



JAVA ADVOCATE

FFNV Hosted the 2017 Annual Reunion in Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV. Sixteen veterans from various states but mainly California and Hawaii were included in the approximately 200 Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) members and friends who attended the 2017 reunion in Las Vegas, NV, on October 15-19, 2017.



Lawson Sakai, Co E, 442nd, and Robert Baba, 442nd Medic, reminisce about their days on active duty. *Photo from David Nishitani*

Thirteen were veterans of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT, one Military Intelligence Service, and two were veterans of the Korean War. Some needed wheelchairs and others confidently walked. It didn't matter how they came. They all gathered in two hospitality rooms in the spirit of camaraderie so inspiring to all others in attendance.

The welcome banquet featured Shane Sato and Robert Horsting introducing the book: *THE GO FOR BROKE SPIRIT – PORTRAITS OF COURAGE*. For the farewell banquet, Stacy Hayashi, author (*"Journey of Heroes"*) and filmmaker, presented a preview of her upcoming feature film: *Go For Broke – A 442 Origins Story*. Representatives from the Special Service Force which briefly fought with the 442 RCT and also supported the MIS in the early years of the Pacific Campaign presented its Congressional Gold Medal to Go For Broke National Education Center.

Lawson Sakai, 442nd veteran and FFNV President said "we invite everyone to join FFNV and attend next year's reunion (dates to be announced later.)" Please visit: www.ffnv.org for more information about FFNV and its activities including next year's reunion dates.

--By Brian Shiroyama

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE IV

Inside This Issue:

Counterterrorism Officers Take Tour	2
Why the National JA Memorial?	2
Letter From the JAVA President	3
Veterans Day 2017 Activities	4
Harry Katsuji Fukuhara Remembered	5
Fall and Winter Luncheon Reports	6
"Courage and Compassion" Exhibit	7
Malott Given Order of Rising Sun	8
Obituaries	9-10
Hayashi Film Previews at US Capitol	10
Update on US Army Museum	11
Two Bills Introduced for Marauders	11
Floyd Mori Retires from APAICS	12
JAVA Scholarships Season Opens	12
News from Friends	13
The Dixie Mission	14
Virgil Westdale Speaks to Police	15
Marker Erected for Nisei Special Ops	16
Thank You, Donors	16
Upcoming Events	17
Obituaries	18-19
New Members	18
JAVA Membership Application	19

National Counterterrorism Center Officers Spend a Day with JAVA Briefers

By LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret)

On October 27, 2017, JAVA hosted LTG Michael Nagata, Commander of the National Counterterrorism Center's Directorate of Strategic Operational Planning (NCTC DSOP), and about 40 of his officers, who visited various locations in Washington D.C. to introduce them to the Japanese-American experience post-Pearl Harbor. The day started at the Japanese-American Memorial to Patriotism during WWII where past JAVA President, Gerald Yamada, Esq., briefed the group about the history of Executive Order 9066 and subsequent internment. He spoke about the building of the monument from securing legislation, site selection, to fundraising. Yamada set the tone for the rest of the day that was reinforced by other speakers.

The group then moved to the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History where Terry Shima spoke about the 100th/442nd/MIS history and Mary Murakami spoke about her internment at Topaz. Noriko Sanefuji then conducted a guided tour of the exhibit, *"Righting a Wrong: Japanese-Americans & WWII."*

The group then visited the Washington Navy Yard for lunch with JAVA members Bill Houston and Capt (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret). Macri organized a quick tour of the US Navy Museum that ended at the conference room where she spoke of her personal experiences of having family members on both sides of the war and as a female medical doctor serving in the USN. JAVA President LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), followed with a briefing about Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui, who allowed themselves to get arrested in order to challenge the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, and the Mitsuye Endo *habeas corpus* petition for her release from the Tule Lake concentration camp where she and her family were being held. Ehsan Zaffar, a guest speaker, concluded the day by speaking about his personal experiences as a Muslim-American who escaped Kuwait after the First Gulf War.

In his concluding remarks, LTG Nagata said the value of these "staff rides", which take the officers away from their "pressure cooker" work environment and expose them, however briefly, to a totally new situation, are designed to improve the quality of their work and staff cohesion in the office.



Gerald Yamada standing in front of the Wall of Honor, described the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT combat duty in Europe and the MIS duty in the Asia Pacific Theater. Over 800 names of Nisei and Caucasians who served with the Nisei in the 100th/442nd and MIS are chiseled on the Wall.

Photo by Mark Nakagawa.

Why Is the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II a National Monument?

By Gerald Yamada, Esq.

Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Visitors to our Nation's Capital are encouraged to visit the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II. This Memorial conveys the story of how the Federal Government, motivated by prejudice, war hysteria, and political ambition, unjustly disrupted the lives of 120,000 innocent persons of Japanese ancestry. The Memorial instructs us how Japanese Americans proved their loyalty so that their freedoms and rights could be restored.

By telling this story, the Memorial serves four important purposes. First, it honors the patriotism of those who persevered under the bigotry of tyranny imposed by Executive Order 9066, signed by President Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. Second, the Memorial also pays tribute to the Japanese Americans who answered the call to serve while their family and friends were unjustly imprisoned in America's concentration camps.

The third lesson is that the Memorial condemns racial profiling. Executive Order 9066 is a classic example of racial profiling. It authorized the government to restrict constitutional rights based solely on ethnicity. We

...Continued on page 3

must never forget that racial profiling is discriminatory. The Memorial reminds us that actions motivated by the government to promote fear, hatred, and prejudice based solely on ethnicity must not be tolerated.

Fourth, the Memorial epitomizes the best of America's democratic values. With the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka Redress), America admitted its mistakes in violating constitutional rights of its citizens, made amends, and affirmed its commitment to equal justice under the law. By admitting its wrongs, America brings us together so that we can work to protect the constitutional rights for all. The Memorial teaches that we must not be blinded by fear, hatred, prejudice or partisan politics in pursuing equal justice under the law for all.

These lessons are the important legacy that must not be forgotten by the American public and future generations. Preserving this legacy is why the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II was authorized by law as a national monument and was built within view of the Capitol.

[Note: Gerald Yamada, Esq was pro bono General Counsel to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation from 1996 to 2005. The Foundation built the Memorial, which was opened to the public in 2001. He also was the Part-time Executive Director for the Foundation from 2005 to 2010.]

JAVA Officers

Honorary Chairs

The Honorable Daniel Akaka
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
Reuben Yoshikawa

President's Message

New Year's greetings!
JAVA Research Team's article, *25 Years History of JAVA, April 30, 1992-May 31, 2017*, (page 17) reminds us of the effort by leaders and other volunteers who made our organization the JAVA of today.



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

The late Grant Ichikawa (page 9) was one such leader who set such a strong example. His quiet strength, life of patriotic service, and strong commitment to the educational and outreach efforts of JAVA touched many of us. We'll miss him and all of those who have stepped back and moved on from our ranks.

Challenges continue for our community. Veterans and our loved ones continue to need better access to the benefits their service and sacrifice have earned. JAVA continues Grant's work to share the lessons of service and sacrifice of our community. We've had a challenging year, with a transition in leadership and reviewing our financial status and procedures, our records, and physical property. Through all this, the education mission has successfully maintained its pace.

We continue to fill the vacancies in our appointed leadership positions and committee chairs. We have been joined by our newest Board Members, Jason Kuroiwa of California, Marty Herbert of Florida, and Metta Tanikawa of Virginia. Metta has agreed to form and chair a new committee which she will lead in planning and executing membership meetings and quarterly luncheons. Bill Houston has agreed to return and chair our committee running our scholarship program. As the new year begins, he is busy preparing to advertise this year's application information (page 12). Many thanks to these and all our volunteers!

Mahalo, Al Goshi

JAVA Participates in Varied 2017 Veterans Day Programs

Mark Nakagawa, Vice President, JAVA

Washington, DC. Army Lieutenant General Michael Nagata, Director of the Directorate of Strategic Operational Planning at the National Counterterrorism Center, ended his 2017 Veterans Day keynote address at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism by reciting parts of music lyrics from Ken Burns epic film, *The War*, which ended with these words: “when my day is through, America, America, I gave my best to you”. This theme was reflected in the varied JAVA activities to recognize Veterans Day--a day to honor the men and women who defend our democratic institution and lifestyle every day and night.

A JAVA delegation attended the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School 16th Annual Musical Tribute to Veterans on November 7, 2017. JAVA President Allen Goshi was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and to provide the principal address. Vice President Mark Nakagawa, EC Member Rod Azama, and Dr. Ray and Mary Murakami also attended.

The traditional White House breakfast for veterans was cancelled because President Trump was on travel overseas. Instead, Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert MacDonald hosted breakfast at the Department of Commerce. Vice President Mark Nakagawa and his wife, Carol, attended this event. JAVA sends two members to this traditional White House breakfast by virtue of its membership in the Veterans Day National Committee, which is administered by VA and was established by presidential proclamation in 1954.

President Allen Goshi participated in the Vice President’s wreath laying ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown and sat in an assigned section in the Amphitheater to listen to the Vice President address the nation and men and women who serve around the world.

Veterans Day, November 11, 2017, was a cold day in the nation’s capital but the turnout for the joint JAVA, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), PPALM and JACL 17th annual Veterans Day Program, was excellent. David Inoue (National Executive Director of JACL), MG Antonio “Tony” Taguba, USA, (Ret), Chairman of PPALM, John Tobe, a board member of NJAMF, and LTC Allen Goshi,

USA (Ret), President of JAVA, represented their respective organizations. Other VIPs who attended were Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa of Hawaii, Minister Takuya Sasayama and MG Yoshiki Adachi, the new Defense and Military Attache, from the Embassy of Japan, LTG Paul Nakasone, Commanding General of US Army Cyber Command, and Floyd Mori, President and CEO of the Asia Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS). LTG Nagata’s remarks can be found on the JAVA website, <https://JAVA.wildapricot.com>.



Teresa Potterton (center front with both hands raised) leads the finale of a *Tribute to Veterans* program, held on November 7, 2017. This program, a musical of patriotic songs, began 16 years ago (2001), when the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School opened in Germantown, MD. In some years there are as many as 300 students on the stage for the finale.

Photo from Ms. Potterton.



JAVA members attending the Tribute to Veterans program were (L-R): LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Mrs. Mary Murakami, Ms. Teresa Potterton, Dr. Ray Murakami, and LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), JAVA President.

Photo from Mark Nakagawa.

Harry Katsuji Fukuhara – A True American Patriot

San Jose, CA. When Harry Fukuhara's father died in 1933, his mother left Seattle, WA, with her five children for her hometown in Hiroshima. Five years later, after completing high school, Harry returned to America and settled in Glendale, CA, where he served as a houseboy for a retired couple and worked weekends as a gardener while attending Glendale Jr. College.

Immediately after Japan attacked Hawaii on December 7, 1941, 21-year-old Fukuhara volunteered to enlist in the US Army. He was rejected for failing the eye test. In the forcible internment that followed, Fukuhara was confined to the Gila River, New Mexico, internment camp. When Army recruiters came to his camp in 1942 seeking Nisei with knowledge of the Japanese language, the Army waived his eyesight deficiency and accepted Fukuhara for intensive Japanese language training at Camp Savage, MN.

In 1943, Fukuhara was shipped to the Allied Translator and Interpreter Service (ATIS) in Brisbane, Australia, from where he was deployed for front line duty in a 10-man interrogation team with the 33rd Infantry Division in New Britain Island, now part of Papua New Guinea, then to Dutch New Guinea, the Philippines, and finally Japan. While the military commanders were trained to kill the enemy, Fukuhara persuaded the commanders to take them as prisoners for the intelligence they possessed. In addition to interrogating prisoners, Nisei duties included translating documents, preparing and circulating surrender leaflets to persuade the enemy to surrender. Fukuhara was hospitalized for malaria.

Towards the end of the Philippine campaign, division leadership began preparing for the invasion of Japan. Fukuhara had the option of rotating for stateside duty, however, he remained with his division for the invasion of Kyushu, Japan. Invasion training was stopped when the two atomic bombs were dropped and Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945. Around this time Fukuhara received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant. The 33rd Division arrived near Osaka, Japan, in September 1945 and one month later Fukuhara returned to the family home in the suburb of Hiroshima City, where his mother and her sister were living. They survived the A-Bomb attack because they hid in a shelter in the basement. Fukuhara's older brother, Victor, was suffering from the effects of radiation and died a month later before Fukuhara could get him placed in the Army hospital. Fukuhara also learned that his two younger brothers, Pierce and Frank, were members of a Japanese suicide squad whose members had bombs strapped to their backs to attack American invaders. They were assigned to a unit to defend Kyushu, the same attack target of Fukuhara's division.

Except for couple brief assignments in the US, Fukuhara served in Japan in various counterintelligence positions in the prefectures and in Tokyo, where he contributed to the development of Japan's defense and internal security capability. This was a top US priority mission because the Japanese communists, who were supported by the Soviet Union, attempted to bring down the government. He retired from the Army in 1971 with the rank of Colonel and subsequently served as a civilian in the federal service in Tokyo for the next 20 years. He received the Japanese Emperor's Award for his work in Japan. After he retired from federal service, Fukuhara devoted his time to getting the MIS classified record placed in the public record. US Senator Daniel K. Akaka championed Fukuhara's mission. Fukuhara received major combat awards (Combat Infantryman's Badge, three Bronze Star Medals, Legion of Merit) and civilian awards (Army's decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, Central Intelligence Agency's Distinguished Service Medal, induction into the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame in 1988 and a Distinguished Member of the Military Intelligence Corps in 1993). Harry Fukuhara died on April 8, 2015.



Harry Fukuhara, (right front) interrogating Japanese prisoners.



Harry Fukuhara, center, with brothers Pierce and Frank. If Japan had not surrendered and the planned invasion of Kyushu had occurred, Harry would have faced his two brothers, who served in the Imperial Japanese Army as suicide bombers.

US Coast Guard RADM Vojvodich Speaks at JAVA Fall Lunch. Secretary Mineta Unable to Attend due to Surgery

Falls Church, VA. JAVA members held their quarterly luncheon on October 14, 2017, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church. The members were sad to learn that Secretary Norman Mineta would not be present to receive the *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*, due to post-surgery rehabilitation requirements. Mineta sent a warm message from his rehabilitation hospital that was conveyed to the members by Master of Ceremonies Wade Ishimoto. [Ishimoto and Board member LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret) subsequently visited Mineta at his rehab hospital and spent three hours with him.] Appointed as an Honorary Chair of JAVA at its inception in 1992, Mineta is one of the longest-serving members of JAVA. He and his gracious wife, Deni, attend the JAVA luncheons when their crowded schedule allows.

VIPs who attended the luncheon included Richard Amano of Chicago, LTG Thomas and Renee Bostick, MG (Dr) Joe Carvalho, RADM Melvin Chiogioji, Floyd and Irene Mori, Glen Fukushima, David Inoue, Julie Kuroki (daughter of Ben), Dr. Jim McNaughton, Dr. Wayne and Arlene Minami, Dr. Ray and Mary Murakami, LTG Paul Nakasone, RADM Joseph Vojvodich and LTC Allen and Michelle Goshi.



RADM Vojvodich, Michelle Goshi, and LTC Allen Goshi, JAVA President.

Keynote speaker RADM Vojvodich, Deputy for Mission Support and Assistant Commandant for Acquisitions, US Coast Guard, discussed US Coast Guard's priorities and activities, especially vigorous given the recent hurricanes. For Hurricane Harvey, it was the rain-induced flood waters that required over 11,000 rescues by the Coast Guard. For Irma, it was the necessity to protect the ports in advance of the storm, and then with state, local and other Federal government partners to reconstitute the flow of commerce via the waterways. Hurricane Maria significantly impacted Coast Guard personnel assigned in Puerto Rico. As for organizational priorities, RADM Vojvodich shared insights about the Coast Guard's

Western Hemisphere strategy and the Coast Guard's effort to curb illicit smuggling of the contraband. He entertained several questions about the Arctic and Coast Guard's recapitalization effort to rebuild its icebreaker fleet."



A view of the luncheon participants.

Photos from Bruce Hollywood.

Commissioner Debra Wada Spoke at JAVA's January 20th Luncheon

JAVA's first quarterly luncheon of the New Year was held on January 20th and featured Commissioner Debra Wada - the Vice Chair, Military Service for the recently launched National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service. Originally from Hawaii, Ms. Wada was previously the Army's Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. She is a graduate of Drake University and the Naval War College, and a former Congressional Staffer for the House Armed Services Committee and for Senator Daniel Akaka.

The Congressionally-mandated 11-member Commission will examine and make recommendations on improving the military selective service system and public service opportunities to better meet our national security requirements. Military recruitment is a challenge with only about 25% of those in the age 17-24 age group meeting current minimum eligibility requirements for military service. The Commission will engage in a dialogue with communities, analyze the issues, and issue a final report by March 2020.

Commissioner Wada and the JAVA attendees engaged in a lengthy, interactive discussion of this important issue - improving military, national, and public service opportunities to meet growing national security requirements at a time when only a minority of the target recruitment cohort meets minimum military and

(continued on next page)

entry requirements. Issues discussed included the importance of military bases in providing community presence and contact, better educating young people and their parents about military and public service opportunities, leveraging community service requirements of high school students, better involving other elements of the US Government Department of Defense, corporations, educational institutions, the media, prominent entertainers and athletes, and non-governmental and service organizations. Some of our military needs might be met by other forms of public and national service. Like cyber security, improving military and public service recruitment is a complex,

"team-sport" that all organizations and individuals must be proactively involved in. When conflicts erupt, reacting then will be too late.

The Commission plans to travel in the coming months to various locations around the US to meet with communities; collect ideas on inspiring military, national, and public service; and enlist community and citizen support.

For further information and to provide relevant input to the Commission, visit their website at www.inspire2serve.gov . Instagram/Twitter/FB: inspire2serveus

Go for Broke National Education Center and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Host Exhibit

Los Angeles and Honolulu. Go for Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) hosted the traveling exhibition "*Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience*" from November 11 to December 9, 2017, in Honolulu. The national exhibit chronicles the story of the Japanese American experience during WWII, and features local stories of bravery and extraordinary support of Japanese Americans from communities across the country.

"*Courage and Compassion*" covers the events from the attack on Pearl Harbor through the creation of the 100th Infantry Battalion, wartime incarceration, postwar resettlement and the changing socio-economic culture of Hawaii. The interactive exhibit features images and audio of firsthand accounts, including interviews of Japanese American soldiers from GFBNEC's Hanashi Oral History Collection. "For nearly 150 years, Hawaii has played a major role in defining the Japanese American experience, and we're excited to share this compelling story with audiences nationwide," Dr. Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC's President and Chief Executive Officer, said.

Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, noted that Hawaii community leaders and authorities from diverse backgrounds stood against political pressure and public antagonism toward Japanese Americans in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack. Hayashino said. "We're proud to share the stories of such notable people as Hung Wai Ching and Military Governor Delos C. Emmons, who were instrumental in forming the Varsity Victory Volunteers and supporting the formation of the legendary 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team."

Honolulu is the second city on the national tour of "*Courage and Compassion*" following the exhibition's July 2017 debut in Salem, OR, at the Willamette Heritage Center. Other venues include Kingsburg, CA; Oberlin, OH; Rochester, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Monterey, CA; Peoria, IL; Chicago, IL; and Albuquerque, NM.

Order of the Rising Sun Awarded to Malott for 'Significant Contributions' to US-Japan Relations



L-R: Mrs Nobuko Sasae, Ambassador Malott, Ambassador Sasae. (Photo from JASW)

Washington, DC. Ambassador of Japan to the United States Kenichiro Sasae conferred the Order of the Rising Sun upon Ambassador John Malott, former Director of Japanese Affairs at the U.S. State Department. Honored for his tireless efforts on behalf of stronger U.S.-Japan relations, Ambassador Malott was presented the award on October 3, 2017, during a reception at Ambassador Sasae's official residence in Washington, DC.

"Throughout his long and distinguished career, Ambassador Malott worked to strengthen diplomatic, security and cultural ties between the United States and Japan," said Ambassador Sasae. "Ambassador Malott consistently brought the Midwestern values of hard work and discipline to the task of representing U.S. interests in Japan." (Malott was born in Illinois.)

Ambassador Malott's career included service as the American Consul in Kobe, Japan and the Consul General in Osaka, Japan. He was one of the first foreign service officers to specialize in Japanese and Asian economic affairs. His work to promote understanding of Japanese culture and society in the United States continued after his retirement. From 2006 to 2012, he was President and CEO of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW), where he continues as President of the Society and as a member of its Board of Trustees.

Japan is a strong economic partner for Illinois. Japanese businesses operating in Illinois directly employ more than 44,000 Illinois workers, and the Prairie State exports more than \$4 billion in goods and services to Japan. Japanese companies pay, on average, \$80,000 per person, per year to U.S. workers.

Ambassador Malott was awarded JAVA's highest award, the *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Plaque*, for initiating JASW's partnership with JAVA on various projects.

Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors 10th General Membership Meeting

The 10th General Membership Meeting of the Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) organization was held at the Convention Center in Washington, DC, on October 8, 2017. JAVA has been a partner of PPALM from its beginning through the efforts of Grant Ichikawa, Bob Nakamoto, and Terry Shima.

JAVA members who attended the meeting included Renee Lee, Jason Yee, MG Garrett Yee and his wife, and Wade Ishimoto. Members Mae Nakamoto and Marty Herbert were unable to attend and asked Ishimoto to represent them at the meeting. Ishimoto accepted the PPALM Corporate Sustaining Sponsor award for the Robert Nakamoto Foundation. He also presented the PPALM/Robert Nakamoto Foundation Excellence in Mentorship Award to the High Bridge Foundation, Inc.

The High Bridge Foundation was established in 2012 to promote the well-being of young people from underserved populations in the Washington, DC, area including new immigrants, adoptees, disabled persons and those in need of financial help, to promote higher education. The founders were Ernest E. Hairston, Ph.D., and his wife, Mencie Y. Hairston, M.Ed. Dr. Hairston became deaf at the age of 5 but overcame that disability and earned his bachelor's degree from Gallaudet College, his Master's from California State University Northridge, and his Ph.D. from Gallaudet University. Doctor Hairston gave his acceptance speech by signing to deliver his speech with the help of a sign language interpreter.

Hairston's wife, Mencie, was born and raised in the Philippines. She earned her bachelor's from the University of the Philippines and her Master's from Gallaudet University. She has become an artist since her retirement in 2011 and her first solo exhibit was held this year at the Huntington Community Center in Bowie, MD. Along with her husband, they have been leaders in working with the deaf for many years.



Dr. Ernest Hairston, his wife Mencie and their Foundation won the PPALM/Robert Nakamoto Foundation Award. He is deaf and gave his acceptance speech by signing. *Ishimoto photo.*

RADM Ming Erh Chang, USN (Ret) Passes

By Bill Houston

RADM Ming Erh Chang, USN (Ret) was born in China in 1932 and immigrated to the United States in 1946 at age 14. He obtained a B.S. in physics from the College of William and Mary in 1955 and a second B.S. in engineering electronics from the US Naval Graduate School at Monterey, CA, in 1962.

Chang enlisted in the US Naval Reserve in 1956 and then was commissioned an Ensign in 1957. He served in various sea billets including Commanding Officer of two ships, the

USS Rathburn DE1057, and *USS Reeves* CG-24, before becoming Commander of Carrier Group 3, Commander of 3rd Fleet, and Commander of Cruiser Destroyer Group 2. He served in the US Navy unit in the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) and ended his distinguished career as Navy Inspector General from 1987-90. When he was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1982, Chang became the first naturalized Asian American Naval Officer to reach flag rank in the United States Military.

Secretary Norman Mineta tells a story about Chang when he was pondering the question, "Why is it that we are considered foreign?" "It just blows my mind," Mineta said. "I remember when Admiral Ming Chang got a call from a reporter one day, and he was recounting that the reporter asked him if he was a U.S. citizen. Chang said yes he is. When the reporter then asked, 'Were you born here?' 'No, I came to the United States in 1946 as a young boy from Shanghai.' 'And so, what did you do to get your citizenship?' 'And he says, 'I was naturalized.' 'What proof do you have of your citizenship?' 'He says, 'Well, young man, I served for 33 years in the United States Navy and came out a Rear Admiral.'"



ENSIGN Donald Chang poses with her father RADM Ming E. Chang at her commissioning ceremony. The ceremony took place after ENSIGN Chang's graduation from Officer Candidate School, 10/1/1982. *Photo from Navy Officer Training Command, Newport, RI.*

Grant Ichikawa, MIS War Hero, Passes

By Bryan Ichikawa (full obituary is on our website)

Vienna, VA. The life of Grant Ichikawa, father, patriot, and inspiration to many, was celebrated by couple hundred friends at a memorial service held in Vienna, VA, on December 16, 2017. Ichikawa passed away on December 3, 2017, at age 98. He was born in Suisun Valley, CA, the son of a fruit farmer. He graduated from the University of California Berkeley in May 1941. Unable to find a job as an accountant, he decided to farm. When WWII broke out six months later, Ichikawa was forced to abandon his plans, sustaining huge losses to his investment and was among the 110,000 ethnic Japanese gathered up and sent to internment camps. He and his family were sent to the Gila River Internment Center, Arizona.



MIS Veteran Ichikawa, holding the Congressional Gold Medal (center). Left is John Boehner, Speaker, US House of Representatives, and right is US Senator Daniel Inouye. Emancipation Hall, US Congress, November 2, 2011.

After a distinguished career in the Military Intelligence Service, the Central Intelligence Agency, and at many foreign posts, Ichikawa served as a volunteer for JAVA from 1993-2014 doing administrative work such as compiling the membership directory, creating the electronic news bulletin, compiling with his colleagues the names of 6000 graduates of the MIS Language School, and mounting a nationwide letter-writing campaign to remove racist road signs from Texas streets. He helped get the US Congress to pass the Congressional Gold Medal bill. He is survived by his son, Bryan; daughter, Lona, and grandson, Devin. The family requests in lieu of flowers friends send tax-exempt donations to the JAVA Scholarship Program. Make checks payable to JAVA, write Ichikawa Scholarship fund on the memo line, and mail to: JAVA, PO Box 341198; Bethesda, MD 20827.

Kyoko Ikari Passes

Gaithersburg, MD. Kyoko Ikari, 88, wife of Dr. Norman Ikari, 442nd veteran, passed away on December 11, 2017. Ikari was a resident of Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, MD. She was born in New York City, the daughter of Nonkey and Maruko Ishiyama, and attended school at Pasadena, CA, Creston, IA, and McLean, VA.

Ikari and her family were confined for the duration of WWII at an internment camp in Arizona.

Ikari earned her bachelor's degree in physical therapy from George Washington University and completed advanced work at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. She had a long career as a physical therapist most of which was with Rock Physical Therapy of which she later became a co-owner.

Ikari's obituary in the Washington Post said "she was profoundly gracious, unpretentiously smart, and gave to her community in many capacities, including as a Camp Fire Girls leader and Literacy volunteer. Left to honor and cherish her memory are her husband of 56 years, Dr. Ikari, and sister Haruko Ishiyama, both of Asbury Methodist Village, MD, daughter Carolyn Ikari, and grandchildren Ben, Lauren and Kendall Cholewa of Wethersfield, CT."

A gathering of celebration for her life was held at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, MD. Interment of ashes at Arlington National Cemetery will be held at a later date. Contributions in Kyoko's memory may be directed to <http://habitatmm.org/> or Habitat for Humanity Metro MD Inc, at 8380 Colesville Rd, Suite 700, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Stacey Hayashi's *Go for Broke, A 442nd Origins Story*, Previews at US Capitol

Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Prior to its premiere at the 2017 Hawaii International Film Festival on November 12, 2017, writer-executive producer Stacey Hayashi's *Go for Broke, A 442nd Origins Story* held a preview at the Emancipation Hall theater of the US Capitol Building on October 30, 2017, to a select audience of Washingtonians. Following the 90-minute film presentation, Hayashi, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, a reserve officer (Major) of the Hawaii National Guard with two tours in Iraq, Congressman Mark Takano, and composer Jake Shimabukuro participated in a panel discussion.

Floyd Mori, President/CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), moderated

the panel discussion. While meeting earlier in October in Washington, D.C. with Erik and Naomi Takai, parents of the late Congressman Mark Takai and being requested to assist with the showing, Mori collaborated with the offices of Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard and Congressman Mark Takano in finalizing arrangements for the event. Mori, a friend of Mark Takai and a strong advocate to publicize the Nisei World War II experience, was able to have APAICS help sponsor this showing to honor Mark Takai, a Gulf War veteran with 17 years of military service who was a strong early supporter of the film. Takai died of pancreatic cancer in 2016.

Most films on the 442nd have devoted film footage to cover the Nisei in combat. Hayashi's film, on the other hand, presents the background that led to the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, such as the detention of security suspects who demonstrated their loyalty to America while in confinement, the discriminatory treatment of Nisei in the University of Hawaii ROTC program that led to the formation of the Varsity Victory Volunteers, a defense construction labor force, and the role of attorney Hung Wai Ching and Nisei writer Shigeo Yoshida to persuade military leaders of Nisei patriotism. Hayashi said she hopes the film will build a stronger bond between the younger generations and the Nisei generation. Hayashi also said she wishes to be the voice of the Japanese American soldiers who are not getting the recognition they deserve.

Filming for *Go for Broke, a 442nd Origins Story*, began in December 2016 and was expected to be finished in 2017. It is directed by Alexander Bocchieri, a Honolulu-based producer. While the film is classified as a fiction, it sticks close to the facts as it "tells the unknown stories of Hawaii's brave men who helped save the world from fascism," Hayashi said. Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro's music reflects the attitude and emotions of the time.



Following the film, a panel discussion was held. L-R: Stacey Hayashi; Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard; Congressman Mark Takano; and Jake Shimabukuro. Photo by Jim McCallum.

JAVA Requests Support for the National Museum of the US Army

By Wade Ishimoto

Washington, DC. JAVA was the first Asian Pacific organization to open a dialogue with the National Museum of the US Army (NMUSA) and the Army Historical Foundation in 2012. The Museum is scheduled to open in late 2019 at Fort Belvoir, VA, and can use your support with donations of artifacts and charitable contributions. Quietly and without fanfare, JAVA has worked with the NMUSA Program Office and the Army Historical Foundation (AHF) to accomplish the following:

- JAVA donated \$25,000 to the Museum, encouraged individual donations to the AHF, and purchased a paver honoring the 100th Bn, 442nd RCT, and MIS, to be placed on the walkway to the Museum entrance.
- Received assurances that the WW II incarceration experience would be displayed in the Army and Society Gallery.
- Received assurances that Asian Pacific Medal of Honor Winners will be part of the Medal of Honor Memorial Garden. This includes the 24 Asian Pacific Islanders from WWII, the four from the Korean War, and the three from the Vietnam War.
- Offered assistance and linked the Museum Staff with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project to obtain individual Soldier's stories to be displayed in the Soldier's Gallery. Also offered assistance on the Experiential Learning Gallery based on JAVA's Outreach and Educational activities.
- Made several appeals to other Japanese American veterans' organizations, the National Japanese American Museum, and individuals to donate artifacts from WWII to the Museum for possible display in the Fighting for Our Nation Gallery. Obtained a *senin bari*, a 1,000-stitch amulet of protection from danger, and an Eisenhower jacket for donation. Discussed an exhibit with the curator of the Museum.
- Discussed a display of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the 100th, 442nd and MIS.

Help is still needed. You can make tax-exempt donations directly to the AHF or to JAVA by making your check payable to JAVA, writing NMUSA on the memo line, and mailing it to JAVA, P.O. Box 341198, Bethesda MD 20827. You can also donate artifacts to the Museum for possible display. The Museum is expected to attract one million visitors annually and will clearly help preserve the legacy and sacrifices of Japanese Americans and other Asian Pacific Islanders.

Bills to Award Congressional Gold Medal to Merrill's Marauders Introduced in Two Houses

Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. US Senators Johnny Isakson of Georgia and Edward Markey of Massachusetts introduced the bipartisan *Merrill's Marauders Congressional Gold Medal Act*, S.2114, to recognize the extraordinary efforts and sacrifices of the Merrill's Marauders, formally known as 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), for their heroic service during World War II. A similar bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives.

On Sept. 18, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for an American Long Range Penetration Special Operations Jungle Warfare Unit. Nearly 3000 soldiers serving stateside and around the world volunteered, putting aside a warning by the War Department that "85% of you will become casualties". Named "Merrill's Marauders" (MM) after the unit's first commander, BG Frank Merrill, the unit fought Japanese forces deep in the mountains and jungle of Burma during World War II. Two hundred Nisei volunteered and 14 were selected. They served as linguists and also as infantryman.

After months of training in the Himalayan Mountains, Merrill's Marauders began combat operations in February 1944, and in just over five months, marched more than 1000 miles, participated in five major battles and fought the Japanese army 32 times. They climbed trees to tap Japanese telephone lines and crawled to enemy bivouac areas to eavesdrop on enemy invasion plans, which saved an American battalion from being overrun. At the time the unit was relieved from duty, there were only 130 original members left who were fit to fight. The unit received the Presidential Unit Citation, and every member of Merrill's Marauders received the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Senator Isakson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said "These fearless warriors fought some of the most intense battles under harrowing conditions, and I am thankful that the legacy of their unit lives on today with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, GA, and other installations Army-wide."

[Click here](#) to view the text of the legislation. If JAVA Advocate readers have any questions about this legislation please contact Metta Tanikawa at ms.tanikawa@gmail.com.

Floyd Mori, President & CEO of APAICS, Announces Retirement



Washington, DC. After five years as President and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), Floyd Mori will retire. He intends to remain at APAICS until May 2018. Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus noted, "Floyd has been an incredible leader

and has really embodied the APAICS mission of promoting Asian Pacific American participation and representation at all levels of the political process. I know that Floyd will be a lifelong supporter of the organization and will continue to help advance its mission."

Mori created a number of long term institutional advancements, such as expanding APAICS national leadership academy training event from one to several per year including regional academies at six cities across the US; diversifying the Board of Directors to include new members who have increased sponsorship and support for APAICS; and assisting in creating a strong pipeline of APIAs who are running for public office at the local, state, and federal levels.

Prior to his current role, Mori served as the National Executive Director/CEO of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). He was chair of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and has been on the Executive Council of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCR). He served four years as National President and four years as a National Vice President of the JACL. Prior to this, Mori served in elected and appointed public positions in California and Utah and taught economics in a California university.

Mori has received a number of awards including an Outstanding Citizen Achievement Award from OCA, the Community Leadership Award from APAICS, and the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette Award from the Government of Japan. He has volunteered with political groups, youth sports, inner city projects, and church work.

JAVA Scholarships: Continuing the Legacy of World War II Nisei Military Service and Encouraging Future Military and Public Service

By William Houston, Esq.

Washington, DC. The Japanese American Veterans Association announces its annual scholarship award program for 2018. The scholarships will continue to benefit a range of graduating high school seniors, advanced undergraduate students, and postgraduate and professional education students. Application instructions, forms and other details have been posted on the JAVA website (<https://java.wildapricot.org>).



The scholarships include the \$5000 memorial scholarship honoring the late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye's iconic career of military and civilian public service, the \$3000 Founders Scholarship (named for JAVA's founder, the late Colonel Phil Ishio, USAR, his wife Constance and his son Douglas Ishio), as well as other JAVA memorial scholarships each in the amount of \$1500.

Descendants of those who served in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service as well as descendants of World War II Nisei soldiers from other units are eligible. Only in the case of the Senator Inouye scholarship will applications also be accepted from any past or present member of Hawaii's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. A current member of JAVA whose membership began prior to April 1, 2016 is eligible to apply. A child of a current JAVA member may also be eligible to apply if the applicant's parent or guardian was a member of JAVA prior to April 1, 2016.

Special consideration will be given to eligible applicants who demonstrate their lifelong commitment to public and uniformed service leadership for the nation, e.g., participating in military commissioning programs while in college.

Applicants should first review published rules and forms available on <https://java.wildapricot.org> before making further inquiries. The final date for receiving applications will be Friday, April 1, 2018. The names of the awardees will be announced at the annual JAVA scholarship luncheon in July 2018.

News from Other Veterans Organizations

Honolulu, HI. 100th Battalion Veterans Hawaii newsletter, *Puka-Puka Parade*, December issue reported their double header Veterans Day events. The first celebration on November 10, 2017, was held at the Maunalani Nursing and Rehabilitation Center honoring all 25 veterans, including a 100th member. The second was the showing of the documentary, *Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii* at the Dole Cannery Theater as part of the International Film Festival.

In the November 2017 *Puka Puka Parade*, Joy Teraoka reported that the 100th/442bd/MIS/1399th Memorial Service was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). The keynote speaker was Ken Inouye, son on the late US Senator Daniel Inouye.

Los Angeles, CA. The Go for Broke National Education Center *eTorch* for December 2017 carried a message by President and CEO Mitchell T. Maki. He said, in part, “No story better embodies America’s Promise than the story of Nisei during WW II. Their parents came from the nation with which the US was at war. Their nation had abandoned them and questioned their suitability to be Americans. Despite these characteristics Japanese American young men and women joined the US armed forces and went on to serve our nation with unparalleled distinction and courage.”

De Moines, IA. The 34th Infantry Division Association held its 70th Annual Reunion on October 6-7, 2017, in De Moines with 65 veterans attending, including two WW II veterans. MAJ Jacob Helgestad, a veteran of the Afghanistan War, was elected Association President.

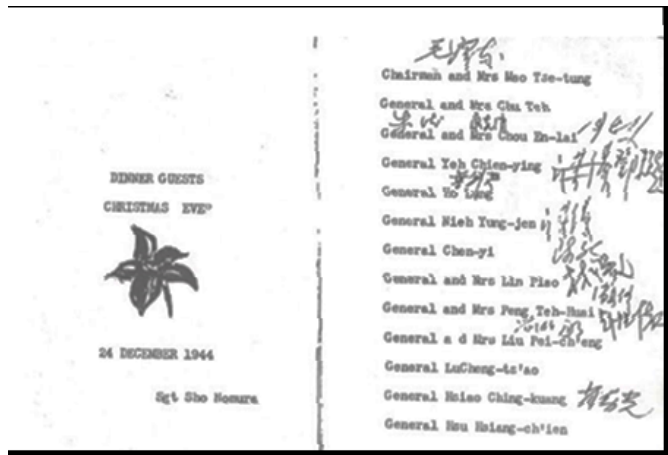
Honolulu, HI. The MIS Veterans Hawaii Newsletter October 2017 issue reported that a new historical documentary film, “*Proof of Loyalty: Kazuo Yamane and the Nisei Soldiers of Hawaii*,” was scheduled to be shown in November 2017 at the Hawaii International Film Festival. Yamane was a member of the original 100th Infantry Battalion, one of 60 who were transferred to the MIS. Yamane was born in Hawaii, earned a degree from Waseda University, Japan, and served with distinction in the MIS.

Seattle, WA. The Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter, December 2017 issue, reported that on November 20, 2017, Seattle Seahawks honored Nisei veterans during the halftime ceremony attended by 68,000 fans. Eight NVC Veterans -- Victor (Junks) Ikeda, Mickey Hiroo, Jimmie Kanaya, Frank Hori, Jim Miyamoto, Kim Muromoto, Tosh Tokunaga, and Frank Nishimura -- stood proudly on the field over the specially arranged red carpet near the 50-yard line. Junko Ikeda said it was very special that the Seahawks “recognized the role the Nisei’s had during WWII.”



Seattle veterans standing on the 50-yard line of a Seattle Seahawks game. From left: Victor (Junks) Ikeda, Mickey Hiroo, Jimmie Kanaya, Frank Hori, Jim Miyamoto, Kim Muromoto, Tosh Tokunaga, and Frank Nishimura. (Photo by Gary Lott)

An Extraordinary Assignment in WWII: The Dixie Mission



Part of a program, prepared by Sho Nomura, for the Christmas Party that included members of the Chinese Communist Party, including Chairman Mao Tse Tung.
Copy of invitation given to JAVA by Nomura.

Yan'an, China. During WW II some 4,000 Nisei linguists in the Asia Pacific Theater served in small numbers in any unit which required linguists. The US Army Observation Group, nicknamed the Dixie Mission, consisting of 25 men from the Army, State, OSS, Navy, and Office of War Information, was assigned to Yan'an, China, where the Communists shared their cave dwelling. Its mission was to collect intelligence on Japanese forces, weather, and the Chinese Communists, and to rescue downed US pilots. This represented the first official US government contact with the Chinese Communist government.

T/4 George I. Nakamura was among the early arrivals in Yan'an followed by Sho Nomura, Koji Ariyoshi, Tosh Uesato and Jack Ishii. The Nisei were assigned to the intelligence section and their basic assignment was two-fold: to interrogate Japanese prisoners held by the Communists and to learn propaganda techniques for use against Japanese soldiers.

Sanzo Nozaka, the exiled head of the Japan Communist Party, assisted the Nisei. POWs were not held behind barbed wire enclosures. They were located at a school (indoctrination) run by Nozaka and were free to leave the compound unescorted to visit the town center. Nozaka received newspapers from Japan within 10 days making his "psywar" assistance valuable. Nakamura was assigned to a special mission to save a downed US pilot. Assisted by a Communist team, Nakamura located the downed pilot, who questioned Nakamura's bona

and brought him to the Group headquarters.

Although official contact with Mao Tse Tung and Chou En Lai was handled by the Group Commander, other communist officials were in working level contact with the Group's counterparts. The Communists held a dance on Saturday nights at the "Pear Orchard", an outdoor gathering place located in the Communist compound. Mao, wearing a white shirt and dark trousers, was a regular attendant. All Group members were regular invitees and were treated cordially. Acting Group Commander Dexhimer suggested the Group hold a Christmas party in 1944 and invite their Communist hosts. Nomura was assigned to prepare the invitation card. Nomura's card listed the names of the Communist guests. At the party, which included the distribution of gifts by Santa Claus, Nomura and some other Group members got Chairman and Mrs Mao Tse-tung, General and Mrs Chu Teh, General and Mrs Chou En-lai, General Yeh Chien-ying, General Ho Lung, General and Mrs Lin Piao, Mr. and Mrs. Susumu Okano, and others to sign the card. (See photo.)

Ariyoshi, who developed a close friendship with Chou En-lai, returned to China long before the normalization of U.S.-Chinese relations in the spring of 1979. Some members of the Group and their spouses revisited Yan'an and Beijing a few months before the normalization and attended reunion parties arranged by their Yan'an hosts.

This article includes information from Sho Nomura's article in *John Aiso and the M.I.S.*

Note from the Editor:

There is a wealth of articles from the JAVA Research Team that still exists in sometimes obscure places on the internet. I "googled" some of the names from the article above, for example, and came [across this article from 2006](#), giving even more details on the Dixie Mission. I recommend digging around, via your search engine, to find fascinating historical information. Please also note that our website contains softcopies of every Advocate newsletter going back to 2006. It's a treasure trove!

HUOA Legacy Award Winners



Awardees, L-R: Shinye Gima (MIS veteran); Governor David Ige; Jake Shimabukuro; Herbert Yanamura (MIS veteran); Hidehito Uki. *Photo from Amy Yanamura Young*

Herbert Yanamura, JAVA member, was among five Hawaiians to receive the Legacy Award from the Hawaii United Okinawa Association (HUOA) on November 12, 2017, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Coral Room banquet. Born and raised in Kona, Hawaii, Yanamura volunteered for the 442nd RCT and subsequently transferred to the MIS because of his knowledge of Japanese. He served in Okinawa during WWII. He approached and also entered caves where civilians and soldiers were hiding and persuaded them to surrender. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for persuading 1500 civilians and 150 soldiers in the village of Maehira to surrender. The prefectural government of Okinawa recognized Yanamura for his courage in combat during his visit to Okinawa in 2013 when he met a person he saved--Mrs. Tomori, now a grandmother. Yanamura said "it's even more gratifying to learn that the people we helped went on to raise families and enjoy their lives, and that they appreciate what we did for them."

Virgil Westdale Speaks to Grand Rapids Police Officers on Veterans Day

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. Dozens of Grand Rapids police officers gathered on November 9, 2017 to hear a 99-year-old veteran share his story of fighting in World War II while he was subjected to racist practices of the U.S. Military.

Growing up on a farm in Indiana, Virgil Westdale never thought he would one day be considered a war hero. His mother was white and grew up in the United States and his father was a Japanese immigrant. Westdale was one of five kids in a family with very little money. He just managed to get into Western Michigan University.

Then, on Dec. 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was bombed and for Westdale, duty called. "Everybody's got a story and some stories are worse than mine," Westdale told FOX 17. Westdale earned his pilot's license and realized he finally found his calling. In fact, he was so good that he was quickly promoted to flight instructor. Then one day, everything changed.

Under direction of then-President Roosevelt, the military took Westdale's pilot's license away and demoted him to a private in the army because he was Japanese. "That's something I wouldn't want to happen to anybody because it was not the right thing to do at all and it was kind of crushing to our Constitution," says Westdale. He was never given an official reason for the demotion, but when he saw that all the other men in his battalion following that change in rank were Asian, he didn't need one.



Westdale told FOX 17 it was "pretty devastating at the time to have someone take your license away and for no reason." To protect himself from further racial discrimination, he changed his last name to Westdale, which is the English translation of his family name, Nishimura. Though Westdale wasn't where he wanted to be, he never disobeyed orders. His battalion helped push the Germans out of Italy and free prisoners from the Dachau Concentration Camp in Germany. He and his men ended up being the most decorated battalion of its size in U.S. Military history.

<http://fox17online.com/2017/11/09/japanese-american-wwii-veteran-recalls-life-of-service-and-racial-discrimination/>

Reprint approved by Karla E. Vanderhorst, Special Projects Producer, FOX 17.



The CG-4A "WACO" glider was the type used by 442nd Anti Tank Company in the southern France invasion.
US Army photo

Thank You, Donors!

**We are grateful for those who donated funds
from November 1, 2017 to January 15, 2018**

Mr. Martin Matsui (Hong Kong)
Mr. Ken Moody (Sacramento, CA)
Mr. Homer Yasui (Seattle, WA)
Mr. Gordon Bernhardt (McLean, VA)
Ms. Catherine Janowski (Vienna, VA)
Ms. Metta Tanikawa (Middleburg, VA)
Mr. Lester Sakamoto (Hilo, HI)
Mr. James Tani (Fairfax, VA)

Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa (Marina Del Rey, CA) *for
Memorial Day Expenses*

Ms. Veronica Tanikawa (Torrance, CA) *for
Arlington National Cemetery flowers*

In Memory of Grant Ichikawa:
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Roulier (Washington, DC)
Mr. Kent Talbert (Vienna, VA)
Dr. Ray and Mary Murakami (Bethesda, MD)
Mr. Terry Shima (Gaithersburg, MD)
Ms. Michelle Amano (Bethesda, MD)
LTC Mark Nakagawa (Ret) (Springfield, VA)
Mr. George Shimizu (Walnut Creek, CA)
Ms. Marcia Tanabe (Potomac, MD)

To Support Memorial Scholarship Funds:
Mr. Robert Nakamoto (White Bluff, TN)
Ms. Mae Nakamoto (Apollo Beach, FL)
Ms. Hollis Molden
Ms. Julie Ishio Tsuchiya



Marker Honors Nisei Who Served in Airborne and Special Operations Units in WWII

By LTC Mark Nakagawa,
USA (Ret)

A granite marker was dedicated on November 15, 2017, honoring WWII Nisei airborne and special operations units in Asia and Europe, at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, Fayetteville, NC. The marker was donated by LTC Tim and CPT Monika Stoy, US Army (Ret). In his remarks, JAVA President LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), conveyed JAVA's appreciation for this donation and for including the Nisei legacy in their World War II and Korean War historical seminars. Goshi said "Nisei exemplified the tough warrior spirit, proving themselves and their loyalty, by service above and beyond the call of duty." The 188th Brigade Support Battalion color guard, and the 82nd Airborne Division Band participated in the ceremony, as did JAVA representatives Dr. Ray and Mrs. Mary Murakami, LTC Goshi, and VP LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret).

In the Asian and Pacific theater, Nisei were attached to these airborne and special operations units:

- First Special Service Force in the Aleutians. Nisei from the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) served with this unit that later became known as the "Devil's Brigade."
- The 5307th Composite Unit. Known as Merrill's Marauders (MM), 14 Nisei volunteers were selected to serve as linguist/infantryman in this brigade-size unit which captured the town of Myitkyina, the gateway to Burma Road, the overland route to deliver war materiel to China. The Army was correct in predicting an over 85% casualty rate for this mission.
- MARs Task Force (MTF). Later, the MTF removed all Japanese forces from Myitkyina to Lashio which allowed allied war materiel to be transported on the Burma Road from Lashio. 27 Nisei served in two language teams, one team in each of two regiments.
- 11th Airborne Division. Nisei linguists served with the 11th Airborne Division, which conducted airborne assaults and amphibious landings in the Philippines.

...Continued on next page

- Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Some 14 Nisei served in Detachment 101 and Detachment 202 in Burma, India and China. In Burma the OSS formed a military contingent of Burmese tribesmen to fight Japanese troops. In China, Nisei were included in air drops at Japanese-controlled Prisoners of War (POW) camps to prevent any harm being committed against the allied POWs.

Nisei soldiers served in airborne and special operations in Europe, including:

- The 100th Battalion was attached in January 1944 to the First Special Service Force, near Monte Cassino.
- The Anti-Tank Company, 442nd RCT, in August 1944 was assigned to a glider assault unit attached to the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in the southern France invasion.

25 Years History of JAVA, 1992 – 2017

Washington, DC. Fifteen veterans met at the Silver Spring, MD, residence of COL Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret), a veteran of the southwest Pacific war, on April 30, 1992, to form the Japanese American Veterans Association of Washington, DC (JAWAWDC). JAWAWDC was incorporated on July 24, 1992, and the 501(c)19 tax-exempt status was received on November 9, 1992. JAWAWDC adopted the following mission:

- to assist member veterans and their families;
- to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans;
- to publicize the Nisei military service during WWII;

In this connection,

- to publish a book to document Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS);
- to promote the spirit of patriotism and national pride;
- to sponsor social activities so members can fraternize;
- to award scholarships to veterans' families.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17, 2018: 11:30 am, Quarterly Member Luncheon: Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

April 7, 2018: Freedom Walk, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in WWII, Washington, DC.

April 14, 2018: Washington, DC, Sakura Matsuri, Pennsylvania Ave.

May 27-28, 2018: Memorial Day Events

JAWAWDC actively pursued these tasks including the hosting of the 3rd national MIS reunion on October 21-23, 1993 in the nation's capital. After a succession of presidents, MG Bert Mizusawa, USAR (then Colonel) who graduated No. 1 in his West Point Class of '79, was elected as president on January 2003. In his inaugural address Mizusawa announced that JAWAWDC will become a national organization and work with existing Japanese American veterans' organizations nationwide. In keeping with this change, the name JAWAWDC was shortened to JAVA. Mizusawa also announced that independently and in concert with other veterans organizations, JAVA will seek to obtain benefits that veterans have earned, and to get Japanese Americans accepted in America's mainstream.

JAVA's flagship project is the joint Honolulu Nisei veterans and JAVA digitization of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) documents pertaining to the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, MIS, and interment as related to Nisei and the military. This project was conceived and conducted by 442nd and MIS Hawaii veteran Ted Tsukiyama, Esq., first with the Susumu Yamamoto team and subsequently jointly with JAVA. The Yamamoto team produced 25 linear feet of 100th and 442nd hard copy documents which were sent to 442nd Veterans Hawaii. The JAVA-produced 100th, 442nd, MIS and internment documents have been digitized and are accessible through the JAVA website, <https://JAVA.wildapricot.org>. Pending the completion of the integration of the two databases, researchers can access the JAVA-held database electronically from anywhere in the world. This project will ensure the perpetuation of the Nisei WWII legacy. Another project was JAVA's role in the National Veterans Network effort to obtain US Senate inclusion of MIS in and approval of the Congressional Gold Medal Bill and events relating to the award in Washington, DC. JAVA publicizes the Japanese American story via our Speakers Bureau, newsletter, website, American and foreign TV and press, exhibits, schools, universities, professional and community groups, think tanks, state and federal government departments and US armed forces.

JAVA's success is due to the dedication and sustained performance over long periods by our many volunteers. The list of volunteers, who sacrificed their precious time to work on JAVA projects, is long and the following are a few examples: Grant Ichikawa, who led a team that produced the MIS Language School Registry; LTC Earl Takeguchi, USA (Ret) who served a record of 8 years as Treasurer; Barbara Nekoba, who started the quarterly luncheons we continue to enjoy today; and Metta Tanikawa, who created the registry for the Congressional Gold Medal events in Washington, DC.

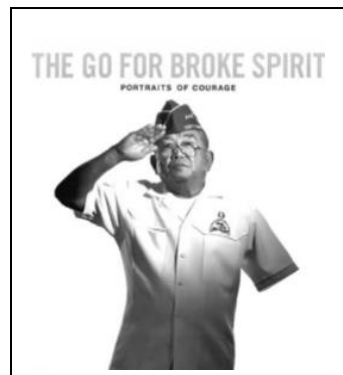
The History can be read on the JAVA website:
<http://java.wildapricot.org>. [Click here to access it directly.](#)

The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage; A Review

By Frances H. Kakugawa,
 Poet, Author, Columnist

Shane Sato's *The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage*, is poetry. It is poetry that preserves the humanity of man and more. I first looked at the photos without the text and was driven to my gut with emotions. The portrait that accompanies each story is a novel in itself... each man's silent story of honor and dignity is deeply embedded in the seasoned lines on their faces, their hands, and in their eyes. You can't help but be drawn to the text, knowing it would compound the powerful photos with their stories. This is accomplished with poetic precision and inspiration. Both photos and texts powerfully tell the stories of these young men who fought for their country even while many of their families lived in internment camps.

This book records the history of these brave men and their families, but if this part of our history is to be preserved, it must be through the generations following not only these brave and honorable men, but with all others. This book must become a legacy for generations to come so the lessons learned about honor, bravery,



Cover photo of Noboru Don Seki, L Co, 442nd RCT. Infantryman's Badge, Purple Heart, 2 Distinguished Unit Citations.
 Photo by Shane Sato.

dignity, patriotism and human kindness can be lived and practiced by all of us. We owe this to these brave men and their families. There is no enemy, no hatred, no racism, only ignorance and this can be dealt with, as told by each veteran.

The Japanese cultural practice of *gaman*, *on*, and *gambatte* are constant in how they processed the indignities of war and racism. The stories told by these Japanese-American men must be universally shared to end all wars and man's inhumanity to man. Simply, fill each household with a copy of this book.

Shane Sato, photographer and author, has spent most of his career working in publicity and advertising in the United States and in Asia. Being born a Sansei to Nisei parents from Hawaii and the mainland has given him a unique perspective to his Japanese-American Veteran Series. Co-author Robert M. Horsting is an oral historian, Emmy Award producer and documentary filmmaker. As a volunteer with the Go for Broke National Education Center's Hanashi Oral History Program (Goforbroke.org), he has helped record nearly 250 Japanese American WWII and Korean War veteran stories. Sato plans to travel to Chicago, Washington, DC and New York City in April/May to photograph more veterans for TGFBS Vol. 2. Links for "The Go For Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage"

<https://www.thegoforbroke.com/> or
<https://www.facebook.com/goforbroke.com/>

Welcome New Members

October 1 through December 31, 2017

Regular Members:

CPT Ehren Gruber, USA
 CPT Rachel Gruber, USAR
 Joseph Harding, USA veteran
 MAJ Howard High, USA veteran
 John Houston, USN
 AT2 Gregory Akio Konoshima, USN veteran
 Tomo Meek, USN veteran
 SGT Larry Morgan, USA (Ret)
 Tucker Rosenberry, USN
 Zachary Whittaker, USA
 MG Garrett Yee, USA

Friends of JAVA:

Jasmine Fujii, Friend of JAVA
 Lilian Takahashi Hoffecker, Friend of JAVA
 Chris Horii, Friend of JAVA
 Yui Komuro, Friend of JAVA
 Justin Cole Murakawa, Friend of JAVA

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**
 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.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

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



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

All correspondence may be sent to:

P.O. Box 341198

Bethesda, MD 20827

javapotomac@gmail.com

Visit our website:

www.JAVA.WildApricot.org

Follow us on Facebook:

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