



# JAVA ADVOCATE

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## High Participation for Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk, Co-sponsored by JAVA

By Barbara Nekoba, JAVA Member on Freedom Walk Committee

The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and JAVA celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk on Saturday, April 5. It was a beautiful spring day, with cherry blossoms in bloom and fluttering to the ground in the gentle breeze. Over 200 people participated in this event, marking the highest turnout yet. The 4K noncompetitive walk began at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, at D Street and New Jersey Avenue, NW, and encircled a portion of The Mall be-

tween Madison and Jefferson Drives.

The purpose of this year's Freedom Walk was to affirm Asia Pacific American resolve as citizens to work with their nation's political and civic leaders in upholding civil rights.

JAVA participated in the opening ceremony, with Beth Fujishige as the mistress of ceremonies. Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ryozo Kato kicked-off the Walk.

*[continued on page 5]*



Above Left: Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. Right: Professor Gary Okihiro. Photos by Eileen Roulier.

## Nancy Pelosi Supports Nisei Stamp Campaign

In a letter dated January 24, 2008, to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, U.S. Congresswoman and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi wrote her support of the grassroots campaign to establish a commemorative postage stamp to honor the WW II Nisei veterans. "Having the Nisei World War II Veterans be commemorated as a stamp honors the veterans that have helped protect and defend our nation. . . . It

would be fitting that this group of veterans' heroism and sacrifice be preserved in history."

According to the Nisei Stamp Campaign website at [www.niseistamp.org](http://www.niseistamp.org), organizers "believe that the patriotic sacrifice and outstanding accomplishments of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II are worthy of a U.S. postage stamp."

## President's Message



The crocus were beautiful, the forsythias are great, but now is the time for the cherry blossoms to grace Washington, DC. JAVA's activities for the past three months have equaled the Spring flowers—vibrant and beautiful.

We have had excellent responses to our announcements for our four scholarships which will be awarded at next month's quarterly luncheon. Scholarship Chair Calvin Ninomiya and Selection Committee Chair Dr. Jim Furukawa are making this happen.

Our education project has been tested and is now in an expansion phase. In partnership with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), a successful teachers' training program was conducted for area history teachers. JAVA and NJAMF teams have since visited Maryland high schools to speak to students concerning the Ni-

sei WW II experience. Next month they are doing the same in northern Virginia schools. I believe that addressing the middle and high school students, who are our future leaders, is one of the best ways to ensure that the WW II internment experience is not repeated to any minority group.

Thanks to referrals from GFBNEC, JAVA members were invited by the New Hampshire Diversity Awareness Council in Manchester, New Hampshire, to speak at the Martin Luther King Dinner on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Then on February 13<sup>th</sup> two JAVA members were invited to Philadelphia for interview by *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* for broadcast on CNN Headline News in the near future. When the broadcast date is known we will advise you via Grant Ichikawa's round robin. JAVA speakers carried the Japanese American message and also expanded JAVA's name recognition.

We are preparing for several big events in the next quarter: the National Memo-



National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism with Cherry Blossoms in full bloom in Washington, D.C. Photo by Gerald Yamada.

rial Day Program with JACL at Arlington Cemetery, the National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue, Smithsonian Air and Space Museum showing of Ben Kuroki's life, *The Most Honorable Son*, the invitation to the White House for the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month program, and Scholarship awards, among others.

Have a great Spring season.

## JAVA Appoints New Vice President

JAVA's Executive Council approved the appointment of LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret), to the position of Vice President.

Herbert, currently a consultant with Booz, Allen, Hamilton, received his Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Louisville and his Masters in Human Resource Development from Webster University.

He served 20 years in the Army as an Infantry and multi-functional Logistical Officer. He specialized in tactical operations, supply distribution, direct support maintenance, transportation, and medical support. He also has Joint Chiefs of Staff (National Military Command Center) experience and has served as Aide de-Camp to the Chief of Staff, Army. He brings with him recent combat experience as a Logistics Task Force Commander in



both Afghanistan and Iraq. Herbert was also commended for actions in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, and served as Crisis Action Officer in the Pentagon National Military Command Center after it was attacked.

Some of Herbert's Booz Allen clients include Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Logistics Agency, and the Unified Combatant Commands. He currently leads the Army Materiel Command Lessons Learned team providing observations, insights, and lessons on a wide variety of issues for the 4-star Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command.

Cal Shintani regretfully resigned due to added professional responsibilities; JAVA thanks Cal for his superb service during his tenure as vice president.

### Officers

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

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

### Honorary Chairs

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

### JAVA ADVOCATE

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



## NH Diversity Council Honors JA Vets

The New Hampshire Cultural Diversity Awareness Council's (NHCDAC) recognized the efforts of Senator Daniel Inouye and JAVA in promoting diversity on January 21, 2008 at Radisson Hotel in Manchester, New Hampshire, attended by 250 people. The occasion was the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Keeping the Dream Alive" Dinner. The Council made presentations in a tribute to the Japanese American veterans and their families confined to internment camps during World War II.



L-R. Joe Ichiuji, Wayne Jennings, Terry Shima.  
Photo courtesy of Wayne Jennings.



The granite award (left), in the shape of the state of New Hampshire, was inscribed, "Presented to The Japanese American Veterans Association. In recognition of your great leadership at promoting diversity and the values which are adherent to our country and the dreams of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." In presenting the award, Wayne D. Jennings, Chairman of NHCDAC, said

"We are honored to have Joe Ichiuji and Terry Shima speak at our dinner. America is proud and appreciative of the contributions that the Japanese American veterans have made to make our country a strong nation." NHCDAC, founded in

2000 by Mr. Jennings, is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to bringing together people of diverse ethnic backgrounds to work on various cultural issues facing the nation today.

Ichiuji and Shima, both World War II veterans of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and JAVA members, accepted the award on behalf of JAVA. Senator Inouye, who was unable to attend the Dinner, will receive the award in Washington, D.C. during the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May. Other Japanese American guests who were invited to the dinner were Dr. Susumu Ito, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran and Professor Emeritus, Harvard University, and his wife, Minnie; Tetsuo Takayanagi, Military Intelligence Service (MIS) veteran, and his wife Mae; Dorothy Yamashita, wife of the late Dr. Kanshi Stanley Yamashita, MIS veteran, of Lebanon, New Hampshire, and her daughter Mari Demoya; and Grey S. Emmons, a student at Tuck Business School at Dartmouth University and nephew of Terry Shima.

U.S. Senator John E. Sununu, Special Guest Speaker, discussed highlights of developments in the US Congress, his close fraternal relationship with Senator Inouye, and the Nisei experiences during WW II. He applauded the efforts of various Japanese American organizations to educate the American public on their internment experience so no ethnic group will have to experience a similar situation again.

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

## TV Interview of JAVA Members

Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima were interviewed on February 13 by *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* for broadcast on CNN Headline News at an unscheduled future date. *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* is a nationally televised show targeted to the over 50 audience. Emmy Award-winning Suzanne Roberts is the senior host.

The broadcast consists of both a 5-minute segment to air 3 times daily on CNN Headline News to 20 million viewers, as well as a weekly half-hour program that airs Sunday evenings nationwide.

According to its website, *Solutions with Suzanne* informs and entertains by providing "tips, ideas, and insights on topics that impact adults over 50, with a goal toward

improving lives and making the journey fun, provocative, fascinating and adventure-filled." Suzanne Roberts "gives her audience a guide map to make the most of their lives." *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* is broadcast three times daily on CNN Headline News at 11:55am, 4:55pm, and 9:55pm EDT.

The interview covered such points as the execution of Executive Order 9066, conditions of the horse stable and camps, attitude towards internment, how camp life affected families, why Nisei volunteered for military service, and how JAVA views the con-



L-R: Suzanne Roberts interviews Terry Shima and Grant Ichikawa at *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* studio. Photo credit: Laurie Jentus

tributions of the Nisei.

The broadcast dates will be posted on the JAVA Round Robin email when they are known. For more information go to [www.suzanne.tv](http://www.suzanne.tv). JAVA participation was derived through a referral from the Go For Broke National Education Center ([www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org)).

## Teachers Workshop Bring Nisei Experience to Classroom

On February 2, educators from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. became the first in their region to take part in teacher training workshops focused on the WW II experience of Japanese Americans, particularly the Nisei and other minorities who served in the military.

The East Coast participants join more than 1,500 educational professionals who have completed the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) program that began 10 years ago and in 1998 became part of the California State Curriculum Social Studies Standard.

Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and GFBNEC partnered with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and JAVA to present the inaugural workshop.

In opening the workshop, Maria L. Trementozzi, Acting Social Studies Supervisor of MCPS, stressed the importance of teaching minority issues. "Our goal is to convey the value lessons embodied by the Nisei who served the nation honorably in the face of discrimination," according to GFBNEC President and Chief Executive Officer Christine Sato-Yamazaki.

"Teachers are the key to bringing these unique and inspiring stories to students across America. This workshop offered a great opportunity that has developed into a mutually rewarding collaboration," Sato-Yamazaki said, adding that discussions are already under way to conduct a similar workshop in the coming months.

Education specialists Esther Taira and Mark Elinson facilitated the workshop, examining events that led up to the attack on Pearl Harbor and mass evacuation of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. They also discussed the formation of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team as a segregated unit in WW II and explained the contributions of the Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

Augmenting the discussion was Gerald Yamada, President and Executive Director of NJAMF, who described the NJAMF teachers guide and invited teachers to bring their classes to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building. JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima announced that related publications are available and that veterans and former internees can be made available to speak at local schools. Speakers have already been scheduled with four high schools.

Some 30,000 Japanese Americans served in the Armed Forces during WW II, including 10,000 with the 100th Battalion-442nd RCT in Europe and 6,000 with the MIS in the Asia Pacific Theater. Many of them volunteered for combat duty from the 10 internment camps. For its combat in Italy, France, and Germany, the 100<sup>th</sup>-442<sup>nd</sup> RCT received 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, and many other US and foreign awards, making it one of the most highly-decorated army unit for its size and period of combat.

Following the end of the workshop, Eliot Frankeberger, history teacher at Springbrook High School in Silver Spring, Maryland, said, "The workshop gave the opportunity for teachers to personally interview Japanese-Americans who lived these extraordinary events and time with dignity. I think all participants will return to our classrooms both reinvigorated and with a greater sense of purpose in conveying meaningful instruction. Our veterans are one of our national treas-



Above: Participants of the Teachers Workshop at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Maryland. Below: Teacher workshop in session. Walking with back to camera is Mark Elinson, Education Facilitator of GFBNEC. Photos by Grant Hirabayashi.



ures, and I am honored to have participated in such a practical and useful workshop."

Lt Col John Hannon, USAF (Ret), a former B-52 Bomber pilot and currently teacher at Bryant High School in Alexandria, VA, remarked, "I found the workshop very informative both in terms of history I didn't know and in ways to effectively present the history of Japanese American veterans. Interviewing veterans allowed us to hear their stories and showed the instructional value of capturing oral histories in the classroom. The workshop, led by highly experienced educators, was top notch."

Ms. Alice Reilly, Social Studies Coordinator of Fairfax County Schools, commented, "The workshop allowed us to immerse ourselves in the Nisei experience through the use of primary source documents and video clips as well as the opportunity to speak directly with those who were either interned or fought with the 100th or 442nd battalion. These types of exchanges resonate with 21st students and make history real, and I look forward to the opportunity to bring not only the curriculum resources to Fairfax County Public Schools, but also some of the survivors to speak to our students."



# JA National Museum National Conference in July

By Chris Komai, Japanese American National Museum Press Release

As both a follow-up to the successful national conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2004, and as part of the year-long commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing into law of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) is organizing a national conference that will examine the successful fight for redress, relevant civil liberties issues and the local Japanese American histories within five inland states on July 3-6, 2008, in Denver, CO.



Grandmother and granddaughter at Little Rock, Arkansas conference in 2004. Photo by Matt Bradley.

The national conference, "Whose America? Who's American? Diversity, Civil Liberties & Social Justice" is part of "Enduring Communities: The Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah," a three-year initiative partially funded by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and Aratani Foundation, and organized by the National Museum in collaboration with educators, students and communities located in the five states. It involves regional educators and students with the goal of creating new curriculum that integrates the Japa-

nese American World War II experience into each state's histories.

Other activities are available, including optional visits to the Amache (Granada), Colorado campsite on Thursday, July 3 and Sunday, July 6. Presentations and workshops, such as "A Guide to Oral Histories: A How-to Workshop" and "Find Your Japanese American Roots" will be available Friday, July 4. A Mini Media Festival is scheduled for July 3-4 and 6 and a Youth Expo will be open July 3-6, where the work of young people (documentaries, display boards, art) will be on view.

Deadline for pre-registration is June 5, 2008. For more information, contact the Japanese American National Museum at (213) 625-0414 or go to [www.janm.org/projects/ec](http://www.janm.org/projects/ec).

## Freedom Walk

[continued from page 1]

This is Ambassador Kato's last Freedom Walk. A strong supporter of the Freedom Walk, Kato has participated in every Freedom Walk, rain or shine, during his long tenure as Ambassador to the US.

The keynote speaker was Professor Gary Okihiro, co-editor of *Impounded: Dorthea Lange and the Censored Images of Japanese American Internment*, an extraordinary previously unpublished photographic record of the internment. JAVA President Bob Nakamoto was also a speaker; JAVA Vice President Martin Herbert led the Pledge of Allegiance; and JAVA member Tino Dinh, USAF veteran, and LTC Blaine Asato, USAF (Ret), accompanied Boy Scout Troop and Pack 508 in the Presentation of Colors. Cultural entertainment included Japanese Taiko drummers and Japanese folk dancing.



Above: Four NISEI veterans were honored in a ceremony on Feb. 8, 2008, by BG Ron Bouchard, J6, Director of Communications at the 100th Infantry Club in Honolulu, Hawaii. Pictured with BG Bouchard (center) from left to right: Goro Sumida, Bernard Akamine, Robert Arakaki, and Ted Tuskiyama received plaques for sharing their experiences during WW II. Their articles, written by COL Renita Menyherth, USA (Ret), received the Department of Defense-wide Thomas Jefferson Award, named after the nation's third president and author of the Declaration of Independence. The award recognizes military and civilian employee print and broadcast journalism for outstanding achievement in furthering the objectives of the DOD Internal Information Program. Photo courtesy of 100th Veterans Hawaii.

## Smithsonian to Honor Ben Kuroki

The Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Theater, Mall Building, will feature *The Most Honorable Son: A Japanese American B-24 gunner in World War II* on May 1, 2008, at 7:30 PM. The PBS film, produced by KDN Films and NET Foundation for Television, and directed by Bill Kubota, is a documentary on the life of Ben Kuroki, who flew 30 air combat missions in Europe and 28 missions in Asia, including Japan. The Smithsonian website said "the film features rare WWII footage and presents Mr. Kuroki's unique, poignant and virtually unknown story through his words and those he served with in the 8th and 29th Army Air Forces." Free tickets available: call 202-633-2398 or visit <http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/ticketsform.cfm>. Kuroki will address the audience after the documentary and will respond to questions.

Shortly after the United States entered WW II, Kuroki volunteered for the Air Corps. For the next three years, until he was discharged, Kuroki said he had to "fight like hell" to be kept in the service that institutionally wanted him out for no reason but the color of his skin. He begged, pleaded, and cried, but most of all he performed at the highest level of proficiency, working longer hours and with greater dedication than most. His flight colleagues steadfastly supported him. After 25 missions in Europe, Kuroki was entitled to "hang it up" but he volunteered for 5 more missions because he felt he was needed. His missions included Ploesti, which produced 1/3 of Hitler's petroleum. Anti-aircraft guns and *Luftwaffe* fighters protecting Ploesti killed 310 American air crewmen during the August 1, 1943 bombing mission. Kuroki survived. On his 30<sup>th</sup> mission Kuroki's plexiglass turret dome was demolished when it was hit by flak.

Following the completion of his European assignment, the Army assigned Kuroki to a speaking tour that included the exclusive Commonwealth Club of San Francisco and internment camps. Every President since Lincoln spoke at the Commonwealth. Just before his speech to the 700 profes-

sionals in the Club on February 4, 1944, Kuroki was greeted by the headline of a Hearst newspaper: "Jap to address SF Club." Kuroki saw hate and suspicion in the audience. When he finished, the audience gave him a 10-minute standing ovation and compelled him to return to the podium twice. A high-ranking California academician said, "This was the beginning of change of the whole attitude in California." Even the Hearst newspaper gave Kuroki favorable coverage. The War Department next ordered Kuroki to visit the internment camps to encourage volunteers and draftees to join the Army. He was received like a hero, but a small group of dissidents resorted to derogatory name calling.

Air Corps policy precluded any Japanese American to serve air duty in the Pacific. When the chain of command could not help him, Kuroki appealed to several Commonwealth Club members who contacted Secretary of War Henry L Stimson. Finally, Stimson personally approved Kuroki to be assigned to the Pacific Theater. Kuroki flew 30 B-29 bomber missions from Saipan to targets in Japan.

Following the war, Kuroki obtained a journalism degree and became publisher and editor of his own newspapers. On August 12, 2005, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Only two other Nisei are known to have served as gunners in the Army Air Corps during WW II. They are Herbert Ginoza and John Matsumoto.



Above: Ben Kuroki and wife Shige in Lincoln, NE, August 2007. Photo courtesy of Scott Stewart.

## Donations Solicited for Memorial Day Floral Wreaths

JAVA has joined JAACL in its program to place flowers at the grave sites of some 60 Japanese Americans at Arlington National Cemetery on the Sunday before Memorial Day, May 25, 2008. In addition, Caucasian officers assigned to the 100-442nd RCT, CAPT Marty Higgins, Commander of the trapped Texas battalion rescued by 100-442nd RCT, and the 7 ethnic Japanese who died when the USS Maine sank in Havana Harbor in 1898 will also be included in this floral presentation.

This floral presentation will follow a program at the pavilion near the Columbarium and before the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. This year's keynote speaker at the program is George Sakato, Medal of Honor recipient; MAJ Kay Wakatake will also speak. Negotiations are underway for a third co-sponsor, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), the inclusion of

which would represent all of the major Nikkei organizations in the Washington, DC area.

We view this Arlington Cemetery floral presentation to honor Nikkei heroes of all wars and time to be a permanent endeavor. JAVA members, families, and friends can participate in this floral program through tax deductible cash donations. The total cost for flowers is approximately \$1,700, the net expenses of which will be shared equally by the co-sponsors. JAVA has established a separate account to pay for its share of the floral wreaths. If you wish to donate, any amount would be gratefully accepted. Please make your tax deductible checks payable to JAVA, write "Memorial Day Flowers" on the Memo line, and send your check to Earl Takeguchi, 7201 White House Drive, Springfield, VA 22153. If you would like to honor a specific soldier, please include the name on the memo line.



## NVC of Seattle Reopens Memorial Hall

The Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) of Seattle, Washington held a grand opening of its remodeled Memorial Hall located in the international district (1212 South King St) on March 15, 2008. Washington state Governor Christine Gregoire, US Senator Patty Murray, US Senator Daniel Inouye, US Congressmen Dave Reichert and Jim McDermott, state legislators, and various state officials participated in a ceremony that validated the passing of the legacy of the WWII generation to the future generations of Japanese Americans. The renovation cost \$2.5 million, \$1.5 million of which was paid for by private contributions and \$945,000 were grants from city, county, state and federal grants.

The NVC was activated in 1946 when American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars refused to accept Japanese American veterans as members. Nisei were also rejected by other VFW and American Legion posts in the west coast. The NVC bought a building in Chinatown for \$1,000, and veterans and their families used this place to socialize, offer dance lessons, and hold bar-

becues, holiday festivals, basketball games and karaoke nights.

In 2001, when NVC members saw the inevitable declining membership they were faced with the decision to close the organization and sell the property or to continue.

George Morihiro, a 442nd Staff Sgt who later served in the Korean War, said his "biggest concern is the perpetuation of our legacy. . . . Our legacy needs to be carried on." A consensus was reached to maintain the organization in order to leave the

Nisei legacy. Yuzo Tokita, the current commander of NVC and fighter pilot in the Vietnam War, said the "Nisei generation spent a lot of blood, sweat and tears to get this building to be their memorial hall"

A renovation plan was approved and fund raising began. The expanded new hall features a conference room and a wall with photos and biographies to honor those who paid the ultimate price. Facilities are available for NVC's education program to relate their WW II experiences. Veterans also speak at schools, churches, and civic and government entities. About 200 JA veterans live in the Seattle area.

A gratifying note at the re-opening ceremony was the participation of American Legion and VFW veterans. One of the participants was Bainbridge Island resident Jim Waikowski, a member of the American Legion Post 172, who said "the shunning



Above: Veterans Sam Mitsui, right, and Dale Kaku, left, salute during the national anthem. Below: Veterans Shig Momoda, right, and Tak Omoto, center, try to find family friends on the "Killed in Action" wall. Photos by Mike Urban, Seattle Post-Intelligencer.



Above: Veterans Paul Hosoda, left, and Min Tsubota, center, meet with Gov. Christine Gregoire after ceremonies. Below: NVC Honor Guards Teruo Yorita, center left, and Tom Ohtani, left, wait in the wings along with Seattle Japanese Queen Monique Aiyaka Perkins, right, and First Princess Lisa Felice Akiyama, center right, for the start of the ceremony. Photos by Mike Urban, Seattle Post-Intelligencer.



of Japanese American soldiers left emotional scars." The Seattle Times editorial of March 15, 2008, summed it up well: "History can remind us of past struggles, accomplishments and triumphs. . . . It can also serve to inspire new generations of young people and provide a role model of courage and rectitude in the face of unfa-  
thomable duress. Such will be the case with the Nisei Veterans Hall."

For more information, visit  
[www.seattlencv.org](http://www.seattlencv.org).



Above: Veteran George Morihiro walks by a group photo of Japanese-American soldiers taken at Lake View Cemetery on Memorial Day in 1946. Below: The hall has a memorial to William J. Imamoto of the U.S. Army 442nd Infantry, who was killed in the last days of World War II. Photos by Alan Berner, The Seattle Times.



## 442nd Hawaii's 65th Reunion

By Gwen Fujie, 442nd Sons and Daughters

Approximately 1,200 people from across the country attended the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT on March 30 at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Opening ceremonies included a formal "Roll Call" procession of all the veterans, including three Medal of Honor recipients, US Senator Daniel Inouye, George Sakato and Barney Hajiro. COL Michael Peeters, USA, Battalion Commander of the 100th Battalion 442d Infantry Regiment, called the names of each unit as they enter the ballroom.

Sen. Inouye, from Company E, was the keynote speaker, and US Senator Daniel Akaka was inducted as an Honorary Member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Senator Akaka was recognized for his long-time support of the veterans and for his success in upgrading 22 Asian Pacific American recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, including 20 Nisei, to the Medal of

Freedom Team Salute also honored each veteran with an official Army lapel pin, official Army decal, certificate of appreciation, and letter of thanks signed by the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Army.

([www.freedomteamsalute.com](http://www.freedomteamsalute.com)) Program Director COL David Griffen came from Washington, DC to do the honors.

Entertainment included the Honolulu Jazz Quartet with saxophonist Tim Tsukiyama, son of veteran Ted Tsukiyama; professional storyteller Alton Takiyama

Honor.

The U.S. Army's

Chung performed a tribute to the veterans from his "Heroes" DVD, accompanied by Dr. Bernice Hirai on koto. The mistress of ceremonies was Ms. Carole Kai, daughter of the late Larry Manabu Shimizu of the Military Intelligence Service.

**United Television Broadcasting Systems, Inc.**, from Hollywood, CA, filmed the event for a documentary entitled *Toyo's Camera*. (Contact Ms. Erika Jones, Assistant Producer, (714) 580-4073, [erikajoinesp@gmail.com](mailto:erikajoinesp@gmail.com)).



Above: 442nd Veterans Club Hawaii 2008 officers being sworn in by Eiichi Oki (K Co, 442nd) at the club's year-end board of directors meeting/luncheon in December 2007. L-R: Harry Tokushige (522nd Field Artillery), Treasurer; Mitsuo Honda (232nd Engineers Co), 1st Vice President; Eileen Sakai (Sons & Daughters president), Secretary; Bill Thompson (2nd Bn HQ Co), President; Moriso Teraoka (2nd Bn HQ Co), 2nd Vice President; Oki (last year's treasurer) giving the oath of office. Photo by Claire Mitani, 442nd Veterans Club Hawaii.

## MIS Linguists Inducted into Hall of Fame

Adapted from Nisei VFW Post 8985, December 2007 Newsletter

COL Thomas Sakamoto, USA (Ret), and MAJ Masaji Gene Uratsu, USA (Ret), Military Intelligence Service (MIS) officers, were inducted into the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center's (DLIFLC) 2007 Hall of Fame in a formal ceremony on November 2, 2007. Sakamoto and Uratsu were members of the MIS Language School at the Presidio of San Francisco's first graduating class which began in November 1941, five weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked. This was a crash linguistic course in an abandoned airplane hanger at Crissy Field. Both served with distinction in the Pacific and in the Occupation of Japan.

COL Sakamoto, a native of San Jose, California, spent 28 years as a military linguist. On one assignment, he provided crucial translation support to BG Thomas Chase, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Commander. Sakamoto's translation provided the location of enemy troops which resulted in their bombardment. He translated enemy plans for a "banzai" attack within 24 hours, thereby saving countless American lives

and facilitating the capture of the Japanese Los Negros Islands Naval Base. Sakamoto arrived in Japan with the US advance team. His translation and interpretation skills were crucial to the preparation of the arrival of GEN Douglas MacArthur and for the surrender ceremony on the USS Missouri. Sakamoto also served as the official translator for President Dwight Eisenhower during his visit to Okinawa. Sakamoto is the recipient of two Bronze Stars.

MAJ Uratsu, a native of Loomis and now a resident of Marin County, California, served with the 158<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team in New Guinea where he entered a cave and persuaded an armed Japanese soldier to surrender. Uratsu successfully led a four-week Nisei signal monitoring team to the front lines to collect signal intelligence. From 1954 to 1957 Uratsu served as interpreter at high-level conferences between Japanese and Allied officials to develop plans for a viable post-war defense of Japan. His final overseas assignment was as the military language aide to the Civil Administrator of Okinawa. Uratsu is the recipient of two Bronze Stars.



## News From Other Nikkei Veterans Organizations

The 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club *Go For Broke Bulletin* reported that Michael and Grace Shirey met with six 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans during their visit to Honolulu last Fall. Michael is the son of MAJ Orville Shirey, S-2 (intelligence) of the



Michael and Grace Shirey visit Hawaii 442nd Veterans in Fall 2007. Back row, not in order: Bill Thompson (Hq 2nd); Fred S. Ida (G Co); Bart N. Nishimura (Hq 2nd); Ronald M Oba (F Co); Samuel Y. Sasai (Hq.3rd Bn); Andrew Ono (K Co). Photo courtesy of Michael Shirey.

442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. During the visit Michael called his mother in Silver Spring, MD, who remembered one of the veterans she met at a reunion. \* \* \* \* Don Macaulay, nephew of COL Virgil Miller, Executive Officer and subsequently Commander of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, wrote a warm article about Miller's respect for the men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Miller told his nephew that the 442<sup>nd</sup> performance was closely monitored by the highest levels in the War Department and said they acquitted themselves well in and out of combat. Miller was a fierce supporter of the Nisei in their fight against discrimination and prejudice at home. \* \* \* \* In 2007 Camp Shelby celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion are considered to be among the most notable trainees.

Seattle *Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter* January edition carried an article on the MIS by Kathryn Shenkle. The most important actionable intelligence produced by a Nisei was at Bougainville in 1942 when he intercepted an uncoded radio message that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto was scheduled to go on an inspection tour of the bases around the Solomon Islands. US Navy P-38s intercepted and shot down Yamamoto's plane and escorts. The most important document translated was the Z-Plan of the Japanese Combined Fleet dated March 5, 1944, signed by Admiral Koga, successor to Yamamoto. (The Z-Plan was the Japanese Navy's strategy to demolish the US Navy's capability in the Marianas and the Philippine Sea. The Z-Plan was translated and distributed to all military commanders in the Pacific. When the Japanese executed the Z-Plan, the US was prepared and defeated the Japanese Naval capability and thereby paved the way for the invasion of Japan.) \* \* \* \* The February issue discussed NVC's extensive "Speakers Series."

*Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter*, January 2008, carried an article *How Are Asian Americans Shaping up Politically?*

*Better than you Think* by Don T. Nakanishi. The book discussed the approximately 2000 Asian Pacific Americans elected and appointed officials in the federal, state and local levels. "They are striving to become more organized, more visible, and more effective as participants and leaders to advance their individual and group interests and to contribute to our nation's democratic processes and institutions," Nakanishi said. \* \* \* \* The February 2008 issue announced that the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Nisei VFW Reunion will be held at the Sands-Regency in Reno, Nevada from April 27-29, 2008.

*Tri-State Chapter, 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association, Newsletter* announced that their reunion will be held at Holiday Inn Pittsburgh-GreenTree from July 10-13, 2008. The *Newsletter* can be viewed online: <http://www.34infdiv.org/tristate/0712.pdf>.

The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, *Puka-Puka PARADE*, February 2008 edition reprinted a *Hawaii Herald* June 20, 1986 article on the Legend of the Torpedo Gang. It is a report of 26 Nisei draftees on the 200 ton Royal T. Frank which was sunk by a torpedo fired from a Japanese submarine on January 28, 1942, one month after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The 9 Nisei survivors later joined the 100<sup>th</sup> for overseas combat duty. \* \* \* \* The March edition reported that the State of Hawaii granted \$1M to the Club's Learning Resource Center.

*The Japanese American Korean War Veterans Newsletter* reported that the draft of its book on Japanese Americans who participated in the Korean War is expected to be completed in early 2008. The book estimates that 5,764,143 men and women were on active duty, including 5,000 Japanese Americans in combat and noncombat status. [These Japanese Americans fought with the same courage as their counterparts in WW II. Unlike WW II when Japanese Americans assignments were preponderantly in the infantry, in the Korean War they served in all branches of service and competed for all positions. Unlike WW II when the US Army Air Corps accepted only three in air combat status as gunners, Japanese Americans in the Korean War performed as pilots and navigators of fighters and bombers. The subsequent Vietnam War would see a larger number of Japanese Americans in sensitive war planning positions, 35 in the cockpits of fighters and bombers as pilots and navigators, in the bridges of naval vessels. The WW II generation settled the question of loyalty, the Korean and Vietnam War generations showed Japanese Americans could compete with the best in the armed forces.]

JACL Cincinnati Chapter *The Grains of Rice* January 2008 edition reported that Roy Aka and James Tojo were featured in 30 minute interviews by WCET that were seen as a prelude to promote Ken Burns' *The War* documentary over PBS last September. Aka told of his experience with the MIS and Tojo covered his internment in Heart Mountain followed by his service in the MIS.

## Leadership of JA Veterans Organizations

There are numerous Japanese American veterans organizations, some which have served their constituencies and communities for over 60 years. The leadership mantle of many of them have transferred to the post-WW II generation. Some have dissolved because the purpose for which they were created is no longer viable. There are about 10 Japanese American VFW posts and several American Legion posts. One organization represents the Korean War veterans and one represents the Vietnam War veterans. This is the first of several articles featuring backgrounds of the heads of these organizations.

**442<sup>nd</sup> RCT VETERANS CLUB, HAWAII.** William Y. Thompson, President, a native of Hilo, Hawaii, volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT in 1943 and served in four campaigns in Italy and France. Following his honorable discharge, he obtained a civil engineering degree at the University of Hawaii. He subsequently worked for the Hawaii County Water Department for nearly 18 years. He then moved to Honolulu to serve as deputy director for the State Land and Natural Resources. In 1977, he received an interim appointment as Chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources. He retired in December 1978 to become a consulting engineer. His maternal grandparents are from Hiroshima, Japan, and his father was born in Scotland. As he said "I am a Nisei on my father's side and a Yonsei on my mother's side." The Club held its 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion on March 29-30, 2008. (*See article on page 8.*)

**MIS VETERANS ASSOCIATION, HAWAII.** Dr. Glenn Masunaga, President, is a veteran of the MIS. Masunaga's mother died at a young age, and he and his older brother raised five younger brothers and sisters. They helped supplement the family budget by raising and selling chickens. After his military service, he enrolled in the University of Missouri dental school and specialized in orthodontics, which he practiced for over 45 years. Dr. Masunaga and a Japanese orthodontist developed revolutionary techniques in orthodontics that have become standard practice today. He taught orthodontic courses in various Asian capitals and has addressed orthodontic societies in

Europe and other continents. In 1999 he was awarded the Emperor of Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. The Association was formed soon after the War ended.

**100th/442nd VETERANS ASSOCIATION, LOS ANGELES.** John Wakamatsu, President, is a Sansei, son of Fox Company 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Jack K. Wakamatsu. The Association was established in 1961 as a social organization. Since 2000 Sansei Board members have done most of the planning and day to day tasks of the Association, but all of the voting was done by the Veteran Unit Representatives. The Association participates in Memorial Day Services at Evergreen Cemetery, Veteran Reunions, Nisei Week Parade in Little Tokyo, 100th/442nd Veteran Association ROTC Awards, Torrance Armed Services Parade, and Go For Broke National Education Center events. It also coordinates with other veterans organizations and assists veterans who need advice and counsel. As more WW II veterans pass from the scene, "the Sansei will need to consider converting the Association to a non-profit organization instead of continuing it as a non-profit veterans organization," Wakamatsu said. A chemist for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the past 30 years, Wakamatsu believes he has "this position in part due to the sacrifice of the Nisei Veterans in WWII."

**1399<sup>th</sup> ENGINEERS VETERANS.** Thomas Takeichi Takemoto, the eldest of 7 children, was born in Kauai and moved to Honolulu with his family at age 6. He volunteered for a combat battalion when Pearl Harbor was attacked, but was rejected for medical reasons. He was later drafted and was assigned to the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion, a Hawaii-based unit dedicated to the construction of defense projects in Hawaii. He was honorably discharged in 1946. Takemoto had a 33-year career as an auditor of the Internal Revenue Service. He was elected the first president of the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineers Veterans, which was activated soon after the war ended. He has held this position on and off for a total of 20 years. He was also responsible for editing and distributing the club's newsletter.

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# Meet the Generals and Flag Officers

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in military service. This month *JAVA ADVOCATE* highlights Major General Antonio M. Taguba of the U.S. Army, and Rear Admiral Melvin H. Chiogioji, of the U.S. Navy.

The present count is that 77 AHPIAs have been promoted to generals and admirals, including GEN Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the U.S. Army's 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the 77, 49 served in the U.S. Army, 12 in the U.S. Navy, 15 in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Marines. Broken down in another way, 20 are Chinese Americans, 6 Filipino Americans, 18 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 33 Japanese Americans.

## MG Antonio M. Taguba



MG Antonio Mario Taguba, USA (Ret), was born in Sampaloc, Manila, Republic of the Philippines on October 31, 1950. His father was in the US Army while his mother raised seven children. When Taguba was eleven years old, the family moved to Hawaii where he graduated from high school. "Hawaii opened my mind to the capabilities and opportunities in America," Taguba told the *ASIAN-*

*WEEK* Newspaper in August 1997. The diversity offered opportunities "to relate to people of all races," Taguba said. He was naturalized as a US citizen on July 3, 1962.

Taguba graduated from Idaho State University in 1972 and joined the US Army. He assumed increasingly responsible positions with commensurate rank. He graduated from prestigious military schools, including the US Command and General Staff College, US Naval Command and Staff College, and the US Army War College. He obtained three Master's degrees, two from civilian universities.

In June 1995, Taguba was Commander of the 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. From July 2004 to January 2006, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (Readiness, Training and Mobilization) in Washington, D.C. His military career covers 34 years and includes a three-year tour of duty in Germany, six years in Korea, and one year in Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from June 2003 to July 2004.

On January 31, 2004, Taguba, Deputy Commanding General, Support of Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC), then stationed in Kuwait, was directed to conduct an informal investigation into the allegation of detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq.

"I take it with a great deal of pride that we are able to assimilate ourselves into the American society. We have shown we can contribute to society, at the same time preserve our Filipino American heritage and culture," Taguba said.

## RADM Melvin H. Chiogioji



RADM Melvin H. Chiogioji, USN (Ret), is President and CEO of MELE Associates, a consulting firm that provides engineering, environmental, management, telecommunications, information technology, and training services to federal and private sector. Chiogioji, a native of Hawaii, was commissioned an Ensign in the US Navy in 1961 after graduating Purdue University with a major in electrical engineering.

He served 5 years of active service and continued in the reserves, advancing to Rear Admiral in 1987. His last position was Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Naval Construction Brigade, responsible for all Seabee operations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions. Chiogioji said that after his mandatory service, he liked the Navy so much that he served in it for 32 years; he retired in 1993. Chiogioji also spent 27 years at the US Department of Energy, serving in various executive level positions responsible for program management in areas of energy efficiency programs, energy economics and financing, international energy programs, industrial waste utilization and minimization and construction management of fossil fueled and nuclear power plants. He retired at Senior Executive Service Level 5 (SES-5).

Chiogioji obtained his MBA from the University of Hawaii and Doctor of Business Administration degree from George Washington University in 1972. He is a registered professional electrical engineer and a senior member of various prestigious military and civilian engineering organizations. He served in numerous nonprofit military and civilian organizations, including Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation when the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism was dedicated in 2000 and a member of the Board of Directors of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association. Chiogioji is author of two books on energy conservation.

## Tuskegee Airman Attends FFNV Meeting by Carol Akiyama, FFNV

[Condensed from FFNV press release]

The February 16 Membership Meeting of Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV), held at Morgan Hill's Buddhist Community Center, CA, was a resounding success. Over 150 people were treated to an elaborate buffet lunch by FFNV and Center volunteers. Tuskegee Captain Leon "Woodie" Spears spoke eloquently before a rapt audience that included many curious "outsiders," intrigued to attend by a heartwarming article in the San Jose Mercury News.

This was an historic union of like-minded WWII heroes who persevered with remarkable courage and endurance in the face of societal and peer discrimination based solely on skin color—African-American heroes (represented by Spears) and Japanese-American heroes (represented by Lawson Sakai, FFNV President). Also in attendance were several of Sakai's fellow WWII Nisei veterans who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and MIS.

Spears fascinated the audience with accounts of his Great Depression era youth, brightened with his omnipresent obsession with flying. Never daunted by artificial racial barriers,

Spears graduated to coveted pilot status from the Tuskegee Institute on June 24, 1944. Nicknamed the "Red Tail Angels" for their P-51 Mustangs with red painted-tails, the Tuskegee Airmen collectively flew 200 bomber escort-missions, shot-down 400 German planes and safely-escorted 15,000 American bombing-missions.

A quarter-century after WWII, Spears received the Distinguished Flying Cross for remarkable heroism in battle that saved American pilots in a crippled B-24 bomber. Then in March 2007, President Bush awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Spears and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen.

The WWII Japanese-American Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen share a compassionate understanding of those who unfairly discriminated against them, and responded with grace and loyalty. As Spears remarked, "I can't fault these people. . . Each one of us is a product of our upbringing. . . That's the way things were. . . But changes are coming about." Collectively, these WWII Japanese-American Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen represent Amer-



L-R: Lawson Sakai, Tuskegee Capt Leon "Woodie" Spears, and COL Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret), at Morgan Hill's Buddhist Community Center. Photo courtesy of FFNV.

ica's "National Treasures" who humbly promulgated a legacy of honor, courage, fortitude and loyalty.

On behalf of FFNV, Sakai presented respectful tributes to Spears, which included a generous monetary-donation to Spears' Tuskegee organization which mentors "at-risk" youth; a 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT shirt and 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT cap; "The War" hardback by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns; and chocolate-delicacies.

Of his presentation and reception, Spears said, "It was one of the most memorable in my entire career." It certainly was for all those who attended.

## JAVA Annual Luncheon Recap

Major General Thomas P. Bostick, Commanding General, US Army Recruiting Command (pictured right), and the US Army Freedom Team Salute (FTS) were the twin features at JAVA's Annual luncheon on January 19 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant at Falls Church, Virginia, attended by 80 JAVA members and friends.



Bostick, a graduate of West Point, discussed the criteria for selection for the modern army, the life qualities soldiers gain from military service, employers preference for military veterans, and the requirements for high quality recruits. Bostick said employers particularly are attracted to the discipline and knowledge of sophisticated technical equipment armed forces veterans bring to the private sector. A veteran of the Iraq War, Bostick paid high tribute to the World War II, Korean and Vietnam Wars Asian American veterans for paving the way for his generation to compete in the armed forces. Born in Japan, General Bostick, an African American

Japanese, is among the 75 Asian Pacific American generals and admirals, including 35 Japanese Americans.

Ms. Lynn S. Heirakuji, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (Personnel Oversight) led the FTS in recognizing 15 JAVA Army veterans in an impressive ceremony. Launched in 2005, the objective of the FTS is to honor Army veterans, men and women, of all generations who have served to defend the United States. Heirakuji, a native of [continued on page 13]



L-R: JAVA President Robert Nakamoto expressing appreciation to speakers: DAS Heirakuji, COL Griffith, MG Bostick. Photo by Nelson Penalosa.



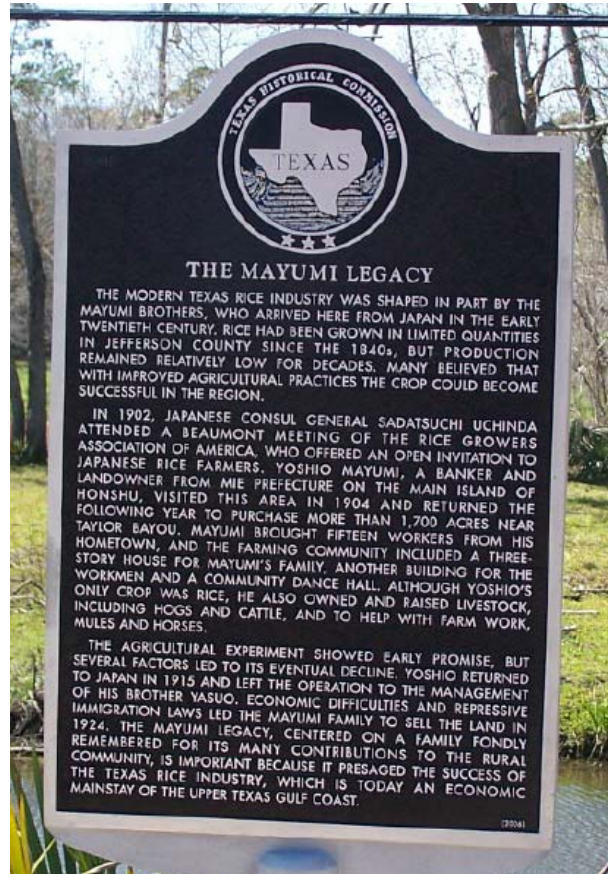
## Texas Historical Marker Honors Japanese Rice Farmers

On March 12, 2008, an historical marker was placed near Taylor Bayou in the town of Hampshire-Fannet, near the city of Beaumont, Texas, to honor two Japanese pioneer rice farmers, Yoshio and Yasuo Mayumi. They settled there in the early 1900's to grow rice on 1,700 acres of land. In later years the residents of Hampshire-Fannet erected a road sign "Jap Road" to honor the Japanese farmers.

One day in 1992 Texas school teacher Sandra Tanamachi and her family decided to have lunch at a popular seafood restaurant in Hampshire-Fannet. As they approached the restaurant, they noticed it was located on "Jap Road" as displayed on street signs. Incensed, her family returned promptly home. Tanamachi, whose uncle was killed in action while serving with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT in the Vosges Mountains of France while rescuing the trapped Texas Battalion encircled by the enemy, was angry to see this prominently displayed racial slur and vowed to get it removed. That incident began a 12 year campaign.

On July 19, 2004, the Jefferson County Commissioners of Texas voted to remove the derisive road sign and ordered the residents to come up with a new street name. The commissioners decided to remove the street sign because they were reportedly embarrassed that their town had become a nation-wide issue. Commissioners of two other Texas counties soon followed the Jefferson County example. On August 2, 2004 the residents of Hampshire-Fannet voted on a new street name to replace the offensive sign and agreed to place a historical marker honoring the early Japanese settlers.

[Full JAVA press release, including the entire inscription on the marker, available at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).]



Texas Historical Marker to honor Japanese rice farmers in early 1900's. Photo courtesy of Sandra Tanamachi

## JAVA Luncheon (continued from page 12)



JAVA recipients of Army commendation. L-R: DAS Lynn Heirakuji, COL David M. Griffith, Bill Takakoshi, Dr. Ray Murakami, Gerald Yamada, Earl Takeguchi, Calvin Ninomiya, George Nakamura, Glenn Kikuchi, Fred Murakami, Wade Ishimoto, Norman Ikari, Dwight Gates, Lona Ichikawa, Warren Tsuneishi, Richard Kleeman. Photo by Nelson Penalosa

Honolulu, Hawaii, was assisted by COL David M. Griffith, USA, Director of FTS, and FTS members Ms. Cynthia Houston and Ms. Jean Davis, in presenting to each of the veterans an Army lapel pin, a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff

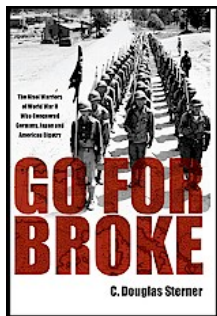
General George W. Casey, Jr., founders of the FTS program. Seventeen other JAVA members who were not present are to be recognized at a later date.

As the daughter of a wounded 442<sup>nd</sup> veteran, Heirakuji said "the Army reluctantly allowed you to join the

fight. Given this opportunity to serve,...you persevered, despite overwhelming odds, to achieve a performance record that stands to this day....Unlike the Army you encountered years ago, today's Army values diversity and considers it to be one of its core strengths...Units like the 442<sup>nd</sup> form the Army legacy. Army legacy is the tie that binds the past with the present and infuses pride in today's soldiers. Your legacy is the 'Go For Broke' spirit."

Information on FTS can be obtained from [www.freedomteamsalute.com](http://www.freedomteamsalute.com) or from Ms. Joan Davis [[Jean.davis@hqda.army.mil](mailto:Jean.davis@hqda.army.mil)].

## C. Douglas Sterner Publishes *Go For Broke* Book



C. Douglas Sterner, authority of American heroism and prolific writer, has published a book on Nisei experience in World War II. *GO FOR BROKE: Nisei Warriors of World War II who conquered Germany, Japan and American Bigotry* is a 209 page book that describes the 13,000 Japanese Americans who served in the European theater, the

3,000 who served in every operational military unit from the Aleutian Islands to southeast Pacific and westward to Burma and China on the Asian continent; and also the 3,000 additional Japanese linguists who served in the Occupation of Japan.

Sterner discusses the incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, over 50% of them US citizens, in US Army guarded camps. The young men, who volunteered from behind these barbed wire enclosures, served the government that disowned them. The book also discusses the superior training record of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, its deployment to It-

aly, its fight up the boot of Italy taking one mountain at a time, its denial of a triumphant entry into Rome, the 100<sup>th</sup>'s union with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT on June 11, 1944 at Civitavecchia. The book also discusses the 100<sup>th</sup>-442<sup>nd</sup> combat at Belvedere, Leghorn-Pisa, Vosges Mountains, including the rescue of the Lost Battalion, the Maritime Alps campaign and finally the return to Italy for the penetration of the "impregnable" German Gothic Line. Sterner also discusses the return to America of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT for the Presidential parade in Washington, DC on July 15, 1946 and deactivation of colors in Hawaii.

The book contains individual write-ups of Nisei Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross recipients, a unique and worthwhile feature of the book.

*GO FOR BROKE* is available at Barnes and Noble Book stores, [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), American Legacy Media Publishers, or 1-866-233-8165 (toll free). The price is \$18.95 plus \$3.77 shipping. The publisher is American Legacy Historical Press, website: [www.americanlegacymedia.com](http://www.americanlegacymedia.com).

## Speakers at HS Receive Favorable Response

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and JAVA speakers have made education presentations at three Montgomery County high schools. Speakers discuss the Japanese American WWII experience, the four government measures (Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952; the Commission on Wartime Relocation and internment of Civilians, the Civil Liberties Act of 1998, and the construction of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism) to correct the damage caused by the forced incarceration, and the legacy of the WWII generation on future generations of Japanese Americans.

The speakers team consists of Gerald Yamada, Esq., Joe Ichiuji, Grant Hirabayashi, Mary Murakami, Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, Dr. Norman Ikari, Dr. Warren

Tsuneishi, Grant Ichikawa, Jean Kariya, Barbara Nekoba and Terry Shima.

One of the effects of this exercise is that these speaking engagements inspire students to select the Japanese American issue for research assignments. One head of a high school history department wrote, "[The NJAMF-JAVA presentation] was timely as we have been studying World War II, and many students elected to write about your presentation as part of an individual project they could choose to research. . . . We would love to have you back again next year during the same general time frame."

The speakers team need Sansei and Yonsei who can join the team,

become familiar with the Nisei generation experience, and take over when the original veterans can no longer serve. You can join Sanseis Gerald, Mary, Jean, and Barbara to perpetuate the legacy of the WWII generation. The speakers team would be delighted to have your participation and can work with you to become a historian. Please contact any one of them or [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com) to obtain their contact information.



Above: JAVA speaker addressing students at Springbrook High School, Silver Spring, MD.



## JAVA Scholarship News by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.

Students who have applied, or are planning to apply, for an award in the 2008 JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program will be pleased to learn that an additional \$1,000 scholarship will be provided this year. This means that four awards will be made.

The fourth award is a special gift from Mrs. Vi Takahashi, widow of former JAVA member Gene Takahashi who died last year. Gene, a former IBM executive, was recognized for his extraordinary valor and exploits during the Korean war, and was profiled in a book written by the late David Halberstam about that conflict.

Mrs. Takahashi, who lives in Westport, CT, advised the Scholarship Committee that she was particularly interested in having JAVA make a fourth scholarship award in memory of her husband who had died on May 15, 2007.

Although information about the Takahashi gift was unexpected, given the fact that there is almost a month remaining for the submission of applications, it was

felt that adding an extra award for the first year of the scholarship program would provide wonderful closing boost for the program.

The other three scholarships, to be awarded at the JAVA luncheon on May 17, honor Orville C. Shirey, who served with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT; Jack Tashiro, who was JAVA treasurer; and Douglas Ishio, son of S. Phil and Connie Ishio. Colonel Ishio was the founder and first president of JAVA and currently serves on its Executive Council.

A three-person Scholarship Awards Committee, comprised of Dr. James M. Furukawa, chair, Dr. J. Edgar A Wakayama, and Dr. Sue Okubo, will judge the applications and choose the four winners.

JAVA scholarship program officials have urged that any person eligible to apply should do so as soon as possible. The deadline for receipt of applications is April 15, 2007. The form and information about the program

can be readily downloaded from the JAVA website [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org). To expedite receipt, the application package should be sent ASAP to: Calvin Ninomiya, JAVA Scholarship Program, 4828 Drummond Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815. Applications submitted to the address provided on the website will also be accepted.

### In Our Thoughts

Joe Ichiuji is recovering from surgery to implant a pacemaker. He is at Brighton Garden (a rehabilitation center), Room 520-B, 5550 Tuckerman Lane, Rockville, Maryland. Visiting hours are 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Joe is in good spirits and would welcome visitors. Cards may be sent to his home, 6544 Windermere Circle; Rockville, MD 20852.

Always generous with his time, Joe has been in great demand as a speaker and by the press. Let's offer our prayers to Joe for a speedy recovery!

## JAVA and Cherry Blossoms by Dr. Warren Tsuneishi

On April 12 JAVA will highlight the contributions of Japanese Americans in all of this nation's conflicts since the Spanish-American War of 1898 as Washington D.C. holds its annual Cherry Blossom Festival and parade with thousands expected to attend.

The Sakura Matsuri Street Festival, sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C., celebrates American-Japanese friendship as the nation's famed cherry blossoms are (hopefully) in full bloom.

For the fifth year in a row, JAVA will have a booth among scores of tents set up in a cordoned-off area at the center of the city at Pennsylvania Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street, NW. Also on display will be Japanese-American arts and crafts, culture, and food stands with sushi, yakitori and other foods.

JAVA's exhibit will include books, flyers, and posters on past and current contributions to the U.S. military by Nikkei, including the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. JAVA's *American Patriot*, a book about the accomplishments of the Japanese language specialists of the

Military Intelligence Service during World War II, also will be available for purchase.

The booth will be staffed by JAVA members who are expected to greet hundreds of visitors attracted to the exhibit, which was designed as part of the organization's efforts to educate the public on the role played by Japanese Americans in all of the nation's wars during the past century.

JAVA members staffing the exhibit will include 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans Joe Ichiuji, Norman Ikari, and Kelly Kuwayama, and WWII MIS veterans Stan Falk, Grant Hirabayashi and Warren Tsuneishi; Akio Konoshima (Korean War); Mike Yaguchi, (Cold and Gulf Wars), and Lona Ichikawa (Operation Iraqi Freedom).



JAVA Booth at 2007 Matsuri Street Festival.

## TAPS: Shizuya Hayashi



By Gregg K. Kakesako, *Honolulu Star Bulletin*, March 14, 2008 [Edited for length]

Shizuya "Cesar" Hayashi, one of 22 Asian Americans whose Distinguished Service Cross medal was upgraded to the Medal of Honor (MOH) eight years ago, died of cancer on March 12, 2008.

Hayashi, 90, was among the 20 members of the 100th Bn and the 442nd RCT who, decades later, won recognition for their heroism in World War II. Only seven were alive to attend the special White House ceremony in June 2000. Hayashi was drafted in March 1941 and was given the nickname "Cesar" because his sergeant could not pronounce his name. "I guess Cesar is closest they could get to Shizuya," Hayashi told the *Star-Bulletin* before the ceremony. "But my friends still call me Cesar today."

Yesterday, Sen. Daniel Inouye recalled sitting next him at the White House before President Bill Clinton hung the Medal of Honor around their necks. "It was a humbling experience," Inouye said, "and it was made more touching and meaningful when I learned that Shizuya also shared my sentiment: that we were accepting this special honor on behalf of the men with whom we served." Sen. Daniel Akaka proved instrumental in arranging the honors for the 22 Asian Pacific American servicemen. He pressed the Pentagon to review the service records of Hayashi and his colleagues, who had been awarded the Distinguished Service



Hayashi receives the MOH from President Bill Clinton in June 2000. Photo: Associated Press.

Cross, and then authored the law that resulted in upgrading them to the Medal of Honor.

On Nov. 29, 1943 - the day after he turned 26 - Hayashi was on patrol near Cerasuolo, Italy. "I really didn't know where we were," Hayashi recalled. "I remember it being mountainous, with the Germans always looking down on us. That's why there was always a lot of casualties. The Germans always were so well camouflaged. Then there were the 88 mm cannons, the 'screaming meemies' ... that took out a lot of the boys, catching them in the back." Armed with a Browning automatic rifle, Hayashi, a member of A Company, charged a German machine-gun nest, firing from his hip. "Things happened so fast that now it seems so crazy." He took out the machine-gun nest, killing seven men in the nest and two more as they fled. He then killed nine counter-attackers, took four prisoners, and forced the remainder of the force to withdraw from the hill. Hayashi recalls facing an armed teenage German soldier. "He was crying, holding up his burp gun, but I couldn't shoot him. I just told all of them to get up."

During the past few years, Hayashi, who lived in Pearl City, would routinely spend part of his day with other veterans tending the gardens and buildings of the Disabled American Veterans facility at Keehi Lagoon. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

[In May 2004, Hayashi and fellow MOH recipients Barney Hajiro and George Sakato, and Lost Battalion commander Marty Higgins served at the JAVA booth at the WW II Memorial dedication at the Washington, DC Mall. They responded to questions of visitors to the JAVA booth. All living Nisei MOH awardees were designated to Honorary Member status in JAVA.]

## JAVA Seeks Volunteers

**JAVA Education Chair:** The education program has been launched with favorable results. Partnered with the Go For Broke National Education Center and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the program is a teachers training in which teachers from Maryland and Virginia participated. Initially, JAVA's task is to speak at schools and to provide background information. As the result, JAVA and NJAMF speakers have discussed the Japanese American experience at three high schools, and two more speaking engagements are being arranged. JAVA Education Committee Chair will provide leadership and execute the program.

**Historian:** JAVA was formed 14 years ago, and we need a historian whose first task is to write a history of JAVA. JAVA has had an exciting program of public education and veterans camaraderie.

We believe these are two exciting positions to perpetuate the

legacy of the Japanese American experience during World War II. Any one interested in filling one of these positions should contact Terry Shima, 301-987-6746; [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

## Welcome New Members!

Frank Mizufuka (Daly City, CA)  
Edward Nakamura (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA)  
Franklin Odo (Washington, D.C.)  
Mike Tsuji (Los Angeles, CA)  
\* Henry Wadahara (San Jose, CA)  
Curtis Yamate (Los Angeles, CA)  
Govan Yee (Azusa, CA)  
Mamoru Steve Yokoyama (Los Angeles, CA)

\* Denotes Life Membership



# From the Editor



In early February I had lunch with JAVA lifetime member and recent Ranger Hall of Fame Inductee the Honorable Vincent Okamoto (above left) in Los Angeles, CA. What an honor it was to meet a living legend.

I also had a chance to catch up with my special friends JAKWV members (pictured from left to right) SGM Paul Ono and his lovely wife Sharlene, and Jerry Okata, the greatest chili pepper grower in the area! They devoted an entire afternoon and evening to take me to the Japanese American National Museum and to the Japanese American

National Memorial Court at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, which contains the names of all Japanese Americans who died in line of duty from the sinking of USS Maine in Havana Harbor in 1898 to the present Gulf Wars.

Spending time with these wonderful people reenergized my dedication to perpetuate their legacy. THANK YOU for the opportunities you ALL have created for the newer generations in this great country!

*If you have comments, please email [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com).*



## JAVA Membership Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  New  Renewal  Transfer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Office) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cellular) \_\_\_\_\_

Facsimile: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

(Office) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Membership Dues:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30
- Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20
- Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
- Life Membership: \$300

Military Experience (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Military Campaigns: \_\_\_\_\_

Awards/Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_

### Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

	Yes	No
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awards/Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer  
7201 White House Drive  
Springfield, VA 22153

**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20006**



Visit our website:  
[www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)

Postage

Please send correspondence to:

**General:** Terry Shima, [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net);  
301-987-6746

Michael Yaguchi, [yaguchim@u.washington.edu](mailto:yaguchim@u.washington.edu);  
703-729-1243

**Membership:** Marty Herbert, [herbert\\_martin@bah.com](mailto:herbert_martin@bah.com)

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

**Newsletter:** Kay Wakatake, [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com)

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

**National Archives Research:**

Joe Ichiuji, [joe.ichiuji@verizon.net](mailto:joe.ichiuji@verizon.net); 301-530-0336

Fumie Yamamoto, [yamamotoff@yahoo.com](mailto:yamamotoff@yahoo.com);  
301-942-3985

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

**Oral History:** Dr. Warren Minami,  
[wminami@comcast.net](mailto:wminami@comcast.net), 301-279-8742

**Education:** Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Apr 12, 11am:** President and Executive Director will speak at VFW Conference, Crown Plaza, Silver Spring, MD

**Apr 12, noon:** Cherry Blossom Festival; JAVA booth at 12<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Ave.

**Apr 12, 2pm:** Grant Ichikawa, Terry Shima in Library of Congress Veterans History Project Program

**Apr 17:** Gerald Yamada, Warren Tsuneishi, Kelly Kawayama, Mary Murakami, Terry Shima at Bryant HS, Alexandria, VA

**May 1, 11:30am:** Lunch with Ben Kuroki, China Garden, Rosslyn, VA

**May 1, 7:30pm:** Smithsonian Air and Space Museum Theater features "Most Honorable Son: A Japanese American B-24 Gunner in WW II." Free admission, but tickets required; for tickets call 202-633-2398 or go to <http://www.nasm.si.edu/events/lectures/ticketsform.cfm>

**May 7, 11:30-1pm:** Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance; Lincoln Theater, DC. Joe Ichiuji to speak

**May 15:** Veterans Day National Committee Meeting, Veterans Affairs Office, DC

**May 17:** JAVA Quarterly luncheon, Harvest Moon Rest, Falls Church, VA. Announcement of Scholarship Awards

**May 19, noon:** Army Materiel Command APA Program, Ft Belvoir, VA

**May 19, 10am:** Joe Ichiuji, Grant Hirabayashi, Terry Shima at Defense Intel. Agency

**May 25:** JAACL-JAVA Memorial Day Program at Arlington Cemetery. Lunch at China Garden, Rosslyn, VA.

**May 26, 10am:** Memorial Day Program at Arlington Cemetery; 2pm: JAVA participates in National Memorial Day Parade

**May 27:** US Army Legal Services Agency APA Program, Ballston, VA; Grant Ichikawa, Grant Hirabayashi to speak.

**May 31, 5:30pm:** JA National Museum Donor Wall Dedication, Los Angeles, CA

**Jun 5:** 3rd Annual Unity Day Program at 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory, Baltimore, MD

**Jun 14:** JAVA Executive Council Meeting

**Jul 3-5:** JA National Museum Conference, Denver, CO; JAVA is co-sponsor.