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JAVA Active on Veteran's Day

Veterans Day, November 11, 2006, was like no other for JAVA. Having been elected into the Veterans Day National Committee, which is mandated by Congress to plan and coordinate veterans activities on a national scale, JAVA representatives Vice President Cal Shintani and Executive Director Terry Shima attended the White House breakfast hosted by the President George Bush and Mrs. Bush.

The veterans organizations' national commanders were then bussed to Arlington National Cemetery, where they witnessed the President laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They stood to be recognized when JAVA and Shintani's names were called, and they watched the JAVA color guards Glenn Kikuchi and Chosei Kuge march forward and be similarly announced. Five other JAVA members attended in box seats.

In mid-afternoon, JAVA held its Sixth Annual Veterans Day Program at the

National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building, on a sunny Fall afternoon with nearly one hundred members and friends in attendance. The program was preceded by lunch at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, located nearby.

The featured speaker was JAVA member Major General Antonio Taguba, USA, the highest ranking Filipino American in the Armed Forces, and the special guest speaker was Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, the only Japanese American to receive the Medal of Honor during the Korean War.

The program included the laying of a wreath at the Wall of Heroes by MG Taguba, Miyamura and Vice President Cal Shintani.

[For the full story, see JAVA Press Release at www.javadc.org.]



JAVA Vice President Cal Shintani with First Lady and President Bush at the Veterans Day Breakfast.



JAVA member Glenn Kikuchi at the White House Holiday Reception on Nov. 30, 2006.

President's Message



To Fellow JAVA Members:

JAVA had a great final quarter of 2006. Having been elected to membership on the Veterans Day National Committee, JAVA representatives were invited for a Veterans Day breakfast at the White House. The high point was when JAVA executive director Terry Shima and Vice President Cal Shintani chatted with President and Mrs. Bush about JAVA's activities in representing Asian American veterans.

The breakfast was followed by the national ceremony at Arlington Cemetery. JAVA was recognized during the program, a humbling tribute to our national stature among veterans organizations. Afterwards, JAVA held its 6th annual Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial. MG Anthony Taguba, the highest ranking Filipino American on active duty, was the featured speaker.

Our public education program has been active thanks to Dave Buto's world class website. A German Public Radio journalist visited the website and interviewed two of our World War II veterans and introduced a Swiss Public Radio journalist to interview one of them. Also, a Fort Monmouth journalist visited the website and interviewed 8 veterans for articles in military newspapers. Additionally, JAVA speakers spoke at a community center, a high school, and an event in Honolulu. I am grateful to Ted Tsukiyama for representing JAVA at the event in Hawaii, which was a little too far for a JAVA official to commute.

On December 12, JAVA was honored to have as a guest Rear Admiral Harry Harris, Commander, Joint Task Force - Guantanamo, for dinner with his wife, Commander Bruno Bradley. Some 30 JAVA members, including RADM Mel Chiogioji and MG Taguba, attended.

JAVA mounted a nationwide fund

raising drive to assist a young Japanese American Army sergeant with family support challenges after serving a year in Iraq. Senator Daniel Akaka, one of our Honorary Chairs and a stalwart JAVA supporter, stated that her "commitment to our country is a demonstration of the loyalty that many Asian American veterans have as true patriots. JAVA is very grateful for the generous response from both members and non-members who donated \$2,700 in 10 days.

COL (Ret) Phil Ishio, JAVA founder and Honorary Chair, donated \$10,000 to establish a scholarship fund in the name of his son, Douglas, who passed away last Christmas Day. On behalf of JAVA, I would like to thank Phil and Connie for their great support of JAVA. We know Douglas would be proud to see how JAVA has gone from his house to the White House, and JAVA is proud to have a fund in his name.

The eagerly-awaited JAVA Coin is being minted. The JAVA Coin will be offered as a special token of JAVA's appreciation to those who actively support our charter and vision. Coins are an established tradition supporting the military's esprit de corps. JAVA, which has flourished over the past few years, is ready to be part of that proud tradition. (The JAVA Coin will also be made available for sale at \$10. This limited first edition is sure to be a collector's piece. I hereby place my order for five coins to ensure they don't sell out prior to my return from Iraq.) Special thanks to Grant Ichikawa, Mike Yaguchi and others on the EC for seeing this project through.

We have a busy quarter lined up, as can be seen at the JAVA website "Events" section: the JAVA annual general meeting on January 20 when we will elect new officers; our February 6 co-sponsorship of the Reception for the former Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Norman Mineta, a JAVA Honorary Chair; and the February 16-18 co-sponsorship of the All Wars Reunion in Los Angeles. Details are provided elsewhere in THE JAVA ADVOCATE.

Finally, this will be my last message

as JAVA's president. It has been a true honor to serve you and all that JAVA stands for. JAVA's future is as bright as the past of our veterans was honorable. Each and every one of you is JAVA, and I thank you for your great personal support over the past four years.

I would also like to extend special recognition and thanks to Dave Buto, our stalwart Secretary, and Gerald Yamada, our brilliant General Counsel, who have served my entire tenure and will be stepping down with me. I also thank your hardworking EC members, Cal Shintani, Earl Takeguchi, Cal Ninomiya, Grant Ichikawa, founder Phil Ishio, and newcomers Mike Yaguchi and Kay Wakatake for their outstanding efforts and their continued support of the new JAVA leadership. With them, and the nominated slate, JAVA's future will be in great hands.

On behalf of the JAVA Executive Council, I wish to convey the very best wishes for the holidays to you and your families.

Bert Mizusawa

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CDR Calvin Shintani, USNR (Ret)

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David Buto, Secretary

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer

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Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate

COL Sunao Paul Ishio, USA (Ret)

Honorable Norman Y. Mineta

JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus

MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA, Editor

Photos from Iraq

Currently on her second deployment to Iraq, COL Christine M. Gayagas is Deputy Commanding Officer, 13th Sustainment Command in Iraq; her first deployment was with the Multi-National Corps-Iraq in 2004.



Gayagas with JAVA President Bert Mizusawa.

She was commissioned from West Point in 1984. She was Commander of the 526th Fwd Support Bn,

101st Air Assault Division, Fort Campbell, KY and Chief of Staff for the 13th Corps Support Cmd. Although on her second tour in Iraq, Gayagas is proud to serve with great professionals and help the Iraqi people towards peace and stability.

COL Stephen T. Nakano, USAR, Commander of the 657th Area Support Group. Nakano enlisted in 1971 was commissioned in 1982. He is a science teacher at Waipahu High School, Hawaii; in 2002 he was named



BG Mizusawa with Nakano.

Military Intelligence Service. Nakano said, "Much of what I do in the service to our nation has been shaped by my cultural heritage and by the members of the 100th, 442nd RCT and the MIS." He is grateful that the WWII Nisei generation, because of their sacrifices and valorous actions, has allowed him and future generations to reach this level of command. Nakano is married to Mary Anne (Mimi) Hayashi, whose father is PFC Shizuya Hayashi, a member of the 100th Inf Bn and Medal of Honor recipient.

COL David J. Elicerio, ARNG, is Commander of the 1st Brigade, 34th (Red Bull) Infantry Division of the Minnesota Army National Guard. In 1943 the 100th Inf Bn joined the 34th Division

Hawaii's Educator of the Year.

His two uncles served in the 442nd RCT and

later in the Military Intelligence Service. Nakano said, "Much of what I do in the service to our nation has been shaped by my cultural heritage and by the members of the 100th, 442nd RCT and the MIS." He is grateful that the WWII Nisei generation, because of their sacrifices and valorous actions, has allowed him and future generations to reach this level of command.



BG Mizusawa with Elicerio in Iraq, in front of 34th ID patch.

in North Africa and fought as a combat element of the 34th in the ferocious Italian campaigns. Men of the 34th paid the Nisei the supreme respect by referring to the 100th as the Purple Heart Battalion for its bravery and casualties sustained.

Elicerio was commissioned in 1981 and served in the Minnesota Army National Guard. He has a BS in Chemical Engineering from Univ of MN; in his civilian career he is manager of facilities and corporate purchasing for Smiths-Medical MD in St. Paul, MN.

[The 34th Inf Div Assn issued a proclamation at its 47th Annual Reunion praising the heroism of the 100th Bn and the 442nd RCT: "Never has there been, nor likely will there ever be, anything comparable to the Nisei soldier. His combat courage, valor, and legacy, someday may be equaled, but will never be surpassed... We are honored to call you brother; we salute you." This proclamation is posted in full at www.javadc.org.]

October Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon

Maj Gen David E. Clary, Director of Current Operations and Training of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, U.S. Air Force, was the featured speaker at JAVA's quarterly meeting on October 21, 2006, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant at Fall Church, Virginia.



Maj Gen Clary addressing members at the JAVA quarterly luncheon.

Speaking to 70 members and friends at the luncheon, he said the Air Force's top priority is to "win the global war on terror as part of the joint team."

Maj Gen Clary described the air

strike in June 2006 that killed Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, leader of the militant Al-Qaeda in Iraq, and the 20,000 airmen and 268 aircraft deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The airmen performed duties that included 5,000 jobs normally undertaken by the Army and Marines such as convoy operations,

interrogation and detainee operations. Maj Gen Clary said that all Air Force personnel attending senior NCO and Officer schools will be required to study Spanish, French, Farsi or Chi-

nese.

White House Deputy Associate Director, Office of Public Liaison, Ms. Tiffany Breaux, paid a surprise visit to the luncheon. In her remarks, she commended JAVA's role as a representative of the Asian Pacific American veterans.

Finally, special guest Mr. Jess Quintero, President of Hispanic War Veterans of America, said his organization is proud to have a liaison relationship with JAVA and wish to join forces with JAVA to work on veterans issues.

The JAVA Annual General Meeting luncheon will be held on January 20, 2007, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant.



L-R: Sandra Tanamachi, Marty Higgins, Col Brian Shiroyama.

Visit with Marty Higgins by Sandra Tanamachi

Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret) (Vietnam veteran), and I just returned from a 3-day visit (Dec. 17-19) with Marty Higgins (commander of the “Lost Battalion” rescued by 442nd RCT in WWII) at his home on beautiful Anna Maria Island in southern Florida.

Marty continues to be the courageous, spirited, and heroic leader that we all love and admire. It was an absolute honor and joy to be guests in his home. At age 90 (he turns 91 on Jan. 29), he still delivers his famous “one liners” for all to enjoy. He is nursing a fractured wrist from a recent fall and will have his right shoulder checked, as it has been bothering him.

Brian and I accompanied him to his Tuesday dialysis treatment which he tolerated well, despite losing about 10 pounds in the process. He is looking forward to spending Christmas with his family and meeting his great-grandson twins from Chicago on Jan. 5; he also has a great-granddaughter in Tampa. Before we left yesterday, Marty told us that our trip meant more to him than his awards and ribbons.

Marty asked us to convey his love and holiday greetings to his friends across the land. I have been truly blessed and honored to be able to call one of my heroes, Marty, “Otoosan,” which means “Father” in Japanese.

Tribute to the “Little Iron Men”

by Lt Col Derek Hirohata, USAF

To the men of the 442nd RCT and 100th Infantry Battalion:

Thank you. Two simple words that cannot begin to convey the depths of gratitude and respect I wish they could convey. Yet, they are all I have to offer you. That, and perhaps this small gift of memory and remembrance.

Years ago as a brand new Lt serving in Italy, I was fortunate to jump with the Italian Army. I, unlike my father and uncles who played football for UH, am of small stature. Consequently, while jumping I was teased about my small size, especially while wearing all my jump gear. However, I was surprised when one of the Italian Army Jump Masters kept calling me “little iron man” with no teasing in his voice. Just, to me, a puzzling sound of awe/respect. He rarely spoke to anyone else, but he always made a point of smiling and saying “little iron man” to me. After my first jump, he even came up to me and clapped me on the back and through a translator (and my limited understanding of Italian) I gathered that he was impressed that I jumped as soon as the light turned green and he did not even have to touch me, let alone push me through the door. Again, he smiled and said “little iron man.” It was not until years later that I read a story about the famous 100th-442nd that told the story of the Purple Heart Battalion and the “little iron men” that filled its ranks. Suddenly, his nickname made sense, and I belatedly realized what a profound honor he had bestowed upon me.

According to my memory of that story, during the liberation of Italy, a town in that Italian Army Jump Master's home ‘county’ had been occupied by the Germans for some time.



American forces had tried to take it before, but were repelled. It was rumored that another American unit was going to attack again. So the town waited and soon heard weapons fire and the sounds of a fierce battle. Eventually, the more curious of the townspeople snuck out to view the battle

that had been raging for hours...they were struck by the one sidedness of the sounds. As they got closer, they could hear Germans yelling, but no American cowboy yells— just silence from the American side (except for their weapons fire). Intrigued, the townspeople snuck closer to see these Americans. Expecting to see the blonde hair, blue eyed, 6-foot cowboys of the movies, they were surprised to see shorter dark-haired soldiers with very ill-fitting uniforms.

The American soldiers may have been small, but the Italians could see their hearts. German defensive fire was fierce, but these ‘short, dark-haired soldiers with ill-fitting uniforms’ kept advancing in eerie silence, not screaming when hit, but always advancing—which totally unnerved the Germans. When the battle was over and the Americans were victorious, they were very polite to the Italian people. They did not have a huge party and yell all night, just politely cooked their rice and food. The Italians were so impressed with these ‘little soldiers’ who fought so courageously and tenaciously that they nicknamed them “Little Iron Men.”

To the veterans of the 100th-442nd, you were the trailblazers. Your legacy definitely lives on. (And if I ever begin to whine about my deployments, I merely have to look at your sacrifice to put things in perspective and “suck it up and press on.”) Thank you, Mahalo, Aloha.

Meet the Generals

For this issue of the *JAVA Advocate*, we are featuring LTG Allen K. Ono, the first Asian American 3-star general, and MG John L. Fugh, the first Asian American

Judge Advocate General of the Army. Thus far, JAVA research knows of 64 APA general and flag officers. The breakdown is as follows: Chinese American – 21; Filipino American – 6; Hawaii and Pacific Islands – 6; Japanese Americans –

31. Of the 64, there are 28 Brigadier Generals; 32 Major Generals; 3 Lieutenant Generals; 1 full General. The distribution among services is as follows: Army – 41; Navy – 9; Marine – 1; Air Force – 12.

LTG Allen K. Ono



Lieutenant General Allen Kenji Ono, USA (Ret) was born in Honolulu. He served in the Army for 35 years and was the first Asian American three-star general in the U.S. Armed Forces.

He attended public schools in Hawaii and was commissioned an infantry officer through the University of Hawaii ROTC. His Army career included assign-

ments at numerous mainland posts, Korea, Vietnam, Europe, and Panama, including Commander of the Army Recruiting Command. His final Army position was as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, responsible for human resources policy for the entire Army. His military decorations include two Army Distinguished Service Medals, Legion of Merit Medal, and two Bronze Star Medals. Upon retirement from the Army, he returned to Hawaii as executive vice president and a member of the Board of Directors at American Savings Bank.

For his listing in *Who's Who in America*, LTG Ono wrote, "Values transcend international borders, skin color, and shape of eyes. I was given the opportunity to serve the nation in the Army, guided by values of my immigrant parents from Japan and my youth in Hawaii. These values have held unchanged and steadfast and brought me a full life." He thanks the Japanese American soldiers of World War II for their gallantry, heroism and perseverance as they earned numerous awards for valor and meritorious service. They were his personal role models and heroes after whom he patterned his military and civilian careers. LTG Ono said, "I was completely and constantly aware that I am a Japanese American. It meant that I worked harder, moved quicker and, by habit, critiqued my actions repeatedly from every perspective. I had a focused and fierce drive to build a reputation of professional competence and high personal integrity with no blemish of shame on my family and heritage."

He and his wife Evelyn have two children, Dr. Craig Ono, an orthopedic surgeon and commander of the Army Reserve Medical Command in Hawaii, and Dr. Curtis Ono, an optometrist in Seattle.

MG John L. Fugh



Major General John L. Fugh, USA (Ret) was born in Beijing, China, and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. He was 15 when he migrated to the United States with his family. He was the first Chinese American to attain general officer status in the U.S. Army, and became The Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army.

Upon his retirement in June 1993, MG Fugh became a partner the law firm of McGuire, Woods, Battle and Boothe in Washington, D.C. From 1995 to 2000 he served as President for several U.S. companies in Beijing, including McDonnell Douglas that later merged with Boeing Company. As Chief Executive for these companies, he was responsible for strategic direction of business development and projects in China. His stature as a retired U.S. general officer, coupled with his ethnic background and fluency in Mandarin, facilitated in developing relationships with key Chinese government and industry decision-makers. Throughout his tour in Beijing, he served on the Board of the American Chamber of Commerce.

MG Fugh is currently Chairman of the Committee of 100 (www.committee100.org), a national, non-partisan group of prominent Chinese Americans that brings bicultural perspectives to U.S. relations with China and addresses the concerns of Americans of Chinese/Asian descent. In addition, he serves on the Executive Committee and a director of the Atlantic Council of the United States, a public policy forum in Washington, D.C. He also serves on the Advisory Council of Asia Society, Washington Center, and a director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

MG Fugh graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and the George Washington University Law School. He attended the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the U.S. Army War College, and the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College. He is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia.

Developments in Other Veterans Organizations



Pictured above: On July 22, 2006, MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii dedicated The MIS Memorial Plaque at the National Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl), according to *MIS Veterans Newsletter [Hawaii]* Oct. 2006 issue. The bronze plaque was set in a one ton granite foundation obtained from Korea. Judge Frank T. Takao, Club President said, "Our legacy will now be perpetuated. [This will remind the visitors of the MIS] contribution during WWII, the Reconstruction of Japan and the Korean War." The project was

headed by Judge Andrew J. Sato.

The All Veterans Reunion will be held on Feb. 16-18, 2007, at the New Otani Hotel in Los Angeles, according to *Japanese American Korean War Veterans Newsletter*, July 2006. Hershey Miyamura, the only Japanese American to receive the Medal of Honor in the Korean War, will attend the Reunion. Feb. 16 will be registration, tours, exhibit, and video presentation. JAVA lifetime member MG Rodney M. Kobayashi, USA (Ret), is the keynote speaker for the Saturday luncheon. Mike Yaguchi, Dep. Exec. Director of JAVA, will present JAVA greetings. A memorial service will be held at the Killed-in-Action All Wars Monuments at the Japanese

American Cultural and Community Center near the New Otani Hotel.



Pictured left: On Sept. 30, Sam Mitsui, former Commander of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, Washington, kicked off the NVC Foundation Speaker Series which will span the next 15 months, according to the *NVC Newsletter* of Oct. 2006. The purpose of this presentation is "to preserve the legacies of the Nisei for future generations." Mitsui's mes-

sage entitled "Good Things Grow from Horse Manure", a reference to Japanese Americans' lock-up in horse stables, emphasized the positive aspects of the unconstitutional incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans in U.S. Army-run stockades.

Rear Admiral Harris meets with JAVA by Dr. Warren Tsuneishi

Rear Admiral (RADM) Harry B. Harris, Jr., Commander of the Joint Task Force facility at the U.S. Navy base in Guantanamo, Cuba, spent a relaxing evening with JAVA on December 12, 2006, in Rosslyn, Virginia. RADM Melvin Chiogioji, USNR (Ret), and Major General Antonio Taguba, USA, the highest ranking Filipino-American in the Armed Forces, along with many Japanese American WWII veterans, attended the dinner.

RADM Harris expressed his gratitude to the veterans of WWII and the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars. As a Japanese American U.S. naval officer, he was keenly aware of the legacy of extraordinary heroism established by Nisei soldiers in WWII. It is this legacy, he said, that has helped Asian Americans advance to the highest ranks in all of the military services.

Turning to his job as commander of approximately 1800 personnel charged with guarding some 400 enemy combatants, Harris said the detainees included senior al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders who, if freed, could pose an immediate threat to Americans and American interests throughout the world.

Admiral Harris was born in Yokosuka, Japan, and reared in Tennessee and Florida. His mother is Japanese. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978.

[Full press release at www.javadc.org/]



L-R: Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, MIS, Philippines; Grant Hirabayashi, MIS, Merrill's Marauders; Kelly Kuwayama, 442nd, Medic; RADM Harry Harris, USN; Joe Ichiuji, 522nd Field Artillery Bn, 442nd RCT; Grant Ichikawa, MIS, Philippine Liberation; Richard Kleeman, MIS, Philippine Liberation. Photo by: Noriko Sanefuji

JAVA Helps Single Mother Soldier

“When Grant Ichikawa rang the doorbell and handed me a check of such a large amount, I was overwhelmed and started to tear up by the aloha of complete strangers,” Leana Nishimura said. Nishimura, a sergeant in the Maryland National Guard in Edgewood, Maryland, and divorced single mother of three young children, returned from Iraq in October 2005. Ichikawa, a WWII veteran of the Military Intelligence Service, is Chairman of Special Projects for JAVA.

Nishimura joined the Maryland Army National Guard in August 2002 as a communications specialist, with the desire to serve her country while supplementing her income. Her divorce in 2001 destroyed her credit rating. “I was broke, my life was shattered. However, I was determined to perform my military commitment. When you put on the uniform you must take the responsibility that comes with that uniform,



Nishimura in Iraq.



Grant Ichikawa gives JAVA check to Leana Nishimura.

and that includes going to war and taking all the risks, including getting wounded or even dying,” Nishimura said.

Chair of JAVA, observed that “SGT Nishimura’s commitment to our country is a demonstration of the loyalty that many Asian American Veterans have as true patriots.”

Nishimura believes that every member of the service should spend one tour away from home “in a less than favorable environment.” Nishimura’s unit deployed to Tikrit, Iraq in 2004, where her camp was often hit by mortar rounds. Although shaken and afraid, she was determined to do her duty. Nishimura sent money home to her mother in Honolulu to support her children while she was

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, Honorary

away. As a result, she was left without a home and very little money when she returned to Maryland. In addition, Nishimura suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Now almost one year after her family reunited, life is gradually returning to normal. What Nishimura enjoys most is tucking her three children, Cheyenne (5), Dylan (8), and T.J. (9), into bed and discussing their hopes and dreams.

When Nishimura received JAVA’s check for \$1500, her first thought was that she could now buy beds for her two sons, who had been sleeping on the floor, winter clothes for the children, and food for the freezer, which was a gift from her mother. Nishimura reminds her children daily to count their blessings they are now together, thanks to the generosity and support of fellow Americans.

JAVA established the Leana Nishimura Fund to assist her during these hard times. To date, over \$3,500 has been donated. Tax deductible donations may be sent to Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer, JAVA; 7201 White House Dr; Springfield, VA 22153.

Speakers Bureau

On Oct. 30, Norman Ikari, 442nd veteran, spoke to over 60 people at the Gloria Schweinhaut Senior Center in Silver Spring, MD, describing the traumatic events following the Pearl Harbor attack. Norman briefly described his participation in the Rome-Arno campaign as a combat infantryman during which he was wounded. Also in attendance were Kyoko Ikari, Fumie Yamamoto and Katherine Matsuki, Ni-sei ladies who were incarcerated at the Gila River and Topaz camps following Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 13, Wayne Coblentz, history teacher at Linganore High School, Frederick, MD, invited Joe Ichiuji, 522nd veteran, and Guy Whidden, 101st Airborne veteran, to speak at his classes. Joe spoke about his experience in Poston Camp, Arizona and his military services in Europe during WWII. Guy Whidden spoke about his WWII experience during the Normandy invasion. They reached approximately 150 students and answered many questions from the



Joe Ichiuji speaking at Linganore High School on Dec. 13, 2006.

students. Joe’s wife, Susie, also attended.

On Dec. 4, Marc Dugge, correspondent for the ARD German Broadcasting, interviewed Joe Ichiuji, 522nd veteran, and Kelly Kuwayama, 442nd veteran, for a Dec. 7 broadcast in Germany. Joe was also interviewed by Peter Goegeli, correspondent for Swiss National Public Radio, on Dec. 6 for broadcast in Switzerland on Dec. 7.

TAPS

Mr. Marion W. "Fergie" Ferguson, veteran of 36th (Texas) Division and strong supporter of Japanese American cause, died on October 6, 2006, at his home in Beaumont, Texas. A combat infantryman, Ferguson was a First Sergeant and received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Silver Star, and the Purple Heart. The 36th Division fought in Italy, France and Germany during WWII.

Ferguson appreciated the role played by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the daring rescue



Marion Ferguson at the 36th Division Memorial at Port Arthur, Texas, in 2004.

of elements of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th Division, which was trapped and doomed for annihilation in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France in late October 1944. The 442nd sustained huge casualties in proportion to the number rescued and one phase of that rescue operation is judged by the US Army as one of the ten most fiercely fought battles in its history.

When Sandra Tanamachi was engaged in her 12-year struggle to get a Texas county to remove the word "Jap" from the name of a road, Ferguson, despite his failing health, supported Tanamachi

throughout her campaign, encouraging her never to give up, interceding with the county commissioners, and speaking to resisting Texans. He stood by Tanamachi when others left the

cause. In 2005 JAVA awarded its *COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM* plaque to Tanamachi as an American best exemplifying JAVA's ideals.

Tanamachi said Ferguson's death is a great personal loss: "Mr. Ferguson was a dear friend since 1992, and I will miss his infectious smile and laughter. He was a true gentleman with a heart of gold. Mr. Ferguson never gave up on our campaign, so it was extremely gratifying to have him with us when we were victorious in 2004. He will be remembered with much love and affection."

Thomas Kuwahara, a resident of Lafayette, Louisiana and a Vietnam War combat helicopter pilot who collaborated with Tanamachi in the latter phase of her struggle, said "the world would be a nicer place if more people were like Mr. Ferguson and I will miss him."

Ferguson is survived by his wife Emmy, two daughters, and one son and their families.

C-17 Named Spirit of 'Go for Broke'

The latest USAF C-17 aircraft has been named the "Spirit of 'Go for Broke'" and will be based at Hickam AFB, Hawaii. Clifford Tanigawa is a Boeing employee who took 8 years to get one of the Boeing planes named the "Spirit of 'Go For Broke'" in a naming contest. Aircraft are usually named for famous people, so Cliff submitted the name under the Exception category.

On June 14, 2006, the C-17 arrived at Hickam where 59 veterans of the 100th-442nd were bussed to the cavernous belly of the C-17, which taxied to the ceremonial

stands to the ovation of the airman and families. After the ceremony, the veterans stood at attention in front of the C-17 for a memorable photo opportunity.



L-R: Barney Hajiro and Shizuya Hayashi, Medal of Honor recipients, and Ed Ichiyama pose in front of the "Spirit of 'Go for Broke'" at Hickam AFB. (USAF photo/Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo)

Replacement Medals

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by veterans or their next of kin.

Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the branch of the military in which the veteran served.

However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army veterans, the National Personnel Records Center verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to appropriate services.

More information is available at the VA website:

www.va.gov/veteranspride/

Literary News

JAVA has learned from the US Army Public Affairs Office that *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in Military Intelligence Service during World War II* by Dr. James C. McNaughton is to be published early in 2007. The book is the official history of the Japanese American soldiers who served in the MIS during WWII. Dr.

McNaughton currently serves as the command historian for the European Command, U.S. Army.

* * * * *

American Patriots- MIS in the War Against Japan, edited by Dr. Stanley L. Falk and Dr. Warren M. Tsuneishi, is an oral history of veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), a group of Japanese American soldiers who fought in

the Pacific but whose stories are seldom told. The book includes first-hand accounts of 25 language specialists who served with U.S. forces in all major battles in the Pacific and Asia during WWII as well as the occupation of Japan.

Price: \$10 plus \$2 shipping. To order, send your order and check payable to "JAVA" to: JAVA Books, P.O. Box 59, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Book Review: *Just Americans* by Robert Asahina

Contributed by Dr. Warren M. Tsuneishi

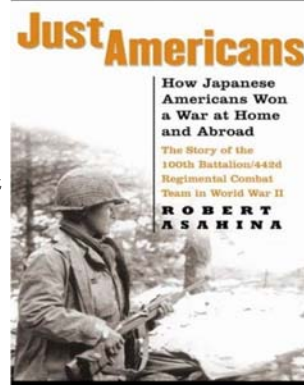
The thesis of this remarkably readable and deeply moving book – especially in the battlefield accounts – is that it was the incredible valor of 442nd soldiers on the battlefields of France combined with success of Allied forces in the Pacific theater following the Battle of Midway in June 1942 that led to the U.S. government's decision in late 1944 to close the relocation centers. The decision was not driven by demonstrations or individual challenges on constitutional grounds. Rather, it was in the author's words "bullets on the battleground that won the fight for civil rights."

It was a sniper's bullet that fatally wounded Texan Nisei Saburo Tanamachi when the 442nd was ordered to rescue the Texas "Lost Battalion" in late October 1944. He died, cradled in the arms of his buddy, George Sakato, who gently reprimanded him by asking "Why did you stand up like that?" Tanamachi's response was a bloody gurgle, and he was gone. Enraged, Sakato led a reckless charge up Suicide Hill to knock out two enemy machine gun nests. For this and other actions, Sakato was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, later to be upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Asahina skillfully interweaves this vignette into his overall narrative based on archival and secondary sources. These personal stories obtained by the author through individual interviews and correspondence with surviving vets illuminate the text with an immediacy that tends to drag the reader into actual battlefield action—a true tour de force.

The book opens with an extended discourse entitled "Prologue: Jap Road" covering the 12-year struggle by Sandra Tanamachi, a Texas schoolteacher, to have "Jap Road" in Beaumont, Texas, changed to a less derogatory and disrespectful name. (The road was ostensibly named to honor Japanese rice growing pioneers of the early 20th century in the area.) She was sustained over the years in part by the memory of her uncle, Saburo Tanamachi. She did not think that if he had lived and returned to Texas, he would have felt honored by the ugly name. The commissioners of Beaumont County had initially rejected her petition for a name change but she persisted, with the assistance, beginning in 2003, of a Hawaiian born helicopter pilot vet of Louisiana named Thomas Kuwahara. JAVA members were recruited as well as the Anti-Defamation League, the NAACP, and Latino organizations. Letters to the commissioners were followed testimony from 442d veterans such as Kelly Kuwayama (a medic with two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star and a JAVA member) from the Lost Battalion relief action; Senator Dan Inouye, who had earned his Medal of Honor in Italy and who, on his way home in uniform with an empty sleeve, was denied service in San Francisco by a barber who told him that "We don't cut Jap hair here"; and Marty Higgins, commander of the Lost Battalion. This time Ms. Tanamachi was not rejected and the name was changed to Boondocks Road – after a now defunct cat fish restaurant. At the November 11, 2005 ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Ms. Tanamachi received JAVA's Courage, Honor, and Patriotism Award.

One caveat is that while the book covers much of the 442d story – the organization of the 100th and 442nd as segregated units, followed by their incredible heroics in western France as part of the 36th (Texas) Division – it barely mentions their exploits in Italy and elsewhere. The 36th Division itself was part of the 6th Army Group commanded by General Jacob L. Devers. The title of the book is taken from a laudatory remark by General Devers stating that the 442d soldiers "more than earned the right to be called just Americans, not Japanese Americans." The subtitle is a paraphrase of President Truman's remark in welcoming members of the 442d to the White House in 1946: "You fought not only the enemy but you fought prejudice, and you have won."

As should be evident, the book itself delves into more than battlefield heroics. It also analyzes problems in the drafting of Nisei from the relocation centers; political and constitutional issues in the evacuation and in the decision to close the camps; and problems in the return of evacuees to their west coast homes. Mr. Asahina is not an academic historian. He is an editor and literary, artistic and social critic. He even casts a discerning eye over a situation facing Arab and Muslim Americans today in an appended essay entitled "Pearl Harbor and 9/11."



News in Brief



Former U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Eric Shinseki has been named Go For Broke National Education Center's national spokesperson. In

this capacity, General Shinseki will help to ensure that significant contributions of Japanese Americans during WWII are understood and remembered. "We are fortunate to have someone of General Shinseki's credentials, passion, and commitment as our national spokesperson," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, President, Go For Broke National Education Center. [Full press release available at www.GoForBroke.org.]

* * * * *



JAVA member and former California State Assemblyman S. Floyd Mori has been named Interim Director of the Japanese American Citizens

League by National President Larry Oda. "Floyd Mori will provide the experience, leadership, and vision needed by JACL during this critical transition in our history and we envision a seamless continuation in operation and direction during this change", commented President Oda. [Full press release available at www.jacl.org.]

* * * * *

The JAVA Executive Council, in its meeting on Dec. 15, 2006, approved the new slate of officers for the 2007-2009 term as proposed by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee consists of

Dr. Norman Ikari, Chair, Terry Shima, and one vacant chair.

The slate of officers is as follows: President Bob Nakamoto; Vice President Cal Shintani (incumbent); Secretary Kim Luoma; Treasurer Earl Takeguchi (incumbent).

The slate will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting luncheon on January 20, 2007, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia.

JAVA members living outside the Washington, D.C. area are most welcome to attend this meeting. If any JAVA member wishes to nominate any candidates for these positions, or have any comments to make, please submit them to Terry Shima, by email ttshima@worldnet.att.net; or by mail 415 Russell Ave, #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Letters to JAVA

The following email excerpt was sent by Janet Brown, in search of more veterans of the 442nd RCT:

My name is Janet Hardwick Brown. Since spring 2006, I have been on a journey to find surviving members of the 442nd RCT. My father, William Hardwick of Martinsville, Indiana, was a member of the "Lost Battalion." My sister Suzy and I grew up knowing and celebrating that they were responsible for my Dad's life.

After reading an article wherein a John Hayashi was mentioned, I wrote a letter to him. My letter wound its way to Ron Oba, the editor of the "Go For Broke" quarterly bulletin; they published my letter in their latest bulletin. From that, I was so pleased and honored to hear from several men of the 442nd and was able to thank them properly.

My Father always respected the fact that he was privileged to walk in the world because of the courage of others – and he always made sure that his friends and family understood just WHO made that walk possible. It has been a dream of ours to reach out to these men and their families and find a way to thank them for their incredible act of bravery. We would not have had an opportunity to know such a wonderful man as my father had it not been for their courage that week in the Vosages.

I also told a story about my grandson Ethan. He is incredibly interested in military history, very aware of the story of the "Lost Battalion." His best friend is of Japanese American heritage and whose family spent time in one of the camps during WWII. They are aware of each other's history – to me, it is such a special relationship – I like to refer to it as "HANDS ACROSS TIME!"

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I appreciate any assistance that you can give me.

Janet Hardwick Brown, 15 Whitehaven Drive, Pinehurst, NC 28374; phone: (910) 295-2522; email: jshb53@aol.com

From the Editor



Since I joined JAVA earlier this year, I have had the honor of meeting many real-life heroes—the veterans who have served in the military before me—and their family members. Most recently, I had the pleasure of meeting Bill Uchimoto at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Annual Convention.

Bill's father is Daniel Uchimoto, C Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT; he now lives in Richmond, CA. Bill gave me a wonderful gift that I will forever treasure—his father's 442nd patch from WWII. Thank you Mr. Uchimoto for your service, and to Bill for your thoughtful gift!

As always, you may send comments to Kay Wakatake, 2567 Aspenwood Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911, or kwakatake@gmail.com. Thank you!



Daniel Uchimoto, 100th Bn, 442nd RCT, in Europe, April 1945.

Douglas Kazumi Ishio Scholarship Fund Established

COL Sunao "Phil" Ishio, USA (Ret), and Mrs. Connie Ishio presented JAVA with a \$10,000 check on December 15, 2006 to set up the Douglas Kazumi Ishio Scholarship Fund. Douglas passed

away on December 25, 2005 at age 47. A University of Maryland electrical engineer major, Douglas was a career official of Litton Industries. COL Ishio is an MIS veteran who fought in the Philip-

pine liberation and the Papua New Guinea liberation campaigns. In 1992 Ishio founded JAVA and became its first president.

To donate to this or other JAVA programs, send a check payable to JAVA to: Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer, 7201 White House Drive, Springfield, VA 22153.



Membership Application FY2007

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

Postage

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301-987-6746

Michael Yaguchi, yaguchim@u.washington.edu;
703-729-1243

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Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, kwakatake@gmail.com;
253-468-4238

Speakers Bureau: Norman Ikari, normankyo@aol.com;
301-869-5543

National Archives Research: Joe Ichiuji,
joe.ichiuji@verizon.net; 301-530-0336

Fumie Yamamoto, yamamotoff@yahoo.com;
301-942-3985

Quarterly Lunch: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20, 2007: JAVA Annual Meeting,
Falls Church, VA.

February 6, 2007: Asian Pacific American
Reception for the Honorable Norman Y.
Mineta, Washington, D.C.

February 16-18, 2007: All-veterans Reun-
ion, New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, Los
Angeles, CA.

April 7, 2007: Cherry Blossom Freedom
Walk, Washington, D.C.



WWII veterans at JAVA program: (L-R) Terry Shima, Grant Hirabayashi, Grant Ichikawa, Joe Ichiuji, Norm Ikari. Photo by Eileen Roulier.

Photos from Veterans Day



Above: Major General Antonio Taguba speaking at JAVA program; Medal of Honor recipient Hershey Miyamura looks on. Photo by Eileen Roulier.



Above: Veterans organizations awaiting start of Arlington Cemetery program. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.



Right: JAVA flag bearers Chosei Kuge (left) and Glenn Kikuchi at Arlington Cemetery program. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.