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White House Recognizes Nisei Veterans

Washington, D.C. **President George W. Bush** recognized Nisei WW II veterans on May 10, 2007, at the Asian Pacific American (APA) program at the East Room of the White House.

Sixteen JAVA members were invited to this event attended by approximately 200 people. Army Air Corps **TSgt Ben Kuroki**, MIS veterans **Grant Hirabayashi**, **Grant Ichikawa** and **Paul Tani**, and

442nd RCT veterans **Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama** and **Terry Shima** were given front row seats.

Pres. Bush was warm in his praise of the veterans. "WWII veterans and Japanese American veterans who have joined us today. We are proud to have you here and thanks for the great example you've set for those who wear the uniform." The six Nisei veterans in the front row stood up and smartly saluted their commander in chief, as he returned the salute.



Pictured L-R: Terry Shima, Kelly Kuwayama, Paul Tani, Grant Ichikawa, Grant Hirabayashi, Ben Kuroki. Photo credit: Grant Hirabayashi.

Kuroki, who received his invitation separately from the White House, traveled to this event from California. Kuroki said "I was delighted and surprised to be invited by the White House for the Asian Pacific American program for the second time in two years. To receive recognition...so many decades later was truly incredible, an awesome honor rarely accorded to few Americans. This time I was honored to be seated with five other Nisei veterans in the first row. I had to fight like hell for the right to fight for my country, and I now feel full vindication."

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]

Speakers Bureau Busy in May

JAVA members were busy during the Asian Pacific Heritage Month speaking and appearing in events at the White House, schools, military units, civic organizations, newspapers and TV. They spoke of their experiences in internment camps and the 442nd RCT and the MIS. All speaking engagements consisted of question and answer periods. The most frequently-asked question was "Why did you volunteer to serve in the military when your country

distrusted you and treated you so harshly?" The uniform response was "To prove our loyalty."

The feedback has been favorable, attesting to the value of the speakers program. One general officer wrote to a speaker, "This was the best presentation of any kind I've seen in years. You are truly an inspiration." Student feedback was uniformly positive as well.

[continued on page 6]

President's Message



Our operations during this spring quarter were as vibrant as the cherry blossoms and azaleas.

There were two high points. On May 10 over 15 of us were invited to the White House for the Asian Pacific American Heritage month program in the East Room. In welcoming the some 200 guests, the President paid tribute to the Japanese American veterans, including Ben Kuroki, who were given front row seats. On Memorial Day weekend JAVA and JACL WDC held joint programs on May 27 at the Arlington Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, including the 59 interred there. On May 28 the two organizations participated in the Department of Defense sponsored program at Arlington Cemetery in the morning and the National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue in the afternoon.

Our education program is on sound footing. We have established partnerships with the Go For Broke National Education Foundation of Torrance, California and NJAMF. Initial discussions have been held with officials of Montgomery County Schools to provide speakers and other support materials. We will expand our operations to other counties as experience and resources justify. In this connection, JAVA has three scholarship funds and the first awards will be made in May 2008.

I wish to convey JAVA congratulations to Honorary Chair **Norman Mineta** for being accorded the Grand Cordon of the Rising Sun, the highest decoration of the Japanese government; to Life Member **Vince Okamoto**, Vietnam War veteran and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, for being selected for induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame this August at Fort Benning, Georgia; to *JAVA ADVOCATE* Editor **MAJ Kay Wakatake**, USA, for her three-year appointment as a member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law.

JAVA's public image continued to expand. We worked with the Veterans Administration to produce a 28-minute documentary of Japanese American contributions to the defense effort. Featuring three veterans and historian Eric Saul, the DVD will be presented free of charge to those attending the July 21 Quar-

terly Luncheon. Ken Burns, producer of the seven-hour epic on WW II called *THE WAR* to be aired this fall, has recommended PBS to contact JAVA for assistance in identifying veterans to appear in TV promotionals. We already have provided assistance at two locations, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

Elsewhere in the *JAVA ADVOCATE* there is an article that lists volunteer vacancies we are trying to fill. I hope you would read this article, and if you can reorder your time to help the cause I hope you would consider contacting Terry Shima (301-987-6746; ttshima@worldnet.att.net) or Grant Ichikawa (703-938-5857; g.ichikawa@cox.net).

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BG Bert Mizusawa, immediate past President (left), COL Phil Ishio, USAR, Ret., Founding President (not pictured), and Dave Buto, immediate past Secretary and JAVA webmaster (right) were recognized by President Bob Nakamoto at the JAVA quarterly luncheon on April 28. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

Joint JAVA-JACL Memorial Day Activities

On May 27, JAVA joined Japanese American Citizens League in its 59th Annual Memorial Day service at the Arlington National Cemetery. The principal speakers were **Lieutenant General Joseph F. Peterson**, USA, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of US Army Forces Command, based in Fort McPherson, Georgia, and **Joseph Ichiuji**, a 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran. **Dr. Craig Uchida**, President of JACL's D.C. Chapter, and **Bob Nakamoto**, President of JAVA, also spoke. The JACL Memorial Day Program was started by the late **Key Kobayashi**, a MIS veteran, and is now overseen by his sons, including **Turner Kobayashi**.

Following this program, bouquets of flowers were placed at the gravesites of 59 WW II veterans and at the USS Maine monument, which lists seven Japanese American seamen among those killed when the vessel sank in 1898 in the Havana,



At head: Martin Herbert, contingent commander.; Holding Go For Broke banner, L-R: Blaine Asato, Peyton Elmendorf, Craig Uchida. Color bearers: L-R: Thomas Pham, Cal Shintani, Chosei Kuge. Photo by Clyde Nishimura.



Arlington Cemetery, L-R: (unidentified), Victor Matsui, Grant Ichikawa, LTG Peterson, Joe Ichiuji, JAVA President Bob Nakamoto, Paul Tani.

Cuba harbor. LTG Peterson, Ichiuji, Uchida and Nakamoto laid a floral wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This wreath laying ceremony was aired on CNN.

On the morning of May 28, JAVA and other veterans service organizations participated in the program at Arlington Cemetery arranged by the Department of Defense. President George Bush laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and subsequently deliv-

[continued on page 4]

Higgins Burial at Arlington

Captain Martin Joseph Higgins, 90, and his wife, Marjorie, who died on October 1, 1997, were buried at the Arlington National Cemetery on May 15, 2007, with full military honors. Marty Higgins passed away on February 26, 2007. Three veterans of the 442nd RCT representing JAVA and two representatives of the 36th Division participated in the funeral program. The 442nd Veterans Club Hawaii sent a box of red anthuriums which were displayed at the chapel and at the gravesite. The 442nd representatives were **Joe Ichiuji**, **Kelly Kuwayama** and **Terry Shima**. The 36th Division representatives were **CPT Edgardo Limbo**, USANG, and **1SG John F. Sampa**, TXARNG.

Full military funeral for Higgins included service at the Fort Meyer chapel, horse-drawn caisson, caparisoned (rider-less) horse, a color guard, an escort platoon., a military band, a military chaplain, three rifle volleys by seven soldiers, military bugler, the formal folding of the flag, and the presentation of the flag to a member of the family.



L-R: CPT Edgardo Limbo, USARNG, Joe Ichiuji, Kelly Kuwayama, Michael Higgins, Terry Shima, 1SG John F. Sampa, TXARNG. Photo credit: CPT Limbo.

Menyhert's Journalistic Series Wins Top DOD Award

Fort Meade, Maryland. Having won the US Army top award for her series on Nisei in WW II [see JAVA Advocate, March 2007 issue, page 4], **COL Renita Foster Menyhert's** Nisei series in 2006 received the Department of Defense Thomas Jefferson award on May 14, 2007. The presentation was made by **Clarence Page**, 1989 Pulitzer Prize winner and member of Chicago Tribune editorial board, during the Department of Defense Communicators of Excellence Awards Ceremony 2007 at the Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. There are twenty categories of Thomas Jefferson Print Awards, such as news article, commentary, sports and series.



L-R: Clarence Page and COL Renita Foster Menyhert. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

COL Menyhert's series of nine articles on Japanese American veterans which appeared in the Ft Monmouth, New Jersey weekly newspaper, is available on the internet

at <http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/klw/winners/catI.html#civilian> (or Google search "MG Keith L. Ware 2006 Media Competition", click on category I, civilian winners, "1st place"). In addition, two additional articles, published in 2007 and thereby not qualifying for the 2006 award, can be found by Google search of "Fort Monmouth News and Events"; click on "News and Events Fort Monmouth, NJ"; under "News" click on "Monmouth Message"; click "March 2, and March 9, 2007" for Sandra Tanamachi's articles, and click on "March 16, 2007" for Previte's article.

Memorial Day

(from page 3)

ered his address to the nation from the Amphitheater. JAVA was represented by its vice president, **Commander Cal Shintani**, USNR (Ret).

On the afternoon of May 28, JAACL members joined JAVA at the third annual National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue. **Michael Wynne**, Secretary of the Air Force, was the reviewing officer in



Tomb of the Unknowns. L-R: Robert Nakamoto, LTG Joe Peterson, USA; Craig Uchida, Joe Ichiuji. Honor Guards not identified. Photo by David Yuen.

recognition of the 60th anniversary of the US Air Force. **Colonel Phil Ishio**, USA (Ret.), JAVA's founding President, was invited to sit in the reviewing stand.

The JAVA-JAACL contingent, commanded by **LTC Martin Herbert**, USAR, consisted of 25 marchers and riders in an SUV and a WWII jeep. Senator **Daniel K. Inouye** provided the 442nd RCT colors laden with streamers representing the eight campaigns and eight Presidential Unit Citations.



Displaying the 442nd RCT flag from Senator Daniel Inouye's office before marching in Memorial Day Parade: Chosei Kuge (left) and Joe Ichiuji.

Okamoto Selected for Ranger Hall of Fame

Fort Benning, Georgia. Los Angeles California Superior Court **Judge Vincent H. Okamoto**, JAVA life member, will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on August 8, 2007 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Judge Okamoto was recognized for “extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations in the Republic of Vietnam.” The Ranger Hall of Fame citation continues: “Then 2nd Lieutenant Okamoto distinguished himself on 24 August 1968 while serving as a platoon leader with the 25th Infantry Division near Dau Tieng. A ground attack was launched against his battalion’s night location by three reinforced North Vietnamese and Viet Cong companies.

“Under heavy automatic weapons, smalls and RPG fire, Lieutenant Okamoto moved with five of his men to restore a destroyed section of the perimeter. Realizing the need for supporting fire, he

boarded a partially destroyed armored personnel carrier and manned its machinegun. After the weapon malfunctioned he ran through heavy enemy fire to a second and then a third carrier to place suppressing fire on the aggressors.

“Spying a group of enemy soldiers maneuvering toward the unit’s lines, Lieutenant Okamoto crawled under cover of small arms and automatic weapons fire to less than ten meters from the communists and destroyed them with fragmentation grenades. Although wounded, he refused aid and kept fighting until the enemy force was defeated.

“For his exceptionally valorous actions Lieutenant Okamoto was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. During his deployment in Vietnam, Captain Okamoto was also awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters among other individual and unit citations.

“In civilian life he has served many veteran’s and community organizations. Among many awards, he has received a commendation from President Ronald Reagan and on Veterans Day 2006 was honored as Los Angeles County Veteran of the Year. His distinguished legal career was culminated by his appointment in 2002 as a Superior Court Judge.

“Captain Vincent H. Okamoto’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and his Ranger training. His commitment to his mission and the welfare of the men in his command reflect great credit upon himself, the Rangers and the United States Army.”



Life in Iraq by COL Christine Gayagas, USA

As the Deputy Commanding Officer for the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), I have had a unique opportunity to participate in a historic phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom as we surge to support five additional Brigade Combat Teams and other enablers. We have the best sustainment commanders in our Army leading our seven brigades through this tremendous effort in assisting to set conditions for the Government of Iraq. Our focus continues to be on sustaining the increasing number of Coalition Forces and assist in the training of Iraqi Security Forces. Our Soldiers are driving on with executing thousands of Combat Logistics Patrols, providing food, fuel, etc. in the most dangerous areas of Iraq. We have seen



Above: The Personal Security Detachment at a halt at TAJI while COL Gayagas (second from right) and her troops were en route to LSA Anaconda, located about 50 miles north of Baghdad. The vehicle behind this was hit with an IED and fortunately, there were no serious injuries as a result of this incident.

great success in transitioning Motor Transport Regiments to the Iraqi Army as they become more self-sufficient in executing their mission. US logistics teams remain in support of Iraqi logistics units such as their Headquarters Service Companies to further enhance self-reliance. We are projected to redeploy in late summer with the first Reserve Component Expeditionary Sustainment Command replacing our headquarters. The true strength of our Army is clear as we continue to transform while supporting a Coalition Force of over 150,000 military. There is no doubt that these are challenging times, but with our Soldiers' tenacity, competent leaders encouraging Iraqi counterparts, and continued support from the home front, there is no option but to be successful in this mission. *[Gayagas is on her second deployment to Iraq.]*

Speakers (continued) On May 3, **Dr. Norman Ikari**, 442nd infantryman and retired health scientist administrator at the National Institute of Health, and **Jean Kariya**, internee, spoke at the US Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA) in Arlington, Virginia. Host was **BG Ma-linda E. Dunn**, Commander of USALSA.

On May 14, **Ikari** and **Joe Ichiuji**, 522nd Field Artillery/442nd, spoke at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) in Charlottesville, Virginia (pictured below). Host was **BG Clyde J. Tate II**, Commander of TJAGLCS.



Above: Ikari and Ichiuji receive a standing ovation from Soldiers at TJAGLCS in Charlottesville, VA. Photo by David Yuen.

On May 14, 2007, four JAVA WWII veterans were recognized at the Army Materiel Command's (AMC) Asian Pacific American Heritage Month festivities at the AMC Headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Grant Hirabayashi, Merrill's Marauders; **Grant Ichikawa**, MIS; **Kelly Kuwayama**, Combat Medic, 442nd RCT; and **Terry Shima**, 442nd Public Relations, joined **Senator Daniel K. Akaka**, principal speaker, at lunch with the troops. Following the program was a reception featuring Asian cuisine, and JAVA veterans and Senator Akaka exchanged military experiences with AMC personnel.

On May 22, **Kuwayama** and **Ichiuji** spoke at the US Army Research Laboratory at Adelphi, Maryland. About 100 employees participated in the two hour program. Host was **Pamela Clark**, Acting Chief, Battlefield Environment Division.

On May 24, **Ichiuji** was the keynote speaker at the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, at the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. About 100 OMB employees attended. Following the program, Ichiuji was invited to a reception in the Indian Treaty Room.

On May 24, **Dr. Warren Tsuneishi** (MIS) and **Ikari** were interviewed by *WW II Magazine* for a proposed 4,500 word article on their military experi-

ences.

On May 24, **Betty Taira**, internee, and **Shima** spoke to middle school students at the Tree of Life School, Gaithersburg, Maryland. The host was **LuAnn Pen-gidore**.

On May 25, 2007, two members of the Merrill's Marauders, **Roy Matsumoto** and **Grant Hirabayashi**, were interviewed by **Jenny Cunningham** of KCTS, a local Seattle television station. Their interviews were focused on their personal experiences, as well as the experiences shared with their 12 fellow Nisei soldiers, in gathering combat intelligence deep behind enemy lines in the jungles of Burma. This is in connection with the upcoming PBS special program, *The War*, scheduled for airing on September 23, 2007.

On May 27, **Ichiuji** joined **LTG Joe Peterson**, USA, Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff of US Army Forces Command, based in Fort McPherson, Georgia, at the JACL-JAVA Memorial Service and wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown at the Arlington Cemetery.

On May 28, **Terry Willet**, of Ottawa, Illinois and a JAVA member, spoke at the Memorial Day program at Washington Park in Ottawa. He also read the names of local veterans who passed away during the past 12 months.

On May 31, **Paul Tani** (MIS), **Chosei Kuge** (MIS) and **Ikari**, participated in the Oral History Day at the Rocky Run Middle School at Chantilly, Virginia. The veterans were interviewed by students.

On May 31, **Ichiuji** and **Shima** spoke to three history classes at Linganore High School, Frederick, Maryland. Students were aware of the 100th and the 442nd however, they were uninformed about the Nisei who served in the MIS in the Asia Pacific Theater. The host was **Wayne A. Coblenz**, Social Studies Department.

Earlier, on April 16, **Dwight Gates** gave a talk entitled "General Kendall J. Fielder and the Internal Security of Hawaii" to the Anne Arundel Community College World War II roundtable. Gates discussed the career of General Fielder and his actions following Pearl Harbor to calm Hawaii citizens and stop persistent rumors and mistrust among its varied ethnic make-up. Fielder, head of intelligence for the military governor, attested to the loyalty of Japanese Americans and recommended the activation of the 442nd RCT. Gates is married to the granddaughter of General Fielder.

NJAMF Awards Dinner Gala

Washington, D.C. The ninth annual National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) 2007 Awards Dinner Gala was celebrated by approximately 330 persons on April 20, 2007 at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington D.C. The Chairman's Award was presented posthumously to the late **Senator Spark Matsunaga**, the Patriotism Award to **Senator Daniel K. Akaka** of Hawaii, and the the Preservation of Constitutional Rights Award to **Senator Lindsey O. Graham** of South Carolina.

NJAMF paid special tribute to Japanese Americans who served in the Korean War, during which 246 made the supreme sacrifice. The late **Gene Takahashi** of

Westport, CT received the recognition on behalf of Korean War veterans. Takahashi said he was greatly honored to be selected as the Korean War representative to receive this recognition. He added, "We have come a long way to prove our patriotism to our country. And we must never forget the moral values that we learned from our Issei parents."

Of the 75 Asian American generals and admirals, 14 attended the dinner. Four were from Hawaii. The Master of Ceremonies was **Frank Buckley**, anchor of KTLA Prime News. The chair for this year's event was **Eric Y. Nishizawa, Esq.** **Dr. Raymond S. Murakami** is the Chairman of the NJAMF Board of Directors, and



Senator Akaka (left) receives Patriotism Award from LTG Joe Peterson, USA.
Photo: James Sherwood

Gerald Yamada, Esq., is President and Executive Director of NJAMF. [Full press release at www.javadc.org]

News from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Free Folding Canes for WWII, Korean War Vets

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, free folding canes with interchangeable handles will be provided to World War II and Korean War Veterans. Can-Am Care, LLC, the makers of the HUGO Folding Cane and other state-of-the-art mobility assistance products, instituted this program "HUGO Salutes Our Veterans" to recognize the support and efforts the members of the US Armed Forces made for our country during WWII and the Korean War.

The *HUGO Folding Cane* is adjustable to different heights, fits most people between 5' to 6'5", and can support up to 550 pounds. The patented shock absorbing tip is flared with an ultra grip edge for extra stability and traction for various weather and terrain. The *HUGO Cane* easily folds into four sections and can be conveniently stored in its handy pouch. A Sure-Lock System ensures cane rigidity and stability. The *HUGO Folding Cane* is also the only cane to feature an interchangeable handle option which allows the user to customize the cane.

Veterans are encouraged to contact Can-Am Care toll-free at 1-888-412-4992 Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm EST or www.HUGOSalutes.com. Proof of service may be required.

New Retirement Community in Maryland

The Department of Veterans Affairs is building a 93-acre Continuing Care Retirement Community development on the Fort Howard Peninsula, just 15 miles from downtown Baltimore and 45 miles from Washington, D.C. The proposed development, called Bayside of Fort Howard, will serve as a national model to better serve the needs of America's rapidly growing veteran population.

There will be 1,300 units of active, affordable, independent living and assisted living quarters. The Bayside at Fort Howard will include a variety of housing types and services designed to meet the needs and desires of a wide range of veterans and non-veteran seniors. Housing types offered include Active Living, Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing. Amenities will include preserved open space, new VA outpatient clinic, additional co-healthcare provider for spouses and non veterans, veterans museum, Chesapeake Bay EcoCenter, Health/Wellness Education Center, Marina, Retail center and walking trails and paths.

Consult Bayside at Fort Howard website, www.baysidefthoward.com for enrollment and other details.

Meet the Flag Officers

JAVA research knows of 75 APA general and flag officers. The breakdown is as follows: Chinese American – 19; Filipino American – 6; Hawaii and Pacific Islands –

17; Japanese Americans – 33.

Of the 75, there

are 36 one-stars (BG); 34 two-stars (MG/RADM); 4 three-stars (LTG/VADM); and 1 four-star (General).

The distribution among services is

as follows: Army – 48; Navy – 9; Marine – 1; Air Force – 17.

RADM James E. Beebe



Rear Admiral James E. Beebe is a native of Wahiawa, Hawaii, and a Nisei. In 1975 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, receiving a bachelor's degree in ocean engineering. Currently, he is Deputy Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, responsible for approximately 1,500 Naval Reservists assigned to 48 reserve units in 11 states supporting the Pacific Submarine Force. He

is also the Deputy Commander, Navy Region Hawaii.

His naval career began with assignment to USS Robert E. Lee as First Lieutenant, followed by completion of the naval nuclear propulsion training program at Mare Island, California and Idaho Falls, Idaho in 1977. Upon completion of the Submarine Officer's Basic Course in Groton, Connecticut, he reported to USS George Washington as Reactor Controls Officer. "During my midshipman summer cruise at the Naval Academy, I had the good fortune of riding a submarine. The technology fascinated me, but what I was most impressed with were the sailors who served aboard these fantastic vessels -- their pride, professionalism, teamwork and technical knowledge. The unique aspect of the submarine service is serving on a ship that is totally self-sufficient and only limited by the amount of food we can carry and the length of our mission. The reactor generates all our power for years; we make our own water and oxygen. Every person on a submarine relies on each other to ensure the submarine is operated safely. The best part is while our surface ship shipmates are battling heavy seas on the oceans, we cruise smoothly and fast deep below the waves."

RADM Beebe joined the Naval Reserves in 1981 and served in various senior staff and command positions in the states and overseas. RADM Beebe is also a career civil service employee on the Staff of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, where he serves as the Executive Director for Fleet Maintenance. In his civil service career he has received several superior achievement awards.

RADM Beebe is married to the former Rebecca Garcia of Modesto, California. They have two sons, Christopher (21), a senior at the University of Southern California, and Matthew (19), a sophomore at the U.S. Naval Academy. The Beebes reside in Kailua, Hawaii. RADM Beebe is a member of JAVA.

MG James H. Mukoyama, Jr.



James Mukoyama was born during World War II in Chicago and grew up in the inner city. His father was an Issei from Yamanashi, Japan, and his mother was a Nisei born in Madison, Wisconsin, of parents who had immigrated from Kagoshima Prefecture. The Mukoyama family was among the less than 200 Nikkei living in Chicago when Pearl Harbor was bombed, and General Mukoyama's parents were instrumental in the organization of the Resettler's Committee in Chicago which assisted in obtaining housing and employment for those relocating out of camps to the Midwest.

Mukoyama attended the University of Illinois at Navy Pier and the University of Illinois in Urbana. Early in his university studies, he had considered the ministry. He attended Christ Congregational Church in Chicago, where the minister was Rev. George Aki, former Chaplain in the 442nd RCT. In 1965, Mukoyama was commissioned as a Regular Army Infantry officer and received his bachelor's degree in English. He received his Master's degree in Teaching of Social Studies with an emphasis in Far Eastern Affairs. Mukoyama served a total of 30 years as an Army officer, 5 years on active duty, and 25 years in the Army Reserve. He had two combat tours, one as a platoon leader in the DMZ in Korea and another as company commander in Vietnam. In 1989, he became the first Asian American to command a division in the history of the U.S. Army. He retired at the rank of Major General in 1995.

In his civilian career, Mukoyama worked for Mitsui & Co. (USA), Inc. and then entered the financial securities industry in 1974. He is a former member of the Chicago Board Options Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange. He has been listed in *Who's Who in America* since 1994. Today, he is the Executive Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer of Regal Securities, Inc. in Glenview, IL. Mukoyama is also Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, which is mandated by Congress. He is a member of JAVA.

He has been married for 36 years to Kyung Ja (K.J.); they have two grown children, Sumi and Jae. Jim and K.J. have resided in Glenview for the past 25 years.

JAVA April Luncheon Highlights

JAVA's quarterly luncheon on April 28, 2007 featured two interesting speakers. **Glen S. Fukushima**, Senior VP, Airbus SAS, and President and CEO, Airbus Japan, delivered an inspiring speech on Japanese Americans and US-Japan relations. **Sandra Tanamachi**, a Texas school teacher who recently returned from a Japanese government-sponsored visit to Japan, discussed the impact of her trip.

Fukushima said that *Yonsei* and *Gosei* (4th and 5th generation Japanese Americans) are "more active in interacting with fellow Americans and non-Americans than their predecessors, the *Nisei* and *Sansei* (2nd and 3rd generation). "Japanese Americans should create a vision for the future that remedies the mutual neglect of the past 50 years and forge a stronger relationship between Japanese Americans and Japan. To do this,

Japanese Americans should be players, actors and decision makers, not simply a bridge."

The Foreign Ministry program that took Tanamachi and her group to Japan provides an opportunity for *Sansei*, *Yonsei* and *Gosei* to get to know Japan and cement the friendship between Japan and the American people. Tanamachi said that despite cultural differences "we share the same hopes and vision with the Japanese people" Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, EdD, Executive Director of Montgomery Schools of Maryland, and Donna Tsufura, a media creator in New York City, also attended the luncheon.

President **Robert Nakamoto** recognized



L-R: Donna Tsufura, Sandra Tanamachi, Glen Fukushima, Dr. Donna Shimoda Hollingshead. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

BG Bert Mizusawa, JAVA president from 2003 to 2007, for outstanding leadership, **COL Phil Ishio**, USAR, Ret, for his vision as founder President of JAVA, and **David Buto**, for his long service as Secretary and Webmaster. Nakamoto said that Ishio built a strong foundation, Mizusawa expanded JAVA into a nationally-recognized organization, and Dave Buto created the world-class website that contributed to JAVA's national recognition.



COL Phil and Connie Ishio, displaying the JAVA coin.

Ben Kuroki Meets with JAVA Members

Ben Kuroki joined about 30 JAVA members for lunch in Rosslyn, Virginia on May 9, 2007, and talked about how he got into the US Army Air Corps and what he did to stay in. During WW II only two Japanese Americans served as gunners in aircrafts, and a small number of Nisei served as ground crew. Kuroki had to fight prejudice and bigotry to stay in the Air Corps and to fly on missions.

Kuroki's daughter, **Julie Kuroki Cooney**, accompanied him to the JAVA lunch. Senior JAVA members attending the lunch were **MG Anthony Taguba**, USA, Ret; **Dr. Ray**

Murakami, Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF); **Floyd Mori**, National Director of the Japanese American Citizen's League; **Gerald Yamada**, Esq, President and Executive Director of NJAMF; and **Robert Nakamoto**, President of JAVA. The **Honorable Norman Mineta**, JAVA Honorary Chair, **RADM Melvin Chiogioji**, USN, Ret, **RADM Kenneth Moritsugu**, Acting Surgeon General of the US; and **BG Bert Mizusawa**, immediate past president of JAVA regretted they were not able to attend due to schedule conflicts.

[For full article on Kuroki's lunch, email javaadvocate@gmail.com.]



Pictured L-R: Floyd Mori, Ben Kuroki, Bob Nakamoto, Gerald Yamada, and MG Anthony Taguba.

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Japan Awards Mineta with Nation's Highest Award

The **Honorable Norman Y. Mineta**, former Secretary of Transportation, received a high Japanese government decoration on July 3, 2007, in a formal ceremony, attended by about 200 people, at the Japanese Ambassador's official residence in Washington, D.C. **Ambassador Ryozo Kato**, in the names of the Emperor and the Prime Minister, conferred on Mineta the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, the nation's highest award.

Kato cited Mineta's long history of public service in San Jose, California, the US Congress, and two national cabinet positions. He praised Mineta for enhancing the recognition of Japanese Americans in the govern-



Ambassador Ryozo Kato (right) and Hon. Norman Mineta (left) standing next to photos of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. Photo credit: Embassy of Japan.

ment and the American populace and for building a strong relationship between Japan and the United States.

Mineta said he accepted this prestigious award with deep humility and as a representative of the Nikkei community. He attributed his success to the record of achievements of Japanese Americans who served with distinction in WW I, WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War. He acknowledged the veterans in the audience and cited JAVA Honorary Chair **COL Phil Ishio** by name.

Mineta is Vice Chairman of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and Honorary Chair of JAVA.

Sakura Matsuri Street Festival By David and Warren Tsuneishi

Fair sun shiny weather promised large groups of visitors to the annual JAVA booth at the Sakura Matsuri Street Festival organized by the Japan America Society of Washington, DC. The booth opened at 11:30am in downtown Washington at closed off sections of Pennsylvania Ave., NW and 12th St. NW dotted with rows of tents holding cultural and related exhibits as well as Japanese food stalls.

JAVA members greeted visitors leaving the annual Cherry Blossom Festival parade with a display of 20 books relating to the exploits of the 100th/442nd

RCT and the Military Intelligence Service during WWII, as well as a collection of battle field photographs and flyers on the Nikkei participation in current and past conflicts. 33 copies of the JAVA book *American Patriots* were sold by the end of the day.

JAVA volunteers providing yeoman service included **Stan Falk, Joe Ichijui, Norm Ikari, Lona Ichikawa, Chosei Kuge, Miyako and Harry Tanabe, Grant Hirabayashi, and David and Warren Tsuneishi**. The crowds were warm and friendly, expressing effusive praise of our patriotism.

JAVA Founder Receives Certificate of Appreciation



COL Sunao Phil Ishio, USA (Ret), JAVA's founding president, received the "Freedom Team Salute Certificate of Appreciation" from General Peter J. Schoomaker, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, and Francis J. Harvey, Secretary of the Army, for his long-time service to the military and dedicated work as an active member of JAVA.

The citation reads: "For outstanding service to the Nation as a United States Army Soldier. You are being recognized for your patriotism and continued support of the Army family. Your legacy is today's Army and the values Soldiers exhibit while fighting the Global War on Terrorism. Their efforts are a direct reflection of your service, and the United States Army and a grateful Nation thank you."

The American Dream - The Two Gene Takahashis (part I)

By David Halberstam

*[Editor's note: Gene Takahashi, Korean War veteran and JAVA member, died on May 15, 2007. Only a month before, on April 20, 2007, Takahashi accepted the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation award on behalf of Japanese Americans who served in the Korean War. On July 27, 2006, Takahashi served in a ceremony at the Korean Memorial, Washington, D.C., to mark the 53rd Anniversary of the Korean Armistice and also spoke at the JAVA quarterly luncheon on July 29th. The article below, entitled "The American Dream - The Two Gene Takahashis" was written by David Halberstam, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, historian and the author of books including *The Best and the Brightest* and *The Coldest Winter* (fall 2007). This book, which features Takahashi, is an account of a key early battle in the Korean War. Halberstam died in an auto accident on April 23, 2007, on a California expressway. Due to the length of this article, this is the first of a two-part series on Gene Takahashi. The second part will be published in the next JAVA Advocate due out in September 2007.]*



neighbors a kind of invisible man, whose existence few of them know about. I happened to know about him because of my book, but he is a man who rarely, unbidden, tells his story to others, because it is an extremely painful story to tell, and not many people were interested in hearing it when he was younger.

The Gene Takahashi that I know joined the Army in 1945 at the age of 17. His parents were Nisei Japanese, and they had spent a considerable amount of time interned in the World War II camps. At the end of the war, greatly admiring the courage and patriotism of the famed Nisei 442 Regimental (Go for Broke) Combat Team--famously brave, and famously decorated--Takahashi had asked his parents for permission to join the American Army. Permission had been granted, but with only one two provisos, one explicit, one implicit. The explicit one was that he was to do nothing to disgrace the Takahashi name; the implicit one was that nothing in the long run was to interfere with his college education.

From the start of my book, I had been intrigued by Takahashi's story because it is so American, at once good American and bad American. Tak, as his men called him, had not had an easy time in the Army. As a young lieutenant, he had served under a racist superior, a captain who was a West Point graduate and who seemed to think that the final victory of World War II would be his ability to drive Gene Takahashi out of the United States Army.

The captain gave Takahashi and his platoon every miserable assignment the company had. In addition, even though orders had come down earlier from President Truman to integrate the Army, Takahashi commanded a unit that was a relic of the past, an all-black platoon in an all-black company. That too, he decided, had made him a better officer--he had to be more subtle in the way he issued orders, because there was often an innate wariness in the minds of his men. Too many of them had been ordered around for too long, and in this new Army life they wanted to understand why they were being asked to do certain things. He became good not merely at giving orders but at explaining them as well.

[to be continued]

Some two years ago I went out to Westport, Connecticut, to interview Gene Takahashi for a book I was writing about the Korean War. There were, it soon struck me, two Gene Takahashis, the first the former IBM executive, quiet and exceptionally modest, the model citizen of a prosperous Connecticut suburb; and then another Gene Takahashi, someone whom almost none of his neighbors knew anything about, who on the night of Nov. 25, 1950, was the commander of a platoon of American troops in Love Company of the Ninth Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division. Love Company had the dubious distinction of being one of the units on the furthest eastern flank of the Eighth Army, almost uniquely vulnerable as the United Nations troops raced for the Yalu River in freezing temperatures in North Korea, their commander confident that the Chinese troops would not enter the war.

As such, the second Gene Takahashi happened to be there the night when some 200,000 Chinese soldiers struck the Eighth Army. If the first Gene Takahashi seems in many ways a very ordinary man, the prototype of the good American citizen, and core of the community, then the second one, the Gene Takahashi who is a genuine war hero, is among his Westport

Differing Perceptions of WWII Loyalty Oath

by Ted Tsukiyama, Esq., 442nd (Hawaii) Historian

Did the 442nd Hawaii volunteers know they had to sign and pass a loyalty oath screen before being accepted and inducted into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team? Military documents recovered from the National Archives indicate that one of the basic conditions to the formation of the Japanese American Combat Team was that all volunteers would be required to sign a loyalty oath (DSS Form 304A).

DSS Form 304A consisted of 28 questions related to genealogy, family relations and personal life, organizations, affiliations and activities, connections with Japan, and culminating with the key questions #27 and #28:

#27 - Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?

#28 - Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all at-

tack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

For volunteers from Hawaii, the first 26 items were hastily filled out and then questions 27 and 28 were treated as “no brainers” and the “Yes” answers were checked off without hesitation. This was exactly what they volunteered for! Almost 10,000 volunteered in a few days swamping the Draft Boards.

But on the mainland, the so-called loyalty oath was met with an entirely different response. The mainland reaction was traumatic and chaotic because all detainees in the ten relocation camps over 17 years in age including Issei and women were required to “register” by signing the loyalty question-

naire. They could only view the document submitted to them by a government that had taken

everything away and deprived them of their liberty, with suspicion, distrust, cynicism and bitterness.

This disparity is strikingly clarified in Tom Coffman’s recently produced documentary “The First Battle,” which reveals that actions and policies of General Delos C. Emmons, Pacific Command General, were guided and advised by local leaders in Hawaii vouching for the loyalty of Hawaii’s Japanese and averting any plan of their incarceration. The Japanese on the West Coast unfortunately had no such community leaders to support them.

[Note: The full length article appeared in the 442nd Veterans Club’s Go For Broke Bulletin, Vol. 58, No. 1, Oct-Dec 2006 issue. For the full article, please contact Grant Ichikawa, 703-938-5857 g.ichikawa@cox.net; or 114 James Dr, SW, Vienna, VA 22180.]

The War, a Ken Burns Film

The Library of Congress announced *The War* is scheduled to premiere on Sunday, September 23, 2007, on PBS stations nationwide. *The War* is a seven-hour series directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. According to the Library of Congress announcement, the film provides a snapshot of WWII experience through the personal accounts of a handful of men and women from four geographically distributed American towns: Waterbury, Connecticut; Mobile, Alabama; Sacramento, California; and the tiny farming town of Laverne, Minnesota.

Accompanying the broadcast of *The War* is an extensive national community engagement effort. Outreach surrounding the film includes a collaboration with the Veterans History Project – a program of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center that was created by Congress in 2000.

At the Library of Congress and Ken Burns’ request, JAVA is providing local PBS stations with names of 100th-442nd and MIS veterans for TV promotionals in connection with the airing of *The War*. Japanese Americans are featured in *The War*.

JAVA Educational Partners

JAVA will partner with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) in their respective education programs.

The GFBNEC partnership includes (1) a speakers program, in which JAVA will be invited to provide speakers for schools, special events and seminars in the eastern part of the United States, and (2) a teacher training and curriculum program in which GFBNEC will provide Washington D.C. area schools written curriculum material on the 100-442-MIS and internment.

The NJAMF education program will use the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During WW II as a teaching venue to focus on three themes: (1) the harsh and unjust treatment of persons of Japanese ancestry during WW II; (2) the patriotism and loyalty of Japanese Americans during WW II within the confinement sites and in the military service during WW II; and (3) the lessons learned from those experiences that we must pass on to the American public and future generations.

Anniversary of Nakae Freedom Square

June 21, 2007 marked the one year anniversary of the dedication of US Army Private Masato "Curly" Nakae Freedom Square at Camp Darby, Livorno, Italy. The monument was erected to the memory of PVT Nakae, Company A, 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, for his heroic actions in combat on August 19, 1944 against the German forces in the Pisa area. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism. In 2000 his award was upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Nakae was born in Kauai, entered military service in early 1942, and joined the 100th Infantry Battalion when it was activated in June

1942.

Nakae's DSC citation states:

"When his sub-machine gun was damaged by a shell fragment during a fierce attack by a superior enemy force, Private Nakae quickly picked up his wounded comrade's M-1 rifle and fired rifle grenades at the steadily advancing enemy. As the hostile force continued to close in on his position, Private Nakae threw six fragmentation grenades into their midst and forced them to withdraw.

"During a concentrated mortar barrage which preceded the next

assault by the enemy force, Pvt Nakae was seriously wounded by a mortar shell fragment. Despite his injury, however, he refused to surrender his position and continued firing at the advancing enemy. By inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy force he finally succeeded in breaking up the attack and caused the enemy to withdraw. His extraordinary heroism in the face of a greatly superior force in is keeping with the highest traditions of the US Army."

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Honoring Robert H. Mooney

by John H. Yee

At 3:15 p.m. on December 26, 1943, Japanese Zero fighters suddenly launched a sneak attack on the town of Xiang Yun, located about 150 miles northwest of Kunming, and the 14th Air Force airfield at Yunnanyi, some 30 miles west of Kunming. Lt Mooney and other 14th Air Force pilots scrambled to meet the attackers.

After reportedly shooting down two of the enemy planes, Mooney's aircraft was badly damaged but he continued on and approached an enemy fighter. Just as the two fighters were about to crash head-on, the Japanese pilot was unable to avoid a deadly collision. Mooney's plane struck the enemy aircraft, resulting in the loss of the Japanese fighter's left wing.

Mooney's aircraft, even more badly damaged, continued on and was heading toward the town of Xiang Yun. Mooney, realizing that his P-40 was about to crash in the middle of the town, gave up his best chance for bailing out and steered his aircraft away from the city. When he was finally clear of the city and bailed out, he had lost so much altitude that his parachute failed to open completely before he hit the ground in a nearby rice-paddy.

Hundreds of horrified local Chinese civilians witnessed this. The people of Xiang Yun, rushed to his aid and carried the badly injured pilot to the airfield hospital,

where the medical staff tried their best to keep him alive. Because his injuries were so severe, he could not be saved and died that evening.

The entire town of Xiang Yun was sad with grief. The people of the town and surrounding area donated hard-earned money in order to build a memorial to honor Lt Mooney. A local Chinese doctor, Dong Qi Yuan, wrote to Mooney's parents telling them that the people of Xiang Yun and China had a new son they would always remember. He gave a detailed account of the heroic manner in which Lt Mooney fought and gave his life.

Five months after Mooney died, the "American Air Force Lieutenant Mooney Memorial" was complete, and the people of Xiang Yun conducted a very solemn and beautiful memorial dedication ceremony that was witnessed by many officers and enlisted men from the nearby Yunnanyi airfield.

Every year since then, on "Quingming", the Chinese Memorial Day, the people of Xiang Yun still come to Mooney's Memorial site, and according to Chinese custom, "Sweep the Tomb" and present flowers in honor of the young American who lost his life helping China and the people Xiang Yun.

[John H. Yee was born in China and served as interpreter with the American Volunteer group (AVG). He was commissioned into the Chinese Air Force (CAF). In 1944 he accompanied a batch of CAF cadets to train in the US. He is a life member of the Flying Tigers Association and lives in Denver, Colorado.]

Face Behind the File: Documentary on Japanese Americans

The Department of Veterans Affairs documentary on Japanese Americans is expected to air soon on the VA network and the Pentagon channel. This documentary is one in a series used to sensitize VA and Department of Defense staff to the Japanese American veterans experience. Other documentaries featured thus far are the Tuskegee Airmen, POWs, and American Indian code talkers in the Pacific War.

The documentary features **Lawson Sakai** of Gilroy, California (442nd RCT); **Robert Wada** of Fullerton, California (US Marine Corps in the Korean War); **James Y. Nagahiro** of Rindge, New Hampshire (B-52 pilot in the Vietnam War); and **Eric Saul** of Morgantown, West Virginia (historian).

The film shows that despite the US government distrust and discrimination against them, the Japanese

Americans volunteered from the concentration camps to serve in combat with the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe and as translators, interrogators, communications interceptors and behind enemy lines in the Military Intelligence Service in the Asia Pacific Theater.

The question of loyalty resolved by the WWII generation, the film shows Wada in the Korean War with the US Marines and Nagahiro in the cockpit of a B-52 bomber as a pilot, both opportunities denied to the Japanese American WWII generation. Nagahiro was shot down in December 1972 over North Vietnam and imprisoned in "Hilton Hanoi." He credits the WWII generation for creating the opportunities so he could compete for his most coveted military

assignment.

Saul provided excellent perspectives of the *Nikkei* contributions to the war effort including a discussion of the *Issei* who wanted the best for their children and trained them to become loyal Americans. Many *Issei* volunteered for duty in WW I to improve their status with the government.

JAVA served as a consultant to the DVA in the preparation of this DVD. More VA programs can be found at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/index.asp>

If you are interested in receiving a copy of this DVD free of charge via postal mail, thanks to the VA, please contact Terry Shima (ttshima@worldnet.att.net; 301-987-6746); 415 Russell Ave, #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

MIS NorCal Honors McNaughton

Presidio of San Francisco. Over 100 attendees, including about a dozen veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), gathered at Crissy Field Center, Presidio of San Francisco, on June 13, 2007, to celebrate the publication of **Dr. James C. McNaughton's** book, *Nisei Linguist: Japanese Americans in the MIS During World War II*. The Center, situated just a few blocks from "Building 640", is an abandoned aircraft hangar which was used in November 1941 by the MIS Language School (MISLS) to train the first class of students. The event was presented by National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Presidio Trust, and National Parks Service (NPS).

Colonel Tom Sakamoto and **Gene Uratsu** were graduates of the first MISLS class who served with front line units as translators and interrogators in the southwest Pacific and Philippines campaigns. Uratsu, a NJAHS Board member, served as master of ceremonies. Following remarks by **Stephen Haller**, NPS historian, **Rosalyn Tonai**, NJAHS Executive Director, presented an update on the project to construct the MIS Historic Learning Center by remodeling

Building 640. **Colonel Harry Fukuhara** introduced Dr. McNaughton with his usual witty touch. Dr. McNaughton talked about the book and provided anecdotal stories about the first class.



L-R: Professor James McNaughton; Gene Uratsu, 1st Class MIS; Colonel Tom Sakamoto, 1st Class MIS. Photo courtesy of Rosalyn Tonai.

A panel consisting of McNaughton, Fukuhara, Sakamoto, and Uratsu discussed their military experience and responded to questions. **Col Brian Shiroyama**, USAF, Ret., said "Accounts of their personal experiences made all of us truly appreciate their magnificent dedication, loyalty, and service to America even though their parents and families were still confined in various internment centers. We all agreed that we must raise enough funds now to preserve the proud legacy of the MIS by finishing the 'Building 640 Project.' It will be a fitting way to say 'thank you' to our MIS veterans."

JAVA to Award First Scholarship Funds Next Spring

By Calvin Ninomiya

The first awards for JAVA's three memorial scholarships will be announced on May 17, 2008, at the Spring Quarterly lunch. Each scholarship award is \$1,000.

Major Orville C. Shirey Scholarship Fund (\$10,865.00): Shirey was the G-2 (Intelligence) of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He is also author of *AMERICANS: The Story of the 442nd Combat Team*, published in December 1946, considered to be the RCT's most authoritative.

Jack Tashiro Scholarship Fund (\$3,181.98): Tashiro was an MIS officer, who taught at the MIS Language School at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and served in the Occupation of Japan. He was Treasurer of JAVA.

Douglas Ishio Scholarship Fund (\$11,008.02): Douglas Ishio was an engineer, the son of COL Phil and Connie Ishio. COL Ishio is the founder of JAVA and currently serves on its Executive Council.

The Scholarship Program Committee consists of **Calvin Ninomiya**, Esq. Chair; **James M. Furukawa**,

PhD, Professor at Towson University and a WW II veteran; **COL (Dr.) Edgar Junro Wakayama**; and, **Sumiye (Sue) Okubo**, PhD, Associate Director for Industry Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, US Department of Commerce. The latter three constitute the JAVA Scholarship Awards Committee. Awards will be given for past merit and accomplishments. All three funds will be managed together, but separate awards will be made from each fund annually.

Scholarship applicants must be a graduating high school senior, a college undergraduate, a graduate student, a student entering or attending a professional school, or a student entering or attending a trade or other school providing specialized education that results in an accredited certificate or diploma. Every applicant must submit documentation (e.g. transcript(s)) showing superior academic rank and promise.

Applicants must be a person related (by blood or marriage) to a Japanese American veteran; to a person who was a member of the 442nd RCT; or, to a person who has been a member of JAVA for a period of no less than one year prior to the date on which

the annual JAVA scholarship awards are announced. Each applicant must be presently a student in good standing at an accredited institution, or otherwise provide evidence of admission thereto.

There will be three \$1,000 awards annually, one from each fund; when the balance of a fund falls below \$1,000, it will be consolidated with any remaining fund(s). Winners will be selected by the JAVA Scholarship Awards Committee. Its recommendations will be confirmed, and awards announced by the Executive Council.

The application form, duly completed, together with supporting documentation, including transcripts, references, and copies of application and letter of admittance to the institution where applicant is/will be attending, shall be the basis for judging applicants. There will be no personal interviews. Applicants related to members of the Executive Council or awards committee shall be ineligible to receive awards under this program. Rules governing the awards program, together with the application form and instructions, are being prepared, and their availability will be announced.

VA/FAA Expand Employment for Disabled Vets

Veterans with disabilities will have access to on-the-job training to become air traffic controllers or technicians installing and repairing air traffic equipment, thanks to a new program aimed at helping those who serve transition into the civilian workforce.

The unveiling of the program took place on April 10, 2007 at an event on Capitol Hill attended by Sen.

Daniel K. Inouye, a leader on veterans' issues, and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Undersecretary for Benefits **RADM Daniel L. Cooper**. Representatives of veterans service organizations, including JAVA, also participated.

Called "A Hero to the Nation – A Hero to the Skies," this joint effort between the agency and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will enable veterans to

take advantage of VA vocational rehabilitation benefits, while training for air traffic control and airway transportation systems specialist positions. VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program provides a transition for veterans with disabilities into the civilian workforce through on-the-job-training programs administered by FAA.

Veterans with disabilities interested in the program must apply through the VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) offices located in each state. Information on the VR&E program can be found at www.vetsuccess.gov.

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]

USO Packing Party

By Lona Ichikawa

On USO packing party Saturday mornings, at 8:30 am, I arrive at the USO warehouse at Ft. Belvoir, VA. I walk in with eagerness and a purpose. I glance around looking at the piles of donated products waiting for the assembly line. As I walk over to one of the piles, I greet the USO managers and volunteers. As we work together unpacking the donated products and repacking them into bins, we exchange greetings and play catch up on our personal lives. We all feel that camaraderie where you set aside political beliefs and have one common goal. Most of us are "old timers" and schedule our lives around the USO packing parties, held at least two Saturdays a month. More people start trickling in. They scatter around the warehouse looking for work, everybody smiling and ready to roll!

A USO manager gives us a little history of the care packing effort, which started after the anthrax scare in 2002 when they decided it was too dangerous for the military to receive care packages from strangers. The USO care package items are stuffed into a Ziploc bag weighing approximately 2 lbs. Items include a toiletries and other items such as international calling cards, refreshments, disposable

cameras, compact discs. We have sent out over ONE MILLION care packages to troops deploying to Afghanistan, Iraq and other overseas locations!

We normally have up to 200 volunteers at each care packing party so we want to make sure everybody has something to do. We start off with loud music to set the pace and we compete with other teams to make it fun. We have 13 year old up to 80+ year old volunteers participating. We have people with walkers attending. There are many jobs that can be done sitting down. We break at 1200 P.M., hungry and ready to eat the Domino's pizza slices outside as we chat with others. Approximately 20 minutes later, we start back up and depending on how many packages are needed that week to send out, we close down around 300 P.M. Last Saturday we packed 14,000 care packages! As we get ready to



Above: Lona Ichikawa (left) with Daniel Rodriguez, the NYC police officer who helped bring the country an uplifting spirit of promise and hope with his stirring rendition of "God Bless America" after 9/11.

close down operations, one of the USO managers will read several letters from the military who have received our care packages. We listen intently, tears shining in our eyes and we all exchange glances and nod, yes - this is for the troops.

[Note: Lona Ichikawa has committed herself to attend all the USO care packing parties as much as possible and began volunteering at the USO lounge at Dulles Airport. She has spend hundreds of dollars sending items to coworkers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. She also sends items to many soldiers who are friends or whom she meets through USO. She also is a trained CERT volunteer for her community and signed up for a First Responder class to learn first aid to assist during a natural disaster and terrorist attack. She uses her own money to upgrade her equipment.]



Above: USO volunteers packing care packages.

JAVA Seeks Volunteers

JAVA is seeking volunteers to fill a number of vacant positions. No special skills are necessary. Important ingredients for the positions are: enthusiasm and dedication to enhance the Japanese American cause; you want to learn from this experience; you want to meet interesting people; you want to do creative and meaningful work. Your payment will not be

in cash but it will be in appreciation for work WELL DONE and the knowledge you have contributed to the cause.

Chair, Memorial Day Weekend events.

Chair, Education Committee. Facilitates activities to educate the community about the history of Japanese American veterans.

Coordinator, Oral History

Program (OHP). The OHP is a partner of the Library of Congress Oral History Project. Interview veterans and record their experiences for archiving.

Videographer for the OHP. Accompanies the interviewer to the OHP interviews.

Scanner for the National Archives Digitization Project. Computer savvy persons with laptop and scanner that can handle legal-size papers.

From the Editor



I apologize for the delay in publication of this issue of the *JAVA ADVOCATE*. My family and I have relocated to Mannheim, Germany, where I have been assigned

Officer in Charge of the Mannheim Law Center. Due to the transition, I have not had access to all of my com-

puter equipment nor had regular internet access.

My family and I were able to take advantage of the USO lounge at Dulles Airport; thank you **Lona Ichikawa** for volunteering at this wonderful facility. Also, thank you to **Joe Ichiuji** and **Norm Ikari** for sharing your inspirational stories with us at The Judge Advocate General's Law Center and School in Charlottesville, VA. It was an honor to spend some quality time

with you both.

To more easily manage the emails I receive regarding the JAVA ADVOCATE, I created a new email account:

javaadvocate@gmail.com

You may also send correspondence to me at Kay Wakatake, CMR 435 Box 1317, APO AE 09086 (use regular US mail postage, not international postage rate).

Welcome New Members!

- RADM Jim Beebe (Kailua, HI)
- Stanley Fujimoto (Las Vegas, NV)
- Harumi (Jack) Kojimoto (Los Angeles, CA)
- Thomas Phan (Washington, D.C.)
- Metta Tanikawa (Warrenton, VA)
- Byron Shibata (Marina Del Rey, CA)
- Steven M. Uyehara (Kalaheo, HI)

Japanese Documentary on 442nd RCT

Hiroko Kiriishi, a researcher from Japan, kindly gave JAVA member **Joe Ichiuji** a VHS tape of a Japanese documentary film about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. If any member wishes to view it, please call Joe Ichiuji at (301) 530-0336.



Membership Application FY2007

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Membership: New Renewal Transfer

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

(Cellular) _____

Facsimile: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30
- Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20
- Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
- Life Membership: \$300

Military Experience (if applicable): _____

Rank: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Military Campaigns: _____

Awards/Decorations: _____

Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

	Yes	No
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awards/Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006**



Visit our website:
www.javadc.org

Postage

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Michael Yaguchi, yaguchim@u.washington.edu;
703-729-1243

Membership: Cal Shintani, cshintani@verizon.net

Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, javaadvocate@gmail.com

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ttshima@worldnet.att.net; 301-987-6746

National Archives Research:

Joe Ichiuji, joe.ichiuji@verizon.net; 301-530-0336

Fumie Yamamoto, yamamotoff@yahoo.com;
301-942-3985

Quarterly Lunch: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 27: 54th Anniversary Korean War Armistice, Korean War Memorial, D.C.

Aug 6-10 (exact date TBD): Lunch w/ Dr. James C. McNaughton, Rosslyn, VA.

Aug 8: Judge Vince Okamoto induction into Ranger Hall of Fame, Ft. Benning, GA.

Sept. 12: JAACL Gala Awards Dinner, JW Marriott, Washington, D.C.

Sept 20, 1pm: Veterans Day National Committee Meeting, Dept of VA, Washington, DC.

Sept 23: PBS begins airing Ken Burns' epic *The War*. Check local listings.

Sept 30: Joint Memorial Service at National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl, Oahu.

Oct 8, 11:30am: Lunch w/ Dr. Greg Robinson, author of *By Order of the President*, Rosslyn, VA.

APA Heritage Month



Above: Pres. Bush returns salute of WWII veterans at White House APA Month Program. Photo: Tino Dinh.



L-R: BG Clyde Tate, Norm Ikari, Joe Ichiuji at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, Charlottesville, VA.