



JAVA ADVOCATE

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Senator Inouye Awarded Highest Civilian Award Received Highest Military Award in 2000

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Irene Hirano Inouye, on behalf of her late husband U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye. The medal, which is the nation's highest civilian award, was presented at a White House East Room ceremony on November 20, 2013. Fifteen other Americans also received the Medal of Freedom, including former President Bill Clinton. President Clinton had awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military medal, to Inouye in 2000. Senator Inouye's son, Ken, was also in attendance at the November ceremony, which marked the Medal's 50th anniversary.



Mrs. Inouye and President at White House ceremony .



U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono and Mrs. Inouye .

President Obama said, "Daniel Inouye was a humble man and didn't wear his Medal of Honor very often. Instead he liked to wear a pin representing good conduct he earned as a teenage private...As the second longest serving senator in American history, he showed a generation of young people, he had a chance to do something important." President Obama gave Mrs. Inouye a hug and kiss as she accepted the medal on behalf of her husband.

Mrs. Inouye said, "A lot of what Dan felt was so important with democracy and equality...For Dan, it was never about the honors, it was never about the namings. But I think it is wonderful that people learn his story. His story is so remarkable. So given the Medal of Freedom, I hope it

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MIS Historic Learning Center Opens at Presidio

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. - The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) and The Presidio Trust held a Grand Opening of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2013.

The opening was attended by about 500 veterans, community representatives, and students. Retired Air Force Major General Arthur Ishimoto presented the keynote address, which highlighted significant MIS contributions to help win the war and to rebuild Japan as an industrial power.

Following the opening ceremony, attendees were invited to tour the exhibits and facilities. This was



MG Arthur Ishimoto, USAF, delivering the keynote address. Seated L-R: Craig Middleton, Executive Director of the Presidio Trust (red tie) and Howard Levitt, Director of Communications and Partnerships, Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

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President's Message



As we bring 2013 to a close, we can look back on another year of successful programs.

Our education out-reach, quarterly luncheons, Freedom Walk co-sponsorship with the National Japanese

American Memorial Foundation, National Cherry Blossom Festival booth, Memorial Day Program co-sponsorship with the Washington DC JACL Chapter at Arlington National Cemetery, Memorial Day Parade, Veterans Day Program at the National Japanese American Memorial, and Scholarship Program were successful due to the dedication of the Committee Chairs, strong support from JAVA's Executive Committee, and hard work of JAVA volunteers.

In 2013, JAVA started the Giving Back Program and because of the generosity of JAVA members and friends, JAVA contributed \$17,500 to the Honor Flight Network at our annual Veterans Day Program. Thank you to all.

As we start 2014, we are filled with the expectation of making a greater commitment to carry out JAVA's mission. We expect to complete the digitalization of World War II Nisei service records and to complete populating the metadata by the

end of 2014 so that these records would be more accessible on the JAVA website. The Executive Committee established a JAVA scholarship in the name of Senator Daniel Inouye.

Ms. Irene Hirono Inouye and the Inouye Institute Committee have approved the JAVA scholarship named after the late Senator. The Scholarship Committee is working to restructure our scholarship program criteria in 2014. I believe that JAVA scholarships should be given to those who are interested in preserving the legacy of the Nisei soldiers who served during World War II, enhancing future military careers, or helping returning war veterans who want to pursue higher education.

I call on all JAVA members and friends to continue participating in our programs in 2014. We need your support.

—Gerald Yamada, Esq.
JAVA President

Rep. Takano Presents Shima with NJAMF Legacy Award

U.S. Representative Mark Takano, Riverside (D-Calif.) and Terry Shima, holding the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Legacy Award that was presented to Shima on November 2, 2013. The citation said, "Your contributions to the nation's peace, security, and welfare exemplify the spirit of patriotism in the face of prejudice."



(Photo by Dr. Craig Uchida)

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Round Robin (Weekly Electronic Bulletin)

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

JAVA donates \$17,500 to The Honor Flight Network, Presentation capped JAVA's Veterans Day Ceremony

By LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR

WASHINGTON - On November 11, 2013, the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) donated \$17,500 to The Honor Flight Network (HFN) through JAVA's "Giving Back Program," a new fund supporting a veteran's charity.

This new fund is comprised of approximately 100 donations received from JAVA members and friends. Checks in this amount were presented by JAVA President Gerald Yamada to James McLaughlin, Chairman of the Board of HFN, at the JAVA-National Japanese American Memorial Foundation 13th Annual Veterans Day Program at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Yamada also presented HFN with a bronze replica of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) that was presented to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) on November 2, 2011. Diane Gresse, Executive Director of HFN, accompanied McLaughlin.

"This "Giving Back Program" is an extension of the Nisei legacy," said JAVA President Gerald Yamada, who explained a debt of gratitude owed to the Nisei soldiers who served in the 100th, the 442nd, and the MIS. "The Program extends a helping hand from those within JAVA who have benefited from the Nisei soldiers legacy to those in the larger military community who

are in need," said Yamada.



L-R. Diane Gresse, Gerald Yamada, Jim McLaughlin (holding CGM replica), Gregory Laughlin at Memorial to Patriotism. (Photo by Bruce Hollywood)

HFN is the first recipient to receive JAVA's Giving Back gift. "HFN was selected because it does great work in assisting all veterans, at no cost to them, to come to Washington, D.C. to see the memorials, which honor their sacrifices," said Yamada. In expressing his appreciation, Chairman McLaughlin said, "We are pleased to accept this very generous donation from JAVA

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Congressional Gold Medal Exhibit Tour Opens In Houston

By Phyllis J. Bailey, National Veterans Network

HOUSTON, Tex. - Amid the hustle and bustle of holiday travelers heading to gatherings of family and friends around the



Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki with World War II veterans of the 100th, 442nd and 36th Division in front of the American Heroes: Japanese American WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal exhibit at the Holocaust Museum Houston. Veterans shown L-R: George Fujimoto (442), Nelson Akagi (442), Susumu Ito (442), Lawson Sakai (442), Tommie Okabayashi (442), Robert Pieser (36th Division). (Photo by Kris Ikejiri)

globe, a few courageous men, humble heroes of a war that seems generations ago were bound for a reunion of their own in Houston, Texas. They came to witness the ribbon-cutting at the final stop on a seven-city tour of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to them and their comrades in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) of the US Army who served during WWII.

The Smithsonian traveling exhibit: *American Heroes: Japanese American WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal* will be on display at the Holocaust Museum Houston through January 26, 2014.

A journey that began as a grassroots campaign became the catalyst for a bill which went on to earn unanimous consent in both houses of Congress, acquire the signature of President Barack Obama, and result in a Congressional Gold Medal being presented on November 2, 2011. Most of the living recipients, currently in their 90s, were unlikely to travel to Washington for the ceremony prompting national sponsors to come on

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Spark Matsunaga Elementary School Pays Tribute to Veterans



Photo by Bruce Hollywood

GERMANTOWN, Md. - On November 15, 2013, Spark Matsunaga Elementary School in Germantown, Maryland, held its annual Veterans Day program to pay tribute to the nation's veterans of the armed forces. Former Senator Spark Matsunaga was an original member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, which was deployed in 1943 to North Africa and subsequently to Italy. Because of its heavy casualties following the Monte Cassino campaign, the press dubbed it the "Purple Heart Battalion."



LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret.)

LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret) was invited to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Judy Brubaker is the principal and Teresa Potterton is the Music Director.

Veterans Rank High in Iowa Governor's Priorities

Legislative Agenda Presented to State Legislature

DES MOINES, Iowa - Governor Terry E. Branstad delivered his 2014 Condition of the State Address to the Iowa legislature on January 14, 2014. Using "Iowa is Working" as the theme of his remarks, the Governor offered a substantial legislative agenda in the various disciplines, including extraordinary benefits for veterans, and elaborated on his vision for the Home Base Iowa initiative.

In November 2013, the Governor announced the Home Base Iowa initiative to recruit veterans to Iowa, because he believes that "Iowa can offer our nation's veterans something even greater than a square deal. We can offer them a better opportunity to live the Iowa Dream. We can give them the best life America has to offer." He assured veterans, "that in Iowa, we will no longer tax their military pensions." In Iowa, you can find a home you can afford, a good paying job, send your kids to a good school and they can play in a safe neighborhood."

Home Base Iowa would: (1) fully exempt military pensions from state income tax, putting Iowa on more equal footing with states such as Florida, Texas, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin; (2) create a uniform policy granting automatic in-state tuition to veterans, their spouses, and their dependents at Iowa's community colleges; and (3) direct each of Iowa's occupational licensing boards to adopt rules allowing credit for military training and experience in the licensing process.

In his Condition of the State address, the Governor proposed increased support for the Military Homeownership Assistance Program, which provides up to \$5,000 in down payment or closing cost assistance. His proposal includes: (1) giving veterans credit for their military training and experience as they pursue occupational licensure in Iowa; (2) passing rules giving vet-

erans, their spouses, and their dependents automatic in-state tuition benefits at community colleges; and (3) developing consistent policies to provide veterans academic credit for their military training and experience.

The speech can be viewed here: <http://www.ottumwacourier.com/cnhix/1724058215/VIDEO-Condition-of-the-State>



Governor Terry E. Branstad

Editor's Note: On January 2, 2014, thanks to the good offices of Craig Roberts of American Legion Magazine, Governor Brandstad telephoned Terry Shima, a 442nd veteran and JAVA member.

The Governor spoke highly of the Nisei saying Iowa was proud of the Nisei units which served in the state's 34th Infantry Division. The Governor asked that his congratulations and best wishes be passed to the Nisei veterans, their families, and to the Japanese American community for being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Shima expressed appreciation for the Governor's proclamation of June 10, 1997, which accorded honorary citizenship of Iowa to members of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT]

Bob Nakamoto Receives 2013 JAVA's Terry Shima Leadership Award

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - Bob Nakamoto, immediate past president of JAVA, was awarded the Terry Shima Leadership Award for 2013 for his leadership and diplomacy in further establishing the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) as a premier nationwide Asian American veterans organization. The presentation was made at the JAVA quarterly luncheon attended by 70 JAVA members and friends at the Harvest Moon Restaurant. Nakamoto was also recognized for "his sustained service" and "unselfish contribution of his energy, vision, expertise and resources" to JAVA.

Nakamoto was President of JAVA from 2007 through 2011 and a member of the Executive Council prior to and since that time. Nakamoto now serves as the Chair of the JAVA Finance Committee. He is a long-time supporter of various Asian American organizations, including JAVA. Among his many interests in the Japanese American community, Nakamoto has been instrumental in the printing of the JAVA quarterly newsletter, "The JAVA Advocate."

Nakamoto is currently Chairman of Amour, LLC, and Chairman of Inter-America Global, both involved in international exports. He was former Chairman and principal owner of the information technology company Base Technologies Inc. in McLean, VA. Prior to that he was Director of Corporate System; MCI, Deputy Commissioner for Planning for the state of Texas (Honorary Texas Citizen); Director for Planning of Medicare and Medicaid Programs in the Federal Government; and held positions in California state and local governments. He has

served on Presidential Task Force for both parties. He received the coveted Japan's Foreign Minister Award in recognition of



L-R: Reuben Yoshikawa, Bob Nakamoto, Terry Shima and Gerald Yamada. (Photo by Setsy Larouche)

his efforts to enhance Japan-U.S. relations. Nakamoto was born in California, graduated from California State University, and is a veteran of the Korean War.

Guests at the luncheon included the Honorable Norman Mineta, a Korean War Military Intelligence Service veteran, former Secretary of Transportation, and Honorary Chair of JAVA; Brigadier General and Mrs. Anthony J. Cotton, U.S. Air Force, Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO); and JAVA life members Lieutenant Colonel Claude "Chip" Larouche, Major Setsy Sadamoto Larouche both of Portland, Oregon; and Colonel Mark Nozaki, USA.

President Honors Senator Inouye

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is an inspiration for the next generations, an inspiration for Americans."

According to *Hawaii News Now*, "Mrs. Inouye also talked about the significance of this honor and this date, saying 'Dan is only the 2nd person to receive both the medal of honor and medal of freedom.'"

"Just so happens it's the 50th anniversary of the medal, and marks 50 years since Dan Inouye was first sworn into the Senate to represent the 50th State. Inouye said with a smile, Lots of 50's that come together so it makes it even more special.'

"Although he carried himself with humility and often deflected credit, there is no doubt his work laid the foundation of modern

Hawaii. While no one will ever replace Sen. Inouye, we can all honor his legacy by dedicating ourselves to serving and strengthening our communities and nation...For his service, his inspiration, his humility and his selflessness, I hope Hawaii and the nation will join me today in saying, 'Mahalo, Senator.'"

"Representative Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawai'i), who also attended the ceremony, said, 'It is impossible to overstate the impact and inspiration of Daniel K. Inouye on our nation and our home state of Hawai'i. His valor in war earned him the Medal of Honor, and his lifetime of public service has earned him, today, the Medal of Freedom.'

"Mrs. Inouye says she will hold onto the medal for a short while. Eventually it will be housed on the University of Hawai'i Manoa Campus, where plans are in motion for a center in her late husband's honor."



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MIS Learning Center Opens



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capped by a luncheon at the Presidio Observation Post. With a commanding view of the San Francisco Bay Bridge as his backdrop, Glen Fukushima, Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, a prominent public policy think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C., presented the keynote address. He commended NJAHS leadership for their vision to perpetuate the legacy of the Nisei who settled the question of loyalty on the battlefields of the Asia Pacific region and Europe. Terry Shima presented the best wishes of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA).

The MIS Historic Learning Center is located at 640 Mason Street, in the Presidio. The Center is established at the actual historic site of the original MIS Language School, a former airplane hangar (also known as Building 640), at West Crissy Field in the Presidio. The Center will offer a permanent exhibition and public education programs. The permanent exhibition includes a re-created classroom and a mission map room that illustrates the historic achievements of the MIS.

“It is hard to believe this humble building housed a secret language school established during WWII by the U.S. Army to train Japanese American linguist soldiers as interpreters, translators, interrogators, instructors, propaganda specialists and signal technicians,” noted Rosalyn Tonai, NJAHS Executive Director. “The MIS served with every campaign in the Pacific Theatre of War World II. Ironically, the school operated only a few hundred yards from the Army headquarters responsible for carrying out Executive Order 9066, the mass removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans. The heroic service of the MIS stands as an enduring counterpoint to this WWII injustice.”

“Our hope is to tell the whole story, so that the lessons

learned of war and peace can be told through the lenses of the people who lived it,” said Tonai. The late Colonel Thomas Sakamoto, who was among the 58 Japanese Americans who reported to Building 640 on November 1, 1941, stated, “We Nisei had to fight three wars, the enemy abroad, and racial prejudice back home; and another one: we had to prove our loyalty in the field of battle.” Both COL Sakamoto and COL Harry Fukuhara, as NJAHS’ past presidents, are credited for their efforts to preserve the MIS Historic School in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust. “This is an American story. It is told by those who served their country in a time that the US Constitution was really tested. As Japanese Americans we chose these paths in the hope that our America could become “a more perfect union” said Marvin Uratsu, whose older brother Gene was a member of the first class at Building 640. “To have the public support for this important story makes me proud to be an American.”

In 2007, both Sakamoto and Gene Uratsu were inducted into the School’s succeeding school, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center Hall of Fame at the Presidio in Monterey. “More than 6,000 MIS participants served during the war, mostly in the Pacific, participating in every major campaign. They provided vital intelligence that saved countless Allied lives, hastening the end of the war and collectively earning them a Presidential Unit Citation. Later, they played a crucial role during the Occupation of Japan, helping rebuild that country and helping to strengthen the close U.S.-Japan bilateral relations that endure to this day,” said Tonai.

“It is important that the public know what we did to win the peace after hostilities ended,” emphasized 86 year old COL Fukuhara. “MIS Language School graduates employed their linguistic skills and intimate knowledge of Japanese culture to help turn a defeated nation into the US’s strongest ally today. This important historic fact is one facet of a complex MIS legacy that will forever be preserved and celebrated at the new Center.”

For more information please visit www.njahs.org/mis.



Back row: VFW Nisei Post 9879 Commander Ken Akagi, Chaplain Omar Doi, US Army Color Guards Carlos Estape, and MSgt Stan Kamiya (blocked). Middle row: Kenneth Ho, MIS Korea; Tadashi Sawamura, MIS; Capt Frank Masuoka, MIS; Col. Joseph Kurata, CIC; Frank Mizufuka, 442; Ron Yoshida, MIS; Mutsuo Hirose; Maj. Gen. Arthur Ishimoto, MIS; Lawson Sakai, 442; and woman in light blue jacket came all the way from Bruyeres, France to celebrate and give thanks to the Nisei soldiers. Front row: Yone Satoda, MIS; Mas Ichikawa, MIS; David Masuoka, MIS; Warren Eijima; Mas Kawaguchi, OSS; Ken Nihei, 442; Asa Hanamoto, MIS; Koji Ozawa, MIS; Terry Shima, 442; Marvin Uratsu, MIS; and Iwao Lewis Suzuki, MIS. BSA Troop 58 in the background.

Ono the first Asian American University of Cincinnati President

CINCINNATI, Ohio - Dr. Santa Jeremy Ono, a Canadian-American of Japanese ancestry, was invested as President of the University of Cincinnati on October 23, 2012, the first Asian American to hold this position in the University's 93-year history.



Dr. Santa Jeremy Ono, University of Cincinnati

The University of Cincinnati, formerly known as the Cincinnati College, is the oldest institution of higher learning in Cincinnati.

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Ujifusa Speaks on Efforts to Enact Redress Legislation



FALLS CHURCH, Va. - Grant Ujifusa, a Sansei from Wyoming, founding editor of the *Almanac of American Politics*, which George Will and Tim Russert called "the bible of American politics," was the keynote speaker at the JAVA's quarterly lunch on October 12, 2013.

Ujifusa's remarks focused on the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, also known as House Resolution (H.R.) 442, and the Redress Bill. According to Ujifusa, the Redress Bill was passed because of the thousands of people who worked to make it happen. In the end, it was ultimately approved because of the combat record of the "Nisei soldiers during World War

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Sixth Grader's School Project Focuses on the Loyalty of the Nisei

GAITHERSBURG, Md. - Jason Abahazy, a 6th grader at Pine Brook School in Manalapan, New Jersey, came to Gaithersburg, Maryland to interview Mary Murakami and Terry Shima on December 28, for his school project.

Jason is participating in a national history competition and chose to do his project on the 442nd RCT during WW II. His project focuses on the loyalty and bravery of the Nisei during WW II, despite the fact that their country unjustly imprisoned the Japanese Americans on the West Coast after Pearl Harbor was bombed. Jason chose this subject because he was interested in WW II.

During his research, he learned about the 442nd and the ways in which the U.S. treated Japanese Americans. He was extremely interested in the 442nd's combat record and the loyalty of the Japanese Americans who fought for their country. Jason said, "my interview with Ms. Murakami and Mr. Shima was an amazing and invaluable learning experience."

Following this interview, Jason, accompanied by his family, visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, which is a reminder to the nation that what happened to one ethnic group must never happen again. The Memorial is located near the U.S. Capitol.



Mrs. Mary Murakami and Jason Abahazy. (Photo by Erika Abahazy)

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.)

Smashing the Western Anchor of Gothic Line in Italy

Resisted Allied attacks for Five Months

The following are excerpts of a 20-page report that the 442nd Commander sent to the Commanding General of the Army Ground Forces Board on August 27, 1945, concerning the destruction of the western anchor of the German Gothic Line, north of Pisa, Italy, in early April 1945.

The 442nd commander said this operation “serves as a classic example of classroom lessons that worked on the field of battle. Security, night approach, frontal attack with a surprise flank assault from the least expected source were wrapped up in this action. The 442nd mission was to destroy the German western defensive anchor to pave the way for the invasion of Po Valley and northern Italy. The chance of success was 50%.”

Following its Vosges Forest operation in northeastern France, that included the rescue of a trapped battalion of the 36th (Texas) Division, the 442nd spent the winter of 1944 in the Maritime Alps to guard the border between Italy and France and to refurbish its personnel strength and readiness. On March 21, 22 and 23, 1945 the 442nd RCT, minus the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion which was detached and assigned to the 7th Army for the invasion of Germany, departed Marseilles, France for Leghorn Italy under total secrecy. On March 28, under cover of darkness, the 442nd moved by truck to the bivouac area near Lucca, Italy, where intensive training, including night problems, was held.

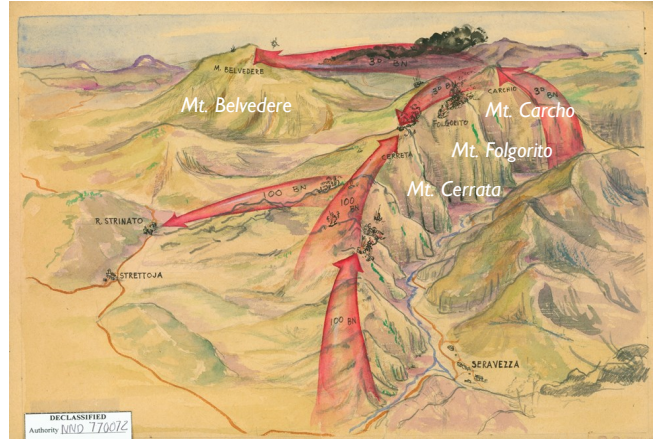


Photo courtesy of National Archives and Record Administration

On April 3, after dark, the 100th and 3rd battalions entrucked toward Pietrasanta, 17 miles distant. Any troop movement had to be done at night to avoid being detected by the enemy, which commanded the high ground, i.e. a series of peaks (Mount Cerreta, Mount Folgorito, Mount Carchio and Mount Belvedere, running south to north in that order) from which the enemy could see all the flat ground to the south and west.

The 3rd Battalion had taken a different route to the vicinity of Azzano, a village four miles beyond Pietrasanta. To maintain

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JAVA Honors Honor Flight Network

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for the benefit of our most senior Heroes. This will allow us to provide free trips for several well deserving WWII veterans to see the memorial dedicated to their sacrifice and service.”

In November 2011, HNF assisted 150 World War II Nisei veterans, many in wheel chairs and assisted by oxygen, with their travel costs, so that they could attend the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony at the US Capitol and other associated events, including a visit to the World War II Memorial. In addition to arranging airline transportation, HFN arranged to have each veteran given VIP departure and arrival amenities and to be recognized during the flight by the pilot, who singled out the veteran by name and described the Nisei role in WW II. Nisei veterans were deeply touched by this unexpected recognition.

During the ceremony, keynote remarks were presented by The Honorable Gregory H. “Greg” Laughlin, Colonel, U.S. Army Reserve, retired, member of the U.S. House of Representatives (1989-1997). Laughlin is the only member of Congress who served on active duty during Operation Desert Storm. In his key note remarks, Laughlin expressed his appreciation for his friendship with former Congressman Norman Mineta, with whom he served in Congress and who was in the audience.

Laughlin spoke about his respect for the Nisei soldiers who rescued a battalion of the 36th Texas Division that was trapped by the Germans in the Vosges Forests of northeastern France; what they accomplished in the face of harsh discrimination at home; and the importance of the Japanese American Memorial to honor the valor of the Nisei soldiers. As a Congressman, Laughlin represented the district that is home to the “Lost Battalion.”

According to HFN Executive Director Gresse, “the HNF is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America’s veterans for all their sacrifices. HFN transports our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. “Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.” HFN has begun to transport Korean War veterans to DC.

Betty Yeiko Taira, December 1, 1933 - November 23, 2013

The family of Betty Yeiko Taira celebrated her life in a program at the Asbury Methodist Village, Gaithersburg, MD, on December 14, 2013. Betty was born in Los Angeles. At age 8, she was interned along with her family at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Betty and her family left the camp in 1943 to settle in Riverton, Wyoming, thanks to Charles H. Dechert who sponsored their resettlement and provided a home, a job and friendship. After the war, the family moved to Denver to seek better opportunities and later moved to Washington, D.C.

Betty received her B.S. in Education from the University of Maryland in College Park, MD, and M.Ed. from Ohio University in Athens, OH. Professionally, Betty was a teacher in Washington, D.C.; Honolulu, HI; and with the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) overseas. She served as a DoDDS teacher, guidance counselor, principal, regional education coordinator and assistant to superintendents in Japan, Korea and Spain. After retiring from federal service, she lived in Washington, D.C., where she worked part-time at the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Betty's friends came to the service from Hawai'i, California, Oregon, Pennsylvania, New Jersey to share in the celebration of her life. Betty was a charismatic educator, mentor and problem solver known for her thoughtfulness, generosity, compassion and artistic creativity. Itsuko Asato of Okinawa Kai, Cheryl Graeve of the League of Women Voters, Scarlett Rehrig of DoDDS, and Terry Shima of JAVA spoke of how Betty impacted their lives. Asato recalled Betty's joy in receiving the Government of Okinawa's *New Uchina Goodwill Ambassador recognition*. Many others stepped forward to share how Betty enriched their lives.



Betty Yeiko Taira

Betty enthusiastically volunteered for a wide range of jobs in JAVA. Every year she brought more than enough lunch for JAVA members who marched in the annual Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue; she was there at the JAVA booth at the Sakura Matsuri, held in conjunction with the National Cherry Blossom Parade. She sold copies of an illustrated children's book on life at Heart Mountain internment center, where she and her family were confined. She bought the books from the author but donated the proceeds to JAVA at the end of the day. She was on the hospitality committee at JAVA luncheons. She greeted everyone, made them comfortable, and extended a hand to anyone who needed help. Betty was particularly effective in JAVA's educational programs speaking at local schools about the Japanese American internment experience during World War II. She was able to call upon her years of teaching experience to connect with the students.

Ms. Lucy Arai-Abramson's essay in the Memorial Program discussed Betty's love for and achievement in the making of the difficult Okinawan *Bingata*, a traditional Okinawan fabric. Betty "hosted two of Japan's great masters of ceramics while in Okinawa: Hamada Shoji (1894-1978, designated Important cultural asset for Folk Art Ceramic, 1955) and Kaneshige Toyo (1896-1967; designated Living National Treasure for *Bizen* ceramic, 1956)." She visited their kilns in Japan and developed personal friendships with them. Lucy says it well, "Betty was an ambassador of humanity and creativity in all forms...Her life is art and will continue to inspire, teach and create."

COL Thomas Sakamoto Remembered at MIS Historic Learning Center Opening

Colonel Thomas Sakamoto was a visionary in the creation of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center (MHLC) at the site of the former language school in San Francisco's Presidio. Sakamoto passed away on October 18, just weeks before the building's opening ceremony. He was 95.

Sakamoto was born on March 5, 1918, in San Jose. According to a biography provided by Colonel Brian Shiroyama, he left to study in Japan in 1934 for four years and returned to the United States. Shortly after his return to the U.S., he was drafted into the U.S. Army and was later recruited into the elite first class of the MIS at Building 640. He became an instructor after graduating from the school, but eagerly volunteered for combat to serve under General Douglas MacArthur in Australia.

In his bio, Sakamoto recalled that the first Japanese prisoner he interrogated called him a traitor, but the information he provided helped his unit to successfully repel a suicide attack. At the end of the war, Sakamoto stood on the U.S.S. Missouri to witness Japan's formal surrender. After serving in occupied Japan, Sakamoto went on to fight in the Korean War and did two tours in the Vietnam War. He served as the official interpreter for President Dwight D. Eisenhower during his 1961 visit to Okinawa.

Sakamoto retired as a colonel after 30 years of service and went on to become the manager and vice president of Sumitomo Bank in Cupertino and San Jose, CA. Shiroyama said, "He certainly was one of the strongest...and steadfast...supporters of NJAHS, including the creation of the MHLC. His monetary donation was generous and significant. But more than that, he exercised leadership as president of the NJAHS board and continued to exert influence even in his retirement to achieve the goal of building the MHLC." NJAHS' Executive Director Rosalyn Tonai said Sakamoto led the way for the organization to establish the MHLC through the assistance of fellow veterans COL Harry Fukuhara, USA (Ret.), MAJ Marvin Uratsu, USA (Ret.), and Kenneth Kaji, a project leader. Sakamoto was NJAHS board president when the organization entered into a cooperative agreement with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Presidio Trust in 2002.

Shiroyama and Sakamoto traveled to Washington, D.C. in November 2011 to attend the Congressional Gold Medal award events. In interviews, Shiroyama recalled Sakamoto especially "expressed how proud he felt serving this country with his fellow Nisei veterans. Proving loyalty to America was most important in his distinguished military career."

News and Views from Army's Topside . . .



Editor's Note: General John F. Campbell, U.S. Army Vice Chief of Staff, sends a private Newsletter to subscribers in his command, their families and friends. He provides updates of developments in his command, issues facing the Army, and his role. JAVA is privileged to be one of his subscribers. We print below excerpts from his November 2013, Newsletter to tell you what the modern Army looks like.

In his periodic news bulletin to *Friends of the Army*. Army's Vice Chief of Staff General John F. Campbell, USA, discussed his frenetic schedule that included attending conferences and events which are designed to keep the Army Strong; hosting receptions for a Medal of Honor recipient; participating in events, including the White House, as speaker or as the Army's representative; attending meeting of his counterparts in allied nations; developing Army personnel to be the best they can be.

More specifically, General Campbell:

- Appealed to everyone to keep in their thoughts the almost 50,000 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen who continue to serve in harm's way in Afghanistan. These men and women continue to meet the enemies of our Nation each day and work tirelessly with their Afghan and coalition counterparts to make Afghanistan a better place.
- Said the Army staff continues to work to mitigate the impacts of sequestration and the early October government shutdown. He recognized "our Department of the Army Civilians who continue to give their best.



General John F. Campbell, USA (right)



- Started the Army 10 mile race that drew 10,000 runners, including wounded warriors.

- Along with wife, Ann, hosted the annual "Gathering of Eagles" of the 101st Airborne Division at their private quarters at Fort McNair.

- Along with the Sergeant Major of the Army, visited Fort Riley, Fort Sill and Joint Base Lewis McChord to assess and obtain feedback of an Army readiness campaign. The important side benefit of these trips is that "we can speak to Soldiers and leaders at all levels" to obtain their views.

- Attended the America, British, Canada, Australia, New Zealand conference of Army Vice Chiefs of Staff in Victoria, British Columbia. The discussion agenda included interoperable training, coordination and execution of missions.

- Conferred with doctors and specialist at UCLA Medical Center on *Operation Mend*, a project designed to heal and provide reconstructive care for wounded soldiers.

General Campbell ended his message as follows: "Throughout my travels I am continuously reminded of the great service and dedication of our Soldiers, their Families, and our DA Civilians over more than a decade of war. On this Veterans Day I ask everyone to remember their sacrifice and that our commitment to our Veterans continues long after they stop wearing

Veterans to Receive 1.5 Percent Cost-of-Living Increase in 2014

WASHINGTON - Veterans, their families and survivors receiving disability compensation and pension benefits from the Department of **Veterans** Affairs will receive a 1.5 percent cost-of-living increase in their monthly payments beginning Jan. 1, 2014.

"We're pleased there will be another cost-of-living increase for Veterans, their families and their survivors," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The increase expresses in a tangible way our Nation's gratitude for the sacrifices made by our service-disabled and wartime Veterans."

For Veterans without dependents, the new compensation rates will range from \$130.94 monthly for a disability rated at 10 percent to \$2,858.24 monthly for 100 percent. The full rates are available on the Internet at www.benefits.va.gov

[compensation/rates-index.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/rates-index.asp). The COLA increase also applies to disability and death pension recipients, survivors receiving dependency and indemnity compensation, disabled Veterans receiving automobile and clothing allowances, and other benefits. In fiscal year 2013, VA provided over \$59 billion in compensation benefits to nearly 4 million Veterans and survivors, and over \$5 billion in pension benefits to more than 515,000 Veterans and survivors.

For Veterans and separating Service members who plan to file an electronic disability claim, VA urges them to use the joint DoD/VA online portal, *eBenefits*. Registered *eBenefits* users with a premium account can file a claim online, track the status, and access a variety of other benefits, including pension, education, health care, home loan eligibility, and vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

Executive Director 2013 Annual Report Shows Operational and Membership Expansion



Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF

WASHINGTON - Colonel Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), presented his 2013 Executive Director's report which showed gains in operational results and in membership.

The highlights of the report are as follows:

- In a newly instituted "give back" program, the Honor Flight Network (HFN) was presented with a \$17,500 check, collected as the result of a national fund drive. The HFN provides transportation and accommodations free of charge for World War II veterans to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington DC. The underlying basis for this is to demonstrate the appreciation of Japanese American veterans who have received benefits and recognition from the American public and various institutions. JAVA is grateful to the HFN for its efforts and 100% of the Japanese American donations sent to JAVA were donated to the HFN.
- Nitto Tires USA, Inc., a Japanese corporation, in partnership with JAVA, has circulated, as a public service, to Japanese Americans in America 17,000 DVD entitled *Senator Daniel Inouye, Journey to Washington*; 1,000 and 500 DVDs entitled *442nd: Live with Dignity, Die with Honor* and *MIS: Human Secret Weapon*, respectively.
- The JAVA Speakers Bureau briefed Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae on the Japanese American experience during World War II. The Ambassador arranged a similar briefing to a ranking political visitor from Japan and also introduced JAVA officials to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.
- The Speakers Bureau also responded to invitations from a number of prestigious groups in 2013, including the George Washington University History Department as well as Univer-

sity of Maryland History Department, Army Navy Club of Washington, DC, Japan America Society, US Japan Council, Frederick County History Teachers Meeting, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

- The National Archives digitization project, the collection of documents pertaining to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service in a master electronic database, was increased by about 30% over the previous year, resulting in nearly 9,000 additional documents available on-line that includes over 30,000 pages. Four university students are populating the database that enables researchers to more easily retrieve data using key words, dates, etc. Any researcher can access this database electronically from anywhere in the world. This feature will greatly help perpetuate the legacy of the World War II Nisei generation and will open the door more widely to the greater public's knowledge of Japanese American contributions to America.
- Invitations for JAVA participation in Memorial Day and Veterans Day events have increased indicating the public's desire to learn about the Japanese American experience during World War II.
- Ten scholarships, each funded by JAVA family sponsors, were awarded to outstanding high school graduates enrolling in institutions of higher learning.
- Terry Shima, Chair of JAVA's Education and Outreach Committee, received, on behalf of JAVA, recognitions of achievement from the White House, the Government of Japan, Asian American Government Executives Network (AAGEN), National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) and the Montgomery County Council, Maryland for his dedicated work to preserve the legacy of the Nisei soldiers who served during World War II

Forty-six veterans joined JAVA during 2013 bringing total registered membership to about 575 veterans.

The detailed 2013 Annual Report is available on the JAVA website at www.javadc.org.

Welcome New Members!

LTC Daniel J. Austin, USAR
 Sgt Richard Banh, USMC (Hon.Dis.)
 COL Dennis M. Duggan, USA (Ret.)
 CAPT Michael Katahara, USN
 SPC Kelsey Marand, USAR
 E-5 Allen Nakamoto, USN (Hon.Dis.)
 RDML Joe Vojvodich, USCG
 SP-5 Keith Yamaguchi, USA (Hon.Dis.)
 CAPT Marcus Baron Yonehiro, USN (Ret.)

CGM Exhibit Opens in Houston

(Continued from page 3)

board and bring the medal to them. This collaboration, spearheaded by the National Veterans Network (NVN), engaged Donna Fujimoto Cole, president and CEO of Cole Chemical & Distributing, Inc. and the daughter of a Nisei WWII veteran in the 442, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, AARP, Comcast/NBC Universal, Pritzker Military Library, Southwest Airlines, Spirit Mountain Community Fund and Bob Nakamoto of the Japanese American Veterans Association.

The Opening Ceremony, Reception, Program and Dinner events were held on December 19 and an educational brunch featuring a screening of "Honorable Journey" and a Nisei panel discussion of December 20 brought together a holocaust survivor and some of her rescuers, Nisei WWII veterans Tommie Okabayashi, Lawson Sakai, Susumu "Sus" Ito, Nelson Akagi, George K. Fujimoto, Kenneth Takehara and Willie Tanamachi.

The Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, US Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Honorable Al Green, representing the 9th Congressional District of Texas; the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, representing the 18th Congressional District of Texas; the Honorable Annise Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston; and the Honorable Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council Member representing District C participated in the programs. Secretary Shinseki, reflecting on his private viewing of the exhibit with the veterans in attendance said in his remarks "The legacy of the men—living and deceased – whom we honor here today is a heritage of patriotism as old as the American Revolution and as new as the frontlines of freedom in Afghanistan. Their accomplishments are a uniquely American story that, thanks to the Smithsonian Institution, will be told and re-told for generations to come."

At the conclusion of the tour, the Congressional Gold Medal will be on permanent display in "The Price of Freedom" exhibition at the National Museum of American History in D.C.

Ujifusa Discusses Redress

(Continued from page 7)

II." There were four Nisei soldiers who featured prominently in the approval process: Mike Masaoka, U.S. Senators Spark Matsunaga and Daniel Inouye of Hawai'i; and Kaz Masuda. "Without them, I think we can also say that redress would have had no chance."

Ujifusa recalled that Masaoka was the "single most gifted leader in our proud history in America as Japanese Americans...he could think, speak and act with great precision and compelling force...a big time problem solver" and "as good a lobbyist as the best in Washington."

Ujifusa also observed that "No one worked harder to make redress a reality than U.S. Senator Spark Matsunaga. After three intense years, he put together, largely by himself, a solid bipartisan coalition of 69 yes votes." In addition, "Senator Inouye saved redress from perhaps becoming a grand exercise in symbolism only. An apology is nice, but because of him, money changed hands...Inouye made those payments mandatory, like Social Security in an *appropriations* bill...The entirely separate appropriations bill to fund HR 442 was the work of Senator Inouye alone."

President Ronald Reagan publicly opposed H.R. 442 for two years. It was Kazuo Masuda, a 442nd soldier, that led to the President Reagan's signing the bill into law. On one of his visits to Jerome, Arkansas internment camp, Kazuo told his sister if he were killed he wished to be buried in Fountain Valley, California, his hometown. When he was killed, his sister went to Fountain Valley to make funeral arrangement but was told by the town fathers "...we don't bury Japs in our cemetery."

When General Vinegar Joe Stillwell, Commanding General of the China-Burma-India Theater under whom Nisei in the Merrill's Marauders served, heard about this response he visited Fountain Valley and told the officials: "This soldier is going to be buried here, and we're going to make an example of you SOB's and make a big deal of it, too. The town fathers relented and the ceremony was held on December 10, 1945, when Masuda was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously). After Stillwell spoke, then-Army Captain Ronald Reagan got up and said, "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. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way... "

While a book editor at Macmillan in New York, Ujifusa discussed the Redress Bill with Thomas Kean, Governor of New Jersey. Kean said he would discuss the matter with the President, who was coming to New Jersey to campaign for Republican state legislative candidates. On one 35-minute trip together between campaign stops, Governor Kean discussed redress and produced a letter from Kaz Masuda's sister, June, to the President that reminded the President of his 1945 speech. President Reagan subsequently called Governor Kean and said, "I remember that day at the ceremony for Kaz Masuda. I think redress is something I want to do."

On August 10, 1988, in a ceremony attended by over 100 Japanese Americans and Members of Congress, Ronald Reagan first re-read the same words he had said at Kaz Masuda's posthumous award ceremony 43 years before. and then he proceeded to sign the bill. For Mr. Ujifusa's full length speech, please visit the JAVA website at www.java.org .

French Legion of Honor Presented to WW II Veterans



Recipients of the medals were front row, (L-R): Harry Yoshimura, Don Seki, George Kanatani, James Ogawa and Takashi Wada. Second row: (L-R) Toke Yoshihashi, Harry Kanada, Hiroshi Nishikubo, Don Miyada, Fumio "Steve" Shimizu (obscured), Takashi "Frank" Sugihara (partially obscured). Standing: (L-R): Gerard Michon, elected representative from the Western US to the French Overseas Assembly; Brig. Gen. Keith Jones, Commander, 40th Infantry Division, Fabrice Maiolino, Deputy Consul General of France, Los Angeles; and Jonathan Yang, Deputy Chief of Protocol, City of Los Angeles.

Eleven WW II veterans who fought for the liberation of France in WW II received the coveted Legion of Honor Medal from Fabrice Maiolino, Deputy Consul General of France in Los Angeles, on November 9, 2013, at the Go For Broke National Monument in Little Tokyo. A reception followed for the honorees and their families. The award program was arranged by the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC). GFBNEC president Don Nose said, "We are so pleased that the French government has expedited making this prestigious award a reality for these living veterans who are so deserving." Further details about the event can be obtained from Peggy Renke at GFBNEC ([310-328-0907](tel:310-328-0907)).

Grand Rapids WW II Veteran Receives French Legion of Honor Medal

French Consulate General Chicago Press Release.

Virgil Westdale (95) of Grand Rapids, Mich. was awarded the French Legion of Honor medal on December 6, 2013 at a special ceremony at the Consulate General of France in Chicago for his extraordinary bravery in liberating France during WWII.

Mr. Westdale served with the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in the history of the U.S. Army, which was composed of Japanese-American soldiers. From May 1944 to January 1946, Mr. Westdale fought in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns.

Consul General of France in Chicago Graham Paul said "Thanks to his courage, and to all our American friends and allies, France has been living in peace for more than 65 years. We shall never forget."

The Legion of Honor is France's highest honor. Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor recognizes eminent service to the French Republic. Recipi-

ents of this honor are named by decree signed by the President of the Republic.

Mr. Westdale was awarded the rank of *Chevalier*, which means "Knight."



L-R: Fred Westdale, son of Virgil, Virgil Westdale, Lindsay Westdale (Fred's daughter) and French Consul General Graham Paul.

Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter, JAVA features two Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the armed forces: generals and admirals. During WW II, two Asian-Pacific Americans achieved flag rank, the Lyman brothers, both West Point graduates of Hawai'i. Since then, 117 Asian-Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals. This includes three wearing four stars, namely General Eric Shinseki, who served as the US Army's 34th Chief of Staff; General John Campbell, Deputy Chief of Staff, U.S. Army; and Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., U.S. Navy, Commander in Chief of Pacific Fleet (CINCPACFLT). The 119 Asian-Pacific American flag officers are distributed in the armed forces as follows: 66 U.S. Army; 24 U.S. Navy, 23 U.S. Air Force, and two each in the U.S. Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Public Health Service.

Brigadier General Anthony J. Cotton



Brigadier General Anthony J. Cotton, USAF, is the Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (DDNRO), headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia, a joint Department of Defense-Intelligence Community organization responsible for developing, launching, and operating America's signals, imagery, and communications intelligence satellites to meet the national security needs

of our nation. As the DDNRO, Gen Cotton's responsibilities include assisting the Director, NRO (DNRO) and Principal Deputy Director, NRO in managing the strategic and tactical operations of the organization. Also, as the Commander, Air Force Element, he manages all United States Air Force personnel and resources assigned to the NRO and serves as the senior adviser to the DNRO on all military matters.

BRIG GEN Cotton's military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and the NRO Medal of Superior Service. Gen Cotton is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He holds a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.

BRIG GEN Cotton credits his father for his decision to become a career Air Force officer. "I always wanted to follow in the footsteps of my father who was an Air Force Chief Master Sergeant." He was born to an African-American father and Japanese American mother at Tachikawa Air Force Base, Japan, and is thankful for his upbringing in an interracial, multi-cultural-family. "I grew up in a household with a Japanese American mother who persistently instilled in me a sense of responsibility and excellence in all I did whether it was homework or work around the house. I was well prepared to establish and meet goals early on in my career, which led me to where I am today." BRIG GEN Cotton is married and has two children, a daughter who is a sophomore at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and a son who is a third generation Airman.

Brigadier General Bruce E. Oliveira

Brigadier General Bruce E. Oliveira serves as Commander of the Land Component Command for the Hawai'i National Guard. He ensures the Joint Task Force is capable of responding to all State and Federal missions relating to homeland defense, homeland security, and natural disasters.

BG Oliveira enlisted in the Hawaii Army National Guard on August 1, 1978. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant upon graduation from the Hawaii Military Academy in June 1980. General Oliveira has served in a variety of command and staff positions in the 29th Infantry Brigade and the 25th Infantry Division throughout his career. He served as Deputy Commander, 29th Brigade Combat Team in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004-2006. In June 2007, he assumed duties as Commander, 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. On August 19, 2008, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving as Commander, Task Force Lava Thunder, responsible for 3,100 Soldiers. His major awards include Combat Infantry Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Bronze Star Medal,



Asked why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, BG Oliveira replied, "I count my decision to join the military as one of the best decisions I have ever made. Indeed, it is a decision that has had a lasting and profound impact on my life. I view my service in the Hawaii Army National Guard as protecting the American way of life. Raised in a multi-cultural Pacific Island home, I was instilled with the values of family, respect, worthwhile work, honor, humility, responsibility, and service. My grandfather served as an enlisted soldier in WW I. My father, an Army Captain, served during the end of WW II, Korean War, and also with the 100th Bn, 442nd Infantry. I would not be who I am today had I not served in the military. I was a Soldier first, and that set the foundation for everything that followed. Serving our country is indeed an honorable calling. I am indeed honored to be a Soldier. An honor I have charged to my son, a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army."

News from Other Veterans Associations

SEATTLE, Wash. - Nisei Veterans Committee's November newsletter issue highlighted the celebration of the life of centenarian Ranger Roy Matsumoto, as documented in a film by Stourwater Pictures of Bainbridge Island. The Newsletter also featured Colonel (MD) Michael S. Oshiki's portrayal and impressions of his parents while growing up. Like Matsumoto, Oshiki's father served in the MIS.

TORRANCE, Calif. - Professor Emeritus Edwin Nakasone served as the moderator of a discussion on the Occupation of Japan at the Japanese American National Museum on December 7, 2013. Discussants included MIS veterans Bruce Kaji and Hitoshi Sameshima. The program was arranged by the **Go For Broke National Education Center**.

WEST COVINA, Calif. - The **Japanese American Korean War Veterans** (JAKWV) July 2013 Newsletter reported that the 2013 Memorial Service for Japanese Americans who were killed in action was held at the JACCC Noguchi Plaza in Little Tokyo.

HONOLULU, Hawai'i - **100th Battalion Club's** The November 2013 issue of the *Puka Puka Parade* reported the following Veterans Day programs in the state:

-Oahu: Wahiawa Lions Club 67th annual Veterans Day parade and program. Sunset Ceremony at the USS Missouri Memorial

at Pearl Harbor.

-Kauai: Ceremony at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery hosted by American Legion.

-Hawai'i: Ceremony at the Hawaii Veterans Cemetery hosted by the Korean War Veterans Association (KWVA) Big Island Chapter No.231. The ceremony included a speech by Lt. Col. Eric Shwedo, the Pohakuloa Training Area commander and floral presentations by local veterans groups. KWVA Chapter Chairman Hiroshi Shima served as the emcee.

In the December 2013 issue of the *Puka Puka Parade*, Club President Lloyd Kitaoka said his takeaway from Eric Saul's visit to Hawai'i was the need for veterans organizations to educate the public on the Japanese American experience during WW II.

HONOLULU, Hawai'i - The **442nd Veterans Club** President's report in the *Go For Broke Bulletin* noted that a large contingent of Sons and Daughters have visited the 69th anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres and Biffontaine. Proclamations were presented to both towns. The Sons and Daughters are holding the 71st anniversary banquet at the Pacific Beach Hotel on March 23, 2014. The chairperson is Jennifer Okubo.

HONOLULU, Hawai'i - **MIS Hawaii** Newsletter said historian Eric Saul "saluted Nisei veterans for their courage in war and against racism" in his speech to club members on August 4, 2013.

Middle School Student Interviews JAVA Members for National Competition

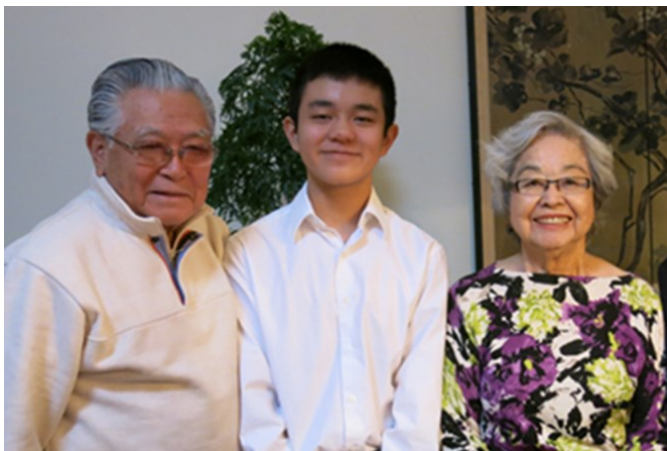
By Sharon Yanagi Yu

WASHINGTON - On November 30, Connor Yu interviewed Ms. Mary Murakami and Mr. Terry Shima about their experiences during World War II for his National History Day project on Rights and Responsibilities in History. Connor is an eighth grader at Alice Deal Middle School in Washington, D.C. A

third generation American of Japanese and Chinese descent, he held the interview at the Murakami residence in Bethesda, MD.

Each year, more than half a million students, encouraged by thousands of teachers nationwide, participate in the National History Day (NHD) competition.

This year's NHD theme is "Rights and Responsibilities in History," and Connor's project focuses on the Japanese American experience during World War II – how their civil rights and civil liberties were violated, and the responsibility Japanese Americans took to redress this injustice. During her interview, Mrs. Murakami, who lived in a Japanese American community in San Francisco, discussed the growing suspicion toward and restrictions placed on Japanese Americans during the months after the Pearl Harbor attack, culminating in the mass internment, first at temporary sites, and finally at internment camps. Shima, who grew up in Hawaii, discussed the mass hysteria and discrimination against Japanese Americans in the aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Combat Team and the MIS. *Editor's Note: Sharon Yanagi Yu is Connor's mother.*



L-R: Dr. Ray Murakami, former Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial, Foundation, Connor Yu, and Mary Murakami.

Army Reserve Engineer and JAVA Member Promoted to General

Second Japanese American Woman Flag Officer in U.S. Armed Forces

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - Colonel Miyako N. Schanely, USAR, was promoted to Brigadier General in the Army Engineer Corps in December 2013 at a ceremony at the 412th Theater Engineer Command's headquarters in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where she serves as Deputy Commander. This was followed by a pin-on ceremony at Fort Drum, New York, on January 4, 2014.

BG Schanely is the second Japanese American woman in the armed forces to reach flag rank. The first Japanese American woman to reach this rank was Major General Susan Mashiko, USAF, (Ret.), former Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), Chantilly, Virginia.

Schanely told the *Watertown Daily Times* (New York) staff writer, Gordon Block, in a January 7, 2014 article, "It's absolutely an honor," to receive this recognition and hope this will pave the way for more women to be promoted to flag rank. Schanely's stepfather, Harry Harushi Tanabe, an Army warrant officer, performed counterintelligence work in the Pacific during World War II as the rest of his family was forced into an internment camp. "We're just incredibly proud of him and his whole generation that went through that," BG Schanely said.

After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1986, BG Schanely served seven years of active duty, which included construction work in Germany and humanitarian efforts in Panama, before transitioning to the U.S. Army Reserve in 1993. In the more than 20 years in the reserves, she has served in units at stateside installations such as Fort Drum, New York; and Fort Dix, New Jersey. Her overseas assignments included Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and humanitarian missions in Panama, Uruguay, Belize, and Honduras.

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (Hawai'i), a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the first Asian American woman to serve in the United States Senate, said, "Congratulations to General Schanely on her promotion to the

rank of Brigadier General. Not only has she served her country with honor throughout her career, she is a trailblazer who brings diversity to our armed forces as only the second Japanese American woman to reach flag rank. Diversity matters and it is critically important to ensure more Asian American and Pacific Islander women are in the leadership pipelines of the



Army Reserve Brigadier General Miyako N. Schanely, Black River, is pinned for the rank of general by her husband, Steve, at a ceremony in December in Vicksburg, Miss. A second ceremony affirming the rank was held on January 4, 2014, at Fort Drum. ARMY PHOTO.

military, federal government and business. General Schanely has family ties to Honokaa on Hawai'i Island. I share the state's pride in her latest success."

The *Times* reported that, when asked by friends about her future in the military, BG Schanely said she told them she has no plans to leave anytime soon. "My answer is I'm still having fun; I'm still making a difference," she said. "As long as I can continue to do that, I'm going to stay in." The *Advocate* Spring issue will feature a detailed military and civilian biography.

Dear Advocate Editor,

There are a number of problems with the chart on p. 13 of the summer *ADVOCATE*.

The chart on p. 13 of the summer 2013 *JAVA Advocate* offers a misleading picture of the number of Nisei linguists who served in the Pacific during World War II. It includes all "MISLS graduates," which would include Caucasian as well as Nisei. (The former would presumably account for most of the officers.) The undated figure for CONUS (not an overseas theater) undoubtedly includes Nisei and Caucasian personnel still at Snelling or Ann Arbor at war's end as well as those serving in stateside assignments. The Central Pacific figure for March 1946 is obviously not a wartime figure and doubtless includes probably about 1,000 personnel in transit to occupied Japan. (See James McNaughton's official Army history, *Nisei Linguists* (pp. 320-21, based on a postwar MISLS document).

The figures for CBI, South and Southwest Pacific are presumably correct for the dates indicated. The problem with the Central Pacific figure is as indicated above. The figure at the bottom of the chart for June 1944 (presumably including all of the Pacific/CBI) is almost certainly correct for the total before the large arrival of linguists during the year leading to the war's end. So, the figures for CBI, South and Southwest Pacific (1,981) plus an estimated figure of several hundred more for the Central Pacific, provide a total for wartime service in those areas of probably about 2,500.

By comparison, *Nisei Linguists* (pp. 320-21) gives a total of enlisted Nisei linguists of about 1,430 by June 1945, plus Nisei officers and those arriving in July and August in preparation for the planned invasion of Japan, for a probable grand total of about 2,000.

— Stanley L. Falk

Yamada Asks: Why Serve?

FALLS CHURCH, Va. - Gerald Yamada, President of the Japanese American Veterans Association, addressed the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council on October 13, 2013, on the



L-R: Bob Smith, Chairman of Greater Falls Church Veterans Council and Gerald Yamada. (Photo by Richard Anton)

topic “Why Serve?” Yamada asked his audience, “If you were a young Japanese American, around the age of 20, sitting in one of America’s ‘concentration’ camps, behind barbed wire, surrounded by armed guards, with your family’s worldly

possessions either sold for pennies on the dollar or left behind, with your constitutional rights suppressed by the government, labeled an enemy alien, and your loyalty questioned – would you volunteer to fight for America in a segregated combat unit? You would ask yourself – Why serve?”

Yamada compared those who volunteered for service and those who refused to volunteer or to serve when drafted. He pointed out how the valor of the Nisei soldiers showed that

they were loyal to America and how their accomplishments also made life better for their parents and future generations of Japanese Americans. Yamada said that, if young men and women were to ask him today, “why serve?”, his advice would be very simple: “I am sure that all veterans would agree with my answer that if you serve, you bring honor to yourself, your family, the community, and the military. You affirm your faith in, and loyalty to, America by putting country first, as did the Nisei soldiers who served during World War II.”

Yamada concluded by noting that the Japanese American experience has an important lesson for the American public. He said that, “Executive Order 9066 is a harsh example of racial profiling by the government. In fighting to prove their loyalty, the Nisei soldiers showed us that we must continue to fight against racially-motivated government policies.”

Yamada cited President Harry Truman, who declared at the White House ceremony for the returning 100th/442nd soldiers, “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice – and you won.” The President went on to say, “Keep up that fight and we will continue to win...” Yamada urged “all of you to enlist in the fight against prejudice. We must keep up that fight and with your help we will continue to win.”

Smash the Gothic Line

(Continued from page 8)

secrecy the men hiked the last 8 miles, reaching Azzano at 2:45 AM on April 4. Twenty-five men fell off the cliff and 2 were hospitalized. These men followed orders; no one yelled when he slipped off the cliff. Azzano was nestled near the top of the last hill before the mountain heights controlled by the enemy. The terrain fell sharply away on the forward slope into a valley and rose steeply to the 3000-foot mountain heights, the regimental objective.

The 2nd Battalion moved forward and occupied the 100th bivouac area on April 4, when the 100th moved out to its forward assembly area. The 2nd Battalion was held in reserve.

The plan of operations called for the 100th to attack frontally up and along the back of the south-north ridgeline which ran across the four peaks. The 3rd BN was to attack from the east in a pincer-movement, cutting the ridgeline between Mount Folgorito and Mount Carchio. Success depended upon the 3rd BN achieving complete surprise. The only practical means of ascent up the at-times 60-degree slope was a little used path known only to local civilians, who supported the 442nd.

H hour was 5:00 AM on April 5, 1945. During the night of 4-5 April the 100th moved to its forward position. The 3rd BN, located at Azzano three kilometers to the north, moved forward. Companies I and L, heavily armed, left Azzano at 11:00

PM on April 4th, climbed to the ridgeline between Mt Folgorito and Mt Carchio. The cliff was so steep that the men had to scramble up on their hands and knees.

At 5:00 AM at H hour, the 100th launched its attack. The men tripped on land mines that drew intensive enemy fire. The 3rd Battalion reached the crest by 5:00 AM on April 5th but its attack had to be delayed one hour to give the men a little rest. At 6:00 AM the 3rd Battalion struck, catching the enemy by complete surprise.

By 7:30 AM the ridge was secured. By 12:30 I Company had captured Mt Carchio and L Co had taken Mt Folgoritto. The smashing of the “impregnable” Gothic defense line allowed the 5th Army to pursue the retreating Germans northwards to the Italian Alps.

Adolph Hitler’s suicide on April 30, 1945, Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945 and Imperial Japan’s unconditional surrender on September 2, 1945 ended the Tripartite Pact (Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan and Fascist Italy). The goal of the Pact was to have dictatorial control of the world. Fortunately, they did not succeed. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the 405,399 Americans, including Japanese Americans, and soldiers of Allied nations, who paid the ultimate price during WW II to protect freedom and the life style as we enjoy today. *The National Archives and Record Administration (NARA) reference for this document is RG 337, Entry 15A, Box 75. This report was marked to be digitized by the JAVA team at NARA for JAVA’s electronic database (<http://www.javadc.org/search.php>).*

SDF Official visits Japanese American Memorial

WASHINGTON - MG Mitsuru Nodomi, Director, Operations Support and Intelligence of the Japan Ground Self Defense Forces and former Japan Defense Attaché to the United States, was on official visit to the nation's capital. On November 24, 2014, he escorted his two fellow officers to tour the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. Subsequently, he met with his JAVA friends.

Front row, L-R: LTC Kay Wakatake, USA; MG Nodomi, Grant Ichikawa. Back row, L-R: MAJ Tomiyama, staff foreign intelligence section (partially hidden); COL Sato, chief, foreign intelligence section; and COL Iseri, Army Attaché at the Embassy of Japan. (Photo by LTC Kaname Yamashita, Assistant Army Attache, Embassy of Japan)



Ono First Asian American University of Cincinnati President

(Continued from page 7)

It has a current enrollment of 40,000 students, the second largest in Ohio, and is ranked by the *U.S. News and World Report* as a "Tier One University." Ono served as University Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs from June 2010 until he became the President.

Dr. Ono was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and grew up in Lutherville-Timonium, Maryland. He attended the University of Chicago; McGill University in Montreal, Canada; and Harvard University. He held faculty positions at Johns Hopkins University; Harvard University; University College, London; and Emory University.

Ono was quoted in the May 17, 2013th *Pacific Citizen* as saying: "Whenever I speak to a Japanese American or Asian American group, especially one where there are senior citizens who remember what it was like to be interned and what it like to ever

dream that a Japanese American would be the chief executive of a company or president of a college or university, for them, it appeared to touch them as well. In a relatively short time, about 70 years, they could move from where they were interned in their own country to seeing a Japanese American move to a situation where they could actually head the college or university. So, it was very moving for them, very moving for me."

Gerald Yamada, President of JAVA, said that Dr. Ono's "achievement, like the achievements of the late Senator Daniel Inouye, Secretary Eric Shinseki, and former Secretary Norman Mineta, speak of the Greatness of America. The steadfast loyalty, patriotism and sacrifice of the Nisei during WW II helped pave the way for post war reforms that leveled the playing field for minorities to compete for any rank and any position."

Thank you, Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends

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Checking...

Lt. Joe Murray of Mobile, Alabama, would like to find Willie Ito from Hawaii, who served with him in Germany in the 1960s.

Joe ended up as a technical manufacturing/marketing exec while Willie is believed to have earned a Ph.D from one of the universities in California. Unfortunately, they lost touch years ago.

Joe can be reached at thermob@bellsouth.net.

Japanese American Veterans Association Membership Application

Date: _____

Title or Rank: _____ Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Mobile Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____

Status: Active Duty: _____ Retired: _____ Honorably Discharged: Yes _____ No _____

Reservist/National Guard: _____ Cadet/Midshipman: _____

Current or Last Military Unit: _____

Dates of Service: _____

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

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

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

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

Dates that relative served: _____ Which Service? _____

Mail application to: Wade Ishimoto
5703 Barbmor Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

or email application to: Pohaku59@aol.com

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting
January 11, 2014 – 11:30 AM – JAVA Quarterly lunch at Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA
February 19, 2014 – 10:00 AM — Day of Remembrance Program at Smithsonian Institution
March 15, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting
March 29, 2014 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch
April 5, 2014 – 10 AM – Freedom Walk at NJAMP
April 12, 2014 – Sakura Matsuri at the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Washington, DC
May 25, 2014 – Memorial Day Program at Columbarium, Arlington National Cemetery
May 26, 2014 – Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC
June 7, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting
July 12, 2014 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch
October 11, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting
October 25, 2014 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch
November 11, 2014 – 2 PM – JAVA Veterans Day Program at NJAMP
December 20, 2014 – JAVA EC Meeting

2015

January 10, 2015 – JAVA Quarterly Lunch

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Quarterly Lunch: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

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

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

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (see above)

Veterans Day: Bruce Hollywood (see above)

Webmaster: Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org, 703-425-1444 or James Tani, jamestani@aol.com



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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