

Good Afternoon and Welcome to the 72nd Annual Memorial Service at Arlington National Cemetery. My name is Turner Kobayashi, Chair of this annual event.

Normally, this service is held on Memorial Day Sunday each year but this is not any normal year. Due to the novel coronavirus, Arlington National Cemetery was not open to the public during the Memorial Day weekend.

We welcome those that are watching online and wish you were here in person but certainly understand why not.

Each year, we gather here to honor those brave Japanese Americans that served our country and are now interred here. It began with members of the 442nd Regimental Combat team in 1948 and continues to this day. We, now, have seen our list grow to 94 men and women that we honor. This year, we have added:

In Section 60, US Navy Captain Norio Bruce ENDO. A Vietnam veteran of two tours, he was one of the first Japanese American pilots to reach the rank of Captain in 1978. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, he co-founded the Japanese Lacrosse Association.

In Columbarium 9, US Army Sgt Kay Megumi SATO, US Army Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, and 442nd Regimental Combat Team. We are fortunate to have his daughter, Linda Sato Adams here today.

Our program is a little different than normal due to some safety guidelines put into place during this pandemic. Our program will be similar to the past with the major exceptions of not being able to place flower arrangements at each gravesite and not having a student speaker from Spark Matsunaga Elementary School on the program.

We are fortunate and appreciative to be here today. Please let me introduce leaders of the Japanese American Citizens League Washington DC Chapter, the Japanese American Veterans Association, and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation to welcome us: Janice Faden of the JAACL DC Chapter, Gerald Yamada of the JAVA and AI Goshi of the NJAMF.