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Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick assumes command of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FORT McNAIR, Washington, D.C.—Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, a Japanese American, became the 53rd U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and US Army Chief of Engineers (USACE) during an assumption of command ceremony on May 22, 2012, at the Baruch Auditorium, Fort Lesley J. McNair. Army Vice Chief of Staff General Lloyd J. Austin hosted the event. Bostick serves as the senior military officer at USACE overseeing most of the nation's civil works infrastructure and military construction. He is responsible for more than 37,000 civilian employees and 600 military personnel who provide project management and construction support to 250 Army and Air Force installation in more than 100 countries around the world.



L-R: Renee Bostick, Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick, and General Lloyd J. Austin, Army Vice Chief of Staff, stand at Lt. Gen. Bostick assumes command over the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (U.S. Army photo)

Lieutenant General Bostick also oversees USACE's diverse missions such as hundreds of environmental protection projects, the regulatory permit program to protect, restore and enhance thousands of acres of wetlands, and the emergency response mission to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As

Chief of Engineers, Bostick advises the Army on engineering matters and serves as the Army's topographer and the proponent for real estate and other related engineering programs. Bostick remarked that, "Now, more than ever, the nation needs an Corps of Engineers, one that serves the Army and nation and one that truly teams with our many government and non-government partners to solve the engineering and scientific challenges facing us. I'm committed to working with all our partners to continue the rich traditions of the Corps, meet the needs of this country and always deliver."

JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima retires



Terry Shima retires from JAVA Executive Director position. Bruce Hollywood to serve as new Executive Director. Stories on page 4 (Bruce Hollywood) and page 5 (Terry Shima).

General Bostick graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He holds a Masters degree in civil engineering and mechanical engineering from Stanford University and is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He is a registered professional engineer in Virginia. Bostick's father is African American, and his mother is Japanese.

President's Message



Terry Shima, JAVA's dynamic Executive Director for the past eight years, is retiring as Executive Director effective June 30th. I and the Executive Council are

very sorry to lose Terry as our Executive Director. Among his many accomplishments, he helped transition JAVA's Executive Council from one with mainly World War II veterans to one today that has war veterans who served from World War II to the present. He was a critical contributor in securing the Congressional Gold Medal Award and US Army Bronze Star Awards for the Nisei soldiers.

The good news is that Terry will remain on the Executive Council and has agreed to chair the Education Committee, leading one of our most

important priorities. In this position, he will continue to develop JAVA educational materials that can be used by educators to teach units on why and how World War II Nisei soldiers fought prejudice.

Our new Executive Director will be Bruce Hollywood. Bruce is currently serving as Deputy Chief of the Operational War Plans Division for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He entered the US Air Force in 1986 and retired as a Colonel in 2007 while serving on the Joint Staff. Bruce served as JAVA Vice President for the past three years.

Taking Bruce's place as Vice President will be Wade Ishimoto. Wade has over 50 years of service to our nation as a member of the US Army Special Forces, former Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy, and now working in the private sector. Earlier this year, Wade received the Department of the Navy's

Distinguished Public Service Award. As JAVA Vice President, Wade will oversee membership and the JAVA oral history project.

JAVA Secretary, Alan Ueoka, was reassigned to Hawaii last month. Lt. Janelle Kuroda, US Navy, will be the new JAVA Secretary. Janelle is a Navy lawyer. Ms. Miyako Tanabe has been appointed to replace Alan on the Executive Council. Miyako is a veteran of the US Air Force and was a member of the first JAVA Board.

Our new leadership on JAVA's Executive Council will continue to secure JAVA's viability for the foreseeable future.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President

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Executive Director (incoming)
Kay Wakatake, Lt. Col., USA
Reuben Yoshikawa

JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus
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WASHINGTON, D.C.—Philippine Ambassador Jose L. Cuisa led the 70th commemoration rites at the WW II Memorial in Washington, DC on April 11, 2012. The wreath laying ceremony took place at the Bataan marker of the Memorial. Among those in attendance were Filipino WW II veterans, staff members of the Embassy, Major General (Ret) Antonio Taguba, whose father survived the Bataan Death March, and a JAVA representative. Following the ceremony a memorial service and reception was held at the Embassy Romulo Hall to honor the late Guillermo Ruminagan, a friend of JAVA.

Westdale visits Poland for Holocaust Remembrance Day program

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Virgil Westdale, a resident of Grand Rapids, Michigan and a veteran of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), visited Poland from April 16 to 21, 2012. He participated in *the International March of the Living*, a 1.6 mile walk from Auschwitz to Birkenau concentration camp, by thousands of high school students from over 30 countries on Holocaust Remembrance Day, April 19, 2012. Westdale was the only veteran from the 522nd and one of the 16 American liberators selected for this trip by the *International March of the Living*.

Between 1933 and 1945 the German government, led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party, carried out a systematic persecution and murder of Europe's Jews. This genocide is now known as Holocaust.

Since 1988, *The International March of the Living* has annually transported thousands of high school students from all over the world to Poland for the march. This year the march included concentration camp liberators for the first time. David Widawsky, Associate Director of the Liberator Project of the *International March of Living*, said liberators were included because "they were eyewitnesses to the atrocities without an agenda." He also hopes, upon their return, they will publicize their experience, especially to the younger generation, and talk about what they had experienced.

Westdale said in addition to participating in the march, liberators conferred with students from the US, Canada, and other nations. They also visited historic Jewish sites in Poland including Schindler's Factory, where a German businessman protected Polish Jews. On April 19th, they toured Auschwitz in the morning, then participated in the *International March of the Living* in the afternoon. After the march, there was a program of music and speakers at Birkenau, at the site where gas chambers and crematoria once stood. At a moving dedication to the 6,000,000 Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis in the Holocaust, six huge torches were lit. The third torch was reserved for the guests of honor, the liberators. Westdale, at 94 the oldest liberator on this trip, was given the honor of lighting the torch surrounded by 15 of his fellow concentration camp liberators

In his remarks to the young visitors, Westdale said the 522nd liberated one extermination sub camp at Dachau and found that

the German guards had already fled, the exterminating ovens were still warm, and emaciated bodies stacked up. The Jewish inmates were clad in thin black and white prison robes and were in conditions almost impossible to describe. The inmates were just skin and bones walking in a daze, with many lying on the snow-filled ground too weak to move. The 522nd men were in disbelief that one group in the human race could do this to another. While liberating the Jewish inmates, some Nisei thought of their own families held behind barbed wire concentration camps in America.

Westdale said when Jewish inmates saw the Nisei their first reaction was that the Japanese Army had been sent to kill them. "It took a lot of persuasion to convince them we were Americans of Japanese ancestry," Westdale said.

Before December 7, 1941, Westdale was a licensed commercial pilot in the Army Air Corps reserve teaching aerial acrobatics and instrument flying. When war was declared against Japan, he was concerned his flying days were over. Thinking it would ensure his longevity as an Army pilot, he changed his name from Nishimura to Westdale (*Nishi*=west; *mura*=dale). His father was an immigrant from Japan, his mother an American of English/German descent. Because of his ethnicity, the War Department transferred him from the Army Air Corps to an infantry unit and later assigned him to the 442nd RCT as a private.

Following the War, Westdale went to college, earned two degrees, and worked as a scientist for an industrial firm, where he was awarded 25 patents for his inventions. He subsequently worked for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) at the Grand Rapids international airport for 14 years. He has written a book, *Blue Skies and Thunder*, with co-author Stephanie Gerdes, and never

passes an opportunity to speak at schools and business organizations wearing the same "Eisenhower jacket" he wore in WW II. Asked how he keeps healthy at 94, he mused, "I think ballroom dancing and tap dancing and having a good attitude toward life is a good way to live."

Westdale was accompanied by his grandson Paul Westdale, a senior at Grand Valley State University, who, at age 23, was the youngest member of the liberators' group.



Representing the liberators, 442nd veteran Virgil Westdale was selected to light one of the six torches to memorialize the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. This ceremony took place at Birkenau, Poland, where gas chambers and crematoria once stood. (Courtesy of David Widawsky)

Bruce Hollywood to succeed Shima as JAVA Executive Director



McLEAN, Va.—Colonel Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), Vice President of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), has been named as the new Executive Director of JAVA, effective July 1, 2012. The announcement was made by JAVA President Gerald Yamada on June 2nd. Colonel Hollywood will succeed Terry Shima, who, at 89, is retiring from this position in which he has served for the last

eight years. Colonel Hollywood has strong credentials including skilled organizer, team player, integrity and professionalism.

Colonel Hollywood has served as Vice President for the past three years and, concurrently, as a member of the Executive Council for the past four years. As Vice President, he was also Chairman of the Membership Committee and has been involved in the decision making process of JAVA.

Currently serving as a Deputy Chief of the Operational War Plans Division for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he retired from US Air Force in September 2007 while serving on the Joint Staff. He entered the US Air Force in 1986 following graduation from Southern Nazarene University and began his career as an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Launch Officer at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota and subsequently was the Executive Officer to the 57th Air Division Commander. Other assignments included Vandenberg Air Force Base, and the Pentagon where, in 1999, he served as Deputy Chief of the Space Launch Division. In 2001, Colonel Hollywood assumed command of the 320th Missile Squadron at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming.

He has attended the US Army's Command and General Staff College, Air War College, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI program. He has two children, Joseph, 24, and Emily, 20.

On June 2, 2012 JAVA's Executive Council also approved the following appointments: Mr. Wade Ishimoto to serve as JAVA Vice President, replacing Colonel Hollywood; LT Janelle Kuroda, USN as secretary to succeed LTC Alan Ueoka, USA, due to Army reassignment; and Ms. Miyako Tanabe to serve as a member of the Executive Council.

Floyd Mori retires as JACL National Executive Director

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—Shiro Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of JACL for the past seven years, retired from this position on June 1, 2012. Priscilla Ouchida has succeeded him. Mori is a life member of JAVA and a member of JACL DC Chapter.

In August 2005 Mori became JACL's Director of Public Policy with office in Washington, DC. He was responsible for JACL's national government operations to achieve JACL's goals. He served on various government and non government boards such as the Leadership Council on Civil Rights (LCCR), the major civil rights coalition in the nation. He also led JACL humanitarian efforts to help victims of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the 2011 massive earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan.

Mori's ties to the JACL at the national and chapter levels were long and deep. He was a past National President (2000-2004), Vice President for General Operations (1998-2000), and Vice President for Public Affairs (1990-1992). He was a member of the Mt. Olympus JACL chapter in



Floyd Mori with President Barack Obama at the White House in 2009. (Courtesy of Floyd Mori)

Salt Lake City, Utah and served on its board and as president.

Born in Murray, Utah, south of Salt Lake City, Mori joined the US Army reserves and served on active duty in Fort Ord, California. He obtained two degrees (bachelor and Master) from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah interspersing them with two years of Mormon missionary assignment in Hawaii.

In California, Mori taught economics at Chabot College at Hayward for 10 years, served in elected positions at Pleasanton and in the state assembly. Mori served the state of Utah in various capacities, including the Governor's Asian Advisory Board and Small Business Administration Advisory Committee. He also formed his own business consultant corporation called Mori-Silva International.

Ouchida, a native of Sacramento, California, has a long and impressive record of service for JACL at the national and chapter levels.

Head of Japan Ground Self Defense Force briefed by JAVA at Japanese American Memorial

WASHINGTON, D.C.—General Eiji Kimizuka, Chief of Staff of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF), visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol building, on May 25, 2012, when he was briefed by JAVA officials. Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, described the background and significance and provided a walking tour of the Memorial. Grant Ichikawa, Military Intelligence Service veteran, and Terry Shima, 442nd veteran, discussed the internment, 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, MIS and their legacy.

General Kimizuka said he had read about the Nikkei experience during WW II and the Memorial and looked forward to visiting the Memorial and to be briefed by Nikkei WW II veterans. He observed that the Nisei “opened a large door for future generations of Japanese Americans”

In addition to meetings with high ranking Pentagon and Japanese Embassy officials, General Kimizuka was guest of honor at the Marine Barracks Washington Evening Parade on May 25 hosted by General James F. Amos, Commandant of the



GEN Kimizuka with JAVA members at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. L-R Grant Ichikawa, GEN Kimizuka, Terry Shima, Gerald Yamada. (Courtesy of Gerald Yamada)

Marine Corps. Mrs. Junko Kimizuka accompanied General Kimizuka to this event.

As Chief of Staff, General Kimizuka supervises all the services of Japan Ground Self Defense Force, which consists of five regional armies and the Ground Staff Office, a vital organ of the Ministry of Defense. He was commissioned in 1976 after graduating from the National Defense Academy. He served in various staff and command positions. He had earned the Airborne Badge and the Airborne Ranger Badge and has attended the U.S. Army Artillery Officer Advanced Course and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster occurred on March 11, 2011, General Kimizuka was appointed as the first-ever Joint Task Force Commander of the Ministry of Defense, consisting of more than 100,000 personnel. The task force conducted disaster relief operations including search and rescue, relief supplies transportation and livelihood assistance. He also coordinated with U.S. forces to facilitate the smooth implementation of “*Operation Tomodachi*,” the humanitarian mission carried out by the U.S. forces to aid Japan’s relief efforts.

Terry Shima retires as JAVA Executive Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. —Terry Shima announced his retirement as Executive Director of the JAVA. In his letter of retirement, Shima said, “After eight years as Executive Director of the Japanese American Veterans Association, and at age 89, I have decided it is time to relinquish my position and give another person the opportunity to take JAVA to a higher level.” JAVA President Gerald Yamada reluctantly accepted the retirement saying “after extended discussions with Terry to convince him to remain as JAVA Executive Director, I realized that his decision was final. After all Terry has done for JAVA and his hard work in support of the World War II veterans, my only choice is to support him and to accept his final decision.”

Yamada also said “Shima’s retirement was not a surprise since he indicated to me last year that he was thinking about stepping down after the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, DC was completed. It still comes as a sad realization to know Terry will no longer be our Executive Director.”

Among his many accomplishments, Yamada pointed to Shima’s leadership in establishing an education out-reach program with D.C. area school districts, the community and government entities; assisting with organizing the digitalization program to copy the military records of 26,000 Nisei soldiers that are stored at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA); being a critical contributor in securing the Congressional Gold Medal Award and U.S. Army Bronze Star Awards for the Nisei soldiers; fostering a viable relationship with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which requested JAVA to represent Asia Pacific American veterans; and helping to transition JAVA from a World War II Nisei veterans organization to one with war veterans ranging from World War II to the present.

Shima will remain a member of the JAVA Executive Council and has agreed to chair the Education Committee and help with JAVA’s NARA digitalization project for the JAVA website.

JAVA participates in 3 major events during Memorial Day weekend



JAVA contingent, including a WW II jeep, on Constitution Avenue, the same path the 442nd marched on July 15, 1946. (Photo by Kay Wakatake)

WASHINGTON, D.C.—JAVA participated in three major events during the 2012 Memorial Day Weekend to honor the fallen members of America's armed forces, including Japanese Americans and other Asian Pacific Americans.

The 64th Annual Memorial Day Service, sponsored jointly by the Japanese American Citizens League Washington D.C. (JACL WDC) Chapter and JAVA, was held on May 27, 2012 at the Arlington National Cemetery Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard. Featuring the principal speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Kay Wakatake, US Army, the Arlington Cemetery event also included speeches given by Janice Nakano Faden, President of JACL WDC; Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA; and two 4th grade students from Spark Matsunaga Elementary School, located at Germantown, Maryland, Kendall Griffith and Lauren Penn. Following the program, Turner Kobayashi, over-all Chair of the Service, arranged teams to decorate 75 Japanese American gravesites.

The morning of May 28, Yamada was invited to Arlington National Cemetery to witness President Barack Obama lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. Then Yamada joined

other JAVA members in the Amphitheater where the President, after an earlier appearance at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, addressed the nation. Referring to the eight years of Iraq War that caused 4,500 American patriots to sacrifice their lives, Obama told the packed amphitheater, many of whom had lost family members in combat, "I cannot fully understand your loss. As a father, I cannot begin to imagine what it is like to receive that knock at the door and realize your worst fears have come true. But, as Commander-in-Chief, I can tell you sending our troops into harm's way is the most wrenching decision I have to make. I can promise you that I will never do so, unless it is absolutely necessary, and that when we do, we must give our troops a clear mission and the full support of a grateful nation."

In the warm and sunny afternoon, the JAVA contingent, led by LTC Wakatake, marched in the American Veterans Center parade down Constitution Avenue. This annual march is an especially significant event for JAVA because on July 15, 1946 the 442nd Regimental Combat Team marched down this same path to the Ellipse where it was reviewed by President Harry Truman. The JAVA contingent was made up of former soldiers of the 442nd and MIS wearing their veterans caps, a 1942 model Jeep, and veterans of conflicts since World War II. The group generated favorable reactions from the estimated 250,000 people who lined up on both sides of the parade route. Many waved enthusiastically, some stood erect rendering the hand salute amidst shouts of "Go For Broke" and "442nd."

With great anticipation, next year the 2013 JAVA contingent will be bolstered by the participation of the color guards from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry, a US Army Reserve unit in Hawaii with two deployments to the Middle East combat zone.

JAVA Round Robin changes hands

ARLINGTON, Va.—Grant Ichikawa, creator, editor and publisher of JAVA's weekly electronic bulletin the *Round Robin*, has retired, and his successor is Brett Egusa, Esq. (pictured at right). The *Round Robin*, commonly referred to as RR by intimates, carries news and obituaries pertaining or of interest to Asian Pacific American veterans and families across the land. A number of subscribers repeat the RR to their own network of subscribers. Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, said, "In addition to providing timely information to veterans nationally, Grant has built enormous goodwill for JAVA. I am confident Brett will build on Grant's standard of excellence."

Egusa is senior legal counsel at the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). He also is a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves at Fort Lee, Virginia in its legal department; prior to this assignment



was a professor at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School on the campus of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville for four years. Egusa served on active duty with U.S. Army JAG Corps for 7 years with duty at Alexandria, VA; Kandahar, Afghanistan; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Camp Casey, South Korea; and Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In addition to the parachutist badge,

Egusa was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and many other awards. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Oregon, Portland, Oregon, and a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego at La Jolla. He is married to Lieutenant Colonel Erin McMahon who is an attorney with the National Guard Bureau at the Pentagon.

Brigadier General Carvalho discusses advances in military medicine

FALLS CHURCH, Va.—Brigadier General (Dr.) Joseph Carvalho, Jr., Commanding General of the Northern Regional Medical Command (NRMC) and a native of Kaneohe, Hawaii, discussed recent advances in Army medicine, specifically within the realm of combat healthcare, at the quarterly JAVA luncheon on April 21, 2012. NRMC, with headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, extends from North Carolina to Maine and from the Atlantic coast to Wisconsin. The region includes seven major Army medical treatment facilities.

General Carvalho said in January, 2011, the Army Surgeon General appointed a medical task force to study a new severe combat injury pattern arising from Afghanistan. The task force confirmed a striking increase in the injury severity rate beginning in the fall of 2010, marked by multiple limb amputations, or severe extremity injuries, and associated pelvic and urogenital wounds. Additionally, there was an increased rate of massive transfusions of blood and blood products during this period, suggesting massive wounding. Of particular note, however, these severe injuries occurred at the same time combat survival rates increased. This combination of findings indicated improved casualty care, from the point of injury, through surgical resuscitation, and eventual medi-



Brigadier General Joseph Carvalho. (Photo by Bruce Hollywood)

cal evacuation to the United States.

“The Task Force documented a number of successful current practices, such as the effective use of casualty care protocols at the point of injury; tourniquet use; rapid evacuation to surgical care; specialized surgical resuscitation; changes to transfusion strategies; aggressive, early pain management; holistic rehabilitation strategies; and DoD-VA integration and cooperation,” he said.

Carvalho said recommendations for further improvement in survival following combat injury--already the highest in the history of American war--have begun to be implemented, such as placing paramedics on evacuation aircraft and placing urologists in theater. Other preventive, mitigation and treatment initiatives are well under way to

further protect warriors in combat.

Carvalho is a graduate of St. Louis High School in Honolulu and Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. An Army ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Medical Service Corps, then went to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences School of Medicine in Bethesda. He received post-graduate medical training, attended various advanced military schools, as well as the Army Airborne and Flight Surgeon schools, among others.

Wade Ishimoto receives Department of Navy award

THE PENTAGON, Washington, D.C.—Wade Ishimoto received the Department of the Navy’s Distinguished Public Service Award on March 15, 2012, in a formal ceremony at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. On behalf of the Secretary of Navy, Mr. Robert Martinage, Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy, made the presentation. The award is the highest for a non-governmental employee and recognized Ishimoto for his contributions from 2008 to 2011 for his contributions to special operations, combating terrorism, psychological and stability operations, human intelligence, counternarcotics, and foreign internal defense programs. His achievements supported Department of Navy efforts with various Secretary of Defense offices, the United States Special Operations Command, Naval Special Warfare Command, Marine Special Operations Command, and Theater Special Operations Commands in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Attendees at the ceremony included Ishimoto’s wife, Bobbi; General Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff for the United States Air Force; and Brigadier General Michael Nagata, Deputy Director for Special Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The award culminates over 50 years of service to our nation as a member of Army Special Forces, as a citizen in the private sector, and as a former Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and Special Assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of Navy. One of his notable experiences was his role as Intelligence Officer and security team leader on the 1980 attempt to rescue 53 American hostages in Iran.

Ishimoto is a member of the Board of Directors of the Japanese American Veterans Association and is the chairman of its Oral History Project.



L-R: Deputy Under Secretary of the Navy Robert Martinage and Wade Ishimoto. (U.S. Navy photo)

Japan Prime Minister Noda completes successful summit with President Obama; JAVA representatives meet Noda

[Condensed from JAVA press release]

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Following their summit meeting on April 30, 2012 in Washington, DC, President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda issued a “US-Japan Joint Statement: A Shared Vision for the Future” which confirmed the US-Japan alliance as the “cornerstone of peace, security, and stability in the Asia Pacific region for the past 60 years.” The statement also announced a number of cooperative initiatives in the area of security cooperation, economic partnership, cultural and people to people exchanges.



L-R: Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Hideki Hamamoto, Prime Minister Noda, Robert Nakamoto, Terry Shima. (Photo by Embassy of Japan)

Prime Minister Noda arrived at the nation’s capital on April 29, 2012. Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki held a small reception at his Official Residence that evening comprised of representatives from government entities, private sector and the community. Three members of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) were invited: Mr. Robert Nakamoto, immediate past president, Mr. Grant Ichikawa, a member of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Terry Shima, Executive Director. In his remarks, the Prime Minister expressed his gratitude for the US relief and reconstruction aid following the March 2011 tsunami and recognized the courage and

contribution of American Taylor Anderson, 24 year old English teacher who died in that disaster. He also gave a glimpse of his position for the summit meeting the next day by saying he was determined to lead the efforts to build a solid partnership between the two nations.

During discussions with JAVA representatives and Mr. Hideki Hamamoto, President, HHTransPac Inc. who is active in U.S.-Japan relations, Ambassador Fujisaki informed the Prime Minister about JAVA and the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the Japanese American World War II soldiers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. Noda asked the Ni-sei to convey his congratulations and best wishes to veterans and families of these units. Noda had previously visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism near the US Capitol building in 2011, when he served as Minister of Finance.

American, Japanese officials commemorate cherry tree anniversary

JOINT BASE ANACOSTIA-BOLLING, Washington, D.C.—Overlooking the Tidal Basin and the Washington Monument across the Potomac River, senior U.S. military personnel and officials of the Embassy of Japan planted cherry trees along the shore of the Potomac River on April 5, 2012 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry trees by the government of Japan to the city of Washington. JAVA was invited to participate in this event.

Five trees, one for each of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and their Japan-Self Defense Force counterparts, were planted near Giesboro Park at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. The trees are descendants of the original cherry trees given to America by Japan in 1912 as a symbol of friendship.

Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki unveiled the stone marker on which was inscribed “Like the nations of USA and Japan, these trees stand together and grow as one”. The Ambassador thanked America “for standing with us during our most difficult moments in history.”

Retired USAF General Richard Myers said “these trees are a symbol of the bond between our two nations.”

COL George Newman, USA (Ret), an official of the US Military Japan Alumni Association which was formed in 2010 to assist servicemen of both nations to sustain their friendship, arranged this event.



L-R: CDR Akira Sanbai, Japan Coast Guard; Gen (Ret) Ed Eberhart; Gerald Yamada; Col (Ret) George Newman; VADM O'Hara (USCG); Terry Shima; Lt Gen (Ret) Bruce Wright; ADM (Ret) Robert Natter; Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki; Maj Gen Atsushi Hikata; COL Yoshihiro Iseri; CAPT Izuru Ikeuchi. (Photo by Telfair Brown, Sr., U.S. Coast Guard)

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from VA announcements]

April 5, 2012. Since 2009, Iraq veteran Ryan Jones has gone from a military stint in Iraq to being homeless on the streets of Augusta to recently getting his badge as a Richmond County Sheriff's deputy. Before getting off the streets, Jones sought help at the Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center. While there, a counselor tried to help Jones get into VA housing and directed him to Al Steele, the veteran education coordinator for the Augusta Warrior Project, a nonprofit that helps veterans.

April 15, 2012. A paralyzed woman moved a robotic arm, using only her mind. A report in the journal *Nature* explains the pioneering technology is making big progress. The hope is that eventually computers will enable paralyzed patients to move their arms and legs with only their thoughts.

May 29, 2012. The late Maj. Gen. Gerald Sajer and his wife, Helen, who have been on the frontlines of aiding veteran families, founded the non-profit [PA Wounded Warriors](#) in 2006. Helen Sajer explained, "When our son Frank [then Lt. Col. Frank Sajer] came home alive from Iraq, Gen. Sajer and I wanted to do something for our wounded soldiers and their families." They started visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and eventually the Sajers began bringing wounded soldiers and their families for weekend trips to their farm in northern Adams County.

May 30, 2012. The Post-9/11 GI Bill, enacted in 2008, has paved the way for hundreds of thousands of recent veter-

ans to enroll in college. And with drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of vets in college is likely to continue to climb. There is concern, however, about whether vets are doing well in college, especially at for-profit schools.

May 31, 2012. A staggering 45 percent of the 1.6 million veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are now seeking compensation for injuries they say are service-related. That is more than double the 21 percent who filed such claims after some other relatively recent wars, top government officials said.

June 4, 2012. There's been a dramatic decline in the number of homeless veterans nationwide. According to new figures from the Department of Veterans Affairs, fewer than 60,000 veterans are now believed to be homeless. That's a drop of more than 90,000 from public estimates four years ago.

June 6, 2012. The Department of Veterans Affairs is excited to host the National Veteran Small Business Conference and Expo June 26 – 29, 2012 in Detroit. Three events will be conducted to help Veterans find jobs, start or grow a small business and avail themselves of the many benefits and services they have earned through their military service. The Veteran Open House is a completely free event hosted by the VA to feature benefits and services for Veterans.

Jun 7, 2012. Researchers led by Arlene Schmid found that older veterans recovering from strokes experienced gains in functional strength, flexibility, and endurance after taking part in an adapted yoga program.

Wakatake promoted to rank of Lt Col; appointed to ABA committee

THE PENTAGON, Washington, D.C.—On May 1, 2012, JAVA Executive Council member Kay Wakatake was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army. Assigned Lt. Col. Wakatake is currently the budget officer for the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

The promotion ceremony was held in the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial Chapel commemorating those who perished there. Colonel David Diner, Dean, The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, conducted the ceremony. Several members of JAVA's Executive Council graciously attended.

Col. Diner had high praise for Lt. Col. Wakatake's dedication to military service and the Army JAG Corps. He spotted her talent when she was the Chief of Legal Assistance at Fort Lewis while he was the Staff Judge Advocate. He



Col. David Diner presents the Lieutenant Colonel Promotion Appointment Certificate to Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake. (Pentagon photo)

said while she was stationed in Germany, she requested her next job at the toughest brigade, no matter where it was located. She became the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and deployed to Iraq in 2010 to lead the brigade's rule of law efforts in the Al Anbar province.

In May 2012, the President of the American Bar Association appointed Lt. Col. Wakatake to the Advisory Committee of the Standing Committee on Law and National Security. The Standing Committee on Law and National Security conducts studies, sponsors

programs and conferences and coordinates working groups on law and national security-related issues, including the legal responses to terrorism, the restructuring of the intelligence community and its role in law enforcement, and operational international law in the conduct of the military.

Meet the Generals and Admirals

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

RADM Eleanor Valentin



RADM Eleanor Valentin is commander of the Navy Medicine Support Command, Director of the Medical Service Corps and Commander of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center at Portsmouth, VA. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degrees in Zoology and Psychology at the University of Washington, she completed a Masters degree in Public Health

(Health Policy and Planning), and a Master of Science degree in Public Health (Biostatistics) at the University of Hawaii.

In 1982 she was commissioned as a lieutenant junior grade, Medical Service Corps, USN. For the next twenty years she served in command and staff positions in hospitals and health care fields in Norfolk, VA, San Diego, CA, Guam, Japan, Hawaii, Texas, North Carolina, and the Washington, DC area.

About her background, RADM Valentin said "My relatives told me that I was made in the Philippines but assembled in the US." Her parents came to America at different times and married. Her father was born in the Philippines, went to the US at an early age and graduated from high school there. Her mother, an attorney who was an undercover policewoman in Manila, had to come to America on short notice because her life was in danger as the result of uncovering a corruption case.

Her parents taught their three children to be good citizens, study and work hard and "our reward would be a good life and ability to do just about anything we wanted to do."

ADM Gary Roughhead, Chief of Naval Operations, praised RADM Valentin for "her passion, dedication and commitment to the health, welfare and morale of our Sailors and Marines around the world."

Her personal decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit (2); Defense Meritorious Service Medal; and numerous other awards.

BG Paul M. Nakasone



Brigadier General Paul M. Nakasone serves as the Deputy Director for Trans-Regional Policy on the Joint Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy Director (J-5) in Washington, DC. He provides politico-military advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and represents the Joint Staff and the US military at government interagency meetings on a broad scope of national security topics.

General Nakasone was born in Saint Paul, MN, and was commissioned through the ROTC at Saint John's University (Collegeville, MN) in 1986. The son of Colonel (Ret.) Edwin and Mary Nakasone, his father is a Hawaii native and also a MIS veteran. General Nakasone's extended family spans both Minnesota and Hawaii.

His active duty assignments include overseas tours in Korea and Iraq; stateside postings in Fort Carson, CO, The Pentagon, Fort Gordon, GA, Fort Riley, KS, and Fort Meade, MD. General Nakasone is a graduate of various military schools, including the Command and General Staff, the Defense Intelligence, and the Army War Colleges. A career intelligence officer, he has served in senior intelligence officer positions at the battalion, brigade and division levels. He has also commanded at the company, battalion, and brigade levels.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with fourth oak leaf cluster), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Joint Staff Identification Badge.

General Nakasone noted, "I am honored to serve in our Army and with our Soldiers. Moreover, I am always mindful of the heroic sacrifices and contributions of the Japanese American Veterans who served in our military before me, who ensure our nation's freedom, who set a standard for excellence, and whose actions opened doors for all of us. I chose a military career for a variety of reasons; a desire to serve, a sense of duty, a longing for adventure. Much has changed since I was commissioned, but the one constant for me is the sense of satisfaction I get from being associated with those serving our nation."

News from other Veterans Organizations

San Jose, Calif.—Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV). The FFNV reunion, which is open to all veterans and families, will be held on September 30-October 4, 2012 at the California Hotel at Las Vegas, NV. Number of hotel rooms and space at the farewell banquet are limited so you are urged to reserve as early as possible.

Honolulu, Hawaii.—442nd Veterans Club Go For Broke Bulletin. Ron Oba, newly-installed president, said that should the Legacy Project, spearheaded by Wes Deguchi, “come to fruition, it will be used for classes, university-related activity and community-based meetings.” . . . Approximately five hundred 442nd veterans and family members enjoyed their 69th anniversary celebration on March 25, 2012 at the Pacific Beach Hotel.

Seattle, Wash.—NVC Newsletter. Commander Tom Kometani reported that NVC, in partnership with other Seattle organizations, is mounting an education program to publicize the legacies of the 100th, 442nd and MIS.

Torrance, Calif.—Japanese American Vietnam War Veterans’ Ken Hayashi reported that 18 high school volunteers participated in the 3rd annual “Spit and Polish” clean-up of the Japanese American National War Memorial Court located in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles in preparation for the Memorial Day service. <http://rafu.com/news/2012/05/polished-to-a-high-shine/>. (Photo below by Bacon Sakatani)



Roseville, Calif.—VFW Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter printed a summary of an undated speech made by Grant Ujifusa, who said when GEN Vinegar Joe Stilwell learned that Fountain Valley cemetery rejected the burial of Kaz Masuda, a 442nd Distinguished Service Cross recipient because “we don’t bury Japs here”, Stilwell confronted the cemetery officials who reversed their decision. When President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Bill, HR 442, on August 10, 1988 he recalled his participation in Masuda’s DSC award ceremony, where he said “The blood that has soaked into the sand is all one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. . . . That is the American way.”

Honolulu, Hawaii.—100th Battalion Puka Puka Parade announced that the 100th Battalion veterans’ 70th anniversary banquet will be held on July 8, 2012 at the Honolulu Country Club. . . . Baker chapter reporter, Cecilee Tanaka, reported that on April 10, 2012 Senator Daniel Inouye presented the Silver Star medal to the family of T/Sgt Robert Y. Ozaki for his heroic act in Italy in 1943.

34th Inf Div Association Tri-State Chapter plans to hold a reunion in Philadelphia, PA on July 13-15, 2012.

West Covina, Calif.—Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) Newsletter reported that Minoru Tonai of Woodland Hills, CA, former 40th Inf Div medic during the Korean War, was elected President of JAKWV for the 2012-2014 term. Tonai succeeds Thomi Yamamoto.

Welcome New Members!

CH Christopher Antal (New York)
 James E. Auer (Tennessee)
 Young J. Bang (Virginia)
 CPT Adrian Calame (Maryland)
 MAJ Veronica Chinn, USA (Maryland)
 CPT Romelo Delossantos (Texas)
 LTC Ronald Dennard, USMC (Ret) (Virginia)
 TSgt Robert Finch (Virginia)
 SCPO David K. Fujioka (Virginia)
 COL Edmund Haraguchi, USA (Ret) (Virginia)
 CPT Takashi Kagawa, USA (North Carolina)
 Mamoru E. Kanda (California)
 Gene Y. Oishi (Maryland)
 SGM Kunitaka Okinaka, USA (Ret) (Washington)
 A/1C Pedro Sarmiento (Maryland)
 CPT Audrey Sato (Maryland)
 MAJ K. Mark Takai (Hawaii)
 COL Yuzo Tokita (Washington)

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

Tour of 100th and 442nd battle sites in Italy planned for May 2013

SAN JOSE, Calif.—During World War II, the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team were involved in the destruction of three of Germany's "impregnable" defense fortifications: the Monte Cassino portion of the Gustav line, the Apennine mountain portion of the Gothic Line, both in Italy, and the Vosges forests of north eastern France. Veterans of the 100th and 442nd and their families and friends will have the opportunity to visit two of these sites, where ferocious fighting took place, and other locations in Italy by joining the Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans' (FFNV) *An Italian Military History Tour* from May 20 to June 2, 2013, Brian Yamamoto, the tour director and an FFNV member, announced recently. Three of Yamamoto's relatives served in the 442nd.

Billed as the 70th anniversary tour of Italy, the centerpiece of the tour will be the battlefields of Monte Cassino including the abbey at the mountain top and Mount Folgorito in the Apennines. The Gothic Line was composed of inter-connected mountain defenses in Tuscany, including Mount Folgorito, which protected access to the Po Valley and north. From this defensive fortress, the Germans withstood Allied attacks for five months before the 442nd was recalled to Italy in March 1945 for this operation from France, where it had just fought the enemy in the Vosges forests thereby helping to opening the gateway for the 7th Army's invasion of the German Rhineland. Able-bodied tour participants, escorted by local war historian Davide del Giudice, will have the opportunity to climb the steep Mount Folgorito, as the 442nd did at night on April 4, 1945, to see the mountain top site where the men assembled the following morning and from where they mounted a full scale assault that broke



Statue of PFC Sadao Munemori , Medal of Honor recipient, in Pietrasanta, Italy. (Photo by Dr. Americo Bugliani)

the German Gothic Line in 32 minutes.

In addition to these two fortresses, the tour will visit Anzio, a 10 square mile beachfront, where the Germans attempted but failed to push the Allies back into the sea. The group will also visit the location just south of Rome where the 100th, was ordered to halt while they watched other units enter Rome for the victory celebration and Civitavecchia, where the 100th merged with the 442nd. The travelers will tour Firenze (Florence), which, like Rome, was recognized as an "open city" and thereby saved from Allied bombing and spend Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, at the Florence American Cemetery, where 13 Nisei are interred and Rome-Sicily American Cemetery at Nettuno where 8 are interred. Also on the agenda are Carrara, where the finest marble products are produced; Pietrasanta, where, in spring 2000, the local population, led by JAVA member Dr. Americo Bugliani, built a monument to Medal of Honor recipient Sadao Munemori to honor the Allies for liberating Italy; Livorno (Leghorn), the allies major deep water port that delivered heavy equipment and other materiel to allied forces; Pisa, the home of the famous Leaning Tower that was built in the 12th century; Tendola, where two memorials were built to honor the 442nd, and other sites.

Peak Travel is arranging a tour of 13 night accommodations in four star hotels, breakfast daily, and other amenities. To obtain details concerning pricing, accommodations, itinerary, costs, visas and passports and other logistical data please contact Debra Stern (1-800-999-2608; dstern@peaktravel.com). For other information contact Brian Yamamoto brianeyamamotodds@yahoo.com; 425-877-0057 (cell) or 907-479-0187 (home).

Westdale joins Secretary Shinseki at college graduation ceremony

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki provided the commencement address at the Lansing Community College graduation ceremony at the Michigan State University on May 18, 2012. Virgil Westdale, a 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran who resides at Grand Rapids, was invited to attend the ceremony. Westdale said, "It was a great visit, being the selected guest of Secretary Shinseki. Since word got around that I was his guest everyone seemed so anxious to meet me. They even lined up as I walked toward the meeting room. I certainly did not earn or deserve that kind of attention but it was there. They even assigned an escort to be with me for the evening. At the large table they had my name card next to the Secretary's. Later he came in and everybody stood up. The Secretary came up to me and said it was an honor to meet me as he shook my hand. Of course it was a real honor meeting the 4-star General who is now Secretary of the VA. When the General gave his commencement address, he mentioned my name and I cringed. Now that surprised me! All the important people sat in a special box with nice chairs, and I was privileged that I was escorted to sit with them. Oh yes, I forgot to say the College picked me up, drove me to Lansing, and after the event they drove me home to Grand Rapids. What a day!"



Virgil Westdale (center with yellow tie) and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki (center with blue tie) at the Lansing Community College graduation ceremony. (Photo courtesy of Virgil Westdale)

National Nurse's Week

May 6 - 12 each year are designated as National Nurses Week. May 6 has been designated as the national registered nurse recognition day to honor the nation's 3.1 million indispensable nurses for their tireless commitment 365 days a year. May 12 recognizes the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. Nurses are trained to handle cases of post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, depression and all other known illnesses. Nurses work in emergency rooms, school based clinics, homeless shelters, and everywhere a RN is needed. Department of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) nurses receive additional training to handle cases unique to the military. Nurses serve in various capacities such as staff nurse, educator, nurse practitioner and nurse researcher. JAVA recognizes below two Japanese American registered nurses, one representing the VA and the other representing the DOD.

Janice Ostroski Zarrabi, VA Nurse



Graduating from Seton Hall, School of Nursing, South Orange, NJ, in 1977, Janice Ostroski Zarrabi began her nursing career at St. Barnabus Medical Center, Livingston, NJ. After one year she moved to Gainesville, Florida, where she accepted a position at the Randall Malcolm Veteran's Hospital.

She considers this one of the best career choices she ever made. While there, she readily utilized her nursing skills in vascular, urologic and general surgery using advanced surgical procedures. After 4 years she transferred to the Washington D.C. VA hospital.

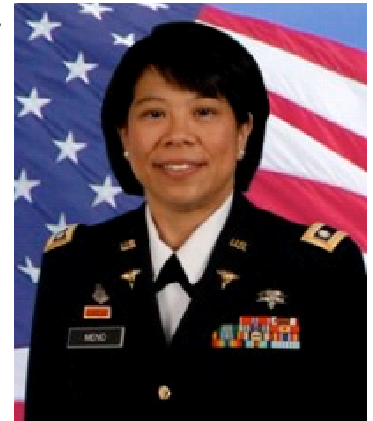
"The Washington D.C. VA Hospital, being the flagship of VA hospitals across the land, gave me an opportunity to work with state of the art equipment and procedures in the fields of cardiac catheterization and other medical procedures and records. I have gained incredible knowledge and experience to better help the veterans and my country as well as to obtain great job satisfaction", Zarrabi said.

Zarrabi was born in Mora, Minnesota and has an identical twin sister who is a DOD nurse in Hawaii. Her late father was a career soldier with two tours in Vietnam and her mother is a native of Tokyo, Japan. Zarrabi is married to a naturalized American of Iranian descent, have one son, and they reside in Silver Spring, MD.

Asked why she chose nursing as her career choice, she said "I believe in preventative health teaching and educating the public how to take care of themselves. I also truly enjoy helping people heal and feel better mentally. Nursing has been an aspiration since I was a child. In this position, I have been fortunate to serve my country, my family and the veterans, and at the same time enjoy my job in nursing."

Jenifer A. Meno, DOD Nurse

Lieutenant Colonel Jenifer A. Meno, commander at Andrew Rader U.S. Army Health Clinic, Fort Myer, Va. and the daughter of a retired U.S. Army First Sergeant, has over 20 years of military and nursing experience. Meno received her nursing degree from East Carolina University at Greenville, N.C., and was commissioned through the university's ROTC program in 1992.



Meno earned her Master's Degree of Science in Nursing as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Duke University in 2001, and a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies, from the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, in 2011.

Lt. Col. Meno's assignments include command and staff positions in the nursing field in Maryland, Washington, California, Hawaii, and Virginia and overseas at Somalia and Iraq. She has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Asked why she selected the Army Nurses Corps as her career choice, Lt. Col. Meno said "I grew up an Army brat and saw my dad put on his uniform and go to work every day. I wanted to be like him. Seeing the dedication and pride in my father towards his military career led me to join the Army. My first experience was at a military hospital when my mother was hospitalized. I saw the compassion and kindness demonstrated by both the civilian and military nurses. I knew I wanted to be a nurse. My late mother, a native of Yokohama, Japan, told me to do what I am passionate about, and I would succeed. I took that to heart. I love caring for people and to do this while serving my country is the greatest honor I can imagine."

Lt. Col. Meno resides in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband and two daughters.

10 HS students win coveted JAVA scholarship; Mineta advises them to never forget the legacy of WW II generation

Falls Church, Va.—The announcement of the ten JAVA memorial scholarship winners was made by Dr. Ray Murakami, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, at the JAVA quarterly lunch at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA on June 9, 2012. The scholarship awardees were descendants of members of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service and of members of JAVA.

Former Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Honorary Chair of JAVA who attended the luncheon with his wife Deni, offered his congratulations to the ten winners and advised them that as they pursue their education and career they must not forget the sacrifice and courage of the men of the 100, 442, and MIS to prove their loyalty to the nation that distrusted them.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada said he is delighted with the high caliber of applicants and the diligence of the Scholarship Committee to make their selections. He said that while JAVA scholarships are not financially large the unique significance it carries is the linkage of the awardees to Nisei who “fought the enemy abroad and prejudice and discrimination at home.”

The scholarship winners are:

Madeline Matsui, Brooklyn, NY, MAJ Orville and Maud Shirey Scholarship. Matsui was accepted at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Washington, DC. She is the granddaughter of the late Victor and Teru Matsui.

Jennifer Tanji, La Crescenta, CA, COL Phil Sunao Ishio Scholarship. She was accepted at UC Berkeley, School of Journalism, CA. She wants to fulfill her grandfather’s dream to succeed academically.

Ross Seeman, Portland, OR, Douglas Ishio Scholarship. He was accepted at Pepperdine University, CA. He has specialized in Japanese history and culture, visited Japan and spent time in Selma, Alabama to study Dr. Martin Luther King’s march for civil rights.



Madeline Matsui



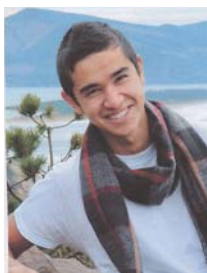
Alison Takahashi



Jennifer Tanji



Kaylee Yoshii



Ross Seeman



Brittany Kalepa



Lisa Greer



Jenna Hashimoto



Royce Kurahara



Margaret Ginoza

Lisa Greer, Colorado Springs, CO, Mary Kozono Scholarship. She was accepted at Ottawa University, KS. She wants to honor her grandfather who served in the MIS and an uncle who served in the 442nd RCT. She plans to study physical therapy and world ministry.

Royce Kurahara, Sacramento, CA, Joseph Ichijui Scholarship. He was accepted at UCLA and plans to study aerospace engineering. He wants to honor his grandfather.

Alison Takahashi, Glastonbury, CT, Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship. She was accepted at Boston College, MA, where she plans to study economics. In her high school history class she wrote about the men of the 442nd RCT and the MIS.

Kaylee Yoshii, Mission Viejo, CA, Kyoko Tsuboi Taubkin Scholarship. She was accepted at UC Berkeley. She is believed to be JAVA’s first *go-sei* (5th generation) JAVA scholarship award recipient. Fluent in Spanish, she received a scholarship from the Spanish Embassy for an academic and cultural journey through the Iberian Peninsula and part of South America.

Brittany Kalepa, Honolulu, HI, Dr. Warren Tsuneishi Scholarship. She was accepted at Cornell University, NY to study engineering. She wants to succeed in her studies to honor her grandfather, a 442nd RCT veteran.

Jenna Hashimoto, Aurora, IL, Betty Shima Scholarship. She was accepted at Bradley University, IL to study medical technology. Her father is Lt Col Robert Hashimoto, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

Margaret Ginoza, Manhattan Beach, CA, Etsu Masaoka scholarship. She was accepted at Vassar College, NY where she plans to study science and technology. Her grandfather served in the Army Air Corps as a tail gunner on a B-17.

[continued at Scholarship on page 15]

Scholarship (from page 14)

Other highlights of the quarterly lunch were the showing of a six-minute DVD, prepared by the National Veterans Network and shown at the Congressional Gold Medal Gala dinner in Washington, D.C. on November 2, 2011. In addition, Ambassador John Malott, President of the Japan America Society of Washington, DC, (JASW WDC) in his

remarks paid tribute to the WW II veterans and expressed appreciation for the partnership with JAVA in the annual *Sakura Matsuri* Festival held in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Parade. [Ednote. JASW WDC annually provides a tent free of charge to JAVA to display memorabilia and to discuss the Japanese American story with thousands of people not normally reached by JAVA publicity.]

2012 Scholarship application essay by Royce Kurahara

“To Grandpa”

I have never met him. I have never met the Japanese-American man who served in the historic and renowned 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army; the man who was a piece in the puzzle of history. I have never met the man who was deemed a hero. I have never met the man who came out of the war on the fronts of Europe, only to be thrown into another once he arrived home. I have never met him, not even once. I have never met my grandfather, Laverne M. Kurahara.

I have read the history books and many accounts of not only what Japanese-Americans went through during World War II, but all Americans. It is incredible to believe that these events occurred only about 65 years ago, and even more amazing to realize how closely related I am to an individual who took part in such historic events. Since I have never met him, the stories, reports, and pictures seem larger than life, forever encased and enshrined in history. Some may say this creates a gap between me and my grandfather, as I have never gotten to see what he was truly like while still living. However, I believe my relationship with my grandfather Laverne to be stronger than anything imaginable, for I am able to clearly witness not his words, but instead the honorable and heroic actions of his life. I see an eighteen year old boy, fresh out of high school, applying into the army despite weighing only 130 pounds. I see a courageous young man, fighting overseas in the name of our country, not knowing how long he has left to live. I see a husband and father, kind and gentle to all who knew him, raising a family in peace and happiness. And then I see the remembrance of a life full of achievement; a life well spent.

Winning a 2012 JAVA Scholarship will mean much more than winning a cash prize. Not only will it greatly help out my challenge with financing college, but it will also stand as a landmark in honor of my Grandpa Laverne. Being eighteen, I can hardly imagine what it would be like entering the army with a war looming at my age. Instances like these have established an unparalleled amount of respect and admiration I have for my grandfather, and as I have come of age, I believe it is my duty to preserve and uphold his image however possible. Receiving a JAVA scholarship will fully be in his honor, and it will serve as another reason to cherish and respect my history-filled Japanese-American roots. Although I have never been able to speak a word to him, I will now. You are truly my hero, Grandpa. This one is for you.

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.—JAVA 2011 Scholarship awardee Jamie Ryan provided a report of his freshman year at Harvard:

I am currently a freshman at Harvard College and hope to concentrate in Physics/Astrophysics with a secondary concentration in Computer Science. This first semester, in addition to taking science and math courses, I also took a Japanese language course. Outside of class, I am a member of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra, the Hasty Pudding Band, and the breakdancing team. This summer, I will undertake research involving either nanotechnology or astrophysics.

I was extremely honored to have received the Ranger Grant Hirabayashi Scholarship from JAVA. Recalling his courage, perseverance and patriotism, I am motivated to work hard to live up to the standards of excellence he set. I am also inspired by my grandfather, R. Lee Ujifusa, a Japanese-American World War II veteran, who helped pioneer computer research at IBM. I feel extremely fortunate and privileged to have such role models. Many thanks to JAVA and its supporters for helping me pursue my studies at one of the greatest educational institutions in the world.

—Thank you!

Jamie Ryan



Jamie Ryan standing in front of Harvard University's Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library, the University's flagship of over 70 libraries. Widener perished aboard the Titanic in 1912, and his mother donated the funds for the construction of the library.

Speakers Bureau



After his speaking engagement at Heritage High School, Leesburg, VA, Grant Ichikawa shows the Congressional Gold Medal for the 100th, 442nd and MIS. (Andrea Schlegel, History teacher)

L-R: Brigadier General Leslie C. Smith, Commander, 20th Support Command (host); MAJ Marie Bochat, USA (Arranger); Terry Shima (speaker); MAJ John J. Suehiro, U.S. Army JAG Corps (Master of Ceremony); LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) (JAVA). On May 23, 2012 two JAVA members were invited to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds on the occasion of the Asian



Pacific American Heritage Celebration. In addition to a program of speeches, display of Asian Pacific artifacts, and Polynesian entertainment, the audience was treated to a genuine Hawaiian luau. (Aberdeen Proving Ground photo)

Thank You Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

(Donations received from April 1, 2012 to May 18, 2012)

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George and Leslie Sakato (Colorado)
Kay K. Wakatake (Virginia)
COL (Dr.) Junro (Ed) Wakayama, USA (Ret) (Virginia)

Speakers Bureau



FORT BELVOIR, Va.—On May 18, 2012, Colonel Robert Patrick, USA (Ret), Director of Library of Congress Veterans History Project (**above left**), and Yukio Kawamoto, MIS veteran of Bougainville and other Pacific battles (**above right**), spoke to the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency (USALSA) at Fort Belvoir, Va., during the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month. Kawamoto talked about his WW II experiences and his career with the Department of State, and Patrick discussed the Veterans History Project. **Below:** Brigadier General Flora D. Darpino, Commander, USALSA, thanks Kawamoto at the conclusion of the presentations. (USALSA photos)



Top right: Mary Murakami, JAVA speakers bureau, at Oakdale High School students on May 24, 2012. (Photo by Colleen Bernard, Teacher)

Right: Murakami and students of Kenmore Middle School, Arlington County Public Schools, on April 17, 2012. Murakami spoke on the incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry. (Photo by Lilo Stephens, Teacher)

Right: Murakami in informal discussions with students following her presentation at Linganore High School, Frederick County, Maryland. (Photo by Wayne Coblenz, History teacher)

Bottom right: Murakami, internee at Topaz, Utah, and 5th grade students from Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, Maryland during a recent speaking visit. Principal is Ms. Judy Brubaker. Spark Matsunaga was a veteran of the 100th Battalion and a distinguished and highly respected U.S. Senator from Hawaii. (Photo by April Moon, teacher)



Above: Robert Nakamoto, President Emeritus of JAVA, discussed the Japanese American experience during WW II, at the Leesburg Red Hat Steel Magnolia Women's group meeting on May 21, 2012. (Laurie Nakamoto)



Above: Grant Ichikawa and Mary Murakami pose with 11th grade history students at the Capital City Public Charter School: Upper School Campus, Washington, D.C. on February 24, 2012. (Photo by Julian Hipkins, History teacher and 2012 winner of the Washington Post Agnes Myer Award for Excellence)



TAPS

Akira Yoshida



Akira Yoshida passed away Wednesday, April 18, 2012. He was 83. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving during the Korean War and retired as an electrical engineer from the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster. He was active in the veteran community, volunteering for the JAVA Digitization Project at National Archives Research Administration (NARA) until 2011. Born

in Walnut Grove, Calif. on May 17, 1928, he was the son of Toshiro and Nayoe. He is survived by his sisters, Alice, Hide and Mary; children, Bruce, Susan and Dan; daughter-in-law, Maryanne; grandchildren, Suzanna and Jasper; and numerous nieces and nephews. A private burial will be held by the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions (tax exempt) may be sent to the Japanese American Veterans Association Akira Yoshida Scholarship Fund. Please make checks payable to JAVA, write "Akira Yoshida Scholarship Fund" on the Memo line, and mail it to Mark Nakagawa, 9455 Park Hunt Ct., Springfield, VA 22153.

Request for help on an upcoming film

Marlan Warren, Producer, Roadmap Productions, is making a film about the war effort mounted by the interned girls and women during World War II. These girls and women called themselves The Crusaders and were led by Mary Nakahara who later married William Kochiyama. She later became well-known as Yuri Kochiyama. The film is now half-finished and seeking completion funding. They also need veterans and their wives who are willing to be interviewed or who may have letters from that time. The link for more information on the film is:

www.indiegogo.com/projects/99993?c=home&a=384210

Please contact Marlan Warren at Roadmap Productions, 1831 Winona Blvd., #104, Los Angeles, CA 90027; phone: (323) 347-6762; email: marlan_warren@yahoo.com.

Right: Memorial Day service at Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, Calif., which was one of the few to allow the burial of Asian Americans during the 1940s. It is the burial place of Medal of Honor recipients Pvt. Joe Hayashi, Pfc. Kiyoshi K. Muranaga, Pfc. Sadao Munemori (the first Japanese American Medal of Honor recipient) and T/Sgt. Ted Tanouye (the only MOH recipient from Torrance, Calif.). Tanouye is buried next to his best friend Akira Shimatsu (KIA), also of the 442nd RCT. (Photo by Robert Horsting)

A Special Message from JAVA Executive Director Terry Shima

It was a privilege and honor to serve as your Executive Director. After 8 years at the job and pushing 90, the time has come to let go so another person could enjoy the thrill of operational successes and recognition JAVA has enjoyed. I wish to thank my Executive Council colleagues, JAVA members, the many volunteers, financial donors, the press, veterans organizations, teachers, professors, government and diplomatic officials and others for their confidence, goodwill and support. While I cannot match the knowledge of historians such as Jim Yamashita, Ted Tsukiyama and Claire Mitani, JAVA has attempted to present the facts concerning the 100th, 442nd and the MIS. I will continue to serve JAVA as a member of committees, including the areas of outreach and education.



From the Editor



On May 9, 2012, I had the privilege of speaking at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington for its celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The program was broadcast to all the SEC regional offices around the country and was followed by a delicious Japanese lunch.

Then on May 27, 2012, JAVA and JACL-WDC held their 64th Annual Memorial Day Service. There I shared the podium with the most adorable Memorial Day speakers I have ever seen—Kendall Griffith and Lauren Penn, two precocious and articulate 4th graders from the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, Maryland. These two young ladies are certainly future leaders of America!

—Kay K. Wakatake

Please email comments to javaadvocate@gmail.com.

Top right: At the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from left to right: Saurabh Shaw, Counsel to SEC Commissioner Troy A. Paredes; Mark Uyeda, Senior Special Counsel, SEC; Lt. Col. Kay K. Wakatake; Helen Hua, APA Heritage Program Chair. (SEC photo)

Bottom right: Kendall Griffith, Wakatake, and Lauren Penn at Arlington National Cemetery. (Photo by Floyd Mori)



JAVA Membership Application

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

Date: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Membership: New Renewal Transfer

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

(Cellular) _____

Facsimile: (Home) _____

(Office) _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues:

Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30

Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15

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

Military Experience (if applicable): _____

Rank: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Military Campaigns: _____

Awards/Decorations: _____

Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

	Yes	No
Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rank	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dates of Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Military Campaigns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awards/Decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:
Wade Ishimoto
5703 Barbmor Ct
Alexandria, VA 22310-1150

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

c/o Amour LLC
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd. #104
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William Houston, houstonsnavy@aol.com, 703-380-8175

Education: Terry Shima (temporary) (see above)

Facebook: Janelle Kuroda, janellekuroda@gmail.com

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

Membership: Bruce Hollywood,
hollywoodweb@comcast.net

Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery: Terry Shima (temp)

Memorial Day Parade: Martin Herbert (See above)

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

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

Veterans Day: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

Webmaster: Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org
James Tani, jamestani@aol.com

Visit our website: www.javadc.org

JAVA is now on Facebook:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25, 11:30AM: Luncheon for Terry Shima. China Garden, Rosslyn, Virginia.

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

Sep. 7, 10AM–12PM: Military Historical Forum. Falls Church, Virginia.

Sep. 8: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

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

Oct. 21: PPALM Annual Reception.

Nov. 3: National Park Service Teachers Workshop.

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

Nov. 12, 8AM: White House Veterans Day Breakfast.

11am: National Veterans Day Program. President lays wreath at Tomb of Unknown and addresses the nation. Arlington National Cemetery.

Nov. 12: Veterans Day Program at Arlington Cemetery.

Dec. 8: JAVA Executive Council meeting.

Jan. 19, 2013: JAVA Quarterly Lunch (installation of new officers)

Lunch with Dr. Greg Robinson

April 16, 2012—Dr. Greg Robinson had lunch with some JAVA members at the China Garden, Roslyn, VA. Robinson discussed his recently published book *Pacific Citizens: Larry and Guyo Tajiri and Japanese American journalism in the WW II Era*. Front row, L-R: Bob Nakamoto, Lida Konoshima, Aki Konoshima, Greg Robinson. Mid row: Betty Tsuneishi, Grant Ichikawa (partially hidden), Miyako Tanabe, Kee Chang, Janet Carlson, Gene Oishi, Noriko Sanefuji, Terry Shima, Tom Graves. Back row: Reuben Yoshikawa, Dr. Ray Murakami, Gerald Yamada, Taro Konoshima. (Noriko Sanefuji)

