



# Japanese American Veterans Association

# JAVA ADVOCATE

SUMMER 2015

VOLUME XXIII - ISSUE II

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## Japanese American Admiral Assumes Command of US Pacific Command

Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In a double change-of-command ceremony in Pearl Harbor on May 27, 2015, ADM Harry Harris was promoted from U.S. Pacific Fleet (PACFLT) Commander to U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) Commander, and ADM Scott Swift took over as the new PACFLT Commander.



ADM Harry B. Harris Jr., left, Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, ADM Samuel J. Locklear III, and ADM Scott H. Swift, render honors during the joint USPACOM and PACFLT change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on May 27, 2015. US Navy photo.

Defense Secretary Ashton Carter attended the ceremony on Wednesday and spoke of the importance of the region and the good work Harris has done to begin implementing the Asia-Pacific rebalance for the Navy. "At PACFLT, he helped bring our most advanced capabilities to the Asia-Pacific and shift 60 percent of our naval assets to the region," Carter said. "He also stressed and maintained the readiness that's at a premium in this dynamic region. For all those reasons and many more, Harry's the PACOM Commander we need for the next phase of the rebalance." During the ceremony, Harris said, "there's no shortage of challenges that confront us. If called upon, we will fight tonight to defend American interests in the vast Indo-Asia-Pacific. This is not aspirational. It is in our DNA. Our nation deserves no less; our President and Secretary of Defense expect no less." (Continued on Page 2)

## New VA Clinic in New Mexico Honors Nisei Medal of Honor Recipient

By Joseph Annello



Ribbon cutting ceremony. (L-R) Andrew Welch, Director of the New Mexico VA Health Care System; US Senator Martin Heinrich; Miyamura and US Congressman Ben Ray Lujan. Photo from Miyamura.

of the larger Albuquerque center. Hershey plans to lead a public tour of the Clinic in Oct. 2015.

Addressing a group of about 150 people, Hershey thanked the Department of Veterans Affairs for building this new clinic, reminded all not to forget the service and sacrifices veterans made and to always honor those soldiers who did not return. He also thanked the VA for the outstanding treatment he personally has received over the past 60+ years and said that without that service and care he knows he would not be here today. He also stated that he was very proud and honored to be a Korean War veteran and that Korean War veterans didn't receive the recognition they deserve. He said he is honored to travel to different events and to attend gatherings of fellow Korean War veterans and is proud to be a spokesperson for those veterans to help ensure the American people will not forget the 54,246 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Korean War. [Joe Annello of Castle Rock, Colorado, met Hershey Miyamura in Japan before being sent to Korea in 1950. They were both wounded and captured by the Chinese Army in 1951. They have since been fast friends. Joe and his wife Joan are members of JAVA and Hershey is an Honorary Chair of JAVA.]

## JAVA Elects New Slate of Officers

Falls Church, Virginia. JAVA's election of officers to serve a term ending on December 31, 2016 was held on March 14, 2015 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant, Fall Church, VA. Prior to introducing LTC Michael Yaguchi, Chairman of the Election Committee, to discuss and complete the election process, outgoing President Wade Ishimoto said the year of the Horse was a tumultuous one for JAVA. "We had two of our Board members pass away (Past President Bob Nakamoto and General Counsel Calvin Ninomiya), and three resign (President Gerald Yamada, Janelle Kuroda, and Bill Houston). At the end of the year we had to tame this bucking horse and look forward to JAVA's future with a new slate of officers and Board members."



New slate of officers being sworn in by LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), Esq (L). Officers are (L-R) COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President; LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Vice President; and Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, Secretary; Not in photo, COL George Ishikata (Ret), ARNG, Treasurer. Photo by M. Yaguchi.

The following officers were elected by acclamation and LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), Esq. officiated in the swearing-in ceremony: President: COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), Vice President: LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Secretary: Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, Treasurer: COL George Ishikata, USA. A brief biography of the new officers is below.

President Cardarelli serves as the Vice President for the Veterans Affairs Business Accounts at SRA, International. Prior to joining the private sector he served as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits and as the Deputy Chief of Staff in the Department of Veterans Affairs. He is the son of a career Army non-commissioned officer, was commissioned in the Infantry following graduation from the U.S. Military Academy. Throughout his military career, he served in a variety of command and staff positions in the 82nd Airborne Division, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the 25th Infantry Division. He holds degrees from the U.S. Military Academy, the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Vice President Nakagawa retired in 2011 from the United States Army after a career spanning over 21 years. He continues serving in the Department of Defense. He was born in Okinawa and raised in Hawaii. He was commissioned through the ROTC Program. Mark served overseas in Germany, Korea, and Iraq, and his service culminated with his service at the White House Military Office and Army Staff. He holds degrees from University of Southern California, Naval Postgraduate School, Command and General Staff College, and most recently an MBA from George Mason University. His military awards and decorations include the Ranger Tab, Parachutist Badge, and Legion of Merit.

Secretary Hirohata serves in the Air Force Judge Advocate Corps. He has been a Staff Judge Advocate at the group, wing, JTF, and MAJCOM level, 4 times in combat, advising Commanders to the 4 star level. He has been personally appointed by Mr. Stephen Preston, DoD General Counsel to fill in as the General Counsel for JIEDDO. Col Hirohata is a graduate, in residence, of the Air War College. He holds degrees in Political Science, International relations (BA, FRESNO STATE), Aeronautical Science (MAS, Embry Riddle), Strategic Studies (MSS, Air War College), and Law (JD, Southern Illinois). He is a fellow in the 2016 class of AAGEN's SES development program and was recently awarded FAPAC's Military Meritorious Service and Diversity Award 2015.

Treasurer Ishikata recently retired from thirty-one years of service with the Army National Guard, having served as a Military Intelligence Officer during the bulk of his career, and for a short time as a Military Police Officer. Beyond deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo, George's most recent assignment was at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence. Recognized with the Federal Asian/Pacific American Council Meritorious Service Award in 2006, George has been an active volunteer in the community, particularly with youth programs through the Civil Air Patrol.

The outgoing officers are Wade Ishimoto, President, LTC Allen Goshi, USA (Ret), Secretary, and LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret), Treasurer.

## Japanese American Admiral Assumes Command of US PACOM (Continued from Page 1)

As PACOM Commander Harris will be responsible for military operations that cover about one half of the globe stretching from California to the Indian Ocean and from the Arctic to Antarctica and at a time when North Korea is displaying an erratic game of brinkmanship and China is attempting to assert control of the South China Sea. Harris was born in Japan and his mother was a Japanese national. He graduated from the US Naval Academy and did graduate studies at Harvard, Georgetown and Oxford, England. Harris believes his Asian experience and background will help cement relations with Asian nations.

Kirk Spitzer, a Time journalist, interviewed Harris on May 25, 2015. Following are excerpts from this interview, "The New Head of the U.S. Pacific Command Talks to TIME About the Pivot to Asia and His Asian Roots." Spitzer asked whether the "rebalance" is real and Harris replied, "Not only is the rebalance real, but the military part is well on its way." In response to a question as to why US should be concerned about Chinese actions in the South China Sea, Harris said, "I have been critical of China for a pattern of provocative actions that they've begun in the recent past. Like unilaterally declaring an air-defense identification zone over the East China Sea, parking a mobile oil platform off the Vietnam coast, and their lack of clarity on their outrageous claim — preposterous claim, really — to 90% of the South China Sea. All these examples, I think, are inconsistent with international laws and norms. They make China's neighbors nervous, it increases tensions in the region, and I think they are destabilizing for peace in the region... Freedom of navigation is critical. That's why what China is doing in the South China Sea is troubling. They have manufactured land there at a staggering pace just in the last months. They've created about 2,000 acres of these man-made islands... They've also made massive construction projects on artificial islands for what are clearly, in my point of view, military purposes, including large airstrips and ports."

Asked what keeps him awake at night, Harris said it is North Korea, which has an unpredictable leader with a quest for nuclear weapons. He kills people around him who disagree with him.

### Honorary Chairs

Senator Daniel Akaka (Ret.)  
The Honorable Norman Mineta  
Hershey H. Miyamura, Medal of Honor  
George Joe Sakato, Medal of Honor

### Officers

COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret.), President  
LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret.), Vice President  
Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, Secretary  
COL George Ishikata, USANG, Treasurer

### Executive Council

Above Officers Plus:  
Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret.), Exec. Director  
LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR  
Terry Shima  
Reuben Yoshikawa  
CAPT Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret.)  
LTC Rodney Azama, USA (Ret.)  
LTC Brett T. Egusa, USAR

### JAVA Advocate

Aki Konoshima, Editor Emeritus  
LTC Kay Wakatake, USA, Editor Emeritus  
LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR, Editor Emeritus  
Erika L. Moritsugu, Esq., Editor Emeritus  
Thomas and Jill Phan, Editors

## President's Message



It is an honor and privilege to serve as the President of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). I am the son of a career Army non-commissioned officer whose service spanned more than 25 years and two wars. My mother met my father in the Camp Zama, Japan Army Hospital in 1952 while he was recovering from his combat wounds. For the next 55 years she called the United States of America her home and never had a desire to live again in Japan.

My parents instilled in me a deep commitment to service to our nation, a strong moral work ethic, the value of education, and a strong belief in our military. As a result, for nearly all of my adult life I have served my country. First, as a cadet at the United States Military Academy, then as a career Army Infantry officer, and finally, culminating my Federal Service as the Deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs. In my current role as the Vice President of Veterans Affairs at SRA International, I continue to work to solve veterans' issues and challenges well as those of active duty service members.

During my nearly 35 year professional career in the Department of Defense, on Capitol Hill, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and lastly, in the private sector, I have had the opportunity to lead people, build teams and coalitions, lead change, achieve results and manage business. It is an extreme honor for me to bring my experience to the position of the President of JAVA. My interest in serving is simply an intense desire to give back to the

United States of America and to all Americans of Asian heritage who have allowed me to have the many opportunities that I have experienced throughout my life. Many of the opportunities that I have had in my life have been as a result of the paths that so many great Asian Americans such as Terry Shima, Ray Murakami, Secretary Shinseki and others, too numerous to mention, have blazed. I feel that many Asian Americans of my generation and younger, stand on the shoulders of these great Asian Americans who faced many challenges as they were progressing through their personal and professional lives. I am honored to take on this mantle of leadership and I feel extremely privileged to serve in the capacity as the JAVA President.

JAVA is a nationwide Veterans Service Organization dedicated to representing the interests and preserving the military lineage of all American veterans, reservists, and active duty personnel, including Asian American veterans. Through this goal JAVA must continue to remain relevant to today's service members and veterans. In order to be relevant to this generation of soldiers, sailors, airman, marines, and coast guardsman, JAVA must address and be active in the issues that they are faced with. These issues include those associated with recovering from more than 10 years of active combat such as PTSD and other health concerns; employment challenges; transition assistance; education pursuits and career advancement; and networking.

My goals as the President of JAVA are to 1) Further ensure JAVA relevancy in the lives of these service members and veterans by managing and growing our programs; 2) Strengthen our ties and collaboration with other Asian American Organizations such as PPALM, the National Veterans Network, and the National Japanese Memorial Foundation to create aligned synergies and sharing the talents of all organizations to further interests while preserving the lineage of all American veterans, reservists and active duty personnel; 3) Grow our membership to reach out to the next generation of Asian Americans to prepare them to assume the mantle of leadership; and 4) To always care for our valued members of the organization no matter what generation and never forget those who came before us.

My Vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century JAVA is an organization that is veteran-centric, results driven and forward looking. Veterans and their families are central to JAVA's focus and they are our constituents and clients. Each day our actions should be to represent their interests while preserving the lineage and history of all veterans, including Asian American veterans.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century JAVA must be results driven as it provides assistance and improves the quality of life of these veterans and their families by facilitating access to appropriate healthcare, employment and career opportunities, educational opportunities while increasing public awareness of the role and military heritage of all Asian Americans.

Lastly, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century JAVA must be forward looking by always anticipating future challenges that may confront our members while continuing to provide services that are relevant to them. JAVA must continue to always challenge its business processes and procedures to ensure that we are remaining relevant to our clients and to the Asian American Community as a whole. JAVA must identify, establish and maintain key alliances and partnerships with other key Asian American organizations; VSOs and key Defense, Business, Education and Political organizations to ensure this future relevancy.

This vision would result in a JAVA that in the near future is an even more effective and relevant VSO which is called upon for advice and counsel by the Department of Veterans Affairs, other agencies and the White House for input on veterans matters; is a JAVA that is even more relevant to all generations of veterans by providing programs, initiatives, advice and counsel on topics which are important to them; is a JAVA whose membership is growing and thriving which remembers and honors the past generation and that is preparing the future generation to assume the responsibilities of leadership and is a JAVA that has established and maintained strong Alliances and Partnerships with other esteemed Asian American Organizations and other Veterans Service Organizations to leverage the skills, knowledge and abilities of all organizations to further represent the interests and preserve the military lineage of all veterans including Asian American veterans.

Working together we can achieve these goals and this Vision of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century JAVA!

Kind Regards,  
Mike Cardarelli

### Welcome New Members!

Richard S. Fujimoto, Sgt Msj. USA, Goodyear, AZ (Ret)  
James L. Huggins, Jr. LTG, USA, Arlington, VA (Ret)  
Kaipo S. McCartney, Col, USAF (Active)  
Yohei M. Saegusa, Maj, USAF, Ewa Beach, HI (Active)  
Damon M. Senaha, LCDR, USN, Mililani, HI (Ret)  
Daren Tanaka, SSG (E6), Lorton, VA (Hon Discharged)



## Three Medal of Honor Recipients Receive Highest Korean Medal for Gallantry Beyond the Call of Duty

By Joe Annello

On July 27, 2014, Hershey Miyamura, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and Medal of Honor recipient for the Korean War, was awarded the Republic of Korea's highest military award, *The Order of Military Merit, Taeguk*, their highest decoration for military bravery and valor. It was the first time the medal has been awarded since the end of the war. The award ceremony was held on the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement. Ron Rosser, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, and Einar Ingman, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, both MOH recipients, also received the *Taeguk Medal* in the same ceremony. James and Mary Ingram received the award on behalf of their father who was too ill to make the trip. Hershey, who is also a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, was accompanied by his son, Mike.

The *Taeguk* Medals were presented in a dignified ceremony by Prime Minister Hong-Won Chung attended by many important dignitaries including Korean and American military and civilian officials. General Curtis Scarparrotti, Commanding General US Forces, Korea and the United Nations Command, and his immediate predecessor, General James D. Thurman, USMC (Ret), MG Thomas S. Vandal, Commanding General of 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, and Republic of Korea's most famous General, Paik Sun Yup (Ret), the first four star general ever in the Korean Army, participated.

Miyamura, a replacement for the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, in WWII, served in the Korean War. On April 24, 1951 at Taejon-ni he was ordered to position his machine gun squad at the point to halt the Chinese offensive while his unit withdrew. When his squad was about to be overrun he ordered them to withdraw while he attempted to cover their retreat. When the machine gun failed to function, he engaged in hand to hand combat. Wounded, he lay in a ditch when a Chinese lieutenant took him prisoner. He was in the Chinese prison for 28 months and resisted Chinese attempts to break and brainwash him. During this time, there was no communication with his family, who knew nothing about his status. He frequently worried as a POW that if he returned he would be court martialed for failing to hold off the Chinese rampage. When he sat alone in the room at Panmunjom on August 23, 1953 awaiting release, thoughts of court martial entered his mind. He feared that the American who would come to take him away would be a Military Police. He was relieved when it was an Army general who told Hershey of his gallantry over and beyond the call of duty for which he will receive the Medal of Honor. Hershey was mentally relieved when he left the DMZ.



Hershey Miyamura, recipient of the South Korean equivalent of the Medal of Honor

## VA Secretary Waives Resident-Rate Requirements of the Choice Act through December, 2015

WASHINGTON – In order to make it easier for Veterans and their families to receive their GI Bill benefits where they choose, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has used his authority to waive the provisions of Section 702 of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 (Choice Act). This action will ensure all GI Bill students are able to continue training at their chosen institutions. Under Section 702, VA must disapprove education programs at public institutions for Post-9/11 GI Bill and Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) benefits if a school charges certain individuals tuition and fees in excess of the resident rate for terms beginning after July 1, 2015.

"Our military members and their families make sacrifices that require them to pack up and move with little notice," said Bob McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "They shouldn't be penalized after they leave military service by burdensome residency requirements. This waiver will allow students to continue receiving the GI Bill benefits they've earned as states work to comply with this important law."



Robert A. McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

In general, the resident-rate provisions of the Choice Act cover Veterans, as well as their spouses and children, using Post-9/11 GI Bill or MGIB-AD who live in the state where they are attending school and who enrolled within three years of the Veteran's qualifying discharge. To remain approved, schools must charge tuition and fees at the resident rate to these covered individuals.

For more information on GI Bill resident-rate requirements and to see which states comply, visit the GI Bill website at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/702.asp>. Updates will also be posted on the GI Bill Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation>. [Editor's Note. More information can be found in the Round Robin for JAVA, Issue #15-7, June 5, 2015.]

## A Message to JAVA from Ted Fujimoto

Dear JAVA Members, the Japanese American Community, and Navy Veterans,

I'm sorry this has taken me so long to write. I want to thank you for the quick and overwhelming response to my request for information that was put into the JAVA Round Robin. In a matter of two weeks, I had compiled a list of Japanese American US Navy submarine commanding officers.

When my son, CDR Sean Fujimoto, took command of the USS New Hampshire in December 2012, I tried to find this information on the Internet but was unsuccessful. I wanted to know if there were any Japanese American submarine commanding officers before my son. When it came time for my son to give up command of the USS New Hampshire on April 13, 2015, I thought I would try again, but go through the Japanese American community for this information. I contacted Sharon Yoshida, the JACL Seabrook Chapter co-president, from my hometown in NJ. Sharon made some calls and sent out emails to find a good source. Erick Ishii, from DC, told Sharon that I should contact JAVA. I am an Army retiree but had not heard about JAVA. After contacting Wade Ishimoto and joining JAVA, things just took off and I received the information I requested. From what I received, my son is the fifth Japanese American submarine commanding officer. CAPT (Ret) Reid Tanaka, CAPT (Ret) Edward Takesuye, CAPT Mike Katahara, and CAPT Rob Peters preceded him. If anyone has an update to this, please let me know. RADM (Ret) James Beebe and CDR (Ret) Calvin Shintani were also submariners, but were not submarine commanding officers. It was gratifying to find out how well represented Japanese Americans are in the US Navy submarine force. Also, reading all the stories and accomplishments in the JAVA Advocate, on the Go For Broke website, and in the JACL newsletters, really makes me proud of our heritage and all the accomplishments of Japanese Americans in the US military.

My Nisei parents, Tsugio and Tsuneko (nee Kato) Fujimoto, have passed away and would have been proud of their grandson's accomplishment just as they were of their sons'. That they couldn't be there was the only sad part of my son's change of command. My parents were both born in CA and, sadly, were incarcerated at Rohwer, AR, during the war. My oldest brother, Edward Fujimoto, was the second baby born at San Anita Racetrack when the evacuations began. My next oldest brother, Richard Fujimoto, was born at Rohwer, AR.

As the American concentration camps were closing, my parents and a lot of other Japanese Americans moved to Seabrook, NJ, where Seabrook Farms Frozen Foods offered employment and a new start. My younger brother, Gene Fujimoto, and I were born in Bridgeton, NJ. Seabrook was a great place to live and grow up. Fortunately, a lot of this experience has been preserved by the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (<http://www.seabrookeducation.org>). Seabrook was a melting pot of many nationalities and cultures. We had Japanese, Estonians, Germans, Latvians, Lithuanians, Polish, Russians, African Americans, and the local people in our Seabrook community. Seabrook Grammar School was one of the highest rated grammar schools in NJ. Prejudice was never felt growing up until we went out of the community where we would occasionally hear the "J-word." We were all just happy American kids who said the Pledge of Allegiance and read a verse from the Bible every morning at school.

Growing up, we never really knew about the American concentration camps since our parents and most of the other Japanese American parents never talked about the camps and their experiences. It was probably painful for them to talk about it and remember it. But also, I think our parents didn't want us to become prejudiced or have negative feelings about our country, the United States of America. When we grew up watching all the WWII war movies on TV, especially those with Japan, we always knew what side we were on, the USA. "Go for Broke," of course, was my favorite war movie. When we played army (no electronic games back then), it was good guys against the bad guys. I didn't think about it at the time, but it really made patriotism a big part of our lives.

My two uncles, two of my three brothers, my two sons, and I are all veterans. Economics, family responsibilities, job training, the draft, and other factors influenced our joining the military, but deep inside I know that patriotism and loyalty instilled by Mom and Dad made us proud to serve our country. My uncle, George Iwao Kato, was in the Army when his family was incarcerated at Manzanar. While on leave and visiting his family there, he had his picture taken by Ansel Adams and was in Adams' book "Born Free and Equal." My other uncle, Kay Kiyoshi Kato, joined the Army at the end of camp and served in the Military Intelligence Service. My oldest brother, Edward, was going to college and was married during the Vietnam War and was deferred from the draft. He became a successful chemist. My brother, Richard, joined the Army in 1964, served for 25-1/2 years and retired as a Sergeant Major. He then spent 21 years with the Boy Scouts of America and retired as Program Director, Grand Canyon Council, BSA. This was the 9<sup>th</sup> largest council in the BSA. I enlisted in the Army in 1968 and retired after 27-1/2 years, also as a Sergeant Major. My last 9 years of active duty and then 16 years as a DOD contractor were with HQ, Joint Special Operations Command. My youngest brother, Gene, spent 10 years as an officer in the Navy. After graduating from Caltech, he joined the Navy to avoid being drafted because he had a low lottery draft number. After serving aboard the USS Caliente, a shore tour in Yokosuka, Japan, and a tour aboard the USS Midway, he ended his Navy career as an instructor at the Naval Academy Prep School. He then worked for General Dynamics Electric Boat, builder of nuclear submarines, for 28 years and worked on various software systems including some used by my son on fast attack submarines. My younger son, Todd, graduated from Tulane University on a ROTC scholarship and retired from the Marine Corps as a Major in August 2013. He now works as the HQ Marine Corps, Installations and Logistics (LP) liaison to Marine Forces Reserve in New Orleans, LA. My older son, Sean, graduated from the US Naval Academy and just finished a successful command tour of the USS New Hampshire. He is headed to the Pentagon to work in the Chief of Naval Operations Office (N97). We are all proud veterans and happy to have served.

Again, thanks for your support and God Bless America,

Ted Fujimoto  
SGM, USA (Ret)

## MIS Members with Brothers Serving in Japanese Imperial Forces during WW II By JAVA Research Team

Nisei soldiers in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) served in the Asia Pacific war zone as interrogators of Japanese prisoners of war, they entered caves to persuade Japanese soldiers to surrender, they were in the Special Forces working behind enemy lines, and they were in the first or second wave of the Marines or infantry invasion forces. All these duties brought the Nisei in close proximity to Japanese soldiers alive and dead. Many of these Nisei had siblings who were going to school in Japan and served in the Japanese military. MIS Nisei said they could mentally handle every situation that combat produced but would be challenged if they met a sibling in enemy uniform, face to face when entering a cave or while working behind enemy lines, or to see a sibling dead. It is difficult to estimate the Nisei's mental anguish in these situations and accounts have not been found in the National Archives or in books. The four cases cited below describe siblings fighting for America and for Japan.

**Akune brothers.** Harry and Ken Akune served in the MIS and their two brothers, Saburo and Shiro, were drafted into the Imperial Japanese Navy. After the death of his wife, Ichiro, father of the Akune boys, took his nine children to settle in his hometown in Kagoshima Prefecture. Later, before WW II, Harry and Ken were sent to California to work and send remittances to their family. Following Japan's attack of Pearl Harbor, Harry and Ken Akune were among the 118,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were placed in internment camps against their will. "Then, one day an Army recruiter came with news that the government now wanted young men from the internment camps to join the military. I didn't care what the government had done to us," Ken Akune said. "When they came around, it was a chance for me to do what Americans were supposed to do, go out and serve their country. When they opened their door, for me, I felt like my rights were given back to me. I also thought about if I met my brother out in the field, what would I do?" Ken Akune said. "You don't want to kill him, but if he points his rifle at you, what can you do?"

Ken and Harry graduated from the MIS Language School in 1942 and were deployed to the Asia Pacific war zone, Ken to Burma to work for the Office of War Information to conduct propaganda against Japan. Harry was sent to New Guinea and the Philippines to interrogate Japanese prisoners and to translate documents. Harry, who had not made a parachute jump before, joined his colleagues of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Paratroopers to jump onto Corregidor island. Their brothers in the Japanese Navy, Saburo was a spotter of American targets for the kamikaze pilots and Shiro, just 15, served in the training program for recruits at the Sasebo Naval Base. After the war, Harry and Ken, while serving in the demobilization of Japanese armed forces, visited their family in Kagoshima Prefecture. The four brothers, two on each side, got into a heated argument as to which side, Japan or America, was right. The confrontation was stopped by their father, who reminded them the war was over. Saburo and Shiro returned to live in America, where, ironically, Shiro was drafted and fought in the Korean War.

**Yempuku Brothers.** Lieutenant Ralph Yempuku served as Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of Detachment 101, Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in Burma, and subsequently in Detachment 202 in Kunming, China. Three of his brothers served in the Imperial Japanese Army. Yempuku and 17 other Nisei of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Combat Team were selected to serve as linguists in the OSS. Yempuku's unit in Burma consisted of Americans, British and several thousand Kachin natives of northern Burma. A Kachin served as Yempuku's body guard and interpreter and their language of communication, ironically, was Japanese. When Detachment 101 disbanded on July 12, 1945, Yempuku joined OSS Detachment 202 in Kunming, China.

Yempuku had frequently thought of his brothers in Japan. On September 12, 1945 Yempuku was in the Peninsula Hotel in Hong Kong where he came close to meeting his brother Donald. Donald, an interpreter for the Japanese Army, walked into the hotel with the Japanese surrender delegation. Donald later told a Nisei interrogator that seeing Ralph in "enemy uniform was the most trying moment in my life. For a brief second I felt the urge to call out but I could not allow myself to do that. I just couldn't. In my mind the war was still going on and we were enemies." The data does not show that Ralph remained for the surrender ceremonies. Following the War, fearing that his family had perished from the atom bomb, Ralph visited Ataka Island near Hiroshima City. He found his mother and father alive and well as all his brothers, Paul, Goro, Donald, Joshu and Toru. Toru, Goro and Donald served in the Japanese Army. Yempuku, who retired as a Colonel in the Army Reserves, received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Soldier's Medal and the Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster.

**Fukuhara brothers.** Lieutenant Harry Fukuhara, USAR (Ret) served as an interrogator and translator in New Guinea and the Philippines and subsequently served in the Occupation and Post-Occupation period of Japan. His two brothers were assigned to an Army suicide unit for the defense of Kyushu Island. When Fukuhara's father died in 1933, his mother decided to move the family back to Hiroshima, Japan. There, Harry attended school with his siblings. At age 18, Fukuhara moved back to America. His three brothers decided to remain in Japan. When war broke out Fukuhara was interned at the Gila River, Arizona internment center. Despite his detention for no reason other than his ethnicity, Fukuhara said "I realized the time had come for me to decide whether I wanted to be 100% American and fight for my country." Fukuhara enlisted in November 1942, attended the MIS Language School and was deployed to New Guinea. On August 10, 1945, Fukuhara received a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant. While in the Philippines, Fukuhara's unit was preparing for the invasion of Kyushu. This did not occur because the atom bomb was dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki and, shortly after that, Japan surrendered.

Early in his assignment in Japan, he was able to return to Hiroshima where he found his mother and her sister safe, his older brother survived but soon died as the result of radiation. His two other brothers were in the Japanese Army training for the allied invasion of Kyushu. If the atom bomb did not intervene, Fukuhara (for US) and his two brothers, Pierce and Frank (for Japan), might have fought against each other in the same battle. Fukuhara remained in the Army and retired as a full colonel in 1971 and subsequently served as an Army civilian in Japan for another 20 years. Fukuhara received the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, a high decoration from the Emperor of Japan, the Intelligence Medal of Merit from the Central Intelligence Agency and induction into the MIS Hall of Fame.

Article Continued on Page 7



Lt. Ralph Yempuku



Right front: COL Harry Fukuhara, USAR (Ret)



## Brothers vs. Brothers (Continued from Page 6)

**Matsumoto brothers.** M/Sgt Roy H. Matsumoto served with the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit (Provisional), known as the Merrill's Marauders, a special forces unit in Burma during WW II. Roy's brother, Tsutomu Tom Matsumoto, a MIS linguist, served in the Occupation of Japan and retired as a Colonel. Roy's other two brothers, Isao and Noboru, served in the Japanese military. Noboru in the artillery in Guadalcanal and Hiroshi in China. Roy's third brother in Japan worked as a civilian for the Imperial Japanese Navy. Born in Laguna Beach, California and at age 8, Roy was taken to Hiroshima, Japan to live with his grandparents for 9 years. After graduating from high school he returned to California. Meanwhile, his mother and her six other children had gone to Japan to live. When war broke out in 1941, Roy was sent to the Jerome, Arkansas internment camp and in 1942 he volunteered to join the MIS.

Following his graduation at MIS Language School, Roy joined the Merrill's Marauders, where he performed heroically. Hiking in the Burmese jungle he discovered an enemy telephone line, obtained equipment to tap it, and the results were used to bomb enemy targets. Also, on the night of April 5, 1944 at Nhpun Ga Hill he crawled to the enemy bivouac area, eavesdropped on enemy's plans for the following morning and reported his findings to his battalion commander. The information was used to re-arrange the battalion's defense line. When the enemy attacked the following morning in overwhelming numbers, they were ambushed resulting in 53 dead. Matsumoto saved his battalion from probable annihilation. He was subsequently assigned to China where he met his brother, Hiroshi, and a cousin in a prisoner of war camp in Shanghai. Subsequently, while serving in the Occupation of Japan, Matsumoto visited Hiroshima where he found his mother and siblings had survived the atomic bomb. The Merrill's Marauders has the distinction of being the first American unit to fight on the Asian continent since the Boxer Rebellion. Matsumoto was awarded the Legion of Merit, 5 bronze star medals, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame and the MIS Hall of Fame.



Roy Matsumoto (right) in Burma

## MIS Hawaii Sponsors National Reunion. Admiral Harris, Maj Gen Ishimoto and Dr. McNaughton are Principal Speakers

[Adapted from MIS Hawaii May 2015 Newsletter.] Honolulu, Hawaii. To mark the opening of the MIS exhibit on the 70<sup>th</sup> year since WW II ended, the MIS Veterans Hawaii held a National Reunion on March 27 – 28, 2015 in Honolulu attended by veterans and their families from Hawaii and the mainland. The Reunion began on March 27 at the Hawaii Legislature where special resolutions were presented by each chamber, the House of Representatives and the Senate. That evening over 100 people attended the opening reception at the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans Clubhouse, where Dr. James McNaughton, US Army senior historian and author of *Nisei Linguists: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WW II*, led a panel discussion on the need to keep the MIS legacy alive.



Maj Gen Arthur Ishimoto, USAF (Ret)

The next morning, March 28, the MIS exhibit at the US Army Museum of Hawaii at Fort DeRussy entitled "America's Secret Weapon" was officially opened. Dr. McNaughton, the keynote speaker, discussed the need to preserve the MIS story. He said "history cannot just be a book on the shelf, you have to be continually telling it. Ultimately, it comes down to individuals. And that's what this [Museum] exhibit does so well. The MIS story has ... 6,000 individual stories. Not all of them have been told yet. And family histories and oral histories are very, very important. That's where we get the details that we need so that historians like me can sit down at our computers and take all that hard work from the families, the photo albums, the oral histories. And then we've got the easy part: we just sit down and synthesize it."

The luncheon at the Hale Koa Hotel, attended by Governor David Ige and former Governor and MIS veteran George Ariyoshi, featured two speakers, Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., Commander of US Pacific Command, and Maj Gen Arthur Ishimoto, a MIS veteran and former Adjutant General of Hawaii. Ishimoto recounted his experiences during the war and also detailed the exploits of Dick Hamada of Honolulu, an OSS veteran who served in Burma during WW II. Ishimoto had an instrumental role in Hamada's forthcoming induction into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame.

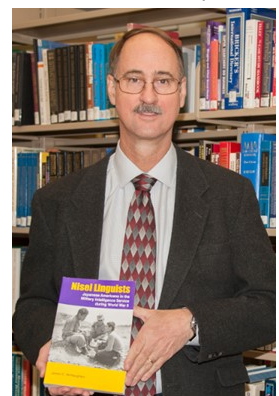


Admiral Harris (L) and former Governor Ariyoshi



Governor David Ige (L) and Lawrence Enomoto, President MIS Hawaii

Admiral Harris said "... Our battles, our victories, indeed our very way of life, are owed not to great moments or important dates. They are owed to the actions and sacrifices of individual men and women who were willing to step into the breach for their country and for the cause of freedom. America is the country she is because of her heroes past and present. Heroes like those we honor here today, the men and women of the MIS, who were instrumental in securing victory in WW II. It's those members of this, the greatest generation, who donned the cloth of our nation to serve in our armed forces at the world's darkest hour, who can take pride in knowing that they shaped the world we live in today." Harris continued, "It's no exaggeration for me to say that the world we live in today was born of your achievements. And it is no exaggeration when I say that for me to be where I am today, a Japanese American four-star admiral, in command of the US Pacific Fleet -- well, that's because of trailblazers like the men and women of the MIS and the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, and the 1399<sup>th</sup> Engineer Construction Battalion. I stand on the shoulder of giants. I'm humbled to be in your presence and thankful to play a small part in your reunion today. For decades after the war, the service of MIS Japanese Americans was kept secret and as their important contributions were declassified, and noted by historians, the records of their service were often incomplete or missing entirely. In typical humility, many of these veterans just shrugged it off saying *shikata ga nai*. 'It can't be helped.' And what a shame, for their contribution to the world as we know it today deserves a special chapter in the annals of history. They helped shorten the war and they saved countless lives. It's important that we know them as we do today. We simply can't say 'thank you' enough." [Editor's Note. Transcripts of the speeches of Admiral Harris, Maj Gen Ishimoto and Dr. McNaughton are posted on JAVA website, [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org) or MIS website, [misveteranshawaii.com](http://misveteranshawaii.com), found by clicking on the National Reunion logo.]



Dr. James McNaughton, Senior Historian, US Army

## Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV) Role in Activation of 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT

Ted Tsukiyama, Esq., Historian for 442<sup>nd</sup> Veterans Club, Hawaii

One of the least known Nisei military units in World War II was the Varsity Victory Volunteers, popularly known as the V V V which was activated and served during the first year of the War and now acknowledged to be the forerunner to the famed 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. The true origins of the V V V trace back to the very day of the Pearl Harbor attack when the University of Hawaii ROTC unit was called out for duty within the first hour of the attack. Close to five hundred ROTC cadets responded for duty, 60% – 70% of whom were Nisei, who were assigned a Springfield rifle they had never shot before and a clip of five bullets each. Their first order was to form a defense line in the bushes below St. Louis Heights to repel Japanese paratroopers reported to have landed in the hills above. This proved to be one of the many hysterical but false rumors circulating the City that day, but for which many years later the UH ROTC unit was belatedly awarded a battle streamer for its courageous response in “the battle of St. Louis Heights!” That afternoon of December 7, 1941 the UH ROTC was totally converted into the Hawaii Territorial Guard, “the HTG.”

For the next six weeks these 18 and 19 year old HTG guardsmen were assigned to guard the City of Honolulu, its government buildings, utilities, reservoirs, business and communication centers, transportation facilities and my Company B of the HTG was assigned to guard the oil tanks and industries in the Iwilei area and the Honolulu Harbor. The Nisei guardsmen of the HTG faithfully carried out their duties proud in their defense of their country, when suddenly on January 19, 1942 orders came down to discharge all guardsmen of Japanese ancestry from the HTG! If a bomb had exploded in their midst it couldn't have been more devastating. To be distrusted, rejected and abandoned by one's own country only because their names and faces resembled those of the hated enemy was totally intolerable. The bottom had dropped out of their lives. They had none else to do but to return to the University.

A few weeks thereafter Hung Wai Ching, the Military Governor's liaison with the Japanese community encountered a group of dejected, embittered HTG discharges on the UH campus and boosted their depressed spirits, opened their minds to other non-martial ways they could serve their country and inspired them to petition the Military Governor to accept them as a non-combat labor battalion. There was grave doubt that their petition would be accepted. Pearl Harbor was in smoking ruins, Hawaii's 40% Japanese population faced widespread fear, distrust and hatred because of their race, the draft status of all Nisei was re-classified “4-C, Enemy Alien” and rendered ineligible for military service, Hawaii was expected to be invaded by Japan any time, prejudiced elements of the community urged the removal of all Japanese from Hawaii, and President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which authorized all Japanese in the West Coast to be imprisoned in American concentration camps. Yet in the face of these great odds and with the support of fair-minded community leaders, the FBI and military intelligence officials, the petition signed by 169 Nisei was accepted by the Military Governor and on February 25, 1942 a civilian non-combat labor battalion was created and nicknamed “the Varsity Victory Volunteers (VVV)” because they were all volunteers with basic university origins. The VVV could not be organized as a regular military unit because the draft status of all Nisei had been reclassified as 4-C (enemy alien ineligible for service in the US military). So the VVV were assigned as part of the U.S. Army 34<sup>th</sup> Construction Engineer Regiment at Schofield Barracks and for the next 11 months the VVV performed the same work as the Army Engineers, digging ammo pits, stringing barbed wire, building auxiliary roads, repairing bridges and culverts, building warehouses and barracks, operating a carpenter shop and a stone quarry and performing other vital defense work all over Oahu.

In late December 1942, Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy was escorted by the same Hung Wai Ching on a field inspection trip of Oahu which included the VVV quarry gang hard at work at the Kolekole rock quarry and was told that these were all Nisei students who had given up their education to serve their country. Whether by coincidence or otherwise, on February 1, 1943 President Roosevelt issued a call to all loyal Japanese Americans to volunteer for the newly authorized all-Nisei combat team. This fulfilled the very purpose for which the VVV was formed...that the only real way to prove loyalty was to regain the right to fight, and even die, for country. On January 19, 1943, exactly one year to the date they had been discharged from the HTG, men of VVV voted to disband to volunteer for the newly formed 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, into which 111 former VVV were accepted. The rest is well-known history. But it should never be forgotten that ultimately seven former VVV members gave their lives for country on the battlefields of Italy and France, namely: Daniel Betsui, Jenhatsu Chinen, Robert Murata, Grover Nagaji, Akio Nishikawa, Hiroichi Tomita and Howard Urabe.

What is the historical significance and lasting legacy left by the VVV? First, the VVV was the first all-Nisei volunteer unit to enter service during World War II, even before the famed 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Secondly, at a most critical point in Hawaii's war history, it helped to stem the rising tide of hysteria, fear and prejudice against Hawaii's Japanese and to quiet the cries urging and demanding their mass evacuation from Hawaii. And thirdly, the VVV's demonstration of loyalty served as a significant factor in the War Department's decision to form the historic 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team which went on to irrefutably establish and prove the loyalty of Japanese Americans for all time.

[Ted Tsukiyama, Esq. wrote this article on December 7, 2012]



Varsity Victory Volunteers as bridge gang at Schofield Barracks



## Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe Had Full Schedule of Events during State Visit. Abe Impressed with Nikkei Contributions to America; Meets Nisei Veterans in Washington, DC and California

Washington, DC. President Barack Obama hosted Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan for an official visit to the White House on April 28, including a State Dinner that evening. The two leaders celebrated the strong global partnership that the United States and Japan have developed during the 70 years since the end of World War II, and underscored the common values and principles that have made the bilateral relationship so enduring. President Obama, Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter, and Secretary of State John Kerry, separately discussed with Prime Minister Abe a range of economic, security, and global issues, including progress on the Trans Pacific Partnership, Japan's expanding role in the Alliance, and climate change. On April 29 Prime Minister Abe presented his "Alliance of Hope" speech to the joint session of Congress. Brookings Institution, one of America's oldest and most prestigious think tanks, rated Prime Minister Abe's week long state visit an "overall success." Mrs. Akie Abe, First Lady of Japan, maintained her own schedule, including a visit to the Great Falls Elementary School in northern Virginia accompanied by Mrs. Michelle Obama.



Prime Minister Abe and Floyd Mori at the US Congress reception following Abe's speech. Photo from Floyd Mori.

JAVA members who were invited to various official functions included COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President; Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), Executive Director; Gerald Yamada, Esq., former President; Wade Ishimoto, former President; Dr Ray Murakami, Lt. Col. Michael Yaguchi, USAF (Ret), LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret); and Terry Shima. Floyd Mori, a JAVA member, was invited to various official functions because he is the President/CEO of APAICS (Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies). Also, the Honorable Norman Mineta, a JAVA Honorary Chairman, was invited to various official functions in Washington, DC and California because of his prominence.

Abe visited Boston, Massachusetts, prior to arriving at the nation's capital. President Obama escorted the Prime Minister to visit the Lincoln Memorial. Abe also paid his respects at the Arlington National Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown and the National WW II Memorial.

A White House press release said "Prime Minister Abe's state visit to Washington, DC is a tribute to the partnership between US and Japan that for seven decades has made enduring contributions to global peace, security and prosperity." Following the state visit here, Abe departed on April 30 for San Francisco, then to Los Angeles before returning to

Japan. During his visits to these two locations, Prime Minister Abe met with a wide range of state, business, and community officials, including the Japanese American community. His visits included Silicon Valley in San Jose, several universities, including the University of Southern California where Abe was a student, the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and the Go For Broke Memorial.

On May 1st, Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe were escorted through JANM where they showed keen interest in displays of Issei immigration to Hawaii and the mainland, the evacuation and internment, the 100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup> and the MIS. This was followed by a reception that evening at JANM, where former Secretary Mineta introduced the Prime Minister. Mineta told JAVA he was impressed to note the Prime Minister's genuine pride and interest in these points, (1) how the Issei population and their families integrated into America's mainstream, their patriotism and contributions to America; (2) the Issei descendants' respect for and interest in the culture and heritage of their ancestral homeland; and (3) the Nikkei role in forging a strong US-Japan relations. Mineta said he sensed the Prime Minister was genuinely touched by the cordial reactions from the Nikkei population.



Prime Minister Abe (left) autographing the copy of his speech for former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta (right). Abe delivered the speech on April 29, 2015 to a Joint Session of Congress. This picture was taken at Speaker Boehner's reception for PM Abe following his speech. Photo from Floyd Mori.

## Paul M. Nakasone Promoted to Major General as Commander of the Cyber Mission Force

by Wade Ishimoto, Correspondent

Fort Meade, Maryland. U.S. Army Brigadier General Paul M. Nakasone received a frocked promotion to Major General in a ceremony that packed an auditorium at the headquarters of the National Security Agency on April 29, 2015. He was sworn in by Lieutenant General Edward Cardon, Commander of the U.S. Army Cyber Command where Maj. Gen. Nakasone was previously assigned. The Nakasone family was well represented. His parents, Colonel (USAR, Ret) and Mrs. Edwin Nakasone, his wife, his four children, and a cousin were all in attendance. Edwin Nakasone was a member of the Military Intelligence Service during WW II and is originally from Hawaii. The number of Flag and General Officers in the audience would have lit up the sky over Fort Meade which is a great testament to the respect that Paul Nakasone has earned with all of the military services. Retired General Officers at the ceremony included General Keith Alexander, former Director of the National Security Agency, and Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, former Army Surgeon General. JAVA was represented by Board members Rodney Azama and Wade Ishimoto.

Admiral Michael S. Rogers, who is triple-hatted as the Commander, U.S. Cyber Command; Director, National Security Agency; and Chief, Central Security, provided remarks during the ceremony. Admiral Rogers spoke for over 10 minutes without notes, thereby showing his true knowledge of Maj. Gen. Nakasone and his accomplishments. Admiral Rogers talked of Paul Nakasone receiving his commission through the Reserve Officers Training Corps at Saint John's University in Minnesota, his service in Iraq and Afghanistan, and how Paul Nakasone was a key member of those who stood up the U.S. Cyber Command a few years ago. Admiral Rogers also paid tribute to the Nakasone family and their sacrifices during Paul's career as well as to those who have served with Paul.



Mrs. Nakasone (left) and ADM Michael Rogers (right) pinning on the second star on MG Paul Nakasone.

## Nisei's Story of Her Experience in Manchuria

By Catherine (Shiomi) Yoshikawa

Dairen, Manchuria. It was an era in which the entire world was in turmoil and all people suffered, many tremendously, but the long awaited news of the ending of WW II was at last at hand. Germany surrendered to the Allies in Europe, and so did Japan in the Pacific after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. People took to streets to celebrate the ending of the most catastrophic war in modern history.

However, unbeknown to most of the world, the Soviet Union declared war on defeated and crippled Japan, and just a few days later the Russian Communist soldiers systematically took back the territory of Manchuria in August 1945. The Soviets wanted Manchuria back, which was taken from them by Japan some 40 years prior. They needed an ice-free port, a valuable asset for naval operations. So they invaded the territory with tanks equipped with big guns, armed soldiers on jeeps and horses, closing all borders into Manchuria. They raided and confiscated everything they could of value including factories, stores, government offices, news-paper companies, radio stations, police and fire stations and so on. By gun point they rounded up all able-bodied men and sent them to Siberia or to naval yards to build ports. Sixty-nine thousand Japanese men were to eventually die in Siberian prisons. Left were women, children and elderly with no police to protect them or enforce law and order. Soon there were many Russian soldiers with weapons walking the city and having their way with innocent citizens of Japanese descent. They raided homes, raped young girls, beat elderly men until they turned over hidden money, and killed anyone who resisted them.

In this terrifying climate, 34-year-old Fumi Shiomi tried to keep her three children, ages 4, 7 and 10 safe. Fumi was a Japanese-American citizen born and raised in Seattle, Washington. Her husband, Roy, also from Seattle, was born in Japan and came to the U.S. at age 4. Roy was never able to obtain an American citizenship because an immigration law in those days prohibited it. He graduated from University of Washington with honors in engineering and went to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston for post-graduate studies, and was working in New York City when the stock market crashed in 1929. He lost his job, as did many people, so he returned to Seattle. He met Fumi and married her in 1932, they went to Japan and he obtained a position introducing modern air conditioners to stores. An opportunity came for him in 1941 to head a company in Manchuria, so the family, now with two children and one more on the way, relocated to Dairen, Manchuria, a port city at the southern tip near the Sea of Japan. Roy, being a patriotic American, stayed out of all war effort, but in 1945 he was inducted into the Japanese Army (due to his Japanese citizenship) and was sent to China. But soon after, the war ended. When he tried to return to Manchuria, he was told that all borders were blocked and that the Soviets had complete control of the territory. After all avenues were exhausted, he finally returned to Japan to await his wife and children. He secured a job at the Eighth Army Headquarters of the Occupied American Forces in Yokohama, but he was uncertain of the fate of his family.

Fearing for her and her children's lives, Fumi nailed down all the doors and windows of her home in Manchuria, all except one small window where she knew that a brave vendor would come early in the morning to sell some food. She heard about the atrocities committed by the Russian soldiers. A young Japanese girl's nude body was found one morning dumped on the side of a street. Fumi's 7-year-old son saw it on his way to school and was unable to speak about it for decades. Soon after, all schools were shut down. At night, Fumi heard loud noises and screams from her neighbor's home. She knew the young girl living there with her mother, sister and a baby. The girl's father and brother were taken to war and had not returned. The Russian soldiers raided the home a dozen times. Each time, the girl would try to hide but was always discovered. Fumi herself experienced a fearful event when a drunken Russian soldier banged on her front door for hours. Luckily the door held, the soldier finally fell asleep at the doorstep and left in the morning, but Fumi never forgot this frightful sleepless night.

The Soviets eventually turned Manchuria over to China after taking everything of value. But it would be another year and a half before Fumi and her children were able to return to Japan. Once back in Japan, she was reunited with Roy but she was malnourished and was bed ridden for 6 months with asthma and pneumonia. She would later be confined to a TB ward for two years with tuberculosis.

In 1950, she and her three children returned to the U.S. but unfortunately Roy could not go with them because he was not a U.S. citizen. With tremendous efforts by Fumi, Roy and their friends, they organized a letter writing campaign to all the congressmen of that time to request for Roy to be able to join his family. Hundreds of letters were sent out and finally on Feb. 29, 1952, a special Senate's Bill, a Private Law 462, was passed by the 82nd Congress to allow Roy to become a U.S. citizen. The family settled down in the suburb of Los Angeles, and Roy lived until age 88, and Fumi until age 96. *[Editor's Note. The writer, Catherine Shiomi Yoshikawa is the daughter of Fumi and Roy Shiomi]*



Roy and Fumi with their children, Manchuria 1942

## USS Boxer Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

On board the USS BOXER, (LPD4), while it was home ported in San Diego, an observance was held during May 2015, the Asian Pacific American Heritage (APAH) month. A committee organizes an event each month, such as Women's History month, Native American month, APAH month, etc. The program consisted of Refreshments and a principal speaker, LCDR Jason Y. Osuga, USN, ship's Intelligence Officer and Command Security Manager. LCDR Osuga spoke on the Japanese American internment experience and the heroism of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service.



Left: LCDR Osuga. Right: XO CAPT Ruth, CMDCM Ruane, CO CAPT Pompeo USS BOXER Diversity Committee Members and LCDR Osuga (4th from right). Photo from LCDR Osuga.



## JAVA Bids Farewell to LTC Yamashita and Welcomes LTC Okubo

Rosslyn, Virginia. On June 17, 2015, JAVA members presented an end of tour farewell luncheon at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn for LTC Kaname Yamashita, JGSDF, Assistant Military Attache at the Defense Attache Office of the Embassy of Japan and a "Welcome Aboard" for his successor, LTC Tomohiro Okubo, JGSDF. LTC Yamashita has arranged for ranking Ministry of Defense officials to meet with JAVA officers and also for members of JAVA Speakers Bureau to brief selected Japan Ministry of Defense visitors to the nation's capital on the Japanese American experience during WW II and their legacy. Some of these briefings were held at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, located near the US Capitol building. The principal purpose of these meetings is to build a stronger relationship between the Government of Japan and America and the Japanese American community, including JAVA.



Attendees at the lunch were (standing L-R) LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret); COL George Ishikata, USA; LTC Mark Nakagawa, USA (Ret); Dr. Ray Murakami; Terry Shima; COL Michael Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President; Wade Ishimoto; Front row, (L-R) John Tobe, Embassy of Japan; Mrs. Mary Murakami; LTC Okubo, LTC Yamashita; CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret). Not in photo, Lt Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), photographer.



LTC Yamashita holding a souvenir clock presented by JAVA. There is inscribed on the brass plate: "For your steadfast efforts to build a strong US-Japan relations."

## JACL-JAVA Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery. JACL Washington, DC Chapter and JAVA held the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Service at the Arlington National Cemetery Pavilion near the Columbarium as 200 members of the audience faced the rows and rows of white marble headstones on a sunny spring Memorial Day weekend, May 25, 2015. John Tobe, President of JACL WDC, and COL Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President of JAVA offered brief remarks. This was followed by remarks from guest speakers Lauryn Mitchell, President of the Matsunaga Elementary School Student Government Association, and Craig Shimizu, former 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, US Army. Michelle Amano read the JACL Creed followed by the sound of taps by an US Army bugler. Turner Kobayashi was the M.C. Following the program, attendees placed flowers at over 80 gravesites and the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. Below are remarks presented by Ms. Mitchell.



Arlington National Cemetery. Front row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left: Yeichi (Kelly) Kuwayama. Photo by Fumiko Kuwayama

"I am honored to be here today, representing my school, Spark Matsunaga Elementary, the first public school in the nation to be named after an Asian American. As most of you know, Spark Matsunaga was a remarkable man known for his fortitude, courage, and persistence for fighting for what was right and what was best for all. As a political leader he was a champion of civil rights for all Americans regardless of race. He also worked extremely hard to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts. With some of the recent events such as the Baltimore Riots and the Waco Texas biker brawl, many of Sparks' beliefs and teachings would be very useful today.



Lauryn Mitchell. Photo by Rachel Larue.

As I learned about US Senator Matsunaga, I realized that I too share many of his fundamental ideas and beliefs. For example, as I campaigned for SGA president, I promised to give everyone an equal voice and always consider their ideas when seeking ways to improve our school. I also believe that everyone should have equal rights to education, housing, and employment. I know that I am lucky to attend a wonderful school such as Matsunaga led by my fantastic principal Mrs. Brubaker, but it saddens me when I watch the news, to know that all schools aren't on the same level as ours. The same is true for housing. Some neighborhoods are not safe and consist of homes that people should not have to live in. This is truly not what many who came before us, such as Spark Matsunaga and Martin Luther King, fought so hard for. I can only imagine what they would say now if they were still with us.

In the spirit of Memorial Day, I ask all of you to remember the pro-equality actions of those who came before us and assist in continuing the fight for equality. It may not be easy. In fact, it may take the same fortitude, courage and persistence displayed by Spark Matsunaga but in the end, it will be worth it. Thank you."



## 100<sup>th</sup> Veterans Hawaii Celebrates 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Banquet

Honolulu, Hawaii. The 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, Hawaii held its 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary banquet on June 14, 2015 at the Pomaikai Ballroom, Honolulu, Charlyn Dote, Club's Executive Administrator and editor of its bi-monthly newsletter, *Puka Puka*

*Parade*, reported from Honolulu. Over 300 relatives and friends gathered to pay special tribute to the fallen One Puka Puka members and the twenty veterans attending this event, whose age ranged from 93 to 103. Today, there are approximately eighty-five 100<sup>th</sup> veterans living in the State.

Both Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige, whose fathers served in the 100<sup>th</sup>, included in their remarks the role their respective fathers played in the 100<sup>th</sup>. Both spoke of the "100<sup>th</sup>'s valor and loyalty during the time of deep distrust and discrimination towards Japanese Americans. Also, upon returning to Hawaii they discussed how their fathers, like other returning veterans, worked hard to raise their families and provided them with opportunities for advanced education.



From L-R) Mrs. Mitsue Amano, Mrs Ige's mother and widow of Sakuji Amano; First Lady Dawn Amano-Ige; Governor David Ige; and, Richard Ige, Governor's oldest brother.

When WW II broke out the military governor for the

Western Defense Command, LTG John L. DeWitt, discharged the Nisei in his jurisdiction and subsequently placed them in internment camps. On the other hand, the military governor for Hawaii, LTG Delos C. Emmons, who also operated from the same Executive Order 9066, shipped the 1,432 Nisei in the Hawaii National Guard to the mainland, placed them in the newly-formed 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, trained and deployed them to Italy for combat. The superior training record of the 100<sup>th</sup> convinced Washington to activate, train and deploy the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT to Italy where the two Nisei units merged. Together, they racked up a combat performance record that the US Army at war's end declared was "unsurpassed." This was followed by the US Army announcement that the merged 100<sup>th</sup> and the 442<sup>nd</sup> was the most highly decorated unit for its size and period of combat. The Army emphasized there were no desertions and no AWOLs. Their record of bravery, courage, and patriotism contributed to the gaining of statehood for Hawaii, the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the defeat of racism in America and the passage of the Congressional Gold Medal Legislation. Also, the 442<sup>nd</sup>, along with the Tuskegee Airmen, helped to create the climate for post WW II reforms. These reforms contributed to the leveling of the playing field for minorities to compete for any job and rank. Asian Pacific Americans have competed effectively placing them into national leadership positions from which they have contributed to the Greatness of America.



Twenty 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion veterans, age ranging from 93-103, attended the banquet. The oldest is Judge Takashi Kitaoka, (2<sup>nd</sup> row, 1<sup>st</sup> left), who, at 103 years is spry and walking, and sharp in mental faculties.

## JAVA Members Meet During Visit to Washington, DC

On May 15, 2015 JAVA members had lunch with Dr. Thomas and Catherine Yoshikawa, JAVA members from Marina Del Ray, California, at the China Garden Restaurant in Rosslyn, Virginia. Dr. Yoshikawa visited Washington, DC to attend the American Geriatric Society annual meeting at the National Harbor Resort/Hotel in National Harbor, MD. Dr. Yoshikawa is Editor in Chief of the Society's scientific journal, *Journal of American Geriatric Society*.

Front row, L-R: Lida Konoshima, Catherine Yoshikawa, Mike Cardarelli (JAVA President), Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa, Back Row, L-R: Aki Konoshima, LCDR Janelle Kuroda, USNR, Terry Shima, Bruce Hollywood, CAPT (Dr.) Cynthia Macri, USN (Ret); Reuben Yoshikawa, Mary Murakami, Dr. Ray Murakami. Photo by Hollywood.



## Meet the Generals and Admirals

Each quarter JAVA features two Asian Pacific Americans who have attained the highest ranks in the US armed forces. The present count is that 124 Asian Hawaiian Pacific Islander Americans have been promoted to generals and admirals, including General Eric Shinseki of Kauai, Hawaii, former Chief of Staff of the US Army, General John Campbell, Vice Chief, US Army, and Admiral Harry Harris, Commander, US Pacific Command. Of the 124, 71 served in the US Army, 22 in the US Air Force, 25 in the US Navy, and 2 each in the US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, and Public Health Service. Broken down in another way, 33 are Chinese American, 11 are Filipino American, 26 are Hawaiian Pacific Islanders, 8 are Korean Americans, one is Vietnamese American, and 45 are Japanese Americans. Below are brief profiles of two flag officers.



**Brigadier General  
Braden K. Sakai, USAF**

Brigadier General Braden K. Sakai is commander, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He is responsible for the implementation, maintenance and oversight of all Wing programs, as well as providing mission support to subordinate Wing Unit Commanders and other attendant units on four geographically

separated Hawaiian Islands. The 154th Wing represents the major air component organization of the Hawaii National Guard. It is the largest Wing in the United States Air National Guard, with approximately 2,000 officers and enlisted personnel. The 154th Wing operates and maintains the C-17A, KC-135R and F-22A. In partnership with the 15th Wing, the 154th Wing employs Total Force combat and peacetime support to operations across the State of Hawaii and throughout the world.

General Sakai graduated from the University of Hawaii, Manoa (BS Education) in 1983. He was commissioned in the Hawaii Air National Guard in October 1984 through the Academy Military Science at McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base, Knoxville, Tennessee. He is a Command pilot with approximately 3,700 total flying hours in the C-17, F-15, C-130 (dual qualified), F-4, T-37, T-38, and F-22. In 2004 he attended the Air War College (correspondence) and in 2011 he attended the Advanced Joint Professional Military Education at Norfolk Naval Station, Virginia.

General Sakai was stationed at various stateside air force bases and has been at the Hickam Air Force Base since 1988. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Air Force Achievement Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Combat Readiness Medal with one Silver and three Bronze oak leaf clusters.

In response to the question as to why he selected the armed forces as his career choice, General Sakai said:

"it is because I was born into it. My dad served 22 years in the Air Force and retired a Senior Master Sergeant. He was a career Security Policeman and was the most professional man I have ever met---making him that man I always wanted to be like. . . . I knew I wanted to be part of something bigger than myself and give back to our great country like my dad did. I found that in the Hawaii Air National Guard, which has a State mission and a Federal mission, I could do both. I'm continuing my dad's legacy on how we care for our airmen -- with dignity and respect while ensuring that our culture and identity evolves with the times and welcomes change, yet, remembers our past and what Aloha truly means."



**Rear Admiral Alma M. Grocki, USN**

Rear Admiral Alma Grocki (nee Lau) was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was the first woman from Hawaii appointed to the US Naval Academy, graduating with a BS in 1981. Her first assignment was to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a Non-nuclear Ship Superintendent for USS Tullibee (SSN 597) and Submarine NR-1. During this time, she also completed her MS degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of New Hampshire.

She returned to Hawaii as the billeting officer, Pearl Harbor Naval Station, then transferred to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, and was accepted into the Engineering Duty Officer community in 1985. While stationed at the shipyard, she was the Ship Superintendent for several surface ships, and senior Ship Superintendent for numerous submarine availabilities, and became the first woman officer to accompany her boat on post-availability sea trials. Following Nuclear Ship Superintendent School, she served as the shipyard docking officer and nuclear ship superintendent for the decommissioning of USS Skate (SSN 578) and USS Sargo (SSN 583).

Grocki transferred to the Navy Reserve in 1988. Her commanding officer assignments included Naval Reserve (NR) Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity (SIMA) Portsmouth, Virginia; NR SIMA Everett, WA; NR USS Frank Cable (AS 40), San Diego, California; NR Naval Submarine Support Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; NR Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington; NR Naval Undersea Warfare Command, Keyport, Washington, and NR Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) 102, Bremerton, Washington, before becoming a Plankowner and the first National Director for the SurgeMain program. Other significant duties included NR Engineering Duty community training director and NR Engineering Duty community mentorship lead for the Industrial Maintenance Group. Her most recent reserve assignment was commanding officer, NAVSEA Headquarters Unit and NAVSEA NR Chief of Staff. Concurrently, in the past five years, she also served on active duty for extensive periods as deputy operations officer, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard & Industrial Maintenance Facility, and director of Submarine Maintenance, Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Grocki currently serves on active duty as Director, Fleet Maintenance, U.S. Pacific Fleet, leading and directing maintenance efforts and programs for Pacific Fleet surface ship and submarine assets to support COMPACFLT's warfighter mission. She is also assigned as the NAVSEA Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve Affairs.

In her civilian career, she has worked for CACI Dynamic Systems, Inc. as a deputy program manager for shipyard training projects, a member of the NAVSEA Dry Dock Audit team and a senior engineer assisting Fleet Maintenance Information Technology programs. She also serves as a volunteer Blue & Gold officer (BGO) for the U.S. Naval Academy, and the BGO Area Coordinator (AC) for Hawaii and the Western Pacific, assisting high school students, Fleet Marines, and Sailors applying for admission.

Grocki's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards) and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



## News from UN's Top Commander in Afghanistan



*[Editor's Note. General John F. Campbell, USA, Commander of the international Security Assistance Forces/US Forces-Afghanistan, or otherwise known as the Resolute Support Command (RSC) sends a newsletter periodically to members of his command, their families, and others on his distro. He provides his perspective of the issues and how his Command is coping with them. We thank GEN Campbell for his insights and for taking the time to keep us informed. The following are excerpts from his Newsletter.]*

Kabul, Afghanistan, Memorial Day, 2015. We also take the time to recognize and honor those members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) who fought and served as martyrs for the cause of freedom. There have been many of them this fighting season, we recognize that, the Afghan leaders recognize that. While the cost has been high, Afghans still have no issues in finding young men and women who are willing to fill their ranks and honor their memories to also serve to promote a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The Afghans realize how critical this fighting season is for them, and they continue to improve their capability each and every day. Afghanistan remains a dangerous place...even more so now that the fighting season is underway. We continue to remain ever vigilant. I ask that you remember

our deployed service members, Families and Veterans, not just this Memorial Day...but all year long. They continue to inspire me each and every day. On this Memorial Day 2015, I can't help but think of the ultimate sacrifice so many of our brave Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen have made in defense of freedom over the years. My thoughts also turn to those Families who lost loved ones, and my prayers are with them this weekend.

The most significant event during this reporting period was the formal announcement by NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg that there will be a NATO-led mission with a "light" footprint which will follow the Resolute Support mission at the end of next year. Over the next few months, we will work closely with our NATO and U.S. chains-of-command to determine what that will look like and how we will transition to the new mission set next year. While there are not a lot of details on it at the present time, one key difference is it will be civilian-led. This is good news for our Afghan partners, as it demonstrates our enduring commitment to the people of Afghanistan. This was announced at the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting in Antalya, Turkey and I was honored to be there in-person for this historic occasion. Earlier this past week, the NATO Chiefs of Defense met in Brussels and all of them also concurred with the new NATO mission to provide support after 2016.

The other significant event was the 2015 Fighting Season strategy session. Many of the senior Afghan civilian and military security leaders met here at Resolute Support headquarters for a few hours to work together on a plan on how to effectively use all aspects of the ANDSF through prioritizing and synchronizing efforts. My special thanks to Afghan National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar for his leadership and ensuring the right leaders from Ministry of Defense and other entities were present as we worked together toward promoting peace and prosperity for the Afghan people this fighting season.

I certainly want to highlight the relationship I have had, and continue to have with both President Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah. I meet with each of them several times a week. Sometimes together, sometimes separately. I continue to be extremely impressed with their leadership and how they both want the best for the Afghan people. I'm very pleased with the level of cooperation, integration, and technical skills the ANDSF has demonstrated in Zabul-Ghazni as well as in other areas of Northern Afghanistan. They are using the Army, Police, Air Forces, and other assets and combining efforts to achieve positive results. They have taken the fight to the enemy, made many weapon cache finds, and



General Campbell (center) visits with 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division soldiers in Kandahar, where he was formerly Commander.

certainly limited the Taliban success. One area where they could stand to improve is in telling the story of their successes. [While General Campbell operates at this level, his subordinate commanders maintain close working relationship with Afghan officials at their commands.]

We also take the time to recognize and honor those members of the ANDSF who fought and served as martyrs for the cause of freedom. There have been many of them this fighting season, we recognize that, the Afghan leaders recognize that. While the cost has been high, Afghans still have no issues in finding young men and women who are willing to fill their ranks and honor their memories to also serve to promote a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. The Afghans realize how critical this fighting season is for them, and they continue to improve their capability each and every day.



US Representative Martha McSally meets with deployed Moms.

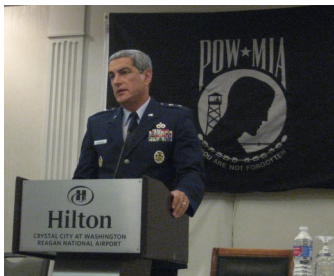


## Maj Gen McKeague Speaks at the Annual Meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families

JAVA member Major General Kelly McKeague played a prominent role in the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the National League of POW/MIA Families held at the Hilton Hotel, Crystal City, VA, from 25-27 June 2015. The National League of Families was formed by Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths whose brother was shot down during the Vietnam War and has been Missing in Action ever since 1966. The League's sole purpose is to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War.

This year's meeting was particularly important because of the recent creation of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency that merged the organization Kelly McKeague commanded in Hawaii with another Defense office in Washington, DC. General McKeague was appointed as the Deputy Director of the new agency a few months ago. Throughout the meeting, Kelly McKeague was praised time and time again by those that have worked with him. They extolled his leadership and concern for the mission as well as those working so diligently to accomplish the mission under tough conditions. He has been a bright light during a tumultuous transition period.

General McKeague gave a presentation that was filled with emotion and that showed his passion for the mission



MG McKeague delivers speech

of accounting for our missing and to help the families reach closure on their lost brethren. He was accompanied by the newly appointed Director of the Agency, Lieutenant General (Ret) Mike Linnington. Mike Linnington, as the Commander of the Military District of Washington, was the one on the Army Staff that was most responsible for the support rendered to the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS veterans by the Army. In the words of JAVA member Joe Peterson (LTG, USA Ret), Mike Linnington was the only one who would not say no to requests to support the CGM ceremony and obtained the support of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard) for the ceremony along with other support.

JAVA Board member Wade Ishimoto also attended the annual meeting in his role as a Special Operations Association POW/MIA Committee member and Washington, DC representative of that association. He has worked this issue for 50 years and shares the passion that Mike Linnington, Kelly McKeague, and Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths have to account for our missing. [Editor's Note: Article and photos provided by Wade Ishimoto.]



LTG (Ret) Mike Linnington speaks as Ms. Mills-Griffiths looks on.

## BG Yee Returns for Stateside Duty after Deployment to Middle East

Kuwait. After 12 months of deployment in Kuwait with Operation Inherent Resolve, where he was the Commanding General for the 335 Signal Command, BG Garrett S. Yee, USA returned to the states where he will be assigned to the Army Staff working in the CIO/G6 at the Pentagon. To give our readers a feel for what BG Yee's job in the Middle East entailed, we share below some of his reflections of his last month (May) of duty overseas. He reported this to the *Advocate* reporter prior to his departure from Kuwait, where the temperature, on most days, was well over 100 degrees, some days as high as 111 degrees or higher.

"Iraq. I made my fifth trip up to Iraq for a day to assess the progress of our efforts to improve the military communications infrastructure. We flew in an Army UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from Camp Arifjan to an airfield where we took an Army C-12 airplane to the former Sather Air Base in Baghdad, and then took an Embassy UH-1 Huey helicopter over to the other side of Baghdad. On the way back, we flew directly over the Al Faw Palace at the former Victory Base Complex where I had previously served. It's hard to believe that I first flew into Sather Air Base in Baghdad in July 2006, and now it was May 2015, almost nine years later."

"Jordan. I made my fifth trip to Amman, Jordan to observe a multi-national exercise where Army Central played a key role. We flew in Blackhawk helicopters to the live fire exercise in the middle of the Jordan desert where I got to meet His Royal Highness Prince Faisal. We then flew down to the Gulf of Aqaba by the Red Sea to observe the maritime portion of the exercise. On the flight back up to Amman, we flew directly over the Dead Sea and Mount Nebo, where Moses saw the Promised Land."

"Afghanistan. For my third and final trip to Afghanistan, we took a UH-60 Blackhawk from Camp Arifjan to the airfield where we flew in a C-17 airplane for 4 hours to Bagram in Afghanistan. We arrived about 2:00 am in the morning. We attended the 25th Signal Battalion change of command then spent time with our troops for the rest of the day. In Afghanistan, the sights are incredible with the snow-covered mountains in the background, even in late May. We arrived at the airfield where a Blackhawk awaited and took us back to Camp Arifjan. It was a long two days with very little sleep but regardless, a successful visit."

Searching the internet for BG Yee, the *Advocate* noted that a communications trade journal, *Federal Communications Weekly* (FCW) described BG Yee's performance in Kuwait as follows: "BG Yee of Operation Inherent Resolve with Headquarters in Kuwait was the person behind a revived commo infrastructure in Iraq that made possible the US-led air strikes against Islamic State militants in 2014. From his post in Kuwait, he had satellite communications terminals placed throughout Iraq and dispatched a set of portable tools -- including routers and switches -- that can be assembled in two hours to support military operations." Congratulations, BG Yee for a mission well done.



BG Yee (left front aisle seat) on the C-17.



Photo: Roy E. Haino

## James Takemori, 442nd Veteran, 9th Degree Black Belt Judoist, Passes

By Dr Warren Minami

James H. Takemori passed away after a brief illness on Friday, May 15, 2015 in Alexandria, Virginia. He is survived by his wife, Helen, and children, Miki, Robin, Teri and Chrissy plus their spouses and children. His siblings are Irene Izumi, Gladysce Sumida and Edwin Takemori. Jim was born in Fresno, California. His parents, Shigoro and Mitsue, were originally from Wakayama Prefecture, Japan. He had a total of 8 siblings (3 died at a young age) growing up in Parlier, California. As a child, he grew up on a farm in the central valley, living the typical life of a Nisei youngster, playing football, baseball and sumo. When he was 11, with the help of his father, he started judo lessons even though it was difficult to get in the classes.

When World War II broke out, his family was relocated to the Gila River War Relocation camp in Arizona. He described his camp experience in a positive way as a teenager with little responsibilities, but felt the pain for his parents who never spoke of it. He remained in Gila River until 1944 when he was drafted into the military. Jim left for basic

training without attending his high school graduation ceremonies. After completing basic training, he was unable to go overseas as there was a requirement that he must be 19 years old. Therefore, he remained in camp working as a trainer or cadre. Within a year, he deployed to Naples, Italy arriving there on the day Germany surrendered. He joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Shortly after joining the 442nd, Jim was given the opportunity to take the exams for the Japanese language school was presented to him, he took the exams and passed with the thought of joining the war in the Pacific. He was then assigned to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for language training. Upon arrival, his commander decided to assign him as a Field 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt to keep peace between the mainland and Hawaiian Nisei. His job was to manage their activities using his personality, judo skills and the island "shoo him" methods. In August of 1945, the Pacific War ended and he decided to join his family in Seabrook, New Jersey instead of going to his next assignment in Fort Ord, California. He lived in New Jersey for 4 years and then moved to Washington, DC. In Washington, he had several businesses and retired as a manager in the beer industry.

For the remainder of his life, he lived in Washington, DC and later Virginia. Jim and Helen were married in 1956 and started a family of 4 daughters. They are especially proud of his high achievements in Judo. Jim is an internationally known Judoist and is a 9<sup>th</sup> degree black belt. He founded the Washington Judo Club and taught many highly successful students. While his personal successes were many, he would always speak of the achievements of others. The imprint that Jim left on those who were fortunate to cross his path were: his smile, his personality and his human spirit. His interpersonal skills and concern for others will make "Uncle Jimmy", as he is known to many, remembered and cherished by his family and friends.



James H. Takemori,  
1926 – 2015

## Ted Teruo Wada, Highly Decorated 442<sup>nd</sup> and Korean War Veteran, Passes

Chula Vista, California. Ted Teruo Wada (96), born in Redlands, California, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 23, 2015 at the Veterans Home of CA - Chula Vista. His parents, Tamakichi and Akiyo Wada, were from Hiroshima, Japan. Ted was one of the five Wada boys who served in the military, three in WW II and two in the Korean War. Ted served in K Co. and Frank in E Co, 442nd and Jack served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). His two other brothers, Hank and Robert, served with the US Marines in the Korean War. Robert was founder president of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans.

Ted voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army on February 20, 1941, 10 months before Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and was sent to Fort Ord, CA for basic infantry training. Immediately after WW II began, his family was forced to relocate to Poston Internment Camp I and III in the Arizona desert because of Executive Order 9066 signed by President Roosevelt. Ted joined the 442<sup>nd</sup> in the Vosges Forests, located in northeastern France, and fought in the Rhineland and Apennine campaigns in France, and the Po Valley campaign in Italy. He participated in the rescue of the trapped Texas battalion. He was wounded twice, first in France at St. Die near the German border and second was on the first day of the offensive in the Po Valley campaign. In 32 minutes the 442<sup>nd</sup> breached the "impregnable" German defense line that resisted Allied attacks for 5 months. He was discharged in November 1945 as a Tech Sgt.

Wada reenlisted in March 1950 to serve in the Korean War and served with the 11th Airborne in Japan and 7th Army Division in Korea until he was honorably discharged in March 1953 with the rank of Sgt First Class. His significant decorations for both wars include: Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts, Presidential Unit Citation, French Legion of Honor and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Following his military service, Ted worked and lived in San Diego and later moved to Los Angeles to work at Keiro Retirement Home. Ted lived in Gardena until 2010 when he moved to the Veterans Home of CA - Chula Vista until his death. He is survived by his sister, Mary Marumoto, brothers, Frank, Henry (Doris), Robert; and many loving nephews and nieces, including Linda McLemore, JAVA member. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Jack, and sisters Fumiko Togino, Bessie Doiguchi and Helen Nakayama. Ted was buried on June 22, 2015 at the Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, CA. [Editor's Note. Obituary Published in the San Diego Union-Tribune, June 14, 2015]



Ted Teruo Wada,  
1919 – 2015



## Historical Novel Based on Personal Papers of Commander of MIS in Asia Pacific Theater

By Stan Katz, Author

*The Emperor and the Spy* is largely based on primary-source historical materials that first came my way in 1999, with the acquisition of the never-before-available personal papers, official documents and assorted photographs and library of an intelligence agent, Colonel Sidney Forrester Mashbir, who was intimately involved in international relations between Japan and America during the 1920s and 1930s. Then, when WWII erupted, Colonel Mashbir took a pivotal role as the Commander of A.T.I.S. (Allied Translator and Interpreter Service), located in General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters. It has been a fascinating journey researching these materials and incorporating them into an engaging historical novel and also into an educational website, presenting a new perspective on World War II and general Asian/American history.

*The Emperor and the Spy* and *TheEmperorandtheSpy.com*, will be released in approximately four months. This website contains a well-documented and easily navigated 303 page Illustrated Timeline Gallery revealing many of the actual historical materials and research that inspired the novel. The Main goals of this project are:

- To Present the life story of a Patriotic American Hero, Colonel Sidney Mashbir, who took a significant leadership role in winning WWII.
- To Honor the thousands of Japanese-Americans Nisei who proudly and bravely served under Colonel Mashbir's command (in the M.I.S. & A.T.I.S.). Mashbir is quoted as saying, "The United States of America owes a debt to these men and to their families, which it can never fully repay."
- To Describe how Colonel Mashbir came closer to the Japanese Royal family and many other top leaders of Japan, than perhaps any Westerner in his time. This is largely an untold story! The theme of a Westerner allying with Japanese leaders to prevent WWII, renders respect and a sense of balance to Japanese American history.
- The novel and illustrated timeline gallery may well be incorporated into high school and college history curriculums. This exciting story based on the actual secret personal documents of a spy is likely to encourage students to enjoy the historical discoveries they will uncover.
- This project has elements that can be incorporated into museum exhibits, clarifying our perceptions of History, appealing to a wide audience, so as to better reach a large cross-section of America, and to those beyond our borders.

If you wish to be notified when the book and website are released, send an email to [TheEmperorAndTheSpy@gmail.com](mailto:TheEmperorAndTheSpy@gmail.com).



## News from Veterans Organizations & Friends

Watsonville, California. The June 2015 *Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Newsletter* reported Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Silicon Valley and Stanford University before a dinner event at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Over 300 guests attended.

Torrance, California. Shortly after the San Francisco visit, *ETorch*, Go For Broke National Education Center Newsletter, reported Prime Minister Abe met in Los Angeles with 442<sup>nd</sup> veterans, including Hiroshi Nishikubo (photo below). Behind Nishikubo are veterans Tokuji Yoshihashi (100<sup>th</sup> BN) and Isao Hasama (MIS). It was a very special May Day for our Nisei veterans as Japanese Prime Minister Abe, in his first state visit to Los Angeles, included a trip to the Go For Broke Monument where he presented a wreath in honor of the Japanese Americans who served during World War II, the *ETorch* reported.



Hiroshi Nishikubo and Prime Minister Abe



Prime Minister Abe at Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco

Honolulu, Hawaii. MIS Hawaii May 2015 Newsletter, which reported extensively on the MIS reunion, appreciated the support it had received from the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry personnel, who escorted veterans and provided shuttle service for WW II veterans and their families; the McKinley High School JROTC which served as the color bearers, and Farrington High School JROTC which provided general support. 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion Veterans, Hawaii' newsletter, *Puka Puka Parade*, June/July edition reported that Hershey Miyamura, a Gallup, New Mexico resident and Medal of Honor recipient, dropped in at the club house. Hershey was asked to speak to an Iolani High School civics class. Hershey spoke on a citizen's rights and responsibilities.

West Virginia. Historian Eric Saul, whose Nisei exhibits are being displayed in Hawaii and Minnesota, has produced a 202 page Timeline centered on the Japanese American experience

during WW II. If you wish to view this very informative Timeline please contact Saul at [visasforlife@cs.com](mailto:visasforlife@cs.com).

Kahului, Hawaii (Maui). The Nisei Veterans Center June 2015 Newsletter, *Okage Sama De* . . . reported that earlier this year the French government awarded the Legion of Honor Medal to 22 Maui veterans, including 18 Nisei who served in the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT. About 200 people attended the award ceremony officiated by Pauline Carmona, the French Consul General in San Francisco.

Seattle, Washington. In the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) June 2015 Newsletter, Commander Yuzo Tokita reported the following decisions resulting from the April 24, 2015 Executive Council Meeting: 1) Retired Army Chief of Staff General Peter W. Chiarelli will be invited to speak at the 2016 Memorial Day event, and 2) the NVC will rejoin the National Veterans Network.

Morgan Hills, California. The June 2015 *Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Newsletter* said FFFV (Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans) held its annual memorial service on May 16, 2015 at Roberts Park located on the hills overlooking Oakland and the San Francisco Bay. The *FFNV Newsletter* for June 2015 reported that the next annual Nisei Veterans' Reunion will be held on October 18-22, 2015 at the California Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Please contact Lawson Sakai for more information ([lawson.sakai@gmail.com](mailto:lawson.sakai@gmail.com)) or 408-782-2054.



## Thank you, Donors! JAVA is grateful for the generosity of our members and friends (April 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015 )

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## JAVA Honor Roll

The JAVA Honor Roll recognizes supporters who have made significant financial contributions towards JAVA's general operations. Nominations for the Honor Roll are identified by the JAVA Awards Committee. To be nominated, the supporter must have contributed at least \$5,000 towards JAVA.



## Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) Membership Application

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
Status: Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Honorably Discharged: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Reservist/National Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Cadet/Midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current or Last Military Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Category (Please see explanation below):

War Veteran Member: \_\_\_\_\_ General Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Friend of JAVA: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a spouse, widow, or widower of a veteran or cadet/midshipman? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, name of war veteran, veteran, or cadet/midshipman: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates that relative served: \_\_\_\_\_ Which Service? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail application to: Wade Ishimoto or email application to: Pohaku59@aol.com  
5703 Barbmor Court  
Alexandria, VA 22310

Application Explanations: 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

To qualify as a **General Member**, the applicant must have served honorably in the United States Armed Forces during any period other than those specified above. In addition, cadets/midshipmen and spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans, or cadets/midshipmen qualify for General Membership.

**Friends of JAVA** are those who support the purpose of JAVA but who do not qualify for membership. Friends of JAVA memberships have no voting rights.

JAVA does not currently assess membership dues. However, donations are accepted.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 3, 2015** – JAVA EC Meeting

**October 24, 2015** – JAVA Quarterly Lunch. Harvest Moon Restaurant, Falls Church, VA.

**November 11, 2015** – White House breakfast (8 am); Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater (11 am);  
Veterans Day Program, National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism (2 pm)

**December 12, 2015** – JAVA EC Meeting

**January 16, 2016** – JAVA Annual Lunch



### JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

c/o JAVA President  
5703 Barbmor Court  
Alexandria, VA 22310

#### Please send correspondence to:

General: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret), brucehollywood@gmail.com; 703-229-3198

Education & Outreach: Terry Shima, ttshima@comcast.net; 301-987-6746

Facebook: LCDR Janella Kuroda, USNR, janellekuroda@gmail.com

Membership: Col Derek Hirohata, USAF, ninjaderek@aol.com; 873-391-7116

Finance: Vacant

Freedom Walk: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret), Martyherb@aol.com. 703-509-6473

National Memorial Day Parade: LTC Marty Herbert, USA (Ret) (see above)

Arlington Cemetery: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) (see above)

National Archives Research: Fumie Yamamoto, 301-942-3985, yamamotoff@yahoo.com

Newsletter (Advocate): Thomas Phan & Jill Phan, Editors, aava.phan@yahoo.com; Chris DeRosa, Circulation, chris@vabutterfly.net

Press Release: Terry Shima (see above)

Oral History: Wade Ishimoto, pohaku59@aol.com; 703-989-0983

Policy: Col Mike Cardarelli, USA (Ret), President, mikecardarelli@aol.com

Quarterly Lunch: Col Bruce Hollywood, USAF (Ret) (see above), Metta Tanikawa, laertesVA@yahoo.com

Round Robin: LTC Brett Egusa, USAR

Sakura Matsuri: Reuben Yoshikawa, ryoshika@verizon.net

Scholarship: Wade Ishimoto (see above)

JAVA Awards: Terry Shima (see above)

Speakers Bureau: Terry Shima (see above)

Veterans Day: Col Bruce Hollywood (Ret) (see above)

Webmaster: Dave Buto, admin@javadc.org; 703-425-1444 and James Tani, jamestani@aol.com

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