



Japanese American Veterans Association

JAVA ADVOCATE

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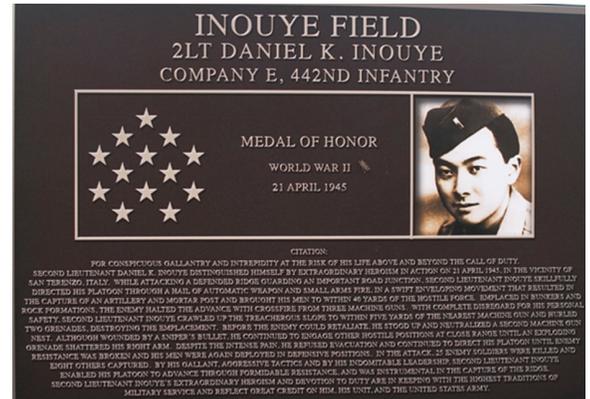
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Dedication of Inouye Parade Field at Fort Benning By Wade Ishimoto

On September 12, 2014, a tribute was paid to the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye at Fort Benning, Georgia. The large parade field adjacent to the National Infantry Museum was dedicated in Senator Inouye's name and a bronze plaque mounted on an obelisk was unveiled. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the graduation of two Infantry basic training companies and was presided over by Major General Scott Miller, Commander, US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence, Fort Benning, Georgia. During his remarks, MG Miller cast aside his written remarks and spoke from the heart. He extolled the basic training graduates to exhibit the same kind of perseverance, bravery, and sacrifice shown by Senator Inouye on the day he won the Medal of Honor and lost his arm during fierce action at San Terenzo, Italy.



Four current members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment, a reserve unit located in Hawaii, attended the ceremony. LTC Daniel Austin, the current Commander, Sgt. 1st Class Zachary Suehlsdorf, and Privates Peter Heaukulani and Derreck Tamanaha scattered sand obtained from San Terenzo on the parade field. MG Clarence Chinn, recently announced as the new Deputy Commander of the US Army Special Operations Command and a JAVA life member, also attended the ceremony.



With the Inouye Parade Field behind them, L-R: Wade Ishimoto, MG Scott Miller, two unidentified, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), and unidentified veterans who reside in the Fort Benning area.



With the Inouye Field in the background, 100th BN, 442nd Infantry representatives pose with MG Chinn (center). L-R are Private Peter Heaukulani, SFC Class Zachary Zuehlsdorf, MG Clarence Chinn, LTC Daniel Austin, and Private Derrick Tamanaha. Photo from Fort Benning Public Relations.

Thanks to the invitation from MG Miller, JAVA was represented by JAVA Vice President Wade Ishimoto and Secretary LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret). MG Miller is one of Ishimoto's protégés and LTC Goshi (Ret) has served with both MG Miller and MG Chinn in the past. Three unidentified non-commissioned officers from Hawaii who are retired in the Columbus, Georgia, area also attended. Ms. Elsie Jackson, a native of Hawaii, was the Media Relations Coordinator for the event and arranged for LTC Austin and Ishimoto to be interviewed by the local media after the ceremony.

President's Message



On November 11th of each year, JAVA sponsors its Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, DC. Although our program honors all veterans and those who are now serving our country, we must also remember the soldiers whose names are inscribed on the granite panels of the Memorial. They are the young soldiers who fought to defend our country, while their family and friends were unjustly imprisoned in America's concentration camps, and who died during World War II.

We can remember them by sharing their life stories so others may know them. One of the soldiers is Timothy Itsuo Mizokami. He was my wife Nancy's uncle. He was the son of Kumazo and Saki Mizokami. Born in Aromas, CA in 1919, he was the 7th of 10 siblings. He was inducted into the Army in 1941. After the war broke out, he was transferred to Camp Shelby, while his parents were sent to the Poston War Relocation Authority Camp and later to the Topaz War Relocation Authority Camp. Timothy served in the 442nd RCT, 3rd Battalion, Company M in Italy and France. He fought to help save the Lost Battalion in October 1944. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his service on October 30, 1944. He was in the regimental formation on November 12, 1944, when MG Dalhquist, Commanding General of the 36th Infantry Division, presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the members of the 442nd RCT. On the evening of November 13, the German army launched a mortar attack on Company M's command post. S/Sgt Mizokami was one of the two KIA in that attack for which his parents received a Purple Heart Medal. He is inurned in the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, CA.

I invite relatives of the soldiers whose names are inscribed on the Memorial's panels to share their life stories to keep them in our memories.

Gerald Yamada, Esq., JAVA President

JAVA Vice President Attends Admiral McRaven's Retirement Ceremony



Admiral William McRaven, his wife Georgeann, and JAVA VP Wade Ishimoto at McRaven's retirement ceremony on August 28, 2014, at the Tampa (Florida) Convention Center. ADM McRaven led the operation that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and retired as the head of the US Special Operations Command. He and Ishimoto have been friends for over 30 years. Photo from Wade Ishimoto.

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Welcome New Members!

CDR Rick Shigeru Matthew, USN

Lester Sakamoto (Friend of JAVA)

MSGT Leslie K. Sakai, USAF (Ret)

CDR Takashi Yamamoto, USN



Twenty Nagano Prefecture students, 10 from middle schools and 10 from high schools, visited New York City from July 27 to 30th and Washington DC from July 31 to August 2, 2014. Sponsored by the *Shinano Mainichi Newspaper*, the highlight of their NYC stop was the visit to the 9/11 Memorial Museum. In the nation's capital the highlights were the meeting with Congresswoman Dana Edwards from Maryland, the visit to Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum and the students said, was the presentation on July 31, 2014 by JAVA speakers, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima (center of group photo) at the National Press Club Conference Room arranged by Hideomi Kinoshita, Kyodo News Service Washington Bureau Chief.

JAVA Fundraiser to Support Fisher House by Wade Ishimoto

Washington, DC. In an initiative proposed in 2013 by Gerald Yamada, JAVA President, the JAVA Executive Council approved a program to support selected organizations that provide assistance to American military veterans and their families. The first organization recognized with a donation from JAVA was Honor Flight, which arranges tours of military memorials in the Washington, DC, area for veterans across the nation. Honor Flight also had assisted some of the Nisei veterans to attend the Congressional Gold Medal presentation in Washington, DC in November 2011.

For 2014, JAVA's Executive Council has decided to support the Fisher House organization. The Fisher House program was started in 1990. Currently, there are 64 donated Fisher Houses that are located on 23 military installations and 24 Veterans Administration Medical Centers. The houses are available without charge to families of currently serving military personnel and veterans that are hospitalized in a military or Veterans Administration hospital. Separate living quarters along with shared kitchens, dining areas, and living rooms, are provided free of cost.

Since 1990, the Fisher Houses has assisted approximately 220,000 families with 5.2 million days of lodging without charge. This effort has saved millions of dollars for the families of our hospitalized veterans and active duty military. The Fisher House organization is headquartered in Rockville, MD, and has the highest (Four Star) rating from the Charity Navigator that grades different charitable organizations. In its latest report, the Charity Navigator gave the Fisher House 69.62 out of 70 possible points. Very importantly, 94.7% of the monies the Fisher House raises go directly into programs supporting our veterans and military. Only 3.5 percent is spent on administrative costs and 1.7% on fund raising.

Wade Ishimoto, JAVA Vice-President, has had two personal dealings with the Fisher House in 2013. In one case, a close Vietnam veteran team mate of Ishimoto's suffered a major heart attack on the island of Hawaii and had to be transported to Tripler Army Medical Center on Oahu, an area where the cost of a hotel would have been prohibitive. His family was provided with lodging without charge by the Fisher House, allowing them to be with him during his last days. In the other case, Wade's niece who is an Air Force dependent was stricken by a severe form of leukemia that required her to be hospitalized at Walter Reed in Bethesda, MD, in a very serious condition. The Fisher House provided three months of lodging for her parents allowing them to be with her to comfort her and provide the support to overcome her illness. In great measure to the support her mother and father's presence provided, Wade's niece is now on her way to recovery.



Persons wishing to make a specific contribution to JAVA's consolidated effort to support the Fisher House on behalf of Japanese American veterans are asked to send a check to JAVA's Treasurer, Mark Nakagawa, at 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. Please indicate on the memo line that the donation is to support the Fisher House effort. JAVA will donate 100% of the contributions received to the Fisher House. All donations to JAVA are tax deductible.



LCDR Jason Yuki Osuga, USN, JAVA life member (second from right), was promoted to Lieutenant Commander onboard the USS BOXER on August 1st, 2014. The oath swearing was conducted by the ship's Commanding Officer, CAPT J. R. Brown. It was a beautiful San Diego day with family and friends in attendance from the local area as well as from Los Angeles. USS BOXER returned from an eight-month deployment in May. Photo from LCDR Osuga.



BG Garrett Yee, USA, Commanding General of 335th Signal Command, located in Kuwait, is responsible for military communications throughout southwest Asia. He wrote that the temperature in August hovered around 120 degrees. His duty required him to travel by "V-22 Osprey Marine aircraft (pictured behind BG Yee) that landed on the USS Bataan in the middle of the sea. An Osprey is a hybrid aircraft that can take off vertically like a helicopter then rotate its blades forward and fly like an airplane. BG Yee also received a message that his father, a war veteran, had passed away in a VA hospice. JAVA offers its condolences to BG Yee and his family. Photo from BG Yee.



Fisher House helping keep families together as soldiers heal at SAMMC

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) by Wade Ishimoto

[Editor's note: ISIS has emerged as another formidable threat to the security of the Middle East region. Ishimoto is a Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Department of Defense Joint Special Operations University with expertise in terrorism and insurgency].

ISIS gained increased attention in 2014 around the world because of its particularly bold actions in Iraq. In the space of a few weeks, ISIS forces were able to take control of several major population centers in Iraq and to pose a threat against the capital city of Baghdad. They overwhelmed Iraqi police and military forces through bold and well organized efforts against numerically superior forces. The media has spawned increased attention to ISIS in part because of the reporting of beheadings of journalists and mass executions of people inside Syria and Iraq.

ISIS also has been the most significant organization trying to topple the Assad government in Syria. Their current leader whose alias is Abu-Bakr al-Baghdadi is believed to have gained a Ph.D. from the University of Baghdad. He is a charismatic leader that has had the temerity to separate ISIS from the al-Qaeda movement which spawned its original growth. Ironically, he was a detainee of US forces in Iraq for at least six months in 2005 and may have been detained until 2009. Information showing exactly how long he was detained appears to be lacking. The irony is that regardless of how long he was incarcerated, he was willingly released by authorities.

There are significant differences between ISIS and other Islamic extremist movements. The first difference is that they have a competent military capability that is well-equipped to include the ability to use artillery and tanks that they have captured. There is great disparity among different sources concerning their military strength that ranges from 8,000 to over 30,000 in both Syria and Iraq.

A second major difference is that ISIS has actually instituted governmental structures in different areas that they control. They operate under a repressive interpretation of Sharia law and do not hesitate to use violence to enforce their desires. Their goal is to establish a caliphate that is not limited to Syria and Iraq. A third difference is that they are very well-funded. They use a variety of fund-raising strategies ranging from "charitable" donations (a very small percent of their revenue, but important to building a following) to selling oil from facilities they have captured and control inside Syria. There are estimates that they may have more than \$2 Billion in their treasury.

A fourth major difference is that ISIS very skillfully uses information to further their goals. Their use of the internet, social networking, and propaganda is unparalleled in comparison to other terrorist and insurgent groups around the world. That has helped ISIS gain a large number of followers and fighters from different countries of the world.

In reality, their use of information is their most powerful tool and one that is the hardest to combat. Although difficult, it is both possible and conceivable to confront ISIS on the battlefield and to build better government in Syria and Iraq to counter ISIS. However, until the ISIS informational campaign can be countered, they will continue to pose a threat to America and the world. A counter-information campaign must be aimed at the source of ISIS support, namely Islamic extremists and their converts. Accordingly, counter messages are best delivered by those of the Muslim faith that can point to ISIS brutality, the fact that they have killed more Muslims than Westerners or those of other faiths, and that their interpretation of the Quran is a radical one that is not supported by the vast majority of Muslims throughout the world.



President Obama selects Japanese American Major General to build a Force to fight Rebels

By Wade Ishimoto

In mid-September 2014, an announcement was made giving Major General Mike Nagata new responsibilities to train a Syrian rebel army to fight the Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) that is also known as ISIS. These responsibilities are in addition to the load he already carries as the head of the Special Operations Command Central where he oversees all special operations in the entire United States Central Command's Area of Responsibility. Candidly, there are many observers who question whether this plan can succeed. Regardless, these same observers have almost unanimously expressed their high regard for Mike Nagata's capability as a strategist, tactician, and planner. When the chips are down, you call on your best. Army Commanders did in World War II in Italy and France when they ordered the Nisei to execute the toughest of tough assignments. Mike



Photo by Horace Murray

Nagata is as good as we have. There is no doubt that if anyone can succeed in this tough task, it will be Mike Nagata.

Over the many years that I've known Mike Nagata, I've seen him perplexed on only one occasion. As a Colonel, he was the Military Advisor to the Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence (Lt. Gen. William Boykin). On a trip to Korea, Lt. Gen. Boykin's luggage was lost but Mike's bag along with that of Colonel Sue Hugler showed up. Boykin (tongue in cheek) chided Mike and Sue for not taking care of him. Mike was speechless. As I chided Mike later, I told him that he should have offered his uniform to Lt. Gen. Boykin or that of Colonel Hugler ... and then advised Boykin that he would look ridiculous wearing pants that only came to his calves or look even worse wearing Colonel Hugler's skirt! Well, Mike has been in many more sticky situations since that time and has always redeemed himself in an outstanding manner.

Mike Nagata is the right man for a tough job. As they say in Hawai'i, *malama pono* Mike!

Japan Imperial Navy Z Plan: Most Important Intelligence Acquisition in Southwest Pacific During WW II—Two Nisei Served on Translation Team

“Our biggest break came not from our reconnaissance flights or enemy radio transmissions, but from another batch of captured documents.” said Rear Admiral (RADM) Edwin T. Layton, Commander in Chief Pacific (CINCPAC) Intelligence Chief. Dr. Greg Bradsher, senior archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration called it, “One of the greatest single intelligence feats of the war in the southwest Pacific area.” Both Layton and Bradsher were referring to the acquisition and use of the Japanese Imperial Navy Z Plan – a Top Secret master plan to defeat the US Navy. This is an incredible story of how this document came into US hands and was used by US naval commanders in the battle of the Philippines Sea.

Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander in Chief of Japan’s Pacific Fleet, viewed the seas around the Marianas as the last line of defense to protect the Japanese homeland. America’s goal was to gain control of this area from which bombers could make nonstop bombing missions over Japan and return. Koga wrote a master plan called the Z Plan, which contained the Japanese strategy, number and kinds of vessels, number and kinds of aircraft, fuel supply, land base support and other resources for this engagement.



The USS Crevalle. Copied from Internet.

When the US began attacking Koga’s naval headquarters in Palau, Koga and his Chief of Staff, Vice Admiral Shigeru Fukudome, decided to relocate and left in two separate four engine Kawanishi HSK2 flying boats bound for southern Philippines. Fukudome was entrusted to carry the Z Plan. Both flights encountered a vicious tropical storm over the Philippines where Koga’s plane vanished and Fukudome’s plane ditched in the water about two miles from Cebu City. Eleven survivors, including Fukudome, were rescued by Filipino fishermen the following morning, April 1, 1944, and turned over to Filipino guerillas. After eight days of walking, Fukudome and the other survivors were turned over to the American contingent under the command of Lieutenant Colonel James Cushing.

The Filipino fishermen had also retrieved a wooden box containing a bound document in a red leather portfolio with a Z on the cover which they gave to the Filipino guerrillas for delivery to Cushing. Meanwhile, the Japanese army and navy were making an aggressive effort to find and rescue the survivors, including killing of civilians and the burning of villages. Cushing decided to release the survivors to the Japanese invaders in return for a promise to stop the carnage. The Japanese did not mention documents, therefore only the survivors were turned over. Fukudome returned to Tokyo not knowing that Cushing also had taken possession of his copy of the Z Plan.

General Douglas MacArthur’s headquarters at Brisbane, Australia ordered a clandestine submarine pick-up of the Z Plan on May 11, 1944. After transport by submarine and plane, the document arrived in Brisbane. Following its translation by a five-person US Military Intelligence Service (MIS) team that included Nisei Yoshikazu Yamada and George Yamashiro, the Z Plan was delivered to CINCPAC headquarters. After subsequent translation to include US Navy terminology, Admiral Chester Nimitz ordered its delivery to naval commanders meeting at Eniwetok on June 8, 1944. It was delivered to Admiral Raymond A. Spruance as he was preparing to move his 5th Fleet for the Saipan area, to Admiral William Halsey’s Third Fleet staff, and to Vice Admiral Marc A. Mitscher’s flagship Lexington.

Admiral Soemu Toyoda, successor to Koga, used the compromised Z Plan with only minor changes to prepare his *Sho Go* Plan to destroy the US Navy in a final effort involving almost all of the remaining Japanese air and naval strength. The battle of the Philippine Sea occurred on June 19 – 20, 1944. The Japanese mounted a decoy to lure Admiral Spruance to a chase. However, Spruance, who had read the Z Plan, did not take the bait. The Americans rendered the Japanese navy and air force impotent for future engagements.

The acquisition of the Z Plan was achieved because a number of elements came together: (1) it was picked up by patriotic Filipino villagers who sensed the importance of the documents, (2) there was effective Filipino guerrilla coordination with the American stay-behind contingent, (3) the successful clandestine submarine rendezvous and eight-day submarine trip to Australia despite experiencing depth charges, (4) the skills and professionalism of the five MIS translators in Brisbane, (5) the timely delivery of the Z Plan to the naval commanders before the launch of the Philippine Sea invasion, and (6) a little luck.

Editor’s Note: Please visit the www.javadc.org for the entire story and a 20 page timeline of events compiled by the JAVA Research Team

Dr. Seiya Ohata recalls his Combat Medic Duties in Operation Overlord: Normandy and Battle of the Bulge

By Former Captain Seiya Ohata, Army Medical Corps



LT Seiya Ohata (L) and Hiroshi “Harold” Ohata, a younger brother who served in the Occupation of Germany. Another younger brother, Dr. Yasushi “Roy” Ohata, served in the Korean War in the Dental Corps.

Editor’s Note: First Lieutenant Seiya Ohata is the only Japanese American who is known to have served in Operation Overlord: the D-Day Invasion of the European continent that began on June 6, 1944. The following is a condensed version of Dr. Ohata’s wartime story. Please go to www.javadc.org for his full report, including his father’s detention, involuntary repatriation to Japan, and the government’s efforts to confiscate the family’s property.

When the war started on Dec 7, 1941, I was a senior medical student. Those were very tough times. I was thoroughly investigated by the FBI because of the status of my father, a physician and a leader in the Japanese community on Maui. When World War II broke out, he was immediately detained and all of his assets were frozen. I needed financial aid desperately, so I went to the army recruiting office to enlist. I was rejected repeatedly but was accepted in March 1943, when I received my medical degree and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. Following training and duty at various camps, I was assigned to the 165th field hospital, Camp Grant, Illinois, for deployment to Europe. We left New Jersey in the spring of 1944 -- the convoy zigged-zagged their way through Northern Atlantic to avoid the German U-boats. Finally, in about two weeks we arrived in England. D-Day started on June 6th when General Eisenhower unleashed the mightiest onslaught imaginable and the allies invaded Normandy. We waited and when the allies established a beach-head, we were ordered to proceed. I think it was around midnight on June 7th when our landing craft brought us to the shores of Omaha Beach in Normandy. The tide was low and the landing craft could go only so much--we had about 50 yards to go--it seemed like a mile. We had to wade in. My comrades were six footers--the water came up to their knees so it was not a problem, but being only five foot, the water came up to my waist! I had to carry my backpack over my head—it was very difficult. We finally arrived in the wee hours on June 8th.

The Army Corps of Engineers did a superb job of setting up the tents and building our field hospital in the outskirts of Cherbourg in Normandy. It was a heart wrenching site to see the severe destruction of the area. I remember the little village of Saint Lo--it was totally demolished--not one building was standing. The casualties were high and we worked caring for the wounded. Then came the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle was fierce – the casualties high. In early spring of 1945, I received orders to be transferred to Collecting Company B, a

medical unit attached to 286th Infantry Regiment, 97th Infantry Division (of) Patton’s 3rd Army. We were on the outskirts of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, awaiting orders to attack. Instead, we received orders to cease fire! The war was over!

JAVA Quarterly Luncheon Includes Announcement of Scholarship Winners, Congratulations

Falls Church, VA. The JAVA Quarterly Lunch on July 12, 2014, held at the Harvest Moon Restaurant at Falls Church, VA, which was attended by Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, President of the US-Japan Council, and Brigadier General Creighton Abrams, Jr., US Army (Ret), Executive Director of the Army Historical Foundation, featured the annual scholarship awards ceremony, the presentation of Service Pin for exceptional service to Dr. Sue Okubo, and remarks by the honored guests and JAVA President Gerald Yamada. Okubo was honored for her roles in the Scholarship Committee and the Oral History Project. Wade Ishimoto, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, announced the names of the scholarships and the winners as follows:

US Senator Daniel K. Inouye Scholarship:
Matthew Mah, San Francisco, CA.
California School of Podiatric Medicine

JAVA Founder's Scholarship (Phil and Douglas Ishio):
Kellie Iwasaki. Hilo, HI.
University of Hawaii, Manoa

Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship:
Liesl Jaeger, Broadlands, VA.
Brown University

Joseph Ichiuji Scholarship:
Reyna Fa-Kaji, Berkeley, CA.
Tulane University

Mitsugi Kasai Scholarship:
Hayley Watanabe, Fountain Valley, CA.
Biola University

Teru and Victor Matsui Scholarship:
Melissa Ikeda, Vienna, VA.
UCLA

Betty Shima Scholarship:
Rebecca Grace, Captain Cook, HI.
University of Wyoming

Orville Shirey Scholarship:
William Nakamoto, Burns, TN,
Tennessee Tech University

Kiyoko Taubkin Scholarship:
Rose Yasukochi, Seattle, WA.
Occidental College



Matthew Mah



Reyna Fa-Kaji



Kelli Iwasaki



Hayley Watanabe



Liesl Jaeger



Melissa Ikeda



Rebecca Grace



William Nakamoto



Rose Yasukochi

Ishimoto narrated a slide show prepared by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Yaguchi, US Air Force (Ret), featuring the nine winners along with a short excerpt from their respective essays. Yamada congratulated the scholarship winners and thanked the scholarship sponsors and scholarship committee. He introduced new members of the JAVA Executive Committee as Captain (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, US Navy (Ret), Lieutenant Colonel Brett Egusa, USAR, and Lieutenant Colonel Rodney Azama, USA (Ret); Bill Houston, Esq., as Acting General Counsel; Mr. Tom Phan and Dr. Jill Phan as co-editors of the quarterly Advocate; and Mr. Terry Shima as Chair of the Awards Committee.

Yamada said the US Army is building a new national museum to preserve the 500 year history of the Army but needs help with raising funds. In appreciation of the Army's recognition of the loyalty of Japanese American soldiers during World War II, Yamada presented a JAVA check in the amount of \$20,000 to General Abrams, for the museum building fund. "This donation is given by VA in honor of the Nisei Soldiers who served during World War II in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service. Last year, JAVA donated \$5,000 for the same purpose. These two donations are expected to have JAVA, the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), and Military Intelligence Service (MIS) placed on the Museum's donor wall when it is completed," Yamada said. Yamada invited the 100th, 442nd and MIS members and families to donate artifacts which will be displayed in the Museum's permanent exhibit. "Display space at the Museum will be very competitive. This is a short window of opportunity to secure a permanent exhibit for the Nisei soldiers," Yamada said. A helmet or helmet liner with the Red Bull painted on its side is reportedly an item in high demand. Donors are asked to please contact Yamada directly by email or phone (cyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com; 703-938-3074).

Yamada commended Dr. Ray Murakami, immediate past chair of the Scholarship Committee, for establishing the Senator Daniel Inouye Memorial Scholarship and thanked Ms. Irene



Dr. Ray Murakami, Irene Hirano Inouye, and Gerald Yamada. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.



Wade Ishimoto and BG Creighton Abrams, USA Ret. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.

Hirano Inouye for her efforts in launching this award. Yamada noted that Ms. Inouye was the first President and Executive Director of the Japanese American National Museum. She nurtured the Museum from a mere idea to the building of the modern structure that is the centerpiece of Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. She is currently the President of the US-Japan Council, which is focused on strengthening relationships between the United States and Japan and with which JAVA is a partner. Senator Inouye was Honorary Chair of JAVA since its inception in 1993. Ms. Inouye, in her response, congratulated the scholarship winners and thanked all JAVA members and families across America for this recognition and discussed the challenges and potential rewards that lie ahead in US-Japan relations. She then mingled freely with JAVA members and guests much to their delight.

442nd Members and Lost Battalion Officer Reunion when 442nd Returned for Presidential Review

Editor's Note. The following was excerpted from the War Department Public Relations Office, interview of Major Claude D. Roscoe, a member of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th Division, which was rescued by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the Vosges forests, located in northeastern France, near the German border. MAJ Roscoe's remarks, one day before the Presidential review of the 442nd, reflect the elation of the trapped soldiers at being saved from possible death.

When the 442nd Regimental Combat Team arrived at Fort Belvoir on July 13, 1946 for the review by President Harry Truman, Major Claude D. Roscoe, a member of the trapped Texas battalion, which was rescued on October 30, 1946 in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, was in the welcoming committee. Shortly after the conclusion of the ceremony, Roscoe was clustered with four 442nd veterans, who helped save the Texas battalion, in a joyous reunion. Roscoe said the mission of the 36th Division was to defeat the Germans in the Vosges forests, where they had built a fortress, to prevent the invasion of German homeland. The morning of October 21, 1944 some 600 men of the 1st Battalion of the 141st Regiment set out to secure a strategic ridge near Biffontaine. After all day of fighting the enemy broke through and split the battalion in two and trapped about 400 Texans. [Following his capture, the commander of the German forces revealed that when that event was reported to Hitler he ordered to "kill them all, take no prisoners." Units of the 141st Regiment attempted to free the trapped men for two days and when they failed, the 442nd was ordered on October 26 to save them.]

Roscoe said the situation in the trapped group was precarious with repeated attacks by the overwhelming and unrelenting enemy force, the increasing number of casualties, and the aborted air drops of rations, ammo and medical supplies, due to bad weather. At the end of 5 and ½ days about 100-150 trapped men, who repelled the repeated attacks, were killed, captured or wounded. Roscoe said when the 442 reached the trapped unit in late afternoon of October 30, "there were only about 200 tired, hungry, cold Texans and in all probability would not have lasted another 36 hours. "Just before dark on April 30th we heard firing in the area to our rear and could tell that the fighting was coming closer and closer to our closed-in position. Just after dark we could see troops moving up the hills



On July 13, 1946 MAJ Claude D. Roscoe, a member of the trapped Texas Battalion who was assigned to Fort Belvoir met with 442nd members who participated in the rescue effort. Roscoe is clapping the hand of Tech Sgt Hiroshi Fujita, Sanger, CA and puts his left hand on the shoulder of Tech Sgt Mitsugi Tagawa, Chicago, IL. 1st Lt Thomas Kobayashi (left) the 442nd RCT Adjutant, and LTC Alfred Pursall, Crystal City, MO, 442nd Commanding Officer (right) also greeted MAJ Roscoe. Photo by Pvt Ozaki, Fort Belvoir.

to our positions. As it was getting dark it was difficult to distinguish the troops from Americans to Germans. Then they saw men in American uniforms. When I learned that the men coming towards us were members of the 442nd I immediately notified all members of my command. At this point all who were able to stand on their feet ran down the hill to meet the members of the 442nd. One of the first questions asked by the members of the 442nd was 'how about a cigarette'. We had gone without cigarette for four days. We were overjoyed to see the Nisei for we knew them as the best fighting men in the European theater of operations".

"Later we received information what the 442nd experienced to save us. Many combat instances may be forgotten but in the memories of the members of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry the 442nd will never be forgotten. To show our deepest appreciation to our saviors, the surviving members of the 1st Battalion pitched in some money and presented to the 442nd a medium size walnut plaque on which it expressed to the members of the 442 our feelings towards them. If I can remember, it states '... with deep sincerity and utmost appreciation for the gallant fight to effect our rescue after we had been isolated for seven days ...'

"The first man I met of the 442 was Tech Sgt Takeo Senzaki of Los Angeles, CA. We all had tears in our eyes and were darn glad to see the Japanese American men. Our emotions were so pinned up that we would not speak for 10-15 minutes. Our feelings for such an epic rescue from the jaws of death was difficult to describe at that time. When fighting men get together especially from the First Battalion of the 141st they always speak with pride of the deepest feeling of appreciation towards the Nisei."

Major Roscoe won two silver star medals, the 3rd highest award for valor, and two Purple heart Medals for wounds sustained in combat.

JAVA Speaks to US Japan Youth Exchange Program

Mary Murakami and Terry Shima of the JAVA Speakers Bureau discuss the Nikkei WW II experiences with the 2014 TOMODACHI U.S. Japan Youth Exchange Program (TUS-JYEP) on July 23, 2014 at 1828 L St, NW in Washington, DC. According to Sally Schwartz, a TUS-JYEP staff person, this is the second year of the TUS-JYEP two-way exchange which promotes mutual respect and understanding among Japanese and American high school students by focusing on cultural awareness, civic engagement, social entrepreneurship, and community service. Each year six students from Keio Shonan Fujisawa High School and six students from DC public schools are selected through a competitive process to participate in the program. The two-way exchange begins when the Japanese students and their chaperone travel to Washington, DC for a 2-1/2 week summer program, which includes home stays and an intensive schedule of educational activities with their DC counterparts. In November, the DC students and chaperone travel to Japan for the second part of the exchange – also 2-1/2 weeks of educational programs and homestays with their Keio buddies. An important focus of the Japan program is a visit to the Tohoku region, where the DC students learn about the impact of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Upon their return to WDC, they will develop their own social action project to share what they have learned in the Tohoku region with their peers and the Washington, DC community. The gentleman sitting at the far end of the table is Satoshi Sugiyama, teacher from Keio Shonan Fujisawa High School who accompanied the students. The woman to his left is Lauren Makaleev, a staff person from American Councils. Photo from Sally Schwartz.



JAVA Presents Painting to Charlotte Hall Veterans Home



On September 17, 2014, Director Sharon Mattia of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home invited JAVA Speakers Bureau to discuss the Japanese American story during WW II with veterans and staff members of the Veterans Home. A presentation was made by Mary Murakami and Terry Shima which was followed by LTC Allen Goshi and former Air Force CAPT Miyako Tanabe presenting a copy of Charles McBarron's painting of the 442nd engagement in combat to rescue the trapped battalion of the 1st battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division. The US Army reportedly commissioned Charles McBarron, dean of military historians, to paint 20 of the fiercely fought battles in the history of the US Army. He selected this battle scene of the 442nd RCT attempting to save the trapped 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, October 26 – 30, 1944.

On November 2, 2011 former Secretary of Veterans Affairs told the 100th, 442nd, MIS veterans and their families, who gathered in Washington, DC to celebrate the award to them of the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest civilian awards our nation can bestow, "In my office at the Department of Veterans Affairs, hangs H. Charles McBarron's famous painting of 100th and 442nd Soldiers rescuing 'The Lost Battalion'... I keep that painting in a prominent place in my office because it reminds me that brave men sacrificed to give me opportunities I might otherwise never have had, choices about how I might live my life, able to choose my life's work, to compete fully without any cloud of suspicion or concern about loyalty, and to enjoy fully the privileges of my citizenship—never to be taken for granted".



A souvenir photo was taken after the event. Left to right: Maryland Veterans Home Commissioner Terry Shima, Mary Murakami, Veteran George Schroyer, veteran Elizabeth Wallace (seated), Veteran John Sica, Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ed Chow, Jr., MVHC Chairman BG Warner I. Sumpster, USA (Ret), Former USAF CAPT Miyako Tanabe, Commissioner MG Andrew H. Anderson, USA (Ret), Director Sharon Mattia, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret). Photo by Melissa S. Canada.

US Solicitor General Withheld Key Internment Information from Supreme Court; Former Acting Solicitor General Disclosed Details at Veterans Day Program

Neal Katyal, former Acting Solicitor General who is currently the Paul and Patricia Saunders Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, discussed Solicitor General Charles Fahy's concealment of evidence that persons of Japanese ancestry did not constitute a security threat and that internment was a war necessity.



As Acting Solicitor General of the United States, Katyal wrote on the DOJ Blog in 2011 that then Solicitor General Fahy withheld in briefs and oral arguments before the Supreme Court in the Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu cases that the exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast was a military necessity. The critical issue in both cases was whether the exclusion was motivated by military necessity or prejudice. From 2010 to 2011, Prof. Katyal served as Acting Solicitor General of the United States.

Katyal also spoke about the Solicitor General's duty to correct mistakes. In the Hirabayashi case, a subordinate Justice Department attorney recommended the Hirabayashi case be dismissed in view of the Ringle Report, an Office of Naval Investigation report, dated January 29, 1942, which reported that mass internment was not needed. Then Solicitor General Fahy overruled this attorney and submitted a brief that argued mass internment was a war necessity. Katyal also discussed the Korematsu case, which tested whether or not the exclusion of Japanese Americans from the west coast was constitutional.

In 1984 a Federal district judge in San Francisco granted Korematsu's petition to vacate his conviction based on the Ringle Report. The court found the government had not released critical information possessed by the US government. In 1987 the 9th Circuit Court ruled in favor of Hirabayashi's petition for similar reasons.

Katyal was one of the youngest professors at the Georgetown Law Center to receive tenure and a chaired professorship. He was also Director of Georgetown Center of National Security and the Law until his appointment as Principal Deputy Solicitor General at the Justice Department. A graduate of Yale (1995) and Dartmouth (1991), he also served as visiting professor at Harvard and Yale. He argued several major Supreme Court Cases on a variety of issues. The Solicitor General of the United States is the responsible officer of the Federal Government in all appellate matters before the US Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals throughout the US. Katyal is recipient of the highest award given to a civilian by the US Department of Justice, the Edmund Randolph Award.

The Annual Veterans Day Program is sponsored by the Japanese American Veterans Association. It is co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.



Front row L-R: Gerald Yamada, Secretary Mineta, Minister Mizukoshi, Glen Fukushima, Mary Murakami; Back row L-R: John Tobe, Terry Shima, Dr. Ray Murakami, Floyd Mori, Dr. McNaughton, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret)

Mizukoshi Completes Washington Assignment and Returns to Home

Washington, DC. Scheduled speakers and unscheduled speakers paid high tribute to Minister Hideaki Mizukoshi, Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Japan, for reaching out to the Japanese American community in America and for building durable US – Japan relations. Speakers at a July 7, 2014 farewell luncheon included former Secretary Norman Mineta who highlighted the Minister's accomplishments and who thanked him on behalf of the Japanese American community. JAVA President Gerald Yamada capped these remarks by presenting Mizukoshi with a JAVA "book clock" which contained the following inscription on a brass plate: "For your outreach efforts and steadfast contributions to building stronger US-Japan relations." In addition, Yamada presented Mizukoshi with a JAVA souvenir coin which was inscribed with Mizukoshi's name and "appreciation".

Takeshi Ishihara Honored by JAVA

Takeshi Ishihara, 1st Secretary, Embassy of Japan (seated, second from right) was honored at a farewell lunch on September 26, 2014 at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia. Ishihara left Washington, DC in October 2014 for his next post in Ankara, Turkey. President Gerald Yamada (standing, second from right) recognized Ishihara for facilitating the effective partnership JAVA enjoys with the Embassy. Attendees included seated, L-R: Aki Konoshima, Lida Konoshima, Ishihara, former Army Captain Miyako Tanabe; standing, L-R: Terry Shima, CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret); Minister Tamaki Tsukada; Yamada, 1st Secretary Mitsuhiro Iyoda, Ishihara's successor. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.



At his farewell luncheon at China Garden Restaurant on September 26, 2014, 1st Secretary Takeshi Ishihara (center), received from JAVA President Gerald Yamada (right) an inscribed souvenir clock and an inscribed JAVA souvenir coin. On the left is Terry Shima.

Mizukoshi said he was deeply moved and honored by this gesture of goodwill. Saying that his remarks reflect the views of Ambassadors and other senior officials who have served in Washington, his readings and discussions with the Nikkei population across the land have given him a deep understanding about the discrimination, sacrifices and performance of the Nikkei on the home front and war front, their life in internment camps, the redress movement, and their contribution to their nation during the post WW II era. He is deeply committed to the task of building a firm Japan and Nikkei relationship and will do his utmost to work on that goal.

The location for the luncheon, the General Pershing Room in the historical Army Navy Club, had significance for this event. Yamada noted that the father of JAVA Vice President Wade Ishimoto's uncle served as a driver to General Pershing during WW I. Dr. James McNaughton, chief of the Histories Division at the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH), presented a signed copy of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* to Mizukoshi. McNaughton said that General Pershing, who led the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I, as a young captain had served as assistant military attaché in Tokyo in 1905 and as an observer in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War. Pershing came away from that experience with a high respect for Japan.

Minister Mizukoshi is a graduate of the University of Tokyo. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Foreign Service Officer and has served in France, South Korea and the United States.



Gerald Yamada presents JAVA "Book Clock" to Minister Mizukoshi.

442nd Chaplain Celebrates 100th Birthday

Claremont, California. Joined by family and friends, Reverend George AKI, last surviving chaplain to serve in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, both segregated Nisei units during WW II, celebrated his 100th birthday on September 13, 2014, at Pilgrim Place, a community for retired Christian clergy,

Aki was born in Livingston, California on September 11, 1914, raised in Fresno, and along with his wife, Misaki, were detained with eight thousand ethnic Japanese at the Tanforan Race Track Assembly Center in San Bruno, California. This occurred days before he was to graduate from the Pacific College of Religion. A friend obtained the diploma and George was ordained in the Tanforan Race Track dining hall.

In January 1943, Reverend and Mrs. Aki transferred to the internment camp at Jerome, Arkansas, where his parents were detained and where he met Chaplain Masao Yamada of the 442nd RCT. As the result of discussion with Chaplain Yamada, Reverend Aki decided to join the 442nd. Aki felt that if Nisei from the internment camps were willing to go to combat to prove their loyalty, he felt it was his duty to join them. According to Reverend Aki's biography on the internet, Aki's decision in 1943 to become a chaplain in the 442nd RCT was met with anger by some of his fellow internees at the Jerome Internment Center in Arkansas. Some even called him a "traitor". Feelings against enlistment in the Army ran high at Jerome. Only 31 of Jerome's eligible young men volunteered for the 442nd.

Following his completion of the Chaplains school at Harvard University, Aki joined the 442nd. While Chaplains Higuchi and Yamada were deployed to Italy with the 442nd, Chaplain Aki remained at Camp Shelby, where replacements for the 442nd were being trained. Chaplain Aki joined the 442nd in the Maritime Alps, France, campaign in November 1944 and saw combat in the Po Valley, Italy, campaign. He replaced Chaplain Israel Yost, who was deployed with the original 100th Battalion. In 1946 Chaplain Aki was discharged with the rank of Major. He returned to Fresno, then moved to Chicago, and in 1960 returned to southern California. Following his retirement in 1981 Reverend Aki lived in Japan for one year, following which he returned and settled in Pilgrim Place.

Military chaplains are an important part of any military unit, but even more so during wartime. The chaplain serves as a friend and spiritual guide, regardless of rank, and as the conscience of the organization. Their work begins to take an emotional toll when they must confront the death of young lives, especially, on an almost daily basis — helping to retrieve the bodies of fallen soldiers, identifying the dead and writing letters of condolences to the families of soldiers lost in battle.



Reverend George Aki (center), Jim Yamashita, Nisei WWII historian and 442nd veteran (L) and Mits Kunihiro (R) at Pilgrim Place in December 2012. Rafu Shimpō photo.

Colonel Viet Xuan Luong Promoted to Flag Rank; First Vietnamese American General



Brigadier General Luong

Fort Hood, Texas. Just before the star of Army Brigadier General was pinned on his uniform in a ceremony on August 6, 2014, at Fort Hood, Texas, Colonel Viet Xuan Luong, the 1st Cavalry Division's Deputy Commander for Maneuver, remarked to the Army Times, "It's a personal honor for me to be promoted to the rank of general officer, but I don't want the promotion to be too much about me. It's a tribute to my soldiers and [noncommissioned officers], the folks who've worked to get me where I am." The program, attended by Luong's family, was officiated by Lieutenant General Mark Milley, Commanding General of the III Corps.

Brigadier General Luong, a political refugee who came to America in 1975 at the age of nine, is the first Vietnamese American to achieve flag rank and becomes the 117th Asian Pacific American promoted to this status. Luong and his family which included eight siblings left their home in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) on April 29, 1975, one day before the city fell.

Luong also told the Army Times that "he is grateful for the opportunities granted to him as a U.S. citizen. ... It's a testament to what this nation stands for, and her ideals, and the opportunities my family has gotten". ... The family's experience has made him and his sisters "very patriotic. ... As a transplanted American, or an immigrant coming from a different country, there's no sense of entitlement as far as earning that citizenship, and working hard to contribute to our nation. ... There's a sense of service, for me, to be able to give back to

our nation for all the opportunities it's given us, saving us from harm's way, but also the opportunity to assimilate and move up through education."

The major portion of his 27 years of service has been in command of troops both within the United States and overseas. "Those were the most challenging times for me," he said. "I've lost so many soldiers, and that has always been part of what the future has in store for me, in trying to really get people to understand that freedom comes at a pretty high price. For us who've lost troops in combat, it's very personal," he told the Army Times.

Following his graduation from University of Southern California, Luong said he aspired to join the military as his career choice largely due to the influence of his role model and father, a South Vietnamese Marine Major. Asked by a reporter of the Japanese American Veterans Association why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, General Luong replied, "I've chosen to serve to follow the footsteps of my father, but more importantly, to give back to a country that has given so much to me and my family."

Later this year, Luong is preparing to return to Afghanistan where the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters is already deployed. [Editor's Note. JAVA appreciates Army Times permission, obtained on August 14, 2014, to use their quotes.]



BG Viet Luong and also the group photo: Pinning on ceremony. Left to Right: LTG Mark Milley, Commanding General, III Corps; Minh Albano, sister; Kim (pink), wife; BG Luong; Minh Jacqueline Luong, sister; Brandon, second child.

Japanese American Nominated to Head Combined US Forces in the Pacific



US Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Harry B. Harris speaks to sailors at Yokosuka Naval Base near Tokyo, Japan on November 19, 2013. Trever Andersen, Stars and Stripes.

Honolulu, Hawaii. The Office of the Secretary of Defense has announced on September 22, 2014 that Admiral Harry B. Harris, Commander of US Pacific Fleet, was appointed by President Barack Obama as the next Commander of Pacific Command, based in Honolulu, Hawaii, subject to confirmation by the US Senate. He will succeed Adm. Samuel Locklear III.

The Stars and Stripes, September 22, 2014, reported that Harris “would take charge of PACOM at a critical time in U.S. relations with Asia. The Obama administration is trying to execute a military and diplomatic pivot to the region as China becomes increasingly assertive in territorial disputes with its neighbors. Pentagon leaders are very worried about Beijing’s military modernization and fear that war could break out between China and other powers in the region”.

The Stars and Stripes also said, Harris served three tours with Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing I based at Kami Seya, near Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan. His staff assignments include aide to the commander of U.S. Forces-Japan, according to his Navy bio. Harris studied East Asian affairs while pursuing graduate studies at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown’s School of Foreign Service, and Oxford University.

The Naval Academy graduate is a seasoned aviator, having logged 4,400 flight hours, including more than 400 combat hours. Harris took part in many notable

operations, including: the S.S. Achille Lauro terrorist hijacking response; Attain Document III (Libya, 1986); Earnest Will (Kuwaiti reflagged tanker ops, 1987-88); Desert Shield/Desert Storm; Southern Watch; Enduring Freedom; Iraqi Freedom; Willing Spirit (Colombia hostage rescue, 2006-7); and Odyssey Dawn (Libya, 2011).

The United States Pacific Command (USPACOM) is a Unified Combatant Command of the United States armed forces responsible for the Pacific Ocean area. It is led by the Commander, Pacific Command (CDRUSPACOM), who is the supreme military authority for the various branches of the Armed Forces of the United States serving within its area of responsibility (AOR). The chain of command runs from the President of the United States, through the Secretary of Defense, to the Commander, Pacific Command. It is the oldest and largest of the Unified Combatant Commands. It is based in Honolulu, Hawai’i on the island of O’ahu. The main combat power of USPACOM is formed by U.S. Army Pacific, Marine Forces Pacific, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and Pacific Air Forces, all headquartered in Honolulu with component forces stationed throughout the region.

LTG Bostick Scheduled for JAVA’s Quarterly Luncheon

Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Army Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, will address “Challenges Facing The Army Corps of Engineers” at JAVA’s Quarterly Luncheon scheduled for Saturday, January 17th, 2015. General Bostick is the 53rd Army Chief of Engineers, serving as the senior military officer overseeing most of the Nation’s civil works infrastructure and military construction. He is responsible for more than 33,000 Civilian employees and 700 Military personnel who provide project management, construction support and engineering expertise in over 130 countries, including Iraq and Afghanistan. General Bostick is also responsible for diverse USACE missions such as hundreds of environmental protection projects, regulatory permit programs to protect acres of wetlands, and emergency response missions to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in restoration and repair after a disaster.

Prior to USACE, General Bostick served as the Army’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel (G-1), managing manpower and personnel plans, programs, and policies for over 1 million Soldiers and 300,000 Army Civilians. In November 2011, under his command, some 80 veterans of the 442nd RCT received the Bronze Star Medal, which they had earned but had not received. He has also served as Commanding General of the Army Recruiting Command, Commander of the Gulf Region Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and as an Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division during Iraqi Freedom. The General was also an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineer at West Point, and a White House Fellow, serving as a Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and holds a master’s degree in both Civil and Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. LTG Bostick is a Japanese American. His mother was a Japanese national. This should be an interesting presentation by a distinguished Soldier.



LTG Bostick, USA

US-Japan Research Institute and Nissan Global Foundation Hold Forum Featuring JAVA Speakers

US – Japan Research Institute (USJI), in cooperation with Nissan Global Foundation, held a forum on September 8, 2014 at 2000 M Street, NW, Conference Room A, Washington, DC. The event featured two JAVA speakers, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima, to discuss “World War II and the experiences of Japanese Americans”. Some 70 attendees included Japanese students and young executives attending universities and working in the Washington, DC area, Embassy officers, journalists and academicians. Dr. Yoshiaki Abe, Professor Emeritus, Waseda University, served as moderator. Mr. Go Kobayashi of Waseda University and

Manager of the WDC USJI, was responsible for the arrangement of the event. Jointly established by University of Tokyo, Kyoto University, Doshisha University, Waseda University, Keio University, Kyushu University, University of Tsukuba and Ritsumeikan University, USJI’s mission is to produce analytical papers on key issues for circulation especially to US and Japan decision makers that are designed to strengthen US-Japan relationship.



Photo, L-R: Terry Shima; Takashi Muragaki, a resident of Bethesda MD, the President of Society of Descendants of the First Japanese Embassy to U.S.A in 1860 and also the President of Kyoto University Alumni Association DC Chapter; CDR Masato Murakoshi, Japan Naval Self Defense Force on exchange duty at the US Naval Academy; Mary Murakami; Kumi Yokoe, Researcher, Hitachi Corporation; Go Kobayashi; and Dr. Abe. Photo by Noriko Sanefuji.

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 124 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, former Chief of Staff of the US Army, General John Campbell, Vice Chief, US Army, and Admiral Harry Harris, Commander, US Pacific Fleet. Of the 124, 71 served in the US Army, 22 in the US Air Force, 25 in the US Navy, and 2 each in the US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, and Public Health Service. Broken down in another way, 33 are Chinese American, 13 are Filipino American, 24 are Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 8 are Korean Americans, one is Vietnamese American, and 45 are Japanese Americans. Any questions or comments please contact Terry Shima (301-987-6746; ttshima@comcast.net).

Major General Jason Kamiya, USA (Ret.)



Major General Jason Kamiya, US Army (Ret) retired from active duty in January 2010. He began working at United Services Automobile Association (USAA) that year and now serves as Senior Vice President, Financial Foundations responsible for over 6,000 employees extended across four of five USAA regional offices. "The mission of the Association is built around serving the financial needs of the military community," Kamiya says. "And, I'm very privileged to

have the opportunity to be part of an organization whose core values – Honor, Integrity, Loyalty, and Service – are so very much aligned to the military culture I left four years ago. This is also a great way to continue to serve our nation's military and their families even out of uniform."

Prior to retirement MG Kamiya served for more than three decades in a variety of leadership and staff positions. Becoming a Soldier was always a goal, Kamiya says, after watching Armed Forces Day parades each year during his formative years in Hawaii - a goal that was reaffirmed by his father's WWII service. Kamiya participated in three major combat campaigns the third of which was leading a multinational joint task force in Afghanistan comprised of 18,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and service members from the international/NATO community.

His other assignments included a tour in the Executive Office of the President of the United States as executive assistant to the Director of National Drug Control Policy, a cabinet-level official. His last active assignment was developing joint and multinational training partnerships between all branches of the US Armed Services, between the Department of Defense and other US civilian government departments and agencies, and between the US Armed Forces and over 30 foreign governments and militaries. This included pre-deployment training for senior military and non-military leaders and staffs of joint organizations deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa. In his overseas assignments he maintained liaison with local military and civilian officials to strengthen US friendships with those nations.

Kamiya is a native of Honolulu, Hawaii and the son of a World War II veteran of the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He and his spouse of 36 years have two daughters and reside in San Antonio, Texas.

LTG Joseph F. Peterson, USA (Ret.)



LTG Joseph F. Peterson, USA (Ret), the first ethnic Hawaiian to reach the rank of Lieutenant General in the Army, joined the US Army as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1972 through the Santa Clara University ROTC scholarship program. He retired on October 1, 2010 as Deputy Commanding General of US Forces Command (FORSCOM) with command and training oversight of over 800,000 Soldiers (Active, Guard and Reserve). Obtaining his BS in Economics, his initial plans were to complete his military obligation and pursue a private sector career. These thoughts vanished early when he

realized the satisfaction and privilege he derived from training and leading Soldiers and caring for their Families.

Anti-Vietnam War demonstrations raged across American campuses during his period of ROTC training. Regardless, he maintained his resolve to complete his military commitment. "America presents you with its sons and daughters and charges you with the responsibility for their health and welfare", Peterson said. "The opportunity to lead and command soldiers is the greatest privilege and honor an Army officer could ever have".

Peterson's ascent up the Army ladder included senior staff assignments, one of these as the Aide de Camp to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. This duty allowed him to witness, firsthand, the actions of presidents, royalty and ambassadors. Although the experience was fascinating, it never diminished his passion to lead Soldiers and to care for their Families. He commanded the 3rd Infantry and 1st Cavalry Divisions, each containing about 20,000 soldiers. One of his toughest jobs occurred in 2003 when he was rotated to the Pentagon, and the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as the Deputy J3, and was among the first to see the casualty reports each morning from Iraq and Afghanistan. He lamented that he trained these men but could not be there to lead and care for them. In 2005 he was assigned to Iraq and given the mission to train 120,000 Iraqi Interior Security personnel. Training Iraq's police and internal security forces was essential to re-establishing Rule of Law in Iraq. Paul Kan, Associate Professor of national security studies at the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, said "Peterson training of the Iraqi security forces is one of the most important tasks in returning Iraq to a full functioning country."

Peterson gave huge credit to his wife, Ann, for her support and dedication to him and military families. He also credited his mother and father for their example and the lessons they taught him in preparation for his career in the Army. His mother Marilyn, in all modesty, had the last word: "He was always a leader but I never thought he would come up to this".

News from Army's Topside....



[Editor's note. General John F. Campbell, US Army Vice Chief of Staff, sends a private Newsletter to subscribers in his command, their families and friends. He provides updates of developments in the command, issues facing the Army and his role. JAVA is privileged to be one of his subscribers. We print below excerpts from his last Newsletter as Army Vice to tell you what the modern Army looks like. For those who don't know, General Campbell's mother is Japanese. A separate article, page 14, discusses the change of command ceremony in Afghanistan to assume command of the International Security Assistance Forces and Command of US Forces in Afghanistan.]

This is my final *Friends of the Army* note as the 34th Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. As many of you know, in June I was nominated by the President to serve as the next commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan. In July I testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on this nomination and was confirmed by the Senate in late July. In late September I will deploy to Kabul, Afghanistan. After a short transition with General Joe Dunford, I will assume command of ISAF.

It has been my honor to serve the Army as its Vice Chief of Staff for almost the last year and a half. The job has been challenging, rewarding, frustrating and inspiring all at once. The work done by the Army staff here in the Pentagon is important work for our Army, not fun work but vitally important for the future of our Army.

Throughout my 35 years of service I've learned that as you progress, learn new skills and gain new perspective, the way you can most effectively contribute to the force evolves. Serving in the Pentagon isn't always fun, but serving as the Vice has had the greatest scope and impact of any job I've held. The opportunity to serve our Army and Nation at this level is edifying, and our Soldiers are inspiring. That is what motivates me each and every day. Ann and I are thankful for all your support.

In late July the President awarded Staff Sergeant Ryn Pitts the Medal of Honor for heroic actions while serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Afghanistan. On July 13, 2008, then SGT Pitts demonstrated exceptional valor in the battle of Wanat where despite his own life threatening injuries, he helped his team of 48 Service members fight off more than 200 enemy fighters. His actions allowed U.S. forces time to reinforce the observation post and bring in airstrikes which turned the tide of the battle. SSG Pitts is our eighth living Medal of Honor recipient.

Two weeks ago I attended my second Military Child Education Coalition conference with Ann. I participated in a panel discussion with senior education and corporate executives, where we all recognized the need to "keep the promise" of a strong education program for our children. Both the military and corporate sectors need educated and qualified applicants to fill its ranks, particularly in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) subjects. <https://www.facebook.com/VCSAJohnCampbell> will roll over to an ISAF FB at some point, until then the address above is still good.



General Campbell with men and women of the US Army.

General Mashiko Retires After 34 Years of Honorable Service to the Nation

Chantilly, Virginia. In an impressive retirement ceremony officiated by the Director of National Intelligence, James R. Clapper Jr., Major General Susan K. Mashiko was honored for contributions she made to the U.S. Air Force and the Intelligence Community during her 34-year career. The ceremony was held on July 25, 2014, at the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in Chantilly, Virginia. Hundreds of General Mashiko's colleagues filled the NRO auditorium to give the former Deputy Director of NRO a memorable sendoff. Former Secretary of Transportation/former Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta, who sponsored General Mashiko to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy, beamed with pride during the ceremony.

General Mashiko was awarded the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal "for her tireless support to the intelligence Community during a period of unprecedented challenges" and the Defense Superior Service Medal for 34 years of meritorious service. She also received a White House Certificate of Appreciation "for devotion to duty and a spirit of sacrifice in keeping with the proudest tradition of the military service," and a personal letter from President Barack Obama that highlighted the general's patriotic devotion to duty in times of peace and war as inspiring and that this devotion spoke volumes about her commitment to serving her country. These awards join a long list of the General Mashiko's awards including the Legion of Merit and the John J. Welch Award for Excellence in Acquisition Management.

In her remarks, Maj Gen Mashiko, who was born in Glendale, California, and who received her bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering, said she decided "to remain on active duty for as long as she found her assignments challenging." She went on to say she never encountered a boring day. She was thrilled to receive projects that senior analysts judged were impossible to achieve.

General Mashiko expressed appreciation to the people who helped her during her career. General Mashiko held a variety of space and acquisition assignments. She received a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology.



Campbell Takes ISAF Command in Afghanistan

By LCDR Jennifer Cragg, USN, DoD News



KABUL, Afghanistan. Army General John F. Campbell assumed command of the NATO International Security Assistance Force on August 26, 2014 from Marine Corps General Joseph F. Dunford Jr. The ceremony was attended by senior Afghan, NATO and U.S. officials, including Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Minister of National Defense of Afghanistan Gen. Besmillah Mohammadi.

"As General John Campbell assumes command of ISAF -- John's third tour of duty in Afghanistan -- I want to thank him and his wife Ann for their service as well," Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said in a statement. "John's leadership comes at a defining moment, as Afghanistan undertakes a historic political transition, and the United States and our coalition partners' transition from combat to training and support for Afghan forces. President Obama and I have the highest confidence in John, and we look forward to working closely with him in the months ahead." Dempsey praised Campbell, describing him as "another man who is deeply committed to this mission, and has the best amount of experience and who will be a good partner to Afghanistan."

General Campbell (second from right) accepts command colors from General Dunford

During Dunford's 19-month assignment he has seen the transformation of not only Afghanistan, but also the nation's security forces. He departs Afghanistan to assume the roles and responsibilities as 36th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

Campbell is assuming his new post at an important time in the ISAF mission and for Afghanistan in general. The Afghan security forces are in the lead for all security operations and by the end of 2014, they will assume full security responsibility to protect the Afghan population.

Mohammadi welcomed Campbell back to Afghanistan, recognizing his previous two tours spent building the Afghan National Security Forces. "Looking forward to working with you and we remain committed to achieve our common goals," Mohammadi said.

Prior to assuming command of ISAF, Campbell served as the 34th U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff. During more than 33 years of service, he has commanded units at every echelon from platoon to division, with duty in Germany, Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan and the United States. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be back in Afghanistan," Campbell said. "It is a truly distinct honor and privilege for me to have the opportunity to return to Afghanistan and lead the International Security Assistance Force and United States Forces-Afghanistan." This assignment marks Campbell's third command tour in Afghanistan, with previous brigade command experience in Kandahar and as the RC-East Commander in Bagram in 2010-2011.

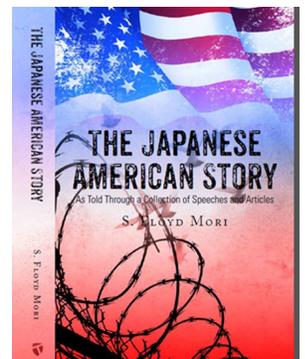
During his speech, Dunford said "Finally, let me recognize General John Campbell, a personal friend for over 15 years, a longtime friend of Afghanistan, an extraordinary leader." Dunford continued. "The campaign and the men and women of ISAF -- you're in great hands."

S. Floyd Mori: The Japanese American Story

Floyd Mori has spoken many times about the Japanese American experience when 120,000 innocent American citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent were forcibly removed from their homes on the West Coast of the mainland United States during World War II. Most of these people were placed into American concentration camps for the duration of the war. The Constitution did not protect them although they had done nothing wrong. They were persecuted only for their ethnic heritage because of the prejudice, war hysteria, and lack of political leadership at that time.

Although many books have been written about the experiences of Japanese Americans during World War II, it is still a story which is not widely known. Because of this, Irene Mori has compiled a collection of speeches and articles which were written and presented by Floyd Mori while he was representing the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) as the National Executive Director, Director of Public Policy, and National President of the JACL. The collection is included in a book entitled: *The Japanese American Story As Told Through a Collection of Speeches and Articles*. The Japanese American veterans of World War II are mentioned throughout the book. The purpose of the book is to help tell the story of Japanese Americans so that no one else will ever have to suffer such a travesty of justice again.

Floyd was a small child during the period of World War II. His family lived in Utah so they were not among those incarcerated, but he does have some memories of the war years. Floyd served in the United States Army Reserves and is a life member of JAVA. Information about the book may be found at the website: www.thejapaneseamericanstory.tateauthor.com.



Lawson Sakai and Grant Ujifusa Recognized as JACLERS of the Biennium

From Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Newsletter, September 2014. Lawson Sakai and Grant Ujifusa were presented with the JACLer of the Biennium Awards on July 12, 2014 during the Awards Luncheon of the National JACL Convention. Sakai was recognized for his years of service and dedication to the Nisei veterans of WW II, to the JACL, and to this nation. Sakai eloquently spoke of overcoming discrimination in this country and in the US military and of fighting for equal rights and for equal opportunities.



Lawson Sakai (L) holding the JACLer of the Biennium Award that was presented by David Lim, President of JACL (R)

In a separate event, Sakai was honored to serve as the Grand Marshal for the Morgan Hill 4th of July parade. The editorial in Morgan Hill Life captured the moment by stating "Sakai's story is a demonstration of all that is the best about the American character."

Ujifusa received the Biennium Award for his contributions as the Legislative Strategy Chair of the Legislative Education Committee (LEC), the redress lobby arm of the JACL, that led to the successful passage of the Civil Liberties Act of August 10, 1988.

Mas Hashimoto accepted the award on Ujifusa's behalf. Ujifusa, in his written statement, which Hashimoto read, gave credit and cited the work of Grayce Uyehara, Senator Sparky Matsunaga, Cherry Kinoshita, Denny Yasuhara, and Mike Masaoka, without whom redress and reparations would not have been possible.

Floyd Mori and Christine Sato-Yamazaki Honored at 9th Annual WWAAC

Atlanta, GA - On September 27, 2014, the Who's Who in Asian American Communities (WWAAC) Alliance Foundation honored Shiro Floyd Mori and Christine Sato Yamazaki for their outstanding community work in 2014 at the 9th Annual Awards program at the Rialto Center Communications, Inc. in Atlanta, Georgia. Mori, President and CEO of Asia Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) received the WWAAC Leaders and Legends Award. Sato-Yamazaki, Executive Director of the National Veterans Network, was recognized for perpetuating the legacy of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service.

The WWAAC Alliance Foundation was co-founded in 2006 by Sachi Koto and her colleagues. The Foundation was created to advance the lives of Asian American Pacific Islanders. The purpose of the WWAAC Awards is to recognize the accomplishments of these leaders, publicize their achievements, and promote the Asian American community into mainstream America.

Mori was born in Murray, Utah, attended school there, served in the US Army, graduated from Brigham Young University, served in the California state assembly and at the executive level of the California state government, as an international business consultant, as national executive secretary and other positions in JACL. He received numerous awards including an imperial decoration from the Government of Japan.

Sato-Yamazaki was born in San Leandro, California, attended 4 years of school in Hokkaido, Japan where her father was a professor at the Sapporo Medical University, graduated from the University of California, Riverside, and was President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center. She has since transitioned to the National Veterans Network as Executive Director. She is a granddaughter of a 442nd veteran.

Sachi Koto, co-founder of Sachi Koto Communications, was an anchor of CNN Headline News. Prior to that she was anchor at Japan Cable TV (JCTV) and Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). A third generation Japanese American, Koto was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated *summa cum laude* from Reinhardt College and attended Gendai Japanese School in Tokyo.



Christine Sato-Yamazaki

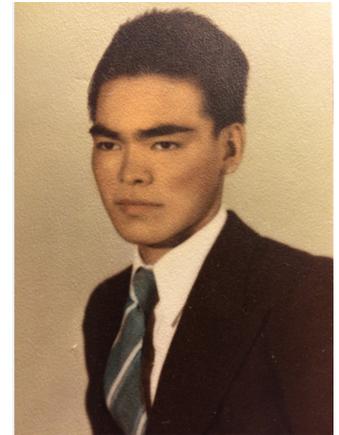
Shiro Floyd Mori

(Photos from Sachi Koto Communications)

Kaoru Shimabukuro, MIS, Passes

Kaoru Shimabukuro, 88, of Potomac, Maryland, died peacefully at his son John's home on September 3, 2014. Born on May 7, 1926, in Laupahoehoe, Hawaii, son of Shotoku and Ushi Shimabukuro. He served in the U.S. Army during the occupation of Japan, and then earned his Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from American University. He worked for the Department of Defense for many years before retiring. He was the beloved husband of the late Amy Shimabukuro, father of Lane, Kevin, and John, and grandfather to Lindsay, Brandon, Emily, and Holly. There was a graveside memorial service at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, Washington, DC, on September 21, 2014.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that tax exempt contributions be sent to the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). Please make checks payable to JAVA and on the Memo line state "Kaoru Shimabukuro". Mail checks to Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. Donations can also be made to the Japanese American National Museum at 100 N Central Avenue; Los Angeles, CA 90012 or online at <http://janmstore.com/donations.html>.



Kaoru Shimabukuro, MIS

Bob Nakamoto Interred at Arlington Cemetery



On September 5, 2014 Bob Nakamoto, Korean War veteran and two-term JAVA President, was interred at Arlington Cemetery in a dignified, formal and official military ceremony attended by hundreds of Bob's family, relatives, work colleagues, civic organizations members, and friends. Virginia's House of Delegate member, Rich Anderson, read HR 532, a House of Delegates resolution introduced by Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, who was not able to attend. The resolution noted with "great sadness", the loss of Bob Nakamoto, a Korean War Veteran and "an admired member of the Leesburg community." It also recognized his leadership in forming an information technology firm, Base Technologies, and several civic and service organizations and the many awards that were accorded to him. In the photo above, Delegate Anderson is presenting HR 532 to Robert Nakamoto, Bob's eldest son. Between Anderson and Robert is Mae Nakamoto, daughter of Bob and to her right is her brother Gary. On the extreme right is LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), husband of Mae. Photo from Mae Nakamoto.

Julia N. Kuroda, Valued JAVA Member, Passes

Julia N. Kuroda, age 98, passed away on July 19, 2014 at Vantage House in Columbia, Maryland, where she resided for 15 years. She was born in Salinas, California and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1939. She was married to Rev. Andrew Kuroda in 1939 until his passing in 1997. They were interned at Tule Lake Internment Camp during WWII. They taught Japanese at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan, until her husband was employed by the Office of War Information in India.

Mrs. Kuroda had two sons, Frank (deceased) and Bert. Moving to Washington, DC in 1946, she worked at the DC Public Library system and retired in 1976. In 1957 the family moved to Silver Spring, Maryland, living there for over 40 years. Mrs. Kuroda was on the Board of Directors of Woodley House and also a volunteer. Upon retiring, Mrs. Kuroda enjoyed traveling abroad, *sumie*, painting, pressed flower arranging, and ceramics.

While at Vantage House she continued her artistic interests and participated in many programs, including local community outreach programs. Mrs. Kuroda's survivors include the younger of her sons, Bert, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. A celebration of life service was held at Vantage House on September 21, 2014.

Mrs. Kuroda was a valued member of JAVA. A good friend of Ranger Grant Hirabayashi, she supported its various programs and donated the video recorder that was used for JAVA's Oral History interviews. [Editor's note: An excerpt of this article copied from the Washington Post, 9/14/2014.]

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

INTRODUCED

14200244D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 532
Offered June 10, 2014

1
2 Celebrating the life of Robert Nakamoto.
3
4

Patrons—Lingamfelter, Albo, Anderson, Bell, Robert B., Bulova, Cole, Comstock, Cox, Futrell, Greason, Herring, Hester, Howell, W.J., Hugo, Ingram, James, Joannou, Jones, Keam, Krupicka, Landes, Marshall, D.W., Mason, Massie, McClellan, Miller, O'Bannon, Rasoul, Scott, Simon, Spruill, Surovell, Ward, Watts and Webert

2014 SPECIAL SESSION I

ENROLLED

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 532

Celebrating the life of Robert Nakamoto.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, June 12, 2014

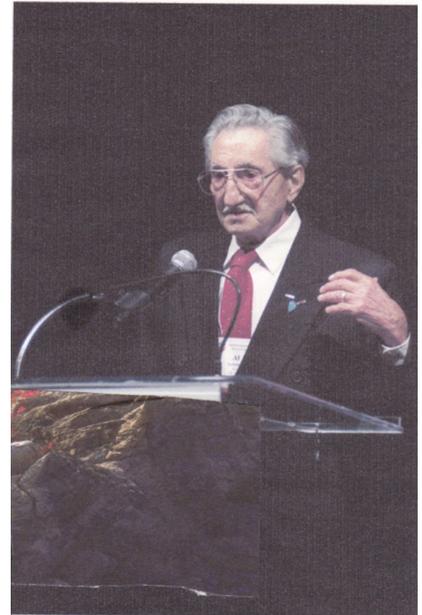
Introduction and enrollment of House Resolution 532 Celebrating the life of Robert Nakamoto.

JAVA Honor Roll

The JAVA Honor Roll recognizes supporters who have made significant financial contributions towards JAVA's general operations. Nominations for the Honor Roll are identified by the JAVA Awards Committee. To be nominated, the supporter must have contributed at least \$5,000 towards JAVA general operations.



Tortolano Speaks at Annual FFNV Exhibit



Al Tortolano, 1st Battalion, 141st (Alamo) Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division

On August 2, 2014, Al Tortolano, 93, Santa Clara, California, spoke at the annual Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) exhibit on the USS Hornet at Alameda, California. Tortolano, one of the 211 Texans trapped by the Germans and doomed to be annihilated in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, said "I can't thank the 442 enough for saving us; they took huge casualties". He continued "they were sent to some battles other units wouldn't go to; in some ways they were treated as second class citizens." He said he agreed with Admiral Mike Mullen, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who spoke in Houston, Texas, a few years ago "the men of the 442nd are men of the noblest heart and the greatest courage". Lawson Sakai, a member of the 442nd who participated in the rescue of the trapped battalion and President of the FFNV, discussed how the 442nd effected the rescue. Photo from Tortolano.

JAVA Members Speak at the 66th Japanese American Student Conference



On August 21, 2014 JAVA speakers, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima (holding certificates,) spent the afternoon discussing Japanese experience during WW II with 71 students of the 66th Japanese American Student Conference made up of Japanese and foreign students attending universities in Japan and Japanese and American students attending US universities. The venue for the discussion was the prestigious Elihu Root Room of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace Conference Center in Washington, DC. A printed statement of the Conference noted that the "Japanese Student Conference seeks to develop mutual understanding between Japan and US. An indispensable part of the understanding and the nurturing of strong relations between the two nations is the Japanese American community. Japan and America delegates will have the opportunity to learn directly about the less well known experience of the Japanese Americans during WW II." Some of the Conference members (left to right) were Yohei Komatsuzaki (Keio University), Ayaka Yoshida (Northwestern University), Yugo Kimura (Waseda University), Anna Zeng (Johns Hopkins University), Pramodh Ganapathy (Duke University, Vice Chair of American Executive Committee). Photo from Ganapathy.

THE GENERAL'S MESSENGER

Written by June Morimatsu, Daughter of 442nd RCT veteran, Ralph Tomei of M Company

We graduated from Farrington High School during the era of the war in Vietnam. When my friend, Milton Kaneshiro, was faced with the dilemma of waiting for the inevitable draft notice, or, enlisting and choosing where he would be stationed, Milton chose to enlist and was guaranteed eighteen months at the Army base in Stuttgart, Germany. Now, this 20 year old Kalihi boy was by no means a model soldier. By Milton's own admission, he was a "rebel" in uniform and for that reason he wasn't well-liked by his superiors. One of the sticking points was Milton's refusal to take down a sign he posted at the entrance to the barracks he shared with three other soldiers. The sign read: "Please Remove Footwear Before Entering." Although Milton's superiors kept chiding him to take his sign down, he held his ground, saying that they were going to do whatever they wanted to do, regardless of the sign; he was only asking that they respect his Japanese culture; and, if they wanted it taken down, they would have to take it down themselves. For some reason no one bothered to take the sign down, and so it remained posted.



When a Four-Star General came to inspect Milton's barracks, Milton and his roommates stood stiffly at attention as the General stood in the doorway, reading: "Please Remove Footwear Before Entering". As the General bent over, about to remove his shoes, he saw Milton and spoke directly to him, "Where you from, Soldier?" Because Milton was unable to respond while standing at attention, the General ordered Milton to stand at ease. "Hawaii, Sir," Milton replied. "I know Hawaii, but where in Hawaii?" the General asked. "Kalihi, Sir." "So, what generation are you, Soldier? What's the Japanese term?" the General asked. "I'm Sansei, third generation, Sir" Milton answered. While the General conversed casually with Milton, his three roommates remained standing stiffly at attention and Milton's Captain and the General's entourage listened intently to their conversation. "Ever hear of the 442nd?" the General continued. "We saw a film about the 442 in school; they were the Japanese-American soldiers who fought in World War II," Milton responded. "They were the bravest fighting unit I have ever seen" the General said as he extended his right hand to Milton. Politely shaking the General's hand, Milton said, "I don't deserve this kind of recognition, Sir; I didn't do anything in the war." "Son, you don't understand," the General said. "The 442nd is *The Best* fighting unit the United States Army has ever seen, I know because I was a young lieutenant in World War II, and then I fought in Korea and Viet Nam. You're Sansei; you come from 'good stock'." As he was leaving, the General pointed to Milton and told his Captain, "Make sure you take care of this man, he comes from good stock."

Over thirty years ago, a General shook the hand of a Sansei soldier, and conveyed his utmost respect and appreciation for the Nisei of the 442. The General must have known that some day, somehow, his message would reach the very men he praised – maybe the General knew this because he entrusted his powerful message to someone who came from "good stock."

Editor's Note: This article was spotted by BG Fred Wong who sent it to the Advocate. Thank you, General Wong. For the full article please go to <http://442sd.org/other-news/the-generals-messenger/>

News from Veterans Organizations & Friends

Torrance, California. The Go For Broke National Education Center Newsletter, Torch, September, 2014, reported that the Japanese American soldiers of World War II will be honored with a float in the 126th Rose Parade on January 1, 2015. Sponsored by the City of Alhambra, the 41-foot long float takes its inspiration from the Go For Broke Monument. Seven Nisei veterans of the 100th, 442nd and the MIS will be seated on the float for the 5.5 mile Rose Parade ride.

Seattle, Washington, NVC Newsletter. August 2014, reported that the I (Eye) Corps Commander, LTG Stephen Lanza, has invited the Nisei Veterans Committee to the 239th US Army Birthday Black Tie Ball on June 12, 2014 at the Tacoma Convention Hall. The Nisei Veterans Committee was recognized as a special guest. In a related event, the NVC held a joint picnic with the 7th Division of I Corps and the visiting Japan Ground Self Defense Force on September 20, 2014 at the NVC Hall.

Honolulu, Hawaii. The Go For Broke Bulletin, June 2014 issue announced the dissolution of the Oahu AJA Veterans Council, comprised of the 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th Engineers Battalion as of September 28, 2014, the next Joint Memorial Service at Punchbowl. The Bulletin also announced the 72nd Anniversary banquet will be held at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 29, 2015.

Honolulu, Hawaii. The 72nd Anniversary banquet of the 100th Infantry veterans was held at the Po-kaika'i Ballrooms of the Dole Cannery on June 22, 2014. Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., Commander of Pacific Fleet, presented the keynote address in which he credited the 100th and 442nd veterans for his rank and position in the US armed forces.

Morgan Hills, California. Lawson Sakai of the Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) announced that the annual 2014 Nisei Veterans Reunion will be held at the California Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 19-23, 2014.

Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Nisei Post 1183 Bulletin for July reported that on June 13, 2014 Allen Meyers and Howard Hieshima were recognized by the ROTC of Sullivan High School for their WW II service.

Sacramento, California. In the Commander's column of the Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter, Loren Ishii said he was honored to receive the Sus Satow 2014 Lifetime Service Award at the VFW/Boy Scout Picnic. Congratulations Loren for this well-deserved recognition.

Thank you, Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends (July 1-September 30)

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Thomas Kuwahara
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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6, 2014– 7:00 pm– Spark Matsunaga Elementary School Salute to Veterans Program

November 11, 2014 – JAVA-NJANF 14th Annual Veterans Day Program, JA Memorial

December 4, 2014 – Japan America Society WDC dinner. Park Hyatt. Marshal Green Award to 100th RCT and MIS.

December 6, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting

January 17, 2015 – 11:30 – JAVA Annual Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

March 7, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

March 14, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award to Congressman Schiff. Venue same as above.

March 28, 2015 – NJAMF – JAVA Annual Freedom Walk, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

April 11, 2015 – Sakura Matsuri

May 24, 2015 – JACL-WDC and JAVA Memorial Day Program at Arlington Cemetery

May 25, 2015– Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC

June 20, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

July 11, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Venue same as above.

October 3, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

October 24, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Venue same as above.

December 12, 2015 – JAVA EC Meeting

January 16, 2016 – JAVA Annual Lunch



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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Memorial Day: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) or LCDR Janella Kuroda, USNR (see above)

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Newsletter (Advocate): Thomas & Jill Phan, Editors, aava.phan@yahoo.com; Chirs DeRosa, Circulation, chris@vabutterfly.net

Oral History: Wade Ishimoto (see above)

Policy: Gerald Yamada, President, 703-938-3074, gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com

Quarterly Lunch: Metta Tanikawa, laertesVA@yahoo.com

Round Robin: LTC Brett Egusa, USAR

Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, ryoshika@verizon.net

Scholarship: Wade Ishimoto (see above)

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (see above)

Veterans Day: Col Bruce Hollywood (Ret) (see above)

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