



JAVA ADVOCATE

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Over 400 Japanese American WWII Veterans to participate in Congressional Gold Medal Events

WASHINGTON — The Congressional Gold Medal (CGM), the highest award the nation can bestow, will be awarded collectively to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service in a ceremony at the Emancipation Hall of the U.S. Congress on Nov. 2, 2011. Approximately 1,250 veterans, spouses, widows, families of soldiers who were killed in combat and deceased veterans were invited by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Boehner, to attend the program.

Those who are unable to attend the CGM ceremony at the U.S. Capitol will watch the program live at the Hilton Washington Hotel. The original CGM will be retrieved following the presentation and will be archived at the Smithsonian Institution. Replicas will be minted for sale to the public for around \$54. That evening 2,500 Japanese Americans will participate in a Gala Dinner where replicas will be presented to each of the veterans and other honoree families.



23 Hawaii WW II veterans will wear blue blazers similar to that worn by Herbert Yanamura (center), MIS veteran, when they are awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 3rd. Tammy Kubo (left) and MG Robert Lee (right) obtained donors to underwrite this endeavor. (Courtesy of Tammy Kubo)

The World War II Nisei Memorial Program will be held on Nov. 1 at the Washington Hilton Hotel. This program will honor the 33,000 Japanese Americans, including 19,000 100th, 442nd and MIS who served overseas in combat situations. During this program, 40 Bronze Star Medals will be awarded to 100th and



A Delta airlines flight being saluted with a water arch. The Hawaii delegation to the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony will arrive on Delta Airlines on Oct. 31, 2011, and will also be saluted with a similar arch. (Photo courtesy of Delta Airlines)

442nd soldiers who were not awarded the medal during WW II. General Raymond T. Odierno, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, will deliver the keynote address and present the medals. Following this program, 156 veterans who were transported to Washington, D.C. on the Honor Flight program will hold a wreath laying ceremony at the National WW II [continued on page 5 at Congressional Gold Medal]

President's Message



The soldiers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service during

World War II will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 2, 2011, in official ceremonies conducted in the Nation's Capitol.

This high honor recognizes the World War II Nisei soldiers for their valor and loyalty in putting America first in the face of prejudice and distrust of their patriot-

ism. Those who chose to serve put themselves in harm's way and with their courage and blood defended America beyond everyone's expectation. Their heroism brought honor to themselves and to their families. They created a legacy that has continued to benefit all of us.

Their legendary military record has been cited by Members of Congress in support of passage of the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act giving Issei the right to become naturalized US citizens, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologizing for the unjust imprisonment of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and awarding redress payments, the National Japanese American Memorial Act of 1992 authorizing the building of a na-

tional memorial in Washington, DC to honor the patriotism of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the Confinement Sites Preservation Act of 2006 creating a Federal grant program to preserve the confinement sites used during World War II. Their war record has continued to fight the war against prejudice at home.

JAVA congratulates the World War II Nisei soldiers for the honor that they brought to themselves, their families, the Japanese American community, and America.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President



WASHINGTON — (Sept. 13, 2011) representatives of JAVA as well as other area organizations gathered to bid farewell to Hideo Suzuki, Minister and Head of Chancery of the Japanese Embassy. The luncheon was held at Carmine's Restaurant in Washington, D.C. JAVA President Gerald Yamada presented Minister Suzuki with a JAVA desk clock and a JAVA coin. Yamada thanked Minister Suzuki for this support and outreach to Japanese American organizations while posted in Washington, D.C. and expressed his appreciation for Minister Suzuki's efforts to include JAVA in special events hosted by the Ambassador. Minister Suzuki said that he enjoyed his time in Washington, D.C. and will miss the many friends that he has made here. His next assignment will be with the Japanese Embassy in Vietnam. **Standing from left to right:** JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Minister Hideo Suzuki, former JAVA President Robert Nakamoto, and JAVA Member Grant Ichikawa. **Sitting from left to right:** Dr. Franklin Odo, Mark Uyeda, and Hideki Hamamoto. (Courtesy of Gerald Yamada)

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The Legacy of the Japanese American (Nisei) Veteran

On July 15, 1946, President Harry Truman reviewed the 442nd RCT at the Ellipse, the outer south lawn of the White House. He confirmed Nisei loyalty to America. The combat performance record of the Nisei and the Tuskegee Airmen contributed, in part, to the leveling of the playing field. This allowed the minorities to compete for any position and rank. In the Vietnam War, Japanese Americans served in the most sensitive military positions, in the cockpits of fighters and bombers as pilots and navigators. They held ranks of Majors, Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels. Following the Vietnam War, 43 Japanese Americans were promoted to generals and admirals with one becoming chief of staff of the U.S. Army, wearing four stars. Outside of the military, the Nisei legacy is equally impressive with the repeal of discriminatory laws, the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 as the result of which President Ronald Reagan offered the nation's formal apology for the internment. More recently, a Nisei was selected as President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate, a position, constitutionally, that makes him fourth in line for the Presidency. This American story describes the greatness of America.

100TH INFANTRY BATTALION AND 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

When World War II broke out on December 7, 1941 the military governor of the West Coast command discharged all Japanese Americans and sent them home. The military governor of the Territory of Hawaii, who faced a more imminent threat of land invasion by Japan, shipped the 1,432 Nisei soldiers in the Hawaii Territorial Guard to Wisconsin. The underlying reason for these actions was that Japanese American loyalty was questioned. Fanned by mass hysteria, many high level officials believed the Japanese Americans had committed to fight for the enemy.

About one year after the war began, Washington decided to deploy the 100th Battalion to Italian war front and subsequently to activate the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit comprised of volunteers. When the 442nd arrived in Italy following training at Camp Shelby, Miss., it merged with the 100th Battalion. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, saw the 442nd as having a dual purpose (1) to serve the critical combat needs and (2) to use them to solve the Japanese issue, i.e. to use them to integrate the ethnic Japanese into the American body politic. Marshall's documents disclose that while he ran the wars in Europe and Asia, he watched the Nisei in training and in combat.

The Nisei had their own reason to serve in the military. They viewed this as the single most important opportunity to prove their loyalty. Adopting the motto, *Go For Broke*, a Hawaiian slang to risk all for one big prize, the Nisei did just that. They accepted assignments other units did not like or could not execute. They sustained huge casualties, never lost a battle, never retreated, and displayed the courage and combat smartness that put them on the top of every European theater commander's wish list.

The battle in the Vosges forests of northeastern France was the Nisei's defining moment. Not given time to rest after bitter combat which liberated Bruyeres and Biffontaine, the 442nd was ordered to rescue a Texas battalion that was [continued on page 4 at 100th-442nd]

NISEI IN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

When World War II began on December 7, 1941, the U.S. Army already had 60 Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service in an intensive Japanese language training program. When U.S. combat troops were deployed to the Aleutians and the Pacific, Nisei linguists served with them in front line units to translate captured documents, interrogate prisoners of war, and to go into caves to persuade armed Japanese to surrender. They also served with the special forces and OSS which operated behind enemy lines. Some 3,000 Japanese linguists served in the Pacific Ocean Theater in every unit that required linguists, including the infantry, marines, navy, Air Corps and allied forces, such as England, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Many volunteered for the MIS while they were confined to internment camps.

These men faced the risk of being killed and fought to prove their loyalty to the government that had disowned them. At the end of the Pacific War, the MIS linguists served in the demobilization of the Japan armed forces and worked towards the success of the postwar occupation of Japan with the same intensity. An additional 3,000 trained linguists served during the occupation of Japan. The MIS linguists' skills in the Japanese language, combined with their knowledge of local customs, made for a smooth transition between U.S. occupation forces and the Japanese people.

Following are examples of what the Nisei did in the Pacific War:

- Two Nisei Army undercover agents were sent to Manila before WWII and sent intelligence to Gen. MacArthur's headquarters in Australia via Filipino guerillas.
- A Nisei intercepted Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto's communications, which reported his travel plans to their front lines. American P-38s demolished Yamamoto's air convoy. Yamamoto was the architect of the Pearl Harbor attack and commander of Japanese naval forces in the Pacific.

[continued on page 6 at Military Intelligence Service]

President Obama awards Medal of Honor posthumously to Korean War Veteran Anthony Kaho'ohanohano

THE WHITE HOUSE — President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity over and beyond the call of duty, posthumously to Anthony Kaho'ohanohano in the East Room of the White House on May 2, 2011. Before presenting the Medal of Honor to Anthony's nephew George Kaho'ohanohano, Obama recounted Anthony's early life in Wailuku, Maui, father and all six sons who served in the military, and service with Company H, 2nd Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, in the Korean War.

On September 1, 1951, in the vicinity of Chupa-ri, Korea, U.S. Army Private First Class Kaho'ohanohano's machine gun position was fiercely attacked by a numerically superior enemy force. Kaho'ohanohano ordered his squad to take up a more defensible position, gathered a supply of grenades and ammunition and delivered deadly accurate fire into the ranks of the onrushing enemy. When his ammo was depleted, he engaged the enemy in hand to hand combat, killing 13 of them, until he was killed. His heroic stand inspired his comrades to launch a counter-attack that repulsed the enemy.

Senator Akaka first heard about Kaho'ohanohano's heroic actions ten years ago when George Kaho'ohanohano, his nephew, started fighting for his uncle to receive the Medal

of Honor. Pfc. Kaho'ohanohano originally received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. "Since 2001, I pursued it with the Army Secretary Pete Geren. There is a law and code that says that any of these recommendations should be made within three years of the conflict and it was not until really 50 years later that it was pursued," says Akaka. On October 28, 2009, the Medal was upgraded to the Medal of Honor by President Obama.

Akaka went on to say, "The determination of the family really moved me, because today it is 60 years after he was killed. Anthony was a determined type of person, he went to school on Maui, and was a star football player, star basketball player and was a very determined person and he was one that protected his younger brothers and fought for them. So I can see what he did in Korea was the way he felt and the way he lived to protect others and that is exactly what he did when he gave his life in Korea. That was his manner and that was his type, he was a fighter," Akaka concluded.

Attending the White House ceremony were Senator Daniel Inouye, Senator Daniel Akaka, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Michael Mullen.



Left: George Kaho'ohanohano, nephew of Anthony Kaho'ohanohano, receives the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama, presented posthumously, in the East Room of the White House May 2, 2011. (Photo: Rob McIlvaine, ARNEWS)

Right: Photo of Anthony Kaho'ohanohano during the Vietnam War.

100th-442nd (continued from page 3)

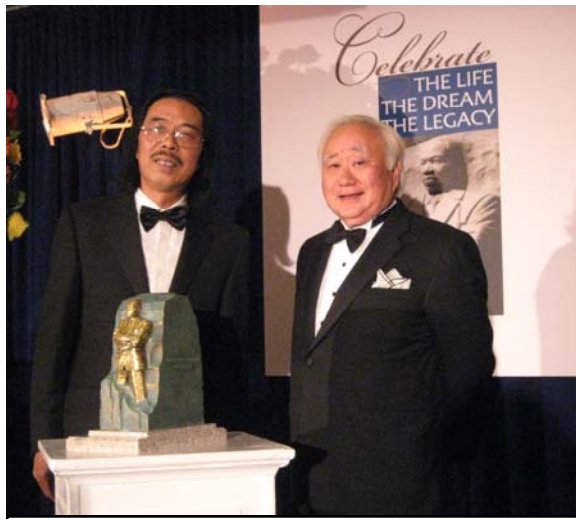
encircled by the enemy and was doomed to be annihilated. After five days of fighting in rain, snow and sleet, 211 Texans were saved. Nisei casualties were two to three times the number rescued. To illustrate the intensity of the Vosges combat, including hand to hand and banzai charge:

five of the total seven Distinguished Unit Citations, five of the total 21 Medals of Honor, and nine of the 29 Distinguished Service Crosses were received for slightly over one month of combat in the Vosges. Look at it another way: the 100th and 442nd began with a strength of about 5,000 men. When the war ended some 13,000 Nisei will have served in these two units. The Vosges was the last major fortress to protect the German Rhineland. The Nisei helped to break it.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial by Gerald Yamada, Esq., JAVA President

WASHINGTON – The Japanese American Veterans Association congratulates the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation on the successful dedication of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Oct. 16, 2011 in Washington, D.C. The design is magnificent, and the memorial is meaningful. The memorial is a reflection of Dr. King's dream of democracy, justice, hope, and love. It fulfills the vision that the Memorial will inspire all to treat each other with dignity and to pursue justice and equality in all aspects of society.

On the north wall of the Memorial, an excerpt from Dr. King's 1963 speech reminds me of the determination of the World War II Nisei soldiers. The excerpt reads: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." In the face of prejudice and distrust, the World War II Japanese Americans soldiers showed their uncommon courage and tremendous inner strength on the battlefields of Europe and in the Pacific.



Master Lei Tixin and JAVA President Gerald Yamada at MLK Gala Dinner. (Courtesy of Gerald Yamada.)

They stepped up, met their challenge, and returned home as America's heroes.

One Chinese National and two Japanese Americans were part of the team who were substantially involved in creating the Memorial. Master Lei Tixin, the master Chinese sculptor who hand-carved the image of Dr. King, is to be thanked for the brilliant likeness of Dr. King. Mieko Preston, Associate Architect for the Memorial, is to be acknowledged for her work in the thoughtful design of the Memorial. Mieko's mother is a Japanese American who resides in the Washington,

D.C. area. My daughter, Nicole, was the consultant who managed the MLK Foundation website and implemented the continuous online fundraising that helped to raise the \$120 million needed to construct this Memorial.

Visit the Memorial and reflect on Dr. King's Dream.

Congressional Gold Medal (continued from page 1)

Memorial Freedom Wall, which contain stars representing 400,000 Americans, including over 800 Japanese Americans, who were killed in action. Other veterans and family members will be transported to the Memorial throughout the afternoon.

On November 3, a Memorial service will be held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism for over 800 Japanese Americans who died in line of duty during WW II. Due to space constraints at the Memorial, attendance will be limited to families of Nisei who paid the ultimate price. Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta will be the keynote speaker.

The Congressional Gold Medal was first awarded in 1776 to George Washington and John Paul Jones during the American Revolutionary War. It is the highest expression of appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

The CGM events are coordinated by the National Veterans Network, a coalition of 25 Japanese American veterans and civic organizations. The chairperson is Christine Sato Yamazaki, former President and CEO of

the Go For Broke National Education Center. CGM Awardees and family members will be welcomed at Washington, D.C. airports by volunteers headed by Col Frank Nekoba, USAF (Ret), LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) and Howard Hodges.



NVN representatives hold planning discussion on July 23, 2011, at the Washington Hilton Hotel. Jean Shiraki (holding microphone on left) makes her presentation. (Floyd Mori)

FFNV Reunion in Las Vegas becoming increasingly popular

by Grant Ichikawa and Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret)

Las Vegas, NV. — The Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) reunion was held in Las Vegas, NV from October 2nd to 6th, 2011, at the California Hotel. The FFNV is headed by 442nd veteran Lawson Sakai who is assisted by Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret). Nearly 40 veteran of the 442nd RCT and Military Intelligence Service with over 100 spouses, friends and relatives attended the reunion. As usual, this was a very congenial group, with lots of time devoted to renewing old friendships and making new lasting friendship. The reunion was graced with the attendance of two Medal of Honor recipients, George Sakato of 442nd RCT and Hershey Miyamura of the Korean War. Miyamura was the keynote speaker at the FFNV dinner.

Miyamura talked about his personal and combat experiences during the Korean War describing his action which earned him the Medal of Honor and how he was taken as a prisoner of war in North Korea for two years, during which time his Medal of Honor award was classified until the day he was released.

Other guests included Steven Okazaki the renown film maker who won The Academy Award for his 1990 documentary “Days of Waiting” and Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson for the National Veterans Network. Okazaki showed his latest documentary about the Heart Mountain Camp and eloquently talked about his work. Yamazaki talked about the impending Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington DC on November 1-3, 2011 In Washington DC.

The showing of a Japanese film “99 Years of Life”, a 4-hour film of a Japanese American family in Seattle, was also a highlight of this reunion. It was a very emotional film made by a Japanese company.



Taken at the California Hotel, Las Vegas. L-R: Col Brian Shiroyama, USAF (Ret); George Sakato (Medal of Honor); Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Hershey Miyamura (Medal of Honor), Lawson Sakai, President of FFNV. (Mas Hashimoto)

The next FFNV reunion will be held September 30-October 4, 2012 at California Hotel. Grant Ichikawa, JAVA volunteer and member of its Board of Directors, said this is a very congenial reunion, I have attended it for the 3rd consecutive year and at 94 I will be there for my fourth.” For more information, contact Brian Shiroyama (408)-896-1021 or bshiroyama@gmail.com.

Military Intelligence Service (continued from page 3)

- A Nisei with the Merrill’s Marauders, a special forces brigade in Burma, crawled to the enemy camp under darkness, eavesdropped on their plans to attack his battalion the following morning, caused his commander to spend the night to set a trap that resulted in the defeat of an overwhelming enemy force. The Nisei saved his battalion, 600 men, from annihilation.

Two Nisei participated in the translation of the Japanese Navy “Z” Plan, their master plan to defeat the U.S. Naval forces in the Marianas area. The Japanese navy was defeated, thanks, in part, to the Z Plan. The Z Plan was acquired by Filipino fishermen who passed

it to Filipino guerillas.

Nineteen Nisei died in line of duty in the Pacific War. There was no case of subversion or disloyalty. MIS received two Distinguished Unit Citations. Three were elected to the Ranger Hall of Fame and ten to the MIS Hall of Fame. Individually, MIS men were awarded one Distinguished Service Cross, one Distinguished Service Medal, at least seven Purple Heart Medals, 18 Silver Stars, 132 Bronze Stars and 35 Combat Infantryman’s Badge. They served with distinction and honor as “eyes and ears” for Allied forces in the Pacific.

Senator Inouye awarded Japan's Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel Ken Inouye was awarded Japan's highest decoration, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers, on October 3, 2011 at the grand hall of the official residence of Ambassador and Mrs. Ichiro Fujisaki. Attending the ceremony were Vice President of the United States Joe Biden, members of congress, cabinet members, private sector officials, veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and officials of the Japanese American Veterans Association, of which Senator Inouye is an Honorary Chairman. Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, Company E medic and a resident of Washington, DC who saved Inouye's life when his right arm was shot off in the Po

Valley campaign in Italy, had a warm reunion with the Senator.

In his remarks prior to conferring the decoration, Ambassador Fujisaki recognized the Senator's "significant contributions to enhancing the Japan-US relationship, as a pioneer in Congress and for the respect he has gained as a Japanese American." He also cited Inouye's "continued significant and unprecedented contributions to the enhancement of goodwill and understanding between Japan and the United States."

Senator Inouye is the seventh American recipient of this award and the first "foreigner of Japanese descent to receive it". It is the highest award that a non-Japanese national can receive. "Senator Inouye made a great effort to initiate official exchange between the Japanese Diet and the US Senate, and he assumes the US Chairmanship position. Senator Inouye visits Japan annually and most recently he visited Sendai, one of the areas affected by the Great Earthquake.," Fujisaki said.

In his acceptance remarks, Senator Inouye said he accepts this high honor with humility. He paid tribute to the strong alliance forged by the two nations at the government to government and people to people level, and vowed to continue to strengthen this relationship.

Vice President Biden offered his congratulations to his good friend and colleague, endorsed the firm foundation on which the US-Japan relationship is built, praised the government and the people for re-building the devastated area and offered a toast to US-Japan friendship.



L-R: Irene Hirano Inouye, Senator Inouye, U.S. Vice President Joseph Biden, Ambassador Fujisaki, Mrs. Fujisaki. This photo was taken in the Grand Room of the Ambassador's residence. (Embassy of Japan)

Historian Dr. McNaughton and wife meet with JAVA members

ROSSLYN, Va. (July 27, 2011) — Ten JAVA members hosted a lunch for Dr. Jim McNaughton and his wife Pam at China Gardens Restaurant. Jim is the Army historian for European Command and was in D.C. to attend the Army historian conference. Jim authored "Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During World War II." While in D.C., Jim also met with filmmakers interested in telling the MIS story. L-R: JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Dr. McNaughton, Pam McNaughton, and immediate past president Bob Nakamoto. (Michael Yaguchi)



Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter, JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the U.S. Armed Forces. **This month we feature the first Filipino American siblings to reach Flag rank.** The present count is that 103 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the U.S. Army's 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 17 in the U.S. Navy, two in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marines and U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islanders, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

RDML (Select) Raquel C. Bono



Commissioned in June 1979, Rear Adm. (select) Bono obtained her baccalaureate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and attended medical school at Texas Tech University. She completed a surgical internship and a General Surgery residency at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, and a Trauma and Critical Care fellowship at the Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in Norfolk, Virginia.

Shortly after training, Bono saw duty in Operations *Desert Shield* and *Desert Storm* as head, Casualty Receiving, Fleet Hospital Five in Saudi Arabia from August 1990 to March 1991. Upon returning, she was stationed at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth as a surgeon in the General Surgery department; surgical intensivist in the Medical/Surgical Intensive Care Unit, and attending surgeon at the Burn Trauma Unit at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

In September 1999, she was director of Restorative Care at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, followed by assignment as the medical corps career planning officer for the Chief of the Medical Corps from September 2001 to December 2002. In Jan. 2003 she became the director for Medical-Surgical at the National Naval Medical Center.

From August 2004 through August 2005 she served as the executive assistant to the 35th Navy Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Following that, she reported to Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Fla., as the commanding officer from August 2005 to August 2008. In September 2008, she became the chief of staff, deputy director Tricare Management Activity of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs. She reported as deputy director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy (N093), Chief of Naval Operations in June 2010.

In addition to being a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery, Bono is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma. Her personal decorations include a Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legion of Merit Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medals.

RDML Anatolio B. Cruz, II



Rear Adm. Cruz was raised in San Antonio, Texas and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980. He reported aboard USS Gray (FF1054) in 1981 and served as electronic materials officer, auxiliary repair electrical officer, damage control assistant, and acting Engineering Department head. In 1982, he was awarded the Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet's Shiphandler of the Year Award. In 1984, he joined the staff at the U.S. Naval Academy and served as an admissions officer and congressional liaison officer. In 1986, he accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy Reserves (NR).

Cruz has held numerous operational and staff positions in the special operations and special warfare areas, including multiple tours of duty within the Navy Expeditionary Combat Enterprise and Naval Special Warfare community. His six command tours were with Navy Region Southwest Reserve Component Command, NR Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, NR Naval Inspector General 106, Harbor Defense Command 207, NR Naval Special Warfare Unit 2, and Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Unit 206. While in command of NR Naval Special Warfare Unit 2, his unit was awarded the 2001 Leo Bilger Award for outstanding mission effectiveness. While commanding Harbor Defense Command 207, he twice served as commander, NCW Forces in support of Vieques Security Operations, where the units under his leadership received the Meritorious Unit Commendation for exceptional performance.

Cruz assumed his current assignment as deputy commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and deputy commander, U.S. 4th Fleet in Mayport, Fla. in February 2010. As a civilian, Cruz is the executive vice president, chief legal officer & corporate secretary for Scripps Networks Interactive, Inc. a leading media and entertainment company based in Cincinnati, Ohio. He holds a master's degree in marketing from the University of Maryland and a juris doctorate degree from The Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America.

News from other Veterans Organizations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Representatives of the **Sacramento, Monterey and San Francisco VFW Posts**, will hold their 62nd Reunion May 20-22, 2012 at the Sands Regency in Reno, Nev. The Sands has a discounted room rate of \$45 per hotel room for each night. The cost to register for the reunion is \$80 per person.

HONOLULU — Pauline Sato, President of **100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club**, said in the *Puka Puka Parade* October issue that the education center at the Clubhouse will be open on Nov. 5, 2011. Jan Sakoda and Arlene Sato are responsible for the opening ceremony. Stanley Izumigawa, 100th BN, in his *Maui Chapter News*, said that the KIA Memorial service was held on Sept. 25, 2011 at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. Arrangements for the service were made by the **Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans Organization**.

HONOLULU — Edgar A. Hamasu, President of **MIS Veterans, Hawaii**, reported that the Honolulu Congressional Gold Medal events will be held on Dec. 17, 2011. It will consist of a Waikiki Parade; Gala luncheon at the Hawaii Convention Center and a memorial

service at Punchbowl on Dec. 18. The *MIS Newsletter* also reported that the 6th Annual Joint Memorial Service was held at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl on Sept. 25, 2011. The keynote speaker was Lt. General Francis J. Wiercinski, U.S. Army, Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC). Wade Wasano was the chairman and Lynn Heirakuji was the mistress of ceremonies. The service is a joint product of the **Oahu AJA Veterans Council**, which is comprised of 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, MIS and 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion veterans.

HONOLULU — Bill Thompson, President of **442nd Veterans Club Hawaii** said in his column of the *Go For Broke Bulletin*, June issue, that Major Keith Horikawa, U.S. Army Reserves succeeded recently promoted Colonel Kimo Dunn as Commanding Officer of the 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry. Also, Beau Tatumura was promoted to Command Sergeant Major. The *Bulletin* also presented plans for the Sept. 29 – Oct. 5, 2011 visit to Hawaii by 40 men and women from Vosges, France. Honolulu and Bruyeres enjoy a sister-city relationship.

Thank You Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

(Donations received from July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011)

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Congressional Gold Medal Table at Gala Dinner

Robert Nakamoto (Virginia)

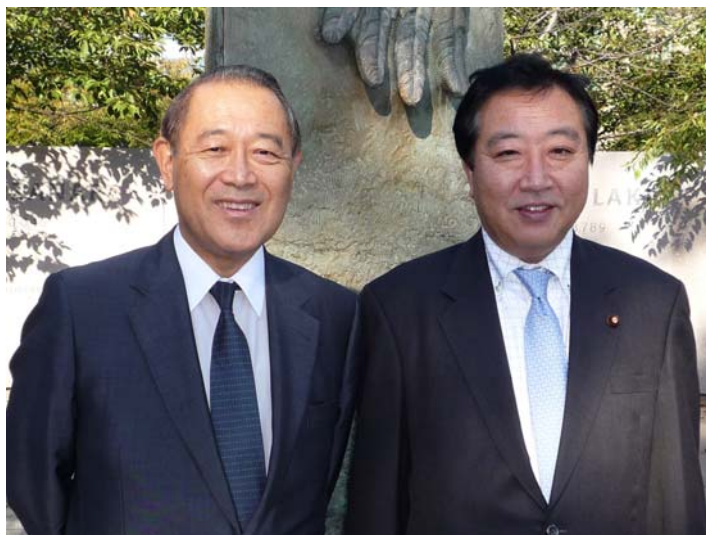

WANTED: Articles about you!
 The JAVA Advocate will begin a new column to shine the spotlight on our members. Send your pictures and fun facts (family, interests, military service, etc.) to javaadvocate@gmail.com. We would like to feature 2 members in each issue: a retired veteran and a recent veteran or currently serving military member.

Japan Prime Minister Noda visits Japanese American Memorial

WASHINGTON — During his Fall 2011 visit to Washington, D.C. as Minister of Finance, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located on New Jersey Avenue near the U.S. Capitol. Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki seized an opportunity between high level appointments to stop at the JA Memorial to brief the Prime Minister on internment, the Nisei who served on combat duty to prove their loyalty, and their professional successes following WW II.

When schedules permitted, the Ambassador has escorted high ranking cabinet officials from Japan to the JA Memorial. He has also arranged for JAVA veterans to brief them as well as middle level officials and promising junior officers on the Nikkei experience during WW II.

PM Noda is a native of Chiba Prefecture, a member of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), a 1980 political science graduate of Waseda University, and a five-time winner of House of Representatives elections. He assumed the Prime Ministership on September 2, 2011.



Prime Minister Noda (right) and Ambassador Fujisaki (left) at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

US Government hid report on Japanese American detainees during World War II

by David Savage, Los Angeles Times

[EdNote. The following article appeared in the Sept. 2011 issue of *Nisei Post* 8985 Newsletter, Sacramento, Calif. Approval obtained to reprint.]

WASHINGTON — Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal, in an extraordinary admission of misconduct, took to task one of his predecessors for hiding evidence and deceiving the Supreme Court. The World War II rulings upheld the detention of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans. Katyal said that Charles Fahy, an appointee of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, hid from the court a report from the Office of Naval Intelligence that concluded the Japanese Americans on the West Coast did not pose a military threat. The report indicated there was no evidence the Japanese American were disloyal, acting as spies or signaling enemy submarines as some at the time had suggested.

Fahy was defending Roosevelt's executive order that authorized forced removals from "military areas." The solicitor general, the U.S. government's top courtroom attorney, is viewed as the most trusted lawyer to appear before the Supreme Court, and Katyal said he has a "duty of absolute candor in our representations

to the court." Katyal, 41, who is of Indian American heritage and is the first Asian American to hold the post, said he decided "to set the record straight" at the Justice Department event honoring Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

He said that two of the government's civilian lawyers told Fahy it would be "suppression of evidence" to keep the intelligence report from the court. But Fahy told the court that the government and military agree the roundup of Japanese Americans was a "military necessity." In 1943, the high court unanimously upheld a curfew imposed on Japanese Americans in the case of *Gordon Hirabayashi v. United States*. Furthermore, in 1944 the court in a 6-3 decision upheld the removal order imposed on Japanese Americans in *Fred Korematsu v. United States*. Scholars and judges have denounced the World War II rulings as among the worst in the court's history, but neither the high court nor the Justice Department had formerly admitted they were mistaken.



Photos from around the nation

HONOLULU (Jul. 26, 2011) — Korean War veterans in Hawaii, all JAVA members, photographed during a Korean War reunion at Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific.

Pictured from L-R: Howard Okada, Henry Furuya, Walter Ozawa, Hiroshi Shima and Steven Uyehara. Photo by Susan Uyemura.

PETERSON AFB, Colo. (Oct. 13, 2011) — Rear Admiral Peter Gumataotao (left) and Rear Admiral David Boone (right) pictured together during their participation as fellows in the CAPSTONE Military Leadership Program, a joint service professional military education course for newly promoted brigadier generals and rear admirals serving in the U.S. Armed Forces conducted by the National Defense University. Rear Adm. Gumataotao is the first Guam native to achieve Flag rank. He will serve as Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11 and Commander, USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Strike Group starting in Nov. 2011. Rear Adm. Boone is the 43rd military officer of Japanese descent to achieve Flag rank. He currently serves as the Director of Shore Readiness and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Fleet Readiness and Logistics). (Courtesy of Rear Adm. Boone)



ALDIE, Va. (May 10, 2011) — JAVA speakers Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima spoke at Mercer Middle School, in Loudoun County, northern Virginia. (Photo by Mrs. Clayton-Walker)

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from VA announcements]

Sept. 7, 2011 - A "second set of eyes" can now monitor patients at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals across the VA Midwest Health Care Network, thanks to a Tele-Intensive Care Unit (Tele-ICU) that opened in August 2011 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. The integrated, Minneapolis-based team of critical care nurses and intensivists (doctors who specialize in critical care medicine) is now available 24/7 to aid patients and clinicians in ICUs at VA hospitals in Minneapolis, Minn., Fargo, N.D., and Omaha, Neb. VA hospitals in Iowa City and Des Moines, IA, Fort Meade, Md., and Sioux Falls, SD, will be added to the new Intensive Care monitoring system within the next few months.

Sept. 7, 2011 - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has instituted a new program to provide comprehensive compensation and pension (C&P) examinations to U.S. Veterans living overseas. In June, VA staff traveled to Camp Lester in Okinawa, Japan, to join with members of the Department of Defense in providing C&P exams to Veterans. Over the course of their three-week trip, the team completed 247 examinations on 39 Veterans. Due to the success of the pilot program, a return visit is planned for Sept. 19-30.

Sept. 9, 2011 - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced

that more than \$2.2 billion in retroactive benefits have been paid to approximately 89,000 Vietnam Veterans and their survivors who filed claims related to one of three new Agent Orange presumptive conditions. On Aug. 31, 2010, VA amended its regulations to add ischemic heart disease, hairy cell leukemia and other chronic B-cell leukemias, and Parkinson's disease to the list of diseases presumed to be related to exposure to Agent Orange. Potentially eligible Veterans include those who were exposed based on duty or visitation in Vietnam or on its inland waterways between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975; exposed along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971; or exposed due to herbicide.

Sept. 26, 2011 - The Veterans Day National Committee recently selected the National Veterans Day poster for 2011 designed by John Magine, a Vietnam Veteran who works as a visual information specialist at the VA Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla. It is the second time the committee has selected his artwork for the national poster - his previous design won the 2008 contest.

Sept. 29, 2011 - The Cincinnati VA Medical Center's Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program for COPD recently received certification by the American Association of Cardiovas-

cular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, making it the second VA program of its kind to receive this certification. COPD, or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder, refers to chronic bronchitis and emphysema, two commonly co-existing diseases of the lungs that cause airflow limitation.

Sept. 30, 2011 - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has a special push for attracting the fastest-growing part of the military and the VA: women. VA is "working at changing its image to females" by, among other things, training "more than a thousand doctors to care for women." The agency is also "phoning female veterans and making sure they know their eligibility for VA benefits."

Oct. 4, 2011 - "Nearly half of the \$321 million" in Post-9/11 GI Bill "benefits paid out on behalf of Virginia veterans last year went to for-profit schools," a trend that is "raising alarms with some in Washington, including the bill's principal sponsor," U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). VA officials said their biggest challenge up to now has been simply getting the program up and running smoothly. With that mission accomplished, they are turning their attention to student retention, degree completion, employment success and other measures of educational value."



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Ranger Okamoto's journey to Washington includes VIP meetings and JAVA luncheon; discussed significance of Congressional Gold Medal

WASHINGTON – The Honorable Vincent Okamoto, Superior Court Judge of the city of Los Angeles and one of the most highly decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War, visited Washington, D.C. in mid-October. He was accompanied by Ken Hayashi, President of the Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Association and a Vietnam War veteran.

In his keynote address at the JAVA luncheon on October 15, 2011 in Falls Church, Va., Okamoto reflected on the significance of the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The youngest of seven brothers who served in WW II and the Korean War, Okamoto saw these Nisei as role models, and paid them the highest tribute on the eve of the Congressional Gold Medal Award program. “What the 100th, 442, and MIS did was bequeath to this nation [the] ideals that unite all of us as Americans. What they endured speaks to the values that sustain us during times of trial and crisis. What they achieved speaks to the dreams that inspire ordinary people to perform extraordinary acts of courage and self-sacrifice. They speak to us of the value of loyalty, courage, fundamental fairness and personal dignity - they are a testament to the glory of the human spirit. This is the legacy of what the Nisei veterans passed on to us. This is our inheritance.”

The U.S. Congress will present the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor the nation can bestow,

collectively to the 100th, 442nd and the MIS at the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 2, 2011.

Okamoto said “After ten months in combat, having been wounded several times, I was physically exhausted, afraid, and sick at heart. I wanted to just give up and quit. But when I began to feel sorry for myself, I remembered that during WWII and Korea other young Japanese American soldiers had it just as tough and tougher than me. And they never gave up. They never quit. Their example of courage and commitment gave me the strength to do what needed to be done because I felt I could not betray that standard. So to the Nisei veterans who inspired me with their courage and honored me with their friendship, I say thank you.”

Okamoto and Hayashi met with Washington officials, including Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta. They discussed the impact of the Nisei Congressional Gold Medal on their lives. The visitors were received by Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki to renew acquaintances and to discuss Japanese American matters. Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Bruce Hollywood gave them a tour of the Pentagon. Okamoto and Hayashi were also given a tour of the rarely-shown historic rooms of the Library of Congress by Jeff Lofton, a staff officer of the Library's Veterans History Project. They also visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Grant Ichikawa, JAVA Board member, served as the focal point for the Okamoto and Hayashi visit.



Above left: Judge Vince Okamoto delivering his keynote address.

Above right: Group photo following the luncheon: L-R: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret); Grant Ichikawa, Gerald Yamada, Vince Okamoto, Bob Nakamoto, and Ken Hayashi.

TAPS

Herbert Seijin Ginoza, Army Air Corps gunner, born on Oct. 3, 1924 in Kahaluu, Hawaii. During WWII, Ginoza served as a B-17 gunner, one of only five Japanese-Americans who served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was shot down in enemy territory in one of the bombing raids in Europe, was captured and held as a prisoner of war. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation.

Following the war, Ginoza earned a Masters Degree from the University of Nebraska and became a biochemist first with the U.S. Army and later with NASA. He made contributions to the space shuttle program and the search for life beyond the earth. He was a dedicated golfer. His wife Edith Wright Ginoza preceded him in death.

* * * * *

Allen Hisayoshi Okamoto, 91, of Lower Gwynedd, formerly of Ambler, Pa., passed away on July 9, 2011, at Chestnut Hill Hospital, Pa. Allen graduated from Lehigh University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an M.S. in Chemistry. He was a decorated Staff Sergeant with the 442nd Infantry Regiment, Company I in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was employed in the Atlantic Richfield research department for 13 years. He later worked for the Aerospace Industry at G.E., in the Missile and Space Division, and subsequently, the RCA Satellite Program as a Materials Engineer. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Yone (Watanabe) Okamoto. He was a life member of JAVA.

* * * * *

“Do You Need Cigarettes?” – Remembering Matsuji “Mutt” Sakumoto

by Judge Bryan Yagi

These words uttered by the first man of the 442nd RCT to reach the Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains of France will forever remain etched in the annals of the 442nd RCT and the 141st Texas Regiment. The words were spoken by Matsuji “Mutt” Sakumoto of Company I, 1st Platoon, 1st Squadron when the 442nd RCT broke through the German lines surrounding the 1st Battalion of the 141st Texas Regiment.

Sakumoto had followed a communications line discovered on the floor of the dense forest. He subse-

quently noticed several soldiers wearing U.S. Army uniforms darting from one tree to another. The soldiers were, indeed, from the 141st Texas Regiment. The 141st Texas Regiment Commanding Officer thanked Sakumoto and expressed his gratitude to the 442nd for saving his beleaguered unit. When Sakumoto lit up a cigarette, he noticed a number of the 141st staring at him. He then asked if they wanted cigarettes. He pointed to the field pack on his back and the soldiers took all three packs from his mess kit.

The 442nd RCT had accomplished their objective as ordered by General Dahlquist who commanded the 36th Division which included the 141st and the 442nd Regiments under brutal conditions -- the rain, the cold, a dense forest as well as the Germans. The casualties to the 442nd RCT was two or three times more than the 211 Texans who were left to be saved.

Despite his feat, Sakumoto never sought fame or fortune. Like many of his fellow veterans, he remained humble. Sakumoto was a quiet and shy person, but possessed a warm and giving nature to all those who knew him. He never forgot to remind his friends how his wife raised their two sons alone when his work took him to Asia for long periods of time. Sakumoto gave all the credit in the world for her strength. He lived a simple life in Waiialua before his passing on Aug. 19, 2011, but he was not a simple man.

[Judge Yagi's complete article was carried on the Round Robin and the JAVA website, www.javadc.org. Also, it can be obtained from the Editor.]



L-R: Eddie Yamasaki speaking with Mutt Sakumoto (center) and Barney Hajiro (Medal of Honor) in an undated photograph. (Jim Yamashita)

From the Editor



My time at Fort Leavenworth will be coming to an end in December, and I will be moving back to the Washington, D.C. area to work at the Pentagon. While I am not looking forward to the grueling daily commute to work, I am looking forward to participating in JAVA activities and seeing my JAVA friends again.

Here at Fort Leavenworth, the Army takes great pride in being the home of the Buffalo Soldiers. In 1866, the U.S. Congress authorized the formation of several black regiments. One of these, the 10th Cavalry Regiment, was formed at Fort Leavenworth under the command of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson. In 1992, the Buffalo Soldier Monument was dedicated by General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was the first African-American to serve in that capacity. JAVA member Mark Nakagawa's talented wife Carol Bonfield drew a magnificent sketch of the monument while Mark was stationed here to attend CGSC, and they generously gave me one of the prints. Mahalo! (Photos by David Radovich.)

—Kay Wakatake

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 1, 10:30A.M.–12P.M.: Congressional Gold Medal WW II Nisei Veterans Program, Washington Hilton Hotel, Columbia Room. 2P.M.: Laying of four wreaths at the National WW II Memorial, Freedom Wall: 100th BN; 442nd RCT; MIS; KIA.

Nov. 2, 11A.M.–12P.M.: Congressional Gold Medal Presentation Ceremony, U.S. Capitol, Emancipation Hall. 6–10P.M.: Congressional Gold Medal Gala Dinner, Washington Hilton Hotel.

Nov. 3, 10–11A.M.: Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Service for Japanese Americans who died in the line of duty during World War II, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Nov. 16: Viewing of film 442nd: *Live with Honor, Die with Dignity* at Japanese Information and Cultural Center.

Nov. 29, 10:00–10:50A.M.: JAVA Speakers Bureau: University of Maryland, College Park, Md. History Dept.

Dec. 10, 10a.m.: JAVA Executive Council Meeting.

Jan. 14, 2012, 11:30A.M.: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, 7260 Arlington Blvd., Falls Church, Va.

Nanzan University students visit Japanese American Memorial



WASHINGTON (Aug. 14, 2011) — JAVA member Grant Ichikawa discusses the Japanese American experience during WWII with students from Nanzan University at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. For two years in a row, Nanzan Professor Yoshimitsu Miyakawa escorted his students to the Memorial. Nanzan University is located in Nagoya, Japan. (Courtesy of Grant Ichikawa)