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100th-442nd Receive Audie Murphy Award

On November 10, 2007, the American Veterans Center (AVC) presented its prestigious Audie Murphy Award to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT). On behalf of the members of this combat unit, four 442nd veterans accepted the award from James C. Roberts, founder and president of the AVC, at the AVC's 10th Annual Conference and Awards Banquet attended by 500 people at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. The 442nd RCT veterans were George Joe Sakato, Co E Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient from Denver, Colorado; Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama; Co E, Joe Ichiuji, 522nd Field Artillery of the 442nd RCT; and Terry Shima, 442nd Public Relations Office.



Above: 442nd veterans receive Audie Murphy Award. L-R: Joe Ichiuji, Kelly Kuwayama, James C. Roberts, Joe Sakato, Terry Shima. Photo courtesy of AVC.

The Audie Murphy Award is presented “for distinguished service in the United States Military during World War II.” Murphy was the most decorated soldier in WW II. He fought in nine campaigns and won every medal the Army had to offer including the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts.

The citation read, in part, “The men of the 442nd chose their slogan: ‘Go For Broke.’”

This reference to the ultimate gamble represented exactly what these Japanese Americans were doing. They were risking it all on one great effort to win big. Their gamble, however, was to offer their lives to prove their loyalty. The predecessor to the 442nd was the 100th Infantry Battalion, which fought valiantly through Italy, earning tremendous respect. ... For their valor, courage and loyalty to country, all of the men who served in the 100th-442nd Regimental Combat Team are being recognized as the recipients of the American Veterans Center's 2007 Audie Murphy Award.”

[continued at “Audie Murphy” on page 3]

JAVA Enters Joint Education Program With Public Schools

A project intended to help high school students understand the Japanese American wartime experience will be launched in Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), it was announced recently in a joint statement by MCPS, the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), and JAVA.

In addition to examining the World War II internment of persons of Japanese ancestry,

the program focuses on the 100th Battalion-442nd Regimental Combat Team and other segregated military units, including the Navajo Codetalkers, Tuskegee Airmen, and Latinos who served during WWII. The one-day teacher training and orientation workshop, scheduled on Feb. 2, 2008, in Rockville, Maryland, will be the first of its kind for teachers on the East Coast.

[continued at “Education” on page 3]

President's Message



I thank JAVA members for their strong support in 2007, and I wish you all a prosperous and successful 2008. Allow me to deviate from the normal quarterly message and give you a round up of our 2007 year. We have continued to make great strides in 2007 in terms of substantive programs and the projection of JAVA as the leading edge of the Asian American veterans.

We had a high profile public launch of the book *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* on March 30, 2007, at Capitol Hill that was well-attended by officials of the legislative and executive branches, diplomats and veterans service organizations. On Memorial Day weekend (A) JACL and JAVA jointly held a program at Arlington Cemetery that included the placement of flowers at 59 gravesites and the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown, and (B) JAVA marched in the Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue sponsored by the American Veterans Center. On Veterans Day weekend JAVA (A) participated in the Veterans Administration sponsored program at the Arlington National Cemetery amphitheater from which the Vice President addressed the nation, and (B) held its 7th Annual Veterans Day Program jointly with the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. JAVA and 15 other Japanese American veterans organizations were recognized by the Go For Broke National Education Center which presented the Go For Broke Spirit Award at its Evening of Aloha Dinner on November 10 at Anaheim. 1,400 people attended.

JAVA has concluded an agreement with the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), NJAMF, and Go For Broke National Education Center to enhance the teaching of the Japanese American experience during WW II in 29 MCPS high schools. This is a pilot project for adaptation in other coun-

ties in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. We are pleased to report that on May 17, 2008, we will award three scholarships from our three memorial scholarship funds. JAVA has played an active role in generating support for the Commemorative Nisei WW II Postage Stamp Campaign. With the oral history interviews of WW II veterans virtually completed, we have started our interview of post-WW II veterans. Our program to digitize the Nisei WW II record at the National Archives and Records Administration, a joint project with 442nd/MIS Hawaii, is moving along unabated.

I am pleased with the compliments we have received to our quarterly newsletter, *JAVA ADVOCATE*, now 18 months old. It contains articles designed to educate the public on Japanese American issues and to convey relevant news to Asian American veterans and their families. Editor MAJ Kay Wakatake, who is assigned to Germany, has done a superior job. I wish to congratulate COL Renita Menyher, USA, for her series of 9 articles in 2006 on Japanese American veterans which won in 2007 the US Army Keith L. Ware Award and the DOD-wide Thomas Jefferson Award. I wish to also thank the Department of Veterans Affairs for producing a 29-minute DVD, *The Face Behind of the File: Japanese Americans*, a story of the Japanese American experience which has been shown extensively in the executive departments and is now being shown in high schools.

Some of our members who received recognition during the past year include six JAVA veterans who were honored at a White House ceremony during the Asia Pacific American Heritage program when President George Bush recounted the military contributions made by Japanese Americans; JAVA Honorary Chair Norman Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation, who received the Japanese Government's Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun; California Superior Court Judge Vincent Okamoto, who was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia; Shinkichi Tajiri, 442nd veteran, who sculptured four "sentinels" for a bridge in The Netherlands and was appointed to the highest order of "knighthood" by the Queen of the Netherlands; MAJ Kay

Wakatake, who was appointed to be a member of the prestigious American Bar Association Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law and was recently appointed Chair of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), who received an award for outstanding achievement from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service; and Sus Satow, 442nd veteran and JAVA member from Sacramento, California, who was featured in Ken Burns' *THE WAR*, a 15-hour documentary on WW II. In addition, four 442nd veterans of JAVA received, on behalf of the entire 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Audie Murphy award from the American Veterans Center; and MG James Mukoyama, USAR (Ret), was appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to be Chairman of the Committee on Minority Veterans.

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 COL Sunao Phil Ishio, USA (Ret)
 The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta

JAVA ADVOCATE

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

Education (from page 1)

Teachers from other local area schools will also be invited to the workshop, which is viewed as a pilot activity for adoption in other counties, as desired.

Created in 1998 by the GFBNEC in collaboration with curriculum specialists Esther Taira and Mark Elinson, the program received its initial funding from the California Arts Council in support of the State of California social studies curriculum standard and later obtained a grant from U.S. Department of Education Fund for Improved Education. More than 1,500 teachers have completed the program to date, reaching an estimated 60,000 students each year.

Plans for the educational partnership were solidified November 5 in a meeting that included Gerald Yamada, President and Executive Director of NJAMF, Dr. Ray Murakami, immediate past Chairman of the Board of NJAMF and member of JAVA Education Committee, Terry Shima, Acting Chair of JAVA Education Committee, and MCPS officials, including Dr. Jerry Weast, Superintendent (for portion of the meeting); Dr. Frieda Lacey, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Eric Lang, Associate Superintendent; Dr. Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, Executive Director, Office of the Deputy Superintendent; Maria Tremontozzi, acting supervisor of social studies; and Mrs. Dale Shimoda Horos, Coordinator, Office of Human Resources.



Meeting at Montgomery County Public School. Clockwise: Dr. Frieda Lacey, Maria Tremontozzi, Dr. Donna Shimoda Hollingshead, Eric Lang, Dale Shimoda Horos, Terry Shima, Dr. Ray Murakami, and Gerald Yamada, Esq. Photo by William Mills.

Dr. Weast, who has a son serving in Iraq, welcomed the partnership with MCPS. Christine Sato Yamazaki, President and Chief Executive Officer, GFBNEC, said "We are extremely proud of the success achieved by the teacher training workshops in California and feel privileged to be able to join with Dr. Weast and many distinguished organizations in our ongoing efforts especially to bring the values embodied by our veterans into classrooms across the nation." Dr. Frieda Lacey, MCPS Deputy Superintendent, said, "The Japanese American experience in WWII is a story of how adversity can be overcome in a constructive manner and is an important lesson to convey to students." In conjunction with the program, Dr. Lacey plans to involve her newly acquired MCPS partners as advisors in writing the Japanese American experience in MCPS textbooks.

[full press release available at www.javadc.org]

Audie Murphy (from page 1)

In his acceptance speech, Sakato said "I am proud and honored to accept the Audie Murphy Award on behalf of the 100th Battalion-442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Nisei soldiers who served in the Military Intelligence units in the Asia Pacific Theater, the men who served in the U.S. Air Corps, and the women who served in the Women's Army Corps and the Nurses Corps. . . . We enlisted in the armed forces to show our loyalty to our country. We volunteered from internment camps and from the pineapple and sugar cane fields from Hawaii. We were proud of our motto 'Go For Broke.' In rescuing the Texas Battalion that was trapped by the Germans, we lived this motto to the fullest."

Earlier in the week on November 8, Sakato, Kuwayama, Ichiuji, Grant Hirabayashi, Merrill's Marauder and

Ranger Hall of Fame inductee, and Grant Ichikawa, veteran of the Army's Military Intelligence Service, participated in a one-hour panel discussion at the AVC conference entitled "Unparalleled Patriotism: The Japanese Experience in WW II." Approximately 250 packed the meeting hall. Following this, the veterans moved to an adjoining room where they held a Question and Answer session with some 70 high school students from the Osbourn Park High School in Manassas, Virginia.

The mission of AVC is to preserve and promote the legacy of America's service men and women. Comprised of two divisions, the WW II Veterans Committee and National Vietnam Veterans Committee, the AVC also sponsors the National Memorial Day Parade in WDC.



Above: Joe Sakato describes his battle in the Vosges as Grant Hirabayashi looks on.
Below: JAVA panel members talk with students from Osbourn Park High School following Q&A session. Photo courtesy of American Veterans Center.



News From Other JA Veterans Organizations

THE WAR. At that luncheon, Lawson Sakai and Donald

The 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, Hawaii's Puka Puka Parade said that a Learning Resource Center (LRC) is being constructed at the Clubhouse. According to architectural drawings, the LRC will feature oral histories of veterans, memorabilia, and names of 100th veterans, with state of the art electronic displays. The facility will accommodate small groups of up to 20 people to listen to presentations. The article, written by Al Matsumoto, Amanda Stevens and Mimi Nakano, said, "This LRC will perpetuate the legacy of the 100th Inf Bn and will continue through civic engagement to perpetuate the motto 'For continuing service.' . . . We hope. . . members of the Descendant Chapter, the Sons and Daughters and the community will learn why Freedom is Priceless." The President is Robert Arakaki.

442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii's Go For Broke Bulletin for September has a report under *Fox Fables* that Pietro Maghelli, a rancher in the Massa district, Italy, has built a museum of WW II relics. It includes two WW II jeeps, which has been refurbished and will be used for shows and the annual Liberation Day Parade. Stan Izumigawa reported that the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center of Maui, which includes preschool and adult day care facilities, was dedicated last summer. Also, last summer the 100th-442nd RCT was recognized when the U.S. Army dedicated a logistics vessel named "Staff Sergeant Robert T. Kuroda, LSV-7." Kuroda is a Medal of Honor recipient. Earlier this year a U.S. Air Force Flying Cargo C-17 plane was named "The Spirit of Go For Broke." The President is Bill Thompson.

M.I.S. Veterans, Hawaii's Newsletter for December reported that the Club asked Senator Daniel K. Akaka to seek the U.S. Army's approval to commission a historian to write a book on the Nisei role in the Occupation of Japan. Akaka, who was instrumental in getting *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* published in March 2007, sent a letter to Secretary of the Army Pete Geren on November 1, 2007. MIS former president Judge Frank Takao and MIS sons and daughters organized the Second Annual Americans of Japanese Ancestry Joint Memorial Service at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on September 30, 2007. The keynote speaker was GEN Eric Shinseki, USA (Ret). The President is Dr. Glenn Masunaga.

Nisei VFW Post 8985, Sacramento, California, *Newsletter* for December reported that COL Tom Sakamoto, USA (Ret), of Post 8985 and MAJ Masaji Gene Uratsu, USA (Ret) were inducted into the Defense Language Institute Hall of Fame on November 2, 2007. The two Nisei were students in the first class of MIS Language School at the Presidio of San Francisco. Both served as combat translators/ interrogators in the Pacific and subsequently in the Occupation of Japan. The Post held a lunch to honor Sus Satow, 442nd veteran, for his contribution to promote the Japanese American cause, including his appearance on Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's 15-hour TV documentary,

Wakida presented JAVA President Bob Nakamoto's letter of congratulations and a JAVA memento to Satow (story on page 9). The Commander of Post 8985 is Loren M. Ishii.



L-R: Hiroko and COL Sakamoto, MAJ and Hiroko Uratsu at the DLI following induction into the DLI Hall of Fame.

Sierra VFW Nisei Post 8499, Fresno, California, *News Briefs* encouraged its members to support the Commemorative Postage Stamp Campaign to honor Nisei who served in the Armed Forces during WW II. The Campaign Coordinator is Wayne Osako. The *News Briefs* also contained an article written by Victor Muraoka, a member of the San Fernando Valley Nisei Memorial VFW Post 4140. Muraoka said that during the period 1960 to 1990 there were 14 Nisei VFW Posts with a combined membership of close to 1,000 members at their peak but now draws about 300, 2 American Legion Posts and numerous other Japanese American veterans organizations. Their mission is to promote comradeship, public education, and support charitable endeavors. The Commander of Post 8499 is John Skinner.

Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, Washington, Newsletter, reported on the planned dedication on March 15, 2008, of its refurbished Memorial Hall. Senator Daniel Inouye and possibly GEN Eric Shinseki plan to attend. The *Newsletter* also reported on the opening of MIS exhibit at the White River Valley Museum at Auburn, Washington on October 6, 2007, and the panel discussion on October 19, which featured Grant Jiro Hirabayashi, Takashi Matsui and Roy Hiroshi Matsumoto, who volunteered to serve in the MIS. The President is Lt Col Yuzo Tokita, USAF (Ret), a former F-4 fighter pilot.

National Japanese American Veterans Council, Washington, DC, Times, reported on its major project, the publication of a book on Nisei who served in the Occupation of Japan. The project has secured a senior adviser, Dr. Eugene Ueki, retired Case Western University professor, and is now seeking major funding sponsors, including the Japan Commerce Association of Washington, DC. This projected book is intended to be a sequel to Dr James C. McNaughton's *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II*, which ends approximately when WW II ended. The President is COL Walter Ozawa, USA (Ret).

Annual Nisei Veterans Reunion

Contributed by Carol Akiyama, Lawson Sakai, and Brian Shiroyama

Last January 2007, a humble note was tucked into the Japanese-American National Monument in Washington, D.C., which read: "Thank you 442 RCT for rescuing our Father, October 30, 1944, 1600 hours. Our Father always said YOU were the only ones who could do it! Janet Hardwick Brown & Susan Hardwick." Accompanying the note was an old WWII photo of their Dad, Sgt. William "Bill" Hardwick, identified as a member of "The Lost Battalion," 36th Division, 141st Infantry, Company B.

More than six decades later, the Hardwick Sisters' gracious note of appreciation reached across America, with lightning-speed (thanks to emails), displaying their sincere outreach of love and compassion. Such was the inspiration for the Monday night "Welcome Banquet" (September 10) at this year's annual Nisei Veterans Reunion held at the Las Vegas California Hotel & Casino.



Above L-R: Susan Hardwick, Shuji Takemoto, Janet Hardwick Brown. Below L-R: Janet, Frank Mizufuka, Susan.



As in years past, the Reunion was organized/hosted by "Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans" (FFNV, a non-profit organization), led by Lawson Sakai (442nd RCT, E Company), assisted by his staff, Jean Hirasaki and Brian Shiroyama.

Susan Hardwick and Janet Hardwick Brown, with her husband Phil, were FFNV's honored guests at the Reunion. FFNV welcomed other honored guests, Gene and Joy Airheart, their daughter Page Airheart and her husband Mike Allen. Gene Airheart, who was a 141st Soldier, rescued as part of "The Lost Battalion," traveled across America to meet his Japa-

nese-American rescuers.

For the attendees, Mike Allen provided music CDs entitled "They Dared to Dream — A Tribute To The 442nd Regimental Combat Team," containing brilliant songs, which he co-composed, produced, and recorded professionally, honoring World War II American Veterans.

Making this Reunion more heartwarming were honored guests from the

Bruyeres region of France, where "The Lost Battalion" rescue took place — Etienne Pourcher, Mayor of Fremifontaine and Counsel General of Vosges Region, accompanied by his wife Zvonka, and Rene & Simone Gheeraert, retired hotel-proprietors from Brovelieures/Bruyeres.

Keynote-Speaker was Roy Yasui, born and raised in Canada, accompanied by his wife Grace. During the early 1950's, he joined the Canadian Air Force as its first Japanese-Canadian Fighter-Pilot, an achievement that was not easy, in the face of heavy peer-discrimination. He rose through the ranks, selected for a coveted-post at North American Radar Air Defense (NORAD). As a youth,

hearing about the WWII-heroism of the 442nd RCT/100thIB, from a prominent Caucasian community-leader, inspired him to pursue his dreams for a military career.

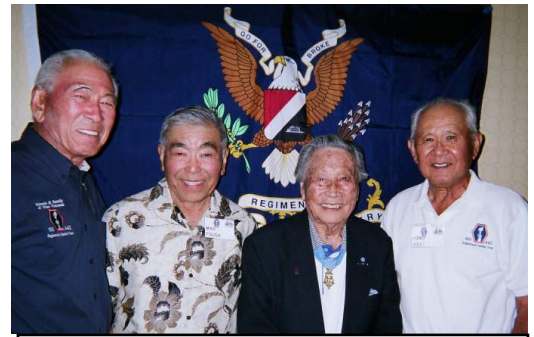
442nd RCT, E Company and I Company were well-represented at the Reunion, along with 442nd RCT/100th IB Vets from C, F, G, H, K, L and M Companies, the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, and several WWII MIS veterans.

Wednesday night's "Farewell Banquet" (September 12), guided by Lawson Sakai, combined appropriate military ceremony with fun and drama, with the posting of colors and our National Anthem, followed by the ever-popular raffle of generous gifts donated by FFNV, veterans, veterans' families, and guests.

Lawson gave a very special introduction of revered Medal of Honor Recipient, Joe Sakato, who earned his Medal of Honor during the rescue of "The Lost Battalion."

Following dinner, Lawson introduced filmmaker, Lane Nishikawa, a Sansei, whose tenacity and talent as producer/director/writer/actor created his brilliant movie, "Only the Brave," about the rescue of "The Lost Battalion." Then, Lane's movie was exhibited before a rapt audience.

Next year's Annual Nisei Veterans Reunion is set for September 28, 2008 (4 days), at the Las Vegas California Hotel & Casino. (Contact Lawson Sakai, FFNV President, at lawson.sakai@gmail.com.)



442nd, E Company veterans in front of 442nd "Go For Broke" flag. L-R: Lawson Sakai, Mas Tsuda, Joe Sakato, Hiro Asai. Photos courtesy of Carol Akiyama.



Standing L-R: Lawson Sakai, Mike Allen, Mineko Sakai, Page Airheart. Sitting L-R: Joe Sakato, Gene Airheart, Joy Airheart.

JAVA Holds 7th Annual Veterans Day Program

indignities of the times, and especially those who did not return.”

JAVA and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) jointly held their 7th Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., on November 11, 2007. Approximately 100 members and friends participated in this event.



Above: Medal of Honor Recipient Joe Sakato speaks at the JAVA Veterans Day program.

Tribute was paid to all veterans of the armed forces including the 360,000 Asian Pacific American (APA) veterans and 29,000 APAs on active duty. Medal of Honor recipient George “Joe” Sakato of Denver, Colorado, and Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), Chair of the Veterans Day Committee, laid, at the sound of taps, a floral wreath at the Heroes Wall where the names of over 800 Nisei who paid the ultimate price in WW II are inscribed.

Sakato, the principal speaker, said, “In our hearts we never doubted our loyalty and love of our country even though the government put our families in internment camps. . . . When people ask what the Medal of Honor (MOH) means to me, I have to say it is an honor. But it is an honor I wear for the men who made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. . . . On Veterans Day it is right to remember all those who fought, those who were at home suffering the

Sakato was awarded the MOH for his heroism on October 29, 1944, during the fierce battle in the Vosges mountains of eastern France to rescue the 1st Bn, 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division, which was trapped by German forces. His squad leader, his closest friend, was fatally shot, and his unit was pinned down by enemy fire. Sakato assumed command and, despite heavy enemy fire directed at him, made a one-man charge up the hill. This inspired his unit to follow him. He used an enemy rifle and P-38 pistol to stop an organized enemy attack. He killed 12 Germans and wounded two, personally captured four and assisted his platoon in taking 34 prisoners. By his gallant courage and fighting spirit, he turned impending defeat into victory.

The Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) used this occasion to publicly announce its formation as a nonprofit organization to mentor U.S. Army uniformed and civilian personnel about their career goals and aspirations.

LTC Martin L. Herbert, USA (Ret), provided the invocation and benediction. Mr. Tino Dinh, USAF veteran, was the Master of Ceremony.

Kuwayama Honored by Bar Association

by Kelly Kuwayama

of the “Lost Battalion.”

It was my privilege to speak before the Asian American Bar Association of the Delaware Valley on October 26, 2007, in Philadelphia at their Annual Banquet in support of the Honorable William M. Marutani fellowship. I was invited by Bill Uchimoto, the vice president of the Association and a patent attorney in Philadelphia. He is also the son of Daniel Uchimoto, a member of the 100th Bn.

I was seated next to Mrs. Marutani and her daughter. I had been on the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation with Bill Marutani, and I had the highest respect for him. He was a judge for the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County from 1975 to 1986, the first Asian American to receive a judgeship of general jurisdiction outside of the Pacific Coast States. He was on the Commission on Wartime

Relocation and Internment of Civilians that proclaimed the internment of Japanese Americans was the unjust result of racism, wartime hysteria and failure of political leadership. He was legal counsel to the Japanese American Citizens League and was involved in the desegregation of schools, voter registration in Mississippi, and the abrogation of anti-miscegenation laws in 17 States. He also served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service.

I received the Freedom Award on behalf of members of the 442nd RCT. I spoke of its formation with volunteers from Hawaii classified as unfit for military duty and volunteers from the internment camps, and the record of the 100th Bn, which became the 442nd's 1st Bn, since so many replacements came from there. I discussed the exploits of the 100th-442nd in Italy and France and the casualties suffered with the rescue

The historic fact of the exclusion of Japanese and Japanese Americans from the West Coast and their internment in relocation camps was impressed upon the audience. I retold the long history of events which started with the Naturalization Act of 1790 which prohibited citizenship for Asians and its subsequent effect to prevent land ownership by those aliens ineligible for citizenship.

I also told them about the 6,000 Japanese Americans in the U.S. Army who were used as interpreters and translators for the Pacific theater and who served with all major units, both US and Allied. The audience was further told of the capture of battle plans for Midway Island and translation of those plans which meant the destruction of the Japanese fleet as a fighting force.

Documentary About Kuroki

Lincoln, Nebraska. Nebraska Governor Dave Hineman and Nebraska First Lady Sally Ganem hosted a premiere of "Most Honorable Son," a documentary on the life of Ben Kuroki, in Lincoln, Nebraska on Aug. 1, 2007. Kuroki, a Hershey, Nebraska native, flew 58 missions in Europe and the Pacific as a gunner during WW II. The documentary drew a standing ovation from the audience of 600 when retired news anchor Tom Brokaw gave the introduction via video-tape. "His story is one of the most profound examples of patriotism and service to our country," Governor Heineman said. PBS broadcasted "Most Honorable Son" on Sept. 17.

The premiere also paid tribute to all Nebraska veterans and to survivors of the historic Ploesti mission. On that mission, 52 of the 178 planes were lost and more than 300 airmen

were killed in the low-level raid on the oil refineries, Hitler's "gas station." 13 survivors, including Kuroki and his crew's navigator LTC Ed Weir, were present at the viewing of the film. Weir had submitted an eye witness account to the War Department, urging a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) for Kuroki. Weir traveled from Texas, and the reunion with Kuroki at the premiere was their first since 1946. Kuroki expressed gratitude to his Nebraska friends and his 93rd Bomb Group for "going to bat for him so many decades after the fact." He credited booklets produced by the late Cal Stewart that played key roles in his receiving the DSM in 2005.

"Most Honorable Son," the title of booklets and documentary, was the



L-R: Ben Kuroki and wife Shige, and Nebraska Governor Dave Hineman. Photo courtesy of Scott Stewart.

moniker given me by crew member Red Kettering," Kuroki explained. "He did not mince words in calling the Japanese enemy dishonorable S.O.B.s. In contrast, he tagged me at first as just Honorable Son. However, after facing enemy gunfire together, his esteem for me was somewhat escalated, and he upgraded my title to Most Honorable Son." Kuroki called the premiere an incredible day in his life.

Japanese American Veterans Recognized in DC Events

The late Gene Takahashi, Korean War veteran, Joe Ichiuji, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Grant Hirabayashi, Military Intelligence Service and Merrill's Marauders, were featured in three events on September 30, 2007, in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Vi Takahashi and Ichiuji appeared in the seventh annual National Book Festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress, at The Mall. Over 100,000 people visited the Book Festival, in which 70 authors discussed their work. Hirabayashi appeared in *A Tribute to WW II Veterans*, sponsored jointly by WETA-TV, Friends of the National WW II Memorial, and the U.S. Army, at the WW II Memorial grounds. Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, co-producers of *THE WAR*, spoke prior to the showing of the 15-hour PBS epic on WW II.

Vi Takahashi, widow of Gene, was recognized by the moderator and members of the panel, which discussed the late David Halberstam's recently published book, the *Coldest Winter*. Gene Takahashi was featured prominently in this book. Takahashi's company was overrun by the Chinese communist militia. Captured and being escorted to the Chinese Army rear headquarters, Takahashi escaped, returned to his unit, refurbished and retrained his unit for redeployment, and was seriously wounded in a subsequent action.

Ichiuji took part in a demonstration oral history interview which featured a high school student and teacher from Garret County, Virginia. The student interviewed Ichiuji, who discussed his induction and training prior to Japan's attack of Pearl Harbor, discharge because of his race, incarceration in one of the 10 internment camps, voluntary enlistment in

the 442nd RCT, service in Italy, France and Germany, where his unit liberated one of the sub camps at Dachau where Jews were exterminated. He found it ironic that he was freeing the Jews while his own family was incarcerated in the U.S.



Ken Burns, co-producer of the film *THE WAR*, and Grant Hirabayashi, at the site of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Photo courtesy of Grant Hirabayashi.

Hirabayashi was one of the seven veterans to be recognized with the reading of a citation and receiving a U.S. Army certificate of appreciation. His citation said that when Hirabayashi was accused by a Japanese Prisoner of War as being a "traitor," Hirabayashi responded "if our veins are cut the same blood will flow. The differ-

ence is that you are a Japanese and you fight for your country; I am a Japanese American and I fight for my country. Don't call me a traitor." The citation also said that "some 3,000 Japanese Americans served in the Asia Pacific theater as translators, interrogators, communication interceptors, and combatants, who operated behind the enemy lines to sabotage their operations."

Meet the Flag Officers

THE LYMAN BROTHERS OF HAWAII, BOTH WEST POINT GRADUATES, ARE THE FIRST ASIAN HAWAIIAN PACIFIC ISLAND AMERICANS TO GAIN GENERAL'S RANK.

Brigadier General Albert Kualii Brickwood Lyman, USA, and Brigadier General Charles Reed Bishop Lyman, USA, brothers born in Paauhau, Hamakua Coast, Hawaii, were the first ethnic Hawaiian and the first Asian-Hawaiian-Pacific Islander American (AHPIA) to attain the rank of general or admiral in the U.S. Armed Forces. This was achieved during World War II. 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 34th 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.

Albert and Charles attended schools in Hilo and the Kamehameha and Puna-hou schools in Honolulu and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. From a family of 15 siblings, Albert and Charles are

the grandsons of David Belden Lyman, a Protestant missionary from New England who settled in the Hilo, Hawaii area. They are also descendents of Kualii, high chief of Oahu. Their nephew, Richard Lyman, Jr. was a trustee of Bishop Estate in Honolulu, Hawaii. The Lyman House Memorial Museum in Hilo, the repository of the history of Lyman family, is open to the public.

[JAVA is grateful to Ms. Daisy Matsushita and Ms Lynn K. Elia, Registrar at Lyman Museum, both of Hilo, Hawaii, and to Charles B. Lyman III of Maui Meadows Farms, West Chester, Pennsylvania, for their research and assistance.]

BG Albert K. B. Lyman



BG Albert Lyman (May 5, 1885 – August 13, 1942) graduated from West Point with honors, No. 15 in his class of 103, with a major in engineering. During his 33 years in the US Army, Albert had 25 assignments in 12 states and four overseas posts. His overseas posts were Panama, France, Cuba and the Philippines.

Albert's assignment in May 1940 at Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Hawaii, where, as a full colonel, he was commanding officer of the 3rd Engineers. He had previously served there in 1913 as a junior officer. He was also responsible for construction projects, thereby virtually performing two full-time jobs. He was promoted to Brigadier General on August 11, 1942, and died two days later. He was stricken at the home of his brother-in-law and died before medical help could reach him.

Among his numerous awards, Albert was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal posthumously for his service from July 1940 to August 1942 for completion of "construction of defense projects before the anticipated completion dates." On April 19, 1943, the Hawaii State legislature declared that the main passenger terminal of the Hilo International Airport be called the "General Lyman Terminal." The military schools he attended were the U.S. Army Engineering School and the Army Industrial College.

BG Charles R. B. Lyman



BG Charles Lyman (August 20, 1888 – April 15, 1981) graduated from West Point on June 12, 1913. During his 36 years in the Army, Charles had assignments in 9 states and three overseas posts, the latter of which were Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. He was the second AHPIA to be accorded the rank of general or admiral.

While he loved horses and participated in the U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team, his duty was almost wholly with the infantry. In July 1941, shortly after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Charles, a full colonel, was appointed military governor of Maui, Lanai and Molokai. After 11 months in that position, he was deployed to Australia as assistant division commander of the 32nd Infantry Division. He was in the first group of troops which attacked Tanah Merah Bay, Dutch New Guinea. He personally directed front line units, which seized Hollandia.

Charles was promoted to brigadier general in 1944 and served as commanding general of the 32nd Army Division which, in June 1945, was deployed in Luzon and subsequently in the Leyte campaigns, Philippines. The war ended at this point, and Charles participated in the signing of the peace treaty in Baguio, Philippines. Charles' decorations included the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Silver Star for gallantry in leading his troops in the Dutch New Guinea invasion, the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster, and 4 campaign ribbons.

In 1946, following his retirement, Charles and his wife moved to West Chester, Pennsylvania where they operated the Maui Meadow Farms, the oldest working thoroughbred farm in Pennsylvania, to raise thoroughbred horses. They had one son, Charles Jr. The Farms is currently run by Charles B. Lyman, III (mauimeadow@aol.com).

Satow Honored by VFW Posts

Susumu "Sus" Satow, Company H, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was honored by northern California VFW posts on October 20, 2007, for his role in promoting the Japanese American cause and for mentoring emerging Nikkei veteran leaders. About 30 veterans, their wives, and guests participated in the lunch at the Mana Japanese Restaurant in Sacramento, California, sponsored by Sacramento VFW Post 8985 and organized by Post Commander Loren M. Ishii.

Lawson Sakai, Co. E, 442nd RCT and Founding President of Friends and Families, presented to Satow a letter from JAVA President Bob Nakamoto and a JAVA memento coin. The letter, read by Donald Wakida, past Commander of VFW Post 8499, said JAVA expresses "our admiration to you and other NISEI who were featured in Ken Burns and Lynn No-

vick's documentary, *THE WAR*, which we watched with undivided attention. You reflected the views and sentiments of all Nikkei, and we are proud and appreciative of what you and your colleagues said and how you said it. *THE WAR* has documented the Japanese American loyalty like no other presentation of its kind. This effort will be a key reference material for future generations of historians, researchers and scholars." Satow, Sakai, and Wakida are members of JAVA.

In his remarks, Sakai said "JAVA is to be commended for seeking out these veterans and honoring them wherever possible. . . we ask all of you to join JAVA and help them achieve their goals. . . . On behalf of JAVA, I am honored to present Susumu Satow with this JAVA coin and letter from President Nakamoto." Wakida said



L-R: Sus Satow, Lawson Sakai, Mike Tsuji, AJA WW II Memorial Alliance. Photo courtesy of Susan Uyemura.

that Satow was "my mentor when I was a new and inexperienced Post Commander. His willingness to help others has clearly become a hallmark of his legacy." Commander Ishii commended Satow, saying "Sus epitomized the Nisei Veteran in that he was proud, but unassuming. For many years, he was the face of the Nisei veteran and mentored many newer and younger veterans within the various Nisei posts in the State of California."

A Visit to Vosges Contributed by Dr. James C. McNaughton

[Dr. James C. McNaughton, Command Historian for European Command and author of Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II, and his wife Pam, visited the Vosges region of eastern France where the 442d RCT had made a historic contribution to the defeat of Germany.]

On Veterans Day we paid our respects at the U.S. military cemetery at Epinal, where the superintendent gave us a list of 12 members of the 442d RCT interred there (10 Nisei enlisted, 1 Caucasian officer) or listed as missing (1 Nisei). We then drove to Bruyeres and visited the 442d RCT monument on a nearby hillside. It had recently been cleaned, repainted and decorated with flower wreathes for the town's liberation ceremony a week or so previously. We then drove to Biffontaine and up a narrow logging road into the hills where the 100th Battalion fought its way through to "The Lost Battalion." We got out to walk around, but it was cold, wet and windy and the forest (postwar new growth) was dark and forbidding. I can hardly imagine trying to fight the elements, fierce German resistance, and the tree bursts from German artillery for days on end. It's hard to believe that on those steep ridgelines several Nisei soldiers were awarded the DSC and five earned the Medal of Honor (Barney Hajiro,



Dr. McNaughton and the "Friendship Knot" sculpted and donated by 442d veteran and JAVA member and sculptor Shinkichi Tajiri.

Robert Kuroda, Joe Nishimoto, James Okubo and George Sakato). We were grateful to get back in the car and return to our comfortable hotel and a nice meal, with much to reflect upon. On the way back home the next day we stopped at a French military cemetery near Colmar about 35 miles to the east of Bruyeres. By then the weather had cleared, and the cemetery had a breathtaking view of the Rhine valley. We could see all the way across to the Black Forest. The cemetery had rows of crosses and Stars of David, and hundreds of markers bearing Muslim names from Algeria and Morocco who "died for France." That key terrain was what the 442d's fight at Bruyeres was all about, to drive through the difficult Vosges Mountains until the Germans were thrown back across the Rhine. Once the U.S. Seventh Army and the French First Army had forced their way through to the eastern edge of the Vosges, the Germans knew the war was lost.

[Editor's note: The McNaughtons' visit reminded COL Vic Mukai, USA (Ret), of a similar family trip to the region several years ago. The graves of the 12 soldiers of the 442nd at Epinal cemetery are of those whose families did not request their remains be returned to the States, but they continue to serve as reminders of heroic sacrifices of the Japanese Americans. Most importantly, they are certainly not forgotten, for when COL Mukai asked whether many visitors inquire about the Nisei buried there, the Epinal superintendent replied, "Oh, yes, all the time...," and showed him a well-worn book about the 442d that he kept in his outer visitors office.]

JAVA October Luncheon Highlights

Over 80 JAVA members, families and friends attended the Fall Quarterly lunch at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Fall Church, Virginia on Oct. 27. Members from Williamsburg, Virginia and Boston, Massachusetts and a visitor from Kobe, Japan were present. The purposes of these luncheons are to promote comradeship, and to learn the latest on matters relating to veterans issues, Japanese American and Asian American issues, as well as on defense and security issues.

Counselor Misako Ito, director of the Japan Information and Culture Center, the first speaker, described the organization, function and mission of the JICC. COL Robert Patrick, USA (Ret), Director of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, the second speaker, discussed the mission and role of the Project. He said they are attempting to capture as many veterans' oral histories as quickly as possible before these experiences are lost forever.

Dr. Brian Hayashi, Associate Professor at Kyoto University, the principal speaker, discussed his forthcoming book on the role of Nisei in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of the Central Intelligence Agency, who served in Burma and China. In Burma the OSS operated behind enemy lines to collect vital intelligence and to work with local guerrilla forces to disrupt enemy operations. The OSS did similar work in China and also freed Allied prisoners. His book will be published by the Oxford University Press next year.

Other guests were Lawrence H. McDonald, senior archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and his wife Martha. Ms. Yuka Fujioka, Lecturer at the Kansai International University and a PhD candidate at Kobe University, was present to contact JAVA veterans to gather data for her



JAVA President Bob Nakamoto presents JAVA coin to speakers. L-R: Dr. Brian Hayashi, Nakamoto, Counselor Misako Ito, COL Robert Patrick. Photo by Nelson Penalosa.

dissertation.

Special thanks to the Luncheon Committee: Chairman Grant Ichikawa, Marcia Mau, Betty Taira and Barbara Nekoba, Master of Ceremonies Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), and program handouts prepared by Erika Moritsugu, Esq.

Go For Broke National Education Center Award

[Condensed from GFBNEC Press Release]

JAVA, represented by its President Robert Nakamoto, and 15 other Japanese American veterans organizations received the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) award at its 6th Annual Evening of Aloha Dinner at the Hilton Hotel in Anaheim, California. The presentation was made by Marshall Ozawa of the Union Bank of California and Corinne Akahoshi of Toyota Motor Sales, USA, on November 10, 2007. There were 1,400 attendees, including 200 volunteers. The *Go For Broke Spirit Award* was presented for service and commitment on behalf of fellow veterans.



LTG Joseph F. Peterson, Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Forces Command and a highly decorated Iraq war veteran (pictured right), was the keynote speaker. Peterson is the highest ranking Asia Pacific American officer on active duty in the Armed Forces. Part Japanese, Chinese and Hawaiian, he is the nephew of MG Arthur Ishimoto, a Military intelligence

Service veteran and former Adjutant General of Hawaii. Peterson said, "I feel especially privileged to enjoy the comradeship of you — the heroes and examples of my youth — men and women who, while being distrusted, suppressed and mistreated, stood up and demanded the right to demonstrate your loyalty, patriotism, rights of citizenship and commitment to our country. . . . Your service elevated the status of Japanese Americans in the eyes of your fellow countrymen. Starting with the Second World War and continuing through today, your exploits raised the status of Americans of Japanese descent, and consequently also raised the status of all Asian Pacific Americans." Peterson inspired the veterans to be proud of their distinguished legacy and to band together to continue to pursue their common cause.

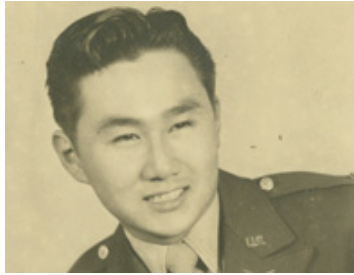
The general encouraged veterans who have not provided oral history interviews to do so as an extension of their military duty. He said their oral histories will strengthen the Nisei legacy of WW II. He said if they fail to do it their unique experience will be lost forever.



The American Dream - The Two Gene Takahashis (part 2)

By David Halberstam

[Editor's note: This is the second part of a two-part article, the first part was published in the July 2007 JAVA ADVOCATE. Gene Takahashi, Korean War veteran and JAVA member, passed away on May 15, 2007. The article, entitled "The American Dream - The Two Gene Takahashis," was written by David Halberstam, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, historian and the author of books including The Best and the Brightest and the Coldest Winter (Fall 2007). This book, which features Takahashi, is an account of a key early battle in the Korean War. Halberstam died in an auto accident on April 23, 2007, on a California expressway.]



As we sat and talked, it struck me that Tak was as good an exemplar of the American Dream as anyone I know—he was in the best sense of this country a self-made man who had been able, often against often-difficult odds, to control his own destiny as he might not have in many other countries.

It was a long way from the Nisei internment camps of the '40s to his lovely home in Westport. He had during his journey triumphed over some of the crueler prejudices of our culture, harsh experiences that might have embittered other men, and he had survived the worst of a very tough war and a battlefield experience that might have broken other men. He had managed to educate himself well, first at Case Western Reserve and then later at the University of Illinois. His marriage to a fellow Nisei, Violette (Vi), has been strong and enduring, and their four children had all been educated well and done well professionally and personally.

When the Chinese struck that night, with perhaps a full regiment or about 3,000 men, Love Company had about 170 men, including Tak's platoon of 45. The Chinese quickly overran the company, but Takahashi had tried to hold together first his own platoon, and in time the entire company, if for no other reason than to buy time for other units just south of them.

Most important of all, he had, as his parents intended, succeeded well beyond their possibilities—and done it as so many other Americans have, in just one generation. His parents had been farmers in the Imperial Valley and then had run a small grocery store there; to them, a house in a wealthy suburb like Westport was more a dream than a possibility.

Takahashi held out until he was completely surrounded by the Chinese and was finally captured. (That made him, he decided, one of the rare men who had been taken prisoner by two formidable nations, the United States *and* China.) But that night, in the chaos of the battle, he managed to escape. A few days later, he managed a second escape when much of the Second Division was mauled heading south from a place called Kunuri. When he was able to regroup with other members of Love Company near Seoul a few days later, there were about 10 of his men left there.

The greatest generation, you might call them. They were willing to come here and if necessary sacrifice themselves in order to break a cycle in their native countries that seemed without possibility of change. They sensed that in the new world the generations that came after them would be able to break out and reinvent themselves—that they were giving the subsequent generations a world with no ceilings.

I sat with Takahashi that day in Westport, and it was easy to envision him as brave and quietly fierce, absolutely certain of what his duty was, sure he was going to die that night but determined to do the right thing right up to his last breath, and do it as honorably as he could. There would be no disgracing of a family name. At the same time, in stark contrast to that image of Tak fighting the Chinese, I could see him as his neighbors saw him, a pillar of a pleasant genteel community, always to be depended on during local fundraisers; an exceptional family man; and a successful executive at a major company. In short, all the good things you're supposed to be.

Like so many other immigrants, Tak's parents had understood the opportunities this country offered from the start. As such, the dream was as much—or more—theirs as it was his. As they had valued education, he had valued education. As they had been disciplined and purposeful—always purposeful, for nothing was to be wasted—he had been disciplined and purposeful and wasted nothing, least of all a chance for a better life. And in the end he had done well and not disgraced the Takahashi name.

Letter to JAVA President Robert Nakamoto from U.S. Congressman Bob Filner, dated Aug. 23, 2007:

Thank you for your letter and for the support by the Japanese American Veterans Association of my bill, the "Filipino Veterans Equity Act" (H.R. 760).

As you may know, this bill has been passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives Veterans' Affairs Committees. When Congress re-convenes in September, we will be working for passage by the full House and Senate. Your support is a vital addition to the push for the passage of this legislation!

Please share my deep appreciation with the Officers, Board of Directors, and Members of your organization.

PPALM Launched on Veterans Day

by COL Rebecca C. Samson, USA

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2007, the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) group was inaugurated in Washington, D.C. and dedicated in honor of America's 24 million veterans. This day marked a significant milestone since the concept of PPALM was initiated almost two years ago. PPALM is a nonprofit organization with the purpose to promote engagement in mentoring, leadership, professional development, retention, and advancement of Army leaders — Active, Reserve, National Guard, and DA civilians. Its main themes are service to nation, answering the call to duty, and supporting the "Army Strong" recruiting campaign. PPALM welcomes anyone wishing to join even though its principal emphasis is on developing and fostering Asian American Pacific Islander Army officers.

"The idea for PPALM was born in March 2006 when a group of retired Army officers and volunteers spoke of doing something tangible for fellow Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Army officers. This group of retired Army officers and volunteers are truly concerned about the continued representation of AAPI Army officers at the current rate. These concerns included retention, selections to schools and command, and overall advancements to positions of leadership. We were determined to create an avenue to help them and the Army in order to sustain the growth in representation of AAPI Army officers," said MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), Chairman of PPALM.

PPALM's aim is to provide a venue for AAPI Army officers

and civilian leaders who seek mentorship and counsel from senior leaders and mentors who have similar experiences in the military. It is a forum for interactive communications among its members and the

community in supporting and assisting these young leaders. As the Army continues to be involved with the high pace of deployments and long separation from loved ones in time of war, Soldiers will be faced with dilemmas of continued service or separation. PPALM is designed to help with these situations while at the same time be value-added and complementary to the Army Strong recruiting campaign. "We in PPALM are extremely excited with the prospects of assisting the Army and in being a conduit to helping AAPI Army leaders," said BG Fred Wong, USA (Ret), Vice Chairman of PPALM.

Asian American Pacific Islanders have served proudly in our nation's armed forces for over 100 years. Their selfless service is characterized by a historic tradition of uncommon courage in war and unquestioned loyalty for love of country. They have led with exceptionally talented and competent leaders. They continue to lead Soldiers today. Their inspiration deeply motivated PPALM's sense of obligation to help AAPI Army leaders to continue to serve the nation and represent the Army in positions of leadership. "We need to sustain and nurture this long and proud tradition," Taguba said.

JAVA President Bob Nakamoto said "the activation of PPALM is timely. This mentoring service is greatly needed to assist interested Asian Pacific Americans in the U.S. Army to achieve their career goals." More details on PPALM can be obtained on the website www.ppalm.org.



PPALM organizers with George Sakato, 442nd RCT Medal of Honor recipient at Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC following PPALM official launch. L-R: LTC Jim Choung, USA; LTC Paul Shelton, USAR; BG Fred Wong, USA (Ret); COL Rebecca Samson, USAR; Sakato; MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret); Dr. Glenda Nogami; COL Tony Moreno, USA (Ret); COL Bobby Lum Ho, USA (Ret); Lt Col Mike Yaguchi, USAF (Ret). Photo by Brandon J. Riddle, son of COL Samson.

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Nisei Veterans Stamp Campaign

The commemorative postage stamp campaign to honor Nisei World War II soldiers has collected over 10,000 written petitions and over 6,000 sign-ups online, letters of support from Members of Congress, veterans and civic organizations, and resolutions from city legislatures. On December 20, 2007, the Simon Wiesenthal Center of Los Angeles, one of the largest Jewish human rights organizations, held a press conference to pledge support for the Nisei WW II Veterans Commemorative Stamp Campaign. On January 10, 2008, a Hawaii State press conference is planned at the Governor's Palace in Honolulu, Hawaii, to announce the drive for a Hawaii state resolution. California and Illinois will be following with their own resolutions. A Congressional Letter of Support for the stamp is currently circulating in the U.S. Congress. Campaign supporters are being urged to ask their members of congress to sign. These efforts are directed to the U.S. Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee which meets on January 24-25, 2008, to formally consider the Nisei WWII Veterans Stamp proposal.

Started four years ago as a grassroots project long supported by the JAVA

under Grant Ichikawa, the campaign has since become a nationwide effort to honor the 30,000 Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces overseas and at home. Wayne Osako, campaign coordinator, said these veterans are now in their 80's and 90's and it is the Campaign's goal to get the Nisei stamp approved while they are still living. Osako said supporters should not be discouraged if approval is not granted on the first attempt. He said stamp selection is typically a long process and people must persevere until the proposal is approved. He added that commemorative postage stamps have been issued to other minority veterans, such as the Buffalo Soldiers (92nd African American Infantry Division) and the Hispanic American veterans. A Tuskegee Airmen stamp proposal is currently under consideration by the Postal Service as well.

Japanese Americans have received highly welcomed support from the Jewish community stemming from long term associations. Rabbi Abraham Cooper, Associate Dean of the Wiesenthal Center, is a good friend of one veteran of the 522nd FA, which



Rabbi Adam Cooper, Associate Dean of the Wiesenthal Center, at the press conference. Photo courtesy of GFBNEC.

liberated a subcamp of the Dachau concentration camps in Germany. Rabbi Cooper said "in supporting the stamp campaign you are honoring the Nisei soldiers and educating

millions of people on the Nisei WW II experience." Rabbi Shmuel Novack of Jacksonville, Florida, approached the Wiesenthal Center for assistance after he joined the campaign because his grandfather was an officer of the 442nd RCT.

For information, call 714-534-5139, go to www.niseistamp.org, or email info@niseistamp.org. Letters of support and petitions may be sent to: Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, ATTN: Mr. Terrence McCaffrey, USPS – Stamp Development, 1735 North Lynn St, Suite 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432. Also, please send a copy to Wayne Osako, 11422 Presidio Way; Garden Grove, CA 92840.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Older Brother Sister's Life-Long Hero by Laurie Au

[Reprinted with permission from KaMai Forum]

Anxious to see her oldest brother before he left for war, a little girl of 11 sprinted to Pokai Bay and waved at the departing train, passing a blur of men in brown uniforms. "I thought, 'Gee, I hope my brother saw me,'" said Anita Korenaga, now 77, a Waianae resident. A few months after he left, Korenaga received a photo in the mail from her brother Shinyei Nakamine—a photo of her smiling and waving at the passing train. That was in 1941.

Thirty-three years after his death in World War II, Korenaga still visits his grave at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific several times a year. As a ceremony honoring vet-

erans at the cemetery ended yesterday morning, Korenaga and her husband placed a fresh bouquet of flowers next to Nakamine's plot with a little baby blue colored flag that distinguishes him as a Medal of Honor recipient. Nakamine, a private with Hawaii's famed 100th Battalion Infantry, was recognized posthumously by President Clinton in 2000.

On June 2, 1944, his platoon was pinned down by intense machine-gun fire at La Torreto, Italy. Nakamine, on his own initiative, destroyed one machine-gun nest and successfully led the attack on another, killing and capturing several soldiers. Nakamine, 24, was killed by a burst of machine-gun fire while trying to destroy a third machine-gun nest.

"I wish my mom and dad were alive to see the honor that was extended to him. It's sad, and yet we shouldn't forget what they did for us," Korenaga said. "I want my grandchildren to continue doing what we're doing today so that our family never forgets Shinyei." Korenaga, the only daughter and youngest of four, remembers picking kiawe beans with her brother and selling them to plantation workers in Waianae. He taught her how to ride a bike. He bought his baby sister her first pair of shoes. And the money she received for his death paid for her tuition at the University of Hawaii, where she earned a teaching degree to later become a teacher at Waianae High School. "He really took care of me all my life," Korenaga said.

Scholarship News

JAVA will award three scholarships of \$1,000 each, which will be presented in May 2008, from the Orville Shirey, Jack Tashiro and Douglas Ishio Memorial Scholarship Funds (MSF). Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. A summary of the rules that govern the program and the application form were provided in the October 2007 *JAVA ADVOCATE*. They can also be found on JAVA website (www.javadc.org). MAJ Shirey was the G-2 (Intelligence) of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and author of *Americans: The Story of 442nd Combat Team*. Mr. Tashiro was an MIS veteran and was Treasurer of JAVA. Mr. Ishio was an engineer and is the son of JAVA founder COL Phil Ishio, USA (Ret), and his wife Connie. The high points of the scholarship program are as follows:

(1) **Qualifications.** Any applicant who is related by blood or marriage to (A) an honorably discharged Japanese American member of the U.S. Armed Forces, or (B) a member of JAVA for a period of no less than

one year prior to the date of submission of the application.

(2) **Conditions.** All applications must be accompanied by documentation showing that the applicant has been admitted by an accredited academic institution (i.e. a college, university, professional school or institution that provides specialized post high school education).

(3) **Transcript.** A high school transcript, if the applicant were starting post secondary school education, or a certified copy of the college transcript, if already in college, is required.

(4) **Deadline.** Applications must be received by April 1, 2008.

(5) **Send applications to:** JAVA Books – Scholarship Program; P.O. Box 59; Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

For further details please access the JAVA website at www.javadc.org. If you have questions, contact Calvin Ninomiya, Chair, Scholarship Committee

(calvinnino@aol.com; 301-652-8135.

* * * * *

The Go For Broke National Education Center recently announced that the Eiro Yamada Scholarship is now available for students entering college or currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at a trade school, community college, or 4-year college or university. There is no minimum grade point average requirement, just an essay. The deadline is March 15, 2008, and recipients will be notified on or before April 30, 2008.

To qualify, applicants must also be one of the following: (1) a direct descendant of a Japanese American veteran who served during World War II, or (2) a descendant once removed of a Japanese American serviceman or servicewoman killed in action during World War II (i.e. great-niece or great-nephew).

For more information on the scholarship and application, go to www.goforbroke.org.

JAVA Quarterly Luncheon on January 19, 2008

Mark your calendar! The JAVA quarterly lunch will be on Saturday, January 19, 2008, 11:30 AM at the Harvest Moon Restaurant on 7260, Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA (703-573-6000). Call Betty Taira at 202-347-1699 or email to bettyt1201@yahoo.com to reserve your place. Please mail your reservation check payable to "JAVA" to reach Betty by January 17, 2008, to 701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Apt. 1223, Washington, DC 20004.

This meeting is to celebrate another great year for JAVA in terms of substantive accomplishments and projecting JAVA into the league of other major national veterans organizations. We will have two major items on the program. First, MG Thomas Bostic, Commanding General of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, whose headquarters is at Fort Knox, KY, has accepted our

invitation to be our principal speaker. He will speak for 10 minutes about what the new Army is like and the career advantages young men and women can derive while at the same time serving their nation. MG Bostic is African American Japanese.

Second, we have accepted the U.S. Army's offer to attend our luncheon to present a "Commendation package which includes an Army lapel pin, a certificate and letter of appreciation, both signed by the Secretary of the Army Pete Geren and Army Chief of Staff GEN George W. Casey, Jr." This program is called the U.S. Army Freedom Team Salute and is designed "to honor Army veterans of all generations who have worked to keep the U.S. free." Representing Secretary Geren, Ms. Lynn Heirakuji, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, will speak for 5 minutes.

Mukoyama Appointed Chair of VA Committee

MG James H. Mukoyama, Jr., USA (Ret), of Glenview, Illinois, newly appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV), presided over his first ACMV meeting in Washington, D.C. in early November 2007. He has been a member of the ACMV since 2003 and vice chairman since

2005. Mukoyama was appointed as Chairman on July 7, 2007, by Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson. Mukoyama is a Life Member of JAVA.



assesses the needs of minority veterans, and reviews VA programs and activities designed to meet those needs.”

Mukoyama said the job is challenging and believes the Committee’s recommendations have benefited the 360,000 Asian American veterans.

“We do all of this with a specific emphasis on minority veterans. We have definitely made an impact in the past and will continue to focus on how the VA can improve its service to all of our veterans, but especially the minority veterans,” Mukoyama said.

Mukoyama had two combat tours, one as a platoon leader in the Demilitarized Zone in Korea and another as a company commander in Vietnam. Following his Vietnam tour in 1969-70, Mukoyama left active duty and entered private industry. He also joined the reserves in which he served for another 25 years, rising to Division Commander with the rank of Major General, the first Asian

American in U.S. Army history to command a Division, consisting of about 15,000 soldiers. He retired from the reserves in 1995.

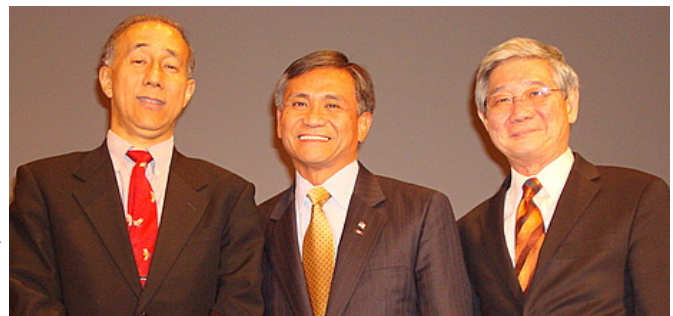
On November 5, 2007, Chairman Mukoyama escorted his Committee and Director McClenney to visit the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Capitol Building. Mukoyama was a former member of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) Board of Directors. Paul Y. Tani, Senior Docent, and Gerald Yamada, Esq, President and Executive Director of the NJAMF, briefed the visitors. At the end of the visit, Kerwin E. Miller, Esq, Veterans Affairs Director of the Government of the District of Columbia and a member of the ACMV, summed up the visitors’ views when he said, “Our solemn visit to the Memorial was a fitting kickoff to our Advisory Committee meeting because it reminds us of the selfless sacrifices and contributions of our Japanese Americans veterans and their families. It will also help us focus on the significant contributions made by our minority veterans and develop sound recommendations for the VA Secretary.”

COL Lucretia McClenney, USA (Ret), Director of the VA Office of Minority Veterans, said “the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, mandated by U.S. Congress, is composed of veterans of all ranks and services appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Members represent the five minority groups the Center is required to oversee. The Committee advises the Secretary and Congress on VA’s administration of benefits and provision of health care to minority veterans,

Pictured Below Left: On Dec. 10, 2007, the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, Japanese American Veterans Association, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Citizens League, and the National Federation of Filipino American Associations held a panel discussion at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. Featured on the panel were Dr. Brian Hayashi (left), Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, and MG Antonio Taguba (right), recently retired from the U.S. Army and the second highest-ranking Filipino American officer. Hayashi is the author of two award-winning books, including *Democratizing the Enemy: The Japanese American Concentration Camps*, and is currently writing a book on Asian Americans who served in the Office of Strategic Services. Taguba is Vice President of Serco Inc. and Chairman of the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors Group. Hayashi discussed his forthcoming book and Taguba discussed his family’s three generations of service in the U.S. Army.

Pictured Below Right, L-R: Hayashi, Taguba, and Dr. Franklin Odo, Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and author of several books, including *No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawaii During WW II*.

Photos by Eric Lachica.



TAPS

Bill Hosokawa, 92, JAVA member, who held various positions in the Denver Post for 38 years, passed away on November 9, 2007, at the home of his daughter, Christie Harveson in Sequim, Washington. He served in the Denver Post as a reporter, war correspondent in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, columnist, editor of Empire, the newspaper's Sunday magazine, and editorial page editor.



Following his graduation in journalism from the University of Washington, he could not find a job in Seattle. He spent a year in Singapore working on the English section of a Japanese newspaper. From there he went to Shanghai, China, where he worked for the Far Eastern Review. He returned to Seattle five weeks before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor

on December 7, 1941, an event that changed his life forever. His chances of finding a journalism job in the U.S. was now remote.

In 1942 Hosokawa, his wife and infant son were incarcerated in the Heart Mountain internment camp in Cody, Wyoming. His daughter, Susan Boatright, said while it was a humiliating experience, "he came away from it not as a bitter man but as someone who wanted to educate the world about that experience and make sure it never happened again." He wrote ten books, including "*Nisei: The Quiet Americans*," about the prejudice Japanese immigrants and their children faced in the United States. While at Heart Mountain, he set up and edited a newspaper distributed to the camp's residents called *The Heart Mountain Sentinel*. In 1943 he got a job at *The Des Moines Register* in Iowa and was thus allowed to leave the Camp.

Hosokawa joined the Denver Post, known for discriminating against minorities, in 1946 when the management changed. The new management

assured Hosokawa that it was his goal to change the Post's reputation and asked Hosokawa to help him achieve that goal. Hosokawa became a dedicated employee of the Post and wrote a book about its history, *Thunder in the Rockies: The Incredible Denver Post*.

A leader of the Japan America Society of Colorado, Hosokawa visited Japan and convinced the Japanese industrialists to build their business ventures in Colorado. From 1974-1999 he served as the Honorary Consul General for Colorado in order to enhance relations between Japan and the U.S. Hosokawa was the recipient of many awards, including the American Civil Liberties Union's Whitehead award for lifetime service on behalf of those who suffer inequality.

Asked what lesson he would pass to young minority journalists, he said "the opportunity is there if you are prepared to seize it. You have to be qualified. You have to have an education. But if you have the stuff to make good with, the opportunity is there."

Wreaths at Arlington Cemetery

Contributed by Lona Ichikawa

My USO volunteer friends and I participated in the Wreaths Across America on Dec. 15, 2007. At 8:30 am in the chilly morning, we all gathered around Mr. Morrill Worcester and his wife Karen (pictured with their daughter) as they gave us guidelines on how to lay the wreaths against each tombstone. This is the 16th year that they have laid wreaths at Arlington Cemetery. Over 2,000 of us came out to join them lay the wreaths in Section 33 and in Section 60 where fresh graves of those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan are laid to rest. They asked us to read each tombstone and think about the person(s) laid to rest there. They wanted us to realize that we may be the first visitor in many years to visit our veteran's tombstone.

My friends and I respectfully laid our wreaths and gazed around in awe as we watched hundreds of people doing the same. So many people were willing to brave the cold and the threat of bad weather to honor these veterans who had given their all for our country.

As we walked among those graves, it really hit me the utter loss that these families felt as I looked at wreaths that had pictures cut and lovingly attached to them. There was one wreath that had several Shrek doll characters glued to it, and I found it so hard to look away. This experience really humbled me and at the same time made me so proud of these veterans and all of us who came out to honor and love what they stood and died for. We are such a patriotic country, and I am so proud to be an American!



Above: Lona Ichikawa and friends from USO at Section 33, Arlington Cemetery. Below: Lona Ichikawa with wreath.



From the Editor



Happy New Year! Wow, what an exciting 2007 we've had in JAVA. I have been receiving so many wonderful articles that JAVA has decided to permanently expand the *JAVA ADVOCATE*, which had previously been limited to 12 pages, in order to accommodate more of the

articles and photos. Thank you to all who have contributed, and keep those great news stories coming!

As I reviewed past issues of the *JAVA ADVOCATE*, I realized that for the October 2007 issue I inadvertently omitted the second part of the late David Halberstam's tribute to the late Gene Takahashi. I have published it in this issue.

I also want to congratulate Lt Col Derek Hirohata, JAVA Life Member, who was selected for promotion to Colonel in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps!

If you have questions or comments, you may contact me at jvaadvocate@gmail.com or send correspondence to me at Kay Wakatake, CMR 435 Box 1317, APO AE 09086 (use regular U.S. mail postage rates, not international rates).

Welcome New Members!

- * Randall T. Hiraki (Mililani, HI)
- Brien Hoo (Daly City, CA)
- Dr. Howard Jay Kline (San Francisco, CA)
- Kenichiro Kobayashi (Sacramento, CA)
- Edwin Y. Mitoma (Rancho Palos Verdes, CA)

- David Masao Miyoshi (Palos Verdes Estates, CA)
- * Jason C. Paraiso (Alexandria, VA)
- Dr. Ellen Sawamura (San Francisco, CA)
- Russell K. Shoho (Placentia, CA)
- Greg Tsujiuchi (Gardena, CA)
- Al Yahanda (San Jose, CA)

* Denotes Life Membership



JAVA Membership Application

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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Spouse's Name: _____

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(Office) _____

(Cellular) _____

Facsimile: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

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

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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:

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7201 White House Drive
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JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
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Please send correspondence to:

General: Terry Shima, ttshima@worldnet.att.net;
301-987-6746

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

Membership: Cal Shintani, cshintani@verizon.net

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

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, jvaadvocate@gmail.com

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

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

Oral History: Dr. Warren Minami,
wminami@comcast.net, 301-279-8742

Education: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 19, 11:30am: JAVA Annual Meeting, Harvest Moon Rest., Falls Church, VA.

Feb 2: Montgomery County Public Schools Teachers' Workshop

Feb 23, 3:30-5:30pm: Day of Remembrance Program, Meyer Auditorium, Free Gallery of Art, Washington, DC

Mar 8: JAVA Executive Council Meeting

Mar 29-30: 442nd Hawaii, 65th Reunion

Apr 4, 6pm: NJAMF 5th Annual Awards Dinner, Washington Capital Hilton, DC

Apr 5, 10am: NJAMF-JAVA 10th Annual Freedom Walk, JA Memorial, DC

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

May 31, 5:30pm: JA Natl Museum Donor Wall Dedication Prog., Los Angeles



Above: WW II Nisei veterans proudly sing the "442nd Fight Song" at Go For Broke Nat'l Education Center Dinner (story on page 10).



Middle, L-R: Rene

Gheeraert, Etienne Pourcher, Jim Yamashita, Zvonka Pourcher, Simon Gheeraert, at the Nisei Veterans Reunion. **Bottom, L-R:** Frank Shimada, Shuji Takemoto, Margaret Cross, Buddy Cross, at the Nisei Veterans Reunion (story on page 5).

