



July 2013

Dear JAVA Members and Friends:

The Japanese American Veterans Association has adopted a new "Giving Back Program" to support veteran charities as a part of our out-reach efforts. In recent years, the American public has expressed its appreciation in many ways for the World War II Nisei soldiers' extraordinary performance to help win the war. We are truly grateful for the honors given to those veterans. In appreciation, JAVA wants to give back to veterans organizations that help veterans in need. JAVA's Executive Council has designated the Honor Flight Network to be the first recipient of our "Giving Back Program".

We have selected the Honor Flight Network because they transport WW II veterans to visit the National WW II Memorial in the Nation's capital at no cost to the veterans. Many veterans have admitted the opportunity to visit Washington, DC was beyond their reach. Many of you are Honor Flight volunteers so you are familiar with its mission. Eventually, Honor Flight will transition to bring veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and subsequent wars to Washington, DC.

The first Honor Flight took place in May 2005. As of November 2010, it had transported over 63,000 veterans to Washington, DC. Its website [<http://www.honorflight.org>] describes the thrill of the veterans when they step foot in their Memorial. The non-profit organization is headquartered in Springfield, Ohio and has 114 chapters across the United States.

In November 2011, Honor Flight helped to bring over 150 World War II Nisei veterans to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies held in Washington, DC. Our selection of Honor Flight, as the inaugural charity for JAVA's new initiative, is a way of expressing our appreciation for Honor Flight's help in making the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony a memorable experience for the Nisei veterans.

JAVA will give one hundred percent (100%) of donations received to Honor Flight. We ask for your financial support for this worthy cause. Your donation is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to "JAVA" and put "Honor Flight" on the memo line. Send your check to Mark Nakagawa, JAVA Treasurer, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. We will present our donation to the Honor Flight Network at JAVA's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC.

If you have any questions, please contact Gerald Yamada, 703-938-3074, [gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com](mailto:gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com); or Terry Shima, 301-987-6746, [ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net).

Sincerely,

Gerald Yamada  
JAVA President