



# JAVA ADVOCATE



LTC Allen Goshi, USA  
(Ret), JAVA's President

## President's Report

Spring brings us memories of events in history and the events that face us today. We remember military events in spring and early summer like the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion fighting from Anzio towards Rome. The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team fought with distinction in Belvedere, Italy. And the Merrill's Marauders MIS Detachment joined the attack on Myitkyina. We also remember this

time of year the Supreme Court decisions against Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi, bitter for those of us who swore to support and defend the Constitution with our lives.

We also continue our duties in the present. As you read this issue, the Scholarship Committee is hard at work selecting the 2018 scholarship recipients. JAVA will also co-host the Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II, and run a booth in the Sakura Matsuri street festival, part of the Washington, DC Cherry Blossom festivities.

In our governance duties, the Executive Council is conducting a thorough review of JAVA's financial procedures and financial decisions of the past few years in order to ensure our management of the Association's assets are effective and appropriately documented. This will enable us to answer the questions that members have raised regarding our financial situation and cash flow. As we discussed at the Annual Membership Meeting on March 17, we will brief you on the results. The Executive Council is almost at full strength now, and we are close to filling all of our key positions.

Thanks for all of your support and Aloha!

Al Goshi

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## 442<sup>nd</sup>: The Ill-Fated 12-Man Ration Detail

By Kenneth K. Inada

*Vosges Forests, Northeastern France.* Sgt Kenneth K. Inada volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team in Hawaii, trained with the unit at Camp Shelby, MS, and was not deployed with the RCT to Italy in May 1944. He was held back to train replacements for the 442<sup>nd</sup>. Three months later, in August 1944, he rejoined the 442<sup>nd</sup> and was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, Company K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. In late September 1944, the 442<sup>nd</sup> was deployed to Marseilles, France, shipped to the Vosges forests located in northeastern France near the German border, and assigned to the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

The mission given to the 442<sup>nd</sup> was to liberate the towns of Bruyeres, Biffontaine and Belmont. Bruyeres was liberated ahead of schedule and the 3<sup>rd</sup> BN swept to the northwest of the city and dug in. The next targets were Belmont and Biffontaine which were liberated on October 25, 1944. The 442<sup>nd</sup> was then ordered to take a 10-day break. The men looked forward to hot meals and hot shower. A few 55-gallon hot water tanks were placed on platforms, a soldier would go under it and soap himself and shower would be turned on for two minutes to wash the soap off the body. This “luxury” would soon be reversed.

Early the following morning, October 26, the 442<sup>nd</sup> was ordered back to the Vosges forests to save a portion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division’s 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 141<sup>st</sup> Regiment, which was trapped by German forces. The fighting became increasingly intense by October 28th. In late afternoon, LTC Alfred Purcell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn commander, called for 12 volunteers to form a detail, led by S/Sgt Shiro Kashino, to deliver rations to the front lines. Departure was 8:00 PM. “We traveled in single file. When the detail was about 200 yards from the front lines there was a thunderous noise and the detail was engulfed in a ball of fire about 12 feet high. The blast knocked me unconscious for a while but when I regained my consciousness I found blood flowing from my left arm and wrist. My buddy, Norman Kimura, who took shrapnel hits on his back, rushed to the front lines to obtain sulfur powder packets to apply on my wounds. We searched the area and could not find any survivors of the detail or rations. As we trudged down the road we stumbled upon the battalion first aid station, where our wounds were re-dressed and we were transported to the field hospital near Belmont.”

“Kimura and I arrived at the hospital around midnight and were assigned beds. I had to have emergency surgery

that night because gangrene had set in my hand due to rusty shrapnel bits that had imbedded in the wounded area. My life was saved for the second time thanks to the miracle drug called penicillin. A few days later another wounded comrade from the detail reported that of the 12 men only four had survived with wounds. On October 30, 1944, two hundred eleven men of the trapped Texas battalion were freed by the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.



*EdNote. This article was found on the internet.*

*Dr. Inada was reported to be the first US citizen to receive a doctorate from the University of Tokyo and was recognized as one of the foremost authorities in the field of Buddhism.*

## JAVA Member Being Considered for Ambassador to South Korea

Washington, DC. ADM Harry B. Harris Jr., 61, Commander of the US Pacific Command and with 39 years in the Navy, who was under consideration as the US ambassador to Australia, now looks to be the nominee to be the next ambassador to South Korea. *The Washington Post* reported White House officials confirmed the switch. Seoul has been without a US Ambassador since 2016. Harris has been a JAVA member for over 15 years.



ADM Harris was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and an American father, grew up in Tennessee, graduated from the US Naval Academy, and is the first Asian American to command the US Pacific Fleet and the US Pacific Command. These locations were off limits to ethnic Japanese during WW II. As head of the Pacific Command, Harris oversees about 375,000

personnel conducting operations in a region that spans more than 100 million square miles, more than half of the earth's surface. Harris received a master's degree in Asian security at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, another master's at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and he attended the University of Oxford University in England.

ADM Harris has publicly criticized China's South China Sea bases as "provocative and expansionist" and had the Pacific Fleet and US Air Force actively patrol the Sea to ensure the freedom of navigation. Harris has also warned that North Korea is the largest threat to security of the north Asia area.

Australia's government was pleased with Harris' appointment. According to a *Reuters* report, Julie Bishop, Australia's Foreign Minister, said Australia was not offended by the change, "While we would have welcomed Admiral Harris as ambassador here in Australia, we understand there are significant challenges for the United States on the Korean peninsula."

The new Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, wants Harris in view of the sudden diplomatic changes on the peninsula and the proposed meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

#### **JAVA Officers**

##### Honorary Chairs

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor

##### Elected Officers

LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), President  
LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Vice President  
COL George Ishikawa, ARNG (Ret), Treasurer

##### Executive Council Elected Officers plus:

LTC Rod Azama, USA (Ret)  
Lt Col Linda Bethke-Cyr, USAF (Ret)  
LTC Brett T. Egusa, USAR  
LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret)  
LTC Jason Kuroiwa, USA (Ret)  
CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret)  
Col Dale Shirasago, USAF (Ret)  
Metta Tanikawa

##### General Counsel

Dawn Eilenberger

## **2018 Marks 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery Grave Visitation**

*Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia.* PFC Saburo Tanamachi of San Benito, Texas, and PFC Fumitake Nagato of Poston, Arizona Internment Camp, both members of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) and killed in the same battle to rescue the trapped Texas "Lost Battalion" in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, were the first Japanese Americans to be interred in Arlington National Cemetery on June 4, 1948:



Since then, the number of Japanese Americans and Caucasians who served in WW II Nisei units interred at Arlington has risen to 89. The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) was invited by Dr. Craig Uchida, President of JACL WDC, in May 2007 to serve as a joint sponsor of the annual remembrance.

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, JACL WDC and JAVA will hold a special 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary Japanese American Arlington grave visitation program. Sandra Tanamachi, a niece of PFC Tanamachi and a retired Texas school teacher will speak. Tanamachi achieved national fame through her 12-year campaign to get Texas commissioners to remove a racist street name, Jap Road, from three Texas streets.

Key Kobayashi, a MIS veteran, and JACL WDC began the Arlington Memorial Day project in 1948. When he died in 1992 his family, led by son Turner and the active support of his mother, Kyoko, and family members, continued the tradition with JACL WDC and, since 2007, JAVA in joint sponsorship.

In the Tanamachi and Nagato pre-burial press release, the US Army announced that the attendance of high ranking military officials expressed the "esteem in which Nisei soldiers were held by the Department of the Army. The 442nd, the most highly decorated unit for

...article continued on next page



its size and period of combat in the history of the U.S. Army, fought with distinction in every action it was called upon to undertake.” The honorary pall bearers in the 1948 Arlington burial were General Jacob Devers, Army Ground Forces Chief, who commanded the Sixth Army Group under which the 442nd fought in France and MG John E. Dahlquist, who commanded the 36th Division in the Vosges. Other Army pallbearers were COL Charles W. Pence, Commander of the 442nd until he was wounded in the Vosges engagement; COL Virgil Miller, Pence’s successor; and LTC James M. Hanley, former executive officer of the 442nd. Other honorary pallbearers included members of congress; John J. McCloy, Assistant Secretary of War during WW II; Dillon S. Myer, wartime head of the War Relocation Authority; Mike Masaoka, national legislative director of the JACL; Ira Shimasaki, president of the JACL WDC chapter, and Jesse S. Shima, head of the Japanese American Society of WDC.



PFC Saburo Tanamachi and PFC Fumitake Nagato (l-r)

## Japan Ambassador, Consuls General and Japanese Americans Meet in Chicago

By LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret)

*Chicago, IL.* Japan Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae, some 16 Consuls General, and 25 Japanese Americans representing a cross section of the Japanese American community and professions under the leadership of the US – Japan Council (USJC) President Irene Hirano Inouye, met in Chicago, IL on February 12 – 13, 2018. The purpose of the annual meeting, sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) was to discuss ways to achieve USJC’s goal of building a strong and enduring people-to-people relationship. Ms. Inouye and Minister Takuya Sasayama, Head of Chancery of

the Embassy, co-chaired the event. The Japanese American attendees, representing business, academia, civil rights, community and government, came from various US cities, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam.

Participants shared their views on the US-Japan relationship, the importance of partnering with other communities on issues of mutual interest, exploring new opportunities for programs that build goodwill between the two nations, such as the USJC’s *Tomodachi* and *Kakehashi* projects. The Japan side expressed a desire to participate in such events as the Japanese American community commemorations related to the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawaii, and the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World War II Battle of Attu in Alaska.

Ambassador Sasae, representatives from MOFA, and Minister Sasayama provided opening remarks on various topics, and Ms. Inouye led discussions in which each Japanese American participant provided comments or insights on the topics at hand. Goshi discussed JAVA’s role and how it played at the ground level to achieve the Embassy-USJC’s mission. At the request of the Ambassadors, JAVA has briefed them on the Japanese American experience during WW II, and on the invitation of the Ambassadors JAVA joined other JA community leaders to brief appropriate cabinet ministers and party leaders who visited Washington, DC. At Ambassador Sasae’s request shortly after his arrival in Washington, DC, JAVA met him at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism to provide an on-site briefing. Ambassador Sasae also requested a brief which he later used to brief Japanese print and TV journalists on the Nikkei experience during WW II. JAVA received a number of requests from these journalists for in-depth interviews. Publicity of Nikkei in Japan is designed to achieving our joint goal. While escorting VIP visitors on appointments, Ambassadors made impromptu stops at the JA Memorial, where they gave the VIPs a quick brief. The Defense Attache’s office has invited JAVA to discuss the Japanese American story, including why the Nisei fought so courageously in combat, with ranking Japan Defense Ministry civilian and military visitors to Washington, DC. JAVA arranged for its counterpart in Los Angeles to brief the Ambassador at the National Japanese American Memorial Wall in Little Tokyo, where the names of all Nikkei killed in all wars are inscribed. Also inscribed on the Wall of Heroes are the names of 7 Japanese nationals, who served as seamen in

the US Navy and sank with the USS Maine in Havana harbor in the War of 1898. Goshi offered to link event organizers with JAVA and other veterans' organizations nationwide.

As Ms. Inouye brought the event to a close, she presented Ambassador Sasae with an "Honorary Japanese American" certificate to recognize his six years of work to strengthen ties and understanding between the Japanese government and people with the Nikkei community.



Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs annual meeting of Ambassador, Consuls general and Japanese American leaders in Chicago. Irene Hirano Inouye is seated at front row center-left. On her left is Ambassador Sasae. Photo from US-Japan Council.

## JAVA Speakers at the College of William and Mary



By Wade Ishimoto

Williamsburg, VA. On February 9, 2018, three JAVA members supported an ROTC Cadet Mentoring Pilot Program conducted at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. MG (Dr) Joseph Carvalho (USA Ret), LTC Kay Wakatake (USA) (Deputy JAG TRADOC), and Wade Ishimoto (JAVA Secretary) participated in the event that was organized by Ishimoto's adopted niece, Mrs. Karen Conlin, who is a

civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for Virginia. Conlin gained approval for the event from the Secretary of the Army with the purpose of getting college students to join and stay in the Army. Support for the event also came from JAVA member LTG Paul Nakasone who arranged for a panelist to be sent from the Army's Cyber Command to participate as a panelist.

Thirty cadets from William and Mary and Christopher Newport University attended the event. Panelists talked of their military experience in various fields ranging from legal and medical to special operations and intelligence. The information was intended to give the cadets a better perspective on Army life, different career fields, and the reality of serving our country. Sean Conlin, a Partner in Deloitte, also provided a perspective of how the corporate world views military experience and how that experience will help gain a civilian job when one decides to leave the Army. Carvalho, Wakatake, and Ishimoto talked about the diverse experiences they have had in the Army and how that experience is difficult to get in the civilian world. Carvalho also mentioned his work as the CEO of the Henry Jackson Foundation. Wakatake led one of the two Panel discussions.

MAJ Dustin Menhart, the William and Mary Professor of Military Science, also helped to host the event. He arranged for the Chancellor of William and Mary, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, to speak to the cadets. After two panel presentations, the cadets were given the opportunity to have personal discussions with the panelists. The feedback from the cadets and MAJ Menhart was that they really liked the event. He is considering another similar event in which each cadet would be asked to bring in one student not currently in ROTC to hear the presentations.



L-R: MG (Dr) Joseph Carvalho, USA (Ret); Mrs. Karen Conlin; Mr. Wade Ishimoto; LTC Kay Wakatake, USA. Photo from Ishimoto.



## Recollections of Terminal Island During WW II

By Kikuko Nakao Tanamachi

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of War to relocate Japanese Americans to internment camps. On February 25, 1942, my family, including my mother, two brothers, a little sister and me (my father passed away many years before that) and all the 3000 Japanese Americans living on Terminal Island and East San Pedro in Los Angeles Harbor were given 48 hours to leave the only home we knew. Before the order to evacuate was received, FBI agents came and looked through our closets, drawers, kitchen and ransacked all the rooms. The US government never helped us when we had to evacuate. They just told us to get out in 48 hours.

Somehow my family and 10 other families got help from Japanese American farmers in Norwalk, CA, who brought their trucks and helped us move. While staying there for 3 months, a Quaker friend named Dr. Buff from neighboring Whittier, CA, came to our rescue when we were ill. Dr. Buff never charged us for his services. We still keep in touch with Dr. Buff's children. We stayed at Norwalk until the evacuation order came for all the Los Angeles counties. We were ordered to go to Santa Anita race tracks and lived there for a few months in the horse stalls. The order came for us to move again, but nobody knew where we were going. We all were put in a train. I remember we stopped at Flagstaff, AZ, and then kept on going east. After a few days traveling in the train we arrived at McGee, AR.

On June 14, 1943, I married Jerry Tanamachi from San Benito, TX, and was able to leave the camp. Jerry was a farmer with his parents and brothers, but later farmed on his own. Farming was new to me but I did my best to help him. We raised five children and have nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Jerry passed away in 1988. We were married for 45 years.

The darkest time in my life was when I lost my younger brother, Sadao, at the age of 19. He graduated from Rohwer High School second in his class of '43 and had also graduated from San Pedro Junior High with honors. But Sadao wasn't strong enough mentally to stand all the stress we all went through.

*[Mrs. Tanamachi wrote this article in 2004. It has been condensed for the Advocate. The full-length article can be found on the JAVA website.]*

## Terminal Island Tragedy During WW II



*Terminal Island fishermen before evacuation.*

This is a review of how Japan's war with America affected one ethnic Japanese community. Terminal Island, located across the channel from San Pedro in Los Angeles County, was once the home of some 3,000 ethnic Japanese. There were about 500 homes, a temple, a school, a baseball field, various businesses, three physicians and two dentists. The principal industry was fishing (tuna, bonito, albacore, mackerel, and sardine), which was collected by the Issei and Nisei men while their wives worked in one of the 16 canneries such as Star Kist Company. Because of their relative isolation, the residents of Terminal Island developed their own culture and distinct dialect. Terminal Islanders were pioneers in the development of the fishing and canning industries.

Even before the war began, US Navy intelligence viewed Japanese on Terminal Island as a security threat. Defense industries, including a shipyard that built destroyers, were also located on Terminal Island. The Navy was concerned that Japanese residents were collecting and passing defense information to the Japanese. The attack on Pearl Harbor provided the Navy the justification to expel all ethnic Japanese from the Island. After the Pearl Harbor attack, Terminal Island was patrolled on foot by seamen with rifles and fixed bayonets. No Terminal Islander--in fact no ethnic Japanese--was convicted by a US court of colluding with the enemy.

Immediately after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Issei fishermen and community leaders such as Buddhist and Shinto Priests and Japanese school teachers on

Terminal Island were arrested and jailed at the Terminal Island Federal Penitentiary.

Boats loaded with fish after 3-4 months at sea were stopped at the harbor entrance. Surprised Issei were arrested on the spot and Nisei were questioned and allowed to proceed. Owners of fishing boats with expensive purse seiner nets abandoned them at huge financial loss. The Navy confiscated the boats for its use. FBI agents made house-to-house searches for contraband such as radios, weapons, maps, and cameras. By February 19, 1942, the day Executive Order 9066 was issued, all Issei men had been detained and Terminal Island had become a community of women and children, with no income to support them. Then on February 25, 1942, all Japanese residents were ordered to leave the island in the next 48 hours.

Stressed Terminal Island housewives, who were left to find places to relocate to, complete legal and banking requirements, and arrange transportation, were overwhelmed. Unscrupulous persons took advantage of

the fluid situation. Quakers, Baptist Churches, Japanese churches and community centers assisted in various ways, including locating temporary housing. From there, many moved to the Army-guarded detention center, Santa Anita race track, pending construction of the more permanent internment camps.

When the last of the Terminal Islanders left, the community became a ghost town. The Navy razed the island, leaving no trace of a once-thriving fishing village. Subsequently the canneries also shut down. After internment, other internees had their hometowns to return to, but Terminal Islanders had none. In 1971, some survivors formed the Terminal Islanders Club to organize various events and on July 6, 2002, built a memorial on Terminal Island to honor their parents.

*[Min Tonai, immediate past president of the Terminal Island Club and Chairman of Terminal Island Memorial Committee, contributed to the accuracy of the above report.]*

## JAVA March Lunch: Retired US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet Commander Principal Speaker



*Falls Church, Va.* Vice Admiral Scott Van Buskirk, USN (Ret), *[see photo]* former Commander of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, discussed the US Navy's role in the 2011 Great East Japan earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Reactor Plant accident (*Operation Tomodachi*) at JAVA's quarterly luncheon on March 17, 2018, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, VA. The US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet, home-based in Yokosuka, Japan, is responsible for providing maritime security in the Indo Pacific region and typically commands approximately 60-70 vessels, 300 aircraft and 40,000 Navy and Marine personnel.

When the disaster occurred, VADM Van Buskirk immediately contacted his Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) counterpart, VADM Kenichi Kuramoto, and offered the assistance of the US 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet. Other commanders of the US Army, US Air Force, and Marines contacted their Japan Self Defense Forces

Counterparts in a coordinated effort of the US Forces Japan and US Embassy to deliver food, water, blankets, clothing and other items, to participate in search and rescue operations, and to help build temporary housing and related tasks. VADM Van Buskirk said that US naval vessels positioned at other ports such as Okinawa and Sasebo were redirected to support relief operations in northern Japan. The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its Carrier Strike Group ships coordinated with the JSDF in providing support including platforms for Japanese Air SDF helicopters. US nuclear scientists and engineers worked with their Japanese counterparts to support efforts in mitigating the impact of the Fukushima Daichi reactor accident. The spontaneous American response to this real time major disaster strengthened the bond of friendship between the US and Japanese military forces as well the relations at the political and people-to-people levels.

CDR Ken Washington, USN and LCDR Jason Osuga, USN, both JAVA members who attended the luncheon, discussed their roles at the execution level in *Operation Tomodachi*. Washington discussed his role as a mid-level supervisor and Osuga recounted his liaison experience at the Japan Self Defense Fleet HQ in Funakoshi, Japan. Their comments provided a remarkable cohesion at the three levels of operation: command, mid-level and ground level.

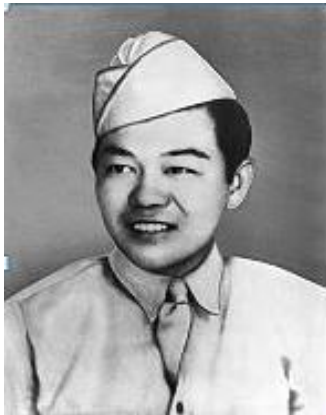
--Article written by LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret)

## Meet APA “Exceptional Valor” and “An American Patriot”

Beginning with this issue, we are commencing a new series in which we will feature an Asian Pacific American (APA) who has shown “Exceptional Valor” and an APA who exemplifies an “American Patriot”. For the Exceptional Valor candidate we plan to feature APA Medal of Honor recipients during WW II and subsequent wars. This will be followed by APA recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross.

For the “American Patriot” series we plan to use the Merriam Webster definition of a patriot: one who has devotion to and vigorously supports his/her country. If you have a candidate who you believe should be featured as an “American Patriot”, please send an email to the Advocate Editor at [javapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:javapotomac@gmail.com).

### Exceptional Valor



PFC Sadao Munemori, Co A, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, was awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism over and beyond the call of duty in Italy on April 5, 1945. Munemori was born in Los Angeles, CA, and graduated from Abraham Lincoln Senior High

becoming an auto mechanic. Munemori volunteered for the U.S. Army in November 1941, one month before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and he was inducted in February 1942. Munemori volunteered again for the Military Intelligence Service and was sent to Camp Savage for Japanese language training. He transferred to the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team taking a bust in rank from Sergeant to Private, and was sent to Camp Shelby, MS. Meanwhile, the Munemori family was placed in an internment camp.

When the 442<sup>nd</sup> was deployed to Italy in June 1944, Munemori was assigned to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, also a segregated Japanese American unit, which was deployed to Italy 9 months before and fought up the boot of Italy to Naples, Cassino, and Rome. The 100<sup>th</sup> merged into the 442<sup>nd</sup> and in effect became the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Munemori participated in all of the 442<sup>nd</sup> four campaigns in France and Italy.

On April 5, 1945 near Seravezza, Italy, Munemori, armed with grenades, made a frontal, one-man attack and knocked out two enemy machine guns. Withdrawing under murderous fire and showers of grenades from other enemy emplacements, he had nearly reached a

*Article continues on the next page, first column.*

### An American Patriot

Born in Los Angeles, CA, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Young Oak Kim was assigned to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, made up of 1,400 Hawaii Nisei draftees, at Camp Shelby, MS. Battalion Commander LTC Farrant Turner, offered to transfer Kim to another unit because “Japanese and Koreans don’t get along.” Kim replied, “They are Americans, I’m an American. We are both in this to help America win the war.” Kim said he would stay. Skeptical, Turner said, “let’s give it a try,” and assigned Kim as commander of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Company B.



Kim was impressed with the Nisei’s intellect and patriotism but was unimpressed with their appearance (sloppy habits and they needed a haircut) and deficient combat training. Kim instituted changes. The men resented Kim because he was strict and derisively nicknamed him “G.I. Kim”. One dispute was reportedly settled behind the barracks with the lieutenant’s bar removed and Kim won the Nisei’s respect for his courage.

Kim served on the front lines in all of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> battle campaigns in Italy and France. Nisei were impressed by Kim’s courage, leadership, combat intelligence and immunity from enemy bullets. Kim was especially quick and accurate in map reading and directions. The men now called him “Samurai Kim”. He received the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts. He took the riskiest jobs himself. When the 34<sup>th</sup> Division was preparing to advance to Rome in May 1944 and required intelligence

*Article continues on the next page, second column.*



### **Exceptional Valor: PFC Sadao Munemori, continued**

a crater occupied by two of his men when an unexploded grenade bounced on his helmet and rolled toward his helpless comrades. He dived for the missile and smothered its blast with his body. By his swift, supremely heroic action, Pfc. Munemori saved two of his men at the cost of his own life and did much to clear the path for his company's victorious advance.” Munemori was awarded the Medal of Honor.

In 1948, the troop ship "Wilson Victory", which transported 442<sup>nd</sup> soldiers from Italy to New York City for the Presidential review on July 15, 1946, was renamed the "Pvt. Sadao S. Munemori." Also, the interchange of the 105 and 405 freeways in Los Angeles was named the "Sadao S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, Medal of Honor—World War II." And, on April 25, 2000, the town of Pietrasanta, Italy, dedicated a statue of Munemori by sculptor Marcello Tommasi. Arrangements for this monument was made by Dr. Americo Bugliani, a resident of the city who, as a young boy, befriended the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion soldiers.



*The Medal of Honor*

### **An American Patriot: 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Young Oak Kim, continued**

on enemy strength, including their use of tanks, Kim volunteered to capture a German soldier. The 100<sup>th</sup> battalion commander said the idea was crazy and the 34<sup>th</sup> Division intelligence officer said the mission was “suicidal”. Armed with a pistol and a submachine gun, Kim and PFC Irving Akahoshi, after a thorough study of maps and the terrain, crawled through a wheat field and at dawn arrived at the edge of the German bivouac area just as the enemy unit, which operated at night and slept during the day, was about to go to sleep. When two enemy soldiers snored heavily, Kim and Akahoshi, communicating via eye signals, jumped in the dugout, shoved the submachine gun barrels in their mouths and motion them to remain silent, then to leave the dugout, crawl through the wheat field to the safe zone, where the prisoners were turned over to a BAR team. Pleased with the intelligence from the prisoners, the 34<sup>th</sup> Division confidently entered Rome. Kim and Akahoshi were each awarded the DSC.

Kim served in the Korean War for one year, including as a battalion commander of the 31<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division. He was wounded in combat. After tours in Germany and stateside Kim was assigned back to Korea in the early 1960s as military advisor to the South Korean Army during which time he was promoted to full Colonel. He retired from military service in 1971. During his retirement Kim devoted his time to community development and became an advocate for racial equality, youth, elderly and the poor. He served on the Board of United Way. He died on December 2, 2005 and is interred with his 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion buddies at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), Hawaii.

## JAVA Bids Fond Farewell to Ambassador Sasae and Gives Him Highest Award



L-R: Al Goshi, Ambassador Sasae, Norman Mineta, Irene Hirano Inouye at Meiwah luncheon. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.

*Chevy Chase, MD.* His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae, Japan's Ambassador to the USA, received JAVA's highest award at a luncheon at the Meiwah restaurant on February 15, 2018. In presenting the *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award* to Ambassador Sasae, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), JAVA President, said the award is in recognition of "your steadfast work and dedication to build strong relations between our nations and your support for JAVA. You have built a bridge across our two countries." Goshi paid high tribute to the Ambassador for his "contributions to strengthening our nations' bonds, and especially in those areas that are close to the hearts of our membership. Nikkei veterans care deeply about things you have done in the area of peace and conflict avoidance in the Asian Pacific region."

Ambassador Sasae was visibly pleased to see the Honorable Norman Mineta, JAVA Honorary Chair, who said this is his first venture out in business suit following surgery in August. Representatives of other Japanese American organizations in the nation's capital who participated in the luncheon included Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye, President of US-Japan Council, Floyd Mori, President and CEO of Asia Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Michelle Amano, Director of Operations, JACL national, Georgette Furukawa Martinez, President of JACL WDC, and John Tobe, Vice Chairman of the Board of the National

Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Dr. James McNaughton, JAVA member and retired US Army historian told Ambassador Sasae that *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* is being translated into Japanese for publication in Japan soon.

Secretary Mineta described the Ambassador's close relationship with JAVA and the Japanese American community and how this relationship built a strong bond of friendship between the government and peoples of the two nations. Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye spoke of the US-Japan Council's relationship with the Government of Japan and also with JAVA. She also said her husband, the late US Senator Daniel Inouye, enjoyed supporting JAVA's activities when he was asked to make a statement or to write a letter.

Ambassador Sasae, with five-and-a-half years of continuous service as one of the longest-serving Japanese Ambassadors, said he was deeply touched by Goshi, Mineta and Inouye's remarks. When he was appointed as Ambassador to Washington, DC, he made, as one of his goals, the building of a strong relationship between the government and people of Japan and the Nikkei population. Within the first few days of his arrival in Washington, DC, the Ambassador visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol Building, where the late Dr. Ray Murakami briefed him on the significance of the Memorial. Soon after that the Ambassador obtained a briefing from JAVA on the Japanese American experience during WW II. He introduced JAVA officials to VIP visitors from Japan and to the Japanese print and TV journalists assigned to Washington, DC.

Below is a photo taken at a reception the Ambassador held in March before leaving his post in Washington, DC. L to R: Floyd Mori, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, The Hon. Norm Mineta, Terry Shima, Ambassador Sasae, Deni Mineta and Al Goshi.

*Photo: Embassy of Japan*



## Asian Pacific Islanders with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne)

By Wade Ishimoto

*Torii Station, Okinawa.* I had the great honor and pleasure to spend four days with members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) located at Torii Station, Okinawa. December 2017 was the first time I had been back to Okinawa in 44 years. The 1<sup>st</sup> SF Group was activated in 1957 at Camp Buckner, Okinawa. It was the third Special Forces Group to be formed. In 1972, Special Forces introduced the Battalion concept. I was in A Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> SF Group in 1972 when it became the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. JAVA Life Member Richard Kim had previously commanded the unit in 1969. The Group was inactivated in 1974 when Special Forces was cut by close to 75% of its strength during the height of the Vietnam War.

The Group was reactivated in 1984 and is headquartered at Joint Base Lewis McChord outside Tacoma, WA. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> SF Group was reestablished on Okinawa in what used to be an Army Security Agency installation at Torii Station in the central western portion of Okinawa. The Group is oriented on Asia, but has also deployed its Soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan. They work closely with other nations in helping to improve their special operations capabilities. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion maintains a language laboratory with professional instructors that teach Japanese, Korean, Indonesian, Tagalog, Thai, and Mandarin Chinese.

I was amazed to see the number of Asian Pacific Islanders in the Battalion and had a chance to meet 11 and to interview seven of them for this article. Pseudonyms are used because they and their families are targeted by terrorist groups. They also pride themselves as “Quiet Professionals” who avoid publicity and go about their duties with a great deal of humility.

Of the 11, seven were officers and four were noncommissioned officers. There was one Portuguese Hawaiian Sergeant from Maui, one officer who was half Thai, six Korean Americans, and three Japanese Americans. Amazingly, four of the officers were West Point graduates! Here’s a synopsis of some of their stories.

The Deputy Battalion Commander is Major Mike, a West Point graduate who is part Korean American.

Major T commands the Crisis Response Force that responds to terrorist events in Asia. He is of Japanese American heritage. He grew up overseas as his Dad, originally from Hawaii, was a soldier and civil servant. He graduated from West Point in 2003, entered Special forces in 2008 and has done two deployments to Iraq. He is married with 3 sons. He has remained in the Army because of his belief in the mission to protect our national security along with working with people he respects that include foreign nationals.

The ranking NCO for the Crisis Response Force is MSG T, a Korean American from Portland, Oregon. He dropped out of college to join Special Forces on a special program called the 18X enlistment option. He felt the need to serve our Nation at a critical time. He has done three deployments with a total of 22 months in combat to include time in the Philippines fighting Abu Sayeff and two tours in Afghanistan. He is married with two children and one more on the way. He loves the Army and the challenge that Special Forces provides.

CPT B is a Dartmouth graduate of Korean ancestry who recently completed his Special Forces qualification and will be assigned as an Executive Officer to one of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Companies.

CPT Marty was my escort for the trip. He is a 2010 USMA graduate of Korean ancestry who was adopted and grew up in the upper mid-West. He served 20 months in Afghanistan as an Infantry officer before becoming Special forces qualified in 2014. After 9/11/01, he felt a need to serve his community and our nation and was convinced by a cousin to join Special Forces. He enjoys the opportunity to work with great people from different cultures and the sense of purpose he gains in SF. Marty leads an A Detachment that is preparing for an exchange in India.

CPT P is also of Korean ancestry and graduated from USMA in 2011 as an Infantry officer. His Grandmother inspired him to become a Soldier and impressed upon him the need to serve his country. He has seen combat in Afghanistan and began his journey to SF in 2015. He also leads an A Detachment in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion like CPT Marty.

...Article continues on next page



CPT Glen is of Japanese ancestry and leads an A Detachment. He originally enlisted in the Air Force, transferred to the Army National guard, received his commission from a West Coast university through ROTC, and became an Infantry officer. His grandparents were in the military, his father in the Army, his brother is in the Air force and his sister in the Navy! He has served a year in Afghanistan and was attracted to SF because of the challenge of working with other nations.

SFC Stan is the Assistant Operations NCO for the Battalion and will soon be promoted to Master Sergeant. He met his wife who is an Army Reservist while they were in Afghanistan. They are expecting their first child. Stan was close to graduating from Syracuse University where he was in the ROTC program and to be commissioned in Field Artillery. He learned about Special Forces and left college to enlist as he felt a burning desire to serve our country and to protect our American way of life. He has three combat deployments to Afghanistan. He is a Korean American.

SSG Michael is a Japanese American who grew up in Southern California. His father was in the Air Force and his Grandfather was in the Military Intelligence Service during WW II. He joined the Army as a combat medic in 2012 with a desire to serve our Nation like his father and grandfather. He decided to go into Special Forces and has become a SF Engineer. He enjoys the greater responsibility in SF along with the quality of those he serves with.

It truly was an honor to meet these great Soldiers. They are America's best ... physically fit, better trained, and smarter than my generation and as dedicated to serving our Nation!



1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group. MSG and Mrs JaeKuen Lee with Wade Ishimoto (center).

## Ishimoto is Keynote Speaker at 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) Warrior Ball

*Naha, Okinawa, Japan.* JAVA Secretary Wade Ishimoto was invited by Lt Col Ryan Armstrong, Command Sergeant Major Ken Keesler, and Sgt Maj Bernie Fernandez to be the Warrior's Ball banquet speaker on December 8, 2017, at the Zanpamisaki Royal Hotel, Okinawa, Japan. Over 300 men and women of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) along with their spouses and guests were in attendance. Among the guests were Col Taisuke Fujimura, Commander of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Special Operations Group headquartered at Camp Narashino, outside Tokyo, Japan. Fujimura had last seen Ishimoto when he was a Major in 2010.

Ishimoto remarked that the hotel grounds were part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group in 1970 where he was assigned after Vietnam and that the area was totally changed. He stated that he also changed his prepared speech because of two events that happened on his trip to Okinawa. The first was when a young lady seated next to him asked for help on dealing with stress. Then on the plane out of Detroit to Narita, he came across an article from the December 11, 2017, issue of Time Magazine that talked about a soldier well known to him. The article read, "U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Faris' daughter stood in his bedroom doorway and demanded an answer. It was 2009, and Faris was packing his bags for yet another six-month deployment to Afghanistan. With her 18th birthday approaching, she asked if he remembered the last birthday he was present for. "No," Faris replied. "I was 10," she said, and turned and walked out the door. Between 2002 and 2011, Faris estimates he was home a total of 89 days. Faris' wife said he became more like a guest in their house. The distance pushed them to the brink of divorce."

Ishimoto then mentioned the sacrifice and bravery of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team during WWII. They had some 18 months in combat. In comparison, Chris Faris far exceeded that amount of time in combat. Ishimoto also mentioned the son of a friend who had graduated from the Naval Academy, was commissioned as a Marine, became an aviator, and then decided to resign his commission so he could revert to being a Warrant Officer and flying for the legendary 160<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment (the Night Stalkers). As of this year, this Warrant Officer had completed his 20<sup>th</sup> deployment of

of six or more months to a combat zone ... a total of over 120 months in combat. He and Chris Faris epitomize what is happening in Special Forces today.

Ishimoto stated that he is tired of hearing two trite phrases ... "We stand on your shoulders" and "Thank you for your service." Instead, he said that today's Special Forces are smarter, more physically fit, and paying more sacrifices individually and as families than ever before. So he asked that no one talk about standing on his shoulders as those today tower over those of the past. And rather than saying to today's soldiers, "thank you for your service," he says, "I honor your sacrifices."



He went on to say that the key in dealing with stress, to overcome the sacrifices that are being made, is to band together as an extended family ... to help each other in times of need, to care about each other, to look after your team mates and your family, and to have faith in a supreme being no matter what your race or religion might be. He concluded by asking God to bless all in attendance and for God to bless America.

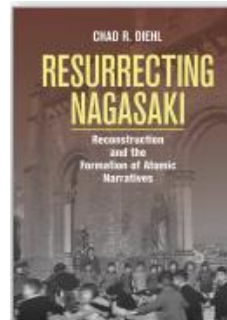
### ***Resurrecting Nagasaki*, by Chad R. Diehl**

*Loyola University, MD.* In *Resurrecting Nagasaki*, Chad R. Diehl examines the reconstruction of Nagasaki City after the atomic bombing of August 9, 1945. Diehl illuminates the genesis of narratives surrounding the bombing by following the people and groups who contributed to the city's rise from the ashes and shaped its postwar image in Japan and the world.

Municipal officials, survivor-activist groups, the Catholic community, and American occupation officials interpreted the destruction and envisioned the reconstruction of the city from different and sometimes disparate perspectives.

...continued

Each group's narrative situated the significance of the bombing within the city's postwar urban identity in unique ways, informing the discourse of reconstruction as well as its physical manifestations in the city's revival.



Diehl's analysis reveals how these atomic narratives shaped both the way Nagasaki rebuilt and the ways in which popular discourse on the atomic bombings framed the city's experience for decades. [Chad R. Diehl, PhD, is Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University, Baltimore, MD. He was a football star at Clemson University. He served as Editor of JAVA Advocate from Summer 2016 to Spring 2017.]

### **Thank You, Donors!**

**We are grateful for those who donated funds  
from January 1 through March 31, 2018**

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Mae Nakamoto, Michael Nakamoto, and  
Robert S. Nakamoto  
Kei Hirabayashi

## Roy Fujiwara, 442, L Company Veteran Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Roy Fujiwara and Sandra Tanamachi (holding JAVA letter).  
*Photo by Dr. Ellen Sawamura.*

By Sandra Tanamachi

*Honolulu, Hawaii.* Roy Fujiwara celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at Natsunoya Tea House, Honolulu, HI, on February 15, 2018. 61 guests traveled from Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Houston to join family and friends to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Fujiwara began the evening by paying a special tribute to the late Dr. Howard Kline, who had been taking care of Fujiwara since October 2004 when they first met on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of France Tour.

Fujiwara's nephew from Seattle, retired U.S. Coast Guard Officer Joel Fujiwara, led everyone in prayer, then his opera-trained wife, Donna, sang "America, the Beautiful." Gaye Miyasaki presented Fujiwara with congratulatory certificates from Hawaii Governor David I. Ige, Senator Mazie Hirono, and Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. Tom Graves brought a certificate from Densho/Tom Ikeda, Executive Director, and a Proclamation from Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan proclaiming February 15, 2018, to be named Roy Fujiwara Day in Seattle, where Roy was born and made his home. Gaye and Tom worked together with Representative Colleen Hanabusa to have Fujiwara's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday inserted into the *Congressional Record*.

Dr. Ellen Sawamura presented Fujiwara with a framed letter and coin from FFNV/Lawson Sakai and a framed letter from NJAHS/Rosalyn Tonai. Fujiwara was also given letters from the U.S.-Japan Council/Irene Hirano Inouye; National Veterans Network/Christine Sato-Yamazaki; and JAVA along with an inscribed coin/Allen Goshi. Peggy Mizumoto brought a letter from GFBNEC/Mitchell Maki; Barbara Berthiaume presented a letter from retired General Eric Shinseki.

Everyone was asked to sign around Fujiwara's picture in Tom Graves book, *Twice Heroes*. Fujiwara then discussed how he and fellow Nisei veterans scaled up Mt. Folgorito, Italy, in 1944, overtaking the Germans in only 32 minutes.

## Virgil Westdale Celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Virgil Westdale, second from left. His uncut cake is on the table to the left.



By Susan Reister

*Grand Rapids, MI.* Virgil Nishimura Westdale celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in a party arranged by his family and friends for 150 attendees at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, De Vos Learning Center, in Grand Rapids, MI, on January 6, 2018.

The brief program included Westdale's son, Fred, who spoke about his dad's past, including his military service; his niece, Chantel, a professional singer who sang the National Anthem. A 30-minute film, *A Salute to Honor*, produced by several college students was also shown. The official program portion ended with Westdale and his granddaughter, Lindsay Westdale, sharing a dance on the stage and the cutting of the cake with 100 candles.

Westdale received a very special surprise. He was presented with an official US Air Force pilot's "wings" worn by US Air Force pilots. When WW II began, Westdale was in the US Army Air Corps Reserve serving as a flight instructor. Because he was Japanese, whose loyalty was questioned, he was transferred to an Army unit to clean stoves in the kitchen. When the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT was formed, Westdale obtained a transfer. Following his discharge, Westdale told his grandmother he planned to become a pilot for one of the major commercial airlines. His grandmother said you will do nothing of the sort. Go to college and get a good job like everyone else. Westdale obeyed, became an engineer and went on to earn 25 patents. Airplanes still in his blood, his second career job was as a passenger security checker at the Grand Rapids airport for Transportation Security Agency, from which he retired at age 91.

Attendees included Leon Blum, who was rescued from a German extermination sub-camp in the Dachau area of Germany by Westdale's battalion, and Stephanie Gerdes, who co-authored his book, *Blue Skies and Thunder*. Retired military personnel were invited to wear their military uniforms. Westdale wore his WW II uniform.



## February 1, 2018: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Lest we Forget.

By Eric Saul, Historian

February 1, 2018, marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Japanese American 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. On January 22, 1943, the War Department authorized the activation of the Japanese American Regimental Combat Team. The regiment, along with the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, became the most decorated U.S. Army unit for its size and length of service in the entire history of the US Army. Its history was unsurpassed. The unit was composed of company-grade officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men of Japanese ancestry.

On the founding of the 442<sup>nd</sup>, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a statement that was reportedly written by the War Relocation Authority: "The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry. A good American is one who is loyal to this country and to our creed of liberty and democracy." Among the many ironies of this story is that the War Department that authorized the creation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT was the very same government agency that imprisoned all persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast. Also, it is the same War Department which classified young Nisei men as "4C, Enemy Alien," unavailable for the draft. The parents of the young Nisei, the Issei, could not own land, vote, or become citizens. Yet the Nisei fought with a determination to prove their loyalty, to vouch for their parents, and to improve the futures of their unborn children and grandchildren.

Today we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of that fight for justice. When the Nisei returned home, they helped to abolish the discriminatory laws against the Japanese American community. Perhaps their proudest moment was when they witnessed their parents being naturalized and sworn in as American citizens. 75 years later, we celebrate the fact that the United States government apologized to the Japanese American community for the wartime imprisonment by passing House Resolution 442, named to honor the regiment (Civil Liberties Act of 1988). This was the only time that the United States government apologized for violating the rights of its citizens and paid reparations. We celebrate the fact that Hawaii became a state in 1959, thanks, in part, to the record of the Nisei soldiers.

We also celebrate the fact that the Smithsonian Institution opened an acclaimed exhibit, entitled "*A More Perfect Union: Japanese Americans and the Constitution*," which opened on September 17, 1987, on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the U.S. constitution.

We celebrate the fact that the United States Congress honored all Nisei veterans of World War II on October 8, 2010, with a gold medal, the nation's highest civilian honor; that there are museums and archives dedicated to preserving the memory of the Nisei soldiers all over the United States, including Honolulu, Maui, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and others. Please remember the more than 30,000 Nisei men and women who served in World War II, and the more than 700 who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



Eric Saul (center) with US Senators Daniel Inouye (left) and Spark Matsunaga at the Go For Broke Exhibit at the Presidio of San Francisco in March 1981 when Saul was Director/ Curator of the Presidio Army Museum. *Photo from Saul.*

*Eric Saul is a foremost historian on ethnic Japanese experience in America. He shares his knowledge through his writings, films, speeches, interviews, and creation of exhibits at premier locations, e.g. the Smithsonian and Ellis Island. He has collected many photographs from the National Archives and Records Administration and by visiting Nisei at their homes, club house meetings and conventions. Saul has done all this pro bono. JAVA salutes Eric Saul.]*

## **JAVA Presents Mineta with its *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award***

By LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret)

On January 27, 2018 JAVA President Al Goshi and Executive Council Member Rod Azama traveled to Edgewater, MD to present Secretary Norman Mineta with JAVA's *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*. The award originally had been scheduled to be presented at JAVA's October 2017 luncheon, but Mineta was convalescing from surgery at the time. JAVA also presented the Secretary and his wife Deni with a framed signed poster board from JAVA members wishing the Secretary a speedy recovery and with JAVA coins in appreciation for their service and support to JAVA. Mineta has served as an Honorary Chair of JAVA since its inception in 1993.



L-R: Rod Azama, Secretary Mineta, and Al Goshi.  
*Photo from Azama.*

Mineta is a pioneer on AAPI rights and issues. He was born in San Jose, CA to Japanese immigrant parents. As a child during World War II, he experienced discrimination when his family was interned at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming, along with almost 120,000 other ethnic Japanese interned nationwide. After the war, he returned to San Jose and after graduating from University of California, Berkeley, he joined the US Army and served as an intelligence officer in Japan and Korea.

Secretary Mineta is well known for his work in transportation and national security. He is recognized for his accomplishments in economic development, science and technology policy, foreign and domestic trade, budgetary issues and civil rights, as well as his perspective from having served in Congress for over 20 years and in the Cabinets of both Democratic (Bill Clinton's Secretary of Commerce, 2000-2001) and Republican (George W. Bush's Secretary of Transportation, 2001-2006) presidents.

For almost 30 years, Mineta represented San Jose, CA – the heart of Silicon Valley – first on the City Council, then as Mayor, and then from 1975-1995 as a Member of Congress. He served as the Chairman of the House Transportation and Public Works Committee from 1992-1994, after having chaired the Subcommittee on Aviation and the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation. He was the primary author of the groundbreaking ISTEA legislation – the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. While in Congress, he co-founded the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and was Chair of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission in 1997.

After leaving the Department of Transportation, Mineta served as Vice Chairman of Hill & Knowlton in its Washington, DC, office, providing counsel and strategic advice to clients on a wide range of business and political issues. Recognized for his leadership, Mineta has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, and the Order of the Rising Sun from the Government of Japan.

Mineta was instrumental in the passage of some key legislations such as the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 that provided citizenship to Issei, the redress for Japanese-Americans interned during World War II and the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service - whose values and ideals he embodied during his long career of public service.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 17, 2018:** APAICS and PPALM Military Leadership Luncheon, Hotel Liaison Capitol Hill. See <http://apaics.org/military-leadership-luncheon/> for details.

**May 27, 2018:** Memorial Day Ceremony and Wreath-laying at Arlington National Cemetery. 9:30 am at the Pavilion near the Columbarium.

**July 21, 2018:** Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon

## Meet the Generals and Admirals

This is a series of Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US uniformed services. The present count is that over 136 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including three with four-star rank. Of the 136, eighty served in the US Army, 24 in the US Air Force, 25 in the US Navy, three in the US Marines, one in the US Coast Guard, and three in the US Public Health Service.

### MG William (Bill) Chen, USA (Ret)



MG William (Bill) Chen served on active duty for 32 years and retired as a major general — the first Chinese American to wear the 2-star rank of major general, U.S. Army. He then worked as a defense industry executive for about 18 years. Now retired, he and his wife Sandra, reside in Belmont, MA.

Chen entered active duty in 1961 and decided to pursue a career in Army missiles consistent with his schooling in aerospace engineering. He had career-building assignments in the systems acquisition and program management of Army missile & air defense systems. He commanded a battalion and served as a staff officer in the Office of the Chief of Staff, Army and Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition. He also had overseas assignments in Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos.

As a colonel, he served as the program manager of two air defense programs. As a brigadier general he was the Deputy Director of Weapons Systems and Assistant Deputy for Systems Management for the Army. As a major general he commanded the U.S. Army Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, AL, during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, the Army's largest deployment and subsequent combat use of Army missiles in history. Later he served as the Army's first Program Executive Officer for Missile Defense — directing all the Army's theater and national missile defense programs.

Chen's defense industry experience included assignments in United Defense, Inc. as vice president & program director, vice president for army programs, and vice president for engineering & product development; and in BAE Systems, Inc. as US vice president & general manager.

Chen graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S.E. in engineering mathematics and an M.S.E. in aeronautical & astronautical engineering. He has an MBA from Auburn University. His awards include two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal. He is a graduate of the Air Command & Staff College and the Defense Systems Management College.

### Choosing the Army as a Career

By MG Bill Chen, USA (Ret)

I entered the University of Michigan in September 1956 at age 16. Good grades in math and science in high school were the basis for my enrolling in the College of Engineering. Beyond that, I was unclear on which specific engineering discipline to pursue. However, I did want to join ROTC. I knew that if there was a war, I wanted to serve as a commissioned officer. The question for me was whether to enroll in Army or Air Force ROTC. My vision was 20-30, so I knew I could not be a pilot. Whether right or wrong, my sense was that I would be a second-class citizen in the Air Force if I were not a pilot. Thus, I chose Army ROTC.

When I was a sophomore, the Soviet Union's launch of the first satellite Sputnik 1 in October 1957, was a wake-up for me, as well as others around the world. The U.S. response, Explorer 1, was launched in January 1958. Upon hearing that Explorer 1 was launched by a modified Army Jupiter-C intermediate range ballistic missile, I immediately wanted to learn and understand the role of the Army in ballistic missiles. I got my hands on whatever literature there was about the U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal, AL.

I said to myself that when I go on active duty, I wanted to be assigned to Army missiles at Redstone Arsenal. At the same time, academically, I decided to pursue aeronautical & astronautical engineering with course work related to missile technology -- rocket propulsion, guidance & control, high speed aerodynamics, flight mechanics, aerodynamic heating and reentry.

Meanwhile, engrossed in the ROTC curriculum, I could have been accused of majoring in ROTC. Near graduation I was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate, but I could not accept a Regular Army commission until age 21. I decided to stay on to get my master's degree in aeronautical & astronautical engineering in June 1961, which I did. Then, I entered active duty as a Regular Army officer.

It was 1958 when I first learned about the US Army Ballistic Missile Agency, later designated as the US Army Missile Command. Who would have believed that the young sophomore back then would be a major general in

*...continued on next page*



### Choosing the Army as a Career, continued:

in 1989 and receive the colors as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Missile Command?

*[JAVA congratulates MG Chen for his achievements and patriotism.]*

### News from Other Veterans Organizations

*Honolulu, HI.* The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, Hawaii March 2018 Newsletter, *Puka Puka Parade*, has Susan Muroshige Omura's article which discussed her correspondence with Alexis Hautefeuille of Menton, France, where the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT's assignment was to prepare for the return to Italy to pierce Germany's "impregnable Gothic Line" that guarded the Po Valley and the north. Alexis' late mother, Olga Hautefeuille, who interpreted for Allied forces, told her children the American soldiers provided them with food.

*Chicago, IL.* The Chicago Nisei Post 1183 News Bulletin dated 12/20/2017, noted that as the result of the Nisei exhibit's high acclaim by the media, the "sharing stories" project will continue to be featured at the Alphawood Gallery. The final Saturday featured an oral history presentation by Enoch Kanaya, a 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran.

*Johnston, IA.* The 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association bulletin, in its "Final Roll Call" carried the names of seven 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion veterans: Ichiro Kamikawa, Ronald E. Sakaino, Mitsuo Ted Hamasu, Tadao Seo, Paul S. Hachida, Wataru Anzai, and Kazuma Taguchi. The bulletin also announced the 34<sup>th</sup> Division publication of a book on its role "in the Global War on Terror from 2001 to 2017."

*Honolulu, HI.* MIS Veterans Hawaii January 2018 newsletter reported that producers Lucy Ostrander and Don Sellers of Seattle-based Stourwater Pictures showed "*Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii*" at the Hawaii International Film Festival in November 2017. Yamane, one of the sixty 100<sup>th</sup> Bn Nisei transferred to the MIS, discovered a valuable Japanese document full of actionable intelligence. He was subsequently deployed to the European theater for the aborted raid of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin.

*Seattle, WA.* In the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) February 2018 Newsletter, Commander Bryan Takeuchi cites the role of volunteers as responsible for the NVC development into the organization it is today. The NVC is one of the leading Japanese American veterans' organizations in the nation. JAVA agrees with the value of volunteers. The Newsletter also reported that NVC members were invited to the I Corps Centennial Ball, one of the few community organizations invited to attend this event.



GEN Herbert Carlisle, USAF (Ret), President, NDIA; RADM Brian Losey, USN (Ret); Michael Kichman, NDIA SOLIC Division Chair. Photo by Ishimoto.

### RADM Brian Losey, USN (Ret), Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

By Wade Ishimoto

*Arlington, VA.* RADM Brian Losey, USN (Ret), received the prestigious DeProspero Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) on February 28, 2018. RADM Losey, a JAVA Life Member, was honored by NDIA's Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict Division at its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. He was recognized for his many contributions to special operations during his 33-year military career.

His illustrious career culminated with his leadership of the Naval Special Warfare Command wherein he was responsible for over 8,500 Navy SEALs and Special Warfare Combat Crewman. He had previously led the Special Operations Command Africa, Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, the Navy's counter-terrorist special mission unit, and served on the National Security Council Staff as the Director for Combatting Terrorism and Maritime Security.

In his acceptance speech, Losey paid tribute to the non-commissioned officers who had mentored him early in his career, to his friend ADM William McRaven who led the United States Special Operations Command, and to his wife, Ivy, who accompanied him at the banquet.

### Welcome New Members (January 1 through March 31, 2018)

COL Leroy Barker (USA), SSgt Michael Beck (USAF), MG William Chen (USA, Ret), CDR Frank Koye (USN, Ret), CDR David Lee (USN, Ret), LTC Masaki Nakazono (USA), CAPT Roger Natsuhara (USN, Ret), CAPT Kenji Seta (USAF, Ret), LTC Iven Sugai (USA), Lt Col Galen Yoshimoto (USNG, Ret)

**New Friends of JAVA:** Michelle Goshi, Irene Hirano, Dr. Stephen Payne, Joshua Rigel, Peter Shigeta

## Junwo Jim Yamashita, 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran, Passes

By Robert Eaton

*Glendora, CA.* Junwo “Jim” Yamashita was born on May 20, 1924 in Santa Ana, California, and passed away at his home on December 19, 2017, after a short illness. A memorial service was held on January 27, 2018, in the Rose Hills Sky Rose Chapel, Whittier, CA.

In 1925 his family moved to Overton, NV, where they bought a farm. Jim volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and was assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, I Company, which participated in the Rome-Arno Campaign in Italy, the liberation of the towns in the Vosges forests in north-eastern France, and the Po Valley region in Italy. Following his discharge, he returned to Overton to work the family farm before moving to southern California. Following his marriage to Marian Yoshida in 1951, Yamashita opened his B & H Television and Appliance store in La Mirada.



Junwo Jim Yamashita

*Photo from Eaton.*

Yamashita was a founding member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association, helped organize the Suburban Optimist Club of Buena Park and the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance in 1997. Many recognize him for his leadership in a project that has encompassed the past 20 years of his life, “Echoes of Silence,” which contains the profiles of every killed-in-action (KIA) Nisei soldier along with their Caucasian officers.

Yamashita led a team of volunteers to collect data and photographs to ensure that the public never forgets “freedom is not free.” He utilized the strengths of each volunteer to get the best results possible. Shuji Taketomo compiled the battle reports and wrote out a day by day account of each battle and the KIA’s of that day. Mike Tsuji, an architect by profession, designed the Memorial Court to honor the fallen in all the Wars. Kathleen Baishiki used her writing skills to compose a tribute to each KIA. Roger Eaton joined the group in 2003 to turn to the ‘Internet’ to document each man’s Date of birth, date of death, hometown, and other details.

Far from being ‘done’, the Registry is being added to each day as more information is collected. The progress can be viewed and downloaded here:

<http://www.jalivinglegacy.org/main.cfm?stg=eos>

## George J. Konoshima Passes

By LTC Rod Azama, USA (Ret)

*Bethesda, MD.* Please join us in keeping longtime and active JAVA members Akio and Lida Konoshima in your thoughts and prayers. We ask for this support, just as they have supported JAVA members through these many years they have touched our lives and work.

George J. Konoshima of Bethesda, MD, passed suddenly on Friday, March 9, 2018. He was the son of Akio and the late Hideko Konoshima. George is survived by Gregory and Jillian Konoshima, Joseph Ribeiro (wife, Ashley) and their mother, Sandra Lambert and grandchild Madison Ribeiro; siblings Mari Andersen and Taro Konoshima and parents Aki and Lida Konoshina.

The family received friends at Pumphrey’s Bethesda-Chevy Chase Funeral Home, 7557 Wisconsin Ave, Bethesda, MD on Friday, March 16. Interment will be private.

The family guest book can be viewed and signed at [www.PumphreyFuneralHome.com](http://www.PumphreyFuneralHome.com).

Visit our website:

[www.JAVA.WildApricot.org](http://www.JAVA.WildApricot.org)

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association-201704733192222/>

## Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Honorably Discharged: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist/National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet/Midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_

Current or Last Military Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

War Veteran Member: \_\_\_\_\_ General Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend of JAVA: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran or cadet/midshipman? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of war veteran, veteran, or cadet/midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates that relative served: \_\_\_\_\_ Which Service? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application to: JAVA or email application to: [javapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:javapotomac@gmail.com)  
 P.O. Box 341198  
 Bethesda, MD 20827

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 **War Veteran Member**, 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 **General Member**, 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.

**Friends of JAVA** 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.