



Inside this issue:

President's Message 2

JAVA Appoints New Vice President 3

JAVA Quarterly Luncheon 3

Dedication of Hershey Miyamura Monument 4

Ben Kuroki 4

MIS Role in WWII 5

Korean War Armistice Day 5

Meet the Generals 6

Latin Americans of Japanese Ancestry 7

Literary News 7

Sandra Tanamachi Award 8

Kay Wakatake Promotion 8

Letters to JAVA 9

JAVA Witness Act Signing 9

Donations for JAVA Activities 10

Editor's Note 11

Eyeglasses Collection at October Luncheon 11

Membership Application 11

JAVA Inducted Into Veterans Day National Committee

JAVA was inducted as an associate member into the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) on September 14, 2006 in a ceremony at the Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The VDNC is mandated by Congress, formed by Presidential Proclamation in 1954, with the U.S. President as honorary Chairman. VDNC is responsible for the planning, promotion and coordination of national Veterans Day programs. The Chairman of VDNC is the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and Honorary Members are the Secretary of Defense, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (which includes Sen. Akaka, honorary chair of JAVA), and Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Executive Director Terry Shima represented JAVA at the induction ceremony, thanking the committee for this

recognition. He also conveyed President Bert Mizusawa's appreciation and noted that Bert had met with Secretary Jim Nicholson, HCVA Chairman Steve Buyer and other key VA officials recently in Iraq. Shima then introduced JAVA members who served in WWII: Grant Hirabayashi of Merrill's Marauders; Joe Ichiuji, 522nd Field Artillery Bn, 442nd RCT; and Dr. Norman Ikari, 442nd RCT. Following the ceremony, Shima represented JAVA in its new status by participating in preparations for the Veterans Day program at Arlington Cemetery, wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the White House breakfast.

Mizusawa said that "JAVA's acceptance in VDNC is recognition of JAVA's leading role in representing Asian Pacific Americans veterans at the national level. It is an honor for JAVA to represent our great APA veterans and their honorable service in defense of our nation."

Ben Kuroki Invited to White House Dinner

On June 29, 2006, 35 JAVA members were invited to the White House South Lawn for the welcoming ceremony of Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. That same night, Ben Kuroki, a WWII veteran, was invited to a State Dinner at the White House, which honored the Japanese Prime Minister.



L-R: Julie Kuroki Cooney, Ben Kuroki, First Lady Laura Bush, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Pres. George Bush, Shige Kuroki.

Continued on page 4.

President's Message



To Fellow JAVA Members:

We hope you like our newsletter's new name, the *JAVA ADVOCATE*, which best describes JAVA's aspiration to represent the interests of our veterans and the community at large. I appreciate Warren Tsuneishi's suggestion for the name and Kay Wakatake's effective editorship.

First, I am pleased to announce Cal Shintani as JAVA's new Vice President. He will fill in the large shoes of Vic Mukai. Cal is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy as noted in the article on page 3 of the *JAVA ADVOCATE*. Vic came on board to assist me and the Executive Council with JAVA's transition to a nationwide organization. With that job effectively done, Vic will continue to provide support while he focuses on business pursuits. I look forward to working with Cal in his new leadership role.

The major news this quarter is JAVA's induction onto the prestigious Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) on September 14. The VDNC is mandated by the Congress, and the President of the United States is its Honorary

Chair. VDNC plans and coordinates Veterans Day programs nationwide, particularly the Arlington National Cemetery where the President delivers his remarks to the nation and military personnel at home and abroad. JAVA's new status reflects the Department of Veterans Affairs recognition of JAVA as the Nation's lead veterans organization for Asian Americans. This is indeed a great milestone, and one that every member of JAVA should be proud of.

Additionally, JAVA is on the White House invitation list for Asian American events. On July 27, JAVA's legal counsel, Gerald Yamada, who gets invited to the White House in his own right, witnessed the signing of the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments of 2006 by President Bush. This Act renews and strengthens our Nation's commitment to enforce the right to vote for all Americans.

Also on July 27, JAVA combined efforts with the Japanese American Korean War Veterans to



JAVA President BG Bert Mizusawa (right) and Major General Joseph F. Peterson in Baghdad, Iraq. MG Peterson has been nominated for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPherson, Georgia. He is currently Commanding General, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi National Security Transition Command - Iraq. This operation is part of Operation Iraq Freedom. MG Peterson, native of Honolulu, Hawaii, has been deployed to Iraq since October 5, 2005. He was commissioned a 2LT on November 3, 1972 and has since served in Korea, Germany and a number of stateside posts.

jointly lay a wreath at the Korean War Memorial on the occasion of the Korean War Armistice Day. I am encouraged that our complement was made up of Korean American, Chinese American, Vietnamese American and Japanese American JAVA members.

Closer to home (at least my current home in Iraq), Veterans Affairs Secretary Nicholson and House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Buyer recently visited Iraq, and I had the pleasure of having lunch with them and their staff members, who were in Baghdad and Balad on a trip to visit "prospective" veterans. They are both interested in JAVA's views on veterans issues.

In closing, Maj Gen David E. Clary, USAF, who recently returned from Turkey for Pentagon duty, will be the quarterly luncheon speaker on October 21st. I hope you can make it.

Officers

BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, President
Cdr (Ret) Calvin Shintani, USNR,
Vice President
David Buto, Secretary
Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer

Executive Council

David Buto, Secretary
Grant Ichikawa
BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, President
Calvin Ninomiya
Terry Shima, Executive Director
Lt. Col. (Ret) Michael Yaguchi, USAF,
Deputy Executive Director
Gerald Yamada, General Counsel

Honorary Chairs

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

Newsletter Editor

MAJ Kay K. Wakatake, USA

Calvin Shintani Appointed JAVA Vice President

The JAVA Executive Council (EC) announced a change in its membership following the recent resignation of Vic Mukai. President Bert Mizusawa has appointed Calvin Shintani as Vice President to serve until December 31, 2006. A new slate of officers will be presented to the EC at that time for the 2007-2008 calendar years.



Shintani currently is the Senior Vice President of Business Development at CACI, Inc. He formerly was vice president of business development at Gray Hawk Systems

Inc., recently acquired by Man-Tech International Corp. He has served in executive-level management, corporate development, and senior business development positions for various companies.

After graduating with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980, Shintani served on board the USS Los Angeles (SSN688); he qualified as Nuclear Engineer and Submarine Officer. His final active duty assignment was as Lead Operations Briefer to the Chief of Naval Operations. While an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve (1987- 2000), Shintani's assignments included Liaison for Joint Countermine Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations

(ACTD) at the Office of Naval Research; Special Assistant for Mobilization for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy; Plans Officer, Naval Space Command; Action Officer, Office of Political-Military Affairs, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV). Shintani retired as a Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve, in 2000.

Shintani has two children, Ryan (16) and Christina (14), and resides in Northern Virginia. His father, Munro Shintani, served in Fox Company in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and resides with his wife Fran in Texas.

July Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon

On Saturday, July 29, 2006, over 90 JAVA members and guests attended the quarterly luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia. Cal Shintani, retired U.S. Navy submarine officer, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence for fallen comrade LTC Barry Saiki, Terry Shima provided the Executive Director's report. He reported that JAVA has a solid relationship with the White House Asia Pacific office and cited President Bush's recognition of the 442 RCT on two occasions, including his salute to the 442nd veterans. Kelly Kuwayama, highly decorated combat medic, viewed this as recognition to all Asian Americans who served in defense of their country. Shima said that the post WWII JAVA leaders have done an outstanding job to build JAVA into a national class organization. He also recognized the younger veterans

engaged in organizational work with the WWII veterans preparatory to assuming leadership roles. He said JAVA is sound and organizationally well-positioned for the future.

After a delicious Chinese gourmet luncheon, the program continued with Korean War veteran Gene Takahashi speaking about his experience during the war. He described his command of an all-African-American unit, how their positions were overrun when the Chinese entered the war, his capture by the Chinese, and his subsequent daring escape. He held the audience's rapt attention with his sobering story.

JAVA Vice President, Colonel Vic Mukai, in introducing the principal speaker, SGT Robert S. Nakamoto, said that Nakamoto is a West Point graduate with five years military experience and separating as a Captain. He returned to serve in the U.S. Army, even as an enlisted man

due to an anomaly, to avenge the mass destruction caused by international terrorists on 9/11. Nakamoto described his recent deployment to Iraq. His positive remarks about his Iraq experience and the Iraqi people's resilience provided a story not carried by the media. SGT Nakamoto and his wife Sherry then concluded the program by entertaining the audience with three songs, two of which were written by SGT Nakamoto while deployed in Iraq.

The next quarterly luncheon will be held on October 21 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant. Our featured speaker will be Maj Gen David E. Clary, Director of Current Operations and Training, Deputy Chief of Staff for Air, Space and Information Operations, Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. General Clary recently returned from his duty assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Allied Air Component Command Headquarters (NATO), Izmir, Tur-

Monument Dedicated to Hershey Miyamura

The City of Gallup, New Mexico dedicated a monument to Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient, on August 19, 2006. Located in the city's Veterans Plaza, the monument is one of seven individual columns to honor veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars, WWII "Indian Code Talkers," and Miyamura. City, county, state officials, and some 200 persons, including 45 Japanese American veterans, spouses and friends from Los Angeles, California, braved the rain to witness history being made for Japanese Americans.

Miyamura, one of the three living MOH winners in New Mexico and an Honorary member of the JAVA, was cited by John Garcia (representing Governor Bill Richardson) in his speech as a "state treasure,...truly a legacy in the state of New Mexico."

The Honorable Vincent Okamoto, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge and one of the most highly-decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War, said in his keynote address that Miyamura was one of "the bravest of the brave." In describing why Miyamura ordered his men to retreat while he held off the enemy on April 24, 1951, with his machine gun and

bayonet before he was wounded and captured, Okamoto quoted Jesus in John 15.13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." For his extraordinary valor above and beyond the call of duty, Miyamura was awarded the MOH. This award was on August 23, 1953, after his release from 28 months in the enemy's prison.

In his speech, Miyamura displayed the same modesty and humility that characterized his life. Downplaying his role, he gave credit to others around him. After he thanked all of his fellow veterans, neighbors, family, and members of the monument committee, Miyamura, his wife Terry, and officials unveiled the monument. Mayor Bob Roseborough described Miyamura as "our humble hero," and other distinguished speakers described Miyamura as being quiet, modest, unassuming, and highly respected.

Dr. Roy Machida of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memo-



rial Alliance and Victor Muraoka, President of Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) also spoke. Nori Uye-matsu served as Emcee, the Reverend Mark Nakagawa of Los Angeles gave the invocation and dedication prayers, and the First Baptist Church Choir sang patriotic songs. Bob Wada, founding president of JAKWV, was the catalyst for this endeavor.

Miyamura served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in its final Po Valley campaign. He returned with the unit in July 1946 for the huge welcome in New York City, and he marched down Constitution Avenue, followed by the review at the Ellipse by President Harry Truman. Miyamura was recalled to active duty when the Korean War broke out on June 25, 1950.

Kuroki

Continued from page 1

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, Kuroki and his brother joined the Army Air Corps. Kuroki flew 58 missions during World War II, including 28 missions over Japan in a B-29 Superfortress. He is the only Japanese American to fly over Japan.

Kuroki faced racism throughout his military career and had to fight with his superiors just to get into



combat missions. Some say his battle against racial intolerance is his 59th mission.

After leaving the military, Kuroki wrote for and owned newspapers in California, Michigan and Nebraska. He and his wife now live in Camarillo, California.

Kuroki's military decoration was

upgraded in 2005 to the Distinguished Service Medal, the third highest military award. Supporters of the upgrade included former President George H.W. Bush; John R. Doyle, a former Hellcat dive Bomber pilot, and retired WWII General Jacob Smart.

The medal upgrade was presented to Kuroki on August 12, 2005, at a ceremony in North Platte, Nebraska. On August 13, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln also presented Kuroki with an honorary doctor of letters.

MIS Role Placed into Congressional Record

Although this event took place nearly two years ago, it has not been reported to the general public, including veterans. We do so now in the interest of highlighting this significant event, the placement of the MIS story in Congressional Record. The full story is available on the JAVA website at www.javadc.org.

In 2004, Sen. Daniel K. Akaka requested a paper on the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) experience in the Asia Pacific War during WWII. Ted Tsukiyama, Esq., historian for MIS Hawaii, and his colleagues prepared a five-page paper. On November 19, 2004, Sen. Akaka read the paper into the Congressional Record, the official record of proceedings of the U.S. Congress. This Congressional Record is also posted on the JAVA website, with

links to JAVA member Dr. Stan Falk's brief paper on the MIS. It may be further linked to Hawaii's Delegate to Congress Joseph R. Farrington's testimony to Congress on the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), which was read into the Congressional Record on March 9, 1945. Done shortly after Delegate Farrington visited the 100/442nd European battlefield, his testimony is a stirring account of their sacrifices and heroic achievements.

About 6,000 Japanese American linguists served in the Asia Pacific theater, including the Occupation of Japan. Tsukiyama's paper said that the first U.S. Army Japanese language school began with an enrollment of 60 students on November 1, 1941, at Crissey Field, Presi-

dio of San Francisco. This occurred prior to the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The demand for Japanese linguists increased proportionately to the increase of documents and POWs captured by U.S. soldiers. Linguists were recruited from the 100th Bn, the 442nd RCT, and the internment camps. Even Japanese American women were pressed into service with the language program.

The ultimate tribute to the Nisei role came when General MacArthur said after the war that "never in military history did any army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement." Tsukiyama's paper said there was "not a single case of subversion or disloyalty charged against the Nisei, and 19 Nisei gave up their lives in the line of duty."

Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Program

JAVA, the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, and the newly activated Asian American Veterans Association joined twelve other veterans service organizations to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the armistice ending the Korean War. In a program at the Korean War Memorial on July 27, 2006, attended by nearly 1,000 people in the hot and muggy Washington summer, Vice President Richard Cheney paid high tribute to veterans who fought in the Korean War and who are serving in Middle East.

Secretary of Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Lee Tae Sik also spoke. Members of the U.S. Congress, representatives of federal agencies, and five ambassadors attended on the speakers' stand. Military attaches of the 21 nations that fought in the Korean War and 12 U.S. veterans service organizations also participated in the event.

President George W. Bush issued a

proclamation on July 27 that called on the American people to celebrate this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Anthony A. Williams, Mayor of Washington, D.C., also issued a proclamation that marked July 27, 2006 as Korean War Veterans Armistice Day.

The Korean War Memorial attempts to express the "enduring gratitude of the American people for all who took part in the Korean conflict" and to project the "spirit of service and dedication to the cause of freedom", according to the program pamphlet.

The Asian American contingent was composed of the following representatives:

Gregory L. Kee, whose great uncle, Army Private Sing Kee, served in combat in France, and received the Distinguished Service

Cross. WWII veterans were represented by 442nd RCT veterans Terry Shima and Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama. Gene Takahashi and Chosei Kuge represented the Korean War. Glen K. Kikuchi represented the Vietnam War. Royce Y. Nakatani is a retired Sergeant Major in the Adjutant General Corps. Major Kay Wakatake is a lawyer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.



For more details on these representatives, please see JAVA press release at www.javadc.org.

Meet the Generals

One of our readers suggested that we provide brief histories of Asian Pacific American (APA) general and flag officers in the newsletter. This will be a regular feature in the *JAVA ADVOCATE*. Thus far, JAVA research knows of 64 APA

general and flag officers. The breakdown is as follows: Chinese American – 21; Filipino American – 6; Hawaii and Pacific Islands – 6; Japanese Americans – 31. Of the 64, there are 28 Brigadier Generals; 32 Major Generals; 3 Lieutenant Generals; 1 full General. The distribution among ser-

vices is as follows: Army – 41; Navy – 9; Marine – 1; Air Force – 12. For the first two biographies, we have selected General Eric K. Shinseki and Lieutenant General Edward Soriano. JAVA website, www.javadc.org, provides more comprehensive coverage.

General Eric Shinseki



“My name is Shinseki, and I am a soldier.” Beneath this modest salutation lies a patriot with intelligence, charisma, courage, determination, integrity, and devotion to service.

General (Ret) Eric K. Shinseki was born and raised on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in 1965,

Shinseki is the first Asian American to attain the rank of four-star general and to hold the position of Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

Shinseki served two combat tours in the Vietnam War, being wounded twice, the second when his right forefoot was blown off by a land mine. He was slated to be discharged on medical grounds, but he appealed and won approval to remain in the Army on active duty.

After recovering from his second injury, he obtained a Master's degree in Literature from Duke University and taught English at West Point. Shinseki attended various service schools, but, the schooling he cherished the most occurred early in his career. It was Sergeant Ernie Kingcade who taught him the practicalities of becoming an officer. Shinseki bonded with his soldiers, whose welfare took priority over everything else.

Shinseki served as Commander of 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry; 2nd Brigade in Germany; and Commanding General (CG) of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. In 1996 Shinseki was promoted to General and named CG of U.S. Army Europe, allied land forces in Central Europe, and NATO forces in Bosnia. He became Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army in 1998, and Chief of Staff in 1999.

In one of his speeches, Shinseki said the foundation of his ascension is the heroism of the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineers. He said, “Because of what they...did on those distant battlefields so many years ago, I have lived my life without suspicion, without limitation, with the full rights and privileges of citizenship, and with the opportunity to compete.”

LTG Edward Soriano



Lieutenant General (Ret) Edward Soriano retired from the U.S. Army after 35 years of distinguished service on 1 March 2005.

Soriano has had a very distinguished and proud career in the United States Army. He was the first Filipino American to become a General Officer in the U.S.

Army, and at the time of his retirement, was the highest ranking Filipino and Asian American serving in the military.

Soriano was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry upon graduation from San Jose State in 1970. He has held numerous leadership and command positions with airborne, light and mechanized infantry units around the world. Following his initial assignment with the 82d Airborne Division, he commanded companies in the 2d Infantry Division, Korea; 9th Infantry Division, Ft. Lewis; and 8th Infantry Division, Germany. He also served as a Recruiting Company Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Albany, New York.

He commanded the 2d Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 2d Armored Division, Ft. Hood, Texas, and the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Ft. Carson, Colorado. He served as Chief of Staff and Assistant Division Commander of 3d Infantry Division (Mech). He also served in Operation Joint Endeavor (Bosnia-Herzegovina) as the Assistant Division Commander of 1st Infantry Division, and Seventh Army in Germany. He commanded the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colorado from 1999 to 2001. He served as the Commanding General, I Corps and Fort Lewis, WA prior to his retirement.

Soriano currently works for Northrop Grumman and serves as Director, Defense Programs and Initiatives; Program Manager, Homeland Security Training and Exercise Programs; and, Senior Manager, Training and Simulations Division, Technical Services Sector. He and his wife Vivian currently reside in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Latin Americans of Japanese Ancestry during WWII

Contributed by Mr. James Tanabe

[Editor's Note: In response to the June 2006 article on Japanese Latin Americans, Mr. James Tanabe sent more background on the plight of these people.]

The Japanese began immigrating in earnest to the Americas in the late 1880's. When Japanese immigration to the U.S. was restricted in early 1920, their migration turned to Central and South America. Many went to Brazil and Peru—farmers, tradesmen, craftsmen and professionals. By late 1930s the industrious Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) became economically independent and became prominent manufacturers, retailers, farmers, etc. Anti-Japanese sentiment developed. U.S. interest in Latin America was growing. The U.S. gave Peru military aid. Then came Pearl Harbor. Peru broke off relations with Japan; all diplomatic staff was returned to Japan and round up of the Japanese in Peru and other Latin American countries began under U.S. pressure. Word spread that wealthier Japanese merchants, farmers,

Japanese language school officials and teachers, Buddhist priests, etc., were being arrested without warning and taken away. Where to, no one knew at first. The hunt began soon after December 7, 1941, using "enemy alien" lists developed since the mid 30's.

The JLAs were abducted from Peru, which supplied about 79% or 1,779 souls, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. The ships sailed through the Panama Canal where some JLA men were forced to work in construction, land clearing, etc., for weeks to months before being transferred to Texas. But at the New Orleans entry point, the JLAs were given their new identity of "illegal entry aliens." From there they went to their assigned prison homes. The majority of JLAs were kept at the main INS detention facility at Crystal City, TX, and others at neighboring Seagoville and Kenedy. Still others were scattered as widely as New Mexico, Louisi-

ana, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota for "security" reasons. In hastily assembled shacks in locations internees described as hell-holes or forsaken dust bowls that were specially selected for them, they would stay for the duration of the war and longer.

Nearly 900 [865] JLAs were systematically pawned off to Japan as prisoner exchanges. At war's end, the JLAs own countries refused their return and responsibility. The U.S., having classified them "illegal entry aliens," deported over 1,000 to war-torn Japan, where they fended for themselves as strangers and barely survived starvation conditions.

In 1988, after 43 years, the U.S. acknowledged the internment was wrong and redressed surviving American internees, but did not include JLAs. Recently, it has been recognized that these JLAs were also wronged and a movement started to provide them some form of redress.

Literary News

Dr. Stanley L. Falk, historian and JAVA member, has received information from authoritative sources, that Dr. James C. McNaughton's book on the Military Intelligence Service is expected to be published in January 2007 and will be available through the Government Printing Office. We will publish more details when obtained.

* * * * *

Author Zu Vincent, a professional writer for Harcourt Achieve, has completed writing a book, *Stranger in his own Land*, about JAVA member Joe Ichiuji, a 522nd veteran. It is written about his experience during



World War II, concentrating on three events: Pearl Harbor, the internment camp, and military service. The book will be an educational reader for young students in our schools to help them understand our history, especially what it was like for Japanese Americans during World War II. Harcourt Achieve will soon publish 40,000 copies for distribution to schools.

* * * * *

During his recent visit here, Gene Takahashi, donated two books to the JAVA library. These books are:

The River and the Gauntlet: Defeat of the Eighth Army by the Chinese Communist Forces, November 1950, in the Battle of the Chongchon River, Korea. By S. L. A. Marshall, William Morrow & Company. 1953. 385pp.

Disaster in Korea, The Chinese Confront MacArthur. By Lt. Col. Roy E. Appleman, AUS (Ret), Texas A & M University Press. 1989. 456 pp.

These books are available to JAVA members on 4-week loan. Please contact Terry Shima at ttshima@worldnet.att.net or call 301-987-6746.

Sandra Tanamachi Receives Award from Japan

Sandra Chikako Tanamachi received the Japan Foreign Minister Taro Aso's Commendation on Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006. This was presented to Sandra by Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo at his residence in Houston, Texas. About 60 family members, friends, and guests were also in attendance.

Consul General Kamo read the English translation of the award, followed by his speech explaining why Sandra was chosen to receive the award from Japan. He

then handed Sandra the framed citation from Japan Foreign Minister Taro Aso and a silver sake cup with the emblem of the Japanese government engraved on the bottom side.

He led everyone in a toast of congratulations.

Dr. George Hirasaki, President of the Houston JACL chapter, spoke next about the history of the campaign to change "Jap Road" in Texas, and then introduced Sandra to the audience. Sandra gave her thanks to the many people who helped her with the campaign and dedicated the award to her paternal grandfather, Kumazo Tanamachi, a leader in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, who welcomed, encouraged and helped other Issei families settle in Texas. She also dedicated her award to her maternal grandmother, Chika Nakao, who was a teacher in Japan and inspired Sandra herself to become a teacher.



Front L-R: Kikuko Tanamachi, Sandra Tanamachi, Yoshihiko Kamo, Japan Consul General. **Back L-R:** Gene Nakayama, Inge Tanamachi, Yuriko Nakayama, Masako Elliott, Willie Tanamachi (442nd RCT), Rena Tadano, Hiroko Edwards, Dean Edwards

Kay Wakatake Promoted to Major in U.S. Army

On August 18, 2006, Kay Wakatake was promoted to Major in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps). The impressive ceremony was attended by the Army's Judge Advocate General MG Scott C. Black, The Assistant Judge Advocate General MG Daniel V. Wright, and the Regimental Warrant Officer of the Corps CW4 Carol E. Hauck. COL Marc L. Warren, Special Assistant to the Judge Advocate General, presided over the ceremony.

Ten JAVA members also attended: Grant Hirabayashi (Merrill's Marauders Ranger Hall of Fame), Kelly Kuwayama (442nd RCT, Silver Star), Terry Shima (442nd RCT), Joe Ichiuji (522nd Field Artillery Bn), Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Chosei Kuge (Korean War), Vic Mukai, Earl Takeguchi, Michael Yaguchi, and MAJ Sharon Nitsche. MAJ Wakatake's husband David Radovich and her two-

year-old twins Peter and Jack were also present.

COL Warren began the ceremony with a brief background of the 442nd RCT and Merrill's Marauders, recognizing each veteran individually. He praised the wartime heroism of the 442nd, MIS, and Merrill's Marauders, stating there was "more valor among them than any other organization in the US Army."

He also said that with "MAJ Wakatake's impressive academic background, she could have pursued a civilian career that commanded large financial benefits; however, like her predecessors, she answered the call to duty to serve her country. Promotion to a field grade officer position attests to her leadership potential."

MAJ Wakatake also gave tribute to the veterans, stating to them "you have inspired me; I have become a Major because you have broken down barriers, creating a bright future for the newer generation of Japanese Americans." As a token of her appreciation, she gave each JAVA member the Army JAG Corps Regimental Coin.



L-R: COL Warren, Kay Wakatake, and David Radovich. Photo courtesy of Grant Hirabayashi.

Letters to JAVA

The following letter was sent to JAVA President Bert Mizusawa from the Veterans Day National Committee:

Dear Mr. Mizusawa:

I am pleased to inform you that the Veterans Day National Committee recommended approval of your application for associate membership and I wholeheartedly concur. Congratulations.

Your selection as an associate member is a significant accomplishment. I look forward to your participation on Veterans Day as we work together to honor those who served.

Congratulations again and welcome to the Veterans Day National Committee.

Sincerely yours,

R. James Nicholson, Chairman

The following letter dated June 15, 2006, was sent to JAVA member Grant Ichikawa from the Hawaii United Okinawa Association:

Dear Mr. Ichikawa,

On behalf of the Okinawa Prefectural Government, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to you for your significant assistance in their undertaking to recognize the United States military veterans who served as interpreters during the Battle of Okinawa and the period that followed immediately thereafter in the rebuilding period of war-torn Okinawa.

We were informed that there were originally about four hundred interpreters who served during this period and *Okagesamade* ~ Because of you, your valuable collection of names and addresses and promotion of this event, Okinawa was presented with more than one hundred addresses of veterans in Hawaii.

As a pre-event of the Fourth Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival later this year and to commemorate the 60th anniversary since the Battle of Okinawa ended, our distinguished veterans were able to receive this special recognition from the Okinawa Prefectural Government.

The Honorable Keiichi Inamine, Governor of Okinawa, personally represented the citizens of Okinawa to express their appreciation to these veterans. Letters of Appreciation were presented to them in a ceremony at the Hawaii Okinawa Center on Monday, June 5, 2006, at 1:00 pm.

As we say in Okinawa, *Ippe Nifee Deebiru*~*Thank you very much* for your generous efforts in the realization of this momentous event.

Kariyushi—With much happiness and warm aloha,

Laverne Higa Nance, President

JAVA Witness Signing of Act

JAVA was among the special invitees that witnessed the historic signing of the Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments of 2006 by President George Bush on July 27, 2006, at the White House. This Act renews and strengthens our Nation's commitment to enforce the right to vote for

all Americans. It represents a bipartisan effort in the House of Representatives and Senate and strong leadership by the President.

Gerald Yamada, who attended as JAVA's representative, said "We must also remember the sacrifices and contributions made by the

Japanese American soldiers who fought to keep America safe while their family and friends were imprisoned in interment camps. Like those who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965, Japanese Americans were patriots whose sacrifices during World War II helped to make progress for the equality for Japanese Americans and other minority groups."

See complete press release at JAVA website.

Donations to JAVA Activities

Donations to JAVA, a 501(c)(19) organization, are tax deductible. This activity, which is so important to the legacy of the WWII generation, needs your support. JAVA's major standing operations to which you can make a tax free donation are as follows:

National Archives and Research Administration. See article below.

Annual Veterans Day Program. On November 11, 2:00 pm, JAVA will hold its 6th annual program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. In addition to honoring the veterans, this program pays tribute to the 842 Japanese Americans whose names are etched on the Heroes' Wall.

Memorial Day National Parade. Having participated in the 2006 Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue with favorable results, we have decided to take part again next year.

Newsletter. The issue you are read-

ing is our second upgraded newsletter in color. Our thanks to Mr. Bob Nakamoto, a Korean War veteran and chairman of Base Technologies, who has donated the printing of the Newsletter.

Quarterly Luncheons. JAVA tries to have a speaker discuss something new that relates to our organization's mission. We also invite officials from selected government and veterans organizations to expose them to JAVA. JAVA covers the cost of guests' meals.

Speakers Program. Schools frequently request speakers to discuss the JA experience in WWII and more post-WWII veterans are being asked to speak. Speakers personally pay for their transportation and administrative costs.

Cherry Blossom Festival and Freedom Walk. For the past four years, JAVA has set up a booth at the National Cherry Blossom Festival. JAVA also contributes to the Freedom Walk, which also occurs during the week of the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Oral History Project. After completing the collection of oral histories on the WWII veterans, this activity, con-

ducted in partnership with the Library of Congress, has been inactive mainly due to the lack of a coordinator. We are grateful to Ms. Julia Kuroda for donating the camcorder that started our project, and others like Mike Okusa and interviewees for their donations. This activity provided information for the publication of books. Three JAVA interviewees were featured in two books, and another interviewee will be featured in a third book to be published by the Library of Congress

Scholarships. JAVA has two scholarship funds, the Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund and the Jack Tashiro Memorial Scholarship Fund. Major Shirey, whose family lives in the Maryland suburbs, was the G-2 (intelligence officer) of the 442nd RCT. Mr. Tashiro was JAVA's Treasurer when he passed away.

To donate, send checks payable to JAVA to Treasurer Earl Takeguchi, 7201 White House Drive, Springfield, VA 22153. Please specify the activity on the memo line; otherwise, your donation will be applied to the general fund. If you have questions please contact Terry Shima at 301-987-6746 or ttshima@worldnet.att.net.

NARA Digitization Project

During the past year, 9 researchers diligently researched files of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for information on the 100th Bn, 442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service, 1399th Engineers Bn, 1800 Engineer General Service Bn, and Japanese American WACs. This project continues the record collection (25 linear feet) by the late Dr. Richard Susumu Yamamoto, his wife Fumie, and Mrs. Maggie Ikeda. The present endeavor preserves documents digitally.

The record preservation effort is divided into two parts—research and digital scanning. Researchers are Fumie Yamamoto, Joseph Ichijui, Chosei Kuge, Namiko Suzuki, Akira

Yoshida, Susan Yoshida, Grant Hirabayashi, Barbara Nekoba and Terry Shima. It's a tedious job of plowing through files, identifying and marking documents to be digitized.

Yamamoto and Ichijui are the research co-coordinators. Dave Buto, who handles digital scanning, and Ted Tsukiyama, 442nd and MIS Historian, are the project co-chairs.

Akira Yoshida, resident of Philadelphia and a Korean War veteran, has visited NARA daily. Midway, he returned to Philadelphia to settle in a retirement home, but has returned to NARA.

442nd Hawaii is digitizing the Ya-

mamoto Team hard copy collection. When the program is complete, researchers, historians, film makers and inquirers worldwide can easily access the 442nd Hawaii and JAVA databases. In contrast, researchers must now travel to NARA in Washington, D.C. to conduct research.

Due to high gas prices, we have reimbursed some volunteers for mileage and light lunch if they remained at NARA all day. The roundtrip commute is about 40 miles for Maryland volunteers and about 70 miles for Virginia volunteers. Your donations will perpetuate the legacy of the WWII generation at war and in the camps. Please mail checks ("NARA Project" on the memo line) to Earl Takeguchi, 7201 White House Drive, Springfield, VA 22153.

From the Editor



Thank you to everyone who sent comments about our new format for the June newsletter; I enjoyed reading all your responses and appreciate your suggestions.

As you can see, I have listened to your comments and made changes to the newsletter. Thank you also

for voting for a new name for the newsletter; Warren Tsuneishi submitted the name of the "JAVA Advocate", and Harry Honda properly suggested that "JAVA" precede whatever name is chosen.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the JAVA members who attended my promotion ceremony in August: Terry Shima, Kelly Kuwayama, Grant Hirabayashi, Grant Ichikawa, Joe Ichiuji, Chosei Kuge, Vic Mukai, Earl Takeguchi,

Mike Yaguchi, and Sharon Nitsche. I am humbled that you all, who have sacrificed so much and endured terrible hardships, would take the time to come to my promotion ceremony. It truly means a lot to me.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *JAVA ADVOCATE* and the improvements. As always, if you have any comments, please email at kwa-katake@gmail.com or send mail to: Kay Wakatake, 2567 Aspenwood Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911.

Donate Eyeglasses at October Luncheon

Stanley Mataichi Sagara will be collecting used eyeglasses (in complete form with lenses and temples) for recycling at the October Quarterly luncheon. This is a Lions Club project to supply eye-

glasses to third world countries in conjunction with a voluntary eye doctors organization known as Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH), which Sagara has been involved in for the past 18 years. Sagara's last eye care mission was to JiJiga, Ethiopia in April 2006.

CORRECTION:

In the June 2006 edition, article "Congress Recognizes Internment of Japanese Latinos" (page 6) Congressman Mike Honda of California was incorrectly identified as Congressman Henry Honda. The *JAVA ADVOCATE* regrets the error.



Membership Application FY2006

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Membership: New Renewal Transfer

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

(Cellular) _____

Facsimile: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30
- Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20
- Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
- Life Membership: \$300

Military Experience (if applicable): _____

Rank: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Military Campaigns: _____

Awards/Decorations: _____

Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

	Yes	No
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awards/Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

**1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006**



Visit our website:
www.javadc.org

Postage

Please send correspondence to:

General: Terry Shima, ttshima@worldnet.att.net;
301-987-6746

Michael Yaguchi, yaguchim@u.washington.edu;
703-729-1243

Membership: Cal Shintani, cshintani@verizon.net
Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, kwakatake@gmail.com;
253-468-4238

Speakers Bureau: Norman Ikari, normankyo@aol.com;
301-869-5543

National Archives Research: Joe Ichiuji,
joe.ichiuji@verizon.net; 301-530-0336

Fumie Yamamoto, yamamotoff@yahoo.com;
301-942-3985

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

Upcoming Events

October 21, 2006: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.

November 5, 2006: Lunch with Lawson and Mineko Sakai, Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, Gilroy, CA.

November 11, 2006: Veteran's Day Program at National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Washington, D.C. Lunch at 12:00 p.m.; Program at 2:00 p.m.

January 2007: JAVA Annual Meeting

January 31, 2007: Asian Pacific American Reception for Honorable Norman Y. Mineta.

February 16-18, 2007: All-veterans Reunion, New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA.

May 25, 2007: Smithsonian Asia Pacific American department recognition of Korean War veterans.

Photos from July Quarterly Luncheon



Left: SGT Steve Nakamoto and his wife Sherri entertain JAVA members at July luncheon on July 29, 2006.

Right: The Nakamoto family. L-R: William, Luke, Steve, Sherri, Sara. Bottom L-R: Adam, Anna.

