



NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>JAVA Appoints New Deputy Executive Director</i>	2
<i>Dedication of Hershey Miyamura Monument</i>	5
<i>Smithsonian Salutes Filipino Americans in Military</i>	6
<i>Fort Belvoir Honors WWII Veterans</i>	7
<i>Letters to JAVA</i>	9
<i>JAVA Scholarship Announced</i>	10

Officers

BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, President
 COL (Ret) Thomas V. Mukai, USA,
 Vice President
 David Buto, Secretary
 Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer

Executive Council

David Buto, Secretary
 Grant Ichikawa
 BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, President
 Calvin Ninomiya
 Terry Shima, Executive Director
 Lt. Col. (Ret) Michael Yaguchi, USAF,
 Deputy Executive Director
 Gerald Yamada, General Counsel

Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate
 Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate
 COL (Ret) Sunao Paul Ishio, USA
 Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, U.S.
 Department of Transportation

Newsletter Editor

CPT Kay K. Wakatake, USA

President Bush Recognizes Asian American Contributions

Two years ago, on May 29, 2004, President George W. Bush, opened the WW II Memorial located at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. He said in his keynote address that the entire nation galvanized –from war plants to victory gardens - in the struggle to preserve democracy. He said that men and women from all walks of life served in every phase of the war effort and that “America gained strength because African-Americans and Japanese-Americans and others fought for their country, which wasn't always fair to them.”

The President cited a Japanese American, George Joe Sakato of Denver, Colorado, an in-

fantryman of Co. E, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, as an example of courage. The President said: “The ranks were filled with men like Army Pvt. Joe Sakato. In heavy fighting in France, he saw a good friend killed, and charged up a hill, determined to shoot the ones who did it. Pvt. Sakato ran straight into enemy fire, killing 12, wounding two, capturing four, and inspiring his whole unit to take the hill and destroy the enemy. Looking back on it 55 years later, Joe Sakato said, "I'm not a hero. Nowadays, they call what



President Bush returns salute of 442d veterans

I did road rage." This man's conduct that day gained him the Medal of Honor, one of 464 awarded for actions in World War II.”

Continued page 4, President

Memorial Day: JAVA Participates in Arlington Cemetery Ceremony and National Parade

For the first time, JAVA participated in two major Memorial Day events in Washington, D.C. The Arlington Cemetery Memorial Day Program featured President George Bush laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Un-

known Soldier followed by his address to a packed audience in the Amphitheater.

JAVA joined about 20 other veterans service organizations in marching with the colors.

Grant Hirabayashi and Michael Yaguchi were the color bearers; President Bert Mizusawa represented JAVA.

JAVA also marched in the National Memorial

Continued page 4, Memorial Day

President's Message



Fellow JAVA Members:

With this quarterly issue, I'm sure you will notice the new look of the JAVA newsletter. Aki Koshima, who has faithfully served as editor for several years, has relinquished his duties to our new editor, Kay Wakatake, an Army Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps. I join JAVA members in expressing appreciation to Aki for keeping us updated on JAVA developments for such long period of time. We look forward to the completion of the book he has started to write. We all welcome and thank Kay for stepping up to the plate to take on Aki's huge responsibilities.

On May 12, President Bush, celebrated the national Asia Pacific Heri-

tage Month with a gathering of about 300 in the White House East Room. The high point of the ceremony was when the President welcomed the veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, all JAVA luminaries seated front and center. As the audience applauded, Terry Shima, Norm Ikari, Kelly Kuwayama and Joe Ichiuji stood and smartly saluted their commander in chief. The President's sense of appreciation was very evident as he broke from his speech and returned the salute. (This poignant moment was captured in a White House photograph used in their official press release.) Following the program, the President shook the hands of most of the 15 JAVA members who attended the event, and recognized JAVA member Bob Nakamoto by name. (Bob played a prominent role with the President at a recent panel event, where the president specifically commended the Nisei contribution to America's defense.)

May was a busy month for JAVA, having received invitations to participate in two Memorial Day Programs. One was for the National Cemetery Memorial Day Program at Arlington Cemetery traditionally attended by the President and the Secretary of Defense, and the other was for the National Memorial Day Parade on Constitution Avenue. During the parade, I proudly stood with the representative of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as the JAVA contingent, comprised of Asian American veterans and active duty personnel, smartly marched past the reviewing stand behind the "Go For Broke" banner. During the review, I was interviewed live by the official Pentagon news channel, and I was able to tell a worldwide audience about the exemplary sacrifice of Japanese American veterans. Many of those in the reviewing stand wanted to personally thank those in the JAVA contingent — evidence that the legacy of Go For Broke is well known among veterans.

An important observation from the Memorial Day parade is that the JAVA participation included Asian Americans of Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodian and Korean ethnic backgrounds. The Executive Committee and I see this as a highly desirable trend as we expand our membership beyond the Japanese American community and become a veterans organization truly representative of all Asian Americans. It is time to move forward on initiatives to represent all Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and the executive council and I will look forward to your continuing support as we serve both the Japanese

American veteran and Asian American veteran communities.

Based on our discussions and member input, the key initiative is the establishment of the Asian American Veterans Association as of 4 July 2006. I have asked Terry Shima and Mike Yaguchi to serve as the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of this new organization, and for Gerald Yamada to serve as general counsel. With an orientation on younger generations, I have asked COL Mike Cardarelli, LTC (Ret) Martin Herbert and CPT Kay Wakatake, JAVA members all, to round out the

board. We anticipate, with our counsel's assistance, being chartered in Washington, DC as a 501(c)19 veterans organization.

On a personal note, I have been alerted to deploy to Iraq, and will depart in the near future. Your organization is in great hands, and my absence will not be noticed.

We've had a great year -- thanks for your steadfast support!

A safe and happy summer to all!

Bert Mizusawa

Mike Yaguchi Appointed Deputy Executive Director and Member of Executive Council

On June 1, 2006, President Bert Mizusawa appointed Lt. Col. (Ret) Michael Yaguchi, USAF, as the new Deputy Executive Director and a member of the JAVA Executive Council. As DED, his role will be to share with the Executive Director Terry Shima the task of running JAVA.

Yaguchi has already assumed the position of Representative to the National Military and Veterans Alliance, which is comprised of 29 organizations representing 3.5 million veterans. He is also the Chair of the 6th Annual JAVA Veterans Day Program on November 11, 2006, at the National

Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Yaguchi retired from the Air Force after serving for over 27. He is currently a Senior National Security Analyst at the Pentagon.



Outreach to Asian Pacific American Veterans

Established in 1992, JAVA is a nationwide veteran's services organization that serves the interests of Asian American veterans. JAVA's membership is comprised of veterans and active duty personnel with various Asian American background, including two Chinese American general officers.

On November 11, 2006, Major General Antonio Taguba, USA, will be the keynote speaker at our 6th Annual Veterans Day Program. We are in the process of restructuring, and will likely be creating an organization with a more encompassing name in order to better accommodate the various ethnic veteran groups and individuals.

Asian Americans have come a long way in the military. Today there are 62 Asian American General and Flag Officers in retired, reserve or active duty categories. Also there are thousands of Asian Pacific Americans with field grade ranks in all branches of the armed forces. These numbers become significant when it is compared with 1941-1945, World War II, when research has revealed only one Asian Pacific American general officer.

Asian Pacific Americans have achieved superior marks in all respects thanks to their Asian Pacific heritage and competitive abilities, attitude, patriotism and dedication which have contributed to the level-

ing of the playing field by the armed forces.

JAVA's elected officers are now of the post WW II generation. BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, Korean Cold War (Silver Star) and West Point graduate, has expanded membership to include veterans of all wars and all Asian Pacific American ethnicities. He has also broadened the charter so JAVA, itself or in concert with other veterans organizations, could attempt to obtain for veterans, reservists and active duty personnel entitlements they have earned.

One channel we use is the National Military & Veterans Alliance, an organization of 30 veteran's organi-

zations that has 3.5 million memberships. Another is the various elements in the Department of Veterans Affairs, where we have substantive links with various key components. Our next step is to establish links with appropriate DOD components.

We are proud of the JAVA website, www.javadc.org, created and run by David Buto. This website is used by the press, film makers, researchers, schools, civic organizations and students to obtain assistance in identifying speakers and subjects



for interview and to obtain information and perspectives on the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, the segregated 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Japanese

Americans military accomplishments in the Korean, Vietnam and Gulf Wars.

JAVA is only one part of the Asia Pacific Americans service in the armed forces. The Chinese Americans, Filipino American, Korean Americans, Vietnamese Americans and Hawaii-Pacific Islanders have similar accomplishments. We would like to work towards getting all of them documented.

Quarterly Luncheon at Minami Residence

The JAVA quarterly luncheon was held on April 22, 2006, at the Potomac home of JAVA members Dr. and Mrs. Warren Minami.

Lucretia McClenney and Ruby Miller, from the Department of Veterans Affairs' Center for Minority Veterans, urged JAVA members to take advantage of VA benefits available to them. The Center for Minor-

ity Veterans stands ready to help all Asian American veterans to learn about and take advantage of the various programs.

Other special guests included Ed Chow, past National VP of Vietnam Veterans of America and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at the VA; VA Executive Director Erwin "Swede" Huelsewede;

President Jess Quintero and Francis Ivarra of the Hispanic War Veterans of America; Eric Lachica, Executive Director of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, Inc.; and Jerry Yamamoto, National At-Large-Director and Chair of the National Minority Affairs Committee of the Vietnam Veterans of America.



President (continued from page 1)

More recently, on April 12, 2006, President Bush led a panel discussion on Medicare at the Northern Virginia Community College in Vienna, Virginia. One of the five panel members was Bob Nakamoto, Chairman of Base Technologies and a member of the Japanese American Veterans Association. The President told the audience, which consisted of Nisei war veterans from JAVA, "I particularly want to thank the veterans who are here with us today. We have been joined by a special group of people, the veterans from the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. By the way, Senator Inouye of Hawaii, was a member



President Bush greets COL Michael Cardarelli, USAR (center) and JAVA President BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR (right)

of that very important regimental combat team, and I want to thank you all for being here today and thanks for serving our country. Welcome."

One month later, on May 12, fifteen JAVA members of various Asian American ethnic background were invited to the White House to attend the Asia Pacific American Heritage Month celebration. In his address at the historic East Room the President, who used the occasion to present awards to five Asian Americans, said in his welcoming remarks: "I want to thank the members of the 442nd Regi-

mental Combat Team who are here today. Thank you all for coming. God bless you." At this moment, JAVA's 442nd veterans spontaneously stood at attention and saluted their Commander in Chief, and he returned the salute. The President continued: "Veterans who have set such a fine example for those who wear the uniform today. And I would like to welcome the men and women in uniform who have joined us today. Thank you all for being here. Thank you for your service." Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, highly decorated 442nd RCT combat medic, reflected the views of the other 442 veterans when he said "We accepted the President's salute on behalf of all Asian American veterans who have served in the armed forces."

Memorial Day (continued from page 1)

Day Parade with three on the Reviewing Stand (BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR, and Colonel (Ret) and Mrs. Phil Ishio, USAR) and 19 others in the march. The *GO FOR BROKE* banner led the group, followed by three color bearers carrying the 442nd RCT colors borrowed from Senator Daniel Inouye's office, the JAVA colors, and the US Flag. Ethnic diversity in the JAVA contingent included Chinese American, Ko-

rean American, Vietnamese American, and Japanese American. Armed Forces Network television, which was broadcasting live, focused on the JAVA contingent.

On May 28, BG Mizusawa was the keynote speaker at the JACL annual Memorial Day program at the Arlington Cemetery. Following the program,



wreaths were laid at the gravesites of Japanese American veterans.

By the end of the Memorial

Day weekend, JAVA accomplished its goal of achieving national recognition of Asian American contributions to the defense of America.

JAVA Publications

American Patriots- MIS in the War Against Japan, edited by Dr Stanley L. Falk and Dr. Warren M. Tsuneishi, is an oral history of veterans of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), a group of Japanese American soldiers who fought in the Pacific but



whose stories are seldom told. The book includes first-hand accounts of 25 language specialists who served with U.S. forces in all major battles in the Pacific and Asia during WWII as well as the occupation of Japan.

This book is a great addition to your library and makes a wonderful gift. Price: \$10 plus \$2 shipping. To order, send your order and check payable to "JAVA" to:

JAVA Books, P.O. Box 59, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Hershey Miyamura Monument Dedicated (JAKVW News Release)

The City of Gallup, New Mexico has completed an elegant series of individual column type monuments dedicated to the veterans of all wars. The various pillars honor veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars and the WWII Indian Code Talkers. Included is a separate individual column solely dedicated to honor Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, the only American of Japanese heritage in the Korean War to receive the nation's highest combat award, the Medal of Honor.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for August 19, 2006, at the Miyamura Tribute Monument Veterans Plaza beginning at 4:00 P.M. Reverend Mark Nakagawa of the Los Angeles Centenary Methodist Church will provide the invocation

and benediction.

Miyamura first served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team at the end of World War II. When the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, Hershey was recalled into active duty with the Army and was sent to Korea as a machine gun squad leader in Company H, 7th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division. At Taejon-Ni, when being overrun by the Chinese Communist forces, Hershey ordered his men to retreat while he held off the enemy with a machine gun, bayonet and his own hands. Records and eye witnesses account for more than 50 of the enemy being killed before Her-



shey was wounded and captured. After spending 28 months as a prisoner of war, he was released on August 23, 1953 at the Freedom Village in Panmunjon, South Korea. It was only then, the news of the award was publicly announced.

The city had asked the Japanese American Korean War Veterans organization to support them by providing the cost of \$30,000 for the Miyamura portion of the monument. The Japanese American Korean War Veterans initiated a fund raising project with a goal of \$30,000 to make certain that the city would have the funds to build the separate Miyamura monument. Funds were raised in record time; JAVA donated \$500 toward this project.

JAVA to Support Veterans of All Wars Reunion

A reunion of veterans of all wars is scheduled for February 16-18, 2007, at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA. The lead sponsor is the Japanese American Korean War Veterans of Los Angeles; principal officials are Bob Wada, Sam Shimoguchi, and Victor Muraoka. JAVA is an official supporter of the event.

MG Rodney M. Kobayashi, USA (Ret) and JAVA lifetime member,

will be the keynote speaker at the February 17 luncheon. Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura, the only Japanese American to receive the Medal of Honor in the Korean War, will be present.

The combined war exhibit will be open throughout the weekend. Also planned: memorial service on February 18, at the Killed in Action All War Monuments in the nearby Japanese American Na-

tional Memorial Court, Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

"The purpose of this huge undertaking is to bring together veterans of all wars, especially those of Japanese ancestry of WW II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle Eastern wars," said Sam Yamaguchi, Chairman of the Reunion.

Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Program

The Japanese American Korean War Veterans, based in Los Angeles, California, and the Japanese American Veterans Association, based in Washington, D.C., will jointly present a wreath at the Korean War Memorial ceremony at the National Mall on July 27, 2006.

Principal speakers of this program, which marks the 53rd anniversary of the armistice ending the Korean War, will be Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Nicholson and South Korean Ambassador Tae Sik Lee.

The Color Guard carrying the JAVA and U.S. colors will be com-

prised of Korean War veterans. The four honor guards will represent Asian Americans who served in WW I, WWII, the Vietnam War and the Gulf Wars.

The program sponsor is the Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Coordinating Committee, headed by J. Norbert Reiner of McLean, Virginia.

Smithsonian Salutes Filipino Americans in Military

The Smithsonian Museum presented a “Salute to Filipino American men and women in the U.S. Military” at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, Washington, D.C., on June 9, 2006. Co-sponsors were the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, the National Network for Veterans Equity, and JAVA. Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama, decorated combat medic of the 442nd, and Terry Shima, 442nd, represented JAVA. Following the Program Kuwayama was interviewed by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation, the largest media company in the Philippines.

Dr. Patricia Pasick, granddaughter of a Filipino immigrant who served in the US Navy, spoke on

the history of Filipino migration; Dr. Valentin Ildefonso, Filipino WWII guerrilla and Philippine Scouts, spoke on the Filipino contributions to the liberation of the Philippines; Paul Tanedo, professional photographer, spoke and displayed photographs of the hardships endured by Filipino people; Major General Antonio Taguba, Deputy Chief, Army Reserve/Deputy Commander, US Army Reserve Command, (pictured) discussed the status of Filipinos in the Armed Forces and encouraged the youths to do their best in school; and Cheryl Diaz



Meyer, senior photographer for *The Dallas Morning Star*, described her coverage of the Iraq War for which she won the Pulitzer Prize.

The “Salute to Filipino American men and women in the US Military” is one of the five programs sponsored by Smithsonian for the Filipino American Centennial: A Century of Challenge and Change, The Filipino American Story. One program held on April 14 was on Filipino Americans in the American labor movement. Future programs will include issues facing Filipino Americans; Filipino Americans in video, film and cinema; and Filipino American literary writers.

Congress Recognizes Internment of Japanese Latinos

Contributed by Yeiichi Kelly Kuwayama

It was my honor to attend a reception in the Rayburn House Office Building on May 16, 2006, held by the Assembly on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Grant Ichikawa and I represented JAVA, and Floyd Mori represented the Japanese American Citizens League.

The guests at the reception were varied. It was striking to see Germans and, I think, Italians, who were interned during WWII without any evidence of sabotage. Other attendees were those who helped gain recognition for the wrong done to Japanese Latinos who were seized with the acquiescence of or

without protest from 13 Latin American countries and brought to the US right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. They were put in detention centers for the purpose of exchange of Americans imprisoned in Japan or Japanese-held territories.

Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) and Congressman Henry Honda (D-CA) spoke briefly. Staffers from congressmen such as Daniel Lungren (R-CA) and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) also attended, which gave the recep-

Japanese American in Combat in Iraq

After 10 months of combat duty in Iraq, lifetime JAVA member SGT Robert S. Nakamoto, a member of 278th Regimental Combat Team of the Tennessee National Guard, returned in October 2005 to his home state, where he has since been undergoing medical treatment sustained in the line of duty.

Nakamoto shared his Iraq experi-

ence with JAVA and said, “During the deployment, I frequently thought about the example of exemplary service that the Nisei had set for our nation. I tried to live up in my own small way to the heritage the Nisei gave to our nation. I am a fourth generation Japanese-American. My dad served in the Korean War.”

Nakamoto is a 1982 West Point graduate and left the Army as a captain in 1987. Out of a sense of duty after the 9/11 attacks, he enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard to serve his country.

For the full story on SGT Nakamoto’s Iraq experience, please see JAVA press release available at www.javadc.org.

JAVA Welcomes Visitors to the Nation's Capital

JAVA members Clarence and Thelma Suzuki of Fresno, CA, timed their visit to Washington, D.C. so that they could attend JAVA's quarterly luncheon meeting held at the beautiful Potomac home of Warren and Carol Minami on April 22. President Bert Mizusawa discussed JAVA restructure, and Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Minority Veterans officials discussed benefits available to veterans. Also present were veterans of various minority groups including Filipino Americans, Chinese Americans, and Hispanic Americans. After the luncheon, Paul Tani, wearing his docent cap, briefed Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.



Photo courtesy of Grant Hirabayashi

During their two-day trip to Washington, D.C., Dr. Americo and Ann Bugliani (above, with Stanley Saggara) had lunch with eight JAVA members at the China Garden in Rosslyn, VA, on June 21. After the lunch, Paul Tani and Stanley Saggara escorted the visitors to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located one block from the Capitol Building. Americo and Ann, residents of Pietrasanta, Italy for the past five years, re-

turned to Chicago, where Americo had worked and earned his Masters and PhD degrees. Americo and his friends are responsible for the construction of the Sadao Munemori statue, which is a symbol of the Allied liberation of Italy. Italian textbooks cover the Allied role in WW II only superficially, and Americo made it his mission to educate the Italian people about the 442nd RCT's part.

JAVA encourages out-of-town members visiting Washington, D.C. to meet for tea or lunch with local JAVA members. To schedule, please contact Grant Ichikawa (g.ichikawa@cox.net) or Terry Shima (301-987-6746; ttshima@worldnet.att.net).

Fort Belvoir Celebrates Asian Americans

The Fort Belvoir Army Materiel Command climaxed its Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration with a program that featured US Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, JAVA Honorary Chair, as keynote speaker, and five Japanese American WW II veterans.

General Benjamin Griffin, Commanding General of AMC, praised the Asian Americans for their contribution to national defense. Secretary Mineta cited the role played by Asian Americans in every facet of American life.

The formal program was followed by a delicious

sampling of Asian foods. Audience members had the honor of speaking with JAVA's WWII veterans about their experiences.

An impressive exhibit of Asian American war memorabilia and books, the JAVA colors, and the 442nd RCT colors borrowed from Senator Daniel Inouye's office, were displayed in the reception room by Michael Yaguchi.



Posing for photos after the formal program:

From L-R: Grant Hirabayashi, Merrill's Marauders, Ranger Hall of Fame; Terry Shima, 442nd RCT; Kelly Kuwayama, Combat Medic, 442nd RCT; Honorable Norman Mineta, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; General Benjamin Griffin, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; Grant Ichikawa, MIS, Philippine Liberation; Joe Ichiuji, 552nd Field Artillery, 442nd RCT; Norman Ikari, 442nd RCT.

Members Participate in Public Education Activities

The Center for WW II Studies and Conflict Resolutions, Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, New Jersey opened on March 21, 2006. Its spring 2006 program featured the film *GO FOR BROKE*. A telephone conference connected four JAVA members in Maryland and New Hampshire after the film. Participants were Norman Ikari, 442nd; Grant Hirabayashi, MIS Merrill's Marauders; Colonel James Nagahiro, B-52 bomber pilot, Vietnam War; and Terry Shima, 442nd Public Relations. Dr. Paul Zigo, Center Director, said it was "especially important to have the four veterans as our historical authorities to accompany the screen of the movie classic." The moderator, Barry Rosensweig, directed the stu-

dents' questions to each of the four veterans. This is the first time JAVA used the conference call format.

Joe Ichiuji, 522nd Field Artillery veteran, was the keynote speaker at the May 31, 2006, at the Urbana High School Memorial Day Program in Frederick, Maryland. The auditorium was packed with about 2,000 9th to 12th grade students. Ichiuji spoke of his internment camp and military experiences. Ichiuji and his wife Suzie spent the afternoon in a workshop with a class and answered many students' questions. This is Urbana High School's second annual request for JAVA's participation.



Joe Ichiuji and Minoru Nagaoka, 442nd, were interviewed on June 21, 2006, for Radio America's documentary series, "Veterans Chronicles." This interview took place at Radio America studios, which is located at 1030 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. The interview was conducted by Gene Pell. Ichiuji responded to questions relating to 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT and its outstanding actions in the European theater, and Joe's internment and military experiences during WWII. Nagaoka was asked about his combat experience, albeit brief because he was wounded in the early phase of 442nd deployment in Italy. Radio America has requested interviews with other JAVA veterans.

JAVA Celebrates Cherry Blossom Festival Events

Contributed by Barbara Nekoba and Warren Tsuneishi

The 8th annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk "A Salute to Patriotism" took place on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at the National Japanese American Memorial. Approximately 75 people attended. The weather was perfect - cherry blossoms were in full bloom and gently carpeted the stage and surrounding area. JAVA joined JAACL and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation as one of the "Big Three" event sponsors. Additionally, JAVA was a Freedom Sponsor of the event, placing it in the highest donor category.

The event began with opening remarks by Beth Fujishige, event Co-chair, followed by the Presentation of Colors by JAVA representatives Chosei Kuge and Kay Wakatake. Local Marylander Noriko Hunter sang the Star Spangled Banner and



JAVA's Grant Hirabayashi led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by Michelle Amano, granddaughter of Mike Masaoka, who read the Japanese American Creed. Commemorative remarks were provided by the Japanese Ambassador, His Excellency Ryozo Kato, followed by special remarks from the Honorable Norman Mineta, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

JAVA's 4th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival booth, part of the Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival, was on April 8, 2006, on 12th St between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues. Unlike previous years when beautiful Spring weather brought out throngs of people, this year's celebration was marred



by heavy winds and rains. Anticipated sales of *American Patriots* dropped from 50 copies in previous years to just four copies. Displays of memorabilia, books and

handouts were curtailed.

While the storm reduced the number of visitors substantially, it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the few visitors to the booth and the veterans who were there to describe their war experiences. Korean, Vietnam, and Gulf War veterans Akio Konoshima, Arthur Kim, Chosei Kuge, Lona Ichikawa, and Michael Yaguchi staffed the booth the entire day. New volunteers paired with the WW II veterans Grant Hirabayashi, Joe Ichiuji, Norman Ikari and Warren Tsuneishi. The post WW II veterans agreed to return next year to complete the unfinished task.

Letters to JAVA

The following letter was sent to Grant Hirabayashi from the Veterans History Project on May 3, 2006:

Dear Mr. Hirabayashi:

On Memorial Day 2003, the Veterans History Project launched a special feature on our Web Site (www.loc.gov/warstories) titled “Experiencing War,” to honor individual stories from our collection. Since then, we have added dozens of stories built around other themes—prisoners of war, military medicine, the final days of World War II, and African Americans—as well as interactive guides to our two books, *Forever a Soldier* and *Voices of War*. Beginning on May 26, just in time for Memorial Day 2006, we will be turning our attention to stories of Military Intelligence. We have selected your story to be featured in this collection.

All stories we receive are unique treasures and add to the understanding of how soldiers and civilians who supported them *experienced war*. Although every submission adds to the importance of the project, only a few at a time can be digitized and prepared for our Web Site. The stories of veterans and civilians involved with military intelligence will remain accessible to users of our site even after our next feature debuts in September.

Thank you for participating in the Veterans History Project and for sharing your wartime story with us. It is part of a growing collection that is treasured by people today and will be shared with future generations to come.

Sincerely,

Tom Wiener, Historian

The following letter was sent to Terry Shima, Executive Director, from Senator Daniel Inouye on May 15, 2006:

Dear Terry,

Please accept my gratitude for your gracious gesture of remembrance.

Maggie and I shared a love of 58 years. We shared hardships and tears, triumphs and joys. Our lives together were so complete, I cannot ask for more than I have already been blessed with.

Standing in this moment of loss, I look around and realize that I am not alone. With sudden clarity, I realize that the house of love that we built has become a home for countless friends—a second family, a family of our heart. With all of you beside me, I can stand with my son and his wife to greet the future, bright and full of promise.

Your kind thoughts and gentle words are a warm comfort that I shall carry with me always. On behalf of our ohana, thank you very much for remembering Maggie.

Aloha,

Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senator

The following letter was sent by the Japanese American Korean War Veterans on June 15, 2006:

Dear JAVA:

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura Tribute Monument in Gallup, New Mexico. The monument has been completed and a special dedication ceremony will be held at four o’clock on August 19, 2006, in Gallup, New Mexico.

If you are interested in attending this special event in Gallup, please call us as soon as possible [*names removed for privacy; if interested in attending, please contact JAVA*].

Thank you for your contribution of \$500 to the Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura Tribute Monument fund.

With regards and sincere appreciation,

JAPANESE AMERICAN KOREAN WAR VETERANS, INC.

JAVA Scholarship Program Announced

The Executive Committee announces the JAVA Scholarship Program with the purpose of awarding annual scholarships to worthy qualified American students.

Recipients of the scholarships must have displayed superior academic achievement, conspicuously demonstrated the ideals of honor, courage and patriotism upheld by JAVA, and possess and display superior knowledge of the contributions of JA veterans and their impact on American history. Requirements and application forms may be found at www.javadc.org, or contact the scholarship coordinator, Thomas Mukai, at tvictor@att.global.net.

Two scholarship funds are administered under the JAVA program, the

Orville T. Shirey Memorial Scholarship and the Jack T. Tashiro Memorial Scholarship Funds.

Major Orville Shirey was an original member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team when it was activated in 1943 and served during that unit's entire historic combat role in Europe and until its inactivation. He was the author of "Americans" The Story of the 442d Combat Team," written and published by him in 1947 and to this day remains the single most authoritative reference for historians, researchers, and scholars on the distinguished contributions of the Japanese Americans in Europe in World War II. The scholarship fund in his name was established by his family upon his death in late 2004.

Mr. Tashiro, a native of Oregon, was interned in a relocation center at the beginning of World War II and, later, entered the Army and was assigned to the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). He played a significant role in duties at the Tokyo War Crimes Trial after the war. In 1947, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency, with assignments in the United States and abroad, becoming a member of the Senior Intelligence Service. After retirement, he worked for a high-technology security company and was active in the JAVA, of which he served as treasurer for several years. The Jack T. Tashiro Memorial scholarship was established by his family upon his passing in 2005.

TAPS

LTC (Ret) Barry Saiki, USA, passed away on Saturday, June 17, 2006, at the age of 86. He was a Japanese-American community leader and gifted origami folder.



LTC Saiki served in Japan with the Army Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) in Tokyo during the

Occupation of Japan. He later became an instructor at the CIC Center in Maryland before retiring as a staff officer at Sixth Army Headquarters in San Francisco, California.

After retiring, LTC Sakai was the editor of the MIS of Northern California Newsletter. LTC Saiki's daughter Shizue Seigel, wrote, "Dad had prewar ambitions to be a writer, and I am grateful that I was able to complete *In Good Conscience: Supporting Japanese Americans During the Internment*

before he died."

Every spare moment in public was devoted to making intricate origami creations, which he gave away to admiring spectators as a way to reach out to youngsters. For instance, at airports, he would delight young children with his origami creations.

LTC Saiki's funeral was held on Wednesday, June 21, at 2:00 p.m. at the Stockton Buddhist Church in Stockton, California.

Replacement of Medals and Decorations

Have you misplaced or lost your well-deserved decorations and medals? Don't despair! You can request a replacement medal, award and decoration. The request should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force, including Army Air Corps, and Army

personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. For further information go the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

website. The specific NARA website location is: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/replacement-medals.html>. Generally, there is no charge for replacement awards and medals.



From the Editor



It is my honor to take on the position of editor for JAVA's newsletter. JAVA is a wonderful organization that does so much for the community and the veterans.

I am an attorney in the Army JAG Corps, initially for nearly two years with the 2nd Infantry Division

along the DMZ in South Korea. Since then I have also served as Chief of Legal Assistance at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and I am now stationed in the Washington, D.C. area. My grandparents, father and uncle were interned during WWII, and my mother was a young girl in Korea during the Korean War.

Assuming the editor's position for our JAVA newsletter is the least I can do to thank our Nisei veterans and their families. I hope you look

forward to reading about the many JAVA activities. As you can see, the newsletter has a new format, and I welcome your feedback and suggestions for improvement. You can start by helping me re-name our newsletter, by calling it something more creative than simply "Newsletter"!

Please send your comments to me by email at kwakatake@gmail.com or by mail to: Kay Wakatake, 2567 Aspenwood Road, Charlottesville, VA 22911. Thank you!

Donations

JAVA is a non-profit Section 501 (c)19 veterans organization. Tax-free donations would be gratefully accepted for the following:

- Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund.

- Jack Tashiro Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Oral History Project
- Joint JAVA-442nd Hawaii National Archives Project
- General Operational Fund

Please make checks payable to JAVA, and specify to which program you are donating, and mail to:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

Thank you for your contributions!



Membership Application FY2006

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
- Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20
- Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
- Life Membership: \$300

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:

Earl Takeguchi, Treasurer
7201 White House Drive
Springfield, VA 22153

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20006

Please send correspondence to:

Membership:

Thomas V. Mukai: tvictor@att.global.net

Round Robin:

Grant Ichikawa: g.ichikawa@cox.net

Newsletter:

Kay Wakatake: kwakatake@gmail.com; 253-468-4238

General:

Terry Shima: ttshima@worldnet.att.net; 301-987-6746

Postage



Please visit our website:

www.javadc.org

Upcoming Events

July 27, 2006 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day Program – Korean War Memorial, Washington, D.C. 9:00 a.m. (music); 10:00 a.m. (formal program)

July 29, 2006 – JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA, 11:30 a.m.

August 14-21, 2006 – WWII Remembrance & Veterans Reunion Cruise, featuring 100th/442nd/MIS; Chattanooga to St Louis

September 2006 – Executive Council Meeting

October 14, 2006 – JAVA Quarterly Luncheon

November 11, 2006 – Veteran's Day Program at Memorial, Washington, D.C.

January 2007 – JAVA Annual Meeting

February 16-18, 2007 – All-veterans Reunion, New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, CA.

More JAVA Photos



Left: At the White House Asian Pacific Heritage Month Celebration. Top L-R: Gerald Yamada, Bob Nakamoto, Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji, Grant Hirabayashi. Bottom L-R: COL(Ret) Sunao Paul Ishio, Terry Shima.

Below: Waiting for the Memorial Day Parade to start.

