Japanese American Veterans Association



JAVA ADVOCATE

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JAVA participates in two events during National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON — JAVA participated in two events during the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., March 26 - April 10, 2011. JAVA partnered with both the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in their 13th Annual Freedom Walk as well as the Japan American Society of Washington, D.C. (JASW) in its 51st Sakura Matsuri street festival. The events this year were somewhat subdued and heartfelt due to the disaster in Japan. The 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorates the 99th anniversary of the gift of cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

JAVA's booth, provided free by the JASW, consisted of handouts of literature pertaining to internment, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and Japanese Americans who served in the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. Docents, comprised of veterans of WW II, Korean, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars, were on hand to respond to questions of the thousands of visitors.

In recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal that will be awarded to members of the $100^{\rm th}$, $442^{\rm nd}$ and the MIS, JASW featured two JAVA veterans in its program; Grant Ichikawa (MIS) and Terry Shima (442nd) were invited to comment on their experiences in the MIS and the 442nd and the significance of Medal to the Japanese American community.

Reuben Yoshikawa, who succeeded long time chair Dr. Tsuneishi, said that "participation in Sakura Matsuri is an important priority in JAVA's education program because we can reach out to the American public to tell them the Japanese American story." Supporting Yoshikawa were: Dr. Raymond Murakami, Grant Ichikawa, Dr. Stanley Falk, LTC Alan Ueoka, U.S. Army, retired Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, U.S. Air Force, Noriko Sanfuji, Robert Nakamoto, Aki Konoshima, retired LTC Mark Nakagawa, U.S. Army, and Betty Taira. Gerald Yamada, President, and Bob Nakamoto, immediate past president, also participated as docents.

"Over the past decade, the Sakura Matsuri has grown ten times. It takes almost 4,000 people to put on this great show, the biggest Japanese festival in America," said Ambassador John R. Malott, President and CEO of JASW. 150,000 visitors had a selection of 30 vendors of Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and western foods and a beer garden and sake tasting.



Craig Uchida, Gerald Yamada are joined by the National Cherry Blossom Festival Goodwill Ambassadors for the ribbon cutting ceremony marking the start of the 13th Annual Freedom Walk, co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JAVA. (George Newcomb) The Freedom Walk, held the previous weekend, is designed to raise awareness about the Japanese American experience during WW II. A program was held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, which was built as a tribute to the 33,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in the US military and also to the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry detained in internment camps during World War II.

President's Message



It is an honor to serve as JAVA President and a privilege to serve with dedicated board members whose experience spans every war from World War II to the present

two wars that the United States is engaged.

As President, I have set three goals for JAVA. <u>First</u>, JAVA should broaden the reach of its education program. <u>Second</u>, JAVA must take steps to secure its longevity and financial viability into the foreseeable future. <u>Third</u>, JAVA needs to become a more active member of the veteran's community.

Preserving Our Legacy. Over the past four years. JAVA has been building relationships with schools in the Montgomery, Frederick, Fairfax, Arlington Counties and Washington, DC Public School Systems as well as area universities and community organizations. The JAVA speakers talk about their personal experience regarding the treatment of Japanese American during World War II, their motivation for serving in the US military, and life in the War Relocation Authority camps. Each presentation is highly appreciated by teachers and students. We need to take what JAVA has done with these schools and to

make the materials available to other schools across the country. We are seeking to work with the Department of Education to inform other school districts as to the availability of JAVA materials for their use. We want to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn about how prejudice and war hysteria led to the unjust imprisonment of Japanese Americans during the World War II and why Japanese American men and women answered the call to duty to prove their loyalty and patriotism.

Ensuring Our Financial Secu-

rity. JAVA operates on membership dues and voluntary donations. Although JAVA does not solicit money, JAVA has been fortunate over the past four years to receive very sizable donations. This gives JAVA the flexibility to fund special projects. JAVA must continue operating within its annual budget derived from membership dues and needs to invest the donations in long term investments that will assure a stream of revenue that can fund special projects and ensure JAVA's longevity. We must create safeguards on the use of these long-term investments so that the investment principal will secure JAVA's future.

Supporting Programs Benefiting All Veterans. Later this year, the Congressional Gold Medal will be presented to the soldiers who served during World War II in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service. Our Nation will be bestowing on these Japanese American veterans a very special honor. In appreciation of receiving this

high honor for the World War II veterans, JAVA should find ways to give back to the veteran community. As a VA recognized Veterans Service Organization and a member of the National Military Veterans Alliance, JAVA is in the unique position of participating in programs that will benefit all veterans. I look forward to having JAVA work with the VA and NMVA to increase JAVA's participation in those types of programs.

I look forward to working with JAVA members. I encourage you to continue supporting JAVA by renewing your membership and asking other veterans to join, attending our quarterly luncheon and other JAVA activities, and giving us suggestions on ways to improve the way we do business.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq. President

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Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (center in yellow coat) attended the Sakura Matsuri and visited the JAVA tent. L-R: Aki Konoshima, LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret); Gerald Yamada, Esq; Mazie Hirono; Reuben Yoshikawa; Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret); Dr. Ray Murakami; and Betty Taira. (Noriko Sanefuji)

2 elite Army Airborne Divisions commanded by Japanese Americans

[Editor's Note: It is a rare occasion indeed when the stars align so that the U.S. Army's two legendary Airborne divisions are each commanded by a Japanese American. Here is that story. JAVA wishes to thank the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions Public Relations offices for the creation of this article.]

WASHINGTON — There's no doubt that opportunities for minorities in America have come a long way, it's no different for those who serve in the military. In the past, there haven't always been the same opportunities for

minorities in the military as there are today.

You can find proof of the large strides that have been made by looking at the U.S. Army, two of its most legendary combat units; the 82nd Airborne Division and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are both commanded by an American of Japanese heritage.

For Major General John F. Campbell, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., Japanese ancestry comes from his mother's side. The Fairfield, Calif. native is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, class of 1979. He joins the ranks of other famous commanders of the 101st "Screaming Eagles," including Generals Maxwell Taylor, William C. Westmoreland and David H. Petraeus.

Major General James L. Huggins, Jr., Commanding Gen-



Left: Major General James L. Huggins, Jr., Commanding General, 82nd Airborne Division. Right: Major General John F. Campbell, Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

eral, 82nd Airborne Division, based out of Fort Bragg, N.C., has Japanese ancestry that also comes from his mother's side. The Honolulu native, a Leleihua High School graduate, entered the Army via Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of Georgia. He follows in the footsteps of famous former 82nd "All-American" commanders such as Generals Matthew B. Ridgeway, James M. Gavin, Maxwell D. Taylor, and Omar N. Bradley.

Having Japanese heritage isn't the only thing these commanders have in common; they both have impeccable credentials for their respective positions. They are close friends, having once served as Brigade Commanders in the 82nd Airborne at the same time and are known for their outstanding leadership qualities and caring for the welfare of their men, women and their families. The two officers are well respected by their subordinates, peers, and superiors.

The older of the two airborne divisions is the 82nd Airborne, which was activated on August 5, 1917, while the 101st Airborne Division, was activated on August 16, 1942. The two airborne divisions have an extensive history of service during World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm/Desert Shield and more recently, multiple deployments in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

New members appointed to VA Committee on Minority Veterans

WASHINGTON — On March 2, 2011, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of eight new members to VA's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, an expert panel that advises him on issues involving minority veterans. "The new members of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will bring their expertise to help guide VA's efforts in serving minority Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA welcomes these new members."

Chartered on Jan. 30, 1995, the committee makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes. The committee members are appointed to one, two, or three-year terms. There are approximately 4.1 million minority Veterans in the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and territories. They comprise approximately nearly 15 percent of the total Veteran population today.

The eight new committee members include: Clara L. Ad-

ams-Ender, Woodbridge, Va.; Allie Braswell Jr., Orlando, Fla.; Amanda Heidenreiter, Ellicott City, Md.; Oscar B. Hilman, Tacoma, Wash.; Pedro Molina, Fresno, Calif., Wayne Nickens, Honolulu, Hawaii; Celia Renteria Szelwach, Arden, N.C., and Joseph Wynn, Washington, D.C. They join the following members currently serving on the committee: Retired Brig. Gen. Clara L. Adams-Ender, U.S. Army; Allie Braswell Jr., U.S. Marine Corps; Retired Capt. Amanda Heidenreiter, U.S. Army; Retired Brig. Gen. Oscar B. Hilman, U.S. Army; Pedro Molina, U.S. Army; Wayne Nickens, M.D.; elia Renteria Szelwach, DBA, U.S. Army; Joseph Wynn, U.S. Air Force; Retired Specialist Shoshana N. Johnson, U.S. Army; James T. McLawhorn, Jr.; Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Benjamin C. Palacios, U.S. Army; Lupe G. Saldana, U.S. Marine Corps.

[Editor's note: BG Hilman, a Filipino American, is the only Asian Pacific American on the Committee.]

California State Nisei VFW holds 61st Reunion by Susan Uyemura, JA Living Legacy

RENO, Nev. — The 61st California State Nisei VFW Reunion chose the Sands Regency Hotel in Reno, Nevada for their venue. Nearly 200 veterans, spouses, widows, friends and family gathered there to, once again, honor those who served our country. Northern California Nisei VFW posts sponsored this event. Co-chairs Loren Ishii and Jim Suzuki managed the event and coordinated everything from greeting the guests and being VIP escorts, to providing a great hospitality room.

Bartender, Val Soto kept everyone "hydrated" while his helpers, Harry Wadahara and Herb Tanaka, prepared a delicious array of Japanese dishes and made sure the room always had food. The Sacramento VFW post kept everyone entertained with ukulele and hula performances. Although the attendance was lower than expected this year, spirits were soaring high. Bill Omoto kept registration moving smoothly.

Sunday's influx of visitors arriving by plane, train, bus and car from all over California kicked-off the event. Keynote speaker, Terry Shima arrived from Washington, D.C. while Harry Wadahara traveled from Oahu.

It has been a tough year for all of the posts. Attendance declined due to lack of transportation, weather, and poor health conditions. Despite these hurdles, this year's reunion crowd continued the tradition of fun and fellowship. Most of the Nisei VFW posts were represented including: Post 1629 Monterey - Jim Suzuki, Post 1961 Gardena - Paul Bannai, Post 3670 Kazuo Masuda -Norio Uyematsu, Post 4140 San Fernando Valley - Frank Tanaka, Post 5869 Hanford -Patrick Ford, Post 8985 Sacramento - Kent Nakashima, Post 9879, San Francisco – Glenn Akagi, Post 9938 - and Post 9970 San Jose - Robert Getubig and past State Commander, Henry Wadahara, Other special guests included current California State Commander -- Dennis Wells, Commander and Chief -- Richard Eubank, Women's Auxillary President -- Judy Jones, Chaplain -- Shirley Calvert, Incoming Cootie Grand Commander -- Glenn Wilson and Jim Rowoldt Department Quartermaster/ Adjutant.

Hospitality was filled with ongoing sushi, sashimi, arare and homemade baked goods provided by the women of the various posts. Each seat had a good luck frog "kaeru" given in memory of Dick Kishue (former commander of Hanford VFW Post). Margaret Omoto handed out handmade leis.

Terry Shima, Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) addressed the audience as the keynote speaker. Shima talked about the Bushido spirit that was instilled in Nisei veterans by their immigrant parents and how that impacted and defined their service. Shima also discussed the Congressional Gold Medal that will be awarded later this year to the 100, 442, and MIS. He also stressed that JAVA appreciated this link with California VFW veterans posts and this opportunity to address them.

The three day event concluded on Tuesday morning with the "Sayonara Breakfast" and Memorial Day service; a moment of silence honored post participants that had passed away this past year. The 2012 62nd California State Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars Reunion will be held in Reno, Nevada — tentatively set May 20-22, 2012.

[Terry's remarks may be read on JAVA's website, www.javadc.org.]

Interfaith "Prayer for Japan" held at Washington Nat'l Cathedral

WASHINGTON — Marking one month since the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami, His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, and clergy of the Buddhist, Shinto, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths participated in an interfaith prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral on Apr. 11, 2011.

U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and his wife, Irene Hirano Inouye, high ranking government and private sector officials, Japanese American veterans and community members, and the general public filled the cavernous hall that previously held funeral services for men of prominence such as President John Kennedy.

"We, at the National Cathedral, join with people across the nation and around the world in continuing to pray for a country sorely tried in the past month, that its people



Remarks by His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador of Japan to USA. (Donovan Marks)

may be strengthened, and that in the fullness of time they may rebuild their lives," said Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III, who provided the invocation at the prayer service.

Ambassador Fujisaki said, "Never has mankind experienced three catastrophes together – earthquakes, tsunami and a nuclear disaster." He expressed condolences to the Taylor Anderson family, who sat in the audience. Anderson was an English teacher who lost her life in the tsunami. Fujisaki said the struggle to search for the missing and control of nuclear reactors continues and the reconstruction has started. He spoke of two "encouraging signs," that include "the resistance and conviction of the Japanese people, and the goodwill and assistance extended by people and governments around the world,

especially by Americans." Because of these factors, he added, "Japan will come back stronger than ever."

Music was offered by Miyuki Yoshikami, koto player (traditional Japanese harp), [continued at Japan on page 5]

Yaguchi awarded Sec Def Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service

ARLINGTON, Va. - Retired Lieutenant Colonel Michael Yaguchi, U.S. Air Force, Director for Nuclear Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Global Strategic Affairs, Nuclear and Defense Policy, Office of the Under Secretary for Defense for Policy, was awarded the prestigious Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service on Feb. 18, 2011. The medal, presented at a formal Pentagon ceremony officiated by The Honorable Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense, was presented for Yaguchi's "direct and central role in negotiation and

ratification of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)." Six other DOD officials received medals for their roles in the New START Treaty.

Secretary Gates said that the new treaty, the successor to START I negotiated in 1982, is designed to bring unprecedented clarity regarding Russian strategic nuclear capabilities and intentions, reduced risk of proliferation, accident, miscalculation and other hazards." The treaty is also designed to build a "productive, evolving relationship with Moscow that has proven valuable in addressing critical security challenges such as Iran and Afghanistan," said Gates.

In her remarks, The Honorable Michele Flournoy, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, citing Yaguchi and six other honorees, remarked that "this is an achievement you will carry with you for the rest of your lives."



L-R. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Michael Yaguchi. (Department of Defense photo)

Yaguchi's citation stated, "In the early phases of the negotiation, Mr. Yaguchi played a central role in determining basic U.S. negotiating objectives and was a key bridge between the arms control process and the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review. He was Policy's lead representative to the interagency backstopping effort and regularly led the development of detailed responses to negotiator queries and detailed plans for next steps. During the ratification process, he had lead responsibility in the Office of the Secretary of Defense Policy for ensuring that the Senate received accurate and complete responses

to over 1,000 questions for the record. During this period he also served as the Office of the Secretary of Defense Policy lead in developing implementation plans for the treaty for execution upon its entry into force. As the New START Treaty enters into force, it will be in no small part due to the contributions of Mr Yaguchi."

Following the ceremony, Ms. Flournoy asked Yaguchi to serve on a long-term basis on her new human capital strategies team. Dr. Brad Roberts, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, commented on the significance of this award for Yaguchi. "This is good news for Mike, who has special interests in this area, and even better news for OSD Policy, which will benefit greatly from his commitment and leadership in this area." Yaguchi assumed his new duties on March 7, 2011.

Japan (continued from page 4)

soprano Kimiko Shimada and the Cathedral singers. Following the service Ambassador Fujisaki stood at the exit to express Japan's appreciation to each attendee.



The service concluded with each interfaith representative offering prayers. (Donovan Marks)

Philly Vets take to the links



PHILADELPHIA — Amputee Veterans in the City of Brotherly Love turned out for the third annual First Swing Golf Clinic – a new approach to physical therapy and great chance for camaraderie. (Department of Veterans Affairs photo)

Department of Veterans Affairs celebrates Woman's History Month

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs joined with the nation to observe Woman's History Month in March by recognizing and honoring female Veterans.

"Duty. Honor. Pride. These words reflect the spirit of generations of American women who have sought to defend the rights and freedom of others," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The history of women in the armed forces began more than 220 years ago with women who served during the American Revolution and continues through the present day. VA is honored to serve these women who have contributed so much to our Nation."

Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. Of the 22.7 million living Veterans, more than 1.8 million are women. They comprise nearly 8 percent of the total Veteran population and 6 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. The VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of VA patients.

"During this observance of Women's History Month, let's remember the special contributions of the ever-increasing number of women serving in the armed forces," said Tammy Duckworth, assistant secretary for public and intergovernmental affairs. She noted that women currently make up more than 14 percent of the active-duty military and 18 percent of the Guard and Reserves.

Ichikawa tells 77 naturalized US citizens to be good Americans by Corazon Sandoval Foley, Fairfax County Asian American History Project



FAIRFAX, Va. — Grant Ichikawa, a 92-year old World War II U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service veteran of Japanese American heritage, was the keynote speaker at the third naturalization ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center on May 6, 2011, to celebrate the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. (Pictured left; photo by Cora Foley.) The program was organized by the Fairfax County Asian American History Project

(FCAAHP) that is led by Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova and Filipino American Corazon Sandoval Foley, FCAAHP Chair.

Ichikawa told the newly naturalized United States citizens that they have received a gift that money cannot buy: citizenship of the United States of America. He said citizenship brings with it obligations, privileges, honor, and responsibilities.

Ichikawa advised the group that "America is made up of many people from many different countries, cultures and languages. Keep them, but remember you are American first. Learn to speak, read and write English well. Remember: English should eventually be your primary language."

Ichikawa described the

history of Asian Americans, noting that the Naturalization Law of 1790 excluded Asians from obtaining citizenship. Such exclusion remained for over 160 years until the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act 1952 which lifted racial restrictions.

Ichikawa's life exemplifies the very best in American values, Foley said, and illustrates why the United States is such a great nation and world leader. He has been a resident of Fairfax County since 1955 and a veteran who volunteered to serve in World War II and the Korean War. He is a retired CIA officer, who rode the last helicopter from US Embassy roof in Vietnam on April 30, 1975. Ichikawa said that like other Japanese Americans who served for duty with the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe and the Japanese American linguists in the Pacific, he volunteered to prove his loyalty to America.

Ichikawa told the freshly minted fellow Americans that he was among the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of them American born citizens who, at the beginning of World War II, were forcibly relocated from their homes

to horse stables that reeked of the smell of horse manure. "That first night was the lowest point in my life and I wondered how we can prove that we are not enemy aliens, but loyal American citizens," Ichikawa related. He described his voluntary enlistment for the Army Military Intelligence Service in [continued on page 7 at Citizens]



At the Fairfax, Virginia Asian American Heritage Month program on April 6, recently-approved U.S. citizens recite the citizenship oath. Grant Ichikawa (in MIS veterans cap) is seated at lower right. (Cora Foley)

Ranger Hall of Famer and JAVA Life Member Grant Hirabayashi put to rest at Arlington National Cemetery

FT. MYER, Va. — The program handed out at the Memorial Service for Grant Jiro Hirabayashi contained this brief quote written by Los Angeles U.S. Superior Court Judge Vincent H. Okamoto: "I have known a lot of brave soldiers. But only a few I would deem a gentleman and gallant warrior. You are one of that elite number. You are one of my role models ..." This message best reflects the views of Hirabayashi's friends, including those who attended the memorial service from Connecticut, New York, South Carolina, Florida, California, Washington and Alaska. Okamoto sent an email note to Hirabayashi on October 22, 2010 when Okamoto learned that Hirabayashi was placed under Hospice care. Okamoto, one of the most highly decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War, along with Hirabayashi, as a fellow inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Following the memorial service there was a committal service at the Pavilion near the Arlington Cemetery Columbarium, where a folded American flag was presented to Hirabayashi's oldest daughter, Lynn, a volley of rifle shots, and the sound of taps in a dignified ceremony performed by Arlington Cemetery Honor Guards. The urn containing Hirabayashi's ashes was placed in the niche by youngest daughter, Kei, to join his wife, Ester, who passed away on Sept. 12, 1989.

A reception followed at the Ft Myer Officers Club, where Gerald Yamada, JAVA President; Dr. Norman Ikari, 442nd

Citizens (continued from page 6)

November 1942 and "when I looked at myself wearing the U.S. Army uniform, I felt my credibility and honor were restored. I had reached the highest point in my life."

Amanda Baran, Senior Advisor, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islander offered the White House congratulations to the new Americans. Robert Nakamoto, immediate past president of the Japanese American Veterans Association offered his congratulations to the new Americans. He also lauded Ichikawa's contributions to personify American patriotism, saying, "Grant has made it his personal mission to publicize to the American public the Japanese American experience during World War II and the impact of that experience on future generations of Japanese Americans.

The McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet, The Chinese American Silver Light Senior Association and Mark Baban, Filipino American President of Fairfax City Asian American Fire Fighters Union (Scottish bagpipe) provided entertainment.



Arlington Cemetery Honor Guards at committal service for Grant Hirabayashi at Arlington National Cemetery on February 18, 2011. Immediately following the firing of three volleys (background) the bugler is sounding taps. (John Passanisi)

veteran and historian; and Ted Hirabayashi, Korean War veteran and the youngest of 8 siblings, spoke about Grant. Yamada said "Grant was a quiet, gentle, and caring human being. He was so unassuming that it is hard to believe that he was a member of the famed Merrill's Marauders, a highly decorated soldier, and a member of the elite U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame." When the brief official program ended, the podium was open for anyone to speak. A line formed, each one anxious to tell his relationship with Hirabayashi. A fellow Marauder of New York, Robert Passanisi, said "Grant's outstanding military service earned him induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Every Marauder knows that if it were not for men like Grant, our mission would not have succeeded and I would not be standing here."

The program also contained Hirabayashi's philosophical thoughts about WW II written on May 25, 2004: "World War II has many legacies; it drew our country together as never before, the establishment of the United Nations, civil rights movement and equal rights to women. On a more personal note, it gave me an opportunity to exercise my rights and duty to serve my country as a citizen. The 100th, 442nd and the MIS fought with distinction. We fought shoulder to shoulder with Americans of many different cultures and proved that "Americanism" is not a matter of land of origin, color and race, but it has everything to do with one's spirit, conviction and love of freedom."

While this is not a solicitation, memorial gifts may be made to the Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship Fund. Please write your tax-exempt checks payable to JAVA, write Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship Fund on the memo line, and mail your check to Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Ct.; Springfield, VA 22153.

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from DVA announcements]

Improved GI Bill Payments. VA has deployed a new automated system that is delivering faster and more accurate payments to veterans attending school under the post-9/11/ GI Bill. The technology relies on information from veterans and specialized rules-based software to stramline the process for circulating veterans benefits. VA has issued more than 8 billion in post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to nearly 440,000 students and their educational institutions.

Medicare Benefits for Older Veterans. Older veterans could use Medicare benefits A and B to receive healthcare from Veterans Affairs hospitals under the Medicare Reimbursement Act, which is sponsored by U.S. Representative Bob Filner.

Older Veterans More Likely to be Homeless than Older Non veterans. A U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs study shows that the chance that senior veterans and baby boomer generation to be homeless are significantly higher than non veterans. The study found that 39% of the homeless veterans are 51-61 years compared to 19% of homeless non veterans.

Raising Puppies as Therapy. Veterans at Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin, Ga. are raising puppies which will later be trained as explosive detector dogs. This program is part of

Auburn University's canine detection research Institute which trains dogs to fight crime and terrorism. One of the patients said "I never would have dreamed an animal would help me succeed and give me a reason to look forward to another day."

Super Computer Smarter than Jeopardy's Brightest. A super computer named Watson, which bested two of Jeopardy's brightest champions, will be used by VA to test Watson's advanced analytics for potential health applications at the University of Maryland. Once it absorbs medical and health information Watson will be able to help doctors diagnose patients and be able to interact with patients and doctors.

News from other Veterans Organizations

HONOLULU — On Jan. 29, 2011, **The MIS Veterans Hawaii** reported that the Club installed the following officers:

President – Edgar Hamasu 1st Vice President – George Arine 2nd Vice President – Yoshiaki Fujitani Secretary – Glen Arakaki Treasurer – Harry Kawaoka Auditor – James Araki

Board of Directors: Ted Tsukiyama, Joseph Kumasaki, Tsunetake Nishibayashi, Yoshinobu Oshiro, Mark Matsunaga, David Sakai, James Moy, Herbert Yanamura, Donn Ariyoshi, Lawrence Enomoto, and Harold Kimura.

HONOLULU — **100**th **Infantry Battalion Veterans Club's** publication, Puka Puka Parade, said its 69th Anniversary Banquet will be held at the Honolulu Country club on Saturday, July 2, 2011. The theme is "Thanks for

the Memories." The organizing committee has canvassed veterans for memories they wish to share.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — VFW Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter said the post has issued a call to members to write their biographies so their families could benefit from it. Kent Nakashima, Post Commander, said he plans to write his autobiography so his children will know more about him than "his name on the family tree."

HONOLULU — President Bill Thompson announced in the **Go For Broke** Bulletin that the Club plans to build a "Legacy Center" to house the numerous WW II archival material and souvenirs. The present club house was "built as a social club" and "no longer fits the long range plans of a historical and learning center. The Sons and Daughters "will play a key role in this endeavor, Thompson said.

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Update of Congressional Gold Medal Award to Nisei in WW II

[This is an abridged update of the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony in Washington D.C., hopefully, in November 2011. The unabridged report, prepared by Chairperson Christine Sato Yamazaki, can be found on the NVN website, www.nationalveteransnetwork.com.]

<u>Ceremony date</u>: In a meeting with Speaker John Boehner's staff, we requested a venue that can accommodate 1,000 plus people, and we also asked that all veterans, widows, next of kin of KIA and next of kin of deceased veterans be allowed to attend. The Speaker's office typically waits for a confirmation from the U.S. Mint that the Congressional Gold Medal will be minted in time for the ceremony. Staff officials were receptive to our suggestions, including an early award date due to advanced age of the veterans.

<u>U.S. Mint</u>: Recently, the 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans in nine geographical regions of the U.S. were invited by their local NVN organizations to view the proposed designs of the Congressional Gold Medal provided by the U.S. Mint. Veterans had an opportunity to provide comments on each design and vote on their preferred designs. In May, the U.S. Mint will present the proposed designs to the Fine Arts Commission and the Citizen Coinage Advisory Commission for their input and comments. The NVN will have an opportunity to review the final design one last time before it is submitted to the Secretary of Treasury for final approval in July. Production date is expected to be Fall 2011.

<u>National Veterans Registry</u>: Veterans and family members across the nation continue to register every day with NVN to attend the Congressional Gold Medal events in Washington D.C. As of May 13, 2011, we have the following numbers registered:

383 Veterans (representing 30 States)

124 Widows

34 Next of kin of KIA

218 Next of kin of deceased veterans

Total of 3,317 registered guests including family members

It is our goal to outreach to as many veterans and family members as possible. Please help us by directing them to our web site at www.nationalveteransnetwork.com to register online. Or if anyone wishes to register via snail mail or directly with NVN, please contact Metta Tanikawa at <u>Congressional.GoldMedal@gmail.com</u>.

Honor Flight: The President of Honor Flight has assured the National Veterans Network (NVN) regarding its program to provide free transportation for all veterans of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS who wish to attend the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony and celebration in Washington, D.C. Still to be determined are whether free transportation will be available for the veteran's guardian or escort and whether widows and next of kin of soldiers killed in the line of duty can travel at a discounted rate. Honor Flight will make a more definitive statement concerning the guardian, widows, and next of kin once the date of the presentation is known. In the meantime, all veterans who have registered with NVN should have received a letter from NVN with instructions to complete a Honor Flight application to be sent directly to Honor Flight's office. Our website now has a section on Honor Flight where you can download the applications and a new FAQ to answer any questions you may have. We also wish to remind all 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans to bring their overseas caps, and for those who are in wheelchairs, please be sure to bring your own wheelchairs to Washington DC. If you have additional questions regarding Honor Flight or if you know of any veteran who has registered with NVN but has not received a notice to apply with Honor Flight, please contact Terry Shima at ttshima@comcast.net or 301-987-6746.

Congressional Gold Medal replicas: Thanks to the generosity of Donna Fujimoto Cole in Houston Texas, all 100th, 442nd, MIS veterans, widows and next of kin who attend the Washington D.C. celebration will be presented with a Congressional Gold Medal bronze replica. It will be limited to those who attend the celebration and will be one replica per family. We are very grateful and appreciative of Cole Chemical's sponsorship.

<u>NVN web site</u>: Please visit the NVN web site at <u>www.nationalveteransnetwork.com</u>. It has been updated with the latest news and a new FAQ has been added to help answer any questions you may have. Additionally, if anyone is interested in sponsoring a table at the Congressional Gold Medal Gala Dinner, sponsorship information is now available for review.

Speakers Bureau



Left: On April 12, Grant Ichikawa, Terry Shima spoke at the American Association of University Women at the Patrick Henry Library, Vienna, VA. Yuki Henninger, Grant Ichikawa, Marian McLaughlin, Ann Damon. (McLaughlin). Right: On March 31, Mary Murakami, Ichikawa and Shima spoke at Capital City Public Charter School, DC. (Ichikawa)



Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter, JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the U.S. armed forces. The present count is that 103 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the U.S. Army's 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 17 in the U.S. Navy, two in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islanders, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

BG Clarence K. K. Chinn



Brigadier General Clarence K.K. Chinn, USA is the Commanding General of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Louisiana. He is a 1981 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and received a Masters degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. As an Infantry officer he has served in a variety of command and

staff positions in Airborne, Air Assault, Light Infantry, and Ranger units.

In October 1983 and December 1989 he participated in the combat parachute assault onto the island of Grenada and Torrijos-Tocumen Airfield, Panama, respectively. In 2003-2004 he deployed with the 75th Ranger Regiment, as Deputy Commanding Officer, for combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

From July 2004 - July 2006, BG Chinn commanded the Ranger Training Brigade, and then served at SOCOM as Chief of Operations. He then was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division as the Chief of Staff. In 2009 BG Chinn deployed to Afghanistan as the ISAF Joint Command Chief of Staff and then subsequently served as the Deputy Commanding General (Support) for CJTF-82 and the 82nd Airborne Division.

Asked by the *JAVA Advocate* why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, he replied "I chose to serve in the Armed Forces to serve my country and remained in the service of our nation to insure Soldiers were prepared and trained for future combat operations."

BG Chinn is a graduate of West Point and various military schools, including the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star with 2 oak leaf clusters, the Combat Infantryman's Badge (2d award), Expert Infantryman's Badge, and the U.S. Army Ranger Tab.

BG Chinn and his wife Val have 2 children, Ashley and Jared.

MG Jeffery L. Arnold

Major General Jeffery L. Arnold, USA assumed duties as the Headquarters Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Director of Human Resources Policy, in June 2010. He is responsible for the development and implementation of human resources policies for all Soldiers and their Families.



MG Arnold graduated from St. Louis High School in Honolulu and in 1973 was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General Corps upon graduating from the University of Hawaii. He was selected by the Judge Advocate General Corps to attend the University of the Pacific Law School from which he graduated in 1976.

Throughout his judge advocate career, MG Arnold has served in a variety of command and staff assignments, both in the Continental United States and overseas. In his civilian capacity, MG Arnold is a practicing lawyer, primarily in the State of Georgia. He is a trial lawyer with more than 30 years of litigation experience. He is licensed to practice law in the States of Georgia, Florida, California, Hawaii, and Iowa. He is named in Martindale-Hubbell's Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers and is the recipient of an AV rating (the publication's highest ranking) as a testament that he exhibits the highest level of professional excellence. He has been named one of Georgia's Super Lawyers.

MG Arnold is a graduate of the Judge Advocate Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. In addition, he attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and U.S. Army War College. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster. Major General Arnold is married to the former Devon Cynthia DuBois; they have two children. Their son, Tyler, a former Army Captain and combat veteran, is, like his wife Brannon, a practicing attorney in Atlanta. Their daughter Taylor is a first-grade teacher in the Atlanta area.

Grant Ichikawa interviewed by Kyodo News Service

[In mid February 2011, Grant Ichikawa, MIS veteran, was interviewed by Yushin Sugita, Kyodo News Service journalist in Washington, DC. Kyodo services newspapers nationwide. The following article, translated by Anne Yoshimura, appeared in the Kochi Shimbun, Shikoku island, on February 16, 2011. Full translation is available at www.javadc.org.]

Patriotism to Fight Discrimination

"Why should I surrender?" asked the glaring Japanese lieutenant colonel/commander. The Nisei officer's responded, "It is your simple duty. . . . If you die, you cannot rebuild Japan." This exchange occurred shortly after the Emperor's broadcast on August 15, 1945, on the outskirts of Manila. At a clearing in the woods, tension marked the meeting of about 250 fully armed Japanese soldiers and ten American soldiers. At the front of the American forces stood MIS officer Grant Ichikawa, who remembered spending ten minutes of frantic conversation before the Japanese commander surrendered his sword.

The Japanese discipline was such that even after being provided food, none of them ate until the commander did. Ichikawa was attached to the secret Military Intelligence Service (MIS). The young Nisei's fight against discrimination is a deeply etched in his memory.

Second Class Citizen

Ichikawa was born and raised in California. His father immigrated from Yamanashi Prefecture. After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Nisei were treated as second class citizens. First, radios and guns were banned. Then, going out after dark was banned. In February 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which forced Ichikawa to give up their farm land and be placed in concentrations camps for the Nikkei.

Their internment was first a temporarily constructed facility, a horse barn. "Even after cleaning, it still smelled," said Ichikawa. "It was the lowest point in my life." Around August 1942, he moved with his parents, younger brother and sister to Gila River Internment Camp in the Arizona desert. Sand blew in from the floor cracks. "Why are we being treated this way?" Ichikawa asked himself. It was because he was a Nisei.

The Army visited the camps to recruit men who knew Japanese. It was advertised to be "the ultimate opportunity to show your patriotism and loyalty". Some in the camp discouraged other Nisei from volunteering until their families were released. Nisei who survived six [continued on page 12 at Ichikawa]

Dr. Warren Minami

Thank You Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

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TAPS

TOSHIO G. TSUKAHIRA, Ph.D. Dec. 22, 1915 - March 5, 2011 [As printed in The Washington Post on March 12, 2011]

Toshio G. Tsukahira, the highest-ranking Japanese American Foreign Service Officer in his time, passed away peacefully of natural causes. He was 95.

Tsukahira was born in Los Angeles, Calif. to Japanese immigrant parents. He studied at Meiji University in Tokyo before attending <u>UCLA</u>, receiving a Masters of Arts degree in history and political science in 1941. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, he became a civilian instructor in the <u>Army</u> Intelligence School at the Presidio, San Francisco, teaching military Japanese to servicemen. He married Lilly Yuriko Fujioka in 1942. His parents and siblings were relocated to an internment camp at Heart Mountain, Wyo.

Tsukahira enlisted in the Army in 1944 and served with the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section and with Occupation forces in Japan, attaining the rank of Capt. [In an article in 1995 Tsukahira wrote in the book *American Patriots: MIS in the War Against Japan*, he said: "When we evaluate the contributions that the MIS

Language School and its graduates have made to the US, I think that we should not forget that the school not only trained linguists for the war effort but also created a pool of Japan experts and specialists who became invaluable assets to America in the post war world." In 1947, he enrolled at Harvard University, earning a Ph.D. in Far Eastern History and Languages in 1951. After teaching there and at UC Berkeley, he joined the Foreign Service. At the request of Edwin O. Reischauer, his Harvard mentor and President John F. Kennedy's appointed ambassador to Japan, he was posted to Tokyo. From 1964 to 1968 he served as U.S. Consul General in Fukuoka.

After his retirement in 1975, Tsukahira taught at several major universities and institutions including Princeton University, Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies, the Foreign Service Institute, American University, and the University of Maryland. He also undertook translating, writing, and consulting assignments. He is the author of Feudal Control in Tokugawa Japan: the Sankin Kotai System.

He is survived by his wife, Lilly; his children, Peggy of Los Angeles and Peter of Haifa, Israel; and his grandchildren, Emi, Nina, Michael and Daniel.

VA expands outreach to American Indians, Alaska natives, and Hawaiians New office to advocate for Tribal Veterans

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the creation of a new Office of Tribal Government Relations to ensure the more than 200,000 Veterans who are American Indians, Alaska Natives, Hawaiian Natives or are part of the Alaska Native Corporations receive the VA benefits they have earned.

About 200,000 Veterans represented by the 800 tribal governments are officially recognized by the United States. Although VA has long provided benefits to Veterans in tribal lands, the new office will further strengthen and expand that relationship.

Stephanie Elaine Birdwell, an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation from Oklahoma, has been selected as the office's first director. A former social worker, she has spent nearly 15 years working on tribal issues with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and, most recently, the Bureau of Indian Education.

She will oversee a six-person office responsible for "establishing, maintaining and coordinating a nation-to-nation, federal-tribal relationship," according to a VA briefing.

The office has a charter that officially extends to Veterans who are American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and Alaska Native Corporations.

Ichikawa (from page 11)

months of difficult language training became corporals whereas Caucasians became second lieutenants. Ichikawa recalled thinking, "Discrimination again!" This feeling of inequality wasn't erased until after the war.

Seal of Doubt

During the Occupation of Japan, Nisei services were critically needed. In November 1945, Ichikawa was sent to Hiroshima as a member of the American Forces' Atomic Bombing Investigative Unit for three months. He translated maps, gathered material, and interpreted for scientists. On this trip he saw a young woman with chopstick who appeared to be looking for something on the ground. Upon closer look, she was gathering remains in a small urn. "I did not speak to her," said Ichikawa. "To think one atomic bomb created such damage."

Ichikawa recently had a pleasant chat with President Obama when a few Nisei veterans were invited to the White House to witness the President sign the legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS. Ichikawa's message is clear. "Now over 90 years old, I want to tell the Japanese people not to forget the Nisei veterans who fought to eliminate discrimination."

From the Editor



At my new duty station, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, I began physical fitness training with the Iron Major CrossFit Organization. There I made friends

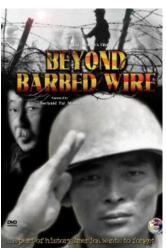
with Carli Harman, a wonderful woman who also has twin boys, like I do, and who became my

workout buddy. Coincidentally, both of our families were also relocated to the Poston War Relocation Center during World War II. As it turns out, Carli is the granddaughter of JAVA member and 442nd RCT veteran Yukio Sumida. She gave me a copy of the movie *Beyond Barbed Wire*. That's her grandfather pictured on the front of the DVD jacket, and he also served as the film's executive producer. I recommend this documentary to all JAVA members. Carli is married to an Air Force pilot, and although she's moving to their next

duty station, we'll stay in touch no doubt—through JAVA and CrossFit training.

-Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to <u>javaadvocate@gmail.com</u>.





Above left: DVD jacket of *Beyond Barbed Wire*, a documentary film recounting the struggle that the offspring of interned Japanese Americans faced when they fought for America in WWII, as the Army's newly formed 442nd Regimental Combat Team - the most highly decorated unit in the Army's history. Narrated by actor Noriyuki "Pat" Morita. **Above right**: Carli Harman and Kay Wakatake.

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Please send correspondence to:

General: Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net, 301-987-6746 William E. Houston, houstonsnavy@aol.com,

703-380-8175

Education: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)
Facebook: Janelle Kuroda, janellekuroda@gmail.com
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703-509-6473

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JAVA is now on Facebook:
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UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29, 9:30AM: Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery Pavilion near Columbarium. Laying of flowers at 69 Japanese American gravesites. Wreath laying at Tomb of the Unknown. Lunch at China Garden, Rosslyn, Va.

May 30, 11AM: DoD Memorial Day program at Arlington National Cemetery; JAVA President Gerald Yamada will attend. **2PM:** JAVA participates in National Veterans Center Parade down Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

June 7: Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi's Distinguished Service Cross Award ceremony at the Hall of Heroes, Pentagon.

June 18, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon, 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va. Scholarship recipients will be announced.

Oct 15, 11:30am: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon, Falls Church, Va.

Early November 2011: Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to 100th, 442nd, and MIS at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC. National Veterans Network (NVN) program at National WWII Memorial. NVN program at National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Nov 11, 8AM: White House Breakfast. **11AM:** Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. **2PM:** Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Speakers Bureau stays busy

JAVA speakers Mary Murakami, Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima were invited by the American University Veterans Club, Washington, DC for a reception and speaking engagement. The University's coordinator of the event was Ben Graza, a native of California. (Ben Graza)

[See more Speakers Bureau photos on page 9.]

