American veterans are encouraged to contact Nappi, a budding military historian, at [knap607@yahoo.com](mailto:knap607@yahoo.com), or by mail at 1890 Warren Road, Ostrander, OH 43061.

\* \* \* \* \*

JAVA and Foundation speakers at Kilmer Middle School, Vienna, Virginia. Pictured below, L-R. Mary Murakami; Kelly Kuwayama; Dr. Ray Murakami; Teacher Christopher Custis; Bryan Mejia; and Franklin Garcia. Photo courtesy of Christopher Custis.



## Japan, US WWII veterans “Play for Peace”

[From *Communicator*, Armed Forces Retirement Home]

Hiroshima, Japan – Japanese and US veterans who fought in World War II played softball games on April 5, 2009, in Hiroshima to “play for peace.” The games were held at an elementary school where some 400 children were killed in the 1945 US atomic bombing. Organizers said this was the second such event following one in December 2007 in Hawaii.

The 28 Japanese players were from Tokyo and seven other prefectures, and the 18 American players were from Washington DC, Florida, and Hawaii. JAVA members Minoru Nagaoka, 442nd RCT veteran, and Stanley Sagara, 82nd Airborne veteran, both residents of Armed Forces Retirement Home, played on the US team. Their average age was more than 80 years

old. They offered flowers the previous day at the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

The following is condensed from a longer companion article in the *Communicator*. The US team was treated like royalty from the time of their arrival to their departure six days later. They rode the bullet train that traveled 350 miles in 90 minutes, were treated to elaborate dinners, one of which was attended by the mayor of Hiroshima, attended a tea ceremony, visited Miyajima Island to see an ancient shrine, Iwakuni to see a bridge built in 1650, and Kyoto to visit temples and a castle. They were impressed by the bus drivers in “nice neat suit and tie, the bus windows sparkling clean, and white doily on the seats.”



日米元軍人友好ソフトボール広島大会 Japan-U.S. Veterans Friendship Softball Match in Hiroshima 2009.4.5

Above: WWII veterans from Japan and the US pose for a group photo. Photo courtesy of Minoru Nagaoka.

## Senator Akaka recognized by veterans groups

WASHINGTON – Recently the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) recently presented U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI) with its Diversity Award in recognition of his public service and leadership for veterans and others. In a letter notifying Akaka of the award, VVA National President John Rowan, stated “On behalf of the members and families of Vietnam Veterans of America, we are pleased to inform you that you have been selected to receive the diversity award from our Minority Affairs Committee in recognition of your tireless work on behalf of all veterans and in particular those who are members of minorities in America.”

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) also presented Senator Akaka with its Congressional Leadership Award in recognition of his work for veterans,

servicemembers, and their families.

“I am truly humbled to receive this honor. VFW has been a real partner in the effort to improve the care and benefits veterans have earned through their honorable service. I look forward to continuing to work with them for years to come,” said Akaka.



VFW’s National Commander Glen M. Gardner Jr. noted Akaka’s commitment to America’s troops and veterans, stating, “Our military, our veterans, and our families of past and present have no better friend in Congress than Senator Akaka. I am honored to present the prestigious VFW national award to him.”

## TAPS *JAVA Founding President Passes*



Photo courtesy of Julie Tsuchiya.

Silver Spring, Md. – Colonel Sunao (Phil) Ishio, USAR (Ret), Washington, DC Nisei leader for 50 years and founder of JAVA in 1992, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on May 23, 2009. He was the hands-on leader for JAVA until 2003 when the leadership mantle was passed to the post-World War II generation. From his position as a member of the Board of Directors, Ishio provided

the vision for JAVA's transition from a regional organization to a dynamic and highly respected national player in the veterans field. Bob Nakamoto, JAVA President, said "He is one person whose loss will be sorely missed. Phil's remarks were always insightful and inspirational. I will miss my frequent telephone chats with him."

Ishio was born in Berkeley, California and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. After one year at the University of Utah, his family sent him to Tokyo in 1939 to enroll in the economics department of Waseda University. When the US Embassy warned him of deteriorating US-Japan relations, Ishio decided to return to the U.S.

He was drafted into the Army in 1941, then volunteered for the Army Military Intelligence Service, received intensive Japanese language training at Camp Savage, Minnesota, and was shipped to Australia in September 1942. He volunteered for the Papua campaign as well as the Buna campaign, of which he probably was the last surviving Nisei veteran. Allied victory at Buna denied Imperial Japanese forces from the staging area needed to invade Australia. In the Leyte campaign with the 6<sup>th</sup> Army, enemy fighters strafed the vessel on which the Nisei linguists were riding, seriously wounding two of them.

Following Ishio's discharge from the Army in 1947, he obtained his bachelor and master's degrees from Georgetown University. Upon graduation, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, participated in the military reserve program, and served at various overseas locations including Japan and South Vietnam. Following his retirement from the CIA in 1973, he was employed by the Food and Drug Administration for 17 years.

Ishio served a two-year term as Secretary and then on the Board of Directors of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation which constructed the Nisei Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building. He was active in other veterans, church and civic groups.

He is survived by his wife, Constance Ishio, daughters Julie Tsuchiya Sloneker (Mark) and Hollis Molden (Jim) and grandson Dr. Jaime Molden. A son, Douglas, died in 2005. Mrs. Ishio requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Wheaton or to the JAVA Ishio Scholarship Fund.

\* \* \* \* \*

Claire Hifuko Fujishige Minami died on Sunday, May 24, in Bethesda, Md., following a severe stroke at her apartment on May 14. She was 94.

Born in Sacramento, Calif., on Jan. 12, 1915, she was the third child of immigrant parents Tsuchiichi and Masayo (nee Hanaoka) Fujishige. She was raised in French Camp, Calif. where her family ran a truck farm. In 1936, she married Henry, a dentist in Berkeley.



During World War II, she and her family were interned in Gila River in Arizona. In 1943, they were released from camp and permitted to go to Detroit, where they lived for two years. The family then relocated to Washington, D.C. after the war, where she was a homemaker and teacher. She retired from teaching in the mid-1970s, after 23 years in the D.C. public school system. She continued to live a full and active life, and enjoyed doll making, flower arranging, koto music, crossword puzzles and socializing with her many friends. She also loved to travel.

She was a graduate of Wilson Teachers College and the first Japanese American school teacher in the Washington, D.C. school system. She was also the first Asian American Worthy Matron in the Order of the Eastern Star, president of the Washington DC chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and a charter member of the Washington Toho Koto Society.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry; sisters, Jane Nushida, June Fujii, Agnes Tsukimura and Jewell Omura; and brother, Kaname. She is survived by her sons Warren, Wayne, and Denny; ten grandchildren; and six great grandchildren.



# From the Editor

As I prepare this issue of the *JAVA Advocate*, I am in the midst of my

permanent change of station (PCS) move from Germany to the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. When I reflect on my two years in Germany, I realize that I did not visit all the places that I had planned to visit when I first arrived, especially to walk the battlegrounds where the heroic 100th-442nd fought so bravely and famously. I did have the chance to visit some of the World War II battle sites and speak with some veterans. Most

recently, I had the privilege of introducing the keynote speaker to the US Army Garrison—Mannheim Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration, Dr. James McNaughton, JAVA member and European Command (EUCOM) Command Historian in Stuttgart, Germany (pictured below). Thanks to people like Dr. McNaughton who had devoted over 10 years of his life to writing the book *Nisei Linguists* about the Military Intelligence Service in World War II, the legacy of the Nisei veterans will be forever documented.

—Kay Wakatake

*If you have any comments, please email them to me at [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com).*



**Correction to March 2009 edition, page 1, "Funding for JA Memorial Court Preservation":** The article and photo should be credited to the Japanese American Living Legacy.

**Addendum to March 2009 edition, page 6, "Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion":** Regarding the photo featuring color designer Bill Farmer: Davi-Ann Farmer, wife of color designer Bill Farmer, and their son Avery, are the granddaughter and great-grandson of S/Sgt. Harry H. Nakashima (1916-1998), 3rd Battalion, Company L, 442nd RCT. Photo courtesy of Bill Farmer, through Billy Tucci.



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**Oral History:** Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

**Quarterly Lunch:** Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

**Round Robin:** Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

**Speakers Bureau:** Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

**Webmaster:** Dave Buto, [admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jul 18, 11:30AM:** JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

**Jul 27, 10AM:** Korean War Memorial, Day of Recognition Ceremonies. Keynote speaker VA Secretary Eric Shinseki.

**Jul 27, 11AM:** Dr. James McNaughton visits WDC for military historian conference.

**Aug 14:** National Veterans Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

**Aug 25:** Col Phil Ishio burial with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery .

**Sep 17:** JAACL Gala Dinner. JW Marriott Hotel, WDC.

**Sep 27-Oct 1:** FFNV Reunion, Las Vegas.

**Oct 17:** JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Falls Church, Vir.

**Nov 11, 11AM:** Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. **2PM:** Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

**Nov 14:** Go For Broke National Education Center Evening of Aloha, Los Angeles.



Congratulations to new grandparents Bob and Bernadette Nakamura! Picture: Bob and Bernadette Nakamura with daughter Emy and newborn grandson, James Nash Parham. Photo courtesy of Bob Nakamura.

## Welcome New Members!

Keith Horikawa (Hawaii)  
Stanley N. Kanzaki (New York)  
Richard M. Lewis (Virginia)  
RADM Brian Losey (Virginia)  
Dennis Maruki (California)  
\* Gaye Miyasaki, Esq. (Hawaii)  
\* Nola Miyasaki, Esq. (Oklahoma)  
Mae Nakamoto (Virginia)  
Dr. James McNaughton (Germany)  
Alan Ueoka (Maryland)  
Tim Windel (Virginia)  
John Yamagata (Washington, DC)  
\* Denotes Life Membership