Mineta Absent, But Support Strong at 2001 PSWD Awards Dinner

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

Just as Japanese Americans were celebrating the burning of Pearl Harbor, Harbor, American (AA) and Muslim Americans (MA) were gathering at the annual Mineta Community Awards (MCA) in D.C.

If times of crisis must break great leaders, then the enormous rights leaders and community activists gathered to show support for Mineta and the Bush administration. It is not a time of mourning, but rather one of unity and support for our community.

Najeeba Syeed-Miller with the Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center shows her support at a candlelight vigil held on Sept. 28 in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. It was attended by more than 500 people.

PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

Recent Terrorist Attacks Highlight Changing Face of War

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

As the Bush administration continues to examine various war options after the recent terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., former and current officials observed that the changing face of war and that we are now looking at an "intelligence war" where information will be crucial to combating terrorist operations.

Jack Herren, a World War II veteran who worked in the counterintelligence unit in the Defense Department, noted that in past wars, the enemy was obvious. Today, that is no longer true. The underground nature and fluid movement of suspected terrorists make it difficult to pinpoint their whereabouts.

In 1998, following the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa, the United States retaliated with cruise missiles fired on a training camp, which U.S. intelligence identified as occupied by Osama bin Laden, a prime suspect in the embassy bombings and the recent attack on American soil. But by the time the missiles were fired, bin Laden had moved to another location.

This time around, Herren believes the Bush administration will not make a move unless they feel their intelligence information is accurate and timely.

Clyde Nishimura, JACL's EXC district governor who currently works in the Defense Department, felt that the United States, to prevent a 1988-type failure, will be reeling more heavily on foreign intelligence assistance. America's past reliance on reliable data has diminished, he said, and this makes it difficult for the government to receive up-to-date movements of such elusive figures as bin Laden and Saddam Hussein.

In Israel where terrorism is an everyday threat, Herrn said both the airplane pilot and navigator are trained to operate in the plane behind secure doors. In the event of a hijacking, the passengers and flight attendants are on their own, the concept being to sacrifice a few for the lives of the many. In the United States, non-bulletproof airplanes do not operate the same way, and passengers and navigator are unarmed and have nowhere to retreat to. These are the situations that make hijackers in hopes of saving everybody on board.

Whether or not the United States will institute a more militant policy remains to be seen, but already there have been calls to launch an Israeli-type assassination campaign against terrorists, a policy which the U.S. government has been critical to end. In the past, Nishimura noted that the government has always continued to re-recind a presidential edict, issued during the FDR administrative period in 1934, which barred carrying out assassinations abroad.

In addition, Nishimura said the government is reconsidering a CIA policy which prohibits agents from hiring informants suspected of violating human rights.

"We rejected these on principle but now people are willing to overlook it," he said.

But if the United States were to go that route, Nishimura said, there would be unforeseen consequences, whether they were wanted or not. He cited the 1983 Beirut over- sea, required an insider to get close enough to the intended vic- tim. In this case, Nishimura foresaw the U.S. government-enlisting the help of Russia.

PHOTO: MARTHA NAKAGAWA

200 Rally at JA Memorial to End Hate Violence Against Terrorist Attack

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Two hundred people representing over 40 ethnic and human rights organizations gathered at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, Injustice and Sacrifice in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 19 to call for solidarity and an end to hate-motivated attacks against terrorist attacks which devastated America.

Community leaders, federal employees, grassroots organizations, veterans and others from the Asian American, Arab American, Muslim, Jewish, Black American and African American civil rights communities, made a moment of silence for the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Maybe 5,000 have died: We don't know, the numbers may be higher," said Nishimura. "I am a member of the Arab American Institute. "Enough death. Enough hate. Enough violence. Enough. As Americans, we must stand together."

Since the tragedy which killed 266 people aboard four hijacked transcontinental U.S. flights, reports have been growing around the country of verbal assaults, vandalism, and other forms of racial and ethnic attacks aimed at Arabs, Muslims, Sikhs and others who bear the dark skin, turbans or veils and short hair.

Since 9/11 has been reported at least 40 hate crime investigations, including into two killings - one of a Viet- namese grocer in Texas and a Sikh gas station owner in Arizona - ap-
JACL COMMUNITY CALENDAR

National

Feb. 22-March 2—Oregon Buddhist Temple FUND NIGHT: 6-10 p.m. at 4683 Broadway, Oakland. For information, call 467-7373.

March 1-20—San Mateo JACL golf tournament. 10 a.m. tee-off. Poplar Pines Golf Course, Half Moon Bay. For information, call 326-7525 or 757-0042.

March 13-14—Saratoga JACL Amvets Senior Citizens Center trip to Reno. Eastside Casino, 2400 N. Seventh St., Reno. For information, call 861-7577 or 347-2677.


March 19—San Francisco JACL Spring Fundraiser. 7:30 p.m. at the JACL Clubhouse, 2050 Eddy Street, San Francisco. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

March 26-28—Navajo Community College in Chinle, Arizona. For information, call 861-4954.

March 26-28—Nisei Week in Honolulu, Hawaii. For information, call 593-8123.

March 26-29—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

March 30—Nisei Week in Honolulu, Hawaii. For information, call 593-8123.

April 1—Little Tokyo, Los Angeles: Visit to the Little Tokyo JACL Clubhouse. For information, call 628-1221.

April 3—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 9-10—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 15—Nisei Week in Honolulu, Hawaii. For information, call 593-8123.

April 19—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 20—Handout, "Understanding the Terms Used in Asian American Policy Making," by the San Francisco JACL Political Action Committee.

April 25—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 27—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 30—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

May 7—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

May 8-9—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

May 28-30—Nisei Week in Honolulu, Hawaii. For information, call 593-8123.

National JACL
Feb. 11—20—California JACL 50th Anniversary Meeting, at California JACL Building, 1575 Sutter St., San Francisco. For information, call 357-0041.

March 5—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

March 19-20—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 15—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

April 30—San Francisco JACL Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. For information, call 398-7311 or 357-1975.

Letters to the Editor

Re: Seattle Racial Profiling Case

On behalf of the Asian American community in Seattle, I urge you to consider the impact of racial profiling on our community and individuals in our efforts to address racial profiling. I would like to point out that the recent incidents in Seattle are not isolated events but are part of a larger pattern of profiling that has affected Asian Americans and other minority groups across the country.

I would also like to express my concern about the recent statements made by the Seattle Police Department, which have not only failed to address the concerns of the Asian American community but have also made the situation worse. I urge you to take immediate action to ensure that the rights of all individuals are protected and that the community is treated fairly and equitably.

JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address

If you have moved, please send information to:

National JACL
1575 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

New address:

If you are moving to a new city, please provide your new phone number as well. This will help us keep track of your membership.

Re: National JACL

Open Letter to Nisei

Dear Nisei,

I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the recent reports of racial profiling in our community. As a former Nisei, I have lived through similar experiences and understand the pain and discomfort that these incidents can cause. I urge you to take action to ensure that the rights of all individuals are protected and that the community is treated fairly and equitably.

I would also like to express my concern about the recent statements made by the Seattle Police Department, which have not only failed to address the concerns of the Asian American community but have also made the situation worse. I urge you to take immediate action to ensure that the rights of all individuals are protected and that the community is treated fairly and equitably.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

JACL MEMBERS

National JACL
1575 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes

To correct misspellings in receiving your JACL, please send your JACL to the nearest Pacific Central office.

JACL OFFICE

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Seattle, WA 98113-1282

Telephone: 357-0041

Fax: 357-0041

E-mail: pacific@jacl.org

Except for the National JACL Direct, all other texts in this newsletter were written by community members and they may not reflect the views of the Pacific Central office.

Re: National Accreditation

Opportunities for Nisei

Open Letter to Nisei

We are pleased to announce that the National JACL has received a grant from the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) to support our efforts in outreach and community engagement. This is a significant milestone for our organization as it will enable us to reach out to more Nisei and their families, including those who may not have been actively involved in our activities in the past.

Our primary goal is to promote awareness and understanding of the Nisei community and their contributions to America. We believe that this grant will help us achieve our mission by providing resources to support our outreach initiatives.

We are committed to working closely with the NVC and other partners to ensure that this grant is used effectively and that it leads to positive changes in the community. We are excited about the potential impact of this grant and look forward to working with you to make a difference.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]
JACL Response to Sept. 11 Attacks

The Pacific Citizen is having a photo contest for the 2001 Holiday Issue cover. This year’s theme is “Family” and winning photos will be published in a cover-page collage. Please send photos to: Photo Contest, c/o Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupola Circle, Van Nuys, CA 91401 or e-mail to: pac bjoc @aol.com. Scanned photos should be sent in JPG format. Photocopies of print photos will not be returned without a SASE. Entry deadline is Nov. 15. Cover will be in color.

BY ANDY NOGUCHI

The Sept. 11 message on my answering machine said: "Andrew, this is your Checkpoint Center at the seaport. Harbor." My common sense hit the wall. People around me were just as surprised as I was. Harbor means the seaport, not the harbor. He walked through the seaport each morning. I had a hard time changing course with this building next door. When the WTC collapsed, he was far enough down to avoid the debris. Later, I got another sick feeling knowing Arab tourists and Americans who were being insulted, shot and burned by the thousands by classrooms in school. Wasn’t this what happened to Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor? In Sacramento, didn’t they burn homes to the ground? Didn’t racism determine business? Didn’t things harass and attack Nisei soldiers in uniform? weren’t tens of thousands of families driven out of their homes and locked up because of their ancestry?

Unfortunately, our 20-year struggle to achieve redress in 1988 and then implement it since hasn’t eliminated ignorance or racism. However, it has taught us a few lessons about defending the Constitution. At A Plug in JACL’s Time of Remembrance meeting this week, Bob Yamasaki, JACL chairman, said it well: "Japanese Americans should not be judged solely by the color of their skin, origin or faith … We could not follow the Japanese American and Muslim community here in Arizona."

Berkeley

The Berkeley JACL chapter released the following statement in response to the attacks.

"The Berkeley JACL chapter joins with our national chapter and millions of people across the country in outrage at the terrorist acts of Sept. 11th. "

"While we are united in the sense of outrage at those who committed these horrific acts, the JACL is alarmed and deeply concerned over recent divisive rhetoric among American Muslims and American Muslims in America have already been targeted and mistreated. We urge the President and government leaders to exercise restraint and prevent our fellow Americans against the scapegoating of any group with religious, ethnic or national origin. "

"In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, America’s Muslims and American Hindus were perceived as the enemy; and those names and faces have been used to target the hates and vandalism, leading to their wariness and uncertainty due to our presence. "

"The Berkeley JACL steps forward to help define what true patriotism is in this time of crisis to elevate a nation, in the face of anger and frustration, the very principles of our country, which the perpetrators of these tragedies are trying to destroy. "

"We must pull together as a people and never allow the hate that this never happens again. "

National

The day after the Sept. 11 terror- attacks, President Bush issued a statement saying others in ex- pressing outrage against those who committed the acts and mourning the loss of their loved ones. At the same time, the national American public to scapegoat American Muslims and backlash against them. We, in the JACL, would like to assist and help curb such incidents. "

"We agree with the President’s call for national unity. We call on our chapter presidents to activate local chapters and the Muslim communities. Suggestions for how this can be done have been sent to each chapter president. "

"The five regional directors and the Washington, D.C., representatives have also been active in volved. We urge local chapters to respond to the groups in the area to provide consistent and positive guidance to the Muslim communities. "

Arizona

Following the terrorist attacks, the Arizona chapter immediately turned to their local Muslim American community, including the Islamic Cultural Center, Islamic Center of Phoenix and the Islamic Center of North Phoenix. "

"In all help and advice to our fellow Americans that acts of violence towards American Muslims are just as much a crime as the acts committed by Japanese Americans during World War II," said Ted Nakamura, Arizona chapter president. "A letter of appreciation from Ahmad Al Alkim, chair of the Islamic Center of America, reads in part: "

"We agree with the President’s call for national unity. We call on our chapter presidents to activate local chapters and the Muslim communities. Suggestions for how this can be done have been sent to each chapter president. "

"The five regional directors and the Washington, D.C., representatives have also been active in volved. We urge local chapters to respond to the groups in the area to provide consistent and positive guidance to the Muslim communities. "

"In the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, America’s Muslims and American Hindus were perceived as the enemy; and those names and faces have been used to target the hates and vandalism, leading to their wariness and uncertainty due to our presence. "

"The Berkeley JACL steps forward to help define what true patriotism is in this time of crisis to elevate a nation, in the face of anger and frustration, the very principles of our country, which the perpetrators of these tragedies are trying to destroy. "

"We must pull together as a people and never allow the hate that this never happens again. "

By Pacific Citizen Staff

"should not be judged solely by the color of their skin, origin or faith … We could not follow the Japanese American and Muslim community here in Arizona."

Florin (See Andy Noguchi’s comments below ...

Portland

Portland chapter members met with the Oregon Joint Task Force on Terrorism.

Puyallup Valley/Seattle

Chapter representatives have of fered to help put on a non-constituted Arab American Anti- Terrorism Coalition. A number will be helping the ADC obtain space and constitute volunteers for a resource table at the upcoming "A Journey to a Hate Free America" at the Seattle Center Affair.

Watsonville

Marcia Hashimoto, president of the Watsonville chapter, released the following statement:

"As Americans we feel violated and angry towards those responsible. But in the same token, we must not lose faith and must help must be careful to not direct retribution towards innocent Americans because of their ethnic, religious, or national origin."

President Leonard George W. Bush and other leaders of our country encourage us to be as strong, as united and as just as Americans during World War II and 9-11. Let us protect the foundation of our country and avoid an outcome of strength in as Americans."

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Judge dismisses Jaywalking Ticket

SALEM - A judge has dis- missed a ticket against a 17-year-old who said she and her friends were stopped because they are Asian Americans. Municipal Judge Jose Pintos told the court that his police gave an investigation for an internal investigation.

For the time being, there isn’t enough evidence to fully support the charge of "Jaywalking Safety." Judge Joss, and others who were participating in a leadership conference were stopped July 9.
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100 branches statewide, or view product demos at www.calbanktrust.com
HATE CRIMES
(Continued from page 1)
report will be issued since they were still in the process of collecting data.

One more positive step was the representatives from the various organizations reported that calls and pictures of support far outnumbered the calls of hate. They attributed this to a turn of events to the positive response from elected officials, starting with President Bush on down, to more sensitive coverage by the media, stronger responses from local and federal law enforcement agencies, and educational efforts by community organizations. Many believe that America learned a lesson from jumping to the wrong conclusion when Timothy McVeigh bombed the federal building in Oklahoma.

"The backlash has been replaced by a positive mainstream media backlash to the backlash," said Jahabon in D.C. "There has definitely been progress in the quality and speed in which the American government, without an exception, has responded, from the president, the administration, the attorney general and members of Congress. There has been a depth of concern and sensitivity never witnessed before. It was because of our efforts, not just by Arab Americans, but by everyone who contributed." Jahabon noted that the main stream media coverage, which "in the past was so repressive," had a backlash with responsible speculation," played a "positive role in this, with a few exceptions," at this time.

Oneera in Northern California also reported that the backlash was a "larger scale" re response to the backlash response, with calls written to the community, "with a few exceptions." He praised Congressman Mike Honda, who represents the area, for issuing a quick and strong statement denouncing the attacks while the same time calling for calm. Oneera estimated that every negative call and report they were receiving, they were receiving more than 10-20 positive letters of support.

Omero Ricci, a Southern Californi a board member of the national Muslim Public Affairs Council, said their office is also witnessing a similar response.

"For every one call of hate, anger and what have you, there have been ten calls of support and love, which is a tremendous ratio that is really demonstrative of what America is all about," said Ricci.

Jahabon added, "I think, in general, in Detroit, the media is truly making an attempt to make sure Arab Americans are protected and making sure that the rest of the world knows that Arab Americans had nothing to do with this." But representatives were cautious about being overly optimistic.

"I'm afraid and very concerned that if war breaks out and if other incidents happen that the backlash will not be a backlash," she said. "Maybe the voices that have been calling for calm might not be able to say that in the future. That's why we want the administration and the nation to understand the situation. We are putting our resources and efforts behind the administration to bring the perpetrators and planners of this heinous crime to justice, and we caution against any vengeance.

As for the response from the Japanese American community, many organizations were on what they described as an overwhelming response.

Furqan said one of the first few phone calls of support that, their Southern California office received was from the JACF community. "I am so proud of the Japanese Ameri can community for its quick support and empathy," said Furqan. "We hope that the American Islamic community will grow stronger and be more protective and understanding to this country as much as the Japanese American community has been after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I must say that were it not for what happened with the Japanese, we would have been stronger during World War II, the story would be different," said Furqan. "It's really the Japanese American community that walked the hard path."

Omero could not thank the JACF community enough, saying that their Newport News office has received calls of support ranging from Jews to pro bono and pro bono and women volunteering to wear head scarves in solidarity with women. "They have been very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very,
America's Secret Weapon — The MIS Nisei of WWII

SAGA OF Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during World War II and the Occupation of Japan spans 10 years (1941-1951). After 50 years, their records and contributions were fully restored in 2015 by the President of the United States, addressing a Special Presidential Unit Citation last year in Monterey, California.

Their dramatic story is told in a fascinating book titled "By Harry Honda: Very Truly Yours," which reveals the inspiring true story of the MIS Nisei who were integral to the war effort in the Pacific Theater.

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Special Roles

One of the things I've been struck by in the days and weeks that I've been here is the way in which the MIS Nisei of WWII has had an early and significant impact on the current crisis. Gene Ura, San Francisco, wrote a letter to a boy turned soldier, studying a language he already knew in the wonderful city of his birth. Just as he was the happiest six months of my enlistment, I was the happiest six months of his. His military training was in Japanese, and he wrote to his family in San Francisco, saying that he had been assigned to the 902nd MIS Company.

Gene Ura's letter was a key moment in the MIS Nisei's story. This letter and the many others that followed were crucial in establishing the MIS Nisei's role in the war effort.

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Troubled in Paradise

have been so ignorant that victims have sometimes been picked out of the "wrong" groups. Both of those killed in apparent hate-related incidents were Japanese Americans. Neither were Arab. Middle Eastern or Muslim. Arab Americans have been targeted by law enforcement authorities. The last two years have been the most violent in recent memory, with hate crimes being reported in all major media.

I think most of us want to do the right thing, but we need help, particularly for those who are the most vulnerable. We need to continue our work to support them and to improve our understanding of the issues. We also need to support the organizations that are doing this work.

We need to be ever vigilant as events unfold. Though the Nisei community has been a model of inclusion and acceptance in the past, we must remain vigilant to ensure that this continues to be the case. We must also ensure that the organizations that support this work continue to receive the funding and resources they need.

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Inouye inspires Bush to discuss public-private partnerships

Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Joseph Lieberman have made their first joint appearance in the Senate, calling for increased investments in homeland security and economic development.

"I think we need to go back to the days of Teddy Roosevelt and..." Inouye said. "He always had the idea that the government needed to do it, but the economy needed to do it, too. And that's what we need to do today."