



**Japanese American Veterans Association  
25 Years History, April 30, 1992 – May 31, 2017**

**Introduction.** This is a record of the Japanese American Veteran Association's (JAVA's) 25 years of activity. JAVA was activated in 1992, some 17 years after the Freedom of Information Act allowed the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) activities in the Asia Pacific theater, classified SECRET, be told. JAVA's mission from its inception is to tell the people of America and the world (1) that 110,000 ethnic Japanese, 2/3 of them US citizens, were confined in internment camps for the duration of WW II because the government viewed them as disloyal; and (2) 14,000 Nisei served in the combat zones in Europe and the Pacific, and another 17,000 Nisei soldiers, men and women, served stateside to prove their loyalty. President Truman removed the stigma of disloyalty when he reviewed the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) near the White House on July 15, 1946, attested to Nisei loyalty, and placed them in America's mainstream, from where they have contributed to the greatness of America.

JAVA's success is due to the dedication and sustained performance over long periods by our many volunteers. We have attempted to name them in the report, however, we will undoubtedly miss crediting some deserving volunteers, for which we apologize. This report is a tribute to the long list of volunteers, as exemplified by LTC Earl Takeguchi, USA (Ret) who served a record of 8 years as Treasurer; Barbara Nekoba, who started the quarterly luncheons soon after JAVA Washington DC (WDC) was formed; Metta Tanikawa, who created the registry for the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) events in Washington, DC and the spread sheet for the List of MIS Individual Awards; and Grant Ichikawa who led the team to create the MIS Language School Registry and the Round Robin, our electronic bulletin.

Our report is divided into three parts: establishment, activities, and administration. Within each category there will be references to JAVA WDC and JAVA. JAVA WDC refers to the period up to January 2003, when JAVA became a national organization. To reflect this national status, WDC was dropped to simply JAVA.

Information for this report was obtained from available files, Newsletters, JAVA members especially during the JAVA WDC period, available Executive Council (EC) minutes, and JAVA Research Team (JRT) memory.

The following JAVA WDC members of the formative period are still active: Secretary Norman Mineta, Retired US Senator Daniel Akaka, Dr. Stanley Falk, Bill Houston, Esq, Grant Ichikawa, Col Frank Nekoba, USAF (Ret), RADM Melvin Chiogioji, USNR (Ret), and MG James Mukoyama, USA (Ret). CPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret), Gerald Yamada, Bill Houston, Col Frank Nekoba, and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) read part or all of this paper, however, responsibility for content and

presentation rests with the JAVA Research Team (JRT). We thank Houston and Nekoba for their historical perspectives during the JAVA WDC period; Ishimoto and Yamada for their written work during the JAVA period; and Nekoba for proofreading a large portion of the paper. Please direct any questions about the content of this paper to JRT: Terry Shima ([ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net)) and Metta Tanikawa (editing and formatting)

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**1. ESTABLISHMENT**

A. Formation. Japanese America Veterans Association, Washington, DC (JAVA WDC) was formed on April 30, 1992 by 15 veterans, who met at the Silver Spring, Maryland residence of the late COL Phillip Sunao Ishio, USAR (Ret). JAVA WDC was incorporated in Maryland on July 24, 1992 and received its 501 (c) (19) tax-exempt veterans organization status from the IRS on November 9, 1992.

The inaugural list of JAVA WDC officials was as follows:

**Advisory Board:**

US Senator Daniel Inouye	442 <sup>nd</sup>
US Congressman Norman Mineta	MIS, Korean War
James Mukoyama, Jr., Maj Gen USAR (Ret)	
Melvin Chiogioji, RADM, USNR (Ret)	

**Elected Officers:**

President:	Sunao Phil Ishio, COL, USAR (Ret)	MIS
Vice President:	Key Kobayashi	MIS (First VP, until his passing)
Vice President:	Dr. Warren Tsuneishi	MIS (Second VP, succeeded Kobayashi)
Secretary:	Fred Murakami	442 <sup>nd</sup> /MIS
Treasurer:	Ben Obata	MIS

**Board of Directors:**

Dr. Stanley Falk	MIS
Nasuo Hashiguchi	MIS
Toro Hirose	442 <sup>nd</sup>
William Houston, General Counsel, USN	
Joseph Ichiuji	442 <sup>nd</sup>
Muneo Mike Okusa	MIS
Kaz Oshiki, USAAC	
Hank Wakabayashi, COL, USAR (Ret)	

**Fund Raising Committee**

Seiko Wakabayashi	CIV
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**Membership Committee**

Grant Hirabayashi	MIS
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Connie Ishio, Phil's wife, prepared lunch for the attendees that was served after the meeting. All subsequent meetings held at the Ishio's included this amenity. Seiko Wakabayashi and Yuri Murakami, wives of succeeding Presidents also followed this tradition. Short of organizing a formal ladies auxiliary group, these ladies, including other wives such as Fumi Yamamoto and Barbara Nekoba, organized the ladies to support JAVA events, the first being the Third MIS Veterans Reunion. During the presidency of Gerald Yamada, Executive Council meetings were held at his home, where wife Nancy served an elaborate lunch after each meeting.

[A listing of officers and Executive Council members of all administrations is found on page 30.]

## JAVA WDC MISSION STATEMENT

- to assist member veterans and their families;
- to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans;
- to publicize the Nisei military service during WW II; In this connection,
- to publish a book to document, comprehensively, the Nisei intelligence role in the war against Imperial Japan.
- to promote the spirit of patriotism and national pride;
- to sponsor social activities so members can fraternize;
- to award scholarships to veterans' families.

This mission statement served the presidencies of COL Ishio, COL Hank Wakabayashi, Fred Murakami and Ishio (second term).

### B. Mizusawa, Nakamoto, Yamada, Ishimoto, Cardarelli , Goshi Presidencies

i. MIZUSAWA ELECTED, 2003. In the elections of January 2003, MG (then Colonel) Bert Mizusawa, USAR, was elected President. Mizusawa graduated No. 1 in his West Point class of '79 and served in Korea in 1984, when he was awarded the Silver Star. In his inaugural speech, Mizusawa announced that JAVA will build on the existing structure and continue to work on the following goals of his predecessors:

- To assist member veterans and their families;
- To publicize the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy, including the publication of the book on MIS;
- To sponsor social activities so members can socialize;
- To award scholarships to veterans families.

Mizusawa said that he was adding the following:

- In keeping with its national status, the name, JAVA WDC, will be shortened to JAVA;
- JAVA will be a nationwide organization, without regional branches but it will deal with veterans organizations, other entities, and individuals as required;
- Independently and in concert with other veterans organizations, seek to obtain benefits that veterans have earned, and
- To gain acceptance in America's mainstream.

ii. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS. Mizusawa appointed Terry Shima as the first JAVA Executive Director, and gave him authority to achieve the above goals. Shortly after his election, Mizusawa was deployed to Iraq, from where he provided over-all guidance but deferred day-to-day decisions to VP COL Vic Mukai, USA (Ret). Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), succeeded Shima in July 2012 and Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), succeeded Hollywood on March 19, 2016. JAVA Executive Directors serve pro bono.

iii. GAIN NATIONAL STATUS. JAVA used three events to solidify its national status:

a. The dedication of the National WW II Memorial in Washington, DC in Spring 2004. Using the 3-panel display for the 1993 MIS reunion as a prototype, JAVA set up a display booth

in the Department of Veterans Affairs tent, arranged by Mizusawa and located next to the Library of Congress tent, near the WW II Memorial. COL Thomas V. Mukai, USA (Ret) volunteered to chair this project and to construct the panels and collect and arrange the displays. Four Nisei Medal of Honor recipients (Barney Hajiro, Shizuya Hayashi, George Joe Sakato (Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient), and Hershey Miyamura) greeted the public and responded to questions. The Library of Congress allowed its stage be used to feature a “reunion” between Nisei 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans (Joe Ichiuji, Kelly Kuwayama, George Joe Sakato (MOH) and Norman Ikari) and surviving trapped Texas battalion members who were saved by the Nisei (CPT Martin Higgins, Forde Callis, Gene Airheart). Other veterans served as docents. The national press, such as the *New York Times*, and national TV networks featured Japanese American veterans.

b. A few months later, JAVA supported a Texas school teacher, Sandra Tanamachi, to remove four street signs, each named “Jap Road”, from rural Texas towns. With Tanamachi’s approval, JAVA initiated and coordinated a nationwide letter writing campaign to the commissioners. In addition to press releases sent especially to Texas newspapers, JAVA alerted its contact in the *New York Times*, who passed the lead to her colleague in Texas. *The NY Times* journalist visited the site and published an article that was read by a member of the Texas commission who had visited New York City on business a few days before the hearing. He telephoned his fellow commissioners to warn them that a small town issue had now become a national issue. Senator Inouye’s letter, which was delivered to the Chairman of the Commission during the hearing, helped persuade the Commissioners to remove the racist street sign.

c. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) endorsed JAVA’s expanded charter in 2003 and was requested to represent the other Asia Pacific veterans on certain ceremonial occasions. In 2006 VA approved JAVA’s membership in the Veterans Day National Committee, which entitled JAVA to participate in various meetings and events with major veterans organizations such as VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart Veterans, and Jewish Veterans Association. VA also facilitated JAVA’s relationship with the President George W. Bush White House. At the county level, Grant Ichikawa and Bob Nakamoto, working with Cora Foley, a Fairfax County community leader, established sound JAVA relations with the Fairfax County Government Legislature. A Maryland Montgomery County JAVA member befriended a senior staff officer of the county legislature. Both county legislatures, independently, presented to JAVA members proclamations to honor the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, and MIS.

d. Subsequent Presidents, Robert Nakamoto, Gerald Yamada, CPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret), COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), and LTC Alan Goshi, USA (Ret) constructed their programs on the foundation built by their predecessors.

## 2. ACTIVITIES

A. THIRD MIS REUNION. The first major activity JAVA WDC embarked on was a national Military Intelligence Service (MIS) reunion. Across the nation and Hawaii, MIS veterans formed clubs designed to unify and publicize the contributions of the Military Intelligence Service. Unlike the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion (BN) and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which served as integrated units, the some 7,000 Nisei in the MIS were scattered throughout the Asia Pacific area, Hawaii, stateside

and the European theater serving in every US and Allied unit that needed Japanese linguists. Honolulu and Minneapolis already had their MIS reunions and JAVA WDC staked out the third, or 1993 reunion, to be held in the nation's capital. Intensive planning began soon after the JAVA WDC formation to hold a 3-day National Capital MIS Reunion at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC on October 21-23, 1993. About a thousand MISers and their spouses arrived to enjoy a golf tournament, a testimonial banquet, panel discussions and just plain camaraderie. JAVA's *American Patriot Award* was presented to Shigeya Kihara, one of the architects and among the first teachers in the MIS Language School; LTC Richard Sakakida, USA (Ret), then an enlisted man, an Army spy under cover in Manila who was tortured by the Japanese; COL Harry Fukuhara, USA (Ret), a veteran of Bougainville and Philippine campaigns and the leader of MIS veterans; and Roy Matsumoto, a linguist in the Merrill's Marauders special forces in Burma who produced intelligence that saved his battalion from being overrun.

i. Events included: the Philippine government presentation of medals to MIS veterans who fought for the liberation of the Philippines; the Embassy of Japan reception at the Ambassador's residence; and Asian American members of Congress lunch for the reunion attendees at the US Capitol. Sponsors for the Reunion included major Japanese corporations such as Japan Airlines (JAL) and All Nippon Airways (ANA) (each offered a raffle prize of one free ticket to Tokyo), Coors, Budweiser and other corporations. The results of the panels were published in a book, *American Patriots: MIS in the War Against Japan*, compiled by Dr. Stanley Falk and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi. This book, which is sold at various JAVA functions and Japanese American stores like the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), has entered into its third printing.

ii. A 3-panel exhibit called *Nisei Secret Valor* was constructed by a team, including Grant Ichikawa, for display at the reunion site. Following the reunion, the exhibit was displayed for six months each at the Reserve Officers Association on Capitol Hill, the National War College at Fort McNair, and the Pentagon. The exhibit was also displayed at the Armed Forces Day Open House at Andrews Air Force Base, VA on May 20-21, 1995. Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji, and Norman Ikari, 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, were included as docents. At the request of the MacArthur Memorial at Norfolk, VA, the exhibit was displayed there on November 8, 1996 for one month. The title of the display at Norfolk was changed to *American Patriots: Japanese American Soldiers in the Pacific, 1941-1952*. A JAVA WDC delegation, headed by Ishio, served as docents. The exhibit and the Nisei received favorable press attention.

iii. Written Documentary on MIS (US Senator Akaka). MIS veterans attending the MIS Reunion discussed the need for a comprehensive documentary to record Nisei service in the Asia Pacific Theater. Fukuhara and Ishio subsequently discussed this with US Senator Daniel Akaka who agreed and assigned the project to a member of his staff, John Tagami, son of Kan Tagami, a former aide to General MacArthur. Kan holds the distinction of being the only Nisei who had a private one-on-one meeting with Emperor Hirohito at the Imperial Palace when the Emperor, through Kan, thanked the Nisei in the Occupation for serving as the bridge between the officials of the two nations. Akaka obtained US Army's approval to publish an official history of the MIS. In *A letter to Ishio dated May 12, 1994*, signed by eight members of the US Congress (US Senators Inouye and Akaka, US



Representatives Mineta, Matsui, Mink, Abercrombie, Underwood and Faleomavaega), the members of Congress announced that Dr. James McNaughton, Command Historian of the Defense Language Institute was selected by the Army Center of Military History (CMH) to write the book. The letter requested Ishio to enlist the support of MIS veterans to support McNaughton.

iv. *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II (Dr. James McNaughton)* Roll Out. Thirteen years later, on March 20, 2007, the CMH requested JAVA to serve as the lead in a joint CMH-JAVA “roll-out” of Dr. McNaughton’s book, *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II*, at the US Capitol, hosted by Senator Akaka and attended by members of Congress, government officials, the press and veterans organizations, including JAVA. The *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*, JAVA’s highest award, was presented to Senator Akaka and to Dr. McNaughton. US Senator Inouye, who was not able to attend, requested a JAVA member to read his remarks. Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) served as Master of Ceremonies. JAVA understands that the book is being translated into Japanese for sale in Japan. An upscale program handout was created by Erika Moritsugu.

v. Impact of “Japan Bashing” on Nisei War Record. Following the 1993 MIS reunion, the JAVA WDC leadership felt an urgent need to publicize the Nisei role in WW II because they felt the increasingly harsh tone of the American public’s “Japan Bashing” would negatively impact on the Nisei wartime record. Ishio hastened to register JAVA WDC with the Department of Defense (DOD) WW II Commemoration Committee and to build a relationship with the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs thereby helping to ensure JAVA WDC participation in DOD and VA’s major public programs involving veterans.

B. THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA) PROJECT. Yamamoto Team. This project was started by Ted Tsukiyama, Esq, of the 442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii in the 1980’s. The aim was to copy relevant NARA documents for the Club’s museum/library. Tsukiyama discussed this project with Aiko and Jack Herzig, skilled archivists, who coached Dr. Susumu Yamamoto, a 442nd veteran, and his wife, Fumi and their friend Maggie Ikeda. The Yamamoto Team made weekly visits for a ten-year period to NARA, where they Xeroxed 25 linear feet of documents and sent them incrementally to the 442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii. Yamamoto Team members reported that this endeavor was timely because, for one thing, “many documents are so fragile they break in your hands”. In January 1999 the project came to an end because of Dr. Yamamoto’s ill health. Funded by Honolulu directly to Sus and later to Fumi Yamamoto, this project was a private arrangement between Tsukiyama, representing Honolulu sponsors, and the Yamamoto team. Up to this point there was no JAVA organizational involvement. These NARA documents helped the 442nd Veterans Hawaii researcher in 1998 to identify 442nd RCT Distinguished Service Cross recipients for upgrade to Medals of Honor.

i. Tsukiyama Proposes JAVA Participation. About 2002, Tsukiyama met with some JAVA members for lunch at Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, VA. Arrangements were made by Grant Ichikawa. Tsukiyama proposed that JAVA take over the NARA project. He said that if JAVA provided the manpower for the collection effort, Honolulu would pay for Xerox and incidental expenses. Subsequently, 442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii confirmed Tsukiyama’s proposal in a hard

copy letter. LTC Dave Buto, USA (Ret), a West Point graduate and son of COL Jun Buto, an OSSer, proposed at the luncheon meeting that the documents be copied digitally and posted on the internet vice continuing the practice of making paper copies. When Mizusawa was elected President in January 2003, his Executive Council approved the 442nd Hawaii proposal, including Buto's digitization suggestion. Tsukiyama accepted Buto's digitization proposal.

ii. **JAVA Forms Two Teams.** JAVA formed two teams: A research team, headed by Terry Shima, to review and mark the documents for digitization, and a digitization team headed by LTC David Buto. The research team consisted of Chosei Kuge, Fumi Yamamoto, Grant Hirabayashi, Joe ichiuji, Dwight Gates and Shima, who visited NARA weekly. In addition, Akira Yoshida of Philadelphia, PA who stayed with his daughter in the Ashburn, VA area, went to NARA every day NARA was open for about 8 months of the year for a number of years.

As the Research Team was moving too far ahead of the Digitization Team, Yoshida, Kuge and Gates were transferred to the digitization team while the others continued their research duties. As the documents were scanned and converted to Adobe's Portable Document Format (pdf), they were placed in a database on the internet, permitting anyone with internet access and a browser to search, retrieve and view the scanned pages. Thousands of pages of documents have been scanned and made available since the digitization project started.

When Yoshida, Ichiuji and Hirabayashi died and Kuge and Fumi Yamamoto could no longer serve, Gerald and Nancy Yamada, Michelle Amano and Mieko Kosobayashi volunteered to serve. The Research Team ended its work at NARA II (College Park, MD) and at NARA I (Washington, DC) around August 15, 2014 and the Digitization Team ended its work around November 2014.

The final action that is presently being accomplished by Dave Buto is the integration of the Yamamoto team's hard copy documents into the master database. Pending this completion, the database has been accessible to researchers electronically from anywhere in the world. The NARA Team has electronically scanned all the files the researchers could find. We learned that some markers were removed by NARA staffers or researchers. Considering the large number of documents and the way they are filed at NARA, some documents could have been inadvertently missed.

iii. **Finances.** Tsukiyama provided funding which he said was obtained from 442nd Veterans Hawaii, 100th Veterans Hawaii and MIS Veterans Hawaii. When JAVA researchers switched to the scanning of documents, coinciding with a theft of a scanner and laptop computer, JAVA contributed to the purchase of additional scanners and laptop computers. JAVA researchers and scanners, except Yoshida, did not claim any reimbursement for mileage, meals, or other expenses. Yoshida claimed reimbursement for mileage from Ashburn area to NARA round trip, however, did not claim for mileage or expenses from Philadelphia to Ashburn.

iv. **Unique feature and Significance.** In terms of perpetuating the Nisei legacy for future generations, the NARA Project, an electronic collection of NARA documents pertaining to the 100th BN, 442nd RCT, MIS, and internment as it related to Nisei military service, was viewed as a major activity. The digitization of these documents has allowed researchers to access these NARA

documents electronically from anywhere in the world as noted above. The database was designed by Dave Buto so researchers can retrieve documents about the Nisei soldier by using a variety of search criteria including key words and key dates. Buto hired college students to install these features. These electronic search features are not available to researchers visiting NARA. NARA officials have said that NARA has no plans to digitize its holdings of military units and their record system does not allow key word research. Researchers must now visit Washington, DC in person to review documents.

JAVA recognizes Ted Tsukiyama's role as Father of the NARA Project and is grateful for the invitation to include JAVA in this joint project.

To Access the NARA database go to <http://www.javadc.org/search.php>. Or, you can go to <https://java.wildapricot.org/Research-Archive> and there is the page with the "CLICK HERE to locate archived documents."

C. **SPEAKERS COMMITTEE, LATER CALLED SPEAKERS BUREAU.** In pursuit of the Founders goal to publicize the Nisei military experience during WW II, a Speakers Committee was formed with the activation of JAVA WDC. Speakers during the period of the Speakers Committee included the following with an example of their speaking venues:

- COL Ishio and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, who spoke at the Army War College in Carlisle, PA;
- Ishio, who spoke at Georgetown University and also at the CIA Center for the Study of Intelligence;
- Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji and Grant Hirabayashi who spoke at Manassas, VA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival in August 2000;
- Dr. Stanley Falk, Deputy Chief Historian for southeast Asia at the Army Center of Military History, spoke at Howard University on the Japanese American experience during WW II and also at the Rotary Club of Alexandria, VA. He also lectured at the National Institute of Defense Studies, Tokyo on the MIS and at the JACL WDC Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery on May 27, 1990;
- Grant Ichikawa, and Susie Ichiuji also responded to invitations to speak.

i. JAVA accepts JACL Speakers' Bureau. Around 2003, when the JACL WDC chapter speakers' bureau discontinued this activity, Chair Dr. Norman Ikari offered it to JAVA, which accepted. Building on the JAVA WDC education program, the Mizusawa and post Mizusawa administrations continued to pursue this mission:

ii. JAVA established liaisons at the county level with Maryland's Montgomery and Frederick counties schools and Virginia's Fairfax and Arlington counties schools. The counties approved JAVA's contact with any social studies or history department teachers to arrange speaking engagements and offered their endorsement. Our aim was to discuss with students and teachers the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy. Teamed with Go For Broke National Education Center of Torrance, CA, JAVA jointly held two teachers training programs at Montgomery County

Schools and at Fairfax County Schools. These counties invited social studies and history teachers from other counties to attend. JAVA speakers included Mary Murakami, Joe Ichiuji, Grant Ichikawa, Lona Ichikawa, Grant Hirabayashi, Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Bob Nakamoto, Gerald Yamada, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), Terry Shima and CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret). In addition to these public, public charter, and private schools, JAVA's speakers were invited by:

- Civic groups, such as Rotary Clubs and Women's organizations;
- Professional organizations, such as National Education Association; Army and Navy Club of Washington, DC, and IBM retired employees association;
- Universities history and law departments, such as George Washington University, University of Maryland, West Point Military Academy, US Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD and Roanoke College, VA;
- Think tanks, such as Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and US-Japan Research Institute, a Japanese think tank comprised of a consortium of about 10 Japanese universities, located in Washington, DC;
- Foreign Embassies, such as Embassy of Japan to brief Washington officials, including the Ambassador and DCM, and military and other government officials, including cabinet members, visiting from Japan;
- Government departments, such as Veterans Affairs, State, National Park Service, Defense, Labor, Agriculture and their entities such as Eisenhower National Historic Site at Gettysburg, PA and Agriculture Research Center in Beltsville, MD.
- Pre college and college students have interviewed JAVA speakers for their term papers, thesis and PhD dissertation.
- Students who compete in the National History Day Competition, which was started in 1974 for 6th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students, compete at the state level and the winners enter the national level, which is held at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, MD usually during the month of June. In 1996, during the pre Mizusawa period, Travis Fischer, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade Texas high school student interviewed Dr. Norman Ikari on his experiences with internment and the 442<sup>nd</sup>. Fischer's presentation won first place in the state of Texas and second place in the national competition at UMD. More recently, JAVA Executive Director Yaguchi facilitated an interview, via skype, of two Singapore American School students with a 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran that resulted in their placing second, or silver class, at the national competition at UMD.

**D. PRESS AND MEDIA.** Early leaders of JAVA WDC leadership cultivated the print and radio/tv journalists to promote JAVA WDC goals. COL Ishio's interview by *Parade Magazine* appeared in its May 1996 issue. It discussed Ishio's patriotism. Joe Ichiuji was interviewed live by *History channel* and by *CNN Morning News*. Ten JAVA WDC members were interviewed by *Armed Forces Radio and*

TV (AFRTS) in May 2000. During the Mizusawa and post Mizusawa period, the leadership intensified this endeavor in the Asian American press, including Japanese American, at the national level, such as:

i. Press Release. During the period from 2002-2015, JAVA circulated press releases, about 20-40 per year, mainly to Japanese American and Asian American newspapers and less frequently to mainline newspapers. These press releases, in addition to spreading the Japanese American story, contributed to confirm JAVA as a player in Japanese American veteran matters. Some newspaper editors consulted JAVA when they had questions pertaining to the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the MIS.

ii. Japanese Media. Grant Ichikawa cultivated representatives of the Japanese print and TV. Ichikawa used these opportunities to tell them about the MIS service in the Asia Pacific theater in order to correct an impression among Japanese people that Nisei were traitors. Also, the Japanese Ambassador's secretary requested a copy of JAVA's briefing to the Ambassador to use in his monthly press conference. This led to a number of requests from the Japanese press for print and video interviews for the Japanese American story. Also, a Japanese video producer sought JAVA's advice, as he no doubt sought out others, when he produced the film on the 442<sup>nd</sup> entitled *Live with Honor, Die with Dignity*. When this film was shown at Smithsonian's American History Museum on February 19, 2011, a JAVA representative served on the panel with Producer Junichi Suzuki and Smithsonian staffer Noriko Sanefuji. This film was shown in Japanese cinemas with favorable attendance. Suzuki also produced a film on MIS entitled *MIS: Human Secret Weapon*. It was also shown in Japanese theaters nationwide, however the attendance was limited.

iii. Ken Burns' *The War*. Burns, a producer of historical documentary films, produced and began public showing of *The War* in Fall 2007. Nisei of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT told their stories in the documentary. The Library of Congress Oral History Project, which was collaborating with Burns to promote the film, contacted JAVA for names of 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans residing in various parts of the US and Hawaii to include them in promotional clips to promote the film prior to the national PBS broadcast. JAVA pointed out to Burns' principal assistant, Lynn Novick, that while the coverage of the 442<sup>nd</sup> was fine, the film lacked any reference to the MIS. Burns later expressed his regret that no MISer was featured in the film. Because it was too late for that, he included Grant Hirabayashi, an MIS Merrill's Marauder, in film promotionals and in the program Burns held on the Mall near the Washington Monument.

iv. COL Renita Menyhert, USA (Ret) won the Department of Defense coveted Thomas Jefferson Award on March 14, 2007 for her series of 9 articles on Japanese American veterans which appeared in the Ft Monmouth, NJ weekly newspaper. Menyhert, now retired and a member of JAVA, continues to speak and write about the Nisei soldiers.

v. In his comic books series entitled *SGT Rock: The Lost Battalion*, Billy Tucci, creator/illustrator sought JAVA's advice, which began in November 2008 featuring the 442<sup>nd</sup> rescue of the Lost Battalion. He visited the rescue area in the Vosges Forest to help him make a realistic presentation. Each issue was published in 80,000 copies and circulated across America and overseas. Kelly Kuwayama, 442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Medic who served in the Vosges Forest campaign, Grant Hirabayashi,

MIS linguist who served in the Merrill's Marauders in Burma, and other JAVA members assisted Tucci in promoting his comic book series on September 27-28, 2008 at the Baltimore Comics convention.

E. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT (LOC/VHP). During the JAVA WDC 1993 MIS Reunion, Dr. Glenda Nogami, a professor at the Army War College at Carlisle, PA held an oral history workshop to brief the MIS veterans on the importance of participating in the oral history program. It is not known if Dr. Nogami held any oral history interviews at this reunion. LOC/VHP was established in the Library of Congress Folk Life Center by Public Law 106-80 on October 27, 2000 and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, an official at the Library of Congress, was interviewed by LOC/VHP. Tsuneishi recommended that JAVA WDC participate in the LOC/VHP and Ishio appointed him as chair. Due to pressure of his paid job and competing priorities, Tsuneishi asked to be relieved in 2002. Ishio appointed Shima to succeed Tsuneishi and Mizusawa endorsed this in January 2003. It took the new committee five months to get organized, select and train interviewers (Calvin Ninomiya, Dr. Sue Okubo, Paul Tani and Terry Shima), select a videographer (Grant Hirabayashi), who obtained a \$500 donation from Gloria Kuroda to buy a Camcorder, tripod and other equipment, and schedule interviews. Dr. Glenda Nogami, who had transferred from Carlisle to DOD Washington, DC, trained the interviewers. The Team began interviewing veterans from June 2003 to July 2007. Forty- seven interviews were conducted and the tapes were taken to the LOC/VHP for archive and are available for access by US and foreign researchers. Each interviewee was given a copy of the VHS tape as a souvenir for the family to keep. The objective of the interview was to capture memorable moments of a soldier's life, for example:

- Lt Gene Takahashi, Westport, CT: His capture by the Chinese forces in the midst of Korean winter, escape, disguising himself as a Korean peasant, reuniting with his unit, returning to the front line, applying a tourniquet on himself because medics could not get to him, and getting rescued.
- Dye Ogata, Vallejo, CA: Being buried alive in his foxhole by Japanese bombs and rescued by buddies, in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.
- Medic Kelly Kuwayama, 442nd medic, Washington, DC: Wounded and in complete disregard of his own life, a medic leaving his foxhole to save his buddy in the Vosges forests of France. US Senator Daniel Inouye credits Medic Kuwayama for saving his life in the Po Valley, Italy, campaign. Inouye lost his right arm from enemy fire.
- Peter Okada, Palm Springs, CA: As the result of General MacArthur's order to ban all martial arts from Japanese schools, this former quarterback working in the education department of the Occupation of Japan, introduced American football, which has since become a national competitive sport in Japan.

F. CURATOR ERIC SAUL. JAVA benefited from working with Curator Eric Saul on 3 occasions. First, on August 8, 2010 Saul and JAVA opened a month-long exhibit at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, New York City, entitled *GO FOR BROKE: Japanese Soldiers Fighting on Two Fronts*. The exhibit was dedicated to the memory of Mike Masaoka. Admission was free of charge as it is part of

the National Park Service. Saul obtained a grant, had a large number of photos, and had experience in creating exhibit. JAVA provided ideas for display and arranged for Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF to speak on behalf of Admiral Michael Mullen, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was not able to attend. A number of JAVA members attended the opening ceremony. Second, as part of the sesquicentennial commemoration that culminated in the reenactment of Pickett's charge on July 3, 2013, Saul arranged for the reading of the names of 10,211 soldiers, who were killed in the 3-day battle, at the battlefield near the site of the Pickett's charge. The reading of names was interspersed by the singing of patriotic songs by vocalist Abigail Bingham Endicott of Bethesda, MD and Civil War story telling. Saul invited JAVA to participate in this program. The JAVA representative took his turn in the reading of the names. Japanese American participation in this event has a symbolic significance because the Civil War, like the Revolutionary War, links the Nisei KIAs to the patriots of the wars on US soil to save the Union. Third, Department of Veterans Affairs produced a 27-minute film on the Japanese American experience for broadcast over VA and DOD channels. The VA producer accepted JAVA's recommended story line and also to feature the following: Saul to relate the Japanese American story, Japanese American veterans of WW II (Lawson Sakai, Co E), Korean War (Bob Wada, US Marines tank corps), Vietnam War (Col James Nagahiro, USAF (Ret), B-52 pilot), Gulf War (MG Jason Kamiya, USA, Brigade Commander). The Japanese American story speaks of the Greatness of America: from the disloyalty charge in WW II, to the proving of their loyalty in combat, to competing for key positions and rank, to assuming ranking leadership positions through which they contributed to America's greatness.

**G. BUILD FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND ETHNIC JAPANESE POPULATION IN AMERICA.** JAVA maintains a close relationship with the Embassy of Japan and the US Japan Council (President Irene Hirano Inouye). JAVA has briefed the Ambassadors, Deputy Chiefs of Mission and some Ministers on the ethnic Japanese experience during WW II and its legacy. Arranged by the Ambassador, Yamada has participated in providing similar briefings to Foreign Minister Maehara, Defense Minister Kitazawa, and such ranking generals as General Kamizuka and General Iwata. The Defense Attache's office has arranged similar briefings to visiting defense officials and military officers. Yamada provided Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a private guided tour of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Through Ambassador Sasae's encouragement, the Japanese print and electronic media have interviewed JAVA members to publicize the Japanese American story in Japan.

**H. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL (CGM).** On February 1, 2016 Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson of the National Veterans Network (NVN), told JAVA that Chris Komai was doing a DVD on who did what in the CGM endeavor and asked for JAVA's participation as per a list of questions she provided. The following is JAVA's write-up of responses that Sato-Yamazaki was told JAVA would discuss.

i. Background. January 14, 2009. First engagement. JAVA received a call from Bill Takakoshi who reported the House was voting that day on Congressman Adam Schiff's bill to award CGM to 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup>. Takakoshi introduced Shima to Aaron Baird, Schiff's staff officer. Baird invited Shima to come to Capitol Hill that day as soon as possible. Baird introduced Shima to Schiff at the H/R

chamber meeting room. Shima asked Schiff and Baird, could the Bill include Nisei who served in MIS. They said it was too late as the House was voting on the Bill that day. Shortly after, a copy of Senator Boxer's Bill, submitted to the US Senate, was obtained. No MIS. Boxer's staff declined to make any changes. A staffer said the Bill was patterned after the House Bill. JAVA President Bob Nakamoto agreed that the Bill should include MIS and approved JAVA joining NVN. The National Veterans Network (NVN), activated in 2010, a network of Japanese American veterans associations across the nation, had as its principal goal the inclusion of MIS in the Congressional bill. JAVA, having failed unilaterally to get MIS included in the legislation, joined the NVN, a coalition of veterans organizations, to attempt to achieve this goal. Sato Yamazaki was elected to serve as Chairperson of NVN. The NVN request to include the MIS was accepted by Senator Boxer. On August 2, 2010 Senator Boxer's Bill that included MIS passed the Senate unanimously. The House passed a similar Bill in September, 2010, and on October 5, 2010 President Obama signed it into law at an Oval Office ceremony. Six WW II veterans attended the signing ceremony including: Senator Inouye, Grant Ichikawa, Osamu Fujikawa, Jimmie Kanaya, Terry Shima, and Kelly Kuwayama. Others who attended were, Secretary Eric Shinseki, Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Lynn Kanaya, Asian American members of Congress, Congressman Schiff and a few other dignitaries.

NVN was successful in getting Senator Boxer to include the MIS, which now made the awardees, 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, and MIS.

ii. Question, *what did JAVA do to help support the passage of the CGM bill in Congress:*

a. Capitol Hill. The Senate procedure to get the Bill on the floor for a vote requires 60 senators to sign onto the Bill. JAVA identified the senators who had not yet signed on. We then identified a member or a friend or a friend of a friend of JAVA in the state and encouraged him or her to personally meet, telephone, or send emails to the senator. The priority was to identify a person or persons who were known to the respective senators. For example, Judge Raymond Uno (Utah) and Judge Kerry Haga (Colorado) both knew their senators personally; also, Jun and Hero Shiosaki, both 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans and JAVA members knew one of their Idaho senators. Survivors and families of the trapped Texas battalion rescued by the 442<sup>nd</sup> in France, such as Forde Callis of Tennessee, all felt this was their opportunity to reciprocate and went all-out to reach out to other survivors and/or their families to appeal passionately to their senators. Callis told his senator, "over 200 of us were trapped by the Germans, our division was not able to save us but the Nisei did. Hitler ordered his commander to kill us. I would not be here today if it were not for the Japanese Americans". The children of the survivors told their senators "we would not be here if it were not for the Japanese Americans." The survivors and their families were among our most genuine and active supporters and, importantly, they lived in states where JAVA had no members.

The above approach was complemented by two national JACL fellows, Jean Shiraki and Phillip Ozaki, who served under the guidance of Floyd Mori, national Executive Director. Shiraki and Ozaki visited selected senators' staffers to arrange briefings that included WW II Nisei veterans including Grant Ichikawa.



b. **Constituents Contact Senators.** JAVA was told that senators tended to react to a given issue depending on the number of requests they receive from their constituents. It was incumbent on JAVA, therefore, to get as many appeals as possible to the concerned senators. JAVA members and their friends in the concerned states were asked to organize networks to send letters. While this was a labor-intensive project it was rewarding because people agreed with our goals.

c. **US Mint Hearings.** After the Bill was signed by the President, JAVA representatives attended and spoke at the US Mint hearings at Sato Yamazaki's request. The hearing discussed designs and production.

iii. **Question, what did JAVA do to support the U.S. Capitol ceremony, etc.**

a. **Eligibility Committee.** JAVA managed the NVN Eligibility Committee for the CGM presentation at the US Capitol and the November 2nd banquet at Washington Hilton. The Eligibility Committee had to verify that only eligible persons gained entry to the US Capitol program. Jim Yamashita's registry of WW II veterans was of great value. Metta Tanikawa maintained the NVN Registry. She reported to Christine and to the Committee. The voting members of the Committee were Terry Shima (Chair), Grant Ichikawa and Bob Thompson, President of 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hawaii. Researchers were Dr. Jim McIlwain, Professor Emeritus of Brown University and Seiki Oshiro, WW II Nisei historian. Anyone who was not satisfied with the Committee's decision had the right to appeal to Chairman Sato-Yamazaki.

b. **Honor Flights.** JAVA discussed with *Honor Flight* (President Earl Morse) the expectation that many Nisei combat veterans were planning to visit Washington, DC. Would Honor Flight consider transporting them to receive the CGM free of charge? *Honor Flight* approved. Unfortunately, *Honor Flight*, which did not cover Hawaii, was not able to arrange for an airline to accommodate the veterans from Hawaii. Veterans reported the VIP treatment they received in the pre-board and the recognition they received in-flight. At *Honor Flight's* request, JAVA organized teams at various departure ports to coordinate directly with *Honor Flight* officials for the smooth departure processing. During his presidency of JAVA, Gerald Yamada, in 2013, got JAVA to conduct a national fund drive that collected over \$17,000 that was donated to *Honor Flight* Chairman Jim McLaughlin in a WDC ceremony. The background to this event is provided under Fund Drive, Giving Back on page 22, below.

c. JAVA President Bob Nakamoto served on the NVN Fund Raising Committee or officially known as the Blue Ribbon Committee. He made several large personal donations to NVN via JAVA. Nakamoto reported directly to Sato Yamazaki.

d. Sato-Yamazaki requested that JAVA serve as the central coordinating point for WDC, Maryland and Virginia and other eastern states attendees to the WDC events. Chris DeRosa handled that assignment and reported directly to Sato Yamazaki.

e. A member of the JAVA Research Team served as historian for 100th, 442nd, and MIS. The JAVA member drafted papers for the NVN website and articles for press packets and served as historical consultant on the Nisei WW II matters.

f. Bronze Star Medals. On November 1, 2011, NVN held a *Tribute to 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup> and MIS*, a 90 minute program held at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Originally planned to be held at the National WW II Memorial, it was decided to hold the event at the Hotel to protect the aging veterans against possible adverse weather. The event, which included the presentation of Bronze Star Medals to forty-one 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, had General Raymond Odierno, Chief of Staff of the US Army, as keynote speaker. Following this program, the veterans were bussed to the National WW II Memorial for the wreath laying ceremony. The US Army provided total support for these twin endeavors. LTG Joe Peterson, USA (Ret), a life member of JAVA, did the heavy lifting to obtain the considerable US Army support. We could not have received the high level of support we received, without cost to NVN, if it were not for LTG Peterson. MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), served alongside LTG Peterson. The Army's focal point was COL Frank Caponio, USA. JAVA President Gerald Yamada served as Chair of the WDC WW II and JA Memorial Program Committee and Gordon Aoyagi and Terry Shima served as members. Craig Uchida, Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and Grant Ichikawa also served on the Team. A JAVA member was responsible for developing the project and coordination. Another thirty Bronze Star medals were sent by the Army to Army units in the various states where formal presentation ceremonies were held in conjunction with the CGM presentation programs in the regions. Kay Tiernan of the Army Human Resources Command (HRC) was responsible for obtaining the some 70 BSMs. JAVA's relationship to HRC began before the CGM endeavor and it was thanks to the introduction to HRC officials by MG Taguba. When LTG Thomas Bostick, USA, a JAVA member, served as Army Staff's G-1, who had over-all responsibility for HRC, Bostick endorsed the HRC Bronze Star endeavor.

g. Airports receptions. COL Frank Nekoba, USAF (Ret), and his wife Barbara advised JAVA that they would independently, but in coordination with JAVA, arrange a welcome of attendees arriving at the Washington Reagan Airport. When this matter was raised with JAVA members, LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA, JAVA Treasurer, volunteered to organize a welcome committee at Dulles Airport and Tom Hodges volunteered to do the same at Baltimore-Washington Airport. Hodges and Nakagawa made all arrangements for the welcome as well as payment for any expenses, which was personal. Approximately 315 WW II Nisei veterans came to WDC, about 2/3 of them in wheel chairs and a number of them with oxygen tanks. At a reception in Washington DC, US Senator Inouye in a private moment with a JAVA official asked about planning for the CGM presentation program. When he was told around 300 Nisei veterans have registered to come, the Senator, who was familiar with the Nisei veterans around the country, asked deadpanned, "how many wheel chairs".

h. Presentation Ceremony. On November 2, 2011, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, John Boehner, presented the Congressional Gold Medal to representatives of the 100<sup>th</sup> BN, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the MIS, in a ceremony at the US Capitol Building. JAVA's Grant Ichikawa received the CGM for the MIS, Dr Susumu Ito received it for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and Mitsuo Hamasu

received it for the 100<sup>th</sup> Bn. A gala dinner was held that evening at the Washington Hilton Hotel. The two events were arranged by Sato-Yamazaki, NVN Chairperson.

i. Remembrance to Nisei KIA. On November 3, 2011 JAVA (Executive Director Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)) arranged the program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism entitled *Remembrance to Nisei KIA* (Killed in Action). There were over 800 Nisei who died in line of duty during WW II.

I. USO AND HONOR FLIGHTS. Lona Ichikawa, while pursuing a full-time position, spent most of her off duty hours assisting veterans who visited the National WW II Memorial on Honor Flights and assisted the USO pack and ship care packages to soldiers overseas. Ichikawa's experience with Honor Flights eased the arrival of over 150 Nisei who visited WDC for the Congressional Gold Medal Award in November 2011. Ichikawa was a member of the JAVA Speakers Bureau and spoke at schools, civic organizations and government entities. She was totally dedicated to the soldier, which was her career job at one time.

J. FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR. About 2010, CPT Monica Stoy, USA (Ret), President, Outpost International of the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, advised JAVA that the Government of France was awarding the Legion of Honor to Americans who fought for the liberation of France. JAVA announced the opportunity through a press release. Because the application forms are so detailed, a number of young men and women have stepped forward to assist the veterans. Jeff Morita, a military retiree, has helped a number of veterans apply for this French award. Press coverage of award ceremonies at various cities indicates this endeavor is worthwhile.

K. THE PLAY "ALLEGIANCE". JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Esq wrote a review of the play "Allegiance," which he saw when it was first performed in San Diego, CA, in October 2012. Yamada was offended by the play's attempt to promote sympathy for those who answered no to the loyalty questionnaire by trying to taint the reputation of those who volunteered to serve in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT). The play portrayed those who volunteered as being duped into serving in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, which was characterized in the play as a "suicide battalion." The inference was that the resisters made the better choice as to how to show their loyalty to the United States. In response to public criticism, the play was modified when the play opened in New York City. The modified play no longer harshly demonized Mike Masaoka, who is credited with suggesting the formation of a segregated Japanese American combat unit resulting in the creation of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and was more balanced in portraying the conflict between those who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and those who refused to serve. Yamada visited San Diego and New York at his personal expense.

L. THE DVD "RIGHT OF PASSAGE". Yamada also wrote reviews of the DVD "Right of Passage," which was funded by Nitto Tires and directed by Janice Tanaka. The DVD purports to outline the events leading to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka "Redress"). One of the obstacles to passage of the Redress legislation was President Reagan's public statement that he would veto the bill if passed by Congress. The challenge for Redress supporters was how to change President Reagan's mind. The DVD takes the position that what changed the President's mind is a "mystery." In

his reviews of the DVD, Yamada challenged the DVD's status as a documentary since it omitted key facts that lead to President Reagan changing his mind and signing the Redress bill into law. The DVD failed to include Grant Ujifusa and New Jersey Governor Tom Kean's contributions in developing the critical strategy on behalf of JACL to change President Reagan's mind – reminding the President about his role in 1945 in awarding a military award to the Masuda family in honor of Sgt. Masuda, who was a 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT soldier and was killed in action. The DVD also failed to include that portion of the President's signing statement in which he recounted the story of Sgt. Masuda and stated that he was signing the legislation in honor of the sacrifices made by the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT during World War II. By failing to give the 442<sup>nd</sup> 's combat accomplishments credit for changing the President's mind, the DVD dishonored the valor, sacrifices, and the service of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. After Yamada's reviews were published, the DVD has not been distributed nor shown.

M. US NAVY YARD. Takashi Muragaki, chairman of the Society of Descendants of the first Japanese Embassy in the USA, asked JAVA for help to place a plaque at the Washington Navy Yard to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese diplomatic mission to Washington, DC. Muragaki, a resident of Maryland, is a descendant of the first Japanese Deputy Ambassador, Muragaki Awajinokami. JAVA arranged Muragaki's meeting with the Navy Yard Commandant and provided advice on various issues. A plaque was placed in a formal ceremony at the Navy Yard on May 13, 2016 attended by Navy personnel, Japanese embassy officials, JAVA members, and the Japanese community.

N. DAY OF REMEMBRANCE. Each year the Smithsonian American History Museum holds a Day of Remembrance Program to commemorate the day, February 19, 1942, that President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 which authorized the military to incarcerate 110,000 ethnic Japanese Americans, over ½ of them US citizens, in internment camps guarded by armed sentries on the ground and in guard towers with machine guns. Noriko Sanefuji, Smithsonian staff official, is responsible for arranging this program. JAVA is a regular sponsor of this event.

O. NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL. JAVA participates every Spring in two events during the Annual National Cherry Blossom Festival. One is the Freedom Walk, held jointly with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation at the front end of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. JAVA's representative on the Freedom Walk Committee has been LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret). Miyako Tanabe served on the Registration desk. After a 45-minute program, traditionally including the Japanese Ambassador and Secretary Norman Mineta, an organized walk is conducted using a path containing cherry blossom trees.

The other is *Sakura Matsuri*. In the early 2000, Japan America Society of WDC (JASW) provided a table to Marcia Mau to teach the public the art of origami. In her second year she shared her table with JAVA. The first chair of the JAVA endeavor was Dr. Warren Tsuneishi and he was followed by Grant Hirabayashi and later by Reuben Yoshikawa. The JAVA display, discussions, giveaways of write-ups of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and MIS and sale of books and other veterans memorabilia became so popular that JASW President, Ambassador John Malott, provided a tent each year exclusive for JAVA use. Dr. Falk and Dr. Tsuneishi served at the booth discussing the Japanese

American story during WW II and signing their book, *American Patriots: MIS in the War Against Japan*. Dr. Falk also discussed and gave visitors his two-page write up entitled *Nisei Soldier in the War against Japan*. Aki Konoshima, long time editor of the JAVA Newsletter, sells his autobiography and donates the proceeds to JAVA. The unique feature of this program is JAVA's ability to discuss the Japanese American story with visitors of all ethnic backgrounds who normally are not reached by the JAVA's Speakers Bureau and other public contact programs. The volunteers who served at the Sakura Matsuri booth in addition to the above at different points in time includes Betty Taira, Lida and Taro Konoshima, Gerald and Nancy Yamada, Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Calvin Ninomiya, Esq, Noriko Sanefuji, LTC Kurt Takushi, USA (Ret) and Yumi, Grant Ichikawa, Miyako Tanabe, Dr. Norman Ikari, Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), LTC Alan Ueoka, USA, CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), LTC Alan Goshi, USA (Ret), COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), Beth Kelley, and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret).

P. **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND.** JAVA participates every Spring, during the Memorial Day weekend, in three events. One is the decoration of some 90 Japanese Americans and Caucasians who served as officers in Nisei units who are interred at Arlington National Cemetery. In 2006, at JAACL WDC Chapter President, Dr. Craig Uchida's invitation, JAVA participated as a joint partner. Following the 45 minute program at the Pavilion near the Columbarium, the attendees lay flowers at each gravesite followed by the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. This annual event has been held continuously for over 60 years under the JAACL WDC banner by MIS veteran Key Kobayashi and after his death by his family, led by son Turner Kobayashi. The second program is held at the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater. On Memorial Day JAVA leadership is invited to the National Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater to listen to the President deliver his message to the nation. This event is arranged annually by Department of Defense. JAVA is invited because it is a member of the VA National Veterans Day Committee. The third event, held jointly with the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and the Pan Pacific Americans Leaders and Mentors (PPALM), is held on Memorial Day at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Q. **VETERANS DAY.** On Veterans Day, two JAVA representatives are invited to the White House for breakfast with the President and Vice President. The attendees are then bussed to the Arlington Cemetery to witness the President place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. They then move to the Amphitheater, where they have VIP seating to listen to the President's address the nation. In the afternoon, JAVA, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) jointly hold their Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. The JAVA chair of this event is Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret). Erika Moritsugu prepared the program handouts over a long period of time.

### **3. ADMINISTRATIVE**

A. **RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.** When JAVA WDC was activated in 1992, it already had relationships with other MIS veterans organizations in such locations as Hawaii, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago and the Midwest. JAVA WDC's immediate goal at that time was to coordinate the MIS Reunion in Washington, DC. JAVA WDC, in keeping with its mission,

provided financial help to a newly-formed regional MIS organization. In addition to MIS veteran organizations, JAVA WDC established liaison with other Japanese American civic organizations such as the Japanese American National Museum, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, which constructed the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism (NJAMP). During the Mizusawa and post Mizusawa administrations this liaison included (A) such veterans organizations as the 100<sup>th</sup> Veterans Hawaii, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hawaii, Go For Broke National Education Center, National Japanese American Historical Society, Nisei Veterans Committee of Seattle, WA; Jewish American Veterans Association, the Polish American Veterans Association, 36<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans, 34<sup>th</sup> Division Veterans and (B ) museums and research units such as Japanese American National Museum (JANM), Densho, and Smithsonian. As other Nisei veteran organizations dissolved their organizations, JAVA offered to transfer life members of those organizations to JAVA at no cost.

**B. NATIONAL VETERANS ALLIANCE.** To expand their credentials as a national organization, JAVA joined the National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA) in 2005. The Alliance consisted of 30 veterans organizations with a total membership of 3.5 million members. The purpose of NMVA is to work with Congress, the VA and other organizations to adopt measures that would benefit veterans and to block measures that did not. A JAVA representative attended the monthly meetings.

**C. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/FRIENDS OF JAVA.** Because JAVA is a tax-exempt veterans organization, in general, only those with military experience are accepted as full members. Persons without military experience are accepted for membership with restrictions, e.g. they are not allowed to vote or to be elected to an elected office. Around 2012 the Associate Member designation was changed to Friends of JAVA.

**D. JAVA WEBSITE.** Thanks to his information technology (IT) skills and initiative, long serving JAVA WDC and JAVA Secretary Dave Buto, created the first JAVA WDC website ([www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)) on January 15, 2000. With his knowledge of JAVA's philosophy, mission and goals, Buto did not need guidance to create the website. The website enhanced JAVA's visibility and resulted in requests for radio/TV and newspaper interviews with 442<sup>nd</sup> and MIS veterans and detainees at internment camps. For example, ABC/TV Ollie North War Stories called, asked a number of questions, and a relationship developed into JAVA being asked to serve as a consultant to the one-hour national broadcast on the Nisei war experience. Teachers, representatives of civic organizations, and officials of the US government consulted the website and invited JAVA speakers to discuss the Japanese American experience during WW II. Foreign and US researchers requested information, introductions to Nisei veterans, or contacts with Nisei veterans, which were provided. Potential donors asked questions to evaluate JAVA's qualifications to receive their donations.

As Secretary during the Mizusawa's four years and into Nakamoto's administration, Buto gained considerable additional insights into the workings of JAVA and was familiar with the change of scope, direction, and operational emphasis. Without consulting anyone, Buto created Generation II of [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org). The updated website continued to serve as an indispensable channel to the general public. A number of callers noted the usefulness of the website. Although Buto no longer held any leadership portfolio in JAVA he continued to serve as webmaster and as Chair of the NARA Digitization

Project. In early 2016, JAVA Administrator Beth Kelley created and inaugurated Generation III called JAVA.Wildapricot.org. Kelley transferred to Wildapricot all the relevant files from JAVA Generation II such as copies of JAVA Advocate, press releases, and the NARA digitized database. In addition, she created other features such as posting research papers of the JAVA Research Team and the Nisei WW II Legacy, which is a comprehensive narrative and pictorial presentation of the Japanese American experience during WW II and the impact of that experience on future generations of Japanese Americans.

E. JAVA NEWSLETTER AND JAVA ADVOCATE. From its inception to January 2003, JAVA WDC published the *JAVA Newsletter*. The bimonthly *JAVA Newsletter*, the official organ of JAVA, with COL Hank Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret) editor, began publication about February 1993. Fred Murakami succeeded Wakabayashi in approximately January 1995 and Aki Konoshima succeeded Murakami in approximately January 1996, when he was elected President, to June 2006. Konoshima, a professional journalist with United Press International (UPI), later served as press officer for US Senator Hiram Fong (Hawaii).

JAVA changed the name of the *JAVA Newsletter* to *JAVA Advocate* in June 2006, when LTC (then CAPT) Kay Wakatake, USA was appointed Editor. JAVA President Bob Nakamoto personally assumed the cost of color printing. Wakatake took this position to her various postings: to the Judge Advocate General's graduate school at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, VA; to Munich, Germany; to the war zone in Iraq where her duty hours were 16/7; and to various domestic postings. The Advocate had the distinction of being the only Veterans newsletter that was published in a war zone. Following is a listing of *JAVA Newsletter* and *JAVA Advocate* editors:

• August 1993 to August 1994	COL Hank Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)
• February 1995 to October 1996	Fred Murakami
• November 1996 to March 2006	Aki Konoshima
• June 2006 to Winter 2012	LTC Kay Wakatake, USA
• Spring 2013 to Summer 2013	LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR [Brevity due to work pressure in new professional position.]
• Fall 2013 to Winter 2013	Erika Moritsugu [Brevity due to her appointment as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at Department of Housing]
• Spring 2014	
• Summer 2014 to Fall 2015	
• Winter-Spring 2015-16 to Spring 2017	Dr. Chad Diehl and Anri Yasuda
• Summer 2017 - _____	Beth Kelley

The *Advocate* is sent to members via email and to those without email via postal mail. Nakamoto donated the cost of color printing from June 2006 until he passed away on April 23, 2014. Bill Houston has since obtained his firm's approval to print the *Advocate* as a public service. Chris De Rosa has served as circulation manager.

F. **JAVA ROUND ROBIN (RR).** JAVA electronic bulletin, nicknamed the Round Robin or RR, was created by Grant Ichikawa around 2003, to pass news quickly, informally and unofficially to JAVA members. It also disseminated obituaries of Nikkei veterans as provided by Roger Eaton. While the RR was normally a fortnightly publication, special editions were distributed as dictated by the information perishability. LTC Brett Egusa, USAR, succeeded Ichikawa as editor in summer 2012. Egusa streamlined the format, revised the writing style, and continued to have the RR serve side by side with the *Advocate*, Facebook and website.

G. **JAVA ON FACEBOOK.** In 2012, JAVA began outreach to a wider audience through the use of social media by creating a Facebook page. JAVA created this page to supplement the public-facing JAVA website in order to push information out to the public. JAVA publishes article from its website, the *Advocate* newsletter, photographs from JAVA events, and links to relevant news articles. In 2017, JAVA directly engages with 950 people across 10 countries that follow JAVA's newsfeed by "liking" the Facebook page and indirectly engages with up to 3,000 people who are friends of these individuals. The most popular posts are photographs from JAVA events and links to relevant and timely news articles. The link to the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association-201704733192222/>. The Administrator of the Facebook page is LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR.

H. **JAVA SCHOLARSHIPS.** The first scholarship awards began on May 16, 2009 with the award of two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each: Shirey and Tashiro. The MAJ Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund (later called the Orville and Maude Shirey Scholarship Fund) was established in 2004 followed by the Jack Tashiro Scholarship Fund in 2005. JAVA scholarship awards have grown to 13 in 2016. In 2016, the largest award, \$5,000, was in the name of Senator Daniel Inouye, a \$3,000 Founder's award was in the name of COL Phil, wife Connie, and son, Douglas Ishio, and eleven \$1,500 awards were awarded in the names of MAJ Orville Shirey, Bob Nakamoto, Betty Shima, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi, Dr Calvin and, sister, Betty Taira, Kaoru Shimabukuro, CWO-4 Mitsugi Kasai, Calvin Ninomiya, Kyoko Tsuboi Taubkin, Teru and Victor Matsui, and Ben Kuroki. The Inouye and Ishio awards began in 2014. Except for the Inouye and Taubkin Awards, all awards are funded by the respective families. The Senator Inouye scholarship is the sole scholarship funded by JAVA. The first chairman of the Scholarship Committee was COL Thomas V. Mukai, USA (Ret). Subsequent chairmen were Dr. Jim Furukawa, Professor Emeritus at Towson University; Calvin Ninomiya, Esq; Dr. Ray Murakami; CPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret); Bill Houston, Esq., and Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret).

I. **JAVA RESEARCH TEAM.** The JAVA Research Team (JRT) produces papers relating to the Japanese American experience during WW II and the impact of that experience on future generations of Japanese Americans, to support other JAVA elements such as the *Advocate* and to liaise with research sections of various organizations such as Densho, National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), Smithsonian. Dr. James McIlwain, Professor Emeritus of Brown University, a historian on Japanese American experience during WW II, has provided valuable support. More specifically, following are examples of JRT research efforts, which can be found on JAVA website (JAVA.WildApricot.com):

i. **MISLS List.** Grant Ichikawa, the late Paul Tani and Seiki Oshiro collaborated on a project to compile a roster of approximately 6,000 full names of MISers who attended the MIS Language School (MISLS). It was a major project because the records were scattered and the names were listed by last



names and initials of their first names. This list is used by the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), Jim Yamashita's *Echoes of Silence*, and JAVA's website (JAVA.wildapricot.org).

ii. Japanese American Experience during WW II and its Legacy. This comprehensive story, with photos, can be found on JAVA website, JAVA.wildapricot.org.

iii. Imperial Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. Contrary to some claims and books, no Nisei was involved in any phase of the shoot-down of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Imperial Japanese navy commander of the Pacific. This shoot-down operation was the result of a US Navy intercept of Japanese naval communication, translation of the intercepted message, and the sending of P-38s from Henderson Field, Solomon Islands, to execute the shoot down. The 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force, of which a MIS translator was a part, has no record of this event. The 5<sup>th</sup> AF only involvement was to provide a few belly tanks for the P-38s to carry extra fuel.

iv. Imperial Japanese Navy Z Plan. The Imperial Japanese Navy Z Plan, which was the Japanese Navy top secret plan to annihilate the US Navy was found near the sea shore of Cebu, Philippines, by villagers, who passed it to the Filipino guerrillas, who, in turn, delivered it to the American stay behind operation. The Z Plan was picked up by a US submarine at a secret rendezvous point in Japanese-occupied Philippines and delivered to General MacArthur's Allied Translation and Interpretation Service (ATIS) in Australia. Following its translation by an ATIS team, including Nisei, it was delivered to CINCPAC by special plane and again by special plane to Eniwetok Atoll, where the US naval commanders were breaking up from their planning meeting for the Philippine Sea naval battle. The translated Z Plan was received by the naval commanders prior to engagement. The JRT presentation does not support some published reports that the original Z Plan was copied by the US and returned to the Japanese Admiral, the original custodian. The Z plan was not returned to the Japanese. It is reported that a New York TV producing firm is considering filming this story.

v. List of Asia Pacific American generals and admirals. During WW II there were only two Asia Pacific Americans (Hawaiian Americans) with the rank of Brigadier General. During WW II minorities were not viewed favorably for leadership positions. Post WW II reforms leveled the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank. Francis Takemoto, a member of the Hawaii National Guard and a combat veteran of the 100th Battalion, became the first Japanese American to be promoted to Brigadier General in the US Army. Following the Vietnam War, some 140 Asia Pacific Americans, competing with the best of the best, have been promoted to generals and admirals, with one, General Eric Shinseki, becoming Chief of Staff of the US Army. The ethnic groups represented in this list are Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Hawaii islanders, and Guamanian Americans. JRT received valuable guidance from MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), to develop this list.

vi. List of MIS individual awards. This is a compilation jointly by NJAHS (National Japanese American Historical Society) and JAVA of individual awards presented to MIS soldiers. NJAHS has the responsibility to maintain the database. Although it is a sampling of some 900 MISers, which is approximately one fourth of some 4,000 MISers who served in the Asia Pacific war zone, the list illustrates the extent of Nisei duty on the front lines in direct contact with the enemy. The individual awards include: 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 129 Combat Infantryman's Badge, 56 Purple Heart, 38 Silver Stars, 428 Bronze Star Medals, 37 Legions of Merit, 252 commendations, etc. This list includes NJAHS' review of the Joseph Harrington (*Yankee Samurai*) papers which are stored at NJAHS. This is the only comprehensive compilation of individual MIS awards that JRT is aware of. There was no case of Nisei desertion or collusion with the enemy.

**J. QUARTERLY LUNCHEONS.** JAVA holds a luncheon meeting each quarter to conduct club business, hear a speaker or speakers, and for camaraderie. Barbara Nekoba started the quarterly luncheon meetings since the early period of JAVA, which have since been enjoyed by members. We are grateful to Barbara for this and other initiatives. Over the twenty-five-year period, a number of volunteers stepped forward to assist with taking reservations, managing the reception desk, accept the luncheon fee, select and look after speakers, prepare the program, coordinate with the restaurant management, set up the VIP tables with place cards. The list of volunteers is long, such as LTC Rod Azama, USA (Ret), Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), Grant Ichikawa, Susie Ichiuji, Beth Kelley, Frances Kuge, Marcia Mau, Erika Moritsugu, Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), SGM Royce Nakatani, USA (Ret), Tom and Jill Phan, Terry Shima, Betty Taira, Miyako Tanabe, Metta Tanikawa and Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret).

**K. MEMBERSHIP DUES.** Thanks in part to the proceeds derived from the Taubkin endowment, the JAVA Executive Council (EC) approved a waiver of membership dues as of Spring 2012. Since Spring 2012, all members are accorded free life time membership upon entry. This waiver of membership dues applies to all veterans, active duty personnel, and Friends of JAVA.

**L. GIVING BACK, NATIONAL FUND DRIVES.** JAVA conducted two national fund drives.

i. One was for the National War Memorial Court, located in the courtyard of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA. In late summer 2009, JAVA received a message from the leadership of the National War Memorial Court (NWMC), inviting JAVA to participate in their fund drive to build an endowment for future NWMC leaders to draw on in an emergency basis to pay for maintenance of the court. NWMC is the only location in America where the names of all Japanese Americans who were killed in combat (KIA) are memorialized. In addition, there is etched on the wall the names of the 7 Japanese nationals, serving as seamen of the US Navy, who sank with the USS Maine in the Havana harbor in the War of 1898. These Japanese nationals joined the navy with the view this would help them obtain US citizenship. Prior to the Mizusawa administration, JAVA made a donation for the construction of the NWMC. JAVA agreed to participate in the above fund drive and JAVA's national members donated over \$19,500.

ii. The second national fund drive was held for the benefit of the Honor Flight Network. On November 11, 2013, at the annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, President Gerald Yamada presented a JAVA check in the amount of \$17,500 to Honor Flight Network Chairman Jim McLaughlin. Yamada said this is JAVA's way of saying thank you for transporting WW II Nisei veterans from airports in continental USA to visit the National WW II Memorial, including 150 MIS, 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans in early November 2011 to also participate in the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremonies. May add another

iii. JAVA's national fund drive in 2014 raised \$1,000 for the Fisher House, which provides military families housing close to a loved one during hospitalization for an illness, disease or injury.

**M. MARYLAND VETERANS COMMISSION.** Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward Chow's goal was to get Asia Pacific Americans involved in various state matters. Sheila Khatri, a Friend of JAVA, promoted JAVA to various Maryland veterans' efforts. To this end, in June 2011, he appointed a JAVA Maryland resident, Terry Shima, to the Maryland Veterans Commission, which is responsible for the oversight of the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH), located in Charlotte Hall, MD. On

September 16, 2015 LTC Rod Azama, USA, (Ret), also a Maryland resident, assumed the commissionership. The commission meets at CHVH quarterly.

#### N. AWARDS PRESENTED

i. *American Patriot Award*. During the 1993 MIS Reunion, JAVA WDC presented three *American Patriot Awards* to Shigeya Kihara, LTC Richard Sakakida, USA (Ret), Col Harry Fukuhara, USA (Ret) and M/Sgt Roy Matsumoto, described above. Records were not readily available that showed other major awards presented during the Ishio/Wakabayashi/Murakami periods.

ii. *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award* (successor to the *American Patriot Award*). Award recipients were:

- Sandra Tanamachi, November 13, 2005
- US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, March 6, 2007
- Dr. James McNaughton, March 6, 2007
- John Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, September 27, 2007
- Ambassador Kozo 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> Inf Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, March 23, 2014
- The Honorable Edward Chow, January 17, 2015
- Congressman Adam Schiff, March 14, 2015
- The Honorable Norman Mineta, October 14, 2017

iii. *Terry Shima Leadership Award*. The Awards were presented to:

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

iv. *Congressional Gold Medal with Inscription*. The *CGM with Inscription* award recipients were:

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

#### O. MAJOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITION RECEIVED BY JAVA MEMBERS

i. Recognition by the White House. During Ishio/Wakabayashi/Murakami period, Presidents Ishio, Wakabayashi and Murakami attempted to gain public recognition for JAVA WDC through the White House exposure. For example,

1. Punchbowl, HI. At the VJ-Day ceremony at the *National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Punchbowl* in September 1995, Dr Warren Tsuneishi was selected to stand in the receiving line

to welcome the VIPs, including President Bill Clinton. Hawaii Nisei veterans were included in the lunch for Clinton. Later, COL Harry Fukuhara was invited to join the group, which golfed with Clinton in Honolulu.

2. **Memorial Day, White House.** On May 27, 1996, VA Secretary Togo West invited Wakabayashi to a White House Memorial Day breakfast for veterans.

3. **White House.** Wakabayashi was invited to the White House ceremony in 1996 for the issuance of the POW/MIA postage stamp.

4. **Arlington Cemetery.** At the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day on May 8, 1995, President Bill Clinton spoke in a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown at Arlington National Cemetery. Clinton paid tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Robert Katayama of Hawaii was invited to stand with the DOD dignitaries. In a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown on the same day, RADM Melvin Chiogioji, USNR (Ret), Col Frank Nekoba, USAF (Ret) and COL Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret) held a JAVA wreath laying ceremony at the same Tomb.

5. **Fort Myer.** In 1996, Yukio Kawamoto, MIS veteran, was among the veterans who accompanied Vice President Albert Gore to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VJ Day at Fort Myer.

6. **Arlington Cemetery.** On November 10, 1996, JAVA WDC laid a wreath at the Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown. Toro Hirose, 442 Veteran, later appeared in a 30 minute TV feature in Fairfax, VA (Channel 10).

ii. Mizusawa and his successors agreed with their predecessors on the importance of maintaining cordial relations with the White House. For example,

1. **WW II Memorial.** In his remarks at the dedication of the National WW II Memorial on May 29, 2004 during the JAVA period, President George W. Bush described the heroism of George Joe Sakato, MOH recipient. The President discussed Sakato's heroism in the Vosges Forests to rescue the trapped Texas battalion in October 1944. He said Sakato was enraged when his buddy was shot and died in his arms. In disregard of his own life, Sakato charged at the enemy's pillboxes.

2. **Northern Virginia Community.** On April 28, 2006 President Bush led a panel discussion on medicare at a Northern Virginia Community College, VA. JAVA President Bob Nakamoto was a member of the panel. Four JAVA members were accorded seats of honor.

3. On May 12, 2006, 15 JAVA members were invited to the White House East Room for the Asia Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month celebration. When President Bush recognized the heroism of the 442<sup>nd</sup> in his remarks, JAVA WW II veterans stood in unison and offered a hand salute. The President returned the salute. A photo of this happenstance appeared in the White House press release.

4. **White House South Lawn.** On June 29, 2006, thirty-five JAVA members were invited to the White House South Lawn to welcome Japan Prime Minister Koizumi. That evening Ben Kuroki, wife and daughter, Julie, attended the White House dinner for Koizumi.

5. **Veterans Day Breakfast.** On November 11, 2006, Vice President Calvin Shintani attended JAVA's first White House Veterans Day breakfast with President George W. Bush. Attendees were representatives of the Veterans Day National Committee. Following this event the attendees were bussed to Arlington Cemetery to witness the President lay his wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown and sit in the VIP section of the Amphitheater to listen to the President's address to the nation. This protocol has been followed each year with two JAVA representatives attending.

6. **White House Christmas.** On November 30, 2006, Glenn Kikuchi was invited to the White House Christmas holiday reception. He received a White House photo.

7. On May 10, 2007, sixteen JAVA members were invited to the APA Heritage Month celebration at the White House East Room. Grant Hirabayashi, Grant Ichikawa, Paul Tani, and Kelly Kuwayama were given VIP seating in the front row. In his remarks, President Bush said the Japanese Americans have set an example for Americans in uniform.

8. On May 1, 2008 JAVA WW II veterans, Ben Kuroki, Joe Ichiuji, Kelly Kuwayama, Grant Ichikawa, and Grant Hirabayashi were assigned front row VIP seating at the APA Heritage month celebration at the White House East Room. In addition to discussing the 442<sup>nd</sup> Lost Battalion rescue operation the President singled out Kuroki's heroism as a gunner in a bomber.

9. At the APA Heritage Month celebration at the White House East Room on October 14, 2009, President Barack Obama praised JAVA public service work and called for an applause from the audience.

10. **White House Oval Office.** On October 5, 2010, 442<sup>nd</sup> and MIS veterans (Senator Dan Inouye, Grant Ichikawa, Osamu Fujikawa, Jimmie Kanaya, and Kelly Kuwayama) were invited to the White House Oval Office to witness President Obama sign the Congressional Gold Medal Bill into law. Others who attended were members of congress, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki and Christine Sato Yamazaki, chairperson of the National Veterans Network, who arranged the visit.

11. On the occasion of Smithsonian 2014 Day of Remembrance program on February 18, 2014, 7 Nisei veterans (Joseph Kurata, Tommie Okabayashi, James Takemori, Dr. Susumu Ito, Nelson Akagi, and Grant Ichikawa) were invited to the White House Oval Office, where they were received by President Obama. This visit was arranged by Floyd Mori and Christine Sato-Yamazaki.

12. **Distinguished Unit Citation.** On June 30, 2000, Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki presented the Distinguished Unit Citation to members of the MIS. The MIS received no publicity for its WW II accomplishments because their work was classified SECRET. US Senator Akaka requested the Secretary of the Army to conduct a review to determine if the MIS were qualified to

receive the DUC. COL Ishio, USAR (Ret), and COL Fukuhara worked hard with Senator Akaka and his staff member, John Tagami, to get this recognition for MIS.

13. American Veterans Center. November 10, 2007, George Joe Sakato, MOH recipient, Kelly Kuwayama, and Joe Ichiuji received the Audie Murphy Award from the American Veterans Center, Washington, DC. In subsequent years, Hershey Miyamura, MOH recipient-Korean War, Ben Kuroki, and Judge Vincent Okamoto, Vietnam War, received this same award.

14. Martin Luther King Award. January 21, 2008. New Hampshire Diversity Council presented the *Martin Luther King Keep the Dream Alive Award* to JAVA. Joe Ichiuji visited New Hampshire, at the Council's expense, to receive the Award.

15. Foreign Minister's Award. November 17, 2010. Bob Nakamoto, Grant Ichikawa, and Terry Shima received the Japan Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara's Award from Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki. On January 7, 2011 the above JAVA members, plus Gerald Yamada, met Maehara at a small business meeting with Japanese American leaders in the WDC area at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel arranged by the Japanese Embassy.

16. Distinguished Service Cross. On June 7, 2011 Rocky Matayoshi, 442<sup>nd</sup>, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in a ceremony in the Hall of Heroes, Pentagon. LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) and MG Tony Taguba provided vital facilitative assistance to JAVA. Although Matayoshi was awarded the DSC in a formal ceremony at Fort Leavenworth, officiated by former Chief of Staff Gordon R. Sullivan, the Army Human Resources Command (HRC) maintained there was no record of a General Order issued to Matayoshi, thus no DSC. Senator Daniel Inouye and Army Chief of Staff Eric Shinseki both sent letters, separately, to the HRC, which responded no General Order was found, thus it cannot confirm the DSC was awarded. The single witness to the event, found by Matayoshi, was crucial to the HRC approval of JAVA's request.

17. Congressional Gold Medal. This topic was covered on page 15, above.

18. Presidential Citizens Medal. On February 15, 2013 Terry Shima was invited to the White House East Room to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Obama. This award was for Shima's public service through JAVA.

19. Japanese Imperial Award. On May 21, 2013 Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae of Japan conferred on Terry Shima the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays and Rosette for his efforts in JAVA to strengthen US – Japan relations.

20. The Order of Military Merit, *Taeguk*, South Korea. On July 27, 2014 Hershey Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient, received the Taeguk, South Korea's highest medal for valor.

21. Assistant Secretary, HUD. Erika Moritsugu, JAVA volunteer and *Advocate* editor, was appointed Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 30, 2014

**22. JASW Award.** On December 4, 2014 Grant Ichikawa was invited to the Japan America Society of WDC annual dinner, where he received the JASW Marshall Green Award. The award was presented by Secretary Mineta and JASW Chairman Matthew Goodman.

**23. VA and MD Legislatures' Resolutions.** On February 14, 2015, Col Dale Shirasago, USAF (Ret), Wade Ishimoto, Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), were invited to the Commonwealth of Virginia House of Delegates, Richmond, VA, where they received the Joint Resolution to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the MIS. Later, on April 1, 2016 JAVA representatives were invited to the Maryland State House at Annapolis, MD to receive a Resolution from the House of Delegates in its chamber and a similar Resolution from the Maryland Senate in its chamber. On the invitation of the Senate President to provide some remarks, the JAVA representative told the state senators that these events linked the soldiers of the Revolutionary War to the Nisei soldiers of WW II who, like the Revolutionary War patriots, fought to preserve our nation.

**24. Japanese Imperial Award.** On April 29, 2015, the Embassy of Japan conferred the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays and Rosette on Dr. Ray Murakami for promoting Japanese American friendship.

**25. Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM).** On October 11, 2015 Wade Ishimoto received the PPALM Distinguished Citizenship and Patriotism Award from Chairman MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret) at its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Membership Meeting and Reception held at the Washington Convention Center.

**26. JALD Delegation.** During the Summer 2016, Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) was selected to join the Japan America Leadership Delegation (JALD), sponsored by the US-Japan Council, on its visit to Japan for orientation and to meet and exchange views with Japanese officials, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, industrialists, and scholars.

**27. Who's Who for Asian American Communities (WWAAC).** Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) received the WWAAC Leaders and Legends Award from WWAAC at its Awards dinner in Atlanta, GA on September 24, 2016.

**28. Special Operations Command.** On April 18, 2017, Wade Ishimoto was inducted into the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Commando Hall of Honor in a ceremony held at USSOCOM Headquarters in Tampa, FL. He was recognized for his many years of contributions to special operations ranging from cross-border operations in Vietnam, being the Intelligence Officer and Road Block team leader on the 1980 attempt to rescue 53 American hostages in Tehran, to his role as a Distinguished Senior Fellow for the Joint Special Operations University.

**29. JAVA members Command Sergeant Major Ernest Tabata, USA (Ret) and CPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret) were inducted into the US Army Special Forces Hall of Fame as Distinguished members of the Special Forces Regiment. Both Tabata and Ishimoto were also inducted into the US Special Operations Command Hall of Honor (also known as the Commando Hall of Honor) with Tabata being accorded the prestigious Colonel Bull Simons Award.**

**P. LEADERSHIP CHANGES.** Serving a two-year term, there has been the following changes of presidents.

- April 1992 –December 31, 1994: COL Phil Sunao Ishio, USAR (Ret)
- January 1995 – December 31, 1996: COL Hank Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)
- January 1997 – December 31, 1998: Fred Murakami
- January 1999 – December 31, 2000: COL Wakabayashi
- January 2001 – December 31, 2002: COL Phil Sunao Ishio, USAR (Ret)
- January 2003 – December 31, 2004: COL Bert Mizusawa, USAR
- January 2005 – December 31, 2006: COL Mizusawa
- January 2007 – December 31, 2008: Robert Nakamoto
- January 2009 – December 31, 2010: Robert Nakamoto
- January 2011 – December 31, 2012: Gerald Yamada, Esq.
- January 2012 – November 13, 2014: Gerald Yamada, Esq
- November 13, 2014 – March 14, 2015: Wade Ishimoto
- March 14, 2015 – May 31, 2017: COL Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret)
- June 1, 2017 – \_\_\_\_\_: LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret)

**Q. BRIEF INTERREGNUM.** President Gerald Yamada objected to what he perceived as the failure of the Nomination Committee to follow the by-laws in nominating a slate of officers. He resigned. His sudden resignation in November 2014 resulted in the JAVA Vice President, Wade Ishimoto, becoming the President on November 14, 2014, with the approval of the Executive Council. Due to numerous other commitments, Ishimoto had previously announced that he would not seek to run as either the President or Vice President. However, he saw his responsibility to reconstitute a Nominations Committee and to elect new officers for JAVA. He was able to reduce emotions and to elect new officers within two months (March 14, 2015) after the elections would normally be held.

**R. ELECTED OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The following is a list of elected officers and members of the board:

**i. April 1992 – December 31, 1994**

President	COL Phil Sunao Ishio, USAR (Ret)
Vice President	Key Kobayashi*
Secretary	Fred Murakami
Treasurer	Ben Obata

\*Kobayashi passed away early in his term and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi succeeded him.

**Board of Directors**

Dr. Stanley Falk  
Toro Hirose  
Joe Ichiuji  
William E. (Bill) Houston, Esq.  
Mike Okusa  
Nasuo Hashiguchi  
COL Henry Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)  
Kaz Oshiki



**Advisory Board**

US Senator Daniel Inouye  
US Senator Daniel Akaka  
US Representative Norman Mineta  
MG James Mukoyama, USAR (Ret)  
RADM Melvin Chiogioji, USNR (Ret)

**ii. January 1995 – December 31, 1996**

President	COL Hank Wakabayashi, USAR (Ret)
Vice President	Dr. Warren Tsuneishi
Secretary	Fred Murakami
Treasurer	Joe ichiuji

**Board of Directors**

Miyako Yahata Newell  
Toshio George Tsukahira  
Dr. Ray Murakami  
Col Frank Nekoba, USAF (Ret)  
William Houston, Esq  
Dr. Stanley Falk  
Nasuo Hashiguchi  
Toro Hirose  
Mike Okusa  
Gerald Yamada, Esq.

**iii. January 1997 – December 31, 1998**

President	Fred Murakami
Vice President	Dr. Warren Tsuneishi
Secretary	Dr. Norman Ikari
Treasurer	Joe ichiuji

**Board of Directors**

George Wakiji  
Gerald Yamada, Esq  
Gordon Aoyagi  
RADM Melvin Chiogioji, USNR (Ret)  
Dr. Stanley Falk  
Dr. Ray Murakami  
CAPT Miyako Yahata Newell, USAF (Ret)  
Ronald Yonemoto

**iv. January 1999 - December 31, 2000**

President	COL Phil Ishio,
Vice President	Calvin Ninomiya, Esq
Secretary	Grant Ichikawa
Treasurer	Mike Okusa

**v. January 2001 – December 31, 2002**

<b>President</b>	<b>COL Phil Ishio</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Calvin Ninomiya, Esq</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Grant Ichikawa</b>
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S. VOLUNTEERS. JAVA's volunteers are responsible for the above activities. JAVA owes a huge debt of gratitude to them and to their spouses and families who were denied their participation in family events. We believe we have, through key vehicles and opportunities available to us, contributed to our goal of getting our message to the American public and international audience. Many of the volunteers have served for five, ten, fifteen years. The longest serving volunteer is Secretary Norman Mineta, who has served as honorary chairman or equivalent since JAVA's inception. He has provided steadfast support and has attended the quarterly meetings when his schedule allowed. We have cited the volunteers where their activities are discussed. Except where the elected officers have done a specific action, we have not mentioned their names. Also, we have not cited the names of volunteers who have served only a brief period of time in their assignment. That said, we

know we have failed to record some volunteers who have served long and whose initiatives have been successful. JRT regrets this oversight and asks that you let JRT ([ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net)) know.

End of Article

#### 4. ACRONYMS

100th	100th battalion served in WW II
442nd	442nd Regimental Combat Team served in WW II
AFRTS	Armed Forces Radio and TV
ANA	All Nippon Airways
APA	Asian Pacific America
ATIS	Allied Translation and Interpretation Service
BN	Battalion
CA	California
CGM	Congressional Gold Medal
CHVH	Charlotte Hall Veterans Home
CINCPAC	Commander in Chief Pacific
CMH	Army Center of Military History
Col	USAF Colonel
CPT	US Army Captain
CSIS	Center for Strategic and International Studies
CT	Connecticut
DC	District of Columbia
DCM	Deputy Chief of Mission
DOD	Department of Defense
DUC	Distinguished Unit Citation
EC	Executive Council
Esq	Esquire
GFBNEC	Go For Broke National Education Center
H/R	House of Representatives
HRC	Army Human Resources Command
HUD	Housing and Urban Development
IT	Information Technology
JA	Japanese American
JACCC	Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
JACL	Japanese American Citizen League
JAL	Japan Airlines
JALD	Japan America Leadership Delegation
JANM	Japanese American National Museum
JASW	Japan America Society of WDC
JAVA	Japanese American Veterans Association
JAVA WDC	Japanese American Veterans Association, Washington, DC
JRT	JAVA Research Team
KIA	Killed In Action
LOC/VHP	Library of Congress/Veterans History Project
Lt Col	USAF Lieutenant Colonel
LTC	US Army Lieutenant Colonel
MD	Maryland
MIS	Military Intelligence Service
MOH	Medal of Honor
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
Nisei	Second generation Japanese American; born in USA
NJ	New Jersey
NJAHS	National Japanese American Historical Society

NJAMF	National Japanese American Memorial Foundation
NJAMP	National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism
NMVA	National Military Veterans Alliance
NVN	National Veterans Network
NWMC	National War Memorial Court
PA	Pennsylvania
PBS	Public Broadcast Station
PDF	Portable Digital Format
POW/MIA	Prisoner of War/Missing in Action
PPALM	Pan Pacific Americans Leaders and Mentors
RADM	Rear Admiral
RCT	Regimental Combat Team
Ret	Retired
RR	Round Robin
UMD	University of Maryland
US	United States
USA	United State Army
USAAC	United States Army Air Corp
USAF	United States Air Force
USAR	United State Army Reserve
USN	United States Navy
USNR	United States Navy Reserve
USSOCOM	U.S. Special Operations Command
VA	Department of Veteran Affairs or Virginia
VE Day	Victory over Europe Day
VJ Day	Victory over Japan Day
VP	Vice President
WA	Washington
WDC	Washington DC
WW II	World War II
WWAAC	Who's Who for Asian American Communities