

## News from other Veterans organizations

ROSEVILLE, Calif. – The *Nisei Post 8985 Newsletter*, April 2009 edition, said Company E, 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, now deployed in Iraq, continue to express their appreciation for the many items sent to them. On March 19 “we shipped 14 care packages including comfort foods and magazines. Favorite items are homemade cookies, powdered drink mixes, beef jerky, nuts, rice, magazines and paper back books.” . . . Although prognosis is good following major surgery to remove the “Big C”, Commander Gary Shiota announced his resignation to concentrate on his recovery. *JAVA prays you return to 100% soon, Gary.*

HONOLULU, Hawaii – **100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans (Hawaii) Puka Puka Parade**, April 2009 issue. On March 3, 2009, Central Pacific Bank, opened after WW II by Hawaii Nisei veterans, unveiled an exhibit in its lobby to honor veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> BN, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, MIS, and the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Construction Battalion. The exhibit offers a glimpse into the achievements of these veterans. . . . The Sons and Daughters Organization has changed its name to 100 Infantry Battalion Legacy Organization. Its vision is that the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Learning Resource Center, headed by Mimi Nakano, will become the nucleus to educate Americans of the WW II Nisei story. . . . Office Manager Amada Stevens has resigned to seek other career opportunities. Jane Hirata-Epstein, Esq has assumed the duties on a part-time basis. . . . 362 people, including forty six 100<sup>th</sup> veterans, attended the 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on June 20, 2009.

SEATTLE, Wash. – **Northwest Veterans Committee Newsletter** April 2009 issue. Keith Yamaguchi, newly elected commander, wrote his inaugural NVC Commander's column. Yamaguchi succeeded Yuzo Tokita, Vietnam War fighter pilot. . . . NVC March issue published Tom Vogt's article that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Kari Asai, USAF, is training to become a weapons system officer, the backseat position in the two seat F-15E strike eagle. “Her father flew a P-51 Mustang fighter near the end of WW II and flew in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Her brother was a pilot in the Thunderbirds, the USAF precision flying team.”

HONOLULU, Hawaii – **442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, Hawaii**. *Go For Broke Bulletin*, January–April 2009 issue said the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet, attended by 600 people on March 29, featured California Superior Court Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, as keynote speaker. Oka-

moto is one of the most highly decorated Japanese Americans in the Vietnam War. He is the author of *Wolfhound Samurai*, a novel based on his experience in the Vietnam War. . . . Mayors of Bruyeres and Biffontaine extended invitations to 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans club to attend ceremonies commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> year of the liberation. Biffontaine ceremony will be on October 17, 2009 and Bruyeres on October 18. Additional information can be obtained from Betty Tsukiyama, 808-949-7997 or [442veterans@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:442veterans@hawaiiantel.net). . . . The April-June 2009 issue reported that on April 23, 2009, the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> veterans of WW II participated in a video teleconference at Iolani School with the 100/442<sup>nd</sup> reserves in Kuwait. In comparing notes it was revealed that temperatures in Kuwait are usually over 100 degrees versus the snow and rain in the Vosges mountains; dinners in Kuwait consisting of lobsters and steak versus “C rations” when they could delivered to the front lines in the Vosges, and, well, to say nothing about the means of communication with the folks at home.

SEATTLE, Wash. – *Densho's* April 2009 newsletter, Founder Tom Ikeda wrote “A strategic goal of *Densho* is to make our materials more valuable, more accessible, and more engaging for teachers to use in the classroom. We want thousands of educators to visit our site every month. We believe teachers are the critical link to help students grapple with difficult, controversial issues. So say “thank you” the next time you meet a social studies teacher, and please tell them about *Densho*. Their guidance of students to analyze and think critically about issues helps to advance our democracy.” [*JAVA believes Ikeda's eloquent remarks also reflect the views of other Japanese American organizations involved in their own student education program, including the Go For Broke National Education Center, National Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American National Museum, 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Hawaii, 100<sup>th</sup> Veterans Hawaii, and JAVA, among others.*]

FULLERTON, Calif. – **Japanese American Korean War Veterans** April 2009 *Newsletter* reported that Thomi Yamamoto was elected president for a two year term, 2009-2011. “Yamamoto was born in Washington, interned at Amache Internment Center in Colorado, and was a combat photographer with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Korea. He was with the first group of US troops in Korea when war began in June 1950.” He succeeds Tohoru Isobe. . . . The July issue reported on the unprecedented visit to the National War Memorial by Japan's Ambassador and Mrs. Ichiro Fujisaki June 15, 2009.



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## Mexican American Marine Gabaldon coaxed Japanese to surrender



Guy Gabaldon speaking at the Pentagon, September 4, 2005. (US Army photo)

CROSS CITY, Fla. – Guy Gabaldon, a World War II Marine scout with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division which invaded Saipan, used his knowledge of elementary Japanese and, with a lot of street smarts, talked 1,800 Japanese soldiers and civilians into surrendering. For this act of courage from June 15 to August 1, 1944, he was ultimately awarded the Navy Cross, the second highest award for valor. The citation read “Working alone in the front lines, he daringly entered enemy

caves, pillboxes, buildings and jungle brush, frequently in the face of hostile fire, and succeeded in not only obtaining vital military information, but in capturing 1,800 enemy civilians and troops.” Gabaldon’s act of heroism saved both American and Japanese lives. It is noteworthy that many Japanese soldiers would commit suicide rather than surrender.

The very first night on Saipan, Gabaldon ventured out alone and returned with two Japanese prisoners after “using my backstreet Japanese.” Subsequent nights he returned with larger numbers. One night, July 8, 1944, the then 18-year-old Marine returned to camp with 800 Japanese soldiers and civilians. His buddies called him the “Pied Piper of Saipan.” He said he offered the Japanese candy, cigarettes, rations, and used a little trickery by telling them a large number of well armed Marines were behind the bushes or just over the hill and, if they did not surrender or if he did not return, the Marines would mount a full attack. Through his non-confrontational approach, he won the trust of the enemy.

At age 12, Gabaldon left his large family in East Los Angeles and lived with his Japanese American friends, twin brothers Lyle and Lane Nakano, who lived in the same neighborhood. Gabaldon adopted the Japanese customs, diet, and traditions and even went to a Japanese language school and delivered the local Japanese language newspaper with the Nakano boys. He joined the neighborhood kids when they formed a multi-ethnic “Moe Gang,” comprised of other Japanese American, Jewish American, Hispanic American and Afro American kids. They robbed stores, stole cars and “rode the rails.”

World War II split up the Moe gang, and its members went their separate ways. Japanese Americans were sent to internment camps from which the Nakano brothers volunteered for the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and Gabaldon, at age 17, volunteered for the Marine Corps. They would not meet again until 1957 when the Nakano brothers and Gabaldon returned and exchanged their combat experiences on a TV show.

Following his discharge, he spent 40 years in Saipan as a businessman in the fishing and import-export industries. In 1960, Hollywood made a movie on his life, called “*From Hell to Eternity*” in which Jeff Hunter portrayed Gabaldon. He wrote a book in 1990 entitled, *Saipan, Suicide Island*, which was about his war exploits.

Saipan, consisting of 46 square miles—the size of San Francisco—was the scene of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. The battle for Saipan was costly in terms of 3,000 U.S. Marines and Army casualties. When Japan lost the land (Saipan, Tinian and Guam) and the sea battle in the Marianas area, the US forces were within 1,200 miles of Tokyo, a striking distance for US bombers to invade the Japanese homeland.

Gabaldon died on August 31, 2006, of heart disease and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He is survived by his wife, the former Ohana Suzuki.

## Filipino Americans hold reception to celebrate legislation

by Ben de Guzman, Esq., National Coordinator, National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity

WASHINGTON – The National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE) held a reception at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC, on June 2 to celebrate the passage of legislation which provided a one-time payment and military recognition for Filipino soldiers who served under US command during WW II. For these aging veterans, it signaled the most significant victory in their struggle for over 60 years to restore the honor and dignity of their service to this country that was taken away from them when their status as US veterans was revoked by the 1946 Rescission Act. The reception recognized not only the veterans themselves but also their champions in Congress who helped secure this important victory.

The following supporters from Congress attended the re-

ception: Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman; Senator Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman; Representative Mike Honda (D-CA), Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Chairman; Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA), Filipino American member of Congress; Representative Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Original Co-sponsor of Filipino World War II Veterans Family Reunification Act. Other community supporters who attended the reception were former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Major General Antonio Taguba, US Army (Ret), and several members of the JAVA Board of Directors.

[continued on page 15 at Reception]

## Organizer of “Life Interrupted” project recognized

by Gerald Yamada, Esq.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis (pictured), University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) professor of history and associate dean of the graduate school, won the 2009 National Education Association’s (NEA) Ellison S. Onizuka Memorial Award for her work creating “Life Interrupted.” The public history exhibits and curriculum document the World War II internment of Japanese-Americans in rural Arkansas at Jerome and Rohwer. Dr. Lewis received the award on July 2 at the NEA Annual Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner Awards Dinner in San Diego.



The “Life Interrupted” project was created in 2004 as a partnership between the UALR and the Japanese American National Museum, with major funding provided by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

The project included a national conference “Camp Connections: A Conversation About Civil Rights and Social Justice in Arkansas” that drew over 1,200 people to Little Rock. It also included eight exhibitions in venues around the city, the development of a documentary “Time of Fear” that examined the Japanese American World War II experience in Arkansas, and the writing of a children’s book. One of the UALR exhibits, “Against Their Will: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas” received a Best Exhibit Award from the Arkansas Museum Association at its annual meeting in 2005.

A strong component of the project was the training of master teachers and the development of curriculum so that the story of Japanese American incarceration during the war will be taught in Arkansas schools for years to come.

“I am thrilled this project has received such acclaim. Everyone involved in UALR’s Public History Program was honored to participate in this groundbreaking effort,” Dr. Lewis said. “The Life Interrupted project is a great example of how a metropolitan university can join with community partners and use its resources to enrich our understanding of the world around us.”

Life Interrupted told the story of the 17,000 Japanese-Americans who were dispossessed of their homes and property and sent to two camps in southeastern Arkansas for the duration of the U.S. war against Japan. They were among 110,000 Japanese-Americans forcibly removed from their homes on the Pacific Coast and Hawaii.

Dr. Lewis also represented the Arkansas camps in the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, which was responsible for creating a federal grant program to fund the preservation of confinement sites used during World War II to imprison persons of Japanese ancestry and securing funding for the program. Gerald Yamada, Heritage Coalition’s National Coordinator, said, “Before the Life Interrupted Project, the people of Arkansas had little knowledge of the existence of the Jerome and Rohwer War Relocation Authority Camps. Dr. Lewis deserves the prestigious NEA award for her leadership and work that raised public visibility in the South of the injustices suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II.”

## Reception (from page 14)

MG Taguba, recently appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans of the US Department of Veterans Affairs, advised NAFVE that as of September 1, 2009, the VA reported 31,876 claims have been received. Of this number, 8,990 applications have been processed, with 3,138 applications from US citizens approved, 3,414 from Philippine citizens approved, and 2,438 applications denied.

More information is available on the VA’s Center for Minority Veterans website: [www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans](http://www1.va.gov/centerforminorityveterans). Information about Filipino WWII Veterans, may be obtained from NAFVE ([nafve2007@gmail.com](mailto:nafve2007@gmail.com)).



Senator Akaka, Former Secretary Mineta, and JAVA Directors join NAFVE at its reception at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, DC. JAVA representatives Terry Shima, Grant Ichikawa and Gerald Yamada are in back row, left, behind Senator Akaka. (Eric Lachica)

## JACL gala pays tribute to Sen. Akaka, Japanese American veterans



JAVA receives award. L-R: Floyd Mori, Grant Ichikawa, Sheldon Arakaki, Terry Shima, Bruce Hollywood, Bob Nakamoto (holding award), and Larry Oda. (Phillip Ozaki)

*[Adapted from JACL press release]*

WASHINGTON – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Third Annual Gala Awards Dinner, held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC on September 17, paid special tribute to Japanese American veterans who served during WW II and the Korean War. US Senator Daniel K. Akaka, JAVA, Go For Broke National Education Center, National Japanese American Historical Society, and the Japanese American Korean War veterans were presented special awards for “telling the story of the Japanese American veterans and keeping their legacy alive for future generations.” All veterans and active duty members of the armed forces were asked to stand to be recognized and to be presented with a token of appreciation from the JACL. Senator Akaka, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, was honored for his WW II military service, his role in getting benefits for veterans that they deserve, and his steadfast support for Asian American veterans.

The JACL this year commemorates 80 years since it was formed in 1929 by young Nisei leaders of the community.

The JACL continues its work today as the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation.

Video presentations at the gala were largely produced by Brandon Mita, National Youth Representative on the JACL National Board, and highlighted the Japanese American experience, the beginnings of the JACL, and the contributions of the veterans and honorees. The comfortable life experienced today by most Japanese Americans is a result of sacrifices and efforts made by early

leaders, including veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service (MIS), and others who served in regular units during World War II, and veterans of the Korean War. They are credited with helping to usher in the civil rights movement.

The emcee was Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, one of the highest ranking officers of the United States military of Asian American ancestry. The flag ceremony was presented by cadets from the Navy Junior ROTC Color Guard. Retired US Army Major General Tony Taguba introduced the color guard and led the pledge of allegiance.

Remarks were given by Congressman Mike Honda as Honorary Chairman and by the Ambassador of Japan to the United States, the Honorable Ichiro Fujisaki. Senator Daniel Inouye and his wife Irene were in attendance, as well as other dignitaries. Vocal selections were performed by Ed Ozaki with his wife Marina at the piano. National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori and his wife Irene organized the Gala, and National President Larry Oda and Vice President for Operations Sheldon Arakaki participated.

## Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans holds meeting

by Ronald Sagudan, Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON – Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) met on April 6-10 to conduct their annual administrative and site visit in Washington, DC, and Baltimore, MD. ACMV advises the Secretary on the administration of VA benefits and services to minority veterans, to assess the needs of minority veterans, and to evaluate whether VA compensation, medical and rehabilitation services, outreach, and other programs are meeting those needs.

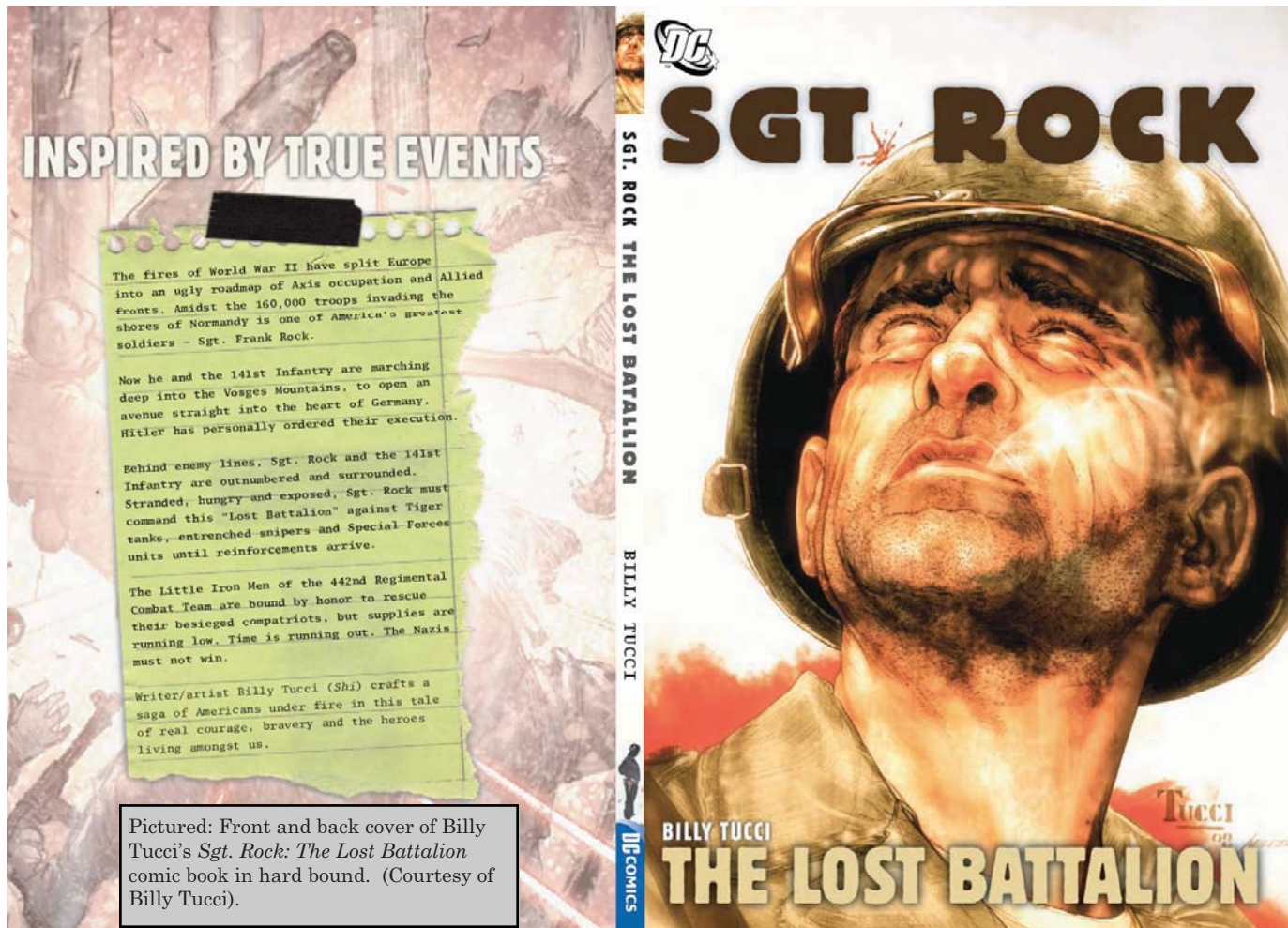
The agenda included briefings and updates on the topics from the ACMV, United States Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims, the Center for Women Veterans, Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group, Office of

Diversity and Inclusion, Veterans Health Administration, National Cemetery Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and Board of Veterans Appeals, American Indian/Alaska Native Ad Hoc Work Group, and several Veterans Service Organizations.

ACMV toured and received briefings on the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, the Baltimore VA Medical Center, and Regional Office. The ACMV then prepared a report, including recommendations, for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric K. Shinseki.

The Chair of ACMV Major General James H. Mukoyama, Jr, USAR (Ret), and Vice Chair is S/Sgt Debra L. (American Horse) Wilson, USMC. The Director of ACMV is COL Lucretia McKenny, USA (Ret).

## Billy Tucci's *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* to appear in hard cover



Pictured: Front and back cover of Billy Tucci's *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* comic book in hard bound. (Courtesy of Billy Tucci).

NEW YORK – William (Billy) Tucci, creator, illustrator, writer and artist of comic books, announced that his six-series comic presentation, *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion*, will be bound and return in hard cover compilation. From the bloody beaches of Normandy to the muddy forests of the Vosges Mountains, Easy Company is joined by Johnny Cloud, the Haunted Tank, and other DC war heroes as they battle for their lives behind enemy lines against a force ten times their size.

Based on actual events that have been meticulously researched by Tucci, who walked the actual battlefields of France and interviewed the veterans of the campaign, *Sgt. Rock: The Lost Battalion* is a story of heroism and humanity where one small band of men defy all odds while their unlikely saviors sacrifice everything and “Go For Broke” to glory.

The special collection includes many extra drawings and photos and even a forward and introduction by Lost Battalion heroes Lt. Erwin Blonder and Sgt. Junwo “Jimmy” Yamashita.

The book, containing 160 pages and published by DC Comics, will be distributed in December 2009. The cost is

\$24.99. To find a comic book shop contact 1-888-COMIC-BOOK or visit <http://www.comicshoplocator.com>. The link to the book on Amazon.com is <http://www.amazon.com/Sgt-Rock-Lost-Battalion-HC/dp/1401225330>. The official Random House link is <http://www.randomhouse.ca/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9781401225339>. Questions should be directed to Billy Tucci ([crusade2@optonline.net](mailto:crusade2@optonline.net)).

### Welcome New Members!

Allen Hoe, Esq. (Hawaii)  
 Thomas Ito (Hawaii)  
 George Kanatani (California)  
 Vincent Matsui (New York)  
 James Ogawa (California)  
 Shokichi Tokita (Washington)  
 Masuru Uyehara (Colorado)  
 \* Dan Yoshii (Colorado)

\* Denotes Life Membership

## JAVA booth at Cherry Blossom festival attracts hundreds of visitors

by Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret)

On April 4<sup>th</sup> JAVA manned a booth at the *Sakura Matsuri* (Cherry Blossom Street Festival) as part of the National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, DC which drew over 100,000 visitors. First held in 1961, it is the largest one-day exhibition of Japanese culture in the east coast of the United States. Stretching for nearly one mile



JAVA booth at Sakura Matsuri. L-R: Dr. Stan Falk and Dr. Warren Tsuneishi discussing their WW II experience with visitors.

through the streets of downtown Washington DC, from near the White House to FBI headquarters, the Sakura Matsuri is held each spring as the climax of the two-week National Cherry Blossom Festival. JAVA has manned this booth for six consecutive years in partnership with the Japan America Society of Washington, DC, which has graciously provided the booth at no cost to JAVA.

The JAVA booth, manned throughout the day by volunteers, provided Festival attendees with valuable information about the important role of Japanese American Veterans throughout the years. Hundreds of people stopped by to learn, to read the material provided, or to take a moment and say thank you to the veterans. Many visitors related that they had a father or uncle who had served with the 100<sup>th</sup> or the 442<sup>nd</sup>.

JAVA's book *American Patriots* was available for purchase and signing by authors Dr. Warren Tsuneishi and Dr. Stanley Falk. They were a huge hit, and every available copy was sold. JAVA memento coins were also sold, and brochures and membership information were handed out.

The project chairman Mike Yaguchi said "This is a great opportunity to get our message out to the public, and it could never happen without people stepping up to volunteer to serve at the booth."

## Japanese American WW II exhibit to be built at Ellis Island

ROSSLYN, Vir. – In a presentation at a recent JAVA luncheon, Eric Saul, former curator of the Military Museum at the Presidio of San Francisco, outlined his ideas for the exhibit on the Japanese Americans experience during WW II to open on Memorial Day 2010 at the Ellis Island Immigration Station Museum, New York. Commissioned by the National Park Service, which estimates some 7,000 visitors to Ellis Island daily during the warm months, Japanese American soldiers who served during WW II and the 120,000 who were interned for the duration of the war will be honored. The theme of the exhibit will be "Go For Broke: Japanese Americans soldiers fighting on two fronts, the enemy abroad and prejudice at home." Saul said he would like "this exhibit to be a Japanese American community project and would welcome any participation and suggestions and loan of photographs and memorabilia."

The exhibit will be divided into the following components: (1) Japanese Immigration to the United States, 1885-1924; (2) Prewar Japanese Experience in Hawaii and the Mainland, 1924-1941; (3) Pearl Harbor and Japanese American Evacuation and Internment on the West Coast; (4) Japanese American Soldier in World War II; (5) Soldiers Returning Home and the Closing of the Internment



Front row, L-R: Hiroko Kiriishi, Lillian Yamamoto, Etsu Masaoka, Abigail Endicott, Mary Murakami, Irene Mori. Second Row, L-R: Aki Konoshima, Grant Hirabayashi, Dr. Warren Tsuneishi, Akira Yoshida, Betty Tsuneishi, Gerald Yamada, Calvin Ninomiya, Dr. Ray Murakami, Grant Ichikawa. 3rd row: L-R: William Encicott, Dwight Gates (below Endicott), Terry Shima, Eric Saul, Stanley Sagara. (Irene Mori)

Camps; (6) Japanese American Veterans and the Civil Rights Movement; (7) Japanese American Veterans and the Redress Movement – Passage of House Resolution 442; and (8) The Legacy.

Eric Saul can be contacted at 810 Windwood Pl, Morgantown, WV 26505; 304-599-0614; [VisasForLife@cs.com](mailto:VisasForLife@cs.com).

[full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

## JAVA member appointed Secretary of Maryland Dept of VA

*[Adapted from Maryland Governor's Office press release]*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. – In a ceremony in the State House in Annapolis, Maryland held on September 1, 2009, Edward Chow, Jr., was appointed as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Martin O'Malley. The first Asian American to achieve this position, the former U.S. Army Captain joins the Maryland's Department of Veterans Affairs from the Maryland State Council for the Vietnam Veterans of America where he has served as President since 2006. Chow served in the United States Army from 1956 to 1967 and was awarded the Bronze Star in 1967. Secretary Chow's appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maryland Senate.

Governor O'Malley remarked, "I am proud to appoint Captain Chow for this vital position to serve Maryland's veterans. After serving our nation in uniform in the US Army, Captain Chow has dedicated his life to serving our nation's veterans. Captain Chow's knowledge and expertise will help guide our Department of Veterans Affairs in their mission to support Maryland's returning veterans and their families."



Swearing-in ceremony. L-R: Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown; Edward Chow; Sara McVicker, Secretary of Maryland state council, Vietnam Veterans of America; Governor O'Malley. (MD Governor press office)

Chow remarked that "It is truly an honor to be given the opportunity to serve Maryland's over 476,000 veterans. I want to thank Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown for their support and confidence in selecting me for the important work of Maryland's Secretary of Veterans Affairs... Maryland has been a leader in supporting our returning veterans, and I would like to thank you, Governor, for your support to Maryland's veterans. I look forward to serving Maryland as part of your team."

Mr. Chow enlisted in the United States Army Reserve in 1956 and served until 1960, when he received his commission as a Second Lieutenant and completed his service in 1967. He coordinated transportation of personnel, supplies

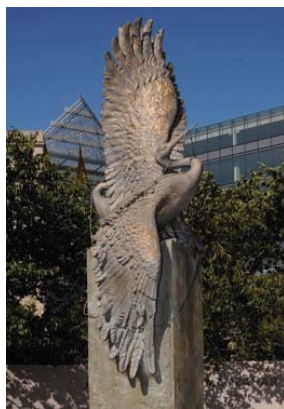
and equipment to and from the Continental U.S. and Vietnam and served as executive officer for an Army transportation company operating throughout Europe. Mr. Chow received the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

*[full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]*

## NJAMF to recognize 65th anniversary of Lost Battalion rescue

by Gordon Aoyagi, NJAMF

HOUSTON, Tex. — The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will sponsor "The 141st and 442nd Homecoming for Heroes and the Lost Battalion Memorial Gala" on November 1, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas, to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the rescue of a trapped Texas battalion during World War II. Veterans and families from these two WWII military units, and the 405th Fighter Squadron which air dropped supplies to the trapped men, will participate in the gala dinner and brunch the following morning. To encourage WW II veterans in the United States to participate, NJAMF will underwrite the costs of travel and accommodation for the first 50 WW II veterans who apply. For details, please go to [www.njamf.com](http://www.njamf.com), or contact Kris Ikejiri (202-530-0015).



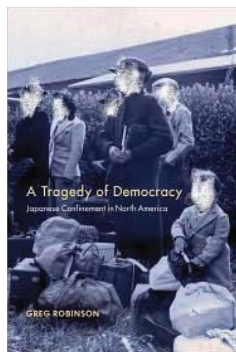
National Security Council, and Homeland Security Council. James Wright, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, a WW II veteran will be recognized for his work on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Three children of former Governor John Connally will be recognized for Governor Connally issuing a proclamation on October 21, 1963, to make all members of the 442nd RCT honorary citizens of Texas. The Proclamation was issued for saving 211 men of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th (Texas) Division who were trapped by the Germans and doomed for annihilation in the Vosges forests of northeastern France.

NJAMF also plans to use this occasion to announce that a replica of the "twin cranes" will be built in Houston. The twin cranes entangled in barbed wire, which symbolizes "the Japanese American experience of freeing themselves from a deeply painful time," stand as the centerpiece of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, DC (pictured). NJAMF Chairman Dr. Craig Uchida said, "We plan to build similar statues in other cities as a reminder that what happened to one ethnic group must never happen again in America, and we are excited that the first statue will be located in Houston commemorating the history of the 141st and 442nd during World War II."

The keynote speaker of the event is Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who is Principal Military Advisor to the President, Secretary of Defense,

## Book Review: *A Tragedy of Democracy* by Dr. Greg Robinson

Book Review by Gene Oishi, former correspondent for *Baltimore Sun*, as appeared on Amazon.com



Dr. Greg Robinson's latest book, *A Tragedy of Democracy*, is worthy of being the definitive work on Japanese American/Canadian wartime experience. As a Japanese American who spent World War II in an internment camp, I have over the past fifty years read nearly every book that has been written on the subject and I wondered what could be added to the mountain of information already available.

Robinson's work on the Japanese Canadian experience was almost totally new to me. I had read Joy Kogawa's novel *Obasan* and summary accounts of what Canadian Japanese endured during the war, but I was stunned to learn in detail the depth of the animosity and vindictiveness of the Canadian government and the harsh treatment it meted out to the hapless Japanese. It made me think that compared to our Canadian kin, we Japanese Americans had it easy. Much of what he wrote of the Latin American situation was also new for me.

But I call it a definitive work not simply because it deals with all of North America and much of the Latin American experience. This is the first book that gives coherence to a widely diversified, multi-faceted story. Until now, if some-

one were seriously interested in the Japanese American wartime experience, I would have recommended several books, some focusing on history, others on politics, law, sociology, psychology and so on. I think I can now say, "Read Greg Robinson's book." Beyond finding an impressive amount of original material, he took full advantage of all that has been written on the subject; he looked down from the mountaintop, so to speak, and provided a broad perspective that has been lacking. Although I already knew a great deal of the Japanese American experience, I found it deeply satisfying to come across even familiar material in a broad and coherent narrative that told the story more completely than anything that I have previously read.

In his first book, *By Order of the President*, Professor Robinson gave us a revealing and disturbing psychological profile of FDR, his biases and predisposition for putting all Japanese—he made little distinction between citizens and non-citizens—in "concentration camps" even before the outbreak of war. In this new work, Robinson demonstrates his psychological acumen regarding Japanese Americans struggling with their dual cultural identity. Describing the Japanese American dilemma of having to choose between the country of their parents' origin and of their own is not easy even for Nisei, or perhaps especially for Nisei, but Robinson, aided to some degree by the perspective of time, shows rare and keen insight into the Japanese American mentality.

## Salyers Grubb dissertation on Nisei war time experience

HOUSTON, Tex. – Abbie Salyers Grubb received a PhD degree from Rice University, Houston, Texas, in April 2009. Her dissertation was entitled *The Internment of Memory: Forgetting and Remembering the Japanese American Experience During World War II*.

Grubb's interest in the Nisei experience began when she was an undergraduate history student at James Madison University, located in Harrisonburg, Virginia. She came across the book, *Honor by Fire*, by Lyn Crost, which chronicled the World War II story of the Japanese American 100th Infantry/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Services. As an "Army Brat" and an aspiring military historian, she was captivated by the story of these thousands of men who put their lives on the line for the service of a country that, in many cases, had imprisoned their family members with no charges or trials but purely because of their race.

Grubb was so intrigued by the Nisei story that she wrote her undergraduate senior honors thesis on the subject, us-



Jimi Yamaichi giving Grubb a tour of San Jose Japantown. (Abbie Salyers Grubb)

ing interviews with JAVA members Grant Ichikawa, Joe Ichiuji, and Norman Ikari to provide a personal voice to her research. Abbie continued her education as a graduate student in history at Rice University in Houston, Texas. After completing her Master's Degree, she sought a topic for her dissertation and soon returned to the subject that had so captivated her as an undergraduate.

From 2005 until 2009, Grubb visited sites and institutions that helped her research such as the sites of nine War Relocation Authority internment camps, and various museums and memorials on Japanese American history. Grubb wrote, "I appreciate the welcoming and encouraging attitude that I met so frequently along my research, and I hope that my work will help inform future generations on the importance of remembering such significant events in our nation's history so that we might learn from our past and improve our future."

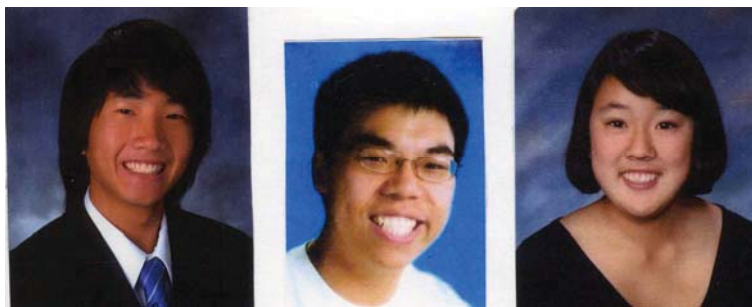
## Murata, Loy, Narasaki win \$1000 JAVA Memorial Scholarships

by Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.

FALLS CHURCH, Vir. – Two seniors from high schools in southern California and one from Oregon were named as winners of JAVA's second annual memorial scholarship awards at a special spring quarter JAVA luncheon on May 16 in Falls Church, Virginia. Roxanne O. Narasaki of Venice, CA was awarded the Douglas Ishio scholarship, Michael M. Murata of Palos Verdes Estates, CA received the Jack Tashiro scholarship, and Michael J. Loy of Portland, OR won the Orville Shirey scholarship.

Calvin Ninomiya, Esq., chair of the JAVA scholarship program, told attendees that of the 17 applications received, 16 identified themselves as grandchildren of a person or persons who had served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Under the contest rules, only lineal descendants of individuals who served in the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team (RCT), and related units, the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS), Japanese Americans who otherwise served in the nation's Armed Forces, and members of JAVA are eligible for scholarship awards. The competition was only open to graduating high school seniors.

The Orville Shirey Scholarship Fund was established by his wife, Maud Shirey and children and spouses, Michael Shirey and Grace and Kate Shirey and Steve Luette. MAJ Shirey was the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT's intelligence officer and historian. The Jack Tashiro Scholarship



Scholarship awardees, L-R: Michael M. Murata, Michael J. Loy, Roxanne O. Narasaki.

fund was established by his wife, Marie Tashiro. Tashiro was a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service and a ranking official of the CIA. The Douglas Ishio Scholarship Fund was set up by the late Colonel and Mrs. Connie Ishio. COL Ishio was a MIS veteran who served in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns.

Narasaki plans to attend Scripps College majoring in biology, and Loy plans to attend Harvey Mudd College, both colleges located in Claremont, CA. Murata plans to attend the University of California at Berkeley. Loy and Murata plan to major in engineering.

The Scholarship Awards Committee consisted of JAVA members Sue Okubo, Ph.D., Ed Wakayama, Ph.D., and Raymond Murakami, DDS.

[full press release at [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org)]

## SHINSEKI MEETS VETERANS AT VA HOSPITAL

PALO ALTO, Calif. – During his visit of Palo Alto VA Hospital on June 23, 2009, VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki met patient Mickey Makio Akiyama, Co I, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Akiyama told Shinseki the hospital staff are truly professionals and thanked the nation for its care of veterans. Also visiting Akiyama at that time were Lawson Sakai, Co. E, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT, and Astro "Al" Tortolano, an "Italian Nisei" as he calls himself, and a survivor of the trapped battalion of a Texas division in the Vosges forests of eastern France in October 1944. The battalion was saved by the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Shinseki told the veterans the nation recognizes the supreme contributions men and women made to national defense during WW II, including the Nisei who fought on both European and Pacific fronts while their families were locked up in internment camps.

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## HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DURSO RETIRES



Michael A. Durso (pictured), who retired in June 2009 as Principal of Springbrook High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, was particularly impressed with the character and moral fabric of Japanese Americans who had endured such mistreatment in concentration camps by their government. He observed that he and many others found it hard to move past such events without



L-R: Mickey Makio Akiyama, Secretary Shinseki, Astro "Al" Tortolano, Lawson Sakai. (Carol Akiyama)

maintaining a certain bitterness and resentment. As such, during his tenure he viewed visits to Springbrook High School by both JAVA members and the Tsukegee Airmen as positive role models, as well as an opportunity for students to hear history's lessons speak through living voices, and for all to foster a greater awareness and respect for what was endured in this passing generation. (Montgomery County Public Schools photo)

## TAPS HARRY TANABE, MIS, VETERAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER



Above, L-R: Miyako Tanabe, Donald Wakida, Harry Tanabe. (Courtesy of Miyako Tanabe)

JAVA life member Harry H. Tanabe passed away on April 19, 2009, at the Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, DC. He was 86. He was born in Marysville, California.

Tanabe was interned at Topaz Internment Center, Utah from where he enlisted in the US Army Military Intelligence Service and served in the counterintelligence corps. He served in the Philippine Liberation and Okinawa campaigns. He reached the rank of Warrant Officer and was awarded various medals including the Purple Heart and Army of Occupation (Japan) award.

He was a member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars, JAVA, and Golden Gate Nisei Memorial VFW Post 9879, of which he was its Commander on two separate occasions.

A memorial service was held at the Berkeley, California, Methodist United Church on May 2, 2009. He was married to Miyako Tanabe. The Tanabes spent part of their time at their Waldorf, Maryland home and the other part in San Lorenzo, California.

### KIYOKO TSUBOI TAUBKIN, JAVA SUPPORTER

[Compiled from The Oregonian and JAVA press releases]

Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin was born in Portland, Oregon on November 20, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. Masaichi Tsuboi, and she passed away on September 20, 2009. She was predeceased by her husband, Irvin Taubkin of New York City. She is survived by her sister Yasuko Fukano of Seattle, Washington.



In December 2008, Mrs. Taubkin donated a large number of New York Times stock to JAVA to perpetuate the legacy of Japanese American experience during World War II. On February 6, 2009 JAVA President Robert Nakamoto presented the *JAVA Courage, Honor, Patriotism* award to Mrs. Taubkin at a special ceremony at the Calaroga Terrace retirement community for her steadfast support of JAVA.

Mrs. Taubkin graduated from St. Helens Hall (now Oregon Episcopal School) and the University of Oregon. In 1938 she traveled to Japan to study and work. She returned to

the United States in 1940, and she and her family were interned at Minidoka internment Camp in Idaho. While in the camp, she was able to leave to work at Ann Arbor, Michigan to assist in Japanese language training to support the war effort. She moved to New York in 1948, where she worked in the New York office of the Register and Tribune syndicate until she met her future husband, Irvin, and married in 1964. In 2004, she returned to Portland and spent the remainder of her life at Calaroga Terrace.

JAVA members are encouraged to sign the online guest book at [www.oregonlive.com/obits](http://www.oregonlive.com/obits).

### MAJOR GENERAL ALEXIS THEODORE LUM



Major General Alex Lum, 82, who had an illustrious military and civilian career, passed away on August 20, 2009, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was committed with full military honors on September 10 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl and buried at Diamond Head Memorial Park.

MG Lum, raised during the Great Depression, lived simply, appreciating every accomplishment and

earning every achievement. His memorial service at Our Lady of Peace Cathedral in downtown Honolulu was attended by about 150 family and friends, including a number of general officers. GEN (Retired) David Bramlett, former Commanding General of US Ground Forces Command, served as master of ceremonies, and MG Bob Lee, state Adjutant General, state judge Fa'auuga To'oto'o, and granddaughter Lindsey shared remembrances. Letters from Congressional leaders, Governor Linda Lingle, and Mayor Mufi Hannemann were read.

MG Lum served in the US Army from 1946 to 1947 as an enlisted man, from 1950 to 1953 as a platoon leader (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant) in the Korean War, and from 1953 as a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard. He served in the Vietnam War in 1968 with the 29<sup>th</sup> Brigade. After the war he served in the Hawaii National Guard Headquarters, and in 1980 was appointed to head the Hawaii National Guard with the rank of brigadier general. From 1983 to 1991 he served as State Adjutant General with the rank of major general.

From 1992 to 2007 MG Lum was US Senator Daniel K. Inouye's special assistant on military affairs. According to the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Senator Inouye said, "Alex Lum was a great American patriot and a dedicated public servant. He served our nation in war and peace. Many of the projects and programs that we find in the military services in Hawai'i were brought to fruition with the guidance and wisdom of Alex Lum." Only his failing health finally forced him from continuing his community service.

General Lum is survived by his wife Leimomi, daughters Angela Thomas and Alexia Carvalho, and son Oliver; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

# From the Editor



Every day I see Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura. You see, I am back in the United States at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, assigned to the famed 3rd Infantry Division as the Brigade Judge Advocate for the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Lining the hallway of my brigade headquarters right outside my door, the "Wall of Heroes" displays pictures and citations of the 51 Medal of Honor recipients from the 3rd Infantry Division. Just a few frames from Audie Murphy's photo, Hershey's picture looks great up there! Each morning (sometimes out loud) I say, "Good day and thank you" to Hershey and to all those who served so honorably.

The 3rd Infantry Division displays great pride to this day. I see it all around, the distinctive blue and white striped insignia adorning hats, shirts, and license plate frames, and even tattooed on a few arms at the gym! The physical training is intense: running and ruck marches before sun up. The Brigade Combat Team life is busy, and the "op tempo" is fast. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, when I'm just about beat, Hershey Miyamura and all those guys up there on the "Wall of Heroes" inspire me to "Go For Broke!"

—Kay Wakatake

Please email comments to [javadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:javadvocate@gmail.com).

# Thank you Donors!

JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends.

Dr. Americo Bugliani  
 Terry Shima (in memory of Claire Minami)  
 Theodore Yanari

**For the Phil Ishio Scholarship Fund:**

Constance Ishio and church members; Robert & Laurie Nakamoto; Terie Akada; Sachi Ochiai; Natalie Kitamura; Vikee Wong; Leo Hosoda; Ard Kozono; Dr. James McNaughton; Terry Shima; Calvin Ninomiya; Grant Hirabayashi; Fumie Yamamoto; Dr. & Mrs. Wayne Minami; Gladyce Sumida; Wade Ishimoto; Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Murakami; Dale Shirasago; Gerald & Nancy Yamada; Betty Taira; Grant & Mildred Ichikawa; Allen Meyer; Marisa Young; William & Gay Takakoshi; Paul Hosoda; Bill & Valerie Henshaw; Ethel Nayematsu; John & Sandra Stice; Webblyn Gore; Keith & Stacey Tsuchiya; James & Joan Sloneker; David & Janet Carey; Yeichi Kuwayama; Clyde Owan; Earl Takeguchi; Warren Minami



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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  New  Renewal  Transfer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Membership Dues:**

Veterans, Active Duty, Reservists, National Guard: \$30  
 Associate Member (non-veterans, spouses, widows of veterans): \$20  
 Cadets, Midshipmen: \$15  
 Life Membership: \$300

Military Experience (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Military Campaigns: \_\_\_\_\_

Awards/Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_

Permission to publish the following on the JAVA website:

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

Please make checks payable to JAVA and mail to:

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

## JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

c/o Base Technologies  
5th Floor, 1749 Old Meadow Road  
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Quarterly Lunch: Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

Round Robin: Grant Ichikawa, [g.ichikawa@cox.net](mailto:g.ichikawa@cox.net)

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

Webmaster: Dave Buto, [admin@javadc.org](mailto:admin@javadc.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oct 17:** JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

**Oct 20, 6PM:** Embassy of Japan reception at Ambassador's residence for Japanese Americans residing in the Washington, DC area.

**Nov 1:** National Japanese American Foundation Dinner Gala in Houston, TX. Featuring a reunion of WWII veterans of the trapped 36th (Texas) Battalion and 442nd veterans.

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

**Nov 14:** Go For Broke National Education Center Evening of Aloha, Los Angeles.

**Dec 19, 10:30AM:** JAVA Board of Directors meeting at Base Technologies Inc., McLean, Vir.

**Jan 16, 2010, 11:30AM:** JAVA Quarterly Lunch, Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, Vir.

**May 24, 2010:** Opening of Eric Saul's exhibit on Japanese American Experience During WW II at Ellis Island, NYC. Exhibit on display for 5 months.

## Real-life connection between Billy Tucci's *SGT Rock* comic book series and the 442nd RCT!



One of Billy Tucci's digital colorists, Bill Farmer, is married to the granddaughter of 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT veteran SSgt Harry H. Nakashima (1916-1998), 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn, Co L, 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. Nakashima was born in the USA, and his father sent him back to Japan after his mother had passed away. When he turned 18 his family told him he would have to make a decision to be American or Japanese. He chose to be an American citizen and moved back to the US. Nakashima's father had passed away while he was in Japan, so he lived with his aunt in Texas when he returned. He had worked in her family's restaurant until he enlisted in the Army in September 1941. After the war he became an accountant in Colorado; he married and had three children, two daughters and one son. Pictured: Avery (Nakashima's great-grandson), wife Davi-Ann (Nakashima's granddaughter), and Bill Farmer. (Courtesy of Bill Farmer)