

JAVA ADVOCATE



President Barack Obama exchanged greetings with Masa Kawamoto, veteran of I Company, 442nd RCT (in wheelchair) following the program at Pearl Harbor, Kilo Pier, on December 27, 2016. On the President's right is Hawaii Territorial Guardsman Robert Lee. On Kawamoto's left is Harold Watase, 442nd, Co I. Three other Nisei WWII veterans and retired US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, also attended courtesy of the Japanese Consulate General. Photo by Dean Snelling

President Obama and Prime Minister Abe Jointly Mark 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attack; Obama Pays Tribute to the 442nd RCT

Reported by Stacey Hayashi, Honolulu, Hawaii. Overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial, President Barack Obama and Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe jointly participated in a program at Kilo Pier, Pearl Harbor, on December 27, 2016, to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Imperial Japanese attack. Abe, the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit the USS Arizona Memorial, paid a solemn tribute to American men and women who were killed in that attack.

In their remarks at Kilo Pier, President Obama and Prime Minister Abe, in addition to honoring the "souls of those who died in the war," spoke of the strength and durability of the US-Japan alliance. Abe said, "What has bound us together is the hope of reconciliation made possible through the spirit, the tolerance. What I want to appeal to the people of the world here at Pearl Harbor, together with President Obama, is this power of reconciliation. . . . The world needs the spirit of tolerance and the power of reconciliation now, and especially now."

(continued on page 3...)

Volume XXV, Issue I

Inside This Issue:

MIS Nisei Get Second Cong. Medal	2
Dr. Maki Named CEO of GFBNEC	3
Welcome New Members	3
JA Achievements in USAF	4
MIS Veteran, Tom Yamada	6
Okamoto Receives Award for Vietnam	7
442 nd Remembered at Camp Shelby	7
NJAHS Celebrates MIS 75 th Anniv.	8
Asian Pacific Military Persons in DC	8
Hayashi Produces Film	9
Brigadier General Fielder in WWII	10
Japanese Univ. Group in DC	11
Spark Matsunaga Elementary	11
Nakasone New Cyber Commander	12
Filipino Veterans Get Cong. Medal	12
442 nd Reenactors Spread Knowledge	13
History: Recent Books	14
FFNV Calendar of Events Full	15
442 nd Anti-Tank Company Recognized	15
NVN Commemoration Project	16
News from Friends	17
Thank You Donors	18
JAVA Membership Application	19

MIS Nisei Win Second Congressional Gold Medal

Washington DC. On November 30, 2016, the US Congress passed a Bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), the highest honor this nation can bestow, to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) for its heroic role during World War II. Many Nisei served valiantly in the OSS in combat and in research, broadcast and psychological warfare.

In addition to the 14 Nisei in the photo accompanying this article, at least 10 others were added to OSS Detachments 101 and 202, and at least 27 OSSers were sent to India for propaganda broadcasts, and a large number of Nisei served in the US. Because they used their Japanese language skills to help win the war, the National Veterans Network included them as recipients of the CGM awarded to the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, and Military Intelligence Service in 2011.

COL Ralph Yempuku, USAR (Ret), then a Lieutenant, described one aspect of Nisei work in the OSS in *Secret Valor: MIS Personnel, World War II, Pacific Theater, Pre-Pearl Harbor to September 8, 1951* (MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, 1993). He said 14 Nisei, who had volunteered for the 442nd RCT, volunteered again for the OSS. After being trained at Catalina Island in demolition, beach landings, communication (Morse Code) infiltration and jungle survival, they were flown from Miami, FL, on November 1, 1944 to the OSS regional headquarters at New Delhi, where the group split into three, including seven being assigned to Detachment 101 in Burma to work with the British, Burmese and Burmese tribesmen call Kachins and the other 7 Nisei were deployed to Kunming, China, to join Detachment 202.



Fourteen Nisei served in the OSS Detachment 101. This is a photo of them in a training course entitled, "Guerrilla, Ranger survival Course on Catalina Island, CA, September 1944." Front row, L-R: Calvin Tottori, Sho Kurahashi Fumio Kido, Wilbert Kishinami, Tad Nagaki, Takao Tanabe, Dick Hamada, and Tom Baba. Back row, L-R: Susumu Kazuhaya, Lt Ralph Yempuku, Lt Richard Betsui, Maj Crowe, Lt Junichi Buto, Lt Chiyoki Ikeda, and George Kobayashi. Photo from book *Secret Valor* (MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, 1993).

JAVA Officers

Honorary Chairs

US Senator Daniel Akaka (Ret) The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor

Elected Officers

COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Vice President Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, Secretary COL George Ishikawa, ARNG, Treasurer

Executive Council

Elected Officers plus:
Reuben Yoshikawa
CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret)
LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret)
LTC Brett T. Egusa, USAR,
Col Dale Shirasago, USAF (Ret)
Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Exec. Dir. (ED)
Col Bruce Hollywood USAF (Ret), Deputy ED

Administration/Webmaster

Beth Kelley



Dr. Mitchell T. Maki Photo by Toyo Miyatake

Dr. Mitchell Maki Named President and CEO of GFBNEC

By Pauline Yoshihashi, GFBNEC

Los Angeles, CA. Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) announced on November 30, 2016, that Mitchell T. Maki, Ph.D., has been named as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Maki brings more than 30 years' experience in higher education, museums, social activism and civil rights leadership to GFBNEC, which educates the public about the valor and history of second-generation Japanese American veterans of World War II. Dr. Maki will focus on the continued growth of the Center, which inspires new generations to embody the Nisei veterans.

Dr. Maki noted that the center's role has become even more important given the current sociopolitical climate. "The legacy of our Nisei veterans is more relevant than ever today,

as we engage in national discussions over the rights and duties of citizenship, the importance of due process and the rule of law in our democracy," Dr. Maki said. "Our WWII Nisei veterans believed in America's Promise--the promise that America is a land of laws under which all people are equal. They believed in America, even when America did not believe in them. Their courage and conviction of faith exemplify the best our nation can produce when we do not abandon our core values."

Dr. Maki is a native of Monterey Park, CA. For more information on Dr. Maki or GFBNEC, please visit www.goforbroke.org.

President Obama and Prime Minister Abe Jointly Mark 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor Attack

(...continued from page 1)

In his remarks, President Obama recognized the experience of the Japanese Americans during WWII. He said, "And it is here that we reflect on how war tests our most enduring values -- how, even as Japanese Americans were deprived of their own liberty during the war, one of the most decorated military units in the history of the United States was the 442nd Infantry Regiment and its 100th Infantry Battalion -- the Japanese-American Nisei. In that 442nd served my friend and proud Hawaiian, Daniel Inouye -- a man who was a senator from Hawaii for most of my life and with whom I would find myself proud to serve in the Senate chamber; a man who was not only a recipient of the Medal of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, but was one of the most distinguished statesmen of his generation as well."

Prime Minister Abe attended a reception on December 26 at the Hawaii Convention Center where he met the Japanese American community, including veterans who wore their veterans service caps and wartime uniforms. Abe, who was familiar with Nisei combat performance in Europe and also in the Asia Pacific war zone, praised the Nisei for their loyalty and contributions to America.

Welcome New Members!

December 1, 2016 through March 1, 2017

Regular Members:

Larry Bitow, USA Veteran
Mitsuaki Kanemoto, USA Veteran
Midshipman Davis Katakura, USN
BG Todd McCubbin, USAF
Christopher Merkle, USMC Veteran
John Misiewicz, USAF Veteran
Charles Saint, USAF Veteran
Mike Songer, USAF (Ret)
Todd Tagami, USA Veteran
BG Suzanne Vares-Lum, Army National Guard
Nathan Watanabe, USA (Ret)

Friends of JAVA:

Mari Boyle, Friend of JAVA
Roger Eaton, Friend of JAVA
George Geanon, Friend of JAVA
Melvin Kuramoto, Friend of JAVA
Trevor Railey, Friend of JAVA
Debra Wada, Friend of JAVA
Terri Watson, Friend of JAVA
Henry Yokoyama, Friend of JAVA

Japanese American Achievements in Post-WWII Military Reforms in the US Air Force

The War Relocation Authority said 31,000 Japanese Americans served in the US Army during WWII. The US Navy banned Nisei enlistments in the US Navy and the US Marines. The US Army Air Corps (AAC), the predecessor to the US Air Force (USAF), institutionally excluded Nisei enlistments; however, about ten Nisei found some way to serve in the AAC, five as gunners in bombers and two as pilots in piper cubs. Thanks to the 442nd and the Tuskegee Airmen combat records which contributed to the climate for post WWII reforms that abolished discriminatory practices and treated all Americans as equal, Japanese Americans enlisted in all branches of service, competed with the best of the best, and made their contributions to the greatness of America. The total number of Japanese Americans who attended flight school is not known, but the consensus of those who did said they did not experience discrimination or racial prejudice like that faced by Nisei during WWII. During WWII the highest rank of a Nisei was Major. During the post-WWII period, about 45 Japanese Americans were promoted to Admirals and Generals, including 7 in the USAF. Over 85 additional Asian Pacific Americans also reached flag rank. This is a story of three Japanese Americans who served in the cockpits of fighters and bombers in the post-WWII period.

Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Joe L Akagi, USN, Fighter Pilot, Korean War

LTJG Joe L Akagi, USN, was pilot of a fighter plane in Fighter Squadron 194, based on board the USS *Boxer*, during operations against the North Korean air force in Korea on July 26, 1953. From the citation awarding him the Distinguished Flying Cross: "Akagi was flying as section leader on a strike against enemy rail installations in the heavily defended area of Tanchon. He surprised a group of 200 enemy troops repairing damaged rails and immediately initiated strafing attacks on a rail tunnel in which the troops had taken cover.

Skillfully pin-pointing his bombing attacks, he succeeded in personally sealing both ends of the tunnel to trap the enemy troops. Despite intense and accurate enemy antiaircraft fire, he carried out additional attacks which severed three railroad bridges and caused two rail cuts.

After expending his bombs, he strafed and silenced two active enemy positions to permit the remainder of his squadron to complete their bombing attacks. By his expert airmanship, courageous initiative and unswerving devotion to duty, LTJG Akagi contributed in large measure to the success of the U.S.S. BOXER (CV-21), in its assigned missions and upheld the high-est traditions of the United States Naval Service." LTJG Akagi was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. [Ednote: We did not succeed in locating LTJG Akagi's family to obtain personal information.]

CAPT Gordon R. Nakagawa, USN (Ret), Fighter Pilot, Vietnam War

Born in 1935 in Auburn, California, and commissioned through the Naval ROTC at the University of California at Berkeley, Nakagawa completed his flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in August 1958. For the next 9 years he held various stateside duties and obtained a Master's degree in electrical engineering.

He was deployed to the Vietnam war zone aboard the USS *Ranger* (CV-21) from 1967 to 1969 followed by a teaching assignment at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD. He was then assigned to the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise* (CVN-65) when he was forced to eject over North Vietnam on December 21, 1972, when he was captured and placed in Hilton Hanoi, which also housed six other Asia Pacific American airmen. Nakagawa was held there for 98 days.

Following his release on March 29, 1971, to his retirement in 1989, Nakagawa returned to flying and also served in various staff positions. He was assigned to southeast Asia where he served as protective cover for the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. From 1977 to 1979 he served as operations officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-64). He died on August 23, 2011.

Nakagawa's awards include two Legions of Merit.

This article continues on the following page with:

1st Lt Dick Masaru Uyehara, USAF, Korean War

Japanese American Achievements in Post-WWII Military Reforms in the US Air Force

(...continued from previous page)

1st Lt Dick Masaru Uyehara, USAF, Korean War

By Dick Uyehara, Grand Junction, CO. At age 10, inspired by my Japanese relative, a pilot who visited California before the outbreak of WW II, I enlisted in the US Air Force at age 19 and applied for flight training as soon as I was qualified. To my dismay, I failed the eye examination. At the examiner's suggestion I applied for navigation/bombardment training with the hope of obtaining a waiver to apply for flight school. This did not occur because at age 24 I was involved in an aircraft accident which caused the loss of both my legs and my career in the USAF. This is my story.

After receiving my navigation training, 2nd Lieutenant commission and wings, I was assigned in April 1953, to Pusan, Korea. I flew 18 combat missions over North Korea to July 1953 when the Korean War ended. I was then engaged in training for jet upgrade and retraining in photo

stateside posts.



L-R: Lt John Wright (pilot-deceased); Uyehara; Airman Pat Daily (retired) with their B-26.

reconnaissance and bombardment in Korea and various

In February 1955 pilot Capt Bill Todd and I took delivery of a

new B-57 aircraft at Martin Aircraft Co, Baltimore, Maryland. While climbing to our assigned altitude we encountered an atypical flight situation that required us to eject from the aircraft. Pilot Todd was killed and I suffered a loss of my right leg and six fractures in my left leg. I landed in a tree near Rockville, MD, and several miles from where the aircraft crashed. Fortuitously for me, a county sheriff deputy, while hanging diapers on a clothesline, observed my chute coming down through the clouds and drove to the grove of trees where I landed. I might otherwise not have survived my landing as the rescue squad had driven to the crash site out of sight from where I landed. The deputy sheriff directed the rescue squad to my location where they were able to extricate me out of the tree and transport me to the Bethesda Naval Hospital. I underwent 9 hours of debridement surgery, received 22 pints of blood and managed to survive. On the 4th of July weekend, I was flown to Oak Knoll US Naval Hospital near Oakland, CA, where ultimately my left leg was amputated and where I rehabilitated until January 1957. On 2 Jan 1957, I was retired from the USAF.

MIS Veteran Recalls his Service in Pacific War (including interpreting at Tojo War Crimes Trial) By Colleen Uechi, journalist for the Maui News

Kahului, Maui. [Condensed for the Advocate] Tom Yamada, 102, knew this all too well. While the American military valued his fluency in Japanese for interrogating prisoners of war, a wary American government took his Japan-born father from his job at Kahului Store and interned him in Haiku, Maui, then the Territory of Hawaii internment camp. During World War II, while their families were regarded with suspicion, young Japanese-Americans became invaluable as part of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Because the work of MIS specialists was top secret and often undocumented, their accomplishments slipped under the radar for many years. Now, the stories of Yamada and other MIS veterans are part of an exhibit that runs till the end of January 2017 at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) in Kahului. "I think they just made Hawaii a better place and gave the Japanese a better chance of succeeding here in Hawaii," volunteer curator Kyle Watanabe said.

Yamada was drafted in 1941 and went to Camp Savage after basic training to study Japanese language and military terminology. Yamada, whose parents were from the Kumamoto



Tom Yamada poses with the Congressional Gold Medal at his Wailuku home. Photo by Colleen Uechi.

prefecture, had studied in Japan as a boy and attended Doshisha College after graduating from Maui High School in 1933. "It was a no-nonsense school," Yamada said of Camp Savage. "It's a good thing I went to school (in Japan) and picked up the Japanese language. That really helped me out."

Deployed all over the Pacific theater, MIS specialists became "America's secret weapon." They spent hours listening to Japanese radio communications, interrogating prisoners and scanning documents and diaries for clues on future attacks and the location of ammunition reserves. Their intelligence helped Allied forces prepare for and thwart many attacks. Often upon being captured, soldiers readily gave up information. "Once they're captured, they feel their life is at an end already because they'll be executed or killed," Yamada said.

While serving around the Pacific, including Australia and the Philippines, Yamada often came face to face with prisoners of war. Perhaps his most famous encounter with the enemy was when he served as interpreter for Gen. Hideki Tojo after Tojo attempted suicide. The former prime minister and head of the Imperial Japanese Army was suffering too much to talk, Yamada recalled. "He was in no condition to keep up conversation," Yamada said. "My purpose there was just almost to comfort him. . . . The more you think about it, gee boy, you just wonder how it was possible that I was in a situation like that? To meet the number one military man in Japan."

After the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, and Japan's surrender in September 1945, MIS specialists like Yamada served in the Occupation of Japan as a bridge between Allied forces and the Japanese people. [Ednote. Permission to reprint obtained from Lee Imada, Managing Editor, Maui News. Uechi can be reached at cuechi@mauinews.com.]

Vince Okamoto Receives High American Veterans Center Award for Vietnam War Action

By Tim Holbert, Executive Director of American Veterans Center



L-R: Admiral Ed Giambastiani, Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, 2005-2007; Judge Okamoto; James C. Roberts, President of AVC. Photo from AVC.

Washington, DC. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Vincent Okamoto was recognized by the American Veterans Center at its annual Veterans Day special event, American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes. Okamoto received the Joe Ronnie Hooper Award for Valor in Vietnam. Hooper, a Medal of Honor recipient, is one of the most highly decorated soldiers of the Vietnam War. The event took place in Washington, DC, on November 5, 2016, and was broadcast nationwide on American Heroes Channel and REELZ Channel the following weekend, as well as to military personnel worldwide on American Forces Network.

Judge Okamoto's incredible story--born in an internment camp during World War II only to rise to become the highest decorated Japanese American to survive the Vietnam War--was introduced and narrated by Wheel of Fortune star and Vietnam veteran Pat Sajak and Oscar-winning actress Julianne Moore.

American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes was the closing

event of the American Veterans Center's 19th Annual Conference, where Judge Okamoto joined dozens of American heroes from World War II to the present day to share their lessons and experiences with hundreds of students from each of our nation's military service academies and several dozen ROTC programs from around the country.

The presentation of the Award was preceded by the following five-minute video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzlhsXaBa80. To watch *American Valor: A Salute to Our Heroes* or learn how you can support the work of the American Veterans Center, visit www.americanveteranscenter.org.

442nd Remembered at Camp Shelby



Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, Camp Shelby, MS. The newly renovated Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, less the WWII section, located at Camp Shelby, MS, was reopened by Governor Phil Bryant on October 27, 2016. The WWII Section, which includes the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was scheduled to officially open on December 20, 2016. The above photo and report were received from Stanley Mataichi Sagara, JAVA member who resides at the Armed Forces Retirement Home at Gulfport, MS, about 60 miles from the Museum. After basic training, Sagara attended parachute jump school followed by assignment with the 101st Airborne Division and saw action in 1945 in Germany.

NJAHS Celebrates MIS 75th Anniversary

By Tomo Hirai, Nichi Bei Weekly

Building 640, Presidio of San Francisco. Good weather greeted veterans, dignitaries, and other guests gathered on November 12, 2016, at Building 640 in the Presidio of San Francisco for the National Japanese American Historical Society's 75th tribute to the anniversary ofthe Military Intelligence Service (MIS). NJAHS's annual event celebrated the third anniversary of the opening of its MIS Historic Learning Center, located in the former airplane hangar



Nisei veterans of WW II and Korean War flanked by VIP ladies (wearing leis) and 2016 Cherry Blossom Princesses and Queen who acted as greeters (wearing sashes). Photo from Bryan Yagi.

that housed the Fourth Army Intelligence School, which trained Nisei military linguists. Stephen A. Haller, chief of cultural resources at the National Park Service's Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said the MIS Historic Learning Center stands out among the approximately 750 historic buildings in the park. He said Building 640 is the "only building that was preserved by the very same people that made the history, and that is literally unique," he said.

Keynote speaker Dr. James C. McNaughton, histories division chief of the US Army Center of Military History and author of "Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the MIS During WW II" spoke about the MIS' historical impact. "They made the decision to continue to serve their country and prepare for the uncertain future", he said. "Of course, at that time they had never heard of Guadalcanal or New Guinea. They never dreamed of going to the Philippines".

Bryan Yagi, past board president of NJAHS, said "we are fortunate to hold this event while some Nisei linguists were still alive. During the luncheon that followed, John Tagami, former aide to US Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, told the luncheon guests "through building 640 and other efforts to preserve the memory of the Nisei veterans we are able to capture some essence of what the wartime Nisei camaraderie was really all about." [Ednote: Nichibei Times has approved the condensed reprint.]

Asian Pacific American Military Persons Meet in Nation's Capitol



The President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (PAC/AAPI) partnered with JAVA and other community organizations to host the first active duty Military & Veterans forum for AAPIs on December 5, 2016, at the Women in Military Service Memorial at the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery and at the China Garden Restaurant at Rosslyn. The forum brought together active duty military members, service academies cadets, veterans and others to discuss topics such as diversity, equal opportunity, veteran support, and partnership strategies. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.

Stacev Havashi Produces Film entitled GO FOR BROKE

By William Cole, Honolulu Star Advertiser, January 6, 2017



Honolulu. Wahiawa's Hongwanji Mission on January 5 was transported back to a darker time for Hawaii's Japanese—the days and months after Dec. 7, 1941, when suspicion hung heavily on those with ancestral ties to the nation that had just become America's enemy. Eight blue- and white-garbed kendo practitioners wearing helmets shouted as they glided across the wood floor and practiced attacking with bamboo swords. Among them was actor Cole Horibe.

In real life the mission was closed after the Pearl Harbor attack. The father of the man played by Horibe—Yoshiaki "Sharkey" Fujitani—was incarcerated by the FBI. Despite that, Fujitani later served with the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section as a translator. The kendo scene is planned to be part of the opening for a new "Go for Broke" film focusing on the origins of the famed 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team in

World War II made up mostly of Japanese-Americans from Hawaii and mainland USA. Fujitani and others were part of the Varsity Victory Volunteers—University of Hawaii ROTC students who willingly labored at Schofield Barracks even after they were declared "enemy aliens" and removed from what became the Hawaii Territorial Guard.

"The brave actions of these young

Japanese Americans, along with the perseverance of the original 100th Infantry Battalion draftees from Hawaii, directly led to the formation of the all-Japanese fighting unit the 442nd—the most decorated combat unit (for its size) in American military history," a release on the film said.



This is the cast, wearing green leis, and production crew of *Go For Broke* taken at the University of Hawaii Manoa Campus on the steps of Hawaii Hall, where the Varsity Victory Volunteers was sworn in on February 25, 1942. Photo by Michiko Moore.



Filmmaker and author Stacey Hayashi received a \$560,000 state grant in 2013 for the project and finally was able to start filming December 11 around Oahu.

"What was Hawaii doing on Dec. 7 (1941) and before? And how did Hawaii respond to that call?" Hayashi said of the film during a day of shooting at the Wahiawa mission. "We all know what Pearl Harbor looked like, right? But was that local people? No. So this is a local story." Four years ago Hayashi created the "Journey of Heroes" manga, or graphic novel, which tells the story of the 100th and 442nd, but the "Go for Broke" film was always the larger goal. Hayashi said she hopes to release the film in the fall. [Ednote. Approval to print this article was obtained from editor, Honolulu Star Advertiser.]

L-R: ADM Harry Harris, USN, Commander of US Pacific Command; Stacey Hayashi, film producer; and Jake Shimabukuro, Ukulele virtuoso and composer, at the Hawaii Convention Center reception on December 26, 2016 to honor Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Harris is a lifetime JAVA member. Photo by Michiko Moore.

Brigadier General Kendall J. Fielder: Champion of the Nisei in World War II By Dwight H. Gates



Odenton, Maryland. A few years ago, my wife and I visited the Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii. At the visitor's center, we met two Japanese American (JA) World War II Veterans. When I mentioned we were searching for my wife's grandfather's grave, Brigadier General Kendall Jordan Fielder [pictured left], one of them responded, "Oh! He saved our bacon several times during World War II." Without Fielder's influence in the early days of World War II, the fate of 160,000 people of Japanese descent in Hawaii might have been different.

In November 1938, "Wooch," a nickname from his college football days, was assigned to the 22d Brigade in Hawaii, where he helped train JA soldiers in the 298th National Guard Infantry Regiment. In his own words, "As I worked with them, I discovered that they were as good soldiers as one could find anywhere in the army."

In February 1941, Colonel Fielder was appointed as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence). With the attack on Pearl Harbor, it became his responsibility to dispel the many rumors and encourage calm among the residents. On December 18, 1941, LTG Delos C. Emmons, who succeeded LTG Walter C. Short, formed a Public Morale Division in

the Territorial Office of Civilian Defense with Fielder as the head, to provide advice. Emmons' orders from the President included mass internment of Hawaii's Japanese population. Fielder, FBI agent Robert Shivers and others opposed. Wooch convinced the general to resist the orders up the military chain of command to the President. Civilian Defense officials wondered why Fielder was not relieved of his duties or court martialed during this period. Fielder put his rank and career on the line.

Next, Fielder and others convinced General Emmons that a Nisei combat unit should be formed from JA's in the Hawaii National Guard. Emmons ordered Fielder to visit Washington to convince Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall to form the unit. Marshall's reaction to Fielder's presentation was "That's a wonderful idea! Why didn't someone think of it before?" Thus, the 100th infantry battalion was formed, sent to the mainland for training, and deployed to Italy for combat.

The successes of the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV), the discharged University of Hawaii ROTC cadets who served with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the 100th Battalion helped Colonel Fielder influence Washington to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of Nisei volunteers from Hawaii and the mainland, many from internment camps. After the war the US Army announced that the 442nd was the best infantry unit of its size and period of combat in the history of the Army. Following the war, Fielder was sent to Washington to help arrange President Truman's review of the 442nd.

History might have been very different were it not for Fielder and other champions of the Japanese people in Hawaii. While Wooch was often given credit for saving their "bacon," he was quick to say he was only one of many people who played a part in preventing mass internment on the islands and in forming the two Nisei combat units. On April 16, 1981, Fielder's obituary in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* perhaps said it best: "Omar Bradley, who died last week, was called the "GI general of World War II." "Wooch" Fielder might equally be called "Hawaii's colonel." *[EdNote. This is a condensed version of the full report which was printed in the JAVA Round Robin.]*

Japanese Universities Group in Washington, DC



On September 15, 2016, the US Japan Research Institute, a Japanese think tank consisting of nine Japanese universities based in Washington, DC, held a panel discussion at its Seminar Room. The topic was "The Japanese American Experience - A messages for Leaders of the Next Generation". The audience consisted of Washington DC-area Japanese graduate students and young Japanese executives. Photo front row left to right: CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), Mary Murakami; unidentified scholar. Back row, left to right: Prof. Katsuichi Uchida, President of USJI; Noriko Sanefuji, Smithsonian Institution; LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret); Dr. Kazuhiro Maeshima, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan (Moderator). Go Kobayashi is Director of USJI Washington, DC Office. Photo from USJI.

Spark Matsunaga Elementary School

As they have done for many years, US Senator Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, MD, held their annual Tribute to Veterans program on November 10, 2016. They honored American veterans by singing patriotic songs like the Battle Hymn of the Republic that included a recitation of Gettysburg Address and a medley of armed services anthems. Here, over 300 students are on the stage for the evening God finale. Bless America and God Bless USA. Teresa the Potterton created and



directed the concert, which was enjoyed by a packed audience of a couple thousand. Four veterans of JAVA were invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and JAVA Vice President LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) discussed Matsunaga's military and senatorial background. The cheerful presence of retired Principal Judy Brubaker on the stage was replaced by Principal Jimmy Sweeney. Brubaker was given a seat of honor on the front row. Photo from Matsunaga School.

Army Cyber Welcomes LTG Nakasone As New Commander

Ft. Belvoir, VA. Press Release. In a ceremony held on October 14, 2016. LTG Paul M. Nakasone had a third star pinned on to mark his promotion to Lieutenant General and his designation confirmed as Commanding General of the Cyber National Mission Force at U.S. Cyber Command and the Second Army. Chief of Staff of the Army, General Mark Milley,



L-R: Susan Nakasone, LTG Nakasone, Mary Nakasone, COL Nakasone. Photo from Charlie Stadtlander

spoke at the ceremony and passed the Army Cyber colors from Lt. Gen. Edward C. Cardon to Nakasone. U.S. Army Cyber Command was first established in 2010.

LTG Nakasone's immediate past position was Army Cyber Command's deputy commanding general for operations. "It is a privilege and honor to rejoin the Army Cyber and Second Army team as your Commander. Today, we are at the forefront of one of the most transformative times in our Army's history," said LTG Nakasone in his remarks. "Cyberspace is a dynamic and challenging domain that is revolutionizing the way our Army fights and wins. Army Cyber and Second Army are building and employing a preeminent cyber force charged with delivering capabilities to the Joint Force and our Army. I am honored and proud to serve with all of you," Nakasone concluded.

Nakasone has served in Army assignments in the United States, the Republic of Korea, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In addition to Army Cyber Command, Nakasone also assumes leadership of U.S. Cyber Command's Joint Task Force-ARES, which provides unified and sustained cyberspace support to broader military efforts to counter ISIL in Iraq and Syria.

Nakasone's father is COL Edwin Nakasone, USA, a resident of Minneapolis, MN, who served in the Korean War. Both LTG Nakasone and COL Nakasone are members of JAVA.

House of Representatives Unanimously Approves Bill to Award Filipino Veterans Congressional Gold Medal

Press Release from US Senator Hirono

Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. On November 30, 2016, the House of Representatives unanimously passed the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act (S.1555), sponsored by US Senator Mazie K. Hirono and Representative Tulsi Gabbard. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the bill in July, which recognized Filipino soldiers who fought under U.S. command during World War II.

"For months, we have said that time is running out to recognize Filipino World War II veterans for their brave service," said Senator Hirono. "House passage is the culmination of decades of work by these veterans and their families to recognize their key role in the Allied victory, and their decades-long fight for benefits."

"Today, the United States Congress took an historic step forward in honoring the more than 200,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who served our country during World War II. With unanimous support from the United State Congress, our bill now heads to the President's desk," said Representative Gabbard. "Our Filipino WWII veterans have waited decades for this recognition alongside units like the Tuskegee Airmen and Hawaii's own 442nd/100th Infantry Battalion with the Congressional Gold Medal—our nation's highest civilian honor. With just 18,000 of these Filipino World War II veterans still alive today, we cannot afford to wait any longer."

"Today is truly a great day, a significant seminal period in American history – second only to the liberation of the Philippines and surrender of the Japanese Imperial Forces on August 15, 1945," says Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP). "Now we can tell our veterans with pride in our hearts that this grateful nation has, at last, granted them recognition for the selfless sacrifice they endured in war, and restored their dignity and honor in service to their nation." S. 1555, the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act, awards the medal collectively to the over 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American soldiers who responded to President Roosevelt's call-to-duty and fought under the American flag during World War II. The bill now heads to the President for his signature.

442nd Reenactors Contribute to Public Knowledge of Nisei Patriotism and Courage

By Doshu Tokeshi, Member 442nd Reenacted Team

"Okage sama de" I am, because of you. Our organization, "F Co, 442nd RCT Reenacted," was founded on 27 August 2015 by Josh Snyder (Pittsburgh, PA, by way of Hawai'i), David "Doc" Furukawa (Atlanta, GA), Sean Parker (Pittsburgh, PA) and Doshu Tokeshi (Sterling, VA, by way of Los Angeles). never believed that such a thing could be possible, but finding kindred spirits to tell the story of the 442nd, as well as about its veterans, gave us all an opportunity. When I learned that my relative, Harold G. Tokeshi, was in G Company 442nd RCT, I decided to put on a medic's display at WW2 events. David's great-uncles, Sgt Michael Doi, A Co. and PFC Jimmy Doi, G Company, also served in the 442nd RCT. You could say that both David's and my families knew each other before we did!

I think what motivates us to do this are to (1)

increase the knowledge of the public about Asian Pacific Islanders participation in the

U.S. Armed Forces during WW2, (2) tell the story of the 442nd RCT, as well as the incarceration of their families during the war,



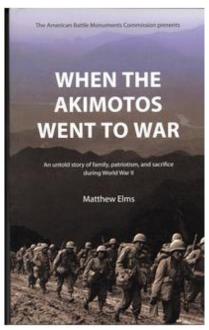
F Co, 442nd RCT, Reenacted. L-R Standing: David Furukawa, Doshu Tokeshi, and Josh Snyder. Kneeling: Sean Parker. Photo from Tokeshi.

(3) teach history in an interactive, relatable way. It is an honor to tell the story of the 442nd RCT, after so many gave their lives for the freedoms we have today. For myself, it is also an homage to my Uncle George Tokeshi (MIS 5th Corps Korea, 1952-1953) and my father Roy Tokeshi. Both men, along with the rest of my family, were interned at Heart Mountain Relocation camp (Block 12, Barrack 9 Section E) until August 1945. My aunts and uncles told me about how my father, then just a schoolboy, would follow the progress of the 442nd RCT on a map by putting pins in the places the unit was in the war. My father always pointed out how important it was to have Niseis' service in the war as proof of loyalty for our people, that we are Americans, and not the enemy.

Our group meets about three times a year at living history encampments. Our uniforms, personal items, and equipment are WW2 issue. We have appeared this year at the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's WW2 Weekend in Reading, PA and The Eisenhower National Historic Site in Gettysburg, PA. We plan to attend the Battle of the Bulge Living History Commemoration at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA, in January 2017. A large number of folks were not aware of the 442nd and it was gratifying to receive their favorable responses to our talks and displays. This is an ongoing effort and I hope that by being interactive with the public we will convince the skeptics that when the US went to war with Japan, ethnic Japanese were loyal Americans and the mass internment was racial and unconstitutional. [JAVA salutes F Co, 442nd RCT Reenacted for its outstanding public service.]

HISTORY: BOOKS

When the Akimotos Went to War, by Matthew Elms Review by Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret)



This non-fiction book was published by the American **Battle Monuments** Commission in mid-2015. An American story of heroism in the face of discrimination, When the Akimotos Went to War: An untold story of family, patriotism and sacrifice during World War II, captures the story of three Japanese American brothers—Victor, Johnny, and Ted

Akimoto—who volunteered for military service while their family members were forced into an internment camp.

Despite the nationwide fear of the Nisei—the first generation of Japanese children born in the United States who were American citizens—the Akimoto brothers pledged their loyalty and bravery to the U.S. military, wanting to prove that being an American ran deeper than race.

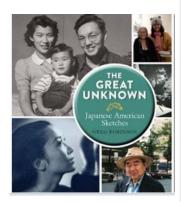
This story will engage middle school students and above to identify and understand the struggles that Japanese American soldiers endured during World War II. This content will help students expand their knowledge about U.S. history to include an understanding of training camps, shipping out overseas, loss of life, and prisoner of war camps during World War II.

Matthew Elms, a social studies teacher at Singapore American School, wrote this book as part of a teacher education program created by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

When the Akimotos Went to War is available for sale through the Government Printing Office, or a free PDF copy of the book can be downloaded from ABMCeducation.org using the following link:https://www.abmc.gov/.../publications/Akimotos Book_508v2.pdf.

Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches Draws High Interest

Quebec, Canada. When announcing the publication of The Great Unknown: Japanese American Sketches, publisher University Press of Colorado said Greg Robinson offers a fascinating readable collection of biographical portraits of extraordinary but unheralded figures in



Japanese American history: men and women who made remarkable contributions in the arts, literature, law, sports, and other fields. Recovering the stories of noteworthy Issei and Nisei, *The Great Unknown* provides evidence of the diverse experiences and cultural, political, and intellectual contributions of Nikkei throughout the country and over multiple decades.

What is more, *The Great Unknown* reshapes our understanding of the Asian American experience. By focusing attention on exceptional figures who deviated from social norms, Robinson subverts stereotypes of ethnic Japanese and other Asians as conformist or colorless. The collection also highlights a set of recurring themes absent from conventional histories—including the lives of Japanese Americans outside the West Coast, the role of women in shaping community life, encounters between Japanese American and African American communities during the struggle for civil rights, and the evolving status of queer community members.

Greg Robinson, a New Yorker, is professor of history at Université du Québec À Montréal. He is the author or editor of several notable books on Japanese Americans, including *A Tragedy of Democracy*, which was awarded the history book prize of the Association for Asian American Studies; *After Camp*, winner of the Caroline Bancroft History Prize in Western US History, and *By Order of the President*.

Art Hansen, *Nichi Bei Weekly* contributor, who reviewed *The Great Unknown* in the January 1-4, 2017 issue of *Nichi Bei*, concluded "This is truly a first-rate book, and the University Press of Colorado is to be applauded for making its contents available to a wide audience." [Ednote: Dr. Robinson provided the publisher's announcement.].

FFNV Calendar of Events is Full

Morgan Hill, CA. Lawson Sakai, a 442nd RCT veteran and President of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV), a major Japanese American Veterans organization, received the Japan Minister of Foreign Affairs Certificate of Commendation at the FFNV annual membership meeting on February 13, 2016 at Morgan Hill, California. In presenting the award, Jun Yamada, Japanese Consul General at San Francisco, said the award recognizes Sakai's "contributions to promote friendship between Japan and the United States".

The annual meeting also featured the telling of the Lost Battalion story, which featured



| White House Visit. Sakai is third from left. National Veterans Network photo. |

Franz Steidl, author of *Lost Battalion*, Sakai and Tom Graves, historian and author of *Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea*. In October 1944 the 442nd, sustaining huge casualties, rescued a Texas battalion that was trapped by the Germans in the Vosges Forests of France.

On May 21, 2016, FFNV held its annual memorial service at Roberts Park, Oakland Hills, located deep in the redwood forests, to honor veterans of all wars. Many members of the local community also attended.

Sakai joined 6 other Nisei WWII veterans in a visit to the White House on December 15, 2016, to brief Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning and other officials on the Japanese American experience during WWII. This program was arranged by Christine Sato Yamazaki, Executive Director of the National Veterans Network.

FFNV, under project manager Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret), created a 442nd /MIS exhibit in 2005 aboard the decommissioned WW II aircraft carrier USS Hornet anchored in Alameda, CA. This exhibit is open to the public daily. The Japanese American exhibit is viewed by a cross section of the American public who are not aware of the Japanese American experience during WWII.

As it has done since the 1990's, FFNV will hold its annual Veterans Reunion in October 2017 at the California Hotel at Las Vegas, NV. Hundreds of participants, including Japanese American veterans, families and friends of the various wars gather for this four day event. Current information can be obtained from FFNV website: ffnv.org. [Janet Ito, daughter of Lawson Sakai, has contributed to this article.]



442nd's Anti-Tank Company's Glider Assault in Operation Dragoon Recognized

JAVA participated in the 3rd Infantry Division Association's annual commemoration of and historical conference on the Allied liberation of Southern and Eastern France (September 15-17, 2016) in Springfield, VA. LTC Al Goshi (USA Ret) from JAVA and Stuart Hirai from the Go For Broke National Education Center gave historical presentations on the 442nd's Anti-Tank Company's glider assault in Operation Dragoon, the close

working relationship between the 100th Battalion and the 1st Special Service Force (the "Devil's Brigade"), the 442nd rescue of the Lost Battalion in the Vosges forests, located in northeastern France, and the wartime valor of the Japanese American soldiers. The conference featured presenters from the Army Center for Military History, the Naval Academy History Department, the Air Force Historical Division, French and German government officials, senior Army officials from the Pentagon and the National Guard, World War II veterans, and family members of Army veterans of the campaign. Attendees at the Conference banquet pictured here include Goshi (first row second from right) and Hirai (second row far right). CPT Monica Stoy, (USA Ret) and LTC Tim Stoy, (USA Ret), wearing Army Mess Blue uniforms, organized this event. Photo provided by Stuart Hirai.

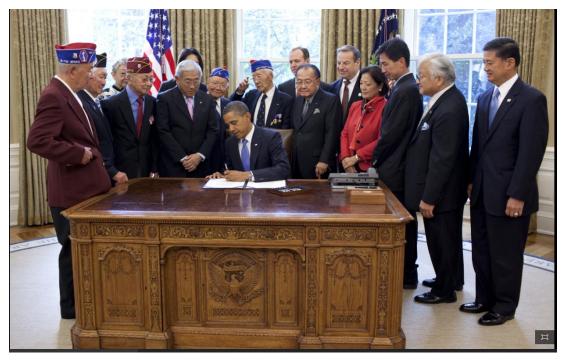
National Veterans Network Commemorates Congressional Gold Medal Bill Signing Michelle Suzuki, NVN

Washington D.C. On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to recognize the Japanese American soldiers of WWII for their service to their country. The Congressional Gold Medal is the most prestigious award given to Americans for achievements and contributions. The Nisei story is one of courage and loyalty and can teach many of us the meaning of those words. They are stories that all Americans can be proud. Earlier this year, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, along with the National Veterans Network (NVN), launched a Digital Exhibition centered on the outstanding military service of Nisei soldiers during WWII, including those who served in combat, in supporting roles and as part of the Japan Occupation at cgm.smithsonianapa.org and http://americanhistory.si.edu.

The NVN's social media campaign commemorates the Congressional Gold Medal and these American stories by encouraging everyone to share their #IamAmerican story. The ongoing campaign, which was launched on October 5, 2016 via social media, will have another milestone date on Veterans Day, and will continue through the rest of the year so everyone can share their personal story. "The Japanese-American Nisei Soldier stories are American stories that many people can understand and personally relate," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director, NVN. "The goal of our campaign is to demonstrate the relevance of the Nisei soldier story through our own personal stories and show that ultimately #IamAmerican."

NVN encourages everyone to visit the digital exhibition at cgm.smithsonianapa.org and http://americanhistory.si.edu and share their own #IamAmerican story on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. To support the campaign, tag @NtlVetNetwork on Twitter, @nationalveteransnetwork on Facebook or @TBD on Instagram. To find out more about the campaign and the National Veterans Network visit www.nationaveteransnetwork.com or email NVN at info@nationalveteransnetwork.com.

[EdNote: This article has been condensed due to space constraint. The full article and photos were printed in Brett Egusa's Round Robin.]



President Obama signs the Congressional Gold Media Bill on October 5, 2010

News from Veterans Organizations and Friends

Honolulu, HI. 100th Infantry Battalion Hawaii's monthly newsletter, *Puka Puka Parade*, December 2016 issue reported the following were elected as 2017-2018 Board of Directors: President, Harry Nakayama; First Vice-President, Beverly Shiroma; Second Vice-President, John Oki; Secretary, Warren Yamamoto; and Treasurer; Tsurumi Hamasu.

Kahului, Maui, HI. Maui's Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Fall 2016 Newsletter reported that Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., Commander of the US Pacific Command, was the keynote speaker at the MNVMC 13th Annual Banquet on November 4, 2016, in Maui.

Washington, DC. The Who's Who in Asian American Community (WWAAC) December 2016 Alliance Newsletter reported that 14 Asia Pacific Islanders were elected to the US Congress in the 2016 elections, two more than the 2014 elections.

Honolulu, HI. MIS Veterans Club, Hawaii September 2016 Newsletter said Lawrence M.G. Enomoto, a retired USAF Major, has resigned as President due for personal reasons. First Vice President George Arine will serve as Acting President.

Los Angeles, CA. Go For Broke National Education Center's eTorch, October 2016 issue, reported that Secretary Norman Mineta was the keynote speaker at its 15th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

Chicago, IL. Chicago American Legion Nisei Post 1183 December 2016 News Bulletin reported that Veterans Day program sponsored by the City of Chicago on November 11, 2016, was commemorated at Soldier Field.

Email Contacts Lost

The following members' emails are bouncing back to us. If you know how to contact any of these friends, please let us know by sending an email to <u>javapotomac@gmail.com</u>. Thank you very much.

Marion Andrews (Woodbridge, VA)

Jennifer Dang

Andy Estrella

Kerry Hada (Denver, CO)

Tom Haga (Sun City, AZ)

Melba Herskovits

Ashley Jones (Lakewood, CA)

Turner Kobayashi

John Komaki

Fumiko Kuwayama

Kim Luoma

Jane Matsumoto (Los Angeles, CA)

Agnes Moriuchi

Taro Mukai (Des Plaines, IL)

Jay Michael Narimatsu (Honolulu, HI)

Ronald Oba

Mr. H. Okada (Honolulu, HI)

Tom Sakamoto

Philip Ujiie (Springfield, VA)

Mr. S. Uyehara (Kalaheo, HI)

Mr. Wakiji (Camarillo, CA)

Tim Wendel (Vienna, VA)

Congratulations to JAVA Executive Council member Bruce Hollywood on the birth of his first grandson! Owen Joseph Dennis was born on January 6, 2017.



Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date:						
Title or Rank:	Name:					
Street Address:						
City:		State:	Zip (Code:		
Home Telephone:		Mobile T	Mobile Telephone:			
Email address:						
Branch of Service:		Rank:				
Status: Active Duty	Retired		Honorably Discha	rged: Yes	No	
Reservist/Nat	tional Guard		Cadet/Midshipmar	n:		
Current or Last Milita	ary Unit:					
	(Please see explanation below r: General Membe	•	Friend of JAVA:			
	dow, or widower of a veteran eteran, veteran, or cadet/midsh					
Dates that relative se	rved:	Whic	h Service?			
Mail application to:	JAVA P.O. Box 341198 Bethesda, MD 20827		or email application to	: javapotomac	@gmail.com	

Application Explanations: JAVA is a registered 501(c) (19) War Veterans Organization and must comply with Internal Revenue Code provisions that require 90% of its membership to be comprised of war veterans. To qualify as a <u>War Veteran Member</u>, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any of these periods but need not have served in a war zone:

- December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
- June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
- August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975
- August 2, 1990 to present

To qualify as a <u>General Member</u>, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any period other than those specified above. In addition, cadets/midshipmen and spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets/midshipmen qualify for General Membership.

<u>Friends of JAVA</u> are those who support the purpose of JAVA but who do not qualify for membership. Friends of JAVA memberships have no voting rights.

JAVA does not currently assess membership dues. However, donations are accepted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8, 2017: Sakura Matsuri Washington, DC.

May 28-29, 2017: Memorial Day Events: Washington DC

and Arlington Cemetery.

July 15, 2017: 11:30 am, Quarterly Member Luncheon:

Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

October 14, 2017: 11:30 am, Quarterly Member Luncheon:

Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Unless otherwise noted, the articles and captions of the *Advocate* are written by the "JAVA Research Team."

EDITORIAL PERSONNEL CHANGE

We will be stepping down as editors of the *Advocate* after the present issue. We are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served the Japanese-American Veteran community for the past two years, and we look forward to continuing our relationship in other ways. It has been a pleasure. Thank you.

Chad Diehl and Anri Yasuda



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION c/o JAVA President P.O. Box 341198 Bethesda, MD 20827

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General: Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com

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National Memorial Day Parade: Vacant

Arlington Cemetery: Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com

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Press Release: Vacant

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Round Robin: LTC Brett Egusa, USAR, java.roundrobin@gmail.com

Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, ryoshika@verizon.net

Scholarship: Vacant JAVA Awards: Vacant

Education / Speakers Bureau: CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), navy.s2m2@gmail.com

<u>Veterans Day</u>: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), brucehollywood@gmail.com <u>Webmaster for JAVA NARA Project</u>: Dave Buto, butod@cox.net, 703-425-1444 <u>Webmaster for www.java.wildapricot.org</u>: Beth Kelley, javapotomac@gmail.com Policy: Col Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President, mikecardarelli@aol.com

Visit our website:

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