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## Billy Tucci Introduces DC Comics Mini-Series *SGT Rock: The Lost Battalion*

BALTIMORE — Graphic novelist, Billy Tucci, was at the Baltimore Comic Convention September 27-28 introducing his new six-issue comic book series set in WWII -- *Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion*. He is resurrecting the DC Comics character Sgt Rock, placing him in the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment of the 36th "Texas" Division. This unit came to be known as the "Lost Battalion" since it was cut off for 6 days behind enemy

lines in the forests of the Vosges mountains in eastern France.

The 278 men of the "Lost Battalion" repelled repeated German attacks as the Japanese Americans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought their way up the mountain in brutal tree-to-tree combat to break through to the trapped men. Tucci uses his storytelling skills and vivid art-

work to bring the compelling story of this battle to life. In fact, he goes beyond the battlefield story, weaving in other issues faced by the Japanese Americans, such as the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans into internment camps. "In my heart," said Tucci, "I feel that this comic book series can serve as a bridge that spans generations and brings attention to a true story of heroism, humanity and sacrifice."

[continued on page 3]



L-R: Terry Shima, Grant Hirabayashi, Billy Tucci, Kelly Kuwayama at Baltimore Comic Convention. Photo by Eileen Roulier.

## Congress Takes Steps to Honor WWII Nisei Veterans

TORRANCE, Calif. — The United States Congress has approved \$4 million toward building the Go For Broke National Education Center in the Little Tokyo area of Downtown Los Angeles at Temple and Alameda Streets. The new building will be headquarters for the Go For Broke National Education Center and stand adjacent to the Go For Broke Monument that the organization unveiled in 1999. The funding was part of the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations measure (HR 2638) signed by President

George W. Bush on Sept. 30, 2008. Go For Broke National Education Center membership and information about its programs are both available at [www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org).

WASHINGTON — In a separate bill, Representative Adam Schiff introduced legislation to pay tribute to the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT for their dedicated service to our nation during World War II, by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress's highest civilian honor.

## President's Message



Billy Tucci, a talented graphic novelist, previewed his *Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion*, at the Baltimore Convention Center on September 27. Tucci

has done extensive research, including an onsite visit to the Vosges forests of eastern France where the Texans were saved, to make his novel as authentic as possible. This popular medium to tell the Japanese American story will reach a huge audience that we otherwise might not reach. JAVA was honored to have three of its WW II veterans invited to Baltimore to participate in the signing of promotional prints and a panel discussion.

The list of donors and the size of donations plus the list of new members and conversion to life membership are indicators of confidence in JAVA ac-

tivities and its mission. The Executive Council members will continue to do their utmost to earn your trust.

We learned from the *Pacific Citizen* that Congressman Adam Schiff of California introduced a bill in the US House of Representatives to present the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian award, to the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. While the 100th Battalion and 442 RCT have received many well-deserved military honors and a place in our nation's military honor roll, I believe that the award of the Congressional Gold Medal will not only recognize their outstanding military service, but also the great service and contribution these veterans and their families have made to our nation after the war and still make today.

I wish to offer congratulations to MG Eldon P. Regua, USAR, Commanding General, 75<sup>th</sup> Battle Command Training Division, for his promotion to Major General and to MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), JAVA member, for his ap-

pointment to the prestigious Committee on Minority Veterans, a congressionally mandated entity administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. I also wish to recognize Lona Ichikawa for her time, energy and personal funds she expends to provide comfort items to the men and women serving in the combat zones, to welcome military personnel at USO facilities at the local airports, to assist the Honors flights, which bring WW II veterans to Washington, D.C. especially to see the WW II Memorial, and to organize a team to lay wreaths at the Japanese American gravesites in Arlington Cemetery in December.

In January 2009 we are electing officers for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I would encourage you to participate actively by nominating candidates for these positions. Your nominations will be considered by the Nominating Committee in coming up with a slate of officers.

—Robert Nakamoto

TYSON'S CORNER, *Vir.* — Mr. Yudai Ueno, First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., was honored by JAVA for "reaching out to the American community, including JAVA, . . . to promote goodwill between the people of both nations." The presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation was made by Robert Nakamoto, JAVA President, at the Towers Club, located at Tyson's Corner, Virginia on August 22, 2008.

The luncheon was attended by Minister Motohiko Kato, Head of Chancery, and 8 JAVA members, including MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret) and Gerald Yamada, JAVA General Counsel. Ueno is scheduled to leave Washington DC on September 20 for his new post in Brussels, Belgium.

In presenting the Certificate, Nakamoto told Mr. Ueno: "Your personal efforts to coordinate contact between officials of the Embassy of Japan, JAVA and other leaders of the Japanese American community are exemplary and was done with effectiveness and grace."

Nakamoto also presented Ueno with the JAVA coin, appropriately inscribed, and a copy of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II*, autographed personally to Ueno by author Dr. John C. McNaughton, Command Historian of European Command, stationed in Stuttgart, Germany.



L-R: Yudai Ueno, Robert Nakamoto, and Minister Motohiko Kato. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

### Officers

Robert Nakamoto, President  
LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret),  
Vice President  
MAJ Kim Luoma, USAFR, Secretary  
LTC Earl Takeguchi, USA (Ret),  
Treasurer

### Executive Council

Above Officers plus:  
Grant Ichikawa  
COL Sunao Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret)  
BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR  
Calvin Ninomiya  
Terry Shima, Executive Director  
MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA  
Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret),  
Deputy Executive Director  
Gerald Yamada, General Counsel

### Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate  
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate  
COL Sunao Phil Ishio, USA (Ret)  
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta

### JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus  
MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA, Editor



## Photo of 442nd Featured in National Park Service Exhibit

NEW YORK — Over a half million visitors to New York City were exposed to a photo of 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team men during the last May's Asian Pacific American Heritage month. A photo of F Company cadre, taken at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, was displayed by the US National Park Service (NPS) at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

NPS Ranger Denise Foehr put the exhibit together; she said, "I found that this group's story exemplified perseverance, bravery, and dedication. . . . These men fought so valiantly during the war, risking, and for many losing, their lives for the same hope of protecting liberty, protecting freedom, and demonstrating that the message of the Statue should be extended to all Americans from all backgrounds.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regiment must be celebrated today as the heroes that fought for our country. They are true Americans." For the month of May, NPS had 264,298 visitors at the Statue of Liberty and 195,834 visitors at Ellis Island.

Medal of Honor recipient George Joe Sakato said, "The NPS photo display of 442<sup>nd</sup> Nisei soldiers with their Army patch of the Torch of Freedom is a tremendous reminder to visitors that immigrants from all over the world have made America a great country. For Japanese Americans, it was a hard fought recognition, at home and abroad."

*[full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]*



During our involvement in the Second World War, many Japanese Americans faced discrimination and prejudice. Laws removed many of their rights and freedoms, and thousands were placed in internment relocation camps, such as Manzanar and Minidoka. Yet even in the face of such hardships and social stigma, over 5,000 Japanese Americans were in the U.S. Armed Forces by 1941. These second generation Nisei were essential in our victory. Throughout the ranks, and operating in different capacities, from breaking codes, providing medical care, or fighting in the front lines, these brave men and women proved that their was nothing "secondary" in their citizenship.

This month we celebrate such a very courageous combat team, who became the one of the most decorated military units in the history of the United States, the 442nd Infantry. Their official insignia is a familiar symbol.

Photograph located at <http://www.the442.org>

Top row (left to right): Tech Sgt Masuo Chomori (WIA 10/16/44); SSgt K. Kunugi (injured in training, transferred); unidentified (transferred); Tech 4 Frank Dobashi (1st cook, WIA 11/15/44); Sgt Roy Hiramatsu (supply sergeant, transferred to MIS); Tech Sgt Abraham Ohama (KIA 10/20/44); Tech Sgt Zentaro G. Akiyama (KIA 7/3/44); 1st Sgt Jack Wakamatsu (WIA 10/17 & 10/20/44). Bottom row: Capt John A Jett (C.O. transferred, became G Co C.O.); Sgt P Oda (transferred to MIS); SSgt Joe Yamamoto (mess sergeant); SSgt Kazuo Masuda (KIA 8/27/44); Sgt Matume Mikami (WIA 7/6/44); Tech 4 Saburo Sugawara (1st cook); Tech 5 Noboru Kawamura (2nd cook); Sgt Dick Masuda (KIA 6/26/44). There are 16 men in the photo. Four were killed in action; 4 were wounded in action; four were transferred, including two to the Military Intelligence Service; one is unidentified; and three (cooks) went through the campaigns unscathed. Caption data provided by Peter Wakamatsu.

## Billy Tucci (continued from page 1)

Tucci is passionate about the subject. He said, "I want to make the story as authentic as possible. About a year ago, I threw myself into this project, researched the battle, and interviewed 141<sup>st</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, visited the battlefield in the Vosges forests where I even drank from the water hole used by the Texans and Germans. I also gained many insights from the Vosges residents, especially two young French historians, Gerome Villain and Hervé Claudon."

Tucci invited three Japanese American WWII veterans to join him in signing free promotional prints of his art for the throng of people who visited the DC Comics' display. He also moderated a panel discussion on his Sgt. Rock series in the Convention Center auditorium. The

Japanese American veterans invited to serve on the panel discussion were Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, 442<sup>nd</sup> combat medic, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi, a member of the famed Merrill's Marauders, a Special Forces brigade which operated behind enemy lines in Burma, and Terry Shima, a 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran

LTC Herbert Martin, USA (Ret), Vice President of JAVA, said that "Tucci's creation appears to have promising educational as well as entertainment potential. The exposure for the Japanese American WWII experience through this Sgt. Rock mini-series is truly awesome."

*Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion* debuts nationally November 5, 2008. To find a comic book store near you, visit [www.comicshoplocator.com](http://www.comicshoplocator.com).

*[full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]*

## JAVA Quarterly Luncheon Features Prominent Speakers

ARLINGTON — JAVA's quarterly lunch on July 26 was notable for its three speakers and a turnout of over 80 members and friends. Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., who was recently promoted to three star rank, discussed the opportunities offered by a career in the armed forces

and the satisfaction he has derived from serving his country. Dr. Brian Masaru Hayashi, Associate Professor on Human and Environmental Studies at Kyoto University, Japan, said the research phase of his new book on Asian Americans who served in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) is nearing completion. Minister Motohiko Kato discussed his role as Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Japan and his government's goal to foster cordial relationships with Japanese Americans.

President Robert Nakamoto, in congratulating Admiral Harris, a JAVA member, noted his remarkably fast rise in rank based on the relatively brief period of time he had served in two star rank. Nakamoto also thanked JAVA volunteers for their contributions, wished Dr. Hayashi's wife a healthy delivery of their first child, and thanked Minister Kato for the productive relationship JAVA enjoys with his Embassy.

Admiral Harris, Deputy chief of Naval Operations for Communications Networks, was born in Yokosuka, Japan. His mother is Japanese. A graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland, Harris, a naval



L-R: Dr. Brian Hayashi; Minister Motohiko Kato; Bob Nakamoto; VADM Harry Harris. Photo by Nelson Penalosa

flight officer, he participated in strike operations against Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan. He served three tours in Kami Seya, Japan and from March 2006 to May 2007 and he commanded the Joint Task Force at Guantanamo, Cuba. The Admiral has logged 4,400 flight hours, including over 400

combat hours in US and foreign maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircrafts. He received a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He also received an MA from Georgetown University and attended Oxford University, Great Britain.

Dr. Hayashi, who last spoke at a JAVA quarterly luncheon in October 2007, is the author of two award winning books: *Democratizing the Enemy: The Japanese American Internment*, published in 2004, and *For the Sake of Our Japanese Brethren: Assimilation, Nationalism and Protestantism Among the Japanese in Los Angeles, 1895-1942*, published in 1995. A University of California professor assessed "Democratizing the Enemy" as "one of the most detailed, insightful and thoroughly documented accounts of the Japanese American experience in World War II." Hayashi is a third generation American, a *Sansei*, who hails from Los Angeles, California, where he earned all his degrees from University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to Kyoto University, Hayashi taught at Yale University.

## 100th Bn, 442nd Inf Preparing for 2nd Deployment to Iraq

[Condensed from Puka Puka Parade, by Jayne Hirata-Epstein, July 2008 issue]

HONOLULU — Twenty soldiers representing the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, the only remaining infantry unit in the Army Reserve Force structure, were given a warm send-off lunch on May 27, 2008 by the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion WW II veterans at the 100<sup>th</sup> Bn Veterans Clubhouse. The 100<sup>th</sup> Bn, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, under the command of LTC Mike Peeters, is one of the maneuver battalions of the 29<sup>th</sup> (Separate) Infantry Brigade, Hawaii Army National Guard, under the command of COL Bruce Olivera.

Their first deployment to Iraq was in 2004 when they were sent to Fort Bliss for training then were mobilized to serve 18 months in Iraq. For their second deployment, they will train at Schofield Barracks and then will serve as a security

force for Kuwait for 12 months. They will join National Guard brigades from Texas, Oklahoma and Washington state when they ship out to Kuwait in Fall 2008. Following lunch the soldiers spent the afternoon "talking story" with the Nisei veterans about their WW II combat experience.

Japanese protective amulets or *omamori*, made by the Palolo Kwannon Buddhist Temple, were given by Reverend Irene Matsumoto to LTC Peeters "to protect the battalion" and individually to the 20 representatives "to protect them from harm". Robert Arakaki, President of 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans, said that WW II veterans were proud of the 100<sup>th</sup> soldiers and would pray for their safe return. Reservist Gomes, representing the soldiers of the 100<sup>th</sup>, thanked the 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans for their hospitality and promised the soldiers would continue to *GO FOR BROKE*, "no make shame" and return home safely.



## Extraordinary Reunion of WWII Vets of 36th (Texas Division), 405th Fighter Squadron, 442nd RCT, and the French of the Vosges Mountains

AUSTIN, Tex. — In November 2007, when a young Frenchman, G r me Villain, found two rusted belly tanks dating from WWII in the Vosges mountains of eastern France, little did he realize they would inspire an extraordinary reunion of the parties to what has become known as the “Lost Battalion” story. Pilots of the 405th Fighter Squadron dropped these belly tanks which were filled with ammunition, food, medical and other supplies to sustain the soldiers of the “Lost Battalion”, the 1st Battalion/141st Regiment of the 36th (Texas) Division. These soldiers were cut off behind enemy lines in a perilous week-long battle for survival in October 1944 before being rescued by the Japanese American 442nd RCT.

Villain was determined to return these artifacts “home” to Texas. As soon as Jeff Hunt, Texas Military Forces Museum Director, learned of the news, he set about finding a way to bring them to the Museum. Through a generous donation by FedEx, the belly tanks arrived in Austin, where Hunt convened a 2-day event to celebrate their unveiling on July 18-19. Hunt said that “64 years after their use to sustain the trapped men, the belly tanks today serve as a symbol to bring together the parties to this story”. Indeed, it was a moving gathering of veterans and their families, including two representatives from the Vosges region of France, G r me Villain and Herv  Claudon. Erwin Blonder, of the “Lost Battalion”, delivered a heartfelt tribute of appreciation to the Japanese Americans of the 442nd RCT, recognizing the huge number of casualties they incurred in the rescue.



L-R: Members of the Symposium: Franz Steidl; Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama; LTC Eliel “Arch” Archilla, and Lt. Erwin Blonder. Photo: Eileen Roulier.

This symposium gathered together for the first time four parties of this story: Veterans of the “Lost Battalion”, the 405th Fighter Squadron, the 442nd RCT, and representatives from the Vosges, whose people aided the Allies in combat and cared for wounded soldiers.

Franz Steidl, author of *The Lost Battalions: Going For Broke in the Vosges, Autumn 1944*, set the scene by taking the audience back to 1944 describing the battle conditions as well as the climate back home in the U.S. for the Japanese Americans, many of whom were uprooted into internment camps. He was followed by Lt. Blonder, forward observer with the 131st Field Artillery, LTC Eliel “Arch” Archilla, of 405th Fighter Squadron and T/4 Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama, Medic with Co E, 2nd Battalion, 442nd RCT.

The audience heard of the Lost Battalion’s spirit in dealing with its impossible situation, repelling constant enemy attacks with limited supplies, while coping with constant hunger and freezing, wet conditions. Although a command decision had grounded all other aircraft in the region due to dense fog and heavy cloud cover, the 405th pilots negotiated these critically adverse conditions as well as enemy fire to provide the essential lifeline to the trapped soldiers by dropping these belly tanks. The 442nd RCT fought through the heavily mined forest in brutal tree-to-tree combat to reach the surrounded battalion.

As part of the event, Captain Martin Higgins, Commander of the “Lost Battalion”, was inducted into Texas Military Forces Hall of Honor. His son, Michael Higgins, said “The lesson of the Lost Battalion is courage and perseverance.”

The French-American friendship born during the war continues today encompassing the younger generations. Villain and Claudon read messages of friendship from the people of Bruy res and from the Community of the Communes of the Vologne Valley and Brouvelieures. The Texans presented the French visitors with a Texas flag signed by the veterans and symposium attendees to share with the people of the Vosges. The 442nd Veterans Club of Hawaii and JAVA presented the Frenchmen, Hunt and Higgins, with 442nd insignia pins.



L-R: Herve' Claudon, Jeff Hunt and Gerome Villain. Texas flag presented to the people of the Vosges region of France. Photo: Eileen Roulier.

## JACL Gala Commemorates Civil Liberties Act of 1988

[condensed from JACL press release]

WASHINGTON — The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) held its 2nd Annual National JACL Gala Awards Dinner, "A Salute to Champions of Redress," in Washington, D.C., on September 25. The event commemorated the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided for Redress and an apology from the President of the United States to Japanese Americans who were interned in concentration camps during WW II. Over 300 guests attended the Gala. The Honorable Congressman Mike Honda did a superb job as the master of ceremonies for the evening.

The awardees for the night, called "Champions" by the JACL for their tireless commitment and efforts towards the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, included the American Jewish Committee, an

early supporter of the Redress movement; John Tateishi, former Redress Chair for the JACL; Grayce Uyehara, former JACL Legislative Education Committee Executive Director; the Honorable Norman Mineta, former Congressman from San Jose who was instrumental in getting the legislation through Congress; and AT&T as the corporate partner for helping to continue to tell the story of Redress among young people. The JACL also presented awards to two rising champions, David Inoue and Nathan Shinagawa, who are elected officials and show great promise for the future. Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest Regional Director, was honored for thirty years of

service to the JACL. WW II veterans and JAVA members Grant Ichikawa and Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama performed the flag ceremony.

National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, stated: "The event was another success in keeping the JACL squarely in the middle of the DC scene. The honorees for the Gala are true champions, and we appreciate the work they did to bring about Redress and to help the JACL continue its work in leadership development and civil rights. We are grateful to our corporate partners, Senator Inouye and the rest of the Honorary Committee, the Gala Committee, and all who attended in order to support the cause of social justice. The support and attendance of members of the National Board was significant in giving the public a view of who we are as an organization. It would not have been possible without the work of JACL members throughout the nation."



Above left: Hon. Norman Mineta (left) and JACL Nat'l President Larry Oda.  
Above right: Congressman Mike Honda as Master of Ceremonies.

## Arlington Wreath Laying Scheduled for December 13, 2008



Photo: Worcester Wreath Company

wreaths, for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to decorate the gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery. The Annual Wreath Ceremony will take place on December 13 at 7:00AM. Mr. Worcester has donated holiday wreaths to honor the American heroes at their final resting place.

Ichikawa said she "appreciates the assistance JAVA and the Japanese American community have provided last year and asked that interested participants mark their calendars for the upcoming wreath laying event." Final details are being worked out with Cemetery officials.

ARLINGTON — Lona Ichikawa, JAVA member and Iraq War veteran who participates in numerous activities to support military and veterans programs, announced that Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, will donate 10,000

Metro trains start running on Saturdays at 7:00 AM, which is too late to use for the wreath laying program and also that they should bring work gloves because the wreaths are prickly.

Ichikawa said her group will lay wreaths at Section 12, which contains 13 Japanese American gravesites as follows:

		Grave No.
1.	NAGATO, Fumitake	PFC Co G 442 4607
2.	NAKAMURA, John M.	PFC Co K 442 4666
3.	TANAMACHI, Saburo	PFC Co E 442 4845
4.	MURAKAMI, Kiyoshi	PFC Co G 442 5123
5.	NAKASHIMA, Raito	PFC Co B 442 6124
6.	NAKASHIMA, Wataru	SGT Co M 442 5125
7.	HADA, Victor K.	PFC Co K 442 5188
8.	TOYOTA, Shichizo	PFC Co E 442 5314
9.	NAGANO, Hiroshi	PVT Co B 442 5430
10.	TANAKA, John	PFC Co C 442 5727
11.	KOKUBU, Jimmie T.	CPL Co G 442 6170
12.	MORIHIRO, Roy T.	PFC Co G 442 7166
13.	SHIMIZU, Jimmy	T/SGT Co F 442 7914



## NJAMF and JAVA Speakers Meet With School Educators

VIENNA, Va. —

Eighteen social science and history teachers of Virginia's Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) elected to spend their one hour "breakout session" to listen to highlights of the Japanese American experience during WW II. FCPS held a meeting of social studies and history teachers at the Lake Braddock Secondary School in Vienna, Virginia on August 28. The teachers' meeting, held prior to the opening of the Fall semester, was designed to prepare the teachers for the 2008-2009 school year.



Dave Thomas, Principal, Lake Braddock Secondary School; and Alice Reilly, K-12 Social Studies Coordinator. Photo: FCPS.

the FCPS Social Studies Coordinator. There are approximately 650 social studies and history teachers at FCPS.

Nisei speakers represented JAVA and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF). The Go For Broke National Education Center, headquartered in Torrance, California, the third member of the Nisei partnership, was not represented but is expected to participate in a teachers training program early next year. The speakers were Mary Murakami [topic: evacuation and internment], Kelly Kuwayama [100<sup>th</sup>-442<sup>nd</sup> RCT], Grant Ichikawa [Military Intelligence Service], Gerald Yamada [Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988], and Terry Shima [moderator].

Some teachers have requested speakers to address their classes when the World War II period is covered in their curriculum. One teacher requested the speakers to address her students at the Arlington National Cemetery and the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism when they visit the two locations.

Teachers had the option of attending some 30 seminars, held at the same time, including programs by federal government entities and major universities. Ms. Alice Reilly is

## NJAMF Honors 20th Anniversary of Redress Legislation

by Gerald Yamada, President & Executive Director, NJAMF

WASHINGTON — The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) hosted two events marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (also known as the Redress Legislation). The Redress Legislation mandated the historic national apology and reparations to Japanese Americans unjustly interned by the US government during World War II.

NJAMF's first event was a reception for members of the Senate and Congress on Capitol Hill on July 31. NJAMF Chair Dr. Craig Uchida gave opening and closing remarks. The speakers included Congressman Mike Honda of California, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, who was also interned at the Amache internment camp during the war; Congresswoman Doris Matsui of California, who was born at the Poston internment camp; Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, who recounted his very personal memories of visiting the Rohwer internment camp in Arkansas when he was a soldier training in Mississippi during World War II; Senator Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland; Congresswoman Shelley Berkley of Nevada; and former Cabinet Secretary and NJAMF Board member Norman Y. Mineta. Approximately 100 guests attended the reception.

Washington, DC, on August 3. Uchida served as master of ceremonies. "The Memorial is an appropriate site for today's 20th anniversary tribute to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988," said Uchida, chairman of NJAMF's board. "This Memorial is a place where the American public comes to understand why the national apology was needed and stands as an ongoing reminder that what happened to our community must never be repeated."

Mineta, the featured speaker, said, "The internment came to serve as a powerful reminder about faith and fragility of the great United States Constitution. The Constitution is a compact among us, but it is not a document of perfection. It



L-R. Hon. Norman Mineta, Robert Nakamoto (speaking), Melanie B. Maron, Professor Frank H. Wu, Dr. Craig Uchida. Photo by James Sherwood.

is a document in search of perfection. And at the end of the day, it is a document that's only as expert in protecting us, as we are determined to protect it." Mineta and his family were interned at Heart Mountain, Wyoming during WW II. While in Congress, Mineta was a leader in seeking passage of the Act and signed the bill on behalf of the House as Speaker Pro Tempore.

The second NJAMF event was co-sponsored by 34 public interest organizations and took place at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in

Other speakers were Robert Nakamoto, JAVA President; Melanie B. Maron, Executive Director, American Jewish Committee, Washington, DC Chapter; and Professor Frank H. Wu, on behalf of the Committee of 100.

## News From Other Veterans Organizations

**ONE PUKA PUKA PARADE, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club** monthly newsletter for August 2008, reported that a bronze statue was unveiled on May 16, 2008, in Gallup, New Mexico honoring Hershey Miyamura, Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient. The statue, suggested by Governor Bill Richardson, is on display at the new Miyamura High School in Gallup. Miyamura received the MOH for his heroism in the Korean War; he was a Chinese prisoner of war for over 27 months. President Dwight Eisenhower presented the MOH on October 27, 1953, after Miyamura was released by the Chinese. . . . The September issue of *ONE PUKA PUKA PARADE* reported that on August 14, 2008, a memorial plaque was unveiled at Victory Park in Pasadena, California, to honor Joe Hayashi, Co K, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, MOH recipient.

Bill Thompson, President of **The 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club (Hawaii)**, wrote in the *GO FOR BROKE BULLETIN* Spring edition that the Club's

website [[www.442RCT.org](http://www.442RCT.org)] has been launched as part of its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. The website will feature "archival materials long stored in our storeroom." . . . The 65<sup>th</sup> 442<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary celebration on March 30, 2008, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, attended by 1,178 veterans, families and friends, was organized and conducted by the Sons and Daughters to honor the 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans.

**The Nisei Veterans Committee of Seattle's** August *Newsletter* reported that 200 NVC members, families and friends attended the summer cookout utilizing their state-of-the-art kitchen in the newly renovated clubhouse. . . . Sam Mitsui spoke to the Lynnwood Rotary Club on the Japanese American experiences during WW II. . . . Mas Fukuhara spoke in the NVC Speakers Series on his experiences in the Occupation of Japan.

**Nisei Post 8985** August 2008 *Newsletter* said that John Piches of the United Veterans of Roseville, California, ob-

tained approval from the Board of Supervisors to name a street in Roseville the "Go For Broke Street" to honor Roseville residents who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.

**The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV)** July *Newsletter* said that four more names will be added to JAKWV Memorial in the Republic of Korea. This brings to 251 the total number of Japanese Americans killed during the Korean War. . . . The 2008 Japanese American Memorial Service for All Wars was held at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza, Los Angeles, which adjoins the Japanese American National War Memorial Court. Keynote speaker Honorable Vince Okamoto, Ranger Hall of Fame, asked the over 200 attendees to "respect and honor those young men and women who are going to war today, for the freedom that we all enjoy. . . . JAKWV has a collection of over 4,000 names of Japanese Americans who served in the Korean War (1950-1955). JA Living Legacy is digitizing this data base, available at [www.ajawarvets.org](http://www.ajawarvets.org) (click on Korea).

## AVC Conference to Honor Veterans

WASHINGTON — The American Veterans Center (AVC) ([www.americanveteranscenter.org](http://www.americanveteranscenter.org)) holds its annual Conference in Washington, D.C. during the weekend before Veterans Day, November 6-8, 2008. This conference has a star-studded list of veterans and speakers from all generations and every major conflict since WWII. Among others, Lt. General Hal Moore once again joins this line up for what will be his last "official" appearance at the conference. Moore is a legend to most veterans, and with the popularity of the Mel Gibson Movie "We Were Soldiers", he has become a national hero.

AVC Program Director Tim Holbert said "on several occasions the famed "Band of Brothers" have attended the conference, and each time they've left us with some great memories (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUIni2fsWbM>). While the men of Easy Company won't be joining us this year, we will have the last surviving members of the "Filthy Thirteen" (the men for whom the movie "Dirty Dozen" was based). This year's Conference will also include Matt Eversmann from "Black Hawk Down," the always-popular "Medal of Honor" panel featuring several recipients of the nation's highest honor, and the "Baseball Goes to War" panel featuring an impressive list of Hall of Fame players including Bob Feller. At the end of each night, AVC holds an impressive reception or banquet honoring some of America's greatest.

Registration information and schedule of events posted at [http://www.americanveteranscenter.org/AVC\\_conference-schedule.html](http://www.americanveteranscenter.org/AVC_conference-schedule.html). For registration questions or more information on the schedule of events, contact Tim Holbert ([tholbert@americanveteranscenter.org](mailto:tholbert@americanveteranscenter.org), (571)480-4152.)

## GFBNEC Oral History Video Archive

The Go For Broke National Education Center's Oral History Video Archive is the largest online audio/visual resource focused solely on World War II Japanese American veterans. The Archive provides access to the professional-quality interviews taken by the Hanashi Oral History Program, which has been conducting interviews since 1998. A total of 570 full-length interviews are currently online at [www.GoForBroke.org](http://www.GoForBroke.org).

Join the more than 2,000 people that have already registered to access the Oral History Video Archive by going to [www.GoForBroke.org](http://www.GoForBroke.org) and clicking on the Oral Histories link. Access to the archive is completely free.

Read the rest of the article at [http://www.goforbroke.org/etorch/etorch\\_200808\\_videoarchive.asp](http://www.goforbroke.org/etorch/etorch_200808_videoarchive.asp).



## VA to Open 44 New Veterans Health Facilities



WASHINGTON — Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake (pictured) announced plans to create 44 new community-based outpatient clinics to bring the world-class health care of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) closer to home for veterans in 21 states.

“VA continues to make access to care easier through an expanding outpatient

system focused not only on primary treatment but also prevention of disease, early detection, and health promotion,” Peake said. The new clinics, scheduled to be activated over the next 15 months, will increase VA's network of independent and community-based clinics to 782, an increase of more than 100 in five years. This growth in community clinics has helped VA meet veterans' expectations for prompt, quality service, with 98 percent of veterans seen within 30 days in all types of VA primary care facilities throughout the country.

In addition to on-site primary care staff, today's modern outpatient clinics frequently feature state-of-the-art telehealth systems permitting veterans to maintain regular contact with doctors in specialties from cardiac care to mental health at regional VA hospitals linked for video consultations, coupled with telemetry of health data or images.

A highly acclaimed national health records system allows practitioners at even remote clinics to review patient records stored at VA facilities anywhere in the country. VA's 21 regional networks develop applications for new clinics in consideration of reducing the distance veterans travel to their nearest VA hospital or clinic, as well as local demand, existing hospital, clinic workload and other factors. States in which VA plans new outpatient clinics: Alabama (2), Alaska, Arkansas (2), California, Florida, Georgia (4), Indiana (2), Iowa, Louisiana (5), Maine, Minnesota (2), New Mexico, North Carolina (2), North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma (4), Tennessee (3), Texas (5), Virginia (3), West Virginia.

## Colorado Unveils Carr Memorial Hwy by George N. Yoshida and Yoshimi Watada

DENVER — Japanese Americans across the land have reason to applaud the unveiling of road signs for Ralph Carr Memorial Highway, which will be posted to honor former Governor Ralph Carr. The ceremony was held at the Colorado Capitol building on August 10, 2008. Dignitaries of Colorado state government, including Governor Bill Ritter, officials of the Japanese community and the Japanese Consulate General, and Asian American organizations participated in this event. Ralph Carr Memorial Highway will be the stretch of US 285 from Kenosha Pass, Colorado, to the New Mexico state line.



L-R: Yoshimi Watada, editor of Mile-Hi JACL Newsletter; Governor Bill Ritter; former governor Richard Lamm; Kerry Hada; Rep. Tom Massey; and Japan Consul General Kazuaki Kubo. Photo: George Yoshida

Kerry Hada, a Denver attorney, related his Uncle Roy and Aunt Yoshiko Inouye's story about their travels to Colorado from California in 1942. When six people in three vehicles crossed the border to Colorado, a Colorado Courtesy Patrol car was parked on the roadway. When we stopped, the officer came over, tipped his cap, and said, “Welcome to Colorado. Governor Ralph Carr and the State of Colorado welcome you. How can I be of service to you?” Hada said, “This one act changed my whole perspective on true Americanism and restored my faith in the United States of America.”

Then Governor Ralph L. Carr was one of the few state governors who stood up to protect the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans during WW II. He was vocal in opposing the incarceration of Japanese and urged for racial tolerance. This position, highly unpopular at that time, is believed to have cost him a promising political career, including his election for the US Senate in 1942.

The people of Colorado denounced and threatened Carr and called for his impeachment. His peers expressed views diametrically opposed to Carr's. Kansas' governor said flatly, “Japs are not wanted and are not welcome in Kansas,” and would call on his state's national guard to keep them out. Wyoming Governor said if anyone of Japanese descent came to Wyoming, they would “find him hanging from the pine trees.” Even California attorney general, who would later become Governor, called Japanese Americans “a menace.”

Carr said we “must protect the Constitution's principles for every man or we shall not have it to protect any man.” Further, he said “If we imprison American citizens without evidence or trial, what's to say six months from now, we wouldn't follow them into that same prison without evidence or trial?”

In Spring 2008, when the Colorado legislature passed the resolution to name the Ralph Carr Memorial Highway, George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor recipient of Denver, Colorado, other Japanese American veterans, and residents of internment camps were invited to the legislature and were individually recognized.

# Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in military service. This month *JAVA ADVOCATE* highlights Major General Darryll Wong of the Hawaii Air National Guard and Brigadier General (Retired) Coral Wong Pietsch, the first Asian American female to reach the rank of Brigadier General.

The present count is that 77 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 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the 77, 49 served in the U.S. Army, 12 in the U.S. Navy, 15 in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Marines. Broken down in another way, 20 are Chinese Americans, 6 Filipino Americans, 18 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 33 Japanese Americans.

## Maj Gen Darryll Wong



Major General Darryll Wong, USAF, Commander, Hawaii Air National Guard, was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. His interest in the military started at Maryknoll High School in Honolulu. Unlike any other Catholic high school, it was more similar to a military academy because boys were enrolled in a mandatory four-year Civil Air Patrol program and wore a military uniform to

school every day. Here Wong received his first pilot license as a glider pilot at the age of 17. He joined his peer group to fight in the Vietnam War and later selected the military as his career choice because it was the best way to serve his nation.

He attended the University of Hawaii, received his commission in May 1972, and was immediately sent to flight school at Williams AFB, AZ. While on active duty he flew the C-141A during the Vietnam War and, subsequently, the baby and refugee airlift. After the war he transferred to the AF Reserves and moved back to Honolulu where he joined the Hawaii Air National Guard (HIANG) in 1984 as a flight-line maintenance officer overseeing F-4 operations and the eventual conversion to F-15. In 1993, he transferred to the newly formed 203<sup>rd</sup> Air Refueling Squadron and flew in the Kosovo War. He is a Command Pilot with over 3,000 hours in the T-37, T-38, C-141A, KC-135R, and C-17 planes.

Maj Gen Wong has additional responsibilities as Air National Guard Advisor to the USAF in Washington, DC, and also to the Commander of the Pacific Air Forces in Hawaii. He has traveled to every continent except Africa and South America.

In addition to military schools required of his rank, he has attended Harvard's JFK School of Government in National and International Security, and currently is in his last year in the Executive MBA program at the University of Hawaii's Shidler College of Business.

## BG Coral Wong Pietsch



Brigadier General Coral Wong Pietsch, USA (Ret), was the first woman general in the over 230-year history of the US Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and the first Asian American woman to hold the rank of Brigadier General in the Army. She is currently the Senior Civilian Attorney at US Army Pacific Command in Honolulu, Hawaii.

BG Pietsch served as Chief Judge and Commander, Judicial/Defense Services Unit, which was responsible for the Trial Defense Legal Services Support Organization and the Judges' Legal Support Organization. She served as Staff Judge Advocate in the US Army, Pacific Command. Her overseas assignments were South Korea and Iraq.

BG Pietsch received her JD from Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. She was a Senior Executive Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. She is a graduate of various military schools. Her awards include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

"I joined the military because I was fortunate to have family who encouraged me to explore the outer limits of accepted norms. My mother believed that girls should not be limited to certain set fields and encouraged me to explore other careers. My father, who was born in China and came to America as a young man, always told us kids that we had to be 'better' than him. There has never been a day that I regretted my decision to be part of the US Military", BG Pietsch said.

BG Pietsch is married to James H. Pietsch, Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, and an Adjunct Clinical Professor at the John Burns School of Medicine, both at the University of Hawaii. He spent thirty years as an Army Judge Advocate both active and reserve.

*[For a more detailed biography, please email editor at [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com).]*

## Bronze Star and Ranger Tab Available for Select WWII Vets

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC) wishes to remind World War II infantrymen who served in ground combat against an armed enemy between December 7, 1941 and September 2, 1945, that they are eligible to apply for a Bronze Star Medal (BSM). Approval is virtually certain for recipients of the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) or the Combat Medic's Badge (CMB). The Army regulations which govern this award may be found in AR 600-8-22, Military Awards.



Only those attached to an infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, with the correct Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) of Infantryman are qualified for the BSM under this Regulation. Any member of the Merrill's Marauders who was awarded a CIB is also eligible, in addition to the BSM, to receive the Ranger Tab.

When the CIB was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943, then Secretary of War Henry Stinson said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry." It was recognized that, overall, infantryman continuously operated under the worst conditions and performed the most hazardous missions of a nature not assigned to other

soldiers or units. The infantry suffered the most casualties. This special recognition is unique to the infantryman, the only soldier whose daily mission is to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold terrain.

Individuals meeting the above criteria (or their next of kin) should send a letter requesting the BSM including (1) the veteran's full name; (2) authority to access veteran's file; (3) veteran's service (or serial) number; and (4) veteran's social security number, to:

Ms. Kathleen E. Miller  
Army Human Resources Command  
200 Stovall Street, Suite 3567,  
Hoffman II  
Alexandria, VA 22332-0474

Alternatively, please contact Terry Shima, 415 Russell Ave, #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; 301-987-6746; [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

Next of kin may apply for a posthumous award. Also, if a veteran had previously received a BSM during WW II for a specific act of bravery, he or his next of kin is still eligible to apply for a BSM under this program.

## National JACL Completes Successful Convention

*[condensed from JACL press release]*

SALT LAKE CITY — The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) held its 40th Biennial National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Marriott Hotel from July 16-20, 2008. A Youth Convention was held in conjunction with the regular convention. Delegates and friends of the JACL from most of the 113 chapters came to vote on important issues and to learn more about the workings of the JACL.

Co-chairs of the National JACL Convention were Silvana Watanabe and Reid Tateoka. Volunteers from the three Utah JACL Chapters were involved in the planning and execution of convention events. Also working hard to ensure a successful convention was the National JACL staff.

The National Council business sessions ran smoothly although there were some matters of contention and debate. The next biennial convention will be held in Chicago from June 30 to July 4, 2010. The issue of annual conventions came up for a vote once again and was passed by the narrowest of margins with a two thirds vote of the Council. The National JACL Convention in 2011 will begin the annual convention cycle. Mark Kobayashi, outgoing Secretary/Treasurer, gave an excellent power point presentation of the budget which was readily adopted. Informative plenary sessions were presented. A number of beneficial work-

shops were held, and exhibits were available. A special performance of the musical show, Nihonmachi, was performed by The Grateful Crane Ensemble. This is the story of the Japan Towns of which only three remain in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Jose, California.

A highlight of the convention was the participation of Japanese American astronaut, Dan Tani, as the keynote speaker at the Sayonara Banquet. He told of his parents' experience as internees at the Topaz, Utah, internment camp during World War II. He showed pictures of and explained his experiences when he spent four months in space which ended in February 2008. Dan Tani was the recipient of the Japanese American of the Biennium Award at the National JACL Convention held in Phoenix in 2006.

Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and his wife Deni attended the convention. Secretary Mineta, who was a congressman from San Jose, California, at the time the Redress effort was initiated thirty years ago, was instrumental in bringing about the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which is being celebrated by the JACL this year on the 20th anniversary of Redress which brought about an apology and reparations to Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

The JACL especially thanks its corporate sponsors and all the volunteers who helped make the convention a success.



## Millville "Thunderbolt" Features 100th/442nd RCT

*One of the most decorated units in military history*

### 100th /442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) on exhibit

An exhibit focusing on the Seabrook of Cumberland County, NJ, veterans' participation in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II opened in February at the Millville Army Air Field Museum and will remain on permanent public display.

Two years ago the Museum asked the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC) to create this exhibition dedicated to the famed Japanese-American battle unit of which President John F. Kennedy once said, "This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the formation of an organization that history has recorded as one of the most decorated units ever to serve the cause of freedom and our country."

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team awards included 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars plus 28 Oak Leaf Clusters, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldiers Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars plus 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters, and 9,486 Purple Hearts.

Upon the request of MAFM past Chairman Hugh McElroy, SECC researched, supported, then enlisted SECC West professionals Norman Ikeda, formerly

an associate at the Smithsonian now retired in Las Vegas, NV; Ken Sasaki, proprietor of art studio Sasaki Stuff of Torrance, CA; Ben Hasuiki, owner of Custom Displays, Inc., of Gardena, CA; and Rei Noguchi, PhD, of Northridge University, CA, who volunteered, designed and prepared the exhibit with the assistance of the SECC staff. Seabrook Juri Tamura acted as technical consultant to the project.



*Kazuto and Mizu Taniguchi*



*Pictured from left to right are Norman Ikeda and Ken Sasaki*

On April 29, 2008, the Museum had a very special visit from Kazuto Taniguchi. He and his family flew in from Gardena, California, and stopped to see the 442nd Regimental Combat Team exhibit. Mr. Taniguchi is pictured at least six times in the exhibit when he served with the 442nd during WWII.

*Kazuto Taniguchi, World War II veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.*

MILLVILLE, N.J.

— The July 2008 edition of the Millville Army Airfield Museum *Thunderbolt* newsletter featured an article on the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team exhibit that opened in February at the Millville Army Air Field Museum. It will remain on permanent public display. Thank you to Vic Matsui and Larry Taniguchi for sharing the news with JAVA.

### Joe and Susie Ichiuji Doing Fine

Karen Ichiuji told JAVA "earlier this year my parents, Joe and Asako Ichiuji, were both hit almost simultaneously with different health issues. They are now definitely on the mend. My mother's motivation is to make sure that she will soon be able to kick Joe's butt so he will not become a couch potato and resume many of his social and speaking engagements and perform his JAVA duties at Nat'l Archives and Records Administration. They are truly grateful to the community and to their friends for all their support and good wishes." They welcome your calls, cards and notes. Asako is at Potomac Manor (Manorcare Health Services), 10714 Potomac Tennis Lane; Potomac, MD 20854 (Telephone: 301-765-8474). Joe's address is 6544 Windermere Circle, Rockville, MD 20852 (Telephone: 301-530-0336).

### Terry Miyamura Recovering From Surgery

Joe Anello, longtime friend of Hershey and Terry Miyamura, said Terry is recovering well from her recent surgery to install couple stents to open her blocked arteries. Hershey, Medal of Honor recipient and Honorary JAVA member, and Terry want to thank the many well wishers who have either contacted them or kept them in their thoughts and prayers. Anello can be reached at 303-660-6882; [joeannello@comcast.net](mailto:joeannello@comcast.net).

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## Army Mentoring Group (PPALM) Nears First Anniversary

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors group (PPALM) is nearing its first year anniversary since its inauguration on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2007. The Board of Directors have worked hard with its military and civilian partners in raising public awareness on PPALM's purpose to support and assist the Army's recruiting and retention program of military and civilian leaders of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage. "PPALM extends its appreciation to JAVA for its continued support of this program," MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), PPALM chairman said.

"To date, we briefed General (Retired) Eric Shinseki and other key leaders on 8 March on several key issues regarding Army officer recruiting and retention. The main point of this session was how can PPALM and our community assist in maintaining and sustaining AAPI Army officer representation in the Army. There are growing interests in Hawaii, Guam, and CONUS which gave us added value and confidence in our current efforts," Taguba said.

Other actions include the release of the PPALM Mentoring Program scheduled for Oct. 1; a new and improved website (PPALM.net) to be activated on Oct. 1; and a social event on Sunday, Oct. 5 at the Capital Brewing Company in Washington D.C. to welcome the members and supporters of PPALM. Starting on Sept. 1, 2008, membership fees are waived Cadets and Midshipmen until after they are commissioned.

Future actions will focus on executing the strategic communications plan—continuing public engagements, quarterly newsletters and announcements; outreach to sponsors and donors; membership drives; and information and education programs toward professional and personal development.

Taguba said, "As a new non-profit organization, we continue to progress. We recognize that active interaction with members and supporters are key to sustaining PPALM's purpose and mission. We are a small group yet remain committed to be an active voice to advocate the needs and concerns of AAPI Army leaders."



COL Tony Moreno, USA (Ret) (far left) and BG Fred Wong, USA (Ret) (2nd from left) welcome PPALM members and guests at the PPALM picnic on May 18 at the Coast Guard Station in Alexandria VA. Photo by Mike Yaguchi.

## Program Aids Vets Entering Corporate World by Keith B. Richburg, Washington Post Staff

*[Excerpt printed by permission. Complete article is in The Washington Post, September 7, 2008, page A4]*

NEW YORK — Ed Pulido joined the Army at 18 and spent 19 years in uniform. He lost his left leg four years ago by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq. When he was discharged in 2005 with a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, he decided to devote the rest of his life to work with a foundation helping the families of veterans who have been wounded or killed. But he had one problem: How to initiate the contacts with corporate leaders, to be able to fundraise and to network. That's where Sidney E. Goodfriend came in. Goodfriend (pictured right) spent 25 years as a banker on Wall Street, mostly at Merrill Lynch. But, he said, he had made enough money, he was looking for a career change, and he wanted to make a contribution through public service.



With his own money and using his Wall Street connections, Goodfriend, 48, founded a group called American Corporate Partners (ACP), which pairs returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan with mentors from the corporate world. He has enlisted six companies (Campbell's, PepsiCo, Home Depot, Verizon, General Electric and Morgan Stanley) that have each promised to offer returning vets 50 mentors in

eight cities. Goodfriend said the priority is helping disabled or severely wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, or spouses or relatives of soldiers killed in action.

Goodfriend has assembled a high-level bipartisan advisory board, including former secretary of state George P. Shultz, former Senate minority leaders Robert J. Dole and George J. Mitchell, former Treasury Secretary Lawrence H. Summers, and former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace. "It's not whether or not anyone is for or against the war, but it's for the troops," Pace said. "It is certainly something that is very, very helpful to our vets. When it comes time to leave the military, they don't have any connections outside."

*[Note: JAVA President Robert Nakamoto views Goodfriend's initiative as outstanding. "This the most substantive corporate outreach to deserving veterans and I support it totally," Mr. Nakamoto said. dr. Kenneth Inada, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran and professor emeritus of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, said, "Mr. Goodfriend's noble and selfless project. . . is so rare and borders on the genius. Needless to say, it is another gem of humanity that ties veterans and the general populace together regardless of the economic situation. Best wishes and continued success!"]*



## Book Reviews: Stanley Hayami, Nisei Son

**STANLEY HAYAMI, NISEI SON: His Diary, Letters, & Story From an American Concentration Camp to Battlefield, 1942-1945.** Annotated by Joanne Oppenheim. New York: Brick Tower Press, 2008

Stanley Hayami was a 16 year-old prisoner in Heart Mountain when he began his diary chronicling his thoughts, aspirations, and optimistic hopes for a "United Nations of Earth." Weeks after graduation in 1944, Stanley was drafted into the 442nd RCT. Joanne Oppenheim, author of *Dear Miss Breed*, has taken another treasure of Japanese American National Museum's collection and enlarged upon it with historical annotations, Stan's recently found letters, and drawings from basic training to the battlefield, plus interviews of friends, family and brothers in arms. The preface was written by Senator Daniel Inouye, who was Stanley's platoon leader.

**Setsuko Matsunaga Nishi, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Sociology, Brooklyn College and The Graduate School, The City University of New York:** Rare indeed are glimpses into the mind and heart of a boy as he becomes a man, but even more intriguing about Stanley Hayami's story is that it is told in his own voice, penned as his sixteen-year-old life of innocence and idealism unfolded in an American concentration camp and ended, still in his teens as a new recruit, trying to help a buddy in one of the fiercest and last battles in Europe in World War II. We have Joanne Oppenheim to thank for masterfully bringing together his diary, letters, and family accounts in the turbulent context of the forced banishment from the West Coast, incarceration in desolate camps without charges nor trial, and iconic service in the U.S. military of Japanese Americans during the war.

**Roger Daniels, author, *Prisoners without Trial: Japanese Americans in World War II*. (2nd ed., 2004):** The

poignant story of Stanley Hayami, a teen-aged Japanese American exiled and incarcerated by his own government during World War II, yet later serves in the U.S. Army during World War II and is killed in action in Italy. . . . Author Joanne Oppenheim gets title page credit as annotator, but has done much more than the word implies, weaving a gripping tale that will hold the interest of the young adults at whom it is aimed and will be appreciated by general readers as well.

**Greg Robinson, PhD, author, *By Order of the President* (Harvard Press):** This book provides readers an excellent introduction to the experience of Japanese Americans confined without charge by official order during World War II. . . . Joanne Oppenheim painstakingly reconstructs the experience of Stanley Hayami, a real-life teenager whose attention was focused on school, sports, and hope for the future, and who then joined the Army to fight for freedom for all. Oppenheim sensitively contextualizes Hayami's words with background comments.

**Norman Ikari, PhD, Co E, 442nd: RCT:** The first 124 pages of Stan's history, from California to the Heart Mountain Camp with his family and friends, are most interesting and reminiscent of thousands of Japanese American families during that period. His diary is a wonderful reminder of those painful days. . . . On pages 165-166, the 13-line description of my reactions to being on the receiving end of German 88's shelling, is accurate. However, placing this portion in the April 1945 description of combat, implies that I was there. Time-wise, this is not accurate. I was wounded on July 17, 1944.

## US Army to Publish 2nd Book on Nisei, Sequel to *Nisei Linguists*

WASHINGTON — Acting on Senator Daniel K. Akaka's encouragement, the US Army Center of Military History (CMH) will undertake the writing of a book on the Nisei role in the Occupation of Japan, a sequel to Dr. James C. McNaughton's *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II*, which covered the period from 1941 to the end of WW II.

In his letter to Secretary of the Army Pete Geren late last year, Akaka recommended that the US Army document the Nisei role in the occupation of Japan. Akaka said the book could provide lessons which can be used in the occupation of Iraq. Geren, in his response dated January 31, 2008, agreed, stating that interviews of

Nisei MIS veterans would be conducted under the aegis of CMH.

Senator Akaka (pictured right), who was instrumental in getting *Nisei Linguists* published, told JAVA that the reason he approached the US Army is because "the story of the Nisei MIS is not limited to their distinguished service in combat during World War II. . . . Nisei linguists also played a vital and important role securing the peace and contributing to the post-war reconstruction efforts in Japan. I believe that a history of the



ways in which these Japanese-American soldiers helped achieve and win a lasting peace with Japan will provide invaluable lessons regarding the importance of inter-cultural communications in 'winning the peace.'"

In a meeting at Akaka's office on June 23, 2008, CMH shared its Performance Work Statement with Fred Murakami and Calvin Ninomiya of the National Japanese American Veterans Council, which outlined CMH's plan to issue a contract to conduct interviews with MIS Occupation veterans as well as begin archival research in repositories including the National Archives, the Smithsonian and the Go For Broke National Education Center.



## National Network Flies Veterans to DC by Lona Ichikawa

WASHINGTON — The National Honor Flight Network flies in war veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to honor their sacrifices. Top priority is given to our most senior veterans - survivors of World War II or any vet with a terminal illness who wishes to visit his/her memorial. If there is room, they will also fly Vietnam and Korean War veterans. Veterans in the continental United States can participate in this program and fly from one of 32 hubs throughout the country. Interested parties can view the official national website at [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).



Senator Robert Dole welcomes veterans to Washington, DC.  
Photo: Lona Ichikawa

Throughout each trip, veterans are guided and hosted by volunteer guardians from their home state as well as volunteers from the Virginia, DC, and Maryland areas. Former Senator Bob Dole faithfully greets the Honor Flight veterans at the WWII Memorial and poses for pictures. Donations cover the costs for the veterans, and guardians and EMT personnel pay their own way. Many of these veterans have never been thanked for

their service, and they often have tears in their eyes as they disembark from their plane and see such a welcoming reception.

Volunteer greeters and guardians are needed. By volunteering as a guardian, you are allowing one more WWII veteran to participate. Greeters will find it rewarding to listen to the veterans as they are awed by their reception at the airport and at the Memorials! Volunteers should arrive at least an hour before scheduled arrival and departure times.

### To volunteer, please contact:

Dan Golembiewski for Dulles International: [thepowderriverfarrier@yahoo.com](mailto:thepowderriverfarrier@yahoo.com); Shannon Collins for Reagan National: [shannon.collins@va.gov](mailto:shannon.collins@va.gov); Matt Baum for Baltimore Washington International: [Matthew.Baum@va.gov](mailto:Matthew.Baum@va.gov). **WWII Memorial contacts:** Diane Sinclair for Wednesday Honor Flights: [dsinclair2@cox.net](mailto:dsinclair2@cox.net); Lona Ichikawa for Saturday Honor Flights: [Lona.Ichikawa@yahoo.com](mailto:Lona.Ichikawa@yahoo.com).

### Other websites of interest:

[www.iimemorial.typepad.com](http://www.iimemorial.typepad.com): Stephen R. Brown Photography has published a book on the WWII Memorial and keeps a current website of the Honor Flight events.

[www.ancpgr.org](http://www.ancpgr.org): Lists the schedule of flights for the Honor Flights Network Volunteers for Dulles, Reagan National, and BWI. Information for volunteers assisting at the WWII Memorial will be posted shortly.

Lona was invited to join the Honor Flight Group and will be responsible for ensuring that the tents, chairs and lunches are ready for Honor Flights groups eating at the WWII Memorial every Saturday through Dec. 6, 2008. They are expecting approximately 3,000 veterans to participate in October.

## MG Regua Receives 2nd Star



HOUSTON — MG Eldon P. Regua was promoted to major general on August 10, 2008 and assumed the duties of Commanding General of the 75th Battle Command Training Division headquartered in Houston, TX. Prior to this, he served as the Commanding General for the 104th Division (Institutional Training) located at Vancouver Barracks, WA.

MG Regua was commissioned through the ROTC program at Santa Clara University, CA, where he received a BS in Accounting. He also has a MBA degree from Chapman University and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, PA. MG Regua's other military education includes the Airborne School, Air Defense Basic and Advanced Courses, the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and CAPSTONE, the course for new flag rank officers. His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with a silver oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Parachutist Badge.

## Welcome New Members!

- \* Kerry S. Hada (Colorado)
- Robert Y. Handa (Washington)
- \* Kenneth S. Hayashi (California)
- \* William T. Honjiyo (Hawaii)
- Lloyd Hoshide (Washington)
- \* William E. Houston (Virginia)
- \* Garrett P. Johnson (Virginia)
- James Kubota (Arizona)
- Janelle Kuroda (Italy)
- Martin K. Matsui (Hong Kong)
- \* Victor Nakamoto (California)
- \* Dr. Glenda Y. Nogami-Steufert (Hawaii)
- Dr. Kenje Ogata (Illinois)
- Jaden Risner (Florida)
- Steven Sano (Texas)
- \* Dr. Edward Wakatake (Washington)
- Shigeru "Shig" Yabu (California)
- \* Dr. Brian E. Yamamoto (Alaska)
- Pauline Yoshida (California)
- Roy Yoshida (California)

\* Denotes Life Membership

# TAPS

## FATHER OF JAVA TREASURER PASSES

Takashi Takeguchi, born in Kapoho, Hawaii, on February 23, 1912, the second of nine children, died on August 3, 2008. He was a modest, humble man with strong values of quality, hard work, education, strong family, and helping others. He started work when he was very young as a surveyor helper, later worked on the Consolidated Railway, and finally for the Puna Sugar Company, retiring as a machinist.

He was active in the ILWU union activities while working at Puna Sugar Company and later served in various positions as President, Treasurer and senior advisor for the ILWU Pension Club. He was one of the organizers for the *Kula Kumiai*, a community association which helps members in time of need and served in various officer positions. After his retirement he volunteered at the Lyman Museum and worked there for 29 years. He also was an active Puna Hongwani volunteer for many years. In May 2001 he received the Hawaii County Outstanding Older American in Senior Activities Award.

Takeguchi did not serve in the military, but his two younger brothers joined and served in the US Army. His brother, Hidenobu, was a career Army soldier and a well-decorated Vietnam veteran. Two of his sons served in the Air Force and the Army.

In his younger days, Takeguchi participated in sumo and baseball, and his interest in sumo continued throughout his life. After his retirement from Puna Sugar Company, he and his wife traveled extensively, visiting Europe, Canada, China, Australia, New Zealand, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong. He visited Japan several times. He also traveled extensively throughout the United States. Bonsai and gardening was his passion, and his

garden and bonsai's displayed his skills and commitments.

Takeguchi is survived by his wife of 66 years, Sumie, his four children, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

Teru Kamikawa Matsui, wife of Victor Matsui of Williamsburg, passed away at her home in Williamsburg, Virginia on July 15, 2008, with her husband and four children at her bedside. She was 75. Born in Fresno, California, she spent her childhood in Fresno and in Seabrook, New Jersey. She graduated from the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College) and Johns Hopkins University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

In 1955, she married Victor Matsui, a US Foreign Service officer. The family subsequently lived in Cambodia, Pakistan, Egypt, Madagascar, the Ivory Coast and Zaire, now known as Congo. She worked as a U.S. Embassy Clinic Nurse at these postings. At the time of her retirement, she served as the Occupational Health Nurse at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Virginia. Among her abiding interests were education, wood finishing, gardening and cultivation of orchids and roses.

She is survived by her husband Victor Masao, and her four children Vincent Masateru, Martin Kaoru, Linda Mitsuyo, and Marcia Toshi; as well as eight grandchildren Victoria Christine, Kenzan, Kaison, Casey Matsui, Alex Masao, Madeleine Zhen Wei, Celeste Hope Zhen Yen and Matthias Zhen Xian, and her brother Iwao. A memorial service was held on August 16, 2008, at Nelsen funeral Home, Williamsburg, VA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Hearing Loss Association, Williamsburg Chapter (P.O. Box 6278, Williamsburg, VA 23188) or The Williamsburg Hospice House ([volunteer@williamsburghospice.org](mailto:volunteer@williamsburghospice.org)).

## Family of 442nd Medic Donates to JAVA

The family of the late Dr. Robert M. Miyasaki, 100<sup>th</sup> Bn-442<sup>nd</sup> RCT medic, has made a generous donation in his memory to JAVA's Arlington Cemetery Memorial Day flowers fund. His widow Margaret and daughters Gaye and Nola Miyasaki of Honolulu, Hawaii are active supporters of JAVA's mission, including the education of the American people on the Japanese American WW II experience. Dr. Miyasaki served in the original 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and when it merged with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT he became a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Medical Detachment. He served in all of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> campaigns in Italy and France, including the Lost Battalion rescue in late October 1944 and the breach of the German Gothic line in the Po Valley campaign in April 1945.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Dr. Miyasaki attended the University of Southern California Dental School in Los Angeles, California and received his dental degree just before Pearl

Harbor was attacked. Due to his medical background, he was assigned to the Medical Detachment where he served throughout the war.

After the war, he came back to Honolulu and married Margaret Hirano of Hilo, Hawaii, daughter of James Murao Hirano, a prominent businessman who helped many Issei immigrate to and obtain United States naturalization under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Dr. Miyasaki practiced dentistry for many years in Honolulu and retired there. He was proud to serve his country during WWII. Robert Nakamoto, President of JAVA, said JAVA is pleased with Mrs. Miyasaki and her daughters support and confidence in JAVA.

## From the Editor



As I put together the current issue, I was pleased to see how much recognition Japanese Americans have been receiving. Congress awarding \$4 million to the Go For Broke National Education Center is monumental and will allow the construction of a modern education center that will preserve the legacies of the Nisei veterans.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the historic Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Redress Legislation), a recognition of past wrongs and an apology for mistakes visited upon Japanese Americans during World War II. My own family endured the camps in Poston, Arizona and other locations. Although my father did not live to see this legislation pass, my grandparents, uncle, and other relatives were still alive in 1988 to accept the apology, better late than never.

*If you have any questions or comments, please email [jvaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:jvaadvocate@gmail.com) or contact me by USPS mail at Kay Wakatake, CMR 435 Box 1317, APO AE 09086.*

## Thank you Donors!

**JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends.**

Lona Ichikawa

Family of Dr. Robert M. Miyasaki

Larry Oda

Toshiko Ota

Gary H. Shiota

The Tani Family in Honor of Donald Wakita, in memory of their father Marmoru Tani, and in gratitude to all Japanese American Veterans who have so bravely served our country

Homer & Miyuki Yasui



## JAVA Membership Application

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

c/o Base Technologies  
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301-279-8742

Quarterly Lunch: Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

Webmaster: Dave Buto, [admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 5, 5-8PM:** PPALM one year anniversary meeting,  
Brewer's Room, Capital City Brewing Co, 1100 New York  
Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

**Oct 9, 11:30AM:** Greg Robinson, author, *By Order of the President*, lunch with JAVA members. China Garden Restaurant, Rosslyn, Va.

**Oct 13, 11:30AM:** Lunch with Jimmie and Lynn Kanaya from Gig Harbor, Wash. China Garden Restaurant.

**Oct 18, 11:30AM:** JAVA Quarterly Luncheon, Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

**Nov 11, 2PM:** JAVA-NJAMF Veterans Day Program at National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Veterans Day National Committee program at Arlington Cemetery at 11:00AM for President Bob Nakamoto and color bearers.

**Dec 13, 7AM:** Arlington Wreath Laying. Contact Lona Ichikawa at [lona.ichikawa@yahoo.com](mailto:lona.ichikawa@yahoo.com).

**Jan 17, 2009:** JAVA Annual Meeting. Elections of officers. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Va.



Ranger Hall of Famer Grant Hirabayashi at Linganore High School, Ijamsville, Md. (Frederick County, Md.) on September 19, 2008, following a speaking engagement. Sitting, L-R: Senior Jessica Tomco, Hirabayashi, Senior Jimmy Collins. Standing, L-R: Teacher Wayne Coblentz and Senior Tyer Dover. JAVA speakers have gone to Linganore High School for the past four years. Encouraged by Coblentz, Linganore High School strongly supported the Nisei postage stamp campaign. Photo courtesy of Grant Hirabayashi.