President’s Report

Every November we celebrate those who serve our nation on Veterans Day at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II. Our memories are drawn to a Fall many years ago when the Vosges mountains in France rang with the sounds of fighting as Americans of Japanese ancestry gave so much to break the encirclement of the Lost Battalion.

Events on a Fall day in 2001 led many Americans of Asian and Pacific ancestry to serve in multiple theaters of conflict. They joined side-by-side with Americans of all backgrounds to answer the call to duty. A decade and a half later, they still ring with the sounds of destruction. Loved ones at home still endure “the wait.”

This Fall, JAVA awarded former Secretary Norman Mineta the Courage, Honor, and Patriotism Award, to recognize his lifetime of service to the nation, his trailblazing leadership, and his caring mentorship of so many Americans. As a boy, he and more than 120,000 other innocents endured injustice in a government camp. But he served our nation in uniform during the Korean War, and in civilian life he served with distinction at the local and national level. He always offered his hand to assist and give strength to those who followed. Even now in retirement, he continues keeping our nation focused on the need for Americans to be vigilant in safeguarding individual liberties.

Veterans of yesterday, our fathers, mothers, grandparents, as well as the veterans of today, our sons, daughters, and others who march by their side – all inspire us. Let us think of them and honor them every day of the year. Aloha.

---Al Goshi
Bob Hoichi Kubo, Recipient of DSC, Profile of a Hero

Japanese Americans helped to win WWII in Europe and in the Pacific to prove their loyalty that our nation had questioned. Also, timely tactical intelligence provided by Nisei linguists in the Pacific to infantry and Marine commanders during combat saved countless American lives. Many combat medals were awarded to Nisei, including one Distinguished Service Cross for valor to Bob Hoichi Kubo.

Kubo was born in Lahaina, Maui, in 1919 and attended Japanese language school after his English school classes. He attended McKinley High School and the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. He was then drafted into the US Army in June 1941 and was among the 1,432 Nisei who were shipped on June 5, 1942, to Camp McCoy, WI, for combat training and deployment. When the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) recruiters visited Camp McCoy to recruit Japanese linguists, Kubo and 59 others were selected for transfer to the MIS.

Following his Japanese language training in September 1943, 20 linguists, including Kubo, arrived at JICPOA Annex (Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Ocean Areas), Honolulu. Kubo was assigned to the 27th Infantry Division, a New York national guard unit, that landed on Makin Atoll in the Gilbert Islands on November 20, 1943, followed by the invasion of Marshall Islands on February 1, 1944, and Eniwetok on February 19, 1944. The 27th Infantry Division arrived in Saipan in early July 1944. A Japanese Navy civilian prisoner told Kubo that 4-6000 Japanese were planning to mount a gyokusai, “a battle of annihilation, or death with honor”, on July 7. The Japanese forces struck as scheduled but the Americans were prepared, counter attacked, and defeated the gyokusai. After 24 days of ferocious combat, Saipan was declared secure on July 9, 1944.

The 165th Regiment, 27th Division, remained behind in Saipan as part of an operation to clean up pockets where Japanese soldiers were hiding. Near a cliff, south of Marpi Point on July 26, 1944, two Okinawan civilians stood with their hands held high. They reported to Kubo that in a cave below, Japanese soldiers were holding over 100 civilians. Approved by his unit commander, 1st Lt Peyre, Kubo stuffed his pockets with Army K rations, hid a .45 caliber pistol in his trousers, and at 10:00 a.m., climbed down a rope 100 ft. below and headed for the cave, alone and beyond any protective American support. Eight soldiers had their guns pointed at him and their surprise to see a Japanese in US uniform soon turned to anger. They accused Kubo of being a spy, a traitor, and demanded to know why Nisei were fighting for the enemy. Kubo replied, “I am an American, my forefathers fought for the Japanese 5th and 6th Divisions in the Russo-Japanese War, I am here to take out the non-combatants and ask for your surrender.”

Kubo was invited to enter the cave, where the soldiers set their guns aside but kept their hand grenades beside them. The Japanese were preparing their meal so Kubo shared his K rations with them. The soldiers continued to question Kubo why he was fighting for America and not Japan. Kubo said “you soldiers were

JAVA Officers

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born in Japan, are sons of Japanese parents, so you are fighting for Japan. I was born in America, also son of Japanese parents, and I fight for America.” After speaking for two hours and not being able to convince the soldiers, Kubo recited a palindrome, taught in Japanese schools, by Taira no Shigemori in 1197 (probably 1179, since Shigemori died in 1179) when his father requested him to defeat the emperor. Taira told his father: “If I am loyal to my father, I cannot serve the Emperor; if I am loyal to the Emperor, I cannot serve my father.” Upon saying this, Kubo said, “America is my country.” The soldiers said they now understood, stood at attention, bowed, and apologized for questioning his honor. They asked Kubo to leave: If their decision was favorable, the civilians would appear at the top of the cliff by 2:00 p.m. If they did not, the Americans’ standard procedure was to dynamite and seal the cave.

The first hostage appeared at the top of the cliff at the appointed hour, followed by 121 other civilians and the eight soldiers, minus their weapons. Kubo was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. Some years later, Kubo observed that while he was pleased to receive the DSC he was happy to see the eight soldiers in the group. Also, Kubo said he was pleased to learn that some Japanese civilians and soldiers signed affidavits which supported the granting of the DSC to Kubo.

After Saipan, Kubo’s 27th Division’s next major engagement was Okinawa. Following his discharge in 1945, Kubo went to work for Hunt Foods as sales manager for the Hawaiian Islands. In 1955, Kubo moved to San Jose, CA, where he and his brothers opened the Aloha Super Market and operated it until 1980.

Kubo, reflecting the attitude of Nisei combatants in Europe and the Pacific, felt deeply about America’s values and defended it with his life. [Larry Kubo, son of Hoichi, contributed to this report.]
Japanese-Mexican Background Complicates Military Assignments of Four Brothers

By Robert Horsting, Oral Historian and Filmmaker

This is the experience of four young men in California during WWII, whose father was a Japanese immigrant named Yoneso Masuda and whose mother was a Mexican immigrant named Guadalupe Sosa. When the war began the US Navy banned Japanese Americans from serving in the Navy or the US Marines. Imagine being 18 years old and excited to volunteer for the US Navy during WWII, but then the security background check reveals secrets in your past that you never realized. This was the situation in 1944 when Fernando Sosa decided to “go to sea” like his older brother Alfonso (Al) Sosa, who was already serving in the US Navy. Their investigation by the FBI changed the course of their military service as well as their personal lives. Their third brother, Francisco (Frank) Sosa Masuda had also wanted to join the Navy and didn’t understand why they wouldn’t accept him. What neither Frank nor Fernando realized was that Al got past the Navy’s ban on ethnic Japanese enlistments, because his friend showed him how to forge his birth certificate to read “Sosa” instead of “Masuda.”

After submitting his application to join the Navy, Fernando had that weird feeling of being watched, which was confirmed when one shop owner exclaimed, “You’re Japanese!” Others told him he was in trouble because the FBI came and questioned the neighborhood about their family’s activities and associations. Heck, he didn’t even know he was half Japanese until the FBI told him! Fernando said he was not aware of the Navy ban on Japanese American enlistments. Frank Sosa Masuda, who was already in the Army, had that same sensation of being watched. He served in the 1st Cavalry Division for the liberation of the Philippines and the Occupation of Japan. Navy life changed for Al too. He had hoped to become a Gunner, but the news of his being half Japanese resulted in his being an ammo carrier. Al was one of only four men of Japanese heritage known to serve in the Navy during WWII. Their oldest brother Ernesto Sosa served in the Army, stateside.

The father of the seven Sosa children died when Fernando Sosa was only 2. (Frank was old enough to remember the Japanese children’s songs that his dad sang to him.) Raised in the predominantly Hispanic area of Boyle Heights, they were often teased about their Japanese heritage to the point they lost interest in going to school. One sister was so upset she scratched out the name “Masuda” and wrote-in “Sosa” on Fernando’s birth certificate. When they moved and changed schools, their oldest sister asked the principal if they could use their mother’s maiden name: Sosa. Hearing her reasoning, he agreed, and other kids now accepted them.

Cleared by the FBI, Fernando was drafted and assigned to the 442nd RCT, 2nd Bn, Co F, in Italy as the war ended. When I think about him self-identifying as Mexican and now being placed into this Nisei unit, I can feel his sense of isolation. His duties included guarding the German POWs and running the movie projector for the troops. When he took it upon himself to show a movie to the bored and restless POWs, his

L to R: Alphonso (Al Masuda) Sosa, Ernesto (Ernie) Sosa, Francisco (Frank) Masuda, Fernando Sosa. Since the Selective Service got the names through the school districts, the Masuda name didn’t surface until Fernando had to produce his birth certificate. Photo from Robert Horsting.

(article continues on next page....)
Lieutenant shut it down and threatened to have him court-martialed. Frightened about the consequences, Fernando reported to the Commanding Officer. Fernando recalled, “The CO reached out and shook my hand and told me I was a humanitarian.” The CO then placed stripes in his hand...promoting him to Corporal.

Fernando Sosa (L) served in the Italian Occupation with F Co, 442nd RCT. Frank Masuda (R) served in the Pacific and the Japan Occupation with F Troop, 5th Regiment, 1st Cavalry.

*Portrait: ©2017 Shane Sato*

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**Bob Wada Donates His Internment Camp Boy Scout Uniform to Smithsonian**

*Buena Park, CA.* Robert Wada, a US Marine Korean War veteran and founder/president of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans, held a small reception for relatives and friends at his residence on July 29, 2017 to mark the donation of his Boy Scout uniform to the Smithsonian Institution. This uniform was worn by Wada, then age 13, at the Poston Internment Camp, Arizona, where 17,800 ethnic Japanese were forcibly detained during WW II. The new Poston Boy Scout Troop obtained Boy Scouts of America approval in 1943 to use the designation 100 to honor the 100th Infantry Battalion, a segregated Nisei unit which was then deployed to Italy for combat duty. In his blessing, Reverend Cliff Ishigaki said the uniform was a mark of patriotism and respect for young men who volunteered for combat duty in Europe and the Pacific. In addition to the uniform, Wada’s presentation includes photos, his membership card, rank card, Explorer Scout manual, a hand-written 14-mile hike report and Merit Badge sash.

Poston Boy Scout Troop 100 had a drum and bugle band and color guard, who were invited to perform at various camp events, such as ceremonies for boys departing for training and combat duties overseas. The troop members also worked for merit badges, including the 14-mile hike. Wearing their Boy Scout uniforms, they engaged in a successful paper collection drive for the war effort only to be marred, for racial reasons, when they were not served at a restaurant in the nearby town of Parker, Arizona, and told to leave—an insult to their uniform and the Boy Scout Code of Honor. Wada was working towards his Life Scout rank when the camp closed in 1945.

*Designations on the left sleeve.*

(continued on next page)
When the War Department created a second Nisei combat unit and issued a call for volunteers, two Wada brothers and 1,500 other internees answered the call. Both brothers were wounded in combat in the European War. After WWII was over one of these two brothers, Ted, reenlisted as a paratrooper and fought in the Korean War. The oldest Wada brother, whose enlistment during WWII was not accepted for health reasons, was accepted in 1948 to serve in the Military Intelligence Service in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. With Robert in Korea was his brother Hank, also a Marine who was twice wounded in combat. Robert served with a US Marine tank combat unit. The three Wada brothers served in the Korean War during the same timeframe.

Wada said he is honored by Smithsonian’s acceptance of the uniform, which has a deep symbolic meaning for Japanese Americans because it marks the darkest period in Japanese American history and it recognizes the Nisei combat performance record, defeat of prejudice and racism, and Japanese American inclusion in America’s mainstream.

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**Army Commander Uses Newsletter to Maintain a Cohesive and High Morale Force**

*Fort Sam Houston, TX.* Military commanders use various methods to maintain a highly motivated, cohesive and focused force that can operate with maximum effectiveness at all times. MG Clarence K.K. Chinn, Commanding General, U.S. Army South, located at Fort Sam Houston, TX, and whose area of responsibility includes 31 countries and 15 areas of special sovereignty in Central and South America and the Caribbean, uses a monthly Newsletter to achieve his goal. Responsibilities of Army commanders have broadened to include relationships with their counterparts and leaders of other nations and with civilian entities in their areas of command. MG Chinn’s September 2017 report discussed various areas and levels of coordination with Latin American leaders.

US Southern Command established a Joint Task Force – Leeward Islands to rescue American citizens, save lives and ease human suffering in the eastern Caribbean Sea area damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Task Force, comprised of men and women from various branches of service, has evacuated Americans, maintained water purification sites in Saint Martin and other locations (already purified more than 68,800 gallons of potable water—a desperately needed commodity), and led the Integrated Medical Logistics unit. Helicopters, refueling equipment, fuel servicing trucks, forklifts, generators and Light Medium Tactical Vehicles were deployed.

About 2,073 American citizens were evacuated from St. Martin and Anguilla, plus 105 personnel from Dominica. As Hurricane Maria approached Puerto Rico, the initial staging location for aviation assets, the priority was to ensure the entire force was safe from the storm. After getting aircrafts to a safe place and waiting for Maria to pass, US Army South’s soldiers quickly returned to continue their mission and have since relocated air assets from San Juan to Guadeloupe. The emergency team is expected to begin supporting the distribution of USAID relief supplies.

The U.S. Army South Chaplain section worked to strengthen relationships with Paraguay Armed Forces Chaplaincies of both Roman Catholic priests and Evangelical pastors recently. They traveled to Asuncion, Paraguay in early September to engage with Monsignor Martinez, the Roman Catholic Chief of Chaplains for the Paraguayan Armed Forces and other Chaplain Corps leaders. With a focus on respect for human rights both armies pledged to continue working together to assess capabilities, share best practices and find ways to make each other better at their respective missions as religious and spiritual torchbearers.

US Army South soldiers assigned to the 1st BN, 228Aviation Regiment prepare a CH-47 Chinook helicopter for departure at Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras in support of hurricane relief efforts. *US Army photo.*
Senator Hirono Provision Included in GI Bill Improvements Passed by Senate

This article was copied from US Senator Mazie Hirono’s August 2017 Veterans Newsletter.

Washington, D.C. On August 2, 2017, the Senate passed the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, legislation cosponsored by Senator Hirono to improve veterans' education benefits and enhance the post-9/11 GI Bill. The bill now goes to the President for his signature.* The Act includes the Veterans TEST Accessibility Act, legislation Senator Hirono introduced with Senator Rounds (R-S.D.) to allow veterans to use their GI Bill benefits for tests, certifications, and licenses without losing one month's worth of benefits as is required under current law.

Also included are provisions to restore GI Bill eligibility for nearly 200 Hawaii student veterans enrolled at Heald College, which closed in 2015.

Other major policy changes include the following:

Removing time restrictions on future GI Bill recipients so they can use the benefits anytime, instead of before the current 15-year limit expires; extended benefits for students who are studying in science, economics, technology, or mathematics fields; expanded benefits for reservists, guardsmen, dependents, as well as surviving spouses and dependents; 100 percent eligibility to post-9/11 Purple Heart recipients regardless of time in service; creating a pilot program for veterans to take technology courses.

*Update, President Trump signed the Bill on 17 August 2017.

Merrill Marauders Descendants pay Tribute to Generals Stillwell and Merrill

By Metta Tanikawa. On Aug 4, 2017, Steve Kinder and Metta Tanikawa attended the Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants (MMPD) West Point event. The day started with a ceremony at the Old Cadet Chapel and West Point cemetery. Two members of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) (aka “Merrill's Marauders”), Robert Passanisi and Gilbert Howland, were in attendance to speak and participate in the wreath-laying ceremony on Gen Joe Stillwell and BG Frank Merrill's graves. After the ceremony, the group had lunch at the Thayer restaurant and were taken on a tour of West Point academy.

Steve is the son of Henry T. Kinder, who served the 5307th CUP in the 3rd Bn, Khaki Col. MMPD continues to ask for support of their Congressional Gold Medal campaign where an existing bill in the House (H.R. 667) needs more co-sponsorship and a bill needs to be introduced in the Senate. For more information, please see their website, www.merrillsmarauderspd.org and select Congressional Gold Medal Campaign.
MAJ Kan Tagami Wartime and Occupation Experience

Tagami was born in Selma, a farming village near Fresno, CA, sent to Japan at age 10 to attend Japanese school for four years, and was drafted into the Army in 1941. When war began in December 1941 Tagami was placed on guard duty at Fisherman’s Wharf, San Francisco, where late one night he accosted a drunk, who, upon seeing Tagami’s face, began yelling “the JAPS have landed.” The Army took Tagami’s gun and assigned him to Utah, where his rifle was again taken away from him because, like all Japanese Americans, he was viewed as disloyal to the nation he was serving. His family was among the 110,000 ethnic Japanese who were detained in internment camps, guarded by US sentries on the ground and from guard towers for the duration of WWII. He was recruited by the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and sent to Camp Savage, MN, for intensive Japanese language training.

Tagami was assigned as the Japanese language team leader for the 124th Cavalry Regiment of the MARS Task Force that fought to liberate Burma. A wounded Japanese prisoner was nostalgically talking about his wife and son in Mie Prefecture when he died during interrogation. Tagami was brought to tears when he saw the “calmness and delight on the soldier’s face sharing his private thoughts to a stranger in his mother’s tongue.” Tagami promised the prisoner he would try to get his belongings and this story to his family. Tagami received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant at this time.

Tagami was seconded to the British forces for the invasion of Malaya when the war ended. He served as the language officer for the Japanese surrender at both Malaya and Singapore. Following this assignment, Tagami was assigned to the Occupation of Japan, where he served for five years as the Japanese language officer for General MacArthur. He interpreted for MacArthur in his meetings with ranking Japanese officials and also wrote MacArthur’s letters, in Japanese, to them.

One day in 1949, MacArthur’s Chief of Staff requested Tagami go to the Imperial Palace to pass a message from MacArthur to the Emperor. The US press was applying great pressure on the Japanese government, including the Imperial Household, to allow the press to enter the Palace to take photos and obtain a story of the Imperial family’s private life. MacArthur wanted to assure the Emperor that he (MacArthur) would support the Emperor if he resisted the US press requests. Tagami drove through the main gate of the Imperial Palace to register as he had done so many times before. He was told no check-in was necessary and was escorted to a small room with couple of chairs and a table.

In a moment the Emperor entered, shook Tagami’s hand, and invited him to sit down. Normally, there are other officials, including a note-taker, but this time it was only Tagami and the Emperor. Tagami conveyed MacArthur’s message, to which the Emperor listened intently, and said “I will do what is appropriate”. As Tagami stood up to leave, the Emperor motioned Tagami to stay. He asked Tagami which prefecture his parents were from and other personal questions. The Emperor then thanked Tagami and all the Nisei serving in the occupation. “Your ability to speak Japanese has truly made the government work much easier. The Nisei are a bridge across our two countries, thank you very much.”

MIS Nisei in the MARS Task Force, successor to Merrill’s Marauders, Burma

Myitkyina, Myanmar. The Merrill’s Marauders, that captured Myitkyina, was succeeded by the MARS Task Force, also a special forces unit, whose mission was to push the Japanese forces south of Lashio and thereby clearing the Burma Road. Myitkyina was important because it had an all-weather airport, from which Japanese fighter planes had attacked US cargo planes transporting war material to China over the hump, and it was the gateway to Burma Road, the highway linking Lahio, Burma (now called Myanmar) to Kunming.
China, a distance of about 720 miles, that was built in 1937 after the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War.

Activated on July 26, 1944, the 5332nd Brigade (Provisional), known as MARS Task Force, consisted of the 124th Cavalry Regiment and the 475th Infantry Regiment, that left the US separately and united in Burma. Each regiment included a team of Japanese linguists. T/Sgt Kan Tagami headed the Nisei team of the 124th and T/Sgt Kazuo Komoto, the 475th. Departing Los Angeles in July 1944, the 124th Regiment reached New Delhi four weeks later, and arrived in Myitkyina in October 1944 to join the MARS Task Force. The 475th Regiment shipped out from Newport News, VA, in mid-1944 and arrived in Myitkyina in October 1944 via the Panama Canal and Bombay, India.

Following training and maneuvers in December 1944, the 124th Regiment was launched into action. Like the other infantrymen, Nisei linguists carried full packs, cut through the jungle, scaled the mountains, slogged through the mud, and endured exhaustion, malnutrition, jungle diseases such as typhus, malaria, and dysentery. The 124th pursued the retreating Japanese past Lashio, the southern terminus of the Burma Road. Taking three weeks, the 124th sustained 64 killed in action and 300 wounded in action. Tagami received a battlefield commission to 2nd Lieutenant at this time. Having completed its mission, the 124th disbanded in February 1945 and the Nisei linguists found their way to New Delhi to report to SEATIC (Southeast Asia Translation and Interrogation Center). Besides Tagami, the 15-member MIS Team included George Harada, Art Morimitsu, Tom Tsunoda, Herbert Hamaguchi, Benji Shirayama, Hiroshi Nakamura, and Yutaka Nakahata.

The 475th Infantry Regiment, that absorbed the approximately 200 Merrill Marauders who remained when Myitkyina fell, defeated the Japanese at the Tonkwa sector, then turned southward and struck the Namkham-Lashio road axis at Namphakka. This caused the Japanese to withdraw to the south of Lashio, that was the goal of the 475th. Toma Tasaki, a Nisei linguist with the 475th, said the linguists endured like the regular soldier, including serving guard duty, volunteering for patrols, engaging the enemy, digging foxholes, and interrogating the few Japanese prisoners. Frank T. Tokubo was loaned to the Chinese First Army. Equipped with a megaphone, he was placed in a slow-moving airplane flying over Japanese troops to encourage them to surrender. His L-5 plane was struck by ground fire twice but each time the plane landed safely. Samuel T. Hirano was loaned to Indian Army. Other Nisei linguists of the 475th included Jewetts Kariya, a veteran of the Alaska campaign, Patrick Kaneshiro, Hisao Mikumi, Paul Miwa, James Okita, Gilbert Nagata, Tokio Umemoto, Sadao Toyama, James Araki, Tom Tsuruda, and Tosh Uesato.

Burma Road became serviceable in January 1945. MARS Task Force served in Burma until February 1945 when consideration was given for its use in the invasion of Malaya. This plan did not materialize and the MARS Task Force disbanded in July 1945. The Merrill Marauders and MARS Task Force have the distinction of being the first American soldiers to fight on the Asian mainland since the Boxer Rebellion in 1899. [Hansel Haycox, MARS Task Force Association Historian contributed to this report.]
2017 JAVA Scholarship Winners

**US Senator Daniel K. Inouye Scholarship**
Sarah E. Nakasone
The University of Chicago
Major: Global Studies
Grandfather: Mr. Edwin Nakasone
MIS

"...Serving the U.S. through public health is my way to fight problems..."

**JAVA Founder’s Scholarship**
Alison Coombs
University of Washington
Major: Doctorate of Physical Therapy
Grandfather: Mr. Junwo ‘Jim’ Yamashita
442 RCT

"...My interest lies in the fields of early intervention and rehabilitation for children with developmental disabilities, acquired injuries including traumatic brain injury..."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Jeremy Honma
Azusa Pacific University
Major: Computer Information Systems
Grandfather: Richard Honma
MIS

"I plan to pursue a degree in computer information systems which is similar to what my grandfather did during the war. He [sic] helped organize information and translate it into usable data..."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Kiyomi E. Norris
University of Texas
Dallas
Major: Marketing
Grandfather: Mr. Munro Shintani
442 RCT

"I want to continue to honor and respect my grandfather’s generation by attending college...with their “Go For Broke!” attitude and sacrifice...I can only hope I can make them as proud of me as I am of them."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Michael Imai
University of California - Los Angeles
Major: Neuroscience
Great Uncle (paternal): Shige Imai
MIS

"I hope to be in a career which teaches me not only the basics of caring for others medically, but one which allows me to change the political system around me."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Tyler A. Satoda
University of California - Berkeley
Major: Economics
Grandfather: Yone Satoda
MIS

"My grandfather enrolled at Berkeley as I look to start at the same institution 80 years later; my foundation is much more secure, thanks to his balls."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Davis Katakura
United States Naval Academy
Major: Quantitative Economics
Great Uncles (maternal): Archie Nakama
Roy Inouye

"My goal is to foster good relationships with other nations. I want to ensure that I will become a good leader..."

**JAVA Memorial Scholarship**
Adam Nakamoto
Tennessee Technological University
Major: Cell & Molecular Biology
Grandfather: Robert Nakamura
Korean War Veteran

"My mission is to go through life...and try to maintain and enhance the promise inherent in the United States...I intend to do this through the scientific field..."
Inouye Scholar’s Views of her Goals, her Family, Challenges and the JAVA Scholarship

I get my love of storytelling from my grandfather, a Nisei. My earliest memories are filled with Japanese fairy tales, the rumbling cadence of his voice saying ‘Mukashi, mukashi, oh mukashi.’ Until about age 10 I was raised on a steady diet of princesses and brave warriors and far too many retellings of Momotaro, the peach boy. But by the time I was 10, I was old enough to ask why no one could pronounce my last name—why my grandfather and father looked so different from their very white neighbors.

And then the stories changed.

Because by then I was old enough to hear about how my grandfather watched the planes fly in to attack Pearl Harbor. I was old enough to hear how my great-grandmother had to wear a black badge when she went to clean the houses of naval officials in Hawaii because she, and my whole family, were ‘the enemy.’ And I was old enough to hear how my grandfather served in the military of a country who did not want him and did it with pride and honor.

In all of my grandfather’s stories—of the 442nd and the MIS and the 100th and the Japanese and Japanese-Americans who were sent to concentration camps but still loved a country that had rejected them, I learned how you reclaim history. I learned how you hold your head high as a citizen and how you spin stories of heroism to make sure that America learns again to welcome you with open arms. I learned how much difference these stories make in rebuilding.

And I learned I wanted to tell them too.

I started working in HIV prevention when I was 19 and had moved to Chicago for school. Chicago has one of the worst HIV epidemics in the country: 1 in 3 black gay or bisexual men have HIV and we expect that number to rise to 1 in 2. It’s a problem that’s ignored because of entrenched racism and homophobia across the city. So I began volunteering at a clinic and started telling stories—of the people I met who were still losing friends to AIDS, of the activists I met fighting an uphill battle to save their community, of the days when every single HIV test we ran came back positive and we had to tell too many people they were infected. And then, when given the opportunity, I left for South Africa to tell more stories. I worked on a pill that would prevent people from getting HIV and told stories about girls who couldn’t make a living other than prostitution, about people who didn’t think they would live past 35 because everyone around them died of AIDS, about the tiny glimmers of hope I saw.

I’m lucky. I already do the work I plan to do with the rest of my life. I want to work with communities that people have forgotten. I want to work in HIV prevention for people who suffer much of the stigma for the disease, whether they be gay or black or female. Right now, I plan to go to medical school and open a free clinic in the US for communities that bear the weight of the disease but can’t afford to treat it. But I also take classes that make me a better writer— an almost-journalist who talks about her work every chance she gets. Because most people want to care—you just have to give them a reason to be invested.

Having a JAVA scholarship is an incredible honor to me— not just because it helps to finance my education, but because it reminds me how stories can show us the heroes among us. How they can change even the harshest of public opinion.

And that’s what I’m trying to do now. I’m telling stories, just as my grandfather taught me to do.

---Sarah Nakasone
Japanese Bereaved Families Association Delegation Briefed by JAVA Speakers Team

By Wade Ishimoto and Mark Nakagawa

Falls Church, VA. A 41-member delegation of the Nippon Izoku Kai (NIK), Japan War Bereaved Families Association, visited Washington, DC, on September 23, 2017, to pay their respects to the American men and women who lost their lives in the war and to further improve relations with American veterans. The JAVA Speakers team was invited that evening to dinner at the Westin Tysons Corner Hotel to discuss the Japanese American WWII experience, the US efforts to recover their prisoners of war and missing in action, and to exchange views. Earlier in the day the delegation visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol Building, and also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Prior to their arrival here, the delegation visited Honolulu, where they paid their respects at the USS Arizona Memorial and the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

Established in 1947, NIK is a nationwide organization of bereaved families whose family members did not return from the Asia Pacific War and whose mission is to provide relief and assistance to the families of those who died in the Asia Pacific war. NIK delegations have visited the battlefields in southeast and southwest Asia, Pacific island states, China, and South Korea.

Prior to the dinner, fraternal speeches were presented by NIK's Kazuo Azegami, Executive Director, and Yukio Udagawa, Vice President. Following the dinner, LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), JAVA Vice President, after welcoming the visitors, introduced the JAVA speakers as follows:

Mrs. Mary Murakami talked of her personal experiences in the mass round-up and confinement at the Topaz Internment Camp.

LTC Nakagawa spoke about the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

Captain (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret), talked of her family’s experience in WWII on both the U.S. and Japanese side.

JAVA President, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), an attorney, discussed the four Nisei (Korematsu, Yasui, Hirabayashi, and Endo), who allowed themselves to be arrested in order to test the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, and

CPT Wade Ishimoto, USA (Ret), discussed America’s commitment to fully account for its missing in action by describing the mission and efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). He passed out miniature POW/MIA flags to the NIK members. This flag, officially recognized by the US Congress, is a symbol of America’s endeavor to resolve the case of each missing soldier in the Vietnam War. This was followed by Q & A and exchange of gifts.

Rex and Keiko Ziak, the founders of The Obon Society, located in Astoria, Oregon, discussed the Society’s mission to collect and return battlefield souvenirs to Japanese families. Through their effort, The Society brings closure for the bereaved families and initiates a dialogue of healing and peace. They ended their presentation by displaying two “good luck flags”, known in Japanese as Hinomaru Yosegaki. After they determine the rightful owners, the flags will be returned to them along with any information pertaining to returned item.

Left to right: LTC Nakagawa; LTC Goshi; Mary Murakami; CAPT Macri; VP Kennosuke Ichiki; Keiko Ziak; Rex Ziak; CPT Ishimoto; and Atsushi Shigei. Photo from Iwao Kato.

More articles related to this topic are on the following pages.
America’s Search for Prisoners of War and Missing in Action

By Wade Ishimoto

Washington, DC. During World War II over 400,000 Americans were killed in action. This number includes over 73,000 who are Missing in Action (MIA). Some 47,000 of this number are considered “unrecoverable” as many of them were lost in deep ocean depths. About 36,500 Americans were killed during the Korean War. More than 7,700 remain unaccounted for mainly because North Korea has denied US access for recoveries. Over 58,200 Americans were killed in the Vietnam War with 1,602 still unaccounted. About 126 Americans are missing from the Cold War. 258 Americans were killed in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and since 2001 some 4,800 have died in Iraq and over 2,300 in Afghanistan. Since 1986 there are 6 Americans that are missing.

The US goal is to achieve “full accounting” of its missing soldiers. In addition to recovery of remains, circumstantial or other material evidence may qualify to bring closure to a case. For example, an airplane may have been observed crashing into the ground with a large explosion. A later search may identify the aircraft, however the severity of the crash with attendant explosions and fire could have destroyed any trace of human remains.

The commitment to better account for America’s missing began in 1972 with the creation in Vietnam of the Joint Casualty Personnel Recovery effort. In 2015, different Defense Department organizations were merged into what is now called the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Accounting Agency or DPAA. The headquarters for DPAA is in Crystal City, Virginia, where they work with other governments to gain permission to search for remains and do analysis. A large portion of DPAA is located in Hawaii where there are field investigative and recovery teams along with a laboratory to identify remains. Another laboratory exists in Nebraska. The current budget is about $130 million a year.

In September 2017, retired US Air Force Major General Kelly McKeague was selected as the DPAA Director after seeing the position going unfilled for 15 months. McKeague is a native of Hawaii, a lifetime JAVA member, and is eminently qualified to lead DPAA.

If the information of a missing soldier is judged to be hard, the host country clearance is obtained and an investigative team is sent to that location. If the investigative team finds an eyewitness or material evidence, a well-equipped recovery team is dispatched. If remains are found, they are analyzed by the laboratory to determine if there is a match based on medical and dental records of DNA samples. It is important that family members provide a noninvasive sample of their DNA to help identify their relatives. Eyewitnesses are important.

In addition, DPAA cooperates with non-profit organizations such as the History Flight which has conducted research for unaccounted Marines who fought on Tarawa. DPAA and History Flight have passed to the Government of Japan information pertaining to Japanese soldiers.
Significance of Hinomaru Yosegaki to a Japanese family

Tatsuya Yasue, younger brother of Sadao (deceased) receives Hinomaru Yosegaki from Marvin Strombo. Photo by Sgt Neysa Quinones, Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, August 16, 2017. Approved by MCAS Iwakuni PAO.

During WWII many GIs returned from combat in the Pacific with flags that had a round center painted in red and a lot of writings, in Japanese, on the white field around it. What do these flags represent and why were the soldiers carrying them?

Known in Japan as Hinomaru Yosegaki, or the Good Luck Flag, it is given to the soldier by his family as he is about to join the military or about to go into combat. Members of his family and his community, employers, fellow employees, and friends sign their names after a brief remark wishing him safety, victory and good luck.

The Obon Society of Portland, OR, has been engaged in collecting and arranging the return of Hinomaru Yosegake to the families. As of August 2017 Rex and Keiko Ziaj, founders of Obon Society, have returned 108 flags and have more than 295 other flags they are working on to return. On August 15, 2017, Obon Society arranged Marine Marvin Strombo’s trip to Japan to return a Hinomaru Yosegaki that belonged to Sadao Yasue in Gifu Prefecture. His brother and two sisters received the Hinomaru Yosegaki in an emotional ceremony that brought closure 72 years after their brother’s death. They learned for the first time that their brother was killed in Iwo Jima. Up to now, they had assumed he was killed at sea. JAVA congratulates Rex and Keiko Ziaj for embarking on this major humanitarian endeavor. [EdNote: First Secretary Fumiyo Tsuda, Embassy of Japan, assisted in the writing of this article.]

JAVA Becomes Legacy Partner of Mineta Legacy Project

By Amy Watanabe

JAVA is proud to be a Legacy Partner of the Mineta Legacy Project, a documentary film and educational curriculum in production that tells the story of Japanese American history, immigration, civil liberty violations, redress, the rise of Asian American politics and civic engagement in an era marked by political civility and bi-partisanship. Through Secretary Norman Y. Mineta’s life and career, the project traces the history of the Issei, the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, civil liberties threats and the current environment that makes his story more relevant than ever.

“An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy” is a one-hour TV documentary with plans to air on PBS stations. The educational curriculum will use Secretary Mineta's life to educate high school and college students on six themes: immigration, civil liberties & equity, civic engagement, justice & reconciliation, leadership & decision-making, and U.S.-Japan relations. The film and curriculum will be completed in 2018.

Mineta has served as a valued Honorary Chair since its inception in 1992. He has attended JAVA functions when his schedule allowed and has offered sound advice for JAVA development.

The Mineta Legacy Project and film is led by Dianne Fukami, Director & Co-Producer, and Debra Nakatomi, Co-Producer. To learn more about the project and how to support, please visit: www.MinetaLegacyProject.com or contact info@minetalegacyproject.com.

The Honorable Norman Mineta, Honorary Chairman, JAVA
Mineta and Simpson Friendship Forged 30 Years Ago at Heart Mountain

Former US Senator Simpson (L) and former Congressman Mineta

JAVA Advocate readers across the land may wish to read an extraordinary article of two men whose friendship was forged in an incarceration camp during WWII. It is a story of Norman Mineta and Alan Simpson sharing a Boy Scout tent at a jamboree at Heart Mountain camp, where the Mineta family was detained. Simpson was a resident of nearby Cody, Wyoming. They would not meet again until 1975, when Mineta was elected to the US House of Representatives and Simpson was elected to the US Senate. After both men retired, they vacationed together annually and in recent years have attended the pilgrimage to the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

The author of this heartwarming 3,000 words article, entitled A bond forged behind barbed wire (appearing above the page one center-fold of the Washington Post (WP) on August 20, 2017) was WP journalist Lori Aratani. The full article can be found on the internet by googling Mineta or Lori Aratani. A former journalist of the San Jose Mercury News, Aratani was already known to Mineta and had written about him.

Aratani also noted Mineta and Simpson’s moments of seriousness, e.g. when Simpson described that his Boy Scout visit to Heart Mountain made a lasting impression because the people of Cody viewed the internment camp folks as aliens and as spies and subversives for the enemy. Instead, we saw them as Boy Scouts, wearing the same uniform, pledging allegiance to the Flag, and working on the same merit badges, Simpson said. Speaking at the Heart Mountain Center’s opening in 2011, Mineta said this is not about the past, it is about the future. The Center is a reminder that what happened to one ethnic group must never happen again.

A Sansei, Aratani’s father served in the MIS and her two uncles served in the original 100th Infantry Battalion. She grew up in California and attended journalism school at Boston University.

Three Nisei Veterans Awarded the French Legion of Honor

By Jeff Morita

Honolulu. The House Chambers, Hawaii State Capitol, provided a beautiful venue for three 100/442 Regimental Combat Team veterans who were bestowed French Knighthood on September 21, 2017. Harold Zenyei Afuso, H Company/442nd RCT, Tetsuo Tateishi (posthumous), A Company/100th Infantry Battalion, and Futao Terashima, I Company/442nd RCT received the French Legion of Honor - Chevalier (Knight) from the Honorary French Consul in Hawaii, Mr. Guillaume Maman. Theresa Maman, his wife, was mistress of ceremonies and Allegra Matsuo Mossman provided a rendition of the Republic of France and U.S. Anthems, and Hawai‘i Pono‘i. Hawaii State Governor David Ige provided the opening remarks. Governor Ige’s father Tokio Ige, was also an A Company, 100th Infantry Battalion veteran. The event was hosted by the State of Hawaii House of Representatives, House Speaker Scott K. Saiki, Vice Speaker Della Au Belatti and their staff worked tirelessly with Michele Matsuo, Executive Committee Member, 442nd RCT Veterans Club to bring the ceremony to fruition.

continued on next page...

Jeff Morita, a retired US Army Sergeant First Class, and Department of the Army Civilian (40 total years) is providing a public service to current living 100/442 veterans with the French Legion of Honor nomination process. Morita came be reached at jeff_kine_57@icloud.com.

**Five Members of Okubo Family Served in the US Army During WW II, Four in Combat**

In early 1942 Kenzo and Fuyu Okubo, immigrants from Japan, and their family were uprooted from their home and their Sunrise Restaurant in Bellingham, Washington, and transported to the Tule Lake Internment Center, located in northeast California, one of the ten detention camps hastily built in desolate locations in America. Allowed to take with them only what each person could carry, they were viewed as saboteurs and collaborators of Imperial Japan.

The following year, in part responding to Nisei petitions to allow them to serve in combat to prove their loyalty, Washington called for volunteers to serve in the newly created 442nd Combat Team, a segregated Japanese American unit. James Kazuo Okubo and his cousin, Isamu (Eke) Kunimatsu, who was raised by the Okubo family, volunteered from their internment camp. Subsequently, two other Okubo brothers, Sumi and Hiram (Hiram) joined the 442nd as replacements, putting all four in combat unit--three as riflemen and one as a combat medic. Eke was killed in combat and each of the other three was wounded in combat. The fifth, James Kunimatsu, also a cousin raised by the Okubos, served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

James Okubo, the combat medic, displayed extraordinary courage on October 28 and 29, 1944, when the 442nd was attempting to rescue a trapped Texas battalion in the Vosges forest of northeastern France. In the heat of machine gun fire and grenade blasts, Okubo raced from one wounded to another, treating 17 men. Then on November 4 as the 36th Division was pursuing the enemy closer to the German border, Okubo saw smoke coming out of a disabled Sherman tank which was near the German position. Amid intense enemy fire Okubo ran more than 75 yards to remove a wounded crewman from a burning tank and carried him to safety. These actions performed over and beyond the call of duty, Okubo’s superiors recommended him for the Medal of Honor. The awards review board told the officers, medics were non-combatants, they don’t carry guns, and, thus, did not...

**Thank You, Donors!**

We are grateful for those who donated funds from July 1 to November 1, 2017

Mr. Floyd Mori  
Mr. Greg Tsujuchi  
Ms. Sandra Chikako Tanamashi  
LCDR Jason Y. Osuga
qualify to receive a combat medal, however, because of this extraordinary display of courage, the review board approved the award of the Silver Star.

After his discharge, James Okubo went to school, became a dentist and practiced in Detroit, Michigan. On January 1967 Okubo drove his family to a ski resort and died in a car accident.

In the 1990s US Senator Daniel K. Akaka introduced legislation that resulted in the US Army review of 442nd awards to determine if any of the 59 Distinguished Service Crosses merited upgrade to the Medal of Honor (MOH). Up to that time, the 442nd was awarded only one MOH and that was awarded as the result of congressional intervention. When Akaka was briefed on the James Okubo’s Silver Star award, he requested a review which resulted in the upgrade to MOH. Long after the event, Akaka, Honorary Chair of JAVA, told JAVA he was “proud of every upgrade but he was exceptionally proud of the Okubo upgrade because he was nearly missed”.

**News from Other Veterans Organizations**

**Honolulu, HI. Puka Puka Parade**, the monthly Newsletter of 100th Battalion Veterans Hawaii, October 2017 issue, reported that the Fall segment of Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Speakers Series featured David Fukuda, son of MAJ Mitsuyoshi Fukuda, Commander of 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT; Jill Izumigawa-Ross, daughter of Stanley Izumigawa; and Lloyd Kitaoka, son of Takashi Kitaoka. They discussed how they came to know about their fathers’ roles in the 100th and the impact it had on their lives. The consensus of the three was they acquired most of their information from research, reading papers the parents wrote, and oral histories.

**Seattle, WA.** The Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) Newsletter, September 2017 issue, reported that NVC members observed the joint exercise of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force and the US 7th Infantry Division. These exercises, held at the Yakima Training Center, helped build a strong military alliance between the two nations. Soldiers who participated in this exercise were invited to a luncheon hosted by the NVC. The Newsletter said this event “reminds us to give thanks to those few who defend, or have defended, the many”.

**Honolulu, HI.** The Sons and Daughters of the 442nd RCT website during September 2017 has a unique feature entitled *This Time in 442nd RCT History*, (September 2017): Rhineland campaign – Vosges (October 14, 1944 – November 21, 1944). Following a description of the 442nd liberation of Vosges area, the article ends on this note: “The Rhineland Campaign-Vosges liberated several towns in France but it had the most profound impact on Bruyeres and Biffontaine. In honor of being liberated by the soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from German forces, the people of the two villages have erected monuments and hold yearly celebrations to recognize the soldiers of the 442nd. School children in Bruyeres learn to sing *Aloha Oe* and *Hawaii Pono-i* as part of their curriculum. It is impressive to see the extreme gratitude of the people of these two towns toward the 442nd RCT and their families.”

**NVN Working on Four Exhibit Areas at Army National Museum**

**Los Angeles, CA.** The National Veterans Network (NVN) is presently involved in working on the following four National Museum of the US Army exhibit areas that will highlight the military service of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT, and Military Intelligence Service (MIS):

**Soldier Pylons:** Nisei Soldiers will be part of the Soldier Pylons Gallery that features steel pylons, lined in formation, with a soldier’s image and information about his service.

**Army and Society Gallery:** The Army and Society Gallery’s *Reflecting and Changing Timeline* will include the 100th/442nd/MIS to show the societal changes and issues that the Army has responded to related to segregated units, gender equality, and other issues that mirror our nation’s history.

**Medal of Honor:** The names of the 21 Japanese American Medal of Honor recipients will be engraved on a *Wall of Honor* located in the Medal of Honor Memorial Garden.

**Congressional Gold Medal Nisei Soldier Exhibit:** A 600-square foot exhibit space will be dedicated for a special exhibit to tell the story of the Congressional Gold Medal and the Nisei Soldiers.

*continued on next page....*
For the upcoming year, NVN’s focus is research and content development as we work with organizations throughout the country to identify and develop the Nisei Soldier stories for the above exhibits. While this is pursued an urgent priority is to collect objects/artifacts for the National Army Museum that has a very limited Nisei Soldier collection. There are two display cases that must be filled. The Museum is seeking objects/artifacts of Japanese American WWII soldiers to build their Nisei Soldier collection for their exhibits and long-term plans. Although an October 1, 2017, deadline was set, a continuing need for unique war souvenir and artifacts is anticipated for the Nisei Soldier exhibits. If you are interested in donating object/artifact(s), please email NVN at info@nationalveteransnetwork.com for detailed information.

Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Executive Director of NVN, who is spearheading this endeavor said “what compels us to do the work we do is in memory of our Nisei Soldiers. Although many are no longer with us, it is our obligation to ensure that their extraordinary service to country is preserved, perpetuated and shared for generations to come.”

Springfield, TN. Forde Lanier Callis, a member of the trapped battalion of the 36th (Texas) Division and JAVA member, passed away at his retirement home in Springfield, TN, on September 2, 2017. Callis was born on July 7, 1923, in Robertson County, TN. He was one of 14 children. After graduating from high school, Callis joined the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th Division in Naples, Italy. Following the Monte Cassino campaign, Callis’ division was deployed to Marseilles, France, to fight the retreating Germans to the Vosges Forests, located in northeastern France, not too far from the German border. In late October 1944, Callis’ battalion was encircled by an overwhelming German force. When elements of the 36th Division failed to save the trapped men, the 36th Division commander ordered the 442nd RCT to attempt the rescue.

After 5 days of bitter combat, sustaining huge casualties, 211 Texans who were left to be saved walked out. After a day of rest, these trapped men were ordered back to the front lines to pursue the German forces into the German homeland as part of the US 7th Army. It is remarkable that Callis survived the large casualties sustained by the 36th Division in Italy and France. He was hospitalized for frostbite for a number of months, followed by his honorable discharge. He was awarded many medals and ribbons, including the Combat Infantryman’s Badge, Bronze Star Medal and the French Legion of Honor.

continued on the next page...
Callis served as a deputy trustee under S.L. Swann for 15 years. In 1970, he was elected Robertson County Trustee and served 12 years until his retirement in 1982. He was a member of the Highland Chapel Union Church in Ridgetop since 1945 and has served as an elder of the church.

Callis attended the dedication of the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC, when he visited the JAVA booth. As there were three survivors of the trapped battalion a “reunion” with 442nd rescuers was arranged with TV and press coverage. Callis joined JAVA during this visit. Acting on JAVA’s request, Callis supported the National Veterans Network (NVN) endeavor to persuade Tennessee’s US senators to sign on the legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and the Military Intelligence Service. In addition to telephone calls, Callis visited the Senators’ offices in the State.

Dr. James Tojo of Cincinnati, OH, Passes

James Tojo, M.D., age 90, passed away in his Cincinnati, Ohio, home on September 9, 2017, surrounded by his wife and family. He was born on January 1, 1927, in Los Angeles, CA, the son of Japanese immigrants. During WWII, at age 15, he was imprisoned with his family in an internment camp. Yet he enlisted and proudly served in the US Army, becoming a First Lieutenant and Military Intelligence Service (MIS).

In 2011 Tojo was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal for patriotism. He earned his medical degree from University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. While an intern at St. Mary’s Hospital, he met an operating room nurse named Peggy Browning. They married and together had nine children. Last month they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary.

Tojo was an accomplished physician and surgeon in private practice, then served 25 years as Cincinnati’s Fire Department Surgeon and as Medical Director. After retirement Tojo volunteered his time delivering Meals on Wheels, working in a soup kitchen, and provided hospice care to the sick. He loved going to church, gardening, doing magic tricks for his grandkids and playing the piano.

Correction: The Summer 2017 Advocate contained an obituary of George Minoru Wakiji with an incorrect photo. The correct photo is above. We wish to apologize to Wakiji’s family for this error.

Welcome New Members
March 1 through September 30, 2017

Regular Members:
COL Joel Keith Aoki, USA
Richard Banh, USMC veteran
Jeffery Bell, USA Veteran
MAJ Clark Boyd, USA (Ret)
BG John Cho, USA (Ret)
Hannah Clifford, USA Veteran
MSG Keiv Dumlao, USA (Ret)
MAJ Eric Eick, USA (Ret)
Saigo Fujii, USAR Veteran
CAPT William HooFatt, USA (Ret)
LCDR Kenji Igawa, USN
Colin Itagaki, USA Veteran
Yona Kakoda, USA Veteran
Davis Katakura, USN Midshipman
CMSgt Alan Ogata, USAF
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LTC Jason Tanaka, USA (Ret)
Kenneth Thompson, USN Veteran
Maj Delories "Marie" Verrett, USAF (Ret.)

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Dale Kunitomi, Friend of JAVA
Ray Parker, Friend of JAVA
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David Tsuneishi, Friend of JAVA
Lynn Heirakuji, JAVA member who resides in Honolulu, emceeing the 2016 Veterans Day Program held annually at the Maunalani Nursing and Rehab Center in Honolulu. 32 veteran residents (living and deceased) at the Center were honored. *Photo from Heirakuji.*

Gettysburg, PA. On September 16 and 17, 2017, the National Park Service (NPS) sponsored its World War II living history weekend at the Eisenhower National Historic Site with authentic recreations of Allied and German army camps, complete with original World War II vehicles. Several hundred living history enthusiasts from over forty organizations portrayed military personnel from the European Theater in 1944.

Living history volunteers presented programs on World War II medical services, weapons and equipment, communications, military vehicles, and the life of the common soldier. Dozens of World War II jeeps and trucks were displayed and mock WW II mission and battles were reenacted, including the 442nd RCT. *Mary Murakami* was invited to speak on the second day, September 17th, on Executive Order 9066 and her confinement in an internment camp. *Photo from Ranger John Joyce, NPS.*

Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, was the guest speaker at the Gloucester County Memorial Day ceremony in Gloucester, Virginia, on May 28, 2017. The audience consisted of about 80 people who were veterans from the American Legion Post 75, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit Post 75, the Gloucester Virginia Legion Riders (motorcycle riders), Tabb High School's Navy JROTC Color Guard (from Yorktown, VA) and other cadets who helped with the wreath laying, and other family members. *U.S. Army photo by Greg Mueller.*

MG Miyako Schanely, USAR, (L) Commander, 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien, IL, (Chicago vicinity) received her second star in a pinning-on ceremony at her headquarters on September 23, 2017. To her left is MG Schanely’s mother, *Miyako Tanabe*, former Captain, USAF. Both are JAVA lifetime members. *Photo from MG Schanely.*
A JAVA member from the state of Maryland, LTC Rod Azama, USA (Ret), is a commissioner on the Governor’s Maryland Veterans Home Commission (MHVC). The MVHC meets quarterly at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home (CHVH) in an advisory capacity to George Owings, Secretary, MD Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA), regarding CHVH. Pictured L-R: Former Maryland Delegate John Wood, Commissioner; MG Andrew Anderson, USA (RET), Commissioner; Former Maryland Senator Bernie Fowler, Commissioner; Katie Gleeson, Commissioner; MDVA Secretary George Owings III; Special Guest Speaker Capt. Cynthia Macri, M.D., USN, (RET); Associate to Capt. Macri; Jason Franklin, Commissioner; Azama; BG Warner Sumpter, USA, (RET), Commission Chairman; and Maryland Dept. of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Bob Finn. Photo from Sharon Murphy, Director, Veterans Home Program, MDVA.

The Department of Defense Warrior Games was held in Chicago on June 30 to July 8, 2017, for active duty military personnel and veterans who sustained upper body, lower body and spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injuries, visual impairment and post-traumatic stress. They competed in archery, cycling, sitting volleyball, shooting, swimming, wheelchair basketball and track and field. This is the first time the Games were held outside a military base. MG Garrett Yee, Cybersecurity Director for the Army Chief Information Officer/G6, kneeling, center front on the right of soldier in wheelchair, represented the Army Staff from the Pentagon at the Track and Archery events. Photo from MG Yee.
On July 21, 2017, CAPT (Dr) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret) (above left), head of JAVA Speakers Bureau, escorted 14 students and 2 chaperones of Globalize DC on a tour of the Washington Navy Yard (WNY) Willard Park where they were briefed on naval artifacts of the Pacific and a monument commemorating the site where the first Japanese Embassy personnel arrived in 1860. They next visited the WNY Museum where Macri briefed the group on Japan’s attack of Hawaii, the internment of 120,000 ethnic Japanese, Japanese Americans who served in the Amy in Europe and the Pacific to prove their loyalty, the US Navy’s role in the Atlantic and Pacific and America’s use of the atom bomb. Globalize DC was formerly known as the DC Center for Global Education and Leadership. Its mission is “to leverage the unique resources of the nation’s capital to ensure that our city’s young people are prepared for the global future they will inhabit.” Photo from CAPT Macri.

The image to the right is a typical scene of destruction left by hurricane Harvey when it hit southeast Texas in late August 2017 and by hurricane Irma when it hit virtually all of Florida in early September 2017. Three JAVA members who live in the affected areas reported they sustained minimal damage to their homes. Sandra Tanamachi and husband Dr. Bruce Nakata reside in Lake Jackson, TX, a suburb of Houston; Ingebourg Tanamachi, wife of the late Willie Tanamachi, 442nd veteran, resides in Houston; and LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) and wife Mae Nakamoto reside in Apollo Beach, FL, just south of Tampa. Photo from Marty Herbert.
Thank you, Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends. (December 1, 2016 through March 1, 2017) Yoneichi Fukui, Lester Sakamoto (Hilo, HI), Bernhardt Wealth Management (in honor of Betty Tsuneishi, McLean, VA), Ann Tsuda (in memory of Masuo Tsuda, Grass Valley, CA), Jane Matsunaga (in memory of George Matsunaga, Honolulu, HI), Catherine Janowski (Vienna, VA), Hannelore Ninomiya (Chevy Chase, MD)

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Congressional Gold Medal

– Scott Monfils, 2015

Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award

– Sandra Tanamachi, November 13, 2005
– Senator Daniel K. Akaka, March 6, 2007
– Dr. James McNaughton, March 6, 2007
– John Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, September 27, 2007
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JAVA is a registered 501(c) (19) War Veterans Organization and must comply with Internal Revenue Code provisions that require 90% of its membership to be comprised of war veterans. To qualify as a War Veteran Member, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any of these periods but need not have served in a war zone:

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

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