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## JAVA presents Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award to Japan Ambassador Fujisaki

Tyson's Corner, Va. — His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Japan's Ambassador to the United States, received the Japanese American Veterans Association's (JAVA) highest recognition, the *COURAGE, HONOR, PATRIOTISM* Award, at a special luncheon in his honor at the prestigious Tower Club, located in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, on September 15, 2012. Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, in presenting the award, said Ambassador Fujisaki is recognized for his leadership in strengthening the U.S.-Japan alliance, for promoting ties between the government and people of Japan and the Japanese American community in America, and for forging a bond of friendship with JAVA. The citation accompanying the award, read by Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, U.S. Army, provided details of some of the Ambassador's accomplishments over his tenure in Washington, D.C., which spanned more than four years. *[Continued at Fujisaki on page 5]*



JAVA President Gerald Yamada (right) presents JAVA's Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award to Japan Ambassador His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki (left). (Bruce Hollywood)

## Sen. Akaka receives Lifetime Achievement Award



U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka accepting Citation, Congressional Gold Medal replica, and desk clock. L-R: JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Senator Akaka, Lieutenant Janelle Kuroda, USN. (Bruce Hollywood)

Washington, D.C. — "When I became a U.S. Senator, I was determined to correct the injustice done to persons of Japanese ancestry, particularly those who served in the uniform of our country," U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka told JAVA representatives on September 27, 2012, when they visited him at his office in the Hart Building of the U.S. Senate. He is America's first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry, and the only Chinese American member of the United States Senate.

Already the recipient of JAVA's highest award, *The Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*, in 2007, Senator Akaka was presented with JAVA's *Lifetime Achievement Award*. *[continued at Akaka on page 5]*

## President's Message



JAVA will again commemorate Veterans' Day with a program at in Washington, DC on November 11, 2012. You are invited to join us.

On Veterans' Day, we honor those who served in the US military to keep America safe and free. In remembering the Nisei soldiers of World War II, who put themselves in harm's way to prove their patriotism to America, we must not forget those who stepped forward

to provide leadership for a community distrusted by our government.

In particular, we are grateful to Mike Masaoka. Mike had the foresight to urge the government to allow Japanese Americans to volunteer to serve and to create a segregated fighting unit. The Army initially rejected the idea not wanting to give rifles to soldiers whose loyalty to America was suspect. The Army relented and created the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Mike was proud that he was the first to volunteer for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.

Ironically, the racial prejudice that led to Executive Order 9066 created the opportunity for Mike to advocate for a segregated Japanese American combat unit. Without this opportunity, Japanese Americans who served probably would have been assigned to non-combat duties such as clerk, cooks, mess attendants, etc. If given the choice, the Army would not have given them rifles because the Army was still suspicious of Japanese Americans.

Because of Mike's foresight, the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT was formed and given the opportunities to prove themselves. They showed their valor and assembled a combat record that has yet to be surpassed. This opportunity will never again be available to any ethnic group. Based, in part, on the contributions made to the war effort by the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and Tuskegee Airmen, President Truman ordered the military to be integrated thereby eliminating the segregated Army units.

JAVA will hold its Veterans' Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. It was Mike Masaoka's idea to build a national memorial to the valor of the Nisei soldiers who served during World War II. His proposal later evolved into the legislation authorizing the building of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism as a national memorial.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.  
JAVA President

### JAVA's Open Letter about the musical "Allegiance"

The musical "Allegiance" follows a fictional Japanese American family during World War II and the turbulent events that led to the main character's family's evacuation from their farm to the wastelands of Wyoming in the Heart Mountain internment camp.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada attended a live performance of the musical on October 12, 2012 in San Diego, CA. Reflecting on the portrayals in the play, Mr. Yamada remains disappointed with several misleading themes and characterizations, such as the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT) being created as a "suicide" unit, those who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT were "duped" into volunteering by Mike Masaoka (who is the only nonfictional character in this fictional story), and the failure to hold accountable the government officials responsible for the unjustified forced evacuation and imprisonment of Japanese Americans and persons of Japanese ancestry under Executive Order 9066.

The full web page text of the JAVA letter can be found at <http://javadc.org/organization/letters/setting-the-record-straight-the-play-allegiance/>.

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## 442nd Veteran served in 3 wars; considers service in 442nd high point in Army career

by Major Gerald A. Gustafson, USA (Ret)

Chandler, Ariz. — When I first reported to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team Headquarters at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, (as a Lieutenant, in 1944) and saw the soldiers I wondered who they were -- Chinese? Filipino? Siamese? I admit I had some misgivings and wondered if I had volunteered for the right outfit. The answer to my question was provided a few minutes later when I was ushered into the office of the Regimental Commander, Colonel Charles W. Pence. He assigned me to Cannon Company and added, "These men are Americans of Japanese ancestry. They are fine soldiers and I am damn proud to be their commander. If you have any problems serv-



ing with them, develop a prejudice or bias, report to my adjutant and you will be transferred within 24 hours!"

When I took over my platoon, I was somewhat apprehensive. I did not understand the problems of the "concentration camps" and the relationships between the islanders and the mainlanders. Their names and terms like "Buddha-heads," "Katonks," "Haoles," and their pidgin English confused me. After all, I was just a young lad from the small country town of Stockton, Illinois. We had no African Americans, no Asians  
[continued at Three wars on page 4]

1st Lt Gerald Gustafson, USA, and 1st Lt Hito-shi "Moe" Yonemura, USA, Cannon Company, 442nd RCT. Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in 1944.

## JAVA, JAKWV present wreath at Korean War Memorial Ceremony

The Mall, Washington, D.C. — The Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV), a national organization with headquarters in Los Angeles, and JAVA jointly presented a wreath at the National Korean War Memorial, located on The Mall, Washington, D.C. on July 27, 2012 at 10:00 A.M. Sponsored by the Korean War Veterans Armistice Committee, the date and time of the event commemorated the 59th anniversary of the signing of the armistice ending the fighting of the Korean War.

Grant Ichikawa, a veteran of the Korean War, represented JAKWV, and Terry Shima, a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of World War II, represented JAVA. Other nations that fought in the Korean War as well as other veterans organizations presented wreaths.

Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, was the principal speaker. He paid tribute to the Korean War veterans, mentioning that his father also served in that war.

The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea invaded South Korea and overran Seoul, the South Korean capital. U.S. forces arrived on July 4, 1950, followed by ground forces of 16 other nations, including Great Britain, France, and Australia. By September 15, 1950, the North Koreans retreated to their territory north of the 38th parallel. General Douglas MacArthur called for the North Koreans to surrender and, when they did not respond, a full scale invasion was ordered on October 9, 1950. On October 10, 1950, forces of the People's Republic of China, with the support of the Soviet Union, crossed the 38th parallel, counter attacked with 300,000 troops, and invaded Seoul for the second time. Seoul was retaken by the Allies on March 15, 1951, and by the end of that month the Chinese forces had retreated to their side of the 38th parallel. On July 10, 1951, peace negotiations began and this would continue to July 27,



L-R: Terry Shima, representing JAVA, and Grant Ichikawa, representing JAKWV. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)

1953, when an armistice agreement was reached. The ROK did not sign the agreement. Approximately 1,500,000 American troops served in Korea during the conflict and nearly 53,000, including 256 Japanese Americans, were killed in action. On May 15, 2001, JAKWV built and dedicated a memorial at Imjin Gak, Paju-City, Kyonggi-do province, Korea, "to foster friendship and understanding between the Korean people and the Japanese American community."

Since the armistice, the South Korean economy has transformed from poverty to one of Asia's biggest. It leads the world in internet access, is a global innovator in consumer electronics and is now home to some of the biggest automotive, electronic, and ship building companies. The ROK is the 7th largest trading partner of the United States and the 11th largest economy in the world.



## Three wars (continued from page 3)

and we knew no prejudice growing up. Perhaps we were a little naïve encapsulated in our own little world. Nevertheless, I was not going to chicken out!

By the time we left for Italy, with help from my Platoon Sergeant Hajime Kamo, and Sergeant John Kashiki, I had pretty well mastered their names. Also, I shared quarters with 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Hitoshi “Moe” Yonemura, a fellow platoon leader. We became close friends, and it was he who educated me about Executive Order 9066 and the incarceration of ethnic Japanese on the west coast of America. Yonemura’s family had been sent to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where he went [continued on page 4 at Three wars] after graduating (from) UCLA in 1942. We had many discussions about this by the railing of our liberty ship as we crossed the Atlantic. I began to sense the pathos and concern of my men who had families in the concentration camps, and the longing and loneliness of the men from Hawaii. It awakened me to just how much anguish, stress and, most of all, sacrifice my men experienced just because they were different. All of that was in addition to being under the duress, danger and hardships of combat. I understood their desire to prove their loyalty and patriotism and to be recognized as good citizens. I even questioned myself. I knew then, and vowed to myself, that I would be the best damn platoon leader I could be!

After World War II, I continued with my military career. When the Korean War broke out I was shipped to South Korea in December 1950. I was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, and fought in four campaigns from January to December 1951 as a rifle company commander. Subsequently, I had the good fortune of being assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where I reconnected with the men of the 442<sup>nd</sup> and Cannon Company. In December 1962, I was assigned to South Vietnam for a year as the briefing Officer for Chief, Military Assistance Advisory Group. I retired in 1964 after 21 years of service.

After my assignment with the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, I could not help but compare that experience with the desegregated Army units of post-World War II. The circumstances of the Nisei were different, of course, than circumstance during the Korea and Vietnam Wars. Yet, when bullets, shells and

grenades are coming at you, it is not much different no matter which war it happens to be!

In my humble opinion, and with due respect to all others, the “esprit de corps” of the 442<sup>nd</sup> was the most outstanding. In addition, I pay tribute to the Nisei who have carried the torch from World War II into the present time. The spirit of “Go for Broke” has never ended. The success of both their individual and group endeavors have enriched their communities and have left an amazing legacy for their sons and daughters and the generations that follow. I can honestly say that the greatest experience of my almost 91 years has been the kindness, the friendship and the love of Cannon Company veterans and their spouses and the remarkable 442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team. I thank the powers above for the small part I had, and am damn proud to have served!

*[Ed Note: Major Gustafson was born in Chicago and grew up in Stockton, IL. He participated in four 442<sup>nd</sup> battle campaigns and received two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, Combat Infantryman’s Badge (CIB) and two Presidential Unit Citations. He received his second CIB in the Korean War. He was a recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal in November, 2011, for his wartime record as a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup>. In his military retirement, Gustafson was a high school social studies teacher in Phoenix, AZ for 18 years.]*



Cannon Company reunion, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 2011. Seated (L-R): Pearl Yanagimachi, Manny Kitagawa, Yuki Murakami. Standing (L-R): Osame Doi, Tsutoma Okabayashi, Arthur Doi, Gerald Gustafson, Frank Sugihara, Sumi Sugihara, Tsuka Murakami.



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## Fujisaki (continued from page 1)

Yamada also presented the Ambassador with a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that was awarded to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service in November, 2011, with the following inscription on a brass plate: "Presented to Ambassador Fujisaki by JAVA for his outreach to WW II Nisei Veterans." Yamada credited Ambassador Fujisaki with reaching out to JAVA by giving that organization numerous opportunities to meet with him and other high ranking Japanese government officials.

In his response, the Ambassador said he appreciated the award and will always remember the many friendships that he has made while serving as Ambassador to the

United States. He included that he will especially remember the many occasions in which he had the opportunity to visit with JAVA members and with Japanese American veterans organizations throughout America.

Ambassador Fujisaki was born in Kanagawa Prefecture after the end of World War II. He attended school in Seattle during his father's diplomatic assignment there. He also attended Keio University, Tokyo, and joined the Japanese diplomatic service in 1968. After assignments in Europe and Tokyo, he was assigned to Washington, D.C., with the rank of Minister for a four year period following which he returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Tokyo. Subsequently, after a tour in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2005, Fujisaki was posted to Washington, D.C., in 2008 as Ambassador. The Ambassador announced that he will be leaving America in a couple months to return to Tokyo for retirement.

## Akaka (continued from page 1)

*Achievement Award*, a framed citation which listed his major accomplishments for veterans, including Japanese Americans, an inscribed desk clock and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that was bestowed upon the 100th Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) last Fall.

In presenting the award, JAVA President Gerald Yamada, told Senator Akaka "you have championed issues that are important to veterans and you are a true friend and supporter of all veterans and their families. You have a long and personal relationship with JAVA and have been an Honorary JAVA Chair since its inception in 1993." The inscription on the desk clock and the medal case said "For outstanding leadership and support on veterans matters."

Senator Akaka said he was deeply touched by this recognition and he philosophized on his support for all veterans, including the Nisei veterans. He said he was especially pleased with the upgrades of 22 Distinguished Service Crosses to Medals of Honor and of the 514-page US Army publication *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II*. He also said the US Army has committed to write another book on the Nisei's unique contribution to the Occupation of Japan, which he termed the military's "exit strategy" of the Asia Pacific War. The Senator commended JAVA, other Japanese American veterans organizations, and museums for publicizing the Japanese American World War II experience to the American people.

The citation of the JAVA award, read by Lieutenant Janelle Kuroda, a U.S. Navy judge Advocate, referred to Senator Akaka's distinguished service of 14 years in the House of Representatives and 22 years in the US Senate, including his chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs which produced "an unmatched record of new laws affecting veterans health care and compensation benefits." Kuroda enumerated other highlights of the Senator's distinguished legislative career, such as his creation of the Office of Minority Veterans in the U.S. Depart-



L-R: John Tagami, John Tobe, Bill Houston, Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, Bruce Hollywood, Sen. Akaka, Gerald Yamada, Lt Janelle Kuroda, Calvin Ninomiya, Terry Shima, Maj Gen Antonio Taguba (Ret.). (Courtesy of Bruce Hollywood)

ment of Veterans Affairs (DVA), contribution to the establishment of Hawaii's first DVA medical center at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, support of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act and support for the creation of the MIS Historic Learning Center in San Francisco by the National Japanese American Historical Society. Various veterans organizations contributed to the preparation of the citation.

To accompany the JAVA presentation, Colonel Bruce Hollywood, US Air Force (Ret), JAVA Executive Director, presented Senator Akaka with a digital recording of data of the 100th Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service specifically designed and prepared for the Senator by Jim Yamashita, Director of the American of Japanese Ancestry WW II Memorial Alliance, and Susan Uyemura, Chief Executive Officer of Japanese Living Legacy.

[Ed note: A copy of the Citation, photos, and related papers pertaining to the Senator Akaka award presentation can be found on the JAVA website at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).]

## JAVA honors Terry Shima for decades of selfless service

Arlington, Va. — JAVA honored Terry Shima for his nearly 70 years of selfless service to the United States and advancing the cause of Americans of Asian descent, especially Americans of Japanese ancestry at a luncheon on July 25, on the occasion of his retirement as JAVA's Executive Director.

JAVA Honorary Chair Senator Daniel Inouye, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and Medal of Honor recipient, spoke of his longtime friendship with Shima and lauded him for his years of service since World War II.

Senator Inouye said, "Although JAVA will miss his day to day leadership, his impact will be seen for years to come."

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America, the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki joined JAVA President Gerald Yamada in praising Terry. Ambassador Fujisaki was grateful for the generous response from the United States following the tsunami that struck Japan last year. He said, "Terry was responsible for coordinating much of the response, and I thank him for his lifelong work in linking the two societies."

More than 80 people met in Arlington to celebrate Shima's impressive contributions and to pay tribute to a truly extraordinary man. Distinguished guests included Lieutenant General (Ret) Joe Peterson, Major General Bert Mizusawa, and Rear Admiral (Lower Half) David Boone.

Yamada highlighted Shima's numerous lasting accomplishments, beginning with his service in WWII, his years in the State Department, and his unprecedented eight years as



Terry Shima (left) receives honors from JAVA President Gerald Yamada. (Bruce Hollywood)

the Executive Director. He credited Shima with securing Bronze Star Medals for WWII Nisei soldiers, and his unrelenting efforts that led Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal, to WWII veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

Shima was instrumental in initiating the education outreach program within the Washington Metropolitan Area school districts. That effort has gained national attention and has

bridged the WWII generation with the young students of today. Yamada garnered a laugh when he said, "Terry has agreed to chair our newly created Education and Outreach Committee. That's great news ... Don't tell Terry, but everything JAVA does is education and outreach!"

Yamada announced, "To honor Terry, JAVA will award the Terry Shima Leadership Award annually in recognition of "outstanding visionary leadership" and "exemplary meritorious conduct in service and achievements in support of JAVA's goals, missions, and veterans." Additionally, Yamada announced the introduction of the JAVA Dedicated Service pin. Shima is the first recipient of both awards.

New JAVA Executive Director Bruce Hollywood closed the luncheon with, "Perhaps the most overused word in our language is hero. We use it when we mean victim; we use it when we mean superstar; we use it a lot when we really mean something else. Terry Shima is truly a hero; he is noble and courageous, and each of us is blessed to know him."

## JAVA member Dinh appointed to prestigious VA committee

Thanh "Tino" Dinh, a management consultant, was recently appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve during the 2012-2014 term as an Asian Pacific American member on the US Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans (ACMV). The ACMV, a congressionally mandated committee consisting of representatives of minority groups, advises the Secretary and Congress on VA's administration of benefits and provisions of healthcare, benefits, and services to minority veterans. The chairman of ACMV is BG Oscar Hilman, USAR (Ret).

A 1999 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Dinh served for 8 years as an Air Force intelligence officer with deployments to Iraq and South Korea and duties in Hawaii and Washington D.C. In 2010, Dinh received his MBA from the Darden School of Business, University of Virginia.

Dinh is a lifetime member of JAVA, a member of Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) and is the Deputy Director for Public Affairs for the Vietnamese-American Armed Forces Association (VAAFA). VAAFA ([www.vaafa.org](http://www.vaafa.org)), a 501(3)(c) organization was activated in California in 2009 as a Vietnamese American association for service members and veterans of the U.S. military. VAAFA activities include the annual award of twelve \$1000 scholarships in memory of Vietnamese American "Fallen Heroes" since September 11, 2011, the sending of care packages to deployed members, professional mentorship of Vietnamese American active duty personnel, and participation in various community festivals and events.





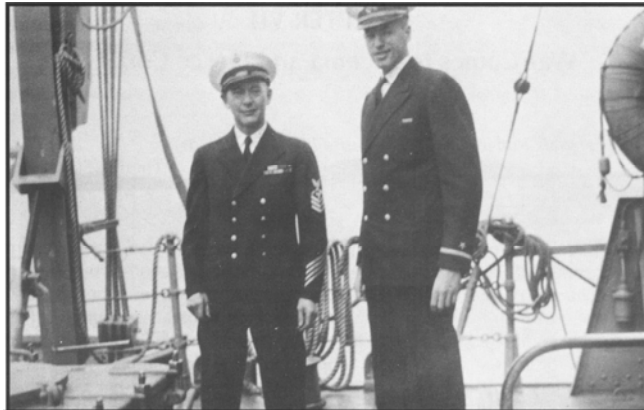
## Nisei served in U.S. Army Air Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Merchant Marines during World War II

By James McIlwain, MD, Professor Emeritus, Brown University, and JAVA Member

Rehoboth, MA. — Accounts of Japanese American participation in the military in World War II have understandably focused on the men and women of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service of the US Army. Over 30,000 individuals served in these units from the beginning of the war through the occupation of Japan. Equally well documented are instances of men who attempted to enlist in the Army Air Corps, the Navy and the Marine Corps, but were rejected because of their Japanese ancestry. Yet despite this racial barrier, some individuals did serve with distinction in the air and on the sea. The purpose of this brief notice is to remind us of their contribution to the war effort.

The best-known Nisei in the Army Air Corps is surely Technical Sergeant (T/Sgt) Ben Kuroki, who flew 58 missions over both Germany with the 98<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and Japan with the 505<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. In a well-known biography, "Boy From Nebraska, The Story of Ben Kuroki" written by Ralph G. Martin, one can read his account of overcoming racial prejudice. Others who served in air combat include Private First Class Minoru Arita of the 5<sup>th</sup> Air Force, T/Sgt. Herbert Ginoza of the 483<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, Staff Sergeant (S/Sgt) Michael Mitsuo Kamimoto and Henry Kojima of the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, T/Sgt Yukio Kishi, S/Sgt John Hideo Matsumoto, S/Sgt Kenje Ogata and S/Sgt. Joe Mitsuru Shiraishi. Lt. Noboru Tashiro was a weatherman for the Army Air Corps and one must not overlook Lieutenant Arata Kimura, who, though not in the Army Air Corps, spotted targets from his Piper Cub for the 522<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT.

A number of Nisei from the Army's Military Intelligence Service were attached to Army Air Corps units and flew as voice intercept specialists on bombing missions, monitoring radio traffic and translating communications from the ground and hostile aircraft. Flying members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Squadron Mobile, included Yoshito Kawabe, George Okamoto and Kazuo Oshiki. Performing similar duty for the 8<sup>th</sup> Radio Squadron Mobile were Terry Adaniya, Mike Masao Deguchi, George Yoshiki Hanafusa, Yoshio Hoshide, Mamoru Ishii, Ted M. Ishisaka, Herbert M.U. Kawashima, Yoshio Kimoto, John Kozo Okada, Hiroshi Tanouye and James Shizuma Yoshioka. Many other MISers were attached to Army Air Corps units and performed radio intelligence work from ground-based stations, but did not fly missions.



Chief Machinist Mate Henry Matsumoto and Lt John Prentiss on Eagle 57. (Photo by Machinist Mate Robert Caso in 1944. From Ronald Magden's collections.)

Far rarer are Japanese Americans in the Navy and Coast Guard. According to his obituary, James Ogura, Jr. of Evansville, Indiana, served in the Navy from 1942 to 1945 but no details about his experience are available. Henry Matsumoto, Jr. was Chief Machinist Mate on the destroyer Eagle and had already been in the Navy 30 years when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. When junior officers urged his removal from the ship, the captain refused to "beach the Eagle's best machinist." A photo from 1944 shows Chief

Petty Officer Henry Matsumoto still on the deck of the Eagle. Douglas T. Wada retired as a Navy Commander after 38 years of service in Naval Intelligence. His work in counter intelligence began before Pearl Harbor and at the end of hostilities he was assigned to the Prosecution Section of the International Tribunal for the Far East. In the Korean War era, he was with U.S. Naval Forces Far East, where he worked with intelligence sections of the Japanese government and defense establishment. Richard Takuichi Kanazawa and Roy M. Inouye are the only Japanese Americans known to the author to have served in the US Coast Guard.

At least two Nisei served in the U.S. Marine Corps: Manuel Hiroshi "Curly" Hirata of Los Angeles and Max Tsuchida of Burlington, WI. Sgt Hirata served with the Second Marine Division and participated in the battles of Guadalcanal and Tarawa. He was wounded at Tarawa and returned to the United States where he visited his family at Poston. Sgt Hirata also fought in the Korean War and was awarded the Silver Star. The Pacific War found Nisei linguists of the Military Intelligence Service attached to Marine units in the major island campaigns.

More numerous are Japanese Americans in the Merchant Marine. Though not normally considered members of a uniformed military service, their duty on the high seas was hazardous enough. According to one source, one in 26 merchant seamen died during the conflict. War Relocation Authority camp newspapers, obituary notices, and burial monuments have provided a list, undoubtedly incomplete, of World War II merchant mariners of Japanese ancestry: David K. Arata, Paul Seikichi Chinen, Noboru Harry Hashimoto, Paul S. Higa, Masami Jodoi, Richard Takuichi Kanazawa, Tsutomu Sam Kasai, Koichi Koizumi, Kenichi Mayeda, Al 'Gunga' Nakamura, Hideo Ogawa, John Saito, Stanley Shouji Sakuda, 'Palooka' Shigehama, Toshio Shimabukuro, Chester Sumida, Martin Hisao Tanaka, Kiyoshi Tanita, and Takato Uyeno.

## Witness: American Heroes gets Emmys / Monument in Pietrasanta

by Robert Horsting

"Witness: American Heroes" (which aired on ABC in Hawaii under the title "Go For Broke"), won a Large Market (LA) regional Emmy for "Arts and Culture/History" (David Ono and Jeff MacIntrye-Executive Producers, Robert Horsting-Producer, Michelle Kim-Associate Producer) and both David Ono and Jeff MacIntrye won for "Outstanding Writer-Programming" and "Outstanding Videographer Single Camera-Programming" (respectively) for this project!

It is definitely our honor to have worked on a story that has not only been recognized for its craftsmanship, but for its touching stories of human sacrifice and the extent to which some people will endeavor to show their appreciation for an act of kindness, in a world that at the time knew of few of such acts.

"Witness: American Heroes"

This is the link for the four segments:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/national\\_world&id=8439135](http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/national_world&id=8439135)

Total running time is 22 Minutes.

This can be purchased under the title "Unknown Warriors" on the GFBNEC website.

[http://www.goforbroke.org/about\\_us/about\\_us\\_support\\_general\\_unknownwarriors\\_dvd.asp](http://www.goforbroke.org/about_us/about_us_support_general_unknownwarriors_dvd.asp)

Our thanks to:

Prof. Americo Bugliani for sharing his experience and for being the catalyst for the construction of the Sadao Munemori/442nd Memorial in Pietrasanta, Italy.

Anthony Agnone for sharing the story of his father, a member of the "Lost Battalion".

Yanina Cyvinsky for sharing the story of survival of Dachau.

Steve Sato for sharing the story of his father, whom he never met.

Lawson Sakai for his introduction to the "de Association Chemin de la Paix et Liberte" (Peace and Freedom Association) President, Martial Hilare and officers, Bruyeres, France

Gerome Villain for his guidance and introductions to citizens of Bruyeres, France

Bill Thompson, past President of the 442 RCT Veterans Club in Honolulu, HI

Robert Arakaki, past President of Club 100 in Honolulu, HI

Terry Shima, past Exec. Dir. of the Japanese American Veterans Association, Washington, DC

Don Nose, President of the Go For Broke National Education Center, Torrance, CA

Joanne Leivici for pulling all that footage.

Most of All: Our thanks to all of you vets that put aside the emotional scars of questioned loyalty, in the effort to prove that your right of birth made you as American as anyone else.

Though not depicted in this piece, I would like to also acknowledge the courage of those that chose to fight for their rights through the judicial system, because this too is the American way.

Item2:

Shortly before the 442nd's breach of the Gothic Line, Paul Sakamoto (100th veteran) gave an 11 year old Americo Bugliani his hat, toothbrush and some other items. In an effort to show his gratitude for the act of kindness and the liberation of his town from the German occupation, now Prof. Americo Bugliani proposed the idea of a monument to some friends.

This is the most concise explanation of the monument's background, which was received from Professor Bugliani:

The monument is IL MONUMENTO AI SOLDATI AMERICANI CADUTI SULLA LINEA GOTICA IN VERSILIA. That is, MONUMENT TO THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS FALLEN ON THE GOTHIC LINE IN VERSILIA. Some call it MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN ALLIED SOLDIERS but since the only dead in the area were Americans my intention was to erect a monument to the fallen Americans who liberated my area which is called Versilia.

The bronze statue of Sadao Munemori was sculpted by a local artist of international renown, Maestro Marcello Tommasi, as was the bronze bas relief at its base which represents the passing of the war. The inscription in Italian on the marble pedestal written by Danilo Orlandi, a local historian, reads as follows:

SADAO S. MUNEMORI, 22 YEAR OLD FROM LOS ANGELES OF THE 100TH BATTALION - 442ND INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FALLEN AS A HERO ON THE GOTHIC LINE IN VERSILIA ON APRIL 5, 1945, SYMBOL OF ALL THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR FREEDOM. ADMONITION FOR PEACE AMONG NATIONS. THE CITY OF PIETRASANTA, APRIL 25, 2000.

The artist received no compensation for his work. The citizens of Pietrasanta contributed the land, a local bank paid the foundry and the marble base was donated by a local company. The point person for the project in Pietrasanta was my friend, Attorney Paolo Tommasi, president of a local bank and brother of Maestro Marcello Tommasi.



## Film: *The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii*

*[From the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i]*

Within 48 hours of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii authorities arrested several hundred local Japanese in Oahu, Maui, Hawaii and Kauai. They were Buddhist priests, Japanese language school officials, newspaper editors, business and community leaders. Within a few months over 1,800 men and women of Japanese ancestry were arrested, detained and incarcerated in Hawaii and later sent to the Department of Justice and War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps on the continental U.S. There was no evidence of espionage or sabotage and no charges were ever filed against them.

While the story of the mass internment of Japanese Americans in California, Oregon and Washington has been well documented, very little is known about the Hawaii internees and the confinement sites located in Hawaii. This is the first full-length documentary to chronicle this untold story in Hawaii's history.

In March 2013, the film will be shown in Maui, Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i. For more information, go to the Hawaii International Film Festival website at [http://program.hiff.org/films/detail/1800 the 2012](http://program.hiff.org/films/detail/1800_the_2012).



## Mayumi Family Historical Marker reinstalled in Texas

*Courtesy of Sandra Tanamachi*

Linda McMahan, Coordinator for the Jefferson County Historical Commission informed Linda Mayumi Klicker that when Commissioner Brent Weaver, a former Historical Commission member, took office in 2011, one of his first projects was to find a safe location for the Mayumi Historical Marker. When the marker was originally installed, it was in a more secluded area, and the Jefferson County Historical Commission felt that was the reason the marker was damaged shortly after installation in 2008. Commissioner Weaver suggested this new site because it is down the road from the original location and close to a residential area. Several County departments worked together to reinstall the marker on September 22, 2011. The Mayumi family history is very important to Jefferson County, and they are proud that it is now available for everyone to see and read.



## Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the U.S. 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 U.S. Army's 34<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 17 in the U.S. Navy, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islanders, 10 Filipino Americans, and four Korean Americans.

### BGen Daniel D. Yoo



Brigadier General Daniel D. Yoo serves as the Commanding General for Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region where male Marine applicants recruited from the western United States are transformed into Marines.

BGen Yoo was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Seoul Korea and graduated from Arizona State University in 1984. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant after completing Officer Candidate School in 1985.

date School in 1985.

An infantry officer by trade, BGen Yoo has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion and regimental levels. Additionally, he has served in expeditionary, reconnaissance, Inspector-Instructor, special operations, and advisory units throughout his career. His professional military education includes the U.S. Marine Corps' Infantry Officer's Course, Amphibious Warfare School, the Naval Command and Staff College, and a National Security Affairs fellowship at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University. BGen Yoo has also served as a military fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Gold Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Joint Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is a Marine Combatant Diver, a Military Freefall Parachutist, and a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School.

BGen Yoo noted "I, like many of my fellow Marines, love what I do and I have always felt obligated to serve the people of our great nation because of the opportunities afforded to me and my family."

"I came to the United States at the age of two when my parents were looking to start a new chapter in our lives. If it weren't for their foresight, perseverance, and dedication to excellence, I probably would not have joined the Marine Corps. My parents taught me the values of integrity, hard work and commitment to excellence, establishing a foundation that prepared me for success as a Marine officer. Furthermore, they instilled in me a deep and abiding love for the United States and the opportunities this nation provides to all who are willing to work hard and dedicate themselves to the principals of mutual respect and freedom; the hallmarks of our multicultural and diverse nation."

### RDML Jonathan A. Yuen



Rear Adm. Yuen currently serves as commander, NAVSUP Global Logistics Support headquartered in San Diego, Calif. NAVSUP GLS is comprised of more than 5,700 military and civilian logistics professionals operating from 110 locations worldwide providing an array of integrated global logistics and contracting services to Navy and joint operational units across all warfare enterprises, and base supply functions at 70 shore entities.

Yuen, a San Francisco native, graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983. In a speech to his alma mater, Lowell High School in San Francisco on Nov. 16, 2010, Yuen indicated that at the time he attended the Naval Academy, there were only a handful of Asian Americans among his classmates. Yuen said that he is proud of the increased Asian American enrollment at the Academy as well as the increased role that women play in the Navy today.

Yuen's diverse duty stations include the USS *Constellation* (CV 64) in San Diego and aboard Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Yokosuka, Japan. Prior to his current assignment, he served as deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He has served in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Admiral Yuen says, "It is a true honor to serve this great nation and to support the God-given, constitutionally recognized freedoms that allow individuals from so many diverse backgrounds – especially my brothers and sisters in the Asian Pacific American Community – to pursue their dreams for healthier and happier lives. My father served briefly in the Army, and throughout his life he instilled in me a sense of duty and responsibility, and it was his inspiration that lead me to choose service in the United States Navy. My life has been a blessing, not so much because the Navy was a true world adventure, but because it was the service that allowed me to achieve my higher calling to serve alongside my fellow Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines."



## Historian Dr. McNaughton tells of Munemori's patriotism, courage

Falls Church, Va. — Dr. James C. McNaughton, the nationally recognized authority on Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II, was the principal speaker at the JAVA quarterly lunch on October 3, 2012, at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, in Falls Church, Virginia. In 2007, Dr. McNaughton published his 514-page book, *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence During WW II*, the most comprehensive, documented history of the MIS. He was also chair of the Army research team tasked with identifying WW II Asian Pacific American Distinguished Service Cross recipients for reevaluation for the Congressional Medal of Honor. McNaughton's presentation to JAVA members and friends focused on the extraordinary acts of patriotism and courage of a particular WW II soldier, Private First Class (PFC) Sadao S. Munemori.

Dr. McNaughton said, "On April 5, 1945, the 442d Regimental Combat Team (RCT) led the Fifth Army attack to breach the westernmost end of the German Gothic line across northern Italy. In the first minutes of the dawn attack, a grenade, thrown by the enemy, bounced off the helmet of Pfc. Munemori and he dove on it to shield two comrades. The blast killed him instantly, but his buddies survived. For this act of valor, the War Department awarded him the Medal of Honor, making him the first American of Japanese ancestry to receive the nation's highest honor. This much appears in most histories of the 442d RCT, but it is unfortunate that more of Munemori's personal story is not better known. It tells much about courage and loyalty, at home and on the battlefield. But it also tells us much about the historical experience of the Nisei generation.

"Munemori was born in 1922 in Glendale, California, the fourth of five children of Japanese immigrants. For a time he traveled to Japan and thus was considered a 'Kibei.' He graduated from high school in 1940. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Munemori's response was to volunteer for the U.S. Army. He enlisted on February 11, 1942, at Fort MacArthur, California. The Army sent him to Camp Grant, Illinois, but sent his family to Manzanar.

"Soon he was selected for language training at Camp Savage, Minnesota. However, when the War Department announced in January 1943 the activation of the 442d RCT, he requested a transfer to this Nisei infantry unit, preferring serving in combat to being a translator. Little did he know then that some Nisei in the MIS would also serve in combat. School officials initially refused his request and assigned him extra duties shoveling coal and pulling kitchen police, where he was said to have earned the nickname 'Spud' Munemori. He preferred potato to rice.

"However, his persistence paid off. In January 1944, he joined the 442d RCT at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, although



Dr. James C. McNaughton at the JAVA luncheon. (Bruce Hollywood)

to do so he had to accept a reduction in rank from technical sergeant to private. Soon he was sent as an individual replacement to the 100th Infantry Battalion, then fighting at Anzio, a few months before the rest of the 442d RCT arrived. By all reports, the Hawaiian Nisei of the 100th readily accepted him, despite his being from the mainland. He fought with A Company, 100th Battalion, in the Rome-Arno Campaign, and then in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France.

"In March 1945, the 442d RCT returned to Italy, where Munemori met his fate only weeks before the German surrender. America gained a great victory, but at a terrible cost. If he had lived, he would have turned ninety years old this year. We should consider what America might have gained, if he had survived the war. He might have become a great teacher or a successful businessman, a doctor or lawyer. But we should also be grateful for his legacy of commitment to his country, courage, loyalty, and selfless service. He chose to serve his country and to remain loyal to his buddies. He left it for us to carry on building the great country he loved and to live lives of commitment to our shared ideals. We should never forget the lessons in patriotism and courage that Sadao S. Munemori left as an example for all Americans."

PFC Munemori's act of courage has been recognized in other ways as well since WW II. In 1948, the 10,000-ton troop ship "Wilson Victory", which brought back the 442nd RCT from Italy two years earlier, was renamed the "Pvt. Sadao S. Munemori." In addition, the interchange of the 105 and 405 freeways in Los Angeles is named the "Sadao S. Munemori Memorial Interchange, Medal of Honor—World War II." In 1993, the Army dedicated a building to him at the West Los Angeles Army Reserve Training Center. In the town of Pietrasanta, Italy, spearheaded by Americo Bugliani, a JAVA member, a statue of Munemori was dedicated on April 25, 2000, in honor of the Americans who liberated Italy. Through his personal sacrifice, Sadao Munemori was the first Japanese American to be recognized as a loyal citizen with America's highest military honor and today continues to serve among all Asian Americans as an example of conspicuous courage and patriotism.

Another highlight of the luncheon was the recognition of Kaitlin Inamasu, a student of George Washington University, for pioneering the effort to make the National Archives digitized documents more easily discoverable on the internet and for recruiting a top notch team who completed nearly 6000 data base records in about 6 months. Their effort will enable researchers to retrieve documentary information on the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, and MIS electronically from anywhere in the world using key words, dates and names.



## News from other Veterans Organizations

**Kahului, Hawaii-- Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.** Work is nearing completion on the 2,100 square foot Education Center, which will house an extensive collection of memorabilia, books, oral histories, classrooms and displays. More information on the Center is available at [www.nvmc.org](http://www.nvmc.org).

**Johnston, Iowa--34th Infantry Division.** The Division held its reunion October 5th and 6th. the Division Association now has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/34InfDivAssoc>.

**Roseville, California--VFW Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter.** Plans are underway for the 63rd Reunion at the Sands Regency Hotel-Casino in Reno, Nevada, currently scheduled for May 19-21, 2013.

**Honolulu, Hawaii--100th Battalion Puka Puka Parade.** At the 9th Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Conference, several Maui born Nisei veterans featured prominently in the program. Eichi Oki, member of K Company of the 442nd, led the Pledge of Allegiance. He is also the father of Hawaii's Chief U.S. District Judge, Susan Oki Mollway. Veterans Tom Yamada, Stanley Izumigawa, and David Fukuda also participated. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy was also in attendance and shared some stories of his childhood experiences with his Japanese neighbors in California.

**Honolulu, Hawaii--M.I.S. Veterans.** The treasurer of MIS Veterans, Harry Kawaoka, has obtained DVDs of the movie "The MIS-Human Secret Weapon". Produced by Japan's Junichi Suzuki, it is a documentary providing comprehensive coverage of MIS activities during WWII and Japan's restoration period. The movie is available for \$25; contact [har-rykawaoka@mac.com](mailto:har-rykawaoka@mac.com).

**Los Angeles, California--Japanese American Korean War Veterans.** Keynote speaker and decorated Vietnam War veteran, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Honorable Vincent Okamoto, addressed about 200 attendees at the Annual Memorial Day Service.

**Indianapolis, Indiana--the American Legion.** At the 94th Annual Convention, Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, addressed the membership. View the speech on Youtube at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=VJHE4dC6Flg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=VJHE4dC6Flg).

### 36th Infantry Division Association reunion photos



Nelson Akagi, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran and JAVA member, attended the 36th Infantry Division Reunion in San Antonio, Texas on Sept. 5-9, 2012. **Clockwise from top right:** (1) L-R: Robert Doby and Nelson Akagi check out the cake. (2) Nelson with Jean Nowicki. Her father Bill Robinson was in the 141st, and he attended all 442nd RCT reunions until his death. (3) Nelson Akagi with Trish Rumble, whose father Pat C.R. Barry was in the 36th from 1940-1945. He was in all 7 European Theater campaigns and received the Bronze Star for Valor 41 years after the war. (4) WWII Veterans at the Reunion. (Photos courtesy of Trish Rumble)

### Veterans Day Program:

(Sponsored by JAVA, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and the Pan-Pacific American Leaders & Mentors Organization)

Please join us on Sunday, Nov. 11, 2012, 2:00P.M. at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Washington, D.C. (intersection of New Jersey Ave., Louisiana Ave., and D St.). Scheduled Speakers are Michael Cardarelli, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Vice Admiral Harry Harris, Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. There will be an informal lunch beforehand at 12:30 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW., Washington, D.C. (1/2 block from the Memorial). No RSVP required; just meet in lobby café. For more information, contact Bruce Hollywood at [hollywood@comcast.net](mailto:hollywood@comcast.net).

## Vice Admiral Harris discusses his Issei heritage

*[From The Rafu Shimpo]*

In his position as assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. is often seen traveling with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as her military liaison, including spending several days last week at the United Nations General Assembly Meeting in New York City.

As someone who has served in every geographic combat command and in such critical operations as Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn in Libya, he is ably suited to take on the enormous responsibility that his current job entails.

It hasn't always been smooth sailing for Harris' steady climb up the military chain of command. His journey to the Pentagon had the humblest of beginnings.

The only son of a Navy chief petty officer and a Japanese postwar bride, he grew up on a small farm in rural Tennessee. Born in Japan a little more than a decade after World War II and moving to Tennessee at age 2 in 1958, Harris recalls feeling different from his Southern classmates — especially when it came time to eat the bento lunch prepared by his Japanese mother.

When he whined to her about the fact that he looked more Japanese than American, she responded in a way that he will never forget. "She went to a PTA meeting dressed in the only thing she brought from Japan — a full kimono, geta, obi, the whole thing." Harris adds respectfully, "She taught me to be proud of my ethnic heritage."

Not only was she a role model for her hapa son, but she also set the example for her three younger sisters, all of whom followed in his mother's footsteps by coming to America after marrying U.S. Navy men.

Harris says he learned "giri" (duty or obligation from his Issei mom, who grew up in the privileged Kobe neighborhood of Ashiya, only to have her family's property destroyed during the war. After surviving the devastation of wartime Japan, she married an American and experienced more hardship.

"She came to America after growing up in relative privilege to survive on a small Southern farm that had no running water or electricity," recalls her son. "It was a dramatic change for her, but for me it was the only upbringing I knew."

Once resettled in America, she adapted with grace and became a U.S. citizen in 1974. Before she passed away in 2008, she told him that the proudest thing she ever did as a



Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in St. Petersburg, Russia. (LTJG Haraz Ghanbari, U.S. Navy)

citizen was to vote.

That sense of giri has been passed on to her son, whose personal decorations include two Distinguished Service Medals, three Defense Superior Service Medals, three Legions of Merit, and two Bronze Stars.

"I'm an American, first, foremost and always," says Harris, "but there will always be things my mother represented for which I am proud."

Harris remembers first hearing about the heroism of Japanese American soldiers when he saw the 1951 film "Go For Broke." "It gave me something to be proud of," Harris recalls. "They were in the military and they became heroes." It's a story that stayed with him as he went from the U.S. Naval Academy to postgraduate studies at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and Oxford University.

Still, when he first learned about the men who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service, he didn't realize that their families were being held in camps. When he learned those once little-known facts, it made their heroic contributions all the more significant.

It's a story he will be honored to share with others at the annual Evening of Aloha dinner on Oct. 13. "I've drawn a lot of strength from their story and I think all Americans can draw strength from them," he says. "It's a great story that unfortunately is not known broadly, and it should be taught in schools."

Harris cites organizations like the Go for Broke National Education Center, the Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle, Japanese American Veterans Association, Japanese American Citizens League, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, Asian American Government Executives Network and Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors for furthering important work towards this end.

He notes that he was privileged last year to attend the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C. to honor the World War II veterans and looks forward to a rare trip to Los Angeles to pay tribute to them once again.

"Take all the things I've done in the military," he goes to say with humility. "It would never begin to compare with what those men went through. Just the fact that they and their families were booted out of their homes and then what they accomplished — that's huge."





### Lunch with Ranger Roy Matsumoto.

On October 26, 2012 JAVA members had lunch at the China Garden, Rosslyn, Virginia, with Ranger Roy Matsumoto, who was in Washington, DC to speak at the American Veterans Center (AVC) conference. Matsumoto was also recognized at the AVC Gala Dinner. **Front row L-R:** Jimmy Kanemori; Karen Matsumoto; Ranger Matsumoto; Secretary Norman Mineta; Lida Konoshima; Terry Shima. **Mid row L-R:** John Tobe; Gerald Yamada; Dave Buto; Calvin Ninomiya; Mrs. Kanemori; Grant Ichikawa; Aki Konoshima; Metta Tanikawa; Miyako Tanabe; Mark Nakagawa; Dr. Warren Minami. **Back row, L-R:** Laura Wong, Noriko Sanefuji, LTC Kay Wakatake, Steve Ginder. (Bruce Hollywood)

### Welcome New Members!

Lawrence Enomoto (Hawaii)  
Gerald A. Gustafson (Arizona)  
Kevin Kawasaki (Virginia)  
Ernest K. Tabata (North Carolina)  
Betty Tsuneishi (Maryland)

### Thank You Donors!

**JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends**

*(Donations received from May 19, 2012 to October 28, 2012)*

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Asako (Susie) Ichiuji



Terry Shima (wearing a red tie) and Dr. Ray Murakami (wearing a coat) display both sides of the new flag for the Congressional Gold Medal presented to Nisei Soldiers of World War II in November 2011. (Bruce Hollywood)





## TAPS

### Frank Tanabe, MIS



In this November 2011 photo, Frank Tanabe holds a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., awarded collectively to Japanese-American veterans of World War II, including those who served in his unit, the Military Intelligence Service. (AP Photo/Irene Tanabe)

HONOLULU (AP—Audrey McAvoy) — A World War II veteran whose effort to vote from his deathbed inspired thousands has died a week after casting his final ballot.

Frank Tanabe passed away peacefully Wednesday at the Honolulu home of his daughter, where he's been in hospice treatment for the past few weeks after being diagnosed with an inoperable [cancer](#) tumor in his liver. He was 93.

His daughter Barbara Tanabe said she put the American flag up outside the home to mark the day for him and their family.

"He really liked it when I put out the flag," she said.

Hundreds of thousands of Internet users saw a photo of Frank Tanabe filling out his absentee ballot with the help of his daughter last week, when his grandson

posted the picture on the social media site Reddit.

The image and his determination to vote on his sick bed struck a chord and prompted many to thank Frank Tanabe for his service and praise his patriotism. The story spread further when The Associated Press and other media organizations wrote about the photo and the response it generated online.

Tanabe served in a mostly Japanese-American unit of the Military Intelligence Service during the war, interrogating Japanese prisoners in India and China.

He volunteered for the Army from an internment camp where the U.S. government sent him as part of a policy to detain and isolate 110,000 Japanese-Americans after the start of the war with Japan. He spent time in both the Tule Lake camp in California and the Minidoka camp in Idaho.

Decades later, Tanabe explained how he felt in an interview for a documentary tribute to Japanese-American veterans.

"I wanted to do my part to prove that I was not an enemy alien, or that none of us were — that we were true Americans. And if we ever got the chance, we would do our best to serve our country. And we did," he said.

Congress gave its highest civilian honor to Tanabe and other Japanese-American veterans of the war last year when it awarded the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to those who served in the MIS, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Barbara Tanabe said she told her father about the news

coverage his vote was getting, including stories that appeared in the Los Angeles Times and on the front page of the Idaho Statesman.

"I was thinking these are the two big newspapers in Idaho and California, where he went to camp," Barbara said. "It's just a nice way to look back at history and say that things do turn out OK."

Honolulu elections officials say Frank Tanabe's vote will be counted unless they receive his death certificate before the Nov. 6 election and they're able to find his ballot from among the tens of thousands of ballots mailed in. This generally isn't practical, so like most cases when a voter dies after he or she casts an absentee ballot, his ballot will likely be counted.

His family knows which candidates he chose, but they've decided to keep that information private. Barbara Tanabe said it's not important who her father voted for — it's the voting itself that makes a difference.

*[Ed. Note: This story of a Nisei WW II veteran was also carried on national TV networks including the NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams.]*



In this Oct. 17, 2012 photo provided by Irene Tanabe, Frank Tanabe, center, gets help from his daughter Barbara Tanabe, left, to fill out his absentee ballot in Honolulu while his wife Setsuko Tanabe sits in the foreground. Barbara Tanabe says her father died Wednesday morning, Oct. 24, 2012 at her Honolulu home. He was 93. Hundreds of thousands of people saw a photo of Frank Tanabe filling out his absentee ballot with the help of his daughter last week, after his nephew posted the picture on a social media site. (AP Photo/Irene Tanabe)

### Free Lifetime Memberships to Veterans

JAVA is now offering FREE Lifetime Memberships for Veterans of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, current military personnel of 100th Battalion-442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Application form on page 19 or the JAVA website at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).)

## From the Editor



As I worked on this issue of the JAVA Advocate, we were hunkering down in preparation for Hurricane Sandy's arrival. Not surprisingly, the military has been called upon to help with the massive clean up. On behalf of the JAVA Executive Committee, our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims as they recover from the storm.

I feel privileged to be a part of the best military in the world. Minority veterans of past generations, such as Roy Matsumoto, General Eric Shinseki, and our own Terry Shima, tore down barriers to allow the current generation of service members to hold any position and rank regardless of race. Please remember to thank our wonderful veterans not only on the upcoming Veterans Day but also every day of the year.

—Kay K. Wakatake

[Email comments to [javadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javadvocate@gmail.com).]

**Top right:** Kay Wakatake with U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Famer Roy Matsumoto, who is 99 years young! (Bruce Hollywood)

**Bottom right:** At the 2012 Annual Reception and Meeting for the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM). L-R: Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki; Kay Wakatake, Lieutenant Janelle Kuroda, USN, Terry Shima. (Colonel Shirley Raguindin, USAF)



## Help fund documentary on Roy Matsumoto and MIS



# HONOR & SACRIFICE

The Heart of a Patriot—The Face of the Enemy

The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community in Association with Stourwater Pictures Presents  
The Roy Matsumoto Story—A Japanese-American Hero in the American Guerilla Unit Known as Merrill's Marauders.

*HONOR AND SACRIFICE* will be a 27-minute (TV half hour) documentary about the Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps, enlisted in the U.S. military, and volunteered to become linguists in the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific Theater of WWII. The story will be told by focusing on the experience of one man's personal journey. Born in Los Angeles, Roy Matsumoto was a "Kibei," raised by his grandparents and educated in Japan. Roy returned to Los Angeles. In 1942, along with more than 110,000 other Japanese Americans living on the West Coast, he was incarcerated in a U.S. concentration camp, from where he enlisted in the U.S. Army, and volunteered to serve with Merrill's Marauders, a famed American guerilla unit that fought behind Japanese lines in Burma.

Due to his invaluable Japanese language skills, Roy emerged a hero, credited by other members of his battalion with having saved their lives. Roy's story and those of his Kibei comrades are the more poignant and powerful for the fact that most of their parents and grandparents had been born in Japan. Matsumoto is one of the most highly decorated Nisei soldiers in WWII, but his story has only been known in military circles. This film intends to educate the general public about Roy and the MIS.

The fundraising campaign must raise \$30,000 before November 15, 2012 for the film to be produced. To donate or for more information, go to the website <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/stourwater/honor-and-sacrifice-the-roy-matsumoto-story>.





**JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
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1313 Dolley Madison Blvd. #104  
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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

Nov. 3: National Park Service Teachers Workshop.

Nov. 11, 9AM: JAVA Veterans Day Program (JA Memorial)

Nov. 12, 8AM: White House Veterans Day Breakfast.

11am: National Veterans Day Program. President lays wreath at Tomb of Unknown and addresses the nation. Arlington National Cemetery.

Nov. 13, 11:30A.M.: Lunch with Dr. Greg Robinson at China Garden Restaurant, Rosslyn, Virginia.

Nov. 20: Fairfax County Council, Virginia, Proclamation program to honor 100th, 442nd, and MIS for Congressional Gold Medal Award.

Nov. 26: Sen. Inouye and JAVA veterans video interview at National WW II Memorial by Memorial organization.

Nov. 27: Montgomery County Council, Maryland, Proclamation program to honor 100th, 442nd, and MIS for Congressional Gold Medal Award.

Dec. 1: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Jan. 19, 2013: JAVA Quarterly Lunch (installation of new officers) (New location – Full Kee Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.)

Mar. 9, 2013: Executive Council Meeting.

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