



# Japanese American Veterans Association

## JAVA ADVOCATE

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### Inside this issue:

History of JAVA; Welcome New Members!	2
Hamada Inducted into MIS Hall of Fame; JAVA Member Activities	3
Nisei Serving During WW I	4
1st Nisei Casualties of WW II; JAVA Speaks about Nisei in WWII	5
National War Memorial Court; JAVA Members Speak to Special Forces	6
Nguyen Speaks on Americanism; JAVA Member Activities	7
JAVA Luncheon Speaker Hong	8
Ichikawa & Shima Receive Awards	9
The Story of Earl Finch	10
JAVA Member Activities	11
Japanese History Scholar Spends Two Weeks in Japan	12
Meet the Generals & Admirals	13
News from UN's Top Commander in Afghanistan;	14
Taps	15-16
Dan Nose to Step Down; JAVA Exec. Director Joins Leadership Program News from Veterans Clubs & Friends	17
Thank You Donors! JAVA Honor Roll	18
Membership Application	19
Upcoming Events; JAVA Contacts	20

### Jewish Holocaust Survivor's Tribute to Nisei Liberators



Matsumura and Ganor reunite.

The poem below was written by Holocaust survivor Solly Ganor, a Jew from Lithuania, a few years ago at the suggestion of historian Eric Saul, Executive Director of Visas for Life. The poem is a tribute to the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion soldiers who liberated Ganor and other Lithuanian Jews at the extermination camp located near Waakirchen in the Dachau, Germany area on May 2, 1945. Saul said the Lithuanian Jewish community suffered the highest death rate of any Jewish community in Europe. Of a quarter million people, fewer than ten thousand survived, thanks to the Nisei who saved some of them.

Ganor, looking back, said "the 522nd came to the Waakirchen area where they saw an open field with several hundred 'lumps of snow.' When they looked closer the 'lumps' were people, some were shot, some dead from exposure, but hundreds were alive - barely. I was among them. This poem, written in Israel on July 26, 2010, is a tribute to the 522nd and especially to PFC Clarence S. Matsumura, Headquarters Battery, one of the rescuers."

By Solly Ganor

I lay in the snow ebbing life surrounded by the dead,  
 One looked at me with starring eyes he had a bullet in his head.  
 I heard the shots of the German guards their curses echoing through the forest,  
 I heard bullets thudding into the bodies of my friends lying by my side,  
 They had no strength to scream before they died,  
 Many were just lumps in the snow shot or frozen a few hours before their liberation,  
 After years of torture, beatings, and endless humiliation.  
 I lay in the snow ebbing life a few heart beats away from oblivion,  
 I saw the shadow of the angel of death as he spread his wings over my soul.  
 I felt the icy blood in my veins reaching for my heart. I knew my time had come.  
 I had a last look at the sky above and saw another Angel smiling at me.  
 His wings were just a dirty uniform and he had slanted eyes.  
 He picked me up from the freezing snow and gently stroked my head,  
 He wrapped me in a blanket and snatched me from the dead.

### Nisei Week of Los Angeles Celebrates 75 Years



The 75th Anniversary Nisei Week of Los Angeles, CA, was celebrated from August 15-23, 2015 including the crowning of Sara Kuniko Hutter as the 2015 Nisei Week Queen and a grand parade through Little Tokyo. The parade featured traditional Japanese *ondo* dancing, *taiko* drum performers, local community and veterans groups, officials and representatives from Nagoya, Japan's sister city of Los Angeles. The photo shows Hershey Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient, who is standing front and center. Nisei Week Queen Hutter is on Hershey's right and her court of 6 princesses (in red); the Queen and three princesses from San Francisco, in black and white attire, are on the left front; the queen and 4 princesses from Hawaii in multi colored dresses are on the right front. Jim Yamashita (I Co), wearing a 442nd Veterans cap, is in a wheel chair near the Hawaii ladies, 442nd veteran Tosh Okamoto (K Co) is standing behind Hershey's right shoulder, and Deen Matsuzawa, Korean War veteran, is seated in a wheel chair at left front. On the back row are Korean and Vietnam war veterans. The Nisei Week court and the visiting courts paid their respects at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court. Photo by Bacon Sakatani, Japanese American Korean War Veteran.

## History of Japanese American Veterans Association

### JAVA Research Team

In less than two years, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) will celebrate its 25 year anniversary since its founding. JAVA was founded on April 30, 1992 by 15 Japanese Americans who met at the Silver Spring, MD residence of the late COL Sunao Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret). The group agreed that a veterans association should be formed and Ishio was elected as the founding president. JAVA was incorporated in Maryland on July 24, 1992. The Honorable Norman Mineta and former US Senator Daniel Inouye, were named as Honorary Chairs. JAVA's purposes included the publicizing of the Nisei who served in the US Army during WW II.



JAVA achieved the three goals it had set out to do: 1) to host a Capital MIS Reunion on the theme "The Nisei Veteran –An American Patriot" in Washington, DC in October 1993; MIS veterans from other parts of America and Hawaii attended; 2) to join and participate actively in the Department of Defense (DOD) WW II Commemoration Committee, which enabled JAVA to participate in various DOD activities thereby gaining name recognition; and 3) to attempt to get the US Army 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 Daniel Akaka, US Representatives Mineta, Robert Matsui, Patsy Mink, and Neil Abercrombie, and Delegates Robert Underwood and Eni Faleomavaega), it stated that the Secretary of the Army reported that the Army would write a history of the MIS with a start date of 1995, that Dr. James McNaughton, Command Historian of the Defense Language Institute, would be the author, and requested Ishio to enlist the support of MIS veterans to support McNaughton. Senator Akaka recognized John Tagami as his staff coordinator of this endeavor.

In the elections held in January 2001, COL Bert Mizusawa, USAR, was elected President. In his inaugural speech, Mizusawa announced that JAVA will be a nationwide organization, that it will engage, independently and in concert with other major veterans organizations, in obtaining benefits that veterans have earned, and that it will publicize the accomplishments of the 100th, 442nd, and MIS. Thanks to Mizusawa's vision, a supportive Board of Directors and dedicated volunteers in the Washington, DC area and across the land, these goals became a reality.

JAVA used three events to confirm its national status: 1) the dedication of the National WW II Memorial in Washington, DC in Spring 2004. JAVA set up a display booth in the Department of Veterans Affairs tent, which featured a four-panel photo display, engaged four Nisei Medal of Honor recipients to tell visitors of the Nisei combat record, and arranged a "reunion" of 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans and survivors of the trapped Texas battalion who were doomed to be annihilated. The national press, such as the New York Times, and national TV networks featured Nisei veterans; 2) A few months later, JAVA led a nationwide movement to support a Texas school teacher, Sandra Tanamachi, to remove from the streets of rural Texas four racial, derogatory street signs. 3) JAVA arranged the "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 US Senator Daniel Akaka and attended by members of Congress, government officials, the press and veterans organizations.

JAVA's website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org), has attracted students, researchers, domestic and foreign media, for facts pertaining to the Nisei experience, advice, interviews, and quotes. It has also attracted potential new members and donors. JAVA has engaged in a number of educational programs. The Speakers Bureau is invited to schools, universities, community and professional organizations and government entities to discuss the Japanese American experience during WW II. JAVA's flagship project, conducted jointly with the 442nd Veterans Hawaii, features the digitization of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) documents pertaining to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and relevant portion of internment. This project, created by Ted Tsukiyama, Esq, a 442nd and MIS veteran of Honolulu, HI and started by the late Dr. Richard Susumu Yamamoto and his wife Fumiko in 1988, is nearly complete, however, researchers can now access the database electronically from anywhere in the world by going to JAVA website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org), and clicking on "Research Archive." Researchers are able to retrieve documents using key words. This electronic database is designed to bring US government documents pertaining to the Nisei and archived at NARA, which has endorsed this endeavor, to researchers residing anywhere in the world and thereby help ensure the perpetuation of the legacy of the Nisei WWII generation.

A full list of JAVA Presidents can be found in the "JAVA Honor Roll," page 18.

### Welcome New Members!

Jeff Bolander, LtCol, USMC, McGaheysville, VA (Retired)  
 Scott Van Buskirk, VADM, USN, Virginia Beach, VA (Retired)  
 Renee H. Lee, Maj, USAF, Arlington, VA (Retired)  
 Scott Minyard, CDR/Sgt, USN/USMC, Sealy, TX (Retired)  
 Tadashi "Frank" Mouri, CSM, USA, New Market, VA (Retired)  
 Edward M. Reeder, Jr., MG, USA, Fayetteville, NC (Active)  
 Don Seta, LtCol, USAF, Lexington, MA (Retired)  
 Garrett Yee, MG, USA, Alexandria, VA (Reserve)  
 Jason Yee, Capt, USAF, Arlington, VA (Reserve)

#### Honorary Chairs

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

#### Officers

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

#### Executive Council

Above Officers Plus:  
 Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret.), Exec. Director  
 LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR  
 Terry Shima  
 Reuben Yoshikawa  
 CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret.)  
 LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret.)  
 LTC Brett T. Egusa, USAR

#### JAVA Advocate

Aki Konoshima, Editor Emeritus  
 LTC Kay Wakatake, USA, Editor Emeritus  
 LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR, Editor Emeritus  
 Erika L. Moritsugu, Esq., Editor Emeritus  
 Thomas and Jill Phan, Editors

## Dick S. Hamada Inducted into the US Army Military Intelligence Hall of Fame By Wade Ishimoto

On June 26, 2015, Staff Sergeant Dick S. Hamada (US Army, Deceased) was inducted into the US Army's Military Intelligence Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, AZ. Accepting the award was his widow, Mrs. Irene Hamada. Dick was a War Veteran Life Member of JAVA living in Honolulu, HI.

The citation for his induction follows:  
Staff Sergeant Dick S. Hamada, US Army (Deceased)

In early 1943, Dick Hamada was living in Hawaii when he answered the call for volunteers to join the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit made up of Japanese-Americans from throughout the US. He was sent to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for combat training. A few months later, Dr. Daniel Buchanan with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) visited the camp, seeking soldiers familiar with the Japanese language. Hamada was one of only a few Japanese-Americans chosen to conduct clandestine espionage, counter-espionage, and intelligence missions for the OSS in the Pacific theater.

In June 1944, Hamada arrived in Burma for his first assignment behind enemy lines. His unit's mission was to gather intelligence, conduct guerrilla warfare, and coordinate with other battalions to disrupt the enemy escape route to Thailand. Hamada's responsibility was to interrogate captured prisoners and translate captured documents. As platoon leader he also had squads of Kachin Rangers on scouting expeditions to harass the enemy and set up intelligence nets to identify and locate targets for the US Army Air Forces.

In late February 1945, Hamada's battalion tried to enter a small village in western Burma but was met with strong opposition from Japanese forces. The panicked native forces deserted by the hundreds. On the third night of battle, with only one quarter of the battalion's assigned strength remaining, the Japanese launched a strong attack against its western flank which was guarded by Hamada and some newly assigned Chinese troops under his leadership. During the intense fighting, Chinese troops began to falter and appeared ready to desert. Realizing the gravity of the situation, Hamada left his foxhole and crawled to each Chinese position to encourage them and bolster their defenses. He was not only exposed to enemy fire but also faced the threat of being fired upon by his own troops. His leadership and courage empowered the Chinese to fiercely defend their position and ultimately repel the Japanese, who withdrew and retreated. Hamada's courageous and valiant effort saved his battalion not only from defeat but possible annihilation.

In another incident in August 1945, Hamada's OSS team participated in Operation MAGPIE to rescue four survivors of the Doolittle Raiders and 600 other prisoners from a Japanese prison camp in Peiping (currently Beijing). The OSS team parachuted in, and upon landing, drew fire from snipers. Still they were able to successfully extract the prisoners.

SSG Hamada was discharged from the Army following the war. His awards include the Good Conduct Medal as a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, Bronze Star Medal (with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Soldier's Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Citation awarded by GEN Dwight Eisenhower, then the Army Chief of Staff. SSG Hamada also received a Presidential Unit Citation in 2004 for being a member of the Military Intelligence Service in World War II, a Special Breast Order from the President of the Republic of China's Nationalist government for the rescue of the Doolittle Raiders, and the Congressional Gold Medal awarded in November 2011 to Japanese-Americans who served in World War II with the Military Intelligence Service, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Efforts are currently underway to have SSG Hamada's Bronze Star upgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross or Medal of Honor.



From Left to Right: Major General Robert Ashly, Commanding General, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence, Fort Huachuca, AZ; Mrs. Irene Hamada; Command Sergeant Major Jeffery Fairley, US Army Intelligence Center of Excellence. Photo from Wade Ishimoto.

### JACL & JAVA Members Speak at US-Japan Research Institute



On September 15, 2015, the US-Japan Research Institute (USJI), a coalition of 9 Japanese universities, hosted a presentation on the Japanese American experience during WW II by JACL and JAVA speakers in Washington, DC. The audience consisted of approximately 100 invitees, including Japanese graduate students and young executives from the Washington, DC area. USJI mission is to produce papers on various disciplines and to build a strong base to disseminate their product. Professor Katsuichi Uchida of Waseda University is President and Go Kobayashi is Manager of USJI. L-R: Terry Shima, Mary Murakami, Priscilla Ouchida, National Executive Director of JACL, and moderator, retired Professor Yoshiaki Abe of Waseda University. Shima, Murakami and Navy CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, who participated in the Q & A, represented JAVA. Photo by Toshiyuki Hayakawa of Sekai Nippo.

### JAVA Honorary Chair Participates in Memorial Day Program

George Joe Sakato, JAVA Honorary Chair, participated in the 2015 Japanese American Memorial Day program in Denver, Colorado. L-R: SSG Ryan Dang, Sakato, SSG Justin Gonzales, and SSG Joseph Heaeserl. Photo by Gary Arai. Submitted by George Yoshida.



## Over 800 Immigrant Japanese and Nisei Served in US Army during World War I. Road to Gain Citizenship was Long and Arduous.

By JAVA Research Team

Washington, DC. The military record of Japanese Americans who served during and since World War II is well documented and known. However, the role of ethnic Japanese in the military prior to the Second World War and their quest for naturalization has received scant publicity. Nine Japanese immigrants served in the US Maine which sank in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, in 1898 during the Spanish American War. All of them, who had served as mess attendants, steerage cooks, warrant officer cooks, and wardroom stewards, sank with the vessel.

When America entered World War I to fight against Germany on April 5, 1917, a call was announced in Hawaii inviting "nationals of allied countries," or "friendly aliens," to enlist in the Hawaii National Guard. Announcements which were printed in all newspapers in Japanese and other ethnic languages suggested that military service could help them become naturalized American citizens. There

were three recruitment drives, on July 27, 1917, July 31, 1918 and October 26, 1918. The first recruitment day was declared a holiday. Sugar plantations supported the voluntary enlistments, provided recruitment booths, transportation, places to store equipment and supplies, drill fields, target ranges and money. Approximately 29,000 registered to join the military service. Of this number, 11,000 were immigrant Japanese and Nisei of which 838 were finally accepted for service. Because of this large number, the ethnic Japanese were placed in a separate company, Company D. Other Asian ethnic groups, such as Chinese, Koreans and Filipinos also served in respective companies based on ethnicity. The Japanese language was used for both written and oral communication in Company D. A Japanese immigrant, Kinichi Sakai, was among the first Japanese to become a commissioned officer, rising to the rank of Captain and commanding the company. The Government of Japan endorsed and assisted in the registration and also the sale of liberty bonds and war saving stamps.



The greatest majority of the 838 ethnic Japanese men who served in "Japanese Company", or Company D of the Hawaii National Guard, was immigrant Japanese. Communication, written and oral, was in the Japanese language. Library of Congress photo.

Hawaii National Guard personnel were not sent overseas. They relieved Caucasian soldiers, thus freeing them for deployment to France. Shigefusa Kanda, a Japanese immigrant of Maui, was the only known Japanese Red Cross worker to serve in France. A resident of Hawaii for 14 years he felt it "his duty to make some repayment to America for the advantages he had enjoyed." Red Cross officials were full of praise for Kanda's performance.

The principal motivation of Japanese aliens to serve in the US military was to gain US citizenship. The Act of May 9, 1918, provided that any alien soldier "of the white race" or "of African descent," who served in the US military was eligible to become naturalized US citizens. W.R. Ragsdale, US Naturalization examiner in Honolulu, ruled that "oriental veterans" were not eligible for naturalization. However, Honolulu US District Judge W. Vaughan, interpreted the law differently and allowed 400 Japanese immigrants to be naturalized on November 14, 1919. After Judge Vaughan's six-year term expired in May 1922, the territorial government announced that aliens were ineligible to be naturalized and thus voided Judge Vaughan's decision. Hidemitsu Toyota, a Japanese alien veteran, who served in the US Army for seven years, filed a petition for naturalization. On May 25, 1925 the US Supreme court ruled against Toyota saying that a person of the Japanese race may not be naturalized under the Act of May 9, 1918.

The actual number of Japanese immigrants on America's mainland who volunteered for military service during World War I cannot be fully determined. However, the number is believed to be small as compared to Hawaii. One Japanese immigrant who fought with the 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Division at Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel, France, was Sergeant Major Tokutaro Nishimura Slocum. Tokutaro Nishimura's parents had brought him to America in 1904 and settled in Minot, North Dakota. Tokutaro's parents moved to Canada to escape discrimination, leaving him with the Slocum family who adopted and raised him. In January 1921, Slocum visited the office of the chief examiner of naturalization at St. Paul, Minnesota, to apply for US citizenship. The examiner "conceded that Slocum had an excellent character and an excellent army record," but he informed Slocum that he was not eligible for citizenship. According to the examiner, Slocum "burst into tears" and exclaimed, "I know what you mean; you mean that I am yellow. I may be yellow in face, but I am not yellow at heart." Slocum subsequently visited the US Congress and the result of his efforts was the passage of the Nye-Lee Act of June 24, 1935, which granted naturalization to 500 Asian immigrant World War I veterans, including the 400 Japanese immigrants whose citizenship was revoked by the Hawaii legislature.

The long and arduous road for ethnic Japanese immigrants, as well as other Asian immigrants, to be naturalized as US citizens finally came to an end with the passage of the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act (McCarran-Walter Act), which ended the blanket exclusion of immigrants based on simply on the country of origin.

## First Nisei Casualties of WW II Occurred in Hawaii. Army Vessel Torpedoed by Japanese Submarine

JAVA Research Team

Kohala, Hawaii. Twenty-six draftees from the island of Hawaii were aboard the USAT Royal T. Frank when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on January 28, 1942 in the Alenuihaha Channel, between Maui and the north Kohala coast of Hawaii. Seventeen of them, of which 12 were Nisei, sank with the vessel and 9, of which 8 were Nisei, survived. These soldiers, all from the island of Hawaii, the Big Island, had completed basic training at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, and were returning to the Big Island for guard duty. Frank was an Army inter-island freight and personnel transport.

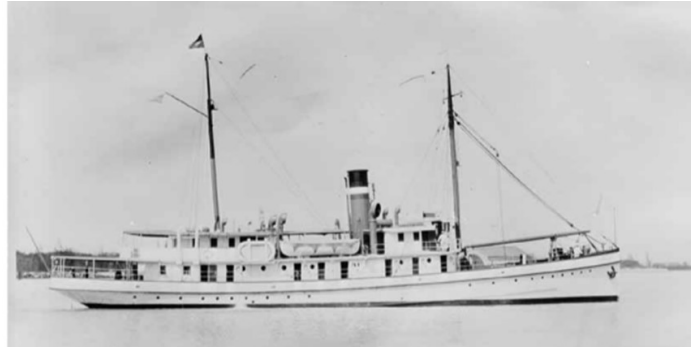
The twelve Nisei who sank with the vessel were the first Nisei casualties of WW II, however, their families were not notified until the war ended. These 12 men were Iwao Nakamura, Yoshito Nii, Shoji Okido, Larry M. Oku, Reginald M. Osato, Shinichi Shiigi, Raymond H. Shirakawa, Yeishun A. Soken, Bushichi Tani, Torao Yamamizu, Albert H. Yano and Yonezo Yonemura. Eight Nisei soldiers who survived were Shigeo Ushijima, George Taketa, Yoshio Ogormori, Shizuo Toma, Mac Wakkimoto, Haruo Yamashita, Tokimaru Takamoto and Susumu Yoshioka. Eight Nisei soldiers who survived became infantrymen of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. They were Shigeo Ushijima, George Taketa, Yoshio Ogormori, Shizuo Toma, Mac Wakkimoto, Haruo Yamashita, Tokimaru Takamoto and Susumu Yoshioka. Ironically, all 8 survived the battles in Italy and France.

The sinking of the Frank by Japanese submarine I-171 occurred barely two months after Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor. Around this time Japanese submarines sank two US Naval vessels and also shelled the harbors of Hilo, Hawaii, Kahului, Maui and Nawiliwili, Kauai. The Japanese submarine which sank the Frank was itself sunk near Bougainville in New Guinea by US Navy depth charges on February 1, 1944.

The Frank that left Honolulu pulling a barge on January 27, 1942 was one of three vessels traveling together as a convoy, the second vessel hauling ammunition and the third being a destroyer. The convoy off-loaded supplies in Molokai and Maui. It left early the next morning and at slightly after 7 am on January 28 three torpedoes were fired at the Frank, the first two missing the target and the third making a direct hit that caused the Frank to sink in one minute. Those on the deck survived and those below the deck perished. Survivors were in the ocean, some in life vests and others clinging onto anything floatable, for two to three hours before the crew from the barge rescued them.

The survivors were taken to the nearest port, Hana, Maui where they showered and were given clean clothes and shoes by the Red Cross. Gasoline had to be used to remove the oil from their bodies. The next day the survivors were taken by plane to Schofield Barracks and were under strict orders not to discuss or write to anyone, including the deceased soldiers' families, about the episode. The US Army imposed a news blackout until the silence was broken in the 1960's by the Freedom of Information Act.

Nisei survivors joined the other Nisei for their voyage to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and deployment to Italy.



USAT Royal T. Frank

### JAVA Member Shares Nisei History with Students



Chosei Kuge (R) poses with Rocky Run Middle School, Chantilly, VA, student guide Vaneeza, on June 4, 2015. Kuge was the JAVA representative to the school's "Eyewitness to History Day," an annual event when veterans of various wars are invited to discuss their experiences. On previous years JAVA was represented by the late Paul Tani, Norman and Kyoko Ikari, and Grant Ichikawa. They discussed the internment, 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, and MIS. Kuge is a Korean War veteran. Photo from Kuge.

### JAVA Speakers Invited to US Think Tank to Discuss Nisei WW II Experience

Mary Murakami and Terry Shima spoke on the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy to over 60 scholars and staff members of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) on July 27, 2015 in Washington, DC. The moderator of the event was Matthew P. Goodman, CSIS's senior advisor for Asian Economics who holds the William E. Simon Chair on Political Economy. Prior to this, Goodman held key positions in the White House, National Security Council, Department of State and Department of Treasury.

A prominent US think tank, CSIS has developed practical solutions to the world's greatest challenges for over 50 years. CSIS scholars continue to provide strategic insights and bipartisan policy solutions to help decision makers chart a course toward a better world. CSIS is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Center's 220 full-time staff and large network of affiliated scholars conduct research and analysis and develop policy initiatives that look to the future and anticipate change.

Since 1962, CSIS has been dedicated to finding ways to sustain American prominence and prosperity as a force for good in the world. After 50 years, CSIS has become one of the world's preeminent international policy institutions focused on defense and security; regional stability; and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration.

L: Murakami (Center) discusses the internment. Goodman (left) and Shima (right). R: CSIS attendees watching the 4-minute video.



## Japanese American National War Memorial Court

Submitted by Min Tonai & Ken Hayashi

On Veterans Day 1995, the Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee dedicated a black granite wall etched with the names of 116 of their fallen comrades within the courtyard of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in downtown Los Angeles.

Through the tireless effort of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, in May 1997, the names of 251 Japanese Americans killed in the Korean War were added to the Memorial Court Wall.



A portion of the Japanese American National War Memorial Court which lists the names of all Nikkei who were killed in combat situations from the Spanish American War of 1898 to the present. Photo from Ken Hayashi.

In February 2000, The Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance dedicated the final roll call for over 800 of their comrades who made the ultimate sacrifice.

These were three separate groups from three different wars, compelled by a sense of duty, to honor their brothers in arms who did not return from those wars with them. Each inscribed name is a tribute to a heroic individual with a unique story to tell and a family who grieves his loss. Each war has its own place in the history of America, with special meaning to Americans of Japanese Ancestry. Together, these memorials now comprise the Japanese American National War Memorial Court. With the recent inclusion of a

memorial to honor those killed on the USS Maine in 1898 and in recent conflicts in Grenada, Iraq and Afghanistan, the Memorial Court now pays tribute to the patriotism and sacrifice of Japanese Americans for over a century of service to America.

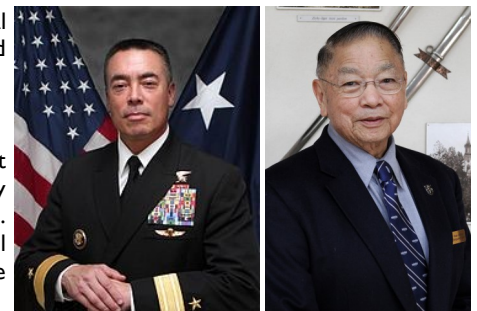
The Veterans Memorial Court Alliance was formed to bring together representatives of the three founding groups in the common cause of preserving both the physical edifice and the legacy of the Memorial Court for generations to come. The mission of the organization is to ensure that the Memorial Court is maintained for future generations in a manner that honors the sacrifice and patriotism of those whose names are etched on the walls and to raise awareness in the community of the contributions Americans of Japanese Ancestry have made to the cause of freedom in America and throughout the world.

“No man can give more than his life”. It will be our solemn responsibility to insure that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

## RDML Brian Losey & Wade Ishimoto Address a Leading Petty Officer Class By Wade Ishimoto

On July 29, 2015, some 30 Leading Petty Officers from East Coast SEAL (Sea-Air-Land) and Special Warfare Combat Crew units were addressed by two JAVA members, RDML Brian Losey and Wade Ishimoto. The occasion for their presentations was a Leading Petty Officer course conducted at Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, VA.

Wade Ishimoto spoke for two and a half hours and briefed the attendees on the watershed event that led to a major governmental restructuring of special operations units in each of the military Services. That event was the failed rescue of 53 American hostages in Tehran, Iran, in April 1980. Ishimoto was the ground unit Intelligence Officer and a road block team leader on that fateful mission. He discussed the mission and what transpired in the aftermath to significantly change American special operations and to see an 800% growth since 1980. He went on to discuss today's and tomorrow's challenges for special operations and to inspire the attendees to carry on the incredible work that they are doing today to protect our country.



RDML Losey (L) and Wade Ishimoto (R).

Rear Admiral Brian Losey is the Commanding Officer of the Naval Special Warfare Command headquartered at Coronado, CA. All Navy SEAL units and Special Warfare Combat Crews fall under his leadership. The Naval Special Warfare Command has grown from a force of a little over 1000 persons in 1980 to over 8000 today. One of their units was the one responsible for the raid that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. The SEALs and Special Warfare Combat Crewmen in the class were very privileged to have Losey speak to them in a very informal style that allowed them to ask questions of him. His style was not to lecture, but to explain the significant challenges that the Naval Special Warfare Command is dealing with today and in the future. The attendees greatly appreciated Losey's low-keyed presentation style along with the information he provided and his candid responses to their questions.

The Naval Special Warfare Command is the Navy Component to the United States Special Operations Command that oversees some 68,000 special operators today. The other component commands are the Army Special Operations Command headquartered at Fort Bragg, NC; the Air Force Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, FL; the Marine Special Operations Command at Camp Lejeune, NC; and the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC.

## What Americanism Means to an American of Vietnamese Ancestry

Prescott Valley, AZ. Quang Nguyen, now 53, left Vietnam for the United States at age 12, was naturalized in 1982 at age 20, finished high school and college in 1985 at age 22, obtained a well-paid challenging job but in 2006, at age 44, left that job and founded Caddis Advertising, LLC in Prescott Valley, and in 2006 opened a branch office in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Nguyen has been invited to speak about his life, which he views as the American dream, to audiences as large as several thousands. The following, condensed for brevity, reflects his typical speech. The full text can be found on the internet.

"Thirty-five years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth. I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people. I am a proud U.S. citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it. I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

Thirty-five years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the U.S. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California. It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life. Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California. In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam. He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back. You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

Before [I studied the US Constitution], I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names inscribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders. . . . God Bless America." By Quang Nguyen



Quang Nguyen

### Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Meeting

LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret) attended his first commissioners meeting of the Maryland Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) on September 16, 2015. Appointed by the Governor and pending confirmation by the Maryland Senate, Azama is a member of the Maryland Veterans Homes Commission that has oversight responsibility for CHVH. This commissioners meeting was held in Cambridge, MD at the American Legion Post 91, which has donated a van (see photo) to CHVH. Azama, a West Point graduate, is a member of JAVA's Board of Directors. L-R: Maryland State Senator Bernie Fowler;



Commissioner MG Andrew Anderson, USA (Ret); Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary George Owings; CHVH Director Sharon Mattia; and Azama. Photo by Melissa Canada.



JAVA members had dinner with Maj Gen (sel) Joseph Kim, USAF, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, Hawaii National Guard, at China Garden, Rosslyn, Virginia. Seated L-R: Terry Shima, Maj Gen Kim, Carol Nakagawa, Mary Murakami; standing (L-R) Eileen Roulier, Rich Roulier, LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret); Wade Ishimoto, past President, JAVA; Dr. Ray Murakami; LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret). Not in photo, Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), photographer.

## Retired Asian American Official Discusses How to Succeed in the Public Service

Falls Church, VA. Bel Leong Hong, a retired Department of Defense official, was the principal speaker at the July 11, 2015 JAVA luncheon in Arlington, VA. The luncheon was attended by veterans of various wars and their families, including recently retired LTG James Huggins, Jr and his wife Melissa, MG (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, RADM Joseph Vojvodich, USCG, former Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ed Chow and keynote speaker Bel Leong Hong and her husband, Ken.

Ms Hong, who spoke on *Leadership and Empowerment: Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the Public Service*, said “We have a proud heritage of service in the military. Likewise in the civilian side, AAPIs serve in practically every Department and Agency in the Federal Government, and they are in every profession. They have increased greatly in numbers over the past 4 and a half decades. While the total number of AAPI civilians serving across the Federal Government may have increased, those serving at the top ranks of our Government remains a relatively small number.”

Ms. Hong said we are Asian American and Pacific Islanders who chose Public Service as our career, because to us, Public Service is the noblest profession. It doesn’t matter whether we are members of the Military, or we are civilians, or whether we serve as an appointee or as a careerist; or whether we serve in Government or in a non-Governmental agency— what drove us to public service, is the most important thing: Service to Country above self.

She said that we are “very fortunate to have living heroes like General Eric Shinseki, Secretary Norm Mineta, Congressman Mike Honda, Secretary Ed Chow, Terry Shima and so many more, pave the way for many of us. They showed us that if we tried, everything was possible. They showed us how things are done, and in many cases took us by our hands, leading us to succeed. But they also showed us that we are not alone, and in fact, at every chance, at every turn, they shared, and they were there whenever we needed them.”

Ms. Hong shared 8 life lessons she learned to help her career:

- There are external perceptions that can hurt us. For example:
  - We are the “Model minority” – we won’t complain if we don’t get recognized;
  - We are good technical analysts, we don’t make good managers;
  - We can follow, but we cannot lead;
  - We lack communication skills;
 Have you come across this? If you have, you have to proactively change these perceptions!
- Internal Challenges we must overcome— and most importantly, don’t be afraid to succeed! Internal challenges are either ingrained cultural, or self-inflicted, or just excuses—For example:
  - Culturally, we expect recognition for our achievements without having to boast. But regrettably, we find that doesn’t get us very far. So, while not boasting, we have to let people know about our accomplishments. But more often than not, we are our own worst enemy: we don’t give ourselves permission to succeed—one manifestation of this problem is that we lack self-confidence.
- Personal Attributes Count:: For Example:
  - Self Confidence* . First and foremost: Give yourself permission to succeed—start removing some of these roadblocks that you put in front of your own path.
  - Competence*. This is something we are very good at: the knowledge and ability to do the job well—be the very best you can be! And don’t be shy to tell others about what you have accomplished.
  - Flexibility and Adaptability*. Situations in job or in life change— BE flexible and adapt to a new situation.
  - Risk taking*. You have to be willing to try new things, whether it is looking for a new job, taking a new approach to solve an existing problem, or willingness to risk failing.
  - Perseverance*. “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again”— do not let an obstacle stop you in your tracks; keep trying.
  - Curiosity*. Have the curiosity to explore uncharted territory—and don’t be afraid to try new things!
- Be Ready when Opportunity Knocks-- Don’t be afraid of change. Always be prepared when opportunity knocks- these opportunities don’t come around very often. Here are some suggestions:
  - Understand your job well, and understand your culture and your environment.; Prepare yourself: Get the certification you need, or get that raduate degree; Volunteer for rotations, or temporary assignments; Don’t be afraid of changes– it may lead to new paths that are very rewarding.
- Communication is KEY. This is my greatest lesson learned: Communication was Critical to my success in every job I held. It was critical that I be able to articulate my point of view, to argue for my position, explain my findings... If I don’t do it well, I lost an opportunity to succeed. Communication is key to success in every field.
- Find a Mentor --look for a role model. Mentors played a strong role in my career— it can help you too! Mentoring is a means of building alliances, grooming a successor, guiding a career a mentor IS NOT a job referral bank, or a casual relationship. A mentor is...a teacher, an advisor, a connector, a sponsor, a protector, a cheerleader, a long term relationship. Bottom line: if you don’t have a mentor, get one.
- Build Networks -- Form Alliances. Networking is a critical tool for success— personally and organizationally. Building a personal network, or indeed many personal networks, is critical: Members of the network share common bonds; they form the Best channel for informal communication; and they are excellent informal means of getting things done. You can Call on your network for help; But equally important, you must Remember to help when members of your network calls on you.
- THIS IS THE GREATEST LESSON to REMEMBER: The strongest asset WE have is each other! When you have attained your pinnacle of success, remember to always reach back and lend a helping hand to those that follow!



Bel Leong Hong (center), Wade Ishimoto, former president (left), Retired COL Cardarelli, president (right). Photo by Bruce Hollywood.



## Innovative Court Programs Land Solano County Judge 2015 Aranda Award

By Amy Yarbrough, Staff Writer

Solano County, California. In describing his childhood, Judge Garry Ichikawa, a JAVA life member, likes to say he was born with a shovel in one hand and a book in the other. The son of farm workers, Ichikawa grew up digging ditches and hoeing around grapevines alongside his family. But education was also a priority as was working hard to make sure he had access to the services that government offered. "The idea of access was something that was a part of my life and when I understood what that meant to me and my siblings and my family, it became a very, very strong value," he said.

These days, the Solano County Superior Court judge works to ensure access for others, establishing innovative programs that have led to his selection as this year's recipient of the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award. In its 16th year, the award recognizes individuals who have devoted their careers to ensuring California's low- and moderate income residents have access to its courts. On top of teaching, volunteering and countless hours of civic service over the years, Ichikawa was the driving force behind Solano County's Dependency Drug Court, a collaborative court designed to remove obstacles for parents determined to stay sober and reunite with their children. Established in 2006, the program has served as a model for Judge Garry Ichikawa other Solano County specialty courts, including its unique new Integrated Domestic Violence Court, an effort Ichikawa is now spearheading.

Appointed to the bench in 2000 by Gov. Gray Davis, Ichikawa's history in Solano County runs deep. He is in the third of five generations of his family to live and work in the Fairfield area. His grandparents immigrated to the Suisun Valley in the early part of last century. His parents knew each other in high school, returned to the grape-growing region and got married there following their incarceration in a Japanese internment camp at Gila River, AZ, during WW II. Determined to also raise his family in the area, Ichikawa turned down a job in Sacramento after law school at University of California Davis. He served as a deputy public defender in Fairfield for a few years before starting a law office, practicing family law, in 1979. During his time in private practice, he served on the Fairfield City Council, the State Bar's Juvenile Justice Commission and Solano County Legal Aid Board of Directors, among other groups. While presiding judge of Solano County's juvenile court, Ichikawa started the Dependency Drug Court in 2006. The court has graduated 93 people since then. The key to its success, Ichikawa said, is that it hired an in-house case manager.

A neutral party, the case manager works with participants – many of whom face barriers to success such as poverty, lack of transportation and unstable housing – helping them navigate obstacles and get organized so they can maintain their sobriety. Ichikawa said there was resistance to the program at first, including from those who worried that the safety of children might be compromised in efforts to treat the parents. But now it serves as a model for other specialty courts. "We discovered when we did dependency drug court, we didn't have to put people in jail to motivate them to work really hard to be successful because they knew if they were not successful they would possibly lose their rights to their children," Ichikawa said. "It was that recognition they would be willing to do almost anything, if they only knew how, to get their children back. We were able to take advantage of that in a very positive way."

When Ichikawa first presided over dependency drug court, he made a practice of wearing street clothes instead of a robe, standing in front of participants rather than sitting at his bench and addressing them directly rather than through their lawyers, Tindall said. "It's a non-adversarial environment that makes them continue to come back and start telling the truth," she said. Tindall said clients who graduated in 2006 and 2007 still call her to tell her how they and their kids are doing. "Judge Ichikawa put that all together. That's huge," she said. The dependency drug court model has since been replicated for Adult Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court. Under Judge Ichikawa's leadership, the superior court last year also launched an expedited family law program that allows self-represent litigants with simple cases to fast-track their matters. *[Judge Ichikawa is a MIS veteran, a JAVA life member and is a brother of the legendary Grant Ichikawa, 95, also a MIS veteran. JAVA is proud of Garry and Grant's contributions to the public service, community and their nation.]*



L-R. Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakuye, Chief Justice of California; Hon. Garry T. Ichikawa, Superior Court of California, County of Solano holding 2015 Aranda Award; Hon. Joan P. Weber, President, California Judges Association; and Craig Holden, President, California State Bar.

## JAVA Member Receives High Maryland Governor's Recognition

Annapolis, Maryland. The State of Maryland Governor's Citation was presented to Terry Shima, a JAVA member and Maryland resident, by The Honorable Edward Chow, former Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs and long-time member of JAVA, at the JAVA luncheon on July 11, 2015 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia. The Citation, dated January 17, 2015, was signed by Governor Martin O'Malley, Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown, and Secretary of State John P. McDonough. The Governor's Citation said it is in recognition of "your leadership and service on behalf of the veterans across the nation ... in appreciation of your significant contributions to our nation ...". Representing former Governor O'Malley, former Secretary Chow said Shima, with the rank of commissioner, served as a member of the commission which had oversight responsibilities for the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, located in St. Mary's County. Chow said the presentation was delayed due to Shima's illness early this year. Sheila Khatri, Commissioner, Governor's Commission on South Asian Affairs, participated in the presentation.

Photo: L-R. Wade Ishimoto, Shima, Sheila Khatri, Honorable Ed Chow, Mike Cardarelli, President.



## Earl Finch Served Southern Warmth to AJAs, Then Tried Isle Aloha

By Bob Sigall (Printed in Honolulu Star Advertiser, August 7, 2015. Reprint approved by Frank Bridgewater, Vice President/Editor.)

I was talking to Tom Moffatt recently, and he told me about Earl Finch, the man from Mississippi who befriended the young men of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at Camp Shelby. It would be an interesting story, Moffatt suggested. What I found was both touching and emotional for me. Everyone needs a friend, but when 1,000 young Japanese-Americans volunteered for the Army, there wasn't much Southern hospitality extended to them in Mississippi. Instead, they were greeted with insults and abuse. The USO canteen blocked their entrance. Stores and restaurants kept them out. Churches did not invite them to dances and socials.

In June 1943 Earl Finch, then 28 and owner of a cattle ranch and clothing store in Hattiesburg, saw two soldiers looking in a drugstore window. "They looked like the loneliest human beings in the world," Finch recalled. He went up and chatted with them, then on an impulse invited the two Hawaii boys to Sunday dinner. They wouldn't be the first GIs invited to his home, but they were the first Americans of Japanese ancestry, or AJAs. The next day, the two had returned to his home with dozens of roses for his mother. They filled every vase in the house. When he found they were not allowed in the USO Canteen, Finch rented a vacant space and organized the first Japanese-American USO canteen and organized a dance. He rented every Greyhound bus in the county, and more than 150 Nisei girls were brought in from Camp Rohwer, a Japanese internment camp in Arkansas, 320 miles away. He became a sort of godfather to the boys and devoted nearly all of his time to them. He arranged Christmas and New Year's parties, rodeos and feasts, and took the boys sightseeing to New Orleans, Washington, D.C., Chicago and New York. The New York World-Telegram called him a "One-Man USO." The Saturday Evening Post said he was the "Patron Saint of the Japanese-American G.I." The Nisei of the 100th and the 442nd called him simply "Uncle Finch."



Hundreds came to greet Earl Finch when he came to Hawaii in 1946. A 100-car motorcade took him to a hero's welcome at Iolani Palace and City Hall, where he was given a key to the city. Honolulu Star Advertiser, 1946.

Many southerners took exception to his friendliness. Hundreds sent him threatening letters. Relatives and friends shunned him. His fiancé broke off their engagement. "When those boys came to my home state, they were in a strange land surrounded by an almost hostile people," Finch said. "They were homesick. They wanted to prove their loyalty. I happened to be one Southerner who treated them like human beings and took them into my home." When they were shipped off to fight overseas, Finch wrote them long letters and handled personal problems for them back home. More than 1,500 of the boys named him as executor of their wills. When some of them were killed in combat, Finch paid a visit to their families, often in internment camps hundreds of miles away. The War Department made him an unofficial consultant to help with problems facing the AJAs, said Maurice Zolotow in the Christian Science Monitor.

Zolotow met Finch at an AJA excursion to New York in 1945. "Mr. Finch had rented a ballroom (at the Astor Hotel); he had hired a Hawaiian band and singer and hula dancer." When asked why he did so much for the Nisei soldiers, Finch said that "they, more than American, English or French servicemen, know what they are fighting for." The Saturday Evening Post said he befriended 10,000 lonely Japanese-Americans "with no more reason than affection for an unjustly accused and misunderstood minority."

After the war Finch continued to fight for AJA rights. He helped veterans get jobs and lent money to many to go into business for themselves. Hundreds of men married, settled down, raised a family and named their first boy Earl. The GIs raised the money to bring Finch to Hawaii in March 1946. The day of his arrival was declared a holiday. Hundreds came to the airport to greet him. A 100-car motorcade took him to a hero's welcome at Iolani Palace and City Hall, where he was given a key to the city. He was the guest of honor at many celebrations and was showered with gifts over 25 days. A year later he moved to Hawaii and opened several businesses.

In 1957 Finch teamed with Ralph Yempuku and Tom Moffatt to produce 34 "Show of Stars" rock 'n' roll concerts at the Civic Auditorium that sold more than 680,000 tickets. They brought in many great acts, including Buddy Holly, the Everly Brothers, Paul Anka, Chuck Berry, the Coasters, Shirelles, Righteous Brothers, Drifters and many more. "In 1957 I was a radio station disc jockey at KHVH," Moffatt recalls. "Ralph and Earl called me to help promote a concert. If it makes money, they told me, you'll make money. If it loses money, you WON'T lose any. 'I learned the concert business from the two of them,' the "Showman of the Pacific" says.

When he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 49 in 1965, Gov. John Burns said "after the war, Earl adopted Hawaii as his home, and Hawaii adopted him as one of its own. Earl was a shining example of the true spirit of aloha. We shall surely miss him." Sen. Daniel Inouye remembered the first time he saw Finch at Camp Shelby when he was 17. "Ring in the men's ears were epithets they had heard along the way — 'dirty Jap.' Many were still suffering from the barbs of discrimination and war hysteria. In the back of the crowd at the station was a white man. Everyone saw him. He was standing and waving his hat and shouting, 'Welcome, welcome.' Here was a man who started his one-man civil rights movement 22 years ago, without fanfare, without demonstrations, without violence. And I think in many ways he was successful. We thank God that Earl Finch was there to greet us in Mississippi."

## Dr. Ito Speaks About WW II at Reception

New York City, NY. On September 9, 2015 the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Asia Pacific Institute and the U.S.-Japan Council jointly held a private reception at the Manhattan home of AJC President Stanley Bergman and Dr. Marion Bergman. The reception featured Dr. Susumu "Sus" Ito, a 442nd RCT veteran who was a Second Lieutenant of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442 RCT. The 522nd was part of the U.S. forces that discovered and liberated the Dachau concentration camp system from the Nazis during World War II, freeing thousands of Jewish survivors. Dr. Ito, who is 96 years old, is a member of USJC and JAVA and a professor emeritus of Harvard Medical School. During the event, he shared many of the thousands of photographs he took during the war. His story captivated the audience of over forty leaders of Japanese American, Japanese and Jewish American communities in New York City, including the Consulate-General of Japan in New York. The following afternoon, USJC convened a luncheon with a few Council Members and friends, where Dr. Ito expanded on his stories and personally engaged with those who were present. The reception and the luncheon reflect USJC's commitment to strengthen the diversity of leaders involved in the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Thanks to USJC Newsletter, September 17, 2015.



(L-R) USJC Board Member Gary Moriawaki, Director of the AJC Asia Pacific Institute Shira Loewenberg, AJC Executive Director Dr. Marion Bergman, AJC President Stanley Bergman, Dr. Ito, and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye .

## 442nd Veteran Visits WW II Memorial With Honor Flight



On May 16, 2015 one hundred veterans plus escorts left the Grand Rapids international Airport (GRIA) via Delta Airlines on an Honor Flight that transported them free of charge to visit the National WW II Memorial and other monuments. This group included 442nd Veteran, Virgil Westdale. Returning the same day at 10:00 PM the veterans were bussed to the East Kentwood High School where they were greeted by thousands of well-wishers. When the day's journey ended, the veterans had spent 19 hours away from home, exhausted but very pleased. In this photo, Westdale is facing the Wall of Freedom, head bowed, to honor the some 400,000 American soldiers who were killed during WW II. The young man (unidentified) standing beside Westdale's wheel chair was one of the many visitors who approached the WW II veterans with questions or words of appreciation. Photo from Westdale.

## 522nd Veteran Invited to Moscow for 70th Anniversary of End of WW II Festivities

By Virgil Westdale

Grand Rapids, Michigan. On March 1, 2015, I received a telephone call from a Russian Consular Officer inviting me to attend the 70th anniversary celebration to mark the end of WW II. The officer agreed to include my son, Fred, and we left Grand Rapids on May 7th. We were met at the Moscow airport by a delegation of 5 persons, including a personal interpreter. We were ushered into a VIP waiting room and when our luggage arrived we were driven to the Golden Ring Hotel. During dinner that evening we were entertained by a 12 piece orchestra.



Moscow. 70th Anniversary military parade. Virgil Westdale is in row two, 6th person from right, behind Chinese President and Mrs. Xi Jinping and President Putin. Photo from Virgil Westdale

On May 9th, we were driven to Red Square for the two hour military parade. Two other American veterans and I were seated behind President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. There were plenty of rows of high-stepping soldiers that marched by for at least one hour and then came tons of military equipment. After the parade, President Putin gave a short speech. Following the parade we were taken by golf carts to the Kremlin showing our passports three times before entering the palace. Many areas looked like gold and the floor was inlaid wood of different kinds--just gorgeous. WHAT A PLACE for a formal banquet hosted by President Putin.

After the dinner service, Putin gave a short speech and then started to greet the huge crowd. When it came my turn to meet Putin, he grabbed my hand and looked at me. I said, "I'm from the United States." He responded, "Where about?" I said, Michigan. Putin said, "Give my regard to the people back there". I was surprised that he spoke English so well and that he was so cordial too. The next day we left for home. We were given the same cordial amenities at the airport and, once in flight, Delta upgraded our seats from Moscow to Kennedy Airport, New York.



The banquet at Kremlin Palace. Seated at front table, left to right, are Fred and Virgil Westdale, Photo from Fred.

## Scholar on Japanese American History Spends Two Weeks at Tokyo's Waseda University

By Greg Robinson, Professor of History, University of Quebec, Montreal, Canada

In June 2015, I participated in a Japan residency sponsored by the Organization of American Historians and Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS), during which I spent two weeks lecturing at Tokyo's Waseda University, an elite Japanese institution of higher education. It was a unique opportunity for me to present research on Japanese Americans to scholars in Japan. They were fascinated in particular to learn about ethnic Japanese in the Americas, about whose history many were largely unaware.



Lecture at Keio University, June 10, 2015. Photo by Professor Akiyo Okuda.

but it was very interesting discussing shared interests with him. Professor Aso invited me to start by attending a graduate conference at Waseda and delivering a keynote lecture. My subject was "The Transnational History of Japanese Internment." I compared the wartime events on the United States mainland with those in Canada, Hawaii and Mexico. I was honored by the presence of my old friend Professor Takeya Mizuno of Toyo University, a leading scholar of Japanese American journalism, and his wife. I was also glad to meet Professors Graham Law and Adrian Pinnington of Waseda, who are specialists in communications. They each asked provocative questions regarding the role of the press in inciting mass removal of Japanese Americans. I was touched during the question period when a student in the audience identified himself as Asian American and congratulated me on my presentation, which he said helped give him back his history.

In the days following my lecture, I attended the JAAS Annual Meeting, where I was invited to speak as part of a workshop on Wars and Minorities. I gave a paper on the U.S. government internment of 300 Indonesian seamen alongside Japanese Americans at Crystal City, Texas, after World War II. My next assignment, back at Waseda, was to team-teach with Professor Aso in his Post-modern literature course. I spoke on the historical evolution of Japanese internment literature, including writings by both Nisei and non-Japanese, beginning in the wartime period, and stretching through the postwar years, the redress period, then the current day.

The next day, I spoke on Asian American literature at Keio University's Mita campus, a date arranged with Professor Takayuki Tatsumi, my longtime colleague on the editorial board of *The Journal of Transnational American Studies*. I took as my topic Hisaye Yamamoto's story "Seventeen Syllables," a story about gender and generational conflicts within a prewar Japanese American family, and went on to speak of the larger experience of Japanese immigrant women. My last gig, two days later, was to deliver an undergraduate lecture on the Nisei artist/writer Miné Okubo, and the creation of her graphic memoir "Citizen 13660."

Following the end of the residence period, I accepted an invitation from Professor Masako Iino to speak at Tsuda College. Professor Iino, a former President of Tsuda, is the dean of Japanese scholars on Japanese North Americans. I chose as my topic "Alliances Between Blacks and Japanese Americans in Postwar America."

My experience in Tokyo was exceedingly positive. It was pleasant to renew some old relationships with scholars in Japan, and make new contacts. Despite my inability to speak Japanese, which limited my direct research possibilities (apart from my Disneyland visit!), I learned a great deal through conversations with American Studies scholars. I hope to continue these exchanges, both virtually and in further visits to Japan.

I arrived in Tokyo a few days before my residence period started. During my first days, I took the opportunity to collect information for my project on transnational connections between Japan and Louisiana. I met up with Japanese friends for advice and translation of Japanese sources, and I accompanied Professor Florian Freitag of Germany on a visit to Tokyo Disneyland to study the New Orleans-style street displayed there! Meanwhile, I did some traveling in the region. I spent a lovely day in Kamakura, and visited the Little Edo neighborhood of Kawagoe, with its street of old clay warehouses.

My official duties at Waseda started on June 4. Professor Takashi Aso agreed to act as host. Professor Aso is a specialist in Comparative Literature who has done a great deal of research on Asian American writers, especially Vietnamese Americans. Not only did he extend countless kindnesses to me,



Dr. Robinson in the 'Little Edo' district of Kawagoe, in suburban Tokyo. Photo from Robinson.

## Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 124 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, former Chief of Staff of the US Army, General John Campbell, Commanding General, UN forces in Afghanistan, and Admiral Harry Harris, Commander, US Pacific Command. Of the 124, 71 served in the US Army, 22 in the US Air Force, 25 in the US Navy, and 2 each in the US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, and Public Health Service. Broken down in another way, 33 are Chinese American, 11 are Filipino American, 26 are Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 8 are Korean Americans, one is Vietnamese American, and 45 are Japanese Americans. Below are brief profiles of two flag officers.



### MG Edward M. Reeder, USA

Son of a Command Sergeant Major, MG Edward M. Reeder, USA, was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1979 from the ROTC program at Appalachian State University, also located in North Carolina.

Reeder served a total of six tours in Afghanistan in the Special Forces beginning in 2002, as commander of a task force to work with Afghan war lords to destroy the Taliban. He is credited with the organization and training of the Afghan Special Forces, consisting of 18,000 men who have conducted 110 operations per week. In addition, Reeder led his Special Forces personnel to build 200 schools in Afghanistan countryside and built an orphanage in Kabul for 73 girls. Reeder has built strong relationships with Afghan military and political leaders, who have visited Fayetteville and have stayed at the Reeder residence.

During his last of 6 assignments in Afghanistan, Reeder served as NATO Special Operations Component Commander – Afghanistan and Special Operations Joint Task Force – Afghanistan. Prior to his departure from Afghanistan on June 1, 2015 for stateside duty prior to his retirement later this year, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani presented to Reeder the first degree Baryal Medal, Afghanistan's highest award for public service, for his military contributions and public service. Reeder said he is humbled by this award which he has accepted to honor the 303 Afghan and US Special Forces soldiers who have sacrificed their lives to achieve their mission.

On June 29, 2010 Reeder took command of the US Army Green Berets and also took command of the Kennedy Special Warfare Center and school at Fort Bragg, NC, the home of Army Special Forces. He also served as Commanding General of US Army Special Forces, responsible for 14,000 soldiers worldwide.

Asked why he made the armed forces his career choice, MG Reeder said "I joined the Army to be just like my Dad...period. He was the hardest working man on the planet and had a great moral compass. He served with B Co Rangers assigned to the 187th Regimental Combat Team in the Korean War but spent most of his career in the 82nd. My Dad had three tours in Vietnam. I was born at Fort Bragg and raised in Fayetteville. My mom, who was born in Japan, still lives in the house they purchased in 1960."

In addition to the high decoration from the Afghan government, Reeder has received the Defense Superior Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist Badge and the Appalachian State University Distinguished Alumni Award.



### Vice Admiral Scott R. Van Buskirk, USN (Retired)

First, let me say that it is a pleasure and honor to be a member of JAVA. I believe that my 34 years in the United States Navy not only provided a unique opportunity to forge a strong and enduring relationship with the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and the people of Japan; it was also in many aspects both consistent with and supportive of the mission, goals and objectives of JAVA.

I had the wonderful experiences of a very diversified naval career that was anchored around tours in the Pacific and focused on operations in the Western Pacific. The culmination of my operational career was having the privilege to serve as the Commander of the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet hosted and based out of Yokosuka, Japan. Each day I had the opportunity to build upon and strengthen our nation's strongest and most important Alliance through day-to-day operations, exercises and events; an Alliance that was showcased in 2011 during Operation Tomodachi, our support to the nation of Japan in response to the tragedy surrounding the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

My service in the Navy was borne out of both a sense of adventure and opportunity to lead at the earliest possible time. What began as a 5 year commitment somehow became a career that enabled me to more than fulfill those aspirations during submarine deployments, commanding a submarine, a squadron, a carrier strike group and a fleet.

What I did not expect were all of the wonderful opportunities to work alongside all of our nation's partners and allies and specifically the nation of Japan. This is clearly reflected by one of my proudest legacies of my career, my on-going participation with several US-Japan relationship focused organizations that foster the relationships that are fundamental to further strengthening the Alliance.

I look forward to helping achieve JAVA's goals and objectives and in due course meeting all its great members . . . you can "count me in!"

Vice Admiral Van Buskirk, is a retired United States Navy officer who was the 56<sup>th</sup> Chief of Naval Personnel and the 47<sup>th</sup> Commander of the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet. He retired from the Navy in October 2013 after 34 years of service and joined Oceaneering International Inc.

A native of Petaluma, California, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979 and joined the submarine service and served on five submarines. His tours included command of a carrier strike group and Flag officer on the staff of the Multi National Force - Iraq.

Ashore he received his master's degree at the Naval Postgraduate School and served tours in the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, Bureau of Naval Personnel, and Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

## News from UN's Top Commander in Afghanistan



GEN John F. Campbell, USA

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

Kabul, Afghanistan. As you have noted in the press, the Afghan government as well as the Taliban leadership itself have reported that Taliban leader Mullah Omar is dead. Without commenting on the specifics of these reports, I believe the reports of Mullah Omar's death are credible. It is too early to tell how this event will impact the ongoing peace talks, but it certainly provides a unique opportunity for Taliban members to make genuine peace with the Afghan government and rebuild their lives in peace in Afghanistan. President Ghani has invited the Taliban to join the Afghan political process. . . . I was honored to have the opportunity earlier this month to meet with Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff, General Raheel at his headquarters in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

I took several key members of my staff as well as a BBC TV crew for a battlefield circulation visit to Kunduz province, one of the northern provinces. It was a productive visit, as I had the opportunity to hear firsthand from Afghan civic and military leaders about the challenges in that area. [I met] with Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, a highly respected Afghan religious leader and Mujahideen commander who fought against the Soviets. Also on July 4th, I was extremely disappointed to learn Acting Defense Minister Stanekzai was not confirmed by Parliament. I continue to be very impressed by his leadership and I can honestly say I've seen him do more in the past three months for MoD than previous ministers have done over a period of years. He remains in place as the Acting Minister of Defense, even against threats against his own life as well as his family. I was proud to have an opportunity to meet with a group of young Afghan Advisory Board members. This month's guests (6 total) included Afghan government officials, commercial media, an economist, and a civil rights leader. I appreciate the insight they provided.



General Campbell (center) with senior Afghan National Army NCOs during Kunduz visit.



Gen Campbell (second from left) with Rab Rasul Sayyaf.

The Command welcomed the flow of official visitors, journalists, and specialists including Senator McCain who arrived on July 4 and General Marty Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who arrived on July 19 (General Campbell said he also visited some of the subordinate commands and benefited from speaking with the soldiers directly.)

This is the fourteenth year since the attacks on 9/11. On every anniversary, we stop to pause and remember the lives that were tragically cut short and whose

full potential went unrealized. But I also choose to remember the myriad examples of extraordinary acts of personal courage and compassion in the face of adversity—even death—whose potential and decency were evident to all who knew them.

Last year we lost a dedicated Soldier and leader, Major General Harold J. Greene, a former deputy commander of the Combined Security Transition Command, Afghanistan (CSTC-A) and first general officer killed in a combat theater since the Vietnam conflict. On the anniversary of his death, Aug. 5, Major General Todd T. Semonite, CSTC-A commander, presided over the dedication while I was in D.C. His memorial plaque, which was commissioned from donations collected by the command, today hangs in a place of honor in our pavilion named after him. "Harry" believed in our mission here and often said, "Don't count the days. Make the days count."



August 5, 2015 dedication of the MG Harold J. Greene Memorial plaque.

## Ben Kuroki, Legendary Aerial Gunner, Passes



President George Bush returning Ben Kuroki's salute on May 1, 2008 in the East Room of the White House. When the President extolled Kuroki's patriotism and heroism in aerial combat in Europe and the Pacific, Kuroki stood and offered his hand salute.. White House photo.

Camarillo, CA. Ben Kuroki, legendary aerial gunner during World War II and JAVA Life Member, passed away on September 1, 2015, in Camarillo, California. He was 98. Kuroki was the first Nisei to enlist in the US Armed Forces during the war and was the only Nisei to serve as aerial gunner in the Asia Pacific Theater of the five Nisei aerial gunners during WW II. He received three Distinguished Flying Cross medals, the second highest medal for heroism in air combat. When he was asked for his reaction to serve in the Army Air Corps, which institutionally wanted to keep the Nisei out, Kuroki said, "I had to fight like hell for the right to fight for my own country."

Kuroki was born in Gaithersburg, NE, of immigrant Japanese farmers and raised in Hershey, NE. He learned of Japan's attack of Pearl Harbor at the JACL meeting held at North Platte, when two men in business suits entered the meeting hall, whispered to Mike Masaoka, National JACL Secretary, who was chairing the organizational meeting, and took him away. When Kuroki returned home, his immigrant father told Ben and his brother Fred "this is your country, go ahead and fight for it." Ben and Fred immediately signed up, but were never called and were told to go home. About two weeks later Kuroki heard on the radio that the Army Air Corps recruiting station at Grand Island was seeking recruits. He telephoned the recruiter to ask if race was a disqualifier. The response was "Hell no, I get two

bucks for every recruit, so c'mon on down." In January 1942, Ben and Fred drove 150 miles to North Platte, signed up, and were told to report to Sheppard Field, Texas for clerical training followed by assignment to the 93rd Bomber Group at Barksdale, Louisiana, where the Group was being formed. The recruiter was apparently unaware that on January 5, 1942 the government had placed a ban on Nisei enlistments by classifying them 4-C (Alien not currently liable for military service). After much effort and perseverance, he was able to stay in the Corps and went to England as a clerk, but he aspired to be a gunner.

Because the operational life of an aerial gunner was 10 missions and there was a short supply of gunners, Kuroki applied for the job, was approved, and was sent to a two-week British gunnery school which did not fire a shot. Kuroki received on the job training and made his maiden flight on December 13, 1942. After his 25th mission, which qualified him to rotate back to the US, Kuroki volunteered for five more missions. On his 30th mission over Munster, Germany, German flak hit Kuroki's plexiglass turret and he was nearly killed. Kuroki was sent to California, the Corps rest center. The Army used Ben to visit internment camps to persuade Nisei to join the 442nd Regimental Combat Team that was being formed.

Following his missions against Germany, Kuroki decided to serve in the Asia Pacific theater. However, there was a ban on Japanese American serving in the air. After more struggle and perseverance, he became one of the first ethnic Japanese allowed to be in Pacific war zone. He flew 28 missions in Asia, most of them bombing targets in Japan. After completing his last flight, a drunken GI called Kuroki a "dirty Jap" which triggered retaliation by Kuroki. The GI wielded a knife that cut Kuroki's head that landed him in the hospital for a few days. After his return, Kuroki embarked on his 59th mission to fight racism, prejudice and discrimination. He spoke to civic group and to schools. He was invited to the New York Herald Tribune annual forum, which was attended by many dignitaries. Kuroki was given a seat between General Stilwell and General Marshall.

Following his discharge, Kuroki got married and attended the University of Nebraska, where he majored in journalism. In 2005 Kuroki was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for his combat and speaking roles; the Nebraska Press Association presented its highest honor, the "President's Award;" the University of Nebraska conferred an honorary doctorate, and he was the subject of a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) documentary, *The Most Honorable Son: Ben Kuroki's Amazing War Story*." In 2006, Kuroki was invited to the White House twice, once to attend the dinner for Japan Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The other was to attend the Asia Pacific Heritage Month Program, when President George Bush recognized him for his air combat role and his fight against racism on the home front. Kuroki was particularly proud to receive the 2010 American Veterans Center Audie Murphy Award because this linked him with the members of the famed Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Kuroki took his golf seriously. Well into his 90's he walked the 18 holes. He also enjoyed taking his grandchildren trout fishing. Kuroki is survived by his wife, Shige, of Tyhee, located 6 miles from Pocatello, Idaho, daughters, Kerry (Williams), Kristyn, and Julie, 4 grandchildren and one great grandchild. The Kuroki family appreciates the affection of Ben's many colleagues and friends and requests that in lieu of flowers tax-exempt donations be made to the Ben Kuroki Scholarship Fund, Japanese American Veterans Association, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153.



Ernest Tabata

## Farewell to Sergeant Major Ernest K. Tabata

Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The funeral services for JAVA member Sergeant Major Ernest K. Tabata (US Army Retired), was held on August 21, 2015. The services began at the John F. Kennedy Memorial chapel at Fort Bragg, NC, and it was filled to capacity with many persons standing outside the chapel. Ernie was an icon in the Special Forces community and was 85 years of age when he passed away in early August. A procession of some 100 cars and motorcycles proceeded to Sand Hills Veterans Cemetery for his burial. JAVA was well represented with his close friend Wade Ishimoto along with LTC Kay Wakatake, SGM Pat Fensom, Ted Fujimoto, and Gary Shimizu there to bid farewell to a true Warrior. Submitted by Wade Ishimoto.



CSM Henry Luthy (USA Ret), a close friend of Ernie Tabata.

## Jun Shiosaki, 442nd Veteran and JAVA Member, Passes

Blackfoot, Idaho. Jun Shiosaki, a 442nd veteran and JAVA member, died peacefully at The Willows on May 23, 2015, following an extended period of illness resulting from congestive heart failure. He was born June 6, 1924 in Lamont, Idaho, and moved to Blackfoot in 1933 where, except for his military service, he remained until his death. In his youth, Jun was active in softball, basketball, Glee Club, and student government. In 1942, he graduated from Blackfoot High School with honors. The Salutatorian was bestowed upon him at the age of 78 in a special ceremony at Blackfoot High School in 2003.

Jun worked for Stephen's Cleaners until he was drafted on July 8, 1944. He completed his basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida. In January 1945, he joined the 442nd RCT in the Maritime Alps, the border between Italy and France and was assigned to "A" Company 100th Infantry Battalion as an infantryman. In March 1945 his unit returned to Italy. On the night of April 5, 1945 the 100th climbed the front side of the steep Mt. Folgorito while the 3rd Battalion climbed the back side and at 6:00 AM the two battalions made a surprise attack on the Germans and pierced the "impregnable" German Gothic Line in 32 minutes that allowed the 5th Army to swarm the Po Valley and pursue the retreating enemy forces. Germany surrendered one week later. The Gothic Line had resisted Allied attacks for five months.

He received many awards including the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Congressional Gold medal. After his discharge in July 1946 he worked for an auto dealership then, with his brother Mike, ran a dry cleaning business until 1964 when he joined Westinghouse Electric Corporation at the Naval Reactors Facility from which he retired as a Quality Control Inspector in 1992.

Jun's hobby was photography which began during his high school days. As a member of the Idaho Counselors Association, Jun lobbied the Idaho state legislature and got the Practice Act passed in 1998. In 1999, Governor Kempthorn appointed Jun to the Idaho State Counselors Licensing Board. In 2003 he received Advocate of the Year Award by the Idaho Counselors Association. He was later appointed and served as a public member on the Chiropractor Licensing Board. In 2010 he encouraged the Idaho US Senators to co-sponsor the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei.

Jun married Veda "Vickie" Gay Phipps September 24, 1969 in Elko, Nevada. He is survived by his wife of Blackfoot, Vickie Shiosaki, daughter Denise Reese, Shelley, ID; Son, Brian Kelly Shiosaki (Dana), Beaverton, OR; and daughter, Lisa Jun Olsen, (Garth) Idaho Falls, ID; Nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was a member of the Japanese American Veteran's Association, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and the American Legion, Stewart Hoover Post 23.



Jun Shiosaki, 1924 – 2015

## "Tommie" Okabayashi, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veteran, Passes

Houston Chronicle, July 30, 2015. Tsutomu "Tommie" Okabayashi, born in Hamshire, TX on February 7, 1925 passed away on July 28, 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Okabayashi; lifelong friend, Shizuko Reeves; his parents, Minoru and Yoshimi Okabayashi; his sisters, Shizu Oyama and Midori Onishi; and brothers, Hiroshi, Kaoru and Kiyoshi Okabayashi. Tommie is survived by his daughters, Emily Cribb and Shirley Cassell; his sons, Garry and Danny Okabayashi; sisters, Tsuyu Oyama and Kazuko Morrison; brother, George Okabayashi; 7 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



Okabayashi saluting his Commander in Chief at the White House Oval Office. White House photo.

Tommie grew up on the north side of Houston, graduating from Marrs High School (later named Aldine High School) in 1942. He volunteered for the Army in 1943, training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi in the all Japanese American unit, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Fighting in Italy and France during WW II, his unit became the most decorated unit in Army history. Tommie was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, French Legion of Honor, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation and the Congressional Gold Medal. In February 2014, Tommie and 6 other Japanese American veterans were honored by President Obama for their contributions during WW II in a ceremony held in the White House Oval Office.

Tommie was an avid bowler throughout his life and finished his latest league in May 2015 with his family attending. The funeral service was held on August 2, 2015 at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the National Veterans Network at National Veterans Network, P.O. Box 1221, Torrance, CA 90505.



## JAVA Executive Director Selected to Attend White House Executive Leadership Program

Washington, DC. JAVA's Executive Director, Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (ret) was recently selected as a Fellow in the new White House Leadership Development Program. President Barack Obama announced the program last December as part of his continued commitment to train and develop the Government's high performers to serve as the next generation of the Senior Executive Service (SES). The program is designed to improve their skill sets to effect change, build coalitions, work across government departments, and solve problems. The one year program incorporates traditional professional development activities with rotational assignments helping the White House and Federal agencies work on some of the federal government's highest priority, highest impact challenges - the 15 Cross-Agency Priority Goals.



Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)

"The program leaders have worked hard to match the participants with challenges that fit their skill set and passions," Hollywood said. "I will be working on a team charged with the Cross-Agency Priority Goal of 'Improving access to mental health services for Veterans, active duty military personnel and their families.' We will attempt to identify and build on programs and initiatives that have been effective in reducing barriers to seeking care, enhancing access to, and improving the quality of mental health care and support."

White House Leadership Development Program Director, Jenny Mattingley explained that the program goal is to "Build Enterprise Leaders across Government and Deliver Results on High-Priority Goals." She added: "By focusing their efforts on building government wide coalitions around the 15 Cross-Agency Priority Goals, participants will pick up skills and knowledge they'll be able to apply when other complex problems crop up and demand immediate attention." Upon completing the program, fellows will bring valuable experience back to their agencies, creating a cadre of leaders with increased skillsets and networks they can leverage on agency priorities.

"I am honored to be selected for this amazing opportunity" Hollywood said. "I look forward to working together with this group of talented leaders and making progress on important challenges. I appreciate the significant investment that the Government is making in me and will work hard to build skills and relationships that help make me a better leader."

## Don Nose, Head of GFBNEC, to Step Down

Don Nose, pictured here with his 11-year old son Garrett, told JAVA in August 2015 that after four years as President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), Torrance, California, that he plans to step down to spend more time with his son. He lost his wife in 2012. He said this fall the GFBNEC will move to the renovated second floor of the historic Nishi Hongwanji building, near the GFB monument, and "next spring they will open the first of a kind exhibition where visitors will actively engage in learning about the Nisei soldiers of World War II, and in the process see the similarities between the decisions the soldiers and their families faced and the challenges we face in communities across our nation today." He said that since the passing of his wife in 2012, he views the raising of his son, Garrett, as his first priority, a task which clashes with the demands of his current position. Thus, he has made his difficult decision. While JAVA had looked forward to partnering with GFBNEC under Nose, JAVA respects his courageous decision. We wish him success in his endeavors.



## News from Veterans Organizations & Friends

Chicago, Illinois. Chicago American Legion Post 1183 Bulletin for September reported that some Post members attended a dramatic reading of a new play, presented at the Japanese American Service Committee. The play honored Chiune Sugihara as an "Unsung Hero of the Holocaust." Sugihara, who spoke German and Russian, was a vice consul in Kovno, Lithuania, which was a target for Nazi attack. The Jewish people, threatened by the Holocaust, asked Sugihara for visas to travel through Japan to go to the Dutch island of Curacao. When the Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected Sugihara's request three times, Sugihara unilaterally issued visas to thousands of Lithuanian Jews. Sugihara was demoted and when he returned to Japan found that his name was removed from the Foreign Ministry due to insubordination.

Torrance, CA. The National Veterans Network (NVN), in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Center (APAC) and the National Museum of American History (NMAH) and with the financial support from the National Parks Service (NPS), has begun developing a state-of-the-art digital exhibition centered on the outstanding military service of Nisei during World War II, including those who served in combat, in supporting roles and as part of the Occupation of Japan. The exhibition was inspired by the 2011 award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Honolulu, Hawaii. The 100th Battalion Veterans Hawaii Puka Puka Parade announced that the 10th Annual Joint Memorial service was held on September 27, 2015 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). This was a service to honor the fallen heroes of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, MIS and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. The Memorial Service was sponsored by the Nisei Veterans Legacy Center.

Watsonville, California. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Newsletter September 2015 issue reported that a program to honor the Nisei WW II veterans was held on the USS Hornet Museum at Alameda on August 15. The program featured 442nd veteran Lawson Sakai, author Frantz Steidl, photo journalist Tom Graves, and Lost Battalion survivor Al Tortolano. Over 300 attended the event.

Seattle, Washington. The Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter of August 2015 contained an article written by Stephanie Ikeda who went on a pilgrimage to the Minidoka Internment Center. After her visit she said "...even decades later [the incarceration] is a source of trauma that continues to cast its shadow over the generations that came after. Steps such as the redress bill passed in 1988 are important, but they are not enough. ... more effort ... towards pursuing a better and more equal America are what we need ..."

San Francisco, California. The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) encouraged readers to join the Tsukimi Kai's trip to Cuba to connect with Cubans of Japanese descent. The mission of Tsukimi Kai, an inter-generational group, is to document the history of Cubans and Japanese, share stories, celebrate common cultural roots, and compare experiences. Through cultural exchange and dialogue, they hope to build friendship and solidarity with the Cuban Japanese people.

**Thank you, Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends  
(April 19, 2015 – September 16, 2015 )**

**General Fund**

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## JAVA Honor Roll

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



## Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title or Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Honorably Discharged: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Reservist/National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet/Midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_

Current or Last Military Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

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

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

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

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

Mail application to: Wade Ishimoto or email application to: Pohaku59@aol.com  
5703 Barbmor Court  
Alexandria, VA 22310

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

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

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

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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 5, 2015. JAVA EC Meeting
- December 5, 2015. 12-2 pm. Mochitsuki. JACL. North Bethesda Middle School, 8935 Bradmoor Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817.
- December 14, 2015. Legacy of Japanese Americans in the military. Japan Information and Cultural Center (JICC).
- December 15, 2015. Internment of Japanese, Past, Present and Future. JICC.
- December 16, 2015. Japan Foreign Minister's Award to JACL, JAVA, NJAMF, and US Japan Council. JICC.
- January 16, 2016. JAVA Quarterly Luncheon.
- March 26, 2016. Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk.
- April 16, 2016. Cherry Blossom Sakura Matsuri. Capitol Riverfront (Navy Yard Metro).
- May 29, 2016. Program at Arlington Cemetery.
- May 30, 2016. National Memorial Day Parade. Constitution Ave.

### Thank You & Farewell From Advocate Editors

The Fall 2015 Advocate will mark our final edition as editors, ending a remarkable two year journey. As such, we want to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for allowing us the privilege and honor to serve as editors of the Advocate. We found the experience rewarding, educational and humbling. We hope in some small way that we were helpful and supportive to JAVA's continued mission of education, preservation and advocacy. We have been privileged to have met so many wonderful individuals whom we now count among our dearest friends and have enjoyed immensely, reading and learning about the contributions of members throughout the years. While there are a number of individuals we wish to thank, including but not limited to the executive Board and the many JAVA volunteers and contributors to the Advocate, we wanted to reserve a special thank you to Grant Ichikawa for bringing us to JAVA and to Terry Shima for his continued guidance and support throughout this process. We leave the Advocate in good hands and with dear friends who we have no doubt will do a tremendous job continuing the great tradition of this publication. With that, we hope you all will join us in welcoming Chad and Anri as the Advocate's new editors and wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season. Thank you all again for such an amazing opportunity.

Humbly and with Great Respect,  
Tom and Jill Phan



**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o JAVA President  
5703 Barbmoor Court  
Alexandria, VA 22310

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**Education & Outreach:** Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net; 301-987-6746

**Facebook:** LCDR Janella Kuroda, USNR, janellekuroda@gmail.com

**Membership:** Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, ninjaderek@aol.com; 873-391-7116

**Finance:** Vacant

**Freedom Walk:** LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), Martyherb@aol.com. 703-509-6473

**National Memorial Day Parade:** LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) (see above)

**Arlington Cemetery:** Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) (see above)

**National Archives Research:** Fumie Yamamoto, 301-942-3985, yamamotoff@yahoo.com

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**Press Release:** Vacant

**Oral History:** Wade Ishimoto, pohaku59@aol.com; 703-989-0983

**Policy:** Col Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President, mikecardarelli@aol.com

**Quarterly Lunch:** Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) (see above), Metta Tanikawa, laertesVA@yahoo.com

**Round Robin:** LTC Brett Egusa, USAR

**Sakura Matsuri:** Reuben Yoshikawa, ryoshika@verizon.net

**Scholarship:** Wade Ishimoto (see above)

**JAVA Awards:** Vacant

**Speakers Bureau:** CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret)

**Veterans Day:** Col Bruce Hollywood (Ret) (see above)

**Webmaster:** Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org; 703-425-1444 and James Tani, jamestani@aol.com

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