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JAVA presents *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award to 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment*

Honolulu, Hawaii.—U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Daniel J. Austin, Commander of The 100th Battalion, 442^d Infantry received, on behalf of the 100th BN, 442nd Infantry, JAVA's *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award* at the Hawaii 442nd Veterans Club 71st Anniversary Reunion Banquet that was held at the Pomaika'i Ballroom of the Dole Cannery Building, Iwilei, Honolulu, on March 23, 2014. The presentation was made by Admiral Harry Harris, U.S. Navy, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and a long-standing JAVA life member.



Admiral Harry Harris (center) presents the *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award* to LTC Daniel Austin (right), Commanding Officer of 100, BN, 442nd Infantry. LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR (left) read the citation. (Photo by Harley Kudaishi)

Admiral Harris recognized the outstanding contribution of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, to the defense of the nation in the finest tradition of the legendary World War II 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT). Harris said he would not be where he is today were it not for the Nisei combat performance record during World War II. U.S. Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander Janelle Kuroda read the citation that included the following:

“For continuing to execute its mission in the finest tradition of the World War II Nisei combat units, and for perpetuating the legacy of the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regiment Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, JAVA is honored to present its highest commendation, *Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award*, to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.

“The 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, served in four overseas deployments with distinction and in the highest tradition of the legacy units. Inactivated in 1946, the unit was reactivated in 1947, and was reorganized and renamed the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry (U.S. Army Reserve) on May 1, 1964. The battalion, or elements of the battalion, has been deployed four times (1) in 1968, for combat duty in Vietnam, (2) in 2004, for counter-insurgency operations in Balad, Iraq, (3) in 2007, when one platoon was sent to southern Philippines in support of operations Enduring Freedom – Philippines, and (4) in 2008, to provide security for supply convoys travel-

ing between Kuwait and Iraq. Thirteen men made the ultimate sacrifice in service of their country.”

LTC Austin, a life member of JAVA, in his acceptance remarks, said the men and women of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, live and work by the high standards of performance and patriotism set by the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service.

The reunion banquet was attended by State Governor Neil Abercrombie, Mayor Kirk Caldwell of the City and County of Honolulu, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, and Senator Mazie Hirono. The keynote speaker was Eric Saul, historian and curator.

President's Message



Over the past month, JAVA has lost 3 outstanding leaders. Fred Murakami was JAVA President from January 1997 to December 1998. Calvin Ninomiya was a past Vice-President and Chair of the JAVA Scholarship Committee and General Counsel. Robert Nakamoto was JAVA President from January 2007 to December 2010 and was Chair of the JAVA Finance Committee, and he was also a very generous financial supporter of JAVA. Each lived long and pro-

ductive lives in their chosen professions. Each used their energy and talents to make JAVA a vibrant and national veterans' organization that is carrying on the legacy of the World War II Nisei soldiers.

JAVA has also lost three active JAVA members recently. Betty Taira helped organize the JAVA quarterly luncheons and provided worker lunches for the JAVA marchers in the annual Memorial Day Parade and for members who staffed the JAVA booth at the annual National Cherry Blossom Street Festival in Washington, DC. She also sold books at the JAVA booth each year and donated her proceeds to JAVA. Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, a highly decorated Korean War veteran, was an active JAVA member who regularly attended the quarterly luncheons. Roy Matsumoto, who served with the famed Merrill's Marauders during World War II and was later inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, was a JAVA member whom we enjoyed visiting with whenever he was in DC.

It was my privilege to know each of them, and we will remember their contributions to JAVA. They will be missed.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President

JAVA Speaker's Bureau participates at UH at Hilo by LCDR Janelle Kuroda

HILO, Hawaii (Mar. 23, 2014) – In a filled lecture hall on an overcast evening, Nisei veteran Terry Shima gave a presentation on the history of Japanese Americans during World War II to University of Hawaii at Hilo (UH-Hilo) students and community members, many of whom sat on the floor or stood during his entire presentation. Shima was invited to speak on this topic by Dr. Jeffrey Smith, a professor of the UH-Hilo History Department, based upon his involvement in JAVA's research at the National Archives.

After describing the events that led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans in the Pacific Coast of America and the limited incarceration of Japanese Americans in the Territory of Hawaii, Shima went on to discuss the formation of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service. The audience listened to the military victories of these units in both the European and Pacific theaters. He also described the integration of Japanese Americans in American society after the war. On July 15, 1946, the 442nd RCT was set to parade down Constitution Avenue to be reviewed by President Truman at the Ellipse. Shima described that the military advisor recommended that President Truman cancel his participation in the review due to heavy rain. The President replied, "Hell No, for what these boys have done, I can stand a little rain," and told the 442nd, "You fought the enemy abroad and you fought prejudice at home, and you won."

"The combat performance record of the Nisei and Tuskegee airmen helped create the climate for post-World War II reforms, thereby leveling the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank," said Shima. "The level playing field resulted in Japanese Americans reaching the highest plateau in the military, politics, government, academia, business and other disciplines."

Shima also invited members of the audience to share their experiences during World War II. A Nisei who grew up on the U.S. mainland, Sadami Hamamoto, spoke about her incarceration experience as a young child. The daughter of Nisei veteran Don Seki, 442nd RCT, Tracey Matsuyama, of Kona, also spoke about her father's experience and her involvement in preserving the legacy of the Nisei generation.

Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate (Ret)
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor
George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

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Terry Shima
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Reuben Yoshikawa

JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus
Kay Wakatake, Lt. Col, USA (interim editor)

Smithsonian 2014 Annual Day of Remembrance program combined with return of Congressional Gold Medal from 7 museum tour and WW II Veterans meeting with President Obama

The Mall, Washington, D.C.—The Smithsonian 2014 Annual Day of Remembrance (DOR) Program at the Warner Brothers Theater was combined with a meeting with President Barack Obama by seven WW II Nisei veterans, breakfast in the Presidential Reception Suite and the return of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) from a 7 Museum national tour.

Most events were held at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. The DOR is held each year on February 19th to mark President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the forced internment of 118,000 ethnic Japanese, over one half of them US citizens.

As part of this Remembrance Day events Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson of the National Veterans Network and Floyd Mori, President and CEO of Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies



President Barack Obama returns the salute from Tommie Okabayashi during the Oval Office visit. James Takemori is at right. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

(APAICS) arranged for seven Nisei veterans to meet with President Barack Obama on February 18, 2014 at the Oval Office of the White House. The President thanked the veterans for their service and congratulated them on the return to the Smithsonian of the CGM. On February 18, 2014 Guantam Raghaven of the White House staff

posted a report of the Nisei visit on the White House website. The veterans were Dr. Susumu Ito of Boston, Massachusetts, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; Nelson Akagi of Salt Lake City, Utah, 522nd; Joe Karata, Military Intelligence Service (MIS), of San Francisco, California; Tommie Okabayashi, 442nd RCT, Houston, Texas; James Takemori, 100th Battalion of Arlington, Virginia; Grant Ichikawa, MIS, of Vienna, Virginia, and Terry Shima, 442nd RCT, of Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The breakfast, sponsored by AARP, a senior citizens or-

ganization which honored the World War II veterans and special guests, featured remarks by John Gray, Director of the National Museum of American History, Sato-Yamazaki, and Daphne Kwok, AARP's Vice President of Multicultural Markets and Engagement.

Subsequently, a ceremony in front of the Price of Freedom exhibition was held on the third floor of the Museum's east wing to unveil the return of the CGM from a seven Museum national tour. The CGM will be displayed here from February 19th to June 2st, when space has been constructed for the price of Freedom exhibition, where the CGM will be more permanently displayed. Speakers were Gray, Sato-Yamazaki and Terry Shima, a 442nd veteran and member of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). WW II veterans were seated on the first two front rows.

WW II and other veterans and attendees of the "unveiling" program were invited to participate or watch the folding of the US flag in the Flag Hall. This flag, 30 x 42 ft in size, is a replica of the flag that inspired the writing of the National Anthem

The final program of the morning was the Day of Remembrance panel discussion led by Dr. Craig Uchida, former Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Israel honors the late Senator Daniel Inouye's legacy



Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon and U.S. Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye. The late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye was honored by the Government of Israel with the naming of a defense facility this month. A Jerusalem high school has also started a scholarship in Sen. Inouye's name, recognizing the Japanese American leader's role in strengthening U.S.-Israel relations. (Courtesy of U.S. Japan Council Newsletter, January 23, 2014.)

Maryland Veterans Affairs Secretary Chow at JAVA luncheon

Falls Church, Va.—Edward Chow, Jr., Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs since 2009, told JAVA members on January 11, 2014 that the number of veterans claims in the state of Maryland has risen by 78% during the past 5 years and, similarly, diversity has increased in membership of the state's five commissions pertaining to veterans. One such commission is the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, located in Waldorf, which has maintained its four-star rating on Medicaid/Medicare certification and has opened a wing for women veterans. Chow also said the state's five veterans cemeteries are now receiving grants from the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sheila Khatri, a member of the Commission on South Asian Affairs, explained that Charlotte Hall State Veterans Home, the only veterans home in the State of Maryland, is a 454-bed facility providing a continuum of care from the 168-bed Assisting Living unit to a higher level of care in the 286-bed skilled nursing home. Specialized care, for those suffering from Alzheimer and other related dementias, is provided in two 42-bed secured units. The Home welcomes all Veterans. More information can be obtained from www.charhall.com, or from Carole Lewis, Director of Marketing, at (301) 884-8171.

Secretary Chow has an illustrious background related to his military experience, beginning with service in the US Army Reserve, 1956-1960. Upon graduating from Seattle University, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant and served



L-R: Terry Shima, Dr James McNaughton, Sheila Khatri, Secretary Chow, Gerald Yamada. (Photo by Mark Nakagawa)

in the US Army, 1962-1967, in Germany and also in Vietnam, awarded the Bronze Star, and completed his military service with the rank of Captain. Subsequently, in 1993, he began a position with the US Department of Veterans Affairs from which he retired as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in 2001. Secretary Chow has served at the national and local levels of various veterans organizations, such as National Vice-President, Vietnam Veterans of America, 2001-2105, and is a life member of JAVA.

Idaho brothers receive long overdue military honors by Ann Webb

Boise, Idaho—Two brothers, George Koyama, 90, and Joe Koyama, 88, grew up in Nampa. They worked in agriculture. The brothers also served in the Army in World War II at a time when anti-Japanese sentiment was strong in the U.S. Surrounded by family members and officials in the governor's office, the brothers each received a Congressional Gold Medal for that military service.

In 2010, some 70 years after the war ended, an act of Congress specified that all Nisei veterans who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service would receive the medal. It is one of the highest civilian awards in the U.S. Nisei veterans are those men and women born to Japanese immigrants. U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, who presented the medals, said the honor was long overdue.

Read more here:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/2013/05/30/2596740/idaho-brothers-receive-long-overdue.html#storylink=cpy>

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George Koyama, center, and his brother, Joe Koyama, left, each received the Congressional Gold Medal from U.S. Senator Mike Crapo on May 30, 2013, at the Idaho State Capitol. George, a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, received additional medals for his service. The brothers were not able to attend a 2011 medal ceremony in Washington, DC. (Photo by Darin Oswald)

Nisei Heroism in the Korean War—Gene Takahashi

[EDNOTE. We print this article to show that Japanese Americans who fought in the Korean and Vietnam Wars and the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry which served in combat in Iraq, fought the enemies with the same fierceness, dedication, professionalism and go for broke spirit as the Nisei who fought in Europe and the Pacific during WW II. Violette, Gene's widow, contributed to this article.]

Westport, Conn.—David Halberstam, a Pulitzer Prize winning author of the *Best and the Brightest*, wrote the *Coldest Winter*, a story of the Korean War. He was highly impressed by his interview of Gene Takahashi, a platoon leader in the Korean War and later in life an executive of International Business Machines (IBM). Halberstam said Takahashi “is a wonderful man who should be celebrated.” Takahashi and his family were incarcerated in an internment camp during WW II and subsequently settled in Cleveland, Ohio.

Takahashi served twice in Korea. He served in the Korean Occupation for 18 months following his enlistment at age 17 and being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant. The first lesson he learned was despite President Harry Truman affirmation of Nisei loyalty, racism and prejudice continued to be prevalent after WW II. His company commander, a West Point graduate and a racist, gave Takahashi every miserable assignment the Company had. Takahashi decided there was nothing like adversity to strengthen a person's character. He accepted all the abuse and order, carried them out, and felt he emerged as a much tougher officer. Following his discharge, he obtained a bachelor's degree. When the Korean War broke out in 1950 he was recalled to active duty and assigned to Korea, where he was platoon leader of Love Company, a segregated African American unit, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division,

According to the 9th Infantry Regiment journal, on November 25-26, 1950, the Regiment was at the Yalu River area and in the most forward part of the formation was Co L and at the tip was Takahashi's 2nd platoon. At 9:30PM on November 25, 1950, marking China's entrance into the Korean War, the 2nd Bn was attacked by a large number of Chinese soldiers and, despite the defensive fire, succeeded in over running Takahashi's battalion command post shortly after 4:00 AM on November 26th. During the same period the 3rd Battalion was under intense fire along with Co K and Co L, were forced to withdraw with an undetermined number of casualties. By 3:00 PM, November 26th, the entire 9th Regiment had been forced to withdraw and took defensive positions across the Chongchon River.

Takahashi and his platoon fought fiercely to stave off the Chinese so his company could retreat, however, when his unit



was overrun, Takahashi and his master sergeant were captured and taken as prisoners. (It crossed his mind that he had the dubious distinction of being a prisoner of war of two countries, the Poston, Arizona, concentration camp and now China.) They were led to the Chinese army headquarters for interrogation. The Commander couldn't believe that a Japanese could be an officer in the U.S. Army and thought Japan had entered the war. Takahashi was finally able to convince them that he was an American. Following questioning, Takahashi and his master sergeant were taken by 2 guards and being marched toward China. Takahashi didn't want to go to a Chinese prisoner of war camp and devised an escape plan. At the crest of a hill he and his sergeant jumped the guards

and rolled down the hillside. There was a burst of gunfire and that was the last he saw of his sergeant who was slated to be discharged in a few months. The sergeant later died in a Chinese prison camp. After his escape, Takahashi hid by day and traveled at night. Along the wayside he found a Korean hat, cape, and sandals, wore them, and snuck into a line of refugees heading south. When he reached safe territory he peeled off and found his way to Kunuri where he found the remnants of his company and later to the 2nd Division headquarters in Seoul.

Takahashi learned that his Co L had sustained 95% casualties and he was the only surviving officer. He helped reorganize and train Co L. Four months later Co L returned to combat duty. Takahashi was hit by machine gun fire, however, medics could not come to his aid due to intense enemy fire. He saved his life by applying a tourniquet he learned as a Boy Scout. (Takahashi felt his Boy Scout training was instrumental in helping him in his escape and survival.)

Takahashi considered the Combat Infantryman's Badge his most coveted medal. He was also awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart Medal. He might have qualified for the Silver Star or the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on November 25-26, 1950, however, that was not possible because no eye witness were left to attest to his heroism, nor the company commander to write the citation.

Following his hospitalization and discharge in 1952 Takahashi obtained a master's degree. He joined IBM in 1955, the first Asian American to be hired by that company, as a systems engineer and retired in 1989, after serving as a director of litigation in IBM antitrust cases. Takahashi was a JAVA life member.

Sakura Matsuri Street Festival provides unique opportunity to publicize the Japanese American story by Reuben Yoshikawa, Chair, JAVA Sakura

Washington, DC.—The JAVA booth activities at the 2014 Sakura Matsuri, held in downtown Washington, DC on April 12, 2014 as part of the National Cherry Blossom Parade, was a success again this year! JAVA has had a successful history of operating a booth at this festival to greet and educate the public on the contributions of Japanese American Veterans to this great country. We were extremely fortunate to have veterans from the famed Army 442 Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), as well as, veterans from the Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars serve as docents. JAVA provides a rare opportunity to the public to meet and talk, in person, to Japanese American veterans from these wars.

The festival attendance was estimated to be over 40,000 people with 30% coming from outside of the greater Washington D.C. region and is the largest one day exhibition of Japanese culture in the United States. The Japan-America Society of Washington D.C.(JASW), who sponsored the festival, provided JAVA the booth, signage, set-up assistance and write-up in the Arts and Culture section of their festival brochure.

We experienced a continuous stream of visitors who were eager to learn about the significance and sacrifices of Japanese American Veterans. The excellent booth location, perfect weather and JAVA greeters and docents made this a record year. The highlight of the day was Akio Konoshima's



Aki Konoshima signing his book at the JAVA booth.

book, What Pearl Harbor Wrought, was sold out. As he has done in previous years, he donated the proceeds of the sale to JAVA. In addition, Akio and Terry Shima, when requested by purchasers, wrote notes on copies of the The Nisei Veteran: An American Patriot, a book that was edited by PhD Stanley L. Falk and the late PhD Warren Tsuneishi.

We also nearly ran out of the six different informational brochures: The Nisei Intelligence War Against Japan by Ted Tsukiyama, Esq. MIS historian for Hawaii, and his colleagues; The Story of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from The Hawaii 442nd Veterans Club Archives and Learning Center; The Role of The MIS in the Korean War notes from speech given by Robert Wada, Founder-President of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans; The Vietnam War by Judge Vincent Okamoto; Go for Broke from the Presidio Army Museum; and the Nisei Soldiers in the War Against Japan by Dr. Falk. We also sold a number of JAVA coins, lapel pins, patches, a cap or two and received a number of applications for JAVA membership.

Nancy Yamada brought the incredible delicious homemade Spam *musubi* and other delicacies, Noriko Sanefuji brought *inarizushi*, and others kept bringing delicacies bought at the festival food stalls.

Ambassador John Malott, former President/CEO of JASW, Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae of Japan and Hideaki Mizukoshi, Minister & Head of Chancery, Embassy of Japan visited the JAVA booths. Paul Champalox, an official of the Sakura Matsuri Arts & Culture Committee, visited to check on the adequacy of JASW support. Docents and supporters of the JAVA booth were Gerald & Nancy Yamada, Terry Shima, Dr. Ray Murakami, Akio Konoshima, Noriko Sanefuji, Mark Nakagawa, Al Goshi, Bruce Hollywood, Reuben Yoshikawa, Taro Konoshima and Ryuta Fukami.

JAVA speakers at Rockville High



On February 11, 2014, representatives of JAVA Speakers Bureau were invited to speak to two history classes at the Rockville High School, Montgomery County, MD. JAVA speakers discussed the Japanese American experience during WW II and its legacy. **Front row, L-R:** Beth Seabreeze and Heidi Hemming, history teachers; behind Hemming is Mary Murakami, speaker. The other JAVA speaker was Terry Shima, 442nd veteran. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Hemming.)

Teri Takai is keynote speaker; Ambassador Malott receives highest JAVA Award at quarterly luncheon

Falls Church, Va.—JAVA quarterly lunch featured two major events, a keynote address by Teresa M. Takai, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense and Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Department of Defense (DOD) and the presentation of JAVA's *Courage, Honor, Patriotism* plaque to retired Ambassador John R. Malott, on March 29, 2014 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant at Falls Church, Virginia.

Takai discussed her birth and early life in the Detroit, Michigan, area, education at the University of Michigan (BA in mathematics and MA in management), and her 30-year career at Ford Motor Company, where she led the development of the company's information technology strategic plan. Beginning in 2003, she served as Director of the Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) and as the state's Chief Information Officer (CIO). She then served as the State of California CIO, a cabinet level position, from which she advised the Governor on information technology matters and led more than 130 CIOs and 10,000 information technology employees spread across the state's different agencies, departments, boards, commissions and offices. She described her responsibilities and challenges of her present Defense Department position to which she was appointed on October 26, 2010.

During his 31-year Foreign Service career, Ambassador Malott served as ambassador to Malaysia, deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asian Affairs, and consul general in Osaka, Japan. He also held positions as director and deputy director of the State Department's Office of Japanese Affairs and as American consul in Kobe, Japan and Bombay, India. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Japan America Society of Washington (JASW), Malott has invited JAVA to partner with JASW, including participation in speaking programs and the provision of a booth at the JASW annual Sakura Matsuri which is held in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Parade. This venue allows JAVA to contact the American public not normally reached through traditional programs. In presenting the *Courage, Honor, Patriotism* award to Ambassador Malott, Gerald Yamada, Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) President, recognized the partnership between JAVA and the JASW. In his acceptance remarks, Ambassador Malott affirmed this close relationship.

In his president's report, Yamada noted that during the



L-R: Retired Ambassador John Malott, recently retired President and CEO of Japan America Society of Washington, D.C.; Ms. Teri Takai, Chief Information Officer of the Department of Defense; and Gerald Yamada, JAVA President. (Photo by Bruce Hollywood)

past month, we said farewell to five JAVA members -- Fred Murakami, former President of JAVA, Calvin Ninomiya, Chair of JAVA Scholarship Committee, Betty Taira, dedicated JAVA volunteer, and Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, a highly decorated Korean War veteran and active JAVA member, and George Itsuo Nakamura of Houston, Texas. Yamada announced the following upcoming events:

- The annual Freedom Walk on Saturday April 5th at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC. The Honorable Jodie Bernstein, Chair of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, will be the keynote speaker. LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) is JAVA's representative to the Freedom Walk Committee.
- The National Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturday April 12th in downtown Washington, DC. JASW provided JAVA a booth. Rueben Yoshikawa is in charge of this event.
- The Memorial Day Service on May 25, at Arlington National Cemetery. This annual event, held jointly with Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Washington, DC, honors some 70 Japanese Americans who have fallen in the service of our country. The program includes the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. Lieutenant Jason Osuga, US Navy, is JAVA's acting organizer for this event.
- The National Memorial Day Parade on May 26 down Constitution Avenue sponsored by the American Veterans Center. JAVA has participated in this event since its inception about 10 years ago. LTC Herbert is the JAVA organizer for this event.
- The next JAVA luncheon is scheduled for July 12th, which will feature our annual scholarship awards.

Luncheon attendees bade a warm farewell to Connie Ishio, widow of COL Phil Ishio, USA (Ret.), Military Intelligence Service veteran and Founding President of JAVA, who is moving to Arizona to be closer to her family members. She was presented with a JAVA Service pin.

News and Views from Army's Topside. . .

by General John F. Campbell, U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff

[EDNOTE. General John F. Campbell, U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff, sends to subscribers and friends a periodic Newsletter, which provides issues on his table and his role. JAVA is privileged to be one of his subscribers. We print below excerpts from his March 9, 2014 Newsletter to tell you what the modern Army looks like.]

Friends of the Army,

2013 was a productive but challenging year for our Army, specifically with regards to the current turbulent fiscal environment. Your Army leadership remains committed to fielding the best possible Army in the current environment, at the least amount of risk, while properly balancing end strength, force structure, readiness, and modernization. From my position, right now hottest topics I deal with on a daily basis are:

- Supporting the force deploying in support of overseas contingency operations.
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program (SHARP)
- Army Budget Rollout for FY15
- 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR)
- Projected total Army force structure in a fiscally uncertain environment.
- Afghanistan equipment retrograde.
- The Army's aviation restructuring initiative.
- Ready Resilient Campaign

As it has been for the last year, it is still my honor every day to be an advocate for our Soldiers, Veterans, and Families. My most rewarding days are when I get chance to interact with our great Soldiers, they never cease to amaze me with their dedicated service despite everything going on around them...this continues to be a very dangerous and complex world we live in...and I think it will remain so for the foreseeable future—we're so fortunate to continue to have men and women who stand up to be counted and serve in this All Volunteer Army.

Right after the New Year Sergeant Major of the Army Chandler and I travelled to San Antonio, TX for the U.S. Army All American Bowl, an annual high school football contest between the Army's east team and the west team. It was a great opportunity to engage with some tremendous high school athletes from across the country. The SMA and I attended the All American Bowl Awards Ceremony, I was able to participate in the game's coin toss, and had the chance to present the game trophy with legendary Coach Boone from "Remember the Titans."



While in San Antonio we also visited the U.S. Army Installation Management Command Headquarters, HQ U.S. Army North, HQ U.S. Army South, Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) and the National Center of the Intrepid. These final two stops were the most rewarding of the trip. I was able to present three Purple Hearts to Wounded Warriors at BAMC.

That same week I was honored to be the keynote speaker at the 9th Annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) / Stars and Stripes dinner here in D.C. BEYA provides a forum where leaders in the public and private sector come together to inspire and develop current and future generation Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) professionals. The theme of the evening was "Trust Beyond Expectations" – the trust placed in advancements in medical and weapons technology, developed by STEM professionals helping the Army win wars and save lives.

Just last week Fred Smith, Vietnam Veteran and Chairman and CEO of FedEx Corporation spoke at a standing room only special Joint Town Hall meeting at the Pentagon to launch the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration. The theme of the event, Battlefield to Boardroom, provided an opportunity for Mr. Smith to discuss his Vietnam experiences and share logistical lessons he learned as a Marine that inspired him to start FedEx.

In late February I hosted a visit with Johnny Dawkins and a delegation of civic leaders/businessmen from communities across America. This group was here to meet with various senior military leaders to discuss issues affecting our Army and communities. Many of these leaders have strong ties to our Army, and continue to serve as tireless advocates on behalf of our Soldiers, Families, and Civilians.

Ranking Japanese Army official visits National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism; receives briefing from JAVA officials

Washington, DC.—During the course of his meetings with high level Washington officials, General Kiyofumi Iwata, Chief of Staff of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces (JGSDF), visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol on February 10, 2014. JAVA President Gerald Yamada and former JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima briefed General Iwata on the Memorial and the Japanese American experience during World War II.

General Iwata said the combat performance of the Nisei in Europe and the Pacific is highly respected by him and people of Japan. They have read books about the Nisei combat record and have seen a series of films on the internment, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service. General Iwata also mentioned the hardship that the Nisei have overcome during the period, and requested his best wishes be conveyed to Nisei veterans of all wars for serving their nation so nobly.

Yamada said the Memorial, opened to the public in year 2000, was significant for a number of important reasons. It is a national tribute to the patriotism of Japanese Americans and it is inscribed with President Ronald Reagan's national apology. The Memorial was designed to incorporate the strong tie Japanese Americans have with Japan, such as the two bronze cranes used as the centerpiece of the Memorial, the Japanese cherry trees that ring the Memorial, and the five boulders which were imported from Japan and represent five generations of ethnic Japanese in America. The memorial site serves as a remembrance of the 10 confinement sites and the over 800 Nisei who died in line of duty. Finally, of the almost \$12 million raised from private donations to build the Memorial, approximately \$100,000 came from donors in Japan.



L-R: Major Yokoyama, Colonel Kasamatsu, Major General Morishita, Terry Shima, General Iwata, Gerald Yamada, Colonel Iseri, and Lieutenant Colonel Yamashita.

Shima discussed the harsh treatment meted against persons of Japanese ancestry during the war years, the exemplary performance of Nisei in combat in Europe and in intelligence gathering in the Pacific, President Harry Truman's affirmation of Nisei loyalty, the reforms instituted after World War II that improved opportunities for minorities to compete for any job and rank; Japanese American achievements in the military, public service, academia and the corporate world, and JAVA's efforts to build a strong US-Japan alliance.

General Iwata was born in Tokushima Prefecture in 1957, graduated from the National Defense Academy in 1979, and served in various staff and command positions. He was promoted to his present assignment in August 2013.



On February 25, 2014, JAVA speakers spoke at the St. Albans School, an independent college preparatory for boys, located in Washington, DC. L-R: John Miles, History Department; Mary Murakami; Terry Shima; and Alex Knapper. Arrangements for the talk were made by Marc and Suzuko Knapper, parents of Alex. (Photo courtesy of John Miles)



Mary Murakami and Terry Shima of the JAVA Speakers Bureau spoke at the Kiwanis Bethesda dinner meeting at the Marriott Bethesda on February 26, 2014. L-R: Doris Mendosa, Nancy Cressy (Past Club President) and Murakami. (Photo by Bob Cressy)

National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk draws huge participation; Jodie Bernstein is keynote speaker

Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.—The 16th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk, the first major event of the three-weeks long National Cherry Blossom Festival, was held at the National Japanese American World War II Memorial to Patriotism amidst the just blossoming cherry trees on a sunny Spring day, April 5, 2014. About 500 people attended the standing room only one hour program which featured keynote speaker Joan Z. Bernstein, Chair of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Other speakers included His Excellency Kenichiro Sasae and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia. Former Secretary Norm Mineta was not able to attend.

The program was jointly sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF), Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), Japanese American Citizens League, WDC Chapter, and Ekoji Buddhist Temple. Nen Daiko, based at Ekoji Temple, which has provided entertainment at all Freedom Walks, performed flawlessly, beating the drums to say goodbye to the bleak winter and welcome to the explosion of pastel blossoms of the cherry trees, which Japan gifted to America in 1912.

Dan Matthews, Chairman of the Board of NJAMF, remarked that Nisei volunteered for combat duty “to protect our freedom of choice.” Congresswoman Norton discussed the symbolic significance of the Memorial and Congressman Mineta’s role in getting legislation passed to build the Memorial. Ambassador Sasae noted that the first place he visited upon arrival in Washington, DC, to assume his duties was the

Memorial, the symbol of ethnic Japanese treatment during World War II and of their courage and patriotism to help America win the war and defeat prejudice and racism. He also observed that the “cherry blossom has long been a symbol of enduring and close friendship between Japan and USA.” JAVA President Gerald Yamada provided background information about the role played by Bernstein as chair of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), mandated by Congress, whose findings served as the basis of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Bernstein provided the history, conclusions, and impact of the CWRIC. She said that CWRIC was established in 1980 to conduct a study of Executive Order 9066. The nine member commission held hearings in various US cities and Pribilof Islands and heard testimonies of over 750 witnesses. In 1983, the CWRIC findings were included in a 467-page report entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, which (1) concluded that internment was not necessary, that it was caused by war hysteria, racial prejudice and the failure of political leadership, and (2) recommended that legislation be passed consisting of an official government apology; redress payments to each of the survivors; and a public education fund to help ensure that this kind of tragedy would not happen again. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-383) incorporated these recommendations.

Following the program, the ribbon was cut to mark the start of the one mile walk by over 100 enthusiasts to enjoy the thrill of walking amidst the flowering nation’s capital. The chair of the 16-person 2014 Freedom Walk Committee was Martha Watanabe.



Above left, L-R: Anna Yusov, Ambassador Sasae, Jodie Bernstein, Olivia Magnussen, and Adrienne Coulter. Yusov, Magnussen and Coulter are students at George Washington University. GWU students visited the memorial following JAVA speakers’ talk at the GWU history department. The students, led by Alyssa Coulter, saw the Memorial littered with trash and began diligently cleaning the Memorial at regular intervals. They were recognized at the Freedom Walk event. (Photo by Jim McCullum)

Above right, L-R: Cutting the ribbon to begin the Freedom Walk are Mrs. Sasae, Amy Watanabe, Ambassador Sasae, Congresswoman Norton, Jodie Bernstein, Dan Matthews, Gerald Yamada. (Photo by Jim McCullum)

Confession of Error: The Solicitor General's Mistakes During the Japanese-American Internment Cases by Neal Ketyal, Esq.



[Neal Ketyal issued the Justice Department first public confession of its 1942 ethics lapse. Ketyal was Principal Deputy Solicitor General from June 9, 2011- August 26, 2011. For part of this period, from May 2010 to June 2011, he was Acting Solicitor General. On May 24, 2011 speaking as Acting Solicitor General he delivered the keynote speech at the Department of Justice Great Hall marking Asian American Heritage month. Confession of Error was posted officially by the Justice Department on May 20, 2011.]

It has been my privilege to have served as Acting Solicitor General for the past year and to have served as Principal Deputy Solicitor General before that. The Solicitor General is responsible for overseeing appellate litigation on behalf of the United States, and with representing the United States in the Supreme Court. There are several terrific accounts of the roles that Solicitors General have played throughout history in advancing civil rights. But it is also important to remember the mistakes. One episode of particular relevance to AAPI Heritage Month is the Solicitor General's defense of the forced relocation and internment of Japanese-American during World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States uprooted more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent, most of them American citizens, and confined them in internment camps. The Solicitor General was largely responsible for the defense of those policies.

By the time the cases of Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu reached the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General had learned of a key intelligence report that undermined

the rationale behind the internment. The Ringle Report, from the Office of Naval Intelligence, found that only a small percentage of Japanese Americans posed a potential security threat, and that the most dangerous were already known or in custody. But the Solicitor General did not inform the Court of the report, despite warnings from Department of Justice attorneys that failing to alert the Court "might approximate the suppression of evidence." Instead, he argued that it was impossible to segregate loyal Japanese Americans from disloyal ones. Nor did he inform the Court that a key set of allegations used to justify the internment, that Japanese Americans were using radio transmitters to communicate with enemy submarines off the West Coast, had been discredited by the FBI and FCC. And to make matters worse, he relied on gross generalizations about Japanese Americans, such as that they were disloyal and motivated by "racial solidarity."

The Supreme Court upheld Hirabayashi's and Korematsu's convictions. And it took nearly a half century for courts to overturn these decisions. One court decision in the 1980s that did so highlighted the role played by the Solicitor General, emphasizing that the Supreme Court gave "special credence" to the Solicitor General's representations. The court thought it unlikely that the Supreme Court would have ruled the same way had the Solicitor General exhibited complete candor. Yet those decisions still stand today as a reminder of the mistakes of that era.

Today, our Office takes this history as an important reminder that the "special credence" the Solicitor General enjoys before the Supreme Court requires great responsibility and a duty of absolute candor in our representations to the Court. Only then can we fulfill our responsibility to defend the United States and its Constitution, and to protect the rights of all Americans.



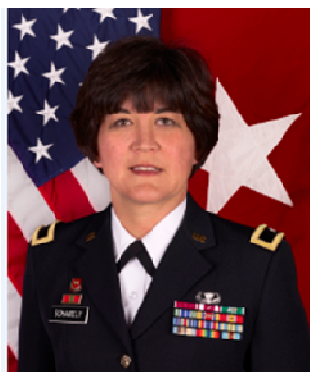
On April 15, 2014, JAVA Speakers Bureau sent Mary Murakami and Terry Shima to Sandy Spring Friends School, located in Olney, Maryland, to discuss the Japanese American Experience during WW II and its Legacy. The school posted on its website that Shima said that "the 442nd and the Tuskegee Airmen combat performance record contributed to the climate in Washington for post WW II reforms

that leveled the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank." Murakami discussed her family's experience with the evacuation and internment, Executive Order 9066 and its effects, and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Murakami said that many internees "made the best of a bad situation and teen agers enjoyed a measure of social freedom When asked if the injustice of the internment had made her angry at the government, Murakami said the older people in the camp, who suffered the most from the humiliation and loss of their homes and jobs, impressed upon the younger people the Japanese exercise of 'forebearance'. In addition, she spoke of the kindness of people in the nearby town and especially the work of the Quakers in helping the internees to deal with the injustice done to them." (Photo by Aimee Farley)

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the U.S. 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 U.S. Army's 34th Chief of Staff. Of the 103, 59 served in the U.S. Army, 23 in the U.S. Air Force, 17 in the U.S. Navy, 2 in the Public Health Service, and one each in the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard. Broken down in another way, 43 are Japanese Americans, 26 Chinese Americans, 20 Hawaii Pacific Islanders, 10 Filipino Americans, and four Korean Americans.

BG Miyako Schanely



Brigadier General Miyako Schanely, Deputy Commanding General of the 412th Theater Engineer Command in Vicksburg, Mississippi, has served in the U.S. Army for over 27 years. While on active duty, she completed tours of duty in Engineer units in Germany and Panama. She said her 3-year assignment in Panama was especially rewarding, as it included humanitarian construction projects throughout Panama, well projects in Uruguay and Belize, as well as a road project in Honduras.

Since transitioning to the U.S. Army Reserve, Miyako has served with a variety of training units, including command at the battalion level and twice at the brigade level. As Chief, Support Division, for the Office of the Program Manager – Facilities Security Forces, she provided essential staff support functions to a strategic partnership with the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Interior and Facilities Security Forces.

Miyako holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Management from the U.S. Military Academy, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Rochester, New York, a Master of Arts in Community Economic Development from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

In her civilian career, Miyako is the Executive Director of the State University of New York (SUNY) North Country Consortium, a partnership of seven SUNY campuses that collaborate to bring a variety of degree programs to Fort Drum and the Northern New York communities. She and her husband Steve reside in Black River, New York, and have two grown children.

BG Schanely said she selected the armed forces as her career choice because “as a high school senior applying to colleges, I was completely impressed by the way the military academies develop the whole person - not just academically, but also in terms of physical fitness, leadership and character. And commissioning afterward provides unparalleled opportunities to then put those traits to good use for our great nation. In 20/20 hindsight, I can also say that serving has led to a broad array of experiences, as well as the privilege of working with phenomenal professionals.”

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BG Keith Y. Yamashiro

BG Keith Y. Tamashiro was assigned to his current position as the Assistant Adjutant General and Director of the Joint Staff for the Hawaii National Guard on June 1, 2013. He was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate in the Field Artillery on June 10, 1984 through the ROTC program at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois.

BG Tamashiro served in 2nd Bn, 11th Field Artillery, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, from 1984 to 1988. In Dec 1988, he left active duty and joined the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery of the Hawaii Army National Guard.

On April 7, 2001, he assumed command of the 1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery. He served as the Battalion Commander for over 5 years. He led the battalion as part of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom in 2004 where in addition to commanding the battalion, BG Tamashiro was the base camp commander for over 2,100 personnel at the Kuwait Naval Base in Kuwait. He was also responsible for soldiers spread out over 3 different locations in Iraq.

On July 8, 2007, BG Tamashiro assumed command of the 298th Regional Training Institute (RTI), Multifunctional Training Unit which included responsibility for the Officer Candidate and other training programs. On May 2010, he served as the Brigade Commander for the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

BG Tamashiro's military schools include the Air Assault School and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from DePaul University. When he is not serving in his duties in the Hawaii National Guard, Tamashiro works for the State of Hawaii's Department of Human Services First-To-Work Program where he manages a welfare program helping people gain employment and educational skills.

BG Tamashiro was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois but has a long family history in Wahiawa. He has resided in the state of Hawaii for the past 30 years. He is married to the former Iwalani (Iwie) Kaninau of Wahiawa, Hawaii and they currently reside in Mililani. BG Tamashiro is active in the community where he serves as an elected official on the Mililani Mauka Neighborhood Board.

[continued at Yamashiro on page 11]

Yamashiro (continued from page 10)

BG Tamashiro said he “joined the military because of the influence of my two uncles, LTC Yoshiaki Kakazu, USA (Ret) a combat veteran of the Vietnam War and Charles Arakaki, Co E, 442nd RCT. It is an honor to serve in the military and with soldiers who are will to give the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our great country.”



L-R: Hawaii Governor Abercrombie, BG Tamashiro, and Mrs. Iwie Tamashiro at his promotion to the rank of Brigadier General.

JAVA speakers at Bryn Mawr High School in Baltimore



February 28, 2014, Mary Murakami and Terry Shima spoke to Bryn Mawr High School in Baltimore, MD. Following the formal presentation in the auditorium, Murakami and Shima had lunch with about 20 faculty members, administrators, and students for additional discussions. Lt Col Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret) accompanied the JAVA speakers. Seated L-R: Mary Murakami, Joanne Cho. Standing L-R: Mrs. Karen Cullen, Mrs. Kim Riley, Sloane Coffin, Tess Sheets; Asia Carter-Lamb; Jaida Griffin; Jocelyn Brocato; Mr. Eric Elton (STEM Director) and Mr. Dave Stephens. (Photo by Laurel M-O. Weijer)

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News from other Veterans Organizations

Torrance, California. **Go For Broke National Education Center** (GFBNEC) newsletter reported that an enthusiastic crowd attended a panel discussion with veterans Masao Takahashi (WWII), Thomi Yamamoto (Korea), Scott Takahashi (Vietnam), and active duty Sgt. Christopher Arakawa of the 100th/442nd to compare their experiences across the four wars. Moderator Darrell Kunitomi led the discussion which was organized by GFBNEC and held at the Japanese American National Museum's Center for the Preservation of Democracy on March 1, 2014.

Torrance, California. **National Veterans Network** reported on the Congressional Gold Medal return to Smithsonian American History Museum.

Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, Washington, February 2014 Newsletter carried May Sasaki's article entitled "Three Amigos" Retrace WWII Nisei Combat Journey in France and Italy. The amigos are Keith Yamaguchi, Chris Sketchley and Paul Murakami.

Gardena Nisei Memorial VFW Post 1961. January 2014. The Post is hosting the Western Regional JROTC Drill Team Competition on April 26, 2014 at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. About 73 JROTC drill teams from around the Pacific Rim will compete to represent their school at the National Drill Team Competition to be held later in Kentucky.

Morgan Hill, CA. **Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans** (FFNV), said 2014 will include its annual membership meeting on February 8, 2014 at the Morgan Hill Buddhist church, and a meeting on the USS Hornet on August 2, 2014. The de-commissioned USS Hornet is the site of the popular Nisei veterans exhibit.

Kahului, Maui. The **Nisei Veterans Memorial Center** publication, *Okage Sama De*, February 2014 newsletter, President Hiroshi Arisumi said the Center's focus now is to expand its educational program to perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei veterans.

Honolulu, Hawaii. **MIS Veterans Club of Hawaii** Newsletter, March 2014 issue reported that Herbert Yanamura,

MIS veteran, was invited to return to Okinawa last November to re-unite with people of the Maehira village. On June 21, 1945 Yanamura coaxed 1,500 villagers to surrender peacefully.

Honolulu, Hawaii. **Hawaii 442nd Veterans Club** Newsletter, Go For Broke Bulletin for December 2013, had a warm story by Sab Shikaso about his R & R to Hawaii while the 442nd was deployed at the Maritime Alps during WW II. He described orders he had received that led to his hometown for R and R and discharge.

Honolulu, Hawaii. **100th Battalion Veterans Club** newsletter, Puka puka Parade for March 2014, discussed the life of Kazuma Hisanaga, who played football at Pomona College and was a member of the original 100th Battalion. He fought for the liberation of Italy and France and following the war returned to Hilo High School where he served as its athletic director. His goal in life was to work with youths to develop their character and motivation.

The 34th Infantry Division Fall 2013 newsletter discussed the Division's WW II Memorial at Camp Dodge in Johnston, Iowa. The dedication was held at the Association 1987 reunion attended by close to 1,000 veterans, including 100th Battalion veterans.

Sacramento, California. In the **Nisei Post 8985** Newsletter, Commander Loren Ishii said the San Jose Nisei Memorial Post has merged with the "Non Nisei" Mission Santa Clara Post 3982 on November 7, 2013. Nisei VFW posts in California are down to 8 from the original 14.

JAVA speakers at American Legion headquarters



JAVA speakers were invited to the American Legion headquarters in Washington D.C. on February 18, 2014, for interviews to be used in an article in the Legion's publication later this year. L-R: Mary Murakami; Craig Roberts, Director of Media Relations at the American Legion; and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), veteran of the Gulf Wars. (Photo courtesy of Mark Nakagawa)



Students gather around the Congressional Gold medal display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. (Photo courtesy of the National Veterans Network)

GWU students clean Nat'l Japanese American Mem. to Patriotism

Washington, D.C.—Following JAVA's Speakers Bureau representatives speaking engagement at George Washington University (GWU), two students visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism on January 18, 2014. Following a briefing of the Memorial by a docent from JAVA, Alyssa Coulter and her sister Adrienne volunteered to organize a contingent of students at GWU to clean the Memorial as a community service.

Alyssa and Adrienne, both freshmen whose hometown is San Francisco, Anna Yusov, a freshman from Seattle, and Alex Gross, a freshman from Rockville, Maryland, visited the Memorial on February 1, 2014. They picked up trash and raked the leaves. Alyssa said the GWU team plans to clean the Memorial on a regular basis.

Alyssa said, "We enjoyed helping the community by being able to clean up the memorial. It looks great and I am glad that people visiting will get to see it in a clean



GWU students Alex Gross (L) and Adrienne Coulter pick up frozen blankets at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. (Photo by Alyssa Coulter)

condition." Dr. Bonnie Morris, who invited the JAVA speakers to speak at GWU, said she is "grateful to share this important [Japanese American] history with her classes and is proud of her students' community spirit."

Concerned officials of Japanese American organizations expressed their appreciation to the students and Dr. Morris. JAVA President Gerald Yamada told the GWU team

that the Japanese American community appreciates this considerable initiative. Dan Matthews of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) told Dr. Morris "your leadership with your students is largely responsible for this wonderful moment" and told the students "Nisei patriotism ...and acts of heroism inspire all Americans." Dr. Craig Uchida, Chairman Emeritus of NJAMF, said "I know that families who were interned and veterans who served during WW II are grateful." Priscilla Ouchida, Executive Director of JACL, said she "plans to do a story about the GWU students in the weekly JACL Digest that is distributed to 8,000 subscribers."

News from the Department of Veterans Affairs

January 24, 2014. Aging military veterans are being used by a growing coterie of unethical benefits advisers who see an opportunity to rip off a pension program and veterans alike. There are now more than 20,000 advisers accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs, a program with little oversight. Tighter laws and oversight are needed to reduce a new cottage industry of fraud and abuse.

January 30, 2014. More than 60 volunteers with the U.S. Veteran's Administration and City officials will begin the task of locating, identifying and immediately helping veterans who are chronically homeless in St. Louis.

February 18, 2014. After 42 years, Robert Haley still has a passion for tackling medical mysteries. Look behind an epidemic and there's a good chance you'll find Dr. Robert Haley crunching numbers to find the causes and cures. Most physicians advise patients how to avoid or treat illness based on "the medical literature." Haley, the pre-eminent epidemiologist in North Texas, writes the literature.

February 20, 2014. Veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent and Total will soon have their applications for Social Security disability benefits processed faster, the Social Security Administration

announced Wednesday.

February 22, 2014. Military veterans who say they were sickened by lingering amounts of the herbicide Agent Orange aboard repurposed airplanes after the Vietnam War now have some strong scientific support for their claims.

March 1, 2014. The VA's huge national backlog of disability compensation cases fell last week below 350,000. The number remains unacceptably high. But it's the first time that the backlog has been this low since February 2011, when the caseload began billowing due to a 2010 decision to accept additional claims related to Agent Orange-related maladies.

March 11, 2014. Enlisted women could begin serving aboard submarines as early as 2016, depending on the interest female sailors have in serving on the boats. Every enlisted woman in the Navy will be asked to participate in an anonymous survey this summer to determine how many would volunteer to serve aboard the vessels.

March 31, 2014. While G.I. Joe is what many Americans grew up with, the reality is G.I. Jane is becoming more and more common. By 2040, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs projects there will be more than 2.2 million living female military veterans.

Taps

Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., JAVA General Counsel



Chevy Chase, Md.—Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., retired chief counsel of the U.S. Treasury Department Bureau of Public Debt and an official of several major Nisei veterans organizations, passed away on February 28, 2014.

Ninomiya retired from the United States Treasury in 1995 after 40 years of service. He was retained by the Treasury as a consultant to help dozens of developing countries draft legis-

lations and to serve as intermittent legal advisor to the Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance.

He served as acting chair of the National Japanese American Veterans Council, which has been studying the role of the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in the successful occupation of Japan following World War II. He also served on the Steering Committee of the National Veterans Network (NVN), a group of Japanese American veterans organizations and community groups, which sought an amendment to include the MIS in the Congressional Gold Medal Bill, assisted Congress in the presentation ceremony, and sponsored the two days of celebratory activities in Washington, D.C. in November 2011.

Ninomiya served as the general counsel of JAVA and was a member of its executive council. He previously served as the organization's vice president for several terms. In addition, he developed and managed the JAVA scholarship program since 2008.



President Obama greets Calvin Ninomiya in the Blue Room of the White House on November 11, 2013. The President and Mrs. Obama invited officials of veterans organizations accredited to the Department of Veterans Affairs for breakfast in honor of Veterans Day. (Official White House photo)

He is survived by his wife, Hannelore, for 55 years, children Lisa, Roland and Erik, elder sister Rose Masuda, and several nieces and nephews. A memorial service was held on March 15 at the Westmoreland Congregational Church in Bethesda, MD 20816. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to *Densho*, which is devoted to preserving the testimonies of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during WWII, (<http://www.densho.org/>); or to the Metropolitan Opera, (<http://www.metoperafamily.org/>).

George Itsuo Nakamura, Member of "Dixie" Mission

Houston, Tex.—George Itsuo Nakamura passed away peacefully on January 24, 2014 at his home in Pearland, Texas at the age of 90. George was born November 13, 1923, in Arroyo Grande, CA,



Although he planned to be a farmer and run the family farm in Central California, WWII radically altered his plans. He was 18 in the spring of 1942, when all persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were forcibly removed from their homes, and the Nakamura family was sent to the Gila River Internment Center located in the desolate Arizona desert. George, his mother, brother, and four sisters were placed in one room measuring just 25 by 35 feet.

Determined to prove his loyalty to the country of his birth, George was one of the first 32 Japanese Americans to volunteer from the Gila River camp when the U.S. Army first sought volunteers from the "internment camps" for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) in November 1942. During WWII, George was assigned to a top-secret U.S. military mission, the "Dixie Mission," which required his unit to live in the foothills of Yan'nan, China, at Mao Tse-tung's headquarters. The Dixie Mission, comprised of Army and Department of State officials, is the first US Government contact with the Communist Chinese government. George's duties included deciphering Japanese transmissions, interrogating Japanese POW's and going on covert missions to gather intelligence. He was awarded the Bronze Star for going on a solo covert mission behind enemy lines to rescue a downed U.S. Army Air Corps pilot, and also received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant for his exemplary work with the Dixie Mission. Among George's favorite stories about his time in China was the honor of dancing with Madame Mao Tse-tung during the birthday party the group threw for George's 21st birthday.

For his lifetime contributions to his nation, Mayor Annise Parker proclaimed November 13, 2013, as "George Itsuo Nakamura Day" in the City of Houston.

Taps (continued from page 16)

Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, USMC (Ret) First Chinese American Marine Corps Officer



Washington, DC.—Marine Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee, a legendary hero at Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, and the Corps' first Asian American regular officer, died on March 3, 2014, at his home in Washington, D.C. He was 88. Lee, who was born in San Francisco and raised in Sacramento, earned the Navy Cross and the Silver Star for separate acts of valor within a one-month period during the early part of the war. At one point, he led his

Marines through a blizzard and intense enemy fire to save over eight thousand Marines from certain capture.

On Nov. 2-3, 1950, then-1st Lt. Lee, commander of a machine gun platoon within Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, took immediate countermeasures when a larger enemy force fiercely attacked his platoon and overran its left flank as it was defending approaches to the main supply route south of Sudong, according to his Navy Cross citation. Exposing himself to intense hostile automatic weapons, grenade and sniper small-arms fire, Lee carried out personal reconnaissance, well in advance of his own lines, to re-deploy the machine-gun posts within the defensive perimeter. Despite sustaining serious wounds as he pushed forward, Lee charged directly into the face of the enemy fire, inspiring other members of his platoon to press a counterattack and drive the hostile forces from the sector.

Fox Co, 2nd Bn, 10th Marines was trapped at Toktong Pass during the battle of Chosin Reservoir. Lee was ordered to lead a daring rescue mission. On the night of December 1, 1950, using only a compass, the young lieutenant guided his Marines in the pitch black, over North Korea's icy and rocky terrain, toward Fox Company's position. The next day, he skillfully maneuvered his Marines forward in the face of heavy fire. Lee personally accounted for two enemy dead and provided such aggressive and inspirational leadership that fire superiority was regained and the enemy was routed.

In the 2011 interview with Marine Corps Times, Lee said he was proud to be a "pioneer" as the Marine Corps' first Chinese-American officer. "On the relevance of his service, on being the first regular commissioned Chinese American, and a minority officer in the United States Marine Corps, Major Lee stated, 'Certainly, I was never afraid [of death]. ... I was adamant that my death be admirable, be of some consequence to my race.'" JAVA salutes Major Lee and offers condolences to his family. [Condensed from article by Kent Miller, News Editor, Marine Corps Times, with contributions

by Tony Lombardo. Approval to reprint obtained from Mr. Miller.]

Fred Murakami, Former JAVA President

On March 7, 2014, Fred Murakami (age 90) of Vienna, Virginia passed away peacefully at his home. He died of a long battle with heart and kidney disease. Fred was born on February 21, 1924, in Berkeley, California. When Fred was preparing to enter his final year at Berkeley High School in 1942, the bombing of Pearl Harbor took place. His family was interned at Topaz, Utah.



During the internment period Fred was given a college scholarship to attend Chesbro Seminary in Rochester, NY later to graduate from the University of Utah. Fred spent three years in the Army in the Military Intelligence Service. After the military, Fred started his career in the United States Government working at the Pentagon, National Air and Space Administration, and ended his career at the National Science Foundation as the Director of Personnel & Management. After retiring from the federal Government, Fred spent another eight years working for the Fairfax County Public School system. Fred served as President of JAVA and Chairman of the Japanese American Veterans Council. As a member of the MIS, he received the Congressional Gold Medal.

Fred is survived by his wife Yuri of 54 years, and his two children Dean Murakami and wife Pat Hamilton of Herndon, Virginia, Sean Murakami and wife Oanh Tran of Oakton, Virginia, five grandchildren, and sister May Sugihara. A memorial service was held at Money and King, in Vienna, Va. on Saturday, March 22nd. His inurnment will be at Arlington Cemetery at a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Kyles Camp which supports children's cancer research at <http://www.kyleskamp.org>.

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 15 or the JAVA website at www.javadc.org.)

From the Interim Editor



My time at the Pentagon is coming to an end, and I will move on to my next assignment as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In April of this year, I took an early trip down to my future post to witness my dear

friend, JAVA Vice President Wade Ishimoto, get inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, also known as the Special Forces Hall of Fame.

At the ceremony, I also had the honor of meeting the first Japanese American to be inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, Sergeant Major Ernie Tabata, U.S. Army (Ret). It was such a privilege for me to be in the presence of two special gentlemen who are legends in the special operations community.

- Kay Wakatake



L-R: Lieutenant Colonel Kay Wakatake, U.S. Army; Sergeant Major Ernest K. Tabata, U.S. Army (Ret); Captain Wade Ishimoto, U.S. Army (Ret). Sergeant Major Tabata was inducted into the Special Forces Hall of Fame on August 23, 2007; he is a veteran of the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Among his assignments, he served as a paratrooper in the 82nd and 11th Airborne Divisions, and with the 1st, 5th, and 10th Special Forces Groups. (Photo by Mark Nakagawa)

2014 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage to honor Veterans

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation

Powell, Wyo.—The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation announces its Annual Pilgrimage, with the focus of honoring the service of veterans to the country. With the theme of “Honoring Selfless Service” this year’s events will recognize soldiers who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain during World War II. The events will take place at the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site in Northwest Wyoming on August 22–23, 2014.

Headlining the event will be the dedication of the Heart Mountain Honor Roll Memorial to the late Sen. Daniel K.

Inouye. The Honor Roll was built at Heart Mountain by internees in 1944, and the site has been preserved by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation in recent years. Sen. Inouye was a great American patriot who served the country both as a highly decorated veteran of World War II and as a government official. A Medal of Honor recipient, Inouye lost an arm in battle and went on to become the first Japanese American to serve in Congress, where he rose to the rank of President pro tempore of

the U.S. Senate, third In line for the U.S. presidency.

Other events at the site include guest speakers, including Sen. Inouye’s widow, Irene Hirano Inouye, Senator Al Simpson (ret.) and Secretary Norman Mineta (ret.). There will also be a special film screening of “A Flicker in Eternity”, a touching story of Stanley Hayami, a Heart Mountain internee who served with the 442nd. In addition, a dinner banquet will be held on August 22.

In preparation for the event, the HMWF has begun a campaign to identify and invite as many living Heart Mountain veterans in an effort to

honor them at the Pilgrimage. Fundraising is underway to provide travel stipends to bring those veterans to the event. The HMWF is asking any Heart Mountain veterans or anyone still in contact with Heart Mountain veterans to contact HMWF at info@heartmountain.org or by phone at [307.754.8000](tel:307.754.8000). For more information please call (307) 754-8000 or visit www.HeartMountain.org.



Heart Mountain Internment Camp, Northwest Wyoming.



JAVA speakers at Capital City Public Charter School in DC

L-R: Mrs. Mary Murakami is interviewed by Antoinette, Thao and Carlos, students at the Capital City Public Charter School in Washington, DC, on February 10, 2014. The students interviewed Murakami and Terry Shima for a presentation about the treatment of Japanese Americans during WW II for National History Day. Assisting the students in this endeavor is 11th grade History teacher Julian Hipkins, III.

Welcome New Members!

RDML David M. Boone, USN
 Robert Hashimoto, USMCR
 Sgt Masaru Ted Kamada, USA
 CAPT Richard A. Kondo, USNR
 MAJ Lynn B. Mariano, USA (Ret)
 LCDR James M. Miyahara, USN

Friends of JAVA

Lea Mizumoto
 Mike Mizumoto
 Peggy Mizumoto

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 14, 10A.M.: JAVA Executive Council meeting.
 Jul 12, 11:30A.M.: JAVA Quarterly luncheon at Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.
 Oct 11: JAVA Executive Council meeting.
 Nov 11, 2P.M.: Veterans Day Program, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Washington, D.C.
 Dec 6: JAVA Executive Council meeting.
 Jan 17, 2015, 11:30A.M.: JAVA Annual Meeting luncheon at Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Virginia.

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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