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President Obama congratulates 4 Congressional Gold Medal awardees at the White House

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama offered his personal congratulations to four Nisei World War II veterans for the award of the Congressional Gold Medal at a White House breakfast on November 11, 2011. In recognizing the hard won efforts of Kelly Yeiichi Kuwayama, Minoru Nagaoka, and Terry Shima, former soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, as well as of Victor Matsui, a former soldier in the Military Intelligence Service, the President said, "Congratulations on winning this high award. I regret I was on travel in Europe which precluded my participation in the Capitol Hill presentation ceremony. [However,...] I am sure you saw my letter and I also cut a video to be presented at your dinner."

Mr. Shima, on behalf of the veterans remarked, "Mr. President, we appreciate your support of veterans and your remarks about the Nisei who were awarded the Con-

gressional Gold Medal. Japanese Americans are proud to be the recipients of the highest honor the nation can confer."

The President then responded, "I was told there will be no group photos. However, let's make an exception for the 442nd." With that order from the Commander-In-Chief, the Nisei soldiers proudly posed with the President. [cont'd at CGM on page 4]



President Barack Obama meets with four Nisei in the Blue Room of the White House. L-R: Minoru Nagaoka, Victor Matsui, President Obama, Kelly Kuwayama, and Terry Shima. (White House photo)



Left: Day of Remembrance Program at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, February 18, 2012. Pictured from L-R: JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Esq.; Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki; JAVA lifetime member Grant Ichikawa; and Japan Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki. (Bruce Hollywood) [See story on page 4]

President's Message



February 19, 1941 was the high point for prejudice in America. For on that day, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt succumbed to war hysteria, preju-

dice and the lack of political leadership in signing Executive Order 9066.

Executive Order 9066 disrupted the lives of 120,000 law-abiding persons of Japanese ancestry who were imprisoned at America's confinement sites, based solely on their Japanese ancestry and without regard to America's promise of freedom and equality. America's commitment to

constitutional rights was subordinated to racial profiling.

As part of JAVA's mission, we tell the American story of how freedom and equality prevailed over prejudice. The war against prejudice at home was fought, in large measure, on the battlefields in Europe and in the Pacific. The Japanese Americans who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service put themselves in harm's way to prove their loyalty to the United States while their family and friends were unjustly imprisoned at home. Those, who served, put country first.

They succeeded in proving their loyalty. They helped to restore the dignity of all persons of Japanese ancestry with their valor. To honor their heroic service, they were awarded the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal last year.

The war against prejudice continues. That is why JAVA must continue to educate the American public about this American story which remains to be relevant and important 70 years after Executive Order 9066 was signed. We must guard against racially motivated governmental policies and decisions.

I ask for your continued support so that the historic contributions made by the 30,000 Japanese Americans who served in the US Army during World War II will not be forgotten. They made the difference in helping to restore freedom and equality in America. The legacy of their sacrifices and their spirit are still with us and will continue to benefit all of us.

On obligation.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President



WASHINGTON (December 7, 2011) — Left to right: Ambassador Malott and Robert Nakamoto, immediate past President of JAVA.

Commenting on the strength of US-Japan alliance, the theme of the Japan America Society of Washington, DC Annual Dinner on December 7, 2011 at Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC, President John Malott, former US Ambassador to Ma-

laysia, said "the real base of our relationship is the tens upon tens of thousands of personal connections and bonds between Americans and Japanese. ... There is no better demonstration of this personal connection than the way Americans and Japanese came together" after the great Tohoku disaster of March 11, 2011.

Ambassador Malott also paid special tribute to the 100th, 442nd and MIS. He said on November 2, 2011, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American soldiers of these units which fought for our nation in World War II. "Many people say that the efforts of the US Army Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific shortened the war by one or maybe two years and saved countless American and Japanese lives. Meanwhile, in the European theatre, the 442nd Regimental Combat team – known as the "Go for Broke" Regiment — became the most decorated military unit in the history of the United States, from 21 Congressional Medals of Honor to over 9,000 Purple Hearts. We at the Japan-America Society are honored that we have come to know two veterans from those groups. From the Military Intelligence Service, Grant Ichikawa, who wanted very much to be with us tonight, and from the 442nd Combat Regiment, please welcome Sgt Terry Shima."

Among other joint endeavors, JASW provides JAVA a booth at the annual Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival) to discuss the Japanese American story.

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Remembering more than the flag on Iwo Jima by Alex Horton

[Reprinted from the VA blog Vantage Point: Dispatches from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, February 23, 2012]

67 years ago today, it didn't seem much impeded the Marines from [raising a U.S. flag atop Mt. Suribachi](#) except the wind. No Japanese are seen, and nearby Marines watched the Stars & Stripes go up without cover on the highest point of Iwo Jima. It could be interpreted as the final act of the battle.

The iconic photograph taken by Joe Rosenthal is the reason we remember the battle. It's possibly the most reproduced photo of all time, and the moment will live forever in bronze as the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. But the flag went up on the fifth day, and it didn't end until March 26. By then, 6,821 American troops were dead, and nearly 20,000 wounded. Almost a third of all Marine Corps casualties in World War II were killed on the volcanic sands of bloody Iwo.

For a brief moment on Mt. Suribachi in February 1945, Marines enjoyed a respite from the brutal fighting that had gone on for nearly a week. After the photo seen 'round the world was taken, the eleven men who raised the famous flag and another one got back into the war. Only five left the island alive. That's something no photo could ever capture.

[EdNote. Dr. James McNaughton, in his book *Nisei Linguists*, said fifty Japanese Americans participated with the invading Marine units. T5g Terry Takeshi Doi, who was conscripted into the Japanese Imperial Army but returned to America shortly before Pearl Harbor and volunteered for the MIS, went into the caves to coax the enemy soldiers to surrender. Sgt Mike Masato Deguchi died of wounds sustained in combat. T3G James Yoshinobu, at 43 one of the oldest Nisei with 5 children to serve in the MIS, landed in Iwo with



the 4th Marine Division. Doi and Yoshinobu were awarded silver stars for gallantry in action. Elsewhere in the Asia Pacific Theater, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, Solomons, Tarawa, and Burma, Nisei served in the same exemplary fashion. The Honolulu Star Bulletin said of the Nisei, "if taken prisoner, there will be no mercy nor even an easy death. The least they can expect is prolonged torture. For they would be regarded by the fanatical Japanese of the imperial forces, not merely as enemy combatants, but as traitors to Japan." Nisei in combat knew that and for that reason carried an extra grenade to use on himself when needed. A national archives document dated March 19, 1945 quoted Joe Rosenthal as saying: "Those guys are taking all the chances in the world. They've got a lot of guts being right up in front there. They not only might be shot by the Japanese enemy, but even by the Marines. But they don't seem to care. I saw the first Japanese enemy prisoner being brought in and saw a Japanese American interview him. I am sorry that I didn't take a picture at the time, but I felt then that it might result in hurting their families in Japan -- if the picture was passed through censorship. I'm sorry now that I didn't take the picture, but if I get a chance again, I'll certainly do it."]

JAVA holds quarterly luncheon, progress in 2011, way ahead in 2012

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr, USN, and Major Kay Wakatake, USA, were principal speakers at the JAVA quarterly luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant on January 14, 2012. VADM Harris is Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his immediate past assignment was Commander of the Sixth Fleet and Striking and Support Forces NATO with headquarters in Naples, Italy. MAJ Wakatake is an Army judge advocate currently serving in the Pentagon. The theme of the luncheon, attended by over 50 members and friends, was the award of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to Nisei soldiers during WW II.

Traditionally, JAVA presidents have used the January meeting to evaluate the previous year's performance and outline his mission for the New Year. President Gerald Yamada discussed and expressed satisfaction with JAVA's progress in 2011 and thanked the many volunteers who served in various activities, including 1) the National Veterans Network to handle numerous high profile projects, 2)

the Speakers Bureau, the National Archives Digitization Project, education program, and *JAVA Advocate* and twice weekly electronic bulletin, and 3) the Executive Council.

Yamada said the award of the CGM offers JAVA a challenge, which is "how to preserve the legacy of the WW II Nisei soldiers in a meaningful way." He said JAVA will meet this challenge in 2012 "by 1) working with federal agencies to distribute educational materials and lesson plans to history teachers across the country; 2) exploring with military museums the possibility of creating exhibitions to honor the accomplishments of WW II Nisei soldiers; completing the project to digitize all relevant documents at the National archives pertaining to 100th, 442nd and Military Intelligence Service MIS; and (3) obtaining U.S. Postal Department approval for a commemorative stamp for Nisei soldiers based on the CGM that was awarded separately to Nisei soldiers, Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

Day of Remembrance Program held by Smithsonian. Yamada and Ichikawa participate in panel discussion. Shinseki as keynote speaker

WASHINGTON, February 18, 2012 – The Day of Remembrance Program, sponsored by 4 organizations — Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, JAVA, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, and Japanese American Citizens League — was held at the Smithsonian Institution's Warner Brothers Theater, Museum of American History. The program has been held on or around the day that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 by on February 19, 1942, authorizing the forced removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from the western United States. Dr. Konrad Ng, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program Director, gave the welcoming remarks and thanked Noriko Sanefuji for skillfully and successfully organizing this year's event. Japanese Ambassador Fujisaki was one of the dignitaries in attendance. About 200 others attended the program.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, General Eric Shinseki, was the 2012 keynote speaker. He recalled that his parents never celebrated their wedding anniversary because they were married on December 6, 1941, and their happy event was ruined by the attack on Pearl Harbor the next day. He went on to say how proud he was of the men who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service (MIS). He highlighted why their service deserved the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal. Their legacy would show his grandchildren what it means to be an American.

The Congressional Gold Medal for the World War II Nisei

Soldiers was on display during the program. The Smithsonian is planning to take the medal on tour to various cities after which it will be displayed in the Museum of American History.

After a short break, a film giving the highlights of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony was shown. A panel discussion followed with Franklin Odo, former director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program, moderating. The panelists were Grant Ichikawa, member of the MIS and JAVA member; Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson of the National Veterans Network; C. Douglas Sterner, author of "Go For Broke", and Gerald Yamada, JAVA President.

Mr. Odo started by asking the panelists what the Congressional Gold Medal meant to them. Mr. Ichikawa spoke about his experiences in the MIS and how proud he is to be a recipient. Ms. Sato-Yamazaki talked about the award ceremony being the completion of the difficult two-year effort to obtain congressional approval for the awarding of the gold medal. Mr. Sterner outlined why the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest honor that Congress can bestow. Mr. Yamada viewed the Congressional Gold Medal as giving JAVA the challenge to make the Nisei soldiers' legacy a living story rather than just a historic story.

The Congressional Gold Medal theme for this year's program was timely and well presented.

CGM (cont'd from page 1)

All four Nisei were invited to the White House at the request of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki. The breakfast is a traditional annual event on Veterans Day, arranged by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), for representatives of DVA recognized veterans service organizations. One such organization is JAVA, which was represented by Mr. Bill Houston and Lieutenant Colonel Mark Nakagawa, US Army (Ret), both members of the JAVA Executive Council.

Welcome New Members!

Clifford Wakatake (Hawaii)
Daniel Okada (California)
Mark Yutaka Okinaka
James Kubota (Arizona)

JAVA represented at White House Veterans Day Breakfast



THE WHITE HOUSE, Nov. 11, 2011 — JAVA members Mark Nakagawa (left) and Bill Houston (right) meet President Obama at the White House Veterans Day Breakfast. As a member of the Veterans Day National Committee, which is mandated by Congress and administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs to plan and coordinate the national veterans day events, JAVA was privileged to send two representatives to the Breakfast. (White House photos)



A Day of Infamy: 70 Years After Pearl Harbor

WASHINGTON, December 7, 2011 — On the occasion of the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, said “few dates in American history are as deeply burned into our consciousness as December 7, 1941. Seventy years ago today, American forces on Oahu, Hawai'i withstood an unprovoked attack, and the fleet at Pearl Harbor suffered devastating losses. More than 2,400 Americans were killed, many great ships of the Pacific Fleet lay torn and burning, and our Nation was thrust headlong into the largest global conflict in human history.



“Pearl Harbor reminds us not only of a solemn chapter in American history, but also of the great courage and resolve displayed by stalwart defenders in fighting off the attackers that day—qualities that have continued to define each succeeding serving generation, including today's young men and women in uniform.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs honors the memory of those who gave their lives that day, as well as those who fought and survived. Inspired by their valor and selflessness, America emerged from Pearl Harbor determined to triumph in the ensuing battle against tyranny.

“We also salute the many courageous Hawaiians who responded to the attack on their home soil by joining the U.S. military and going on to serve with considerable distinction.”

[EdNote. Having been drafted before the War began, about several thousand Americans of Japanese ancestry (AJA) were already serving in the Hawaii National Guard and various engineering units. In addition, several hundred

Nisei were in the University of Hawaii ROTC program. They were given rifles and ammo and assigned to protect key areas. ... In early 1942, Washington banned enlistments by AJAs and classified all AJAs as 4C (enemy alien, unfit for military duty). In February 1942 AJAs in the ROTC were discharged from the program. They filed a petition with the Military Governor to serve the war effort in any capacity. The petition was approved and they were formed into the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV), a defense construction unit. 1,432 AJAs in the National Guard were transported to mainland US, given the designation 100th Infantry Battalion, sent to Wisconsin for training and subsequently deployed to Italy for combat duty. ... The first AJA casualties of the war occurred on January 28, 1942, only 52 days after the Pearl Harbor attack. A complement of 26 AJA soldiers was en route from Honolulu to Hilo aboard the 200-ton Royal T. Frank, a military transport vessel, when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine. The Frank sank immediately, taking with it 17 of the AJA soldiers. They were the first AJA KIAs of World War II.]

JAVA Booth at Sakura Matsuri by Reuben Yoshikawa, Chair, JAVA Sakura Matsuri

WASHINGTON — JAVA is exhibiting again this year at the Sakura Matsuri in Washington D.C. The 52nd Japanese Sakura Matsuri Street Festival, sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC) will be held on April 14, 2012, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. The entire event and schedule can be seen at:

<http://sakuramatsuri.org/>

JAVA will again have a tent set up on Pennsylvania Ave., between 14th and 9 St NW. As before, the public will have the rare opportunity to talk to Japanese Americans from the World War II 100 Infantry Battalion and 442 Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. In addition, we will have distinguished Veterans from the Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. From past experience, this exhibit has been effective in making the public aware of the contributions of Japanese

American veterans to the building of this nation.

The JAVA exhibit last year was a success and we plan to have a similar set-up this year. At the booth, we will have copies of JAVA's book, [American Patriots: MIS in the War Against Japan](#) edited by Stanley L. Falk and Warren Tsuneishi, in which Nisei veterans recount their experiences with the military intelligence during World War II, along with Aki Konoshima's book, [What Pearl Harbor Wrought](#). We will also have JAVA coins, JAVA lapel pins, brochures and membership applications available. We plan to have Betty Taira participating with us again with her children's books about Japanese Americans.

Please visit our tent and exhibit and for those that would like to participate at the booth please contact:

Reuben Yoshikawa at ryoshikawa@verizon.net

Gerald Yamada at gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com

Mark Nakagawa at nakamark2@yahoo.com

We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Sakura Matsuri.

Nakasone promoted to rank of Brigadier General

THE PENTAGON – Paul M. Nakasone, U.S. Army, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in a ceremony in the Hall of Heroes, Pentagon, on January 27, 2012, becoming only the 45th Japanese-American military officer to attain flag rank. General Nakasone currently serves on the Joint Staff as the Deputy Director for Trans-Regional Policy, Directorate of Strategic Plans and Policy.

General Keith B. Alexander, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command and Director, National Security Agency / Chief, Central Security Service administered the oath of office to General Nakasone in a crowded room filled with his family, friends and colleagues. In his remarks, General Alexander thanked the Nakasone family stating, "One of the things that makes our nation great is people like Paul and the sacrifices his family makes for the good of the nation." He also praised the long tradition of military service in the Nakasone family, which includes General Nakasone's father, Edwin, who was born in Wahiawa, Hawaii, and served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, retiring as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves.

As part of the ceremony, General Nakasone's wife and four children assisted General Alexander in pinning on the brigadier general stars. Afterward, the newly promoted general offered special thanks to his family, fellow workers, and friends, many of whom traveled from as far away as Minnesota and Hawaii to share in this momentous occasion.

General Nakasone, 47, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He attended St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, and received his commission through the Army ROTC program in 1986. General Nakasone holds graduate degrees from the University of Southern California, Defense Intelli-

gence College, and U.S. Army War College. Prior to assuming his current duties, he served as

Executive Assistant to General Alexander at U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency. General Nakasone also served in Baghdad, Iraq from 2005-2006 as a strategic planner for the Multi-National Force in Iraq.

His significant awards and badges include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with fourth oak leaf cluster), and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award.



Pinning the star on Brigadier General Paul Nakasone (3rd from left) by General Keith B. Alexander (L) and Mrs. Nakasone (R).

Filipino-American engineer named Engineer of the Year



[From GMA News Online, www.gmanetwork.com, March 10, 2012]

A Filipino-American engineer, Allen G. Lim, was recently named "Asian American Engineer of the Year." Lim is a Principal Assistant Program Manager of the US Naval Sea Systems Command.

He cited for his "masterful employment of rigorous system and test and evaluation engineering principles to provide the nation's warfighter with cutting edge undersea systems."

Born in Manila, Philippines, Lim arrived in the US at the age of seven. He became a naturalized US citizen at age 12. He obtained a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1984 and has since had over 24 years of experience in the sub-

marine acquisition community.

He first worked as an acoustic analyst for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division, being responsible for submarine acoustic testing for newly delivered submarines.

Lim rose the ranks and currently serves as the Principal Assistant Program Manager for Mission Systems with the Advanced Undersea Systems Program Office.

He is responsible for the acquisition and life cycle management of classified submarine research and development systems.

Lim is not only dedicated to his work but is also very active in his community and church.

He coaches youth sports and serves as a youth leader in the Boys Stockade of Christian Service Brigade.

Maryland high school student interviews Grant Ichikawa

BETHESDA, Md. — The Montgomery County Public Schools, Courtney Osborne, contacted JAVA in February 2012 to arrange for interviews of JAVA veterans by Walt Whitman High School Honors US History - WW II Project students. Student Sam Dodd contacted Grant Ichikawa and interviewed him at his residence in Vienna, Virginia. Sam presented his report to his class which included an enhanced video of the interview. Ms Osborne said fellow students were impressed with the content and presentation. Sam's written report included the following:



"Given my family background and interest in Japan, I thought it would be important to interview a Japanese-American World War II veteran. I wanted to honor my grandfather, who fought in the Pacific during WW II, and celebrate the courage that Grant Ichikawa and others like him showed during the war. During my studies, I had been learning about the bombing of Hiroshima, the invasion of the Philippines, and other battles primarily from a high-level Anglo-Saxon perspective. I wanted

to find a new point of view - a new story that explained how the war affected Japanese-Americans. I wanted to learn first-hand from those such as Grant Ichikawa and his family who were interned during the war but decided to fight for their country and their rights as American citizens. For over 20 years, Mr. Ichikawa served the U.S. government and military as an interrogator, translator, and intelligence officer during World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Mr. Ichikawa even won the Bronze Star Medal for bravery he showed during the Philippines Invasion by persuading Japanese troops to surrender. My grandfather would have been proud to shake Mr. Ichikawa's hand, and thank him for his courage and heroism."

"I recently had the privilege of interviewing World War II veteran, Grant Ichikawa, for my high school Honors US History World War II project. When thinking about whom I could interview, ... I also thought of my Aunt, Lucy Birmingham Fujii, who has been living in Japan for over 25 years. When she married a Japanese man whose father fought for Japan in World War II, I heard the story of how my grandfather and he shook hands and cried when they met. Now, I am learning Japanese in high school and will be able to practice the language when I travel to Japan this summer on a school trip and visit my Aunt and Japanese-American cousins.

JAVA seeks approval for postage stamp featuring CGM awardees

WASHINGTON — DC. In recognition of the recent Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) awarded to the World War II Nisei soldiers, JAVA is proposing to the US Postal Service that a Commemorative Stamp Series be issued for WW II military units which received the Congressional Gold Medal.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada sent a letter on January 21, 2012, to Chairwoman Jean Picker Firstenberg of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service, outlining this proposal. He recommends "this stamp series would be for military groups that have been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service during World War II and would include the Nisei Soldiers made up of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service; Tuskegee Airmen; Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP); and the Navajo Code Talkers.

"To save on design costs, JAVA suggests that the design of the Congressional Gold Medals be used for the stamp design for each group. Each CGM design has been vetted by the U.S. Mint and accepted by each group.

"The commemorative stamps for these groups should be printed so that the stamps can be distributed with all four

groups on a stamp sheet or printed individually so that stamp sheets can be ordered for each of the four groups."

In an official statement endorsing Yamada's proposal, the Japanese American WW II Veterans Stamp Campaign, co-chaired by Fusa Takahashi, Chiz Ohira, Aiko King, and Wayne Osako, said, "We fully support the commemorative stamp proposal from JAVA that is based upon honoring veterans who have earned the Congressional Gold Medal. This would be a wonderful tribute to American veterans who have clearly made their mark on history. We urge the U.S. Postal Service to continue its tradition of recognizing the contributions of our nation's veterans."

Veterans and civic organizations are encouraged to send letters supporting this approach to Chairwoman Jean Picker Firstenberg, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee; c/o Stamp Development; U.S. Postal Service; 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300; Washington, DC 20260-3501. Please send a copy of your letter to Gerald Yamada, President; Japanese American Veterans Association; 10316 Mounting Court; Vienna, VA 22182 or email to gva-mada@goingforwardstrategies.com.

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 103 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, who wore four stars as the US Army's 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the US Army, 23 in the US Air Force, 17 in the US Navy, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the US Marines and US Coast guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islands, 10 Filipino Americans and four Korean Americans.

LTG John F. Campbell



Lieutenant General John F. Campbell assumed duties as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Department of the Army, on September 8, 2011. The son of a U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sergeant, LTG Campbell grew up on military bases around the world before he graduated from West Point. With over 32 years of service, he has commanded units at every echelon from platoon to division, in Germany, Haiti, Iraq,

Afghanistan and the U.S. Most recently, he served as the Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division, and led the division as Combined Joint Task Force 101 during OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan.

LTG Campbell holds a master's degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He was Professor of Military Science University of California, Davis. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, The Combat Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Special Forces Tab.

LTG Campbell and his wife, Ann, have two children, including son SPC John Campbell Jr., who will deploy to Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division later this year. His late mother was a native of Hachioji, Japan. He lived in Japan when his father was assigned to Misawa AFB. He visited Japan in 1971 to attend the Boy Scout World Jamboree and in 1997 for a joint exercise with the Japan Self Defense Force.

A self-described military brat, LTG Campbell was drawn to serving his country by the camaraderie offered by the profession of arms he had so often seen through his father's service. Although, the appointment to USMA and its promise of a high quality free education certainly made that decision easier. LTG Campbell also credits the personal satisfaction gained through selfless service and the opportunity to be a part of something much bigger and more important than himself as a key reason for pursuing a career in the Army. *[Editor will provide a more detailed biography on request.]*

BG Thomas S. Ito



Born of immigrant parents on October 16, 1928, Brigadier General Thomas S. Ito (USA Ret), began his military career as a commissioned Field Artillery Officer, in the Officers Reserve Corps in June 1951. He subsequently joined the Hawaii Army National Guard (ARNG) and served in a variety of command and staff assignments up to assistant division commander.

As a major in December 1962 during the Viet Nam War, he volunteered and became the first American of Japanese Ancestry (AJA) officer in the Hawaii ARNG to report for an active duty tour in the Pentagon. He was assigned to the Departments of Army and Air Force, National Guard Bureau as Assistant and later Chief, Air Defense Branch, Organization and Training Division to oversee and manage the multi-million dollar ARNG Conversion Program.

Upon his release from active duty in December 1966, he returned to Hawaii; however, he was ordered back to active duty in 1976 to be responsible for all federal funds and property for the Hawaii Army and Air National Guards. He was promoted to Brigadier General on February 1977 and was one of the earliest AJA General Officers in the ARNG. He also served as the Deputy Adjutant General for Hawaii in his full-time capacity

BG Ito is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He resides in Honolulu, HI with his wife Doris, and they have three children and four grandchildren. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (Army), Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

As to the question why he chose the military as his career choice, he said, "My parents' determination to do the best in any undertaking and living near a military post [Ft. Shafter] influenced me greatly. My experience as a Boy Scout, plus the fact that my two brothers served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, taught me the living example of commitment, loyalty and love of country."

News from other Veterans Organizations

HONOLULU — Bill Thompson, President of **442nd Veterans Hawaii**, used the December 2011 issue of the *Go For Broke Bulletin* to say that his 5-year tenure has come to a close at the end of December 2011. He reported that 40 residents of Bruyeres visited Hawaii in October 2011, and the Congressional Gold Medal presentation events in Washington, D.C. and Honolulu were deeply appreciated by the veterans and their families. The editor of the *Bulletin*, Oscar Tsukayama, commended Bill for establishing the 442nd scholarship program and for initiating the construction of the 442nd Archives and Learning Center. The 69th Anniversary Banquet was held on Sunday, March 25, 2012 at the Pacific Beach Hotel.

MORGAN HILL, Calif. — **Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans** met on the USS Hornet on August 13, 2011. A highlight of the day was the opening of the Military Intelligence Service room of the Nisei veterans exhibit. Funding was obtained from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and FFNV membership. FFNV held its an-

nual reunion in Las Vegas on October 2-6, 2011.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — **Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter**, March 2012 issue, reported the 62nd Annual Nisei Reunion will be held in May 20-22, 2012 in Reno, Nevada.

JOHNSTON, Iowa — The **34th Division Association Newsletter** reported that 50 members and guests attended the 2011 Reunion on September 9-10 in Johnston, Iowa. The 2012 reunion will be on October 5-6, 2012 at the Johnston Stoney Creek Inn. The 34th Division national association has 759 paid members. The Fall 2011 issue lists nine 100th veterans in its Taps column, which ends “*May they have no more hills to climb, nor cold, nor rain, nor mud, nor enemy fire, and may they now rest in Peace.*”

HONOLULU — The **100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club** President Pauline Sato reported in the *Puka Puka Parade* that the Education Center project, funded by a State of Hawaii grant, has closed. Head of the Education Committee is Lloyd Kitaoka. Sato also announced that the 70th anniversary luncheon will be held on July 8, 2012, at the Honolulu Country Club.

HONOLULU — **MIS Veteran Hawaii** President Glen S. Arakaki said in their *Newsletter* that 100th, 442nd, MIS and 1399th Engineers veterans are jointly supporting the Nisei Legacy Center that will be run by the **442nd Sons and Daughters**.



Above: Lieutenant General Thomas and Mrs. Renee Bostick invited Embassy of Japan and JAVA friends to their official residence at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., on March 31. Cherry blossoms across the bay at Haines Point could be seen from the Bostick residence. Attendees from the Embassy of Japan were Minister Hideaki and Mrs. Mariko Mizukoshi; COL Yoshihiro and Mrs. Akiko Iseri; LTC Hiro and Mrs. Ai Kawaguchi; Mr. John Tobe and son Jack. Attendees from JAVA were Gerald and Nancy Yamada; Robert and Laurie Nakamoto; Grant Ichikawa; Noriko Sanefuji; Betty Taira; Mark Nakagawa; Calvin and Hannelore Ninomiya; Kay Wakatake and David Radovich; Janelle Kuroda and Chester Hom; Bruce Hollywood; and Terry Shima. (Courtesy of Bruce Hollywood)

Movie Premier

MIS—Human Secret Weapon

Directed by Junichi Suzuki

Go to <http://mis-film.com> to view the trailer and learn more about this new motion picture about the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. The film includes interviews of JAVA members and other prominent Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Planned, written and directed by Junichi Suzuki
Music composed by Kitaro

2012 Screening locations: New York City, Los Angeles, Honolulu, San Jose, San Francisco, Torrance, Irvine, San Diego. Coming soon to Japan.

For specific dates and locations, go to <http://mis-film.com/theaters/>.

JAVA offers nine scholarships; latest addition honors Betty Shima

“The JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program has grown some more! For 2012, we are honored to add a scholarship in the name of Betty Shima, who just passed away on Feb. 5. Mrs. Shima’s husband, Terry, is the Executive Director of JAVA.” That was the latest word from Dr. Raymond Murakami, chair for the Program. He pointed out that now there are a total of nine \$1500 awards would be made.

Mark T. Nakagawa, JAVA’s Treasurer, had advised the Scholarship Committee that he had received a sufficient number of contributions in a week’s time to fund an award in Mrs. Shima’s name for this year. Given this information, the Program officials decided that, although the 2012 competition had already been announced, since it had just gotten underway, expanding the awards to include the Shima scholarship would be a wonderful addition.

To be eligible for the JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program, students must be graduating from high school this year, and they must be able to trace their ancestry to someone who has served in designated military units during World War II, or who otherwise served in the nation’s Armed Forces, or who is lineally related to a qualified JAVA member. Dr. Murakami pointed out that eligible applicants will have a distinctly better, and extra, chance to receive an award this year compared to past scholarship programs.

Complete rules and the application form are posted on the JAVA website www.javadc.org, and all eligible high school students are urged to apply. The application form should be downloaded. **The deadline for submission is May 1, 2012.** The awardees will be identified at a JAVA luncheon on June 9, 2012.

Congressional Gold Medal featured in NOAA ceremony

NEWPORT, Ore. — The Congressional Gold Medal (CSM), awarded to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental RCT, and the Military Intelligence Service in November 2011 featured prominently in the change of command ceremony of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research ship, *Bell M. Shimada*, R-227. The ceremony was held on the pier of the ship’s home port in Newport, Oregon on January 26, 2012.

Commander Todd A Bridgeman, outgoing commanding officer of the *Bell M. Shimada*, presented a replica of the CGM and the law, PL 111-254, that authorized it, to Commander Scott M. Sirois, incoming commanding officer. In making the award, Bridgeman said Congress finds that the “U.S. remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor and dedication to country these men faced while fighting a two-fronted battle of discrimination at home and fascism abroad.” He concluded, “Today, as one of my last official acts as commanding officer, it is my privilege to place in trust Bell Shimada’s CGM replica to the officers and crew of NOAA’s ship *Bell M. Shimada*.”

Bell Masayuki Shimada (1922-1958) was known for his contributions to the study of tropical Pacific tuna stocks. Born in Seattle, Washington, he was sent to internment camp from which he volunteered for the 442nd. In August 1943 he was transferred to the MIS because of his Japanese language skills, trained at Camp Savage, and was assigned to Guam as a communication interceptor. When the war ended he was sent to Japan, where he surveyed the Atom bomb damage and later served in the Occupation as a fishery biologist. Discharged in 1946, he obtained three degrees from the University of Washington.



L-R: With the *Bell M. Shimada*, NOAA R-227, in the background, CDR Todd Bridgeman, CDR Scott Sirois, and Allen Shimada. Bridgeman and Sirois are holding the framed CGM and PL 111-254. (Courtesy of Allen Shimada)

On June 2, 1958, he and another scientist were en route to join their research party when their plane crashed killing both scientists. A geologically young and isolated seamount – Shimada seamount – located 560 nautical miles southwest of Baja Peninsula is named in his memory.

The *Bell M. Shimada*, the fourth in a series of new NOAA fishery research vessels, is designed to conduct both fishery and

oceanographic research. The mission of the scientists aboard the ship is to protect, restore and manage living marine resources and better understand the state of marine ecosystem and the valuable fisheries along the US west coast, including salmon, groundfish, sardine, and other pelagic fish population.

Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, which provided a copy of PL 111-254 that was received from the White House following the October 5, 2010 presidential signature ceremony, received a letter from Commander Bridgeman which said his tour on *Shimada* was “enjoyable and rewarding.” He also said he “gained a better understanding of not only the great professional accomplishments of Dr. Shimada but also obtaining a true appreciation of the contribution all Japanese American veterans made to protect the freedom of this nation.” He also reported that “at the change of command ceremony, the presentation of the CGM and the law in a frame was a powerful and moving moment. All hands were awed by it and are now immensely proud of their new responsibilities.”

Dr. Shimada’s son, Allen, is a fishery biologist at NOAA.

Thank You Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

(Donations received from December 12, 2011 to March 31, 2012)

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Herbert Yanamura (Hawaii)
Arlene Yokoyama (California)
Art Yorozu (Washington)
Gordon Yoshikawa (Ohio)
Reuben and Renee Yoshikawa (Virginia)

Free Lifetime Memberships to Veterans

JAVA is now offering FREE Lifetime Memberships for Veterans of World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, current military personnel of 100th Battalion-442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Application form on page 17 or the JAVA website at www.javadc.org.)

Hoyer, Mukulski, Cardin Announce Federal Grant for Charlotte Hall Veterans Home

WASHINGTON – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) and U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin released statements thanking the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) for providing a Federal grant totaling \$3,765,184 to the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home in St. Mary's County, which serves veterans throughout the State of Maryland.

“The USDVA Grant Award will allow Charlotte Hall Veterans Home to expand the emergency generator capacity to 100% complete backup power,” said Sharon Mattia, Director of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Home Program. “The current equipment is both aging and incapable of providing power support to significant operational areas. The grant will provide 65% of the funding of the project through the USDVA's State Home Construction Grant Program. The project should begin early summer and last about 18 months.”

Songwriting Brings Vets Together

A group of Veterans recently came together and told their stories to musicians. Their stories have become powerful songs about war and remembrance.

Read more at [VAntage Point](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/5787/songwriting-brings-vets-together/)

<http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/5787/songwriting-brings-vets-together/>



JAVA member appointed as commissioner for Maryland Veterans Home Commission

by Vic Mukai, JAVA member

Annapolis, Maryland. The first Asian American to be appointed to the 11-person Maryland Veterans Home Commission appeared before the Maryland Senate Executive Nominations Committee in Annapolis, Maryland, on March 21, 2012, following his appointment by Governor Martin O'Malley. Consisting of 19 members and chaired by Senator Delores G. Kelley, the Committee reviews and interviews all appointments made by the Governor and makes its recommendation to the Senate.

Terry Shima was introduced to the Committee by Mr. Edward Chow, Jr., Maryland Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and endorsed by state Senator Jennie M. Forehand, who represents the Rockville and Gaithersburg constituency. Shima is presently the Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), having held that position for eight years. In his remarks, Mr. Chow said that Shima is a World War II veteran, having served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which, along with the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service, was recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor this nation can bestow. Shima's term of service is five years, subject to the advice and consent of the state senate.

The Maryland Veterans Home Commission advises the Department of Veterans Affairs on issues relating to the state supported Charlotte Hall Veterans Home located on 125 acres in St. Mary County, Maryland. It was opened in 1985 and is a 468 bed facility that includes a 184-bed assisted living and a 278 bed nursing home.

There is no Asian Pacific American veteran resident at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home at this time.



Terry Shima (standing at podium with 442nd cap) addresses the Maryland State Executive Nomination Committee. Standing to his left is State Senator Jennie M. Forehand.

JAVA Speakers Bureau photos



Above: COLLEGE PARK, Md. (November 29, 2011) — JAVA Speakers Bureau was invited by Associate Professor Michael Ross to speak at his U.S. history class at the University of Maryland. 150 students heard Mary Murakami speak on the internment, Grant Ichikawa on the Military Intelligence Service and internment, and Terry Shima on the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT. Dr. Ross presented the speakers with souvenir UMD t-shirts and invited the speakers to return next year. (Allison Finkelstein)



Above: WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (December 9, 2011) — The late Victor Matsui, a MIS veteran, JAVA member and resident of Williamsburg, Virginia, was invited to dinner by Central Intelligence Retirement Association, Williamsburg Chapter. Matsui described his attendance of the Congressional Gold Medal Award ceremony at the U.S. Capitol on November 2, 2011. He also described the 442nd RCT motto, "Go for Broke," which led the Nisei to outstanding accomplishments of sacrifice for country and making the 442nd one of the most decorated U.S. military units of its size & duration of combat during WW II.



Above: SPRINGFIELD, Va. (February 22, 2012) — Grant Ichikawa (across the table holding brief case) spoke to about 50 senior members of the Shepherd's Center of Springfield-Annandale on the Japanese American experience during WW II. Ichikawa also invited them to visit the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism and offered to be their docent. (Cora Foley)



Above: SILVER SPRING, Md. (February 8, 2012) — Grant Ichikawa and Mary Murakami visited Springbrook High School to participate in a program called "Voices of WWII International Democracy Memory Bank Project." Grant and Mary spoke on the Japanese American Internee experience. After this program, they were interviewed and recorded by students in individual groups. The above photo was taken in the school's Hall of Flags. Pictured left to right: Student, Colonel Charles McGee (Tuskegee Airmen), Mrs. Trudy Schonberger (Holocaust), Mary Murakami, Grant Ichikawa, and student. Back row: Students.

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JAVA presents *Hello Maggie* book to Maryland county public schools

ROCKVILLE, Maryland. — In a dignified ceremony on March 1, 2012, Gerald Yamada, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association, officially presented two books on internment camps to Maria Tarasuk, PreK-12 Program Supervisor, Social Studies, for Montgomery County Public Schools, at the Shady Grove Middle School library in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The books, both written by Shigeru Yabu and illustrated by Willie Ito, are *Hello Maggie*, which is designed for elementary schools and *A Boy of Heart Mountain*, which is designed for middle and high schools. Attending the ceremony were Edward Owusu, principal of Shady Grove Middle School (SGMS), Mary Bautista, SGMS Media Specialist, Betty Taira, JAVA book project manager, and Terry Shima, Executive Director of JAVA.

The ceremony was part of JAVA's ongoing education program to preserve the legacy of the World War II Nisei soldiers. JAVA donated copies of the books for all public schools within the MCPS system. In his response to the receipt of the books, Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Superintendent of Schools of MCPS, wrote a letter to JAVA which said "MCPS is pleased to place a copy of each book in the media center of all 200 MCPS schools. In addition, two copies of *Hello Maggie* will be given to

each elementary school for use by grade 5 teachers, and two copies of *A Boy of Heart Mountain* will be given to every high school for use by Grade 9 US history teachers.

"Providing student-friendly, engaging resources about this critical period of American history will help to ensure that the experiences and sacrifices of the Japanese Americans during WW II will not be forgotten. Thank you for your dedication to educating the students of Montgomery County and ensuring that high quality resources are made available for all students."

Dr. Starr also cited JAVA's past contributions. He said "JAVA has been a strong partner with MCPS for several years. Past donations have included curriculum materials, resources for teachers, a DVD produced in collaboration with our MCPS TV Team, and teacher training activities regarding the role of Japanese Americans during WW II."

Yabu was a 9-year old boy in San Francisco, California, when he was



L-R: Gerald Yamada, Mary Battista, Maria Tarasuk, Betty Taira, and Edward Owusu. (Courtesy of Gerald Yamada)

interned at Heart Mountain. One day he brought home a wounded magpie, whom he named Maggie. Maggie would mimic people talk and gave the people of Heart Mountain a healthy diversion to life in an internment camp. When Yabu grew up he served in the US Navy for four years, including the Korean War.

Ito spent his war years at the Topaz, Utah internment camp. When he grew up he was employed as a cartoonist for Walt Disney Studios and Warner Brothers Cartoons. After 45 years in the animation industry, he is now retired and illustrates children's books.

DVA mourns passing of first Secretary of Veterans Affairs Derwinski

[Remarks by Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki]

The Department of Veterans Affairs mourns the passing of its first Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward Joseph Derwinski, who was appointed by President George H.W. Bush and served America's Veterans from March 15, 1989 to September 26, 1992.

Secretary Derwinski was a World War II Army Veteran, who served in the Pacific theater of operations and in post-war Japan. A Soldier and a patriot, Ed Derwinski was an exuberant public servant, beloved by the citizens of the 4th Congressional District of Illinois, whom he served faithfully and with great distinction and compassion for 24 years as member of the House of Representatives.

When Ed departed the Congress, the tributes to his service flowed equally from both parties—a testament to his charac-



ter and his ability to meet others more than half way to achieve consensus on crucial policies. His larger view of what could be done when people work together for the common good is also what made Ed Derwinski so respected at the Department of State during his appointment as Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance in 1987, and as a Delegate to the United Nations.

When he was sworn in by President Bush on March 15, 1989, Ed said, "I consider the new Department to have a vital mission. In fact, it is so vital that there's only one place for the Veterans of America: in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America."

Secretary Shinseki's views are shared Asia Pacific Americans Veterans across America.

TAPS

VICTOR M. MATSUI (1923 - 2012)



Victor Masao Matsui of Williamsburg, Virginia, passed away suddenly from natural causes on Monday, March 26th, 2012 while on a trip to visit his son and family in Hong Kong. Victor was born on June 2, 1923, and raised in Southern California. His UCLA education was interrupted in 1942 when he and his family were interned in Arkansas. In January 1945, he was conscripted into the Army and received basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida.

After VJ day, he was transferred to the CIC and shipped to Japan in November 1945. He served in SCAP, G-2 until June 1952. He received his field commission as Chief Warrent Officer II in 1946. Subsequently, Victor received the Legion of Merit Medal for his service during the Korean War.

After an honorable discharge in July 1952, he joined the American diplomatic service where he served until 1985, in Cambodia, Egypt, Pakistan, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, and Zaire (now Congo). He was appointed director of operational training for Foreign Service officers from 1981 to 1984.

After retiring from government service, Victor became involved with the Williamsburg chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA.) and other community organizations holding executive positions in each one. Victor was active in JAVA's Speakers Bureau and other education committees. On November 2nd, 2011, he was one of many recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal for his service with Military Intelligence Service during the Second World War.

When not travelling, Victor was an avid participant in water aerobics and spinning classes at the Williamsburg YMCA. He was married to the late Teru Kamikawa Matsui, who received her Nursing degree from Johns Hopkins University. She accompanied him on his diplomatic assignments and served as the embassy nurse, while raising the family. Their four children graduated from Brown University. The eldest, Vincent, is an investment professional in New York City. Victor's second son, Martin, works for the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. His first daughter, Linda worked for Euro Disney in Paris and later founded a specialty construction firm with her husband in Orlando, Florida. Victor's second daughter, Marcia, received a graduate fellowship to study Sociology at the University of Chicago and is currently stationed with her husband with the World Bank Group in Istanbul, Turkey. Victor has 5 younger siblings.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 31, 2012, at 10:00 am at the Nelsen Funeral Home & Crema-

tory, 3785 Strawberry Plains Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188. The family invites you to visit the memorial website: Victor-Matsui.ForeverMissed.com

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to one of the following organizations:

Hearing Loss Association of America

Attn: Development Office
7910 Woodmont Avenue
Suite 1200
Bethesda, MD 20814
(hearingloss.org)

Japanese American Veterans Association

The Teru and Victor Matsui Scholarship Fund
c/o Mark Nakagawa, Treasurer
9455 Park Hunt Ct,
Springfield, VA 22153
(javadc.org)

R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA

301 Sentara Circle
Williamsburg, VA 23188
(peninsulaymca.org)

* * * * *

Dr. Kenje Ogata

By Kenjalyn Ogata [condensed from JAVA press release]

Kenje Ogata, 92, one of five Nisei known to have served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WW II, died on January 18, 2012, in Sterling, Illinois. He was born on June 1, 1919, and grew up in Sterling. As a young man, he earned his pilot's license in the Civilian Pilot Training Program.



Top row, left to right: Broadwater, Hanley, McHale, Amos, Ogata, Miskoff
Front row: Nall, Sims, Eskew, Tabor
Flight crew, 726th Squadron, 45th bomb group

Immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the U.S. Army with the hope of serving in the Army Air Corps, but like many other Japanese American GIs, was sent to Camp Grant in Rockford, Illinois to be in the Medical Corps. For two years he doggedly pursued his goal, but was denied the opportunity for [continued on page 16 at Taps]

TAPS (cont'd from page 16)

when he was finally accepted into the Army Air Corps. He entered training and became the ball turret gunner of a flight crew in the 451st Bomb Group, 726 Squadron, flying out of Foggia, Italy. (Flight crew pictured page 15)

In 1941, Dr. Ogata had met his future wife, Wilma Reiff; they married in 1943. After he completed 35 missions and was discharged from the military, he went to college on the GI Bill. In 1953, he graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in Chicago. After a year's fellowship at the Strong-Carter Dental Clinic in Honolulu, he and his family returned to Sterling where, with Wilma managing his office, he practiced dentistry for 42 years and was active in the community both professionally and personally.

Dr. Ogata retired from his dental practice in 1996. He loved music, art, nature, humor, people, his family and friends, and his work. Survivors include his wife, Wilma, of Sterling and a daughter, Kenjalin Ogata, of Somerville, Massachusetts.

* * * * *

LTC Arthur 'Art' Kaneko

By Randy Kaneko

LTC Arthur 'Art' Kaneko's remarkable life began 99 yrs ago in Riverside California and would end on Jan. 31, 2012, when he was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. At age eight, both his mother & father had passed away (his paternal grandparents had previously passed on). Essentially an orphan, he was shuttled overseas to be raised by his maternal grandparents. Learning a second language at this early age proved to be a challenge but would later play a larger role in his military life.

At age 18 he returned home to Los Angeles and became the 13th child in his Uncle's household. This was the time of the Great Depression & young Art worked at the family fruit stand & attended classes at UCLA hoping to one day complete an architecture program. Fate, however, had different plans and in 1941 his education was interrupted by the draft. In November 1941, Pvt. Kaneko was accepted into the Army Intelligence School in San Francisco. One month later, Pearl Harbor was bombed. Following his graduation, he was selected to remain with the school as an instructor until 1944 when he was selected to join the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section (PACMIRS). PACMIRS was an Allied Operation reporting directly to the War Department. Their job was to translate & exploit strategic captured war documents from around the world. During this assignment Art was selected for Infantry OCS in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Four months after receiving his commission, the war ended & Art was reassigned to Japan to collect War Ministry documents. All war documents were sent to the Washington D.C. Document Center for analysis. Linguists were in demand at the Document Center and Art

reassignment until December 31, 1943,

was soon working in our Nation's Capital. The Document Center later was merged into the Central Intelligence Group, which became a part of the newly formed Central Intelligence Agency.

Art married the late Sophie Ravetta Kaneko in 1946 and together they raised three children, Vickie, Sharon, and Randy.

* * * * *

Jay Chen

The editor and founder of *Asian Fortune*, the only English-language Asian Pacific American newspaper in the U.S., died from a brain aneurysm in Inova Fairfax Hospital in Virginia on Jan. 31, 2012.

Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, said that Jay Chen's death is a great loss to the Asia Pacific American community. "He was very eager to publish the role of the APA in the armed forces on active duty and as veterans. We will miss his periodic calls for updates in the APA veterans field."



Above: Jay Chen holds his grandson, Zachary Alexandra Ma. (Courtesy of Lily Chen Ma)

Jay Chen, 61, an immigrant from China, had a vision of uniting the diverse ethnicities that make up the broader Asian Pacific American community. He also wanted to educate others about the Asian Pacific American experience, according to his daughter Lily Chen Ma. This vision became *Asian Fortune*, which Chen launched it in 1993.

Before he founded the newspaper, Chen studied journalism as a fellow at the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii in 1985, a fellowship program that allows participants to study and practice a particular subject. Chen also reported for Xinhua News Agency, a large newspaper in China, and was a translator for the Voice of America in D.C. from 1989 to 1991.

Annual Memorial Day Arlington National Cemetery Project

(JAVA and JAACL WDC Joint Project)

Over 70 gravesites of Asian American veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery will be decorated with flowers over the Memorial Day weekend. If you would like to send a tax-exempt donation to help fund the flowers, please send your donation to:

Mark Nakagawa
9455 Park Hunt Court
Springfield, VA 22153

From the Editor



On March 27, 1912, first lady Helen Herron Taft and the wife of Japan's Ambassador to the United States shoveled dirt along the Tidal Basin here in Washington, D.C., to begin planting the first two of over 3,000 cherry trees. The moment was not photographed and there were few in attendance for the simple ceremony. Planting continued for years afterward, and today the first two trees still stand with over 3,750 cherry trees lining the basin.

Blame this year's remarkably early Spring, but most of the blossoms have already come and gone--much too early to accommodate all the centennial celebrations and ceremonies! Because I work nearby at the Pentagon though, I managed to get in a morning jog under the lush pink canopy, snapping a few pictures along the way.

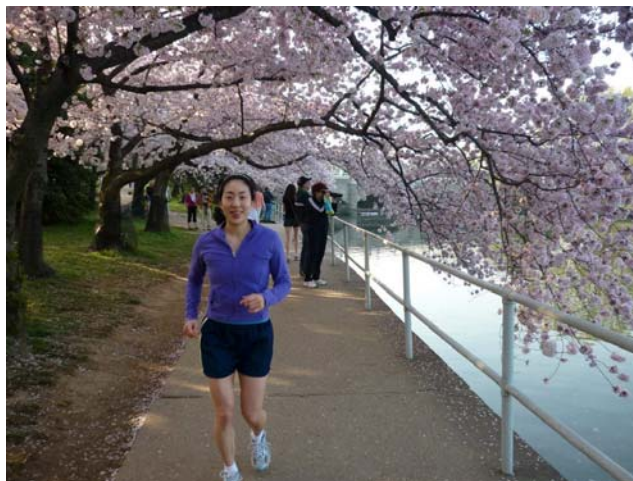
The weekend of April 14 marks the end of the two-week festival celebrating the cherry blossoms. With it being the 100th Anniversary of the gift of these beautiful trees, the celebrations are sure to be memorable. If you can get out

to Washington, D.C. during this time, there will be many activities to enjoy. Don't forget to stop by the JAVA booth at the Sakura Matsuri and say hello to the JAVA members and friends!

Wishing you a beautiful spring and some quality time outdoors with Mother Nature.

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to javaadvocate@gmail.com.



JAVA Membership Application

(Free Life Membership for WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans, and 100th Bn-442nd Inf Vets and Active)

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

Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15

Life Membership: Free Life Membership for Veterans of WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War Veterans, current personnel of 100th Bn-442nd Infantry, Gulf Wars, OEF, OIF

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:
Bruce Hollywood
38 Kinross Drive
Stafford, VA 22554

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

c/o Amour LLC
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd. #104
McLean, Virginia 22101



Please send correspondence to:

General: Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net, 301-987-6746
William E. Houston, houstonnavy@aol.com,
703-380-8175

Education: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

Facebook: Janelle Kuroda, janellekuroda@gmail.com

Freedom Walk: Martin Herbert, Martyherb@aol.com,
703-509-6473

Membership: Bruce Hollywood,
hollywoodweb@comcast.net

Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery: Terry Shima (temp)

Memorial Day Parade: Martin Herbert (See above)

National Archives Research: Fumie Yamamoto,
yamamotoff@yahoo.com; 301-942-3985

Newsletter: Kay Wakatake, javaadvocate@gmail.com

Oral History: Wade Ishimoto, pohaku59@aol.com,
703-989-0983

Policy: Gerald Yamada, President, 703-938-3074,
gyamada@goingforwardstrategies.com

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

Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, g.ichikawa@cox.net
Brett Egusa, begusa@gmail.com

Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, reubenyo@cox.net,
703-795-2512

Scholarship: Ray Murakami, mary2mur@aol.com

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

Veterans Day: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

Visit our website: www.javadc.org

JAVA is now on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/20170473319222

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 31: Freedom Walk.

Apr. 9: Bataan Memorial Service at WW II Memorial, D.C.

Apr. 14: Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival)

Apr. 21, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.

May 25, 11AM–1PM: 4th Naturalization Ceremony by Fairfax County Asian American History Project; sponsored by Bob Nakamoto. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.

May 27: Memorial Day Program with JA CL at Arlington.

May 28, 11AM: Memorial Day Program at Arlington National Cemetery; President Obama lays a wreath at Tomb of the Unknown and address the nation. **2PM:** National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C.

Jun. 9, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon.

Jun. 16: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

July 27: Korean War Armistice Program. JAKWV and JAVA joint wreath laying. Korean War Memorial, D.C.

Sep. 8: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Oct. 13, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon.

Oct. 21: PPALM Annual Reception

Nov. 11: JAVA Veterans Day Program (JA Memorial)

Congratulations to RADM Yuen!



In March 2012, Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta announced that the President nominated Jonathan A. Yuen for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (upper half).

RADM Yuen, a San Francisco native, graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983. In a speech to his alma mater, Lowell High School in San Francisco on Nov. 16, 2010, Yuen indicated that at the time he attended the Naval Academy, there were only a handful of Asian Americans among his classmates. Yuen said he is proud of the increased Asian American enrollment at the Academy as well as the increased role women play in the Navy today.

Yuen defines diversity as more than someone's ethnicity. "We fixate ourselves on ethnicities as opposed to culture. But, diversity is so much more complex than that. When we think about diversity we need to consider demographics, like age or what region of the country or even world someone is from or has lived. The kinds of life experiences we have significantly mold who we are and what we can contribute to others," said Yuen in an interview for U.S. Pacific Fleet on Sept. 16, 2009 by Bill Doughty.

Yuen explained that previous generations felt pressure to completely assimilate into American culture. His parents did not speak or teach Chinese in his family, but Yuen did study Mandarin at the U.S. Naval Academy. "Today, times have changed, and it is wonderful. Instead of a melting pot, we now have a salad in America, where we can sample, savor and even celebrate the different flavors," said Yuen.