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87-year-old WWII Veteran "Rocky" Matayoshi awarded Distinguished Service Cross

WASHINGTON – In the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes, a former Army Technical Sergeant named Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi was presented with the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), the nation's second highest award for valor, on June 7, 2011, for extraordinary heroism at Mount Belvedere, Italy. The presentation was made by Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal before a packed audience, which included Asian American veterans and active duty personnel of all ranks. Matayoshi was the platoon sergeant of Company G, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which achieved a combat performance record during World War II that the U.S. Army said has not been surpassed. Matayoshi was accompanied by his sons, Dr. Edmund Matayoshi and Dr. Brian Matayoshi, as well as Brian's wife, Nita Maria, and his son Brian Shinyei.



Rocky Matayoshi receives a standing ovation from the audience following Under Secretary of the Army Joseph Westphal's pinning the Distinguished Service Cross. Rocky is standing in front of the 442nd colors which U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye loaned for this occasion. (US Army photo)

On April 7, 1945, Matayoshi ordered his platoon to advance up the steep slopes of Mount Belvedere to seize the heavily fortified forest areas that were under enemy control. As the platoon approached the elevated ridge line, Matayoshi's platoon was attacked by intense machine gun fire from at least five enemy machine gun nests from frontal, left and right flanks. Matayoshi suppressed the enemy with his Thompson machine gun and hand grenades, killing four. He then led the assault which destroyed three other machine gun nests, killing or wounding about 15 enemy soldiers, some as close as a five meters. Matayoshi secured the key terrain which paved the way for the battalion's pursuit of the retreating enemy soldiers.

Brian Williams' NBC Nightly news carried a four minute segment on June 7 highlighting Matayoshi's heroism. This segment can

be viewed at <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#43317814>.

In his acceptance remarks, Matayoshi said: "Following my training I visited my Dad in Department of Justice detention center in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He said to me, 'Son, the United States considers me the enemy, but you're an American. Promise me that you will make America proud of you, and promise me that you will never bring shame on the Matayoshi name.' I said, 'Dad, I promise. You know you can always count on me.'" Matayoshi added later, "I was not thinking of myself. I merely had a job to do and I was just trying to do the best I could do. I didn't think of myself as a hero then, and even less so today." Matayoshi said he volunteered from Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii, for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team believing that his combat duty would free his father, Shinjiro. When he returned from military duty, however, his father was still detained.

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]

President's Message



On June 7, Shinyei "Rocky" Matayoshi officially received the Distinguished Service Cross in a memorable ceremony held in

the Hall of Heroes, Pentagon. He was recommended for the DSC during World War II, but the paperwork was apparently lost so that there was a cloud over his eligibility to receive this award. Although a lot of influential people worked hard to remove this cloud, I want to give a well-deserved shout out to MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), LTC Marty

Herbert, USA (Ret) and Terry Shima, JAVA Executive Director. They worked tirelessly to muster the support and organize the resources to make this happen. Working behind the scenes, T-2 and Terry orchestrated an elegant event that allowed Rocky and his family to receive this long overdue recognition and for Rocky to take his rightful place as the 29th World War II Nisei soldier to receive the DSC. Thank you, T-2, Marty and Terry.

On June 14, 2011, we celebrated the life and legacy of Etsu Mineta Masaoka. Etsu's funeral brought back fond memories of Mike and Etsu Masaoka. What they accomplished in their lifetime for us teaches that we should think "outside the box" and not be afraid to dream big. They

were part of what Tom Brokaw calls "the greatest generation." Mike and Etsu were the "best of the best" of the greatest generation. Mike was the persuasive voice that brought the battlefield valor of the 100th Infantry/442nd Regimental Combat Team to the Nation's attention. We will miss Etsu at JAVA activities. I also wish to thank Michelle Amano, Etsu and Mike's granddaughter, for establishing the Mike and Etsu Masaoka Scholarship Fund. I ask you to keep them in your hearts and prayers.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.

JAVA life member at Florida Governor's Mansion

Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Robert Kan, resident of Niceville, Florida, and JAVA life member, enjoyed VIP status at Florida Governor Rick Scott's reception at the Governor's mansion on May 27, 2011. The invitation was arranged by Ed Miyagishima, Governor's Chief of Protocol and International Affairs Officer. Miyagishima continues to be a strong JAVA supporter since his days at the White House. Kan was an F-4 fighter pilot in the Vietnam War and is writing a book on Japanese Americans in U.S. military aviation.

Top right: Bob Kan and Ed Miyagishima.

Bottom right: Bob Kan and Florida Governor Rick Scott.



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George T. Sakato, Medal of Honor Recipient, keynotes important events in Los Angeles

by Eric Nishizawa, Esq., JAVA life member

LOS ANGELES — On June 3 and 4, 2011, George T. Sakato, Medal of Honor, keynoted two important events in Los Angeles, including the inaugural Los Angeles Community Salute to Future Soldiers, which was hosted by the Los Angeles Army Community Advisory Board.

The inaugural June 4th Salute to Future Soldiers honored over 529 of Los Angeles's Future Soldiers. These young men and women, who will soon ship to Basic Training, hail from throughout the Los Angeles area and represent nearly all of Los Angeles's communities. They truly are among the elites of their age group because nationally less than 30% of 17-24 year olds qualify for enlistment in the Army and 25% of those who enlist fail the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Board. Still more fail the physical and background examinations.

In all, approximately 1,000 people attended to hear Mr. Sakato deliver the keynote speech of the event. Among the attendees were local leaders and notables from government, business, community, and entertainment, including California State Senator Ted Lieu, Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis Zine, California Court of Appeal Justice Jeffrey Johnson, former Baywatch star Angelica Bridges, cast members from "Reno 911," Dodgers great Al Downing, former Doors member Robby Krieger, country singer Amy Scruggs, actor Johnny Strong (who portrayed a future Medal of Honor recipient in Blackhawk Down), actor D.B. Sweeney, and comedian Thom Tran.

During his remarks, a bright and chipper Mr. Sakato recounted the engagement during the battle to rescue the Texas Lost Battalion for which he received his

Medal, recounted some of his experiences in basic training, spoke of the history of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (Mr. Sakato was a member of E Company), and advised the Future Soldiers to "listen to your drill sergeants."



Above: George T. Sakato (left) reading oath to Future Soldiers, and LTC Robert Blankenship.

Below: Los Angeles Battalion and Future Soldiers salute George Sakato. (Photos courtesy of Fernando Sanjurjo, Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion staff.)



Later, Mr. Sakato assisted in the administering of the Future Soldiers' oaths by reading the oath, after which, the Los Angeles Battalion's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Blankenship, stated, "Sir, thank you for your inspiring words, today. You are truly Army strong, and we salute you." Thereafter all of the Future Soldiers and Battalion members saluted Mr. Sakato.

Earlier in the trip, on June 3rd, Mr. Sakato addressed the entire Los Angeles Battalion. There, Mr. Sakato shared with the soldiers of the battalion his Army story from when he started as wanting to join the Air Corps to joining the 442 and his many experiences as a soldier in the 442.

Mr. Sakato will be long remembered by all who met him. Everyone who wanted to shake his hand, get an autograph, and take a picture with him were warmly received with a broad smile. His modest bearing inspires all who see in it that we are each capable of doing incredible and great things, if we will rise to meet our

challenges. He will be remembered in Los Angeles history for his valor and as the first of what will be a long line of keynote speakers at Los Angeles Community Salutes to Future Soldiers.

If you would like to see an interview of Mr. Sakato by the Los Angeles NBC affiliate, KNBC, also on June 3, 2011, please go to <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/123760879.html>.

Assistant Secretary Tammy Duckworth resigns from Dept of VA

WASHINGTON — On the occasion of her resignation from her position as Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, L. Tammy Duckworth was presented the Exceptional Service Award by Secretary Eric Shin-

seki. The award ceremony was held in the G.V."Sonny" Montgomery Veterans Conference Center on June 29, 2011. It was followed by a reception with the cutting of a large congratulatory cake. Duckworth's husband, Maj. Bryan Bowsbey, an Iraq War veteran, Mrs. Patty Shinseki, officials of the executive branch, the National Guard, retired military flag officers, veterans service organizations, and VA personnel participated in the event.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and Assistant Secretary Tammy Duckworth.

In presenting the award, Secretary Shinseki said Assistant Secretary Duckworth's "unwavering dedication to veterans and their families has strengthened VA's ability to perform our mission—providing Veterans the healthcare and benefits they have earned.

Tammy uniquely understands the needs of today's veterans and their families, and her commitment to serving veterans and increasing VA's outreach has helped the department serve more veterans and serve them well. We will miss her advocacy and leadership, but wish her the very best in the years to come."

Duckworth was born in Thailand and grew up in Hawaii. She lost both legs and partial use of one arm when her helicopter, of which she was the pilot, was shot down by enemy fire in Iraq in 2004.

Duckworth, a supporter of JAVA, has not announced her future career plans.



Above: Siblings on the High Seas—Navy Captain Raquel C. Bono (left) was recently nominated for promotion to Rear Admiral. She and her brother, Rear Admiral Anatio B. Cruz III (right), will be the only siblings of Filipino descent to hold flag officer ranks simultaneously. (See story on page 10.)



Above: On May 18, 2011, the Department of Veterans Affairs Diversity Office and the Chinese American Citizen Alliance (CACA) featured documentary filmmaker/producer Montgomery "Monty" Hom's film entitled "Men Without a Country: Chinese in the Civil War." Complementing Hom's presentation, Ted Gong, leader of CACA, commented on the Chinese Exclusion Laws. These laws severely limited Chinese immigration to the United States and prohibited them from becoming American citizens on the basis of race, Gong said. Pictured L-R: Munson Kwock of CACA, Ron Sagudon, VA Diversity Office, Montgomery Hom, Grant Ichikawa, Noriko Sanefuji, Smithsonian Institution, Ted Gong of CACA. (Ron Sagudon)



Left: VA Secretary Eric Shinseki visited Rhode Island Community College earlier this year. Shinseki set a new mission for veterans attending school: graduation. Through their service, veterans have earned education benefits, but it's up to them to finish and get a degree, he explained. Shinseki also discussed the Post-9/11 GI Bill, including what is being done to automate the process and what it means to reintegrate back into society after a tour of duty in the military. (Dept of VA Photo)

JAVA participates in 3 major Memorial Day events in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON – JAVA participated in three programs during the 2011 Memorial Day weekend to honor the nation's heroes. On May 29, the Washington, D.C., chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and JAVA jointly held their 63rd Annual Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery. The program began at the Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard. Speakers included Turner Kobayashi, son of the late Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Veteran Key Kobayashi; Gordon Aoyagi, Event Program Chair; Janice Nakano Fadden, JACL Washington, D.C. President; Gerald Yamada, JAVA President; Capt. Rory Suzuki, U.S. Navy, keynote speaker; and Lt. Rex Strickland, Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue.

In his speech, Capt. Suzuki said that, to many people, "Duty, Honor, Country" are simply slogans. However, to a "small percentage of Americans it is a way of life. These words represent what made ordinary people extraordinary citizens and defenders of our country." He was referring to his family, who sent seven men to serve in combat units of the Army, Air Force, Navy and the Marines, including one killed in action and another missing in action.

This dignified ceremony was followed by the laying of flowers at the gravesites of more than 70 fallen comrades who are interred at Arlington and the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown by Captain Suzuki, Lieutenant Strickland, Aoyagi and Yamada.

U.S. Navy Public Relations film crew covered the event for broadcast to the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense installations worldwide. The two-minute video can be viewed at: <http://www.navy.mil/swf/mmu/mmplvr.asp?id=15850>.

On May 30, a JAVA representative was part of the veterans service organizations entourage at the Arlington National Cemetery to view the President lay a national wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and to sit in the reserved box seat in the Amphitheater to listen to President Obama's address to the nation. He said that Memorial Day recognizes America's war dead. "Our nation owes a debt to its fallen heroes that we cannot fully repay, but we can honor their sacrifice. And we must."

That afternoon, JAVA participated in the 7th Annual National Memorial Day parade on Constitution Avenue. JAVA's contingent, led by President Gerald Yamada, proudly marched down part of the same route that the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, just having returned from Europe, marched on July 15, 1946, when it was reviewed by President Truman at the outer south lawn of the White House. Over 200,000 people lined the streets of both sides of Constitution Avenue shouting "GO FOR BROKE, 442ND" and respectfully saluting as the JAVA contingent marched by.



Left: Dr. Ray Murakami's air conditioned van trails the JAVA marching contingent carrying water, other supplies, and participants who prefer to ride. (Noriko Sanefuji) **Right:** Speakers at the Columbarium Memorial Courtyard. L-R: Gordon Aoyagi; Turner Kobayashi; Lt. Rex Strickland; Capt. Rory Suzuki; Janice Nakano Fadden; and Gerald Yamada. (Capt. Rory Suzuki)

Shared opportunity—Arlington National Cemetery

JAVA can use your support on its Arlington National Cemetery endeavor. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) of Washington, D.C., began holding a memorial service and decorating the gravesites of Japanese American soldiers interred at Arlington National Cemetery since 1948. At the invitation of the JACL Washington, D.C. President Dr. Craig Uchida five years ago, JAVA has since participated in this annual Memorial Day event as a joint partner. The program consists of an approximately one-hour program at the pavilion near the Columbarium to pay our respects to the fallen. This is followed by the decoration of

flowers at the gravesites of 70 Japanese Americans and Caucasians, like Col. Virgil R. Miller, who commanded the 442nd RCT. The final event of the day is the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

JAVA and JACL Washington, D.C. share the cost of the event equally. Tax-exempt donations to pay for the flowers and wreath would be gratefully accepted. Interested donors should send their checks, payable to JAVA, to Mark Nakagawa; 9455 Park Hunt Court; Springfield, VA 22153. In the memo line please note "Arlington Flowers."

Favorable reviews of film about 442nd; MIS film to premier in 2012

TOKYO — The *Kinema Junpo*, recognized in Japan as the most authoritative movie magazine, has selected the documentary film *442: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity* as the fourth most popular film in Japan in 2010. The film, based on the experiences of the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was shown at more than thirty cinema houses in Japan. In one theater in Tokyo, the 442nd was shown five times a day for two months and broke the theater's attendance record. This film, the second in a planned trilogy, was directed by Junichi Suzuki (pictured) of the United TV Broadcast System, a bilingual Japanese television corporation. Audience reactions reflected some startling results, for example:

- In the mannerisms and facial expressions of the Nisei featured on the screen, the Japanese are reminded of traditional Japanese characteristics which have been lost in Japan over time.

- They see on the faces of the Nisei featured on the film the hardship they have endured as the result of racial discrimination and combat.



- The Nisei impressed the Japanese with their candor, ease and cheerfulness despite their difficult experience in combat overseas while fighting prejudice in America.

- Many noted they were unaware of the 442nd and also of the history of the Japanese Americans and commended Director Suzuki for showing it in Japan.

On September 27, 2010, while driving from Los Angeles to Las Vegas to show the film, Suzuki was involved in an auto accident. He suffered multiple

fractures that resulted in being hospitalized for one week in Las Vegas. He has lost the use of his left arm. Despite this challenge, Suzuki is currently producing the final film in his trilogy. This film is centered on the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), entitled *MIS: Human Secret Weapon*.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, comprised of volunteers from Hawaii and internment camps in the mainland U.S. is one of the most highly decorated units for its size and period of combat in U.S. Army history. The 442nd served in Italy, France and Germany during WW II.

While some 13,000 Japanese Americans served in the 100th Battalion and the 442nd in Italy, France and Germany over 6,000 Nisei served in the Asia Pacific theater as combat linguists. They served as translators of captured Japanese documents, interrogators of prisoners of war, communication interceptors and in special operations in Burma and China.

Japan Defense Minister Kitazawa briefed by 3 JAVA members

WASHINGTON — Following his visit to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Japan Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa was briefed on the Nikkei experience during and after World War II. The nearly hour-long briefing was arranged by Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who accompanied Minister Kitazawa to the Memorial and introduced him to JAVA President Gerald Yamada, JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima, and JAVA Executive Board Member Grant Ichikawa. The briefing was held in a private room in the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington, D.C. Minister Kitazawa was in Washington, D.C., for high-level discussions on security issues with U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and with Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.

Minister Kitazawa conveyed Japan's appreciation to the American government and people for their steadfast support of Japan during its recent earthquake and tsunami, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to the U.S.-Japan alliance, and expressed the hope that the cordial relationship between the government and people of Japan and the Nikkei population would endure. He said that JAVA's



JAVA members brief Japan Defense Minister Kitazawa at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, Washington, DC. L-R: Ambassador Fujisaki, Terry Shima, Minister Kitazawa, Gerald Yamada, Grant Ichikawa. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)

briefing of Japanese officials visiting Washington contributed to their understanding of the Japanese American role in American society. Yamada said he appreciates the Defense Ministry's interest in the Nikkei situation and Ambassador Fujisaki's lead in reaching out to the ethnic Japanese community throughout America.

Yamada's briefing covered Japanese migration to the United States, discrimination against ethnic Japanese,

the effects of the Pearl Harbor attack and the internment of ethnic Japanese for the duration of the war. Shima discussed the origin and combat engagements of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT, the Nisei success in settling the question of loyalty, and the post Vietnam War Nikkei competition for positions and rank. Ichikawa discussed his experience in the internment camp and his voluntary enlistment in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), the role of the MIS during the war and the Occupation of Japan. Yamada closed the briefing by discussing JAVA's mission to educate the American public, especially through teachers training and speaking at schools, including secondary and college levels.

Ishimoto participates in Hawaii Pacific Special Ops Conference

HONOLULU – JAVA member Wade Ishimoto represented the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Navy and the Joint Special Operations University at the Pacific Special Operations Conference held in Honolulu, Hawaii, from April 17-21, 2011. This annual event began in 1997, and this year hosted representatives from 20 countries as they discussed the theme of *Security Sector Efforts to Reduce Violent Extremism*. The conference’s sponsor was Rear Adm. Sean Pybus, a Navy SEAL who will soon take command of the Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif.



Wade Ishimoto, a member of JAVA Board of Directors, presented JAVA souvenir coins to Japanese naval officers, who attended the Pacific Area Special Operations Conference in Honolulu, on April 18, 2011. Pictured L-R: Captain Toshiaki Hoshina, Commanding Officer, Special Boarding Unit, Japan Maritime Self Defense Force; Colonel Seigo Furuta, Chief, Special Operations Office, Joint Staff, Ministry of Defense; Wade Ishimoto; Colonel Shinichi Aoki, Commander, Special Operations Group, Japan Ground Self Defense Force; Lieutenant Colonel Frank Clark, Assistant Army Attaché, American Embassy Tokyo.

The three major objectives for the 200 participants were to promote open discourse in an international forum on reducing violent extremism; share information and best practices on methods to reduce violent extremism; and build habitual bilateral and multilateral relationships. Distinguished speakers from the United States, India, Australia, the Maldives, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Nepal set the tone for participant workshops. The American speakers included Rear Adm. Pybus; Adm. Robert Willard, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command; and Adm. Eric Olson, another Navy SEAL in command of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

During the conference, Ishimoto hosted the Japanese special operations personnel for lunch and presented them with JAVA coins. He learned that Col. Aoki’s Special Operations Group deployed troops to support the earthquake and tsunami relief effort and that Lt. Col. Frank Clark from the U.S. Embassy had also deployed on that effort.

Clark’s wife lost an aunt and cousin because of the tsunami.

Ishimoto also presented a photograph of Junzo Matsumura to Rear Adm. Pybus. Matsumura was the first Asian to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1873. He rose through the ranks of the Japanese Navy to retire as a Vice Adm. and the head of their Naval Academy. Adm. Pybus was overwhelmed as he is a Naval Academy graduate himself. His daughter will graduate from Annapolis this year and become one of the first female Naval Academy graduates assigned to submarine duty.

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five Japanese American servicemembers are stationed together in Kabul working for the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (NTM-A/CSTC-A). The unit has trainers, advisors, and staff that work to help develop the Afghanistan government military & civilian departments. Pictured L-R: LTC Brent Hashimoto, USA, Foreign Area Officer (NE Asia-Japan); Maj Todd Inouye, USAF, Civil Engineer; Maj Byron Shibata, USAFR, Judge Advocate; Lt Col Robert Hashimoto, USMCR, Aviation Command & Control; Lt Col Craig Narasaki, USAF, Space & Missile Operations. (Courtesy of Maj Byron Shibata)



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 34th 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, two in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

RDML David M. Boone



Rear Admiral David M. Boone, United States Navy, currently serves as director of the Shore Readiness Division on the Chief of Naval Operations' staff and vice commander of Navy Installations Command in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for managing the policy and resources for 74 Naval installations worldwide, ensuring that the Fleet, fighters and their families are supported from the shore. A Seabee

Combat Warfare officer and a Navy diver, Boone has served in a variety of sea and shore assignments.

Having spent the early part of his life in both Taiwan and Japan, Boone moved to the U.S. as a young man, landing in the State of Oregon. "I was an outdoors person. I liked doing construction," said Boone. "I have a great deal of admiration for skilled craftsman. I always found that working with your hands was a very honorable position." His goal was to become a civil engineer. He enrolled at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, where he studied Civil Engineering.

Joining the Navy was a "great decision," Boone added. "As I moved through my career, my initial experience as a construction laborer and working with my hands helped me as I worked with Seabees and wage grade employees. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officers are always trying to make something better for somebody; whether it is for our Sailors and families at a base or for the local population in a war torn country like Iraq and Afghanistan or after a disaster in Haiti – I can think of no more honorable profession. I am extremely proud of our Navy engineering community."

"In the Seabee community we have only five flag officers, so to be one of them is a huge honor," Boone said of his recent promotion. "The other thing that I strongly believe in is that if you don't worry about who gets the credit, your organization can accomplish a tremendous amount – all while giving credit to those that are in the trenches every day. And lastly, as a leader, our most valuable asset are the people we lead – you have to take care of your people." Boone and his wife, Meg, have five children, including three who were adopted from Japan, China and Korea.

MG Robert G.F. Lee



Army Major General Robert G.F. Lee, recently retired, was appointed the Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, on January 1, 2003. He was the director of State Civil Defense, providing direct support to the Office of Veterans Services, and was the Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor. He received his commission in 1971 through the University of Hawaii ROTC program.

From 1972, Lee served in 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, had a tour with the IX Corps (Reinforcement) as assistant chief of staff for operations and training and in 1988 returned to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry as its commanding officer. In 1996, he was appointed as the chief of staff, 9th Army Reserve Command.

Lee served as a member of the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee from January 2005 to January of 2008. He is currently serving on the Reserve Forces Policy Board to the Secretary of Defense.

Asked why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, Lee said "like many in my class, I had no intention of making the military a career. I wanted to serve my 6-year obligation and get on with my civilian career. Then I was assigned to the 100th Battalion, 442nd infantry (U.S. Army Reserve) and learned of the unit's rich history. Throughout my assignment in the battalion, I was fortunate to meet many WW II veterans from the 100th Bn and 442nd RCT. I credit these veterans for keeping me motivated and to stay with the Army. I am so glad I listened to them."

Lee holds a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii. He is a licensed professional engineer in mechanical and nuclear engineering. His military education includes the Army War College, the Command and General Staff Officers Course. Some of his awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. Gen. Lee and his wife, Judi, have a son, Bryan, and a daughter, Alison.

Remembering a Japanese-American Judge Advocate: Col. Walter Tsukamoto

contributed by Col. Derek K. Hirohata, USAF, JAVA member

[EdNote: The abridged article below is a reprint written by historian Fred L. Borch III, in the May 2011 edition of *The Army Lawyer*, a monthly publication by *The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School* in Charlottesville, Virginia. The unabridged version can be found on JAVA website, www.javadc.org. COL Walter Tsukamoto was one of the early pioneers of JACL. In the 1930's he was the pro bono Executive Secretary, traveling nationally to resolve civil rights issues. When WW II broke out Tsukamoto encouraged Japanese Americans to volunteer to support the war effort. Col. Tsukamoto's daughter, Dorie, and her husband, retired Judge Charles Kobayashi, JAVA life member, reside in Sacramento.]



on Pearl Harbor changed the course of his life. The attack ultimately forced Tsukamoto to close his law office and his family was interned in relocation camps. Despite these great difficulties, Tsukamoto immediately requested to be placed on active duty. His request was denied four times. Finally, his perseverance paid off and he received a telegram on March 3, 1943 to report for a physical and two days later, he was placed on active duty. During World War II, Tsukamoto served as a Legal Assistance Officer and Trial Judge Advocate.

Rising to the rank of Colonel, Tsukamoto continued to serve his country as a judge advocate at the Presidio

in San Francisco, in post-WWII Japan at General MacArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo, in the Korean War, and, finally, in Heidelberg, Germany. He died on active duty of natural causes in 1961 in Germany having been awarded the Bronze Star twice during his illustrious career.

May is recognized as Asian-Pacific American Heritage month -- a special time we recognize and celebrate the strong contributions made by Americans with Asian and Pacific Island heritage. Tsukamoto's story is an amazing part of that heritage. Despite losing his business and his family being forced to live in a relocation camp, Tsukamoto's greatest desire was to serve his country. Col. Tsukamoto is an example of service personified and demonstrates why he will forever be remembered as an American Patriot.

No one who studies American history would argue that our successes have come without facing significant challenges and learning expensive lessons rooted in the oppression of some of our most patriotic people. In fact, one of America's greatest strengths is our ability to recognize challenges, acknowledge institutional mistakes, and persevere in even the most difficult of times. History also teaches us that some of the most inspirational examples of the American spirit come from those individuals who blazed the trail for understanding and change despite insurmountable odds. One of these American patriots was Col. Walter Tsukamoto.

On July 29, 1937, Walter Tsukamoto, a Japanese American from Molokai, Hawaii, was appointed as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army's Reserve Officers Training Corps. Tsukamoto ran a thriving law practice in northern California and served his country in the Army Reserves, when the Japanese attack

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(Donations received from April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011)

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Japan Disaster Relief

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Mark Nakagawa (Virginia)

JAVA General Fund

American Association of University Women
of Vienna, Va. (AAUV) (Virginia)
Eliot Frankeberger (Maryland)
Jean Hirasaki (California)
Koso Kanemoto (California)
Tom Koshio (Colorado)
Michael and Marian McLaughlin, AAUV
Virginia)
Minoru Nagaoka (Washington, D.C.)

National Guard Headquarters —
Honorarium (Virginia)

Others

Bruce Hollywood — "Hello Maggie" to Montgomery County Public Schools (Maryland)
Chosei and Frances Kuge — Arlington Cemetery, flowers. (Maryland)
Japanese American Living Legacy — Round Robin (California)
Patricia Leslie — Tsuneishi Scholarship Fund (Virginia)
Bob and Laurie Nakamoto — Scholarship Support. (Virginia)
Miyako Tanabe — In memory of Seiko Wakabayashi (Maryland)

Brother, Sister showcase Navy's diversity

by Chief of Naval Personnel Diversity Directorate Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Two Navy officers are serving as prime examples of the diversity found within the Navy's ranks. Capt. Raquel C. Bono was nominated in April for promotion to rear admiral, and Rear Adm. Anatolio B. Cruz III, a Navy reservist who was promoted in 2010, will be the only siblings of Filipino descent to hold flag-officer ranks simultaneously.

"Service to others; service to country," Bono said. "It was ingrained in us by our parents in gratitude to their adopted country, the United States." Bono and Cruz's grandfather - an obstetrician in the Philippines - was commissioned as a U.S. Army Colonel and supported his countrymen in their fight against the Japanese during World War II. Some 20 years later, their parents left Manila for Minnesota, where their father completed his surgical residency. The family ultimately settled in San Antonio. Their father went on to serve in the Navy Reserve, eventually retiring as a captain.

Bono earned her medical degree at Texas Tech and began her military career with a general surgery residency at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Va. "What I enjoyed about being in the Navy was that I always felt confident that my ability to be advanced was going to be based on my capabilities and my performance. I felt that I had an equitable opportunity to succeed." After three years as commanding officer of Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Bono became chief of staff of the TRICARE Management Activity in September 2008. In 2010, she became the deputy director of medi-

cal resources, plans and policy for the Chief of Naval Operations.

Cruz, one year younger than his sister, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1980, and reported to USS Gray (FF 1054), in which he was the only minority officer. In 1984, Cruz returned to Annapolis as an admissions and congressional liaison officer. He transferred to the Navy Reserve two years later, but remained closely involved in academy admissions for the next 22 years, with a particular interest in promoting diversity. "I've seen first hand the strides we've made over the years," he said. Cruz spent most of his career in special operations assignments and completed six command tours. He said he has always been in awe of his sister. "She was the smart one and very disciplined at everything she did," Cruz said. "Dad set the bar and she raised that bar."

"The Navy has been a great place to pursue a career and still maintain the essence of who you are as an individual and a member of a particular ethnic group," Bono said. "It's an environment that values the different, representative groups to enhance and promote the people who are serving."

When he was asked for his reactions to the Cruz siblings' achievement, Retired Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, U.S. Army, said "They are the role models who exemplified the value of Service to Nation, and demonstrated that AAPIs have the ability to achieve the rank of admiral in the U.S. Navy. The U.S. Navy has been successfully prominent in advancing diversity in the military and providing the vast opportunity for America's young and women to excel in the military service of their choice."

News from other Veterans Organizations

HONOLULU – President Bill Thompson reports that the **442nd Hawaii Sons and Daughters** are looking for a site to build the 442nd Legacy Center. The criterion for selection of this site is that it should be located near an education facility to ensure maximum usage and longevity. Additionally, 610 persons, including 124 veterans, attended the 68th Anniversary Banquet, organized by the Sons and Daughters, at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 27, 2011.

MONTEREY, Calif. – Commander Jim Suzuki of **Monterey Peninsula Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1629** reported on the 61st Annual Nisei VFW Reunion was held at the Sands Regency Hotel Casino in Reno Nevada on May 1-3, 2011. Participants included VFW Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank and California Department Commander Denis Wells. A busload of veterans and their wives came from **Gardena Nisei VFW Post 1961**, **Kazuo Masuda VFW Post 3670**, and the **Los Angeles Nisei VFW Post 9938**. JAVA Executive Director was invited to be keynote speaker.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – **Nisei VFW Post 8985**, June 2011 issue, added that the 61st Reunion was dedicated to honor three outstanding Nisei Veterans and past commanders who epitomized the spirit and the goals of the VFW: Bob Hayamizu from **Post 9938**, Dick Kishiue from **Post 5869**, and Gary

Shiota from **Post 8985**.

HONOLULU – **MIS Veterans Hawaii**. In his President's message, Edgar Hamasu reported that former State Adjutant Major General Robert Lee and former TV newscaster Barbara Tanabe are organizing a Congressional Gold Medal event in Honolulu on December 12, 2011. The plan calls for a parade in Waikiki and a gala luncheon at the Hawaii Convention Center.

JOHNSTON, Iowa – The **34th Infantry Division Association President**, Colonel Ron "Curly" Albrecht reported that the 64th Annual National Reunion will be held in Johnston, Iowa, on September 9-10, 2011. Anyone interested in attending should contact COL Albrecht [curly.albrecht@us.army.mil or 515-252-4375]

HONOLULU – The **100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club Puka Puka Parade** June 2011 issue reported that the new 100 Club office coordinator is Monica Coldwell. She can be reached at Club100vets@gmail.com or 808-946-0272. The *Parade* also reported that *Unsung Hero—The Story of Colonel Young Oak Kim* was recently published by Woo Sung Han, a Korean journalist. Efforts are underway to produce a video of the late Colonel Kim.

Update of Congressional Gold Medal Award to Nisei in WW II

by Christine Sato Yamazaki, National Veterans Network (NVN)

The Congressional Gold Medal designs were reviewed by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the Citizen Coinage Advisory Commission in May 2011. Both commissions recommended a design to the U.S. Mint that was the preferred design of more than ninety 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans nationwide. This final medal design was approved by the Secretary of the Treasury on June 30, 2011. The production of the Congressional Gold Medal will take approximately 8 to 12 weeks.

The date of the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony is still scheduled for late Fall and more details will be provided in the upcoming weeks. The ceremony will take place at the U.S. Capitol Emancipation Hall in Washington, D.C. Also, we have received positive indications that 100th, 442nd MIS veterans, widows and KIA families and next of kin will be invited; however it is still unknown how many members of each family will be allowed to attend. NVN website will provide updates.

In addition to the ceremony, the National Veterans Network is arranging a celebration in Washington, D.C. that

includes a Congressional Gold Medal Gala Dinner to recognize the honorees. A program at the National World War II Memorial is planned. NVN encourages everyone during their Washington visit to visit the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, where docents will be available to greet veterans and families.

To date, more than 3,500 people have registered to attend the Washington, D.C. celebration. Registration will be taken throughout the summer. If you are interested in attending, please go to the [registration](#) page on our website <www.nationalveteransnetwork.com>.

If you are unsure whether a veteran qualifies, check the eligibility page on our web site. 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans are eligible to receive free airfare and accommodations through Honor Flight, an organization that flies WWII veterans to see their memorial in D.C. Watch this very touching [Honor Flight video](#) (www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoWKh_T6aA) that shows how Honor Flight honors our nation's veterans. For more information on Honor Flight, go to the Frequently Asked Questions page.



Above Left: Dr. and Mrs. Ray Murakami with students of Linganore High School, Frederick County, Maryland. On far right is history teacher Wayne A. Coblentz. (Courtesy of Wayne Coblentz)

Above Right: Grant Ichikawa, MIS, with students from Spotsylvania High School, Virginia, on April 7, 2011. Ichikawa and Terry Shima were invited to speak on their World War II experience. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)

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NAVFAC, Navy JAG celebrate National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

by Naval Facilities Engineering Command Headquarters Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Employees from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Headquarters and Office of the Navy Judge Advocate General (OJAG) celebrated National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month on May 23 by hearing the experiences of Japanese-Americans who grew up in the United States during World War II.

Rear Adm. David M. Boone, Director of Shore Readiness, was the moderator. Boone is the 43rd military officer of Japanese descent and the 100th military officer of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to achieve the rank of admiral or general.

The panel discussion began with Mary Murakami's stories of life as a teenager when she was forced to spend her entire high school years in an internment camp for Japanese-Americans in Utah after the attack on Pearl Harbor. "There was nothing you could do about camp, but you could make the best of it," Murakami said. After graduating high school, Murakami



JAVA speakers after the panel discussion at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. L-R: Rear Admiral David M. Boone, Grant Ichikawa (MIS veteran), Mary Murakami, Terry Shima (442nd RCT veteran), Rear Admiral Christopher J. Mossey.

studied at the University of California, Berkeley, and then went on to serve as senior microbiologist for Los Angeles County.

Grant Ichikawa, who was also interned with his family, served in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII and the Korean War during which he interrogated prisoners of war for strategic intelligence. He noted that his decision to join the Army was to prove his loyalty to America. Ichikawa is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and a retired CIA officer.

Terry Shima, who lived in Hawaii, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944, and served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He served in the U.S. Foreign Service and is currently the executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association.

Bridgette Johnson, Chair of the OJAG/NAVFAC Diversity Committee, was impressed by the loyalty that the panelists showed to America despite being interned. "The speakers overcame that," Johnson said. "We are such a diverse group of people. It's important that we learn about each other through events such as this."

Lt. Janelle Kuroda, a member of the OJAG/NAVFAC Diversity Committee, reflected on the remarks of the panelists. "It was an honor for me to invite Terry, Grant, and Mary to speak at our event. They have an incredible story, and their patriotism inspired me to join the U.S. Navy."

Rear Adm. Christopher J. Mossey, Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, presented Murakami, Ichikawa, Shima and Rear Adm. Boone with plaques of appreciation at the end of the discussion to thank them for taking the time to share their stories.



WASHINGTON — (May 18, 2011) Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and JAVA member Navy Lt. Janelle Kuroda at the 2011 Easter Seals Advocacy Awards Dinner, Washington, D.C. (Hiroyuki Hosoi)

JAVA awards 8 scholarships to high school students

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Dr. Ray Murakami, Scholarship Committee Chair, announced the names of eight high school seniors who were awarded scholarships from JAVA to universities for the 2011-2012 school year. The announcement was made at the JAVA luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia, on June 18, 2011. Twenty-nine applications were received.

In addition to their grade point average, each applicant was judged on his/her extra curricular activities and an essay entitled “What does the JAVA scholarship mean to me.”

Murakami said the applicants’ qualifications were uniformly high, making selection of the final eight very difficult. The following eight recipients, listed alphabetically, finally emerged at the top.

- Stephanie Fong, California. Attending University of Southern California. (Col. Phillip Sunao Ishio Scholarship)
- Emily Ichikawa, California. Attending UCLA. (Mary Kozono Scholarship)
- Carli Komoto, California. Attending UCLA. (Teru Kamikawa Matsui Scholarship)
- Shari Kuroyama, California. Attending Cal Tech University. (MAJ Orville Shirey Scholarship)
- April Nishikawa, California. University of Southern California. (Douglas Ishio Scholarship)
- Natalie Okuhara, California. Attending UCLA. (Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin Scholarship)
- James Ryan, Rhode Island. Attending Harvard University. (Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship)
- Jenny Yim, Hawaii. Attending Scripps College. (Joseph Ichiuji Scholarship)

In addition to Dr. Murakami, the Scholarship Selection Committee members are Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., Edgar Wakayama, Ph.D., and Sue Okubo, Ph.D.



Scholarship recipients pictured above. Top L-R: Stephanie Fong, Emily Ichikawa, Carli Komoto. Middle L-R: Shari Kuroyama, April Nishikawa, Natalie Okuhara. Bottom L-R: James Ryan, Jenny Yim.

ALEXANDRIA, Va.
 — JAVA Speakers Bureau representatives Mary Murakami, Grant Ichikawa (MIS) and Terry Shima (442nd) spoke at Hayfield Secondary School, Alexandria, Virginia, on June 10, 2011.
 (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)



TAPS JAVA MOURNS PASSING OF ETSU MINETA MASAOKA, A STRONG SUPPORTER OF JAVA'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON – “Hey Ets, don’t forget the hot dogs.” The tone of voice tells you who was the “organizer, the catalyst, the control point of a group of young men and women who headed for the beach for a Sunday afternoon cookout,” said former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta of his sister, Etsu Mineta Masaoka, who died in her home at the age of 94. Secretary Mineta spoke to a packed sanctuary of the Chevy Chase United Methodist Church, Maryland, on June 14, 2011.

“There were no dark clouds in her sky, no one could step on her doorsteps to discourage her nor could anyone or anything keep her from accomplishing what she set out to do.”

Mineta passionately chronicled Etsu’s life history that gripped the audience to total silence. U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, who was accompanied by his wife Irene, described Mike and Etsu as the “voice of hope, the voice of reason.”

Etsu was an active member of various organizations. Gerald Yamada, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), said Etsu and her late husband, Mike Masaoka, “formed an invincible team that



Etsu Mineta Masaoka at the 2010 Annual National JACL Gala Awards Dinner.

worked on important causes that benefited all of us. Etsu is the role model for all of us.”

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the Japanese American Citizens League, said “JACL has been left with a legacy of great men and women who embodied the values of greatness, who used the power of words... [to achieve JACL’s] civil and human rights [goals]. She had that sparkle in her eye and was always ready for a good joke or comment that brought a smile to your face.”

Terry Shima, Executive Director of JAVA, recalled that he felt he knew Etsu long before he met her because her late husband Mike spoke at length about her skills and intellect and how she stood by him during the difficult as well as joyous days. Etsu supported JAVA’s education program

saying, “Get the message across that the Japanese Americans volunteered for combat to prove their loyalty and they succeeded.”

Japanese Ambassador Ichiro and Mrs. Fujisaki also attended the funeral service.

To make a tax exempt donation to JAVA’s Etsu Masaoka Memorial Scholarship program, send a check, payable to JAVA, to Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153. On the Memo line state Etsu Masaoka Memorial Scholarship. For JACL, please mail your donation, payable to JACL, to 1765 Stutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115.

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from VA announcements]

—College-bound children of National Guardsmen who lost their lives in support of the war on terrorism can now apply for up to \$25,000 in scholarship funds from DRS Technologies, a New Jersey-based defense contractor. The Guardian Scholarship Fund will be administered by the National Guard Educational Foundation. Qualified applicants can learn more and apply online at <http://www.ngef.org/index.asp?bid=300>.

—President Barack Obama requested \$54.9 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for fiscal year 2012 and \$56.7 billion for fiscal year 2013, according to a report released by the Government Accountability Office this week. Officials at VA “said the new budget estimate was increased overall by about \$1.4 billion for fiscal year 2012 and \$1.3 billion for

fiscal year.

—A U.S. Marine whose leg muscles were mostly destroyed in a mortar attack in Afghanistan is reportedly able to walk again after treatment that helped his body re-grow the lost tissue. Cpl. Isaias Hernandez worked with researchers at the McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, who were able to seed his remaining muscles with a cocktail of proteins and growth factors derived from pig bladders.

—Most of the 28 female soldiers killed in Afghanistan died in combat situations, despite the military’s official prohibition on women in combat jobs. The same has been true in Iraq, where 111 female soldiers have died, according to data compiled by icasualties.org, an independent organization that tracks military fatalities.

—Veterans return to Iraq to confront

the place they were wounded in Operation Proper Exit. The VA program takes veterans back to Iraq to the places they were injured, to the hospitals that saved their lives, and to speak with the troops currently stationed there. “What they wanted to do was come back and see that what they had done made sense, that it had validity, that it was not in vain,” said Program Manager Rick Kell. With the help of the U.S. military, the program has brought more than 60 wounded warriors back to Iraq about eight at a time.

—Dr. Haru Okuda was recently named national medical director for the Department of Veterans Affairs Simulation Learning Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) program. To learn more about the VHA SimLEARN program, visit www.simlearn.va.gov.

From the Editor



I wish to thank Mr. Ansho Mas Uchima for sending me a copy of his and Minoru Shinmoto's new book on U.S. Generals and Admirals of Japanese descent, titled *Nikkei Generals and Admirals*.

Mr. Uchima and Mr. Shinmoto conducted more than five years of research before publishing this informative book. There are 42

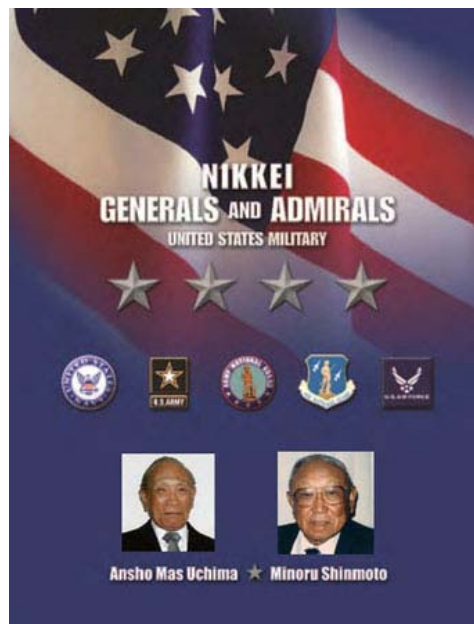
generals and admirals of Japanese ancestry listed with 38 biographies. According to these officers, their achievements were mainly due to the achievements of the Nisei soldiers of the Military Intelligence Service and 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In a letter to Mr. Uchima, retired Brigadier General Allen M. Mizumoto, USAF, wrote, "You do us great honor by publishing this wonderful book. Hopefully, some fourth or fifth generation Nikkei will read this publication and be inspired to make the military a career, just as we were inspired by the accomplishments of the Nikkei who preceded us in the military of the USA."

The book is published by Nikkei Writers Guild, a Division of Japanese American Living Legacy (www.jalivinglegacy.org).

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to javaadvocate@gmail.com.



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hollywoodweb@comcast.net

Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery: Terry Shima (temp)

Memorial Day Parade: Martin Herbert (See above)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 27, 11:30AM: Lunch with Dr. Jim McNaughton at China Garden, Rosslyn, Virginia.

July 29-30: National Veterans Network members meeting in Washington, D.C.

Sep 17: JAVA Executive Council Meeting.

Sep 29: National JAACL Gala Dinner, J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.

Oct 2-6: Annual Nisei Veterans Reunion, sponsored by Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, California Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Oct 15, 11:30AM: JAVA quarterly luncheon, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.

November: Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony at US Capitol; National WWII Memorial Program; National Gala Dinner; National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism Program for families of Japanese Americans who died in the line of duty.

Dec 10: JAVA Executive Council Meeting.

Jan 14, 2012: JAVA annual meeting and luncheon, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.

2010 JAVA Scholarship Awardee Christine Larson

Dear JAVA Scholarship committee,

My grandfather James Suzuki just came back from the Nisei VFW Reunion and let me know that you were interested in my progress at UC Davis. I have attached a picture of me in my chemistry lab. I am happy to say that my first year at UC Davis, California, has been an amazing experience. The academics are very challenging, but the competitive atmosphere encourages me to constantly put forth my best effort to keep up with my peers. Additionally, I have earned a spot in an Internship to be a part of the UC Davis Student Athletic Trainer Program, which will provide me with hands on experience in what I hope to make my career. Thank you again for selecting me for your scholarship. I will continue to work hard here at UC Davis and make my family proud with how I shape my future.

*Sincerely,
Christine Larson*

