Kawakami, Hawaii’s House Speaker, Dies Suddenly at 56

HONOLULU— House Speaker Richard Kawakami, 56, died March 13, minutes after an apparent heart attack while on a hunting trip in Lanai. He had assumed the position of speaker on Jan. 4.

His death came as a surprise to his family, said his brother Okinoru, who recalled that Kawakami had recently had a check-up and came through quite well.

Kawakami attended University of Hawaii and New York University, earning degrees in retailing and business administration. He was chairman of Big Save, Inc., one of the largest companies in the state. Those who knew him said he was very interested in all Orientals and other stores, and manufactures such goods as the Thad Koolie.

Served Since 1965

He came from a prominent Kauai family; his uncle Norito served in the Legislature in Kawakami’s native Waimea district—he ran unopposed in 1965— and his cousin, Matsunaga’s legislative aide. Speaking at a Japanese American event and on the Kauai Char­

Kawakami was first elected to the state legislature in 1965 and served in the Legislature until his death in 1968 after serving in that year’s Constitutional Convention and on the Kauai Char­

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by J.K. Yamamoto

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Washington Postpaid)
state very well in the United States Senate, he retired... the state has been without Republican representation for almost 10 years now...

"I told them, in Washington there are two parties. Who sits in the White House? A Republican.

"And I guess I convinced them."

Saiki emphasized that her victory was not a fluke. "I won the election as a mother of five children, a friend, a friendly man, a modest person." She promised to continue to push for more inclusivity and friendship.

"It is very difficult for us to accept the kind of loss we have on Kauai. I've been so close to my husband,..."

"But I know he will try his best to guide us spiritually," said Gov. Waimea. "Those of us who are fortunate to have him can envision what he might be saying now. He might say that all this is..."

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Take Beekman, PC Contributor in Hawaii, Dies

HONOLULU — Pacific Citizen contributor Take Beekman (nee Okawa) B1, died March 2 after a long illness.

Born in Honolulu and educated there and in Tokyo, she employed her bilingual abilities as a Japanese-language teacher and as a translator in collaboration with her husband, Allan, on articles and short stories about the Japanese immigrant period in Hawaii.

She made her first contribution to PC in 1966 with “Spider Thread,” a translation of Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s “Rampo no Ura” that she and her husband, Allan, translated. In 1969 the team contributed “Hawaii’s Great Japanese Strike,” an account of Japanese immigrant efforts to gain equality with other plantation laborers in 1900.

She is perhaps best known for the short story “No Place Between the Rising Sun,” which appeared in the 1961 Holiday Issue. The story, which was reprinted in many anthologies, was based on her experience while teaching a Botanic Gardens class and short stories about the Botanic Gardens.

WISH GRANTED — The San Francisco-based National Japanese American Historical Society has received a $25,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of Menlo Park, Calif. President Donald R. Heyns (center) and vice president Marianne Paltz were thanked last month by NAJHS representatives (from left) John Takeshi, Clifford Ujeda, and Yoshimi Shiba. Funds will be used to expand collection.

WALERGA PARK

who were fired in 1942 because of their ancestry.

Messages of support were given by Mayor Anne Tunlin, Superintendent Ilia Colón, Coll. Donald Vann of McClellan Air Force Base, Clayton Pogon of George Deukmejian’s office, Reiko Kawakami of Rep. Robert Matsui’s staff, Robert Nevedal of Football Farms Improvement Association, and Ron Buchanan of the Sunrise Recreation and Park District’s board of directors.

Labor Granted

The marcher was unveiled by Tome Mizuno of Sacramento and Patty Newell, president of Pioneer Garden Club.

The boulder was donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Yamashita of Auburn. All labor for erection of the shade structure was contributed by contractor Jack Akabari and crew.

Thread,” a translation of Ryunosuke Akutagawa’s “Kumo no Ito” appeared there and in Tokyo, she employed her bilingual abilities as a translator in collaboration with her husband, Allan, on articles and short stories about the Japanese immigrant period in Hawaii.

Deaths

Alex Nubo Yorich, 61, a member of the Congressional Center of WWII and the Korean and Vietnam war, died Jan 30 of cancer. He was 61 years old. He died at his home in San Francisco.

Another person was killed in the San Francisco about the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The scope of the Smithfield’s exhibit will be broader, however.

Using oral history techniques and videotaped interviews with former internees, the show will examine constitutional questions raised by the 1942 decision to intern all Japanese Americans on the West Coast.

It’s not a downer at all. "If course, the major criticism is that we anticipate comes from those who are fearful of any suggestion that this is an evolving culture, and that it wasn’t ever perfect and isn’t (now), and we’ve got to keep working awfully hard by admitting our errors. And some people really hate that." The exhibit’s original title, “With Liberty and Justice for All”—a line from the Pledge of Allegiance—was changed in favor of the current title, which is taken from the Constitution itself.

JA Heads Salt Lake City Office

SALT LAKE CITY — Karen Suzuki Hashimoto has been appointed director of the city’s newly created Office of Human Resources, which will merge the personnel, risk management, employee and labor relations divisions.

She has been manager of the human resources department of the city for the past three years, and has been the company’s manager of the year.

She is also an adjunct professor in sociology at Westminster College. She was previously director of the Utah Division of Personnel Management.

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JACL Personnel Manual: Framework for Discussion

by Ronald Okada
President, JACL Counsel

There has been much discussion about a proposed JACL personnel manual, so I have been asked to provide a framework by which the chapter can intelligently discuss this matter.

The Personnel Committee was assigned this responsibility, but the personnel manual must be consistent with current legal requirements. This has required an examination of the current manual and proposals for necessary modifications. These modifications may be in the form of (re)writing, (re)ordering, or (re)phrasing the language in the manual. This is to have the language consistent with current law and the changes of personnel policies. The oversight of the national director is the responsibility of the board. The oversight of the national director is the responsibility of the board.

Because the national director is the responsibility of the board. The oversight of the national director and his staff are consistent with the evolving law and personnel practices. The national director and his staff will be advised personnel practice, these modifications are primarily a matter of emphasis and procedures.

The proposed changes substantially reduce benefits. The staff benefits and management of JACL will be interpreted. If ambiguity was in fact the problem, then the solution is language with clarity. These cuts are included because it is believed in some quarters that the staff benefits are excessive, other reasons proposed to do this.

The discussion here centers on what the staff benefits should be. Some possible changes that might be considered are: (1) benefits at different organized group; (2) salary structure at different organized group; (3) promotion potential—whether there is job advancement; (4) job security now and in the future; and (5) perks.

An examination of these factors may well lead to the conclusion that in some areas (such as carry-over of unused sick and annual leave—currently zero), JACL benefits fall below the norm.

Bill Hosokawa

It's a pity that more Japanese and Japanese-Americans don’t have the opportunity to know Sim Togasaki.

He died the other day after a long bout with a variety of ailments that for years had limited his activities to those of home. You disappeared from the scene by the time younger Japanese-American historians got to know him.

Sun was the third of nine remarkable children fathered by Kiyosumi Togasaki, a graduate of a Japanese government school of jurisprudence who arrived in San Francisco in 1899 and went on to become a houseboy. Three of Sim's sisters became doctors or midwives; another three became nurses. Sim's older brother, George, was probably the best-known Nisei in Japan during the early postwar years and was international president of Rotary. His half-brother Shinobu's forte was mathematics. Shinobu was a businessman of the family. "Dad insisted an education was worth more than any material thing he could give us, so he told me, "I got my first new set of 16. Until they grew up, each of my sisters got only two new dresses—one for grade school graduation and the other for high school commencement. All of our other clothes were kept "ripe-and-downs. But Sim went to college."

Sim went to DePauw University in Indiana in the mid-20’s, when he was willing to work and he hopefully hoped to be revascularized. He went on to become one of the giants of the giant JACL movement, an associate of men like Saburo Kameya, Watanabe, and Shigematsu, and the leader of the 1930’s in the S.F. and the West on the battlefields of Europe. If one takes a look at some of the staff benefits of our organization, it was supposedly stashed away in a few Nisei there. But when his hair was brown, he was one of the few non-Japanese that I had ever met at that time.

I recently read a reporting citing statistics relating to criminal imprisonment in the United States, and I found some of the facts to be frightfully sad.

For starters: the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate of any industrialized nation except for South Africa and the U.S.S.R. hardly commendable company. In the U.S., a substantial portion of the population is incarcerated, including 1 million men and women. This rate varies considerably below the national average. Of course, even a partial discussion of this aspect might be reduced in the future.

The legal source first referred to above shows that incarceration for the following were generally higher for whites. Blacks, 7 times greater; Hispanic men, although comprising almost half of the incarcerated population, ten percent; Native Americans in South Dakota, five times greater. In Hawaii, the Asian incarceration rate is almost three times greater than for whites.

From these ratios, the reader might (mistakenly) assume that these non-whites commit the same ratio of crimes that result in incarceration. Based on my personal experience, the ratio of "working on the inside" for a number of years, I have little doubt—no, I hope that we forget, and just deal with more harshly than whites for similar offenses.

While one might probe some "reasons" why this should be so, I repeat: what are the facts, greater resources to defend, "more respectable" character, the major factor, distasteful as it may be to declare, is race. If there be some doubt as to this conclusion, I refer to positive performances where racism operated.

Sim Togasaki was a great man. He had vision, judgment, and leadership. He was a leader of rising at JACL's emergency conference in Salt Lake City in the fall of 1942 to bring an end to a period of fruitless debate about which to ask for military service.

I feel strongly that most of us desire to be treated in the same way as all other Americans, both as to sacrifices and benefits. This is a matter which vitalizes our discussions as we have gone through so much, I am confident that most of us are willing to work and sacrifice. Army and fight for our country and our future. Mr. Chairman, I move that the resolutions committee member be instructed to draw up and propose a resolution calling for such a meeting of the assemblies.

The motion carried unanimously.
The appearance of several letters in major newspapers lamenting the "overrepresentation" of Asian students in elite universities is growing assumption in the general public. Concurrently, Asian students have also been expressing concerns that many universities in the U.S. have adopted "affirmative action" policies to guarantee an enrollment of a certain number of Asian-American students. These concerns are related to the admission of Asian students. The two perceptions co-exist, representing an area of conflict. The sheer increase in population numbers of this ethnic group has affected the demographic "cycle" predominantly by Asian-Americans. The two perceptions co-exist, representing an area of conflict.

For example, because the pool is smaller, the demographic "cycle" project a massive expansion of the Asian student population in the years to come. Because we can project an increase of half a million in Asian-Americans from 1975 to 2000, the effect has been the considerable backlash on the campuses. This was included apparently because the increased number of lawsuits brought upon unlawful discharge. However, the courts are mitigating the "at will" doctrine to narrow its applicability so that, in this category, special remedial reparation is due in case of harm. The danger lies in the perception that the admission of Asian students can have an adverse impact on other minority populations. This requires a clear position: it does not have any such impact; special admissions systems are a separate route for admissions programs.

The response by State Senate President Pro-Tem David Robert B. Kuester, who has called for a review by the Los Angeles County "of the entire run of events and the shear increase in population accounts in part for increased enrollment." Asian students have fared well.

The "supplemental criteria" for Asian-American students in the University of California fall within the definition of equal opportunity for the University of California, compared to 50 percent for white students. Although different from adm issibility Admis sions criteria in the UC system are detailed by each local campus. The pattern of growing Asian student enrollment at the UC Berkeley campus was reversed in 1981.

This decline in Asian American student enrollment was concurrent with the introduction of "supplemental criteria" into the admissions process, and a reduction of the share of admissions allocated purely from grade point average (GPA) and test scores.

In prior years, Berkeley admitted up to 60 percent of its freshman class based on only GPA and test scores. Today, only 40 percent of admissions are from this basic category. Berkeley's second-tier admissions, which are a combination of GPA, test scores, and "supplemental criteria," now account for 30 percent of all admissions. The remaining 30 percent are special admissions, which include athletes, veterans, students from Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and others. The allocation of admissions to each category appears to have a direct impact on Asian student admissions.

The "supplemental criteria" are really subjective criteria. As much weight is given to extracurricular activities as is given to Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores. The UC Berkeley has detailed "supplemental criteria," now account for 30 percent of all admissions. The remaining 30 percent are special admissions, which include athletes, veterans, students from Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and others. The allocation of admissions to each category appears to have a direct impact on Asian student admissions.

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Law Caucus to Hear Veteran Rights Activist

SAN FRANCISCO — Asian Law Caucus celebrates its 25th anniversary April 4, 7 p.m., at the Sheraton Palace Hotel, with the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Chavis, a former Wilmington Ten defendant, as keynote speaker and dance music by the band Pride and Joy.

Once located in a tiny storefront office, ALC has grown into a nationally recognized organization with offices in Oakland and San Francisco and with five full-time attorneys and ten staff members who deal with housing, immigration, employment, elder, and community education. ALC also helps build a new generation of Asian American attorneys and community workers through its summer law clinical and volunteer programs.

One of ALC’s best known cases was the successful court order that legal team of Fred Korematsu, whose wartime conviction for violating internment orders was vacated in 1983. In addition, ALC has favorably settled Chinatown restaurant workers’ claims for back wages, unpaid overtime and vacation pay. ALC has recently settled a building row with a major garment manufacturer accepting a commitment to fair labor practices of its subcontractor.

RISING STARS — Moe Fukai (left), chief deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, and Dennis Nishikawa (right), member of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works, are presented with California Senate resolutions by Sen. Art Torres in recognition of their recent promotions. The presentation took place at a March 5 reception held in their honor at the New Clare Hotel, sponsored by the Asian Pacific Planning Council.

Chavis, a 22-year veteran of the civil rights movement, is executive director of the United Church of Christ’s Commission for Racial Justice and was recently named by New York Gov. Mario Cuomo to the State Commission on Racial Violence.

As one of the Wilmington Ten, Chavis spent 46 years in North Carolina prisons in the 1970s for his civil rights activities. In 1978, Amnesty International called the ten the first case of political prisoners in the U.S. In 1980, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned their convictions, clearing their records.

“We are very honored that Dr. Chavis will speak at our fund-raiser,” said ALC’s executive director Peggy Saika. “Not only does he have an incredible record of accomplishments in civil rights, but he is a captivating and inspirational speaker.” Admission is $40 general, $20 for students and $10 for seniors. For info: (415) 839-1577.

Chapter Award

SACRAMENTO — Florin JACLS’200 scholarship was won this year by Mark Shigeto Aiyasaki of Elk Grove High School. He plans to study accounting at UC Santa Cruz or CSU Sacramento.
Commerc’al & Industrial Air Conditioning

Potluck membership meeting will take place March 25 at 6:30 p.m., at the JACL Office, 5005 Wil St. Richmond. Bento boxes are $15 each. Info: Natsuko Irie, (415) 237-7870, or James Oshima, (415) 237-6702.

GILROY

SALO MANATEE

Pooch’s Dance,” a film by Bob Nakamura and Karen Ishizuka, will be shown at the next chapter meeting April 10, 7 p.m., at Founders Savings and Loan, Gardena. Info: Mary Aoyama, (213) 313-2717.

Chapter’s fourth annual Open Invitational Golf Tournament will take place April 12 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the JACL Office, 5005 Wil St. Richmond. Bento boxes are $15 each. Info: Natsuko Irie, (415) 237-7870, or James Oshima, (415) 237-6702.

LAKE WASHINGTON

Potluck membership meeting will take place March 25, 7:30 p.m., at the home of John and Sadako Matsumoto, 2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto.

FRENCH CAMP

Chapter will sponsor a mid-spring dance April 9 from 8 p.m. to midnight at 5806 Trond liberty Terrace NE, Bellevue. No-host cocktails will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 per person. Info (415) 343-2760.

JAPANESE COUNTRY CRAFTS

Chapter will host the 44th annual Japanese-Country Western Nevad-a-Pacific executive board meeting April 5 at 1545 Ferreesta Drive, San Jose.

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Chapters Hold Joint Program

LOMIAI’SE - Eight JACL chapters—Latin America, Mari­ del Rey, Orange County, Pasa­ dena, South Bay, Torrance, Wil­ shire, and Venice-Culver—co­ sponsored their second joint in­ stallation dinner May 31 at the Wilshire Hyatt, attracting 300 members and friends.

The evening included intro­ ductions by emcees Midori Wata­ nabe-Kame, who called up the officers to be installed for the Pacific Southwest regional director John Saito and presentations of awards by Shirley Chami, including a plaque to Joyce Enomoto, coordinator of last November’s ‘’Conquer the Bridge” 8K run. The Music Company, a Sainbei group, provided entertainment. Latin America Chapter video­ taped the party and has offered to make copies free for chapters if a blank tape is provided. Con­ tact Luis Yamakawa at 1,906 S. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90016, (213) 237-5841.