



# JAVA ADVOCATE

## Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Holds General Membership Meeting and Reception

By Wade Ishimoto



MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret) presenting the Distinguished Citizenship and Patriotism Award to Wade Ishimoto (R). Photo courtesy of Wade Ishimoto.

*Convention Center. Washington, DC.* On October 11, 2015, the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) held its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Membership meeting and reception at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. Major General Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), did his usual masterful performance in presiding over the event as the PPALM Chairman and delivering its Annual Report. General Taguba also mentioned that the move to obtain the Congressional Gold Medal for the 260,000 plus Filipinos who fought for the United States in World War II has gained Congressional support.

JAVA was well represented at the event. JAVA's newest member, Major Renee Lee (USAFR), was the Master of Ceremonies and also delivered a report on PPALM's Communications program. Her husband, Jason Yee, also a JAVA member, delivered a report on Information Technology advances for PPALM.

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A haiku to welcome Spring, by Matsuo Bashō (translation: David Barnhill)

wake up! wake up!	<i>okiyo okiyo</i>
let's be friends,	<i>waga tomo ni sen</i>
sleeping butterfly	<i>nuru kochō</i>

## VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE I\*

### Inside This Issue:

Wada Honored at Marine Corps Ball	2
MG Reeder Retires	3
Kuroki and Ito, <i>Congressional Record</i>	4
Yasui Receives Medal of Freedom	5
Veterans Day at JA Memorial	7
Travel Essay by Greg Marutani	8
Principal Brubaker Travels to Hawaii	9
Nisei Memorabilia for Army Museum	10
Obituary: Calvin C. Jeo	11
Obituary: George Sakato	12
Obituary: Susumu Ito	13
History: WWII Japanese Naval Plans	14
History: Book Review	16
History: New Film on Sugihara Chiune	17
Gen. John Campbell's Address	18
News from Veterans Organizations	19
Corrections	19
Call for Poetry Submissions	20
General Information	20

\* Editors' Note: Due to transition, the present *Advocate* covers the period October 2015 - March 2016, thus skipping Volume XXIII, Issue IV. We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion this may have caused.

**PPALM** (...continued from previous page)

JAVA member Major General Kelly McKeague, (USAF), gave a truly inspirational speech as the event’s distinguished guest speaker. All three of the PPALM awardees for 2015 are JAVA members. The Honorable Ed Chow, Jr., immediate past Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Maryland, received the Chairman’s Award for Distinguished Public Service. Wade Ishimoto was the recipient of the Distinguished Citizenship and Patriotism Award, and Michael Yaguchi was awarded with the PPALM Excellence in Membership trophy. JAVA Vice President Mark Nakagawa was also in attendance at the event.



L-R. Mike Nakamoto, Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) holding PPALM Excellence in Membership Trophy, and MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret). Photo courtesy of Wade Ishimoto.



Robert Wada and his first Marine Corps Birthday cake

**Nisei Marine Korean War Veteran Robert Wada Honored at 240<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball**

*Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama.* Lt Gen Steven L. Kwast, USAF, Commanding General and President of the Air University, located at Maxwell AFB, invited veteran Marine Sergeant Robert M. Wada to the 240<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 13, 2015 held in the officers club at Maxwell AFB. Wada was honored during the Birthday Ball program. The US Marine Corps traditionally celebrates its November 10 Birthday world-wide. Wada was accompanied by his son Garrett and Garrett’s wife Lea.

Lt Gen Kwast is a graduate of the USAF Academy in 1986 and also graduated from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has more than 3,000 flying hours

including 650 combat hours that included Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Lt Gen Kwast and the Wada boys, Garrett and Glenn, grew up together in La Mirada, California and have remained good friends. When Lt Gen Kwast served in the Pentagon in 2012 he invited Wada and Garrett for a VIP visit to Washington, DC. During this visit Wada was introduced to Secretary of State Colin Powell and the Commandant of the Marine Corps General James F. Amos. Both were very impressed with Wada’s story of having been placed in an internment camp during World War II as a youngster, yet upon returning to his place of birth, Redlands California, and in spite of the internment, Wada still joined the Marines and served his country in the Korean War.

Wada joined the Marine Corps Reserves for two years while in high school and was discharged just before the beginning of the Korean War. Following the tradition of his two older brothers who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, the most highly decorated Army unit for its period of combat and size during WWII, Wada reenlisted to serve in the Korean War in 1950 and served in combat for one year, rising to the rank of Sergeant with the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division.

Wada is the Charter President of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans. In 1997, as President, he was instrumental in building a Memorial dedicated to the 250 Americans of Japanese ancestry killed in the Korean War. The Memorial is located in the Japanese American National Memorial Court at the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center in Los Angeles California. This is the only location in the world with Memorials listing the names of ethnic Japanese killed in action from the Spanish American War of 1898 to the present Desert Storm.

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**Bob Wada** (...continued from previous page)

Still President in 2002, Wada assigned JAKWV members Ed Nakata and Minoru Tonai as co-chairmen with the task of constructing a similar Memorial listing the names of the Japanese Americans who gave their lives for the freedom of the Republic of Korea. This memorial is located at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between South Korea and North Korea. The purpose of this second Memorial was to help foster a better understanding between the people of South Korea and the Japanese Americans. Wada served for three terms as past Commander of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post in California.

Wada, a life member of JAVA, told the Advocate reporter, “The 240<sup>th</sup> Marine Corps Birthday Ball was such a wonderful experience for me that I could not believe it was happening to me after 65 years. It was here at Maxwell AFB where I enjoyed attending my very first Marine Corps Birthday Ball and I received my very first piece of birthday cake ever. I saw a birthday cake cutting in Korea at a



L-R: Gary Wada, wife Lea, Robert Wada, Joni Kwast, Lt Gen Steven Kwast

distance during the war, but being at the bottom of the totem pole, I did not receive a piece of the cake. This was an awesome experience and made me so very proud to be a Japanese American Marine. Semper Fi.”

**Welcome New Members!**

- BG Kenneth S. Hara, USNG
- E/4 John L. Hearn, USAF
- Maj Renee H. Lee, USAF (Honorable Discharge)

**Thank you, Donors!**  
**JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends**

- General Fund**
  - Sam I. Mayeda
- US Army Museum Fund**
  - John and Lucy Kano
  - Jennifer and Brian Reynolds
  - Tomio Mitsunaga
- Honor Flight**
  - Theodore Wakai
- Round Robin and Advocate**
  - CAPT Homer and Miyuki Yasui, USNR (Ret)

(The above is for the period October 1 - December 31)

**MG Reeder Retires**

On September 16, 2015, JAVA member Major General Edward Reeder was honorably retired from the United States Army after 34 years of dedicated service to our Nation. General Joseph Votel, Commander, United States Special Operations Command, presided at the retirement and extolled Maj Gen Reeder’s accomplishments through the years that culminated with him leading all Special Operations Forces in Afghanistan. In his farewell speech, General Reeder mentioned hundreds of his friends, mentors, and team mates from his days as a student at Pine Forest High School until the end of his career. JAVA was represented by Wade Ishimoto at the ceremony.



Wade Ishimoto and MG Reeder. Photo courtesy of Ishimoto.

## Kuroki and Ito: Two Nisei Veterans are Read into the Congressional Record

*United States Congress, Washington, DC.* On the floor of the United States House of Representatives, comprised of 435 members, Hawaii Congressman Mark Takai read into the *Congressional Record* on October 6, 2015 the heroism of two Nisei veterans. They were Tech Sergeant Ben Kuroki, a native of Nebraska, and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Susumu “Sus” Ito of Wellesley, Massachusetts. The *Congressional Record*, a permanent record of the US Congress, will be available for historians to access in perpetuity.



Takai told the House chamber Kuroki and his brother were the first Japanese Americans to enlist in the US military after WWII began and despite institutional prejudice and discrimination, Kuroki gained the confidence of his bomber crew who steadfastly protected Kuroki from being removed from the Air Corps. Kuroki flew 30 missions over German targets, including the Ploesti air raids, and 28 missions in Asia, mostly over Japan. Kuroki said his 59<sup>th</sup> mission was to speak at War Department venues, including internment centers to encourage Nisei, confined behind barbed wire fences, to volunteer for the Nisei combat team that was being formed. | Ben Kuroki |

Kuroki received 3 Distinguished Service Cross medals, the second highest medal for valor, plus many other medals for air combat. Kuroki exemplified the embodiment and service above self. He often said, “I had to fight for the right to fight for my country and now I feel vindicated.” Takai said, “Today, I rise to share with members of the House Kuroki and Ito’s tremendous accomplishments and dedicated public service. Kuroki and Ito are the definition of American heroes.”



Takai referred to Susumu “Sus” Ito as another “trailblazer.” Inducted into the US Army in 1940, Ito was transferred to the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT while his family was confined to internment camp at Rowher, Arkansas. He served in the 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion in all of the 442<sup>nd</sup> battle campaigns, including as forward observer during the rescue of the trapped Texas Battalion in the Vosges forests of northeastern France. A forward observer took his position at the front tip of the invading force from which point he directed the field artillery to drop their artillery shells. | Dr. Sus Ito |

Although disallowed by Army regulations, Ito carried with him an Agfa 35mm camera that fit the palm of his hand, and took thousands of photos of his buddies in combat and relaxed situations, in agony and in jubilation, in the release of Jewish inmates from a death sub camp of Dachau. Combined, these photos told the story of the Nisei. “The photos are presently on exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum, which I have visited,” Takai said.

After WWII and through the GI Bill, Dr. Susumu Ito started an extraordinary career as a cellular biologist and became a researcher and professor at Harvard University Medical School where he worked for 50 years. [EdNote. JAVA is grateful to Congressman Takai for the extraordinary recognition accorded to two Nisei heroes, Ben Kuroki and Sus Ito, who were JAVA members. Both men have recently passed away. Ito’s obituary appears on p. 13 of the present issue; for Kuroki’s obituary, please see the previous (Fall 2015) issue of the Advocate, p. 15.]



On August 20, 2015, in a ceremony at the Pentagon, where he works, **Garrett Yee (center) was promoted to Major General.** LTG Robert Ferrell, Army’s Chief Information Officer, (left) and wife Maria (right) pinned on the shoulder straps with two stars. MG Yee serves as the Army lead for the network modernization efforts while simultaneously serving as the military deputy for cybersecurity. He recently returned for home duty from his deployment in Kuwait, where he served for 12 months as the Commanding General for the 335th Signal Command Commanding General with responsibility for communications across the Southwest Asia region.

Photo from MG Yee.



## Minoru Yasui Receives Medal of Freedom Posthumously in White House Ceremony

*White House, Washington, DC.* Three courageous and patriotic Nisei men decided to challenge the constitutionality of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 by deliberately violating it. Each of the three, Fred T. Korematsu, Gordon K. Hirabayashi and Minoru “Min” Yasui, was arrested, convicted, and placed in prison. They appealed to the US Supreme Court, which upheld their convictions. After the war, the courts vacated (read: cancelled) these convictions on the grounds that the government had withheld vital evidential information from the court. On May 24, 2011 Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal disclosed that Solicitor General Charles Fahy, a President Roosevelt appointee, deliberately hid from the court an Office of Naval Intelligence report that concluded the Japanese Americans on the West Coast did not pose a military threat.

On November 24, 2015 President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, to 17 Americans, including Yasui, Barbara Strreisand, Itzak Perlman, Willie Mays and others who have contributed to the security or national interest of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant endeavors.

The President provided brief remarks about each honoree. Concerning Yasui, the President said, “From the fruit farms of Oregon to the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court, Minoru Yasui devoted his life to fighting for basic human rights and the fair and equal treatment of every American. In challenging the military curfew placed on Japanese Americans during World War II, he brought critical attention to the issue, and paved the way for all Americans to stand as full and equal citizens. Minoru Yasui’s example endures as a reminder of the power of one voice echoing for justice.”

Yasui was born in 1917 in Hood River, Oregon. He completed law school and passed the bar examination but was not able to find a job due to his ethnicity. He had received his 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant commission through the Army ROTC program and was placed in reserve status. When war began he volunteered immediately for active



Laurie Yasui receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom on behalf of her father, Minoru Yasui, during a ceremony at the White House on November 24, 2015. White House photo.

duty and received orders to report to Fort Vancouver, Washington. He did, filled the papers and waited to be called, however, his name was not called. He applied 8 times despite being told of the ban on Nisei to be accepted for service. His military and employment prospects closed, Yasui decided to open a private law office in Portland. After his jail sentence Yasui was sent to the Minidoka Internment Camp. He was allowed to leave Minidoka to work as a laborer. Yasui finally settled in Denver, Colorado where he worked in the Human Rights Commission and community relations for which he received various awards for exemplary performance.

Two other Nisei who challenged the Executive Order had earlier received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. President Bill Clinton awarded the Medal to Korematsu in 1998, and President Obama similarly honored Hirabayashi in 2012.

Shortly after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 that authorized the US Army to imprison all ethnic Japanese, including those born in America, residing in the proscribed area of the Pacific coast and the Territory of Hawaii for the duration of the war. Military commanders of the Western Defense Command (WDC) and the Territory of Hawaii executed the Order differently. LTG John DeWitt, Military Governor of the Western Defense Command (WDC) decided to imprison all 110,000 ethnic Japanese, including US citizens, and discharge the Nisei already serving in the US Army.

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**Min Yasui** (...continued from previous page)

LTG Delos C. Emmons, who left Washington with orders to place all ethnic Japanese in Hawaii on the island of Molokai and who faced an imminent threat of land invasion by Japan, decided, after being briefed by his military intelligence officer and the FBI Bureau Director for Hawaii, mass internment was not necessary. Laying his military career and his rank on the line, Emmons stonewalled Washington, including the President, for two years until the threat of land invasion by Japan was no longer possible. Also, he formed the 100<sup>th</sup> infantry battalion, placed in it the 1,432 Nisei in the Hawaii National Guard, and shipped them to Wisconsin for training. Subsequently, they were deployed to Italy for combat.

As for the Nisei view of Executive Order 9066, they too reacted differently. Three Nisei, including Yasui, decided to challenge E.O. 9066 in court. A larger Nisei segment, including many in internment camps, petitioned the government to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty. Washington answered the latter group by forming the 442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team, a segregated unit comprised of Nisei, who emerged from combat as the best infantry unit for its size and period of combat during WWII.

JAVA, which sent a letter to President Obama endorsing the award of the Medal of Freedom to Yasui, also stands behind the 14,000 Nisei who served in the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup> and Military Intelligence Service.



**Terry Shima Speaks at AVC**

The American Veterans Center (AVC) held its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Honors on November 5-7, 2015 in Washington, DC. On November 7, JAVA member Terry Shima was invited to participate in a panel discussion entitled, *WWII: Legends and Trailblazers* at the US Navy Memorial, Naval Heritage Center in downtown DC. Seated left to right are Elinor Otto, 95, the last “Rosie the Riveter” who is still working in an assembly line; Shima; Thomas G. Mangrum, Sr, who served in the 761<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion; and John Weston, 98, veteran of the 758 Tank Battalion. Standing is the moderator, The Honorable Craig Horn, member of the North Carolina House of Representatives. Photo by AVC.

**Wade Ishimoto** has been busy in his role as a Distinguished Senior Fellow for the Joint Special Operations University that is part of the United States Special Operations Command. So far this year, he has taught in the Irregular Warfare Course at Fort Bragg, NC, and Camp Lejeune, NC. At Fort Bragg, he was unable to get back to his home in Virginia for four days because of a major East Coast snowstorm. At Camp Lejeune, he briefly saw Mike Lewis, son of Mae Nakamoto and grandson of past JAVA President Bob Nakamoto. Mike is in the Individual Training Course to become a member of the Marine Special Operations Command. Camp Lejeune was followed with a presentation to the Leading Petty Officer Course for Navy SEALs at Little Creek Amphibious Base, VA. A presentation by JAVA member Rear Admiral Brian Losey preceded Wade’s presentation. Then at the end of February and into March, Wade instructed in an Asymmetric Warfare Course conducted at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany. The course had 36 students from 16 NATO Countries (pictured here; Ishimoto is fourth from left).



Asymmetric Warfare Course  
P3-127-A-16 | NATO SCHOOL Oberammergau | 29 February - 04 March 2016



## Four APA Groups Hold Veterans Day Program at Japanese American Memorial

*Capitol Hill, DC.* Four Asia Pacific American Groups co-sponsored the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Congress in Washington, DC, on November 11, 2015, on a balmy autumn afternoon. The Japanese American Veterans Association (Mike Cardarelli, President), the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (Cal Shintani, Chairman), the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (COL Paul Shelton, USA (Ret), Vice President for Mentoring) and JACL (Michelle Amano, JACL Eastern District Council Governor) paid tribute to American veterans and active duty men and women, including a contingent of midshipmen from the US Naval Academy.



MG (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, Jr.

Major General (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, Jr., Deputy Surgeon General of the US Army, laid the wreath at the Wall of Heroes representing Americans who paid the ultimate price to protect the freedom we enjoy today.

Delivering the keynote address, Carvalho said, “It is humbling to stand here before you, knowing that all around our country and the world, fellow Americans are gathering to remember, honor and express gratitude to our country’s heroes who have served our great nation. We say “thank you” to all of our comrades who have served throughout our Nation’s history, from the Continental Soldiers who survived hunger and cold at Valley Forge to the men and women patrolling the mountains of Afghanistan today.

Carvalho paid tribute to Nisei who volunteered for combat during WWII from behind the barbed wire enclosures of the internment camps while their families continued to be confined there. He cited their heroism, including Shizuya “Cesar” Hayashi who was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Carvalho said, “we also honor those who love and support our Veterans. Any Service Member will readily acknowledge their sacrifices made in defense of our Nation are borne equally by their Families and loved ones. Any Service Member will readily acknowledge their sacrifices made in defense of our Nation are borne equally by their Families and loved ones. To the Families of our Veterans, our Nation is deeply indebted to you. Your sacrifices for this country—including the sharing of your treasured loved ones—cannot ever be fully repaid.”

MG Carvalho was born in Hawaii and received his commission as a second lieutenant from the ROTC program. He became a medical doctor through the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine and joined the Army Medical Corps. He has two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, most recently serving as the surgeon. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

MG Carvalho is a life member of JAVA.

## Walking through the Vosges Mountains

By Greg Marutani, JAACL National Education Committee

There were two reasons for making a trip to Europe, visit the beaches in Normandy after viewing a number of documentaries about the D-Day landings and visit the towns of Bruyeres and Biffontaine to visit some of the markers and monuments dedicated to the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. All were achieved. Planning the trip for October was to avoid as many tourists as possible and the summer heat.

In Epinal I was greeted by Gerome Villain, Vosges area historian, and his daughter, Tiffany, which was the first of many generous gestures of the local residents. As we approached Bruyeres Gerome pointed out Hill 555, then Hills A, B, C, and D, all of which the Nisei units were assigned to clear of German soldiers who, in turn had been ordered to hold the line at all costs fortifying their positions, creating road blocks, adding mines to hinder clearing of the roads and machine gun nests to further impede the advancing troops.

Gerome parked the car and as we walked along the road he continued to share his research findings about how the Nisei units managed to confront each encounter with the enemy, the stalemates, the slow advances that were made and then the eventual liberation of Bruyeres before moving on to Biffontaine.

Gerome told me that the cold weather during my visit was similar to what the Nisei encountered, overcast, a bit chillier, we were only missing the fog. I endured the few hours and wondered what it must have been to endure such conditions for a week or more.

As we walked into the forest away from the road, it was then the dense forest that the daylight nearly disappeared and the magnitude of the obstacles the soldiers had to deal with were put into a much different perspective.

On Sunday morning Gerome took me along the route of the Nisei soldiers in rescuing the Texas "Lost Battalion." His insight and explanations of what must have taken place, the "Banzai" charge, added to the chill already surrounding us. I could sense his emotion as his words about this rescue as he seemed to have been there.

As fate would have it my visit did not occur on the date of the liberation, as there would have been more people participating in memorial services; so Gerome and others in Bruyeres were able to make time for me adding to my experience of their true appreciation for what the Nisei soldiers achieved.



Gerome Villain and daughter Tiffany at the 442nd Monument.

Gerome informed me that he would be off to the National Archives (his second such trip) to continue his research to compile a complete accounting of what took place in October 1944 of the Nisei soldiers in the Vosges Mountains.

Gerome is seeking any information of conditions in and the liberation of the Vosges during WW II as those personal accounts will not be found anywhere else and he realizes he is working against the passage of time.

What is shared with Gerome will go a long way in preserving the history of the achievements of the 100<sup>th</sup>/44<sup>nd</sup> RCT, including the engineers and artillery units for whom enough cannot be said, only appreciate their accomplishments through their sacrifices for the sake of their families and for the sake of their children.

Gerome is a young historian who has a passion of the Nisei soldiers and that he is sharing it with his daughter who could have easily spent the time with friends. The annual Vosges area celebration of liberation day, which features young children, is designed to ensure that young French people will remember the American role in the liberation of France during WWII.



**Germantown School Principal Connects with Senator Spark Matsunaga’s Roots during Her Visit to Kauai**



L-R: Judy Brubaker, Mayor Carvalho, David Brubaker. Mayor’s office. Photo courtesy of David Brubaker.

*Lihue Kauai.* Ms. Judy Brubaker, who for the past 15 years has been Principal of Senator Spark Matsunaga Elementary School at Germantown, Maryland vacationed in Kauai, Hawaii in early October, 2015. Her local hosts were Dr. Glenda Nogami and her husband, Dr. Siegfried Streufert. Dr. Nogami arranged Ms. Brubaker’s meetings with the Chair of the Kauai Veterans Council, a visit to the Kauai Veterans Museum, a luncheon with local WW II Military Intelligence Service veterans; and meetings with the Mayor of Kauai, and the principals of schools that Senator Matsunaga attended during his childhood.

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Brubaker toured the Kauai Veterans Museum which houses memorabilia from veterans of WWII to the present. Mr. Ed Kawamura, President of the Kauai Veterans Council, was her host and guide. This was followed by a luncheon with the WWII Military Intelligence Service (MIS) veterans and their spouses at Kauai Kookie – a restaurant and marketplace owned and operated by the Hashisaka family (one of the MIS veterans). Coincidentally, Shawn and Michael Thompson, Kalaheo Fire fighters and Senator Matsunaga’s nephews, were also having lunch and came over to introduce themselves to Ms. Brubaker.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Ms. Brubaker, her husband Dave and Dr. Nogami were invited by Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. to his office to discuss the decades spanning Sen. Matsunaga’s birth and the subsequent history of the island. The Mayor was interested in how Ms. Brubaker is involved with JAVA and Spark Matsunaga Elementary School. After relaying the story of how the school in Maryland was named after U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga,

Ms. Brubaker said her school is the only school east of the Mississippi River to be named after an Asian American and she is proud to serve in a school chosen to honor a Nisei WW II hero and distinguished U.S. Senator. Ms. Brubaker also informed Mayor Carvalho, that annually, her students and staff conduct a “Veteran’s Day” concert program of patriotic songs to honor all veterans, including Senator Matsunaga and JAVA veterans. Mayor Carvalho, a strong supporter of education on the island, noted with pride the accomplishments of Kauai’s native sons and daughters and was pleased that Ms. Brubaker was visiting schools attended by Senator Matsunaga.

Ms. Brubaker then visited Eleele Elementary School where Spark Matsunaga spent his early school years. Located above the Hanapepe River Bluff, it is a beautiful campus with tall monkeypod trees and beautiful grounds. Mr. Paul Zina, Principal of Eleele, escorted the visitors around the school and Ms. Brubaker was able to visit the special education and pre-school classes, which were of particular interest as she had majored in Early Childhood Education. Ms Brubaker noted with surprise that students leave their shoes/slippers outside the classroom - just like at home.

Senator Matsunaga graduated from Kauai High School, which is located on a bluff above Nawiliwili Harbor. Principal Ms. Anne Kane escorted the visitors throughout the campus. Although most of the early buildings have been replaced, they were shown a couple of buildings that were probably there when Matsunaga was a student. Ms. Brubaker was also struck by the fact that among the distinguished alumni was Gen. Eric Shinseki, Class of 1960.

*[Ed note. Dr. Nogami, who drafted this article, and Dr. Streufert were former residents of Germantown, Maryland when Dr Nogami worked for the Department of Army. They are now retired on Kauai.]*

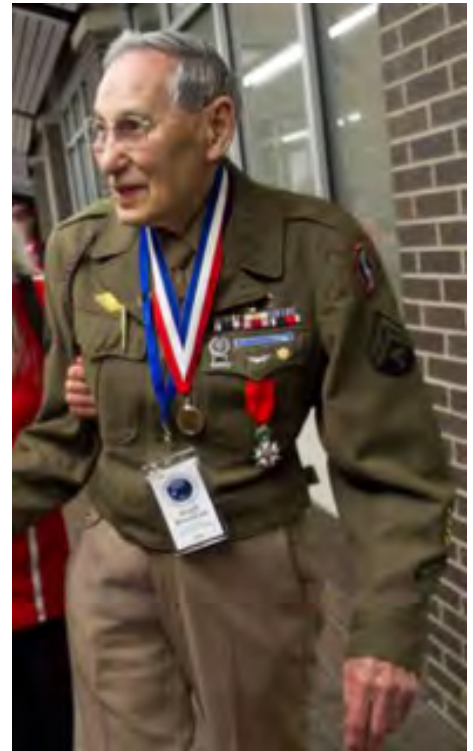


Judy Brubaker met WWII Military Intelligence Service veterans at *Kauai Kookie*. Seated L-R: Dr. Quentin and Gusti Belles, Jenny and Jiro Yukimura. Standing L-R: Norman and Mabel Hashisaka and Brubaker. Photo by David Brubaker.

**JAVA Members Collect Rare WWII Nisei War Memorabilia for US Army Museum**

The US Army Museum, which will display Army artifacts from its establishment in 1775 to the present, is under construction at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Museum officials told JAVA a display location is being planned for Nisei WWII memorabilia. JAVA has passed to the Museum two items, an Eisenhower jacket and a cloth belt containing one thousand knots, called the *Sennin-bari* in Japanese. The Museum is especially interested in displaying a helmet worn by a 442<sup>nd</sup> medic. If any 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran or family has a steel helmet, or helmet liner, especially with the Red Cross designation painted on it, and wishes to donate it to the Army Museum, please contact Alan Goshi, [akg442@aol.com](mailto:akg442@aol.com), 703-946-2832.

Chris Sketchley, member of JAVA, and Rian Ebisugawa, both members of Nisei Veterans Committee of Seattle, Washington, turned over to JAVA an Eisenhower jacket that has a chest full of ribbons, a shirt, necktie and a service cap. The jacket was worn by Tech Sgt Mitsuru Takahashi, L Co. 442<sup>nd</sup> during WWII and was presented to Sketchley and Ebisugawa by Takahashi's daughters. The Eisenhower jacket, or "Ike" jacket, is a type of waist length jacket developed for the U.S. Army during the later stages of WWII. It featured a pleated back, adjustable waistband, fly-front buttons, bellows chest pockets, slash side pockets, and epaulets. It was designated as the Army's dress parade uniform. As he was adored by his men, the men wore the Ike jacket with pride.



| This is an Eisenhower jacket worn by soldiers in WWII. Model is Virgil Westdale, a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup>. |

Hiroshi Shima, JAVA member who resides in Hilo, Hawaii, discovered through a detailed search a cloth belt containing one thousand knots, or *Sennin-bari* in Japanese. This belt is given as an amulet to a soldier going to war to provide him immunity from injury or death. A Japanese tradition, the belts vary in sizes but is normally about three inches wide and about 36 inches in length. Some men in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team which served in Italy and France, and some Nisei who served in combat situations in the Asia Pacific Theater, carried or wore the *Sennin-bari*.

Susumu Ito, a retired Emeritus Professor from Harvard Medical School, and a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> carried a *Sennin-bari* in his vest pocket. He said "In hindsight, perhaps it was my *Sennin-bari* which somehow protected me from



| The *Sennin-bari* |

harm--and I give it full credit for my safe and healthy return. I am forever grateful to my mother, Hisayo, for making the *Sennin-bari* for me" while she was interred in the Rohwer Relocation Camp in Arkansas".

Hiroshi Shima obtained this *Sennin-bari* from John Okino, Hilo, Hawaii, who carried it with him during the Korean War. The *Sennin Bari* worn or carried into combat by Nisei in WW II is similar to Okino's donation.



## OBITUARIES

### Nisei Army Officer of Three Wars Passes

By Ted Jeo



Army Lieutenant Colonel Calvin C. Jeo (retired) who served in World War 2, the Korean Conflict and two tours in Vietnam, passed on October 6, 2015 after a brief illness. He was 87. He recently celebrated his 62<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary with Hildegard, his wife.

Born in Rexburg Idaho, the son of first generation Japanese immigrants, Dad, the quintessential farm boy, grew up doing things like “topping beets”, harvesting lumber in the remote mountains and working

the irrigation ditches. He loved to play basketball, was the outdoorsy kid that was a Boy Scout, loved fishing and apparently, yearned to see the world outside of Idaho.

Drafted into the Army, he was first assigned to the veterinary services and was part of the Army of Occupation of Japan. At the onset of the Korean Conflict, he was reactivated from his ROTC unit and started what was to become a long career as an Army officer. He met Mom and they married on one of his tours to Landshut, West Germany. He was in the first graduating class of the Army Commissary School in Chicago, attended Quartermaster School and became a logistics and contract specialist. He later attended the US Army Command and General Staff College as well.

While serving in Vietnam, Dad was instrumental in the establishment of the Cam Ranh Bay Post Exchange system. Of the more than 33 years he spent serving his country, more than 19 years were spent overseas. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, and the Joint Service Commendation medals among several others. He also has the distinction of being awarded the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon. He retired from the Army in 1979, at Fort Lewis, Washington, the very same place where he had started his Army career.

Dad went back to school and finished his college degree that he was working on when called up for the Korean Conflict, earning a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Puget Sound and a Master’s degree from the University of Southern California. He came out of retirement and was employed a decade with Boeing Computer Services in Seattle but found the time to spend with his friends salmon fishing in Puget Sound.

Even though a career Army officer, Dad never brought his work home. He was the dedicated husband that gave unyielding love and support to his wife. He was the father who showed his love to his sons by spending time fishing and camping; building character and teaching by his own example. He had a quick wit, loved his books and crossword puzzles, and had infallible patience and an assumptive trust that all people are good. He had a special gift with animals, all of which loved him as soon as they met him.

Dad is survived by his wife, Hildegard, son Bob (Paula †) of McKinney TX, son Ted (Kathryn) of Woodbury MN, his grandchildren Lindsey and Ryan, his siblings, sister Leona Hasagawa, brother Frank, brother Herbert (Donna) and sister Lucy (John) Kano, brother in law Joseph Nishimoto, sister in laws Nada and Aiko.

Preceded in death by his parents, Tome and Yoshiko, brothers, Washington, Idaho, Junior, Tom, Jack and sister Eleanor, daughter in law Paula.

Full military services will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Memorial donations may be directed to Japanese American Veterans Association: In memory of Calvin C. Jeo, Mr. Mark Nakagawa, Treasurer, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. In the check memo line note “Museum of the US Army Fund.”

OBITUARIES

**Medal of Honor Recipient George Sakato Passes**



*Denver, Colorado.* George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor recipient and Honorary Chairman of JAVA, passed away peacefully on December 2, 2015 at his home in Denver, Colorado. He was 94.

In his remarks to open the National WW II Memorial at Washington, DC on April 29, 2004, President George Bush singled out Sakato’s heroism

from the 16 million Americans who served during WW II. Bush said Army Private Joe Sakato, “in heavy fighting in France, saw a good friend killed, and charged up a hill, determined to shoot the ones who did it. Private Sakato ran straight into enemy fire, killing 12, wounding 2, capturing 4, and inspiring his whole unit to take the hill and destroy the enemy. Looking back on it 55 years later, Joe Sakato said, ‘I’m not a hero. Nowadays they call what I did road rage.’ This man’s conduct that day gained him the Medal of Honor, one of 464 awarded for actions in WW II,” the President concluded.

Sakato was born in Colton, California and moved with his family to Arizona to avoid being placed in an internment camp. When enlistments reopened for Nisei in 1943, Sakato volunteered for duty at Glendale, Arizona thinking he was joining the Army Air Corps. While being disappointed about this, he trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi and was shipped to Italy with the 442nd in June 1944. In September 1944, the 442<sup>nd</sup> was ordered to move from Italy to the southern front of France to engage the Germans in a two front war. The 442<sup>nd</sup> was assigned to the 36<sup>th</sup> (Texas) Division, whose mission was to clear the German fortress in the Vosges forests, where the enemy built a fortress to prevent the Americans from entering the German homeland. History had told the Germans that since the days of the Holy Roman Empire no invading force was able to defeat the force that occupied the Vosges forests. The 442<sup>nd</sup> mission was to neutralize the Vosges forests thereby allowing the Americans to invade Germany.

The 442<sup>nd</sup> had a two-fold mission in the battle that Sakato was awarded the Medal of Honor. He helped smash the German forces that had trapped a battalion of the 36<sup>th</sup> (Texas) Division. When the Germans retreated from the Vosges forests on October 30, 1944, 211 Texans walked out and this allowed the 7<sup>th</sup> Army to pursue the Germans to and across the German border. Sakato’s citation said he “distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action on 29 October 1944, on hill 617 in the vicinity of Biffontaine, France. After his platoon had virtually destroyed two enemy defense lines, during which he personally killed five enemy soldiers and captured four, his unit was pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Disregarding the enemy fire, Private Sakato made a one-man rush that encouraged his platoon to charge and destroy the enemy strongpoint. While his platoon was reorganizing, he proved to be the inspiration of his squad in halting a counter-attack on the left flank during which his squad leader was killed. Taking charge of the squad, he continued his relentless tactics, using an enemy rifle and P-38 pistol to stop an organized enemy attack. By continuously ignoring enemy fire, and by his gallant courage and fighting spirit, he turned impending defeat into victory and helped his platoon complete its mission. Private Sakato’s extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.”

Following his discharge, Sakato worked as a postal clerk for 32 years. He accepted invitations to speak, paying personally for many trips and lodgings, to tell the American public that the reasons they volunteered for combat duty were to help win the war and to prove Nisei loyalty, which America had questioned. His wife, Bess Saito Sakato, died in 2007. He is survived by his daughter, Leslie, and two brothers.



## OBITUARIES

### Prominent JAVA WWII Veteran Passes (From the Boston Globe)

*Wellesley, Massachusetts.*  
Susumu "Sus" Ito, longtime resident of Wellesley, Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School, and World War II Veteran of the famed Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team, passed away on September 29, 2015. He was 96.

Sus was born in Stockton, CA, the oldest and only son of Japanese immigrant parents, Hisayo and Sohei Ito, who worked in agriculture. He was trained as an auto mechanic when he was drafted into the military in 1940. His parents and two sisters, Masako and Sachi, were confined to the internment camp in Rowher, Arkansas during the war.

Sus was transferred to the 442nd RCT, which became the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. history. He was a forward artillery observer and rose to the rank of lieutenant. Sus was part of the storied rescue of the "Lost Battalion," a unit of the 36th Texas Division. Though the 442nd suffered extreme casualties in the engagement, Sus emerged unscathed. His unit, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, later liberated a sub-camp of the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

After the war, he attended university on the G.I. Bill and earned a PhD in Biology from Case Western University. He joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School in 1960. Although Sus formally retired in 1990, he continued to be active in the lab and enjoyed working with colleagues. In 2011, the U.S. government awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei Veterans for their service in World War II. Sus was elected by his peers to represent their unit to receive the medal from House Speaker John Boehner.

This year, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles hosted an exhibit with a selection of the photos Ito took during the war. The exhibition "Before they were Heroes" also displayed many of the artifacts and memorabilia he donated to the museum, including his Bible given to him by his sister and his *Senninbari*, a symbolically protective sash made by his mother. During the event, the French government awarded eleven Nisei WW II vets its National Order of the Legion of Honor in the rank of Chevalier (Knight). Now his friends joked they could call him Sir Sus.

Sus is survived by Linda and James Ito-Adler of Belmont, MA; Celia and Barry Doe of Belmont, MA; Bruce Ito of San Francisco, CA, Ellen Ito of Falmouth, MA and five grandchildren. His wife, Minnie, and son, Daniel, predeceased him.



Sus Ito (4<sup>th</sup> from right) was one of seven Nisei veterans invited to the Oval Office of the White House to meet President Obama on February 18, 2014, on the occasion of Remembrance Day. The meeting was arranged by Floyd Mori (left) and Christine Sato Yamazaki (right).

## HISTORY

### **US Acquisition and Use of Top Secret Japanese Naval Plans during World War II. Filipino Villagers and Guerrillas Played Key Roles.**

*Cebu, Philippines.* RADM Edwin T. Layton, CINCPAC intelligence chief, said, “our biggest break came not from our reconnaissance flights or enemy radio transmissions, but from another batch of captured documents.” Admiral Layton was referring to the Imperial Japanese Combined Pacific Fleet Z Plan, the top-secret master plan to defeat the US Navy. When the Japanese Navy followed the strategy outlined in the Z Plan in the Battle of the Philippine Sea, June 19-20, 1944, the US naval commanders, who had advance knowledge of Japanese strategy, defeated the Japanese navy soundly and rendered it impotent. This allowed for the land invasion of the islands in the Marianas including Saipan, Tinian, and Guam, giving American bombers the platform to bomb Japan and facilitating the invasion of the Philippines. How was the Z Plan acquired and how did it get to General Douglas MacArthur’s headquarters in Brisbane, Australia? For that question, we need to start at Cebu City, Philippines.

Anticipating American invasion of Palau, Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander in Chief of Japan’s Combined Pacific Fleet, decided to move his headquarters to Davao, Mindanao Island, Philippines, which was under Japan’s control. On the night of March 31, 1944 Admiral Koga and his Chief of Staff VADM Shigeru Fukudome took off from Palau in separate Kawanishi Flying Boats. They encountered a severe tropical storm over the Philippines. Koga’s plane vanished and all personnel were declared dead. At approximately 2:30 AM on the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup>, Fukudome’s plane ditched several miles from the shores near Cebu City. Ten navy personnel survived, including Vice Admiral Fukudome and one, apparently familiar with the area, who swam to the Onoda Cement Naga factory, where he sought help. At day break,



| This is the kind of aircraft Admiral Mineichi Koga, Commander of the Combined Pacific Fleet and VADM Shigeru Fukudome, Chief of Staff, took from Palau to their new Pacific Fleet headquarters in Davao, Philippines. |

Cebuano villagers brought the 9 survivors to shore and turned them over to Filipino guerrillas, who quickly began the trek to the interior of Cebu island, where the American stay-behind contingent, commanded by LTC James M.

Cushing, was located. When the Japanese Navy visited the rescue site later that morning, there was no trace of the survivors. Japanese air patrols could not detect them because the guerrillas walked under tree cover.

A couple days later a villager saw an object floating near the shore of the crash site. When he opened the oil covered box and noticed the content he instinctively viewed it as important and turned it over to the guerrillas who rushed it to Cushing’s headquarters. The villagers also retrieved other items from the crash such as code books.

After a couple of days, the Japanese Army also participated in the search. They knew the location of Cushing’s guerrilla headquarters and headed in that direction destroying villages and committing atrocities to obtain information and to seek the return of the survivors and documents. Cushing was deeply disturbed by the atrocities on civilians. To stop these atrocities, Cushing offered to return the survivors to the Japanese Army commander. The Japanese Army commander’s agreement resulted in a formal exchange of prisoners ceremony that took place in Tabunan under a mango tree, not far from Cushing’s headquarters. The Japanese Army withdrew as agreed, albeit temporarily, with the Japanese survivors. VADM Fukudome was Japan’s highest ranking Japanese military officer to become a prisoner of war.

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## HISTORY

### Top Secret Japanese Naval Plans (...continued from previous page)



| USS Crevelle, starboard view. |

Cushing had the Z Plan packed in two mortar shell containers and passed them to American officers who escaped from Japanese POW camp, to take, under guerrilla escort, to the rendezvous location with a US submarine. COL Salvador Abcede, a guerrilla leader who had direct communications with MacArthur's headquarters, arranged the details of the secret rendezvous with the submarine, USS Crevelle. At 5:00 PM on May 11, 1944, Abcede was at the agreed location in the sea and the submarine emerged to the surface before the eyes of some astonished Americans. Abcede and the submarine captain exchanged brief amenities,

loaded the Americans refugees and passed the two canisters containing the Z Plan. With the job done, Abcede left the Crevelle, which quickly submerged and headed towards Darwin, Australia for the 8 day journey. A special air courier delivered the two mortar canisters to ATIS (Allied Translation and Interrogation Service) in Brisbane, where a team of 5 top Japanese linguists, including 2 Nisei, translated the document.

The translated Z Plan was air couriered to CINCPAC and subsequently the CINCPAC version of the translation was air couriered again to Eniwetok, where the US naval commanders had just completed their planning meeting for the Battle of the Philippine Sea. The Z plan was passed to Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, who was just about to leave port; passed to Admiral William Halsey's staff; and air dropped to VADM Marc A. Mitscher's flag ship. The Japanese naval commanders, who apparently accepted Fukudome's statement that the Z Plan sank with the plane, followed the strategy outlined in the Z Plan. The Z Plan also disclosed the locations of Japanese land air bases, the number and condition of the vessels, and strength information and other vital logistical data.

In his article, Bradsher said, "historians acknowledge that the exploitation of the Z Plan was one of the greatest single intelligence feats of the war in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA)."

JAVA's Time Line can be found on JAVA website, [www.java.wildapricot.org](http://www.java.wildapricot.org). It provides three versions of the Z Plan issue, the US version which follows Dr. Greg Bradsher's article, *The Z Plan Story*, in National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) magazine, *Prologue*, Fall 2005; a Japanese version provided by Dr. Shinzo Kitamura from Japanese sources; and a Filipino guerrilla version provided by the late COL Manuel F. Segura's book, *Tabunan: The Untold Stories of Cebu guerrillas in WWII*. The Filipino guerilla officer's version provides insights of the pressures Cushing was under and the courage and patriotism of the Cebuano people and guerrillas. Dr. Kitamura's version provides insights of the Imperial Navy's dilemma that Fukudome allowed himself to be captured and the compartmentation between the Japanese Army and Navy even during a crisis.

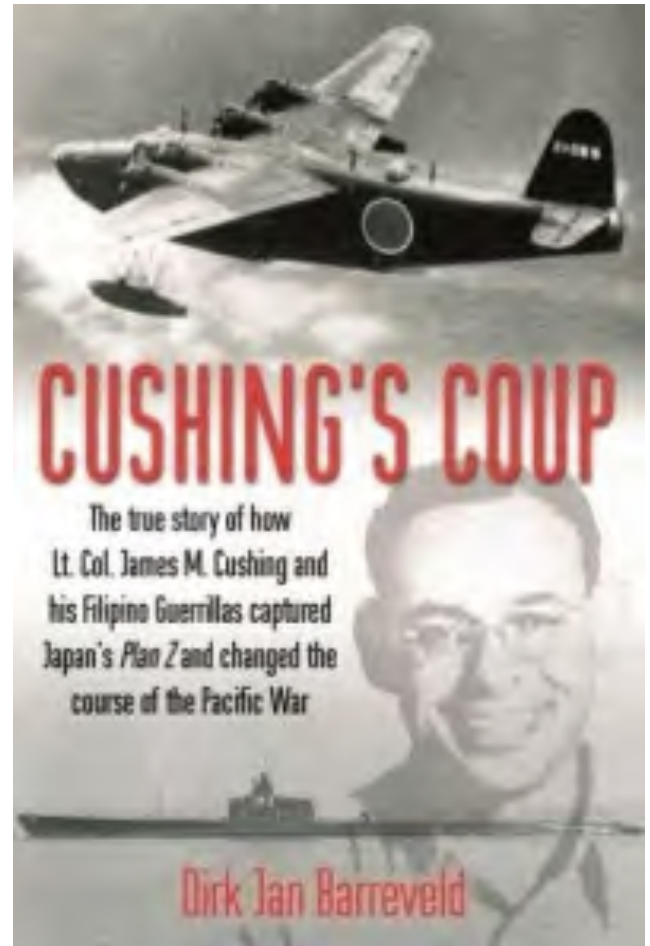
## HISTORY

[EdNote. The following book review appeared on the Naval Historian Foundation website on October 26, 2015.]

**Review of *Cushing's Coup: The True Story of How Lt. Col. James Cushing and His Filipino Guerrillas Captured Japan's Plan Z and Changed the Course of the Pacific War*, by Dirk Barreveld (Havertown, PA: Casement Publishers, 2015).** Reviewed by Nathan Albright

*Manila, Philippines.* Every once in a while there is a book about a forgotten or neglected aspect of World War II history that makes a reader wonder why this story has not been turned into a movie. *Cushing's Coup* is one of those books, managing not only to tell the story of how Cushing's daring and independent spirit as a guerrilla leader on Cebu during World War II sought to preserve both the well-being of the local population during occupation, but also managed to provide the Allied forces with detailed plans about the Japanese military in 1944 that greatly influenced the dispositions of the American fleets in the Battles of the Philippine Sea as well as Leyte Gulf. It also led General Douglas MacArthur to push the timetable of his return to the Philippines two months earlier. As the author notes, his leadership and his intelligence gathering was worthy of the Medal of Honor, and it is unjust that the location of his grave is unknown and that his heroism is largely unknown today. Of course, if this book is widely read, memory of his deeds is likely to increase.

The book does more than detail this incident, although it serves as the inspiration of the book. Rather, Barreveld manages to place Cushing's actions as a local guerrilla commander in a larger context that examines the American imperial presence in the Philippines, the importance of the Philippines for its natural resources as well as for its control of vital shipping lines for Japan, the power of the native oligarchy in the Philippines that to this day has hindered a more just political and economic order, and the lure of mining in the Philippines that led James Cushing and at least two of his brothers to travel there during the interwar period. Barreveld also manages to examine Cushing's behavior with regards to Plan Z in the larger context of guerrilla activities in the period between 1941 and 1945, and the achievement of the Cebu guerrillas under his command, including their ability to avoid infiltration by the Japanese and their impressive record in battle and in raids against the Japanese occupying forces.



One of the most compelling aspects of this book, and what makes it a likely source material for a gripping war movie, is the descriptive nature of various elements of the story of Cushing's resistance against Japan and the travel of Plan Z in absolute secrecy on both sides. After a dramatic plane crash leaves some high-ranking Japanese officials as captives of the local guerrillas, a massive crackdown by Japan's occupying forces follows, and the absence of timely communication with Allied commanders leads Cushing to exchange prisoners for a release of military pressure on the local population. Meanwhile, some uncoded Japanese documents are found on the beach. Once their value is realized, they were shipped to Australia via submarine with everything being done in the highest level of secrecy. Likewise, the...

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# HISTORY

## **Review of *Cushing's Coup*** (...continued from previous page)

...behaviour of the guerrillas as well as the Japanese authorities in Tokyo to the surviving prisoners in the aftermath of their capture, and the treatment of local dignitaries by the Japanese, is of a gripping nature that would be likely to be of interest to those who have read books like *Captured: The Forgotten Men Of Guam*, *Unbroken*, or *King Rat*, as portraying various aspects of the Japanese Co-Prosperity Sphere and how it acted towards those under its misrule.

The book also manages to provide detail of the command infrastructure of the various guerrilla groups, and how there was a great deal of political rivalry and infighting among them. The tardy recognition of Cushing's leadership by Allied command hindered the logistical efforts of the guerrillas in Cebu, forcing them to be more resourceful in acquiring supplies from Japanese occupation forces in the absence of local capabilities in manufacturing their own munitions, and also hindering promotions and recognition of the achievements of the Cebu guerrillas. The political infighting on the side of the Allies, including the lure of betrayal, which was avoided by sound intelligence work, is one of the more intriguing elements of the story, demonstrating that issues of command for guerrilla operations is seldom smooth and depends on a great deal of diplomatic action as well as the ability to maintain communications with cells in occupied territory, no easy task.

Ultimately, this book serves several functions. For one, it reveals the serendipitous discovery and savvy exploitation of the intelligence coup of the naval plans of the Imperial Japanese Navy for 1944, demonstrating the importance of intelligence to the prosecution of the Allied effort during the Pacific War, and how that intelligence depended on little-known and poorly remembered people on the ground like Lt. Col. James Cushing and his local guerrillas of Cebu.

Also of great interest, besides the value of this work in the larger place of World War II historiography, is the attention paid to areas of political, diplomatic, and logistical skill, a vivid portrayal of the difficulties of guerrilla and anti-insurgent combat, and also the difficulties faced by war heroes in being remembered when their service has taken place in what are now post-colonial regimes. In providing a record of the heroism of a forgotten man, this book serves to enlighten its readers about a man as well as the place and time in which he operated, all of which are insufficiently known even by those who are avid readers of World War II history.

*[EdNote. Barreveld was born in the Netherlands, about 30 kilometers south of Amsterdam. He grew up on a dairy farm. He graduated from the Amsterdam Naval College in the Netherlands and the Royal Netherlands Naval College and spent 10 years at sea as officer in the Royal Netherlands Navy and merchant navy. After his career at sea he became an international transport specialist. He worked for several large transport companies, among others Schiphol Amsterdam Airport, international institutions, and foreign governments. During the nineties he was instrumental in the modernization of Mactan-Cebu International Airport. He also has a doctoral degree in Economic Science from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.]*



On December 5, 2015, the film “**Sugihara Chiune**” premiered in Tokyo. The film tells the story of the Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who disobeyed his government in 1940 and issued transit visas to over 6,000 Jewish refugees, allowing them to escape certain death in Nazi concentration camps. It is estimated that over 40,000 people are alive today thanks to Sugihara's courage. The Japan-America Society of Washington, DC plans to screen the film "Sugihara Chiune" on the opening day of its 2016 CineMatsuri - Film Festival.

Left image: Chiune Sugihara, on right; Japanese actor Toshiaki Karasawa portraying Chiune, on left. Above: Japanese poster for the film. Images courtesy of Ambassador Malott.

**News from UN’s Top Commander in Afghanistan**

*[EdNote. General John F. Campbell (right), USA, Commander of the international Security Assistance Forces/US Forces-Afghanistan, or otherwise known as the Resolute Support Command (RSC) sends a newsletter periodically to members of his command, their families, and others on his distro. He provides his perspective of the issues and how his Command is coping with them. We thank GEN Campbell for his insights and for taking the time to keep us informed. The following are excerpts from his recent (October and November 2015) Newsletters.]*

*Kabul, Afghanistan.* The pace of operations here in Afghanistan remains extraordinarily high, and there have been many important developments in our campaign. We have experienced both great successes, and a few notable setbacks in the back half of this Fighting Season. Our Afghan partners have been severely tested in their first year entirely in the lead for all security operations. They have fought hard, and have suffered significant casualties. However, they’ve held. The Afghan Security Forces continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience. They now own the fight—this is as it should be. Yet it’s also clear that they will continue to need our support for years to come. For this reason, President Obama recently made the sound decision to extend our current commitment. I applaud his flexibility and continued confidence in our mission, the Afghan Security Forces, and the Afghan government. The road ahead remains a difficult one. Yet I’m confident that with the U.S. and NATO’s renewed commitment to this mission, and the Afghans’ continued resolve to fight for and build their country, we can be successful.

President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah have overcome considerable obstacles. Both are honorable and dedicated patriots who wish the best for their country and people. They also greatly appreciate and value our contributions. The Afghan Security Forces faced a tough fight in northern Helmand a few weeks ago. The Taliban massed and quickly overran several Afghan units there. We immediately sent an RS Expeditionary Advisory Package to Helmand to advise the Afghan Security Forces and provide critical enabler support. Fortunately, the Afghans eventually rallied and effectively responded to the Taliban attack. The insurgents have declared the seizure of northern Helmand as their key strategic goal, and it will probably remain a contested area for some time. Although the Afghan Security Forces faltered, they eventually recovered; they did not quit.

Last month, I was honored to receive an invitation to travel to India and participate in a panel of defense experts with several senior Indian leaders. We discussed the security situation in Afghanistan and how India can play a key role in



bringing stability to this important region. . . . I enjoyed the privilege of addressing the NATO Chiefs of Defense in late September as well. I expressed my gratitude for their commitment and support of our campaign in Afghanistan. . . . The Italian-led Train, Advise, and Assist Command-West (TAAC-W) conducted a transfer of authority on 15 September between Brigadier General Michele Risi and Brigadier General Mauro D’Ubaldi.

Last month the Afghan Government held the inaugural Afghanistan Economic Development Conference in Dubai. The conference hosted over 100 private companies with interests in investing in the future of Afghanistan. . . . U.S. Central Command hosted its first Central and South Asian Chiefs of Defense (CASA CHOD) conference in early October in Garmisch, Germany, with the Afghan Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Qaddam Shah. It brought together, for the first time, every country in the region aside from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. . . . On 6 and 8 October, I testified to both the Senate and House Armed Services Committee. I welcomed the opportunity to hold an open discussion with our lawmakers about the current security situation in Afghanistan. . . . A Congressional delegation, led by the Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY), conducted a visit with us from 14-16 October. Senator McConnell is no stranger to Afghanistan, having visited numerous times. . . . We have also had to say good bye to many of our staff leaders as they completed their tours. (...continued on following page)



**News from Veterans Organizations and Friends**

Los Angeles, California. The November 16 issue of *e-Torch* said The Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) office has moved into the second floor of the Nishi Hongwanji Building, in the Little Tokyo historic district of downtown Los Angeles. This site is close to the Go For Broke Monument. Also, the first floor will be the exhibition area that is scheduled to open in May 2016. The new GFBNEC address is 355 East 1st Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, California, 90012. The main phone number remains the same: (310) 328-0907. The same *e-Torch* issue said the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors honored GFBNEC President Don Nose on October 27 for his leadership of the organization. JAVA offers congratulations to Don.

San Francisco, California. The National Japanese American Historical Society Building 640 Learning Center focus their work on educational programs for schools and universities reflecting on the Japanese American experience in the Internment camps located throughout the United States. They are also working on a partnership with the National Parks Service, in developing an educational program. Rosalyn Tonai is the Executive Director of NJAHS.

Torrance, California. The National Veterans Network (NVN) is developing the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition in collaboration with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and Smithsonian National Museum of American History. This digital exhibition will serve as the educational arm to the Congressional Gold Medal that is now on display in the *Price of Freedom* exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. To be unveiled in 2016, it will bring to life the personal stories of Japanese-American WWII soldiers and will show how the entire Japanese American WWII experience has helped to transform America over the past seven decades. The Executive Director of NVN is Christine Sato Yamazaki.

Honolulu, Hawaii. *The Puka Puka Parade*, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans (Hawaii) Newsletter for December-January 2015-2016, asked its Board members to evaluate their 2015 accomplishments and what they anticipated for 2016. The survey showed strong emphasis on educating the public on the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion veterans experience during WW II. President Lloyd Kitaoka said the Education Center has told the 100<sup>th</sup> story to 1,200 people in 2015 and with the aid of an updated website this number should increase in 2016.

Wailuku, Maui. The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) Newsletter, *Okage Sama De*, October 2015 issue reported that Hiroshi Arimisu, a veteran of the 232<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, was accorded President Emeritus status of NVMC. This is in recognition of his 25 years on the NVMC Board, during which he served as President for 23 years.

Honolulu, Hawaii. The October 2015 MIS Veterans of Hawaii Newsletter said the City and County of Honolulu plans to rededicate the Neal S. Blaisdell Center on November 10, 2015 as a War Memorial. The Center is dedicated to all sons and daughters of Hawaii who served their nation in time of war.

**Afghanistan** (...continued from previous page)

As I close this (October) update, I would like to express my condolences and sorrow for the lives lost in the tragic bombing of the Doctors without Borders Medical Clinic in Kunduz. . . . I also extend my deepest sympathies to the families of those Afghanistan Security Forces and Coalition members who were killed in recent operations. The last four weeks have been especially difficult for our Coalition as we lost a U.S. Soldier to a gunshot wound; a Georgian service member to an insurgent attack; six U.S. crewmembers, four American contractors, a Kazakh contractor, and three Afghan civilians in a C-130 crash; and two British aircrew, two U.S. Air Force members, and a French citizen in a Puma helicopter crash here at Camp RS. . . . Our weekly Friday morning memorial service continues to remind us of those who have gone before us. We never forget the sacrifices of our fallen as we honor their legacy by continuing this important mission.

**ADVOCATE CORRECTIONS:**

The italicized note at the end of the article on page 9 of the Advocate Fall 2015 issue misidentified Judge Garry Ichikawa as the brother of the legendary Grant Ichikawa, rather than his nephew. Judge Ichikawa served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Fort Carson, Colorado, during the Viet Nam War. He is the son of Grant's brother, Tomio Ichikawa, who also served in the MIS.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- April 2, 2016. Freedom Walk. National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.
- April 16, 2016. Cherry Blossom Sakura Matsuri. Capital Riverfront (Navy Yard Metro), M Street and New Jersey Ave SE.
- May 29, 2016. Program at Arlington Cemetery.
- May 30, 2016. National Memorial Day Parade. Constitution Ave.
- July 16, 2016. JAVA Quarterly Luncheon, Harvest Moon Restaurant.
- November 11, 2016. Veterans Day Program, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

**Call for Poetry Submissions**

The editors of the *Advocate* would like to invite Japanese-American Veterans to submit self-composed poetry for inclusion in upcoming issues. Any genre of poetry is welcome, and any topic is appropriate, ranging from everyday life to your military service. Please submit via email to [java.advocate.editors@gmail.com](mailto:java.advocate.editors@gmail.com), with the subject line reading, "poetry submission." We look forward to reading your verses!!!



**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**c/o JAVA President**  
**P.O. Box 341198**  
**Bethesda, MD 20827**

**Please send correspondence to:**

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- Freedom Walk: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), [Martyherb@aol.com](mailto:Martyherb@aol.com), 703-509-6473
- National Memorial Day Parade: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) (see above)
- Arlington Cemetery: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), [brucehollywood@gmail.com](mailto:brucehollywood@gmail.com), 703-229-3198
- National Archives Research: Fumie Yamamoto, [yamamotoff@yahoo.com](mailto:yamamotoff@yahoo.com), 301-942-3985
- Newsletter (Advocate): Prof. Anri Yasuda and Prof. Chad Diehl, Editors, [java.advocate.editors@gmail.com](mailto:java.advocate.editors@gmail.com);  
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**JAVA Advocate under new editorship.**

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**As spring has finally arrived, lifting the cold blanket of winter, we leave you with two poems by Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694) celebrating the beauty of sakura blossoms.**

*between our two lives  
 there is also the life of  
 the cherry blossom*

(Translation by Robert Hass)

*beneath the trees  
 in the soup, the salad, everywhere  
 cherry blossoms!*

(Translation by Haruo Shirane)