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Aug. 11-17, 2000

## President Bypasses Congress, Appoints Bill Lann Lee Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Clinton removed "acting" from Bill Lann Lee's job title at the Justice Department, appointing him on Aug. 3 as assistant attorney general for civil rights during a congressional recess, officially making him the first Asian Pacific American to ever hold this position.

The White House announcement, made without comment while Clinton was playing golf, comes nearly three years after the president named Lee as his main civil rights enforcer on an acting basis to circumvent heavy Republican opposition.

The recent action allows Lee to hold the post through the end of Clinton's term in January without sending his nomination to Congress for approval.

"Bill Lann Lee has been a dedicated and tireless advocate for civil rights throughout his career, and he has done an exemplary job at the Department of Justice since his nomination in 1997," said Floyd Mori, JACL national president.

"We are pleased that he is finally being accorded full status as assistant attorney general for civil rights and would like to thank the president for his continued commitment to the Asian Pacific American community."

"Serving in the highest civil rights position for the past three years, Mr. Lee has exercised shrewd judgment and strong leadership for the division," added Ryan Chin JACL vice president for public affairs. "We applaud the president for accomplishing what the Senate did not by appointing Mr. Lee."

Lee has garnered the support of not only APAs but also the African American and Hispanic communities. Although lauded by his supporters for his efforts in the civil rights arena, Republicans have criticized his support of affirmative action and other issues.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Republican realignment forced Clinton to give Lee a recess appointment.

"The way they have treated Bill Lann Lee has been petty and steeped in partisan vinegar," Leahy said. "It has been a direct insult to him and to all who care about civil rights enforcement."

Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, whose committee would have set in judgment on a Lee nomination, said Clinton was the one playing partisan politics, installing Lee during the Republican National Convention.

"The timing of this decision serves as further evidence of what we have come to know is true: the Clinton-Gore White House is intent on dividing our people rather than uniting us for the common good," Hatch said. He added that he personally likes Lee and "would support him in any number of positions."

Attorney General Janet Reno praised Lee's record during the three years he served in an acting capacity, saying many of his cases were resolved through settlements or consensual agreement. "Bill believes very strongly that how we resolve a matter is sometimes as important as what the particular resolution is," she said.

Clinton notified Senate leaders late last year that he might install 13 languishing nominations through "recess appointments," so named because they are done while Congress is out of session.

Lee's nomination was among five vigorously opposed by a group of Republicans who indicated they might retaliate against recess appointments by blocking all judicial nominees for the rest of Clinton's term, which ends Jan. 20.

Clinton first nominated Lee, a former lawyer for the NAACP, Le-

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## Former BMX Pro Racer Nomura Reflects Back on Career

By LYNDSEY SHINODA  
Writer/Reporter

There are not many people who can claim to be "the best in the world at their sport." Wade Tatsu-nobu Nomura, 47, a Sansei former BMX racer, can say that at one point in his career, he was the best on the planet.

BMX, short for Bicycle Motor-cross Racer, is a sport that involves racing around an obstacle course at high speeds, with the average race lasting about a minute. The bikes that Nomura rode were worth about \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Born and raised in Santa Barbara, Calif., Nomura grew up playing sports, excelling at football, judo and sprinting in high school. His experience in other sports led him to racing bikes.

While doing landscaping in low-income housing projects, Nomura saw little Hispanic kids racing around on their bikes and was in-

spired. He opened a bike shop, and started designing bikes because he could never find one that was good enough.

He soon learned that he loved the adrenaline-rush he got from racing bikes at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour. He wasn't too bad at it either. He raced competitively from 1979-1985, putting his landscaping career on hold to become a professional bike racer.

"The only reason I turned pro was for more competition, it wasn't for the money," said Nomura. "As an amateur, I won every event, just maxed it out."

His highest accolades include a No. One national ranking for ages 26 and up, as well as a No. One world ranking. Nomura also carries five national championship titles under his belt.

He prevailed in the sport against all odds. For one, the average age of his competition was 18-22. He did-

n't turn pro until he was 30 years old. Nomura was 5 foot 7 and 140 pounds, while his average competitor was 6 feet and 190 pounds. He had "Bonsai" written on his posterior, and thought that if anyone could read it, they were too close for comfort.

"I was considered one of the dirtier racers," said Nomura. "I was the smallest in the pro field, balance and quickness had a lot to do with winning."

His wife of 27 years, Roxanne, supported his decision to race, and their older daughter Lisa, now 23, even raced as a young child. Ryan, 21, was just a newborn at the time.

"Lisa raced all the time. By the time she was 6 years old, she was ranked number one in the nation, signing autographs and appearing on Nickelodeon," said Roxanne.

Racing did have its dangers though. Nomura broke about a dozen bones and had about 10 concussions, he said. The worst injuries came at a race in Las Vegas, where he broke his collar bone, ribs, shoulder bone, and punctured his lung. That was the end of his racing days.

He then resumed putting his degree in ornamental horticulture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to work. He started landscape contracting at Nomura/Yamasaki Landscapes, Inc. in 1976, took time off to race competitively and still works there today.

Nomura is currently featured in the Japanese American National Museum's "More Than a Game" sports exhibit in Los Angeles. "It was quite an honor, I was surprised that they picked me," he said.

Nomura attributes his success in

See NOMURA/page 4

## Gov. Davis, President Estrada Recognize Filipino WWII Vets at Bill-Signing Ceremony



PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA  
Filipino WWII vets salute at the recent bill-signing ceremony.

By TRACY UBA  
Writer/Reporter

Over a half century after President Franklin D. Roosevelt dispatched Filipino soldiers to fight alongside American troops during World War II, those veterans who went into battle on behalf of the United States are finally getting their due.

Hundreds of Filipino veterans, along with international dignitaries, California state government officials and Hollywood celebrities, gathered in downtown Los Angeles on Aug. 3 for a ceremony celebrating the signing of AB 1978, the Justice for Filipino Veterans Bill, which fulfills a promise to compensate Filipino former soldiers for their wartime sacrifices and patri-

tism.

Among those in attendance at the event were Philippine President Joseph Estrada, California Gov. Gray Davis, Assembly Speaker Emeritus Antonio Villaraigosa, Congressman Xavier Becerra, Los Angeles County District Attorney Gil Garcetti, actors Lou Diamond Phillips, Rob Schneider and Tamlyn Tomita as well as the sponsor of the bill, Assemblymember Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, who was instrumental in getting the landmark state legislation passed.

"This is an historic occasion. It is an occasion that has been long-coming and much-delayed," said Assemblymember Cedillo. "It is an opportunity that we in the state of

See FILIPINO VETS/page 8



BMX Pro Racer Wade Nomura with one of his BMX bikes.

## Uyesugi Gets Life in Hawaii Xerox Killings

A Hawaii superior court judge sentenced Byran Uyesugi, 40, to life in prison for the fatal shooting deaths of seven co-workers last November.

The jury convicted him on June 13 of first-degree murder and attempted murder in the second degree in Hawaii's worst mass killing.

Uyesugi, a 16-year Xerox employee, fired a 9 mm semiautomatic handgun more than two dozen times at co-workers who had gathered for a meeting.

At least 28 bullet casings were found at the scene, according to authorities. ■

## WWII Resistance Movement Leader Joins JACL Membership

### An Interview With Kentaro "Ken" Takatsui

Kentaro "Ken" Takatsui, 84, is the only surviving leader who led an underground resistance movement at the Tule Lake War Relocation Authority Center during World War II. Takatsui, who was versed in David Thoreau's treatise on civil disobedience, felt the so-called loyalty questionnaire was un-American and refused to answer it. He urged others to do the same.

Takatsui emerged from obscurity after hearing that the JACL passed a resolution apologizing to the resisters on July 1, at the national convention in Monterey. He credits several people (in getting the true

story of the resisters to the public, including writer Frank Chin, Phil Shigekuni (PS), JACL PSWD civil rights caucus member, and Paul Tsuneishi (PT), former PSWD district governor, who with then-PSWD district governors Ruth Mizobe and Trilla Murakawa, succeeded in getting PSWD to apologize to the resisters in 1993.

Shigekuni conducted the interview after witnessing the impact the apology had on Takatsui, who sent in a JACL membership check for himself and his three grandchildren as a result of the apology.

Takatsui's daughter, Wendy Hiroto (WH), who is in litigation to resolve her redress claim, is also interviewed.

By PHIL SHIGEKUNI and PAUL TSUNEISHI

PS: Ken, why was the apology important to you?

KT: I was one of the leaders of a dissident group at Tule Lake. I'm sure if the leaders were here they would say, "Thank you" to Paul (Tsuneishi) and others who have struggled all these years to get JACL to apologize to the draft resisters.

PS: Why have you applied for JACL membership now?

KT: I read in the Pacific Citizen and the Rafu Shimpo that the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of an apology. Some old-time members have threatened to quit over the

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# Pacific Citizen

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## JACL Calendar

### Eastern

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
Sun, Sept. 10—D.C. Chapter Picnic; 1 p.m., Wheaton Regional Park, 2000 Shorefield Rd., Wheaton, Md. Info: Laura Nakatani, 703/519-9378.

### Midwest

**ST. LOUIS**  
Sat.-Mon., Sept. 24—24th Annual Japanese Festival; see Community Calendar.

### Intermountain

**UTAH CHAPTERS**  
Sat., Sept. 16—Fifth Annual Autumn Golf Classic Scholarship Tournament; shotgun start at 8 a.m., Meadowbrook Golf Course. **Entry Deadline Sept. 9:** Info: Floyd Mori, 572-2287.

### Pacific Northwest

**LAKE WASHINGTON**  
Sat.-Sun., Sept. 23-24—Eastside Ni-

hon Matsuri; see Community Calendar at Bellevue.

### OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 19—Olympia Obon; see Community Calendar.

### PORTLAND

Sun., Aug. 20—Nikkei Community Picnic; see Community Calendar.

### NC-WNPacific

**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ**

Sun., Aug. 13—Annual Community Picnic and Peace and Unity Candlelight Vigil; see Community Calendar at Azusa.

### WEST VALLEY/Next Generation

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruma 2000 23rd Daruma festival; see Community calendar, San Jose.

### Central California

#### DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat., Aug. 19—CCDC Third Quarter Meeting; Fresno.

#### FRESNO

Sat., Aug. 19—Nikkei Career Day at Cal State Fresno; see Community Calendar.

## COMMUNITY Calendar

### East Coast

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Through Sept. 4—Exhibit, "An American Diary and Memories of Childhood" by Roger Shimomura; National Museum of American History, 12th & Constitution NW. Free. Info: 202/357-2700.

Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 9-11—National Memorial to Patriotism Dedication Ceremony. Pre-registration required: NJAMF, 800/607-8550. (Hotel reservations accepted up to Oct. 15.)

### The Midwest

#### ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 24—24th Annual Japanese Festival, "Spirit of Stone"; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday & Sunday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday; Missouri Botanical Garden; 4344 Shaw Blvd.; food, taiko, nani, music from Japan, Okinawa *deigo* kai, hanamizuki, bon-sai, ikebana, tea ceremonies, bon odori, fashion show, raku pottery, children's activities, much more. Info: 577-9400, 800/642-8842.

### The Northwest

#### BELLEVUE

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 23-24—Eastside Ni-hon Matsuri; Bellevue Community College gym; live stage performances, artisan demonstrations, exhibits, food booth, etc. Free admission. Info: www.enma.org or 425/861-9109, Brooke.

#### OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 19—Olympia Obon; 6-9 p.m., Water St. between Fifth and Legion at the Capitol Lake. Info: Cheri Howe, 360/902-1502. For obon dance practice on Aug. 18, call Reiko Callner, 360/866-7709. Info: Bob Nakamura, <sgtmilehibob@uswest.net>.

#### PORTLAND

Sun., Aug. 20—Nikkei Community Picnic; noon-5 p.m., Oaks Park. RSVP: Connie Masuoka, 243-3291. Thurs., Aug. 31—"Stardust Follies," a salute to 20th-century veterans, with tribute to Nisei vets; 7 p.m., Oregon State Fair, L.B. Day Amphitheater, Salem, Info: transportation: George Azumano, 253/770-0777.

### Northwestern California

#### APTOS

Sun., Aug. 13—Annual Community Picnic; 11 a.m., Aptos Village Park; races, senior Bingo, BBQ steak, chicken, hot dogs, chili beans, raffle, taiko, karate-do, etc. Watsonville Peace and Unity Candlelight Vigil follows at 6:30

at Watsonville City Plaza. Info: Marcia Hashimoto, 722-6859.

#### SAN JOSE

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruma 2000 23rd Daruma festival; Saratoga Lanes parking lot; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., children's games 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; food, farmer's market, plants and cut flowers, handmade gifts, crafts, teriyaki, sushi, yakisoba, udon, chicken salad, gozo, hurricane popcorn, beef kushiyaki, beer, strawberry shortcake, entertainment, taiko, koto, children's dance group, raffle, more. Free admission. Info: <www.pgbbgroup.com/daruma-festival>.

### Central California

#### FRESNO

Sat., Aug. 12—Asian Cultural Fair & Appraisal Day; Fresno Metropolitan Museum.

Sat., Aug. 12—Toro Nagashi Celebration at Shinzen Garden. Info: JACL, 559/486-6815.

Sat., Aug. 19—Nikkei Career Day; 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Cal State Fresno; refreshments, lunch, ice cream reception, planetarium show, campus tour. **Register by Aug. 10:** 559/278-2541, or JACL, 559/486-6815, JACLccro@aol.com.

Fri., Sept. 8—Fat Friday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Fresno Chinatown: food vendors, handmade goods, live band, relaxed parking meters. Info: 559/441-7915.

Sat., Sept. 9—Chinatown Jazz 2000 featuring Hiroshima and Fattburger. Info: 559/441-7315.

### Southern California

#### LOS ANGELES

Fri., Aug. 11-Sun., Aug. 27—Mainichi Shimbun Calligraphy Exhibit; Dozaki Gallery, JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/628-2725.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—Performance, Zendeiko Zenshōji Taiko with Maidaiko Aska Gumi troupe from Japan, plus sake and wine tasting; 5:30-7 p.m., outdoors at the Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—5th Annual L.A. Tofu Festival; Joe's Auto Parks & Second St., Little Tokyo. Info: Little Tokyo Service Center, 213/473-1601, www.tofufest.org. **Volunteers needed:** receive a free T-shirt. Info: Julia Ishibashi, 213/473-1602 or <jishibashi@ltscc.org>.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—Health & Fitness Expo; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, San-Pedro St. between Second and Third, Little Tokyo. Info: Little Tokyo Service Center, 213/473-1602.  
Sun., Aug. 13—SK/10K L.A. Koi Fun

Sun., Sept. 17—15th Annual Shinzen Run and Walk; 6 a.m. registration, Woodward Park; to benefit the Friendship Garden and Nikkei Service Center. Info: Randy Aoki, 559/278-0415, or Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1692.

### Pacific Southwest

Mon., Aug. 14—PSW Civil Rights Caucus; 7 p.m., PSWD office, 244 S. San Pedro St., RM 406. Info: 213/626-4471.

Sat., Aug. 20—District Council Quarterly Meeting; 8:30 a.m. registration 9 a.m., Torrance Airport, Zamperini Field. Info: map: 213/626-4471.

Sat., Sept. 16—PSW Annual Awards Dinner; see Community Calendar.

**DEADLINE for Calendar** is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.  
Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

Run/Walk; Info, registration: Cheryl, 310/246-1418, or Wendy, 626/683-8243.

Mon., Aug. 14-Tues, Aug. 22—"Nikkei Games: Games for the Generations"; Cal State Long Beach bowling, basketball, drums, Jr. 3 on 3, Jr. golf, karate, kendo, race, relay race, seniors, softball, track, volleyball. Info: 714/350-2634, <http://www.seyo.org/nikkei.html>.

Sat., Aug. 19—Little Tokyo Walking Tour; 10 a.m.-noon. RSVP: JANM, 213/625-0414.

Sat., Aug. 19—Shotokan Karate of America Tournament and Demonstration; 5:30-3 p.m., Nishi Hongwanji Gymnasium, 815 E. First St., Little Tokyo. Info: James Uyeda, 213/489-6873.

Fri., Sept. 1—Asian Business League and Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association 6th Annual Golf Tournament & Mooncake Bonanza; noon check-in, 1 p.m. shotgun start, California Country Club, 1509 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier; four-person best-ball scramble, 10 a.m. tournament dinner. Info: 213/624-9975.

Sat., Sept. 16—JACL Pacific Southwest District's Annual Awards Dinner; 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way; California Appointments Secretary Michael Yamaki, speaker; \$85; Tickets: 213/626-4471.

### RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Mon., Sept. 11—8th Annual Japan America Golf Classic; Yorba Linda Country Club, 19400 E. Mountain View Ave. **RSVP by Aug. 25:** 213/627-6217 ext. 207.

### SOUTH BAY

Through Aug. 30—Exhibit: "Travels": travel photography by Setsuko Owan (Seki); 1-4 p.m., Malaga Cove Library Art Gallery, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates. Info: 310/515-1935.

### Arizona - Nevada

#### LAS VEGAS

Thurs., Aug. 24—Concert, "The Sound Fusion of Tenku"; 8 p.m., Orleans Hotel & Casino. Info: Margie Uesugi, 702/736-1515.

Sat., Aug. 26—Third Annual William "Bill" Endow Memorial Golf Tournament; 6 a.m. continental breakfast, 7 a.m. shotgun start, Wild Horse Country Club, 1 Showboat Country Dr., Henderson; no handicaps needed. **RSVP by Aug. 19:** 702/737-4300 or Vida Chan Lin, 702/251-3900.

Wed.-Thurs., April 4-5, 2001—Minidoka Reunion; Caesars Palace, Las Vegas. Info., registration: Jo Tak (Yokoyama) Todo, 15537 - 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155-6530, <dkmkawachi@hotmail.com>.

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## Judge Says Wen Ho Lee Entitled to Use Some Version of Classified Data

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Former Los Alamos National Laboratory scientist Wen Ho Lee is entitled to defend himself using some version of the 403,000 pages of U.S. nuclear weapons secrets he downloaded, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge James A. Parker agreed with Lee's attorneys on Aug. 1 that Lee should be able to use some semblance of the downloaded secrets to argue that the data are not so sensitive or valuable to a foreign nation.

Lee, jailed pending a November trial, is charged with 59 counts alleging he downloaded restricted nuclear weapons codes from secure to unsecured computers and to computer tapes. He could face life in prison if convicted.

Parker's ruling puts prosecutors and the Department of Energy in the position of having to unveil enough insights into U.S. weapons design for Lee to mount a credible defense. Or the government can risk having its case against Lee crumble altogether.

The prosecution has said it did not intend to introduce 19 data files Lee is accused of transferring from secure to unsecured computers. The defense is opposing any prosecution efforts to substitute summaries of the classified data, which the government has said includes the "crown jewels" of U.S. nuclear weapons science.

Defense attorneys, in a brief filed last month, said the "best evidence" rule would require the original files, rather than substitutes such as summaries. If Parker agrees after an Aug. 31 hearing, he could rule that Lee must use

the classified downloads themselves in open court.

Prosecutors and the DOE now must try to write unclassified substitutes that will allow Lee to argue all of his defense.

"We will then have an opportunity to comment on those and then the judge will rule," Lee's attorney John Cline said.

The government claims Lee downloaded to portable tapes dozens of files in three categories: rough electronic designs of U.S. nuclear weapons called input decks; software known as weapons codes that simulate a weapon detonation; and libraries of real nuclear test data that the software needs to perform its virtual nuclear tests.

Lee and his attorneys argued that the downloaded data are largely physics and mathematics that are widely available on the Internet, in textbooks and magazines and in scientific journals.

Parker ruled that Lee should be able to show the alleged secrets are published in order to refute the government's claims to their sensitivity and counter allegations that he wanted to aid a foreign country in acquiring nuclear weapons.

The defense also contends the weapons codes are flawed and of little or no use to a foreign nation.

Parker ruled "that evidence of those alleged flaws or imperfections is relevant to the defendant's intent to secure an advantage to a foreign nation or to injure the United States."

The judge said Lee should be able to use evidence of the flaws to attack prosecution testimony that the codes are some of the most vital information within U.S. nuclear weapons science. ■

## Chinese Delegate from Hawaii Represents GOP's Emerging AA Voice

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA—Kate Zhou didn't come to the Republican Party through any conventional routes.

A native of China, she didn't become a U.S. citizen until four years ago. She wasn't even a registered Republican until last January.

But Zhou, one of Hawaii's 14 delegates to the Republican National Convention this week, believes she represents the GOP's future as a conservative on economic issues with moderate social views.

"Many Republicans, especially the older generation of Republicans, would probably disagree with me, but the future of the Republican base is young people who are more socially liberal and more tolerant of diversity, more tolerant of different views of life," Zhou said. "Everybody should be welcome in the Republican Party in spite of their differences."

While many Asian immigrants to Hawaii embrace the Democratic Party, Zhou said she became a Republican because of her experiences in her native China.

When she was a child, her parents were persecuted for their beliefs by the communist government, she recounted. Her father was starved to death and her mother put in prison, leaving her homeless from ages 10 through 12.

Zhou resented the one-party system in her homeland that stifled dissenting voices and she dreamed of leaving for the United States.

Sly eventually did, going to study at Texas A&M in 1986, but she did not fully leave China behind. In 1989, she organized student protests in the Southwest against the Chinese government's treatment of student demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Zhou eventually received her master's degree, went to Princeton University where she got her doctorate in political science, and moved on to the University of Hawaii to teach.

Now she's dedicated to resurrecting the Republican Party in Hawaii.

"I'm from a one-party state, China. I don't want to end up in another one-party state like Hawaii is,"

Zhou said. She noted that Democrats have controlled the state Legislature and the governor's office for almost 40 years.

Hawaii GOP Chairwoman Linda Lingle said Zhou quickly endeavored herself to party activists at the state convention that selected delegates. Running against more than 70 other people for the 14 delegate positions, Zhou used her allotted one minute to address the party with a simple message.

"In her one minute, she tells the delegates that she was born in China, knows what it's like to live in a place with a one-party system and it's not freedom," Lingle said. "She brought the house down."

Zhou said the best way for Republicans to thrive is to embrace the path of the Hawaii GOP, which has moved to the political middle to attract more members of minorities.

"This is a real democracy," Zhou said. "Only in America can a new citizen who can hardly speak English well be so accepted by society and become a delegate. It's just like a dream." ■

## Gov. Davis Appoints Kathryn Doi as Counsel to the Secretary for the California Trade and Commerce Agency

Gov. Gray Davis has appointed Kathryn Doi to serve as counsel to the secretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

Doi, 39, a native of Davis, was most recently staff counsel for the state's Commission on Judicial Performance, where she investigated and evaluated complaints of judicial misconduct against California state judges. She began her legal career in 1986 as an associate in the litigation department of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe in San Francisco.

In her current post, Doi serves as an adviser to Agency Secretary Lon S. Hatamiya, and as lead counsel to

the 300-person agency. The Trade and Commerce Agency includes the International Trade and Investment Division, the Economic Development Division, the California Division of Tourism, and the Division of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The California Trade and Commerce Agency is the state's lead agency for business development, corporate attraction and job creation.

Doi's extensive professional background includes a year spent as a Judicial Clerk in the U.S. Court of International Trade. She also was

selected by former Congressman Norman Mineta in 1980 to serve as a congressional intern in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mineta recently became the first Asian American Cabinet member of the U.S. government when President Clinton selected him to head the Department of Commerce.

"Kathryn brings to the agency a keen legal mind with the right mix of professional experience to help guide our agency as we work to serve the California constituency," said Agency Secretary Hatamiya. "We are very pleased to have someone of her caliber on board." ■

## Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care

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## National

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

### Colleges Vow Away from Race-Based Admissions

BOSTON—For the first time since race-based admissions became widespread, officials say schools nationwide are cutting back on affirmative action in response to legal threats and constitutional challenges.

Recruiting efforts over the past few years have had an undeniable impact: at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, there has been a 13 percent increase in minority students in 1995. The number of whites since that time has dropped by 9.3 percent out of nearly 1,400 students. But legal threats of discrimination have forced schools to water down their policies. A federal judge recently declared the policy at the University of Georgia unconstitutional.

New governors in California, Virginia, Texas and Florida also oppose affirmative action programs. California banned the policy in 1996, and Washington followed suit in 1998.

This month, Florida's 10 public universities officially stopped using race in admissions, and are instead enrolling all applicants who are in the top 20 percent of their high schools.

Affirmative action's fate will likely land in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court. Both sides are looking to the election of the next president for the final answer: the appointment of new justices could sway whether race matters when future college admissions are decided.

### Sexual Attacks Arrested

MANILA, Philippines—Philippine authorities arrested the main suspect in a series of sexual assaults on Asian American women in the United States, a

government official reported Aug. 3.

Immigration chief Rufus Rodriguez said Mark Anthony Lewis, 33, of Chicago, was arrested by immigration agents at a seaside mall. Lewis' passport had been canceled and he was to be deported that evening. Lewis denied any involvement in the Chicago-area attacks that began on April 7. At least eight AA women and one Hispanic woman were assaulted. He said he had family and friends in the Philippines and his visit had been planned earlier. Lewis arrived in Manila on July 21, two days after the latest attack.

Chicago police said victims identified him through photographs. Lewis' car, they said, matches the description of a car used by a man in one of the attacks. Clothing and other items were found at Lewis' last known address in Chicago, police said. Rodriguez said Lewis claimed his wallet was stolen two years ago and used by the attacker. FBI agent Dennis Pierce said, "We have every belief and confidence that this is the individual we have sought."

### Discrimination Probe Targets Second Lab

LIVERMORE, Calif.—Los Alamos is the second nuclear weapons lab to become a target of a discrimination probe, officials recently confirmed.

Last year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission began investigating the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, near San Francisco, after nine Asian American employees complained of bias to state officials. The workers claimed they earned as much as \$4,000 less than their white colleagues. The University of California has a contract with the Department of Energy to manage Livermore and Los Alamos, and are now complying with federal EEOC officials who are conducting an investigation of both labs.

Mandavendra Dubey, a Los Alamos scientist and chairman of the lab's

AA diversity working group, speculated the investigation was prompted by AA employees' widely reported alarm that they were being treated as security risks following the Wen Ho Lee case.

Dubey said a survey at Los Alamos showed that although AAs make up 4 percent of the scientific work force, they comprise only 1 percent of management.

A review of salaries showed that AAs made about \$3,000 a year less than white employees, according to Dubey. He said lab officials counter that is a small amount that can be explained by factors such as different experience levels. Lab and DOE officials maintain they will not tolerate singling out employees on the basis of race.

### Three Filipinos Sue Japanese Companies for WWII Slavery

SAN FRANCISCO—Three Filipino Americans from the Bay Area sued two Japanese corporations Aug. 2 for allegedly enslaving them during World War II.

The lawsuit is one of several to try to get compensation from German and Japanese companies that forced people to work under brutal conditions during the war. The men, Alberto Solisano, 80, Acacio Galeo, 79, and Genaro Jacob, 78, say Taiheyo Cement and chemical manufacturer Ishihara Sangyo Kaisha Limited forced them to work in copper, iron, coal and manganese mines and received little food, paltry salaries and frequent beatings.

The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, cites a 1992 state law originally intended to help Holocaust survivors collect on insurance policies that were purchased in prewar Europe. The law has since been used in about a half-dozen suits filed by American prisoners forced into labor by the Japanese. All three men are naturalized U.S. citizens.



## Issei Oral History Project Begins Publishing Manuscripts

The Issei Oral History Project board of trustees has announced that three books have been produced from their collection of 200 manuscripts of Issei interviews done between 1969 and 1979. They are stories of Issei from Meiji-era Japan who spoke to the harsh reality of survival during the depression and World War II, and the legacy of their lives. The interviews were taped in Japanese and translated into English.

The books are "Issei Christians," "The Issei: Portrait of a Pioneer," and "Issei Women: Echoes from Another Frontier." The first two were recently published by Pacific Books.

The Issei Oral History project originated in 1969 under the direction of Reverend Heihachiro Takarabe of the Parkview Presbyterian Church in Sacramento, who initially conducted interviews of a few members of his congregation. The project was endorsed by the Japanese Presby-

terian Conference (JPC), and techniques and questions were formulated by two professors at California State University, Sacramento. The majority of the interviews were conducted by Rev. Takarabe, as a person who is bilingual and whom the Issei felt could be trusted with confidential information. They include interviews of Issei from California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada who came to America between 1898 and 1924.

The manuscripts had been deeded to the Sacramento History Center, but a ceremony will soon be held to officially transfer them to the Special Collections and University Archives of California State University, Sacramento.

The transfer of the manuscripts will probably be the last official action of the project's board of governors. "The 30-year history of the project was a labor of love motivated by a keen sense

of appreciation for the contributions of the Issei in our lives," said Chairperson Dr. Osamu Miyamoto.

In addition to Miyamoto, the board of governors of the project included Asako Tokuno, vice chairperson; Rev. Hei Takarabe, project coordinator; Eileen Sunada Sarasohn, editor; Joyce Honda, secretary; Michio Laing, treasurer; and Rev. Saburo Masada, liaison to the JPC.

Persons interested in securing copies of any manuscript should contact Rev. Heihachiro Takarabe, El Estero Presbyterian Church, El Estero and Pearl Streets, Monterey, CA 93940; phone 831/375-6622. The project requests \$1 per page to cover labor and postage costs.

To purchase copies of the books, contact Joyce Honda, 6948 Gallery Way, Sacramento, CA 95831. The cost is \$27 per book, including postage and handling.

## Yamaki Keynote Speaker at Sept. 16 JACL Awards Dinner

California Appointments Secretary Michael Yamaki will deliver the keynote address at the JACL Pacific Southwest District's Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 16. The public is invited to this event, which will be held at 6 p.m. at the Torrance Marriott Hotel, 3635 Fashion Way, in Torrance, Calif.

Yamaki advises California Gov. Gray Davis on non-judicial appointments and a wide range of policy issues. He served on the Los Angeles Police Commission

from 1991-93 and is a graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles and West Los Angeles School of Law.

"Mr. Yamaki is a tireless public servant and respected community leader," said Craig Osaki, PSW governor. "JACL is thrilled to have him as our keynote speaker."

The dinner will honor former JACL President Helen Kawagoe, Col. Young O. Kim, Dr. Harry Kitano, Brian Moriguchi and his legal team (attorneys Harvey

Horikawa and Thomas Ono), and Miyo Senzaki for their contributions to the Japanese American community.

Dinner proceeds will support JACL's efforts to recruit and train young Asian Pacific Islander Americans to become future community leaders. Tickets are \$85 for the general public.

For more information about the JACL awards dinner or to reserve tickets, contact JACL at 213/626-4471 or at psww@jacl.org.

## Sacramento JACL Co-sponsors Greater Sacramento Region Reunion 2000

The Greater Sacramento Region Reunion 2000, set for Sept. 10, will be co-sponsored by the Sacramento JACL. It was announced by chair Toko Fujii. The long-awaited history book, "Japanese-Americans — Story of a People 1869-2000," will be debuted at the luncheon. JACLers from Northern California and all ex-Sacramentans are invited to give support to the introduction of this important historical volume.

The program will begin at 11 a.m. with fellowship and visiting among Sacramentans of prewar

days. Also featured will be music and vocal selections by Richard Kishimoto, a well-known Bay Area entertainer.

The Speaker for the day will be Cherry Tsutsumida, executive director of the National Japanese American Foundation, whose project is the Memorial to Patriotism being built in Washington, D.C. Also invited to address the event is Congressman Robert T. Matsui, a native Sacramentan.

This regional reunion is expected to draw attendees formerly from the outlying areas of the

greater Sacramento area such as Mayhew, Perkins, Riverside, Taisho-ku, Florin, Elk Grove, Walnut Grove, Isleton, Clarksburg, Courtland, West Sacramento, Woodland and Vacaville.

The Tulalee Reunion 2000 will precede this event, on Sept. 8-9. Both gatherings will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel on Point West Way north of the city.

For reservations, send a \$30 check per person to: Sacramento Reunion 2000, 1204 Monte Vista Way, Sacramento, CA 95831.

For more information, call Toko Fujii at 910/421-6968.

## NOMURA

(Continued from page 1)

athletics to the understanding from family and friends. "People showcased right now at the museum, their achievements are dreams," he said. "But they never would've been achieved without the support of friends and family. There's a lot of sacrifice involved."

These days, Nomura doesn't follow the sport of BMX racing, but he does compete in two different Nisei bowling leagues with his wife, plays golf, and rides his motorcycle to relax. A love of sports seems to run through the Nomura blood. Ryan is a golfer on the University of California, Santa Barbara team, and Lisa excelled in gymnastics after BMX was done. Now Wade looks forward to the time he spends playing sports with his grandson, Zach, 4.

"Being a grandfather at a young age is pretty good," said Nomura. "I wanted to have family life young. I want to play sports with Zach while I still can."

He thinks he'll be active and athletic until his body shuts down. He recalled that he was once shadowed by a high school student who wanted to be a BMX racer. "I told him, no matter what you do, if you want to be an athlete, you have to

strive to be the best at everything you do, not just your sport."

Nomura continues to work out several times a week to relieve stress. "In my opinion," he said, "you can't enjoy life if you're not physically fit."

It's not hard to see that Wade Nomura is enjoying life to the fullest. ■

## LEE

(Continued from page 1)

gal Defense and Educational Fund, on July 21, 1997. In December 1997, Clinton installed Lee as acting assistant attorney general for civil rights.

That gave Lee an indefinite hold on the job and was considered less confrontational than invoking constitutional power for a recess appointment. Clinton nominated Lee again in January and March 1998, but no action has been taken since.

Under the Constitution, the president can temporarily bypass the Senate confirmation process by giving an individual an appointment during a congressional recess.

In addition to his work with the NAACP, Lee served as a supervising attorney for civil rights litigation at the Center for Law in Public Interest from 1983 to 1988 and

as assistant counsel at the Legal Defense Fund in New York City from 1974 to 1982.

Lee received his bachelor's degree from Yale University and his J.D. degree from Columbia University Law School.

"This has been a truly memorable few months with the historic appointment of Secretary of Commerce Mineta as the first APA to serve at the Cabinet level, the 22 Asian Pacific American Medal of Honor upgrades, and now Bill Lann Lee officially being appointed as assistant attorney general for civil rights," said JACL National Executive Director John Tateishi. "President Clinton's actions effectively deliver the message that APAs are an integral and important part of this country's past and its future."

The assistant attorney general for civil rights is responsible for a division of 736 employees, including 300 attorneys. The assistant attorney general reports directly to the attorney general and manages the following litigating sections: Appellate Coordination and Review, Criminal, Disability Rights, Educational Opportunities, Employment, Litigation, Housing and Civil Enforcement, Office of Special Counsel for Immigrant Related Unfair Employment Practices, Special Litigation and Voting. ■

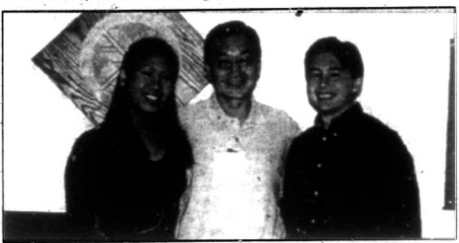
## Houston JACL Awards Scholarships

The Houston chapter of JACL honored two high school seniors recently. Chris Yamazaki was awarded the Ray Okamura Memorial Scholarship, and Risa Nishimoto was awarded the George Hara Memorial Scholarship.

Yamazaki, from Klein High

School, will be attending Ohio State University and majoring in international business.

Nishimoto, from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Houston, will be attending Tufts University and majoring in international relations.



(L-R) Risa Nishimoto, Scholarship Chair Sut Oishi, and Chris Yamazaki.

## French Camp Chapter Awards Scholarship



The French Camp JACL chapter recently awarded Roxanne Komure its Year 2000 Chapter Scholarship. Komure was the valedictorian of Lincoln High School in Stockton and will be attending UC Davis in the fall as a biological sciences major. Her parents are Dean and Liane Komure of Stockton.

## APAIT Begins Speakers Bureau

The Los Angeles Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT) is starting a new speakers bureau, which will be available free of charge to any organization or school in the L.A. area.

While most people know that the number of AIDS cases has declined in recent years, according to the L.A. County Department of Health Services, for Asian/Pacific Islanders they actually increased by 6 percent between 1998 and 1999. During that same period, the overall number of new AIDS cases in L.A. County dropped by 4 percent.

According to Dean Goishi, executive director of APAIT, there are a few reasons for this. First, if they know they are HIV-positive, Asians tend to wait until they get full-blown AIDS before they begin treatment. Second, as a group, Asians are also among the least likely to take the HIV test.

"AIDS is no longer a death

sentence," said Goishi, "but some Asians still think that it is, and that's an 'education' problem."

Goishi also said that when the overall number of new AIDS cases began to drop, many people, including Asians, relaxed their vigilance about practicing safe sex in the mistaken belief that new drugs had essentially "cured" AIDS — and the number of new Asian cases rose.

APAIT, L.A.'s largest AIDS services provider to people of APA descent, is still working to both lower the number of new AIDS cases by identifying and educating those who are at risk while they are still HIV-negative, and providing services for those who already have AIDS or who are HIV-positive.

To request a speaker, please call 323/668-1306. For further information about APAIT, including how you can help, call 213/553-1830, or contact them online at [apaipmain@aol.com](mailto:apaipmain@aol.com). ■

## Nikkei Concerns 25th Anniversary Celebration, 'Richness of the Past — Strength for the Future'

Twenty-five years have passed since a group of visionary and committed Nisei created Issei Concerns, now known as Nikkei Concerns. To celebrate the accomplishments of the past and look forward to the future, Nikkei Concerns will host a gala dinner event which will include entertainment, guest speakers and a silent auction.

The theme of the evening will be "Richness from the past — strength for the future." To be held at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in downtown Seattle on Sept. 30, the event is expected to fill their large ballroom with more than 1,000 supporters from around the greater Puget Sound area.

A nonprofit organization, Nikkei Concerns has developed a wide range of programs and

services that extend the continuum of care for the elderly in the Asian community. In 1976, Seattle Keiro skilled nursing facility opened its doors. Today, the 150-bed Seattle Keiro continues to provide cultural, dietary and language-appropriate services for the Asian elderly.

In addition to Seattle Keiro, Nikkei Concerns also operates Kokoro Kai adult day program, Nikkei Horizons continuing education (senior educational, cultural and fitness programs), Nikkei Manor 50-unit assisted living facility, and KIDcare (Keiro Intergenerational Day Care).

The cost for the banquet is \$60 per person and reservations can be made by contacting Amy French at 206/726-6501 or by e-mail: [amy@nikkeiconcerns.org](mailto:amy@nikkeiconcerns.org). ■

# Resistance Leader Joins JACL: An Interview with Kentaro "Ken" Takatsui

(Continued from page 1)

PS: What did you do to get labeled as a "troublemaker?"

KT: The block 42 boys — boys 17 or 18 years old — had the courage to go to the administration building, telling them, "We refuse to answer questions 27 and 28." When the loyalty questions came, we were bitter. These young kids were influenced by the Issei so they said, "We'd rather not sign any loyalty questions, but rather be shipped back to Japan."

PS: But they'd never been to Japan...

KT: They wanted to stay with their father and mother. When you hear that today, people say, "Oh, she's a disloyal S.O.B." Remember, we lost everything. ... Here we are, just like the enemy, captured POWs, so the Issei influenced these kids to say that.

PS: How did you get involved?

KT: A whole bunch of armed soldiers and MPs came in with machine guns and captured the 35 boys from block 42. At first I was with the administration, working as an assistant registrar. Also, I could speak a little Japanese, enough to interpret.

PS: You had been to Japan?

KT: I went to Japan when I was 10 for two years. After high school, I took my sister to Japan for medical treatment when she was 6. I am not a Kibei. After high school, I spent less than two years at Waseda University International Institute.

PS: So you didn't see yourself as a Japanese being mistreated but as an American being violated.

KT: Right. My American side revolted. If I followed the Japan-

ese side, I would have obeyed the authorities. My American side rebelled.

PS: You were telling people not to sign anything?

KT: Right.

PS: After you were arrested and the authorities threatened you with 20 years and a \$10,000 fine, most people backed off, right?

KT: They put the 15 of us on trial — what I call a kangaroo court. The question was: did you participate in any movement to obstruct registration? Most of them said, "No." I and Hiroshi Kamiya were the only ones who were true to the end. We were sent to a county jail in Moab, Utah, and later to isolation camps at Moab and Leupp, Arizona, where we spent about 11 months.

PS: What made you so firm in your stand?

KT: I owed it to those 35 boys. Those kids had the courage to stand up for what they believed in.

PS: Do you see any connection between what you did and the 1960s civil rights struggle?

KT: We say the civil rights movement started about 12 years before Rosa Parks decided not to sit in the back of the bus.

PS: Rosa Parks and other African American leaders had the support of their people, white people and other minorities. Did you get support?

KT: Not our own people. ... It was not a very happy situation.

PS: I think it's important to point out the difference between the 3,000 men in Tule Lake who, because of men like you, did not answer the loyalty questionnaire and were therefore not subject to the draft. But resisters in other camps, who answered questions 27 and 28 "wrongly," were prose-

cuted and sent to prison.

KT: I didn't find that answering the loyalty questionnaire was not compulsory until two years after World War II ended. I read it in a book in the library.

PS: What did you do after the war?

KT: I got into the MIS (Military Intelligence Service), working as an interpreter in Japan.

PS: What kind of security clearance did you have?

KT: After 17 years, I took a job with the CIC (Counter Intelli-

U.S. Army and our family is full of ex-military. So whether you served in World War II or the Vietnam War, what's the difference? What's served by saying, "I served in World War II, and you didn't." I served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. What's the difference? The people in the 442nd from Hawaii ... went out of their way to be nice to me.

PS: But you didn't serve during WWII?

KT: My parents were in Japan during the war. While I

how do I demand an apology from them?

PS: Did the apology resolution affect you?

KT: Oh yes. It affected me, but not in the way you think. The Kibei group I was with in Tule Lake hated the JACL. I heard them talking about the JACL leaders and cussing them up and down.

PS: So for you to want to join JACL is ...

KT: It's a 360 degree turn. ... In that sense I hold no grudges against JACL or the 442nd.

PS: Ken, if you had to do it over again, would you do it differently?

KT: I would do it the same way.

Wendy Hiroto

PT: Wendy, what do you think about your dad's wartime activities?

WH: It's only recently that I've found out more about it. Having my father beginning to speak out to me is terrific. It was very courageous of him to take his stand. I am very proud of him.

PT: Why do you think your father didn't share his experiences with you?

WH: This has been a very emotional issue with him. He did not want to discuss it at all during my growing-up years. He probably felt stigmatized as well as ashamed and saddened about the incident.

PT: Do you think this apology will bring some closure for your family?

WH: Yes, I do. He called me when he heard about the JACL vote. He was very emotional about it. He is resolving it in his heart and mind. Each side should respect the other's point of view, and not put other people down for whatever stand they took. ■



(L-R): Phil Shigekuni, Kentaro Takatsui, Wendy Hiroto, Paul Tsuneishi.

gence Corps), which required a top security clearance.

PS: It is interesting that you get a top security clearance from the government and yet you suffer rejection from your community. ... Ken, how would you respond to a Nisei who might say, "What if all JA men refused to be drafted and we did not have the outstanding records of the 442nd, 100th and MIS?"

KT: I have no negative feelings towards the 442nd. I owe them a lot. I'm retired from the

was at Leupp, I wrote a letter to the WRA. I said one reason for avoiding answering the questionnaire and the draft was that I could not point a gun at my parents.

PS: Ken, did you need an apology from JACL?

KT: As I said previously, I don't need any apology from nobody. I don't need an apology from JACL or 442nd veterans because they never bothered me like JACL did to James Omura. In fact, they were nice to me so



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## Memoir of a Nisei Black Sports Hall of Famer

By TOM OSHIDARI  
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Puzzled by the headline? Your intuition probably tells you that Tom Oshidari doesn't sound black. Well, you're right. I am not black. I am, as you might have guessed, Japanese American — Sansei, to be precise. Yet, on June 10, I was inducted into the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the 1961 Edison High School basketball team.

I am the first non-black athlete to be inducted into the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame in its 14-year history with its 89 individual inductees and two teams. Although Mel Won (yes, he is Chinese American) was inducted on this same evening, it was for his contributions to black youth as a music teacher. So, he fails to qualify on the athletic technicality. Second, my Caucasian teammate, Bob Miles, was not present (disappointingly, only three of our team made it to the induction banquet). So he fails to qualify on the must-be-present-to-win technicality. So there I am — a Spud Webb-sized Asian (without Spud Webb skills), the first non-black athlete in the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame.

Prior to our era, Edison basketball had been mediocre. The '61 team is considered the transition team that began a tradition of strong teams. Our yearbook says that during the season, because we were tied for the league lead with cross-town rival, Franklin High, we had a historic first in having that game played in the Stockton Civic Auditorium before a capacity crowd of 3,200 people. We won and went on to win the league championship. Funny, but I don't remember that game at all. I must have been in shock.

Our best player was S.T. Saffold, a '63 junior who went on to play for San Jose State, and who, I understand, is now an associate dean at the school. We also had late-blooming David Fox, a '60 junior guard (who was a 5'6" sophomore guard), who wasn't yet a star on our team, but later went on to become a J.C. All American at San Joaquin Delta College and then helped to lead University of Pacific to the NCAA Western Regional.

Perhaps by association, you are now thinking that this guy, Oshidari, must have been a great ball



Photo Courtesy of Tom Oshidari  
An Edison High School basketball team photo taken in 1961. Tom Oshidari is in the second row, far right.

player to play with those guys. Well, allow me to bask in my 15 seconds of fame before I say that wasn't the case at all. I was a decent player, but by no stretch of the imagination could I be considered great. As with many things in life, my place in history has been achieved mostly by being in the right place at the right time.

In Stockton in the '50s there weren't many organized youth sports programs. The only thing was little league, and I didn't play in that. There were no groups like today's San Jose CYS, Ninjas or Zebras. With these kinds of programs, kids are polished veterans by the time they are 12 years old.

I learned mostly in my own backyard, playing with my older brother, Noby, and friends. I didn't play in a real basketball game until I made my ninth grade team at John Marshall Jr. High (we had a K-6, 3-3 system). Largely due to the presence of future Hall of Fame brothers Rufus and Robert Beard, we won the junior high championship.

When I got to Edison High, I followed in my brother's footsteps and played JV basketball. Noby was two years ahead of me and was the team's best player and generally its leading scorer. He could have played varsity. I'm sure, but he chose to get the playing time with the JVs. He was a better ball player than I ever was. I played two years of JV basketball

with moderate success and really gave no thought to playing varsity. But in my senior year, though the starting five were good, the varsity had no depth. So Coach Taggart asked me to move up to varsity and into my place in history.

Coach Taggart and Coach Riley, the JV coach, were both low-key guys. None of this Bobby Knight intimidation for us. Playing ball at Edison was fun.

Our bus rides were hilarious. And our basketball was pretty simple, especially our substitution strategy: starting five players until the game is decided, someone fouls out or someone gets hurt. I can't really blame coach for the strategy though because our bench was really inexperienced. It was a Catch-22 situation. That we won games was a testament to the talent of our starting five.

Based on athletic ability, I feel out of place in the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame amidst the NFL running backs, wideouts, and linemen; the Division I football and basketball players; the State Track Meet medalists, etc.

However, I agree with the organization's philosophy of supporting youth in sports as a developmental tool, and feel I have contributed in this area with my years of coaching in CYS, the Ninjas and the JACL Junior Olympics. So I really am proud to have a little spot in sports history as an inductee of the Stockton Black Sports Hall of Fame. ■

## COMMENTARY

### 'Winds of Y2000' Driving the Waves

By MAS HASHIMOTO

The winds of war in 1941 were to change the JACL from a social club for young Nisei adults to a politically oriented organization. This wartime JACL did not have the luxury of evolutionary development. It, with the arrest of so many Issei community leaders, became a crudely defined political organization, handicapped by wartime hysteria and the internment.

In 1942, two Japanese Americans, Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi — dared to challenge the winds of military necessity. They are special patriots.

For many of us mainland Japanese and JAs, the dry, hot winds of the desert drove the alkaline dust into our eyes, nose, ears, mouth and lungs. We wore handkerchiefs over our faces but still we felt the sting of the blasting sand. For four summers we experienced the dust storms. The chilling, freezing winds from the tundra froze our fingers and toes during the winters.

We, however, could not complain loudly. The men of the 100th/442nd Central Postal Directory Team suffered from the sizzling heat in North Africa and the freezing cold of the Vosges Forest.

Today, these veterans walk with deliberation. They find it difficult to march smartly in patriotic parades. "Rout step" has been preferred. They have suffered from trench foot and frostbitten fingers and toes. They have considered themselves to be the lucky ones. Many remained behind. Some were buried in foreign places, forgotten by all but a few comrades.

The logo for the 36th Biennial JACL National Convention in Monterey, a circular wave, represented an endless wave of leadership. The waves from Japan reached the western shores of America, and with them came our parents, the Issei men and their

picture brides. They had left Japan because it offered little advancement.

Our Issei parents persevered against great odds. They experienced racial isolation and discrimination, unfair federal and local laws, low wages, long hours of backbreaking labor, strange customs and language. Nevertheless they raised their children to respect the laws, language, customs and traditions of this country.

The Nisei were to become, according to news anchor Tom Brokaw, an integral member of America's greatest generation. After World War II, the new wave of Nisei, now in leadership roles, broke ground for advancement in science, education, industry, medicine, music, military service, agriculture, art, law, economics, social work, politics and other fields for future Japanese Americans to follow. It took over seven decades but this wave of Nisei built the national JACL into an organization that today is highly respected by this nation's religious, political, social and economic leaders.

At the JACL national convention, however, the winds of 2000 altered the direction of the endless wave. A new wave of Sansei/Yonsei have taken over. This transition took place dramatically with the passage of the apology by the JACL's national council to the resisters of conscience.

It is only right and fitting that this new wave assumes the JACL leadership. Some say the Nisei had surfed the wave long enough. The JACL is to be thanked for their 71 years of dedicated service to the Nikkei community, and we wish the new leaders and their members great success in the future.

The winds of 2000 will now drive a younger wave of leadership well into the 21st century. ■

(Mas Hashimoto is a member of the Watsonville JACL chapter.)



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

## Japanese Latin Americans

**D**URING WWII our nation committed men and military equipment to round up thousands of innocent Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs) — some 2,000 from Peru alone — who were hauled up to the United States (some to Panama) to be confined in barbed-wire camps. Reprehensible in and of itself as the act was, when assessed in light of some other decisions and actions taken by our wartime leaders, the stretch becomes almost numbing.

One of these decisions involved the Nazi extermination camps.

EVEN BEFORE our entry into the war, our leaders were aware of Hitler's atrocious program of liquidating Europe's Jewish populace. During a stage in the war when we were sending up thousands of bombers to engage in carpet-bombing of Germany's industrial sites, a request was made to divert a few of the bombers to strike the railroad tracks leading into these crematoria thereby strangling — even if for a limited respite — the feeding of victims to the death ovens. Our leaders refused: We could not commit even a few bombers to save innocent lives. And yet, these leaders committed personnel and resources

to round up, ship and confine innocent JLAs who were minding their own business trying to make a living like everyone else. The utter incongruity of all this is ineffable.

It does not end there.

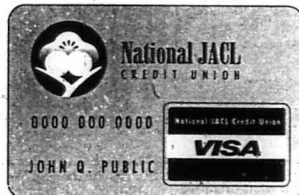
UPON THE ENDING of WWII, our nation sought to deport the JLAs back to the country from which we had plucked them, or ship them to Japan. Our contention in support of such action? Since the JLAs had entered the United States without a visa, they were "illegal aliens" and thus subject to deportation! That sort of twisted logic-in-Wonderland contention was brazenly asserted by our "Justice" Department. Inasmuch as the Justice Department had actively participated in the "illegal entry" of these JLAs, how can it now, shamelessly with a straight face, piously wield a club of its own creation?

Into all this madness stepped in attorney Wayne M. Collins, a name well known and highly respected in the Nikkei-American community. Attorney Collins filed a writ of *habeas corpus* to bring a halt to the government's outrageous behavior.

ON THIS SUBJECT there is a saga written by Seiichi Higashide,

born and educated in Hokkaido, who at age 21 proceeded to Peru to seek his fortune. When the Pacific War erupted, he was the owner of a thriving dry goods business in Ica, a town located in southwestern Peru; he also was the president of the local Japanese Association. He had a family of five children by his JLA wife. After successfully managing to hide out from the local constabulary for a few months, he was ultimately discovered, taken into custody placed aboard a U.S. ship taken to Panama, and from there to Camp Kenedy (Texas), then to Crystal City (Texas) where he was reunited with his family. From Crystal City, Higashide proceeded to Seabrook Farms (New Jersey), thereafter to Chicago, then Honolulu. This sojourn is chronicled in a 255-page book titled "Adios to Tears: The Memoirs of a Japanese-Peruvian Internee in U.S. Concentration Camps." It makes for interesting reading, especially for a Nikkei reader who can recognize or otherwise empathize with experiences similar to what took place in the author's life. The book is available from University Washington Press, P.O. Box 50096, Seattle, WA 98145-0096; \$17.95 plus \$4 shipping. ■

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# Letters to the Editor

## Let NJAMF Decision Stand

I refer to the letter to the editor by Tom Masamori in the July 21-27, issue of the *PC*, titled, "Go For Broke Vets Support NJAMF." Tom Masamori's letter is a MUST READ for all who support the purpose and spirit of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

It has been very distressing to see a small but vocal minority on the NJAMF board campaigning to erase Mike Masaoka's name from the monument. This campaign continues even after the National Capital Memorial Commission accepted the inscriptions submitted by the NJAMF board after not one but several majority votes. This is a shameful violation of majority board rule that's difficult to understand.

Then I read board member Rita Takahashi's sentiments in Masamori's letter. "Dr. Takahashi's position is that, yielding to an obviously unjust order (evacuation) was wrong, and that anyone who advocated such a course should not be honored. It's wrong to inscribe the Memorial with his name if we are trying to promote civil constitutional rights and include a quotation that runs counter to that."

It suddenly became clear to me that those who did not share then, nor do now share a deep and abiding faith in what this country stands for, cannot understand what we were fighting for during WWII. Masaoka's national leadership in 1942-43 at the amazingly young age of 26-27 was premised on: We are Americans. In spite of the injustices being heaped on us now, we have no choice but to prove our loyalty and some day down the road we will gain the full measure of justice and respect we want and deserve! Isn't it amazing that the road he pointed out was indeed the right road?

Our country was at war and because of the racist war hysteria mounted against anyone of Japanese descent, our very right to live in this country, not just the right to be considered full and equal U.S. citizens, was in extreme jeopardy. Masaoka volunteered and served in the 442nd RCT to demonstrate his personal commitment to the message he championed.

Would any of the critics, if they were a JACL leader at that time, advocate full resistance at the risk of severe force and violence to innocent men, women and children? The records are clear: Masaoka and JACL did not have any power to stop the Army's "military necessity" order to "get out."

Following his military service, Masaoka gave up what promised to be a lucrative private endeavor to work for the betterment of the Nikkei community as a lobbyist for JACL. He was responsible for steering JACL efforts on key legislation such as: Amendment to the Soldier's Brides Act to allow American servicemen to bring home Japanese brides; allowing aliens who served in WWII and WWII, irrespective of race, to become naturalized citizens; passage of the McCarran Act which eliminated race as a consideration in immigration and naturalization, allowing our Issei to become naturalized citizens; and the repeal of the Alien Law.

The heroic stance and actions taken during WWII must be judged by the environment of the 1940s. The critics on the NJAMF board and their followers are disgracing themselves because they cannot recognize the rectifying event in U.S. history that has taken 46 years to play out.

Ours is a beautiful story of faith and loyalty to country prevailing over the selfish racist acts that marred the Constitution. The National Capital Memorial Commission recognized it. That is why the

monument is named "Memorial to the Patriotism of Japanese Americans During World War II."

## NJAMF Must Listen to Dissenting Voices

In your *Pacific Citizen* issue of June 23-29, there was a commentary by NJAMF responding to criticism of Mike Masaoka's quotation. It said in part: "Their (JVoice) list of names numbering in the hundreds (most of whom have not given a cent to the memorial) are overwhelmed by the 18,000 who have voted with their checkbooks to build this memorial."

I am both; one of those 18,000 who made a donation and one of the hundreds who had expected this memorial to be something we all can be proud of. I became part of the latter when I accidentally ran across the JVoice home page. My initial reaction was "oh oh, the kotokons are at it again," until I saw that some organizations which I have respected throughout my life had endorsed JVoice's resolution! These organizations are the veteran groups of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd RCT in Hawaii.

I sent e-mails to Ms. Tsutsumida of NJAMF and to NJAMF itself pointing out that both veteran clubs opposed the inclusion of this quotation. I asked them who on their board represented the views of these two vital groups. I emphasized that it should be obvious to all that without the original 100th Infantry Battalion, there would not have been the 442nd. In turn, without the Hawaii volunteers, there wouldn't have been enough men to form the 442nd. In short, without the Hawaii members in these units, this proposed memorial wouldn't even have been considered.

I asked NJAMF if they had answered the vets' concerns such that they now supported the inscriptions. If not, I requested NJAMF for a refund of my \$1,000 contribution because I didn't want to be part of a memorial which was not approved by these vet groups. I am deeply disappointed that neither NJAMF nor Ms. Tsutsumida has had the decency to reply.

If you want more inspiring words, use some of President Clinton's words during the recent White House Medal of Honor ceremony or those in Hawaii who said upon being discharged after the attack on Pearl Harbor: "Hawaii is our home; the United States, our country. We know but one loyalty and that is to the Stars and Stripes." Or more simply, use "Go For Broke."

Keep in mind that NJAMF's request for donations stated "We want to help build this Monument to Japanese American Patriotism in Washington, D.C. I/we hereby pledge to the NJAMF a total amount of \$\_\_\_\_." If they had been frank up front on the inscriptions, it is highly unlikely they would have received 18,000 donations until the controversy was resolved. Also, take a look at JVoice list and you will be surprised to see the names of some very prominent people, active in the JA community and in the redress movement.

NJAMF must realize that although a majority represents might, it does not necessarily mean something is right. Let's work together and resolve this disconnect which has become a collective embarrassment, because in our hearts we all want the memorial for the brave warriors to whom we the beneficiaries owe an unrepayable debt.

Isami Yashikawa  
Fussa City, Japan

## Listen to the Hawaii Vets

As president of the 100th and as a Heart Mountain volunteer, I support the AJA Veterans Council in its decision to oppose the inscription of Masaoka's name and quote on the D.C. monument. The council represents the 100th, 442nd, MIS and the 1389th Engineer veterans of Japanese ancestry in Hawaii.

In honoring the 100th and 442nd, President Truman said: "...you fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice — and you won..." And did we! We fought U.S. Army divisions — and we won. We bloodied up Mississippi bus drivers — and we won. We won respect.

How different from Mike's "creed." He wrote it before the war, when historic anti-Japanese sentiments were rampant. True, the worst parts of the creed have been omitted — an admission of its weakness. What remains is the kind of banal "patriotism" indistinguishable from that which got us locked up behind barbed wire.

Don't get me wrong, I don't blame Mike for everything. I lived through that period. Once the decision to remove us was made, only "cooperation" could have freed us to find the kind of jobs we never had in the West Coast. It also allowed us to volunteer and fight prejudice — and win.

The creed, however, does not express that spirit. Considering that the civil rights movement was not even on the horizon, Mike's pitiful plea is understandable, but it should not be a creed inscribed in stone. It does not belong in a monument for future generations. Personally, I fully support the veterans council and all others, including the resister supporters, who oppose the inscription.

Finally, as a mainland, I must state that the monument does not justice to the Americans of Japanese Ancestry in Hawaii. They were responsible for the formation of the 100th and 442nd, not Mike. It was a military decision in Hawaii based on the heroic conduct of the local AJA men and women (Ambassadors in Arms, Murphy, University of Hawaii Press, Club 100).

Without the nearly-all Hawaii 100th Infantry Battalion and the two-thirds Hawaii 442nd Regimental Combat Team, there would have been no court reversals, no Issei citizenship, no reparations, no apology, no elected officials, no gains in opportunities, and yes, no monument. Don't ignore us.

Don Matsuda  
President, Club 100  
Honolulu

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"Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

"Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

## Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Fujimoto, Margaret Masako**, 87, Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 1; Seattle-born, longtime Pasadena resident; survived by husband Masao "Bud"; son Richard and wife Joyce (Tacoma); daughter Nancy Okada (Sylmar); 9 w.c., 6 g.c.; sister Rose Shiba (West L.A.); predeceased by daughter Sally Kashiwagi and brother Arthur Suzuki.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$19 per column inch. Text is reworded as needed.

**Hayashida, Martin Masao "Mas,"** 75, West Los Angeles, July 30; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Mitsuko; son Paul Tsutomu; daughters Amy Emiko Koga and husband Tepper, Donna Kazumi Van Ness and husband Hugh, 3 g.c.

**Kato, Takayo**, 97, Rosemead, Aug. 3; Hiroshima-born; survived by son Thomas Kenji; daughters Michiko Asao and husband Masami, Reiko Yoshihashi and husband Tokuji; 6 g.c.; predeceased by son Akira and daughter Tayeko.

**Kiyohiro, Kenso "Kenny,"** 85, West Los Angeles, July 29; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Shizue; sons Marshall and wife Elinor, Tracy; daughter Bonnie Inai and husband Bob; 4 g.c.; brother Yoshio and wife Yone.

**Maeshiba, Elizabeth**, 84, Chicago, July 19 service; survived by sons Kenneth, David; daughters Emile Endo and husband Richard, Karen Tamez and husband Modesto; 4 g.c.; sister Cecilia Ishibashi; brother John Takemoto; predeceased by husband Naajiro.

**Masui, Eddy Yutaka**, 86, Lodi, July 31; survived by wife Dorothy; sons Robert and wife Hedy, David, Tim and wife Mary; daughter Mary Ann Aoki and husband Merle; 6 g.c., ggc.

**Mitsunaga, Dolly Kiyome**, 78, San Jose, July 30; survived by husband Takeo; daughters Geraldine Handa and husband John (San Francisco), Sharon Warych and husband Martin (Las Vegas); sister Lily Yamamoto and husband Adrian (San Jose).

**Morino, Babe Ginzo**, 81, San Francisco, July 2; survived by wife Mary; sons Larry, Russell, Steven and wife Emeline; daughters Marilyn Fong and husband Harold, Cindy Nakamoto and husband Kaz; 11 g.c., 1 ggc; brother George and wife Tamay; sisters Chiyo Kawaguchi, Haruyo Matsuo and wife Kazuma.

**Morioka, Kinuyo**, 97, Visalia, July 30; Onomichi, Hiroshima-born; survived by son James and wife Nancy; daughters Alice Nakamura, Mary Ishida and husband Jim; 9 g.c., 12 ggc.

**Nabeta, Phyllis N.**, 60, Walnut Creek, July 20; Madera-born, formerly of Berkeley; survived by husband Edwin; daughter Dayvin Nabeta; sisters Caroline Y. Nabeta (Hollister), June T. Sugawara (Northridge); brother Kenneth H. Yamaguchi (Fresno).

**Nishimura, Shizuo "Nish,"** 89, Ontario, Ore, July 17; Kapa, Hawaii-born, Tule Lake internee, formerly of Auburn, Wash.; survived by wife Frances; son Gene and wife Su-

san (Irvine); daughters Elaine (Portland), Karen (Eugene), 2 g.c.; sister Kiyoko Oda (Hiroshima); predeceased by son Wesley and brother Tetsuo.

**Nishino, Sachiko**, 74, Los Angeles, July 30; Moneta-born; survived by sister Reiko; sister-in-law Marcia; nephews and nieces.

**Oyama, Joseph Tadashi**, 88, June 19; Suisun-born; Jerome internee; survived by sons Joseph Robert, Richard; daughter Carrie; brother George; sister Lili Sasaki.

**Sagara, Yoshie**, 76, Stockton, July 7; survived by sisters Fusae Inouye, Mae Ogawa, Harue Atomi, Tomiye Ohta and husband Roy, Brandy Shindo and husband Frank.

**Sugioka, Yoshio "Yosh,"** 83, Petaluma, July 26; survived by wife Shizue; son Dwight Y.; sisters Masayae Yamamoto, Sally Noguchi.

**Takayoshi, Masako**, Carriots, July 29; Seattle-born; survived by daughter Reiko Jean Miller and husband Don; son Keiji Michael; 4 g.c.; sister Ruth Ayako Kamei and husband Tosh; predeceased by husband Keigo Kay Takayoshi.

**Woo, Yuen S. "Lucky,"** 73, Spokane, Wash., July 28; Canton, China-born; survived by wife Sue Woo; sons Troy, Tom, Tek; 4 g.c., 1 ggc.

**Yasuda, Masao**, 91, Montebello, July 29; survived by son Chiaki and wife Renee; daughters Reiko Nakazawa, Suzy Hino and husband Terry, Noriko Kotsubo and husband Dave, Kiku Yamada; 13 g.c., 7 ggc.; brother Masami; sister "Hifumi" Nakamura (Japan); daughter-in-law Hiroko Yasuda; sister-in-law Clara Yasuda.

**Yamada, Tom Yoneki**, 80, Torrance, July 28; Redondo Beach-born; survived by wife Aiyee Hiroko; son Ted and wife Carol-Lynn; daughter Cindy Dyo and husband Ron; 2 g.c.; brother Seiji; sister Miyeko Yamaguchi.

**Yoshimura, May**, Bellflower, July 31; survived by husband Harry; daughters Nancy Hatanaka and husband Ralph, Kathy Hatanaka and husband Herbert; 6 g.c.; brothers Shig Chikami and wife Marie, Joe Chikami and wife Kinu; sister Sue Fukushima and husband Tad. ■

## Whereabouts

Is free and is on a space available basis.

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## FILIPINO VETS

(Continued from page 1)

California have before us to acknowledge and to recognize the contributions of Filipino veterans of World War II."

AB 1978, which was signed into law by Gov. Davis on July 20, allows Filipino WWII veterans to continue receiving benefits under the State Supplemental Program (SSP), about \$215 per month, even if they choose to return to the Philippines. Prior to this bill, veterans who decided to relocate were forced to forfeit their SSP benefits, which are specifically aimed at low-income, blind, aged and disabled individuals.

However, AB 1978 now makes California the first and only state to ensure such financial assistance to Filipino veterans regardless of what country they choose to live in, said former Assemblymember Villaraigosa.

It also complements a similar law passed last year at the federal level, allowing vets who repatriate to continue receiving 75 percent of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

"We are not giving these soldiers one thing," said Gov. Davis, who presented a ceremonial copy of AB 1978 to Assemblyman Cedillo and to President Estrada. "They have earned every penny with their sacrifice and their courage."

Davis, himself a veteran of the

Vietnam War, lauded the actions of the Filipino men, saying, "These were soldiers who answered the call of World War II. For four long years, they fought under the American flag with U.S. and Allied Forces. ... Many suffered, and too many were forced to give up their lives."

"But the soldiers did not waver," he said. "In fact, side by side with U.S. soldiers, they beat back Japanese aggression, they preserved liberty and they defended democracy. And for that, we owe them a debt of gratitude."

In 1946, President Roosevelt pledged that Filipino soldiers who were conscripted from the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the U.S. Army during the war would receive the same benefits as American soldiers. However, that same year Congress passed the federal Recession Act, which appropriated \$200 million in wartime payment to the Philippines, a move that prevented most Filipino veterans from ever receiving their full military benefits.

The Davis administration has



(L-R): Gov. Gray Davis, Philippines President Joseph Estrada and Assemblymember Gil Cedillo at the recent bill signing in Los Angeles.

sought to correct that wrong. Earlier this year, it awarded \$50,000 in Federal Community Services Block Grant discretionary funds to the San Francisco Veterans Equity Center for purposes of expanding outreach, case management and advocacy services for Filipino veterans living in the Bay Area.

"What we have here today is a welfare benefit. Of course, we are seeking full-fledged military bene-

fits," said veteran leader Peping Bacig. "We are no longer the 20-year-old Filipino soldiers who fought in Batasan. We are already facing the setting sun."

"But to our younger Filipino Americans, we want to show you that we will fight to the end. We will fight for justice, we will fight for equity," he said. "And if we fail before we close our eyes, we ask the younger Filipinos to please work to get justice for us."

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, who is of partial Filipino descent and who has participated in several fund-raisers to help the Filipino vets, thanked them for paving the

way for opportunity. "I am here today to tell you, the veterans of World War II, that my life, my freedom, my pursuit of happiness would not be possible without your sacrifice, your bravery and your courage 50 years ago," he said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Beocerra, D-Los Angeles, echoed Bacig's remarks, saying, "We have not yet fought the full war."

He said President Clinton recently issued an Executive Order on July 27 directing the secretary of Veterans Affairs to draft a study assessing the needs of Filipino veterans and means of meeting those needs. That plan is due by Oct. 31, Beocerra said.

Philippines President Estrada, whose father was a veteran, met with Clinton in Washington, D.C., two weeks ago and said that he "promised to extend the fullest assistance to the cause of our highly deserving veterans."

Estrada added that the new California legislation is especially timely because it gives the elderly veterans "the chance to reunite with their families in the Philippines whom they have not seen in many years."

Currently, there are about 17,000 Filipino WWII veterans living in the United States, with nearly half residing in California. ■



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