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Jake Shimabukuro recognizes JAVA veterans during visit to Virginia

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Jake Shimabukuro, ukulele virtuoso, performed at the Birchmere Music Hall on Feb. 8, 2011. His evening program was entitled *Go For Broke*. Shimabukuro, 35, is a fifth-generation Japanese American who has already performed around the U.S. and in Japan. Shimabukuro recently performed before Queen Elizabeth. A native of Honolulu, he combines elements of jazz, rock and pop and is renown for using complex finger work.

During the program, Shimabukuro discussed visits to the 100th Veterans Club in Honolulu during his childhood. While he initially was not fully aware of the heroism of the *Nisei* veterans, as he grew older, he learned more about their sacrifice and their mark in their history and is one of their greatest supporters. He chronicled the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team's perform-



L-R: Terry Shima; Dr. Norman Ikari, Jake Shimabukuro; Grant Ichikawa, Kyoko Ikari. (Noriko Sanefuji)

ance record in Italy, France and Germany during World War II and the announcement that later this year, the U.S. Congress will award the Congressional Gold medal to *Nisei* veterans who served in the 100th, 442nd and the Military Intelligence Service.

Shimabukuro's introduction of World War II veterans Grant Ichikawa (MIS), Dr. Norman Ikari (442nd) and Terry Shima (442nd) resulted in a prolonged standing ovation from the sold-out audience. This recognition was the prelude to Jake's next music presentation, the *Go For Broke* song. Arrangements for *Nisei* veterans attendance were made by Jon Yoshimura, Senator Daniel Akaka's Communications Director.

Following Shimabukuro's performance, he cordially invited the *Nisei* veterans backstage for a brief social and photo opportunity.

A performance by Shimabukuro of the *Go For Broke* song may be found on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2tJycPOqPZQ&feature=related>

Medal of Honor Recipient Barney Hajiro passes



442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, Medal of Honor recipient, and JAVA Honorary Chair Barney Hajiro passed away in January 2011. [See Taps on page 18.]

President's Message



The last four years have been a great ride and I thank you, JAVA members and supporters, and my fellow Executive Council members for this

great privilege to serve in a most dynamic and mission-oriented organization. Like BG Bert Mizusawa, my predecessor, I am a Korean War veteran. I am pleased to say my successor, Gerald Yamada, Esq., is a Vietnam War veteran while his fellow elected officers are post-Vietnam War veterans. The baton has passed once again, this time to the post-Vietnam War veterans. This speaks well for the continuity of JAVA.

I wish to thank the dedicated volunteers, who have given their time, resources and energy day after day, month after month. For example, five volunteers scanned the national archives documents into the computer; six spoke at schools and anywhere we are invited to talk; one has created and maintained the website (www.javadc.org); one produced the quarterly *JAVA ADVOCATE* from wherever she is stationed be it state-side, Germany or the Iraq war zone; one produced the *Round Robin*, our twice-weekly electronic bulletin; three manned the reception desk at

events; 15 chaired committees and activities; three others served in elected positions; and up to 12 on the Board of Directors.

I also wish to thank the many monetary donors who donate because they believe in what we are doing and how we are doing it. One of them is Scott Monfils, Esq. executor of the Kyoko Tsuboi Taubkin estate, who arranged a large donation to promote the legacy of the 442nd. Another is Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa, who has donated large sums on several occasions. Many of you have converted your membership to Life Membership. One member, 90 years old, who knew he was exempt from payment of further dues after reaching that golden age of 90, wrote a \$300 check and converted to life membership. Asked why, he said "I am proud of my membership in JAVA." Over one half of our total members are Life Members. This fact speaks volumes.

Bert transformed JAVA into a national organization establishing links with various Japanese American veterans organizations and starting the education program. I decided to build on the foundation constructed by Bert placing large emphasis on educating the general public, especially pre-college schools, on the experience of the WW II generation and the legacy of that experience on future generations. I believe JAVA did well on this task as you see in the Executive Director's annual report on page 9.

JAVA is what we are because of all of you: veterans, active duty, widows, descendants of veterans and "Friends of JAVA." My wife Laurie and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support.

The years ahead will challenge our new team. New members must be brought in to replace the dwindling WW II and Korean War veterans. The mission to educate the public of the role played by Asian Pacific Americans, including Japanese Americans, must continue so their contributions to the national security of this Great Nation will be recognized. Gerald Yamada, Esq., Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA, and LTC Alan Ueoka, USA, and the Board of Directors, with all our continued support, will achieve that goal.

—Bob Nakamoto

Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel K. Akaka, U.S. Senate
 Senator Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate
 The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
 Barney Hajiro, Medal of Honor
 Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor
 George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

Officers (2008-2010)

Robert Nakamoto, President
 Bruce Hollywood, Col, USAF (Ret),
 Vice President
 Secretary – Vacant
 Earl Takeguchi, LTC, USA (Ret),
 Treasurer

Board of Directors

Above Officers plus:
 William Houston,
 Deputy Executive Director
 Grant Ichikawa
 Bert Mizusawa, BG, USAR
 Mark Nakagawa, LTC, USA
 Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.
 Terry Shima, Executive Director
 Kay Wakatake, MAJ, USA
 Alan Ueoka, LTC, USA
 Gerald Yamada, General Counsel
 Reuben Yoshikawa

JAVA ADVOCATE

Akio Konoshima, Editor Emeritus
 Kay Wakatake, MAJ, USA, Editor
 Janelle Kuroda, LT, USN, Assistant Editor

After the program on December 14, 2010, Ms. Mary Murakami chatted informally with Ms. Moon's 5th grade students of the Spark Matsunaga Elementary School at Germantown, Maryland. The school is named in honor of the late Senator Matsunaga, who is also a veteran of the 100th Infantry Battalion. (April Moon)



Terminally ill 442nd Veteran celebrates Congressional Gold Medal two days before his passing

[National Veterans Network]

MENLO PARK, Calif. - In a special ceremony on Feb. 3, 2011, Masami Robert Iso, 92 and terminally ill, celebrated the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal that will be officially awarded in the Fall of 2011 to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. While serving in the 442nd, he participated in all of the 442nd campaigns, was wounded twice and spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

One hundred people, including Robert's wife Rose, participated in the ceremony at the Veterans Affairs Menlo Park Community Living Center that was arranged by the Center and retired Col. Bryan Shiroyama, U.S. Air Force. Lawson Sakai, 442nd veteran and President of Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) representative, presented Iso with a framed copy of Public Law 111-254 that the White House had provided to the National Veterans Network (NVN). Since there will be no individual citations and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal will not be minted until the summer, the copy of the law was the most tangible evidence of the award.

Sadly, Iso would pass away 48 hours later. Younger brother James Y. Iso, a retired Foreign Service Officer, said "Bob, in his Disabled American Veteran (DAV) uniform with campaign ribbons and former DAV Commander cap, was alert and appeared to comprehend the entire ceremony and accepted the honor with dignity. He enjoyed the television coverage on the evening news and newspapers articles the following morning." Following



Lawson Sakai (left) presents Nisei Congressional Gold Medal Law (PL 111-254) to Masami Robert Iso. Behind Iso is fellow member of I Company Frank Shimada. (Kerri Childress)

the war, Robert worked for the U.S. Army as a civilian and was a life member of JAVA. During his free time he drove his friends and senior citizens to their appointments.

PL 111-254 bears the prominent signatures of President Obama, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and Senate

President pro tempore Daniel Inouye and authorizes the award of the Congressional Gold medal to the 100th, 442nd, and Nisei who served in the MIS during World War II. Of particular significance to Asian Americans is Senator Inouye's signature, a Nisei combat veteran of the 442nd Regiment himself and now in a position of succession to the Presidency. Information on PL 111-254 may be obtained from Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net; 301-987-6746 or Christine Sato Yamazaki (christine@csv-assoc.com).

FFNV is a member of the NVN, a coalition of 23 veterans and civic organizations organized to coordinate the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony in Washington, D.C. later this year. Christine Sato Yamazaki, former President and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center, is the Chairperson of NVN.

MG Huggins assumes command of 82nd Airborne Division

[82nd Airborne Division Press Release]

FORT BRAGG, N.C. - Major General James L. Huggins assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division from Major General Curtis M. Scaparrotti in a formal ceremony on Pike Field August 5, 2010.

MG Huggins comes to the 82nd Airborne Division after wrapping up his most recent assignment as the Director of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C., a position he assumed in July 2008.

This is not the first time Huggins has commanded at the Division, as he previously served as a company commander in the 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the battalion commander 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment; and later as the brigade commander for the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He also served as the Chief of Staff, 82nd Airborne Division, and Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps.



MG James L. Huggins accepts command of 82nd Airborne Division from LTG Frank Helmick, 18th Airborne Corps Commander, on August 5, 2010 at Pike Field, Fort Bragg, NC. (82nd Airborne Div)

JAVA elects officers for next 2-year term; leadership mantle passes to veterans of Vietnam and post-Vietnam War era

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — In a resounding vote by acclamation at the JAVA general meeting on January 15, 2011, attended by over 80 members and friends, a new slate of JAVA leaders was approved and the newly elected officers were installed. The incoming officers are Gerald Yamada, Esq., President; Col. Bruce Hollywood, U.S. Air Force (Ret), Vice President (incumbent); LTC Alan Ueoka, U.S. Army, Secretary; and LTC Mark Nakagawa, U.S. Army (Ret), Treasurer. The makeup of these officers signifies a vibrant, forward-looking transition from the JAVA leadership of the World War II generation to that of the post-Vietnam era and post-9/11 period. The election was officiated by Wade Ishimoto, Nominating Committee Chairman, and the swearing in was conducted by Kevin Secor, Special Assistant to Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. JAVA is a nationwide veterans organization accredited to VA and is a member of the 3.5 million-member National Military Veterans Alliance.

Outgoing President Robert Nakamoto, a Korean War veteran, thanked the many volunteers and Executive Council members who, Nakamoto said, “made his vision on education, expansion of membership, and financial donations a reality.” In addition to expanding JAVA’s membership and in-

creasing demand for JAVA’s Speaker’s Bureau, Nakamoto, Chairman and owner of Base Technologies, dedicated one staff member to handle JAVA matters; printed color copies of the *ADVOCATE*, and made his firm’s conference room available for JAVA executive council meetings and oral history interviews. Nakamoto assured that these services would continue unabated.

Incoming President Gerald Yamada, Esq., enunciated three goals for his administration: (1) to continue educating the American public about the contributions made by the World War II *Nisei* soldiers; (2) to increase JAVA’s commitment to supporting all those who have served,” including “service members who are returning from the two wars we are now fighting;” and (3) to protect the donations JAVA has received by spending funds “sparingly and wisely.” Yamada thanked outgoing Treasurer, LTC Earl Takeguchi, U.S. Army (Ret), who served for six years. “He kept meticulous records on financial matters and membership dues, acknowledged donations, prepared reports, kept the Board current on JAVA’s financial status, and provided counsel on investment of assets and membership,” Yamada said of Takeguchi.

In their professional jobs, Yamada is

the Principal for Going Forward Strategies, an environmental consulting firm; Hollywood is Deputy Chief, Joint Operational War Plans Division, Joint Staff, Pentagon; Ueoka is Deputy Director of the Program Management Office in the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.; and Nakagawa is a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear officer stationed at the Pentagon. Yamada announced the appointments of Lt. Janelle Kuroda, U.S. Navy, and Wade Ishimoto to the Board of Directors; Calvin Ninomiya, Esq. as General Counsel; designated past-president Nakamoto as a member of the Executive Council, and Terry Shima to continue as Executive Director.

Secor spoke of recent developments and priorities in Veterans Affairs under Secretary Shinseki. In addition, Secor reminded JAVA members of the Secretary’s message on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day that Dr. King be remembered for “his dedication to the service of others.”

Ishimoto, Special Assistant to the Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy and principal speaker, shared his experiences on combating terrorism over the past half century. Retired Col. Dale Shirasago, U.S. Air Force, was the Master of Ceremonies.



Above left: Following the swearing in, the incoming JAVA officers pose for a photo. L-R: Outgoing president Bob Nakamoto; Secretary LTC Alan Ueoka; Treasurer LTC Mark Nakagawa; Incoming President Yamada; Kevin Secor, VA official; and Wade Ishimoto, Nominating Committee Chair. **Above right:** Three JAVA volunteers were presented with inscribed JAVA coin in appreciation of their volunteer work. L-R: Christine DeRosa, Metta Tanikawa, Maureen Shea, and President Bob Nakamoto. (Noriko Sanefuji)

Tendola, Italy community pays tribute to 442nd RCT

[From 442nd Veterans Club Hawaii Go For Broke Bulletin]

On Sept. 12, 2010, the citizens of Tendola, Italy gathered to unveil a monument to honor the 21 Medal of Honor recipients from the 442nd RCT and the bravery and sacrifices of all the men of the 442 who fought in the surrounding hills and mountains during the Battle of the Gothic Line. Dr. Massimo Dada, Mayor of Fostinovo, the city in which Tendola is located led the ceremony and was assisted by Graziella Bernadis Watanabe, wife of the late George Watanabe, 442nd "Ambassador" to Italy and historian, in unveiling the monument. The monument lists the names of 21 Medal of Honor recipients with an enlargement of the Medal. Mr. Luigi Lertola, President of the Tendola Historical Society noted that the monument is located in a park overlooking Mt. Mosatello, where then Lt. Daniel Inouye led an assault on enemy positions and was recognized for his bravery with the Medal of Honor.

Bryan Takeuchi, former Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee Commander, who attended the ceremony and reported on the event for the NVC Newsletter, closed his article with, "To those that read this, please know that citizens of a small community in Italy, have not forgotten the valor and sacrifices of the 442 ... despite it being almost 70 years in the past. They remember the young men who fought for their freedom ... in a



A memorial to honor the 442nd RCT was dedicated in Tendola on September 12, 2010. L-R: Davide Del Giudice, 442nd historian; Bryan Takeuchi, former Commander of Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle, WA; Davide's colleague (in cap); Graziella Bernadis Watanabe; and Dr. Massimo Dada, Mayor of Fostinovo, the city where Tendola is located.

place so far away from home."

For details, please contact Ms. Graziella Watanabe via email at graziella.bernadis@teletu.it.

Army Major General Robert G.F. Lee retires as Hawaii Adjutant General; succeeded by Air Force Major General Darryll D.M. Wong

HONOLULU — On January 31, 2011 and after serving eight distinguished years, Maj. Gen. Robert G.F. Lee, retired from the Hawaii National Guard and the following positions: the Hawaii State Adjutant General, executive director of the State Department of Defense, and the State Civil Defense Director. He also transferred these authorities to Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong, U.S. Air Force, in a separate afternoon ceremony.



Major General Robert G.F. Lee, U.S. Army National Guard.

Maj. Gen. Lee was appointed to the Adjutant General position on January 1, 2003. He made 11 trips to Iraq and Afghanistan in connection with two deployments of Hawaii National Guard troops in 2005 and 2008. In 2007, Lee arranged to send 100 Hawaii soldiers to Indonesia to train Indonesian troops in peacekeeping. He also arranged to station 40 Hawaii soldiers in Jolo,



Major General Darryll D.M. Wong, U.S. Air Force Air National Guard.

southern Philippines, to assist in counter terrorism efforts. During the 2009 tsunami in American Samoa, Hawaii sent medical supplies and troops within 24 hours using its C-17 planes.

Maj. Gen. Wong's immediate past assignment was Commander of Hawaii Air National Guard. He received his commission in May 1972 from the University of Hawaii Air ROTC Program. He is a Command Pilot and Instructor Pilot with more than 3,000 hours in G-17, K6-135R, C0-141A, T-38 and T-37.

Brig. Gen. Joe Kim, U.S. Air Force, was appointed as Deputy Adjutant General. A U.S. Air Force Academy graduate and pilot, Kim's immediate past assignment was Commander of the 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard.

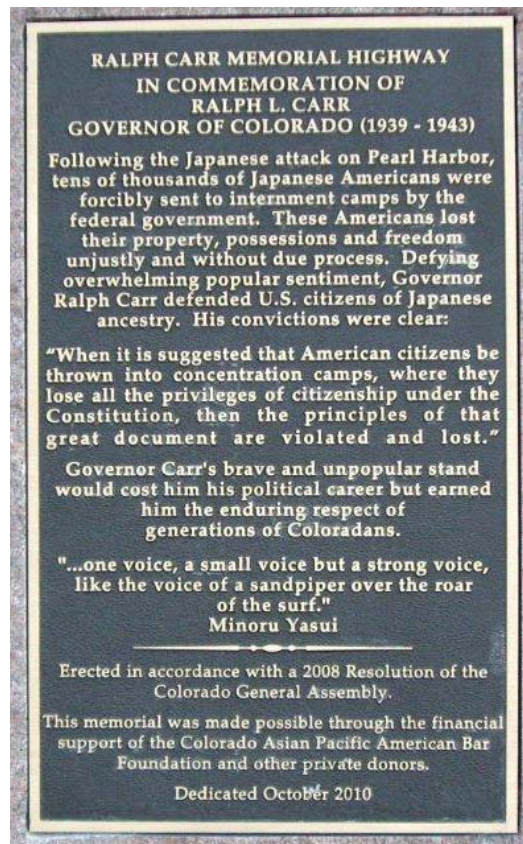
Renamed US 285 honors former Colorado Governor who supported Japanese Americans during WW II

[Compiled from information provided by George Yoshida]

KENOSHA PASS, Colo. — Former Colorado Gov. Ralph Carr was honored at Kenosha Pass on US 285 on Dec. 10, 2010, when a stretch of 264 miles was named the Ralph Carr Memorial Highway. There are two large commemorative rose-colored plaques, one at the top of Kenosha Pass, in the Colorado Trail parking lot, and the other at the Colorado-New Mexico border. (Pictured)

At the outset of World War II, when other States resisted the building of internment camps in their states, Governor Carr, contrary to popular opinion at that time, reached out to them at the internment center at Granada, Colo. Carr voiced forcefully his opposition to the imprisonment of people without due process. He called the internment of ethnic Japanese during World War II a violation of the Constitution. This steadfast support cost him his political career.

The Asian Pacific American Bar Association (APABA) of Colorado spearheaded the public fund drive to build the monument, which recognized former Governor Carr. Denver County Judge Kerry Hada, a member of APABA, described how his uncle arrived in Colorado via Arizona and New Mexico in three carloads of possessions. He said hysteria during World War II made the trip dangerous and frightening, including harassment along the way. Rocks and trash were hurled at them. When they reached Colorado they were greeted by Governor Carr. "My uncle was astonished at that gesture. My family owes Governor Carr a debt of gratitude," Hada said.



Sen. Akaka leaves Veterans Affairs Chair but remains on Committee

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) announced on January 27, 2011 that he will assume the Chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and will join the Senate Democratic leadership as Vice Chair of the Steering and Outreach Committee during the current 112th Congress. Senator Patty Murray (D-Washington) will assume the Chairmanship of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and Senator Akaka will remain on that committee as a senior member. Senator Akaka will also continue to serve on the Armed Services, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs committees.

"I am looking forward to chairing the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and working to address the complex issues facing the indigenous people of our country," said Senator Akaka. "Native communities across the nation face unique challenges, including disparities in economic development, health care, public safety, education and energy development.

"It has been my incredible honor to chair the Veterans'



Affairs Committee during the past four years. I know Senator Murray to be a passionate advocate for veterans, and I look forward to continuing to work with her as a senior Democrat on the committee. Providing our veterans with care and benefits is a non-negotiable cost of war, and during my time as Chairman I have fought to ensure that they receive what they earned. I am proud of all we have

accomplished, including passing bills to prevent suicides, assist family caregivers of injured veterans, improve veterans' mental health care and expand benefits. We passed the largest single-year increase in funding for veterans' care in the history of this nation, and the Post-9/11 GI Bill is already helping thousands of those who have served earn a higher education.

Senate President Pro Tempore Daniel K. Inouye said Senator Akaka, a long standing champion of veterans issues, has decided to chair "the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs so he could focus on providing for indigenous people in rural communities all across America *[continued at Akaka on page 7]*

442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity seen by overflow audience at Smithsonian; Director Suzuki to produce MIS feature film

WASHINGTON — “Very moving,” “great,” “brought tears,” “well done,” “powerful,” “educational,” “informative,” were some of the remarks the audience wrote on their survey questionnaire following the showing of the *442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity*. This film was shown at the Smithsonian Institution, on Feb. 19, 2011, sixty-nine years after President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, now observed as the Day of Remembrance.

Featured in the film were Senator Daniel Inouye, Steve Shimizu, Nelson Akagi, Lawson Sakai, George Sakato and George Takei of *Star Trek*. The production was possible by a grant from Dr. Paul Terasaki. The narrator was Lane Nishikawa.

Following the film showing, a panel including *442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity* director Junichi Suzuki and 442nd veteran Terry Shima, moderated by Smithsonian’s Noriko Sanefuji, discussed the film as it related to Executive Order 9066. The Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program was the principal sponsor of the program and the co-sponsors were the National Museum of American His-



Following the showing of the film there was a 30-minute panel discussion. L-R: Terry Shima, Director Junichiro Suzuki, and Noriko Sanefuji. (Sandra Vuong)

tory, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese American Veterans Association.

Over 2,500 Nisei who were forcibly relocated to barbed-wire enclosed internment camps volunteered to prove their loyalty and served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

As told by the veterans themselves and skillfully interspersed by U.S. Army Signal Corps footage, *442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity*, a 97-minute film, provides rare insights of 442nd combat achievements and human nature, the effects of the war on family life, the anguish of loss of loved ones, patriotism to the land of their birth, optimism and hope for future generations, the dilemma of shooting or saving a 15 year-old enemy soldier, and the defining of the question of loyalty with unmistakable finality.

Suzuki, a Tokyo University graduate, served as assistant director at Nikkatsu Studio, oldest film studio in Japan. The first of Suzuki’s trilogy was *Toyo’s camera: Japanese American History during WW II*, a compilation of photographs of internment camp life as seen through Toyo Miyatake’s camera, a home-made box camera made of parts smuggled into camp and pieces of scrap wood. The movie, *442nd: Live with Honor, Die with Dignity*, is the second of the Suzuki trilogy. Suzuki has begun film interviewing MIS veterans and Washington officials for this third film of the trilogy, a feature length film on Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service in the Asia Pacific Theater.

When asked about his next film project after the Military Intelligence Service filming, Suzuki responded, “the *Nisei* story must be told in America and Japan and our goal is not to make a profit. The *Nisei* experience of World War II is compelling and I am challenged and honored to bring the trilogy, as a public service, to the widest audience. After the trilogy, I believe I need to work on films that will produce income for me to live.”

Akaka (continued from page 6)

and to help provide the same kind of recognition for Native Hawaiians already enjoyed by more than 500 indigenous groups.”

Under Senator Akaka’s Chairmanship from 2007-2010, the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs produced an unmatched record of accomplishments. A number of new laws enacted under Akaka’s leadership are already improving the lives of veterans, service members, and their families. Senator Akaka said the soldiers of the Philippines fought valiantly under US command during WW II. “Congress’ action in 1946 to strip them of the recognition they were due was a grave injustice. It is especially regrettable that this wrong was allowed to continue into their twilight years. I am glad we were able to give them the recognition and honor they deserve, though it came later than it should have.”

In their letter of appreciation to Senator Akaka, Gerald Yamada, incoming JAVA President, and Bob Nakamoto, outgoing JAVA President, said “Under your leadership the U.S. Congress has produced an unmatched record of legislations for veterans.” They continued, “Nisei in the MIS, whose accomplishments were previously classified, gained recognition through your successful legislative endeavors. Your participation in JAVA as Honorary Chair has given us stature, dignity and respect in our relationships with fellow VSOs, VA, White House and Department of Defense.”

101st Airborne Division Commanding General's situation report of his sector in Afghanistan

[Editor's Note: Condensed below is Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, USA, "Update #15", dated circa February 20, 2011, a periodic situation report for his men, their families and friends, courtesy of Brig. Gen. Frederick Wong, USA (Ret). Maj. Gen. Campbell is Commanding General of CJTF-101st Airborne Division, which is responsible for Region Command-East (RC-East). RC-East is one of six NATO International Security Assistance Force regional commands, consists of 14 provinces covering roughly the size of the state of Pennsylvania, surrounds the capital of Kabul and shares 450 miles of border with Pakistan.]

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — We are more than halfway through the month of February, and the days seem to go by faster and faster. There has been great progress made in all of the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) battle spaces throughout the winter, and the insurgents will have a challenge when they return to fighting this spring. Last update, I promised to provide some metrics because I want to highlight the great work of our Soldiers and the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF). Over the last three years, the number of brigade combat teams has grown from three to seven here in RC-East as one of the final pieces of the President's announced surge.

One area that has received little attention has been the surge, or rather growth, in ANSF. The increase in Afghan Forces in conjunction with the increase in coalition forces has enabled us to put forces where we have not had them before, enabling us to focus more heavily on insurgent networks. We have also seen a corresponding increase in the number of insurgents killed in action. By removing larger numbers of insurgents from the battlefield, we have disrupted their operations.

This indicates that we have removed the more experienced insurgents from the battlefield, and the insurgents are now relying on personnel who are poorly trained in conducting attacks. Having poorly trained personnel also enables us to have greater effects identifying and detaining or killing insurgents. Also factoring into the disruption of the insurgent networks is the amount of caches we have found. Since our transfer of authority on 14 June 2010, cache clearances have more than doubled compared to the same period last year.

Over the winter, ANSF and coalition forces have continued to focus operations to expand the influence of Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), establish security, and continue with development projects. Coupled with the disruption of the insurgent networks, we anticipate that our efforts will create a much different set for the battle space when the insurgents return to fighting in the spring.

The ANSF, GIROA officials, and coalition forces have worked hard over the last year. There are many good things happening in Afghanistan and RC-East each and every day. However...despite all of our success, there is still plenty of work to be done. With every passing day, GIROA grows

stronger, the ANSF grows more capable, and the coalition forces continue to switch to more and more of a support role to ANSF during operations.

As always, you can keep up with your Screaming Eagles at the following websites:

* Visit our Web site at www.cjtf101.com

* Become a fan of our Facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/RCEast>

* Or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/rceast>



Above: MG John Campbell pins the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge on Specialist David Bixler, who lost both legs in southern Afghanistan. (Courtesy of MG Campbell).

Below: President Barack Obama receives a 101st Airborne Division T-Shirt from ISAF Commander GEN David Petraeus (left) and Division Commander MG John Campbell (right) during the President's surprise visit on December 3, 2010, to Bagram Air Field. The visit marked the second time the President has visited the troops in Afghanistan.



JAVA Executive Director's 2010 Annual Report highlights gains

Pursuing President Bob Nakamoto's mandate for continued expansion in the education field in 2010, the theme of which is to perpetuate the legacy of the Japanese American World War II generation, JAVA volunteers:

- Spoke at 22 speaking engagements at schools from elementary to universities;
- In partnership with JACL San Francisco, held a teachers' training program for Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. teachers at the Smithsonian Renwick Gallery;
- In partnership with the Montgomery County, Md. public school system, produced a 30 minute teachers' aid based on interview with JAVA veterans;
- In partnership with the Embassy of Japan, briefed their official visitors to Washington, D.C.;
- Participated in a PBS panel interview to discuss the Japanese American story to 200,000 high school students live across the nation;
- Assisted historian Eric Saul to produce an exhibit entitled *GO FOR BROKE: Japanese American Soldiers fighting on two Fronts* at the Ellis Island, New York, Museum that ran for two months. National Park Service estimated that 7,000 visitors visit the Ellis Island Museum on a warm day;
- Provided 35 press releases to newspapers, including Asian American press. In addition, JAVA responded to national and foreign press queries and arranged interviews with Japanese American veterans; and
- In partnership with the Japan American Society of Washington, DC, manned JAVA booth to respond to questions at the National Cherry Blossom Parade that annually attracts over 300,000 attendees.

This public education theme was pursued through JAVA high profile opportunities, e.g.:

- Participated in the American Veterans Center Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue where the spectators shouting "GO FOR BROKE" and "442ND" connected with the JAVA marchers,
- As a member of the National Veterans Day Committee, JAVA president and color guards participated in the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater program where the names of JAVA and its president were announced over the public address system.
- President Nakamoto was invited to participate in a Congressional veterans round table on January 20, 2010 to discuss major issues affecting veterans.
- The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award the nation can bestow, that will be awarded in 2011 to Nisei soldiers who fought in WW II, will enhance our education program like no other. JAVA has joined the National Veterans Network for this purpose.
- Partnering with selected education oriented organizations, JAVA held teachers training programs in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Montgomery County, Md., produced a 15 minute video, based on interviews with JAVA veterans, as a teaching aid.

- JAVA was invited to man a booth at the huge Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Parade and, also, served as consultant for content and presentation for an exhibition at Ellis Island Museum in New York City and for a comic book illustrator whose six series featured the rescue of the trapped Texas battalion. We connected with high school graduates via our scholarship program now in its fourth year.
- JAVA veterans were interviewed on national and international TV; attended White House events about 15 times; issued about 30 press releases per year, participated in the American Veterans Center annual Memorial Day Parade down Constitution Avenue. The by-product benefit was that JAVA's name recognition and profile were also enhanced.
- In partnership with 442nd Veterans Hawaii, two teams have continued to scan 100th, 442nd and MIS documents at the National Archives and Records Administration for storage in the JAVA website and Honolulu.

A few other 2010 highlights were: (1) JAVA offered 6 family-funded scholarships to high school students; (2) offered Taps to 6 members; (3) announced that the number of our life memberships is larger than dues paying members; (4) acknowledged the large donations provided by Kyoko Tsuboi Taubkin, Bob Nakamoto and others.

—Terry Shima

[EdNote. A detailed Executive Director's 2010 report can be found on the JAVA website, www.javadc.org/]



Dr. Norman Ikari, 442nd RCT veteran (seated right) being interviewed by students at Rocky Run Middle School, Chantilly, Va. On June 10, 2010. Students, left to right, are Donna Chang, Jasmine Hall, Vi Trinh, and Melvin Lopez. Kyoko, Norman's wife, also participated, discussing life in internment camps. JAVA has been invited to participate in the annual Rocky Run World War II Oral History Program since 2005. Over 100 WW II veterans and civilians participate annually in this landmark event for Virginia's Fairfax County Public Schools. (Photo courtesy of Dr. Ikari)

Highlights from the Department of Veterans Affairs

[Drawn from DVA announcements]

Decrease In Homeless Vets Gives Shinseki Hope Pledge Can Be Kept.

The December 8, 2010 Army Times reported, "An 18 percent drop in the number of homeless veterans over about two years gives hope" to Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki "that he'll be able to keep a pledge made last year to end homelessness among veterans within five years." Speaking "Tuesday at the National Forum on Homelessness Among Veterans," Shinseki "said the current estimate of homeless veterans is down from about 250,000 a decade ago, a sign that this 'national shame' can be solved through coordinating government programs."

Seeking To Heal, Wounded Warriors Return To Iraq. According to a National Public Radio broadcast on December 16, 2010, seven injured vets are "revisiting the battlefield in an unprecedented experimental program called Operation Proper Exit," which is "designed to heal the deepest wounds

by providing veterans with a week in Iraq." The trip "includes a visit to the place where" the veterans "sustained...injuries that dramatically changed their lives."

Criminal Investigation Looking Into Misplaced Remains At Arlington National Cemetery.

In a front page story, the December 3, 2010 Washington Post said the U.S. Army has "launched the first criminal investigation into the misplacement of remains at Arlington National Cemetery," after "discovering eight cremated remains dumped in a single grave site there." The investigation "comes after a series of revelations that...marred the reputation of the country's most prestigious military burial ground and led to the ouster of its top two leaders."

Veterans Affairs Faces Daunting Job Of Reducing Medical Claims Backlog.

December 17, 2010 CNN reported, "Veteran claims for medical benefits are still piled high at the Veterans Affairs Department, despite a major push from Secretary Shinseki

for quicker claims processing. There are a quarter of a million claims in the system that have not been assessed within 125 days of being filed, according to Mike Walcott, acting under secretary for benefits." To meet Shinseki's goal (eliminate the backlog by 2015 and set a 125-day deadline for claims processing by the end of this year), "VA has implemented 45 pilot programs, commissioned an innovation contest and started new procedures like Fast Track, a web portal aimed at speeding up the claims processing system to under 30 days."

A 'Fast Track' System Processes Claims Online.

In a December 18 interview on Federal News Radio, VA Chief Technology Officer Michael Cardarelli discussed the agency's new web-based "Fast Track" portal that the Veterans Benefits Administration is using to accept and process new claims for Vietnam-era disabilities connected to Agent Orange, which could serve as the model for processing other disability categories.

News from other Veterans Organizations

SEATTLE, Wash. - Nisei Veterans Committee Newsletter November 2010 reported that Shokichi (Shox) and Yuzo Tokita were featured in the October Speakers series. They discussed their parents settlement in America, eight siblings, father's early death, internment at Minidoka, return to Seattle, Shox's military experience as pilot who flew 49 combat missions in southeast Asia and retired with the rank of Colonel. Yuzo followed his older brother's path in the US Air Force first flying C-118 hauling freight all over the globe and in 1966 switched to F-4C fighters for missions in the Vietnam War. Having 20 years in USAF, Yuzo turned down a promotion to full Colonel preferring to return to civilian life. He was the immediate past commander of NVC.

HONOLULU - The *Go For Broke Bulletin*, September 2010 issue, paid tribute to Captain Bert Noboru Nishimura, who retired after 30 years of service with the rank of Colonel. He holds the

distinction of being the first Nisei commander, with the rank of Captain, of an Infantry company of the 442nd. He died on October 15, 2010. The *Bulletin* also said that on October 5, 2010, President Obama, in the presence of six Nisei veterans, members of Congress, and Cabinet secretaries, signed S-1055 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and Nisei who served in the MIS during World War II.

HONOLULU - *Hawaii Veteran*, published by the State of Hawaii Office of Veterans Services (HOVS), December issue said HOVS has created the Center for Veterans Enterprise, which is solely dedicated to assisting veterans in starting and building their businesses. They maintain a website that serves as the federal government portal for veteran-owned businesses known as www.vetbiz.gov.

JOHNSON, Iowa - According to its *Newsletter*, the 34th Infantry Division

Association held its reunion on September 9-11, 2010 in De Moines. Outgoing President Pat Skelly introduced the new officers, including Col. Ron Albrecht, President. The Newsletter also reported that the Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team was deployed to Afghanistan on August 7 for the second time.

FULLERTON, Calif - The Japanese American Korean War Veterans November Newsletter announced the publication of their book, *Americans of Japanese Ancestry in the Korean War*, that consists of stories of 78 veterans, including Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura. The book will be given free with a donation of \$20 for paperback and \$30 for hardback. Contact JAKWV BOOK, c/o R. Wada, P.O. Box 425, Fullerton, CA 92836.

HONOLULU - 100th Infantry Battalion Veterans Club *Puka Puka Parade* October issue reported that construction has begun on the Education Center.

Update of Congressional Gold Medal Award to Nisei in WW II

[This update was provided by Christine Sato Yamazaki, Chairperson of the National Veterans Network (NVN).]

WASHINGTON - A two-day program is planned to be held in Washington, possibly in the Fall of 2011, on the occasion of the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. NVN, comprised of 22 Japanese American veterans and community organizations, is under the leadership of Christine Sato Yamazaki, who has a steering committee and other committees to support her.

U.S. Mint. The U.S. Mint has begun the design process and several designs are expected to be submitted to NVN in March 2011. NVN will be asked to select one design for the Fine Arts Commission, Citizen Advisory Coinage Commission and the Secretary of Treasury approval. US Mint expects the CGM to be completed by August 2011. A bronze replica will be offered for public sale by the US Mint for \$50, including a case.

U.S. House Speaker. The U.S. House of Representatives Speaker will decide on the date and venue of the award presentation. Christine met with the new Speaker's office on March 22, 2011. NVN encouraged the Speaker's Office to accommodate all members listed in the National Registry, including veterans, widows, next of kin, and members of their entourages.

Washington, D.C. events. The gala dinner to honor the veterans is designed to be elegant and memorable. Other events are (1) the laying of NVN wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington National Cemetery. There are now 69 Japanese Americans interred there; (2) a program at the National WW II Memorial, and (3) a program at the Na-

tional Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, which will be a tribute to the over 800 Japanese Americans who died in line of duty.

National Veterans Registry. Metta Tanikawa, keeper of the NVR, reports that as of February 13, 2011, 287 veterans, 211 widows, 22 next of kin of soldiers who died in line of duty plan to attend the presentation ceremony. Any 100th Battalion, 442nd Regiment or MIS veteran, widow, next of kin or family member who desire to attend the WDC program is encouraged to place his/her name on the National Registry. Anyone who attended MIS Language School, served in the Occupation of Japan in a language capacity, or served in an MIS position, stateside or in Japan, on or prior to December 31, 1946, qualifies to receive the award.

Honor Flight. Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization which flies veterans to Washington to see their World War II memorial, has agreed to partner with NVN for the Congressional Gold Medal event. Honor Flight will attempt to provide FREE transportation and hotel accommodations to 100th, 442nd and MIS veterans who plan to visit Washington. They need the date of the event in order to finalize their commitments.

Outreach. Readers are encouraged to spread the word about the Congressional Gold Medal Award to veterans of the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and Nisei who served in the MIS during WW II. NVN's goal is to reach out to all of them to advise them of the award – the highest civilian award the nation can bestow. These veterans are encouraged to go to the NVN web site to register, or, if they have questions, to contact Metta Tanikawa (cgm.tanikawa@gmail.com), Terry Shima (ttshima@comcast.net; 301-987-6746) or Christine Sato-Yamazaki (Christine@csy-assoc.com).

Seattle Veterans Organization dedicates memorial to Nisei in WWII

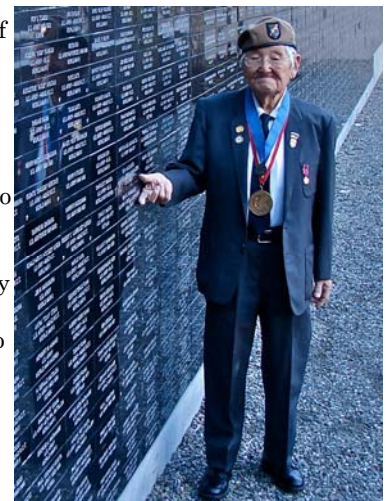
SEATTLE — The Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) formally dedicated the Foundation Memorial Wall in a special ceremony on September 5, 2010, attended by 1,000 people including U.S. and foreign dignitaries. The Wall, located on the premises of NVC headquarters at the Chinatown International District, honors Japanese Americans who served in the military service as well as those who were confined to internment camps during World War II.

The wall is 12 foot high by 190 foot long and consists of 3,000 black granite bricks, one name on each brick. NVC plans to add another 1,000 bricks to the Wall during the next 12 months. Each brick costs \$260. The Wall is divided into two parts, one part for the veterans and the other for the some 13,000 ethnic Japanese internees from the State of Washington. Over 100 volunteers and coordinators collected about one million

dollars in fifteen months through the sale of memorial bricks. U.S. Congressman Jim McDermott, obtain over \$200,000 of federal funds

Internees of all ten internment camps are represented. Names of ethnic Japanese who served in the US armed forces in the Spanish American War, World War I, and all subsequent wars and incidents are similarly represented. There are 67 bricks to honor Washington State Japanese Americans who were killed in action.

When Japanese Americans returned from the war to settle in Seattle the American Legion denied membership to them. The Nisei veterans collected a fund of \$1,000 and bought a building that would become its present clubhouse, where the Japanese American veterans can meet for educational, social and community purposes.



Ranger Roy Mastsumoto, 98, decorated veteran of Merrill's Marauders, stands beside The Wall at the National Veterans Committee in Seattle, Wash. (Karen Matsumoto)

Seven Japanese Americans meet Japan Foreign Minister

WASHINGTON - Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Seiji Maehara held a meeting with representatives of four Japanese American organizations at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel in Washington on January 7, 2011. Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki arranged the meeting to give Minister Maehara the opportunity to discuss issues with prominent leaders in the Japanese American community. Prior to this meeting, Mr. Maehara had visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located one block from the U.S. Capitol.

Japanese Americans who participated in this meeting were Dr. Craig Uchida, Chairman of the Board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; Floyd Mori, National Executive Director and CEO of JACL; Hideki Hamamoto, Vice Chair of US-Japan Council; Robert Nakamoto, President of JAVA; Grant Ichikawa, MIS veteran and JAVA Board Member; Gerald Yamada, Esq., President-designate JAVA; Terry Shima, 442nd veteran and JAVA Executive Director. After each person introduced himself with a brief back-

ground, Nakamoto, Ichikawa, and Shima, recent recipients of the Foreign Minister's Award, were each asked to comment on their activities.

This was followed by a free exchange of discussions during which the Foreign Minister displayed keen interest in the Japanese American activities and their views on U.S.-Japan relations.

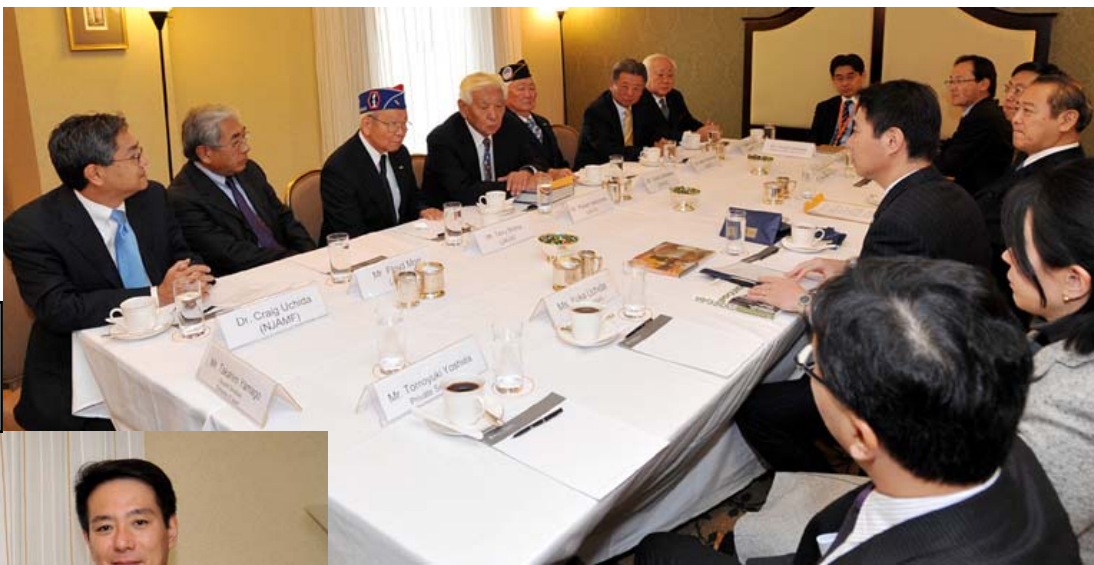
In response to their remarks, Minister Maehara discussed the importance of a U.S.-Japan alliance and said that Japan is committed to strengthen these bilateral relations. Expressing his appreciation to meet with representatives of the Japanese American community in Washington, Minister Maehara said he is proud of the way Japanese Americans overcame hardships through diligence and discipline to make important contributions to their nation. Strong relationship at the government level is important, he said, but this must be accompanied by an equally strong relationship at the people to people level. The continued interchange at both levels should be fos-

tered to achieve our goals, he concluded.

Minister Maehara was born in Kyoto City, graduated from Kyoto University Faculty of Law, elected to the House of Representatives at six consecutive elections, and served as minister of two other ministries prior to the Foreign Ministership.

The Japanese American representatives were impressed with the Foreign Minister's friendliness, candor, and commitment to build strong relations between the government and people of Japan and the Japanese Americans. The Japanese American representatives thanked the Foreign Minister for the invitation to meet with him. Nakamoto, in his letter to Ambassador Fujisaki expressing appreciation for arranging this meeting, said he hopes that the Foreign Minister would consider holding similar meetings, if his schedule allowed, with Japanese American representatives at selected cities the Foreign Minister visits such as Honolulu, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Below: JAVA President Robert Nakamoto (left) and Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara.



Above: Minister for Foreign Affairs Maehara and 7 Japanese Americans exchanging views. Foreign Minister is at right center. Facing him, L-R: Craig Uchida, Floyd Mori, Terry Shima, Bob Nakamoto, Grant Ichikawa, Hideki Hamamoto, Gerald Yamada, Esq. On the Foreign Minister's side, L-R: Tomoyuki Yoshida, Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (MFA); Yuka Uchida, Private Secretary to MFA, H.E. Seiji Maehara, MFA; H.E. Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador to USA; Kazuyoshi Umemoto, Director-General, North American Affairs Bureau, MFA; Minister Hideo Suzuki, Head of Chancery, Embassy of Japan; End of Table: Hiroshi Ishikawa, Director, First North American Division, MFA. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan)

Hawaii Lieutenant Colonel holds retirement ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

WASHINGTON - LTC Mark T. Nakagawa retired from the U.S. Army on Nov. 23, 2010, in a dignified and intimate retirement ceremony held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located one block from the U.S. Capitol. As the leaves of the cherry trees gently fluttered on the Memorial on a balmy Fall afternoon, Lt. Col. Nakagawa bid his farewell to the U.S. Army after 21 years of exciting assignments.

Born in Okinawa, Japan and raised in Hawaii (Iolani High School, 1985), Nakagawa received his Army commission through the University of Southern California (USC) ROTC program. He was accepted in the elite Special Forces (Green Beret) unit and served with them in Desert Shield/Storm (the First Gulf War and Operation Provide Comfort (relief to Kurdish refugees). On his second tour to Iraq in 2004 with the Iraq Survey Group, Nakagawa led missions to search for weapons of mass destruction.

Nakagawa's career reached its apex during 2006-09, when he was appointed to serve at the White House Military Office as Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Program Manager. The mission of



Lt. Col. Mark Nakagawa, U.S. Army, at his retirement ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C. (Courtesy of Mark Nakagawa)

the Office is to provide essential service to the President and help to maintain presidential security.

Nakagawa earned two masters degrees in National Security from the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey, California, and the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He also completed the Chinese-Mandarin language course at the Defense Language School, Presidio of Monterey, California.

His awards and decorations include the Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, and other medals to recognize his achievements. In his farewell remarks, Lt. Col. Nakagawa said, "When I received my commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, my intent was to serve for four years and pursue a civilian career. However, during my first tour the dedication and professionalism of my fellow officers and non commissioned officers impressed me deeply and I found my calling as a Soldier."

COL Robert M. Waltemeyer, U.S. Army, Nakagawa's first commander, who returned from Afghanistan to be the principal speaker at the ceremony, told Nakagawa "the lasting legacy you leave behind is the investment you made in the lives of Soldiers and it will live on in generations of future non-commissioned officers, officers and Soldiers, who have been fortunate enough to have called you friend".

LTC Nakagawa and his wife Carol will live in Springfield, Virginia. Mrs. Fusako Nakagawa, his mother, lives in Pearl City, Hawaii, and Nadine Ninomiya, his sister and her family live in South Pasadena, California.

Reminder for Membership Dues

JAVA membership dues are on a calendar year basis. This is to remind annual dues paying members that the 2011 annual membership fee is now due.

Please make your check payable to JAVA and send it to Mark Nakagawa; 9455 Part Hunt Ct; Springfield, VA 22153.

The membership category of Associate Member has been abolished. Most former Associate Members are now categorized as Friends of JAVA. If there are any questions, please contact Bruce Hollywood, Membership Chair (703-229-3198 (cell); hollywoodweb@comcast.net).

The annual dues schedule is as follows:

- Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30
- Spouses, Widows, Widowers, Ancestors, or lineal descendants of U.S. Armed Forces members (Friends of JAVA): \$20
- Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15
- Life Membership: \$300
- Life Membership World War II Veterans and Korean War Veterans: Free

Meet the Generals and Admirals

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

RDML Ron J. MacLaren



Rear Admiral Ron J. MacLaren was born in Seoul, Korea, raised in Mexico, Peru and the Panama Canal Zone. He graduated from the University of Southern California and was commissioned as a supply corps officer through ROTC in 1979. He also has an MBA from Auburn University Montgomery, Alabama. MacLaren transitioned to the Navy Reserves in 1983 and pursued a civilian career as

chief executive officer of a hospital until he retired in 2004. He was mobilized as the group commander, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group Forward Golf, in 2007-2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In October 2009, after selection to flag rank, he was assigned as the assistant deputy chief of staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, U.S. Pacific Fleet. He was recalled to active duty in March 2010, and is now working at the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Asked why he chose the armed forces as his career choice, MacLaren said, "To be brutally honest, I had no intention of joining the military, however, my mother influenced me to join the Junior ROTC. My mother, using her Asian logic, insisted that I needed more structure and discipline and that JROTC would be good for me. In my senior year, I was selected to be one of three company commanders. Under my mother's guidance, I applied for a college ROTC scholarship, which resulted in me being commissioned as an ensign and the start of my career."

"The military has taught me life lessons and brought me skills that have served me well," added MacLaren. "While there is a physical side to the military, there is a strong intellectual side as well. The military invested heavily in my mental and critical-thinking development, leadership training, confidence building and short and long-term strategic thinking, which are skills many businesses would like for their employees to have."

MG Vern T. Miyagi



Major General Vern T. Miyagi assumed duties as the Mobilization Assistant (MA) to the Commander, US Pacific Command (USPACOM) in February 2006. He retired in July 2009.

MG Miyagi is a 1971 distinguished military graduate of the University of Hawaii ROTC program. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1971 and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Hawaii in 1972.

From 1972 to 1981, MG Miyagi served in the US Army Reserve (USAR) with the 322nd Civil Affairs Battalion and the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. In 1981 he joined the Hawaii Army National Guard (HIARNG). His duty assignments include: Commander, 2nd Battalion, 299th Infantry; Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training; Chief of Staff; and Commanding General of the HIARNG. During his tenure, the HIARNG successfully deployed over 2,800 soldiers in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF). From 2003 to 2006, MG Miyagi also served in a dual-hat position as the MA to the Director of Operations at USPACOM.

As the MA to the Commander, USPACOM, MG Miyagi advised the Commander on reserve component and National Guard readiness and operations and coordinated Homeland Defense activities between state, active military and Federal agencies. MG Miyagi's military education include: US Marine Corps Command and General Staff College at Quantico, Virginia and a US Army War College Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh's Ridgway Center for International Security Studies. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal and Legion of Merit.

Asked why he selected the military as his career choice, MG Miyagi said "I just wanted to serve. In a large part, the brave deeds, selfless service, and humility of our Nisei generation during WW II and subsequent conflicts, motivated my desire for a military career. Our military endures many sacrifices and it is truly gratifying to see the appreciation our soldiers and their families are now receiving from the American people."

MG Miyagi and wife Gail have a son Brent (an OIF veteran), daughter Lorien, son-in-law Kelly, and grandson Landen.

Participation in large veterans alliance valuable to JAVA

by Col. Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)

JAVA is an active member of the National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA). NMVA was founded in 1996 as an open umbrella group of military associations and veterans organizations in order to advance common goals and to secure common interests. NMVA offers all association members a forum to discuss their membership's interests and ensure Alliance understanding and support. JAVA joined NMVA in 2005.

The Alliance expands the military and veteran communities ability to present a united front to the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Congress and the White House. By working together, the larger voice of the combined associations' memberships and their families help to promote the objectives concerning a wide-range of military quality of life issues, including pay, personnel, medical, survivor benefits, military housing, education, veterans and military retiree issues.

NMVA represents more than 30 organizations with more than 3.5 million members. JAVA joins partners such as the Korean War Veterans Foundation, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and Gold Star Wives of America. Collectively, NMVA organizations represent some 80 million Americans – those who serve or have served their country and their families. This number includes over 360,000 Asian Pacific American veterans.

The NMVA has been, and continues to be supportive of JAVA efforts with the United States Postal Service for a commemorative stamp. Although our efforts thus far have been unsuccessful, we will continue to pursue this well



Setting of monthly NMVA meetings. L-R: Capt. Ike Puzon, U.S. Navy (Ret), Legislative Director, Association of the U.S. Navy, co-chair of NMVA, and JAVA life member; Col. Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), JAVA representative at NMVA; and Rick Jones, Esq., Legislative Director, National Association for Uniformed Services and co-chair of NMVA. (Courtesy of Bruce Hollywood)

deserved commemoration. The NMVA is a valuable partner in our quest.

Our current JAVA representative to the NMVA is Bruce Hollywood. If you would like further information on NMVA or have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact him at 703-229-3198 or by e-mail hollywood-web@comcast.net.

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Sen Inouye visits 442nd Hawaii



L-R: Bill Thompson, 442nd Hawaii President, and Senator Daniel Inouye. Inouye visited 442nd Hawaii Clubhouse on January 19, 2011, and presented the frame which consists of PL 111-254, the Act which awards the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100, 442, and Nisei who served in the Military Intelligence Service. Also enclosed in the frame is a pen which President Obama used to sign the Act. (442nd Hawaii photo)

Eight \$1500 scholarships await applicants by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq. and Dr. Ray Murakami

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]

BETHESDA, Md. - At a time when the costs of a college education are spiraling ever higher, and the importance of post-high school education is seen as even more apparent, the new chair of the JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program, Dr. Ray Murakami, announces welcome news for this year's secondary school graduates and their parents. The 2011 Program will offer eight \$1,500 scholarships, two more than last year.

The Program continues to honor the memory of Orville Shirey, Douglas Ishio, Sunao Phil Ishio and Kiyoko Tsuboi-Taubkin, for whom scholarship funds have been separately established. Again this year, there will be a special scholarship honoring Teru Kamikawa Matsui. Also, a separate scholarship has been funded for Mary Kozono. Newly established funds now exist memorializing Joseph Ichiuji and Grant Hirabayashi.

To be eligible, the entrant must be a

graduating high school student this year, and he or she must be related lineally to a person who served in the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion, and associated units, during the second World War, the MIS, or a Japanese American who has served, or is serving, in our nation's armed services. Those related to a regular member of JAVA may also apply.

The panel that will be reviewing the entries this year are: Sue Okubo, a Ph.D. economist, formerly with the Department of Commerce; Ed Wakayama, Ph.D., who is an Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, and Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., former Chair of the Committee.

The deadline for the receipt of completed applications is Apr. 30, 2011. This date permits those students who are awaiting admission at institutions that provide notification as late as April 15, to include more easily such

documented advice with their entries. Any applicant who has been admitted to more than one institution and is uncertain as to which school to enter, should provide the required admission information and simply ask to defer notification as to where the awards check should be sent.

The announcement of the winners will be provided at a JAVA luncheon on June 18, 2011.

Complete details about the Program and the terms and conditions of the contest are spelled out in materials that be appearing on the JAVA website – admin@javadc.org, the JAVA round robin, and its quarterly newsletter, *The Advocate*. The official application form should be downloaded from the website.

Individual inquiries may be sent to Dr. Raymond Murakami, JAVA Scholarship Program Chair, 6921 Pyle Road, Bethesda, MD 20817 [Mary2mur@aol.com].

Naval officer David M. Boone promoted to Admiral by Lt. Janelle Kuroda, U.S. Navy

[Full press release at www.javadc.org]

WASHINGTON – Another significant chapter in the long and distinguished history of Japanese Americans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces was added with the recent promotion of Navy officer David M. Boone. With his promotion to the rank of rear admiral, he becomes the 43rd military officer of Japanese descent and the 100th military officer of Asian and Pacific Islander descent to achieve the rank of admiral or general. A ceremony to mark the occasion took place on Sept. 9, 2010, at Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

Rear Adm. Boone currently serves as director of the Shore Readiness Divi-



sion on the Chief of Naval Operations' staff and vice commander of Navy Installations in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for managing the policy and resources for 74 naval installations worldwide, ensuring that the Fleet, Fighters and their Families are supported from the Shore. A Seabee Combat Warfare officer and a Navy diver, Boone has served in a variety of sea and shore assignments.

"As a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, we are always trying to make something better for somebody; whether it is for our Sailors and families at a base or for the local population in a war torn country like Iraq and Afghanistan or after a disaster in Haiti," said Rear Admiral Boone. "I can think of no more honorable profession. I am extremely proud of our Navy engineering community."

Boone has garnered a great level of respect from his peers. "Rear Admiral Boone ascends to this rank with 27 years of service as an officer and leader of the highest caliber," said Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr., Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, a Japanese American with headquarters in Naples, Italy. "He is recognized as one of the foremost military civil engineers and a man who took the hard jobs that required a person of action. His promotion to Rear Admiral comes as no surprise as he is a proven warrior with an incredible and exciting future for our Navy and our country."

Boone and his wife, Meg, have five children, including three who were adopted from Japan, China and Korea. He credits his family with supporting him throughout his naval career and tries to instill the values he grew up with into his own children.

Taps: JAVA volunteer Dr. Tsuneishi passes

Dr. Warren M. Tsuneishi was born in California, was interned in the Heart Mountain Internment camp, and left the camp to complete his college education at Syracuse University, New York. Tsuneishi volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service, served in the Philippine Liberation and the battle of Okinawa. Following WW II, he served in Korea. Two brothers, graduates of MISLS, served in the Asia Pacific Theater, and two sisters served as civilian employees of MIS in Tokyo. After obtaining his PhD from Yale University, he served as a curator of the East Asian collection at Yale University and then as Chief of the Asian Division of the Library of Congress until his retirement in 1993. Tsuneishi was a dedicated founding member of JAVA; served as its Vice President and member of the Board; Chair of the Oral History Project; Chair of JAVA booth at the Sakura Matsuri, a part of the National Cherry Blossom Parade; co-editor of *American Patriots*; and was a member of the Speakers Bureau. He also named our Newsletter, *JAVA ADVOCATE* "because we are advocates of the Nisei legacy of WW II."



JAVA booth at the 2010 Sakura Matsuri Festival. L-R: Dr. Stanley Falk and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi discussing their MIS book with visitor. (Courtesy of Dr. Stanley Falk)

Friend and Colleague

By Dr. Stanley L. Falk

Dr. Warren Tsuneishi was my friend and colleague. When he died on Jan. 29, 2011, at the age of 89, I lost someone with whom I'd enjoyed a warm, close relationship for many years. We met during JAVA's early days. We both were involved in planning, organizing, and participating in the 1993 MIS reunion, and Warren and I then co-edited a collection of the personal experiences described by MIS panelists at that reunion. This was published in 1995 by JAVA as *MIS in the War Against Japan* or, as it is more popularly known, *American Patriots*, an additional title that Warren placed on the front cover. The book has enjoyed wide circulation, especially when Warren and I sold and personally autographed copies during JAVA's participation in the annual Washington, D.C. *Sakura Matsuri*. Each year Warren also monitored the number of copies still available and saw to it that more were republished when needed.

Warren was a kind, friendly, and gentle man -- although he looks rather fierce in the picture of him on Leyte that we included in *American Patriots*. He was solicitous of the feelings of others and considerate when dealing with them. He never hesitated to ask for other opinions and was willing to discuss them openly and carefully while always firmly stating his own view. As his eyesight began to fail in his last years, he never complained and was grateful for any help he received. When it came to signing our book at the *Sakura Matsuri*, he would ask me to guide his fingers as he carefully wrote his name. He was rightfully proud of his service in the war, and people at the *Matsuri* to whom he described his experiences were always fascinated by what he had to tell them.

He and I had a mutual interest in the war in the Pacific, Warren for having served there, and I as an historian who wrote about it. I have fond memories of our many warm discussions. Warren's death was a personal loss to me, and I shall miss him very much.

Reflections by a Neighbor

By Aki Konoshima

Publicly, Warren was known as Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Director of the Area Studies at the Library of Congress, one of the founders and past vice-president of JAVA, host with his wife, Betty, of enjoyable spring-time garden parties for friends and neighbors, and many other things.

One of his fondest delights was to interact with people. He especially enjoyed serving in the *JAVA Sakura Matsuri* booth and speaking at schools telling them of his and the Japanese American experience during World War II. It also gave him the chance to promote the sale of the book, *"American Patriots -- MIS in the War Against Japan"*, of which he was co-editor. Last year when more copies (about 50) were sold than ever before, he was as happy as a babe in toyland. Profits from the sales, of course, went to JAVA,

For me and my wife Lida, though, he and Betty were, more importantly, neighbors and good friends. We became neighbors when I married Lida in the mid-1990's. Warren had a photographic memory of roads and locations. When I first met him he did all the driving, knew all the roads, locations, the best places to eat. Later, as his eyesight deteriorated, I did the driving but he still knew all the roads better than I. We, with our wives, shared dinners, saw plays and movies with each other, went fishing together, had joint outings, celebrated holidays in each others' homes.

I was the third in my family to get to know Warren -- at the outbreak of World War II, he and my oldest brother, Joji, were fellow students at the University of California in Berkeley; my sister, Sumiye, got to know him through her work as a librarian at the East-West Center in Honolulu -- but probably I was the most fortunate one to get to know him the best. To me, he was in the true sense of the Japanese term "O Nii-san" -- a brother, a bit older, a bit wiser. We will miss him.

TAPS Barney Hajiro, oldest Medal of Honor Recipient and JAVA Honorary Chair

HONOLULU - Barney Fushimi Hajiro, who participated in the liberation of towns and the rescue of the trapped battalion in the Vosges forests of eastern France, died on January 21, 2011. He was 94. Hajiro was an Honorary Chair of JAVA; he served as a docent in the JAVA booth at the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. in May 2004.

One of nine children, Hajiro left school after the 8th grade to work for the sugar plantation as a day laborer to help his family. He volunteered for the 442nd in March 1943, trained in Camp Shelby, Mississippi, deployed with the 442nd to Italy in May 1944. In September 1944 the 442nd was assigned to the 7th Army whose mission was to invade Germany from southern France while Operation Overlord attacked from the north.

A member of Company I, Hajiro distinguished himself in campaigns to liberate the towns of Bruyeres, Belmont and Biffontaine and to rescue of the trapped 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment of the 36th (Texas) Division. On the fiercest day of fighting, Hajiro single-handedly destroyed two German machine gun nests and killed 2 enemy snipers in order to rescue the trapped battalion. Hajiro was hospitalized with severe wounds. The next day, 211 Texans, who had courageously repelled enemy attacks during the previous 7 days, were saved. Hajiro was recommended for the Medal of Honor but that was downgraded to the Distinguished Service Cross. The only medal awarded by Great Britain to the 442nd was presented to Hajiro in 1948 for his role in the Vosges campaign.

Hajiro was a modest person who did not accept credit to himself, referring to his awards as being the result of team work. U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye recognized that when he said recently that "Barney was a good man, he didn't go around blowing his own horn. He would just say he was doing something he was supposed to do." Fellow U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka told JAVA "Barney Hajiro was a true American hero. I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Hajiro, a dutiful, humble man from Maui with a quiet strength. He proudly wore the Medal of Honor, yes, for the 'Boys,' those who served with him who never returned". In response to Congressional action, the Department of the Army reviewed all DSCs awarded to Asian Pacific Americans that resulted in 22 upgrades to Medals of Honor.

The people of the Vosges have a special affinity for the Nisei as reflected in these two messages sent to JAVA. Gerome Villain, military historian of the Vosges, said "It is always very difficult to accept the death of one of our liberators, one of our heroes. Heroic actions like those Barney Hajiro led against the enemy at *le col de La Croisette* on 29 October 1944 brought peace. We will never forget all their sacrifices and the good moments they gave the Vosgians, from sharing chocolate to bringing peace. Words cannot express our gratitude. *Merci!*" Mr. Denis Henry, Mayor of Biffontaine said, "All these men who crossed the Atlantic came to write a page of history that we in Biffontaine can never forget.

They wrote it with the ink of their blood. ... Barney's children, grandchildren and we are proud today to live free and in peace thanks to men like him. Our gratitude is unwavering." [EdNote. For the full text of Mayor Henry's letter, please go to the JAVA website, www.javadc.org.]

Shigemitsu Nakashima

by his daughter, Ellen Nakashima

But for his U.S. Army uniform and jaunty beret, Shigemitsu Nakashima in the fall of 1945 could have been mistaken for a Japanese soldier. In fact, at times, he was. My father, Shig, the fifth of seven sons born to Japanese immigrants to Hawaii, was an interpreter for the U.S. Army Air Force in the Pacific in World War II. He passed away earlier this month at age 89. But he left a legacy of perseverance and courage, one shared by several thousand other *Nisei* or second-generation Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service from 1941-1945 and who battled not only an enemy who looked like them, but also the suspicion of their own comrades in arms.

Indeed, the one time a rifle was pointed at him, it was in the hands of a U.S. soldier. The young GI was guarding the entrance to a cave in the Philippines after the Americans retook the islands from the Japanese in 1945. My dad, who was by then Sgt. Nakashima, wanted to search the cave for military documents that the Japanese soldiers might have left behind when they died or fled. But the youth ordered him to stand still and keep his hands up. Mustering his best English, my father tried to convince the private he was one of them. It wasn't until the soldier's superior came and allowed my dad to pull out his ID that he relented.

My father had a word for situations like that. *Shikataganai*. It cannot be helped. He accepted the slight and moved on, and he chuckled over the case of rancid Japanese whisky in the cave that the GI had offered him as a token of peace.

There were more painful incidents, such as the time he stopped at a lunch counter in Washington D.C. on furlough. Though wearing his Army uniform, he was completely ignored. "They never served me," he recalled. "They never even looked at me. So I just walked out. I felt terrible."

But Dad kept his good humor. He would tell his buddies who could not pronounce his name, to think of shaving cream, as in "Shick Noxema."

After the atom bombs were dropped ending the war, my father went into Japan. He flew over Hiroshima. He saw firsthand the devastation of Nagasaki. Though he knew this was his parents' native land, he did not feel, he said, that "these were my people." No, he said. "You're an American. They're Japanese."

And yet, he was affected by what he called "the inconsistencies of war." One day walking amidst the ruins of Nagasaki, he came across a small concrete bridge spanning a ditch, miraculously intact. As he crossed the bridge, he saw an imprint, like an X-ray image, of a child's hand. He knew immediately that a child had been there. And that in an instant, she was gone. All that remained was the image of a tiny hand. "That," he said, "I will never forget."

From the Editor



Many of our readers have friends and family members who have been affected by the recent horrific disasters in Japan. My heart goes out to the people of Japan, many of whom are still living in temporary shelters and have limited access to basic necessities.

Aside from my concern for distant relatives still living in Japan, the whole crisis made me remember my own time in Japan. When I was in elementary school, I lived at Yokota Air Force Base (AFB). We used to have field trips to farms and factories, and I would play with my friends late into the night. As a college student, I spent a summer in Hakodate, Hokkaido, and stayed with a host family there. We celebrated the city's squid festival and sang karaoke in a streetcar! It was one of the best summers of my life.

Today, Yokota AFB serves as an aviation hub because of the tsunami washout of the Sendai airport. Yokota AFB also serves as the Operational Command Center for Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military operation for Japan's disaster relief. I have friends in the military who are currently in Japan as part of Operation Tomodachi.

I am inspired by the spirit of the Japanese people; throughout this crisis, they have maintained dignity and integrity. I read about a Japanese lady, for example, who kept apologizing to her rescuers for getting herself in a situation that required her rescue. There are many more stories like this that exemplify the Japanese humility and grace.

Japan has a long and hard road to recovery. Much like the Japanese American families and communities that rebuilt their lives and flourished after World War II, the strength and resilience of the Japanese people will no doubt rebuild Japan once again.

JAVA is now on Facebook. Thank you to Tino Dinh for the suggestion, and to Janelle Kuroda for creating and maintaining the JAVA Facebook web page. We hope that our members and friends will find Facebook an easy and convenient way to keep up with all the activities in the Asian American Veterans communities.

Finally, I want to give another huge thanks to Janelle for her assistance editing the JAVA Advocate.

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to javaadvocate@gmail.com.



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JAVA is now on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/pages/Japanese-American-Veterans-Association/201704733192222?sk=wall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 16-17: National Veterans Network meeting, Seattle.

Apr 23, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon, 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

May 29, 9:30AM: Memorial Day Service at Arlington National Cemetery Pavilion near Columbarium. Laying of flowers at 69 Japanese American gravesites. Wreath laying at Tomb of the Unknown. Lunch at China Garden, Rosslyn, Va.

May 30, 11AM: DoD Memorial Day program at Arlington National Cemetery; JAVA President Gerald Yamada will attend. **2PM:** JAVA participates in National Veterans Center Parade down Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

June 18, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon, 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va. Scholarship recipients will be announced.

Oct 15, 11:30AM: JAVA Quarterly Luncheon at Harvest Moon, 7260 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, Va.

October 2011: Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal to 100th, 442nd, and Japanese Americans who served in Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

Nov 11, 8AM: White House Breakfast. **11AM:** Veterans Day program at Arlington National Cemetery. **2PM:** Veterans Day program at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

Farewell to another hero



Shigemitsu Nakashima, Military Intelligence Service veteran during World War II, passed away on February 5, 2011. Pictured above: Nakashima (third from left) interpreting for the Army Air Corps' interrogation team during the questioning of a Japanese sailor on Rabaul, an island in the South Pacific, in August 1945, just after the Japanese surrendered. (Nakashima family photo) [See Taps on page 18 for tribute written by Shigemitsu Nakashima's daughter Ellen.]