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65th Anniversary of Liberation of Vosges Region

by Dr. Ellen Sawamura

BRUYERES, France – On Saturday, July 11, 2009, six veterans of the famous 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) arrived at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, France to commemorate the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Bruyeres and Biffontaine and the Rescue of the "Lost Battalion." A large delegation of friends, family, documentary film makers, and news crew, led by Lawson Sakai of E Company, accompanied these veterans into a double-decker bus to begin the long ride to Epinal, a small village nestled in the Vosges Mountains near the eastern border of France.

the delegation attended memorials at the Epinal American Cemetery, the 442nd Monument in the Helladraye Forest "via Rue de 442" and also viewed the bronze Monument to Friendship and Peace, sculpted by the late Shinkichi Tajiri of M Company, rode on [continued on page 4 at "Vosges"]



442nd Veterans under "Rue de 442" street sign in Bruyeres: (L-R) Art Iwasaki, George Kanatani, Sam Sakamoto, Nelson Akagi, Fumio "Steve" Shimizu, Lawson Sakai. (Dr. Ellen Sawamura)

During the days to follow,

17 Nations mark 59th Anniversary of Korean War

WASHINGTON – On July 27, 2009, in a ceremony marking the 59th anniversary of North Korean invasion of South Korea, Secretary of US Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki paid tribute to 17 nation military forces, including nearly two million Americans, who served in the Korean War. He noted that 54,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for their country. He described the profound

acts of gallantry of four recipients of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, one from each of the four branches of service, including Corporal Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura of the US Army during the Korean War.

The ceremony was held at the Korean War Memorial, located at The Mall, Washington, DC. The program, sponsored by the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee, was attended by representatives of the 17 countries which fought in the United Nations sanctioned war, Korean War Veterans Association, other Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), and the general public. [continued on page 5 at Nations]



Left: Wreath placed by JAVA and Japanese American Korean War Veterans at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. (Barbara Salisbury, Washington Times)

President's Message



I hope you all had a nice Summer holiday. First I wish to welcome back to CONUS our most professional editor, MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA and her family, following a tour of duty in Germany.

I wish to congratulate the following JAVA members for their achievements. COL Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret) was sworn in as Deputy Chief of Staff at the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). MG Antonio (Tony) Taguba was appointed Chairman of the DVA Committee on Minority Veterans, which is mandated by the US Congress. Ed Chow, a Vietnam War veteran, was appointed Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the State of Maryland. MAJ Alan Ueoka, USA, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in a dignified ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol Building. I understand Alan, a Sansei, selected this venue because of his conviction that sacrifices made by the WW II generation opened opportunities for subsequent generations of Japanese Americans.

I wish to thank JAACL President Larry Oda and National Director Floyd Mori for recognizing JAVA, along with three other organizations, for publicizing the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy. I realize we would not have received this high honor without our legion of volunteers who have donated their time and re-

sources every day, come rain, snow or shine.

Historian Eric Saul, who has been commissioned by the National Park Service to construct an exhibit at Ellis Island, New York, has invited JAVA to serve on the planning committee. The subject of the exhibit is the Japanese American experience during WW II. The grand opening is on Memorial Day, 2010 to run for 5 months. The visitors represent a wide, diverse segment of our population not normally reached by our traditional publicity mechanisms. In this connection, two other programs JAVA is connected with will reach this general target, Billy Tucci's 6 monthly series comics on the Rescue of the Lost Battalion have been bound for sale. Also, the History Channel, featuring Jimmie Kanaya, will broadcast later this year its 10-series epic documentary on WW II.

We were advised by the Embassy of Japan that Ambassador and Mrs. Fujisaki are hosting a reception on October 20 for Japanese Americans living in the Washington, DC area. Such a gathering has not happened before. This is a testament to Ambassador Fujisaki's commitment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) initiative to reach out to the Japanese American community to solidify relationships. JAVA has been an active participant of Ambassador Fujisaki and Irene Hirano Inouye's project. Glen Fukushima, President and CEO of Airbus Japan KK and life member of JAVA, independently, serves as unofficial consultant to MOFA on these matters.

We endorse Christine Sato-Yamazaki's efforts to bring representatives of Japa-

nese American veterans groups together to work towards a common cause. Harnessing the energy of national Japanese American veterans to support the passage of Senator Boxer's Bill to provide the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th and 442nd is a worthwhile endeavor that JAVA supported. At the same time, we congratulate Craig Uchida, Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, for holding a Gala event in Houston soon to celebrate the reunion of members of the trapped 36th (Texas) Division and veterans of the 442nd RCT.

Thanks to our volunteers, JAVA remains a vibrant organization. We will continue our emphasis on the legacy of Japanese Americans, our education programs, scholarships, and assistance of veterans and their families in need.

—Bob Nakamoto

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JAVA ADVOCATE

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PRESIDENT!

The JAVA Board of Directors and THE ADVOCATE wish to congratulate our President Bob Nakamoto for his business firm Base Technologies, Inc.'s recognition with three separate awards as one of the top minority-owned businesses in the nation. Why JAVA has been successful as a national veterans organization is because of his superior leadership and support. Please see story on page 12.



Maryland Public TV and USAF Band honors JAVA member

BETHESDA, Md. – Maryland Public Television plans to broadcast a special program by the US Air Force Band on Veterans Day, November 11, 2009, to honor five Maryland veterans, including Grant J. Hirabayashi, a veteran of the famed Merrill's Marauders, a Special Forces unit which served in Burma during World War II. The musical tribute to America's veterans was taped on June 17, 2009, at the Music Center at Stratmore in Bethesda.

Hirabayashi, a 2004 inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia, who volunteered for the US Army Air Corps but was reassigned because of his racial ancestry after World War II began, was one of the 14 Nisei out of 200 volunteers to serve in the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), a 600 men special forces unit known better as the Merrill's Marauders. Their mission was to capture the strategic town and airfield at Myitkyina, an all-



Above: US Air Force band taping for Veterans Day showing. (USAF band photo)

weather airport, and open the Burma Road, the land route to China. After 5 battles and a 700-mile march through the treacherous jungles of Burma, Hirabayashi and his unit achieved their goal but sustained 85% casualties in the process, a warning made to the volunteers when they were recruited.

The musical tribute will also feature four members of the arts: Michael Feinstein, one of the premier interpreters of American popular songs; Louis Gossett, Jr., an internationally acclaimed actor and passionate advocate of civil rights and diversity; Ronan Tynan, a former member of *The Irish Tenors*, an orthopedic surgeon, and popular speaker; and Shemekin Copeland, a singer.

The USAF Band's commander and Music Director is Col Dennis M. Layendecker, and the Concert Master is MSgt Mari Uyehara.

442nd medic awarded Silver Star for gallantry in Italy

by Honorable Brian Yagi

ALAMEDA, Calif. – On August 8, 2009, a ceremony sponsored by the Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans was held aboard the USS Hornet docked in Alameda, California, to present the Silver Star to the family of PFC Tom T. Yagi, Medical Detachment, 442nd RCT. PFC Yagi, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, Company L, 2nd Platoon, was awarded the medal for using his own body to shield a wounded comrade during a mortar barrage near Tendola, Italy, on April 20, 1945, during the final Po Valley offensive. In doing so, he, too, was wounded. PFC Yagi never received the medal during his lifetime.

Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret), provided the opening remarks. The Hon. Bryan Yagi, PFC Yagi's nephew, related his quest to learn more about his uncle during World War II which resulted in the discovery of his uncle being awarded the Silver Star. He consulted a few friends and initiated the request to obtain the medal and citation.

Mits Takahashi, a veteran of Company L, 2nd Platoon, who was wounded in the Gothic Line attack and was cared for by Yagi, was also present. Lawson Sakai, Co E, 442nd RCT, provided a summary of the Po Valley Campaign, including the 442nd breach of the Gothic line.



L-R: Lawson Sakai; Captain Wang; Virginia Uchida, daughter of Tom T. Yagi; COL Sue Ann Sandusky, Commandant of the Defense Language Institute; and Judge Bryan Yagi. (Courtesy of Judge Bryan Yagi)

After the citation was read by Army Captain Wang, Col. Sue Ann Sandusky, Commandant of the Defense Language Institute, presented the medal to PFC Yagi's daughter, Virginia Uchida, who expressed her appreciation to those who caused the event to happen.

Events (from page 1)

World War II restored jeeps and trucks to the memorial at the 36th Division Monument - BORNE N6 (site of the Lost Battalion rescue), and solemn ceremonies at Fremifontaine, Biffontaine, and other monuments in the region honoring Divisions who bravely liberated the Vosges. They also viewed significant battlefields where the 100th/442nd valiantly fought and suffered tremendous losses, losses that will resonate forever.

A special Mass of Remembrance was held in Bruyeres before marching in the Bastille Day Parade and honoring French resistors and American liberators with color guards, bands and

awards at the Place Stanislas. Throughout the tour, friendships were forged with the French to last generations. World War II military history buffs, Herve Claudon and Gerome Villain and Etienne Pourcher, Consul-General of the Vosges Region coordinated with hundreds of local residents and dignitaries and Lawson Sakai to create a memorable and emotional experience.

Throughout the tour, many French and Americans officially and personally expressed heartfelt commitments to carry this story and the "Go For Broke" message to future generations. A film crew from Los Angeles documented the tour and American Forces Network Europe interviewed

Lawson and Joanne Sakai. Since those dark days of war, each new generation benefited from the sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers. When President Truman welcomed the 442nd RCT return home at the south lawn of the White House on July 15, 1946 and presented the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, he stood before them in the rain and said, "I can't tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to tell you what you have done for this country. You fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice and you won. You have made the Constitution stand for what it really means: the welfare of all the people, all the time." [full press release at www.javadc.org]

Nisei veterans enjoy 65 years of goodwill with Vosges Region

BRUYERES, France – "They looked different, but they shared their food, were kind to our children and the aged, respected our women, and could be trusted," said Robert Giron, Principal of Bruyeres High School, France. "It is incredible how these villagers in the Vosges took an American outfit in their hearts and that this unique relationship has grown stronger with the passage of time," said the late Shim Hiraoka, 1st Sergeant of Headquarters Company, 442nd RCT. These observations reflected the views of the people of the Vosges and the veterans of the 442nd RCT. There have been many exchanges of visits by groups and by individuals to renew bonds of friendship, to express gratitude, and to search for people they met decades ago.

Though their presence was short, the behavior of 442nd men made a lasting favorable impression on the Vosges people. While reconstructing their damaged homes and public buildings, the people of Bruyeres named one of their streets "*The Avenue of the 442nd Infantry Regiment*", and three years after the war built a monument on which was inscribed "To the men of the 442 and 100 Infantry Battalion who reaffirmed an historic truth here that loyalty to one's country is not modified by racial origin...."

The people of Vosges have opened their homes and hearts to visits by thousands of individuals and small groups. Billy Tucci, graphic novelist, was escorted to the rescue site to prepare for the writing of a six-series comic book entitled *Sgt Rock: The Lost Battalion*. The Bruyeres officials were so impressed with Tucci that they conferred on him the title of *Ambassador, de la region de Bruyeres*.

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]



Above: L-R: Edward Sakai (past president, 442nd Veterans Hawaii president), Sandy Holck, Pierre Moulin, Andre Iaegi, Bruyeres councilman, Mrs. Mary Sakai, Raoul Cazenave, Vosges county councilman, in October 1976. (Courtesy of Claire Mitani, 442nd Hawaii)

YEAR-END DONATIONS APPRECIATED

Now is the time to consider giving a year-end, tax-deductible donation to JAVA. Your donations help JAVA pay for numerous operational expenses related to our preserving the legacy of the WW II Nisei soldiers. We accept and appreciate all forms of donations, including cash and investment securities. If you have questions, especially about investment securities, also contact Earl at etakeguchi@scitor.com or 703-644-2906.

Please make your checks payable to JAVA and mail to:
Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153.

Nations (from page 1)

Wreaths were presented by foreign representatives and VSOs, including JAVA and the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV).

South Korean Ambassador Duk-Soo Han was effusive in his remarks to express South Korea's appreciation to Allied Forces. He said South Korea enjoys a "thriving democracy and viable economy today because of the sacrifices of the Allied Powers."

Hershey Miyamura volunteered for Korea War duty and was awarded the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry on April 24, 1951, near Taejon-ni. When a massive enemy attack threatened to overrun his company's defense, Corporal Miyamura fought off the attack in his sector by downing 10 of the enemy with his bayonet in hand-to-hand fight-

ing. Under continuing assault, he aided the wounded, expedited their evacuation, and then ordered the remainder of his squad to withdraw while he single-handedly manned his machine gun until it ran out of ammunition. Severely wounded, he held his ground and was last seen by his comrades in a hand-to-hand fight against an overwhelming number of the enemy. He personally killed 50 of the enemy that night, saved the members of his squad, and managed to survive severe injury and a long, brutal captivity as a prisoner of war." [Though presumed dead because his body was not recovered when the position was retaken, Miyamura had been subsequently captured by the enemy and, while a prisoner of war, was unaware of being awarded the Medal of Honor. It was not until he was repatriated over two years later that he found he was to be honored. President Dwight Eisenhower personally presented the award to him on October 27, 1953.]

LA middle school renamed Young Oak Kim Academy



Above: COL Young Oak Kim. (GFBNEC photo)

[Condensed from GFBNEC press release]

TORRANCE, Calif. – Central Los Angeles Area Middle School No. 3, located at 615 S. Shatto Place, Los Angeles, was renamed Young Oak Kim Academy in October 2009. A war hero, accomplished community leader, mentor and role model, Colonel Kim left a legacy of nonprofit successes throughout the Los Angeles community.

Colonel Kim was a hero and leader in the Japanese American and Korean American communities and in Korea.

After serving as one of the founders of the Japanese American National Museum, he became the leader and founding chairman of the Go For Broke National Education Center, originally established as the 100th/442nd/MIS World War II

Memorial Foundation in 1989.

In 1986 Colonel Kim and a group of Japanese American veterans conceived the idea of building a monument as a permanent reminder that no American should ever again be denied civil liberties because of ethnicity or religion, and as a lasting tribute to the sacrifice and heroism of the Nisei soldiers of World War II. The veterans formed an organization, raised the required funds, secured the site in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, and built the monument which lists the names of more than 16,000 Japanese American soldiers who served overseas, including officers and 37 women.

Colonel Kim first served as a lieutenant in the 100th Infantry Battalion. In European battlefields of World War II, his leadership and bravery earned him a Silver Star. Again in the Korean War, he distinguished himself and was awarded a second Silver Star. Colonel Kim's legacy lives on in the success of the GFBNEC, and his vision comes to life in its nationwide educational programs. The organization celebrates the 20th anniversary of its formation this year. Both Colonel Kim's Hanashi oral history and additional information about GFBNEC are available at www.goforbroke.org.

PPALM holds 2nd annual general meeting

[This event was held as the JAVA ADVOCATE was going to press. The next issue will report more on this event.]

WASHINGTON – The Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) held their 2nd Annual General Membership Meeting and Social on Sunday, October 4 at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. This year's meeting was held in conjunction with the Association of the US Army's (AUSA) annual convention.

"We are very grateful to AUSA for their recognition and support of PPALM. Since its beginnings in 2006, PPALM continues to stress the legacy of selfless service, the sacrifices of past generations, and service to nation with pride and distinction. We continue to support the US Army and all Services, to serve as a platform to nurture and mentor to junior leaders, and to provide professional development and networking opportunities," said Major General Anthony Taguba, USA (Ret), Chair-



man of PPALM Board of the Directors.

At this year's gathering, Taguba introduced the VIPs in attendance, the

Board of Directors, and made brief remarks on a variety of working projects.

To learn more about PPALM or become a member, please visit PPALM's website at www.ppalm.net.

Japan Prime Minister meets Japanese American Leadership Delegation

TOKYO, Japan – [condensed from Prime Minister's Office Press Release] Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso welcomed the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) on March 3, 2009. Prime Minister Aso expressed to the delegation the importance of the U.S. and Japan alliance as a cornerstone of security for all of East Asia. He further expressed the unique role of Japanese Americans in strengthening Japan and U.S. relations.



Above: Japan Prime Minister Aso (front center) and Irene Hirano (PM's left) with JALD delegates at Prime Minister's office. (Courtesy of Irene Hirano)

creating and sustaining people-to-people relationships as a critical factor in assuring the long-term success of U.S. and Japan relations.”

Glen S. Fukushima, President & CEO of Airbus Japan, a Sansei business executive from Los Angeles who lives in Tokyo and who used to be President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, added the follow-

The thirteen-member 2009 delegation is comprised of individuals from diverse regions of the country who are active Japanese American leaders in their communities. They represent a wide range of professional backgrounds including business, law, government, higher education, healthcare, film production and communications.

The JALD, which began in 2000, is led by Irene Hirano, Executive Advisor to the Japanese American National Museum. The Japanese American Leadership Delegation is on an official trip

sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership in collaboration with the Japanese American National Museum. [End PM's office press release]

In discussing the value of JALD, Ms Hirano told a JAVA reporter: “Since 2000, the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) program has enabled over 100 Japanese American to travel to Japan and meet with the highest level of Japanese leaders. The cornerstone of the program is the value in

ing: “The JALD program is an excellent way to strengthen ties between Japanese Americans and Japan, to the benefit of both the United States and Japan. By taking part in the JALD program, Japanese American leaders can develop a better understanding of how they may be able to contribute to enhancing the important relationship between the world's two largest economic powers.” Fukushima is an unofficial advisor to MOFA on JALD and other matters.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

Japan Army Commanding General visits Washington, DC

WASHINGTON – General Yoshifumi Hibako, Chief of Staff, Japan Ground Self Defense Force visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC, on June 16, 2009. He is the highest-ranking Japanese military official to honor the Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in 10 internment camps and over 800 Nisei who sacrificed their lives to protect American democracy during World War II.

General Hibako was accompanied by Colonel Kazuaki Sumida, Chief of Policy and Programs Division of the General Staff Office and Major General Mitsuru Nodomi, Japanese Defense and Military Attaché in Washington, DC.

General Hibako said the purpose of his visit to the Memorial was to honor the Nisei generation for their courage and patriotism during World War II. He encouraged the post World War II generation of Japanese Americans to continue to work for the goals established by the previous generation and their parents. He also visited Arlington Cemetery, where he placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, and also toured Walter Reed Medical Center. He also met with the Chiefs of Staff of the US Army and US Marines, his counterparts.

Dr. Ray Murakami, Chairman emeritus of NJAMF, briefed General Hibako on the Memorial. JAVA President Robert Nakamoto and Executive Director Terry Shima provided a briefing on the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, the Nisei in the Military Intelligence Service, and the impact of Nisei experience during World War II on future Japanese American generations.



Above: General Hibako receiving briefing from JAVA and NJAMF. L-R: Ray Murakami, Robert Nakamoto, Terry Shima, Major Kuwamo (interpreter); General Hibako; and Major General Nodomi. (Kris Ikejiri)

Ambassador Fujisaki visits Japanese American War Memorial Court

By Minoru Tonai

LOS ANGELES – Following the reception at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) on June 15, 2009, in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, California, Ambassador and Mrs. Ichiro Fujisaki visited the Japanese American National War Memorial Court, located in the courtyard of JACCC. They visited the Memorial Court to pay their respects to Japanese Americans who died while serving their country and to meet veterans. The Memorial Court is the only place in America which memorializes Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals who died in line of duty.

The Ambassador was greeted by Superior Court Judge Vincent Okamoto, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, who introduced the other 19 veterans and provided a briefing of the Memorial Court. The Memorial includes seven Japanese nationals in the United States Navy who perished on the Battleship Maine when it sank in Havana Harbor, Cuba, during the Spanish American War in 1898. Ambassador Fujisaki presented a beautiful wreath and white carnations in a solemn and respectful ceremony.

In his address to the veterans, the Ambassador, who incidentally is the first Japanese Ambassador to visit the Memorial Court, said "I believe that our two countries' relations have sufficiently integrated, and we must now pursue our goal to develop an even better relationship. Japan owes a lot to the United States for the American post-war aid, including the development of our Self-Defense Forces. So we have now become very close friends. You are veterans of wars, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf, and have sacrificed greatly for peace. You have our respect, and we thank you for all you have done for your country, for world peace, and for the bilateral relationship between our two countries. I thank you very much."



Minoru Tonai of JACCC; Junichi Ihara, Japanese Consul General at Los Angeles; Ken Hayashi, President of Japanese American Vietnam War Veterans; Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki; Mrs. Fujisaki; Ranger Hall of Famer Hon. Vince Okamoto, Superior Court Judge. (Bacon Sakatani)

Nisei veteran tells his story in the *Mainichi Shimbun*

[Editor's note: A Japanese language version of this article appeared in the August 15, 2009 edition of the Mainichi Shimbun, the daily national circulation of which is over five and one-half million. This article, coincidentally, supports JAVA's goal to discuss Japanese American experience during WW II. It also complements a joint Japan-American effort to strengthen bonds between Japan and the Nikkei community. The Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs embarked on the Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) program nine years ago to reach out to Japanese Americans. Japan Ambassador and Mrs Ichiro Fujisaki visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism within the first week of their arrival to their new post in Washington, DC, a testament of support of this endeavor. Irene Hirano Inouye of the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership is responsible for the US side of JALD. Japanese American National Museum is the coordinator.]

In October of 1944, the U.S. Army was locked in heavy fighting with German forces in the mountainous Vosges region of central-eastern France. One American battalion had been encircled, and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was dispatched to break through

to the trapped unit. At the end of a fierce fight through forested terrain, the men of the 442nd saved the battalion, and made a name for themselves in the process.

What made the 442nd particularly remarkable, was that the unit was composed almost entirely of Japanese-Americans. The unit was formed in June 1942 of second generation Japanese-Americans, or Nisei, who called on the government to let them prove their loyalty to the United States.

The battle in the Vosges cost the 442nd dearly, as more than 800 men were injured, many of them fatally, in its effort to save the 211 surrounded by the Germans.

"Enemy bombs and shells would come down and hit trees and branches, so there were explosions in places you'd never expect. We took a lot of casualties that way. Some guys lost their eyes, too," recalls second generation American and 442nd veteran George Mukai, now 89.

Mukai's parents had emigrated from Osaka and ran a farm near San Diego. *[continued on page 9 at Mainichi]*



Above: George Mukai, second from right, and comrades from the 442nd RCT during operations in Europe. (Courtesy of George Mukai)

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from DVA announcements]

June 22, 2009. As VA prepares to launch a broad new program of education benefits for Post 9/11 veterans on August 1, we should remember how education benefits began for America's war veterans 65 years ago. With the onset of World War II and the largest mobilization of military manpower in US history, President Roosevelt and Congress realized that failure to support returning veterans after the war would have dire consequences. The 1944 G.I. Bill was one of the most successful pieces of legislation in history, giving almost immediate and widespread returns that helped to drive the nation forward into the second half of the century. The G.I. Bill gave veterans the tools they needed to become the most successful leaders of their generation. The Post 9/11 GI Bill, passed by Congress last year, is the most extensive educational assistance program authorized since the original GI Bill was signed into law.

July 2, 2009. [Washington Times](#) notes that US Senator. Daniel K. Akaka "recently reintroduced a bill to reunite Philippine World War II veterans" who are US citizens and US residents "with their children in the Philippines who have languished for

years on the visa waiting list." The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2009, which is co-sponsored by Democratic Senators. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii and Maria Cantwell of Washington, exempts the "children—about 20,000 individuals in all—from the numerical limitation on immigrant visas."

July 20, 2009. More than 1,100 colleges, universities and schools across the country have entered into "Yellow Ribbon" program agreements with VA to expand financial aid for Veterans participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The Yellow Ribbon program is a provision of the new Post-9/11 GI Bill that funds tuition expenses exceeding the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate that VA covers.

August 3, 2009. VA and national leaders welcome the first class of New GI Bill Post 9/11 Education Benefits Veterans to schools across the country. Veterans Benefits Administration has received more than 150,000 applications under the new program. President Barack Obama, Secretary Shinseki, and members of Congress visited George Mason University in northern Virginia for a ceremony to mark the implementation of the new program. President Obama said a new GI Bill is

an investment in both a new generation of veterans and the future of America.

September 6, 2009. At the Long Island colleges and universities in New York, veterans enrollment for fall 2009 classes was 30,354 veterans compared to 4,446 at the same period in 2008. The increase is attributed to the new Post-9/11 GI Bill for education.

An advanced artificial arm that enables amputees to easily pick up a key or hold a pencil will undergo a three-year study at the Providence, R.I., VA Medical Center. The VA-DARPA collaboration will guide engineers in refining the prototype before it is made available through the VA health care system. The arm's control system, which works like a foot-operated joystick, contains an array of sensors embedded in a shoe and allows an amputee to maneuver the arm by pressing with different parts of the foot. The current version uses wires to relay the signals to the arm, but future versions will be wireless. This first large-scale testing of the arm will allow those who have lost an arm up to their shoulder joint to perform movements while reaching over their head.

JAVA member appointed to key public position in DVA

WASHINGTON – In a dignified ceremony on September 18, 2009, at the US Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC, COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), was sworn in as Deputy Chief of Staff. In this role, Cardarelli will work closely with the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Chief of Staff in managing day-to-day operations of the federal government's second-largest cabinet department with some 286,000 employees in VA medical centers, clinics, benefits offices and national cemeteries throughout the country.

Prior to joining VA, Cardarelli served as the Director of Medical and Health Affairs in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower.

Cardarelli, son of a career Army non-commissioned officer, was commissioned in the Infantry following graduation from the US Military Academy. In addition to a bachelors degree from West Point, he holds three masters degrees from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, the Graduate School of Business at Stan-

ford University, and the Advanced Management Program at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.



Swearing in ceremony. John R., Gingrich, Chief of Staff; Rose Ballard, COL Cardarelli's sister; and COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret). (Courtesy of COL Cardarelli)

Mineta and McNaughton at JAVA quarterly luncheon

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The JAVA summer quarterly luncheon on July 25, 2009, featured The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation and Dr. James C. McNaughton, Army Command Historian for European Command. Secretary Mineta is also a JAVA Honorary Chair. Dr. McNaughton is the well known author of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II* and a JAVA member.

JAVA President Robert Nakamoto, in delivering the President's report, noted that JAVA is pleased with the House of Representatives passage of the Bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th/442nd and anticipates similar action by the US Senate. He also highlighted Eric Saul's building of an exhibit at Ellis Island Museum in New York City that will feature the Japanese American experience during World War II. Finally, he praised Secretary Mineta and Dr. McNaughton as "role models for our youths."

Secretary Mineta recalled how his father and other Japanese businessmen abandoned their businesses when they were placed in internment camps, the physical and psychological hardships of camp life, his military service as an officer of the Military Intelligence Service, his political career starting at the City Council at San Jose, California, moving to the US House of Representatives, and ending as a cabinet secretary for two presidents.

Dr. McNaughton, described "how the MIS Nisei story

remains ever more relevant since the end of the Cold War. During World War II American soldiers landed in Europe to defeat the Nazis and liberate the death camps. It took combat power, and lots of it, including the brave Nisei soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442d Regimental Combat Team. While this 'hard combat power' continues to be needed, American today needs 'soft power'. This emphasis on "soft power" has led to a new appreciation for the MIS Nisei, who used language skill and cultural understanding to help defeat Imperial Japan and build a stable and democratic Japan," McNaughton said. [For the full text of Dr. McNaughton's remarks, please contact JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima at tshima@comcast.net, 301-987-6746.]



L-R: JAVA President Robert Nakamoto, Hon. Norman Mineta, Dr. James McNaughton, JAVA Vice President Bruce Hollywood. (Noriko Sanefuji)

Mainichi (from page 7)

Just after Mukai expressed his wish to join the U.S. Army, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked Pearl Harbor." At school, I always sang The Star Spangled Banner in front of the Stars and Stripes," Mukai says. "I had no doubts about fighting for the United States. I was a little worried about anti-Japanese sentiment, but I was never bullied in the Army."

In spite of Mukai's patriotism, in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attack the U.S. government categorized all Japanese-Americans as "enemy aliens" and forced them into internment camps.

Mukai's family had to give up nearly all their possessions when they moved to one such camp in Arizona. "I wanted to prove that we were good Americans by fighting in the war," recalls Mukai.

While Mukai's family waited out the war in the camp, and Mukai's unit battled Germany forces through Italy and France, the Japanese military was slowly being ground down on battlefields across the Pacific.



US Army veteran George Mukai at the home for the elderly where he lives in New York. (Mainichi Shimbun)

"When I heard that Japanese soldiers were eating grass to stay alive and keep fighting, I felt sorry for them," Mukai says. "We (Nisei soldiers) were Americans, but we were also Japanese, so it was a complex feeling."

After the war, Mukai held a variety of jobs, including at a design office, and started a family with a Japanese-American woman.

In 1988, the United States government formally admitted that the internment camps had been a mistake founded on racism, and apologized to the Japanese-Americans who had been forced into them. Japanese-Americans in the U.S. military also saw their star rise, and in January this year President Barack Obama appointed retired general and third generation Japanese-American Eric Shinseki, born in Hawaii one year after Pearl Harbor, to the post of Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"After fighting in the war with the 442nd, it seemed like we Japanese-Americans could finally hold our heads high as Americans," Mukai concludes, giving voice to one face of this vast immigrant nation, which only saw Mukai and those like him as true Americans when they took up arms in its defense.

[Mr. Satoshi Fukui, Editor in Chief of Mainichi Daily News, has personally approved the re-print of the article.]

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 91 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 91, 55 served in the U.S. Army, 15 in the U.S. Navy, 17 in the U.S. Air Force, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 23 are Chinese Americans, 9 Filipino Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islands, and 38 Japanese Americans.

MG Thomas P. Bostick



Major General Thomas P. Bostick serves as a Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Prior to this assignment, he served as Commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Command from Oct. 12, 2005 through 5 May 2009. He was responsible for more than 13,000 Soldiers and Civilians assigned throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East

with the mission of meeting the Army's recruiting goals.

He has served in a variety of command and staff assignments, both in the Continental United States and overseas. He has commanded Engineer units from Platoon through Brigade. MG Bostick was the Assistant Division Commander-Maneuver, and then Assistant Division Commander-Support of the 1st Cavalry Division. He deployed with the Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom before becoming Commander of the Gulf Region Division, where he was responsible for over \$18 Billion in reconstruction.

Major General Bostick served as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at West Point and was a White House Fellow, serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. MG Bostick is a 1978 graduate of the US Military Academy, and he holds Master's Degrees in both Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

Asked why he selected the military as his career choice, MG Bostick said "my decision to pursue the Military Academy was because I wanted a great education. My parents and four siblings grew up in the military so serving was always something that I thought about. My father was a career Non-Commissioned Officer but he and my mother did not encourage me to pursue military service. It was a decision that I made, not knowing what I was getting into, nor the wonderful opportunities ahead."

BG Joseph Carvalho



BG Joseph Carvalho, Jr was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawaii, graduated from St. Louis High School in Honolulu, and from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. He received his Army commission through the ROTC program and his medical doctorate from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Services (USUHS) School of Medicine in 1983. He is currently the Commanding General, Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center.

BG Carvalho's post-graduate medical training included a transitional internship, internal medicine residency, and both nuclear medicine and cardiology fellowships. Clinically, he served as staff internist, nuclear medicine physician and cardiologist. He served as Chief of Cardiology at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. Operationally, his medical experience includes assignments with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Okinawa, Japan; with the Special Forces at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. In April 2009, BG Carvalho redeployed from Iraq, where he served as the senior medical officer.

BG Carvalho is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He has earned the Special Forces and Ranger tabs and the Expert Field Medical Badge. He has completed the Army Airborne and Flight Surgeon schools and the Navy Dive Medical Officer and SCUBA courses. His individual awards include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Bronze Star Medal.

Asked why he has selected the armed forces as his career choice, BG Carvalho said, "As a career Army physician, I've enjoyed serving in two honorable professions. I am content knowing that I am contributing to something much greater than me. In fact, I feel very good about what I do on a daily basis, namely that of taking care of soldiers. Having done this now for 30 years, I've received more inspiration from soldiers and their families than I could have ever imagined. As a fellow soldier, I hope I, too, have been an inspiration to others."

BG Carvalho and his wife, Lorraine, have two children, Amanda and Joe.

JAVA Veterans Day program takes shape

WASHINGTON — JAVA will recognize Veterans Day in two ways on November 11, 2009. In the morning JAVA will participate in the Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC) program at the Arlington National Cemetery. JAVA is an Associate Member of VDNC, which is sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). A White House breakfast for Veterans Service Representatives (VSO) is planned. If it materializes, two JAVA representatives will join other VSO representatives for breakfast, hosted by President Barack Obama at the White House.

Following the breakfast, the VSO representatives will be bussed to Arlington Cemetery to participate in the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown and the subsequent program at the Amphitheater. The program includes the parade of colors into the Amphitheater and the announcement of the names of each VSO president, and addresses to the nation by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and President Obama.

In the afternoon JAVA will host its 9th Annual Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. The program will include the laying of the wreath at the Wall of Heroes and speeches by Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson, USA, Deputy Commanding General, US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), and Christine Sato Yamazaki, President and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center. She

will also participate in the morning program at the Arlington Cemetery.

LTG Peterson, of Japanese and native Hawaiian ancestry, assumed his current position on December 11, 2006. FORSCOM is responsible for 780,000 men and women. He received his commission as an armor officer through the ROTC program at Santa Clara University. He held various staff and command positions throughout the US and overseas. His last assignment was Commanding General, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters.



2008 Veterans Day Program. Seated: COL Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret); Standing: L-R: Bob Nakamoto, Craig Uchida, VADM Harry Harris, Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret); LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret); MG James Huggins, USA, MG Tony Taguba, USA (Ret). (Gerald Yamada)

History Channel to feature JAVA life member

[Adapted from History Channel Press Release]

The History Channel plans to launch a ten-part series on World War II later this year. Titled *World War II in High Definition*, the series will feature the experience of COL Jimmie Kanaya, USA (Ret), as voiced by James Kayson Lee. Kanaya is one of 12 veterans selected to tell their stories through actors' voices. Emmy Award winner Gary Sinise will be the narrator.

According to a History Channel press release, *WW II in HD* is "one of the network's most ambitious projects to date." The series promises to be "the

most visually astonishing WW II documentary ever shown on TV."

The September 2009 Newsletter of the Seattle-based Nisei Veterans Committee said the 10-part series is scheduled to begin airing on November 15, 2009, showing two episodes each night. Kanaya will be in episodes 7 and 9.

The History Channel said "it has preserved and restored thousands of hours of color archival footage for the documentary, unearthed from archives and private collections across the globe and never seen by most Americans."

The History Channel is collaborating



THE HISTORY CHANNEL

with LOC VHP to access its collection of 140 million items for inclusion of selected items into the series. Nancy Dubuc, Executive Vice President and General Manager of the History Channel said the "remarkable digital technology *WW II in HD* will go a long way in ensuring that one never forgets the sacrifice made by the Greatest Generation."

Japanese American veterans unite to support Congressional Gold Medal

by Mary Graybill, Go For Broke National Education Center

[Condensed from GFBNEC press release, www.goforbroke.org/]

TORRANCE, Calif. – World War II Japanese American veterans' organizations came together for their second network meeting in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on August 14, hosted by Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) as a follow-up to a preliminary gathering held in Nov. 2008.

As their first joint objective, the veterans organizations are working together to help secure the Congressional Gold Medal for the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The group sent a letter to urge adoption of this important legislation by the United States Senate. In addition, each of the organizations and individual members are asking senators from their respective states to support it. The bill has been passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

U.S. Representative Adam Schiff's H.R.347 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th and 442nd was adopted by the House on May 14, 2009 with 411 votes. The Honorable Barbara Boxer introduced companion bill S.1055 in the Senate and is leading the effort to finalize its passage alongside a growing number of influential cosponsors, including Senators Diane Feinstein, Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka.

The representatives for the participating organizations drafted a purpose statement, "To preserve and promote the Japanese American veterans' legacy through a national



Representatives of the 23 participating veterans' organizations that are joining forces to secure the Congressional Gold Medal for the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT. (GFBNEC photo)

network of information sharing, communication and education." The group emphasized that their association would not diminish or duplicate the work of any participating organization but would serve as a network of support. The organizations will share events and activities planned in their local communities to advance the Nisei soldiers' legacy through an online master calendar.

[JAVA President Nakamoto has sent letters of endorsement to each US senator. JAVA members nationwide were encouraged to send similar letters to their respective senators. Veterans organizations of the 36th Division, 34th Division and 92nd Division, other veterans associations, survivors of the trapped 1st Battalion of the 141st Texas regiment and their children, such as Michael Higgins, son of the trapped battalion commander, have sent letters to their respective senators. On behalf of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service, JAVA expresses its appreciation to the above supporters.]

JAVA President's firm to receive 3 awards

DiversityBusiness.com, an organization of 48,000 diversity owned businesses, selected Base Technologies, Inc (BTI) as one of the Top 500 Asian American Owned Businesses in the U.S. In a letter to Robert Nakamoto, Chairman and Owner of BTI, Kenton Clarke, President and CEO of *DiversityBusiness.com* said "you have distinguished yourself as one of the top entrepreneurs in the country" which provides goods and services to Fortune 1000 companies, government agencies, colleges and universities. Over 650,000 businesses in the US

participated in the 9th annual business survey. BTI will be included in the "Top Business List" which is seen by over 15 million people and is used by Fortune 500 companies and large buying organizations to find new business partners.

The second recognition BTI will receive is the *Contractor of the Year Award* at the 7th Annual Greater Washington Government Contractor Awards dinner on November 4, at the Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, Virginia. The award is for contractors in the 25 million to 75

million annual revenue category.

The third recognition is from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Minority Business Enterprise of Richmond, Virginia, which announced that on September 14, Nakamoto was selected as one of the Top 100 Minority Business Enterprise Awards recipients. This program honors outstanding women and minority business owners in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Over 1,400 applicants entered the award selection. The presentation will be made on November 15, at the Marriott Inn and Conference Center in Adelphi, Maryland.

News from other Veterans organizations

ROSEVILLE, Calif. – The *Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter*, April 2009 edition, said Company E, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, now deployed in Iraq, continue to express their appreciation for the many items sent to them. On March 19 “we shipped 14 care packages including comfort foods and magazines. Favorite items are homemade cookies, powdered drink mixes, beef jerky, nuts, rice, magazines and paper back books.” . . . Although prognosis is good following major surgery to remove the “Big C”, Commander Gary Shiota announced his resignation to concentrate on his recovery. *JAVA prays you return to 100% soon, Gary.*

HONOLULU, Hawaii – **100th Battalion Veterans (Hawaii) Puka Puka Parade**, April 2009 issue. On March 3, 2009, Central Pacific Bank, opened after WW II by Hawaii Nisei veterans, unveiled an exhibit in its lobby to honor veterans of the 100th BN, 442nd RCT, MIS, and the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion. The exhibit offers a glimpse into the achievements of these veterans. . . . The Sons and Daughters Organization has changed its name to 100 Infantry Battalion Legacy Organization. Its vision is that the 100th Infantry Battalion Learning Resource Center, headed by Mimi Nakano, will become the nucleus to educate Americans of the WW II Nisei story. . . . Office Manager Amada Stevens has resigned to seek other career opportunities. Jane Hirata-Epstein, Esq has assumed the duties on a part-time basis. . . . 362 people, including forty six 100th veterans, attended the 67th Anniversary banquet at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on June 20, 2009.

SEATTLE, Wash. – **Northwest Veterans Committee Newsletter** April 2009 issue. Keith Yamaguchi, newly elected commander, wrote his inaugural NVC Commander's column. Yamaguchi succeeded Yuzo Tokita, Vietnam War fighter pilot. . . . NVC March issue published Tom Vogt's article that 2nd Lt Kari Asai, USAF, is training to become a weapons system officer, the backseat position in the two seat F-15E strike eagle. “Her father flew a P-51 Mustang fighter near the end of WW II and flew in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Her brother was a pilot in the Thunderbirds, the USAF precision flying team.”

HONOLULU, Hawaii – **442nd Veterans Club, Hawaii**. *Go For Broke Bulletin*, January–April 2009 issue said the 66th Anniversary banquet, attended by 600 people on March 29, featured California Superior Court Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, as keynote speaker. Oka-

moto is one of the most highly decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War. He is the author of *Wolfhound Samurai*, a novel based on his experience in the Vietnam War. . . . Mayors of Bruyeres and Biffontaine extended invitations to 442nd Veterans club to attend ceremonies commemorating the 65th year of the liberation. Biffontaine ceremony will be on October 17, 2009 and Bruyeres on October 18. Additional information can be obtained from Betty Tsukiyama, 808-949-7997 or 442veterans@hawaiiantel.net. . . . The April-June 2009 issue reported that on April 23, 2009, the 100th/442nd veterans of WW II participated in a video teleconference at Iolani School with the 100/442nd reserves in Kuwait. In comparing notes it was revealed that temperatures in Kuwait are usually over 100 degrees versus the snow and rain in the Vosges mountains; dinners in Kuwait consisting of lobsters and steak versus “C rations” when they could delivered to the front lines in the Vosges, and, well, to say nothing about the means of communication with the folks at home.

SEATTLE, Wash. – *Densho's* April 2009 newsletter, Founder Tom Ikeda wrote “A strategic goal of *Densho* is to make our materials more valuable, more accessible, and more engaging for teachers to use in the classroom. We want thousands of educators to visit our site every month. We believe teachers are the critical link to help students grapple with difficult, controversial issues. So say “thank you” the next time you meet a social studies teacher, and please tell them about *Densho*. Their guidance of students to analyze and think critically about issues helps to advance our democracy.” [*JAVA believes Ikeda's eloquent remarks also reflect the views of other Japanese American organizations involved in their own student education program, including the Go For Broke National Education Center, National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Museum, 442nd Veterans Hawaii, 100th Veterans Hawaii, and JAVA, among others.*]

FULLERTON, Calif. – **Japanese American Korean War Veterans** April 2009 *Newsletter* reported that Thomi Yamamoto was elected president for a two year term, 2009-2011. “Yamamoto was born in Washington, interned at Amache Internment Center in Colorado, and was a combat photographer with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea. He was with the first group of US troops in Korea when war began in June 1950.” He succeeds Tohoru Isobe. . . . The July issue reported on the unprecedented visit to the National War Memorial by Japan's Ambassador and Mrs. Ichiro Fujisaki June 15, 2009.



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Mexican American Marine Gabaldon coaxed Japanese to surrender



Guy Gabaldon speaking at the Pentagon, September 4, 2005. (US Army photo)

CROSS CITY, Fla. – Guy Gabaldon, a World War II Marine scout with the 2nd Marine Division which invaded Saipan, used his knowledge of elementary Japanese and, with a lot of street smarts, talked 1,800 Japanese soldiers and civilians into surrendering. For this act of courage from June 15 to August 1, 1944, he was ultimately awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest award for valor. The citation read “Working alone in the front lines, he daringly entered enemy

caves, pillboxes, buildings and jungle brush, frequently in the face of hostile fire, and succeeded in not only obtaining vital military information, but in capturing 1,800 enemy civilians and troops.” Gabaldon’s act of heroism saved both American and Japanese lives. It is noteworthy that many Japanese soldiers would commit suicide rather than surrender.

The very first night on Saipan, Gabaldon ventured out alone and returned with two Japanese prisoners after “using my backstreet Japanese.” Subsequent nights he returned with larger numbers. One night, July 8, 1944, the then 18-year-old Marine returned to camp with 800 Japanese soldiers and civilians. His buddies called him the “Pied Piper of Saipan.” He said he offered the Japanese candy, cigarettes, rations, and used a little trickery by telling them a large number of well armed Marines were behind the bushes or just over the hill and, if they did not surrender or if he did not return, the Marines would mount a full attack. Through his non-confrontational approach, he won the trust of the enemy.

At age 12, Gabaldon left his large family in East Los Angeles and lived with his Japanese American friends, twin brothers Lyle and Lane Nakano, who lived in the same neighborhood. Gabaldon adopted the Japanese customs, diet, and traditions and even went to a Japanese language school and delivered the local Japanese language newspaper with the Nakano boys. He joined the neighborhood kids when they formed a multi-ethnic “Moe Gang,” comprised of other Japanese American, Jewish American, Hispanic American and Afro American kids. They robbed stores, stole cars and “rode the rails.”

World War II split up the Moe gang, and its members went their separate ways. Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps from which the Nakano brothers volunteered for the 442nd RCT, and Gabaldon, at age 17, volunteered for the Marine Corps. They would not meet again until 1957 when the Nakano brothers and Gabaldon returned and exchanged their combat experiences on a TV show.

Following his discharge, he spent 40 years in Saipan as a businessman in the fishing and import-export industries. In 1960, Hollywood made a movie on his life, called “*From Hell to Eternity*” in which Jeff Hunter portrayed Gabaldon. He wrote a book in 1990 entitled, *Saipan, Suicide Island*, which was about his war exploits.

Saipan, consisting of 46 square miles—the size of San Francisco—was the scene of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. The battle for Saipan was costly in terms of 3,000 U.S. Marines and Army casualties. When Japan lost the land (Saipan, Tinian and Guam) and the sea battle in the Marianas area, the US forces were within 1,200 miles of Tokyo, a striking distance for US bombers to invade the Japanese homeland.

Gabaldon died on August 31, 2006, of heart disease and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, the former Ohana Suzuki.

Filipino Americans hold reception to celebrate legislation

by Ben de Guzman, Esq., National Coordinator, National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity

WASHINGTON – The National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE) held a reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC, on June 2 to celebrate the passage of legislation which provided a one-time payment and military recognition for Filipino soldiers who served under US command during WW II. For these aging veterans, it signaled the most significant victory in their struggle for over 60 years to restore the honor and dignity of their service to this country that was taken away from them when their status as US veterans was revoked by the 1946 Rescission Act. The reception recognized not only the veterans themselves but also their champions in Congress who helped secure this important victory.

The following supporters from Congress attended the re-

ception: Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman; Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman; Representative Mike Honda (D-CA), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chairman; Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), Filipino American member of Congress; Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Original Co-sponsor of Filipino World War II Veterans Family Reunification Act. Other community supporters who attended the reception were former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Major General Antonio Taguba, US Army (Ret), and several members of the JAVA Board of Directors.

[continued on page 15 at Reception]

Organizer of “Life Interrupted” project recognized

by Gerald Yamada, Esq.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis (pictured), University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) professor of history and associate dean of the graduate school, won the 2009 National Education Association’s (NEA) Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award for her work creating “Life Interrupted.” The public history exhibits and curriculum document the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans in rural Arkansas at Jerome and Rohwer. Dr. Lewis received the award on July 2 at the NEA Annual Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner in San Diego.



The “Life Interrupted” project was created in 2004 as a partnership between the UALR and the Japanese American National Museum, with major funding provided by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

The project included a national conference “Camp Connections: A Conversation About Civil Rights and Social Justice in Arkansas” that drew over 1,200 people to Little Rock. It also included eight exhibitions in venues around the city, the development of a documentary “Time of Fear” that examined the Japanese American World War II experience in Arkansas, and the writing of a children’s book. One of the UALR exhibits, “Against Their Will: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas” received a Best Exhibit Award from the Arkansas Museum Association at its annual meeting in 2005.

A strong component of the project was the training of master teachers and the development of curriculum so that the story of Japanese American incarceration during the war will be taught in Arkansas schools for years to come.

“I am thrilled this project has received such acclaim. Everyone involved in UALR’s Public History Program was honored to participate in this groundbreaking effort,” Dr. Lewis said. “The Life Interrupted project is a great example of how a metropolitan university can join with community partners and use its resources to enrich our understanding of the world around us.”

Life Interrupted told the story of the 17,000 Japanese-Americans who were dispossessed of their homes and property and sent to two camps in southeastern Arkansas for the duration of the U.S. war against Japan. They were among 110,000 Japanese-Americans forcibly removed from their homes on the Pacific Coast and Hawaii.

Dr. Lewis also represented the Arkansas camps in the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, which was responsible for creating a federal grant program to fund the preservation of confinement sites used during World War II to imprison persons of Japanese ancestry and securing funding for the program. Gerald Yamada, Heritage Coalition’s National Coordinator, said, “Before the Life Interrupted Project, the people of Arkansas had little knowledge of the existence of the Jerome and Rohwer War Relocation Authority Camps. Dr. Lewis deserves the prestigious NEA award for her leadership and work that raised public visibility in the South of the injustices suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II.”

Reception (from page 14)

MG Taguba, recently appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, advised NAFVE that as of September 1, 2009, the VA reported 31,876 claims have been received. Of this number, 8,990 applications have been processed, with 3,138 applications from US citizens approved, 3,414 from Philippine citizens approved, and 2,438 applications denied.

More information is available on the VA’s Center for Minority Veterans website: www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans. Information about Filipino WWII Veterans, may be obtained from NAFVE (nafve2007@gmail.com).



Senator Akaka, Former Secretary Mineta, and JAVA Directors join NAFVE at its reception at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC. JAVA representatives Terry Shima, Grant Ichikawa and Gerald Yamada are in back row, left, behind Senator Akaka. (Eric Lachica)

JACL gala pays tribute to Sen. Akaka, Japanese American veterans



JAVA receives award. L-R: Floyd Mori, Grant Ichikawa, Sheldon Arakaki, Terry Shima, Bruce Hollywood, Bob Nakamoto (holding award), and Larry Oda. (Phillip Ozaki)

[Adapted from JACL press release]

WASHINGTON – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Third Annual Gala Awards Dinner, held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC on September 17, paid special tribute to Japanese American veterans who served during WW II and the Korean War. US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, JAVA, Go For Broke National Education Center, National Japanese American Historical Society, and the Japanese American Korean War veterans were presented special awards for “telling the story of the Japanese American veterans and keeping their legacy alive for future generations.” All veterans and active duty members of the armed forces were asked to stand to be recognized and to be presented with a token of appreciation from the JACL. Senator Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, was honored for his WW II military service, his role in getting benefits for veterans that they deserve, and his steadfast support for Asian American veterans.

The JACL this year commemorates 80 years since it was formed in 1929 by young Nisei leaders of the community.

The JACL continues its work today as the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation.

Video presentations at the gala were largely produced by Brandon Mita, National Youth Representative on the JACL National Board, and highlighted the Japanese American experience, the beginnings of the JACL, and the contributions of the veterans and honorees. The comfortable life experienced today by most Japanese Americans is a result of sacrifices and efforts made by early

leaders, including veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), and others who served in regular units during World War II, and veterans of the Korean War. They are credited with helping to usher in the civil rights movement.

The emcee was Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, one of the highest ranking officers of the United States military of Asian American ancestry. The flag ceremony was presented by cadets from the Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard. Retired US Army Major General Tony Taguba introduced the color guard and led the pledge of allegiance.

Remarks were given by Congressman Mike Honda as Honorary Chairman and by the Ambassador of Japan to the United States, the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki. Senator Daniel Inouye and his wife Irene were in attendance, as well as other dignitaries. Vocal selections were performed by Ed Ozaki with his wife Marina at the piano. National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori and his wife Irene organized the Gala, and National President Larry Oda and Vice President for Operations Sheldon Arakaki participated.

Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans holds meeting

by Ronald Sagudan, Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON – Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) met on April 6-10 to conduct their annual administrative and site visit in Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. ACMV advises the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans, and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs.

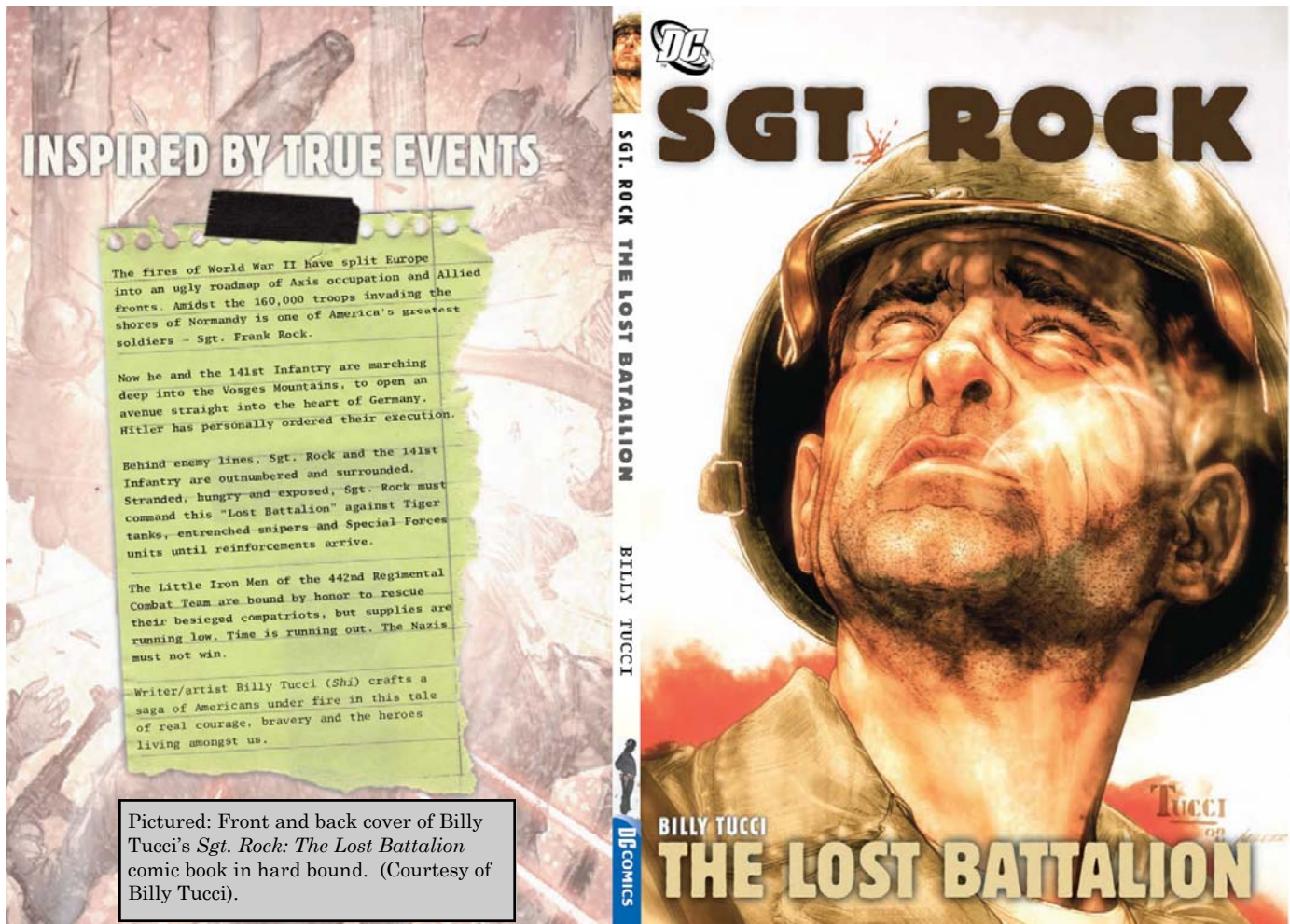
The agenda included briefings and updates on the topics from the ACMV, United States Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims, the Center for Women Veterans, Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group, Office of

Diversity and Inclusion, Veterans Health Administration, National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and Board of Veterans Appeals, American Indian/Alaska Native Ad Hoc Work Group, and several Veterans Service Organizations.

ACMV toured and received briefings on the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, the Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Regional Office. The ACMV then prepared a report, including recommendations, for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki.

The Chair of ACMV Major General James H. Mukoyama, Jr, USAR (Ret), and Vice Chair is S/Sgt Debra L. (American Horse) Wilson, USMC. The Director of ACMV is COL Lucretia McKenny, USA (Ret).

Billy Tucci's *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* to appear in hard cover



Pictured: Front and back cover of Billy Tucci's *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* comic book in hard bound. (Courtesy of Billy Tucci).

NEW YORK – William (Billy) Tucci, creator, illustrator, writer and artist of comic books, announced that his six-series comic presentation, *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*, will be bound and return in hard cover compilation. From the bloody beaches of Normandy to the muddy forests of the Vosges Mountains, Easy Company is joined by Johnny Cloud, the Haunted Tank, and other DC war heroes as they battle for their lives behind enemy lines against a force ten times their size.

Based on actual events that have been meticulously researched by Tucci, who walked the actual battlefields of France and interviewed the veterans of the campaign, *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* is a story of heroism and humanity where one small band of men defy all odds while their unlikely saviors sacrifice everything and “Go For Broke” to glory.

The special collection includes many extra drawings and photos and even a forward and introduction by Lost Battalion heroes Lt. Erwin Blonder and Sgt. Junwo “Jimmy” Yamashita.

The book, containing 160 pages and published by DC Comics, will be distributed in December 2009. The cost is

\$24.99. To find a comic book shop contact 1-888-COMIC-BOOK or visit <http://www.comicshoplocator.com>. The link to the book on Amazon.com is <http://www.amazon.com/Sgt-Rock-Lost-Battalion-HC/dp/1401225330>. The official Random House link is <http://www.randomhouse.ca/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781401225339>. Questions should be directed to Billy Tucci (crusade2@optonline.net).

Welcome New Members!

Allen Hoe, Esq. (Hawaii)
 Thomas Ito (Hawaii)
 George Kanatani (California)
 Vincent Matsui (New York)
 James Ogawa (California)
 Shokichi Tokita (Washington)
 Masuru Uyehara (Colorado)
 * Dan Yoshii (Colorado)

* Denotes Life Membership

JAVA booth at Cherry Blossom festival attracts hundreds of visitors

by Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)

On April 4th JAVA manned a booth at the *Sakura Matsuri* (Cherry Blossom Street Festival) as part of the National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, DC which drew over 100,000 visitors. First held in 1961, it is the largest one-day exhibition of Japanese culture in the east coast of the United States. Stretching for nearly one mile



JAVA booth at Sakura Matsuri. L-R: Dr. Stan Falk and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi discussing their WW II experience with visitors.

through the streets of downtown Washington DC, from near the White House to FBI headquarters, the Sakura Matsuri is held each spring as the climax of the two-week National Cherry Blossom Festival. JAVA has manned this booth for six consecutive years in partnership with the Japan America Society of Washington, DC, which has graciously provided the booth at no cost to JAVA.

The JAVA booth, manned throughout the day by volunteers, provided Festival attendees with valuable information about the important role of Japanese American Veterans throughout the years. Hundreds of people stopped by to learn, to read the material provided, or to take a moment and say thank you to the veterans. Many visitors related that they had a father or uncle who had served with the 100th or the 442nd.

JAVA's book *American Patriots* was available for purchase and signing by authors Dr. Warren Tsuneishi and Dr. Stanley Falk. They were a huge hit, and every available copy was sold. JAVA memento coins were also sold, and brochures and membership information were handed out.

The project chairman Mike Yaguchi said "This is a great opportunity to get our message out to the public, and it could never happen without people stepping up to volunteer to serve at the booth."

Japanese American WW II exhibit to be built at Ellis Island

ROSSLYN, Vir. – In a presentation at a recent JAVA luncheon, Eric Saul, former curator of the Military Museum at the Presidio of San Francisco, outlined his ideas for the exhibit on the Japanese Americans experience during WW II to open on Memorial Day 2010 at the Ellis Island Immigration Station Museum, New York. Commissioned by the National Park Service, which estimates some 7,000 visitors to Ellis Island daily during the warm months, Japanese American soldiers who served during WW II and the 120,000 who were interned for the duration of the war will be honored. The theme of the exhibit will be "Go For Broke: Japanese Americans soldiers fighting on two fronts, the enemy abroad and prejudice at home." Saul said he would like "this exhibit to be a Japanese American community project and would welcome any participation and suggestions and loan of photographs and memorabilia."

The exhibit will be divided into the following components: (1) Japanese Immigration to the United States, 1885-1924; (2) Prewar Japanese Experience in Hawaii and the Mainland, 1924-1941; (3) Pearl Harbor and Japanese American Evacuation and Internment on the West Coast; (4) Japanese American Soldier in World War II; (5) Soldiers Returning Home and the Closing of the Internment



Front row, L-R: Hiroko Kiriishi, Lillian Yamamoto, Etsu Masaoka, Abigail Endicott, Mary Murakami, Irene Mori. Second Row, L-R: Aki Konoshima, Grant Hirabayashi, Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Akira Yoshida, Betty Tsuneishi, Gerald Yamada, Calvin Ninomiya, Dr. Ray Murakami, Grant Ichikawa. 3rd row: L-R: William Encicott, Dwight Gates (below Endicott), Terry Shima, Eric Saul, Stanley Sagara. (Irene Mori)

Camps; (6) Japanese American Veterans and the Civil Rights Movement; (7) Japanese American Veterans and the Redress Movement – Passage of House Resolution 442; and (8) The Legacy.

Eric Saul can be contacted at 810 Windwood Pl, Morgantown, WV 26505; 304-599-0614; VisasForLife@cs.com.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

JAVA member appointed Secretary of Maryland Dept of VA

[Adapted from Maryland Governor's Office press release]

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – In a ceremony in the State House in Annapolis, Maryland held on September 1, 2009, Edward Chow, Jr., was appointed as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Martin O'Malley. The first Asian American to achieve this position, the former U.S. Army Captain joins the Maryland's Department of Veterans Affairs from the Maryland State Council for the Vietnam Veterans of America where he has served as President since 2006. Chow served in the United States Army from 1956 to 1967 and was awarded the Bronze Star in 1967. Secretary Chow's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maryland Senate.

Governor O'Malley remarked, "I am proud to appoint Captain Chow for this vital position to serve Maryland's veterans. After serving our nation in uniform in the US Army, Captain Chow has dedicated his life to serving our nation's veterans. Captain Chow's knowledge and expertise will help guide our Department of Veterans Affairs in their mission to support Maryland's returning veterans and their families."



Swearing-in ceremony. L-R: Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown; Edward Chow; Sara McVicker, Secretary of Maryland state council, Vietnam Veterans of America; Governor O'Malley. (MD Governor press office)

Chow remarked that "It is truly an honor to be given the opportunity to serve Maryland's over 476,000 veterans. I want to thank Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown for their support and confidence in selecting me for the important work of Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs... Maryland has been a leader in supporting our returning veterans, and I would like to thank you, Governor, for your support to Maryland's veterans. I look forward to serving Maryland as part of your team."

Mr. Chow enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1956 and served until 1960, when he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant and completed his service in 1967. He coordinated transportation of personnel, supplies

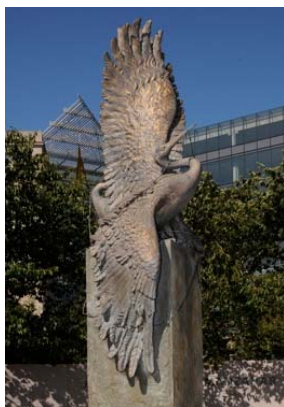
and equipment to and from the Continental U.S. and Vietnam and served as executive officer for an Army transportation company operating throughout Europe. Mr. Chow received the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

NJAMF to recognize 65th anniversary of Lost Battalion rescue

by Gordon Aoyagi, NJAMF

HOUSTON, Tex. — The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will sponsor "The 141st and 442nd Homecoming for Heroes and the Lost Battalion Memorial Gala" on November 1, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas, to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the rescue of a trapped Texas battalion during World War II. Veterans and families from these two WWII military units, and the 405th Fighter Squadron which air dropped supplies to the trapped men, will participate in the gala dinner and brunch the following morning. To encourage WW II veterans in the United States to participate, NJAMF will underwrite the costs of travel and accommodation for the first 50 WW II veterans who apply. For details, please go to www.njamf.com, or contact Kris Ikejiri (202-530-0015).



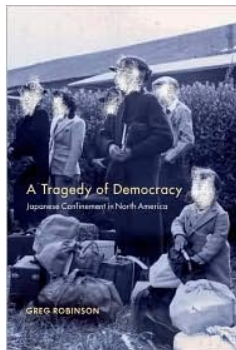
National Security Council, and Homeland Security Council. James Wright, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, a WW II veteran will be recognized for his work on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Three children of former Governor John Connally will be recognized for Governor Connally issuing a proclamation on October 21, 1963, to make all members of the 442nd RCT honorary citizens of Texas. The Proclamation was issued for saving 211 men of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division who were trapped by the Germans and doomed for annihilation in the Vosges forests of northeastern France.

NJAMF also plans to use this occasion to announce that a replica of the "twin cranes" will be built in Houston. The twin cranes entangled in barbed wire, which symbolizes "the Japanese American experience of freeing themselves from a deeply painful time," stand as the centerpiece of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC (pictured). NJAMF Chairman Dr. Craig Uchida said, "We plan to build similar statues in other cities as a reminder that what happened to one ethnic group must never happen again in America, and we are excited that the first statue will be located in Houston commemorating the history of the 141st and 442nd during World War II."

The keynote speaker of the event is Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is Principal Military Advisor to the President, Secretary of Defense,

Book Review: *A Tragedy of Democracy* by Dr. Greg Robinson

Book Review by Gene Oishi, former correspondent for *Baltimore Sun*, as appeared on Amazon.com



Dr. Greg Robinson's latest book, *A Tragedy of Democracy*, is worthy of being the definitive work on Japanese American/Canadian wartime experience. As a Japanese American who spent World War II in an internment camp, I have over the past fifty years read nearly every book that has been written on the subject and I wondered what could be added to the mountain of information already available.

Robinson's work on the Japanese Canadian experience was almost totally new to me. I had read Joy Kogawa's novel *Obasan* and summary accounts of what Canadian Japanese endured during the war, but I was stunned to learn in detail the depth of the animosity and vindictiveness of the Canadian government and the harsh treatment it meted out to the hapless Japanese. It made me think that compared to our Canadian kin, we Japanese Americans had it easy. Much of what he wrote of the Latin American situation was also new for me.

But I call it a definitive work not simply because it deals with all of North America and much of the Latin American experience. This is the first book that gives coherence to a widely diversified, multi-faceted story. Until now, if some-

one were seriously interested in the Japanese American wartime experience, I would have recommended several books, some focusing on history, others on politics, law, sociology, psychology and so on. I think I can now say, "Read Greg Robinson's book." Beyond finding an impressive amount of original material, he took full advantage of all that has been written on the subject; he looked down from the mountaintop, so to speak, and provided a broad perspective that has been lacking. Although I already knew a great deal of the Japanese American experience, I found it deeply satisfying to come across even familiar material in a broad and coherent narrative that told the story more completely than anything that I have previously read.

In his first book, *By Order of the President*, Professor Robinson gave us a revealing and disturbing psychological profile of FDR, his biases and predisposition for putting all Japanese—he made little distinction between citizens and non-citizens—in "concentration camps" even before the outbreak of war. In this new work, Robinson demonstrates his psychological acumen regarding Japanese Americans struggling with their dual cultural identity. Describing the Japanese American dilemma of having to choose between the country of their parents' origin and of their own is not easy even for Nisei, or perhaps especially for Nisei, but Robinson, aided to some degree by the perspective of time, shows rare and keen insight into the Japanese American mentality.

Salyers Grubb dissertation on Nisei war time experience

HOUSTON, Tex. – Abbie Salyers Grubb received a PhD degree from Rice University, Houston, Texas, in April 2009. Her dissertation was entitled *The Internment of Memory: Forgetting and Remembering the Japanese American Experience During World War II*.

Grubb's interest in the Nisei experience began when she was an undergraduate history student at James Madison University, located in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She came across the book, *Honor by Fire*, by Lyn Crost, which chronicled the World War II story of the Japanese American 100th Infantry/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Services. As an "Army Brat" and an aspiring military historian, she was captivated by the story of these thousands of men who put their lives on the line for the service of a country that, in many cases, had imprisoned their family members with no charges or trials but purely because of their race.

Grubb was so intrigued by the Nisei story that she wrote her undergraduate senior honors thesis on the subject, us-



Jimi Yamaichi giving Grubb a tour of San Jose Japantown. (Abbie Salyers Grubb)

ing interviews with JAVA members Grant Ichikawa, Joe Ichiuji, and Norman Ikari to provide a personal voice to her research. Abbie continued her education as a graduate student in history at Rice University in Houston, Texas. After completing her Master's Degree, she sought a topic for her dissertation and soon returned to the subject that had so captivated her as an undergraduate.

From 2005 until 2009, Grubb visited sites and institutions that helped her research such as the sites of nine War Relocation Authority internment camps, and various museums and memorials on Japanese American history. Grubb wrote, "I appreciate the welcoming and encouraging attitude that I met so frequently along my research, and I hope that my work will help inform future generations on the importance of remembering such significant events in our nation's history so that we might learn from our past and improve our future."

Murata, Loy, Narasaki win \$1000 JAVA Memorial Scholarships

by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.

FALLS CHURCH, Vir. – Two seniors from high schools in southern California and one from Oregon were named as winners of JAVA's second annual memorial scholarship awards at a special spring quarter JAVA luncheon on May 16 in Falls Church, Virginia. Roxanne O. Narasaki of Venice, CA was awarded the Douglas Ishio scholarship, Michael M. Murata of Palos Verdes Estates, CA received the Jack Tashiro scholarship, and Michael J. Loy of Portland, OR won the Orville Shirey scholarship.

Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., chair of the JAVA scholarship program, told attendees that of the 17 applications received, 16 identified themselves as grandchildren of a person or persons who had served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Under the contest rules, only lineal descendants of individuals who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), and related units, the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS), Japanese Americans who otherwise served in the nation's Armed Forces, and members of JAVA are eligible for scholarship awards. The competition was only open to graduating high school seniors.

The Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund was established by his wife, Maud Shirey and children and spouses, Michael Shirey and Grace and Kate Shirey and Steve Luette. MAJ Shirey was the 442nd RCT's intelligence officer and historian. The Jack Tashiro Scholarship



Scholarship awardees, L-R: Michael M. Murata, Michael J. Loy, Roxanne O. Narasaki.

fund was established by his wife, Marie Tashiro. Tashiro was a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service and a ranking official of the CIA. The Douglas Ishio Scholarship Fund was set up by the late Colonel and Mrs. Connie Ishio. COL Ishio was a MIS veteran who served in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns.

Narasaki plans to attend Scripps College majoring in biology, and Loy plans to attend Harvey Mudd College, both colleges located in Claremont, CA. Murata plans to attend the University of California at Berkeley. Loy and Murata plan to major in engineering.

The Scholarship Awards Committee consisted of JAVA members Sue Okubo, Ph.D., Ed Wakayama, Ph.D., and Raymond Murakami, DDS.

[full press release at www.javadc.org]

SHINSEKI MEETS VETERANS AT VA HOSPITAL

PALO ALTO, Calif. – During his visit of Palo Alto VA Hospital on June 23, 2009, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki met patient Mickey Makio Akiyama, Co I, 442nd RCT. Akiyama told Shinseki the hospital staff are truly professionals and thanked the nation for its care of veterans. Also visiting Akiyama at that time were Lawson Sakai, Co. E, 442nd RCT, and Astro "Al" Tortolano, an "Italian Nisei" as he calls himself, and a survivor of the trapped battalion of a Texas division in the Vosges forests of eastern France in October 1944. The battalion was saved by the 442nd RCT. Shinseki told the veterans the nation recognizes the supreme contributions men and women made to national defense during WW II, including the Nisei who fought on both European and Pacific fronts while their families were locked up in internment camps.

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DURSO RETIRES



Michael A. Durso (pictured), who retired in June 2009 as Principal of Springbrook High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, was particularly impressed with the character and moral fabric of Japanese Americans who had endured such mistreatment in concentration camps by their government. He observed that he and many others found it hard to move past such events without



L-R: Mickey Makio Akiyama, Secretary Shinseki, Astro "Al" Tortolano, Lawson Sakai. (Carol Akiyama)

maintaining a certain bitterness and resentment. As such, during his tenure he viewed visits to Springbrook High School by both JAVA members and the Tsukegee Airmen as positive role models, as well as an opportunity for students to hear history's lessons speak through living voices, and for all to foster a greater awareness and respect for what was endured in this passing generation. (Montgomery County Public Schools photo)

TAPS HARRY TANABE, MIS, VETERAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER



Above, L-R: Miyako Tanabe, Donald Wakida, Harry Tanabe. (Courtesy of Miyako Tanabe)

JAVA life member Harry H. Tanabe passed away on April 19, 2009, at the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. He was 86. He was born in Marysville, California.

Tanabe was interned at Topaz Internment Center, Utah from where he enlisted in the US Army Military Intelligence Service and served in the counterintelligence corps. He served in the Philippine Liberation and Okinawa campaigns. He reached the rank of Warrant Officer and was awarded various medals including the Purple Heart and Army of Occupation (Japan) award.

He was a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, JAVA, and Golden Gate Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9879, of which he was its Commander on two separate occasions.

A memorial service was held at the Berkeley, California, Methodist United Church on May 2, 2009. He was married to Miyako Tanabe. The Tanabes spent part of their time at their Waldorf, Maryland home and the other part in San Lorenzo, California.

KIYOKO TSUBOI TAUBKIN, JAVA SUPPORTER

[Compiled from The Oregonian and JAVA press releases]

Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin was born in Portland, Oregon on November 20, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. Masaichi Tsuboi, and she passed away on September 20, 2009. She was predeceased by her husband, Irvin Taubkin of New York City. She is survived by her sister Yasuko Fukano of Seattle, Washington.



In December 2008, Mrs. Taubkin donated a large number of New York Times stock to JAVA to perpetuate the legacy of Japanese American experience during World War II. On February 6, 2009 JAVA President Robert Nakamoto presented the *JAVA Courage, Honor, Patriotism* award to Mrs. Taubkin at a special ceremony at the Calaroga Terrace retirement community for her steadfast support of JAVA.

Mrs. Taubkin graduated from St. Helens Hall (now Oregon Episcopal School) and the University of Oregon. In 1938 she traveled to Japan to study and work. She returned to

the United States in 1940, and she and her family were interned at Minidoka internment Camp in Idaho. While in the camp, she was able to leave to work at Ann Arbor, Michigan to assist in Japanese language training to support the war effort. She moved to New York in 1948, where she worked in the New York office of the Register and Tribune syndicate until she met her future husband, Irvin, and married in 1964. In 2004, she returned to Portland and spent the remainder of her life at Calaroga Terrace.

JAVA members are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.oregonlive.com/obits.

MAJOR GENERAL ALEXIS THEODORE LUM



Major General Alex Lum, 82, who had an illustrious military and civilian career, passed away on August 20, 2009, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was committed with full military honors on September 10 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl and buried at Diamond Head Memorial Park.

MG Lum, raised during the Great Depression, lived simply, appreciating every accomplishment and

earning every achievement. His memorial service at Our Lady of Peace Cathedral in downtown Honolulu was attended by about 150 family and friends, including a number of general officers. GEN (Retired) David Bramlett, former Commanding General of US Ground Forces Command, served as master of ceremonies, and MG Bob Lee, state Adjutant General, state judge Fa'auuga To'oto'o, and granddaughter Lindsey shared remembrances. Letters from Congressional leaders, Governor Linda Lingle, and Mayor Mufi Hannemann were read.

MG Lum served in the US Army from 1946 to 1947 as an enlisted man, from 1950 to 1953 as a platoon leader (2nd Lieutenant) in the Korean War, and from 1953 as a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard. He served in the Vietnam War in 1968 with the 29th Brigade. After the war he served in the Hawaii National Guard Headquarters, and in 1980 was appointed to head the Hawaii National Guard with the rank of brigadier general. From 1983 to 1991 he served as State Adjutant General with the rank of major general.

From 1992 to 2007 MG Lum was US Senator Daniel K. Inouye's special assistant on military affairs. According to the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Senator Inouye said, "Alex Lum was a great American patriot and a dedicated public servant. He served our nation in war and peace. Many of the projects and programs that we find in the military services in Hawai'i were brought to fruition with the guidance and wisdom of Alex Lum." Only his failing health finally forced him from continuing his community service.

General Lum is survived by his wife Leimomi, daughters Angela Thomas and Alexia Carvalho, and son Oliver; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

From the Editor



Every day I see Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura. You see, I am back in the United States at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, assigned to the famed 3rd Infantry Division as the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Lining the hallway of my brigade headquarters right outside my door, the "Wall of Heroes" displays pictures and citations of the 51 Medal of Honor recipients from the 3rd Infantry Division. Just a few frames from Audie Murphy's photo, Hershey's picture looks great up there! Each morning (sometimes out loud) I say, "Good day and thank you" to Hershey and to all those who served so honorably.

The 3rd Infantry Division displays great pride to this day. I see it all around, the distinctive blue and white striped insignia adorning hats, shirts, and license plate frames, and even tattooed on a few arms at the gym! The physical training is intense: running and ruck marches before sun up. The Brigade Combat Team life is busy, and the "op tempo" is fast. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, when I'm just about beat, Hershey Miyamura and all those guys up there on the "Wall of Heroes" inspire me to "Go For Broke!"

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to jvaadvocate@gmail.com.

Thank you Donors!

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

Dr. Americo Bugliani
 Terry Shima (in memory of Claire Minami)
 Theodore Yanari

For the Phil Ishio Scholarship Fund:

Constance Ishio and church members; Robert & Laurie Nakamoto; Terie Akada; Sachi Ochiai; Natalie Kitamura; Vikee Wong; Leo Hosoda; Ard Kozono; Dr. James McNaughton; Terry Shima; Calvin Ninomiya; Grant Hirabayashi; Fumie Yamamoto; Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Minami; Gladyce Sumida; Wade Ishimoto; Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Murakami; Dale Shirasago; Gerald & Nancy Yamada; Betty Taira; Grant & Mildred Ichikawa; Allen Meyer; Marisa Young; William & Gay Takakoshi; Paul Hosoda; Bill & Valerie Henshaw; Ethel Nayematsu; John & Sandra Stice; Webblyn Gore; Keith & Stacey Tsuchiya; James & Joan Sloneker; David & Janet Carey; Yeiichi Kuwayama; Clyde Owan; Earl Takeguchi; Warren Minami



JAVA Membership Application

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

c/o Base Technologies
5th Floor, 1749 Old Meadow Road
McLean, Virginia 22102



Visit our website:
www.javadc.org

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703-380-8175

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hollywoodweb@comcast.net

National Archives Research:

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

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, javaadvocate@gmail.com

Oral History: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

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

Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net

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

Webmaster: Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 17: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

Oct 20, 6PM: Embassy of Japan reception at Ambassador's residence for Japanese Americans residing in the Washington, DC area.

Nov 1: National Japanese American Foundation Dinner Gala in Houston, TX. Featuring a reunion of WWII veterans of the trapped 36th (Texas) Battalion and 442nd veterans.

Nov 11, 11AM: Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. **2PM:** Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Nov 14: Go For Broke National Education Center Evening of Aloha, Los Angeles.

Dec 19, 10:30AM: JAVA Board of Directors meeting at Base Technologies Inc., McLean, Vir.

Jan 16, 2010, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

May 24, 2010: Opening of Eric Saul's exhibit on Japanese American Experience During WW II at Ellis Island, NYC. Exhibit on display for 5 months.

Real-life connection between Billy Tucci's *SGT Rock* comic book series and the 442nd RCT!



One of Billy Tucci's digital colorists, Bill Farmer, is married to the granddaughter of 442nd RCT veteran SSgt Harry H. Nakashima (1916-1998), 3rd Bn, Co L, 442nd RCT. Nakashima was born in the USA, and his father sent him back to Japan after his mother had passed away. When he turned 18 his family told him he would have to make a decision to be American or Japanese. He chose to be an American citizen and moved back to the US. Nakashima's father had passed away while he was in Japan, so he lived with his aunt in Texas when he returned. He had worked in her family's restaurant until he enlisted in the Army in September 1941. After the war he became an accountant in Colorado; he married and had three children, two daughters and one son. Pictured: Avery (Nakashima's great-grandson), wife Davi-Ann (Nakashima's granddaughter), and Bill Farmer. (Courtesy of Bill Farmer)