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Illinois governor orders affirmative action goals

CHICAGO—Responding to a report that state was not implementing affirmative actions goals in hiring Asian Americans and Native Americans, Gov. Jim Edgar has taken immediate steps to correct the situation.

The June edition of the *Chicago Reporter* revealed that the state's Department of Human Rights had failed to enforce a two-and-a-half-year-old law requiring all state agencies to set affirmative actions goals for the minority groups.

In a June 24 memo to heads of executive agencies, departments, boards and commissions, Edgar said, "It has come to my attention that there has been confusion over whether state affirmative action plans are required to include goals for Asian Americans and Native Americans. After reviewing this matter with the Department of Human Rights, I have directed the department to take immediate steps to ensure the inclusion of Asian Americans and Native Americans in all affirmative action plans filed by agencies under its jurisdiction for fiscal year 1992, beginning July 1, 1991."

JIM EDGAR

"...I intend to meet that commitment. For the first time, fiscal year 1992 affirmative action plans will include Asian Americans and Native Americans (in addition to African Americans, Hispanics and women). I urge all of you to provide the full cooperation of your agencies in the development and implementation of these plans. Your equal employment opportunity officer will be contacted by representatives of the Department of Human Rights to schedule a training session and further explain these procedures. Please give this matter your personal attention."

According to a follow-up story in the *Chicago Reporter*, William R. Ghesquiere, the governor's deputy counsel, admitted that the state had been remiss in its affirmative action program. He said that the oversight occurred because the department never amended its rules after passage of the law that had superseded department rules.

Bill to protect redress passes Illinois House

CHICAGO—A bill to protect redress recipients from losing state and local public assistance and to protect redress payments from garnishment or attachment recently passed the Illinois House of Representatives by a vote of 117-0.

The bill, which had already been approved unanimously by the state Senate, now goes on to Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar who is expected to sign the bill.

Commenting on the passage, Chicago Chapter, JACL, President David Iwasaki said, "The bill not only protects redress recipients from losing public assistance, but also contains provisions preventing nursing homes, hospitals, and other creditors from garnishing or attaching redress payments. This is important because, unlike the public aid provisions of the bill, this could potentially affect every redress recipient."

Sandra Otsuka, chairwoman of the Legislative and Judicial Development Committee of the Asian American Bar Association, said she believed that the bill would have insignificant financial impact. "There are very few Japanese Americans on Public aid, so there will be very little cost to the state. It is important, however, that nobody suffer as a result of the redress payments."

Both the Asian American Bar Association and the Chicago Chapter, JACL, have supported the bill.

Asian drug bill passed by California Assembly

SACRAMENTO—The California State Assembly approved legislation June 25 that would preserve federally funded Asian Pacific American Drug and Alcohol demonstration programs.

The bill, authored by Xavier Becerra (D-Monterey Park), requires the director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to keep track of Asian Pacific Islander alcohol and drug abuse demonstration programs and certify those that successfully meet the needs of the Asian Pacific population.

Additionally, the bill calls for continued funding of county programs that have been proven successful.

"Up until now, the Asian Pacific Islander community has been served primarily through pilot projects," Becerra said. "That's fine for a small community. But times are changing. This is a rapidly expanding population and substance abuse problems have surfaced like never before in this community. As a result, we need to go beyond providing just temporary programs for Asian Pacific Americans. This bill is an effort to do just that."

The bill, endorsed by a number of Asian Pacific groups, now advances to the Senate Health and Human Services committee.

Mike M. Masaoka

TRIBUTE

Following the June 26 death of one of the most influential and guiding hands of Japanese American history in this century, reactions of emotion and praise for Mike Masaoka and his work have been expressed throughout the community and beyond. From congressmen to colleagues and cronies—to a person—all have measured the man in terms of his long and lasting contributions to a displaced people and to the restored rights and privileges they enjoy today. *Pacific Citizen* offers here highlights of his career that spanned 50 years...

Mike Masaoka: The 'Go For Broke' Guy

By HARRY K. HONDA
Senior editor

Mike Masaoka was a lifelong champion of Japanese Americans who, during his 50 years of public life, always remembered his roots as a Nisei, of being forced by the Army in 1942 to evacuate from the West Coast, and then volunteering in the 442nd after urging the U.S. government to reopen Selective Service even though Japanese Americans were interned in concentration camps, American style. These are the unique circumstances of Nisei history, which he kept reminding should never happen again.

He served a productive part of his adult life as JACL's first paid staff member—national secretary and field executive—from Sept. 1, 1941, and as the Washington representative in 1946 when the Japanese American Citizens League launched its postwar legislative program. Throughout the halls of Congress and federal agencies and in the human and civil rights fields he often was called "Mr. Nisei" or "Mr. JACL."

As early as 1950, a special citation describing him as the outstanding Japanese American in the nation said, in part: "Rarely can a history of one decade (the 1940s) of a people be identified with a single individual. Yet, uniquely and unmistakably the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry during the 10 most crucial and tumultuous years of their existence is the story of Mike M. Masaoka."

Mike was only 26 years old, a fact which older JACL officers had wanted to keep quiet for fear he may have been considered to young. Saburo Kido, then national JACL president, recalled in his "Living with JACL" columns (*Pacific Citizen*, 1961-1962) that most leaders of every Japanese community had been taken away and such being the case, it was up to JACL leadership to chart the course for all persons of Japanese ancestry. "For a small organization to be thrust into such a maelstrom (called Evacuation) was a terrific ordeal. I marvel at the fact that we did not make any major mistakes in judging the future (outcome of the war and Evacuation)."

As a civil rights activist and an advocate of U.S.-Japan understanding and friendship, Masaoka was

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1915 - 1991



That we may walk in peace and dignity'

—JACL hymn

Leaders pay homage at Masaoka funeral

CHEVY CHASE, Md.—Hundreds of friends, family, and colleagues turned out for the July 2 funeral of Mike M. Masaoka held at Chevy Chase United Methodist Church.

Giving the eulogy was Masaoka's brother-in-law Rep. Norman Y. Mineta. Also speaking at the event were Rep. Robert T. Matsui, the Hon. William Marutani, the Hon. William Sherman,

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MORE ON MASAOKA:
Pacific Citizen devotes most of this issue to the memory and life of Mike Masaoka. Community reactions, commentaries, reminiscences/pages 3-10.

Group organizes to fight foe of Manzanar bill

LOS ANGELES—In an effort to thwart a last-minute move by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power that might prevent Manzanar from becoming a national historic site, the

Manzanar Committee is appealing for Japanese American community support at a city council hearing scheduled for Tuesday, July 8.

The Manzanar bill was recently passed by the House of Representatives, but soon after the DWP announced that it would be reluctant to give up the land Manzanar occupies because of its concern to protect its water rights.

In response, Sue Embrey, chairwoman of the Manzanar Committee, said, "We are shocked and outraged, at this late date, the DWP is publicly announcing

its opposition. We have been working on this project with the National Park Service, Inyo County Board and citizens, and the mayor since Manzanar was designated as a historic landmark in 1984.

"The DWP has had ample opportunities to respond, but instead ignored the NPS (National Park Service) request to address the issues which have been known to them for the past six years."

Council member Ruth Galanter introduced a measure to urge DWP to cooperate fully with the federal government to make Manzanar available at the minimum cost allowed under the law as soon as possible. That motion was sent back to a subcommittee on Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources.

"Galanter's motion is in peril of being killed due to the hard-line stance of DWP," Embrey said.

The Manzanar Committee is asking that the Japanese American community write to L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley who supports the Manzanar bill.

EMBREY



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Mike Masaoka tribute

MASAOKA

(Continued from page 1)

recognized with commendation from the White House as well as two distinguished decorations from the Japanese government.

He had retired in 1988 but worked as a consultant for not-for-profit causes and the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which pledged \$20,000 in redress to some 60,000 surviving Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

Masaoka had formed his own Washington consultant and public relations firm in 1952, now Masaoka Associates Inc., representing the JACL and a broad variety of enterprises including businesses in both the U.S. and Japan.

It was during the tumultuous era of the '40s that he was shocked and "realized the problems of Japanese Americans on the West Coast could not be solved without organization and direct representation," as noted in the *Reader's Digest* article, and became "Washington's Most Successful Lobbyist." That role was fortified when he and his four brothers fought with the 442nd in Italy and France. All five were wounded, one was killed in action.

In the '50s he persuaded Congress to pass the memorable Walter-McCarran Act of 1952, which eliminated race as a barrier to immigration and naturalization.

In Jail on Dec. 7, 1941

A closer look at Masaoka's early years in the public eye begins on Dec. 7, 1941, unaware that Pearl Harbor was being bombed. Mike was speaking at St. Mary's Mission, Scottsbluff, Neb., to a group of 60 Nisei called together by the Rev. Hiram Kano, pioneer Issei Episcopalian missionary for Nebraska and northeastern Colorado. Bursting onto the scene, Federal agents, whom Mike thought were newspapermen, called him outside, arrested and detained him at the North Platte jail.

Back in San Francisco, Headquarters was frantically trying to contact Mike. North Platte area. Nisei had no idea. In the one phone call allowed, Mike was forbidden to reveal he was in jail. Finally Annie Cio Watson of International Institute, who had the trust and love of Japanese Americans through her activeYWCA years, contacted the North Platte police, who said Mike was in their jail. A release was obtained through his Utah mentor, Sen. Elbert Thomas and by the end of the week, Mike was back at Headquarters.

The leadership of the U.S. Japanese population on the Mainland fell to the JACL, more or less by default after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, because it was the only organization of American citizens of Japanese ancestry functioning at that time either on a local or

regional basis. In order to appreciate this situation, consider the social makeup of the Japanese community.

Of the 127,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the U.S. in 1940, there were some 100,000 living on the West Coast just prior to Evacuation. The average age was about 55 for the immigrant Issei generation; and about 19 for the Nisei. The Nisei, citizens by birth, constituted two-thirds of the group.

Barred from citizenship, the Issei were classified as "enemy aliens" with the war. Issei leaders in the business, agricultural, civic, educational and religious circles were interned by the FBI as a precautionary measure, though all of them were later released.

Due to these circumstances, the JACL appeared as a spokesman when the government, media and individuals approached what was the only national organization of Japanese Americans based in San Francisco with chapters in the six Western states.

In January, 1942, JACL was not prepared to stem hate-mongering rumors in the headlines and by columnist fomented hysteria to evacuate all Japanese—aliens and citizens—to "concentration camps." Rumors of Japanese sabotage in Hawaii, subsequently found to be untrue, only touched off more rumors on the West Coast about Japanese American spies and saboteurs.

The day-to-day situation for Japanese families was hectic with Issei assets frozen because of war. Through Sen. Thomas's efforts, Mike was able to have the restrictions lifted enough to enable withdrawal of \$100 per month for living expenses.

For the news-hungry Issei community, he obtained Army permission for the San Francisco *Nichibei* to resume printing its newspaper in both Japanese and English. JACL also published a bilingual bulletin which was rushed to the 60 JACL chapters to disseminate news not widely appearing in the local newspapers and to pass along advisories from the federal and state agencies.

For the loyalty-conscious Nisei,

Headquarters was very busy issuing "certificates of identification" attesting to their citizenship for filing with the county registrar of voters. The San Francisco Chapter membership cards also included a "mugshot." Seven more JACL chapters were formed, raising the total to 66. But the 1942 national convention to be hosted by Oakland JACL April 3-5 was cancelled.

February 1942

What happened in February, 1942, makes people forget their idealistic intentions of not falling into hysteria of racism or witch hunts. The political atmosphere was confusing and unnerving for the Issei and other enemy aliens, the German and Italian immigrants. In Washington, Attorney General Francis Biddle had addressed the Conference of Mayors, promising justice to enemy aliens and protection against abuse or discrimination. In Sacramento, California Governor Olson had called a conference on the prospects of evacuation. Speaking for JACL, Mike and Kido protested on constitutional grounds when Olson asked whether JACL would cooperate on a program to send all Issei and Nisei men away from the West Coast.

Assured by Federal Security Agency officers that wholesale and indiscriminate evacuation of all Japanese from the Pacific Coast was not contemplated, JACL passed the word that the Justice Department also added American citizens of Japanese ancestry would not be involved, just Japanese nationals in specified areas. That assurance added impetus for more Nisei to contribute to American Red Cross and buy defense war bonds. In Fresno, Nisei bought over \$50,000 in war bonds; Dr. Joseph Sasaki, now of Ann Arbor, chaired the Fresno American Loyalty League campaign.

Then, the atmosphere began to change as human interest stories in the press felt sorry for German and Italians—the most publicized being the Italian parents of Joe DiMaggio of baseball fame. Politically important leaders of Ger-

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Contributions sought for Masaoka fund

The national steering committee of the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund is seeking contributions to further the training and development of young leadership to serve the Japanese community.

The fund, established to encourage young people to carry on the kind of public service Mike Masaoka demonstrated in his career, provides four categories for contributions:

• Friends: All contributions up to \$1,000.

• Sustaining Fellows: Contributions of \$200 per year for five years.

• Fellows: Contributions of \$1,000 to \$2,500.

• Emeritus Fellows: Contributions of \$2,500 and above. Corporate contributions are also invited.

All contributions are set aside and maintained in a specially identified account to be used only for the purposes of the leadership development. It is anticipated that only the interest from the capital fund will be distributed. The initial award is planned for 1991.

Contributions as well as requests for information should be directed to JACL national headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115; 415/921-5225. ☐

FUNERAL

(Continued from page 1)

JACL President Cressey Nakagawa and Juichiro Takada. Toshio Hoshide read Masaoka's "Japanese American Creed" as a prelude to his favorite piece, *The JACL Hymn*, sung by Jennifer Rutherford.

Tad Masaoka spoke on behalf of his family.

Honorary pallbearers included Key Kobayashi, Ben Obata, Joe Ichijui, Toro Hirose, Dr. Richard Yamamoto, Robert Ota—an all-Nisei veteran group.

Making contributions

In lieu of flowers, the Masaoka family has requested contributions be made to the:

• Go For Broke National Veterans Association, 310 Woodridge Lane, Media, Pa. 19063

• Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund

Major goal of the fund, which will continue in perpetuity, is to encourage public service, granting awards to educate or train recipients for leadership in public service. The fund honors Mike M. Masaoka for a lifetime of outstanding public service promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. For Japanese Americans and JACL, this service has been of unique importance as he worked to advance the cause of Japanese Americans through crucial times when supporters were few and financing was scarce.

To: MIKE M. MASAOKA FELLOWSHIP FUND

Japanese American Citizens League,

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I wish to encourage public service by subscribing to the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in the indicated category: Contributions of \$1,000 and above will receive a copy of the recently published autobiography of Mike Masaoka. The initial fifty \$1,000 contributors will receive a personally autographed copy.)

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Mike Masaoka tribute

MASAOKA

(Continued from page 2)

man and Italian descent also pleaded for their own group. There were none in the same circle to help the Japanese.

West Coast Congressional delegation formally recommended to the President on Feb. 13 for the immediate evacuation of all of Japanese lineage. General DeWitt the next day outlined his recommendations on the subject to the Secretary of War. On Feb. 15 Tom C. Clark, alien control coordinator, said he felt that evacuation of "Japanese" (again, not the Nisei) could begin in 60 days.

Now commemorated as the "Day of Remembrance," President Roosevelt, as commander-in-chief, proclaimed Executive Order 9066* on Feb. 19. While not designated in the executive order, when the categories of persons were announced to be excluded from the West Coast, JACL was shocked to find that Americans of Japanese ancestry were in the No. 2 spot (the Issei Japanese were No. 1), German aliens No. 3 and Italian aliens No. 4.

Before the Tolan Committee

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the House Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration, chaired by Rep. John H. Tolan (D-Oakland, Calif.), convened at the San Francisco Post Office Bldg. to explore the problem of evacuating "enemy aliens and others from prohibited military zones." The press was already complaining, before E.O. 9066 was a day old, about the delay in removing the Japanese.

On Monday, Feb. 23, the mayors and police chiefs of Berkeley, Oakland and Alameda spoke in the same vein as Mayor Rossi for evacuating the Japanese and not the German nor Italian resident aliens. Then Mike followed, submitting the JACL statement and testifying at length. Saburo Kido as National JACL president would have submitted JACL's prepared testimony, but because he had his impacted tooth removed that day, Mike delivered the statement and responded to the congressmen. Today, the National JACL president would be expected to take the stand.

Knowing that Evacuation was to be effected, JACL leaders could not bear to see repeated the predicament of the Terminal Island Japanese on 48-hour notice Feb. 26. They were forced out from their homes and sacrificed their personal belongings and property they could not take with them, resulting in women and children sleeping in the open in Los Angeles or in crowded churches under blanket tents.

Neither forgotten were two war incidents preceding the 48-hour notice: a Japanese submarine near Santa Barbara shelled oil wells on Feb. 23 and unidentified aircraft, believed to be the enemy, was flying over Los Angeles on Feb. 25 and fired upon by local anti-aircraft batteries that put everyone on edge with jittery nerves. The newspapers called it "a raid," some remember it as the Battle of Los Angeles. It was after the war that the press was able to report Tokyo had no planes over Los Angeles, called the "a myth" and speculated the artillery was shooting at "weather balloons."

The next day in Congress, Rep. Alfred Elliott of Tulare County shouted, "We've got to move all the Japs out of California into concentration camps, somewhere, some place, and do it damn quick." Rep. Leland Ford of Santa Monica, repeating the rumors of Japanese signalling from the hills to ships offshore, declared: "We've got to move the Japs to areas where they can't do that kind of signaling." The Riverside County sheriff warned the Army that local farmers might "take matters into their own hands" unless the government takes immediate action to remove the Japanese.

On Feb. 28, the House Committee on Un-American Activities published its "Yellow Book," a 300-page document listing almost every possible charge against Japanese in America. Under these circumstances, had the Japanese Americans opposed the Army, the Nisei would have been branded as saboteurs in time of war and their loyalty forever suspect. These were the issues that faced the JACL delegates on the eve of its 1942 Emergency Conference.

JACL Emergency Conference

JACL summoned its 1942 Emergency Conference as 200 delegates from the ten Western states gathered in San Francisco March 8-10 (Sunday - Tuesday) at Kinmon Hall, site of Headquarters after Pearl Harbor, on Bush St. In the meantime, Mike and JACL leaders had met with local, state, federal, Army and Navy officials on the prospect of Evacuation and whether evacuees would be welcome.

Mike gave delegates the results of the JACL poll of 15 governors about conditions for the Issei and Nisei. Nine responded; eight were negative and one (Colorado) was qualified that they could come provided the federal government guarantees adequate protection.

The JACL Emergency Conference, which was conducted as a closed session for chapter delegates, staff and speakers as invited, confronted three possibilities: (1) all-out opposition; (2) compromise coupled with threat of military action on evacuees; or (3) "constructive" cooperation, meaning cooperation with the government as a reasonable choice but not conceding the constitutional issue.

Delegates rejected all-out opposition and compromise as impractical as the government had all the cards. That left cooperation. "As Americans, we can do no less; the military is supreme in war," Mike said. Other considerations which called for cooperation was the fact that the Issei were sickened by the loss of their lifetime achievements, and the older children would voluntarily accompany them, anyway, to camp and share in their adversities; the Nisei knew their duty to family: their parents, younger brothers and sisters. And since the government was determined to evacuate and the Army stood ready with its might, delegates responded to the roll-call vote for "constructive cooperation." The decision was unanimous. The delegates then had the awesome task of selling the decision back home.

"Had the JACL opposed the Army, the Nisei would have been branded as saboteurs in time of war and Nisei loyalty would have been damaged," Kido recalled in his 1943 message to JACL members refuting the charges that JACL had snubbed and cooperated with the Army in the evacuation. As the conference ended, the gnawing feeling of insecurity prevailed. No one knew what was coming or whether they would meet again. National JACL President Kido was unable to finish his farewell speech. Delegates were in tears.

Move to Salt Lake City

JACL decided to move its Headquarters to Salt Lake City, where Mike grew up and had many friends. All the JACL chapters in the "prohibited zones" became inactive for the duration except one—the San Benito County chapter, which remained active via Poston Wara Center. Pacific Citizen was expanded from a monthly to a weekly with Larry Tajiri as editor. JACL was determined to work for the common good.

In retrospect, Mike's guiding hand plus steady and staunch support of the Intermountain JACL District which helped keep JACL Headquarters afloat financially during WWII as JACL membership had died to about 2,000 allowed JACL to make the great decisions which persons of



TV TIMES—Ralph Edwards (left), host of "This Is Your Life," honors Masaoka and his wife Etsu.



TALKING POLITICS—Mike Masaoka (right) talks with Rep. Frank Fello, chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization following close of hearings on the Judd bill.

Japanese ancestry and other minorities, especially the Asians, enjoy today.

With the 442nd During World War II

Mike was among those who, while protesting the necessity, legality and reasons in their own Evacuation in 1942, he was also among those who urged the use of Nisei troops in the Army as a means of having Americans respect the so-called Japanese problem. He helped to organize the 442nd Central Postal Directory and was the first to volunteer when its activation was announced in early 1943. He, along with three brothers, served with the 442nd in Europe.

Mike's writing and speaking talents were tapped as he was assigned to Headquarters Company in public relations.

Following his honorable discharge from the Army in December, 1945, Mike returned to Salt Lake City to resume his post with the JACL. But, when in the spring of 1946 at its first postwar national convention in Denver, the JACL decided to embark upon a legislative, legal, and public relations program, he was named as national legislative director and charged with the leadership of the program in Washington.

On Jan. 22, 1947, when the Washington JACL was opened, Mike registered as the JACL lobbyist in Congress. He and his wife were the original members of the staff, which soon added secretaries and writers as the work progressed.

Mike's Legislative Score Card: 1946-1952

In view of the history of anti-Japanese prejudice and discrimination in America before and during the war, the hard-won rights

and privileges that followed for the Japanese Americans were in a large part due to the deep financial support from the Issei, the understanding of the mission from the Nisei and solid commitment of the 100-plus JACL chapters in the late '40s and early '50s. The close look at the highlights of this legislative record follows:

1. **Walter-McCarran Act of 1952 (HJR 238).** When it became clear the legislation to extend equal naturalization privileges to resident Japanese alien could not be secured on its own merit, a technique that was successful by every other Asian group—the Chinese, Filipinos and East Indians, Mike was able in 1951 to have the so-called Asian provisions of the Judd Bill (1948: HR 199), which stated both naturalization and immigration opportunities would be available to all without regard to race or national origin, in the omnibus legislation (Walter-McCarran Act)—a 279-page recodification of many immigration and naturalization statutes, court decisions, executive orders and regulations with certain security provisions added. Aware of the rising tide of criticism and denunciation of the omnibus bill, JACL-ADC felt there was no alternative but to support the bill vigorously because of its Asian provisions and because it was the only bill of its kind that had substantial votes in Congress for passage. It was approved over President Truman's veto on June 27, 1952.

On Thursday night (June 26) in San Francisco's St. Francis Hotel, the National JACL Convention was in session with President Randy Sakada presiding. The house had already overridden Truman's veto earlier in the day. When JACL chap-

ter delegates stopped in their deliberations to wire their respective senators urging to override the veto, Richard Akagi, associate Washington JACL representative, had a suggestion on how to prepare the messages. Masao Satow, national JACL director, took all the wires to the main Western Union center to expedite dispatch. At the 11:50 break (Friday, June 27), Haruo Ishimaru, Northern California regional director who had retired from the ministry, announced the bill was being debated in the Senate and led the National Council in a moment of silent prayer for success of JACL's campaign. At 12:30 p.m., the meeting was interrupted by a radio flash that the Senate had overridden the veto, 57-26. About the same time, a phone call from the Washington JACL repeated the good news. Delegates cheered and shed tears of joy. Two Issei guests, Jiro Fujioaka of Los Angeles, retired Rafu Shimpo Japanese section editor, and Tetsuo Oi of Honolulu, executive secretary of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii, expressed their gratitude. And as the meeting resumed, the recommendation that Issei be extended the same privileges and pleasures of JACL membership was unanimously passed. The next day, Etsu and Mike Masaoka were greeted at the airport and escorted to a cheering floor of chapter delegates and officially recognized for this moment of history.

The same law repealed the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 and extended the national origins immigration quota system to Japan. Under this system, only 185 quota immigrants from Japan were permitted into the United States. While the number was small, Mike reminded that the principle of Japanese eligibility for immigration to the U.S. was most important. Under the nonquota provisions of the law, almost 40,000 immigrant Japanese were admitted for permanent residence by December, 1959. The law also eliminated the sex qualification for immigration of alien women married to U.S. citizens as nonquota—the same privilege alien men had whose wives were a U.S. citizen.

2. Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act of 1948.

This statute (P.L. 80-886, July 2, 1948) authorized the Attorney General to adjudicate certain property losses arising from the 1942 military Evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Two major amendments followed in 1951 and 1956 to authorize compromise and settlement of claims in the U.S. Court of Claims. When the administrative phase was completed Nov. 10, 1958, a total of 26,552 claims totalling \$36,874,240.49 was paid. Less than ten claims remained to be settled in the court of claims, the last one being settled for \$362,500 in 1965. (That was the Koda Rice Farm claim of \$2,497,500.)

It was Mike's understanding that this was the first and only time that Congress had ever enacted a claims bill of this character. He regarded it as a vote of confidence in the Japanese people in the United States and an indirect admission that the President and the Congress misjudged the loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942 when they ordered the Evacuation.

3. Suspension of Deportation Act of 1948.

This law (P.L. 80-863, July 1, 1948), as amendment to the Immigration Act of 1917, enabled the Attorney General to suspend deportation proceedings and to adjust the status of some 2,500 alien Japanese to that of permanent residents. They were admitted legally prior to World War II as treaty merchants, ministers, temporary visitors or students and lost their immigration status because of war. Counting their families, some 10,000 Jap-

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Masaoka milestones

• Born Oct. 15, 1915 in Fresno, Calif., fourth child in family of eight, to Eijiro and Haruyo (Goto) Masaoka; married to Etou Minato Feb. 14, 1943, Salt Lake City; died of degenerative heart disease on Wednesday, June 26, 10 a.m., at Sibley Memorial Hospital, Chevy Chase, Md.

Career Highlights:

- 1937—Graduates from University of Utah with B.A. in political science, class salutatorian.
 - 1937—Becomes active in Nisei community, elected first chairman of Intermountain JACL District Council in 1939.
 - 1940—Wrote *The Japanese American Creed*, which was read into the Congressional Record by Utah Sen. Elbert Thomas in May, 1941, adopted as JACL Creed in 1946.
 - 1941—Employed as JACL's first paid staff member, national secretary and field executive, at San Francisco; was on grand recruitment tour of Japanese communities in Utah, Colorado, and Nebraska when picked up by the FBI on Dec. 7 at North Platte, Neb.; work pace at JACL headquarters steps up due to war and Issei community leaders arrested en masse as "dangerous enemy aliens," military and government officials rely on national JACL for community input.
 - Feb. 1942—Testifies at House Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migrations (chaired by Rep. John Tolan); related how its 20,000 JACL members in some 300 communities felt about evacuation of enemy aliens, stressed government not discriminate against American citizens of Japanese ancestry if the military and federal government deem it necessary for national security to evacuate Japanese residents from the West Coast, JACL will comply, "but, if, on the other hand, such evacuation is primarily a measure whose surface urgency cloaks the desires of political or other pressure groups who want us to leave merely from motives of self-interest, we feel that we have every right to protest and to demand equitable judgment on our merits as American citizens."
 - March, 1942—JACL calls emergency conference at San Francisco to prepare for evacuation, "constructive cooperation" with Army urged rather than confrontation.
 - November 1942—At emergency JACL meeting in Salt Lake City, persuaded delegates to demand right of military service for Nisei (then classified as 4-C, same as enemy aliens).
 - 1943-1945—Was first to volunteer when Army activates 442nd RCT, assigned to public relations.
 - 1946—Named JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee's national legislative director (ended 1952) and Washington JACL representative (until 1972).
 - 1947—Began lobbying for key JACL bills: Issei naturalization and immigration, stay of deportation for Issei, and evacuation claims; bills for nonquota admission of Japanese soldier-babies, pass, seen as first break of Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924; guided formation of Japanese Canadian Citizens Association (renamed National Association of Japanese Canadians).
 - 1948—Persuaded Dean Acheson to argue pro bono the Oyama alien land law and Takahashi fishing cases; directed campaign for Evacuation Claims Act (some \$37 million awarded to over 28,000 claimants as partial compensation); helped organize national umbrella group of 100 human rights and civil liberties associations; arranged major media coverage when first Nisei GIs were being interred at Arlington.
 - 1949—Acclaimed by *Reader's Digest* as "Washington's Most Successful Lobbyist" (May).
 - 1950—With his brothers, had purchased property to build home for their mother to test the California alien land law; Judge Thurmond Clarke holds the 1913 low bid in the Masaoka case.
 - 1951—Urged White House for early and generous peace treaty with Japan; appointment of Nisei to the federal bench; served as technical adviser to filming of "Go For Broke!"
 - 1952—Directed the campaign to eliminate racial discrimination in U.S. immigration and naturalization laws through passage of Walter-McCarran Act.
 - 1965—Worked on passage of Immigration Act of 1965, lifting Asia Pacific Triangle formula on quotas.
 - 1967-1968—Serves as president of Japan-America Society of Washington, first Nisei elected to such a post in the U.S.
 - 1971—Spearheaded congressional campaign to repeal of Title 11 of Internal Security Act of 1950.
 - 1972—Serves formal ties as Washington, JACL, representative; steps up own representations of major Japanese industrial and commercial firms.
 - 1978—JACL votes to make redress its next major legislative goal; responded in 1983 to mentor JACL Legislative Education Committee campaign after President's Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians recommends \$20,000 individual payment and apology to survivors of 1942 Evacuation.
 - 1987—Writes his autobiography with Bill Hosokawa.
 - 1988—Launches his Go For Broke National Veterans Association at Reno (June); keeps scheduled presentation of Masaoka Trust Fund testimonial to Attorney James Purnell (JACL's counsel on Endo case) at Seattle, while President Reagan signs redress bill HR 442 (Aug. 10); this was his last presence at a national JACL convention.
- ### Honors, Awards, Decorations:
- 1939—Citizen of the Community, Salt Lake City Junior Chamber of Commerce.
 - 1940—Nisei of the Year, Chicago Young People's Association.
 - 1945—WWII military decorations: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Italian Cross for Military Valor; also Combat Infantryman's Badge, 4 Bronze Battle Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Wreath, and others.
 - 1957—Surprised and honored on NBC-TV's "This Is Your Life," hosted by Ralph Edwards (January).
 - 1968—Order of the Rising Sun, 3rd Class, for contributions to welfare of Japanese residents in America, from the Japanese government.
 - 1970—"Mike M. Masaoka Testimonial" from JACL at Chicago convention; fund established to make awards for distinguished public service.
 - 1972—Commendation for his "exceptional service to others, in the finest American tradition," from President Nixon; Nisei Week Festival Grand Parade grand marshal, Los Angeles.
 - 1976—University of Utah Distinguished Alumnus for Public Service.
 - 1983—Order of the Sacred Treasure, 2nd Class (Japan's highest award to foreigners who are not government officials).

Mike Masaoka tribute



HISTORIC PHOTO—Mike Masaoka testifies in the spring of 1948 before a special Senate subcommittee hearing on HR 199 before Sen. Forrest C. Donnell (R.-Mo.), seated in the middle facing Masaoka. At extreme right is Rep. Walter Judd, author of HR 199, the so-called Issei naturalization bill. At extreme left is the committee hearing stenotypist.

MASAOKA

(Continued from page 3)

ness benefited. Furthermore, almost 50,000 other deportable aliens from European countries with small immigration quotas also were beneficiaries. For JACL, it served as a precedent for the eventual removal of all racial classifications in immigration and naturalization legislation. As Mike observed, "It represented for the first time in American history that Japanese were treated on the same basis, for immigration purposes, as immigrants from Europe."

The Court Record in Brief

In addition to federal laws and legislative gains, the 1946-1952 postwar era was equally significant at the Supreme Court level where three cases (the Minoru Yasui case, Gordon Hirabayashi case, and Fred Korematsu case) upheld the right of the military to establish curfew and travel restrictions for U.S.-born Japanese Americans but not their detention (Mitsuye Endo case). Mike assisted the JACL attorneys in these cases, notably A.L. Wirin of Los Angeles who was special JACL counsel. He also cooperated in other precedent-setting cases to the U.S. Supreme Court that involved persons of Japanese ancestry. He was able to persuade Dean Acheson, later to be Secretary of State under President Truman, to argue as a public service and without fee the Fred Oyama fishing lands and the Tono Takahashi fishing cases in 1948.

On this case, Mike was able to persuade the Attorney General and Solicitor General, as well as 20 national organizations, to join as friends of the court against the discriminatory law. It was the first time that the two highest legal officers of the government entered litigation urging justice to the Japanese. It was also the first time that 25 Nisei attorneys in California, Illinois, Colorado and New York all joined to sign the JACL-ADC brief.

Here are some of the activities that Mike said were "not well publicized."

The White House—(a) Urged the President's Commission on Civil Rights to recognize the need for an evacuation claims law and for equality in naturalization. The commission included these recommendations in its 1947 report and later enacted into law.

(b) Urged repeal of the Limited Passport rule for Issei in Hawaii traveling to the U.S. mainland. In 1907 President Theodore Roosevelt issued an executive order requiring immigrant Japanese residing in the Territory of Hawaii desiring to visit the mainland would have to comply with all the requirements of a temporary visitor. President Truman revoked

this order.

(c) Relative to the Treaty of Peace with Japan, urged that it be an early and generous treaty, that every possible aid be extended to Japan in order that it become a strong ally in the Pacific. Effective April 27, 1952, hostilities with Japan officially ended and resident alien Japanese were no longer "enemy aliens." Before the treaty was signed, Mike also urged commerce be opened in Japan, and that Issei and Nisei be granted the same consideration for licenses and privileges as were extended to other groups. Also urged, without success, that the names of postwar Japanese organizations on the Attorney General's proscribed list be removed and that enemy alien designation applied to all Issei be eliminated.

(d) Urged the President to promulgate a fair employment practices commission to assure all Nisei equal employment and promotion opportunities. Instead, the President established the Committee on Government Contract Compliance, which required compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of the Federal government in all contracts entered into with private firms.

State Department—Urged the appointment of qualified Nisei into the foreign service (Hank Goehoe of MIS fame was among the first Nisei appointed); the expeditious processing of cases by the Passport Office involving stranded Nisei in Japan; and the expeditious issuance of visas by the Visa Office to stranded Issei in Japan and to all applicants for immigration under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Justice Department—Urged the appointment of Nisei as Assistant United States Attorneys; that the citizenship status of Nisei renunciants be resolved as quickly as possible on an administrative basis by individual case.

Before the Board of Immigration Appeals, urged suspension of deportation in hardship cases involving Japanese aliens and their children from Peru, and parole of Japanese alien in detention under hardship conditions.

Post Office Department—Urged reopening of mail and parcel post service to Japan (during the Occupation) and to Okinawa; appointment of qualified Nisei as postmasters in the United States (the first Nisei postmaster was appointed in 1947 in California).

P.R. and Information
The Washington JACL-ADC Office maintained an on-going public relations program to gain favorable reaction in Congress and government; also disseminated information and responded to specific JACL-ADC requests and projects. Newsprint and magazine articles, editorials, radio and television were utilized. Reprints of the Congressional Record, running into the thousands were distributed.

The principle focus was on the gallantry of the Nisei GI or the problems of Americans of Japanese ancestry. Here are some of the projects mentioned in the Final JACL-ADC Report:

"Go For Broke!"—An MGM film written and directed by Robert Pirosh (1951), it relates the story of the 442nd RCT, the problems of Nisei in WWII and the Evacuation Camps. (It still appears on the late, late shows on TV in 1991.) Mike served as technical adviser to the film. MGM made a monetary donation to JACL-ADC.

Arlington Cemetery—When the first Nisei war dead were returned from Europe, JACL-ADC participated in the public ceremonies for interment of Nisei GIs at Arlington National Cemetery (1948); arranged to have leading military, congressional, and government leaders participate.

Books—Two books on Evacuation were promoted: (1) "Americans Betrayed" by Morton Grodzin, University of Chicago (1949), this cites political pressures and the politics that led to the 1942 evacuation; (2) "Beauty Behind Barbed Wire," by Allen H. Eaton, Harper & Brothers (1952), the story of camp arts and craft told in words and pictures. Mike's comment: Efforts to prevent publication of *Americans Betrayed* were countered by JACL-ADC support. The documented indictment by Grodzin did much to point out factors behind the military decision to evacuate and contributed much to public understanding of that movement.

Newspapers—The Newspaper Guild was persuaded to adopt a policy against usage of "Jap" in all newspapers. For the initial impact, credit goes to singular campaign by Shosuke Sasaki, then with Standard and Poor's unit of the Newspapers Guild (1952), against the use of the epithet; the campaign was carried on by JACL chapters to all media.

School Textbooks—In cooperation with the National Education Association, improper and untruthful references to the loyalty of persons of Japanese ancestry during WWII were deleted from junior and senior high school history texts and other reference books used in the schools of the nation.

Roger Nikaido
Asa Washington consultant, the JACL was one of his clients, and he kept a fairly busy calendar on JACL matters through the '50s and '60s until Roger Nikaido, a Senese attorney from Sacramento, was appointed the assistant Washington Representative in 1967. In a Feb. 7, 1969 P.C. column, Nikaido was to observe: "Working as Mike's assistant for the past two years has given me the opportunity to study the nature of a man who has won the respect and admiration of

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Mike Masaoka tribute

From the House of Representatives



REP. NORMAN Y. MINETA

"Mike Masaoka was one of the greatest Americans of the 20th-century. Future generations of Americans, no matter what their ancestry, will reap the benefits of Mike's lifelong struggle to build bridges rather than walls between people. I was proud to call on him as a friend, as a leader, prouder still to call him brother. His death leaves me sad and empty, but grateful for all the memories I have of him and all that he achieved for Americans of Japanese ancestry."

As the first executive secretary of the Japanese American Citizens League, Mike was determined to end the treatment of Americans of Japanese ancestry as second-class citizens, and he succeeded. Mike's leadership of JACL and his influence in Washington helped make it possible for thousands of Japanese Americans to become U.S. citizens, a right denied Issei by discriminatory laws. He was also instrumental in helping thousands of Japanese Americans to resume their lives after their

'His death leaves me sad and empty, but grateful for all the memories I have of him ...'

Norman Y. Mineta

internment by the U.S. government during the second world war.

During the war, Mike's toughest negotiations with the government led to the formation of the all-Nisei 442nd Central Postal Directory, which became the most decorated unit in American history. Mike believed that the only way to remove the stigma of shame from Americans of Japanese ancestry was to prove our loyalty to this nation. Although

there was never a question of loyalty as far as we were concerned, many Americans, fueled by wartime hysteria and racism, wouldn't give us a chance. Through Mike's leadership and the success of the 442nd and the 100th Battalion, we got that chance, and we succeeded. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which redressed the internment and offered compensation to Japanese Americans, was the proud result of Mike Masaoka's 45-year strategy."

Rep. Norman Y. Mineta

"Mike's passing is an immeasurable loss for Americans of Japanese ancestry. It is also a great loss for all Americans. Mike proudly fought for his country in World War II, and later fought for the Constitution by leading our community in our struggle to redress the injustices of Japanese internment. As an activist, his death leaves a great hole in the Japanese American community. As my friend, Mike's passing is particularly sorrowful. Doris and I pass along our deepest sympathies to Etsu and the rest of Mike's family."

Rep. Robert T. Matsui



REP. ROBERT T. MATSUI

"All of us owe to Mike a lasting debt of gratitude for his courage to speak out at times of critical need and often times in the face of insurmountable odds."

Rep. Patsy Mink

"He was always there when good things needed to be done. His warm and affectionate made sweeter the difficult lives we all tried to survive."

Rep. Don Edwards

Losing a friend and mentor . . .

Before Congress, Inouye marks Masaoka's passing

Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii addressed Congress June 28 on the passing of his friend and colleague, Mike Masaoka. Here are highlights from that speech:

Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I address my colleagues today. Although we all realize that death is inevitable, it is always difficult to accept its finality when it involves a close and dear

INOUE

friend of many years. The passing of Mike Masaoka is indeed a very sad event, but one that should remind us of the glories of battles fought and battles won.

Mike was a noble American patriot; the most illustrious leader of the Japanese American Citizens League; and a crusader who improved the plight of the oppressed and the down-trodden. Mike dedicated his life to redressing the inequities suffered by Japanese Americans. He worked tirelessly to convince Americans to live up to the ideals upon which this nation was founded—liberty and equal justice under law. In doing so, Mike helped to improve the civil rights of all minorities.

In 1941, Mike left his position at the University of Utah to work on a full-time basis for the Japanese American Citizens League. He called upon the JACL to broaden its scope and become a national organization open to all people who wanted to end discrimination against Japanese Americans. He worked diligently to spread

the message that Japanese Americans were loyal to this great nation . . .

Mike and I volunteered and served in the 442nd Central Postal Directory, which became the most decorated unit in American history. Mike believed that the only way to remove the stigma of shame from Americans of Japanese ancestry was to prove our loyalty to this nation. Although

The war between nations may have ended in 1945, but the fight for equal protection and justice had just begun. It became a burning passion for Mike. He dedicated his life to assure that the lives of our comrades, including his brother, would not be sacrificed in vain. Mike moved to Washington, D.C., and continued his fight. This time the battle was against unjust and discriminatory laws and the enemies, bigotry and racism.

Mike was the founder of Japanese American redress—an enlightened and bright chapter in our nation's history which has helped to cleanse the darkness of internment. In large part, Mike was responsible for making it a reality.

Mr. President, the passing of Mike Masaoka will leave a void in the ranks of his comrades in the 442nd, and for the many others who knew, respected, and loved him. It has always been my high honor to know, to seek counsel and to work with his giant of a man. My loss of a friend is our nation's loss of a great American patriot.

My heart goes out to Mike's beloved wife and companion, Etsu. Though mere words may not suffice in expressing our sadness, it must comfort her to know that there are many in this land who share her burden of grief.

We in the JACL were greatly saddened to learn of Mike's passing. Mike's death is a great loss to our community and it is a loss for all Americans.

Throughout his life, Mike remained committed to the welfare of the Japanese American community as demonstrated by his advocacy on many important pieces of legislation, including the redress bill, which benefited our community. At the same time, in striving for fairness and equality, he promoted the betterment of all.

Mike and his generation were raised and came to maturity during a time when discrimination prevailed and Asian exclusion was still the law. It was a time when the social and political landscape were very different than what we have today.

Mike helped change all of that,

From JACL

He was a civil rights pioneer



and that's why so much is owed to him.

In many ways, Mike's work and those he worked with in Washington, D.C., were all part of a defining time in the civil rights movement as we know it today. Mike's involvement and relationship with individuals such as Roger Baldwin, Edward Ennis and Joseph Rauh, and his participation in the founding of both the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the JACL's Anti-Discrimination Committee constituted the early efforts at forging equality and fairness in America's treatment of minorities.

Mike's passing is a great loss and we extend our condolences to his wife, Etsu, and the remainder of his family.

Cressley Nakagawa
President, JACL

cause of Japanese Americans, and fighting the early tough battles, should never be forgotten.

As a past national JACL president, I was one of many who benefited from Mike's counsel. Although he had moved among the highest levels of government, he always remained a sensitive, concerned and compassionate human being. Nor can we forget Mike's many contributions that helped the JACL evolve into a respected civil rights organization.

Although time and distance prevented close association in recent years, I never lost the affection and respect that I always held for Mike. My heartfelt sympathy goes to Etsu, and I hope that those of us who are left will serve our fellow man and communities as Mike would have wished.

Jerry Enomoto
Sacramento

The Nisei community was young and disorganized at the onset of World War II. Mike Masaoka stepped in to fill the strong leadership role necessary during wartime crisis.

Mike, more than anyone, realized the awesome responsibility he undertook and the criticism he expected from some community members. He had said it often that this was the price of leader-



ship. The most telling Masaoka legacy was his bold action which he felt was necessary to improve the Japanese American image in the eyes of the American government and the public.

Clifford Uyeda
San Francisco

"It was always—Mike and Pat, the two Irishmen . . ."

One of the truly great men of JACL, Mike M. Masaoka, is no longer with us. Those of us in

See TRIBUTE/page 6

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Mike Masaoka tribute

TRIBUTE

(Continued from page 5)

Washington, who were in close contact with Mike, were hoping for a miracle; however, this was not to be.

I was privileged to work with Mike during the past 50 years and not only was he my mentor, but also a close personal friend and advisor. His departure will leave a void in the lives of all who knew him.

For the past 50 years, every successful piece of legislation for the betterment of JACL and its constituents, as well as for the Issei can be in great part be attributed to Mike's skillful work here in the nation's capital.

One of my proudest moments as your national president was when I marched side by side with Mike, holding JACL's banner in the civil rights march in Washington in August of 1963, when we joined with the late Martin Luther King Jr. in the freedom march. This was Mike's vision and without our participation in all the civil rights issues in the early sixties, we probably would not have been successful in passing the civil rights act of 1968, the redress bill.

The JACL and the Nisei community are indebted to Mike M. Masaoka for its successful status today. We shall miss him greatly.

K. Patrick Okura
Bethesda, Md.

From the business community

Today's prosperity and rising social status of Japanese in the United States of America is inculcatedly indebted to his dedication throughout his life

S. Suzuki
Chairman
Ajinomoto

We have lost a great friend who has given much to the textile industry and has contributed to create better understanding among the people in our two countries.

K. Nakai
Managing Director
Japan Spinner's Association

A wonderful person and I greatly admired him for his kind manner and lifelong effort to promote friendship and understanding among Japanese and American peoples and to give support to Japanese Americans. Mike was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Y. Togo

President
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

A privilege to have known him so well and I will never forget his thoughtfulness and kindness.

S. Toyoda

President
Toyota Motor Corporation

His contributions toward the promotion of U.S.-Japan friendship will be remembered among us forever. Even now I can see his pleasant smile in my mind and I can hear his warm voice

in my ears.

Akira Harada
Panasonic

A good friend both on the personal and professional level on both sides of the Pacific.

A. Miyoshi

General Director
Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association

He will be remembered with great affection for his dedication to society and readiness to assist others.

K. Yoshizawa

Deputy President,
Bank of Tokyo

We not only remember his accomplishments as a distinguished advocate of U.S.-Japan relations, but also the excellent cooperation he extended to us. We sincerely hoped that that relationship which he fostered will continue.

Minoru Masuda

Chairman
JETRO

... mixed emotion in our hearts and minds. Emotion of great sadness to have lost so good a friend. Emotion of pride: we had good fortune of long years of association and friendship with such a great person. Japan and across the globe will miss his wise counsel and kind words.

M. Yamaguchi

Executive Director
Japanese Textile Products
Exporters Association

many other persons, was the passage of the law granting redress as well as a presidential apology to those evacuated under Executive Order 9066 during World War II.

We stand in tribute to Mike M. Masaoka whose personal achievements are forever etched in the history of Japanese Americans.

Frank J. Chusman
Los Angeles

Thankful for memories when Mike organized memorial services at Arlington National Cemetery for my son and other Nisei veterans.

Haruyo Nagano

I want to remember Mike M. Masaoka and his commitment to JACL and to our Japanese American community. He clearly understood the direction JACL had to take to eliminate racism and discriminatory laws.

I remember that though there were capable and articulate JACL leaders, when Mike took the floor, he provided a "bigger picture" for JACL—a vision of what JACL must do to eliminate discriminatory laws.

His extemporaneous and polished speaking ability, his selective vocabulary, his orderly flow of ideas have never been matched by any other JACL leader since. His public speaking model is a great legacy for all who desire to be spokesperson for our community. He spent hours in careful preparation when he was to be the spokesperson on issues which affect our community and our future. At such times, he did not risk failure by the lack of preparation. His life was a book on influencing public opinion.

The redress campaign was foremost on Mike's mind since the 1978 convention. And so, with his Washington presence and his close relations with the Nikkei members of Congress, it

was inevitable that he would be part of the planning when the report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians came out in 1983.

I remember that it was with great repudiation of the unknown that I ventured forth to Washington in September, 1985, to lead the JACL Legislative Education Committee as executive director.

It was natural for me to turn to Mike Masaoka. He was most generous with his time and advice. He was always available and supportive.

Mike paved the way for me with long-time established leaders of the major civil rights organizations who were his personal friends.

I remember that Mike never gave up even as his health problems became obvious. In fact, he struggled with the inevitable slowing down process of aging and had difficulty accepting his inability to go on with unfinished writing and other projects.

In Mike's addendum to his book *They Call Me Moses Masaoka* he writes that it was he who suggested that I be asked to carry the redress campaign in Washington.

I do thank him for the unforgettable experience I had working with him. I learned about not giving up.

I learned from Mike the will to succeed was the first requirement.

Thus, I grieve that the era of JACL leadership of people like Mike who made JACL a lifetime commitment has come to an end.

Grayce Nishimura

Governor, JACL Eastern
District Council

In honor of Mike Masaoka's memory I would suggest that every Nikkei, young or old, get hold of a copy of the Japanese American Creed and read it afresh.

Mike wrote it in November, 1940, fully a year before Pearl

See TRIBUTE/page 7

From Canada

On Wednesday, June 26, Japanese Americans lost a national leader of great esteem and prominence, with the passing of Mike Masaka. During the difficult war years starting with Pearl Harbor, Mike, as executive secretary of the Japanese American Citizens' League, guided this organization through its most critical period.

Just as Mike had urged the JACL to take a stand on Selective Service in the U.S., the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy in Toronto had led the fight for Canadian Nisei to be accepted in the armed forces of Canada.

After returning from overseas and following his discharge, Mike continued to serve as the executive director of the JACL's Washington office. There were many unresolved issues resulting from the evacuation, the greatest of which was the question of property claims, the forerunner of redress. Since this issue was even more critical in Canada where properties had been confiscated without the owners' consent, it became imperative that a national organization be formed in Canada, to serve the relocatees scattered all across Canada.

In September of 1947, over the Labor Day weekend, a conference was organized by the Japanese Canadian Committee for Democracy of Toronto, calling together the leaders from all the provinces from British Columbia to Quebec. Being fully aware of Mike Masaka's achievements in the U.S., we had invited Mike to attend this conference to advise us on how to

form a national organization. He graciously consented and came to Toronto to actually form the National Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, the first national organization of Japanese Canadians in Canada. The name was subsequently changed in 1980 to National Association of Japanese Canadians.

With his background in the JACL, the NJCCA was set up under the chapter system similar to the JACL. Provincial and local chapters were established all across Canada wherever evacuees had been relocated. The main goal and objective of this network was to seek a resolution to property claims, which later became known as the redress campaign.

It took another 40 years to 1988 before true redress was achieved both in Canada and the United States. As it was with every political and legislative achievement of Japanese Americans, Mike Masaka was in the forefront of the campaign for redress.

In 1987, on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the national organization, we had a celebration in Toronto marking this anniversary, and both Mike and Etsu came to join us on this memorable occasion. That was the last time we saw him and although his health was declining, his spirit and optimism were still there.

When a cocky, capable, and confident young man from Salt Lake City came to the Labor Day weekend JACL convention in Los Angeles in 1938, and made

the delegates sit up and take notice, it was the beginning of a remarkable career for a leader with a vision. Since that day, JACL was blessed with a motivating force that was to change the history of Japanese Americans for the next half century.

From the humblest beginnings and severest hardships, Mike Masaka rose to become the most influential leader among Japanese Americans. His courage, dedication, vision, and untiring stamina led him to serve the Japanese American community from the battlefields of Europe to the capital of the nation, for over 40 years with great distinction. His accomplishments, too numerous to mention, are a legend in the capital.

Both the United States and Canada have lost an outstanding crusader for justice, equality, and human rights in the passing of Mike Masaka.

Roger Ohata
founding member
National Association of
Japanese Canadians

He was a friend to Japanese Canadians. We best remember him for his role in the formation of NJCCA in 1947, later changed to the National Association for Japanese Canadians. We are appreciative of his redress efforts in the United States which contributed to the success of the Japanese Canadian settlement.

Art Miki
president
National Association of
Japanese Canadians.

From Japan

Whenever we had a difficult Japan-U.S. situation, we found Mike working hard to promote a better understanding between our nations. His loss will be felt by all of us in both countries for many years to come.

S. Nishida
Japan
House of
Representatives

Mike's contributions to the friendship of our two countries will be remembered with admiration and gratitude.

Kiichi Miyazawa

Our mutual cause of American-Japanese friendship has lost a loyal, energetic and valuable supporter.

Takao Fukuda
President
American-Japan Society
of Tokyo

I depended on his wise counsel. I was fortunate enough to have his support for the cause of strong Japan-U.S. relations. He leaves a rich legacy which we all cherish.

Noboru Matsunaga
Former Ambassador
to the United States

It is a great loss for all of us concerned about the enhancement of relations between Japan and the United States. His tireless efforts to advance the standing of Japanese Americans and his immense contribution as a bridge across the Pacific will be long remembered.

Taro Nakayama
Minister for Foreign
Affairs, Japan

As busy as he was, he always found time to receive me with a warm smile and his kind support and guidance enabled me to carry out my duties while in Washington.

T. Neno
Nishimachi International
School
Tokyo

I was deeply grieved to learn of the passing of Mr. Mike Masaka. He was a great leader, well loved and admired both in the United States and in Japan.

Successive Japanese ambassadors serving here in the United States, including me, have greatly appreciated his friendly, frank, very instructive and helpful advice in bringing about deeper understanding between our two countries. It is widely known in Japan that he has greatly contributed to the promotion of good will of Japanese Americans. As author of the Japanese American Creed, his sense of values represented those values of an individual worthy of the highest principle. His closing words, "Better Americans in a Greater America" symbolized his hopes and aspirations for all Japanese Americans. His life exemplified his words and achievements and was recognized by my country by the conferring of our highest decorations.

Although his passing away leaves a great void in all of our hearts, he has left us with the challenge to work harder to serve others.

Ryohel Murata
Japanese Ambassador
Washington

TRIBUTE

(Continued from page 6)

Harbor. In it, you will find the core of the man. What he expressed there were also the aspirations of a whole generation of Japanese Americans then struggling against odds to secure a place in American society. And thus the statement became our own. It was "the set of the sails" to use an ancient metaphor that enabled a perilous crossing to safe harbor.

Mike Masaka's life was consumed in doing what had to be done in carrying out the commitment inherent in the creed. All of our subsequent history was there foreshadowed: The formation of the 442nd and the MIS, the court cases, the Civil Rights advancement and Redress itself—the crowning affirmation of faith expressed—was a natural outcome of the earlier efforts and sacrifices. Mike was there.

Our pilot's job was done and he has left us, bobbing about at a sheltered mooring. But who knows what the nature of the next "perilous crossing" will be? When that time comes, the set of our collective sails will be crucially important as it was in Mike's and our times.

Shiz Wakamatsu
Chicago

Mike Masaka has left a lasting legacy for all Americans of Japanese ancestry. JACL's national recognition as a civil rights organization is a tribute to his 50 years of unrelenting advocacy work on JACL's behalf.

Henry Tanaka
Cleveland, Ohio

Florin, JACL, witnessed the time in our nation's history when Mike's articulate voice called for equal justice through legislative halls of Washington, D.C., for nearly 50 years making such a difference for all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Florin Chapter, JACL

See TRIBUTE/page 9

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Mike Masaoka tribute

From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

His achievements were monumental

Word of Mike Masaoka's death in Washington, D.C., came a short time ago. It was not unexpected.

He was 75 years old, which is not an exceptionally long lifespan, but perhaps he had lived too long. His last years were marred by the frustration of failing health and a nagging mental anguish which mostly he kept to himself. There were times when he was torn by the thought that, somehow, he had failed in his life's work.

That was unfair and nothing could be more removed from the truth. Masaoka's achievements were monumental. He was among the architects, and builders, who changed the shape of America's outlook and attitude toward racism. His influence extended far beyond the Japanese American community he served with such dedication.

Despite his youth—he was only 26 when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor—his leadership as executive secretary of JACL brought courage, direction and determination to Japanese Americans in a time of fear and confusion.

Masaoka was outraged equally by the Japanese perfidy and America's frightened and bigotry-driven decision early in 1942 to suspend the Constitutional rights of Japanese Americans.

JACL under his leadership opposed

Evacuation as strongly as it could. But when wartime hysteria and lack of national political leadership overwhelmed reason, Masaoka counseled against responding with disobedience. Resistance, some have contended with the wisdom of hindsight, should have been the proper course. He understood, where many did not, that cooperation with their government under abnormal wartime conditions was the only hope for the future of his people as Americans.

He set the course for that future in JACL's conference in Salt Lake City late in 1942 when he demanded that Japanese Americans be given the right as citizens to fight for their country. His fervor overcame the doubts of those who, with undeniable logic, questioned the fairness of asking men to risk their lives in defense of the nation that had betrayed them.

When, a few months later, the government invited Japanese Americans to serve, Masaoka was the first to volunteer.

After the war the nation could not ignore the demand for justice and equality voiced by men who had shed blood in its defense. As advocates for his people, Masaoka led the campaigns in Congress that eliminated race as a barrier in immigration and naturalization laws (thereby wiping out more than 500 racially discriminatory statutes).

With the passage of time Masaoka's di-

rect role in JACL diminished but not his service to important new causes. His knowledge of the workings of government was indispensable. During the thick of the fight for Redress says Grant Ujifusa, strategy chair of JACL/LEC, "I was on the phone with Mike every day, and what he had to say was analytically correct, imaginatively daring, intelligently prudent."

Masaoka would have preferred to lead the charge rather than work quietly behind the scenes as counselor, yet he knew that times had changed. But for some, it was not enough to push him aside. Oddly, tragically, they reviled the aging leader.

Some who were ignorant of his record or distorted it when it suited their ends, have blamed Masaoka for every misfortune that has fallen on Japanese Americans. With confusing logic these revisionists applied today's vastly different standards to find fault with decisions of a half century ago.

"Why do they keep picking on me?" Masaoka mused in a pensive moment not long ago.

It was not a question he would have asked in his vigorous years. He would have ignored the jackals because of thousands of his beneficiaries know, that his accomplishments are a legacy that speaks eloquently for itself. Japanese Americans were fortunate to have had Mike Masaoka in their times of greatest need.

Very truly yours

Remembering Mike

By HARRY K. HONDA
Senior editor

Throughout the 50 years of my acquaintance, I remember some plain and salient expressions Mike Masaoka had said and kept saying. And many, thank the Lord, are found in his autobiography, *They Call Me Moses Masaoka*.

Our first meeting occurred when he was making courtesy calls and visiting the Japanese vernaculars in San Francisco in the fall of 1941, just before I was drafted by the Army in October and ended what turned out to be a 10-month journalistic stint in San Francisco at the Japanese American News, assisting English section editors Yas Abiko and Haruo Imura.

I learned for the first time that he was also called "Moses," but only after his book was published in 1987. As a title to his book, it puzzled me at first.

Here are some of those gems of Masaoka's and our own reflections.

A founder of JACL in 1928, Saburo Kido was national president (1940-1946). "Kido's tutelage was invaluable... He reminded me that the citizenship of the Nisei was their most precious possession. It distinguished them from the Issei... He told me that he was convinced JACL would be wise to demonstrate its independence from Japanese influence... Kido emphasized that impoverished as JACL was, under no circumstances should it accept money from Japanese groups no matter how innocently it was offered."

(After the 1951 peace treaty was signed ending the war, however, the Kido-Masaoka debates on JACL involvement in U.S.-Japan relations were the most heated in JACL annals in the 1950s. Masaoka proposing involvement on an issue-by-issue basis. The National JACL Council in 1954 adopted a three-way policy: (a) as an organization, JACL would refrain except when the welfare of Japanese Americans is directly involved, (b) individual members are free to demonstrate their concerns as individuals to improve relations, and (c) JACL believes its members have a legitimate interest in cultural heritage of Japan and can thereby make a worthy contribution to this nation.)

The war years at headquarters

When JACL was pressured to change its name because of the war (Headquarters was tipped off that the Armed Forces was about to launch an intensive campaign to hate anything Japanese to sustain a fighting mood), "a name change now would not only incur confusion requiring constant explanation, but would suggest and endeavor to hide the identity and possibly bring allegations of evasion... JACL's name did not connote a hyphenated American but that the word Japanese was an adjective modifying the noun American to distinguish the group from others."

Discussing the agenda for the November 1942 JACL conference in Salt Lake City, "I was convinced that without a military record, JACL would face virtually insurmountable obstacles in attaining its goals, particularly its postwar goals... I argued the case for service in uniform as a stepping-stone toward our postwar crusade for equality... I was convinced we had to walk the extra mile... Mike was the first to volunteer two months later for the all-Nisei 442nd."

With the 442nd

What I didn't know: FDR's statement upon formation of the 442nd RCT was drafted by the WRA. Its last sentence—"The principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed is that Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry"—was pencilled in by Elmer Davis, head of the Office of War Information.

When JACL requested provisions be made for a Buddhist chaplain in the 442nd since about half of the Nisei were Buddhists, Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy suggested there was widespread suspicion and ignorance about Asian religions and it would be better public relations to approve only two Christian chaplains. "I have always regretted we lost on the Buddhist issue. In a nation based on freedom of worship, men of the 442nd brought up as Buddhists certainly were entitled to a chaplain of their faith." (The symbol is in use today.)

See HONDA/page 9

East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

The giant who strode among us



HOW DOES ONE describe a once-in-a-generation soul such as Mike M. (Masaru) Masaoka who unselfishly gave so much for so long for so many? A man who forthrightly addressed issues that all too many of us had shied away from for far too long; who dared to dream and act on goals that others of us remained reluctant to confront in our fears that such were "not feasible" if not impossible; who exhorted and cajoled and pressed us into action, even as he was giving his own utmost to the effort. Who has not been awed by the spell-binding oratory of this prophet who, to our utter amazement, spoke without the aid of any text or even notes?

The voice is now stilled. LIKE THE REST of us, Mike was, of course a mortal—a husband, a father and grandfather, a cohort, a friend. And precisely because he was a mortal being like any of us, his forward-looking vision with daring to act thereon, was awe-inspiring

to all of us. He had his detractors of course; but what person of vision does not—it's part of the price one has to be prepared to pay. And Mike paid his share, and at times more. Indeed, he and I disagreed on some key issues and to this day I remain amazed by the absence of any acrimony or vehemence on his part in the face of unmovable stances on my part. I must confess that on a number of issues, the wisdom of his ways finally seeped through. With further passage of time, perhaps the wisdom of other positions may become clearer to me. For my part, I have always been fully content that in balancing the credits with any debts, Mike's scale overwhelmingly tipped on the credit side, resoundingly so.

ONE'S DIMENSIONS of a person are often composed of fragments of memories that provide an adumbration of a character. Important and always busy as he was, his graciousness in coming to the station to personally receive one's arrival. At a time when civil rights was hardly a fashionable

item, including among the Nikkei, boldly proposing that JACL participate in a "demonstration"—namely the March on Washington in August of 1963, over a quarter century ago—and successfully getting the Nikkei to participate. Then just a few years later, in 1967, successfully promoting JACL's participation before the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down as unconstitutional the anti-miscegenation laws that then existed in 17 states. Mike remained intently in the spectator seating when the case was presented. Among Mike's capabilities, I had long admired his ability to quickly grasp the nances of legal issues and then succinctly articulate them. In my time I have seen a few lawyers in action not only in this jurisdiction but also in various parts of this country, and I can attest to the fact that Mike would have made one helluva lawyer.

THE VOICE of a giant has been stilled; but his footprints immutably remain.

MIKE MASAOKA
A GREAT AMERICAN IN A
GREATER AMERICA
1915-1991



ROSE
HONDA

MASAOKA

(Continued from page 4)

many, and at the same time, known the bitterness of his enemies. Among the notables in JACL organization, Mike could well be the most misunderstood and misquoted individual. While we do have ideological differences (associated with the generation gap), there is never a lack of communications or an awareness of those stereotypes usually attached to 'older' and 'younger' generations.

In the spring of 1970, he was on the six-member JACL panel testifying for repeal of Title II of the 1950 Internal Security Act and as the Washington Representative cooperated with the National Civil Liberties Clearing House and the American Immigration and Citizenship Conference on congressional affairs—an on-going relationship since the 1950s.

At the 1970 JACL national convention in Chicago, the Mike M. Masaoka Testimonial culminated in the establishment of a trust fund to provide funds to persons

and organizations furthering the interest of Americans of Japanese ancestry.

At the 1972 JACL national convention in Washington, it was time to turn over the reins of the Washington Representative position to a Salt Lake Sansei, David Ushio, whose parents he had known as childhood friends. Ushio had been his assistant since October, 1971.

In the subsequent years to maintain a Japanese American conscience before Congress for his legion of wartime buddies and supporters, he organized the Nikkei Lobby to work on trade issues, civil rights and redress and the Go For Broke National Veterans Association to establish a war memorial in Washington.

Since the 1980s, Masaoka's frantically slowed down as health problems afflicted him but he responded to JACL's call for assistance when the redress campaign was launched by the JACL Legislative Education Committee. The climax of the long-struggle to redress the grievances of Japanese American internment and losses of civil liberties and property ended him as he was unable to be present for the signing of the redress bill on Aug. 10, 1988. He kept to his scheduled presentation at the JACL national convention in Seattle to honor James Purcell, the special JACL counsel on the Endo case before the 1944 U.S. Supreme Court which held loyal Japanese Americans could not be detained in the relocation centers.

Since 1956, Masaoka had lived in Chevy Chase, Md., with his wife Etsu Mineta, whom he married in Salt Lake City in 1943. They adopted a daughter, Midori, in 1955, and a son, Michael, in 1957. Survivors include Etsu, granddaughter Michelle Amano, brother Tad in San Mateo, Calif., and a sister Kiyoko Ito in Chicago.

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Jim Tsutsumura
Portland, Ore.

Mike Masaoka, a great American, has fulfilled his calling with distinction. We mourn our loss, and extend our sympathy to Etsu and the family. Mike Masaoka leaves us many memories, and his legacy and influence will be carried forward by others who will be moved to emulate his vision and labor of love. He touched the lives of many, particularly Asian Americans across the U.S. and the Pacific Basin. The richness of his life experience leaves us much to recall and remember. He will be sorely missed.

Frank S. Sato
Washington, D.C.

Mike has flashed across the horizon of our lives giving us inspirational light and leadership. A great voice and his vision of wisdom has now vanished from our midst, but like Moses his influence will live forever in the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate to know him.

Salt Lake City JACL

Mike is an example of what one can become in life that is too rarely seen in our generation.

I can proudly tell my children that I had the privilege of knowing Mike.

Richard Burke
neighbor

Can't help but think that the nation has lost the services of two great civil rights leaders this week.

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friend

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HONDA

(Continued from page 5)

Back in Washington to lobby

And after the war, Masaoka returned to the JACL Washington Office.

"What I got out of the Evacuation Claims Act (in 1948) was little more than a valuable lesson. Thereafter, we had our own experts draft bills precisely the way we wanted them, and then left it up to Congress to undertake the fine tuning."

Upon passage of the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952: "My real reward was in knowing that (more than 6,000 Issei) in the year after the law became effective on Dec. 24, 1952, applied for and were granted citizenship. No longer would they be subjected to legal discrimination because of race."

Focusing on his 30-plus years (1941-1972) as JACL professional staff, full and part time, "Mas Sato as national director ran the organization. He was the inside man... I was the outside man carrying out the organizational mandate. When there was occasion to speak out, I was JACL's spokesman rather than Sato or the elected president."

His first trip to Japan

When Masaoka made his first trip to Japan in 1952, and was paying respects at the ancestral

family plot in a Hiroshima cemetery, "Etsu looked at me and I looked at her, and we shared the same thought without speaking: Here, but for the grace of God, go I. More than ever I was grateful that my father had had the courage to seek a better life in the land called America, despite all its faults and shortcomings."

JACL hymn

As was Mike's custom over the years when reminiscing about Evacuation and wartime JACL, he would conclude by reading (we never heard him sing) the "JACL Hymn," by Marion Tjuri and music by Marcel Tyrell.

There was a dream my father dreamed for me,
A land in which all men are free.

Then the desert camp with watch towers high
Where life stood still 'mid sand and brooding sky
Out of the war in which my brothers died,
Their muted voices with mine cried.

This is our dream, that all men shall be free
This is our creed, we'll live in loyalty.

God help us rid the land of bigotry,
That we may walk in peace and dignity.

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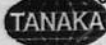
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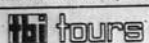
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