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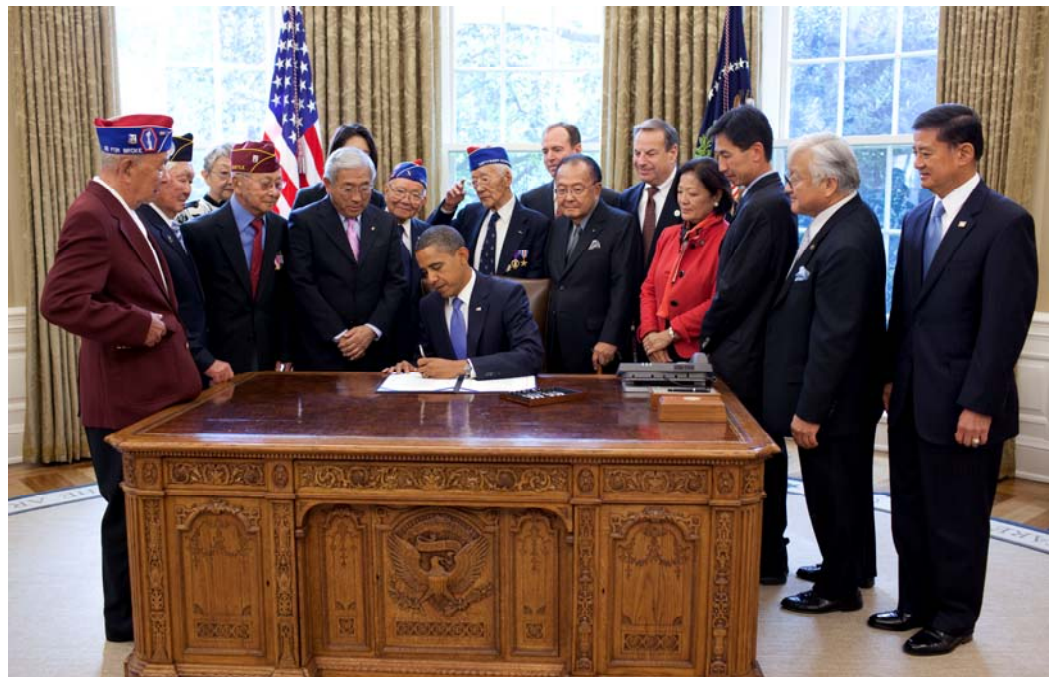
## President signs Nisei Congressional Gold Medal bill into law; NVN plans 2 days festivities in DC

*[Courtesy of National Veterans Network]*

White House, Washington, DC. On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Congressional Gold Medal bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. There will be one medal for the men of all three units. Following the presentation, the Medal will be retrieved and archived at the Smithsonian Museum. Individuals may purchase replica in bronze of the Medal from the US Mint at an approximate cost of \$50. Six Nisei WWII veterans and other officials participated in the approximately 30-

minute historic event. The presentation ceremony is expected to be held in the Summer or Fall of 2011 in Washington, DC.

At the signing ceremony, the President greeted each veteran and other officials at the Oval Office door and were ushered to stand behind the President's chair. They were veterans Osamu "Sam" Fujikawa (100th), Jimmie Kanaya (442), Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Terry Shima (442), Kelly Kuwayama (442), and Senator Daniel Inouye (442nd). They were joined by Congressman Adam Schiff, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Congressman Charles Djou, Congressman Michael Honda, National Director of JACL Floyd Mori, Chairperson of the National *[continued on page 3]*



Above: Observing the President sign the Nisei Congressional Gold Medal Bill into law, are (L-R) Osamu Fujikawa, Grant Ichikawa, Lynn Kanaya, Jimmie Kanaya, Floyd Mori, behind Mori is Christine Sato Yamazaki, Terry Shima, Kelly Kuwayama, Congressman Adam Schiff, Senator Daniel Inouye, Congressman Bob Filner, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Congressman Djou, Congressman Michael Honda, and Secretary Eric Shinseki. (White House photo)

## President's Message



It should be noted that this edition of the *ADVOCATE* is being published in Iraq. It probably has the distinction of being the only veterans newsletter published in the war zone. I wish to offer JAVA's thanks to editor MAJ Kay Wakatake.

On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT) and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in WWII. Of particular significance is the fact that Congress accepted the recommendation of the National Veterans Network (NVN) to include an amendment to recognize the MIS.

I wish to congratulate Christine Sato Yamazaki, chairperson of NVN, for her leadership in getting the MIS included and 57 senators to sign as co-sponsors of the Senate Bill. This was truly a team effort of 22 Japanese American veterans organizations and entities, the 36th Division veterans, the survivors of the trapped Texas Battalion and their children, and a cross-section of America.

Congratulations also to former Secre-

tary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Honorary Chair of JAVA, for the unveiling of his portrait, a canvas oil painting that was entered into the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery permanent collection portraits.

I am pleased to report that the visibility of JAVA, the 442nd RCT, and Japanese American veterans was greatly enhanced during the reporting period, for example:

Curator Eric Saul's exhibit, *GO FOR BROKE: Japanese American Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts*, opened at Ellis Island Immigration Museum. National Park Service estimates some 7,000 people visit the Museum daily during the warm months.

The White House invited a JAVA representative to the Asian Pacific Islands Heritage Month reception when President Obama recognized the heroism of the 442nd RCT; Vic Matsui was invited to speak at Fort Eustis, VA about the internment, 442nd and MIS.

Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima were invited to the US Army Birthday Ball to offer the toast to the Commander in Chief; over 1,000 attended the Ball.

JAVA participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue where 300,000 connected with the 442nd and MIS; JAVA representative was invited to the NAACP annual

convention in Kansas City, MO for special recognition of the 442nd RCT.

Speakers Bureau was invited to schools, government entities and community organizations. Superintendent of Public Schools of Montgomery County, MD sent a letter to me expressing appreciation for JAVA's education program.

We were sad to lose two JAVA stalwarts, Mrs. Maude Shirey, wife of Major Orville Shirey, G-2 and Historian of the 442nd, and Mr. Joe Ichiuji, an active member of the Speakers Bureau and the NARA Digitization Project. I wish to thank JAVA members and friends for contributing to the Ichiuji and Shirey scholarship funds as well as donating to the Millie Ichikawa NARA Digitization Fund.

—Bob Nakamoto

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Left: AUBURN, Calif. — Robert Nakamoto, JAVA President, was the keynote speaker at a gathering of three northern California JACL chapters, including Placer County, on June 24, 2010. He discussed the role of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence during WWII and the impact of that experience on future generations of Japanese Americans. (Photo by Laurie Nakamoto)



## COL Kim takes command of 3rd BCT at Schofield Barracks by Gregg K. Kakasako, Honolulu Star Bulletin

*[Reprinted with permission from Honolulu Star Bulletin]*

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Colonel Richard C. Kim returned home after 22 years to assume command of the 3500-member 3rd Brigade Combat Team at Schofield Barracks as it prepares for its fourth wartime deployment, to Afghanistan next spring. The 25th Infantry Division unit has been to Iraq twice - in August 2006 and October 2008 - and Afghanistan in April 2004.

Kim, 45, said his brigade has just completed being re-equipped after spending a year in northern Iraq in Kirkuk and Salah ad Din provinces last year. He told reporters that his soldiers face nearly a year of "robust training events" culminated by a month-long evaluation period at the National Training Center in Southern California's Mojave Desert.

Kim, a 1983 McKinley High School graduate, left the islands after receiving his commission as a second lieutenant through the University of Hawaii Army ROTC program in 1988. Most of his career has been away from the

Pacific, except for his last assignment in South Korea with U.S. Forces Korea and Combined Forces Command. Several of Kim's classmates from the UH class of 1988 attended the Schofield Barracks ceremony and said they always suspected that he would end up as an Army career officer. Allen Yim, who left the Army after 10 years, described Kim as "the guy who was the most determined," adding, "He was born to be an infantry officer."

Kim's military service has included assignments to the 2nd Infantry Division, 82nd Airborne Division and 75th Ranger Regiment, and staff assignments in South Korea. He also has completed several combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, the latest being in January 2007 when he led the 82nd Airborne Division's 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, during the historical surge into Baghdad.

*[COL Kim was born in Korea and immigrated to Hawaii when he was a child. As he got his citizenship, his thought was "if I try hard enough, if I worked hard enough then it is attainable."]*

## Congressional Gold Medal (from page 1)

Veterans Network Christine Sato Yamazaki, and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki.

The President praised the heroism and combat performance record of the Nisei who served their country abroad while many of their family members were in internment camps back home. He noted that Interim Chief of Staff Pete Rouse's parents were also among the 120,000 internees. The President also discussed their legacy, which favorably impacted future generations, saying those that followed "rode on the backs of you heroes." The President offered his congratulations to all Asian Pacific Americans, including Japanese Americans, on this "well-deserved recognition." The President then sat at his desk on which rested the Bill and about a half a dozen pens. He used each pen to sign a portion of his signature.

The National Veterans Network (NVN), a coalition of 23 Japanese American veterans and

civic organizations formed one year ago to assist in the passage of the bill, will continue to work with Washington officials to plan a two-day program, according to Christine Sato Yamazaki, Chairperson of the NVN. Christine said the Washington, DC, festivities will include a congressional ceremony hosted by congressional leaders; a gala dinner to honor the WW II veterans, widows, and next of kin; the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery where some 69 Japanese Americans soldiers are interred; and programs at the WWII Memorial and the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Following the presentation, the Medal will be retrieved and archived at the Smithsonian Museum. Individuals may purchase replica in bronze of the Medal from the U.S. Mint at an approximate cost of \$50. For current updated information on the Congressional Gold Medal please go to [www.nationalveteransnetwork.com](http://www.nationalveteransnetwork.com).

## Farewell luncheon for Minister Shinoda

TYSONS CORNER, Vir. — Minister Kenji Shinoda, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan at Washington, DC had a farewell lunch with JAVA Executive Council at the Tower Club, Tysons Corner, Virginia on July 21, 2010. Prior to his Washington, DC, assignment, Shinoda served as Consul General of Japan at Chicago. He departed for Tokyo in late July for reassignment. Below L-R: JAVA President Robert Nakamoto and Minister Shinoda. (Photo by Grant Ichikawa)



## 2 JAVA representatives attend 235th US Army Ball

NATIONAL HARBOR, Maryland.

On June 12, 2010, two JAVA members and a 33rd Infantry Division veteran performed the rare and great honor of presenting the toast to President Barack Obama, Commander in Chief, at the 235th US Army Birthday Ball at the National Harbor Hotel and Convention Center, located at National Harbor, Maryland. The WW II veterans were Grant Ichikawa (Military Intelligence Service), Terry Shima (442nd Regimental Combat Team) and Myron Ellis of Parsons, Kansas, who served with the 123rd Infantry Regiment of the 33rd Division in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns. Other toasts that were presented included "to our fallen comrades" and "to the United States Army."

In their remarks to the over 2,000 participants, Sergeant Major of the Army, Kenneth O. Preston, Chief of Staff of the US Army, General George W. Casey, and Secretary of the Army, John M. McHugh commended and thanked the



L-R: Grant Ichikawa, Terry Shima and Myron Ellis present toast to the Commander in Chief at US Army Ball. (Juan R. Tricoche, US Army)

soldiers, civilians, families and veterans for their dedication and sacrifice to keep the nation strong.

U.S. Army birthday celebrations are held in military installations around the world including parades, military balls, presentations to students by military commanders, and commemorative running events.

The U.S. Army honored JAVA with a great compliment when, at the direc-

tion of the US Army Chief of Staff, the JAVA letter of appreciation to the U.S. Army was forwarded to all general officers because the "message highlights one of the key reasons the Army celebrates its birthday each year - to recognize the contributions and sacrifices of every generation of American Soldiers."

The JAVA letter said that "last evening's event speaks of the Greatness of America" and related that the thought going through the minds of the two Nisei veterans, while holding their glasses to toast the President, was that only 69 years ago Americans of Japanese ancestry were confined in internment camps and their participation in such a formal event was unimaginable. Yet, as the letter noted, they volunteered for combat to prove their loyalty, including "the 800 Nisei who were left on the battlefields of Italy and France during World War II comforted by the fact their sacrifice was not in vain."

## Highlights from the Department of the VA

**Claims Backlog Tops Shinseki's Long To-Do List.** As he enters his second year as head of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki is focused on reducing the disability claims backlog. "We are going to break the back of the backlog this year," Secretary Shinseki said during a recent news interview. He's counting on four pilot programs designed to identify and overcome obstacles that slow the claims process. One pilot program being tested in Baltimore is taking best practices from the others to create what Secretary Shinseki called the "virtual VA regional office of the future." Ultimately, he expects it to be a model for 57 VA regional offices nationwide.

**VA Medical Center Testing New Heart Attack Detection.** A diagnostic tool to detect heart attacks using a person's saliva is now being tested at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC) in Houston in collaboration with Baylor

College of Medicine (BCM) and researchers at Rice University's BioScience Research Collaborative (BRC). Researchers have developed a microchip sensor called the Nano-Bio-Chip that processes saliva and yields on-the-spot results. "The device works by analyzing saliva, looking for cardiac biomarkers of injury implicated in the heart attack," said Biykem Bozkurt, M.D., chief of cardiology at the MEDVAMC. Chest pain brings about 5 million patients to U.S. emergency rooms each year, but 80 percent of those patients are not suffering heart attacks. The new saliva test could save lives, time and money by allowing doctors to identify those suffering from a heart attack before administering a battery of costly tests. The Joint Commission, the accrediting body for all hospitals in the United States, was so impressed with the quality of clinical programs at the Charleston, SC, VA Medical Center during its recent survey that it sent surveyors' com-

ments praising the facility as "outstanding" to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The Charleston VA far surpassed the national average for direct impact findings during the Joint Commission survey conducted March 9-12 with just four findings for four different accreditation surveys for the hospital, its Long Term Care program, Behavior Health Care, and Home Care.

**SGLI Payments to Go Down.** Secretary Shinseki announced that military personnel insuring their families under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program, which is administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, will have reduced out-of-pocket expenses effective July 1, 2010, by an average of 8 percent. The revised monthly premium rates per \$10,000 of insurance, along with other information, are available on the Internet at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov).

## Eric Saul's exhibit at Ellis Island on Nisei wartime experience

ELLIS ISLAND, NY — Curator Eric Saul's exhibit entitled "GO FOR BROKE: Japanese American Soldiers fighting on Two Fronts," at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City, officially opened on August 8, 2010. Led by Master of Ceremonies George Takei of Star Trek, over 200 people, including Nisei WWII veterans, families, and friends listened to speakers who recognized the heroism of Nisei who fought in Europe and the Pacific. The exhibit closed in early September. JAVA assisted in the planning, execution and opening ceremony of this exhibit.

The exhibit, which featured rare photographs obtained from government sources and private collections, was dedicated to the memory of Mike M. Masaoka, 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran and civil rights activist, for advancing the status of persons of Asian ancestry, and to Chester Tanaka, 442nd RCT veteran, author, and historian, for publicizing the patriotism of the Nisei.

Takei recognized the heroism of the Nisei soldiers and described with passion his invitation to the White House in 2000 to witness the presentation of 22 Medals of Honor to Asian Pacific Americans, including 20 Nisei from the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT. National Park Service superintendent of Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty David Luchsinger cited the relevance of the Japanese Americans



Below: L-R: Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, keynote speaker, George Takei, Superintendent David Luchsinger, Eric Saul, Joanne Oppenheim, Floyd Mori. (Courtesy of Floyd Mori)

to Ellis Island, through which millions passed to reach their promised land. JAVA President Robert Nakamoto said the WWII Nisei veterans settled the question of loyalty and paved the way for future Japanese American generations to compete for prime positions and ranks. Author of *Dear Miss Breed* and *Stanley Hayami, Nisei Son; His Diary, Letters and Story from an American Concentration Camp to Battlefield, 1942-1945*, Joanne Oppenheim, discussed the Americanism of Japanese youths.

Japan's Consul General to New York, Ambassador Shinichi Nishimiya, discussed the importance of Japanese Americans. "They are a key to promoting mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the United States. And that is why the Japanese government considers our relations with Japanese American organizations and communities so crucial," Nishimiya said. Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) National Executive Director Floyd Mori discussed JACL and Masaoka's wartime and postwar roles to obtain maximum benefits for persons of Japanese ancestry. U.S. Air Force Major General Kelly McKeague, representative of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, discussed the role of the 100th BN in the Hawaii Territorial Guard. "This exhibit portrays not just proud snapshots of Japanese American history but it is a shining and enduring lesson to the world of what it means to be an American," McKeague said.

In a quiet moment of reflection after the program, Dr. Ray Murakami, a former Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JAVA member, observed: "This exhibit enhances JAVA's education program. Clearly, what is most significant is the exposure of the exhibit to tens of thousands of people many of whom are not aware of the Japanese American story."

### Thank You Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

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Due to space limitation, donors to the following will be recognized in future Advocates:

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# Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 103 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 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the US Army, 23 in the US Air Force, 17 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, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islands, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

## Brig Gen Joseph K. Kim



Brig. Gen. Joseph Kim is the Commander of the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard, Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The wing is one of the largest, most complex and diverse in the Air National Guard consisting of three flying units: F-22, KC-135R and C-17A, a fixed radar squadron and the full complement of Wing support squadrons; more than 1,900 personnel.

Units perform worldwide mobility and air refueling operations along with the 24-hour Air Sovereignty mission within the Hawaiian Islands along with supporting more than 450 personnel in geographically separated units.

Kim was commissioned from the United States Air Force Academy in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering mechanics, and earned a Master of Business Administration from City University, Bellevue, Washington, in 1990.

On active duty, he served as a T-38 Instructor Pilot, T-38 PIT Instructor Pilot, KC-135A Evaluator Instructor Aircraft Commander, Chief of KC-135 Standardization/Evaluation, and KC-135 A/R CCTS Instructor Pilot.

Kim joined the Hawaii Air National Guard in 1993. He served in various positions, commanding the 203 ARS, 154th Operations Group and serving as Vice Wing Commander before assuming his current position. He is a Command Pilot with more than 8,000 hours of flying time in the T-37, T-38 and KC-135.

Kim's awards include the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He has deployed in support of numerous contingencies including: Desert Shield, Deny Flight, Northern Watch, Kosovo, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Nearly a dozen of Brig. Gen. Kim's family have served in the military, including both his father and father-in-law, each having 25 years of service. When asked why he serves, Kim stated that he was taught by his father to always find a way to be of value to society, to give back.

Brig. Gen. Kim lives in Aiea Hawaii with his wife Kimberley and his three daughters.

## Brig Gen Michael D. Kim



Brig. Gen. Michael Kim is the mobilization assistant to the Director of Operations, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The directorate is responsible for developing policies and procedures for worldwide air operations and transportation functions assigned to the command. These include cargo and passenger movement, C4 support systems, training and standardization programs.

Brig. Gen. Kim entered the Air Force in 1982 through the ROTC program at the University of Maryland, College Park. He separated from active duty in 1997 and joined the Air Force Reserve without a break in service.

Kim received his bachelor's degree in law enforcement from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1982, when he entered on active duty. He received a master's degree in aviation management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1996. He also enrolled in the Air Command and Staff College by seminar and the Air War College by correspondence.

He previously served as the Vice Commander of 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, GA and served as the Deputy Director of Mobility Forces, Combined Air and Space Operations Center, Southwest Asia. He had four tours of duty in Rhein-Main Air Base and Ramstein Air Base Germany and served in USAF posts in Texas, Arkansas, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. A command pilot, he has logged more than 5,000 flying hours in military aircraft.

Kim's awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, and awards from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Asked why he chose the armed forces as his career choice, Kim said, "Simple, I wanted to serve my country, like my father, Command Sergeant Major Richard S. Kim, USA (Ret), who landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944 and also served in the Korean War. Also, I wanted to fly airplanes."

Brig. Gen. Kim and his wife, Kari, have three children, Baylor, Mia and Scout.

## JAVA awards scholarships to 6 elite HS graduates by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.

The third annual JAVA Memorial Scholarship competition culminated on May 15, 2010, with the naming of six high school graduates whom the Awards Committee had determined as its choices for receiving this year's awards, each for \$1,500.

The awardees include Jennifer De Rosa of Arlington, VA; Hisa Hashisaka of Honolulu, HI; Kyle Ichikawa of Fremont, CA; Christine Larson of San Jose, CA; Rachel Seeman of Portland, OR; and Sherilyn Tamagawa of Kaneohe, HI. Three awardees ranked first in their class out of schools with large graduating classes.

Calvin Ninomiya, chair of the JAVA scholarship program, explained that this year's contest attracted 31 applicants, an unusually large number of entrants, making the judging particularly difficult. Decisions were made on the basis of the total application, taking into account the contestant's GPA, class rank (where available), extracurricular activities, and his or her essay. Each entrant was asked to write what winning the JAVA scholarship would mean to that applicant.

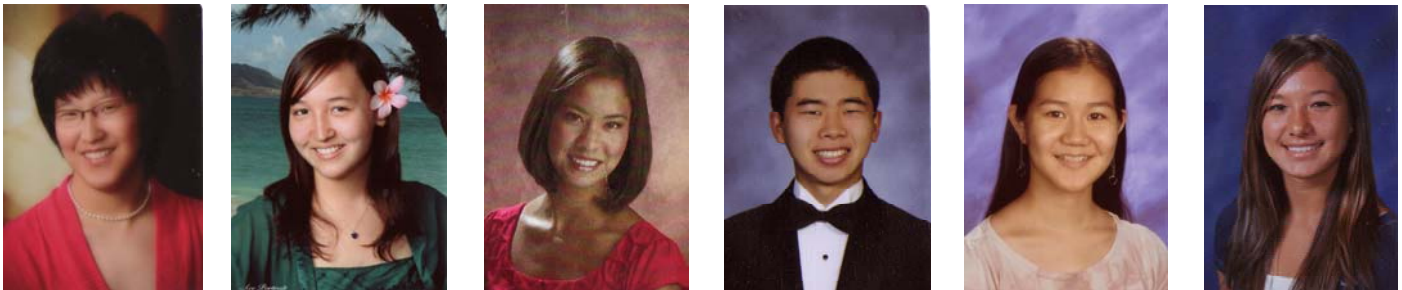
The announcement of the winners was made at a special luncheon held at the Harvest Moon restaurant, Falls Church, VA. Attending the program were family members of those in whose names the scholarships were established

including Mrs. Marie Tashiro, whose family established the Jack Tashiro scholarship; Mrs. Connie Ishio, who established two scholarships in the names of her son, Douglas, and her husband, Colonel Sunao Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret) and JAVA founder; and Mr. Victor Matsui and his daughter, Marcia, who, along with son, Martin, established a scholarship in the name of Mrs. Teru Kamikawa Matsui.

JAVA would like to also recognize those who established scholarships but were unable to attend the luncheon. Mrs. Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin provided a gift for a scholarship as well as a generous bequest to JAVA from her estate. This year, the Orville Shirey scholarship was renamed as the Major and Mrs. Orville Shirey scholarship to honor not only the individual in whose name the JAVA scholarship program was first established, but to include his wife, Maud, who died on May 3, 2010.

The Awards Committee members who determined the awards selection are Sue Okubo, Ph.D., Ray Murakami, DDS and Ed Wakayama, Ph.D.

For any inquiries concerning future JAVA scholarships awards, please contact Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., at (301) 652-8135 or via email at [calvinnino@aol.com](mailto:calvinnino@aol.com).



Above: Scholarship recipients (L-R): Jennifer De Rosa; Hisa Hashisaka, Rachel Seeman, Kyle Ichikawa, Sherilyn Tanagawa, Christine Larson.



### Veterans Day, November 11, 2009, breakfast at the White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last year JAVA was invited to the White House Veterans Day breakfast with President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama in the White House East Room.

Seated L-R: JAVA President Bob Nakamoto, Terry Shima, Christine Sato Yamazaki, Mrs. Matz. Standing L-R: President Obama, Unidentified, Unidentified, BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, Mrs. Obama, Virginia Copeland, VA; MG William Matz, USA (Ret), President NAUS; Mike Plumer, NAUS. (White House photo)



# TAPS

## JOE ICHIUJI, 522ND VETERAN AND COMMUNITY STALWART PASSES

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Joseph “Joe” Ichiuji, 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran and active community leader, passed away peacefully at his home in the Washington, DC suburbs, on July 3, 2010. He was 91.

Born in Salinas, California, of Japanese immigrant parents, Ichiuji was inducted into the U.S. Army in 1941, completed his basic training at Camp Roberts, California, and was assigned to the field artillery when World War II broke out. He was soon discharged because of his racial ancestry, returned home and was sent to the Poston, Arizona, internment center with his family. While interned, he volunteered for the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), serving in combat with Battery A, 552nd Field Artillery Battalion in Europe. Following the war, Ichiuji earned his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Business Administration and entered the federal service. He retired after 37 years of Federal Service, most of which was spent at the U.S. Agency for International Development. Following his retirement, he devoted his time to traveling the world with his wife and friends, playing golf and doing community work.

Although he enjoyed the leisure of retirement, he dedicated countless hours to his passion of supporting the causes of organizations such as JAVA, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the Go For Broke National Education Center, the National Japanese American Veterans Council, and the Agency for International Development Alumni Association.

Ichiuji made unique contributions to JAVA’s National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) project and Speakers Bureau. He helped coordinate the NARA project, an effort to electronically scan all relevant documents on the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The database will be maintained at the websites of JAVA and 442nd Hawaii. When completed, researchers will be able to access the database electronically from anywhere in the world.



Joe Ichiuji, February 1945 at Nice, France  
Before departing for northern France for the  
Invasion of Germany.

Ichiuji loved to speak of his war-time military experience especially to students, who Ichiuji felt should be briefed so they will readily know the right thing to do if the nation is “faced with another Pearl Harbor”. When asked what motivated him, Ichiuji said, “When the call came for volunteers for the 442nd RCT, I was among the first in my internment camp to volunteer. I did it to prove my loyalty and to hasten the day my family can leave camp.”

Ichiuji is survived by his wife of 62 years, Asako “Susie” Ichiuji, daughter Karen Ichiuji (Phil) Ramone, son Douglas (Melissa) Ichiuji, four siblings and numerous grandchildren.

A memorial service was held in July 2010, in Potomac, Maryland. Memorial contributions may be made to JAVA’s Joseph Ichiuji Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to JAVA, indicating “Joe Ichiuji Memorial Scholarship Fund” on the Memo line, and mail to Earl Takeguchi, 7201 White House Dr, Springfield, VA 22153.

(Photos from Ichiuji family)



Joe Ichiuji, May 30, 2004 at the Washington  
Mall during WW II Memorial Dedication



# From the Editor



Greetings from Camp Ramadi, Iraq! I have been preparing this edition in between my heavy workload of being the Brigade Judge Advocate and assisting the Iraqi criminal justice system establish the Rule of Law. I thank the JAVA leadership for being patient with me for putting together this issue, and thank you to JAVA member and new Assistant Editor Janelle Kuroda for greatly assisting me with this issue.

As I kept up with the JAVA activities from this side of the world, I sadly read of the passing of my dear personal friends Joe Ichiuji and Ranger Grant Hirabayashi (to be honored in a future Advocate issue). I regret that I could not see them one last time, but I am grateful that I had the honor of meeting them and being their friend. Each day that I serve this great nation, I thank Joe and Grant and all the Japanese American and Asian American veterans who served so honorably and selflessly; they have opened so many doors for those of us who currently serve.

—Kay Wakatake

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



Above: MAJ Kay Wakatake flying out of Fallujah in a Blackhawk helicopter.

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Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:  
 Bruce Hollywood, Membership Chair  
 38 Kinross Drive  
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## JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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Freedom Walk: Martin Herbert, Martyherb@aol.com,  
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Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery: Terry Shima (temp)

Memorial Day Parade: Martin Herbert (See above)

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## Welcome New Members

Andrew Beckwith (North Carolina)  
BG Joseph Carvalho, Jr. USA (Texas)  
John Fitzgerald (Alaska)  
Jun Kayama (California)  
George W. Liao (Maryland)  
Sam I. Mayeda (Colorado)  
Karl Punahale Motoyama (Virginia)  
Mark T. Nakagawa (Carol) (Virginia)  
Robert R. Omata (Hiroko) (Maryland)  
Jan "Micky" Scholte (Marie) (California)  
John Tobe (Washington, DC)  
Hiroshi Tsuboi (New York)

## Introducing little Chester Likeke Kernek-Moritsugu!



Above: Chester Likeke Kernek-Moritsugu, son of Erika Moritsugu and Brian Kernek, born on April 14, 2010. Photo from Erika Moritsugu.