



JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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SPC Gabriel Cervantes Okamoto, USAR Treasurer



Gabriel Okamoto is a servicemember in the U.S. Army Reserve and an active member of the U.S.–Japan Council, he combines military experience with nonprofit governance and public-sector financial management.

His family's multigenerational service has shaped his values. His grandfather, Paul Yoshio Okamoto, served in the U.S. Army as a Japanese interpreter in Tokyo following World War II. His father served as a U.S. Navy Seabee and later held executive leadership roles in California state government. These examples of service and public trust inform Okamoto's approach to stewardship, accountability, and community leadership.

Okamoto served as a Consultant to the California State Senate Rules Committee, advising senators on constituent services, community outreach strategy, and public engagement initiatives. He managed a \$43 million annual portfolio as Cooperative Agreement Program Manager for the California National Guard's Youth and Community Programs, overseeing budget execution, compliance, and federal–state funding alignment. He also served as Treasurer of the Veterans Affiliated Council, strengthening fiscal controls and donor reporting practices.

In addition to his financial leadership, Okamoto supports the Japanese American Veterans Association as Digital Community & Collaboration Coordinator, advancing internal communications and national member engagement.

As Treasurer, he is committed to transparent financial governance, safeguarding scholarship and donor funds, strengthening institutional relationships, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organization's mission.

He remains dedicated to mentoring and developing the next generation of leaders in service to community and country.