The word “heroism” is used to describe everyday events and achievements, but make no mistake about it — Nisei World War II veterans are the definition of heroism.

They faced enemies on the battlefields and racism at home. They fought for the love of their country and the hope of a brighter future. Because of their sacrifice, the community and country owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

Because of their heroism, we dedicated this issue to our Nisei veterans, our newly minted Congressional Gold Medal winners. It's our way of saying thank you.

COVER PHOTOS
1. (Front, l-r) Frank Fujikawa, Don Seki, Jim Murata, Ken Miya, Taka Yoshinashi, Duke Ogawa; (back, l-r) Mas Takahashi, George Fujimoto, Ken Akune, Sam Fujikawa, Bob Ichikawa and James Ogawa.
2. Norman Ikari, of the 442nd RCT, in 1944 at Camp Shelby. Prior to this photo being snapped, Ikari had just come in from a hike.
3. Sus Ito "somewhere in the Vosges Mountains shortly after the rescue of the Lost Battalion."

IN MEMORY OF
BEN CHIMAMOTO OSHITA
442ND MIS

Love,
The Family of Ben Oshita

National Japanese American Memorial Foundation salutes all veterans and congratulates the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service for receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

Lessons from the Past — Guidance for the Future
The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation acknowledges the countless contributions of our veterans. Please join us at the Grand Opening of the Interpretive Learning Center and the HM Pilgrimage August 19-21, 2011

For more information please visit our website:
www.heartmountain.org
(307) 250-5542

NEW YORK JACL salutes and honors all Nikkei veterans. Gambare!

Sus, You make us so proud.

Love,
Your Family

We are proud of our veteran
IN MEMORY OF
BEN CHIMAMOTO OSHITA
442ND MIS

Love,
The Family of Ben Oshita

Thank you, Veterans
SALT LAKE JACL

BOARD
Jeanette Mtsaka
Paul Fisk
PJ Nakamura
Metra Barton
Raymond Uno
Melissa Naka­nura
Hena John-Fisk
Jeff Itami

Harry Okubo
Jen Ungovich
Dol Richeda
Sherrie Hayashi
Henry Harris
Cassandra Van Buren
Marc Stillman
Greg Stillman
Kevin Aoyagi

LEGAL
No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the Pacific Citizen. Editorial, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the Pacific Citizen do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles.

SUBSCRIBE
Get a one-year subscription of the Pacific Citizen newspaper at: www.pacificcitizen.org or call (800) 966-6157

ADVERTISE
To advertise in the Pacific Citizen, call (800) 966-6157 or e-mail: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

If you've moved, please send new information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

If you've moved, please send new information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

Visit our website:
www.pacificcitizen.org
Nisei Veterans Discuss Honor, Sacrifice and Service

Incarcerated in barbed wire camps during World War II, these veterans are among the thousands to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

By Nalea J. Ko Reporter

TORRANCE, Calif.—They fought discrimination on the home front after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and despotism overseas while serving during World War II. For their heroics and sacrifices they received an arsenal of medals and honors.

Now veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service can add another award to their collection: the Congressional Gold Medal.

Their sacrifices were recognized Oct. 5 when President Barack Obama signed the Congressional Gold Medal bill, awarding the veterans Congress' highest civilian honor.

Despite being labeled an "enemy alien" following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans served by the thousands in the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion, and MIS.

Known as the most highly decorated unit in United States history, the 100th and 442nd RCT received 4,000 Purple Hearts, seven Presidential Unit Citations, 560 Silver Stars, 21 Medals of Honor, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 28 Oak Leaf Clusters and 15 Soldier's Medals, among other distinctions.

Thirteen JA veterans shared with the Pacific Citizen their reaction to the Congressional Gold Medal bill during a roundtable discussion at the Go For Broke National Education Center in Torrance, Calif. This is their story.

Pacific Citizen: What does it mean to you to receive the Congressional Gold Medal?

Ken Akune, Military Intelligence Service: We weren't trying to be heroic or anything. We just wanted to do our job as American citizens. You can talk about loyalty and everything else. But words are cheap. The only way you can really prove your true allegiance to the country is to give your life. That's what the 442nd guys did.

When we went in we knew there was a chance that we might not make it back. But we thought that if we didn't do something at that time we would be forever second-class citizens. And the only way to prove it was for us to go out and do something about it. Because action means more than words.

Jim Murata, MIS: I think the ones who really deserve it are not here with us anymore.

P.C.: The bill was amended to add the heroics of the Military Intelligence Service. Why was it important to include the MIS in the bill?

Akune: So many guys have already passed on. We're being honored with this Gold Medal, but the only regret I have is it's happening now when those guys really worked their butts off and gave their lives are not here to join us. I know in our case of MIS, especially in our group, we were doing a lot of propaganda. The only thing I can say about our group and most of the MIS is that...
Hey Don, how come you Hawaiians call it Katonk?' asks 442nd RCT veteran Ocean Miyake (in hat) while Toke Yoshihashi (left), Sam Fujikawa and Bob Ichikawa look on.

CONTINUED

NISEI VETERANS

we were there basically to get intelligence about the enemy. And knowing what the enemy was planning to do you get a chance of saving your own people.

I wish there was a way that they were here and they could enjoy this thing. It might be a happy occasion but I don't feel real elated or shall we say 'Oh, we did a great thing or anything like that.' All I can say is we did what we had to do as a good American.

P.C.: Why did you decide to serve your country even though your family was interned?

George Fujimori, MIS: When we all had to go to camp I went to Manzanar. But my wife was pregnant. So the colonel came to recruit the MIS, so I went. He says, 'OK you can go.' But I had to wait until my son was born, which was about five and half months later. As soon as he was born I volunteered.

Akune, MIS: I was in Amache, Colorado. I think the fellows won't talk about it, but I think for us guys in the age group of 18 or older. For us to be incarcerated and to say on top of that you can't serve your country when they really needed you was really devastating for us.

Robert Ichikawa, 442nd RCT: I was in Amache. The same place that he was. I volunteered when I was 17. On my eighteenth birthday I was inducted in Denver, Colo. After we were inducted we were put on trains.

As the train went down South Colorado it went by Amache, Colo. the camp. I really thought I would like to say good-bye to my mother and dad. But the train didn't stop it kept going. ... A friend of mine who was on the train with me he said, 'I thought you were going to cry.'

Anyhow that's my short story.

Don Seki, 442nd RCT: I graduated high school June of 1941. Then October in 1941 my parents decided to go to Japan for good ... I said I will not go with you I will stay right here. They said, 'We're leaving.' I said, 'Good-bye.'

All of a sudden they said, 'Hey Pearl Harbor has been attacked. ... They said 'Hey, we are now enemy aliens.'

I got really peeved. Boy, that disgusted me, you know.

Then from 1943 they say, 'Hey now you're American.' But I've been American my whole life.

P.C.: You are regarded as heroes for the sacrifices you made during WWII. How do you feel when people call you a hero?

Sam Fujikawa, 100th Infantry Battalion: We were ostracized from the Caucasian society. But we fought as a unit. Whether you were a Katonk or Kanaka boy makes no difference we fought as a unit.

When I came home I came with a unit and I paraded in Washington. At least our unit paraded for the president to get our Presidential Unit Citation. That was an honor right then and there.

Ocean Miyake, 442nd RCT: Hey Don, how come you Hawaiians call it Katonk?

Seki: Once this Katonk guy, he fell. His head went down and went katonk.

[Everyone laughs]

Seki: We have a strong tie among our...
people because we were segregated. Our parents taught us you fight for your country and also you do not offend your family. That's the main thing.

**P.C.:** With the signing of the Congressional Gold Medal the story of the 442nd RCT, 100th MIS will gain more recognition. How do you feel to know awareness will be raised about your wartime efforts?

**Akune:** It was a time that people today don't understand.

When you think about it, even though we did a lot I think the Issei deserve a lot of credit. Because they were calm enough. They were the one that gaman. They said, 'Hey better days will come around.'

Frank Fukuzawa, 442nd RCT: I think my kids and my grandkids they'll be the ones that will be proud. Instead of being bitter I was proud of him. He volunteered for the Army.

But he never bragged. He never said anything. But the guy was that kind of a man. That showed me a lot of respect. I always thought of my pop as a good man. He was twice the American I was.

**Ken Miya, 100th:** As far as I'm concerned it's those people that died for us ... They're the ones that really deserve it.

I feel very humble. I just hope that in the next life I will be able to tell them the story that their government has done to us in awarding us the Congressional Gold Medal.

As far as I'm concerned it's those people that died for us ... They're the ones that really deserve it.

When you think about this Gold Medal, really when you think about that I think the Issei deserve a lot.

**MISAWA KUSUDA, M.D.**

Congratulations veterans for being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Houston JACL

H. Tom Kawaguchi

"To each his own and my own is you."

Loingly,

Suk
APA and JACL youth pose questions to the 30-year old member of the Navy JAG Corps.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Question 1: Please provide biographical information, including what generation Japanese American you are, and in general, what does Veterans Day mean to you, both as a JAG and a descendant of a Nisei veteran?

I am a 30-year-old Yonsei. My family immigrated to Hawaii from Japan in the late 19th century to work as laborers on the sugar plantations in the town of Ola’a (now Kea’au), on the Big Island of Hawaii. I attended the same school that my grandfather and father attended in Kea’au. In high school, I was the vice president of the student body and was the head delegate of the Model United State Legislature, the Circuit Court and the County Council. Upon graduation, I attended Boston College Law School, where I was the president of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps on board the USS Constitution in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

Veterans Day is a time to honor the men and women who have served before us in the Armed Services. This day is very special to me because my family has served in every American war since World War II. As all Americans pause to remember the heroes of the past, I feel honored myself, and equally humbled, to come from such a long, proud line of my own personal heroes.

Question 2: Did you always know you wanted to become a JAG, and if so, what steps did you take to ensure you would reach that objective?

I had never really thought about joining the JAG Corps until my first year of law school. I attended a lunch one day and met a Navy JAG Reservist. He told me about all the good that I could do for sailors and the Navy as a judge advocate. This made me start thinking about the possibility of military service.

About a month later, I flew home to Hawaii to accept a scholarship from the Hawai’i Veterans’ Memorial fund, and had a chance to meet several veterans from different services. When I told them that I was considering joining the military as a judge advocate, they were curious as to which service I might want to join. As they spoke of why their own particular service was clearly superior to the others, I saw an intense, joyful spark in their eyes. They spoke so passionately about the advantages of the Army, or the Navy, and I could tell that their jokes about the other services were only half-jokes. They loved what they did, and I wanted to know more about a community that can inspire such passion.

As far as preparations, I met with several judge advocates and I asked many questions to determine which service would be the right fit for me. I chose the Navy over other services for several reasons. I love being in a field that is primarily characterized as masculine; Would you encourage other women to enter the armed services? If so, why? — Mackenzie Walker

...
We proudly support the hard work, courage, and sacrifices of the men and women of our armed forces.

Trustees
Neal Ouye
Al Satake
Ken Yabusaki
Ranko Yamada

Directors
Carolyn Adams
Jim Duff
Mark Fujikawa
Leslie Hamachi
Al Satake

Officers
Ted Jitodai – President
Laura Takeuchi – President
Thomas Nishi – Secretary
Tak Shirasawa – Treasurer
Meredith Satake
Ron Tanaka
Alex Tagawa
Gordon Yamamoto

Congratulations
Congressional Gold Medal Honorees
From
Tokuji Yoshihashi and family

HELEN KAWAGOE
Salutes the Nisei Veterans of World War II.

Congratulations on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

The Alaska Chapter JACL would like to honor these World War II veterans who were awarded the Gold Medal posthumously. We honor and thank them for what they did for Our Country and for each and every American.

There is a connection with them and our chapter.

Hisao “Koby” Kobayashi SGT MIS
Fred Rock Matsuno PFC HQ Co 442nd
Morinaka Takaki SGT MIS
Henry Yukio Goto Unknown
Tad Fujioka Unknown
Patrick Hagiwara Unknown
William N. Tatsuda Unknown
Peter Heyano SSGT 442nd
The Japanese American Veteran ‘Playboy’

Nisei George Fujimori was a ‘one-man crew’ during World War II and while working at ‘Playboy’ as a carpenter after the war.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

There are numerous military medallions pinned on veteran George Fujimori’s baseball cap. A gold and blue pin marked “always out front” honors Fujimori’s service in the Military Intelligence Service, MIS, during World War II.

Another circular pin with the “Go For Broke” logo pays homage to his membership in the veterans’ nonprofit organization.

At the top of his hat, above all the military emblems and medallions, is a pin that makes Fujimori blush when he is asked about it. “I used to work there,” the 90-year-old said, smiling and pointing to the Playboy bunny pin on his baseball cap.

After returning from the war to Chicago, Fujimori ran Playboy Designs, Hugh Hefner’s carpentry and furniture design shop, for about 16 years.

His carpentry work included furniture for the Playboy penthouse in New York, the Chicago mansion, the Beverly Hills home and the Chicago club. But the most well known of his creations was where Hefner laid his head at night: the Playboy rotating bed.

“We had it made so it vibrates,” Fujimori said about the iconic bed that he saw stored at the Playboy mansion last year. “So Hefner gets up in the morning, he puts it on for about five minutes and he’s raring to go. It circulates everything in your body.”

Photos, magazine clippings and letters from Playboy’s editor-in-chief compiled in albums by his late wife, Esther, document Fujimori’s career working for Hefner. A black and white photo shows Fujimori creating the walnut bed. Fujimori laughs knowing that he laid on the bed before Hefner.

“Hefner got it secondhand,” said Ken Akune, a fellow MIS veteran, who volunteers with Fujimori at the Go For Broke monument in Los Angeles, Calif., twice a week.

“I had to test it out,” Fujimori said with a chuckle. “I got on it first.”

At Playboy, Fujimori says he was a “one-man crew.” During WWII he was also a one-man crew in the MIS, although also armed with two bodyguards.

Using his Japanese language skills, Fujimori was tasked with finding “the enemy” and convincing them to surrender.

Born in Fresno, Calif., Fujimori was interned in Manzanar with his wife when Japanese Americans were classified as “enemy aliens.”

While in camp in his early 20s Fujimori volunteered for the military, but he had to wait for the birth of his son, Glenn, before serving. The decision to join the military was simple, Fujimori says.

“I thought it was the right thing. I thought things would be better after the war if they [Japanese American soldiers] get killed you know,” Fujimori explained flipping through black and white photos of him in military garb. “And sure enough it did happen that way.”

In battle the attempt to get Japanese soldiers to surrender began with a peace offerings: a cigarette. Then Fujimori would begin his plea.

“I did talk to them real good. I told them they were kind of stupid to be killing themselves for one guy, you know the emperor.” Fujimori continued, “I said, ‘Now go back to Japan. We’re going to send you back to Japan and you guys...’

For your bravery and sacrifice, the Orange County JACL salutes you for being a Congressional Gold Medal recipient.

KAZ MASUDA
1918-1944

Kaz Masuda’s legacy endures in Orange County, Calif. with a middle school and a VFW post named in his memory.

IN LOVING MEMORY
BROTHERS, UNCLE AND FATHER
CALVIN OBA • RICHARD OBA • SIDNEY OBA

LT. COL. JUNEEE TETSU OBA
442nd E Company
June 2, 1924-
December 29, 1968
Korea, Vietnam
Legion of Merit
Bronze Star
Purple Heart with Cluster

PVT. STANLEY T. OBA
442nd G Company
June 28 1923-
April 19, 1945
Killed In Action
Purple Heart
George Fujimori, pictured here with his daughter and son-in-law, recently visited with Hugh Hefner at the Playboy mansion.

When his appeal worked he would take the men prisoner. When Fujimori could not convince the enemy to surrender it would sometimes result in their death.

Experiences in the war haunted Fujimori in his nightmares.

"My wife said, 'Separate beds,' I hit her a couple of times," Fujimori explained of waking up and thinking he was in combat. "That's why we had separate beds [laughs], I don't blame her.

Once in awhile, the 90-year-old says, he still has nightmares of the war.

All of Fujimori's wartime stories could only play out in his dreams for years because of its highly classified nature. The 6,000 JAs who served in the MIS were barred from speaking of their wartime efforts until 1974 when the Freedom of Information Act was passed.

The MIS veteran never shared his wartime stories with his Playboy employer because of his vow to secrecy. Fujimori is just as secretive about the behind-the-scenes events at Playboy parties.

"I figure that's private," Akune said when asked if Fujimori has shared classified Playboy information with him. "If he told us we'd be all jealous.

Working at the Playboy mansion for over a decade, Fujimori had a key to the Chicago Playboy club. There he said they spent the nights mostly drinking although the main attraction was the Playboy bunnies. Fujimori described holiday parties at the Chicago Playboy mansion that soon halted after guests began using the Christmas tree as a toilet.

Being around scantily clad Playboy bunnies did result in a domestic tiff once, Fujimori explained.

"Oh, she got mad once because somebody told her that I was kissing the girls," Fujimori said about his wife. "She wasn't a Playboy girl. She was at the bottom of the stairway and she kissed everybody. You know a merry Christmas [kiss]."

"Somebody snitched. I don't know who it was but somebody snitched. I got hell for it," he added smiling widely.

While working at Playboy, Fujimori often ate with celebrities and bunnies. The girls would eat breakfast dressed in their nightgowns. He described Hefner as a "genius" who wore his famous burgundy bathrobe often.

"It never bothered me," Fujimori said of Hefner's bathrobe, "What the heck! He wants to wear a bathrobe, let him wear a bathrobe. What am I to say? [Laughs]."

His carpentry work at Playboy also included making a model of the company's airplane. For the project Fujimori borrowed Barbie dolls from his daughters, Wendy and Laurie, to sit in the mini airplane.

"They were the right size," Fujimori explained adding that he put a pipe in the doll that looked like Hefner. "And my daughters kept asking me, 'When are you going to bring the Barbies?' He's still got the model."

After about 16 years, Fujimori says the stockholders closed Playboy Designs in the 1970s or 1980s because he was not making money.

Fujimori then returned to his old job at Greyhound Exhibits, where he worked before Playboy, creating display booths and more.

He still keeps in contact with Hefner, Fujimori says. His WWII veteran pals make use of his connections at Playboy while volunteering at the Go For Broke monument.

"When we want to get attention right away we bring it up. And boy, everybody's ears perk up," Akune says about telling visitors of Fujimori's Playboy job. "Forget about everything else they want to hear George talk about Hugh Hefner."

These days Fujimori spends most of his days at the Go For Broke monument and the Torrance, Calif.-based headquarters. The 90-year-old says he's quit making furniture now.

He is planning a trip to D.C. next year to participate in the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. Veterans of the 442nd Regiment, MIS and 100th Battalion were recognized on Oct. 5 when President Barack Obama signed the Gold Medal Bill. It is Congress' highest civilian honor.

The Congressional Gold Medal will be on display at the Smithsonian museum. Veterans can later purchase replicas.

The Playboy circular bed will also go to the Smithsonian, Fujimori says.

"I don't know if he's going to put my name on it or not," Fujimori explained about whether Hefner will credit him for the bed. "If he puts it on it, fine."

"Just like some of his war stories, Fujimori mostly keeps mum about the wilder Playboy party stories. He smiles only sharing tidbits of what life was like on the Playboy payroll.

"There were all these women, I was just an innocent boy [laughs]," Fujimori said closing the photo album and tucking it into a brown paper bag.

---

Portland JACL and the 2010 recipients of the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Medal congratulate the soldiers of the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service for their bravery and honorable service on the occasion of their selection to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.
IN MEMORY OF

HIDEO TAKAHASHI
I COMPANY
442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

SAN MATEO JA(CL

Remembers and Honors the Service of the Brave Soldiers of the 442nd.

You are our heroes.

www.pacificcitizen.org

Www.pacificcitizen.org

IN MEMORY OF

HIDEO TAKAHASHI
I COMPANY
442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

SAN MATEO JA(CL

Remembers and Honors the Service of the Brave Soldiers of the 442nd.

You are our heroes.

Thank You,
All Veterans!

Congratulations to the 100th, 442nd and MIS on being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal!

HONOR ROLL OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS
(BUTTE, COLUSA, SUTTER AND YUBA COUNTIES)

George Abe
Harry Fukumitsu
Mia Hamatsuki
Mia Harada
Frank Hatamiya
Yoshio Hirai
George Inouye
Jimmy Iwamura
Seiji Iwamura
George Iwanaga
Ray Kaminawa
Roy Kawasaki
John Kawata
Frank Kinoshiba
Richard Kinoshiba
Ben Kitani
Henry Kodama
Robert Kodama
Frank Komatsu
Shig Komatsubara
Frank Kosuma
George Kuribara
Kazuo Matsumura
Bob Matsumura
Yoshimi Matsumura
Frank Muraki
Joe Nakamura
Bob Nakamoto
Harold Nakamoto
Frank Nakao
George Nakao
George M. Nakata
Frank Nakatani
Yutaka Nakatani
William Nishikawa
Art Oji
John Oki
Jiro Okikawa
Frank Okimoto
Takao Takeuchi
John Tanabe
Kea Tanabe
Jack Tanimoto
Isao Tokugawa
Tim Tokuno
Fujio Wada
Frank Watambe
Mitsuna Yokohari
George Yoshimoto
Akaji Yoshimura
Toshirou Yoshimura

As a former JA(CL Mineta Fellow, helping to push through the Gold Medal Bill is a story of personal growth.

By Phillip Ozaki

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award in the United States. This means that the 442nd, 100th, and MIS have to be recognized by the House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, and the president. When I started working on this legislation, the House had already passed their version of the bill. Thus, the task at hand was to get 67 senators (or a two-thirds majority) to co-sponsor the bill, ensuring passage. There were already 36 senators on board and we needed 31 more.

One of the first things I learned in D.C. was that getting a Senate visit is tricky. They get tens of thousands of requests a day and are usually focused on the constituents who live in their state. Our team consisted of Jean Shiraki, Shirley Tang and me. We were JA(CL fellows looking for this kind of exciting D.C. experience. We made meeting requests to the entire Banking Committee where the bill was placed and only heard back from a few of them. This was the start of our adventure.

My first visit was to Sen. Mike Crapo’s office. I tried my best to brush off the nervousness and used what I thought was the best tactic to score a co-sponsor. I told her the story of my grandpa, Sam Ozaki.

When my grandpa was 18 years old, he and his family were forced from their home in Southern California and thrown into the Santa Anita Racetracks where they were temporarily held. As grandpa always expresses, “they treated the horses better than they treated us.” His family was then shipped to swampy and muggy Jerome, Arkansas.

Grandpa decided to fight in the war to prove his loyalty and the loyalty of his family and other Japanese Americans to the United States. For the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, it was a war waged on two fronts. They fought the enemy abroad and discrimination at home. Grandpa returned home with a Purple Heart, but had nowhere to settle. Our family ended up in Chicago because that’s where his sister lived.

Nowadays, my grandpa, 85, lives on Chicago’s Northside. An educator and an activist, he goes around to classrooms and community events to talk about his experience. He is dedicated to inspiring young people to fight for civil liberties and freedom. He is my hero and I am honored to have the opportunity to talk to Senators about my grandpa’s story, and ask them to award these Japanese American World War II heroes with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Of these November visits, I had one instant success. A few days after visiting the office of Sen. Michael Bennet of Colorado, I got word that he became a co-sponsor. With one more down, we had 30 more to go. JA(CL Twin City’s Matt Farrells, who is the new JA(CL youth chair, also took action. He got a hold of his Senators and was an important individual in getting them to co-sponsor. I asked him to speak at the JA(CL Midwest Chapters meetings. Matt made a great presentation and soon enough, we got a bunch more co-sponsors from the Midwest.

In May, WWII veteran Grant Ichikawa, 91, and I walked up Capitol Hill to make some visits. Grant, who had never made a legislative visit in his life, carried a very effective tool for moving politicians: he is an amazing storyteller with amazing stories to tell.

In Sen. Kit Bond’s office, I talked about the bill and Grant reeled in the attention of the staff person with his natural storytelling. Usually you have 10 to 15 minutes to sell your legislation to the politician. We were there for 45
the Horn of Africa.

As a judge advocate, I have a sense of purpose in life. I understand the role I play in the larger mission of my command, of the Navy, within the Department of Defense. Being a judge advocate is to be part of an exciting, dynamic organization. Each day brings a new opportunity to innovate, and I’m honored to put on the uniform and to carry on the tradition of those who have served before me.

**Question 6: How has your background as an Asian American shaped your perspective on recent/ongoing wars in the Middle East? — Christopher Lapinig**

My experiences living in Southwest Asia have shaped my perspective on current conflicts more directly than my AA heritage. While living in Bahrain for two years, I learned that the Eastern core values of honor, humility, and sacrifice extended throughout all of Asia, including the Middle East. These Eastern values include an emphasis on building lasting, interpersonal relationships. I believe that our understanding of these values has developed over the course of these wars. We now understand that winning the hearts and minds of the local people is a long, complicated process. We know that we must work to gain and build trust, and that any newly formed government must do the same.

**Question 7: How is JAG different from the general practice of law? — Emily Iwasaki**

To me, being a Navy judge advocate is being part of something bigger than myself. I am not just an attorney, but I am also a naval officer: a leader and mentor. I am responsible for the sailors that work for me, and I know how important it is to do everything I can to not only set a good example, but to inspire them. Additionally, a Navy judge advocate immediately gets the chance to begin litigating cases and counseling clients. They can practice while on board a ship or overseas. The old Navy slogan, “It’s not a job, it’s an adventure,” captures the essence of what it means to be a Navy judge advocate.

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 8: What kind of legal issues does the commander of the Navy Region Southwest Asia come by? Which were the biggest, and how did you handle it? — Lindsay Oda**

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 9: What kind of legal issues does the commander of the Navy Region Southwest Asia come by? Which were the biggest, and how did you handle it? — Lindsay Oda**

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 10: How has your background as an Asian American shaped your perspective on recent/ongoing wars in the Middle East? — Christopher Lapinig**

My experiences living in Bahrain for two years, I learned that the Eastern core values of honor, humility, and sacrifice extended throughout all of Asia, including the Middle East. These Eastern values include an emphasis on building lasting, interpersonal relationships. I believe that our understanding of these values has developed over the course of these wars. We now understand that winning the hearts and minds of the local people is a long, complicated process. We know that we must work to gain and build trust, and that any newly formed government must do the same.

**Question 11: How is JAG different from the general practice of law? — Emily Iwasaki**

To me, being a Navy judge advocate is being part of something bigger than myself. I am not just an attorney, but I am also a naval officer: a leader and mentor. I am responsible for the sailors that work for me, and I know how important it is to do everything I can to not only set a good example, but to inspire them. Additionally, a Navy judge advocate immediately gets the chance to begin litigating cases and counseling clients. They can practice while on board a ship or overseas. The old Navy slogan, “It’s not a job, it’s an adventure,” captures the essence of what it means to be a Navy judge advocate.

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 12: What kind of legal issues does the commander of the Navy Region Southwest Asia come by? Which were the biggest, and how did you handle it? — Lindsay Oda**

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 13: How has your background as an Asian American shaped your perspective on recent/ongoing wars in the Middle East? — Christopher Lapinig**

My experiences living in Bahrain for two years, I learned that the Eastern core values of honor, humility, and sacrifice extended throughout all of Asia, including the Middle East. These Eastern values include an emphasis on building lasting, interpersonal relationships. I believe that our understanding of these values has developed over the course of these wars. We now understand that winning the hearts and minds of the local people is a long, complicated process. We know that we must work to gain and build trust, and that any newly formed government must do the same.

**Question 14: How is JAG different from the general practice of law? — Emily Iwasaki**

To me, being a Navy judge advocate is being part of something bigger than myself. I am not just an attorney, but I am also a naval officer: a leader and mentor. I am responsible for the sailors that work for me, and I know how important it is to do everything I can to not only set a good example, but to inspire them. Additionally, a Navy judge advocate immediately gets the chance to begin litigating cases and counseling clients. They can practice while on board a ship or overseas. The old Navy slogan, “It’s not a job, it’s an adventure,” captures the essence of what it means to be a Navy judge advocate.

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.

**Question 15: What kind of legal issues does the commander of the Navy Region Southwest Asia come by? Which were the biggest, and how did you handle it? — Lindsay Oda**

The commander of Navy Region Southwest Asia was responsible for Naval Support Activity, Bahrain. His job was to make sure that the operational naval forces in the area received the best support at all times. As the base is within a foreign country, he, and his sailors, had many interactions with the local population. My role as the deputy staff judge advocate was to advise the commander on all legal matters, including international and Bahraini law. This included analysis of how these laws affected the base and the sailors. I played a major role during military exercises and criminal investigations ensuring we coordinated with local officials and all laws, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice, were followed.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

with story after story. Grant told one about the 442nd RCT when they were asked to climb a cliff to penetrate the German army.

Imagine these 442 guys. These were not big American guys, they were kind of smaller JA men with hundreds of pounds of equipment about to climb a mighty cliff. Their orders were to NOT scream if they lost their grip and fell off the cliff. This would give away the position of the entire unit and the mission would be a failure. Some soldiers fell, silently as ordered, but those who made it broke the German lines in 30 minutes, where they had waited months.

A few weeks later, Sen. Bond signed on. On our next couple of visits, I always reminded Grant to tell the “cliff story.”

By June, we had about 57 co-sponsors and were counting down to 67. Time was running out as the bill would expire soon and my fellowship would end at the end of summer.

I made a plan for the JACL fellows and Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) veterans to do what I called a “bull rush”, walk into 25 Senate offices, ask to speak to the proper staff person, and politely demand them to co-sponsor our bill.

On June 15, a muggy and humid day in D.C., we executed the bull rush. Jean, 24, and JAVA President Terry Shima, 86, visited half of these offices, and Grant and I visited the other half.

One by one, the bull rush efforts seemed to have paid off. First it was Nebraska, then Kansas, and even one Senator from Vermont.

On July 4 we reached our goal: we had 67 Senate co-sponsors. By September, both houses of Congress passed the bill and on Oct. 5, President Obama signed the bill into law. I called my grandpa and I posted the news on my Facebook. I was more proud than ever to be my grandpa’s grandson.

Looking back, this was a powerful learning experience about policy advocacy and leadership. I left D.C. having been a significant agent in pushing the bill through. At times, it was frustrating how slow it is to move legislation, no matter how important and timely. At other times, I felt like I could really make a difference in the world, one co-sponsor at a time.

Now that the bill has passed, we await a memorial service and awards celebration in D.C. and other localities where we want all WWII veterans, their families, and supporters to come. Even for my grandpa, it’s hard for him to travel in his old age, but I’m trying to convince him and my family, especially my younger siblings, that the trip is worth it. And it will be.

For updates on the Congressional Gold Medal awards celebration:
www.nationalveteransnetwork.com

Phillip Ozaki was the 2009-10 Norman Mineta Fellow in the JACL Washington, D.C. office and is currently the JACL membership coordinator. He can be contacted at poczak@jacl.org.

The Pacific Northwest District Council sends its heartfelt congratulations to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, the most decorated units in World War II, for their selection to receive the Congressional Gold Medal!
Where it all began... at the Presidio of San Francisco

Upcoming event
Veterans Day Weekend Ceremony
Sunday, Nov. 14, 2010
12 noon – 3 pm
Presidio Officers Club
Presidio of San Francisco

Support the establishment of the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640 in our nation’s National Park—the Presidio of San Francisco and honor the 6,000 MIS soldier linguists who served during World War II and the Allied Occupation of Japan.

The story...
On the eve of war with Japan in November 1941, the US Army recruited 58 Japanese American (Nisei) and 2 Caucasian soldiers for the coming war. Trained in the utmost secrecy as military linguists, these enlisted men comprised of the first class at Building 640 at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. From its humble beginnings, the MIS grew to over 6,000 graduates, and evolved into the renowned Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey. Serving in every major battle and campaign in the Pacific Theatre of War, while their families languished behind barbed wire in America’s concentration camps, the Nisei MIS were credited for shortening the war by two years. During the Occupation of Japan, the MIS worked to establish a lasting peace. For their role, the MIS have been honored with a Presidential Unit Citation and most recently with a Congressional Gold Medal along with veterans of the 100th Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The place...
Set in the breathtaking Presidio of San Francisco, (a designated National Historic Landmark District of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service), Building 640 still stands as a place of historic significance. Spearheaded by the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (NJAHs) together with the National Park Service and the Presidio Trust, and bolstered by grass roots support from the JACL and veterans groups, this effort is underway to save the building and develop it as an adaptive reuse project—an interactive MIS Historic Learning Center devoted to the MIS Legacy of peace and reconciliation. To date, it has already received nearly $4.6 million in federal support.

What you can do...
Honor our heritage and make a contribution to the MIS Historic Learning Center! Gifts of $2,500 and up will be recognized on the Inaugural Donor Wall when the Center opens on Veterans Day, November 2011. Naming Opportunities are also available.

Join our campaign to realize this dream!
To learn more, call 415-921-5007 visit www.njahs.org/mis or email njahs@njahs.org

The MIS Historic Learning Center is joint project of National Japanese American Historical Society, The Presidio Trust and Golden Gate National Recreation Area / National Park Service
JACL Chapters of Sacramento, Florin, and Placer County Invite You to Help Honor The Service and Sacrifice of the World War II Generation

442nd RCT • 100th Battalion • Military Intelligence Service (MIS)

"Rescue of The Lost Battalion"

This larger than life size bronze monument will complete the memorial in Roseville, California, dedicated in December 2009 to Americans of Japanese ancestry who served in WW II. The monument commemorates the "Rescue of the Lost Battalion" depicting a soldier of the 442nd helping rescue a wounded soldier of the 36th Texas Division from a long, brutal battle against the German Army. The 442nd was the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the U.S. Military.

This permanent memorial will ensure that future generations remember the significance of this period in our history, when many Americans of Japanese descent were interned while their brothers fought bravely — and many died — in testimony to their loyalty to our country. Our goal is also to develop educational materials for students to learn the significance of this era in our history.

Bronze scale model (maquette) designed by France Borka
Limited Edition of 88, Signed & Numbered
Photo by Keith Sutter

Follow our progress, sign up for email updates, or donate securely online at www.placerjacl.org

Health plans for students and young professionals 2010 rates starting at just $108/month!

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at 1.800.400.6633 or visit www.jachealth.org

Rev Up Your Savings

Don't miss out on this incredible rate from JACL Credit Union

Rates as low as

3.49% APR*

New or Used Vehicles

* Limited time offer. On approved credit.

Refinancing from another institution or buying a car? National JACL Credit Union can help you finance your loan. Your keys to savings are just a click away. Call or visit our website and apply online today!

800.544.8828
www.jaclcu.com

National JACL Credit Union
TRIBUTE

Masako Mary Yamada
Birthday - April 17, 2010

Masako Mary Yamada passed away in New York City on April 17, 2010, at the age of 97. Born in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area where her parents ran a little grocery store, she attended Roosevelt High School and then USC, later transferring to Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City where she received her bachelor's degree and later two master's degrees. Mary was inducted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in early 1945 with a commission of Second Lieutenant, taking her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then assigned to Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she held teaching and supervisory positions. In 1946 she was promoted to First Lieutenant and made an instructor in the medical technical training school and the Assistant Director of the U.S. Senior Cadet Nurse School at Fort Dix. After returning to civilian life, she served as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education until her retirement. A picture of Mary in her Army Nurse Corps uniform appears on the cover of the paperback issue of "Serving Our Country - Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II" by Brenda L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Buffalo (Rutgers University Press).

MASAKO MARY YAMADA
Birthday - April 17, 2010

Masako Mary Yamada passed away in New York City on April 17, 2010, at the age of 97. Born in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area where her parents ran a little grocery store, she attended Roosevelt High School and then USC, later transferring to Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City where she received her bachelor's degree and later two master's degrees. Mary was inducted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in early 1945 with a commission of Second Lieutenant, taking her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then assigned to Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she held teaching and supervisory positions. In 1946 she was promoted to First Lieutenant and made an instructor in the medical technical training school and the Assistant Director of the U.S. Senior Cadet Nurse School at Fort Dix. After returning to civilian life, she served as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education until her retirement. A picture of Mary in her Army Nurse Corps uniform appears on the cover of the paperback issue of "Serving Our Country - Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II" by Brenda L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Buffalo (Rutgers University Press).

TRIBUTE

Tadashi Kono
April 25, 1921 - October 12, 2010

Kono Tadashi, 89, Sacramento, CA, passed away October 12, 2010. Preceded in death by wife Lynne Kono, brothers Shigeo and Takeo Nakano, sisters Margaret Mitani, Kimie Yabumoto, and Chiyeko Matsumoto. Survived by daughter Cheryl Kono, brothers Yoshio and Kenso Kono, and many nieces and nephews.

REVERSE MORTGAGE
Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

• Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
• You keep title to your home
• No Monthly Mortgage Payments
• Safe FHA Program Designed for Seniors

"I pledge to provide excellent customer service with the highest standard of ethics"

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

David C. Miyagawa Chee
Certified Public Accountant
CA Dept. of Real Estate - Real Estate Broker #01391106
1-800-967-3575

REVERSE MORTGAGE
Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

• Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
• You keep title to your home
• No Monthly Mortgage Payments
• Safe FHA Program Designed for Seniors

"I pledge to provide excellent customer service with the highest standard of ethics"

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

David C. Miyagawa Chee
Certified Public Accountant
CA Dept. of Real Estate - Real Estate Broker #01391106
1-800-967-3575

REVERSE MORTGAGE
Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

• Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
• You keep title to your home
• No Monthly Mortgage Payments
• Safe FHA Program Designed for Seniors

"I pledge to provide excellent customer service with the highest standard of ethics"

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

David C. Miyagawa Chee
Certified Public Accountant
CA Dept. of Real Estate - Real Estate Broker #01391106
1-800-967-3575

TRIBUTE

Masako Mary Yamada
Birthday - April 17, 2010

Masako Mary Yamada passed away in New York City on April 17, 2010, at the age of 97. Born in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area where her parents ran a little grocery store, she attended Roosevelt High School and then USC, later transferring to Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City where she received her bachelor's degree and later two master's degrees. Mary was inducted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in early 1945 with a commission of Second Lieutenant, taking her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then assigned to Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she held teaching and supervisory positions. In 1946 she was promoted to First Lieutenant and made an instructor in the medical technical training school and the Assistant Director of the U.S. Senior Cadet Nurse School at Fort Dix. After returning to civilian life, she served as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education until her retirement. A picture of Mary in her Army Nurse Corps uniform appears on the cover of the paperback issue of "Serving Our Country - Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II" by Brenda L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Buffalo (Rutgers University Press).

TRIBUTE

Masako Mary Yamada
Birthday - April 17, 2010

Masako Mary Yamada passed away in New York City on April 17, 2010, at the age of 97. Born in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area where her parents ran a little grocery store, she attended Roosevelt High School and then USC, later transferring to Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City where she received her bachelor's degree and later two master's degrees. Mary was inducted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in early 1945 with a commission of Second Lieutenant, taking her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then assigned to Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she held teaching and supervisory positions. In 1946 she was promoted to First Lieutenant and made an instructor in the medical technical training school and the Assistant Director of the U.S. Senior Cadet Nurse School at Fort Dix. After returning to civilian life, she served as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education until her retirement. A picture of Mary in her Army Nurse Corps uniform appears on the cover of the paperback issue of "Serving Our Country - Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II" by Brenda L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Buffalo (Rutgers University Press).

TRIBUTE

Masako Mary Yamada
Birthday - April 17, 2010

Masako Mary Yamada passed away in New York City on April 17, 2010, at the age of 97. Born in Los Angeles in the Boyle Heights area where her parents ran a little grocery store, she attended Roosevelt High School and then USC, later transferring to Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City where she received her bachelor's degree and later two master's degrees. Mary was inducted into the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in early 1945 with a commission of Second Lieutenant, taking her basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, then assigned to Bellevue Hospital in New York City where she held teaching and supervisory positions. In 1946 she was promoted to First Lieutenant and made an instructor in the medical technical training school and the Assistant Director of the U.S. Senior Cadet Nurse School at Fort Dix. After returning to civilian life, she served as a guidance counselor for the New York City Board of Education until her retirement. A picture of Mary in her Army Nurse Corps uniform appears on the cover of the paperback issue of "Serving Our Country - Japanese American Women in the Military during World War II" by Brenda L. Moore, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Buffalo (Rutgers University Press).
Congratulations to the 100th/442nd RCT and MIS — Honored with the CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL!

Help us pass on their story — the legacy of a generation.
Lane Nishikawa's dramatic feature film

The Most Decorated Soldiers in U.S. History in their Most Heroic Battle of the War
ONLY THE BRAVE

Now available on DVD, the inspirational story of the all-Nisei 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team of WWII, the most decorated unit in American history, and their heroic rescue of the Texans of the 141st Regiment. Starring Pat Morita, Mark Dacascos, Tamlyn Tomita, Jason Scott Lee, Yuji Okumoto and Jeff Fahey.

Praised by the Honolulu Star Bulletin as “long overdue” and a “powerful, haunting feature,” and as a “gripping story” by the Denver Film Society, ONLY THE BRAVE was an official selection at 17 U.S. film festivals.

Order 2 or more DVDs and receive an extra gift DVD from Mission From Buddha Productions

SPECIAL OFFER ONLY FOR PHONE & MAIL-IN ORDERS with this ad. Call (858) 565-2021 or send check or money order payable to Mission From Buddha Productions to:
Mission From Buddha Productions
P.O. Box 420866
San Diego, CA, 92142

Contact Mission From Buddha Productions at (858)565-2021 if ordering 10 or more DVDs.

www.OnlyTheBraveMovie.com

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shipping Address</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City/State/Zip</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone</td>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quantity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Number of DVDs @ $20.00 each | $ |
| California residents add 8.75% sales tax | $ |
| SHIPPING & HANDLING MUST BE ADDED TO ALL ORDERS | 
| 1-3 DVDs $8.00 | 4-6 DVDs $11.00 | 6+ DVDs $15.00 | $ |

ORDER TOTAL $