



Japanese American Veterans Association

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WWII Veteran Terry Shima awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal

By Lt. Janelle Kuroda, U.S. Navy Reserve

WASHINGTON - At a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Feb. 15, 2013, President Obama awarded World War II veteran Terry T. Shima the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian award. Shima was one of 18 recipients of the medal, hand-selected by the President from over 6,000 candidates for "strengthening the sacred trust between America and its veterans."

In his remarks, President Obama recognized recipients "for the shining example that you set every single day and the inspiration that you give each of us as fellow citizens, including your President."

Shima, 90, of Gaithersburg, Md., was born and raised in Laupahoehoe, Hawaii and served in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit comprised of Japanese Americans, which became one of the most decorated units of its size in American history. Shima "ensured returning heroes received a welcome befitting their service and



Feb. 15, 2013 - President Obama awards Terry Shima with the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal at a ceremony in the East Wing of the White House

sacrifice." Shima's award citation recognized his work "as the Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association, where he committed himself to preserving the stories of service members who fought and bled overseas, even while many of their families were relocated to internment camps at home." See "Shima" on Page 3

JAVA President Outlines Plans for Fund Drive to Donate to Organizations which support Veterans

Honor Flight is First Recipient

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - JAVA President Gerald Yamada announced a new program to support veterans charities. In his report to the attendees of the JAVA quarterly lunch on June 15, 2013 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant at Fall Church, Virginia, he outlined JAVA plans to start a fund drive and donate all proceeds collected to Honor Flight, the first recipient of this program. In his prepared statement, Yamada said, "At our last

luncheon in March, I announced that the JAVA Executive Council approved a new initiative. Our new initiative is to raise money for a selected charity that provides benefits to veterans and their families. I am pleased to announce today that, earlier this month, the Executive Council selected the Honor Flight Network, as the recipient of our charitable donation for this year."

See "Fund Drive" on Page 4

President's Message



As the valor of Japanese American soldiers served to replace the distrust and suspicion created by December 7, 1941, with honor and respect, we continue to benefit from World War II veterans who are still going the extra mile to work for our community. One shining example is our very own Terry Shima.

Terry was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Award, the second highest civilian award, by President Obama on February 15, 2013. On May 21, 2013, Japanese Ambassador Sasae conferred upon Terry the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette. These are very high

honors, and we are proud of the recognitions given to Terry. These honors are more than just personal honors for him.

These honors bring recognition to the legacy that Terry has worked so hard to preserve. We all benefit.

When he was JAVA's Executive Director (2003-2011) and now as Chair of the JAVA Education and Outreach Committee (2012-present), Terry made significant contributions to preserve the legacy of the Nisei veterans and to promote JAVA as an organization. Terry is a 442nd RCT veteran. He has shown dedication, unselfishness, and humility in carrying out his exemplary work to preserve the legacy and memory of his fellow veterans especially those who were killed in action during World War II.

On behalf of JAVA, I extend to Terry our deepest appreciation, admiration, and respect for his dedication and look forward to having the benefit of his continued service in the years to come.

--Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President

Welcome New Members!

Kurt Lee, Washington, DC
SCPO Mikio Taniguchi, San Diego, CA
Frank Akiyama, Columbia, MD
Michael Shirey, Silver Spring, MD
RDML Colin Chinn, McLean, VA
Karen Natsuhara, Fairfax, VA
Roger Natsuhara, Fairfax, VA
Jason Osuga, Lorton, VA
SGM Pat Fensom, Fort Bragg, NC
George Hinoki, San Jose, CA
LTC Andrew Dacus, Alexandria, VA
Yukio Kuniyuki, Harker Heights, TX
Sam Terasaki, Denver, CO
Thomas Soraoka, Colorado Springs, CO
Calvin Jeo, McKinney, TX
COL (R) Tom Woloszyn, Woodbridge, VA
COL Michael Bolluyt, Woodbridge, VA

Free Lifetime Memberships to Veterans

JAVA is now offering FREE Lifetime Memberships for Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, current military personnel of the 100th Battalion - 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel Akaka (Ret.)
The Honorable Norman Mineta
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor
Georzge Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

Officers

Gerald Yamada, Esq., President
Wade Ishimoto, Vice President
Allen Goshi, Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Ret.), Secretary
Mark Nakagawa, Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Ret.), Treasurer
Robert Nakamoto, Immediate Past President & Chairperson of the Finance Committee

Executive Council

Above Officers plus:
Bruce Hollywood, Col., U.S. Air Force (Ret), Executive Director
William Houston, Esq., Deputy Executive Director
Grant Ichikawa
Janelle Kuroda, Lt., U.S. Navy Reserve
Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., General Counsel
Terry Shima
Kay Wakatake, Lt. Col., U.S. Army
Reuben Yoshikawa

JAVA Advocate

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus
Janelle Kuroda, Lt., U.S. Navy Reserves, Editor
Kenny Kuniyuki, Maj., U.S. Army, Assistant Editor

Round Robin (Weekly Electronic Bulletin)

Brett Egusa, Lt. Col., U.S. Army Reserve

Five JAVA Officials Invited to Meet Prime Minister Abe and Foreign Minister Kishida

WASHINGTON - During a recent visit to Washington, DC, for high level discussions, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida engaged in US-Japan exchanges, including with members of the Japanese American community, at the Crystal Room of the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in downtown Washington, DC, on Feb. 22, 2013.

The Japanese American Veterans Association, or JAVA, was well represented by JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Executive Director Col Bruce Hollywood, U.S. Air Force (retired), immediate past JAVA president Bob Nakamoto, and members Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima. The JAVA delegation told the Prime Minister that, as Americans, they were also proud of their Japanese heritage. JAVA is supportive of the Japanese government's efforts to maintain a strong, sound relationship between Japan and the Nikkei population.

During the morning, Premier Abe visited Arlington National Cemetery. That was followed by a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House to discuss a wide range of issues such as US-Japan regional security and economic



L-R: Craig Uchida, Grant Ichikawa, Bob Nakamoto, Prime Minister Abe, Terry Shima, Gerald Yamada, and Floyd Mori.

issues. Following this discussion, Abe delivered a policy speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on the future of Japan's foreign policy, US-Japan relations, and Japan's relations with China and other regional powers. Later, a press conference followed.

On the same day, February 22, Foreign Minister Kishida held an approximately one hour long meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry. They discussed a broad range of issues such as US – Japan relations; the Asia-Pacific situation (Japan's relations with China and North Korea, etc.), and global issues.

Shima *[cont'd from page 1]*

Shima's family members, brother Hiroshi Shima of Hilo, Hawaii, son Michael Shima of Philadelphia, Pa., daughter Eileen Roulrier and son-in-law Richard Roulrier of Potomac, Md., traveled to the White House to view the ceremony.

When asked what his reactions were in receiving this award, Shima said, "In a word, awesome." He said, "There are others far more deserving to receive this Medal than I, however, having been designated, I accept this award on behalf of my family who has given me their total support."

"I am so proud of my father," said Shima's daughter, Eileen Roulrier. "Our family sees how deeply he cares and how hard he works to tell the Japanese American story, but he certainly never expected this medal. It's an incredible gift of recognition," said Roulrier. "I believe in his heart he shares this honor, completely and thoroughly, with my mother, who supported him throughout their 65 years of marriage. What an amazing team. I am profoundly grateful for the inspiration and guidance they've given me over the years."

"I accept this medal on behalf of the volunteers at the Japanese American Veterans Association and for the men who fought in Europe and the Pacific, including my older

brother, Hideichi Shimabukuro, to settle the question of loyalty once and for all and to help level the playing field for minorities," said Shima. "I also accept this medal for the over 800 men we left on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific, and for the post-World War II Japanese American men and women who competed with the best-of-the-best to build America's greatness."

Gerald Yamada, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association, praised Shima's service. "This award recognizes Terry's tireless efforts as a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, as Executive Director, and now as the chairperson of our Education and Public Outreach Committee to preserve the legacy of the contributions of the World War II Nisei soldiers. Terry brings honor to all of us."

"Given all the work, time, dedication and effort that Terry has expended over all these years on behalf of the veterans and the total community, there is no one who is more deserving of this recognition," said former Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta. "I know that the thousands of Japanese American veterans who served in World War II and those who ultimately made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of all of us are really smiling and saying 'Well done, Terry, and thanks a million!'"

Fund Drive to give back to military community *[con't from page 1]*

In explaining the fund drive, JAVA President Gerald Yamada said, "Let me explain Why is JAVA doing this? In recent years, the American public has expressed its appreciation in many ways for the World War II Nisei soldiers' extraordinary support of the war effort. We are truly grateful for the honors given to those veterans. In receiving these expressions of appreciation, we have been takers. We have all shared in their honors. In return, we want to show that a part of the Nisei soldiers' legacy is to give back to veterans and their families who are in need, and to support the military community. This new initiative is one way for JAVA to fulfill our responsibility as a Veterans Service Organization.

"Second, you may ask Why did we select the Honor Flight Network? The purpose of Honor Flight is to transport as many veterans, as possible, to see their war memorials in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the veterans. Currently, Honor Flight is focused primarily on bringing veterans of World War II to visit the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. Honor Flight will transition to bring veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and subsequent wars to Washington, D.C.

"The first Honor Flight took place in May 2005. As of November 2010, Honor Flight had transported over 63,000 veterans to Washington, D.C.

"Honor Flight helped to bring World War II Nisei veterans to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies held in Washington,

DC in November 2011. Our selection of Honor Flight, as the inaugural charity for JAVA's new initiative, is our way of expressing our appreciation for Honor Flight's help in making the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony a memorable experience for the Nisei veterans.

"Finally, How can JAVA members and friends help support our new initiative? Over the past three years, we have taken steps so that we can manage JAVA without having to ask JAVA members to pay membership dues. We have been able to eliminate dues while at the same time securing JAVA's financial future. But, we still need your financial help to carry out JAVA's mission. In lieu of dues, we ask that JAVA members and friends make a donation to JAVA to support this new initiative.

If you would like to support JAVA by writing a check, please make your checks payable to "JAVA" and put "Honor Flight" on the memo line. Send your check to Mark Nakagawa, JAVA Treasurer, 9455 Park Hunt Court, Springfield, VA 22153.

"Our fundraiser will give 100% of the money donated to Honor Flight. We will present our check to Honor Flight as a part of JAVA's 13th Annual Veterans Day Program on November 11, 2013 at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. We ask for your support and hope Washington, DC area Japanese American residents will join us on November 11 at our Veterans Day Program. If you have any questions, please contact Gerald Yamada, 703-938-3074."



JAVA speaker Mary Murakami, Topaz, Utah Internment Center, with students from Capital City Public Charter School, in Washington, DC, on April 8, 2013. Photo by Julian Hipkins.

Two Japanese Americans Promoted to Key Positions in the Army

THE PENTAGON - Lt. Gen. John F. Campbell was promoted to General and appointed to serve as the Army's 34th Vice Chief of Staff on March 8, 2013, and Maj. Gen. James L. Huggins, Jr. was promoted to Lt. Gen. and succeeded Campbell as Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7 on Mar. 8, 2013. The mothers of both generals are Japanese. Campbell is the second Japanese American to reach the four star General rank, the first being Gen. Eric Shinseki, U.S. Army (retired), Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Huggins' previous position was Commanding General of the 82nd Airborne Division and Commander, Regional Command South, International Assistance Force, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Afghanistan. Huggins' new portfolio includes Army operations (G-3); plans (G-5) and training (G-7). Both Campbell's and Huggins' appointments required nomination by the president and confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Army Chief of Staff, who officiated at Campbell's promotion program, said, "As we continue to move forward with this great Army of ours it's important that we pick the right leaders as we address these challenges in the Army ... John Campbell is one of those leaders I want by my side as we navigate these very difficult times. He will be the one who helps me and the Secretary as we reshape the Army of the future."

Odierno and Campbell's wife, Ann, replaced her husband's three-star shoulder boards with four-star shoulder boards of a full general. Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh officiated at the swearing-in ceremony. As the Vice Chief of Staff, Campbell will be responsible for most of the Army's day to day management. He is well regarded across the Army and other services for his acumen as a war commander steeped in battlefield strategy and operations.

Campbell served in Afghanistan in the early days of the war in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and again in June 2010 when, as commanding general of the 101st, he served in Regional Command East of Afghanistan, winning the respect of American, Allied, and local officials. He was back to Afghanistan in 2009-2011 as Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division. He also served in Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Huggins third star was "pinned on" by Odierno and Mrs. Melissa Huggins on Mar. 8th, 2013 in the office of the Army Chief of Staff. Huggins was commissioned through ROTC into the Infantry in March 1980 after graduating from the University of Georgia, South Athens, Georgia. Huggins served in various Army units at overseas and domestic posts, including his home state of Hawaii, however, the majority of



Gen. Ray Odierno, Army Chief of Staff, and Ann Campbell, pin the 4th star on General John Campbell's shoulder boards at a Pentagon ceremony on March 8, 2013. He is the 34th Deputy Chief of Staff of the US Army.



Melissa Huggins helps U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno pin her husband Maj. Gen. James L. Huggins as he is promoted to Lieutenant General and becomes the new Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, Headquarters Department of the Army at the Pentagon, March 8, 2013 .

his line assignments were with the 82nd Airborne Division. Before commanding the 82nd in Afghanistan, Huggins served as director of operations, readiness and mobilization for the deputy chief of staff for operations and plans for the U.S. Army.

Huggins participated in the operation to capture Manuel Noriega of Panama known in the Army as Operation Just Cause. He was involved in the defense of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from Iraqi invasion, the Iraq War at different stages from the defeat of Saddam Hussein to the Occupation and the withdrawal of American forces.

Prior to leaving Afghanistan in 2011 as Commanding General of the Division, he observed "I'm done here ...There are no more jobs in the 82nd Airborne Division. I was very fortunate to command at nearly all levels...This is the best division in the U.S. Army because of the men and women who choose to serve here...The stars don't matter."

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Pacific American who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 112 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 112, 63 served in the US Army, 22 in the US Air Force, 23 in the US Navy, 2 in the US Public Health Service and one each in the US Marines and US Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 29 are Chinese American, 14 are Filipino American, 23 are Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 5 are Korean Americans and 41 are Japanese Americans.

Rear Admiral Colin G. Chinn



Rear Admiral Colin G. Chinn is currently assigned as director, Medical Resources Plans and Policy division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and as the 10th chief, Navy Medical Corps. A native of San Francisco, Chinn graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in public health

and received a master's degree in epidemiology from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in 1982.

After his commissioning as an ensign in 1981, he attended the Medical College of Virginia through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program and earned a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1985. Chinn has several tours with the Marine Corps as battalion surgeon, group surgeon, force surgeon and surgeon general. He has staff physician tours, director of medical services, commanding officer at navy hospital, and as director of TRICARE Region West Pacific.

"In response to the Advocate's question as to why I selected the armed forces as my career choice, I am honored to serve our great nation and the men and women of our armed forces. Through five generations, my family has benefited from the freedoms and opportunities that this nation can provide to those who are willing to work hard and sacrifice. Members of my family have served in all four branches of the service dating back to World War II, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War. My oldest brother is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and he served for 20 years as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps. With that background, it was only natural for me to want to join the Navy via the Health Professions Scholarship Program when I was accepted to medical school. It was a decision that I would absolutely make again and have never regretted. Not only was my medical education fully funded by the Navy, but the Navy has given me the opportunity to receive world class training, provide care to the best and most appreciative patients, educate and train our future physicians and corpsmen and command a naval hospital."

Maj. Gen Sharon K.G. Dunbar



Maj. Gen. Sharon K.G. Dunbar is Commander, Air Force District of Washington, Joint Base Andrews, Md. The Air Force District of Washington (AFDW) provides the single Air Force voice and component to the Joint Forces Headquarters-National Capital Region.

Dunbar was commissioned from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1982. She holds a master's degree in business administration from California State University, a master's degree in national security studies (with distinction) from National War College with, and has completed her doctoral studies in public policy with The George Washington University. She has served as a fellow in the U.S. Senate as well as with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Harvard University.

She has served in a variety of acquisition, political-military, and force support positions and commanded a mission support squadron, Air Force Basic Military Training, and an air base wing. Prior to her current position, Dunbar served as the Director of Force Management Policy, Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington D.C.

When asked why she chose the armed forces as a career, Dunbar said, "Like many, I come from a very patriotic and diverse family. My mother immigrated from Korea and my father's family from Germany. Growing up, our modest circumstances taught me much about the values, freedoms, and opportunities America affords. But it was my parents who inspired my brother, a West Point grad, and me to help improve the lives of others through our military service. Few other professions enable you to serve alongside such immensely dedicated, inspirational people."

Dunbar and her husband, Doug, a retired colonel, are Air Force Academy classmates. They have two children - their son is a captain in the U.S. Army and their daughter is a law student.

New Army special ops leader from Hawaii one of few Japanese Americans filling senior military assignments

By Gregg K. Kakesako

HONOLULU - The Army two-star general who this summer will assume command of all special operations forces from the Middle East to Pakistan still likes to call Honolulu home. Maj. Gen. Michael Nagata, 55, was born in Alexandria, Va., but told the Star-Advertiser his roots are in Pearl City, Hawaii, where his parents, William and Frances Nagata, were born. "My extended family still lives there," said Nagata in a phone interview from his office in the Pentagon.

Nagata attended Pearl City Elementary School until his father, an Army colonel, was transferred to another post. Although he left at age 7, Nagata said he still has fond memories of setting off fireworks on New Year's Eve, "hot malasadas and Huli Huli Chicken and Ewa Beach - all childhood memories." Two uncles served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the famed all-nisei Army unit, in World War II.

Nagata, who was promoted to major general in January 2012, is currently deputy director for special operations on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. As commander of Special Operations Command Central, Nagata will operate out of MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., home to the headquarters of the Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. The Central Command is responsible for U.S. military operations in or around 20 countries, including Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan.

In a Foreign Policy magazine article in January, retired Lt. Gen. Frank Kearney, who held the post Nagata is about to step into, called Nagata an "unassuming and affable leader with a lethal intellect" whose in-depth experience and



connections make him a "perfect choice" for the job. "Operating from the shadows in support of the fight against al-Qaida and affiliates' senior leaders, Gen. Nagata has developed inter-agency, country team, and U.S. embassy relationships throughout CENTCOM and the Horn of Africa," Kearney said. Nagata views his next assignment as "a huge honor," adding, "I am very lucky to be selected."

Nagata is one of a few Japanese Americans currently filling senior assignments in the service.

Lt. Gen. James Huggins, Army deputy chief of staff; Lt. Gen. John F. Campbell, who has been selected as the next head of Forces Command; and Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of Army Corps of Engineers, all have Japanese parents. Huggins has island ties, having graduated from Leilehua High School.

Vice Adm. Harry Harris, a 1978 Naval Academy graduate and a combat aviator, was born in Japan and is now assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

See "Nagata" on Page 8



JAVA speakers bureau visited Brunswick Middle School, Frederick County, Maryland on May 5, 2013 and spoke to two classes in the library.

L-R: Bill Groff, history teacher, Mary Murakami, Scott Strait, History teacher, and Jen Bean, Librarian.

15th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk

WASHINGTON - The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Veterans Association, and the DC Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League held their 15th Annual Freedom Walk which consisted of a 40 minute program and a walk along a scenic cherry blossom route. About 300 people sat under the fully bloomed cherry blossoms on a sunny Spring day at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism to hear Ambassador of Japan Kenichiro Sasae speak of the significance of cherry trees and former Secretary Miineta provide a detailed background of the Civil Act of 1988. Lt. Janelle Kuroda, U.S. Navy Reserve, served as the mistress of ceremonies. The aim of the Freedom Walk is to educate a new generation of Americans about the Japanese American experience during WW II.



L-R: Former Secretary Norman Mineta, Ambassador Sasae, Gerald Yamada



L-R: Lt. Col. Marty Herbert, U.S. Army (retired), JAVA President Gerald Yamada, Lt. Janelle Kuroda, Terry Shima, Dr. Ray Murakami, Lt. Col. Mark Nakagawa, U.S. Army (retired).

Nagata [cont'd from page 7]

Nagata said he doesn't see himself as a role model. "It may be that I am seen that way by other people," he said. "I don't see myself that way. I just see myself as an officer of the U.S. military with a job to do, people to lead and problems to solve. I don't really consider myself any different than any of my colleagues."

Nagata estimates that at least half of his three decades in uniform has been on assignments in Asia and in the Pacific, including South Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Nagata was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1982 after graduating from Georgia State University. He spent his first

assignment as a weapons platoon officer with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea before joining the Special Forces in 1984. From 2000 to 2002 he served as a squadron commander in a Special Mission Unit. After graduating from the National War College, he served in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence until 2005. He then assumed command of a special mission unit, and served there until 2008. In 2009, Nagata served within the Intelligence Community as a deputy director for counterterrorism. From 2009 to 2011, he deployed to Islamabad, Pakistan, where he served as the deputy chief of the Office of the Defense Representative to Pakistan. He and his wife, Barbara, have five children.

Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from the Honolulu Star-Advertiser

JAVA supporter David Iwata visits with JAVA members in D.C.

During his visit to Washington, D.C. on Apr. 11, 2013, David Iwata, Managing Partner of LD Two Group, Inc., had lunch with JAVA members at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Va. Iwata, an advocate for JAVA, serves as JAVA's link to active duty and retired Asian Pacific Islander American military personnel. He also highlights the advantages of JAVA membership.



Sitting, L-R: Mary Murakami, Deputy Assistant Secretary Roger Natsuhara, U.S. Navy, Bob Nakamoto; standing: Dr. Ray Murakami, JAVA Vice President and host Wade Ishimoto, Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, U.S. Army, David Iwata, Capt. Cynthia Macri, U.S. Navy, Reuben Yoshikawa.

Betty Taira

JAVA featured in PPALM's "Lessons in Courage and Citizenship"

Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM) and the Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN) jointly met at the Fort Myer Officers Club, Arlington, Virginia, to discuss "Lessons in courage and citizenship: The Japanese American Experience During WW II" that was led by a panel. Mary Murakami, a high school student at Topaz, Utah Internment Camp, discussed why 120,000 ethnic Japanese interned for the duration of the war, the conditions at the assembly centers and the camps, and the post internment camp life. Ichikawa, also an internee, whose family was confined to a horse's stall at Turlock Assembly Center but volunteered for the MIS to prove his loyalty discussed the MIS contributions to the war effort. Shima discussed the roles of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd R.C.T. to help win the battles in Italy, France and Germany. Sanefuji, an executive at Smithsonian Institution with deep historical knowledge of ethnic Japanese experience during WW II, posed her questions in a manner that produced meaningful results. MG Antonio Taguba, Chairman of PPALM who provided closing remarks, noted that the message to take away from this discussion was how one ethnic group rose above the humiliation, discrimination and racism to prove their allegiance to America.



Noriko Sanefuji (standing), Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Mary Murakami (Internee) and Terry Shima (442nd) at the Ft. Myers Officers' Club, discussing "Lessons in courage and citizenship."

Stan Fujii

Minnesota Nisei veterans participate in WW II Round Table

Four Minnesota Nisei veterans were featured in a WW II Round Table on March 14, 2013 at the Fort Snelling (MN) Historical Center, located at Minneapolis and attended by over 250 local residents. The moderator was Steve Osman, retired director of the Center. The Nisei participants were COL Edwin (Bud) Nakasone, USA (Ret) (MIS), Bill Doi (Special Services NCO--Ft Snelling), George Yoshino (MIS), and Ed Yoshikawa (Co. H, 442nd). The panelists responded to questions pertaining to their roles in and the activities of the MIS, which served in the Asia Pacific Theater, and the 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which served in Italy, France and Germany. The panelists expressed Nisei appreciation to the Minnesotans for their hospitality and warm relationships extended to Nisei students who attended the MIS Language School (MISLS). A retired printer of Savage, MN, where MISLS was once located, displayed a large (approximately 7' x 15' valcroix covered portable exhibit with posters and pictures of 100th/442, Camp Savage, Fort Snelling, and photos of the Congressional Gold Medal, which was awarded to the 100, 442 and MIS in November 2011. Nakasone was born and raised in Hawaii, served in the Occupation of Japan, and is professor emeritus of Century College, MN. Doi, a native of Leeland, Washington, was interned at Tule Lake, served in Special Service at MISLS, and pursued a career in advertising. Yoshino was born in Bellevue, Washington, interned at Tule Lake, graduate of MISLS and served in the Philippine Liberation, Occupation of Japan, and became an accountant. Yoshikawa was born in Sacramento, California, graduated from high school at Tule Lake, served as a replacement to the 442nd in the last stages of the Italian campaign, and had a career in the textile business in Minneapolis and Japan.



L-R: Col. Bud Nakasone, U.S. Army (retired), Bill Doi, Steve Osman, George Yoshino, Ed Yoshikawa.

Army general with Hawaii ties to be awarded second star

By Gregg K. Kakesako

HONOLULU - Army Brig. Gen. Clarence K.K. Chinn, whose parents are from Hawaii, has been selected to receive his second star as a major general, the Pentagon announced. Chinn is in Afghanistan as deputy commander of Regional Command-East, a component of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command. Regional Command-East covers 14 provinces and about 43,000 square miles, roughly the size of Ohio, and shares 450 miles of border with Pakistan.

In an email from Afghanistan, Chin recalled spending summers in Hawaii with his grandparents in Kailua and Kapa'a, Kauai. His father, Clarence Y.L. Chinn, is a former Army officer and was a dentist for many years in Aiea, where he still lives. Chinn said he lived with his grandparents on Kauai in 1969 while his father served in Vietnam. His wife's parents, Isamu "Lucky" and Gladys Uehara, owned New Liberty Grill, which operated in downtown Honolulu for more than 40 years. Chinn's wife, Val, graduated from Mid-Pacific Institute in 1980.

Their son, Jared, played ice hockey for the Nanaimo Clippers in Canada and Connecticut Oilers in Greenwich, Conn.; their

daughter, Ashley, plays on an ice hockey team for Adrian College in Michigan, where she is majoring in exercise science and biology.

Chinn is a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Chinn deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the 75th Ranger Regiment and then served in Afghanistan. Chinn commanded the Ranger Training Brigade from July 2004 to July 2006. Later he was assigned to the U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., until June 2008. In January 2011, Chinn became the commanding general of the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, La.



Editor's Note: Reprinted with permission from the Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Michigan WW II Veteran Westdale Speaks to University Students



Virgil Westdale, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was invited to speak at the University of Southern California on Feb. 12, 2013. Westdale, whose father is Japanese and mother is Caucasian, discussed his WW II experience for over one hour to over 80 students from USC and nearby universities. His remarks were recorded for use at the Japanese American National Museum exhibit, Visible and Invisible: A Hapa Japanese American History, that will run from April 7 to August 26 2013. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams, Director of USC Center for Japanese Religions and Culture and Founder of the Hapa Japan Database Project at USC invited Westdale to speak after reading his book, Blue Skies and Thunder. Dr. Williams told the Advocate reporter that, according to the most recent U.S. Census data, Japanese America is about to turn majority multiracial. But the involvement of mixed-race persons in the Japanese American community is not just a recent phenomenon, as evidenced by people like artist Isamu Noguchi, the publisher of the Hawaii Hochi, Fred Makino, and of course, the dedicated service of Virgil Westdale to his country by serving in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

JAVA Education and Outreach Committee



Mary Murakami responds to questions from (L-R) Libby Zapor and Erica Fuhrmann during a visit to the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, Md.



Mary Murakami (right) and Elizabeth Welton, history teacher at Bethesda-Chevy Chase School, Maryland, discuss plans for the speakers presentation.

Tadashi "Tad" Nagaki, Jan. 25, 1920 to April 22, 2013

By Mary Taylor Previte, Retired member of New Jersey General Assembly

Tad Nagaki (93) died on April 22, 2013 at the home of his grandson near Denver, Colorado.

Tad was the last living member of the World War II, 7-man American rescue team that liberated 1,500 Allied prisoners in the Japanese-held Weihsien concentration Camp in China, August 17, 1945.

Who can forget that day? Angels dropping from the sky on a windy August day -- parachuting from the belly of that B-24 bomber outside those barrier walls. Remember, remember, remember? Weihsien went mad. Emaciated prisoners weeping, dancing, pounding the sky with their fists. Prisoners climbing the walls. Hysterical with joy, we rushed the gate to welcome these American gods. No matter how many guns the Japanese had! Yes, sun-bronzed **American gods** with meat on their bones.

The Tad Nagaki story is an important chapter of American history. As an American-born, Japanese-American enlisted man, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Tad Nagaki was

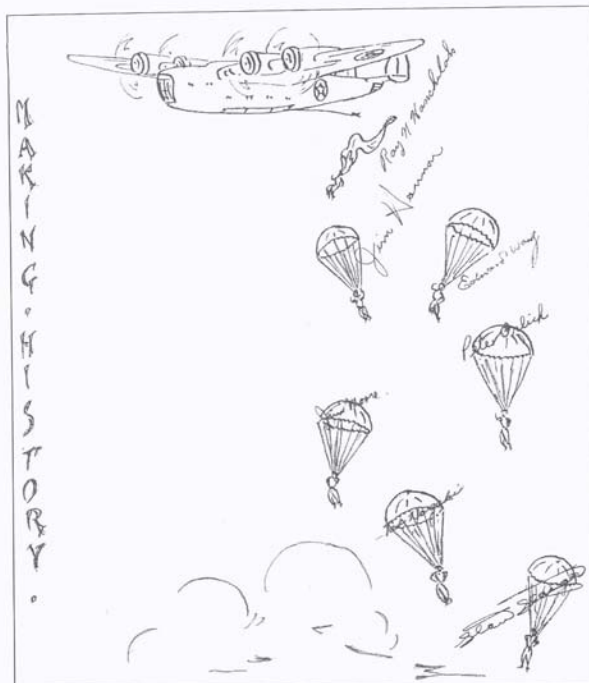


Mary Taylor Previte and Tad Nagaki at his 90th birthday.

sidelined with other Nisei, doing menial labor in Ft. Campbell, KY, stupid stuff, Tad said -- like pruning trees and loading trains. Tad wanted to fight in the real war like every red-blooded American, but because he was Nisei, a personal letter from his commander denied Tad's request to become an air cadet. Then in 1943, Tad Nagaki volunteered to be part of an elite team of Nisei spies. It was an experiment: Could Japanese-Americans be trusted to fight the Japanese? But the United States desperately needed men in intelligence service who understood Japanese. This team was highly trained in communications and survival skills.

Now Tad Nagaki was a member of this Office of Strategic Services's (OSS) 15-member Nisei unit that infiltrated behind Japanese lines in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. Serving first with OSS 101 in Burma with Kachin tribesmen, when the war wound down in Burma, he trucked over "The Hump" to China. When Allied intelligence warned that the Japanese planned to execute their Allied prisoners in China and Manchuria, Tad volunteered for the rescue team called the "Duck Mission" that liberated Weihsien. He served as the team's Japanese-language interpreter. For his heroism, he was awarded the Soldier's Medal. Team leader, Major Stanley Staiger promoted him to sergeant. In addition to Nagaki and Staiger, the rescue team were 1st Lt. James W. Hannon, Ensign James W. Moore, Sgt. Peter C. Orlich, Tech 4 Raymond N. Hanchulak, Edward Wong.

In 1997, I tracked down these liberators in a successful national search and visited each one face-to-face to say thank you. Tad, a widower whose sons had died, still farmed corn, and beans, and sugar beets in Alliance, Nebraska.



Team "OPERATION DUCK," Parachuting into Weihsien, China, Concentration Camp from B24 Bomber where 1,500 interms were rescued on August 17, 1945.

Bottom to top: Maj. Stanley Staiger, Sgt. Tad Nagaki, Ensign James Moore, Sgt. Peter Orlich, Ed Wong, Lt. James Hannon and T/4 Ray Hanchulak. (Sketch drawn by rescued intern.)

George Aratani, Feb. 19, 2013

Mr. George Aratani, Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) life member, philanthropist, and head of the table ware firm, Mikasa Inc., and founder of the Kenwood electronics company, passed away on February 19, 2013, at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center of complications of pneumonia. He was 95.

In his letter to Mrs. Aaratani, JAVA president Gerald Yamada wrote, "On behalf of the Japanese American Veterans Association, let me express our sadness in hearing that George passed away on Monday, February 19, 2013. George was a life member of JAVA. He will always be remembered for his generosity and his support of Japanese American community initiatives. Our prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time."

Prior to World War II, young Mr. Aratani and his family were prosperous farmers in Guadalupe, California, but were forced into an internment camp at Gila River, Arizona after Pearl Harbor and lost everything. After the war, he displayed a great sense of entrepreneurship by eventually building his two very successful businesses. In later years, he and his wife, Sakaye, who had been interned in the Poston, Arizona,



camp became known for their generous contributions to many educational and non-profit organizations.

The Aratani Foundation supported many Japanese American organizations and also endowed the first academic chair to study the World War II internment of people of Japanese descent and their efforts to gain redress.

Mitsugi Murakami Kasai, Jan. 30, 1918 to Mar. 14, 2013



Mitsugi Murakami Kasai, aka "Casey," 95, peacefully passed away in his sleep on March 14, 2013 after an extended stay at the Christus St. Joseph Villa. He was born January 30, 1918 to Tsunajiro Murakami and Iyo Nishime in Milford, Beaver County, Utah and grew up

around Salmon City, Arco and Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was adopted by Harry Hiroshi Kasai.

He left his 160 acre farm in Idaho Falls to enlist in the U.S. Army counterintelligence Corp (CIC) in June 1946. He interpreted, interrogated, investigated, conducted liaison with counterparts of other countries and agencies, and performed secret, confidential, espionage and national security duty.

From June 1948 to June 1950 he was assigned to the Tokyo/Kanagawa District, 441st CIC Detachment, General Headquarters, Far East Command. He was honorably discharged on June 16, 1950 but on the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25, 1950, he reenlisted in September 1950 as Master Sergeant with the U.S. Army. He was commissioned a Warrant Officer Junior Grade in 1951 and hoped to be sent to Korea but was assigned to the 11th Airborne CIC Detachment in Fort Campbell, Ky. Kasai was assigned as a CIC agent to various prefectures in Japan during the Occupation, Korea, South Vietnam and stateside. He retired on March 31, 1973 to care for his aging parents.

Kasai was very active in the community after his retirement. He was a staunch supporter of all veterans activities, especially the Japanese American veterans groups such as the Japanese American Veterans Association, Go For Broke, Inc., Military Intelligence Reunions and others. Although he lived a somewhat solitary existence, he was acutely and wholesomely connected to humanity. He was a rare, intelligent and noble human being.

JAVA Speakers invited by Army Navy Club of Washington, DC invited to hold Panel Discussion

WASHINGTON - On April 2, 2013 the exclusive Army Navy Club of Washington, DC invited the JAVA Speakers Bureau to discuss the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy.

The moderator of the event was Dr. James McNaughton, US Army historian, author of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II*. Dr. McNaughton provided his keen insights on the Japanese issue during WW II and questioned the members of the panel with penetrating questions.

Grant Ichikawa, an internee before he volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service, said his first night sleeping in the horse's stall at Turlock, (CA) Race Track was the lowest point in his life but the first day he wore the Army winter uniform was the proudest day in his life. Yeichi Kelly Kuwayama described his role as a combat medic. how he treated Lt. Daniel Inouye, ranking U.S. Senator, when his right arm was shot off by the enemy and the 442nd smashing of the Gothic Line in Tuscany, Italy in April 1945.



Natasha Smith

Terry Shima, who joined the 442nd Public Relations Office

after Germany surrendered, was asked to describe American attitude towards ethnic Japanese during WW II and the legacy of the 100th, 442nd and MIS.

Mary Murakami, who was a high school student at Topaz, Utah internment center, was asked to provide her insights on the evacuation, internment and post internment conditions.

Colonel Thomas V. Mukai, U.S. Army (Ret), a sansei who was born in New York, described how, as a Sansei, he viewed the Japanese American experience during WW II.

Mukai said, "Wikipedia characterizes the 3rd generation Sansei: Most but not all Sansei were born after WW II. Few speak Japanese. Sansei identify as Americans rather than

Japanese. A large percentage marry persons of non-Japanese ancestry. America's best known Sansei is General Eric Shenseki, presently our nation's Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

"Pearl Harbor - I have only great admiration for the 1st and 2nd generations who had no choice but to bear this humiliation, the indignities, and blame imposed by misguided fellow Americans for the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and yet, they maintained a resilience that reminds me of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s non-violent way of dealing with injustice.

"Internment - I know that internment devastated the first generation Issei and it broke apart the family structure for the 2nd generation Nisei. To me, it's amazing that my Nisei parents endured internment, then rebuilt their lives from nothing, without any help from the government, and yet always strived to serve their community and nation after all they had been through.

"The 100th and 442nd – My Nisei father once remarked that the worst thing that can happen to you is to have your country question your loyalty.

After I had been in the Army myself, did I truly appreciate the hardships, the suffering, and the incredible courage of the men of the 100th Battalion and of the 442nd RCT. After WW II, the 442nd returned home from Europe, after it marched down Constitution Avenue to the Ellipse where President Truman told them that they had won over prejudice, I can imagine that onlookers wondered why these JAs fought so hard with their lives for a nation that had rejected them. The answer is that they did so that Americans of Japanese ancestry, like me, would not have to bear the stigma of the blame for Pearl Harbor or the Second World War like they had to. And for that alone, my generation is so very grateful."

MAVNI Soldier Graduates OCS after Special Forces

JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCORD, Wash. – When a Soldier joins the U.S. Army they make the decision to become part of a cause bigger than themselves—the defense of our nation's freedom. The path each Soldier travels after joining is up to them; faced with challenges, training, and opportunities for career progression, only the best continuously thrive throughout a career of military service.

For Yohei Sakamoto, it continues to thrive. Sakamoto entered the U.S. Army in July, 2010 as an infantry Soldier under the MAVNI (Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest) program. A graduate from the University of Kentucky, Sakamoto heard about the program through his uncle, Wade Ishimoto, a former member of Special Forces best known for his contributions as an intelligence sergeant and officer in Delta Force.

The MAVNI program authorizes certain legal aliens with specialized skills considered to be vital to the national interest, such as experts in language with associated cultural backgrounds, to join the military and apply for naturalization without first having to obtain permanent resident status.

Fluent in Japanese and Korean, Sakamoto qualified for the program by contributing both language and cultural skills beneficial to the program and thus establishing his footprint in the progression of his military career.

After graduating Infantry OSUT (One Station Unit Training), at Fort Benning, Ga. as the Distinguished Honor Graduate, Sakamoto received his first assignment with 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Sakamoto applied his skills by participating in Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) and Foal Eagle, South Korea, which are part of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Exercise (JCS) Program, as well as a joint exercise between 2nd Battalion, 1st SFG (A) and the Japanese Special Operations Group (JSOG) at JBLM in 2011.

"We participated in a number of joint exercises all over Asia and when in garrison we taught SF Operators on the culture as well as Asian Languages we are proficient in," said Sakamoto.



2nd Lt. Yohei Sakamoto and his uncle Wade Ishimoto

Photo by 1st SFG PAO

Sakamoto didn't stop there. Given the tools, leadership, and motivation to continue to succeed, he attended and completed Special Force Assessment and Selection in February, 2011 less than a year after joining the military.

"I want to follow my Uncle's (Wade Ishimoto) foot steps to be a Special Forces Soldier," said Sakamoto.

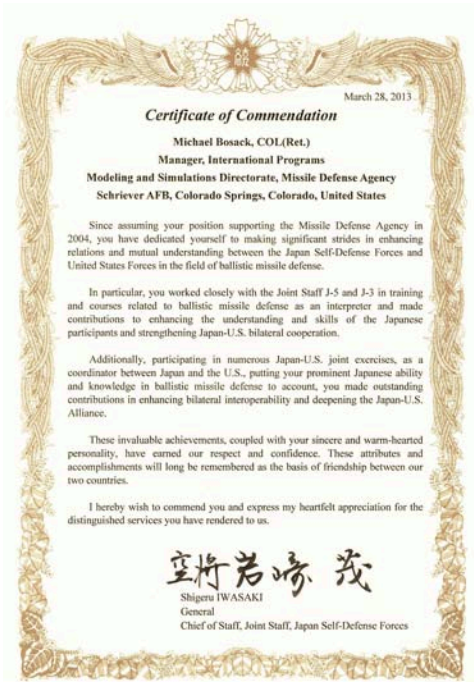
Attributing his success to his leaders for mentorship and guidance, Sakamoto applied for and passed the Army Officer Candidate School Board in February, 2012.

Sakamoto attended and completed Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School a year after SFAS completion at Fort Rucker, Alabama June, 2012.

"Phenomenal work ethic and maturity; he works well beyond his pay grade," said First Sergeant Chad Johnson. "Even outside of work he maintained his physical fitness, drive, and determination—this is a great milestone not met by many in the MAVNI program."

Sakamoto attended ARMY OCS class #005-13 and commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant and graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate number 8 out of the 123 graduates in his class. He is headed back to Fort Benning to attend IBOLC (Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course) and Ranger School before reporting to 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

Col. Michael Bosack (Ret.) Recognized for his service



Col. Michael Bosack, U.S. Army (retired) and Gen. Shigeru Iwasaki, Japan Self-Defense Forces

In late March 2013, JAVA member Col. Michael Bosack, U.S. Army (Retired) was presented with a Certificate of Commendation by the Chief of the Japan Joint Staff, General Shigeru Iwasaki, for his "contributions in enhancing mutual understanding between the Japan Self-Defense Forces and U.S. Forces in the field of ballistic missile defense."



JAVA 442nd speaker Terry Shima, who was invited to speak on Apr. 15, 2013 at the Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School, located in Washington, D.C. adjacent to Georgetown University, poses with students. Founded in 1799, the school is the second oldest all-girls school in America.

Thank you, Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

Norman Y. Mineta
 Col(R) Henry Shima
 LtCol(R) Charles "Bud" Uyeda
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 Metta Tanikawa
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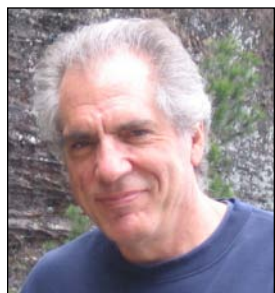
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America is the Movie: WW II Exclusion Zone & Internment Camps

By Stephen Menick

Editor's Note: Menick is the Director of the short film, the Honorable Journey, produced by AARP. Permission to reprint from Creative COW. For a copy of the entire article with his documentary, please visit: http://library.creativecow.net/menick_stephen/Honorable-Journey-Documentary/



We went to war and tore up the Bill of Rights. We swept the Pacific coast of more than 110,000 men, women and children and put them behind barbed wire in desolate areas across the West and as far east as Arkansas. We had our own American concentration camps.

The average detainee was 19 years old. We said we had to

have the camps because we couldn't trust those people. We didn't know whose side they'd be on if the Japanese staged an attack on the home soil.

Pearl Harbor had made us angry and fearful and we collectively punished people with Japanese names. Later in the war, when we came partially to our senses--but still had the camps--we opened the door to military service for Japanese Americans willing to volunteer. And there were

volunteers. The Japanese American force that fought in Europe during World War Two remains to this day, for its size, the most decorated unit in the history of American arms.

Some--a very few--fought in the courts. They resisted the government. Their lawyers stood in the Supreme Court and called upon the ghosts of Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton. They lost. And then they won.

What a story. I was asked to write and direct a piece on it by David Pepper in the broadcast department at AARP. At the time, I knew a little about the camps, less about the soldiers, and nothing about the resisters. So I did the only thing you can do when you're ignorant. You hurry up and learn.

The show is called "Honorable Journey." I think the journey is contained in that one transition. There's an advantage to knowing next to nothing about your subject. It gives you a feel for your audience. You are the audience. So you take your cues from that.

See "America is the Movie" on Page 18

MIS: Human Secret Weapon being shown in Japanese Theaters

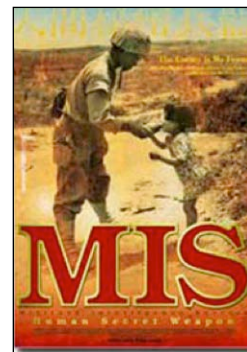
Film wins two awards

TOKYO - MIS: Human Secret Weapon, a film of Nisei who fought against their parents homeland in the Asia Pacific Theater, is being shown in Japanese cinemas and has won two prizes. 4,200 Nisei, many of them who attended schools and universities in Japan with near native knowledge of Japanese, served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). They accompanied the invading forces to collect tactical intelligence from captured documents and prisoners. Some were killed by enemy fire and many received medals for valor. After the war was over, these same Nisei, joined by 3,000 additional trained linguists, served in the Occupation to rebuild Japan.

MIS: Human Secret Weapon provides on-camera interviews with Senator Daniel Inouye, former Secretary Norman Mineta and MIS veterans who recounted their stories about prejudice and discrimination against their families, their duties in the MIS, and their agreement to maintain secrecy. However, the Freedom of Information Act was passed in the 1970's which allowed them to disclose the roles they played.

MIS: Human Secret Weapon which made its debut in Japan during the last New Year holiday season, was shown in three cinemas in Tokyo and in one theater in Yokohama for a period of two months. It has since been shown in four prefectures, including Kawasaki city in Kanagawa Prefecture, near Tokyo and in Okinawa.

MIS: Human Secret Weapon has won two awards, the Fumiko Yamagi Award in November 2012 for the movie director who contributed the most to the industry and the Movies Critic Award on May 2, 2013 for the best documentary director. The New York Times, April 6, 2012, said MIS: Human Secret Weapon "shines the light on an interesting bit of WW II history: the Japanese American soldiers who did vital work with the MIS even as their families were detained in internment camps."



Director Junichi Suzuki, a Japanese film director, said MIS: Human Secret Weapon is the third of his "trilogy", the other two being Toyo Camera: story of ethnic Japanese in internment camps during WW II produced in 2008, and 442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity, story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, produced in 2010. Suzuki said that all three films will be shown in Kawasaki City in August 2013 for one week. Suzuki said the 442nd movie, shown in 30 cities in Japan, drew large audiences because the Nisei bravery was well known in Japan.

America is the Movie [Con't fr. page 17]

Sifting through the history of the 1940s, I cast myself as the man on the street, early 21st century. And I couldn't get over the fact that so many people were so passive about what was being done to them. They were ordered to leave their homes, get rid of their belongings and settle their affairs in a matter of days, and they did it. They reported to so-called "assembly centers" like good citizens lining up at the polls to vote--nearly two-thirds of them were citizens. They wore their Sunday best. They smiled and went quietly behind barbed wire. Then, even more remarkably, thousands of them fought for the same flag that waved over windblown camps in the deserts of California and Utah and New Mexico and Wyoming.

It's astonishing. How could they have shown such faithfulness, such loyalty to a country that had so violated their rights? But when I asked that question to veterans and others of the Nisei generation--the Nisei were the generation that came of age during World War Two--I began to understand that the question itself is an anachronism. It's today talking.

If you're as lucky as I was, and you're given a chance to listen to people of that generation, I expect you'll be asked to look at the 1940s through the lens of the time, when the Japanese



Japanese American woman reporting to assembly center, dignified, confident & wearing her Sunday best.

pragmatists, politically weak but tough-minded, playing the hand they were dealt.

You may also hear some Japanese expressions. *Shikata ga nai*, meaning, It can't be helped. Make the best of it. A philosophy born on a set of islands in the western Pacific where centuries of natural disasters--tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions--have yielded almost a template for dealing with adversity of all kinds. Amid the ruins, carry on. No grudges.

Then, *gaman*. Endurance. No whining. Keep your dignity.

And of course, samurai. The samurai dedicates his life to service. When I asked Terry Shima, a veteran of the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442nd RCT), how he could account for the extraordinary spirit of sacrifice among Japanese American soldiers, he reflected and said: "It might be something in the national heritage. The way of life. The samurai."



Listening to Terry Shima (and others), I couldn't help but be struck by the way the Nisei, in a time of crisis, found

strength and guidance in traditional Japanese values. So you say the government's herding us into camps? *Shikata ga nai*. Yes, it's unjust, it's wrong, it's unAmerican--but you must show *gaman*. The nation's asking for warriors? Young men, sharpen your swords.

To ask about the how and the why of the Nisei fighters of World War Two is to be shown the way to a distinctly American paradox. The paradox of a nation whose lifeblood is transfused from other nations. The Nisei fighters proved their loyalty to America not simply by fighting, but by becoming more Japanese.

Daniel Inouye was the most famous of the fighters. In northern Italy in 1945, as a second lieutenant in the 442nd RCT, Inouye was shot in the stomach as he led his squad uphill against a heavily defended German line. The bullet came out his back but he kept going. He'd just pulled the pin on a grenade when a German gunner shattered his arm. The grenade was still in Inouye's hand. He used his other hand to grab and throw the grenade and fire his machine gun. He served 50 years in the Senate and died last December. I feel very fortunate to have met him.

The things we talked about were seven decades old. The Senator's face darkened and lit up and darkened again as if it were all very fresh and needed telling. His aide interrupted. They were calling a vote on the floor and the Senator should go. Inouye turned and said in a way that was deadly soft and quite intimidating: "No. Not now." He took me back to the world and the culture he came from. "It was a culture where if papa says, 'Do this,' you don't argue. If papa says, 'Do your best, fight, and if you must, die with honor,' he meant it."

It was a culture that didn't produce many resisters--and those few who did emerge faced long and lonely struggles. The very idea of resistance--of resisting the government in any way--ran counter to the almost reflexive respect for authority, the fatalism and the realism of the majority of Japanese Americans. They knew what forces were arrayed against them and they felt that to attract negative attention was to play into the hands of the racists. Add to this the general truth that combat veterans rarely have sympathy for the able-bodied who refuse to go to war. The refusal may have all the principle in the world behind it. But it doesn't sit well with the man who's been to the battlefield.

See "America is the Movie" on Page 19

America is the Movie [Con't from page 18]

Imagine then that you're young and idealistic and refuse to go to a camp or get drafted and you make a federal case out of it. As hard as it is to be a soldier, at least you've got your battle buddies. If you're a resister, you may not even have your family behind you.



Fred Korematsu, from Oakland, was arrested and sent to a camp for refusing to go voluntarily. His fellow detainees were afraid to be seen talking to

him. When he decided to take Uncle Sam to court, his brothers were "dead set" against it, said Dale Minami, an attorney who represented Korematsu in the 1980s. Korematsu had "virtually no friends to support him," Minami told me in his offices in San Francisco. They said, "Fred, don't rock the boat. You're just going to lose and it's going to cause more problems for us."

The case names say it all. Hirabayashi v. United States (1943). Korematsu v. United States (1944). Might as well have been David v. Goliath. He didn't talk about it for years. Karen Korematsu, Fred's daughter, never heard of her father's case until high school, when another girl gave a book report and the family name came up in class. Some things, you don't talk about. For decades, Hirabayashi and Korematsu were names you did not bring up in polite company--and never among veterans.

Daniel Inouye changed that. Long after the war, the warrior distinguished himself once again. He spoke out in defense of the resisters. And when Inouye spoke, the community listened. "I've always felt that physical courage is a bit easier than moral courage." Inouye told me. "Thank God for Fred Korematsu."

If something like the camps were ever to happen again--would we see another unit like the 442nd? Volunteers from behind the barbed wire, fighting for their country despite the injustice? We would not, the Senator said. Fewer volunteers. Fewer soldiers. Fewer like Inouye. More like Korematsu. "Not just one. Hundreds of them."

And the way the Senator's father told him to go to war--that's an order, son--it wouldn't work today. "I don't think I could say that to my son," Inouye said.



"Why not?"

"Well, we got a bit more Westernized."

They were a generation born in this country of parents born in Japan. They grew up to be soldiers or they grew up to be resisters but they sat together in the same American classrooms. They sat in those old maplewood two-seaters with the cast iron legs and the inkwells and the pencil-carved veins in the wood and they heard memorable words and phrases. Democracy. Due process. Created equal. We hold these truths to be self-evident.

The journey was step by step. Eventually, the government wrote every camp survivor a check for \$20,000 (it's the thought that counts). Two Presidents--Reagan in 1988 and the first Bush in '92--extended a formal apology to Japanese Americans. Fred Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, and California and Utah now have a Fred Korematsu Day. In 2011, the surviving Nisei veterans received the Congressional Gold Medal. (Hundreds of them came to Washington for the event--a gathering of old fighters, some bent over, some in wheelchairs, caps on heads, carrying themselves with a colossal dignity.)

"In times of war, civil rights will suffer," Dale Minami told me. Minami wasn't born when the original Korematsu case was in play, but he led the team that reopened it in the 1980s. The story is told in "Honorable Journey." It's about top government lawyers who knowingly suppressed evidence. But it ended well for Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi, who'd had felony convictions attached to their names for 40 years.

And it speaks to our post-9/11 world. To the danger of overreacting to danger. The old decisions from World War Two--the Supreme Court decisions aimed at justifying the camps--are an embarrassment today. Citing them will get you nowhere in a court of law. In 2011, the Justice Department issued a ["confession of error"](#) for the way it handled those cases.

"We've got to be careful and we've got to fight for our rights every time," Minami said. "If we fail to remember the lessons of what happened to Japanese Americans, the lessons of the mistakes that were made--that you can't arrest and detain people indefinitely on just suspicion--then we're walking down that same road that led to one of the greatest civil rights disasters this country has seen."

We look back, and it wasn't all bad. Not if we look at the whole story. For if Presidential apologies, Presidential Medals of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medals are the stuff of vindication, then the Nisei were vindicated. It took too long and many never lived to see it, but they won. "That's one thing about democracy," Senator Inouye told me. "You must be patient." As the Senator spoke, I thought, America isn't the snapshot. It isn't the single frame. America is the movie.

Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

Date: _____
 Title or Rank: _____ Name: _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Home Telephone: _____ Mobile Telephone: _____
 Email Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____
 Status: Active Duty: _____ Retired: _____ Honorably Discharged: Yes _____ No _____
 Reservist/National Guard: _____ Cadet/Midshipman: _____
 Current or Last Military Unit: _____
 Dates of Service: _____

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

War Veteran Member: _____ General Member: _____ Friend of JAVA: _____

Are you a spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, name of war veteran, veteran or cadet/midshipman: _____

Dates that relative served: _____ Which Service? _____

Mail application to: Wade Ishimoto or email application to: Pohaku59@aol.com
 5703 Barbmor Court
 Alexandria, VA 22310

Application explanations: JAVA is a registered 501 (c) (19) War Veterans Organization and must comply with Internal Revenue Code provision that require 90% of its membership to be comprised of war veterans. To qualify as a **War Veteran Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of these periods, but need not have served in a war zone:

- December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
- June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
- August 5, 1964 through May 7 1975
- August 2, 1990 to present

To qualify as a **General Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States during any period other than those specified above. In addition, cadets/midshipmen and spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, or veterans who do not meet the criteria above qualify for General Membership.

Friends of JAVA are those who support the purpose of JAVA, but who do not qualify for membership. Friends of Java memberships have no voting rights.

JAVA does not currently assess membership dues. However, donations are accepted.

From the Editor



It's a privilege to carry on the duties as editor of the JAVA Advocate after Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake. Kay's done a remarkable job in making the Advocate a top-notch publication, and I enjoyed learning from her during the three years that I served as assistant editor. I'm also pleased to introduce Maj. Kenny Kuniyuki, our new assistant editor. Please see the article below to meet Kenny.



L-R: David Iwata, Rear Adm. David Boone, U.S. Navy (retired), Janelle Kuroda, Capt. Cynthia Macri, U.S. Navy (retired), and Secretary Eric Shinseki attend a U.S. Japan-Council reception on Capitol Hill.

A little about me - I grew up in a rural plantation town outside of Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawai'i. It's been an honor to follow in the footsteps of my ancestors, who served in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. I was on a bus heading to law school in Boston when the first planes hit the World Trade Center. As events unfolded, and our nation was drawn into war, I pondered my future career in public service. After meeting with veterans of the Hawai'i Veterans Memorial Fund Scholarship the following summer, I thought of no better way to serve than to volunteer to join our armed forces. After serving eight years on active duty in the Navy JAG Corps, I recently transitioned into the Reserve Component. I'm a proud veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and join the ranks of our Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who have returned home and seek ways to continue serving our great nation. It's an honor to carry on the legacy and stories of veterans from one generation to the next, and I hope to do just that as your editor.

Aloha pumehana,

Janelle

Maj. Kenny Kuniyuki joins the staff of the Advocate



Maj. Kuniyuki in Iraq, 2013.

SPRINGFIELD, Va. - The Advocate has a new Assitant Editor, Maj. Kenny Kuniyuki, U.S. Army. Kuniyuki joined JAVA early this year and quickly volunteered to be an Assistant Editor for the the Advocate. He has also volunteered to help with the Speakers Bureau and to assist Terry Shima with press releases.

Kuniyuki is assigned to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and works in the same directorate as JAVA's Executive Director, Mr. Bruce Hollywood. In fact, Mr. Hollywood was the person who invited Kuniyuki to join JAVA. Kuniyuki was commissioned as an Armor Officer and later transferred to Military Intelligence. He served 9 years with the 1st Cavalry Division, Ft. Hood, Texas, which included one tour to Kuwait and two tours to Iraq. Prior to arriving at the Pentagon, Kuniyuki was assigned as a planner to the 4th Infantry Division and deployed to Iraq for a third time to plan the drawdown of U.S. forces in the north.

He is the grandson of the late Yukio Kuniyuki Sr., of Seattle, Wash., a 442nd RCT veteran who served with E Co. during the Vosges Campaign and the rescue of the "lost battalion."




Yukio Kuniyuki Sr., in Detroit, Mich., after returning from Europe in 1945.


Kuniyuki has a twin brother, Yuki, who is also a major in the Army and who is currently stationed in Okinawa.

Kuniyuki is a graduate of the University of Michigan, earning undergraduate degrees in Political Science and Chinese. He also earned a master's degree in International Relations from Webster University and a master's degree in Military Art and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

He is married and has three children, Liam, 6, James, 4, and Ella-Jean, 10 months.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 14: JAVA Executive Council Meeting.

Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m.: JAVA Quarterly lunch at Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Va.

Nov. 11: White House Veterans Day Breakfast; Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater; President Obama's address to the nation; JAVA Veterans Day Program, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Washington, D.C. at 2:00 p.m.

Dec. 14: JAVA Executive Council Meeting

Jan. 11, 2014, at 11:30 a.m.: JAVA Annual Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Va.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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javaadvocate@gmail.com

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

Quarterly Lunch: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

Round Robin: Brett Egusa, java.rrobin@gmail.com

Scholarship: Ray Murakami, mary2mur@aol.com, 301-320-5511

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (see above)

Veterans Day: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

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