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JAVA members participate in US Constitution reading at Newseum; viewable on YouTube

WASHINGTON—On January 18th, People For the American Way Foundation (www.pfaw.org) hosted a reading of the U.S. Constitution to commemorate the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama and to embrace the document that is the foundation of our rights and liberties.

JAVA members Grant Ichikawa and Kelly Kuwayama were part of a diverse and distinguished cast of readers, which included leading figures in the arts, government, and media. The reading was held before a live studio audience at the Newseum in Washington, DC, and was simulcast in the building's Great Hall. There is perhaps no better time than the inauguration of a new president to renew our commitment to the Constitution and what it stands for: equality and justice for all.

You can watch Ichikawa and Kuwayama read Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHOZKNU71_w&feature=PlayList&p=A8242AFCAAA66814&index=7, and you can view the entire event at http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=A8242AFCAAA66814. You can also do a search on www.youtube.com by typing "2009 Inaugural Reading of the Constitution" and look for "8. Grant Ichikawa and Kelly Kuwayama in 2009 Inaugural Reading of the Constitution."

Fundraising for JA Nat'l War Memorial Court preservation by Robert Wada, Founding President, JAKWV

[Reprinted with permission from Editor, JAKWV Newsletter, Bacon Sakatani]

LOS ANGELES—A new current fund raising project for the Japanese American National War Memorial Court located at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in the Little Tokyo section of Los Angeles has officially begun. Co-chairmen Fred Hoshiyama and Sam Shimoguchi have announced plans for a monumental task of raising over \$350,000 for a per-

petual fund to be held in an invested trust for the future use by our young people who will be continuing with the care and upkeep of the Japanese American War Memorials. The war memorials list the names of the



Vietnam War veterans pay tribute to fallen comrades. L-R: Jerry Yamamoto, Ken Hayashi, James Masaki, and David Miyoshi. Photo credit: Robert Wada.

Japanese Americans killed in action in the nations' wars of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, as well as those killed on the Island of Grenada, in Iraq, and the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine in 1898.

[see fundraising on page 4]

President's Message



The 1st quarter of 2009 has been a very productive and busy quarter for JAVA. The January luncheon was very well attended by members and friends. The

highlight was the awarding of Bronze Star Medals to veterans or their survivors. Vice Admiral Harris, Major General Antonio Taguba (Ret), and Deputy Assistant Lynn Heirakuji participated in the presentation. The Army Human Resource Command told JAVA that over 100 Japanese Americans worldwide will belatedly receive the Bronze Service Medal.

Congratulations to Major Tammy Duckworth, Iraq War veteran and a friend of JAVA, who was appointed by President Obama to be the Department of Veterans Affairs' Assistant Secretary of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. JAVA plans to support her when she appears for her confirmation hearing at the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. We also congratulate Senator Daniel Inouye, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee, and other members of Congress, for the passage of legislation which recognized Filipino war veteran's service as part of the US military in WW II. The legislation provided recognition to an estimated 18,000 Filipino veterans with a tax-free cash payment. Senator Inouye stated, "These men have served with honor and deserve nothing less than honor from the government of the United States."

JAVA, along with other organizations, enthusiastically supported the nomination of General Eric Shinseki (Ret) to become the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He was endorsed by the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Chaired by Senator Daniel Akaka, and supported by Senator Inouye and former Senator Bob Dole. Shinseki was confirmed on January 20. Several JAVA members attended the committee hearings. On March 15, JAVA, along with other veteran service organizations, was invited to par-

ticipate in the 20th anniversary of cabinet level status of Veterans Affairs which was sponsored by President Ronald Reagan. Secretary Shinseki was the keynote speaker.

The JAVA membership continues to grow, and additional donations are being received. A large percentage of annual members have converted to life membership. We are pleased with the continued growth, and we welcome any referrals of potential new members to our organizations.

Bob Wada, a JAVA life member, along with California colleagues, have invited JAVA to participate to further develop "The Wall" of Japanese Americans who were killed in line of duty starting from the Spanish/American War in 1898 to the present. We are campaigning to solicit donations from JAVA members and others to donate to this worthwhile cause.

In February I traveled to Portland, Oregon, and awarded an honorary life membership and the Patriotism Plaque to Mrs. Kiyoko Taubkin. The ceremony took place at the retirement community where Mrs. Taubkin resides to a full attendance in the auditorium. Several JAVA members from Oregon and Washington State attended the ceremony. Mrs. Taubkin made a significant donation to JAVA on behalf of furthering JAVA's programs.

I wish to thank the *Go For Broke National Education Center* for conducting the Teachers Training Workshop of Virginia's Fairfax County Public Schools, an excellent follow-up of a similar workshop held last year for Maryland's Montgomery County Public Schools. This is an excellent complement to JAVA's education program.

Five JAVA WW II veterans have fallen during the last quarter. JAVA's condolences were offered to the families of Paul Tani; Marine Captain Glenn Nelson; Dr. Horace Z. Feldman, MIS; Dr. Kenneth Takemoto, 100th Bn, 442nd RCT; and Shinkichi Tajiri, 442nd veteran and world-class sculptor. They will be missed, and they have left a rich legacy.

I continue to thank the JAVA members who donate their time without compensation and pay for their own expenses for all JAVA-related activities.

The next quarter will continue to be busy for JAVA members. We will be participating in the Freedom Walk in partnership with *National Japanese American Memorial Foundation*. We will also have a booth, thanks to the Japan America Society of WDC, at the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade area. The month of May, Asian American Pacific Heritage Month, we will join JACL WDC in a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery. We will also parade down Constitution Avenue. At our May quarterly luncheon, we will be awarding scholarships to students who will be entering college. Also, we will continue to host luncheons for out of town visitors.

—Bob Nakamoto

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GFBNEC and partners hold teachers training in Virginia

FALLS CHURCH, VIR.—The Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) of Torrance, California, and partners National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) held a one-day teachers training workshop for 21 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) teachers on March 10, 2009, at Jeb Stuart High School in Falls Church, Virginia. This is the second of such program held by GFBNEC and partners. The first was held at Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) in Rockville, Maryland on February 2, 2008.

Kurt Waters, Social Studies Specialist at FCPS, opened the program on behalf of Alice Reilly, Coordinator, K-12 Social Studies for FCPS, saying “this is an opportunity to pause during our teaching of the World War II period to examine with Japanese Americans who were directly affected by their mass incarceration and other WW II experiences.” Ms. Reilly, a participant of the training program at MCPS and who had a schedule conflict, arrived after the program started and remained for the balance of the morning session. Dr. Lisa Sueki, GFBNEC Chief Operating Officer, said GFBNEC is “honored to be invited to share GFBNEC’s training expertise with east coast and other area schools.”

Ms. Reilly told the JAVA reporter the relevance to FCPS of the day’s program: “We feel that FCPS teachers and students will benefit from the interactions with people who lived the history they are teaching and learning about. The Go For Broke curriculum and the participation of JAVA provides opportunities for teachers and students to learn about content through a new perspective, that of the Japanese Americans. It is important to remember the ‘story’ in history so that students realize history is much more than random facts. Hosting this workshop allowed FCPS to provide the content knowledge to do that.”

The GFBNEC trainers were two educational consultants, both retired California school teachers. Esther Taira has 36 years of experience in education, including teaching at Foshay Middle School and Lincoln High School, both in Los Angeles, and Kubasaki High School in Okinawa, Japan with the Department of Defense. Mark Elinson has a similar length of service at Lincoln High School and other schools. He also served as curriculum consultant at schools and institutions.

The morning discussion, led by Taira, covered the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; the uprooting from their homes and incarceration of 120,000 ethnic Japanese; the activation and deployment of the 100th Infantry Battalion and also the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Japanese language training and assignment of 3,000 Japanese Americans Military Intelligence Service specialists in the Asia Pacific Theater; the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion’s (of the 442nd RCT) liberation of Jewish inmates from a concentration sub-camp in Dachau, Germany; and a working bibliography.

In the afternoon JAVA and NJAMF Executive Directors described their respective education programs. This was followed by Elinson splitting the participants into 4 groups to develop questions on the points covered in the morning program. One person from each group was selected as the interviewer, who interviewed three WW II veterans: Kelly Kuwayama (442nd RCT); Grant Ichikawa (internee and MIS); and Ranger Hall of Famer Grant Hirabayashi (MIS and Merrill’s Marauders).

Consensus of the attendees is that they derived a useful additional tool to teach their students about the Japanese American experience during World War II.



Above: 21 Fairfax County Public School teachers, JAVA veterans, and GFBNEC education consultants at the Teachers Training Workshop at JEB Stuart High School on March 10, 2009.

Fundraising (from page 1)

The Japanese American National War Memorial Preservation Fund is sponsored and supported by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII War Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Korean War Veterans, Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, JAVA, and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. Sponsors' promotional efforts are being assisted by the Japanese American Living Legacy from Fullerton, California.

The Preservation Fund is designed to provide funds to add new names, create new war memorials, and repair and maintain the present war memorials long after the veterans are gone. "We do not want to leave our children or future generations with the financial burden of maintaining something we veterans created during our time while

passing the responsibility on to them," stated Shimoguchi. The veterans also intend this fund to financially help future generations continue the annual Memorial Services to remember the sacrifices of the Japanese Americans who gave their lives for our country in our nation's various wars.

The Committee is not only asking for all veterans to help raise funds, but also stated that this is a Japanese American community obligation to help retain the memory of those who unhesitatingly gave their lives so we can all continue to live in peace and freedom.

Fundraising efforts are underway with many fundraising activities planned for the near future, including a dance on Saturday, June 6,

2009. Details will be forthcoming from the JA Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee.

For more information or for a brochure, explanation letter or donation response card, contact Sam Shimoguchi at (310) 822-6688, Robert Wada at (714) 992-5461, or write to JANMC Preservation Fund, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. JAVA members and friends may contact Terry Shima, 301-987-6746, ttshima@worldnet.att.net.

Solicitation packets with the brochure and other materials are also available in the lobby of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles and from committee members of the sponsoring veterans organizations.

Iraq War pilot Duckworth nominated for high VA post



WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama has nominated Tammy Duckworth, until recently Illinois state Director of Veterans Affairs, to the position of Assistant Secretary, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, of the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Secretary of Veterans Affairs, GEN Eric K. Shinseki, USA (Ret) said,

"Effective communications

with veterans and Veterans Affairs stakeholders is key to improving our services and ensuring veterans receive the benefits they deserve. Tammy Duckworth brings significant talent, leadership and personal experience to this important work." Former Senator Bob Dole said Duckworth is "a brave woman wounded in Iraq, who represents all of those with their own battles ahead of them, and their own stories to tell."

Duckworth was born in Thailand, grew up in various southeast Asian countries, is fluent in Bahasa, Indonesia and Thai, and moved to Hawaii with her family at age 16. A graduate of McKinley High School in Honolulu, Duckworth obtained a BA in political science and an MA from George Washington University Elliott School of International Relations. After ROTC she was commissioned

as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1992 and joined the Illinois National Guard. She became a helicopter pilot because it was one of the few combat jobs open for women. She was working on her Doctorate in Political Science at Northern Illinois University when she was deployed to Iraq in 2004.

On November 12, 2004, the H-60 Black Hawk helicopter she was co-piloting was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade fired by Iraqi insurgents. She lost the lower part of both legs and almost completely destroyed her right arm. Spending many months in Army and VA hospitals, Duckworth was fitted for prosthetics, is now mobile, and has continued to fly military helicopters.

Duckworth was appointed as Director of Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs on November 21, 2006. She developed numerous state programs, including one to provide tax credits to employers who hire Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans and another to provide below-market mortgages for veterans. She has committed herself to provide to military personnel and their families the federal and state benefits they deserve. Since she returned from duty in Iraq she has spoken on behalf of veterans on various issues such as health care, housing and employment, and has testified before Congress.

JAVA offers its congratulations to Tammy Duckworth for accepting another call to public service.

Japanese American leaders meet with Japanese leaders

WASHINGTON—Fifteen Japanese Consuls General posted in various locations in the US, an equal number of Japanese business executives stationed in the United States, and 35 Japanese Americans met in Washington, DC during the weekend of January 10, 2009, to develop an action plan to foster goodwill and understanding between the Japanese government and Japanese Americans. U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye reiterated that Japan should have a better understanding of U.S. policy issues and that Japanese Americans can help to achieve that. Japanese Ambassador to the US, Ichiro Fujisaki, has placed a high priority on building solid relationships between the Government of Japan and the Japanese Americans, and to this end he and Mrs. Fujisaki visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism within a week after their arrival in Washington, DC. This action plan includes the Japan America Leadership Delegation program in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsors orientation visits to Japan for some 20 third and fourth generation Japanese American leaders, Irene Hirano Inouye and Hideki

Yamamoto are the US leaders to develop this action plan. Robert Nakamoto, JAVA President, and Floyd Mori, JACL National Director and JAVA member, were invited to participate in these discussions.



L-R: Robert Ichikawa, a Honolulu attorney; Senator Daniel Inouye; JAVA President Bob Nakamoto.

JAVA's National Cherry Blossom Festival Events



WASHINGTON—JAVA is scheduled to participate in two events during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, an annual two-week citywide event from March 28 to April 12, 2009. The Festival celebrates the 97th Anniversary of the gift of cherry trees and the enduring friendship between the people of the US and Japan. The climax will be the National Cherry Blossom Parade on April 4.

On March 28 the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and JAVA will jointly hold its 11th Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism located at New Jersey and Louisiana Avenues and D Streets, NW near the US Capitol Building and Union Station. On April 4, JAVA will have a booth, provided by the Japan America Society of Washington DC, at a high profile location in the Festival area. In past years throngs of people have visited the JAVA

booth to talk to Japanese American veterans of WW II, Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, and former internment camp internees, and to view memorabilia and purchase books published by JAVA.

The Freedom Walk is a historical and cultural event which seeks to raise awareness about the Japanese American experience during World War II and to highlight the vigilant role everyone must play in upholding the constitutional rights of all Americans. Chair for the Freedom Walk is Karen Matsuoka. Check-in time for the Freedom Walk at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism starts at 9:30AM, and the program starts at 10:00AM. The walk, led by Mt. Airy Baptist Church Boy Scouts Troop 508, will commence after the program. The event will conclude with cultural performances of traditional Japanese and Palestinian folk dancing.

There is no charge for participation in the Freedom Walk, however, donations would be gratefully accepted by NJAMF. Please make checks payable to NJAMF-Freedom Walk and mail it to NJAMF-Freedom Walk; 1620 I Street, NW, Suite 925; Washington, DC 20006. For more information on the Freedom Walk please email cherryblossomfreedomwalk@yahoo.com or call 202-530-0015. For information on the JAVA booth at the National Cherry Blossom Parade please contact JAVA booth Chair Mike Yaguchi at 703-729-1243 or yaguchim@u.washington.edu.

News From other veterans organizations

HONOLULU—**M.I.S. VETERANS NEWSLETTER** for January-March 2009 reported that President Glenn M. Masunaga's term of office has ended and will be succeeded by Edgar Hamasu, a Korean War veteran who served on an 8-man Military Intelligence Service team that interrogated prisoners of war. He is a retired city planner, having served in that position for 45 years.

HONOLULU—**PUKA PUKA PARADE**, organ of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, March issue reported that newly-elected President Mike Harada, who succeeded Robert Arakaki, plans to hold a Town Hall Meeting on March 22nd to discuss revisions to the by-laws and improvements to the Learning Resource Center. The December 2008 issue reported the Club sent 21 gift boxes of candy and books to the 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry deployed in Kuwait. Page 7 of this issue carries an article of the twenty-seven 100th men assigned to Cat Island, Mississippi during WW II on a secret mission to train dogs for use against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater. The dogs were to identify the Nisei as imperial Japanese soldiers by their scent. The training failed because the Nisei smelled like American soldiers, not Japanese.

HONOLULU—In the 442nd Veterans Club's **GO FOR BROKE BULLETIN** for October-December 2008, President Bill Thompson said the Club's website (www.442RCT.org) is now functional.

"Rich history of the 442nd RCT is being made available with pages of archival materials yet to be processed. ... Our legacy will be determined in a large measure by how we use our archival materials in developing a history and learning center," Thompson wrote. The **BULLETIN** also reported that the 66th Anniversary Banquet is scheduled for March 29, 2009. The keynote speaker will be The Honorable Vincent Hichiro Okamoto, Los Angeles Superior Court judge, an inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame, and one of the most highly decorated Japanese American in the Vietnam War. All of his six brothers served in the military, including two who served with the 442nd RCT.

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.—**NISEI POST 8985 NEWSLETTER** December 2008 issue reported that the Post packed and shipped its first packages to Co E, 100 Bn, 442nd Infantry. The shipment included bags of rice and rice cookers. The January 2009 issue said the Post is collecting items for the second shipment and have asked members to donate rice, powder drink mixes, beef jerky, nuts, books, cookies. The February 2009 issue reported that the Post hosted the Voice of Democracy winners from the 24 school districts of California, who came to Sacramento to compete as the state representative at the national competition in Washington, DC. The Post shipped 23 care packages, including home-made cookies, to Co E.

FULLERTON, CALIF.—**JAPANESE**

AMERICAN KOREAN WAR VETERANS (JAKWV) NEWSLETTER

November 2008 issue reported that over 150 members and friends visited South Korea to rededicate the Japanese American Memorial at Imjingak Park, Paju city. The Memorial contains the names of 251 Japanese Americans who were killed during the Korean War.

MORGAN HILL, CALIF.—FRIENDS & FAMILY OF NISEI VETERANS NEWSLETTER

December 2008, is planning a final trip to France on July 10-18, 2009 to "celebrate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres and the rescue of the Lost Battalion." George Joe Sakato, Company E and Medal of Honor recipient is planning to go. The tour will include visits to Bruyeres and Biffontaine to celebrate Bastille Day on July 14, the site of the rescue of the Lost Battalion, and the 442nd Monument near Bruyeres, and a memorial service at the Epinal American Cemetery where 11 Nisei are interred.

SEATTLE—NISEI VETERANS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

January 2009 issue reported that NVC Commander Yuzo Tokita and five other NVC members attended the promotion ceremony for MG John Johnson at Fort Lewis on December 11, 2008. The NVC contingent included MG Rodney Kobayashi, USA (Ret), COL Jimmie Kanaya, USA (Ret) and MSG Ranger Roy Matsumoto, USA (Ret) all JAVA life members. MG Johnson is a good friend of JAVA.

Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion

The much-anticipated fourth issue of DC Comics' **SGT Rock** by Billy Tucci came out on February 25; this issue features the rescue of Sgt. Rock and the Lost Battalion by the 442nd RCT. [Full press release at www.javadc.org.]

Pictured at right: Tough day for a T-patcher. Far right: Billy Tucci's color designer Bill Farmer at work (with wife Davi-Ann and son Avery). Photos courtesy of Billy



JAVA luncheons with special visitors in Washington DC



Above: JAVA lunch with **Sandra Tanamachi**, Lake Jackson, Texas, and **David Masuo**, Anchorage, Alaska, on January 10, 2009, at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia. They were invited by the Japanese Embassy to participate in a seminar to further enhance goodwill between the government and people of Japan and the Japanese Americans. Bob Nakamoto, JAVA President, and Floyd Mori, National Director of JACL also participated in a portion of the weekend event. Seated, L-R: Lida Konoshima, Tanamachi, Masuo, Nancy Yamada; Back Row: Terry Shima, Grant Hirabayashi, Nakamoto, Aki Konoshima, Mori, Kelly Kuwayama, the late Paul Tani, Taz Hofmann, Gerald Yamada. Photo credit: Grant Hirabayashi.

Below: **Christine Sato-Yamazaki**, President/CEO of **GO FOR BROKE National Education Center**, Tets Asato (442nd) and Ken Akune (MIS) of Torrance, California have lunch with JAVA members on February 24, 2009. Front Row L-R: Stanley Sagara, Bob Nakamoto, Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Tets Asato. Center Row L-R: Bill Houston, Terry Shima, Ken Akune, Grant Ichikawa, Ray Murakami, Kelly Kuwayama, Calvin Ninomiya; Top Row L-R: Bill Takakoshi; Reuben Yoshikawa, Grant Hirabayashi. Photo credit: Grant Hirabayashi.



JAVA opposes CSCA hold on Nisei stamp proposal by Gerald Yamada, Esq.

In January 2008, a proposal was submitted to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) asking that a commemorative stamp be approved to honor the Nisei soldiers who fought to defend America during World War II. The CSAC advises the US Postal Service on the selection of commemorative stamps. The proposal was submitted by a grass-roots committee co-chaired by Wayne Osako, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko King, and Chizuko Ohira.

CSAC has placed the proposal on hold, invoking its informal policy that "stamps will not be issued to honor individual sub-branches, units or divisions of the military" as the reason to defer a final decision on whether to approve the Nisei Veterans Stamp proposal.

JAVA has sent a letter sent to CSCA stating support for the proposal and arguing that CSAC's informal policy does not apply here. The proposal does not honor an individual sub-branch, unit or division of the military but honors Nisei Veterans as a distinctive group.

The over 30,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in World War II shared a common bond – they wanted to prove that they were loyal Americans. They fought to eliminate the suspicion and distrust that motivated the government to unjustly imprison over 120,000 persons of

Japanese ancestry to America's concentration camps without regard to their constitutional rights. These veterans rose above racial hatred and prejudice to prove their loyalty and patriotism to America and served with unparalleled distinction.

The JAVA letter points out that CSCA owes it to the WWII Nisei Veterans to have the proposal considered on its merits. JAVA asks CSCA to approve the proposal at its next meeting.

Correction to January 2009 edition, page 6, "Dr. Robinson speaks to JAVA members": Due to editing for space constraints, the *ADVOCATE's* transcript of Prof. Greg Robinson's JAVA speech about Sgt. Robert Chino mischaracterized Chino's campaign against military service during 1942. 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 442nd in exchange for his release. The *JAVA Advocate* regrets the error.

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 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 77, 49 served in the U.S. Army, 12 in the U.S. Navy, 15 in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Marines. Broken down in another way, 20 are Chinese Americans, 6 Filipino Americans, 18 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 33 Japanese Americans.

Maj Gen David E. Clary



Major General David E. Clary, USAF, is Director, Air Component Coordination Element, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq and Commander, Detachment 2, 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force. He serves as the forward coordination element between the Combined Forces Air Component Commander and the Commanding General, Multi-National Force-Iraq. Prior to his

current assignment he was Vice Commander of Air Combat Command. This summer he will be reassigned as Special Assistant to the Commander, Air Combat Command, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia.

An Army brat, he was born in Osaka, Japan and graduated from high school in Yerington, Nevada. His father was in the Army and his mother was Japanese. He entered the Air Force in 1976. He has commanded two squadrons, a group and two wings. He has served in various other staff and command positions in CONUS and overseas in England, Italy, Turkey and Iraq. He has completed a Navy exchange tour and has 160 carrier landings.

A command pilot, he has more than 4,500 flying hours, primarily in attack and fighter aircraft. He has participated in air operations to provide humanitarian aid to Kurds in April 1991 (Operation Provide Comfort), monitor and control air space in Iraq, 1991-2003 (Operation Southern Watch), and support NATO in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1993 (Operation Deny Flight) accumulating 216 combat hours.

General Clary graduated from the USAF Academy in 1976, obtained a MS in management from Troy State university, New York; and attended various military schools. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, and 22 other awards.

Asked why he chose the USAF as his career choice, General Clary said "My Dad took me to an air show when I was six, and after seeing the Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team, I told my Dad that I wanted to fly military aircraft when I grew up. I never really wavered from that goal. And as they say, the rest is "history."

MG Rodney M. Kobayashi



MG Rodney M. Kobayashi was born in Hilo, Hawaii and graduated from Hilo High School in 1966. His father was a rancher and served as Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives for the then Territory of Hawaii.

He began his military career in 1966 as an enlisted soldier in the Hawaii National Guard. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant following his graduation from Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was selected to remain there as a Ranger Instructor. He served one tour in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group/MACVSOG. As a young soldier, he was inspired by the Nisei Veterans in the 100/442nd RCT and MIS, as well as Ranger and Special Forces Soldiers.

He left active duty and joined the Army Reserve as Company Commander in 1971, obtained a BA in Accounting from the University of Hawaii and MBA in Taxation from Golden Gate University. He became a Certified Public Accountant with licenses to practice in the states of Hawaii, California, and Washington. In the Reserves, he served as Company Commander in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry at Fort DeRussy, Hawaii, the next generation of the celebrated team of Japanese American volunteers.

He rose progressively in rank and position at staff and command levels and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1999, serving as the 104th Assistant Division Commander. In 2001, he assumed command of the 91st Training Support Division and was promoted to Major General. In 2003 he, along with the Division, were recalled to active duty for the war in the Middle East. During this period, the Division trained over 51,000 service members for combat and support operations for the Global War on Terrorism. Additionally, his Division deployed mobile training combat teams into Afghanistan and Iraq. He returned to reserve status in 2005 and retired on December 20, 2006.

MG Kobayashi's decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab. He currently serves with the IRS as an Area Director overseeing Taxpayer Advocate Service functions in 11 states. He is married to Verna Bromley, a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County; they live in Sammamish, WA.

Eric Shinseki appointed Secretary of Dept of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON—Retired General Eric Shinseki was sworn in on January 21, 2009, in a White House ceremony as the seventh Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). “The overriding challenge I am addressing from my first day in office is to make the DVA a 21st century organization focused on the Nation’s Veterans as its clients,” Shinseki said. In a January 25 notice to veterans service organizations DVA added “Shinseki plans to develop a 2010 budget within his first 90 days. Key issues on

Secretary Shinseki’s agenda include (1) implementation of an enhanced GI Bill education benefit that eligible veterans will begin using next fall, (2) streamlining the disability claims system, (3) leveraging information technology to accelerate and modernize services, and (4) opening VA’s health care system to veterans previously unable to enroll in it, while facilitating access for returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.” [Full press release at www.javadc.org]



Above: Sen. Daniel Inouye (right), former Senator Bob Dole (left) and Gen. Eric Shinseki (center), at Shinseki’s confirmation hearing on Jan. 14, 2009. (Photo by Brendan Hoffman/Getty Images)

An Open Letter to Veterans From Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki

The following is an open letter to Veterans from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki:

“My name is Ric Shinseki, and I am a Veteran. For me, serving as Secretary of Veterans Affairs is a noble calling. It provides me the opportunity to give back to those who served with and for me during my 38 years in uniform and those on whose shoulders we all stood as we grew up in the profession of arms.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs has a solemn responsibility to all of you, today and in the future, as more Veterans join our ranks and enroll to secure the benefits and services they have earned. I am fully committed to fulfilling President Obama’s vision for transforming our department so that it will be well-positioned to perform this duty even better during the 21st Century. We welcome the assistance and advice of our Veterans Service Organizations, other government departments and agencies, Congress, and all VA stakeholders as we move forward, ethically and transparently, so that Veterans and citizens can understand our efforts.

“Creating that vision for transforming the VA into a 21st Century organization requires a comprehensive review of our department. We approach that review understanding that Veterans are central to everything VA does. We know that results count, that the department will be measured by what we do, not what we promise, and that our best days as an organization supporting Veterans are ahead of

us. We will fulfill President Lincoln’s charge to care for “. . . him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan . . .” by redesigning and reengineering ourselves for the future.

“Transforming any institution is supremely challenging; I know this from my own experience in leading large, proud, complex, and high-performing organizations through change. But the best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients. Historically, organizations that are unwilling or unable to change soon find themselves irrelevant. You and your needs are not irrelevant.

“Veterans are our clients, and delivering the highest quality care and services in a timely, consistent and fair manner is a VA responsibility. I take that responsibility seriously and have charged all of the department’s employees for their best efforts and support every day to meet our obligations to you. Our path forward is challenging, but the President and Congress support us. They have asked us to do this well—for you. Veterans are our sole reason for existence and our number one priority—bar none. I look forward to working together with all VA employees to transform our department into an organization that reflects the change and commitment our country expects and our Veterans deserve.

“Thank you, and God bless our military, our Veterans, and our Nation.”

Signed: Eric K. Shinseki



Left: On March 2, 2009, **Tina Tchen, Director of Public Liaison for the White House**, was introduced to the Asia, Pacific American community, including JAVA, at a reception at the Organization of Chinese Associations (OCA) headquarters in Washington, DC. The introduction was made by George C. Wu, Executive Director of OCA, and Floyd Mori, National Director of JAACL. OCA and JAACL co-sponsored the event. Tchen said the Obama White House wants to reach out to the community, including the Asian Pacific Americans. Tchen, a prominent Chicago attorney, was accompanied by Yosi Sargent of her office. Pictured L-R: George Wu, Tina Tchen, and Floyd Mori. Photo credit: Floyd Mori.

Nisei Veterans archives at UH by Ted Tsukiyama, Esq, Historian, 442nd Veterans Hawaii

HONOLULU—The University of Hawaii Library's archives and manuscripts department has established the Japanese American Veterans Collection (JAVC) to document the rich heritage of Hawaii's Japanese American veterans of the University of Hawaii ROTC, the Hawaii Territorial Guard, Varsity Victory Volunteers, 100th Infantry Battalion, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, 1399th Combat Engineers and the Military Intelligence Service. The stories of these veterans are significant and valued because they emphasize the importance of loyalty, democracy, and civil liberties in American society from a unique Hawaii perspective as well as from the nation as a whole. The JAVC will help ensure that this vital part of American history is passed on and preserved for future generations.

The JAVC is made up of collections documenting Nisei veterans, families, military units and organizations. Examples include the papers of Chaplains Israel Yost of the 100th Battalion and Hiro Higuchi of the 442nd Regiment. Collections include a variety of different types of materials including letters, photographs, photo albums, diaries and journals, biographical and genealogical information, professional files, scrapbooks, oral history interviews and audiovisual items. A duplicate set of materials from the 442nd Archives Collection was transferred to JAVC, the centerpiece being hard copies of military records of the 100/442nd extracted from the National Archives by an archival research project jointly conducted since 1989 by teams from the Hawaii 442nd and

JAVA. This joint research project continues to be conducted up to the present with the JAVA team now prepared to send to JAVC and Hawaii 442nd Archives 80 GBs or 16 DVDs of scanned documents extracted from the National Archives. The JAVC obtains most of its resources through donations gifted through signed Deeds of Gift transferring title and ownership rights to the University of Hawaii Library, thereby enabling such materials to be made accessible for educational and outreach purposes.

The JAVC and its resources are open and accessible to all researchers, donors and their families, scholars, teachers, students and any individual interested in using primary source materials to learn about the unique experience of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II. Researchers seeking to conduct in person research at the JAVC are encouraged to make an appointment with a staff archivist who will guide them through the process of using primary source materials in the collection. Researchers needing copies of originals should consult the archivist about the library's duplication policies. Visit the JAVC website at <http://libweb.hawaii.edu/libdept/archives/mss/aja/index.htm>, which includes research guides to collection, bibliographies and other research tools, as well as digital images of selected materials. For further information, please contact: Archives & Manuscripts Department, University of Hawaii (Manoa), Phone: (808) 956-3767; Fax: (808) 956-5968; E-mail: archives@hawaii.edu.

JAVA Scholarship applications due April 22 by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., Chair, JAVA Scholarship Committee

WASHINGTON—Senior high school students who qualify for this year's JAVA scholarship awards were reminded this week that their applications must be received by April 22 to be considered. Under the 2009 rules, the second annual Memorial Scholarship Program is open to those who plan to enter college (or who plan on other post-high school education), and who meet the eligibility requirements.

The Program was established by JAVA to honor the memories of Orville Shirey, Jack Tashiro and Douglas Ishio. Their families and friends had made gifts to the Association to provide scholarships for students under rules established by its Board of Directors.

It was decided last fall that this year's program would be open to senior high school graduates who are lineally related to persons who



served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team or the 100th Battalion, including associated units, the U.S. Military

Intelligence Service, to a person of Japanese ancestry who served in the Armed Forces, present or past, or to a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association for at least one year.

Given the fact that the application form was belatedly posted on the JAVA website [www.javadc.org], Program officials advised all eligible applicants to download immediately the application form and to follow carefully the published rules. In particular, information must be provided

showing the lineal relationship of the applicant to a person or persons in one or more of the eligible categories.

All applications must be sent to: JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program, c/o Calvin Ninomiya, Program Chair, 4828 Drummond Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815. Given the limited time available for judging the entries, only those applications received by April 22, 2009, will be considered.

The judging will be done by a select three-member JAVA panel: Dr. Raymond Murakami; Sue Okubo, Ph.D.; and Edgar Wakayama, Ph.D. Both Drs. Okubo and Wakayama served as members of the Award Committee last year.

The winners of this year's three \$1,000 scholarships will be announced at JAVA's special quarterly luncheon at the Harvest Moon restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia, on Saturday, May 16.

Stimulus bill provides \$198m for Filipino WWII veterans

WASHINGTON—Thanks to the steadfast efforts of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the United States has rectified a 63 year-old injustice to Filipino soldiers who fought in World War II under the American flag. When World War II broke out, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the Commonwealth armed forces of the Philippines, then a US colony, to serve as part of the American military forces with the promise they would be granted US veterans status. After the war, on February 18, 1946, Congress passed a Rescission Act that revoked these soldiers' status as U.S. veterans

On February 16, 2008, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Bill) was enacted. The bill recognized the over 200,000 Filipino soldiers originally called to serve and provided \$198 million for a one-time payment of \$15,000 to Filipino veterans who are US citizens and \$9,000 to veterans who are Philippine citizens. It also provided a provision for spouses and protected eligibility for benefits currently received by veterans. Only 18,000 Filipino veterans are alive today to receive this financial benefit. Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting claim applications. Applications must be made by February 18, 2010.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, resisted vigorous efforts to delete this payment from the Stimulus Bill. NAFVE National Coordinator Ben de Guzman said, "Since NAFVE's incep-

tion as a coalition of the major groups working on this issue, we've always been fighting for full equity as a matter of honor and principle, but this legislation is an important victory and helps correct the grievous mistake committed by the US Congress,"

JAVA is a partner of NAFVE in this endeavor; President Robert Nakamoto said, "This is a long overdue rectification of a promise made over 60 years ago at the presidential level to our Filipino comrades, and we thank Senator Inouye and Senator Akaka, both Honorary Chairs of JAVA, for getting this provision included in the Stimulus Bill."

MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret), who worked hard to realize this goal, said, "There is never a statute of limitations in honoring the selfless sacrifice of those who fought courageously in war. The Filipino World War II veterans endured their time in war, and it took almost 63 years to have their honor and dignity restored. Many have died for a promise made, and only a few thousand remain, most of them in their 80's. The money they will receive may seem a fortune to them, but it is a negligible consequence given the long years they have waited to earn it. Those who proudly wore the military uniform with the Greatest Generation will understand the true measure of courage. They fought and gave willingly to serve their Nation in time of war in a far away land; they remained loyal despite the adversity which faced them; victory is won, and once again dignity and honor is theirs."

Welcome New Members!

- * John Haigh (Washington)
- * Edgar A. Hamasu (Hawaii)
- Howard K. Hodges (Maryland)
- * Bruce Hollywood (Virginia)
- MG Jason K. Kamiya (Virginia)
- * John C. Kiyonaga (Virginia)
- * Katsuji Kobata (California)
- * David H. Masuo (Alaska)
- Daniel Okada (California)
- * LTG Allen K. Ono, Ret. (Hawaii)
- * LTG Joseph Peterson (Georgia)
- * John Tagami (Virginia)
- * Dr. Calvin S. Taira (Virginia)
- * Miyako Tanabe (Maryland)
- William Y. Thompson (Hawaii)
- * Dr. Thomas T. Yoshikawa (California)

* Denotes Life Membership

Spotlight on: James M. Furukawa, JD, Ph.D.

[From The Dulaney Valley News, Towson, Maryland, December 2008 issue]



Would you like to have your children reading and doing arithmetic by age five or to improve the achievement of your children in all major academic subjects in elementary school through high school? If you do, the contents of the website at <https://pages.towson.edu/furukawa> is the place to visit. All courses are based on a single universal principle, the CPC way, and the courses are supported by strong research evidence. Once mastered, the principle can be used not only in school but also on the job. If you have questions, send them to ifurukawa@towson.edu. Dr. James Furukawa is a Professor Emeritus of Towson University and Director of Educational Renaissance, Inc. (non-profit). He is the author of over 170 papers and publications and a dozen CDs on improving achievement. ." *[Note: Dr. Furukawa is a JAVA life member.]*

A Debt of Gratitude: A young Italian American boy's experience with the 100th Bn, 442nd RCT by JAVA Life Member Americo Bugliani, Ph.D.

The Meeting

My encounter with the Nisei soldiers bivouacked at Valdicastello as a 12-year-old boy remains forever etched in my heart. Although my father was American, I was born in Italy in the small Tuscan village of Strettoia in the municipality of Pietrasanta, which is in an area of the province of Lucca called Versilia. I was 11 years old in July 1944 when the Germans began building up fortifications in our vicinity. They were increasingly desperate and had laid waste to the entire region. The Allies arrived in Pietrasanta on September 19, 1944. We kids intermingled with American soldiers at the front, hoping that they would give us something. We were starving and had nothing. Late in the afternoon of April 3, 1945, a Nisei soldier gave me a few things. The following morning, just as they were preparing to leave to go into combat at the front, the same soldier gave me a few more things. I would learn later he was from Hilo, Hawaii.

Then he turned and went inside his pup tent. I was ready to leave when he called me back and gave me a tube of Colgate toothpaste, a toothbrush and his cap. It was his woolen Class A uniform hat with the infantry insignia--the two crossed rifles. Then he gave me a small photograph of himself sitting on a jeep and said, "My name is Paul Sakamoto," with a warm smile. Those gestures, those fleeting acts of generosity and kindness had a tremendous impact on my life. I have never forgotten them. They were among the very few happy moments I had during the war. Later I realized that that young American soldier had given me nearly all of his possessions.



The Reunion

In 1954 I moved to the US. I arrived in New York City on May 29, and on September 13, I was drafted and taken to Fort Dix, NJ to start my basic training in the US Army. I became an interpreter with clearance for Secret and Confidential assignments and served in Austria, Germany, and Italy. After my discharge, I began my professional life in the international travel industry while taking advantage of the G.I. Bill to go to school at night. I eventually got a Ph.D. at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and embarked on an academic career at the University of Illinois, Chicago campus. In 1981 I left the university to go into business. It wasn't until 1991 that I

discovered and then joined the Chicago Nisei Post. I served as Second Vice-Commander, First Vice-Commander, Commander, and Historian. One of the greatest honors of my life was being made Commander of The American Legion Chicago Nisei Post 1183. The men who liberated me from the German Nazis and the Italian Fascists made me their Commander! Hard to believe, but true.

In the meantime, I often wondered about the fate of that young soldier named Paul Sakamoto. The name stuck in my mind because it's a Japanese name, and with all those vowels, it's similar to Italian. I still carried Paul Sakamoto's photograph around after nearly 50 years. Finally, I said to myself that I had to see if I could find him. I began my search on the West Coast, and then I extended it to Hawaii. Eventually, I discovered that he was a member of the Club 100 and lived in Hilo, the Big Island. I telephoned, and after nearly half a century I once again heard the voice of Paul Sakamoto. It did not matter to me that he could not specifically remember meeting me. I could understand why. He was such a wonderful, generous man. No matter where he went, in France or Italy, he was always surrounded by kids. Over the phone that first time, I asked him why he had given me his hat. "I felt that I didn't need anything anymore," he replied. "I thought I was gonna get killed that day." In late 1994, I decided I would go to Hawaii to see Paul Sakamoto on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our original encounter. We had a beautiful reunion in Hilo in early 1995. It was wonderful seeing him again and meeting his lovely wife, Jane. Once again, Paul's generosity was moving. He gave us a lot of things—all kinds of Hawaiian goodies and many fruits from his garden. Jane gave my wife two beautiful island necklaces. Thus ended my long quest to find one particular G.I. *[Tech/5 Paul T. Sakamoto was drafted into the Army before the Pearl Harbor attack, served with the Hawaii Territorial Guard and later 100th Infantry Battalion, which trained in Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. He survived the battle campaigns in Italy and France. After the war, he was a nursery specialist at Foster Gardens in Honolulu, and following his retirement settled in his native Hilo].*

The Monument

After this meeting, another dream arose within me. I wanted to tell Sakamoto's story and the story of the 100th and 442nd to the people of my hometown, Pietrasanta. I was sure that once they were made aware of the sacrifice of these gallant men, they would in some way want to acknowledge it. I envisaged a monument to their heroism. Since the area is renowned for its sculptors and artisans, I knew that if the story were made known a splendid monument could be erected in Pietrasanta. And so it came to pass. I wrote a brief biography of Sadao Munemori and submitted it to the leading citizens of Pietrasanta suggesting that he would be an appropriate representative of all the brave Americans who fell in our area. *[See "Gratitude" on page 13]*

Gratitude (cont'd from page 12)



The late Paolo Tommasi, a childhood friend who was an attorney and President of a local bank, became the point person in Pietrasanta. The town's resources were marshaled, land was appropriated, and a magnificent statue of Sadao Munemori by the internationally renowned sculptor Marcello Tommasi was erected in a park-like setting. For the likeness, Maestro Tommasi used a picture of Sadao Munemori supplied by his sister, Mrs. Yaeko Yokoyama, and for the uniform he used a field jacket given to me by Martin Tohara of Dog Company during my trip to Hawaii in 1995.

The statue (pictured left) has at its base a bronze high relief representing the passing of the war. The inscription in Italian on the marble pedestal reads as follows:

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

Over 130 people came to the inauguration from the US, including Sadao Munemori's sister and five members of her family. My appeal to General Eric Shinseki resulted in the participation of LTG Paul T. Mikolashek, Commanding General of the United States Army Southern European Task Force.

In 2001 my wife and I moved to Rome because she was named Director of the Loyola University of Chicago Rome Center. In 2003, at her retirement, we moved to Pietrasanta. My gratitude to all the gallant Nisei remains. I am thrilled that this gratitude is now cast in bronze and carved in marble and that I am joined by all the people of Pietrasanta, where we still live, in saying "Thank You!"

JAVA outreach at local schools

Bottom: On February 16, 2009, JAVA and NJAMF speakers spoke to Jeb Stuart High School, Falls Church, VA, history students on the Japanese American experience during WW II. Pictured L-R: Mark Rogers, history teacher; Pamela Martinov, history teacher; John Kornacki, Executive Director, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; Mary Murakami; Kelly Kuwayama; Grant Ichikawa; Terry Shima. Photo: Pamela Martinov.



Above: **Mary Murakami** responds to questions from Springbrook High School history students on February 12, 2009. Springbrook High School is located in Silver Spring, Maryland, where JAVA speakers discussed the Japanese American experience during WW II.

Brothers on opposite sides in Pacific war

One of the greatest challenges of many Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in the Asia Pacific Theater during World War II was the dreaded thought they would be in combat against or interrogating their brother or relative. This paper discusses four cases of Nisei who had brothers serving in the Japanese armed forces.

At the outbreak of World War II, the loyalty of all Japanese Americans was questioned. Many Nisei already in the US Army and serving in Army units on the west coast of the US were discharged at the convenience of the Government and later sent to internment camps. In Hawaii, the 1,432 Nisei in the 298th and 299th Infantry Regiments, reformed into a unit designated as the 100th Infantry Battalion, were quietly shipped to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for training. All draft-age Japanese Americans were classified 4-C (enemy alien, unfit for military duty).

In preparation for possible war with Japan, the US Army initially recruited 60 Nisei for intensive Japanese language training in November 1941. When US troops were deployed in the Aleutians and the Pacific, most of these Nisei served with them and the rest were retained at the language school as instructors. Eventually, 3,000 Nisei, most of them volunteers with varying degrees of fluency in the Japanese language, were given intensive Japanese language training and deployed. They were attached to front line combat units to translate captured enemy documents, interrogate Japanese prisoners, and intercept enemy communications. The tactical intelligence derived was used for bomb strikes and troop deployments. The Nisei also served with other echelons, including the US detachment at Yan'an, China to interrogate Japanese prisoners of war held by the Chinese Communists.

Nisei in the MIS knew their presence and work in the Pacific region were SECRET. It was only in the mid-1970's that their story began to be known by the general public. More than anyone else, Senator Daniel K. Akaka was instrumental in getting the Nisei in the MIS individual and collective public recognition they deserve.

Akune Brothers. When his wife died, Ichiro Akune took his family of nine children to Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan. Ken and Harry Akune studied in Japan but returned to the US before the war started, were interned at Amache, Colorado, and volunteered for the MIS in 1942. Following language training, Ken served in Burma with the Office of War Information, and Harry served in New Guinea and the Phil-

ippines. Two younger brothers, Saburo and Shiro, teenagers at that time, served in the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Saburo was a spotter for *kamikaze* pilots, who conducted suicide bombing of Allied naval vessels. Shiro served in the Sasebo naval base. After the war Saburo and Shiro came to the United States, and Shiro served as an American soldier in the Korean War.

Yempuku Brothers. 1st Lieutenant Ralph T. Yempuku, who graduated from the University of Hawaii, had four brothers living in Japan with their parents. In 1933 his parents took their four youngest children to Japan. Ralph decided to remain in Honolulu. He served in Burma with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), Detachment 101, as commander of a Burmese militia known as Kachin Rangers. He volunteered four times, first for the Hawaii Territorial Guard following the Pearl Harbor attack, second for the Varsity Victory Volunteers composed of discharged University of Hawaii ROTC cadets who formed a defense construction unit, third for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and fourth for the OSS. On August 27, 1945, he parachuted in Hainan Island, China, to rescue Australian and Dutch prisoners of the Japanese. His four brothers Donald, Toru, Paul, and Goro lived in Japan and served in the Imperial Japanese Army. Donald served as an interpreter at the surrender ceremony in Hong Kong. Donald spotted Ralph, who was there as an OSS observer. Donald said he did not approach Ralph because he did not want to embarrass him.

Fukuhara brothers. Colonel (then Lieutenant) Harry Fukuhara's widowed mother took her family back to Hiroshima Prefecture. Harry returned to America in 1938 to continue his education, but his three brothers remained in Japan. He volunteered for the Marines and the Navy but was not accepted, and he then volunteered for the MIS from the Gila River internment camp. Harry served in New Guinea, where he interrogated his former Japanese schoolmate, and in the Philippines. He was on the invasion force to attack Kyushu. He learned after the war that his two brothers served in the Japanese Army to defend Kyushu as suicide bombers. Following the war Harry visited his family home in Hiroshima City, which was leveled by the Atomic Bomb. He found his home in the suburbs badly damaged but his mother, her sister and his three brothers alive. Unfortunately, his older brother, a veteran of Japanese military service in China, died soon thereafter from effects of the Atomic Bomb attack. Only after the war, when they discussed their experiences, did Harry and his brothers know how close they came to fighting each other in the same battle. *[continued at "Brothers" on page 15]*



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JAVA out and about

Below: **Ranger Grant Hirabayashi**, veteran of Merrill's Marauders, a special forces brigade which served in Burma during WW II, responds to questions of students of Wheaton High School, Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Schools. On March 9, 2009 JAVA speakers were invited to speak on Japanese American experience during World War II. Photo by Lauren Mincher, History Teacher.



Right: **Claire Minami**, 94, spoke at the Masonic Lodge #195, Rockville, Maryland on November 4, 2008. Mrs. Minami described life in the internment camp at Gila River, Arizona from a mother's perspective. She was known to be the first Japanese American to hold the Masonic rank of "Worthy Matron." Mrs. Minami is a member of JAVA and a former board member of JAACL WDC. Other JAVA speakers were Dr. Warren Minami, Master Mason, and Terry Shima. Arrangement for this speaking engagement by Dr. Minami. Photo by Mason Ewerton.



Above: **The 59th Annual Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars Reunion** was held on February 13-15, 2009, at the Holiday Inn in La Mirada, California. General Chairman for the reunion was Robert M. Wada of the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670. Other posts which jointly hosted the reunion were: Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961, San Fernando Valley VFW Post 4140, East Los Angeles Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9902, and Los Angeles Memorial VFW Post 9938. Two Medal of Honor recipients, George "Joe" Sakato and Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, and Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, considered the most highly decorated Nisei in the Vietnam War, participated in this event. Pictured L-R: Floyd Mori,



JACL National Executive Director; George Joe Sakato, MOH recipient; Robert Wada; Judge Vincent Okamoto; Hershey Miyamura, MOH Recipient; Ken Hayashi, President Japanese American Vietnam War Veterans. Photo: Floyd Mori.

Brothers (cont'd from page 14)

Matsumoto brothers. Master Sergeant Roy H. Matsumoto volunteered in Fall 1942 from the Jerome, Arkansas, internment camp. Roy went to Japan at age 8, but returned to the US before the War began. He volunteered again for the Merrill's Marauders, a special forces unit which served behind enemy lines in Burma to disrupt enemy operations. He saved his battalion from possible annihilation because of information he provided that caused his battalion commander to set a trap for the invading enemy forces. Roy crawled to the enemy bivouac area and eavesdropped on their plans for the following morning. For his heroic action, Roy was later inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Roy's brother, Tsutomu Tom Matsumoto, a MIS linguist, served in the Occupation of Japan and retired as a Colonel. Roy's other two brothers, Isao and Noboru, served in the Japanese military - Noboru in the artillery in Guadalcanal and Isao in China. Roy's third brother in Japan worked as a civilian for the Japanese Imperial Navy.

[Editor's note. We are collecting other cases of brothers serving on opposite sides in the Asia Pacific War. We would be pleased if you would contact me at javadvocate@gmail.com or Terry Shima (301-987-6746; tshima@worldnet.att.net) so we could print your experience in future Advocate editions.]

TAPS *[From film producer Robert Horsting]* Shinkichi Tajiri

artist and a 442nd veteran (Co M), passed away on March 15. Tajiri's "Friendship Knot" sculpture can be found at the entrance to Little Tokyo's Weller Court in Los Angeles. Renown as a sculptor, he was a teacher, painter, photographer and filmmaker, whose first effort won an award at the 1955 Cannes Film Festival. Tajiri's art lives on in many museums, corporate and private collections throughout the world.

Born in Los Angeles, Tajiri's family moved to San Diego prior to WWII. They were "relocated" to Poston 3 where he met and worked with Isamu Noguchi, sharing art instructor duties. From camp he volunteered for the 442nd RCT and served in Europe. Upon his return Tajiri studied at the Art Institute of Chicago until 1948, when, in response to a racially tense climate, he decided to move to Paris to further his studies. Having moved to The Netherlands in the early 1950s, he briefly returned to the states for a teaching position accompanied by his wife, artist Ferdi and their two daughters. For his contribution to the arts, Tajiri was awarded a knighthood and his work is in the personal collection of Queen Beatrix.

Tajiri is survived by his wife Suzanne, daughters Giotta (Terry) and Ryu, sister Yoshiko and brother James. The service will take place on Thursday, March 19th in The Netherlands. Condolences can be sent to: Tajiri Family, PO Box 8320, 5990AA Baarlo, The Netherlands." *[Note: On August 13, 2007 JAVA circulated a press release on Tajiri's background as a sculptor; for full background, please contact the Editor at javadvocate@gmail.com.]*

TAPS *[The following all from the Washington Post]*

Paul Yoshio Tani, 83, IBM's manager of mission programming in support of the early spaceflights, died after a heart attack on February 19 on the Washington Mall en route to an event at the National Museum of the American Indian. He lived in Ashburn, Virginia.

Tani was born in San Francisco, interned at Topaz internment camp, Utah, where he graduated from high school, drafted and trained to join the 442nd RCT. Meanwhile, the war in Europe ended, and he was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service. He joined IBM in the early 1960's. During the period from 1963 to 1966, he was the company's mission programming manager in support of the early Gemini and Apollo space flights. His nephew Daniel M. Tani later became a NASA astronaut. Mr. Tani retired from IBM in 1991.

Tani worked tirelessly on various Japanese American veterans projects, including the JAVA's Oral History Project whose interviews are archived at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project; the Speakers Bureau to speak about the Japanese American experience during World War II; and the Military Intelligence Service project to compile the list of Nisei who served in the Asia Pacific Theater. He was also the senior docent at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. His wife of 44 years, Sumiko Watanabe Tani, died in 1999. Tani's survivors include his fiancée Florence Dobashi, two sons, and three grandchildren.

* * * * *

Glenn W. Nelson, 87, a retired operations officer of the Central Intelligence Agency, died on February 11 at Reston Hospital Center after suffering a heart attack at his home in Vienna, Virginia. Mr. Nelson's career with the CIA, which included 15 years in Japan, grew out of his World War II experience. A captain in the Marine Corps, he graduated from the Navy Language School at the University of Colorado and was assigned to the Pacific as a language officer specializing in Japanese. He was wounded during the invasion of Okinawa.

Immediately after the Japanese surrender, he was dispatched to Okinawa, where he and two other interpreters were instrumental in saving the lives of many Okinawa civilians who had hidden in caves. The Japanese army had told the Okinawans that the Americans would kill them if they surrendered. Mr. Nelson and his two associates assured them otherwise, although he recalled in later years that it took a long time for the civilians to venture out. In 1990, the three interpreters were invited back to Naha, Okinawa, where they were recognized for their efforts. Many of the people they had saved turned out to greet them.

Nelson was born in Slayter, Wyoming, and grew up in Wahoo, Nebraska. He received a BA in German from the University of Nebraska in 1942 and a MA in international affairs from George Washington University. His first wife, Phyllis Carlson Nelson, died in an automobile accident in 1951. Survivors include his wife of 55 years Donna Burns-

worth Nelson, a sister, two sons from his first marriage, three from his second marriage, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

* * * * *

Kenneth K. Takemoto, 88, a retired virologist at the National Institutes of Health who researched viruses associated with human cancers, died February 27 at his home in Kensington, Maryland. He had dementia.

Mr. Takemoto was a freshman at the University of Hawaii when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. His draft classification was changed to 4C (enemy alien), and he was discharged from the University's ROTC program. He joined the Varsity Victory Volunteers to work on defense construction projects, e.g. building roads and crushing rocks. In 1943 he volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, trained in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and deployed to the Italian front as a combat medic with the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT. He was awarded the Combat Medic Badge, Bronze Star Medal, and Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster.

Following his discharge, he enrolled at George Washington University on the G.I. Bill. He received his bachelors, masters and doctorate degrees from GWU. Following a post doctorate fellowship at National Institute of Health he continued employment there for 32 years until he retired. He published 104 scientific papers and wrote chapters in 9 books. He lectured at University of Hawaii, Harvard, Yale and Johns Hopkins University. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Alice Setsuko Imamoto Takemoto, son Paul, daughter Ruth McInroy, and three grandchildren.

* * * * *

Dr. Horace Z. Feldman, 85, a retired CIA station chief and intelligence officer, died February 23 at the National Lutheran Home in Rockville, Maryland. He had Alzheimer's disease. Feldman, a Potomac resident, held several leadership positions in the CIA including station chief in Tokyo and later in Teheran, Iran. His final assignment in 1981 was as CIA representative and senior faculty member at the National War College.

After retiring, he was a consultant on national security issues for government agencies and private firms, including a 16-year membership of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel. Feldman was a native of York, Pennsylvania, and a 1943 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University, where he also received a master's degree in Asian studies in 1948. In 1952, he received a doctorate in Asian studies at Columbia University with a specialty in Japanese literature.

During World War II, he served in the Army's Military Intelligence Service and was a Japanese language specialist. He also was a commander of a combat intelligence detachment in the Pacific. His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal. His other awards include the CIA Distinguished Intelligence Medal and the Navy's Superior Public Service Award. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Joan Jacobs Feldman, two sons, Stephen and Andrew, and five grandchildren.

From the Editor

In October 2008 I had the wonderful opportunity to have dinner with JAVA member and Vietnam veteran Colonel Bob Kan, USAF (Ret), one of the few Japanese American fighter pilots during the Vietnam War. In the entrance of McGuire's Irish Pub in Destin, Florida, guests are greeted by a wall of autographed photos of military pilots. We took our picture below Bob's photo (circled below). Bob had gone to high school in Honolulu with my uncle Clifford Wakatake, who also was a Navy fighter pilot during the Vietnam War.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 1, 9:30AM: US Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs hearing for Tammy Duckworth, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Apr 4: *Sakura Matsuri* Street Festival as part of National Cherry Blossom Parade. JAVA booth at 12th & Pennsylvania Ave. Partner of Japan America Society of WDC

Apr 17, 7PM: National Japanese American Foundation Annual Dinner. Capital Hilton, Washington, DC.

May 16, 11:30AM:: JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church. Award of 3 scholarships.

May 24, 10AM: JAVA Memorial Day Program, Arlington Cemetery Pavilion, decorating gravesites, and laying of wreath at Tomb of the Unknown. Joint with JAACL/WDC.

May 25, 11AM: DoD Memorial Day Program, Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown. President addresses nation at Amphitheater. JAVA to have VIP seating. **2PM:** National Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Ave. Sponsor: American Veterans Center. JAVA's 5th year participating.

Jun 5: National Veterans Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

Jun 20: JAVA Board of Directors meeting.

JAVA Scrapbook



Future JAVA volunteer born in January 2009, Vianne Leilani Kernek-Moritsugu, daughter of Brian Kernek and Erika Moritsugu, Esq. Congratulations Erika and Brian! Photo credit: Erika Moritsugu.