



**Inside this issue:**

President's Message	2
JAVA members on CNN	
Nisei Vets Org network	3
JAVA October Luncheon	4
JAVA Veterans Day Program	
Merrill's Marauder Reunion	5
MG Johnson promotion	
Dr Robinson luncheon	6
Ship named for Nisei vet	
Special Ops Assn Reunion	7
GFBNEC receives money	
News from Other Vet Orgs	8
Matsunaga School Veterans Day program	
New Labor Dept program	9
Taubkin donation to JAVA	
Meet the Generals and Admirals	10
Dept of VA News	11
ROTC Wall of Heroes Superintendent Inafuku	12
PPALM Anniversary Judge Kerry Hada	13
Essay by Lt Kuroda	14
Congress award to NJAHS	15
JAVA Scholarship program	16
Holiday support for troops	
Book Review	17
Southern Cal Community Advisory Committee	
Welcome new members	
Taps	18
From the Editor	19
Thank You Donors	
Membership Application	
JAVA Contact Information	20
Upcoming Events	
Billy Tucci and SGT Rock	

## Obama nominates Shinseki to head VA JAVA to attend confirmation hearing

WASHINGTON— President-elect Barack Obama has nominated General Eric Shinseki, US Army (Ret), as Secretary-Designate of Veterans Affairs, a position that has taken a new level of urgency because of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama told NBC News "Meet the Press", "When I reflect on the sacrifices that have been made by our veterans and I think about how many veterans around the country are struggling even more than those who have not served – higher unemployment rates, higher homeless rates, higher substance-abuse rates, medical care that is inadequate – it breaks my heart, and I think that General Shinseki is exactly the right person who is going to be able to make sure that we honor our troops when they come home."



Above: President-elect Barack Obama listens after introducing Gen. Eric K. Shinseki as his Veterans Affairs Secretary-designate during a news conference Dec. 7, 2008 in Chicago. (AP Photo/M. Spencer Green)

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former Secretary of State, said "Shinseki is a superb choice... He is a wounded hero who survived and worked his way to the top. He knows soldiers and knows what it takes to keep faith with the men and women who went forth to serve the nation. He also knows how to run large and complex bureaucratic institutions. His is an inspired selection."

In endorsing Obama's nomination, General Colin L. Powell, US Army (Ret), former

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, said "General Shinseki is a great choice. He is well aware of the needs of our veterans and will make an excellent secretary...He is a man of great ability and integrity."

*[see Shinseki on page 3]*

## Inouye selected to chair Appropriations Committee



WASHINGTON—US Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Honorary Chair of JAVA, is the new Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Appropriations. The Committee on Appropriations is crucial in moving the Democrats' legislative agenda in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, in which the Democrats

are in firm control of both chambers.

Inouye is the third most senior member of the US Senate. He has a distinguished record as a legislative leader and as a World War II combat veteran, earning the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor.

Inouye said "I am most honored by the confidence Majority Leader Harry Reid has placed in me as the next Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

## President's Message



There were many developments during the past quarter for which congratulations are in order. We wish to offer congratulations to:

- Senator Daniel Inouye, Honorary Chair of JAVA, for his appointment as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, a powerful committee.
- GEN Eric Shinseki, USA (Ret), for his appointment as Secretary-Designate of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. JAVA will submit to the US Senate Veterans Affairs Committee a written testimony of endorsement.
- Christine Sato-Yamazaki, JAVA member and President and CEO of *Go For Broke National Education Center*, for convoking the National WW II Nisei Veterans Organizations meeting in Los Angeles to form a network "to preserve and advance the legacy of Nisei soldiers." Also, we congratulate Christine for obtaining the US Army award of \$450,000 to support the writing of the book on the Occupation of Japan.
- Rosalyn Tonai, Executive Director of the National Japanese American

Historical Society (NJAHS) for obtaining \$1 million from the US Congress for the rebuilding of Building 640 into the Military Intelligence Service education center. Building 640, on the Presidio of San Francisco, is where the MIS Language School began in November 1941, before WW II.

- Billy Tucci, illustrator, writer and artist, for featuring the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT in his six-series comic book entitled *Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion*, which features the rescue of the trapped Texas battalion by the Nisei in the Vosges mountains of France. Its first feature in a comic book, the 442<sup>nd</sup> story will be exposed to over 20,000 readers who know very little or nothing about the Nisei WW II experience.
- Ranger Vince Okamoto, JAVA life member and probably the most highly-decorated Japanese American in the Vietnam War, for publishing *Wolfhound Samurai, a Novel of the Vietnam War*. Okamoto is a superior court judge in southern California.

We are grateful to Mrs. Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin for making a large donation to JAVA. In keeping with Mrs. Taubkin's wishes, the Executive Council will use the funds to promote the Japanese American legacy. I will be paying a courtesy call soon on Mrs. Tsuboi. I wish also to commend five JAVA volunteers: Calvin Ninomiya, chair of the Scholar-

ship Committee, for completing the arrangements for the 2009 scholarship awards; Grant Ichikawa, editor/publisher of the "round robin," our twice-weekly electronic bulletin, for his diligence in never missing a deadline or a great story (I have received many complimentary remarks about the value of the RR); Marty Herbert for volunteering to handle—and handle very well—an opportunity that comes our way; Lona Ichikawa for her steadfast efforts to support the veterans and the troops on the front lines; and Kay Wakatake, our JAVA Advocate editor.

As 2009 comes to a close, I see JAVA as a vibrant organization, our membership is up, our finances are solid, and we have participated in many meaningful activities this year. I want to personally thank all who have volunteered and participated, and also thank all members for your continuing support. Happy New Year.

—Bob

### JAVA MEMBERS' INTERVIEWS AIRED ON CNN

Comcast's *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne*, a nationally-televised daily and weekly information / entertainment show hosted by Suzanne Roberts, aired the Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima interview on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2008. The broadcast was on CNN Headline News nationally on Comcast cable systems in 3 five-minute segments at 11:55am, 1:55pm and 3:55pm (EST). A weekly, half-hour expanded version of the Ichikawa/Shima interview was aired at selected locations on Sunday, December 7, at 6pm (EST) on CN8 TV.

Ichikawa and Shima were interviewed earlier this year at the *Seeking Solutions with Suzanne* studio in Philadelphia by Suzanne Roberts on such points as the



President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, life in internment camps, Japanese Americans combat duty in Europe and the Pacific war zones to prove their loyalty, America's national apology and correction of its violation of the constitution. [Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

#### Honorary Chairs

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

#### Officers

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

#### Executive Council

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

#### JAVA ADVOCATE

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



# Nat'l WWII Nisei Veterans Organizations form network

TORRANCE, Calif.—At a meeting of World War II Nisei Veterans Organizations hosted by the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC), groups from cities and communities nationwide agreed to design a network for working together to preserve and advance the legacy of the Nisei soldiers. The inaugural meeting served as a forum for sharing ideas and practices to further the groups' common goal, and was held at the National Center for Preservation of Democracy in Los Angeles on Nov. 14, 2008.

After representatives of 18 individual veterans' organizations presented snapshots of the work they are doing in their own communities on behalf of the Nisei legacy, General Eric Shinseki, who was the National Spokesperson for GFBNEC until his recent selection by President-elect Barack Obama to be his Secretary of Veterans Affairs, urged meeting participants to design a program for working together. He emphasized the urgency to act now because "the legacy they bequeathed is our legacy -- to preserve, to honor, and to perpetuate" and the need to join together to "tell the entire story accurately."

GFBNEC ([www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org)) was selected to lead the effort and by the end of Jan. 2009, to draft an organizational charter to define purpose, membership, goals and functional details of a developing network. The document will then be presented to a preliminary leadership council that the veterans' organizations appointed.

A second meeting of the WW II Nisei Veterans Organizations is scheduled for Friday, June 5 in Los Angeles. In addition to GFBNEC, participants include JAVA, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, National Japanese American Veterans Council, Chicago Japanese American Council, Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the National Japanese American Historical Society/MIS of Northern CA. Other participants were the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, Pinedale Assembly Center, 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Association, MIS Association of Southern CA, Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council, Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance/Japanese American Living Legacy, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club (Oahu), 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club (Oahu), MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii, Go For Broke Association (Oahu) and the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (Maui). Dr. Mitch Maki, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, California State University Dominguez Hills, author and leader on issues of social justice, emceed the inaugural meeting and served as facilitator.

*[JAVA representatives at the meeting were Executive Council Member Grant Ichikawa and Life Member Kenneth Hayashi of Yorba Linda, California. They told the group JAVA endorses the concept and commends GFBNEC for convoking the meeting.]*



Above: Group photograph taken at the National Veterans Organization meeting in Torrance, California on November 14, 2008. Photo credit: GFBNEC.

## Shinseki (continued from page 1)

General Shinseki told JAVA officials on several occasions that never a day goes by that he does not think of the dedicated men and women in uniform sacrificing their lives to defend our nation and our way of living. Even in his retirement he is totally committed to them. He has accepted the nomination to attempt to improve the benefits and services for which all veterans of the Armed Forces are entitled.

Bob Nakamoto, President of JAVA, called General Shinseki the "soldiers' soldier, a role model for every young man and woman. . . . General Shinseki's nomination is

recognition of a highly qualified patriot and it is a chapter in the Greatness of America. Sixty-seven years ago, as the result of the Pearl Harbor attack, Japanese Americans were distrusted by their government and faced significant discrimination resulting in 120,000 of them being forcibly interned in primitive camps for the duration of the war. Japanese Americans, who volunteered for combat, proved their loyalty that earned a Presidential apology for the incarceration. Today, Japanese Americans can compete on equal terms with any other persons for opportunities throughout American society." *[Quotes of Obama, Powell and Akaka were taken from Washington Post, December 7, 2008]*

*[Full press release at [www.javaadvocate.com](http://www.javaadvocate.com)]*

## Senator Akaka and BG Vincent speak at JAVA luncheon

FALLS CHURCH, Vir.—US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and an Honorary Chairman of JAVA, outlined his four-point legislative program designed to ensure veterans get the care and benefits they deserve. Akaka made his remarks at the JAVA quarterly luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia, on October 18, 2008. At the same luncheon Brigadier General Edwin “Skip” Vincent, USAF, discussed the US Air Force Pacific Command’s strategy for the US air defense of the Pacific region.

Akaka paid tribute to the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and the Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service. He announced that the US Army is writing a book on



L-R: William Takakoshi, LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), Sen. Daniel K. Akaka, Brig Gen Edwin Vincent. Photo by Grant Hirabayashi.

the Japanese American contribution to the Occupation of Japan that enabled Japan “to emerge from destruction of WW II as the strongest of political allies and economic partners” of the USA. He said the Go For Broke National Education Center will have a major role in the collection of data for this book.

General Vincent spoke about the US Air Force Pacific Command’s strategy as one that is focused on protecting the homeland, as well as deterring aggression, responding to disaster, and, when needed, fighting and winning. This strategy underlines the need to respond to changing demands. He stressed the importance for our veterans to participate in the oral history program, noting that, “It allows us to better respond to the past, present, and future needs of our veterans. Future generations need to understand the price of freedom and security.”

Also in attendance was Mr. Takahiro Yamago, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan and successor to Mr. Yudai Ueno.

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

## JAVA Veterans Day program

WASHINGTON—On November 11, 2008, the Japanese American community of Washington, DC participated in various programs to pay tribute to veterans and members of the US Armed forces. A number of events culminated in JAVA and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation’s (NJAMF) 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol Building.

In addition to JAVA and NJAMF members, officials of the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Japanese American Veterans Council, and the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors also participated. The press covering the event included journalists from the *Stars and Stripes* and *Asahi Shimbun* newspapers. Earlier that day, a



Seated: COL Phil Ishio, USA (Ret). Standing, L-R: Bob Nakamoto; Craig Uchida; VADM Harry Harris, USN; Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret); LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret); BG James D. Huggins, USA; MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret). Photo by Scott Henrichsen.

NJAMF and a JAVA official visited the Fox News studio to discuss the significance of Veterans Day and the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

As the featured speaker, Brigadier General James L. Huggins, USA, an Iraq combat veteran and Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army at the Pentagon, said, “I am proud to be a simple soldier in today’s Army. It is the best Army we have ever had but that it will not be the best forever. We continue to strive each day to improve in order to meet the challenges of an uncertain future in which nation states and independent actors threaten our way of life.” He paid high tribute to Japanese Americans who fought in WW II and the Korean War, “You made it clear that the cost of freedom is a very real and solemn bill only paid in blood and sacrifice by the soldiers who answer the call to defend it.”

During the morning, a JAVA delegation participated in the National Veterans Day Ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery where Vice President Richard Cheney laid the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and addressed the nation. President Robert Nakamoto represented JAVA and Lieutenant Colonel Martin Herbert, USA (Ret) and Tommy Phan served as JAVA color bearers.

Ben Kuroki (91), JAVA member, who flew 58 air combat missions in B-24 and B-29 bombers in Europe and the Pacific, including Japan, taped his remarks which were aired at an American Legion program in Hershey, Nebraska, on Veterans Day. JAVA provided speakers for Veterans Day programs at the Masonic Lodge in Rockville, Maryland, the South Lake High School in Virginia, and the Howard County Community College in Columbia, Maryland.



## Merrill's Marauders reunion by Tim Yuge, GFBNEC Hanashi Program

ATLANTA—A “hazardous and dangerous mission” were the words used by President Roosevelt and General Stillwell to recruit men for an operation set in the China-Burma-India Theater back in 1944.



L-R: Ed McLogan, Grant Hirabayashi, Phil Piazza, Roy Matsumoto, Vincent Milillo, Jackson Pokress, Harry Palmer.

During the last weekend of August 2008, the Hanashi Oral History Program (Go For Broke National Education Center) had the privilege of attending the 62<sup>nd</sup> reunion of the Merrill's Marauders Association in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the past years, Hanashi has recorded interviews with Nisei MIS veterans, who served with the Marauders such as Roy Matsumoto and Grant Hirabayashi. However, at this reunion, Hanashi was able to interview many of the original Marauders from the 5307 Composite Unit who volunteered for this duty.

The surviving veterans, many of who originally from units stationed in jungle areas of Central America or fresh from battles in the South Pacific, told of their harrowing experiences to keep the supply route open in Burma. Their mission was to use “hit and run” tactics against the Japanese enemy, but fighting in this region was like a suicide mission as they discovered that there was no way out in pushing towards their objective. Not only did they have to battle a fierce enemy, they also went days without food, water and supplies.

The vets told about times when they had to get water from bamboo tress and from rain puddles which were formed from the hoof prints of water buffalos or elephants. Some days they had to eat the meat from their dead mules. They

suffered more casualties from disease than from fire from the enemy. Of the original approximately 3,000 men, only about 200 were left to battle at the end of the first Marauders' campaign at the airfield at Myitkyina. It was not until then that replacements were flown in take over for the original unit.

When the veterans were asked about the role of the 14 MIS'ers assigned to the mission, they all stated that without them, the mission could not have been accomplished. Many surmised that if it wasn't for the MIS'ers, there probably would not have even been 200 survivors. One former sergeant recalled the time he led a squad ordered to accompany Roy Matsumoto to a certain location at night, from where Roy was within listening distance of the enemy. The sergeant stated, “I have never been so scared and petrified, but [Roy] crawled through the bush with only a hand grenade—you know, in case he was captured—that's the thing we all worried about, can you imagine what they would have done to [Roy] if they caught him?”

For many years now, Roy and Grant have been attending this reunion. Even though the MIS'ers were only “attached” to Merrill's Marauders, they are treated like one of the family members of their group. “I remember when [the MM vets'] kids were this small, and now look at them!” recalls Grant.

## Nisei veterans invited to Major General Johnson promotion

FORT LEWIS, Wash.—Brigadier General John Johnson, USA, invited Nisei Veterans Committee members to Fort Lewis, Washington, on December 11, 2008, for his promotion ceremony to Major General. Kanaya, Kobayashi, Matsumoto and Okamoto are JAVA life members. In his letter of appreciation, NVC Commander LtCol Tokita, in addition to thanking Johnson for the warm hospitality, said “Your warm introduction of our Japanese American invitees during your acceptance remarks were special, and we appreciate your acknowledgement and recognition of our heroic 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and Military Intelligence veterans. . . .Especially thrilled was Ranger Roy Matsumoto. We would like to reciprocate on a lesser scale and have you visit our recently remodeled NVC Memorial Hall in Seattle.”



Pictured from left to right: LtCol Yuzo Tokita, USAF (Ret); COL Jimmie Kanaya, USA (Ret); MG Rodney Kobayashi, USA (Ret); MG John Johnson; Ranger Roy Matsumoto; LTG Charles Jacoby; Tosh Okamoto, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT; and Teruo Yorita. Photo courtesy of COL Jimmie Kanaya.

## Dr. Robinson speaks to JAVA members

ROSSLYN, Vir.—Dr. Greg Robinson, author of *By Order of the President: FDR and the Internment of Japanese Americans*, had lunch with JAVA members on October 9, 2008, in Rosslyn, Virginia. Robinson was in Washington, DC for meetings at Smithsonian Institution. He gave JAVA members a preview of his research on Robert Chino. Robinson said:

“There has been much talk of the split between the Nisei veterans of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team/MIS and the Nisei draft resisters of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee and elsewhere. However, as Daniel Inouye has rightly pointed out, both groups took principled and unpopular stands and did honor to our nation’s ideals. To show that essential identity, let me present the unusual story of Robert Chino, who was both a draft resister and a decorated veteran.”

Robert Asahi Chino was born in Chicago in February 1919, the son of an Issei father and a white mother. After graduating high school, he became a labor organizer and supporter of left-wing causes. In 1940, as war dawned, he joined the War Resisters League, considering war to be senseless destruction. Although as a Nisei Chino was exempt from the draft and had already been granted a deferment, he returned his draft card to his draft board because he wished to make a protest against war on principle. He was arrested and sent to prison for his actions. After serving two years in prison, he agreed to join the 442<sup>nd</sup> in exchange for his release.

Both because of his mixed ancestry and Chicago background, he cut an odd figure in the 442<sup>nd</sup>. He served as supply sergeant with the unit in Italy and France, and was wounded three times. In a letter explaining his army service, Chino paid tribute to the decency and



Above: Robert Chino (right) and his wife Claude Bellicard. Photo courtesy of Dr. Greg Robinson. Below: Dr. Robinson (seated front row, 2nd from right) with JAVA members at the luncheon.

good sense of his comrades, which he compared to the strained personal relations among the resisters. Chino wrote,

*‘Like every place else, sweeping generalizations become meaningless, yet thus far I have found our GIs somehow a little more considerate, a shade more socially responsible, than the pacifists as a group. Again I mean the combat troops; the few who undergo the intense sharp experience of war, the ones who do the killing and are killed. . . . I don’t know where these men came from, what they were before, but they were probably ordinary men. They are still ordinary and yet they do look out for one another and they try to share. Perhaps that doesn’t sound so important, yet it is. Remember, these men are not out to save the world or even to rework it. . . . But they have learned to live together.’*

[Note: Full report available from Nichibei Times Dec. 17, 2008 issue.]



## Ship named after Nisei 442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS veteran

MOSS POINT, Miss.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration honored the late Dr. Bell M. Shimada, a Japanese American fishery scientist, by naming a fisheries survey vessel in his name. The 208-foot *Bell M. Shimada*, built by VT Halter Marine Inc. of Moss Point, Mississippi, was launched on September 26, 2008, and is



the fourth vessel of the same class designed to collect data on the nation’s commercial fisheries, other sea life and ocean conditions. During Dr. Shimada’s career as a fishery research biologist lasted only 12 years, he made a distinctive mark in the study of Pacific tropical tuna stocks.

Dr. Shimada was born in Seattle, Washington, and was incarcerated in an internment camp in 1942. He volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and was transferred to the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). In May 1945, he was assigned to Guam to intercept Japanese communications and in August 1945 was deployed to Tokyo to survey damage caused by US bombings. He was honorably discharged in February 1946.

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



## Senior defense official addresses Special Ops reunion

LAS VEGAS—Wade Ishimoto, JAVA member and Senior Executive Service Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy, was the keynote speaker at the XXXII Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR) of some 600 attendees on September 18, 2008, at the Orleans Hotel at Las Vegas, Nevada. Ishimoto substituted for Michael Vickers, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations, Low Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, who had to cancel at the last moment.

Ishimoto talked about the current and future state of America's Special Operations Forces and how a relatively small number of people are very quietly and professionally doing a number of missions to quell insurgencies and fight terrorism around the world. He recounted how Spe-



Above, L-R: Special Operations Assn President Cletis Sinyard and Wade Ishimoto. Photo courtesy of Wade Ishimoto.

cial Operations rose from the ashes of a failed mission to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran in 1980, to a force of 48,000 today. Ishimoto, who served on the failed Iranian mission, said he expected Special Operations strength to grow to 58,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

Ishimoto said at any given time, today's special operators may be in 60 or more countries of the world either doing direct action missions or assisting foreign governments in building their capacity to deal with terrorists and insurgents. Many of these brave men and women have four or more years in combat zones and are generally unrecognized because they choose to be quiet professionals, with the credit going to the forces of other nations that they have trained, assisted, and led in combat.

## Army Awards \$450k to GFBNEC for oral history program

TORRANCE, Calif. – The Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) has won a Request for Proposal from the United States Army to collect oral histories from Japanese-American veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) who served as linguists in occupied Japan. GFBNEC will use the \$450,000 awarded for this Japan Occupation Study to interview 30 Nisei linguists a year for three years, working closely with the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

The program comes at the encouragement of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka and the National Japanese American Veterans Council, and follows the Army's 2006 publication of *Nisei Linguist: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II* by Dr. James McNaughton.

"The Nisei linguists who served in the MIS during WW II and the postwar period were vitally important to the reconstruction of Japan and the development of a lasting peace and key political and economic alliances. It is important that we study the successes of the MIS as a model for how our nation can move forward in Iraq and Afghanistan," Senator Akaka said.

The Center for Military History will use the oral histories collected through this program for a sequel to Dr. McNaughton's work that focuses on Nisei linguists during the Japan Occupation. This second publication will also be a scholarly, objective and professional history.

"Our mission to keep the story of the Nisei veterans alive makes this opportunity to work with the Center of Military History especially meaningful," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, president and chief executive officer of the Na-

tional Education Center. "We're also uniquely qualified. We've been conducting oral histories for the past 10 years and have already interviewed more than 900 Japanese-American veterans of World War II."

An estimated 3,000 Nisei MIS members served in Japan from 1945-1952, during the U.S. Military's post-World War II occupation. Additional information can be obtained from Dr. Lisa Sueki, Tel: 310-222-5714 or [lisa@goforbroke.org](mailto:lisa@goforbroke.org).



Above: TORRANCE, Calif.—The Go For Broke National Education Center held its successful 7th Evening of Aloha gala dinner on Saturday, November 15, 2008, at the Bonaventure Hotel & Suites in downtown Los Angeles. GFBNEC's national spokesperson General Eric K. Shinseki, USA (Ret), headlined the event, which was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch, Union Bank of California, and Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. In his keynote speech to more than 1,100 Evening of Aloha guests, he said of the Nisei veterans of World War II, "theirs is an American story, and it is the stuff of legend." Pictured from L-R: Bill Seki, Chairman, GFBNEC; General Eric K. Shinseki (ret), former U.S. Army Chief-of-Staff and the evening's keynote speaker; Christine Sato-Yamazaki, President & CEO, GFBNEC; Mrs. Hiroko Tanaka and Mr. Masaaki Tanaka, President & CEO Union Bank of California and Evening of Aloha Honorary Dinner Chair. [Press release at [www.GoForBroke.org](http://www.GoForBroke.org)].

## News From other veterans organizations

SEATTLE – In the October issue of the **Nisei Veterans Committee** Newsletter, Col Yuzo Tokita, USAF (Ret), Commander of NVC, commended the Sansei and Yonsei for taking the lead in running club activities. Takashi “Tak” Momoda, a medic of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, was the featured veteran at the NVC October Speakers series. He was drafted into the US Army in January 1942, volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and fought in Belvedere and Hill 140 in Italy, participated in the liberation of the towns of Bruyeres, Biffontaine, Belmont in France, participated in the rescue of the trapped Texas battalion, climbed Mt. Folgorito, Italy at night to attack the Germans at dawn, and saw the surrender of Germany. The November Speaker Series featured the Tokita family. The family was interned at Minidoka, Idaho, their father died when he was 51 years old, their mother was left to care for 9 children, and Yuzo and Shokichi served in the USAF as fighter pilots with ranks of Lt Colonel and full Colonel, respectively. Sam Matsui was invited to speak at his high school, Skykomish High. At the conclusion he was presented with an honorary high school diploma, which he did not receive because of the forcible evacuation in 1942.

HONOLULU – Ed Hamasu wrote in the **MIS Veterans** Newsletter, Hawaii, October 2008 issue that the next Japan – US Goodwill Softball Games will be held in Hiroshima in April 2009. The first Game was held in Honolulu in November 2007. The players are veterans of WW II. The US team is comprised of veterans mainly from Florida. MIS Veterans Hawaii arranged the event in a “warm Hawaiian aloha setting”. If you are interested in visiting Hiroshima for this event and also tour such cities as Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Nagasaki send your inquiry to MIS Veterans, P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, HI 96802. Mrs. Helen Moriyama wrote in the December Newsletter that her husband Charlie, who served in the CIC during the Occupation of Japan, was vehemently opposed to being interviewed for his Oral History. He finally agreed when he realized the importance this interview would have to his grand children and their future generations. Jimmy Tanabe and Yoshinobu Oshiro interviewed Moriyama for 2 and one half hours. Great work, Helen.

HONOLULU — Amanda Stevens, Office Executive of **100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans Club**, Hawaii, wrote in the *One Puka Puka Parade*, December 2008 issue that the 100<sup>th</sup> Battal-

ion veterans were honored in Hilo, Hawaii, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hawaii Island Veterans Day Parade on November 8, 2008. It was a gala affair with 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion veterans, including some from other islands, leading the parade of marching bands, floats and marchers. The *Parade* also reported 35 veterans and families attended the first photo identification event at the Clubhouse to identify the “hundreds of photographs stored in the archives.” The ninety-something year-old veterans displayed remarkable recall; this project has challenged them. The November issue reported that Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, posted a sign near the History Center to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion.

ROSEVILLE, Calif.— **Nisei VFW Post 8985**, Roseville, California, Newsletter, September 2008 said Post 8985 has adopted Company E, 100<sup>th</sup> Bn, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry to support during their upcoming deployment to Iraq. Post 8985 officials met Co E members during their pre-deployment training at Fort Hunter Liggett, California on August 11. The company has members from Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Saipan and other Pacific islands. Post 8985 will send to Co E personnel care packages, particularly their favorite tropical snacks, including ingredients for “da spam musubi.”

## Matsunaga school Veterans Day program

GERMANTOWN, Md.—The Spark Matsunaga Elementary School held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Program on November 6, 2008, at the packed auditorium of the Northwest High School in Germantown, Maryland. Five hundred students from the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, dressed uniformly, sang patriotic songs and performed in perfect unison under the school’s Music Director Theresa Potterton. For the finale, 500 students on the stage sang *God Bless the USA*, at the end of which the students pulled off their neckerchiefs and unfurled them, forming the US flag.

Honored along with other veterans and active duty personnel were JAVA members Dr. Norman Ikari (442<sup>nd</sup> RCT) and wife Kyoko; Dr Ray Murakami (Military Intelligence Service) and wife Mary; Ta-

tsuya Hofmann (post-Vietnam War veteran); and Terry Shima (442<sup>nd</sup>) and wife Betty.

The Matsunaga Elementary School was dedicated on May 5, 2002, in a ceremony attended by Norman Y. Mineta, former US Secretary of Transportation and JAVA Honorary Chair. The school principal is Mrs. Judy Brubaker. Matsunaga was a decorated veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion who was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and two Purple Heart Medals for wounds sustained on the Italian front. Following his military service, Matsunaga attended Harvard Law School and later became a US Senator, a position he served with distinction.





## Dept of Labor launches program to help employers of veterans with TBI and PTSD

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently unveiled *America's Heroes at Work*, a unique program designed to help employers support veterans who are coping with two increasingly common battlefield injuries – Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Launched in August 2008, the initiative equips businesses and the workforce development system with the tools they need to help those affected by TBI and/or PTSD succeed in the workplace—particularly service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

By many accounts, hundreds of thousands of brave men and women are expected to be coping with TBI and PTSD as they reenter civilian life. Although their injuries may not be visible, veterans experiencing combat stress or a brain injury may face difficulties, especially with respect to employment. They may suffer from headaches, vertigo, balance problems, anxiety and sleep disturbance, among other symptoms. They also may have cognitive symptoms including short-term memory deficits, poor concentration and decision-making difficulties. All of these can interfere with everyday activities, inside and outside of the workplace.

However, DOL wants employers to know that often simple workplace supports can help individuals with TBI and/or PTSD succeed in their jobs, and that *employment* can play a major role in their recovery. It has launched a comprehensive Web site – [www.AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov](http://www.AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov) – that offers support and education concerning ways to assist returning service members with TBI and PTSD in their transition into the work place. Specifically, it educates employers, human resources professionals, the workforce development system, and vocational rehabilitation professionals on accommodations they can make for employees living with a brain injury or combat stress. It also provides a toll-free number that employers can call for personalized assistance related to accommodations for veterans with disabilities (800-526-7234).

Examples of accommodations for people with TBI or PTSD include lighting adjustments to prevent headaches, tape recorders to help with memory, or a quiet workspace to support concentration. Other promising practices include job sharing, job coaching, flexible schedules and workplace mentoring.

[AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov](http://AmericasHeroesAtWork.gov) is merely the centerpiece of a targeted, ongoing DOL outreach campaign that will help increase awareness of TBI and PTSD issues among the workforce system, and educate employers on how to help those with TBI and/or PTSD succeed—whether their employees are veterans, first-responders or any one of the millions of Americans experiencing a mental illness or the effects of a head injury.

Additionally, *America's Heroes at Work* aims to dispel some of the myths related to people with TBI and PTSD by stressing the facts—that 80% of TBIs are mild concussions that will heal fully, and that PTSD is nothing an employer should fear. After all, veteran employees, including those with disabilities, make exceptional employees who will bring bottom-line benefits to one's business.

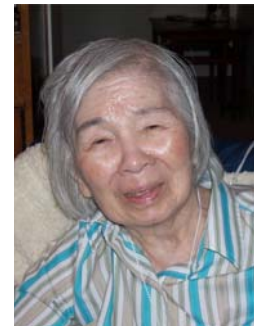
*America's Heroes at Work* is managed by DOL's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS) in collaboration with other federal agencies engaged in TBI and PTSD programs, including the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services and Education, the Small Business Administration, the Social Security Administration and others. Educational materials on the Web site were produced collaboratively with the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and TBI; the Defense and Veterans' Brain Injury Center; the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and the Job Accommodation Network.

## JAVA receives large donation from Mrs. Taubkin

PORTLAND, Ore.—With the vision of helping to perpetuate the legacy of Japanese American contribution to America during World War II, Mrs. Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin, 92, has graciously donated a significant amount of New York Times stock to JAVA. Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Mrs. Taubkin was incarcerated with her family in a US internment camp during the war.

Mrs. Taubkin is the widow of the late Irvin S. Taubkin, who retired as the Director of Public Relations of the New York Times newspaper in 1971. During WW II, Mr. Taubkin served in the Army as a reporter and copy editor for the London edition of Stars and Stripes, a US Army daily newspaper. After the war, Mrs. Taubkin moved to New York City, where she met and married Mr. Taubkin.

According to her attorney, Mr. Scott Monfils, Mrs. Taubkin has great admiration and respect for the WW II generation, including the role of the Nisei, US born children of immigrant Japanese parents who valiantly volunteered for combat from internment camps to prove their loyalty.



JAVA President Robert Nakamoto wrote to Mrs. Taubkin, “Your donation will be used to honor the Japanese American soldiers who fought so gallantly and with unprecedented valor in defending the United States during World War II.” *[Full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]*

# Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in military service. The present count is that 77 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 77, 49 served in the U.S. Army, 12 in the U.S. Navy, 15 in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Marines. Broken down in another way, 20 are Chinese Americans, 6 Filipino Americans, 18 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 33 Japanese Americans.

## BG James L. Huggins



Brigadier General James L. Huggins was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant through ROTC in 1980. His military education includes the Armed Forces Staff College and the US Army War College. He holds a Masters Degree from Central Michigan University.

Huggins has commanded airborne infantry units at the company, battalion, and brigade levels. His service as a staff officer includes tours as an S3 or G3 at battalion, brigade and division levels. Following a tour of duty as the Chief of Staff, 82d Airborne Division, Huggins assumed duties as the Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg on 1 June 2004. On 5 July 2006, Huggins assumed his duties as the Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver), 3d Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA, and in March 2007, he deployed to Iraq as part of Multi-National Division-Central. On 14 July 2008, he assumed duties as Director, Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Washington, DC.

Asked why the military was his career choice, Huggins said "Having grown up the only son of an Army Sergeant Major, I thought I knew the Army very well. As I entered college I did not have a vision that a career in the military was ahead of me. As time and events passed in my college experience, I grew to enjoy the structure and discipline associated with ROTC verses other courses. I did not realize it at the time, but having spent my youth as a dependent on Army posts, it was as if I were meant to serve. As I entered the service I found a great deal of satisfaction in the camaraderie of the military, and most importantly I found a sense of purpose in serving others – selflessly."

Huggins added "while I think my father's influence (at least by his service) influenced my decision to serve in the Army, I know that my mother's Japanese ancestry had a great influence on the character with which I serve. The way she lived her life, quietly and humbly living each day to make things better for others is what I try to live up to each day I put on my uniform. Being a good person first (faith, family, friends), and a good officer second is something I try to hold true too thanks to her example.

Huggins and his wife Melissa have three daughters.

## MG Eldon P. Regua



Major General Eldon P. Regua, USAR, born in San Jose, California, is the Commanding General of the 75th Battle Command Training Division headquartered in Houston, TX. His previous position was Commanding General for the 104th Division (Institutional Training) located at Vancouver Barracks, Washington. Additionally, Regua served as both the Assistant Division Commander (Operations) and the Chief of Staff of the 104th Division. Prior to joining the 104th Division in July 2003, MG Regua was the Assistant Chief of Staff, G3 (Operations and Training), 91st Division (Training Support) headquartered at Camp Parks, Dublin, California.

Regua was commissioned through the ROTC program at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, where he received Bachelor of Science degrees in commerce and accounting. He also has a Masters of Business Administration degree from Chapman University and a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the US Army War College. He graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Upon receiving his commission, Regua served on active duty as an assault fire platoon leader and other duties in the 2nd Air Defense Artillery (Hawk) in Giessen, Germany. While in Giessen, MG Regua evaluated the readiness of Dutch, German, and US Army Hawk units. He also served as an Operations Research System Analyst at the US Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

His decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with a silver oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and Parachutist Badge.

Regua is a member of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee. He is married to the former Cirella Teresa Carey and has four adult children: Daniel, Jason, Sarah, and Ronnie.



## News from the Dept of VA

WASHINGTON – Service-disabled and low-income veterans who are reimbursed for travel expenses while receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities will see an increase in their payments beginning January 9.

A recently passed law allows VA to cut the amount it must withhold from their mileage reimbursement. The deductible amount will be \$3 for each one-way trip and \$6 for each round trip--with a calendar cap of \$18, or six one-way trips or three round trips, whichever comes first. The previous deductible was \$7.77 for a one-way trip, and \$15.54 for a round trip, with a calendar cap of \$46.62.

“I’m pleased that we can help veterans living far from VA facilities to access the medical and counseling help they deserve, especially in the current economic climate,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. “Together with the increased mileage rate approved last month, we can further reduce the financial hardship some veterans undergo to use our superior health care.”

In November, Peake announced VA’s second increase in the mileage reimbursement rate during 2008, from 28.5 cents to 41.5 cents a mile. Service-disabled and low-income veterans are eligible to be reimbursed by VA for the travel costs of receiving health care or counseling at VA facilities. Veterans traveling for Compensation and Pension examinations also qualify for mileage reimbursement. VA can waive deductibles if they cause financial hardship.

### JANE POWELL RECEIVES DEPT OF VA AWARD



Legendary actress Jane Powell was honored by the Department of VA October 2008 for her legacy of service to military personnel and veterans. Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Peake presented the Secretary's Diamond Award for her service to America's

veterans, especially her support of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The Diamond Award is VA's highest honor to private citizens for helping the Department carry out its mission. Peake noted that Ms. Powell, who starred in MGM musicals in the 1940's and 1950's and is still active on stage, has volunteered her time and talent for nine years to serve as mistress of ceremonies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, the culmination of a year-long fine arts talent competition involving more than 3,000 veterans nationwide. "I have been associated with our servicemen and women for most of my life," said Powell. "In my opinion, this award represents one of the greatest honors I have ever received."

### WAC CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 30th anniversary of integration of women into the regular force of the U.S. Army – 30 years since the end of the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in 1978. Created out of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in 1943 to enable women to take over more routine service and office jobs and free men for combat roles, the WAC, along with similar female components for other services and nurses, was the only way women could serve their country.



WACs landed in France 38 days after D-Day and WACs served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, although they had to remain far behind the front lines. While WACs worked long hours alongside their male counterparts, many WAC veterans remember being sort of second-class military citizens. Their training was far different.

300 Japanese American women, many of them incarcerated in internment camps, volunteered to serve in the US Army as WACs and in the medical corps as nurses and doctors. Their motivation was similar to the Japanese American male volunteers: to prove their loyalty. Thirty of them were trained in the Japanese language to relieve the Nisei in the Pacific for front line duty.

### VA UNVEILS MOBILE COUNSELING CENTERS

In mid-October 2008 the VA unveiled the first of 50 mobile counseling centers for use by Veterans Centers in Washington, DC. Each vehicle will be assigned to one of VA's existing Vet Centers, enabling the center to improve access to counseling by bringing services closer to veterans. The 38-foot motor coaches, which have spaces for confidential counseling, will carry Vet Center counselors and outreach workers to events and activities to reach veterans in broad geographic areas, supplementing VA's 232 current Vet Centers, which are scheduled to increase to 271 by the end of 2009. The vehicles will also be used to visit events typically staffed by local Vet Center staff, including homeless "stand downs," veteran community events, county fairs, and unit reunions at sites ranging from Native American reservations to colleges. While most of their use will be in Vet Centers' delivery of readjustment counseling services, the local manager may arrange with VA hospitals or clinics in the region to provide occasional support for health promotion activities such as health screenings. The normal counseling layout can be converted to support emergency medical missions, such as hurricanes and other natural disasters. The fleet will be activated during the next three months.

## Hawaii ROTC Wall of Heroes

HONOLULU—The University of Hawaii Army ROTC program recognized six fallen comrades in a dignified program at the Army ROTC building on the UH Manoa lower campus on October 9, 2008. A Wall of Heroes, consisting of a framed photo and biography of each of six, memorialized their contribution to the preservation of freedom. The fallen Manoa warriors, representing UH ROTC classes from 1965 to 2006, are 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Thomas Blevins ('65, Vietnam), 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank Rodriguez ('67, Vietnam), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brian Kong ('69, Vietnam); 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeremy Wolfe (02, Iraq), 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Nainoa Hoe ('03, Afghanistan) and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jonathon Brostrom ('06, Afghanistan). The UH Army ROTC program is 86 years old.

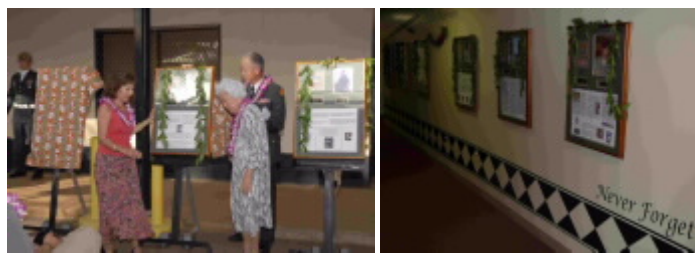
Dignitaries in attendance were UH Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, US Congressman Neil Abercrombie, and State Adjutant General MG Robert G.F. Lee. Families of the Manoa warriors, friends, ROTC cadets and the public participated in this event.

The memorial program was chaired by COL Ed Gayagas, USA (Ret), UH Army ROTC Alumni Association President, and assisted by LTC Rodney Laszlo, USA, a UH Professor of Military Science. COL Gayagas is the father of COL Christine Gayagas, USA (Ret), JAVA member who recently returned from Iraq. LTC Laszlo said "Each of these young men led absolutely amazing lives. They were all shaped by the UH and the Hawaii community." Alan Hoe, father of 1<sup>st</sup> Lt

Nainoa Hoe, said "Freedom is not free. The families of the Manoa Warriors truly understand that."

MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret), graduate of Leilehua High School and Chairman of the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors [see *PPALM story on page 13*], commended COL Gayagas and LTC Laszlo, adding "Our Nation's Armed Forces have a time-honored tradition of memorializing the men and women who selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice. The fallen Manoa Warriors truly exemplified the Warrior Ethos, and our nation is eternally grateful for their willingness to answer the call to duty. They will remain an inspiration for many generations to come."

More information can be obtained from COL Gayagas (phone 808-486-2153 or email gobowz@hawaii.rr.com).



Above left, L-R: Brian Kong's sister Barbara Kong Takeshita and mother Edith Kong, and MG Lee. Above right: Frames mounted on wall of ROTC building. Photo credit: LTC Rodney Laszlo.

## Inafuku named superintendent of Manzanar Historic Site



[Condensed from *National Park Service News Release, Sept. 18, 2008*]

INDEPENDENCE, Calif.—Les Inafuku, a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), is the new superintendent of Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence, CA.

Currently serving as the acting superintendent of Manzanar, Les will permanently relocate to Manzanar in January from his post as chief ranger at Kaloko-

Honokōhau National Historical Park and Pu'uhonua o Hōnau-nau National Historical Park on the Big Island of Hawai'i.

"I am thrilled to be joining the Manzanar team," Les said in accepting the position. "Working with the warm and welcoming community here in Owens Valley, plus the park's superbly dedicated staff and partners, and our park visitors, who are all so touched by the history of this evocative place, is truly inspiring."

Manzanar National Historic Site was established in 1992 to tell the stories of the relocation of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Manzanar was the first of ten war relocation centers built for Japanese Americans ex-

cluded from the West Coast. With a peak population of more than 10,000, Manzanar was the largest wartime "city" between Los Angeles and Reno. After the war, all but three of the camp's 800 buildings were sold for scrap lumber or relocated for other uses. Numerous features from the camp remain, including elaborate rock gardens. The historic high school auditorium now serves as the site's interpretive center and features exhibits, audiovisual programs, and a bookstore. Nearly 500,000 people have visited the center since its April 2004 grand opening.

### George Joe Sakato Recovering Nicely

Leslie Sakato reported that her father, George Joe, is recovering his health positively following his surgery for hernia on December 3, 2008, at a Denver Hospital. He was hospitalized for 10 days, following which he was transferred to a rehabilitation center where he is now having physical and occupational therapy. Joe asked a JAVA reporter on the phone to convey to his many friends that he appreciates their prayers and comforting words of support. He also asked "tell my war buddies this is worse than combat." Joe is an Honorary member of JAVA. Cards for Joe may be mailed to: 8369 Katherine Way, Denver, CO 80221.



## PPALM celebrates first year anniversary

WASHINGTON – About 75 members and friends of the Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) gathered for its first year anniversary meeting on October 5, at the Capital City Brewing Company restaurant in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the meeting was to outline developments since its inauguration on November 11, 2007. These include the development of a mentoring program, a new and improved website [www.ppalm.net](http://www.ppalm.net), execution of a strategic communications plan, which consists of public engagements with military and community leaders and organizations. Generating membership is a work in progress, though some 75 members have joined to date. “Huge interests have been generated in Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and in parts of the U.S. So we are blessed with the great amount of energy gained during our first year—thanks in part to the hard work of the volunteers who make up the Board of Directors,” said COL Bobby LumHo, USA (Ret), Membership Chair. PPALM’s mission is to have accredited mentors, both ac-



Above: MG Antonio Taguba, USA (Ret). Photo by COL Becky Samson, USA (Ret).

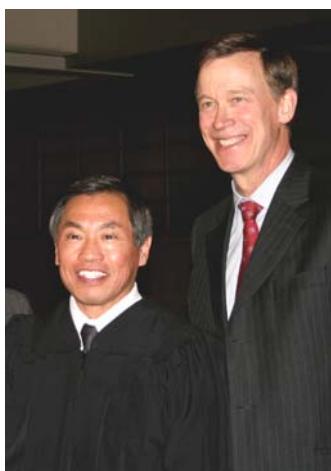
tive and retired military, mentor interested US military and civilian personnel to reach their career goals. PPALM intends to augment the “Army Strong” campaign on recruiting and retention. While PPALM is initially focused on the Army, it plans to expand to other branches of service when conditions and timing allow. General Eric Shinseki (Ret) and MG Antonio Taguba (Ret) (pictured left), JAVA member, are PPALM’s Honorary Chair and Chair, respectively.

JAVA is a cooperative partner of PPALM. JAVA President Robert Nakamoto and a contingent of JAVA members attended the PPALM meeting in October.

Veterans and active duty personnel wishing to become a member of PPALM should contact COL Bobby LumHO, USA (Ret) (703-440-8617; [bobby.lumho@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.lumho@us.army.mil)) or Terry Shima(301-987-6746; [ttshima@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ttshima@worldnet.att.net)). The annual membership dues are \$35.

## JAVA life member appointed to the bench by George N. Yoshida

DENVER – On December 3, 2008, at the atrium of the Wellington E. Webb Building, over 300 people attended Hada’s swearing-in ceremony where he was appointed as the Denver County Court Judge by Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper. Mayor Hickenlooper said, “Kerry Hada brings a unique combination of skills and experience to the Denver County Court bench, and he will be a great asset to the Court and to the Denver Community.” Judge Alfred Harrell officiated in the swearing-in ceremony.



Judge Kerry Hada (left) with Mayor John Hickenlooper. Photo by Annie Guo.

The first in his extended family to attend college, Kerry S. Hada graduated with honors from the University of Colorado with a B.S. Degree in Marketing. Not only was he an honor student throughout college, but he was also a nationally ranked ski racer, graduated as the top student in the Army ROTC class, and was commissioned in the US Regular Army Infantry as an Officer. He served as an Airborne Infantry Officer with the US Army from 1971 to 1974. His leadership roles included Airborne Ranger Infantry Officer, platoon leader, company commander, and special operations team leader.

Following his military service, Hada received his Masters in Science degree in management from Colorado State University Graduate School of Business and his juris doctorate degree from the University of Denver College of Law. Hada’s 20 years of private law practice, extensive numerous community activities and services (local, national and international), and military experience have all prepared him for the judgeship.

Judge Hada, in his official judge’s robe, humbly acknowledged and thanked all in attendance for their support, and concluded by quoting Minoru Yasui, “We must all strive to make this world a better place.”

### Reminder: Annual Membership Dues

JAVA annual membership dues are based on a calendar year. The dues for 2009 and life membership are as listed below. If you have not yet paid, please mail your check, payable to JAVA, to Earl Takeguchi, 7201 White House Drive, Springfield, VA 22153.

Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30; Associate (non veterans): \$20; Cadets and Midshipmen: \$15; Life Membership: \$300. (An application form for new members can be found on page 19.)

For more information, contact Marty Herbert, Membership Chair (703-509-6473; [herbert\\_martin@bah.com](mailto:herbert_martin@bah.com)).

## The Last Full Measure of Devotion by Lt. Janelle Kuroda, USN



Forty meters below the streets of Naples, Italy, I turn a corner and stumble upon World War II-era graffiti illustrating an aerial attack and the infamous trio of the day: Adolf Hitler, Emperor Hirohito and Benito Mussolini. I am on an underground tour of Naples, making my way through the narrow passages that betray a secret world unknown to many modern day Neapolitans. During the heavy aerial bombardments of World War II, up to 20,000 Neapolitans fled underground to these ancient caves once used by the Greeks and Romans. In these caves and labyrinths they lived for months at a time, often carving pictures depicting their lives into the walls in an attempt to alleviate the boredom and fear they must have felt. Looking at the graffiti about life in Naples during the War, I can't help but think of my granduncle, Jack Tanaka.

\* \* \* \* \*

Growing up on a dairy farm in Pahala, Hawaii, my granduncle Jack was a house painter by trade. He enlisted in the U.S. Army when the call came out for Japanese-American volunteers to form the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Jack was a gunner in Bravo Company, and he was 27 years old when he made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during the Battle of Monte Cassino in Central Italy on January 25, 1944. He was awarded a Purple Heart: one of many that earned his unit the nickname, "Purple Heart Battalion."

As a child, my grandparents instilled in me a sense of pride for what my uncle and other Nisei did during World War II despite challenges at home and abroad. These brave men paved the way for the advancement of all Japanese-Americans. They inspired patriotism in all who followed, including my father, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War and my uncles, who fought in Vietnam and Korea. Growing up, my role model was Senator Daniel Inouye, who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and continued serving his country in public service. From the early age of seven, I knew that I wanted to serve my country as well. My grandfather, who helped Senator Inouye's early candidacy, helped me craft my first speech during my run for homeroom representative in elementary school. This devotion to public service continued throughout high school and college, and it motivated me to obtain my law degree. However, I never considered joining the armed forces until my first year of law school at Boston College.

While serving as an intern at the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, I met a Navy Reserve Officer who discussed a career in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps during a brown-bag lunch session. However, I didn't feel that I could be of much service to the military because of my diminutive stature (4'11"). I certainly could not serve in the infantry like the men in my family. As the discussion continued, I learned that I could serve my country by offering legal assistance to Sailors and Marines, defending sailors in courts-martial and providing legal counsel to Commanding Officers on rules of engage-

ment and military justice. Despite my initial reservations, I was up to the challenge.

After my first year of law school, I flew home to Hawaii to visit my family and to accept a scholarship from the Hawaii Veterans Memorial Fund. This gave me the opportunity to meet these honored Veterans at the Governor's office. While waiting in the reception room, some of the Veterans asked me what I wanted to do after law school. I told them that I had just heard about the JAG Corps and was interested in joining the service. Suddenly, I was bombarded with questions, with the most pressing being, "What service are you going to join?" Honestly, I didn't know. I shared with them my thoughts about the Navy. This ignited a heated debate and barracks room inter-service rivalries emerged. I was taken aback by their passion and enthusiasm. They spoke with great conviction about which service I should join, and their banter alone solidified my desire to join the armed forces. I had never met a group of people who were so passionate about a career before, in part because serving in the military is more than a career or a job, although I didn't understand that at the moment. I wanted to be a part of their world. The following month, I applied for a commission in the Navy JAG Corps.

In the three years since I joined the Navy, I served in three foreign countries and experienced more than I could ever have imagined. My first duty station was in Norfolk, Virginia, where I was a legal assistance attorney. When the call came out asking for volunteers to relieve Army JAGs in Iraq, many of whom were on their second deployment, I was one of the first to raise my hand. I served with Multi-National Force-Iraq Task Force 134 – Detainee Operations in Baghdad. Working with Iraqi attorneys and our JAGs to achieve justice in a budding democracy was a great experience. The camaraderie I experienced there was like no other will forever remain one of the highlights of my Naval career.

Following my tour in Iraq, I returned to Norfolk, Virginia as a defense attorney, but I longed to return to the Middle East. Luckily, I secured a post in Bahrain. My duties as a Staff Judge Advocate allowed me to experience a different side of the Middle East – one of peace and prosperity. It gave me hope of what Iraq could become. It was also during my tour in Bahrain that I had the opportunity to assist our office in Naples, Italy. My time in Italy allowed me to learn more about my granduncle, Jack. Since my arrival, I've been pouring over books and movies that chronicle life in Italy during World War II.

The culmination of my research came during a recent trip to Monte Cassino, Italy. It was here in January 1944 that my granduncle gave his life in hopes of driving out the Germans entrenched behind the ancient walls of the Abbey of Monte Cassino. Approaching the mountain, I was amazed to see just how steep it was. The thought of scaling the mountain  
[see Devotion on page 15]



## NJAHS celebrates congressional award for Building 640

SAN FRANCISCO—The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), the Presidio Trust, and the National Park Service held a program at the Building 640 at West Crissy Field, Presidio of San Francisco, on November 22, 2008, to announce plans to transform the warehouse into an Historic Learning Center. The theme “Return and Remembrance: Japanese American Experience at the Presidio” was to celebrate U.S. Congress’ award of \$1 million to NJAHS for the project.

Building 640 was an unused airplane hanger where the first Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) began with 58 Nisei and 2 Caucasians. Ironically, only a short distance away LTG John L. Dewitt, commanding general of the western command, had his headquarters from which he issued orders to incarcerate 120,000 Japanese Americans in ten US army guarded internment camps. Also, while the US Army changed Japanese Americans draft classification to 4 C (enemy aliens unfit for military service), it was simultaneously secretly recruiting Nisei, many of whom went to schools in Japan before the war, for the MIS.

The MIS linguists translated documents, intercepted intelligence, gathered key intelligence from prisoners of war, served in the Special Forces behind enemy lines in Burma to sabotage enemy operations, and ultimately helped American and Allied forces win the war in the Pacific.

Although only one class would graduate from the Building 640 facility, the valuable mission it began at the Presidio would continue at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling in Minnesota, where, in the wake of the mass evacuation of Nisei from the West Coast, the MIS Language School was forced to relocate. 6,000 graduated from MISLS, 3,000 serving during WW II and the other 3,000 serving during the Occupation of Japan.

Though \$3.6 million in federal funding has been raised for the project—enough to begin work in the Spring—NJAHS is appealing for public donations to complete the \$6 million total cost. The building, which has a splendid view of the Golden Gate Bridge, will house exhibits, a theater and a replica of the bare-bones quarters that was home and school to the students. This archive will serve as a research center for visiting students and faculty. It is hoped to open in 2011, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school’s creation.

COL Thomas Sakamoto, USA (Ret), who went to Japan with GEN Douglas MacArthur at war’s end and witnessed the Japanese surrender on the battleship Missouri, told the audience, “We Niseis want the American public to know that despite the adversities of WW II, Japanese Americans remain proud to have served our country.” MAJ Marvin Uratsu, USA (Ret), said “This is an American story. It is told by those who served their country in a time that the US Constitution was really tested. As Japanese Americans we chose these paths in the hope that our America could become ‘a more perfect union.’” In 2007, both Sakamoto and Uratsu were inducted into the Hall of Fame of the School’s succeeding school, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey.

COL Harry Fukuhara, USA (Ret), a leading MIS veteran active in the campaign to restore Building 640, said “it is important that the public know what we did to win the peace after hostilities ended. . . MISLS graduates employed their linguistic skills and intimate knowledge of Japanese culture to help turn a defeated nation into America’s strongest ally. This important historic fact is one facet of a complex MIS legacy that will forever be preserved and celebrated at the new Center.”

### Devotion (continued from page 14)

with full battle gear while under fire was incomprehensible. It was a moving experience to walk around the Abbey grounds, knowing that my granduncle never made it this far. I was humbled that I could be at the place where he fought so valiantly and gave his ‘last full measure of devotion’ for the country that he loved.<sup>1</sup> I’m proud that six decades later I could carry a Hawaiian flag to the peak of Monte Cassino in his honor.

\* \* \* \* \*

As I emerge from the darkness of subterranean Naples, I return to the present day, where the streets are teeming with speeding Vespas and people still queue up before the great Neapolitan alter of Café Gambrinus waiting for an espresso just like generations before them. The city is alive and explodes a type of passion that can only be found in Naples. Thanks to the efforts of brave men like my granduncle, Jack, and the countless others who landed ashore in Southern Italy, I am able to experience the paradox that is everyday life in Naples.

I am humbled by the sacrifice of the veterans who have served before me and am proud to be part of their legacy of military service. To quote President Abraham Lincoln, “It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.”



Above: Pvt. Jack M. Tanaka, US Army, Bravo Company, 100th Battalion. Photo courtesy of Lt. Janelle Kuroda.

## 2009 JAVA Scholarship Program by Calvin Ninomiya

WASHINGTON — The second annual JAVA memorial scholarship competition is now open, with new eligibility rules and application requirements. JAVA will award three \$1,000 scholarships; the deadline for scholarship applications is April 22, 2009. Scholarship Program chair Calvin Ninomiya explained the changes that JAVA's Executive Council made, based on the experience learned during the inaugural program. The principal changes are:

1. Only students who are newly entering a college or university at the undergraduate level will be eligible. The contest continues to remain open for high school graduates who plan to attend a more specialized school, or a junior college.

2. To provide a better measure and a fairer comparison of the applicants, entrants must submit an essay of not more than 500 words on a common topic. For 2009, each contestant will be asked to provide his or her thoughts on "What the winning of a 2009 JAVA memorial scholarship will mean to me."

3. The JAVA scholarship program is open only to students who are lineal descendants of (1) a person who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, including the 100th Battalion, and all other units that were associated with them, e.g., the 552<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion; or (2) a person who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service during and after WW II; or (3) a person of Japanese ancestry who presently serves in the Armed Forces of the United States, or who so served, and was honorably discharged; or (4) a person who is a member of JAVA for a period of no less than one year prior to the date of submission of this application.

4. Applicants must provide proof of admission to an accredited institution providing post-high school education.

5. Information will be requested of every applicant about the projected date of his or her high school commencement exercise. JAVA will try to notify the awardees' schools so that appropriate announcements may be included in the commencement programs. Given the short time between the closing date for applications and the likely dates for the graduation services, a special effort will be made to judge the contest entries as expeditiously as possible.

Complete contest rules and application forms can be found on the JAVA website ([www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)). Prospective applicants are encouraged to download the materials and begin preparing their entries early.

Given the current recession and financial difficulties being experienced by many families, JAVA hopes that its scholarship awards, however modest, would be a welcome boost for at least three 2009 high school graduates. In addition, each of the scholarship awardee will be linked to a JAVA WW II veteran: MAJ Orville Shirey, an officer of the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT; Jack Tashiro, a Military Intelligence Service (MIS) specialist who served in Asia; and Douglas Ishio, whose father, COL Ishio, was an MIS officer who served in Papua New Guinea and Philippine campaigns. These are heroes who defended our freedom when it was threatened like never before.

The scholarship awards luncheon will be held on May 16, 2009. Like at last year's luncheon, JAVA plans to have in attendance the family members of the veterans in whose memory the scholarship program was established. In 2008, a fourth \$1,000 scholarship was provided by Mrs. Violette Takahashi, in memory of her husband, Gene Takahashi, a Korean War veteran. Mrs. Takahashi also attended the awards luncheon.

## JAVA Holiday Support for Troops by LTC Martin Herbert, USA (Ret)

WASHINGTON — JAVA participated in the "Soldier Outreach during the Holidays" program by sending packages to the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry which is deployed in the Middle East. This program is conducted in conjunction with the Go For Broke National Education Center of Torrance, California. "The Holiday season is a special one that we must never forget brave men and women deployed and serving in harms way," said JAVA President Robert Nakamoto. The original 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, comprised of Japanese Americans, fought with distinction in Italy and France during WW II.

Any reader who wishes to participate may send packages to: ALL SOLDIERS, C/O CSM Glenn A. Gomes, 100th BN, 442nd Infantry Regiment, Camp Virginia, APO AE 09327.

CSM Gomes will ensure packages are equally distributed. Care packages may be sent throughout the year. Additionally, JAVA collectively sent out twenty-five \$20 Gift Cards to the Go For Broke Soldiers. JAVA is proud to say "Thank You" during this holiday season to our brave warriors! [For more information, contact LTC Herbert ([herbert\\_martin@bah.com](mailto:herbert_martin@bah.com) or 703-509-6473).]



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## Book Review: **Wolfhound Samurai** by Susan Uyemura

Wolfhound Samurai, a novel by JAVA life member and Ranger Hall of Famer Vincent Okamoto, loosely depicts events experienced by the young lieutenant during his tour in the Vietnam War. Christopher Nagata, the story's protagonist, is a Japanese American soldier brought up with very American ideals; however, fighting in a war while looking like the enemy poses unforeseen dangers.

Delusions of becoming a war hero surrender to the first taste of true battle. Nagata must struggle to stay alive while earning the respect of his men, maintaining his sanity and being a good soldier – a dynamic that seems relentlessly unrealistic during a war.

Battlefield morality sometimes summons courage while preying on uncommitted conscience, but at what price? Does Nagata bring his moral dilemmas to the war or does the war force-feed this dissonance? Follow Nagata from his induction into the Army to his final battle that earns him the Distinguished Service Cross. Laugh during chance moments and cry for war's cruelty – but most of all live the experiences of those soldiers and their unique circumstances during the Vietnam War and yearn for the "Welcome Home" that never came.

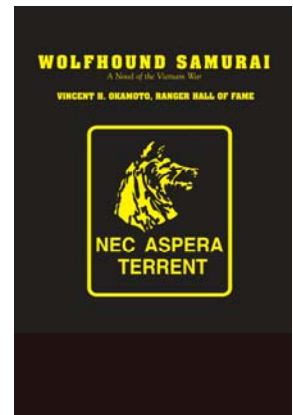
Throughout the story, Nagata is constantly faced with conflict. He understands that killing is fundamentally wrong but has been trained to complete each mission as the ultimate goal. He makes and breaks promises made in the heat of battle. Nagata is ultimately rewarded for how well he defeated the enemy; ironically even this

"reward" steals from his humanity. The Distinguished Service Cross represents the lives of his men who will never return home, the lives of the enemy whom he swore to kill, and the nightmares that follow him for the rest of his life. Readers are left to ponder what happens to Nagata after his return home.

This book is about war – the war in Vietnam and the war that rages within each of the soldiers in search of their own humanity. The good, bad and ugly are all portrayed in a vividly realistic manner. Readers are forced to consider the context in which this story unfolds. As a non-military person, I didn't expect this story to grab me the way that it did. I could not put the book down because my soul was seeking some closure. You will come to know the soldiers, understand their feelings, and pray for their survival. War is Hell.

I highly recommend this book to every veteran and anyone interested in the Vietnam War. The story's accuracy disturbs and educates its readers. Adult language profusely used throughout the text helps us identify with the reality of war. Parents should use caution when and if this story is shared with children.

Wolfhound Samurai is only the second novel published on the Vietnam War about a Japanese American's experience. This book encapsulates over 450 pages of garish reality. What will happen next? Perhaps we will all learn to fight for peace in our souls.



## SoCal Community Advisory Committee

LOS ANGELES—In November 2008, the United States Army Recruiting Command, MG Thomas Bostick, Commanding General and JAVA guest speaker, kicked off its Southern California community grassroots campaign with a luncheon hosted by former Dodger manager, Tommy Lasorda. JAVA was invited to send a representative among the approximately 200 community leaders and members of the Los Angeles and Southern California Recruiting Battalions who were present. JAVA life member Eric Nishizawa (pictured right) attended on JAVA's behalf. In addition to Tommy Lasorda, the Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Recruiting Command, BG Joseph Anderson, and the battalion commanders of the Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion, LTC Somport Jongwatana, and the Southern California Recruiting Battalion, LTC Miguel Howe, were present. Community leaders from throughout the Southern California area were invited to attend and join the U.S. Army's Southern California Community Advisory Committee, which serves to promote a positive image of the Army and to foster new and innovative ways to spread the Army's recruiting opportunities to young men and women in the Los Angeles and greater Southern California area. Eric Nishizawa represents JAVA on the Committee.



## Welcome New Members!

- \* Lt. James E. Christensen, USN (Ret) (Virginia)
- \* Dr. Megan J. Difurio (Texas)
- Hisashi Hirasaki (California)
- \* Shelby Kariya (California)
- \* Tomio Masaki (California)
- Kenjalyn Ogata (Massachusetts)
- LTC Barney C. Owen, USA (Ret) (Virginia)
- CW4 Thomas "Sandy" Sandbakkan, USA (Germany)
- \* Dr. Michael J. Sunborg (Texas)
- Takashi "Tak" Wada (California)
- \* CAPT T. Yoshihara, USN (Ret) (Hawaii)

\* Denotes Life Membership

## TAPS

VAN JOHNSON, ACTOR

Michael Higgins, son of Captain Marty Higgins, Commander of the Texas "Lost Battalion", reported the passing of actor Van Johnson, who portrayed the character "Lieutenant Michael Grayson," a Texan serving with the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division in the 1951 Robert Pirosh film *Go For Broke*. Family friend Wendy Bleiweiss said Johnson died on December 12, 2008, at the Tappan Zee Manor, an assisted living center, in Nyack, N.Y. He was 92.



Johnson was one of the last surviving matinee idols of Hollywood's golden age, an actor whose affable charm and boyish good looks helped make him a star during World War II. The movie *Go For Broke* highlighted the exploits of the 100th/442nd RCT, and ends with the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France during October 1944. The cast included actual members of the 100th/442nd. [Editor's note: Japanese Americans owe Johnson a debt of gratitude for popularizing the role of Japanese Americans who volunteered for combat duty to prove their loyalty.]

\* \* \* \* \*

DR. ROBERT H. FOOTE, PROMINENT SCIENTIST,  
FORMER 442<sup>ND</sup> OFFICER

Dr. Robert H. Foote, the J.G. Schurman Professor of Animal Science at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, died on October 27, 2008. An authority in his field, Dr. Foote wrote over 500 papers which were "used as a model for DNA research on other domestic animals and would serve as the foundation for animal and human fertilization techniques and as an early step in the scientific route toward animal cloning." In early 1944 Foote graduated from the University of Connecticut, was commissioned at the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, joined Co. K, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, as a platoon leader at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and served in Italy and France during WW II.

Lt Foote was wounded twice, the second time in the liberation of Bruyeres on October 21, 1944, by shrapnel wounds in his back and legs. Of that incident Foote said, "if the mortar round had been any closer it would have been in my back pocket." He recalled "I was a fortunate one. Several successive firefights decimated our unit; out of 180 riflemen in K Co, only a few escaped death or wounds."

\* \* \* \* \*

JOHN TAYLOR, MILITARY HISTORIAN AT NARA

John E. Taylor, a specialist in military history at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for 63 years and a trusted guide to researchers of past wars, died on October 4, 2008, at his home in Chevy Chase, Md. He was 87.

Taylor helped 442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS Hawaii and JAVA joint research project at NARA identify documents for scanning into electronic files to be archived at the University of Hawaii and JAVA. His area of specialization was the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). When completed, researchers can access these original documents electronically from anywhere in the world. The co-chairs of the joint project are Ted Tsukiyama, Esq, representing 100th-442nd and MIS Hawaii, and Dave Buto, JAVA webmaster. The coordinator of the JAVA research team is Mrs. Fumi Yamamoto. Her team includes Chosei Kuge, Akira Yoshida, Dwight Gates, and Terry Shima. Tsukiyama said about Taylor, "A great supporter and mentor has been lost."

\* \* \* \* \*

WILLIAM "MO" MARUMOTO

William "Mo" Marumoto, President and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), died in Washington, D.C. on November 25, 2008, following a massive heart attack.

A native of southern California, Marumoto, along with his family, was incarcerated at Gila River internment camp in Arizona during WW II. A graduate of Whittier College, Marumoto was the first Asian American to serve at the executive level in the White House as part of the Nixon administration. He recruited individuals for cabinet and subcabinet positions. Prior to that, he was Assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1973, he founded the Interface Group, Ltd., an executive search firm headquartered in Washington, DC. He served as the CEO and Chairman of the Board until his retirement.

President George W. Bush recently awarded Marumoto the Presidential Medal of Volunteerism, the nation's highest honor for volunteers.

\* \* \* \* \*

MINORU ENDO

Minoru Endo of Medford, New Jersey, MIS veteran and longtime JAVA member, passed away on October 27, 2008. He was 91. Born in San Francisco and graduated from University of California at Berkeley, Endo was interned at the Topaz camp in Utah where he volunteered for the MIS, served in the Occupation of Japan, and enjoyed a long career with Mikasa in New York. His wife of 64 years, Aya, sister of former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, predeceased him in 2006.

# From the Editor



I wish you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous 2009. With the inauguration of a new Commander-in-Chief, and the confirmation hearing of General Eric Shinseki as the new Secretary of the Department of the Veterans Administration, our new year is off to an historic start. I met General Shinseki on the first day I was introduced to JAVA and Terry Shima while attending the promotion ceremony of then-JAVA President BG Bert Mizusawa. General Shinseki and his wife spoke sincerely and kindly to me, even though I was (for all appearances) an insignificant captain in a room full of generals and other high-ranking officials. No doubt, General Shinseki will bring the same sincerity and warmth to those fortunate enough to work with him at the Veterans Administration.

On a personal note, in the summer of 2009 I will leave my current assignment in Germany and assume new duties as a brigade judge advocate in the 3rd Infantry Division. Many of you know that 3ID has a long history of honorable military service, and it is the unit Audie Murphy served in World War II. Of course, I will keep an eye out for new JAVA members at 3ID!

## Thank you Donors!

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

- Dr. Americo Bugliani
- Victoria deGoff and family, in memory of Mas Yonemura
- Martin Matsui
- Sharon Tani-McCabe
- National Japanese American Memorial Foundation
- Anne M. Oda
- Dr. Kenje Ogata
- Yutaka and Grace Shiraishi, in memory of Masatatsu (Mas) Yonemura
- Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin
- Ted Tsukiyama, Esq.



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

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

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

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

Webmaster: Dave Buto, [admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan 7, 2PM:** Dept of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Award to Ross Perot. DVA Central Office, Sonny Montgomery Auditorium.

**Jan 9, 12:30PM:** Lunch with Sandra Tanamachi (Lake Jackson, TX) and David Masuo (Anchorage, AK). China Garden Restaurant, Rosslyn, Vir.

**Jan 14, 10AM:** Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs hearing for GEN Shinseki. Dirksen Building, Room 106.

**Jan 17, 11:30 AM :** JAVA Quarterly lunch and annual meeting. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

**Feb 2, 8:40-9:30 AM:** JAVA/NJANF Speakers at Jeb Stuart HS, Vir., history class and Intl Baccalaureate program.

**Mar 10:** Fairfax County Public Schools Teachers Training Program. GFBNEC, NJAMF, JAVA joint program.

**May 16, 11:30AM:** JAVA Quarterly lunch and scholarship awards. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

**May 24, 10AM:** JAVA Memorial Day Program, Arlington Cemetery Pavilion, Tomb of the Unknown.

**May 25, 11AM:** DoD Memorial Day Program, Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown and Amphitheater.

**2PM:** National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Ave. Sponsor: American Veterans Center.



Above: William (Billy) Tucci (right), creator, illustrator, writer and artist of comic books, has already produced for D.C. Comics two of his six monthly comic book series, *Sgt Rock: Lost Battalion*. The third is expected to appear at comic book stores in early January 2009. *Sgt Rock: Lost Battalion* is the story of 275 men of the 141st Regiment of the 36th (Texas) Division who were cut off and encircled by a large enemy force in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France in late October 1944. The men of the 442nd RCT, alongside several fictional though legendary DC Comics characters, play vital roles in the series. Tucci has been visiting various cities for book signings and to promote his comic books. Tucci is pictured above at Ballys Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sept. 8, 2008, along with Dr. Kenneth Inada, 442nd veteran (left) and COL Arthur Nishimoto, USA (Ret), 442nd and MIS (center), both residents of Las Vegas, shortly after Tucci described his series to book store representatives. Tucci said he "passionately relayed the story of the Lost Battalion and the incredible heroics of the 442nd RCT following which [he] introduced the Nisei veterans who received a five minute standing ovation." The next day, Sept. 9, Tucci and Inada signed promotional *Sgt Rock: Lost Battalion* prints for retailers.