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## U.S. Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony honors WWII Japanese American Veterans

WASHINGTON — A ceremony two years in the making became a reality on Nov. 2, 2011, as members of the House of Representatives and Senate gathered to present Nisei veterans of World War II and families with the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest honor.

With scores of photographers recording the moment, the medal was presented by the Republican and Democratic leaders of Congress to veterans representing the U.S. Army's three Japanese American units: Mitsuo Hamasu of the 100th Infantry Battalion (100th), Susumu Ito of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442nd), and Grant Ichikawa of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

The U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall was filled with veterans in their 80s and 90s as well as spouses of deceased vets and family members of those who were killed in action. In addition to members of Congress, dignitaries included Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

The U.S. Army Band played "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "God Bless America," and, with the Army Chorus, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The 442nd Song." Colors were presented by the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment Color Guard.



Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal, L-R: Susumu Ito, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Grant Ichikawa (holding medal), Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Mitch McConnell.

ion/442nd Infantry Regiment Color Guard.

**House Speaker John Boehner**, who greeted the audience with "aloha" in a nod to the many vets from Hawaii, said that legislation signed by President Obama last year authorized the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to "the Japanese American warriors who made our victory in World War II possible."

"It is my privilege to welcome all the recipients on behalf of every American and we are humbled by your presence today."

Cast in gold, the medal is inscribed with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team motto, "Go for Broke." (pictured at left)



**Dr. Barry Black**, chaplain of the Senate, gave the invocation, saying of the veterans, "May their exemplary service inspire us to cultivate in our lives their courage in danger, their steadfastness in triumph, their perseverance in difficulty ... their love, which nothing can change, and their joy, which nothing can take away."

[continued at CGM on page 4]

## President's Message



On November 2, 2011, the Nisei Soldiers who served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelli-

gence Service during World War II were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can bestow. To those who served, they can find great solace in their decision to put country first in the face of overt prejudice and discrimination by the United States against all persons of Japanese ancestry. They are entitled to bask in this great tribute knowing how proud their families

and the Nation are of what they accomplished for our country.

Their accomplishments are tremendous teaching aids for us and future generations. These soldiers were average Americans who, like others, wanted only to help defend this country. They were willing to answer the call to serve to prove their loyalty. They experienced the same fear of combat, like any other soldier. Yet, they were able to overcome their fears and assemble an unprecedented record of military victories.

What motivated them? The answer may lie in the Japanese family values that were instilled in them by the Issei generation. They were taught the importance of duty, honor, loyalty, and family. They were told that they must not bring shame to themselves or their families. They knew that failure was

never an option. The collective determination to prove their loyalty combined with these Japanese family values gave them the courage to overcome their fears while in harm's way and amass a historic military record that we can all be proud of.

The lesson that we should take from their sacrifices, contributions, and heroic accomplishments is the importance of duty, honor, loyalty, and family. To preserve their legacy, we have the obligation to pass on the same Japanese family values to our children and grandchildren just as our parents instilled those values in us. Let us continue to honor their legacy by fulfilling this obligation.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.  
JAVA President

## Veterans Day Programs at the White House

**Right:** Victor Matsui (MIS), Terry Shima (442nd), Kelly Kuwayama (442nd), and Minoru Nagaoka (442nd) at the White House East Room for Veterans Day Breakfast with President and Mrs. Obama. The Nisei veterans were recommended as guests by GEN Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs in recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal being awarded to the 100th, 442nd and MIS on November 2, 2011. (Fred Elliott)



**Left:** LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret); Kelly Kuwayama (442nd RCT); Beth Chiarelli; General Pete Chiarelli, Vice Chief of Staff, US Army; Terry Shima (442nd RCT); Victor Matsui (MIS); and Minoru Nagaoka (442nd RCT) at the White House East Room Breakfast on November 11, 2011. (Fred Elliott)

### Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate  
Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor  
George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

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### JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus  
Kay Wakatake, MAJ, USA, Editor  
Janelle Kuroda, LT, USN, Assistant Editor

## JAVA website provides resource for Congressional Gold Medal events

WASHINGTON — JAVA's official website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org), offers a comprehensive compilation of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) ceremony and associated events in Washington, DC, from November 1 to 3, 2011. There, website visitors will be able to view the collage of photographs, video coverage, press coverage, and speeches that marked the historic occurrence. "We have tried to provide the visitors to our website a sense of actually being there at the CGM celebration. We understand many wanted to join in the celebration, but couldn't; our website will bring the significant events into your homes," Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA said. The JAVA homepage has links to view the KABC-TV Los Angeles documentary by David Ono, "Witness: American Heroes." From the homepage, you can go to the CGM page that features the compilation of numerous news articles as well as the three-day chronology of events, videos, and speeches.

To go directly to the CGM page, use this URL:

<http://www.javadc.org/Congressional%20Gold%20Medal%202011.htm>

Among the coverage, you will find:

- The Story behind the design of the CGM.
- JAVA Press Release
- How to get the replicas of the CGM
- Events of the three day program
- Press articles on the Washington, D.C. events.

The CGM events by day and time were as follows:

### November 1:

10:30 - 12:00 Noon: WW II Nisei Veterans Program, including Bronze Star Medal presentation, Washington Hilton Hotel, Columbia Hall.

2:15 PM: Wreath Laying Ceremony at the National WW II Memorial Freedom Wall. Video by Matthew Moul.

### November 2:

11:00-12:00 Noon: Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal, Emancipation Hall, US Congress, Speaker Boehner presiding.

4:00-5:00 PM: Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal Replica to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Washington Hilton Hotel Columbia Hall. Video provided by Matthew Moul.

6:00 PM: Gala Dinner. Washington Hilton Hotel International Hall. JAVA is attempting to obtain a video from National Veterans Network.

### November 3:

10:00-11:00 AM: Memorial Service for Next of Kin of KIA at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. If anyone has a video of this Program, please contact Dave Buto ([admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org)).

The three-day program of Congressional Gold Medal presentation and associated events in Washington, DC was arranged by the National Veterans Network, a coalition of some 25 Japanese American veterans and civic organizations of which Christine Sato-Yamazaki is the chairperson. JAVA is a member of the Network.

JAVA invites researchers, students, media, veterans and their families to review this website that has recorded a most important event in Japanese American history. If anyone has any new articles from print or broadcast news organizations and new and interesting photos of the events, please send them to our webmaster, Dave Buto at [admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org) and cc Terry Shima at [ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net).

Follow JAVA on Facebook by accessing the link on JAVA's website:

**[www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/20170473319222](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/20170473319222)**

## Regional Congressional Gold Medal Programs

The National Veterans Network said across the nation, various organizations will be hosting regional programs to celebrate the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei veterans. The programs and points of contact are listed chronologically:

**State of Hawaii** (Honolulu) - December 17, 2011 (Barbara Tanabe - [Btanabe@hoakeacomm.com](mailto:Btanabe@hoakeacomm.com))

**State of Washington** (Seattle) - January 14, 2012 (Dale Kaku - [dandskaku@comcast.net](mailto:dandskaku@comcast.net))

**State of Texas** (Houston) - February 18, 2012 (Gary Nakamura - [garvnakamura@yahoo.com](mailto:garvnakamura@yahoo.com))

**State of Utah** (Salt Lake City) - February 18, 2012 (Jeanette Spencer - [jeanettespencer@me.com](mailto:jeanettespencer@me.com))

**Central California** (Fresno) - February 19, 2012 (Dale Ikeda - [daleikeda@att.net](mailto:daleikeda@att.net))

**Northern California** (San Jose) - February 23, 2012 (<http://www.jamsj.org/>)

**Southern California** (Los Angeles) - February 25, 2012 (Laura Shigemitsu - [lshige@hotmail.com](mailto:lshige@hotmail.com) and Cathy Tanaka - [cazspaz@aol.com](mailto:cazspaz@aol.com))

**State of Oregon** (Portland) - February 26, 2012 (Mari Watanabe - [mari@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:mari@oregonnikkei.org) and Setsy Larouche - [larouche@msn.com](mailto:larouche@msn.com))

**State of Illinois** (Chicago) - April 22, 2012 (Howard Hieshima - [hhieshima@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hhieshima@sbcglobal.net))

## CGM (continued from page 1)

**Rep. Adam Schiff** (D-Pasadena), who introduced the Congressional Gold Medal bill, HR 347, in the House in 2009, remarked, “These remarkable men left a segregated nation to fight and defend America with no guarantee that their own freedom would be defended in return.” He quoted several veterans, including Ichikawa: “On Feb. 19, 1942, President (Franklin) Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. That was the blackest moment of my life—being treated as an enemy alien.” Schiff said, “These American heroes ... fought for the values of America, equality, justice, opportunity, even when those values were denied them at home, and they paved the way for millions of other Americans who proudly wear a uniform today ... It is an honor to be in the same room with you.”

**Rep. Ralph Hall** (R-Texas) commented, “The brave soldiers of the 442nd had the motto ‘Go for Broke,’ and that’s exactly what they did ... Their very heroic efforts are legendary and evident by the thousands of citations, including 9,000 Purple Hearts, awards and accolades bestowed on the members of this regiment ... the most decorated of any unit of its size in the U.S. Army.” He said of Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), a veteran and Medal of Honor recipient, “I’ve served with him in Congress for many years and we’ve had several opportunities to work together. I’m fortunate to count him as a friend. I have great admiration and respect for the courage and determination that he displayed during the war.”

**Sen. Barbara Boxer** (D-Calif.) carried the Senate version of the Congressional Medal of Honor bill, S 1055. She quoted President Harry Truman as telling the Nisei soldiers, “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice – and you won.” “You enlisted even as many of your family members and friends were sent to internment camps,” Boxer added. “You served your country despite being subjected to hurtful slurs and deep suspicion from many of your fellow citizens. Your bravery led your units to become known as ‘Go for Broke’ because of your willingness to risk everything for America...While we can never repay the debt that we owe you, we can and we must recognize your valor and your patriotism, and that is what we are doing here today. So thank you for everything and thank you for making sure we preserve the incredible story of the ‘Go for Broke’ regiments for future generations.”

**Sen. John McCain** (R-Ariz.), a Vietnam veteran, said that the Nisei “did everything that was ever asked of them and more. What is most remarkable is that they did so despite the fact that our nation at times fell short of its responsibilities to them and Americans like them.” The ceremony was significant in another way, he continued. “It’s not every day that the leaders and members of Congress have an opportunity to put aside our usual differences over the pending business of the day to join together in bipartisan unanimity to pay tribute to fellow citizens who have served a just cause greater than their own self-interest. This is therefore a special day.”

**House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi** of San Fran-

cisco said, “It’s a point of pride for me that so many of today’s awardees have San Francisco ties. The Japanese American community enriches our city and is a source of strength to us.” She noted that one Nisei from her district, Yoshio Wada, helped to liberate the Dachau death camp in Germany; another, Frank Masuoka, serving in the Pacific, negotiated the peaceful surrender of hundreds of Japanese soldiers. “Several in my district were part of the effort to rescue the Lost Battalion ... which had been tried and failed twice before,” Pelosi added. “In that single campaign, the 442nd suffered over 800 casualties. The I Company, which broke through the last German roadblock, went in with 185 men and only eight walked out uninjured ... It’s another source of pride to me that many of their accomplishments have been memorialized in the Presidio of San Francisco (where) Building 640 ... was the first headquarters of the MIS ... We’re grateful to the National Japanese American Historical Society for their efforts to create a museum in San Francisco to honor those who served in the MIS.”

In addition to Inouye, another member of Congress, **Rep. Mike Honda** (D-San Jose), was accepting the CGM on behalf of his father, Byron, who volunteered for the MIS “even though his wife and children were behind barbed-wire fences in an internment camp,” Pelosi noted. Paying special tribute to those who never came home, she said the Nisei vets “bring luster to this gold medal, bring honor to this Congress.”

**Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell** (R-Ky.) quoted President Bill Clinton as saying of the Nisei soldiers, “Rarely has a nation been more well served by people it had so ill treated.” Calling the MIS linguists “America’s secret weapon in the war with Japan,” he quoted Gen. Douglas MacArthur as saying, “Never in military history did any army know so much about the enemy prior to an actual engagement.” “Through their tireless efforts during the war, they hastened its end and therefore ensured that countless more lives were not lost,” McConnell said. “Through their tireless efforts after the war, they laid the groundwork for the close relationship that the U.S. and Japan have enjoyed, against all odds, ever since.” Thanking the vets for “their matchless record of bravery and service,” he told them, “Congress honors you today with this medal, but believe me, the honor is all ours.”

**Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid** (D-Nev.) said that the Buffalo Soldiers, an African American unit of World War II, recognized that the Japanese Americans were “as loyal as German Americans, Italian Americans, any other Americans of foreign ancestry, a category into which all of us fall.” Reid agreed, pointing out, “In the end, the blood they shed defending American freedom on the battlefields of Europe ... was just as red.”

Speaker Boehner noted, “For Japanese Americans, the days and months after Pearl Harbor must have seemed like a giant and painful step backwards. Removed from their homes and placed in camps, these loyal Americans endured years of discomfort and disgrace. But out of this story of prejudice comes another story that reaffirms America’s worth.” [continued at CGM on page 5]

## CGM (continued from page 4)

He recounted the Nisei soldiers' "baptism of fire" in the brutal Italian Campaign. "In Italy, the 100th fought the rain and bitter cold, they fought sickness, they fought trench foot, all while fighting the Germans uphill ... The Nisei soldiers quickly established a reputation as some of the best combat soldiers on the front. This reputation was sealed early on when two of their members were attacked on Nov. 29, 1943 by some 40 German soldiers. Things turned out pretty badly for those Germans - 38 killed, one wounded, one captured ... Their bravery and selfless dedication was reflected by all the Nisei fighters wherever they engaged the enemy." Boehner thanked the vets for "fighting to make this the greatest nation on earth."

Sen. Inouye, who received a standing ovation, recalled, "Seventy years ago, Pearl Harbor was bombed by the Japanese. As a result, ... Japanese, whether citizens or immigrants, were declared by the government as being enemy

aliens ... But we didn't sit by and do nothing about it. We petitioned the government to give us an opportunity to demonstrate our love for country and our patriotism, which was granted to us ... It's been a long journey but a glorious one. We wish to thank all of you, all Americans, for this recognition ... I'm certain that I speak for all assembled here, but more importantly I'm sure that those who are resting in cemeteries are pleased with this day."

**Rev. Patrick Conroy**, chaplain of the House of Representatives dedicated his benediction to "those who made the ultimate sacrifice ... and those who suffered personally the pain of rejection in those dark days."

The three-day celebration included a Bronze Star Medal ceremony and a gala dinner at the Washington Hilton, visits to the National World War II Memorial and the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, and a remembrance ceremony for those killed in action.

## Congressional Gold Medal Award events win receive high praise from Honorees and Veterans; Obama congratulates four Nisei Veterans

WASHINGTON – As the result of the National Veterans Network widest reach to contact the maximum number of veterans, three hundred seventeen 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service veterans, a number of them in their late 90's, visited Washington, DC from all parts of the nation, including overseas, for the Congressional Gold Medal Award on November 2, 2011 at the U.S. Capitol. The total number of veterans, widows, next of kin of soldiers who died in line of duty and family members, who participated in this and associated events during the three-day period, were over 3,000.

The dignified award ceremony at the U.S. Capitol was attended by 1,250 Japanese Americans in the Emancipation Hall and two theaters – a ceiling imposed by Congress. An overflow crowd saw the program live at the Washington Hilton Columbia Hall. The award program was carried live, nationally, over C-Span and the Pentagon Channel so viewers, including by Nisei veterans, could view the program live from anywhere in the world.

On November 1, 2011 the *WW II Nisei Veterans program*, that consisted of the award of 40 Bronze Star Medals, was held at the Washington Hilton Columbia Hall for over 2,500, followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the Freedom Wall of the National World War II Memorial on the Mall. About 150 veterans, who were transported to the nation's capital by *Honor Flight* participated in this ceremony. General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the US Army, who pinned the BSM on the veterans said in his keynote address: "Today, diversity is the foundation of our strength, the strength of our Nation, the strength of our Armed Forces, and the strength of our Army, and you all are the foundation of that strength." Throughout the day, veterans and their families were bused to the Memorial.

On November 3, a memorial service was held at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the U.S. Congress. Major General Kelly McKeague, USAF conveyed greetings from General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and introduced former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, who provided the keynote address. At the November 11, 2011 White House breakfast for veterans, President Barack Obama congratulated four Nisei veterans, Kelly Yeiichi Kuwayama, Minoru Nagaoka, Victor Matsui and Terry Shima, on the CGM award.

A reporter contacted a cross section of the population to inquire what the Congressional Gold Medal award means to them:

An inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame and one of the most highly decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War, **Ranger Vincent Okamoto** of Torrance, CA, said, the Congressional Gold Medal "symbolizes the Nisei loyalty, courage, fundamental fairness and personal dignity and [this] is a testament to the glory of the human spirit. This is the legacy of what the Nisei veterans passed on to us. This is our inheritance."

**The Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki**, Ambassador of Japan, said "Congratulations! It's a great honor. The Nisei well deserve it. They fought honorably for their country despite the difficulties they were placed in. Thus, they paved the way to the present place of great respect and esteem to which they are held in this great country. They achieved this so gracefully and with dignity. They won the admiration of not only the people in America. We in Japan are truly proud of the Nikkei. From the bottom of our hearts, *Omedetou gozaimasu.*"

*[continued at High Praise on page 6]*



FORT CARSON, Colo. (Nov. 16, 2011) — Medal of Honor recipient George “Joe” Sakato was a guest of honor at the Change of Command Ceremony of the United States Army’s 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. Mr. Sakato was seated in the front row in a position of honor and was personally recognized by the all of the speakers, including LTG Howard Bromberg, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Forces Command, who presided over the Ceremony, MG David Perkins, outgoing commanding general, and MG Joseph Anderson (pictured), incoming commanding general. Also attending the ceremony were Army Chief of Staff GEN Raymond Odierno. Pictured L-R: MG Anderson, Sakato, and Eric Nishizawa, JAVA life member. (Courtesy of Eric Nishizawa)



WASHINGTON (Nov. 18, 2011) — Following the showing of the film, 442nd: Live with Dignity, Die with Honor, at the Japan Information and Cultural Center in downtown Washington, DC, a reception was held. Minister Hideaki Mizukoshi, Head of Chancery, (R) poses with (R-L) William T. Breer, immediate past President of Japan American Society, WDC and former Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Tokyo; Grant Ichikawa and Peggy Breer. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)

## High praise (continued from page 5)

**Gerald Yamada**, JAVA President, shared these views: The Congressional Gold Medal bestows the highest civilian honor on the Nisei soldiers who proved, with valor and blood, that the federal government was wrong to unjustly imprison 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to question their loyalty as Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor. All Americans of Japanese ancestry -- past, present, and future generations -- have benefited from this recognition.

Three fifth grade students from the Senator Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, Maryland, who studied the Japanese American experience during WW II as part of their classroom work, submitted this joint statement: “The Congressional Gold Medal reminds us that true Americanism is about heart and mind, not physical appearance. These men have set the guidelines to the true American spirit. By volunteering for combat duty, they put their country first and risked their lives to prove their loyalty. *Kelly Souza, Angela Wang and Michelle Zhang*

**William Thompson**, President of 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hawaii and Hqs Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, said “the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Nisei soldiers of WWII not only recognizes their unwavering patriotism but symbolizes what Americanism is all about.”

Mark Pim, US and world history teacher at a Montgomery County, Maryland, Public School, said the Japanese American experience is important to history teachers be-

cause “the stories of the Japanese American internment demonstrates that nations can make great mistakes. Individuals can then make courageous choices to demonstrate their loyalty. Great nations can change and recognize those individuals for their acts of courage and loyalty.”

**Colleen Bernard**, Social Studies Department Chair at the Oakdale High School in Frederick County (Maryland) said: “the fact that our nation embraced its past and elevated these deserving Americans to the status that they were due, propels us closer to fulfilling the dream upon which our nation was founded -- “that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights.”

**MAJ Keith Horikawa**, Commanding Officer, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, whose unit participated in the Washington, DC congressional gold medal programs, said: “Honoring our Nisei veterans at the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony has been an absolute honor for the current members of the 100<sup>th</sup> Bn, 442<sup>nd</sup> Inf as we strive to uphold their examples of honor, courage, and perseverance.

**MG Jason Kamiya**, USA (Ret) said, “Seeing the CGM bestowed on the 100th/442nd/MIS was significant in 3 ways. First, as a son of a 100th Inf Bn veteran it made me even prouder of my dad. Second, as a veteran, it underscored the responsibility I share with other Japanese American veterans to keep memories of “the boys” alive among those who currently serve. And third, as a father, the CGM reemphasized “legacy.”

## JAVA member receives 2011 Best Lawyers Under 40 Award

ATLANTA — Major Kay K. Wakatake, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, received one of the 2011 Best Lawyers Under 40 Awards that were presented at the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Anniversary Gala and Celebration Dinner on November 19, 2011 in Atlanta, GA. These awards recognize talented Asian Pacific American attorneys under the age of 40 who have achieved prominence in their respective areas of law while demonstrating an unwavering dedication to the APA community.

Major Wakatake's legal career has numerous accomplishments. Her last overseas deployment was to the Ramadi-Fallujah combat zone in Iraq where she was the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division.

She played a crucial role in establishing the "rule of law" in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, where she met with numerous dignitaries including provincial governors, district and provincial police chiefs, criminal investigators, Iraqi Army commanders, senior officers, and judges. She was the primary planner and facilitator for the brigade's rule of law operations advising Iraqi military and judicial figures and the U.S. Stability Transition Team. Putting mission before personal safety, Major Wakatake frequently "went outside the wire" to meet personally with the Iraqi officials at their offices to reinforce and monitor the progress of the brigade's operations, while offering advice and assistance to the Iraqi partners.

She played a critical role in handling criminal investigations. When a tragic double homicide occurred, Major Wakatake tirelessly advised the commanders and military criminal investigators, and served as a confidant to sol-

diers affected by the horrific fratricide. Major Wakatake also supervised the prosecution of another double homicide, leading to a conviction and life sentence.

As Chief of Legal Assistance at Fort Lewis, Washington, Major Wakatake's office received the highly-coveted "Army Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance." As the Officer-in-Charge of the Mannheim Law Center in Mannheim, Germany, her office received the "Army Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance" and the "Army Judge Advocate General's Excellence in Claims Award."

As one of the top military lawyers, she is currently attending the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and will be re-assigned to the Pentagon when her course of study is completed in December 2011.

In 2008 Major Wakatake co-founded the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), of which she serves as co-chairperson. Since 2007, Major Wakatake has served on the Executive Council of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). She has also served as the Editor of JAVA's quarterly newsletter, "The Advocate", since 2006 even while deployed Stateside outside of the DC area, in Europe, and in Iraq.

JAVA congratulates Major Wakatake on her award. JAVA President Gerald Yamada said, "This award is well deserved. We are fortunate to have a talented lawyer like Kay on our governing board and look forward to her return to the DC area in January 2012."

## Holiday wreaths honor Veterans at DVA National Cemeteries

[Department of Veterans Affairs press release]

WASHINGTON – Volunteers placed holiday wreaths at Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) national cemeteries on Saturday, Dec. 10, to honor the Nation's Veterans.

"This generous gesture to remember our Veterans at this time of year shows that Americans cherish the service and sacrifice of these heroes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The volunteers who turn out for this event show America's heartfelt, true holiday spirit."

At most locations, the Civil Air Patrol organized wreath-laying ceremonies with assistance from local citizens and Veterans service organizations. All 131 DVA national cemeteries receive wreaths, one for each military service branch, one for the Merchant Marines and one for prisoners of war and those missing in action.

This is the sixth year that Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, distributed wreaths to all DVA national cemeteries and state Veterans cemeteries in a nationwide program called *Wreaths Across America*. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> year that the Company -- which cre-



ated the program -- sent thousands of wreaths to be placed at individual gravesites at Arlington National Cemetery and other locations across the country. Company President Morrill Worcester seeks to recognize Veterans, active duty military and their families, and his goal is to remind the public to remember Veterans and teach children the value of freedom.

## Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 103 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the US Army's 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the US Army, 23 in the US Air Force, 17 in the US Navy, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the US Marines and US Coast guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islands, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

### BG Clarence M. Agena



Brigadier General Clarence M. "Mert" Agena was appointed by Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano as the Deputy Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense; and Commander, Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG), from January 26, 2000 to March 31, 2003. As commander of the HIARNG, he was re-

sponsible for more than 3,500 soldiers serving in Headquarters, State Area Command, and three major commands; the 29th Brigade Combat Team, 103rd Troop Command, and the 298th Regiment Regional Training Institute. Units are spread over five islands in Hawaii, five other states, and two territories.

General Agena was born in Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, and graduated from Lahainaluna High School in 1962. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Univ. of Hawaii and was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC program in 1967. His active duty assignments included overseas tours in Korea and Vietnam. General Agena is a graduate of various military schools, including the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. As a field artillery officer, he served in various command and staff positions, including combat assignments with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Vietnam.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with V-device and Oak Leaf Cluster.

General Agena said, "I chose to serve in the US Army because of my love for the military. With the ongoing draft and the Vietnam War during the 1960's, I wanted to serve my country and Hawaii as a commissioned officer. After my active duty service, I continued to serve in the Hawaii Army National Guard. Today, I'm very proud of our military service members serving this great nation."

His wife of 26 years, Chong Ye, passed away on June 4, 2011.

### RDML Peter A. Gumataotao



Rear Admiral Peter Aguon Gumataotao became the first Guamanian U.S. Navy officer to attain flag rank when he was promoted to rear admiral lower half Sept. 11, 2009.

Gumataotao hails from Sinajana, Guam, where he lived and worked on his family's ranch. One of five brothers, he lived in Guam until he turned 18. He then left home to attend the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Newport, R.I. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management. He holds a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

"My parents gave me a solid core of values, like working hard, respect for others and dedication," said Gumataotao. A surface warfare officer, Gumataotao has deployed extensively to the Western Pacific, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Gulf. Gumataotao said he has never forgotten his roots. He feels that career experiences, including 11 deployments, have only added to the foundation his parents gave him.

"One of the highlights from my time in the Navy was during the maiden deployment of USS Decatur (DDG 73), which was also my first time as the commanding officer. We had the opportunity to pull into Guam," said Gumataotao. "I had reached a point in my life where the Navy had seen fit to give me the awesome responsibility to command a ship, which is an amazing honor and responsibility. But, to be able to share that experience with people who knew me or knew of me, to pull into the same harbor where I used to go fishing as a kid, and to see the island open its arms to me, I felt very blessed and humbled to be given that opportunity and it made me glad that I chosen the Navy as a career.

"Another defining moment was when I was promoted to captain at the USS Arizona Memorial. It was a very fitting and humble setting for the ceremony because just forward of the Arizona during World War II was the USS California, which my dad had served on. So I dedicated that promotion to my dad, and also to my mom who couldn't be there. My father had passed in 1975 and I had joined in 1976, so he never saw me join the military. I thought it was a fitting tribute to a man who was very humble, worked very hard and cared for his family a lot. To fast forward more than 25 years, and dedicate that to my dad in a place where he was fighting for his country, was a defining moment for me as well as an incredible achievement."

*Condensed from biography by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel J. Taylor, Naval Surface Forces Public Affairs [Email [jvaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:jvaadvocate@gmail.com) for the full biography.]*



## News from other Veterans Organizations

HONOLULU — **442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club Hawaii** *Go For Broke Bulletin*, September issue, reported that a landing craft, Logistics Service Vessel LSV-7, named “Staff Sgt Robert T. Kuroda” is home port in Honolulu. Kuroda was killed in October 1944 after destroying two machine gun nests. He received the Medal of Honor. Also, 34 visitors from Bruyeres, France, visited Hawaii in September-October 2011. There is a sister city relationship between Honolulu and Bruyeres.

HOUSTON — **Greater Houston Chapter of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association**, paid high tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> BN, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and the MIS for being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM). Chapter president is Domenic Molinaro and Newsletter editor is Patricia Rumble.

MONTEREY, Calif. — **Peninsula Nisei Memorial Post 1629 VFW**. Post Commander Jim Suzuki reported that sitting officers will continue to serve during the 2011-2012 term.

**Tri-State Chapter of 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association** Fall 2011 Newsletter announced that the 2012 Tri-State reunion will be held in Philadelphia, PA. It also reported on the **National Reunion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association** held on September 6, 2011, at De Moines, Iowa.

LOS ANGELES — **Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV)** November 2011 Newsletter reported that 30 veterans, spouses and friends visited South Korea and China in September 2011. In South Korea they visited such places as the Demilitarized Zone and the JAKWV Memorial at Imjin-Gak.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — **Nisei VFW Post 8985**, November 2011 issue reported that 16 veterans from the area traveled by Honor Flight to Washington DC for the CGM events. Veterans were honored by the applause as the Southwest Airlines pilot announced the reason the Nisei were flying to WDC.

HONOLULU — **MIS Veterans Hawaii** November 16, 2011 issue was devoted to write-ups of the Congressional Gold Medal award in WDC and also the Hawaii salute to the WW II veterans in a regional program in Honolulu on December 17-18, 2011.

HONOLULU — The **100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans Hawaii Puka Puka Parade** provided Joy Teraoka’s excellent report on the 100 Infantry Veterans clubhouse “newly renovated lobby and the Education Center’s exhibits and displays, which she described as having “beauty and dignity.” More information can be obtained from [www.100thbattalion.org](http://www.100thbattalion.org).

### Thank You Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

**Etsu Masaoka Scholarship Fund**  
Grant and Amy Ujifusa (New York)

**General Scholarship Fund**  
Robert F. Nannini (Oregon)

**Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship Fund**  
Lynn Bettencourt (Pennsylvania)

**COL Phil Ishio Scholarship Fund**  
Constance N. Ishio (Maryland)

**JAVA General Fund**  
Yabitoon Books (California)  
Barbara Gardien (Washington D.C.)  
Bryan Horikami (Maryland)  
Judge Charles and Dorie Kobayashi (California)  
Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) (Virginia)

**Round Robin and Advocate**  
CAPT Homer Yasui, USNR (Ret) and Miyuki  
(Oregon)



On November 29, 2011, JAVA Speakers Bureau was invited by Associate Professor Michael Ross to speak at his US history class at the University of Maryland, College Park. 150 students listened to Mary Murakami speak on the internment, Grant Ichikawa on the Military Intelligence Service and the camp experience, and Terry Shima on the 100th Battalion and the 442nd. Following the program, Dr. Ross presented Grant Ichikawa a souvenir UMD tee-shirt and invited the speakers to return next year. (Allison Finkelstein)

# Billy Tucci wins Military Writers Society of America 2011 Gold Medal Book Award for graphic novel *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*

BRIDGEVILLE, Penn. — Billy Tucci, the award-winning creator of the best-selling comic book character *Shi*, and writer/artist of numerous successful comic book stories, has won the 2011 Gold Medal in the Fiction-Thriller category from the Military Writers Society of America (MWSA) for the DC Comics graphic novel, *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*. The MWSA book awards recognize outstanding military-themed books in a wide range of categories from children to adult.

MWSA reviewer Bob Doerr wrote, “*Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* is an outstanding, artistic rendition of the events surrounding the thrust of the 141st Infantry during the days immediately after D-Day. As the 141st penetrated deep into the Vosges Mountains, they soon found themselves cut off from the rest of the Allied Forces, surrounded and outnumbered by the German Army. For five days the 141st fought desperately to break loose while the 442nd Regimental Combat Team made up primarily of Japanese American soldiers broke through the Nazi lines to rescue the trapped Battalion. The author did a great job presenting the story and his excellent artistic talents delivered page after page of superior illustrations.”

“Of all the awards and accolades *The Lost Battalion* has garnered, the MWSA Gold Medal will forever hold a special place in my heart,” Tucci stated. “To be recognized by such an esteemed, respected, and dare I say “famous” fellowship of peers is truly a great, great honor! But the book was very much a team effort.

The Military Writers Society of America is an association of more than 800 authors, poets, artists, and photographers whose core principle is a love of the men and women who defend this nation, and an understanding and respect of their sacrifice and dedication.

Billy Tucci is an award-winning illustrator, writer, and filmmaker best known for his modern-day samurai fable, *Shi*. *Shi* has been printed in five languages, sold more than 3 million comic books, and grossed over 25 million dollars worldwide. *Shi* has been featured on every major American TV network while also garnering praise in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today*.



Self-portrait of the artist Billy Tucci. (Courtesy of Billy Tucci)

**WANTED: Articles about you!**  
 The *JAVA Advocate* will begin a new column to shine the spotlight on our members. Send your pictures and fun facts (family, interests, military service, etc.) to [javaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javaadvocate@gmail.com). We would like to feature 2 members in each issue: a retired veteran and a recent veteran or currently serving military member.



## JAVA Speakers Bureau activities

BETHESDA, Md. (Nov. 12, 2011) — Grant Ichikawa, JAVA Speakers Bureau, at the Washington DC Japanese Heritage Center School in Bethesda, Maryland. Participants ranged from 7-9 year olds to adult students; however, the young students monopolized the questions and answers period. Mr. Tsu-bakitani is the superintendent of the school. At the end of the program Ichikawa was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Following the program, Ichikawa said "I really enjoyed talking to the students" (Steve Ozone)

FORT RILEY, Kan. (May 18, 2011) — Victor Matsui, member of the JAVA Speaker's Bureau who resides in Williamsburg, Virginia, was invited to speak at the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas Asia Pacific American Heritage Month festivities that included Polynesian dancers and Asian food. Deputy Commanding General Brigadier General Randal A. Dragon and Mrs. Dragon and 200 military and family members participated in the event.

Matsui discussed the evacuation order, his military service, the accomplishments of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. He discussed such details as the number of key awards received, the 442<sup>nd</sup> rescue of the trapped Texas battalion in the Vosges forests of northeastern France, Governor John Connally's proclamation which honored all 442<sup>nd</sup> members as honorary citizens of Texas. Matsui also discussed President Harry Truman's review of the 442<sup>nd</sup> at the Ellipse, the outer south lawn of the White House, on July 15, 1946 following its march down Constitution Avenue when the President confirmed to the Japanese Americans their loyalty to America.

BG Dragon presented Matsui with a memento of Fort Riley and lunch was served that included a whole roast pig. Matsui was taken on a tour of Fort Riley that included the horse stalls of General George Armstrong Custer.



RICHMOND, Tx. (Nov. 2, 2011) — Sandra Tanamachi, teacher at Stephen F. Austin Elementary School, was invited to speak at the school's annual Veterans Day Program. Tanamachi, who attended the program at the U.S. Congress on November 2, 2011 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Nisei units, discussed the Japanese American experience during WW II. She said that the majority of the people present had not known about the Japanese American internment and military accomplishments. Veterans were also present at the school's Veterans Day Program. (Courtesy of Sandra Tanamachi)



## Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from VA announcements]

Dec 1, 2011 — [Saipan Tribune](#)  
"Changes can now be seen" at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, "which has 'come a long way' in its ongoing efforts to build a healthcare system that would better serve veterans on the islands."

\* \* \* \* \*

Nov 30, 2011 — [Washington Post](#)  
"Propelled by the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which took effect in 2009, 2 million veterans, many of whom served in Iraq and Afghanistan, are eligible for generous benefits that can amount to a full scholarship." Because of this, "colleges are contending with adjustment problems and serious disorders far different

from those for which their staffs have been trained: traumatic brain injury; post-traumatic stress related to combat and often accompanied by depression and substance abuse.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nov 30, 2011 — [InformationWeek](#)  
"Rural areas in six states will get \$6 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to help finance 10 telehealth projects" that "will deliver health and education services to rural areas currently lacking adequate healthcare in the Delta region."

\* \* \* \* \*

Nov 29, 2011 — Clarksville (TN) Leaf Chronicle. Local artist Lynne Griffey has donated a painting to "the

'Wreaths Across America' program, an effort that is backed in this area by the local Gold Star Wives Eagles chapter, together with the American Legion" The painting depicts "standard military tombstones rising above a blanket of stones and keep them from fading into obscurity".

\* \* \* \* \*

Nov 28, 2011 — Houston Chronicle. There is a "growing number of women veterans seeking healthcare at VA hospitals and clinics nationwide, just as more women join the military and take on de facto combat roles in Iraq and Afghanistan. In the past decade the number of women veterans using VA health services has doubled from almost 160,000 to 315,000.

## Springfield, Virginia WWII Nisei Veterans lived parallel lives

by Tom Jackman, *Washington Post*, December 7, 2011 [condensed from original article]

SPRINGFIELD, Va. — The lives of George Nakamura and Yukio Kawamoto have traveled on amazingly parallel paths. They were born two weeks apart in California in 1919, both joined the Army early in 1942 after World War II broke out, and both were assigned to military intelligence and served in the South Pacific. After the war, both spent their careers in public service, both had four children, and then both retired to the Greenspring community in Springfield. Last month, both received the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) for their service in World War II, which both men performed even as both their parents were sent to internment camps.

At 92, both men are still married, healthy, and extremely sharp. Both were American children of Japanese parents, both nearing the end of college, when Pearl Harbor was bombed 70 years ago. So both had to confront the dilemma of fighting against the country of their heritage. This was trickier for Kawamoto, whose family lived in San Francisco and was quickly restricted in its movements after Japan's attack.

But both entered the Army without hesitation. "They didn't like that," Kawamoto said of his parents, "but what can you do? You're an American citizen, you've got to do your duty. They were reticent until I was drafted." Nakamura said the loyalty of Japanese-Americans was being questioned after Pearl Harbor, and some Japanese-American students passed around petitions listing their support for the U.S. "That was not good enough for me, so I joined" without consulting his parents, Nakamura said. "It's my duty to fight for the U.S. There was no question about it. So I did that."



Kawamoto spent a year at New Caledonia in the Army's South Pacific headquarters, translating seized Japanese documents and helping to interrogate Japanese prisoners, then performed the same duties with the 37th Infantry Division on New Guinea. Nakamura was sent to Australia, where he worked with intercepted Japanese communications and documents. "I was getting tired of that," Nakamura said. "I wanted to go to the front. I joined the Army to see some

action." He was sent to New Guinea, and in January 1945 at Lingayan Bay, his convoy found a hidden Japanese lieutenant. Nakamura and others convinced 22 Japanese soldiers to surrender, for which he received a Bronze Star.

Kawamoto and Nakamura, whose paths crossed only at Camp Savage, Minnesota in 1943, and then one chance meeting in the 1970s, met again when Nakamura moved into the Greenspring retirement community in 2010. Kawamoto had moved there in 2007. Kawamoto said there were still a good number of members of the Japanese-American Veterans Association. "We have monthly lunch meetings," he said. "We're still pretty regular."

*The Library of Congress's Veterans History Project has a photo album and video interviews with [Yukio Kawamoto here](#). [EdNote: Nakamura and Kawamoto are Life Members of the Japanese American Veterans Association, headquartered in Washington, DC. Full article can be read on JAVA website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org), Congressional Gold medal, Events.]*

## Historic visit at Navy Yard marks 151st Anniversary of initial Japanese Delegation visit

by Lt. Janelle Kuroda, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, Wash. D.C. – Descendants of one of the first Japanese ambassadors to the U.S. commemorated their ancestor's initial visit to the U.S. by meeting officials at their initial port visit. Commander David Keck, Executive Officer of Naval Support Activity Washington met with Masazumi Muragaki and six family members, descendants of Japanese Ambassador Naomasa Muragaki on September 16, 2011.

Naomasa Muragaki was one of three Japanese diplomats who visited the U.S. in 1860 to establish a solid bond of friendship between the two nations. They arrived at the Washington Navy Yard and were received there with a military parade before receptions at the U.S. Capitol and the White House by President James Buchanan, according to Library of Congress records.

Some eighty years later, one of his relatives, Naomasa Muragaki's descendant, Masazumi Muragaki served as a Japanese fighter pilot engaged in aerial dogfight with American aviators to defend Japan. Sixty five years later, Masazumi Muragaki wanted to visit the same site as the original Japanese delegation landed to reaffirm the friendship between two allies.

Cmdr. Keck met with the Masazumi Muragaki and family at the Washington Navy Yard. Dr. Edward Marolda, U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Historian briefed the Muragaki family on the history of the Washington Navy Yard. Cmdr. Keck and Dr. Marolda led the group on a historical tour of the yard, retracing the footsteps of their ancestor.



The Muragaki family presents Commander David Keck with a framed photo of their ancestor's diplomatic visit to the Washington Navy Yard in 1860. (Naval District Washington)

Cmdr. Keck exchanged bonds of friendship by presenting a framed wood block print of the Perry expedition. The Muragaki family presented Cmdr. Keck with a framed photo of the inaugural Japanese visit to the Navy Yard in 1860.

The Muragaki visit to the Navy Yard was documented by Japanese media NHK. The Muragaki family also met with Ambassador Fujisaki during their five-day visit to Washington, D.C.

### Welcome New Members!

Nelson Akagi  
Bernard Akamine  
COL Michael Bosack, USA (Ret)  
BG K.K. Chinn, USA  
Takeshi Furumoto  
Glenn S. Fushimi  
LTC Allen Goshi, USA  
Kiram Hagiwara  
CSM Richard Hamai, USA (Ret)  
MSG Kazuo J. Hashimoto, USA (Ret)  
Glenn K. Hayashi  
Akira Horiuchi  
Edward M. Horiuchi  
Masaji Inoshita  
CSM Robert Nobuo Izumi, USA (Ret)  
Kazuo Ted Kamibayashi  
Henry K. Kanazawa  
Koso Kanemoto  
Eugene M. Kimura

George Yoji. Kiyomoto  
Muneaki Konishi  
Wesley K. Koyano  
Alan Kuramoto  
CAPT Cynthia Macri, USN  
Kaoru Masuda  
David Masuoka  
Harry Takeo Matsumoto  
Tadami Matsuoka  
Masao Mori  
MSG David Nishitani, USA (Ret)  
MSG Kazumi Oda, USA (Ret)  
Jack H. Ogami  
Henry K. Ozaki  
Masaharu Saito  
Haru Sakaji  
SPC Yohei Sakamoto, USA  
ENS Sidney Sakota, USN  
Hitoshi G. Sameshima

Joe T. Seto  
Steve Fumio Shimizu  
Ted Shimizu  
PO1 Cary Shiosaki, USNR (Ret)  
1SG Christopher Sower, USA (Ret)  
C. Douglas Sterner  
Tamio Tom Suyama  
CAPT Rory Nobuyuki Suzuki, USN  
Russell Takashima  
Richard Tochiwara  
Minoru Tonai  
Saburo Tsuboi  
Masayoshi Tsuida  
Roy Tsuya  
Marvin Tetsushi Uratsu  
Ted Wakai  
DWO3 Donald Wakida, USN (Ret)  
William Toshio Yasutake  
Iwao Yonemitsu  
Robert M. Yonemitsu

## TAPS Adolph Charles "Ace" Rosner Jr.

MAJ Ace Rosner was a regular participant in the JAVA contingent of the American Veterans Center Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Ave. He rode shotgun in Jaime Steve's WW II jeep. Whenever the jeep engine stopped running, Ace would jump out, open the hood, do something and the jeep would start up again. Ace died on November 9 at age 94. A former CIA officer, Ace was a skilled race-car driver.

During WW II Ace was an officer in the 3rd Division, 30th Infantry, 1st Battalion, Ace participated in four invasions: Morocco, Sicily, Salerno and Anzio. It was at Anzio in 1944 that a German mortar shell tore his right arm to ribbons.

Ace became good friends with JAVA marchers – a friendship derived from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division fighting with the 100<sup>th</sup> "Purple Heart" Battalion at Anzio.

JAVA marchers will miss Ace but hope that Jaime and his jeep would continue participating with JAVA for many more parades.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Francis Sogi, Esq. ( MIS Veteran )

Francis Sogi, Esq., MIS veteran, JAVA lifetime member, died at age 88, in Kona, Hawaii, on November 3, 2011.

He was an international lawyer admitted to practice both in New York and Japan and a partner at Kelley, Drye & Warren. He founded the Sogi Foundation in 1980. He served as Chairman of the Board of the Japanese American National Museum and Emeritus Trustee. Emperor Akihito of Japan awarded Mr. Sogi the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

In 2004, Mr. Sogi published his memoirs, "Riding The Kona Wind". He is survived by his wife, Sarah M. Sogi, his son, James Sogi.

## Donations needed for Memorial Day Arlington gravesite decorations

On Sunday, May 27, 2012, the day before Memorial Day, JAVA and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) of Washington D.C. will continue its tradition of jointly hosting a memorial program at Arlington National



Cemetery. The event consists of three parts. The first is a program at the Pavilion near the Columbarium, where two guest speakers pay tribute to Japanese Americans who died in line of duty to serve their nation. The second, following the Pavilion program, consists of the decoration of all 70 Japanese American gravesites with flowers. Third, at 11:30 am a wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown. The wreath bearers consist of the two

guest speakers, and a representative each from JAVA and JACL.

JAVA needs your help in funding its share of the gravesite flowers and wreath. If you wish to donate to the JAVA Arlington Cemetery floral program, please send your tax exempt check, payable to JAVA, to: Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153.

If there are any questions or comments, please contact Terry Shima by email at [ttshima@comcast.net](mailto:ttshima@comcast.net).



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# From the Editor



The founding and oldest members of JAVA, our WW II Veterans, continue to offer something timeless to us all: inspiration. The JAVA Speakers Bureau help us convey this inspiration to others. It arises out of inherently dramatic wartime stories that are heroic, tragic, and sometimes even comedic.

Last weekend I watched *Only the Brave*, a movie produced by and starring Lane Nishikawa. It features Tamlyn Tomita, Pat Morita, Jason Scott Lee, and Mark Dacascos. It was inspired by the true stories of WW II Nisei Veterans and the rescue of the Lost Battalion. The film focuses not only on battlefield bravery, but also on the emotional toll of war and post-traumatic stress disorders. For highlighting these problems, *Only the Brave* deserves high praise.

The film is not without its lighter moments. I particularly enjoyed its depiction of the cultural differences and competitive banter between the Hawaii boys and the Mainland boys—differences in accent, mannerisms, and affectionate teasing that gives the characters real depth. Flashbacks provide dramatic tension and a narrative for each soldier that represents fairly the personal struggles left behind: loved

ones uprooted and stripped of possessions, but mustering a strong sense of community even in the internment camps, for example.

*Only the Brave* honors those who go to war, those who wait for their return, and those who help heal the wounds of battle and separation. To learn more about *Only the Brave*, visit the official website at [www.onlythebravemovie.com](http://www.onlythebravemovie.com).

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to [jvaadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:jvaadvocate@gmail.com).



## JAVA Membership Application

(Free Life Membership for WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans, and 100th Bn-442nd Inf Vets and Active)

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

Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15

Life Membership: \$300

(WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War Veterans, 100th Bn-442nd Infantry

Veterans and Active members: Life Membership fee waived)

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:  
Bruce Hollywood  
38 Kinross Drive  
Stafford, VA 22554

## JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

c/o Amour LLC  
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd. #104  
McLean, Virginia 22101



### Please send correspondence to:

**General:** Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net, 301-987-6746  
William E. Houston, houstonnavy@aol.com,  
703-380-8175

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

**Facebook:** Janelle Kuroda, janellekuroda@gmail.com

**Freedom Walk:** Martin Herbert, Martyherb@aol.com,  
703-509-6473

**Membership:** Bruce Hollywood,  
hollywoodweb@comcast.net

**Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery:** Terry Shima (temp)

**Memorial Day Parade:** Martin Herbert (See above)

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

**Newsletter:** Kay Wakatake, javaadvocate@gmail.com

**Oral History:** Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

**Policy:** Gerald Yamada, President, 703-938-3074,  
gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com

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

**Round Robin:** Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net  
Brett Egusa, begusa@gmail.com

**Sakura Matsuri:** Reuben Yoshikawa, reubenyo@cox.net,  
703-795-2512

**Scholarship:** Ray Murakami, mary2mur@aol.com

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

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

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

JAVA is now on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/20170473319222](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/20170473319222)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 14, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, Va.

Feb. 23: Fairfax County Asian American History Project luncheon. [Corazon Sandoval Foley]

Mar. 10: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Mar. 31: Freedom Walk.

Apr. 14: Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival)

Apr. 21, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon.

May 27: Memorial Day Program with JAACL at Arlington.

May 28: Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C.

Jun. 9, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon.

Jun. 16: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

July 27: Korean War Memorial Program (with JAKWV)

Sep. 8: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Oct. 13, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon.

Oct. 21: PPALM Annual Reception

Nov. 11: Veterans Day Program (JA Memorial)

Nov. 12: Veterans Day Program at Arlington Cemetery.

Dec. 8: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Jan. 19, 2013: JAVA Quarterly Lunch (installation of new officers)

## JAVA Booth at Congressional Gold Medal Award events



WASHINGTON — CAPT Rory Suzuki, USN, applying for membership at the JAVA booth at the Washington Hilton Hotel Columbia Room, headquarters of the Congressional Gold Medal Award events, on November 1, 2011. Chris DeRosa, JAVA Booth chair, looks on while Docent Joyce Casso is texting a message to her mother, Fumi Yamamoto. (Mike Yaguchi)