

December 31, 2006

JAVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT – 2006

1. **JAVA GOALS.** JAVA's goals, as enunciated by President BG Bert Mizusawa, are to obtain for veterans, reservists, National Guard, and active duty personnel entitlements they have earned; to be a "player" on the national veteran's scene; to enhance the Japanese American and Asian American cause; and to expand JAVA's name recognition.
2. **WHITE HOUSE RECOGNITION.** JAVA received five invitations to White House events, three inside the White House, one on the White House lawn, and one at the Northern Virginia Community College:
 - On April 12, 2006, four JAVA members (Kelly Kuwayama, Joe Ichiuji, Grant Hirabayashi and Terry Shima) attended the Asian community panel discussion on Medicare Part D, led by President George W. Bush, at the Northern Virginia Community College. Bob Nakamoto, a White House selectee and JAVA member, served on this panel. JAVA members picture with the President was featured in the White House press release that evening. JAVA members attended on the invitation of Floyd Mori, Director of Public Policy, JACL.
 - On May 12, 2006, JAVA members were invited to the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month ceremony in the East Room of the White House. When the President, in his remarks, recognized the 442nd RCT, four JAVA members spontaneously stood at attention and saluted their Commander-in-Chief. A White House photographer captured a picture of the President returning their salute. This picture was featured in the White House press release that evening.
 - On June 29, 2006, thirty JAVA members and spouses were invited to the Arrival Ceremony for Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi at the White House. Ben Kuroki and Mrs. Kuroki, friends of JAVA, were invited to the White House black tie Official Dinner that evening.
 - On November 11, 2006, two JAVA officials and other Veterans Service Organizations were invited to the White House Veterans Day Breakfast, followed by VIP recognition at the Arlington Cemetery wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown and Amphitheater program both of which featured President Bush. JAVA Vice President Cal Shintani was formally recognized as JAVA's representative during the Amphitheater ceremony. The significance of this event is that JAVA is now a member of a very select group of veteran service organizations such as the VFW, Amvets, American Legion that form the Veterans Day National Planning Committee. JAVA is now a member of the second large, national and prestigious organization, the VDNC, both serving different

purposes. The first is the National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA), as discussed above

- On November 30, 2006, two JAVA members, Glenn Kikuchi and Terry Shima, were invited to the White House Holiday Reception, a glittering affair. In both the Veterans Day and Holiday Reception, JAVA representatives chatted with the President and First Lady and had official photographs taken with them. Participation in these events has confirmed JAVA's solid links with the White House.

3. ON-GOING ACTIVITIES. JAVA participated in the following on-going activities:

- National Military Veterans Alliance (NMVA). JAVA has been a member of this alliance, consisting of 3.5 million members, for two years. Mike Yaguchi has replaced Terry Shima as JAVA's representative. The Alliance, whose principal role is to influence legislation, meets monthly working for a set of goals established in the early part of the year.
- Joint JAVA – 442nd Hawaii Records Digitization Project. The objective of this project is to collect and digitize all relevant documents in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) pertaining to the 100 BN, 442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service, and the 1399th Engineers. This means that researchers from anywhere in the world would be able to retrieve information electronically. The research co-chairs are Joe Ichiuji and Fumi Yamamoto and researchers, in addition to the two, are Chosei Kuge, Barbara Nekoba, and Terry Shima.
- Asian American Veterans Association (AAVA). The JAVA Executive Council decided on June 1, 2006 that JAVA would continue as structured, AAVA would be activated, and JAVA would become its first constituent member. JAVA and AAVA would exist in parallel status with JAVA gradually morphing into AAVA. Eventually, JAVA would be dissolved. GEN Fred C. Weyand, USA (Ret), LTG Edward Soriano USA (Ret), MG John Fugh, USA JAG (Ret), and BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR have agreed to serve on the Advisory Board along with Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka and Former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.
- Oral History Project. In partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, this project is designed to collect oral histories of all JAVA veterans. Unfortunately, due to other priorities the project Lead has not been able to spend sufficient time on this project. It needs a Lead who can devote sufficient time and attention to this most important project.
- Asian American Government Executive Network (AAGEN). On February 13, 2006, JAVA was invited to the AAGEN Awards Dinner for the second year, to post the colors: US and JAVA flags. This participation gives JAVA exposure,

builds contacts, and builds its name recognition in the non military sector of the federal Government.

- Freedom Walk and Cherry Blossom Festival. Freedom Walk was held jointly with National Japanese American Memorial Foundation on April 1, 2006. One week later, JAVA Cherry Blossom Festival Project (CBFP) set up a booth to take advantage of the large crowd that gathered in Washington, D.C. for the Festival. The CBFP activity was marred by heavy rain and winds. The objective of this Project is to publicize Japanese American participation in the various wars from WW II to the present. It is also to sell JAVA's book, the *American Patriot*. The Lead for the Freedom Walk is Barbara Nekoba and the Lead for CBFP is Dr. Warren Tsuneishi.
- Memorial Day Arlington Cemetery Program and National Memorial Day Parade were held on May 29, 2006. The objective of these two separate events is to honor those who gave their lives to protect America's freedom. These venues served to enhance JAVA's name recognition. JAVA had a small representation, including color bearers, at the Arlington cemetery event. About 30 veterans and active duty personnel marched down Constitution Avenue. JAVA contingent included Chinese American, Korean American, Vietnamese American, Japanese American and Caucasians. JAVA President BG Bert Mizusawa, USAR and COL Phil Ishio, USAR (Ret), were on the Reviewing Stand with officials from the Department of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, District government and major civic organizations.
- Korean War Armistice Day (KWAD). On July 27, 2006 JAVA and the Japanese American Korean War Veterans (JAKWV) of Los Angeles were invited to participate in KWAD at the Korean War Memorial on the Mall. The joint representatives, accompanied by color guards, laid a wreath to honor the KIAs of the Korean War. JAVA members included Chinese American, Korean American, Vietnamese American and Japanese American.
- Veterans Day National Committee (VDNC). In mid September 2006, JAVA was inducted into the VDNC, which is chartered by Congress to coordinate the nation's Veterans Day activities, including Washington, D.C. This is a huge leap in terms of name recognition, because it formally recognizes JAVA as a "player" along with the large veterans organizations.
- 6th Annual JAVA Veterans Day Program, November 11, 2006. Held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, near the US Capitol, this year's program featured MG Anthony Taguba, USAR as the principal speaker. Hershey Miyamura, Korean War Medal of Honor recipient, was in Washington, D.C. for another program, also addressed the nearly 100 attendees on a beautiful Fall day. The Committee consisted of Joe Ichiuji, Kim Luoma, Marcia Mau, Bob Nakamoto, and Mike Yaguchi

- Speakers Bureau. JAVA members spoke at a university in New York, a college in New Jersey, schools in Maryland and Virginia, and community groups. When JAVA could not send a speaker to the Brookdale Community College in New Jersey, four veterans including MIS, 442nd and Vietnam War, participated in the College's seminar on the 442nd through a teleconference arrangement. On May 4, 2006, Grant Ichikawa and his wife Mildred were keynote speakers at the new Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Headquarters building. They spoke about their war time experiences. As the result of their talks one Chinese American and one Vietnamese American military officers joined JAVA. The speakers Bureau is chaired by Dr. Norman Ikari.
 - Media activities. JAVA issued 28 press releases, which can be found on the JAVA website (www.javadc.org), on topics assessed to be of interest to JAVA constituents. The release is sent to Asian American newspapers and Asian American veterans organizations in Hawaii and the mainland US and to foreign newspapers, as appropriate. JAVA provided to national and international journalists advice and contact to veterans for interviews. Bob Asahina acknowledged JAVA's assistance in his *Just Americans, How the Japanese Americans won the war at home and abroad*. The JAVA newsletter changed its name to JAVA ADVOCATE, engaged a new editor, MAJ Kay Wakatake, USA JAG, and produced its last three quarterly editions in color. Aki Konoshima, editor of the Newsletter over a long period of years, acknowledged high tech innovations were beyond his capability. Passing the baton to the new generation, he assumed the status as Editor Emeritus.
 - World-class website (www.javadc.org). Webmaster Dave Buto upgraded the JAVA website to make it easier to navigate and contains more data, including the NARA collections discussed above. Annually, the number of visitors to the website exceeds 6,000 and includes journalists, researchers and students.
 - The "JAVA Round Robin", a twice-weekly electronic newsletter and an unofficial voice of JAVA is run by Grant Ichikawa and has reached a large number of subscribers. It is distributed to JAVA members and non-members. We learned it has been copied, in it's entirely or in-part, and is distributed by the subscribers themselves.
4. TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY ACTIVITIES. JAVA engaged in the following ad hoc activities:
- On May 26, 2006 the Headquarters, Army Materiel Command at Ft. Belvoir, VA held an Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month program. The principal speaker was Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. 442nd and MIS veterans were honored. JAVA, under Mike Yaguchi initiative, set up a display booth. Also portions of Densho's/NVC's 2005 Veterans Day program was televised at the ceremony and at AMC posts throughout the world.

- On June 9, 2006, Smithsonian invited JAVA to be the co-sponsor of *Salute to Filipino American men and women in the Military*. The auditorium was packed.
- On December 2, 2006, JAVA was invited to be a co-sponsor of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) luncheon in Honolulu. The NJAMF honored the 442nd Club, 100th Club, MIS Club and the 1399th Engineers Veterans Club. Ted Tsukiyama hosted the JAVA table and addressed the group as the JAVA representative.
- In mid December 2006 JAVA (Grant Ichikawa) conducted a fund drive for SGT Leana Nishimura, a single mother of three small children who recently returned from Iraq deployment. She was in dire need of help. JAVA collected \$4,400, \$1,500 of which was presented to her by Ichikawa on December 16, 2006.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE. Following is a report of administrative matters:

- JAVA Advocate. Thanks to MAJ Kay Wakatake, the JAVA Newsletter has a new look and a new name. It made its debut in June 2006 and the response from members and non-members has been overwhelmingly positive and enthusiastic.
- JAVA Coin. Thanks to Grant Ichikawa and Mike Yaguchi, the JAVA coin was produced and is making its debut on January 20, 2007 at the Annual General Meeting.
- JAVA Brochure. Thanks to Cal Shintani, the JAVA brochure is finished and will be circulated at the All Wars Reunion in mid February 2007 in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.
- Scholarship Funds. COL Phil Ishio, USAR, Ret and Connie donated \$10,000 to JAVA to establish a scholarship fund in the name of their late son, Douglas Kazumi Ishio. The other scholarship funds are the Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund and the Jack Tashiro Memorial Scholarship fund.
- Membership Growth. 56 new members joined JAVA. New members included Chinese American, Vietnamese American and Hawaii Pacific Islanders.

6. DONATIONS IN KIND.

- Lyn Crost. In early 2006, Dr. Tom Stern, husband of the late Lyn Crost, author of *Honor by Fire*, presented as a gift 51 hard cover copies of the book. Stern contacted Ted Tsukiyama, who requested that JAVA be the recipient of this gift. The Executive Council has decided that the books be presented judiciously to special people who do something significant for JAVA.
- Bob Nakamoto, Chairman of Base Technologies, prints, in color and at no cost to JAVA, 150 copies of the JAVA ADVOCATE four times a year. Moreover, he graciously offers to produce ad hoc color print jobs. This saves JAVA from

having to buy, store and maintain a color printer or incur the costs, (e.g., 39 cents per page at Staples) associated with commercial printing..

7. HOW WAS ALL THIS ACCOMPLISHED in 2006?

- Through excellent and unselfish support from members, who have enthusiastically given their time, expertise and donations. Those outside the Washington, D.C. area have supported our efforts through words of encouragement and financial donations. Member participation at luncheons and other functions has been excellent.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry T. Shima
Executive Director