



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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JAVA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CEREMONY

Gerald Yamada, JAVA President
Opening Remarks
(as prepared)

Good afternoon. Welcome to the 2021 JAVA Scholarship Awards presentation ceremony.

Let me thank all the donors who are sponsoring the 14 scholarships that we are awarding today. Without your support, JAVA would not have a scholarship program.

Also, let me thank Chris DeRosa, Scholarship Committee Chair, for her leadership and her committee for all their hard work. Each year, with more applications received, the decisions become harder. I very much appreciate their effort and dedication.

Let me give a final thank you to all the students who applied. I wish JAVA could give a scholarship to each of them. But, that is not possible.

Congratulations to all the recipients of today's scholarship awards. I hope that you take pride in not only receiving a JAVA scholarship but also in honoring the person for whom your scholarship is named and all who served in World War II.

The Japanese American soldiers, men and women, who served in World War II forged a legacy, with their patriotism and personal courage, for all Americans. Today, you are benefiting from that legacy. I hope that, wherever your future careers take you, you will help preserve that legacy for others and for future generations.

This is an exciting time in your lives. You are embarking on your journey to higher education. Take the time to enjoy it. Appreciate the opportunity. Have fun. Study hard. Learn how to think for yourself. And, keep in touch with us.

We wish you good luck and success in your future endeavors.