



# JAVA ADVOCATE



Navy CAPT Nakagawa and his A6A Intruder.

## Navy Captain Nakagawa Achieves Two Major Goals

By Larry Oda

*Monterey, California.*

Who is the late retired Captain Gordon R. Nakagawa, USN? Gordon was born in Auburn, CA, on June 13, 1935. At age 6, he and his family were forcibly imprisoned at the Tule Lake internment center. After the war, Gordon’s family relocated in Lincoln, California. He received his commission through the Navy ROTC program when he graduated from the University of California at Berkeley in 1958. He then completed flight training, and received his designation as a Naval Aviator in August 1959. Gordon flew 185 combat missions, with four combat deployments to Vietnam. In December 1972, his aircraft was struck by enemy fire, resulting in Gordon being taken as a Prisoner of War (POW) in Hanoi, North Vietnam. He was one of the last POWs released from the “Hanoi Hilton,” on March 29, 1973. Following his release, Gordon was assigned to command and teaching assignments at domestic posts, including at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Captain Nakagawa’s awards include two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and a POW Medal. He was an advocate and champion of education. For 8-1/2 years, he was an elected trustee on the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Board and a Board Member Emeritus of Leadership Monterey Peninsula. *(continued on page 3...)*

## VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE III

### Inside This Issue:

NJAHS to Celebrate MIS 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.	2
List of JAVA Officers	2
Welcome New Members	3
Korean War Veterans Hold Reunion	3
JAVA Speakers, West Point and DOL	4
Story of Aerial Gunner Matsumoto	5
Shimoda's, Husband's Uncles at MIS	5
Ishimoto, Keynote Speaker at <i>RARE</i>	6
CGM Awarded to Filipino Veterans	6
Congratulations to the Kurodas	6
AVC Gives Award to Judge Okamoto	7
75 <sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Pearl Harbor	7
Previte Meets Her WWII Rescuers	8
Tour of France, July 2019	9
Smithsonian Recognizes Nisei Soldiers	9
Infantry Div. Led by Asian American	10
Photographs of Some Recent Events	11
Meet the Generals and Admirals	12
History: Sugihara Film Screens in DC	13
History: Three Recent Books	14
Obituaries	15-16
NVN’s Digital Commemoration	17
JAVA Honor Roll	18



Group photo features WW II Nisei veterans taken at the 2nd Anniversary of the Opening of the MIS Historic Learning Center.  
Photo by Mark Shigenaga

**NJAHS to Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MIS on November 12, 2016**

By Bryan Yagi, Board Member and Past President of NJAHS.

The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the first Military Intelligence Service Language School at Building 640 (now the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center), located in the Presidio of San Francisco, on November 12, 2016. Building 640 housed the first class. The event begins at 10 a.m. with Dr. James McNaughton of the U.S. Army Center for Military History and author of *Nisei Linguists: Military Intelligence Service During WW II*, as keynote speaker.

A luncheon will begin at 12 p.m. at the Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse with John Tagami, former staff member of US Senator Daniel Akaka’s office as Special Guest. Due to limited seating, RSVP for the luncheon must be made by October 25, 2016. The MISLS HLC will remain open with film screenings, docent tours, and exhibits until 5 p.m. The \$10 fee will be waived on November 12. Please RSVP online at [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org) or call the office at (415) 921-5007.

**JAVA Officers**

Honorary Chairs

US Senator Daniel Akaka (Ret)  
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor

Elected Officers

COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President  
LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Vice President  
Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, Secretary  
COL George Ishikawa, ARNG, Treasurer

Executive Council

Elected Officers plus:

Wade Ishimoto  
Reuben Yoshikawa  
CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret)  
LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret)  
LTC Brett T. Egusa, USAR,  
Col Dale Shirasago, USAF (Ret)  
Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Exec. Dir. (ED)  
Col Bruce Hollywood USAF (Ret), Deputy ED

Administration/Webmaster

Beth Kelley

**Korean War Veterans Hold Reunion in Las Vegas**



The Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) held its reunion at the Hotel California in Las Vegas from May 5-8, 2016. This photo was taken in the hospitality room where veterans toasted with soft drinks and a bottle of Crown Royal given to Joe Annello by his buddy who bought it aboard a troop ship off the coast of Korea in 1956. Annello decided to bring this rare vintage to the reunion. From left to right: Vince Okamoto & Ken Hayashi (who are Vietnam veterans), Hershey Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient, Warren Nishida, Maui, Hiro Shima, Hilo, and Annello (Colorado). Photo from Annello.

**Welcome New Members!**

January 1 through September 8, 2016

Regular Members:

- COL Michael Asada, USA (Ret)
- MSgt Joyce Kitaoka Blake, USAF (Ret)
- LTC Maria Bochat, USA
- LTC Mayumi Cole, USA (Ret)
- Lt Col Alan Doi, USAF (Ret)
- LTC Robert Everson, USA (Ret)
- CDR Janet Fujikawa, USN (Ret)
- Rev. Michael Hiranuma, USAF veteran
- Richard Ishimaru, Jr., USAF veteran
- Mayumi Kimura, USN veteran
- CDR Frank Koye, USN (Ret)
- SFC Alexander Linnehan, USA (Ret)
- SFC Jeffrey Morita, USA (Ret)
- LTC Jon Narimatsu, USA (Ret)
- Col Michelle Obata, USAF (Ret)
- LTC David Olsen, USA
- MSgt Stephen “Ponz” Ponzini, USAF (Ret)
- SSG Brandon Quan, USA (Ret)
- Casey Shibata, USMC veteran
- Greg Shigemasa, USAF veteran
- MM1 Martin Suzuki, USN (Ret)
- LTC Philip Ujiie, USN (Ret)
- BG William Way, USA
- MSgt Kevin L. Westberg, USAF (Ret)
- Nicole Whiting, USMC veteran

Friends of JAVA:

- Chris Brusatte, Friend of JAVA
- Sarah Honda, Friend of JAVA
- Brandon Ishikata, Friend of JAVA
- John Lubianetsky, Friend of JAVA
- Erik Miyashiro, USA, Friend of JAVA
- Robert Moritsugu, Friend of JAVA
- Kayla Muraoka, Friend of JAVA
- Sara Muraoka, Friend of JAVA
- Dr. Emily Murase, Friend of JAVA
- Kate Okusa, Friend of JAVA
- Amy Shibao, Friend of JAVA
- Yoko Stevens, Friend of JAVA
- Blaine Wicklund, Friend of JAVA

**Navy Captain Nakagawa Achieves Two Major Goals**

(...continued from pg. 1)

Captain Nakagawa received a Leadership Recognition Award from the California Association of Leadership Programs; honored as a 2000 Distinguished Fellow, California State University Monterey Bay; chosen as the 2004 Monterey County Veteran of the Year; and along with wife Jeanne, were jointly recognized in 2006 as Marina Citizen of the Year. *[Larry Oda, former President of JACL, and Nakagawa served aboard the USS Ranger, an aircraft carrier, during the 1967-68 deployment to Vietnam and the seizure of the USS Pueblo in January 1968.]*

*[EdNote: The above article about Captain Nakagawa has been condensed. To read the Captain Nakagawa story in its entirety, please go to <https://java.wildapricot.org/Press-Releases.> During WWII Nisei were banned from serving in the US Navy due to racism. Also, the Army Air Force institutionally tried to keep the Nisei out, however, some nine managed to find their way in the Army Air Corps. Thanks to the outstanding combat performance records of the 442<sup>nd</sup> and the Tuskegee airmen which contributed to the climate for post WWII reforms which thereby leveled the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank, Gordon R. Nakagawa was accepted in the US Navy and he was a pilot of a fighter plane (A6A intruder). There were other Japanese Americans who served as pilots and navigators in the US Air Force and US Navy. See story of John Matsumoto, a WWII gunner, on page 5 here.]*

## JAVA Speakers Address West Point Cadets and DOL Employees Nationwide

Department of Labor, Washington, DC. Led by Former Secretary Norman Mineta, JAVA Honorary Chairman, the JAVA Speakers Team participated in a two hour program at the Department of Labor (DOL) Headquarters on May 23, 2016 to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month. They spoke to an audience that included 8 West Point cadets on a field trip and to DOL personnel. The first half of the program featured an armchair conversation between Mineta and Deputy Labor Secretary Chris Lu. The second half was a panel discussion by Mary Murakami, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret) and Terry Shima who discussed the Japanese American experience during WWII and their legacy. The program was webcast to DOL employees in Washington, DC and to DOL offices across the nation.



Photo: Secretary Mineta (center) and Deputy Secretary Chris Lu (left) discussed with West Point cadets (white shirts and light blue trousers) the dynamics and responsibilities of leadership. Behind Mineta is Alan Goshi (cap). Photo from DOL.

Deputy Secretary Lu’s questions touched on Mineta’s experience in government and politics, internment, public service, and civil rights and lessons he acquired along the way. Lu asked Mineta to discuss the dynamics that occurred at the senior leadership level as the result of the 9/11 attack. Mineta explained he was summoned to the White House, his admonition to the cabinet members to remember the treatment of ethnic Japanese when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, his accompanying the President to meet Muslim residents, his spending the rest of the day in the underground emergency command center deep under the White House from where he ordered all flights in the air to land their planes immediately. After 30 minutes, Lu invited questions from the floor and the field which were numerous.



Photo: Dr. Macri and cadets at Jerome. L-R: Macri, Cadet Jack Lowe, Cadet Toby Yates, Major Danny Sjursen, Cadet Ashley Salgado, Cadet Baxter Hodge, Cadet Maddie Suba, Cadet Whitney Gunderman, Cadet Neon Stern, Dr. Robert Goldstein, and Cadet Otuoze Baiye. Photo from Dr. Macri.

These discussions served as background to the cadets’ *Civil Rights Staff Ride*, a three week course organized by Professor Robert Goldstein that included a field trip to a site integral to civil rights. This is a joint effort of West Point’s Law and History Departments to study racism past and present. Cadet Baxter Hodge described the course as follows: “Through participation in this “civil rights staff ride” I hope to learn about the struggle of individuals and groups to attain civil rights in the United States and what has occurred in the past and present. I believe this knowledge will ultimately help me become a

better leader.” When the discussion ended the cadets left by train to visit a number of sites, including the internment camp sites at Jerome and Rohwer, Arkansas, where some 16,000 ethnic Japanese were imprisoned during WW II.

CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), whose father and grandparents were imprisoned at the Jerome internment camp, met the cadets on May 28, 2016 at Jerome, where she provided an on-the-ground brief about the internment issue and life in the internment camp. Her brief included the internment of some 800 internees from Hawaii and the arrest and imprisonment of civic leaders, educators, and Buddhist clergy in Department of Justice prisoner-of-war camps in Texas and Louisiana from 1941-1944.

**Story of Nisei Army Air Corps Tail Gunner during WWII**

By Jane Matsumoto

Mother’s Day 2016 was greeted with sunshine and a mild breeze over Marin County in the San Francisco bay area where I was visiting



family recently. We opted for a brunch past Santa Rosa in a quaint town called Forestville and drove back through Sebastopol, hometown of John Hideo Matsumoto. John was born on December 21, 1919 in Penngrove, California and raised in nearby Sebastopol where he received his draft notice on December 1, 1941. Thereafter, he enlisted with the US Army Air Corps. He was sent to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi on December 6, 1941.

In 1942, he attended armament school at Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado and in September, embarked to Europe. John sailed on the Queen Mary to Scotland and was sent to England for three months. In December 1942 he was assigned to Oran Air Force Base, North Africa and volunteered for gunnery training and sent to an air base at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, Italy. He served as an aerial gunner with the 97th Squadron, 47th Bomb Group; 12th Air Force, US Army Air Corps. His missions were flown aboard a Douglas A-20 light attack bomber, a twin-engine aircraft with a crew of four. In 1943, John was assigned to an air base in Corsica, Italy, where A-20s flew night missions.

In August 1943 after 50 combat missions and two years overseas, John was rotated back to the United States. Upon his return he visited his parents, sister and brother who were interned at the Amache (Grenada) Colorado Camp. In 1945 John was discharged with a rank of Staff Sgt at Fort Logan, Colorado and soon married Akie Sakamoto whom he met while visiting family in Amache. Together, they raised three children. John passed away in November 2001, followed by his wife of 55 years, in July 2004.

This Mother’s Day as we drove down Old Station Road in Sebastopol, we surmised where John’s family home likely stood – railroad tracks serve as a reliable landmark. The end of the road opens to famed Wild Horse Winery. We toasted to mothers and remembered John fondly. We drove past Analy High School where John lettered in multiple varsity sports, and headed home to Marin. It was a nice Mother’s Day. [EdNote: The writer is daughter-in-law of Aerial Gunner Matsumoto.]

**Donna Shimoda’s and Caucasian Husband’s Uncles Served in MIS Language School—Small World**

Donna Shimoda Hollingshead

Montgomery County, Maryland. Donna Shimoda and John Hollingshead first met in college in 1979. When they married 3 years later, they had no idea that their families shared an earlier connection – members of each family had served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

Shortly after the US entered the war, like millions of other young American men, Katsuma Nishimoto [pictured right], one of Donna’s maternal uncles, volunteered to join the Army. While Nishimoto was being assigned to the MIS Language School (MISLS) and reporting to his first duty station at Camp Savage, Minnesota, his parents and siblings (including Donna’s mother, Setsuko) were being interned at Poston, Arizona. After completing his training at Camp Savage, Nishimoto was stationed in southeast Asia for the remainder of the war, where his work involved translating Japanese military documents and intercepted communications. His daughter Noriko recalls that one of her dad’s assignments was to participate in a covert operation to be sent to India, but the war ended just before the group was to depart. “Thank goodness, or we might not have been born!”



When the MISLS was relocated from Camp Savage to Fort Snelling, Minnesota in 1944, COL Frank Hollingshead [pictured left], John’s uncle, was assigned to the school as its Assistant Commandant. Col. Hollingshead remained at MISLS through its move to

Monterey, California in 1946. In 1948, Col. Hollingshead was assigned to Tokyo to serve as an administrator in the Allied occupation.

Did Nishimoto and COL Hollingshead ever meet? Both men died many years ago, so there is no way to know for certain. However, we do know that both men served their country with distinction during the war, and their mutual descendants are proud to be their heirs.

[Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, Ed.D. is Associate Superintendent of School Administration, Office of School Support and Improvement, Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, Maryland.]

**JAVA Member Keynote Speaker at RARE Awards Dinner**

Wade Ishimoto, immediate past president of JAVA and decorated special forces officer, was the keynote speaker for the inaugural *RARE Under 40 Awards* held at the Palomar Hotel, Washington, DC, on April 16, 2016. *RARE* is an affiliate of Cox Communications that chose to recognize millennials for the conviction of their beliefs, care for others, and community service.

There were 29 diverse awardees, all under 40 years of age, that included two from Hawaii, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, an Army reservist, and Diana Kim. Kim, who was separated from her father, a veteran, at an early age, found him as a homeless person and resurrected his life as well as other homeless persons.

The awardees also included six military veterans, including B. T. Urruela, an Army veteran who lost his leg in Iraq who started VETSports to help others; Chris Mintz, an Army veteran who confronted a shooter at a Community College in Oregon and saved other's lives and is an advocate for treating autism; Mohammed Shaker, a former 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne medic who is a libertarian activist for diversity; Phil Klay, a former Marine who has won awards for writing books about military service; and Seth Jordan, a former Marine who runs Dog Tag Brewing that provides high quality brews to honor fallen service members.

Ishimoto said, "Those we honor tonight represent the future of America and the world. They are leaders, they are contributors to our society, they are compassionate about others. America is in great hands and our future secured when we have citizens like those we honor tonight."



Photo: Wade Ishimoto wearing his coveted awards. The green ribbon and medallion is the Colonel Aaron Bank medal presented to those in the Special Forces Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment. The Red/Yellow ribbon and medallion is the R. Lynn Rylander Award that is the highest award presented by the National Defense Industrial Association's Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict Division.

**US Senate Approves Award of Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino WWII Veterans**

*Washington, D.C.* In mid-July 2016, the Senate unanimously passed a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to Filipino World War II veterans, who fought with the U.S. The CGM is the highest award Congress bestows to civilians. The bill was introduced by US Senator Mazie Hirono and received wide bipartisan support.

During WWII, 250,000 Filipinos fought for the U.S. They were promised the same benefits as the U.S. military, but when the war ended, Congress rescinded their promised benefits. Out of the 66 countries that supported America, the Philippines was the only nation that did not receive full veterans' benefits. The bill will now go through the House and be put to a vote.

To read Sen. Hirono's press release, please go to:

<http://www.hirono.senate.gov/press-releases/senate-unanimously-approves-hirono-bill-to-award-filipino-world-war-ii-veterans-congressional-gold-medal>

To read the bill, please go to:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1555/text>

*[JACL approved the reprint of the article, which appeared in the August 2, 2016 JACL Digest.]*

**Congratulations!**



Congratulations to JAVA lifetime member Janelle and Adilet Kuroda on their marriage. They had a June 2016 ceremony and reception in Gaithersburg, Maryland with their families and close friends. Photo by Bruce Hollywood.

**Judge Vincent Okamoto Selected to Receive High Award from American Veterans Center**

*Arlington, Virginia.* The American Veterans Center (AVC), whose mission is “to guard the legacies and honor the sacrifices of all American veterans”, has selected California Judge Vincent Okamoto, the most highly decorated Japanese American in the Vietnam War, to receive the 2016 Joe Ronnie Hooper Award. Hooper, wounded in combat 8 times and a Medal of Honor recipient, was one of the most decorated soldiers in the Vietnam War. The award will be presented at the annual AVC Honors dinner on November 5, 2016 in Washington, DC.

Okamoto was born in the Poston, Arizona Internment Camp, where his family was forcibly detained during WW II. After the war, his family relocated to Chicago, Illinois, before moving to Gardena, California. He graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) School of International Relations in 1967 and received his regular Army commission from the University of California Los Angeles ROTC program. Okamoto was the youngest of ten children and the 7<sup>th</sup> son of Japanese immigrants. All seven brothers served in the US Army, including two brothers in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

Following training, Okamoto was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Vietnam. During his Vietnam tour, Okamoto was wounded three times and received 14 combat decorations including the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Combat Infantryman’s Badge. Following his Vietnam duty, he was assigned to Berlin, Germany, as company commander. Okamoto was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame on September 1, 2007 at Fort Benning, Georgia.



1st Lt Vincent Okamoto in Vietnam War

**75<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of Pearl Harbor Attack**

*Honolulu, Hawaii.* More than 50 events are planned in Honolulu between December 1 and 11 for the official commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor. Many events are open to the public and range from movie showings on Waikiki Beach to parades and ceremonies. The schedule is available on [pearlharbor75thanniversary.com](http://pearlharbor75thanniversary.com). A few large events require tickets that must be obtained in advance. December 7, 1941 military survivors and World War II veterans will have priority. The pier side ceremony at Pearl Harbor will be held at 7:45 a.m. on December 7. Survivors and veterans who wish to attend should contact the Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs Office at [navyhawaiipublicaffairs@gmail.com](mailto:navyhawaiipublicaffairs@gmail.com) or (808) 473-1173.

This year’s commemoration includes a luncheon honoring Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in the U.S. military in World War II. *Fighting Two Wars: Japanese American Veterans Tribute* will be held on Monday, December 5 at the Hawaii Convention Center Ballroom. Veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, and 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Construction Battalion and at least one companion each can attend free, but must sign up in advance. Additional seats will be available. For details, contact the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center, (808) 971-1060, e-mail [inquire@nvchawaii.org](mailto:inquire@nvchawaii.org)



USS Arizona Memorial

A limited number of airline honor flight seats and hotel discounts will be available to persons traveling from the continental U.S. or neighbor islands to Honolulu for the commemoration. Interested persons should send an email to: [info@pearlharbor75thanniversary.com](mailto:info@pearlharbor75thanniversary.com) (SUBJECT: Honor Flights for Survivors and Veterans) or telephone toll-free 1-877-589-8898 or direct: 1-808-589-5592. Use email if possible.

**Retired New Jersey Legislator Visits China to Meet Her Rescuer from WWII POW Camp**

*Haddonfield, New Jersey.* During WWII, Mary Taylor Previte, then age 12 and daughter of Christian missionaries, who ran a Bible School in Fenghsiang, Shensi Province, China, was confined as prisoners of war (POW) to the Imperial Japanese-held Weihsien Civilian Assembly Center in Weihsien, China. Mary was held for three years along with 1,500 other foreign nationals. On August 17, 1945, a seven-man rescue team from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) parachuted from a low-flying B-24 bomber to liberate the camp. The liberation team consisted of six Americans and one Chinese national, an interpreter.

After the rescue, members of the Team scattered across America to pursue their lives. Previte settled in Haddonfield, where she was elected as a member of the New Jersey State Assembly from 1998 to 2006. Wanting to say thank you face to face to each hero, Previte began a two-year search in 1997. She met her four heroes and two widows, including Tadashi “Tad” Nagaki, an OSS Japanese linguist. Nagaki operated a farm in Alliance, Nebraska, where he grew corn, beans, and sugar beets. In 2013, invited by Nagaki’s two grandsons, Previte flew to Alliance for a town-wide celebration of her hero’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Previte wrote an article of this reunion for the *JAVA Advocate* Spring 2013 issue.



Previte and Nagaki in Denver, CO. Photo from Previte.



Previte and Eddie Wang in China. Photo from Dazhong Website.

Previte had one more mission: to locate a Chinese national, Eddie Wang Cheng-Han, who served as the rescue team’s Chinese interpreter. In 2015, Wang Qian, Eddie’s grandson, a student from China studying in America, read an article about Previte on the Internet. The article said that Previte was attempting to locate Eddie Wang. The student contacted Previte, who, in turn, telephoned Eddie. The Dazhong Website noted that Previte, now 83, visited Guiyang, capital of Guizhou Province, on July 27, 2016. Previte went to Wang’s home for the reunion. They embraced each other and discussed the rescue operation. Wang said in 1943 he was enrolled in the Department of Physics at Sichuan University. In 1944 he joined the Army and entered into the English interpreter training program following which he was assigned to OSS. Previte’s 19 year search for her rescuers is now complete.

*[EdNote: Assemblywoman Previte contributed to this article.]*

**CAPT (Dr) Macri Speaks at Asia Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration**

On May 6, 2016 CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), head of JAVA Speakers Bureau, (white uniform) was invited to Ft. Lee, Virginia on the occasion of the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month celebration. The theme of the event was: honor the 442nd, 100th, and MIS. Macri spoke about the history of the segregated Japanese American units and the legacy they left, opening doors for all Asian Americans and new immigrants to truly dream big. The program featured performances from India, Vietnam, China, New Zealand, and Tahiti. This photo was taken with the Vietnamese dancers, all active duty soldiers on post. Photo from CAPT Macri.





### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour of France, July 2019

By Sandra Tanamachi

Dr. Brian Yamamoto, Fairbanks, Alaska, is planning to lead a Tour of France in July 2019 to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of France, in which the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team played a vital role. Yamamoto has led two previous tours to this area, in 2013 and 2014.

The upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour of France will consist of a 13-day tour which will begin around July 7, 2019 in the French Maritime Alps area at Sospel, where a wreath laying ceremony will be held at the location where T/5 Larry Miura (Co K) and Kenji Sugiwarara (sic) were killed on November 30, 1944 and the town's people have marked with a plaque. They will go to L'Escarene where Nisei troops were stationed during the Maritime Alps campaign, which 442<sup>nd</sup> soldiers dubbed the "Champagne Campaign". Men were given liberal leave to visit the resort areas, such as Nice and Monaco, and engage in local community activities such as a party for the children of the St Joseph orphanage.

After making other stops, the travelers will arrive at Bruyeres in mid July 2019, when they will be joined by another Yamamoto tour group that will visit the Vosges area only. The joint group is expected to make a six-day tour of the Vosges area, including a program on July 14, 2019 in Bruyeres to participate in the celebration of French National Day. Other locations on the itinerary in the Vosges will include Biffontaine, Belmont, the American military cemeteries at Lorraine and Epinal. Information can be obtained from Brian Yamamoto, D.D.S. at [brianeyamamotodds@gmail.com](mailto:brianeyamamotodds@gmail.com). *[Sandra Tanamachi is a retired Texas schoolteacher. After a 12-year struggle, she got the Texas Jefferson County Commissioners to hold a public hearing that resulted in the commissioners vote to remove a street sign called "JAP ROAD". When she announced she would contact*

*commissioners of three other Texas counties to remove similar racist street signs, all three quietly had them replaced.]*



Photo, L-R: Shig Doi, 442nd RCT I Co, Yves Bonjean, Mayor of Bruyeres, Kuwa Iwataki, 442nd RCT B Co, at the 442nd RCT Monument in Bruyeres.Vosges, France on July 14, 2014, France's National Day. Photo by Brian Yamamoto.

### Smithsonian Recognizes the Military Service of Nisei Soldiers With Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition

Smithsonian Press Release. (Condensed). The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center have joined with the National Veterans Network (NVN) to create an online exhibit centered on the outstanding military service of Nisei soldiers during World War II, including those who served in combat, in supporting roles and as part of the Occupation of Japan. The online exhibition ([cgm.smithsonianapa.org](http://cgm.smithsonianapa.org) and <http://americanhistory.si.edu>) tells the life stories of 12 soldiers and was launched May 12, 2016 at the National Museum of American History. The object-based digital exhibition provides an immersive experience for online visitors by bringing to life specific Nisei soldiers' roles in WWII and postwar engagement.



Photo: Standing near the glass case containing the Congressional Gold Medal are (L-R) Christine Sato Yamasaki, Executive Director of NVN; Secretary Norman Mineta; John Gray, Director of National Museum of American History; Congresswoman Doris Matsui; Irene Hirano Inouye, President of Japan Council; Donna Cole, President, Cole Chemical; Kristi Yamaguchi, Olympic Gold Medalist. Item in the case is the Congressional Gold Medal. Photo by Smithsonian

The Nisei Congressional Gold Medal has been on display since February 2014 in the museum's "Price of Freedom: Americans at War" exhibition, which highlights the courage and the sacrifice millions have made to secure freedom and equality for all Americans. A highlights video about the new website has been added.

*(continued on following page...)*

**A Month in the life of an Infantry Division in the US Commanded by an Asian American**

*Fort Sam Houston, Texas.* Men and women of the modern American Army more and more are engaged in official relations with foreign military, security and other officials. Past issues of the Advocate have discussed this dual role in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US Army South, commanded by MG Clarence K.K. Chinn, a Chinese American and a member of JAVA, discusses a month in the life of his Command. Following is a sampling of his command’s activities.

March 31 to April 2, 2016 the 1-228<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment contingent in Honduras joined forces with their Honduran counterpart to extinguish in two days a major fire in the

Jeanette Kawas National Park. CH-47 Chinook helicopters used a Bambi Bucket to drop water on a fire. This joint action saved several towns from being burned.



Photo: A team consisting of Honduran and U.S. personnel poses for a photo after successfully extinguishing fires in the Honduran Jeanette Kawas National Park.

April 7, US Army South joined the US Southern Command visit to San Jose, Costa Rica for a conference of 140 top government, defense and police officials from 13 nations to discuss countermeasures to stop illicit trafficking by organized crime syndicates.

April 7, BG Richard Torres traveled to Guatemala April 7th to participate in the opening ceremony for the 2016 *Beyond the Horizon* exercise, a civic assistance program led by Army South. During the exercise, nearly 1,800 U.S. service members representing the active Army, Army Reserve, National Guard, Air Force and Marines deployed to Guatemala to construct schools and clinics and provide medical, dental and veterinarian support. This annual exercise gives service members the opportunity to experience a real-world deployment mission and work together with foreign governments and civilian agencies. Partners from across the hemisphere, including Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, Canada and Trinidad and Tobago, continue to participate in the exercise.

April 18-21. To prepare for emergencies such as earthquakes, US Army South hosted an annual coordination and training exercise comprised of representatives of various US government agencies and Army personnel assigned to embassies.

**Smithsonian Recognizes the Military Service of Nisei Soldiers With Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition**

(...continued from previous page)

“The goal of this digital exhibition is to share the personal experiences of the esteemed Nisei soldiers so generations can understand and personally relate to each story,” said Christine Sato-Yamasaki, executive director at the NVN. Additional support was provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Program, Donna Fujimoto Cole, Japanese American Veterans Association, and AARP. For more information, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu>.

The NVN is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to educating the nation on the Japanese American WWII experience. NVN launched the campaign to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the first Asian American recipients in the 100th, 442nd, and MIS units, and worked with the U.S. Mint to design the medal.

**News from Veterans Organizations and Friends**

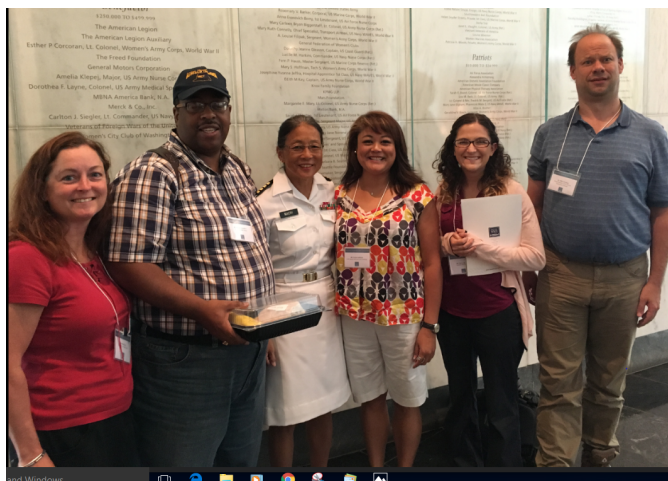
\* **San Francisco, California.** The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) held its annual dinner at its MIS Learning Center, located at Presidio of San Francisco, on May 1, 2016. Using the theme, “*Carrying On: 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of San Francisco Japan Town*”, NJAHS honored the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee and the Contra Costa chapter of JACL.

\* **Los Angeles, California.** The Go For Broke National Education Center *eTorch* reported that Alessandra Lichtenfeld and Kelsey Ichikawa have teamed up to narrate a video entitled *Hope for Today’s Generation*. Ichikawa, now a student at Harvard University, was the winner of GFBNEC 2014 Student Essay Contest.

\* **Chicago, Illinois.** Chicago Nisei Post American Legion 1183 newsletter said its Day of Remembrance program was held on February 21, 2016 at the Chicago History Museum. The focus of the program was “*Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese-Americans Obtained Redress.*”

\* **Honolulu, Hawaii.** The 100<sup>th</sup> Veterans Hawaii *Puka Puka Parade* August 2016 issue carried a photo of ten 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion veterans who attended the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on July 10, 2016 at the Pomaikai Ballroom. May they attend many more.

**Captain (Dr) Macri Attends Ceremony**



Retired Navy Captain (Dr) Cynthia Macri, in uniform, JAVA Chair of the Speakers Bureau, with some teachers who attended the Friends of WWII Memorial Teachers Conference at Women in Military Service for America Memorial, located at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery, from July 20-22, 2016. Twenty-five educators from around the nation were "exposed to a broad spectrum of WWII history resources and tools aimed at educating current and future generations about the everyday men and women whose character, courage, creativity, determination, and innovation not only led to the winning of the war, but also reshaped America." Macri was invited to speak on the Japanese American experience during WW II and the impact of that experience on future generations of Japanese Americans. Photo from CAPT Macri.

**President Horikoshi Speaks at JAVA Luncheon**



Neil Horikoshi [right], President and Executive Director of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), Washington, DC, was the guest speaker at the quarterly JAVA Luncheon on January 16, 2016. APIASF is the largest provider of college scholarships for Asia Pacific American students. Prior to this position, Horikoshi served 30 years with the International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation in legal and management positions.

Horikoshi summarized the impact of the model minority myth that has dominated perceptions of Asian American college students and masked educational disparities among the nearly 50 AAPI ethnic groups. He also discussed the impact of how bad data drove some unfavorable policies affecting the AAPI community and APIASF's work to highlight the importance of Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions that today form the framework for positive higher educational outcomes for AAPI students. Photo shows Mark Nakagawa, Vice President, presenting a JAVA goodwill coin to Horikoshi. Photo from Nakagawa.

*Honolulu, Hawaii.* In early April 2016, former US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta was honored by JACL Honolulu at a luncheon held at the Pacific Club. Secretary Mineta was recognized for his many accomplishments including the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Among the guests paying tribute to Secretary Mineta were US Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Congressman Mark Takai, former governor Neil Abercrombie, former Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa and RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, former Surgeon General of the US. Secretary Mineta toured the grounds of Honouliuli, which became a designated national monument in 2015. Honouliuli was the largest and oldest World War II Confinement site in Hawaii designated as a national monument in 2015.

**Former Secretary Norman Mineta visits Hawaii**



Norman Mineta (center in blue Aloha shirt, wearing lei)

**Meet the Generals and Admirals**

This is a series of Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US uniformed services. The present count is that over 132 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki, General John Campbell and Admiral Harry Harris. Of the 132, seventy-six are US Army, 23 are US Air Force, 27 are US Navy, 2 are in the US Marine Corps, 1 is in the US Coast Guard, and 3 are in the US Public Health Service.

**Brigadier General Kenneth S. Hara**



It is an honor and privilege to be a member of JAVA. I enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard in May of 1984 as a Private E1. My motivation to enlist was driven by my family’s tradition of serving in the military. My father Henry retired as a Lieutenant Colonel with over 37 years of service. My three older brothers also served in the Hawaii Army National Guard. Brother Gary recently retired as a

Major General, brother Dennis retired as a Command Sergeant Major, and my brother Larry is scheduled to retire this September as a First Sergeant. My uncle, two cousins, and nephew also served in the military. The most recent member to carry on the Hara tradition is my son Justin who enlisted in 2014 and is already a Specialist in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

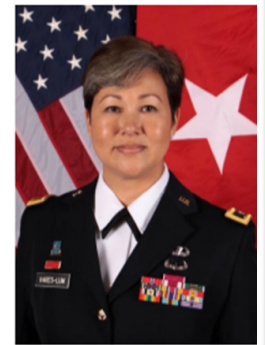
I assumed duties as the Deputy Adjutant General for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense on January 1, 2015. I was commissioned a Lieutenant of Infantry in 1987 through the Officer Candidates School program at the Hawaii Military Academy. My previous assignments include service as chief of the joint staff, Hawaii National Guard; commander of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team; and other command and staff positions in the Hawaii National Guard.

I have served in three combat tours. During my most recent combat tour Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan, I served as the commander of the OCC-R (S) SFAT in Kandahar, Afghanistan from November 2012 to July 2013. My previous combat tours include a deployment where I served as the deputy commander of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Kuwait and Iraq from October 2008 to July 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom VIII, and a deployment as commander of the 2d Battalion, 299<sup>th</sup> Infantry in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in Baghdad, Iraq from January 2005 to January 2006.

In addition to my Federal mobilizations, I served on numerous state missions including Hurricane Iniki which devastated Kauai in 1992. In addition to my BA from Hawaii Pacific University, my military education includes the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania; Command and General Staff Officer Course from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; and the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

My awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Aviator Badge, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star Medal with oak Leaf Cluster.

**Brigadier General Suzanne P. Vares-Lum, USA**



Brigadier General Suzanne P. Vares-Lum is the Mobilization Assistant to Director of Strategic Plans and Policy, U.S. Pacific Command at Camp Smith, Hawaii. She has a key role in the Pacific Command’s effort to shape and maintain regional security through development of diplomatic, economic, and military policies. This includes building and maintaining military-to-military and political-military relationships among the 43 nations within the Pacific region covering over 51% of the globe. Activities include disaster management, humanitarian assistance, homeland defense, and oversight of strategy and policy issues that influence the Pacific region.

BG Vares-Lum was commissioned on May 15, 1988 through the ROTC program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She served on active duty from 1989 to 1993 in the US and in Wurzburg, Germany. BG Vares-Lum left active duty in 1993 and served in staff and command positions in units of the Hawaii Army National Guard. She later served as the commander of the 298th Regiment, Multifunctional Training Unit (RTI), Hawaii Army National Guard, where she was responsible for the Officer Candidate Program, NCOES and several courses. She served as the Vice Chief of the Joint Staff. BG Vares-Lum was mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III from August 2004 to March 2006. As the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team S-2, she established and led the Joint Intelligence Center in Balad, Iraq.

Her military schools include the Military Intelligence Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Command and General Staff Officer's Course, the U.S. Army War College (DDE), Airborne School, and Air Assault School. She is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and earned a Master of Strategic Studies degree in 2011. BG Vares-Lum received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism in 1989 and her Master of Education in Teaching in 1996 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Her awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Global War on Terrorism.

HISTORY: FILM

**Japanese Film on Chiune Sugihara Scores Major Hit in Washington Showing**

By John Malott

*Washington, DC. Persona Non Grata*, a 2015 Japanese movie that tells the story of Chiune Sugihara, played before four full houses last March during the 2016 *CineMatsuri*, the Japanese Film Festival presented by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW). Sugihara, who was a Japanese diplomat during World War II, is famed for his courage in defying the Japanese Foreign Ministry and issuing transit visas for Japan that allowed over 6,000 European Jews to escape certain death in Nazi concentration camps. It is estimated that between 40,000 and 100,000 persons are alive today thanks to Sugihara’s actions.

The film includes a scene where the 442nd Regimental Combat Team’s Field Artillery Battalion (the 522nd



Images, Above: Real-life Chiune Sugihara, on right; Japanese actor Toshiaki Karasawa portraying Chiune, on left. Above right: Karasawa as Sugihara. Below right: Japanese poster for the film. Images courtesy of Ambassador Malott.

*Persona Non Grata* continues to be shown at film festivals throughout the country. [John Malott is a Japan specialist, former US Ambassador to Malaysia and former President/CEO of JASW.]

liberates one of the Nazi extermination sub-camps in Dachau, Germany. A Nisei soldier, Clarence Matsumura, finds Solly Ganor, whose family figured prominently in the film, buried in the snow. Solly, delirious, at first mistakes the Japanese American soldier for Sugihara.

One of the Nisei soldiers who was there that day, Joe Ichiuji, later said, “What I found ironic is that at the same time I was liberating the Jewish extermination center, my own family was imprisoned in America.” When he introduced the film to the audience, the Society’s President, Ambassador John Malott, made that point. How ironic indeed that these Jewish victims of persecution were liberated by Americans who also were victims of discrimination. Malott added that the scene clearly was important to the film’s Japanese American director, Cellin Gluck, for his father Jay was Jewish, and his mother Sumi was one of the many Japanese Americans who spent the war in an internment camp.

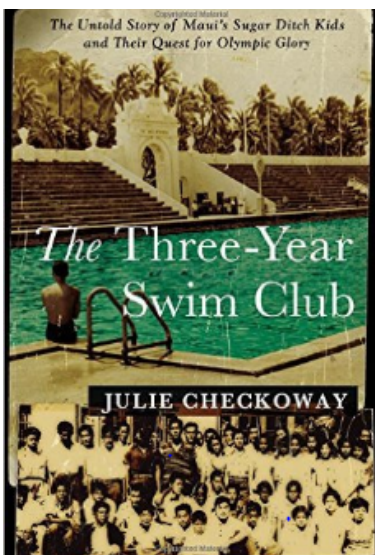


**HISTORY: BOOKS**

**Julie Checkoway, *The Three-Year Swim Club: The Untold Story of Maui's Sugar Ditch Kids and Their Quest for Olympic Glory***

(from the book jacket...)

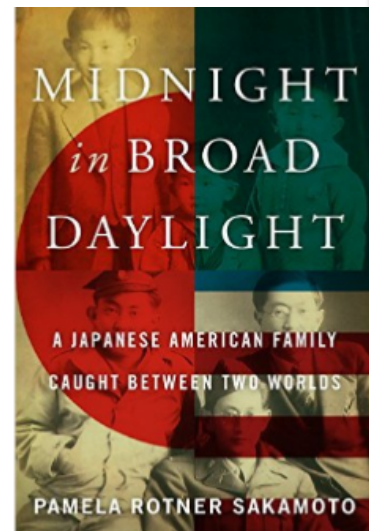
In 1937, a schoolteacher on the island of Maui challenged a group of poverty-stricken sugar plantation kids to swim upstream against the current of their circumstance. The goal? To become Olympians. They faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The children were Japanese-American, were malnourished and barefoot and had no pool; they trained in the filthy irrigation ditches that snaked down from the mountains into the sugarcane fields. Their teacher, Soichi Sakamoto, was an ordinary man whose swimming ability didn't extend much beyond treading water.



In spite of everything, including the virulent anti-Japanese sentiment of the late 1930s, in their first year the children outraced Olympic athletes twice their size; in their second year, they were national and international champs, shattering American and world records and making headlines from Los Angeles to Nazi Germany. In their third year, they'd be declared the greatest swimmers in the world, but they'd also face their greatest obstacle: the dawning of a world war and the cancellation of the Games. Still, on the battlefield with the 442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team, they'd become the 20th century's most celebrated heroes, and in 1948, they'd have one last chance for Olympic glory.

**Book on Harry Fukuhara published**

Pamela Rotner Sakamoto, an American historian who spent 17 years in Japan, has recently published a book entitled *Midnight in Broad Daylight, A Japanese American Family Caught Between Two Worlds*. The book describe the life of Harry Fukuhara, who was educated in Japan and served in the Military Intelligence Service while his three brothers served in the Imperial Japanese Army. Fukuhara served in the combat zones in southeast Asia, where he provided highly perishable real time tactical intelligence information to American commanders.



When the war ended he served in the demobilization, Occupation and post Occupation Japan to help build Japan to become an industrial power. The author used Fukuhara's life story skillfully to describe US-Japan relations before, during and after WW II, the life of Japanese in America and the Nisei story. Sakamoto first met Fukuhara in 1994 and began her research and interviews in 1998.

*Midnight in Broad Daylight* has enjoyed favorable reviews, including the *New York Times Book Review*: The book "not only tells one family's remarkable story but also makes an important contribution to our knowledge of the Japanese-American experience in World War II, on both sides of the ocean.

**Virgil Westdale, *Blue Skies and Thunder***

Virgil Westdale, 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion veteran of Grand Rapids, Michigan, discussed his book, *Blue Skies and Thunder*, and his experience with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT at the Page Turner Book Club meeting in Grand Haven on May 24, 2016. 24 members attended. At 97, Westdale is a frequent speaker at schools, universities, community and professional groups. Photo from Westdale.



## OBITUARIES

### Edward Chow, Jr.



Edward Chow, Jr, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs of Maryland, died on July 22, 2016 of pancreatic cancer. Born in New York City and raised in Seattle, Washington, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army and served in Germany and Vietnam. Following his military service, he served in state and the federal service and most recently as Maryland’s Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was a member of American Legion, AMVETS, JAVA, and VFW.

He is survived by his life partner, Sara McVicker; son Dr. Ward K. Chow (Cynthia) of Spokane and Seattle; daughter Dr. Elizabeth Chow (Dr. Aaron Smuckler) of Pittsburgh; five grandsons and a granddaughter; and brothers Shelton, Brien and Mark of Seattle. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will be held at a later date.

### Allen Kenji Ono

Lieutenant General Allen Kenji Ono, USA (Ret), JAVA Life Member, passed away on August 1, 2016. He was 85. Born in Honolulu, he served in the Army for 35 years and was the first Asian American three-star general in the U.S. Armed Forces. He was commissioned an infantry officer through the University of Hawaii ROTC.

His military decorations include two Army Distinguished Service Medals, Legion of Merit, and two Bronze Stars. Upon retirement from the Army, he returned to Hawaii, where he served as an official of the American Savings Bank. Of his military career he said “I had a focused and fierce drive to build a reputation of professional competence and high personal integrity with no blemish of shame on my family and heritage.”



### Mark Takai



US Congressman Mark Takai died on July 20, 2016 due to pancreatic cancer. He was 49. He was a member of two committees, the House Armed Services and Small Business. Public education and veterans’ issues were his legislative priorities. Takai was born on July 1, 1967 in Honolulu, and received a bachelor and master’s degrees from the University of Hawaii. Takai served 20 years in the Hawaii state House of Representatives before his election to the US Congress in 2014. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Hawaii National Guard and served in Operation Iraqi Freedom in Kuwait in 2009.

On October 6, 2015 Congressman Takai delivered a speech in the US House of Representatives recognizing the heroism of Ben Kuroki, a US Army Air Corps gunner, and Susumu Ito, who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Takai’s remarks were written into the *Congressional Record*.

## OBITUARIES

### Please Also Remember...



**Takashi Wada** of Torrance, CA, Co L, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, JAVA Life member, passed away on July 15, 2016.

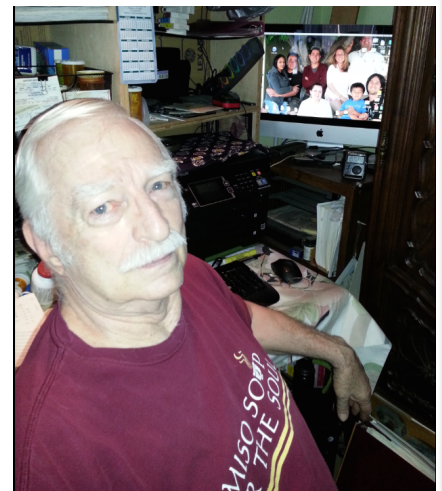
**Minoru Nagaoka**, Armed Forces Retirement Home, Washington, DC, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran, JAVA member, passed away on May 18, 2016.



### The Man Who Gathers the Obituaries

By CAPT Homer Yasui, USNR (Ret), JAVA Life Member

Roger Eaton is a researcher who has been involved with the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance since 2003. The Alliance was founded in Los Angeles in 1997 by the Nisei veterans of World War II to honor the memory of their comrades who had been killed in action. In the beginning, Eaton's job was to complete the roster of soldiers in the units attached to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. This involved finding the soldier's date of birth, hometown, rank, serial number, military unit, etc. Soon after Eaton took on these duties, Jim J. Yamashita, chairman of the Memorial Alliance's Educational Project, handed him an expanded list of the Nikkei who had served in the Military Intelligence Service and the Women's Army Corps. Yamashita asked Eaton to compile a registry of over 20,000 service people and find their hometown, dates of birth and death, and other statistics.



[Roger Eaton]

Eaton says finding most Nisei soldiers' birth years was relatively easy, but there were nearly 1.5 million names missing, and it appeared that the Nisei men whose names were missing had been incarcerated in the camps. Another challenge was locating information about the Caucasian officers assigned to the 442nd, who weren't listed on a roster. To resolve this problem, Eaton uses the online services of genealogical organizations and writes them letters of inquiry. Nevertheless, with great ingenuity and tenacity -- and lately, with the help of Yamashita's nephew, Tom Ezaki -- Eaton has been able to produce a weekly obituary column that lists about 30 recently deceased Nikkei who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. He and Ezaki scour the obituaries of around 50 newspapers and an online obituary service that lists up to 15,000 veterans each week.

Under Yamashita's direction, the Memorial Alliance has produced a CD, *Echoes of Silence*, that lists the names of over 20,000 young soldiers who fought in segregated units during the war. Eaton updates the status of the veterans in this registry. Eaton's work is comprehensive and labor intensive, but he says the feedback he occasionally gets from his inquiries about recently deceased veterans is so heartwarming and rewarding, he'd do it for nothing ... which he does. The Nikkei community owes a big debt of gratitude to this dedicated man who has labored so conscientiously for so long, for our benefit. [EdNote: This article has been condensed due to space constraint. The unabridged version has been printed in the JAVA Round Robin, Issue #16-7, dated July 21, 2016.]



## National Veterans Network Commemorates Congressional Gold Medal Bill Signing

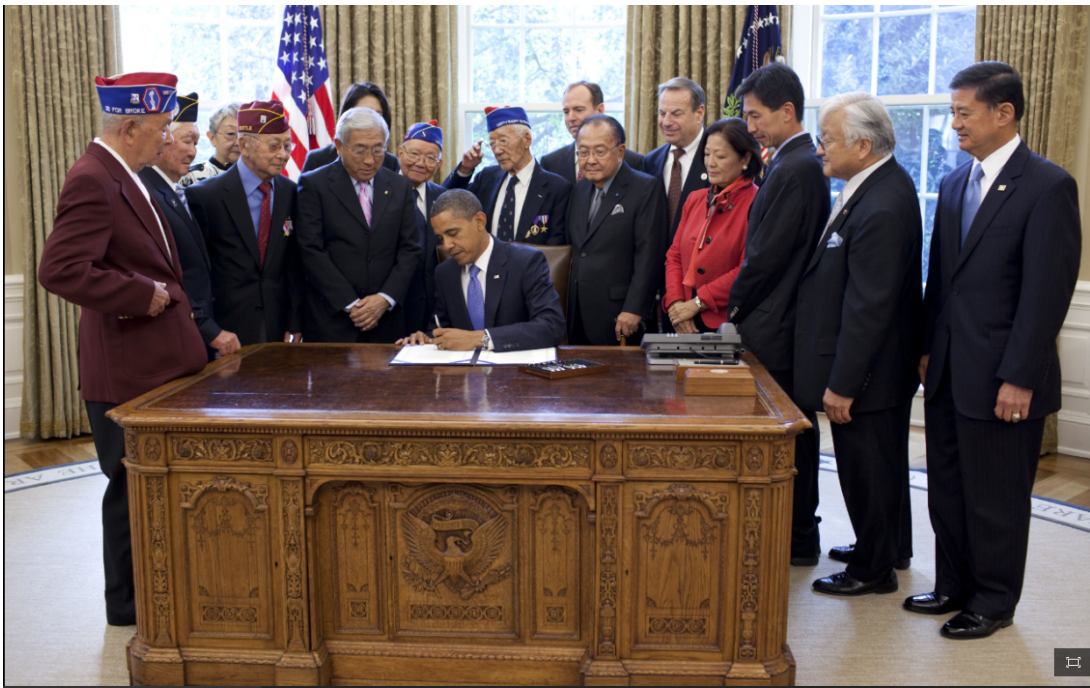
Michelle Suzuki, NVN

*Washington D.C.* On October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed the bill awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to recognize the Japanese American soldiers of WWII for their service to their country. The Congressional Gold Medal is the most prestigious award given to Americans for achievements and contributions. The Nisei story is one of courage and loyalty and can teach many of us the meaning of those words. They are stories that all Americans can be proud. Earlier this year, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, along with the National Veterans Network (NVN), launched a Digital Exhibition centered on the outstanding military service of Nisei soldiers during WWII, including those who served in combat, in supporting roles and as part of the Japan Occupation at [cgm.smithsonianapa.org](http://cgm.smithsonianapa.org) and <http://americanhistory.si.edu>.

The NVN's social media campaign commemorates the Congressional Gold Medal and these American stories by encouraging everyone to share their #IamAmerican story. The ongoing campaign, which was launched on October 5, 2016 via social media, will have another milestone date on Veterans Day, and will continue through the rest of the year so everyone can share their personal story. "The Japanese-American Nisei Soldier stories are American stories that many people can understand and personally relate," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director, NVN. "The goal of our campaign is to demonstrate the relevance of the Nisei soldier story through our own personal stories and show that ultimately #IamAmerican."

NVN encourages everyone to visit the digital exhibition at [cgm.smithsonianapa.org](http://cgm.smithsonianapa.org) and <http://americanhistory.si.edu> and share their own #IamAmerican story on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. To support the campaign, tag @NtlVetNetwork on Twitter, @nationalveteransnetwork on Facebook or @TBD on Instagram. To find out more about the campaign and the National Veterans Network visit [www.nationaveteransnetwork.com](http://www.nationaveteransnetwork.com) or email NVN at [info@nationalveteransnetwork.com](mailto:info@nationalveteransnetwork.com).

*[EdNote: This article has been condensed due to space constraint. The full article and photos were printed in Brett Egusa's Round Robin.]*



President Obama signs the Congressional Gold Media Bill on October 5, 2010

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

(May 20, 2016 through August 31, 2016)

*General Fund*

James I. Kuroiwa, Jr., Jane Matsumoto, Dr. Emely Murase, LTC Mark Nakagawa, and RADM Joseph Vojvodich

**JAVA Honor Roll**

The JAVA Honor Roll recognizes supporters who have made significant financial contributions towards JAVA's general operations. Nominations for the Honor Roll are identified by the JAVA Awards Committee. To be nominated, the supporter must have contributed at least \$5,000 towards JAVA.



*Japanese American Veterans Association*

*Honor Roll*

**JAVA Presidents**

- 1992 – December 1994 - COL Phil Ishio, US (Ret)
- 1, 1995 – Dec 31, 1996 – COL Hank Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)
- 1, 1997 – Dec 31, 1998 – Fred Murakami
- 1, 1999 – Dec 31, 2000 – COL Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)
- 1, 2001 – Dec 31, 2002 – COL Ishio USAR (Ret)
- 1, 2003 – Dec 31, 2004 – COL Bert Mizusawa, USA
- 1, 2005 – Dec 31, 2006 – COL Mizusawa, USA
- 1, 2007 – Dec 31, 2008 – Robert Nakamoto
- 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2010 – Robert Nakamoto
- 1, 2011 – Dec 31, 2012 – Gerald Yamada, Esq
- 1, 2012 – Nov 13, 2014 – Gerald Yamada, Esq
- Nov 13, 2014 – March 14, 2015 – Wade Ishimoto
- Mar 14, 2015 – Present – COL Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret)

**Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award**

- Sandra Tanamachi, November 13, 2005
- Senator Daniel K. Akaka, March 6, 2007
- Dr. James McNaughton, March 6, 2007
- John Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, September 27, 2007
- Ambassador Ryoza Kato, May 25, 2008
- Kyoko Tsuboi Taubkin, February 6, 2009
- General Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, January 8, 2010
- Christine Sato –Yamazaki, May 25, 2010
- Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, September 6, 2012
- Robert Nakamoto, October 11, 2013
- Ambassador John Malott, March 6, 2014
- 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, March 23, 2014
- The Honorable Ed Chow, January 17, 2015
- Congressman Adam Schiff, March 14, 2015

**Significant Donations**

- Glen S. Fukushima
- Robert Nakamoto
- Tanimura Family Foundation
- Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin
- Dr. Tom Yoshikawa

**Terry Shima Leadership Award**

- Terry Shima, 2012
- Grant Ichikawa, 2013
- Robert Nakamoto, 2014

**JAVA Service Pin**

- Terry Shima, 2012
- Chris DeRosa, 2012
- Metta Tanikawa, 2012
- Connie Ishio, 2013
- Sumi Okubo, 2014

**Congressional Gold Medal**

- US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, 2012
- Scott Monfils, 2015

## Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title or Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Status: Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Honorably Discharged: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
           Reservist/National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet/Midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current or Last Military Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

**Application Category (Please see explanation below):**

War Veteran Member: \_\_\_\_\_ General Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend of JAVA: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran or cadet/midshipman? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of war veteran, veteran, or cadet/midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates that relative served: \_\_\_\_\_ Which Service? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application to: **Mark Nakagawa** or email application to: **nakamark2@yahoo.com**  
 9455 Park Hunt Court  
 Springfield, VA 22153

**Application Explanations:** JAVA is a registered 501(c) (19) War Veterans Organization and must comply with Internal Revenue Code provisions that require 90% of its membership to be comprised of war veterans. To qualify as a **War Veteran Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any of these periods but need not have served in a war zone:

- December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
- June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
- August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975
- August 2, 1990 to present

To qualify as a **General Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any period other than those specified above. In addition, cadets/midshipmen and spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets/midshipmen qualify for General Membership.

**Friends of JAVA** are those who support the purpose of JAVA but who do not qualify for membership. Friends of JAVA memberships have no voting rights.

JAVA does not currently assess membership dues. However, donations are accepted.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October 15, 2016:** JAVA Quarterly Luncheon, 11:30am, Harvest Moon Restaurant  
**November 5, 2016:** JAVA EC Meeting, 10:00am  
**November 11, 2016:** Veterans Day, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II  
**January 14, 2017:** JAVA Annual Meeting and Lunch, 11:30am, Harvest Moon Restaurant  
**February 4, 2017:** JAVA EC Meeting, 10:00am  
**April 8, 2017:** JAVA Quarterly Luncheon, 11:30am, Harvest Moon Restaurant

**ADVOCATE CORRECTIONS**

The *Advocate* Summer 2016 issue, p. 18, under "Donations," should have said, "Bernhardt Wealth Mgt Inc, *in honor of* Betty Tsuneishi." We apologize to Betty and her family for the error.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

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



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

**Please send correspondence to:**

President: COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), [mikecardarelli@aol.com](mailto:mikecardarelli@aol.com)  
General: Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), [michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com](mailto:michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com)  
Membership: LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), [nakamark2@yahoo.com](mailto:nakamark2@yahoo.com), 913-240-1989  
Finance: COL George Ishikata, [george.ishikata@gmail.com](mailto:george.ishikata@gmail.com)  
Freedom Walk: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), [Martyherb@aol.com](mailto:Martyherb@aol.com), 703-509-6473  
National Memorial Day Parade: Vacant  
Arlington Cemetery: Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), [michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com](mailto:michael.j.yaguchi@icloud.com)  
Newsletter (Advocate): Prof. Anri Yasuda and Prof. Chad Diehl, Editors, [java.advocate.editors@gmail.com](mailto:java.advocate.editors@gmail.com);  
 Chris DeRose, Circulation, [chris@vabutterfly.net](mailto:chris@vabutterfly.net)  
Facebook: LCDR Janella Kuroda, USNR, [janellekuroda@gmail.com](mailto:janellekuroda@gmail.com)  
Press Release: Vacant  
Oral History: Wade Ishimoto, [pohaku59@aol.com](mailto:pohaku59@aol.com), 703-989-0983  
Quarterly Lunch: LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret), [razama@verizon.net](mailto:razama@verizon.net)  
Round Robin: LTC Brett Egusa, USAR, [java.roundrobin@gmail.com](mailto:java.roundrobin@gmail.com)  
Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, [ryoshika@verizon.net](mailto:ryoshika@verizon.net)  
Scholarship: Vacant  
JAVA Awards: Vacant  
Education / Speakers Bureau: CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), [navy.s2m2@gmail.com](mailto:navy.s2m2@gmail.com)  
Veterans Day: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), [brucehollywood@gmail.com](mailto:brucehollywood@gmail.com)  
Webmaster for JAVA NARA Project: Dave Buto, [butod@cox.net](mailto:butod@cox.net), 703-425-1444  
Webmaster for [www.java.wildapricot.org](http://www.java.wildapricot.org): Beth Kelley, [javapotomac@gmail.com](mailto:javapotomac@gmail.com)  
National Archives Research: Fumie Yamamoto, [yamamotoff@yahoo.com](mailto:yamamotoff@yahoo.com), 301-942-3985  
Policy: Col Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President, [mikecardarelli@aol.com](mailto:mikecardarelli@aol.com)

Visit our website:

**[www.JAVA.WildApricot.org](http://www.JAVA.WildApricot.org)**

Follow us on Facebook:

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