SPECIAL VETERAN’S DAY ISSUE

PACIFIC CITIZEN

NOV. 4-17, 2011

NISEI HEROES

WWII JA veterans receive Congress’ highest honor.

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Kari Asai is the real ‘Top Gun.’

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A Seattle ceremony for ailing veterans.
Change in Health Plan for JACL Seniors

To reduce costs for our seniors, the JACL Insurance Services & Administrators is changing to a new medical benefit plan, and a new prescription drug plan for members who are Medicare-eligible in California. The health plan change will be effective Jan. 1, 2012.

In early November, current Medicare-eligible subscribers will receive information from Blue Shield with details on the new plans. Staff will be available to help with the enrollment process in the following locations:

ANAHEIM
Orange County Buddhist Church
909 South Dale Ave.,
Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

LOS ANGELES
JACC Building
244 S. San Pedro St., Garden Room B, Nov. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOVIS
Fresno Buddhist Church
2720 E. Aluvial
Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

SACRAMENTO
Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd.
Dec. 3, 1-5 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO
JACL Insurance Services
220 Sansome St. #1300
Monday through Friday until Dec. 30 (call 800/440-6630 to make an appointment)

Fred Shinoda gets it all wrong (Pacific Citizen, Oct. 7-20, 2011) when he states that I was proud of the JACL dropping the “under God” phrase from the Pledge of Allegiance. I merely explained what action the board took and why it was the right policy for us as a civil rights organization.

And as for the JACL losing members, I disagree with Shinoda that the JACL’s losing members because the premise for our policies are inclusion and non-discrimination. In fact, we’re losing members because not enough JAs care passionately enough about such things.

John Tateishi
Former National JACL Director

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pledge of Allegiance

The JACL is not and never has been a religious organization. That should be clear to all JACLers. As the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation, we welcome all who share our beliefs in the Constitution of the United States and Bill of Rights — among them that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

This freedom of religion guarantees each one of us the fundamental right to think. I don’t know whether God exists or not, but I want the right to think about it. Later, I may wish to speak, publish and gather others for a discussion — the right to speak, press and assemble peacefully. Finally, I may wish to circulate a petition for a redress of grievances.

Francis Bellamy (1855-1931), a Baptist minister, carefully wrote the pledge without any mention of his “Last Judgment” (fresco painting) in the Sistine Chapel. Onward!

Mae Hashimoto
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

NATIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Crisis and Commitment

By Floyd Mori

This week I had a great opportunity to attend a conference on Confronting Discrimination in the Post 9/11 Era that was sponsored by George Washington University and the U.S. Department of Justice. It was a good chance to learn of the impact on the Muslim, Sikh and South Asian communities and the attempts of the Department of Justice to stem the tide of bigotry and racism.

It has been my sense that we did not do a very good job as there seems to be data that confirms that there has been little improvement on attitudes toward the affected communities. Particularly among the youth, they have experienced an increase in bullying and name calling. It seems to be a sad commentary on the negative direction our nation is going in terms of race relations and religious tolerance.

In the Judeo/Christian values of loving one’s neighbor and justice for all, we as a nation seem to be retrogressing. The rhetoric of fear and hate seems to be prevalent.

See Mori/Page 15
JA WORLD WAR II VETERANS RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Days before the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C., some World War II Nisei veterans boarded the Honor Flight to receive Congress’ highest civilian honor.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Sitting in the Japanese American National Museum, Bruce Kaji explains the significance of different pins attached to his Veterans of Foreign Wars cap. The pins signify his association with different military organizations.

As a veteran who served in World War II with the Military Intelligence Service, Bruce Kaji said he would don his military cap when receiving the Congressional Gold Medal Nov. 2 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. But the 85-year-old jokingly says he will now need to find more space on his cap for a Congressional Gold Medal pin.

“It’s going to go on here,” Bruce Kaji said days before leaving to the ceremony, laughingly pointing to a bare spot on his cap. “I’ll make room for it. I’ll just move it over.”

“We’ll get a new hat, a bigger hat,” said Jon Kaji, Bruce’s son, who accompanied his father to the ceremony.

The Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honored Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS. Over 30,000 JAs served in WWII, the deadliest war in history. Thanks to private donors, replica bronze medals were available for the veterans.

The medal is Congress’ highest civilian award. The list of former recipients includes George Washington, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, Pope John II and Bob Hope, among others.

The National Veterans Network, a coalition of 25 JA civic and veteran organizations, including JACL, helped to organize the ceremony, which was hosted by Congress. House Speaker John Boehner’s (R-OH) office worked closely with the organization to organize the event, said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, chair for NVN.

Honorees from about 26 states across the nation were represented at the ceremony.

“NVN’s goal was to ensure that the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony would truly be a national celebration,” Sato-Yamazaki said. “The age and health of the veterans prevented many from attending, but we are hoping that they will watch the ceremony live on the Pentagon Channel.”

Days before the ceremony Sato-Yamazaki said some 1,250 people were expected to attend the event at the United States
Asian American Air Force Pilot is the Real ‘Top Gun’

When people ask her what she does for a living, Kari Asai says, ‘Have you seen “Top Gun”? OK, I’m Goose.’

By Christine McFadden

Correspondent

By the time Kari Asai was three years old, she had already asserted her independence. It became apparent one day when her mother, Jan, was helping her get dressed.

“She looks at me and said, ‘I don’t need you,'” Jan said. “And I just went ‘Oh, ok.' I just let her do her thing.”

Over two decades later, Kari, a half-Japanese Yonsei who graduated as a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) pilot with distinction, is stationed as a captain in the Air Force in Cambridge, England.

“I’m not surprised she’s as mentally strong as anybody I know,” said Jan.

With a family full of pilots — her maternal grandfather and maternal uncle were a former U.S. Air Force pilot and Thunderbird pilot, respectively — Kari was no stranger to the service. “I would say it was probably a self-conscious motivator,” she said about growing up "in a house with a lot of pictures of planes.”

In the Air Force, Kari, 26, is often one of the few women among men. “A quarter of airmen are women,” she said. “Once you get to aviation, it’s maybe 10 percent of them.”

But she’s used to that.

“I was probably a tomboy in the sense that I played soccer, baseball, taekwondo,” she said about her childhood. “It probably didn’t help that my mom gave me a bowl cut.”

Kari began the process of getting a pilot’s license when she was just 15. Now as a captain, she has already been deployed to Libya.

From Art Major to Air Force Captain

While attending high school in Vancouver, Wash., she applied for and won an Air Force ROTC scholarship. With the ROTC scholarship, she attended Washington State University to major in fine arts and minor in psychology and aerospace studies.

Both she and her older sister, Kristen, ended up pursuing radically different paths.

“I was the painter that became the fighter pilot, and she was the ballet dancer that became a lawyer,” she said.

Kari graduated with a 3.98 GPA in 2007 and earned ROTC distinction as the number one cadet for her region. “Once I kind of got engaged in it, I realized that I really wanted to pursue a flying course at the Air Force,” she said.

While some people wait months after graduation before going active, Kari waited only a week before driving from Washington to Pensacola to become an officer. She completed her navigator training two years with the Navy while attending flight school.

After getting her “wings”, she had top pick for which aircraft she wanted to be placed in. She chose the F-15. “I think I chose it because I like the idea of a challenge. Going through flight school, it’s kind of the elite aircraft. It can bomb, do air-to-air engagements; you always have to be current in all these different ways to deploy.”

Kari then entered survival training in Pensacola, and completed two-month Fighter Fundamentals training in Mississippi where she learned basic fighting maneuvers.

Thank You, All Veterans!
"The human body is not meant to be in a jet doing all those things," said Asai.

"As a parent, you can't help but be worried about your child's safety in a combat zone," said her father Winston. "But I was again very proud of her knowing that she was doing the job that she had been training for."

"Kari passed on the first try."

"Her most rigorous experience was completing SEAR (Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape), or "survival school" in 2009. It's required of anyone who is going to be flying over hostile territory. There, she learned what to do if she became a prisoner of war."

"At Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina, where she began her F-15 training, Kari was the only female in her class of 28."

"I always studied extra hard so if I did something wrong, they couldn't pin it on the fact that I was a girl."

"After completing her training in 2010, Kari requested to be placed in Cambridge, England. She arrived in England just as the rebellion in Libya was kicking off."

"Kari's current position is a "wizzo," or Weapons Systems Operator. When people ask her what she does she says, "Have you seen Top Gun? OK, I'm Goose."

"She missed being a pilot by one inch — at 5-foot-3, Kari's application for a flying slot was denied because the cutoff is 5-feet-4-inches."

"When I found out, I was completely devastated," she said. However, one of the colonels got her a height waiver to be a navigator. She was accepted and placed on the fast track in strike navigator school based on her grades."

"They called her 'One Inch' because she was one inch short," said Jan."

"Other nicknames have included "Flash.""

"I was always studying so I had a huge stack of flash cards and they made fun of me," she laughed.

"Her workday lasts anywhere from 12-14 hours. She flies an average of three times a week. With so much..."
Seattle Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony Planned for Ailing Vets

Some 50 Japanese American veterans of World War II are expected to attend a smaller Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Seattle, Wash.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Thousands of Japanese American veterans and their relatives attended the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in the nation's capitol, but many other vets who were physically unable to travel will be honored in a smaller ceremony organized by a veterans group.

The Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee, or NVC, is organizing a smaller event to honor the 300 vets of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Battalion and Military Intelligence Service who could not travel to the Nov. 2 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Toshio Taniguchi, 90, served in the Military Intelligence Service and is eligible to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. But due to physical ailments, Taniguchi's family says he could not attend the ceremony in the nation's capitol.

"I'm glad there will be a local ceremony because we will definitely be there for that," said Susan Jahromi, Taniguchi's daughter. "We considered taking him to D.C. to attend the actual presentation but decided he cannot make the trip [because he's] too frail due to a congestive heart problem."

Toshio Taniguchi and his family are among the 300 people expected to attend the ceremony in Seattle, Wash. hosted by NVC on Jan. 14, 2012. About 50 WWII veterans are expected.

"Because of the advanced ages of the veterans, many will not be able to attend the ceremony in Washington, D.C. Because of the long and difficult flight," said Dale Kak, the NVC chairperson of the Seattle ceremony. "We decided to hold a celebration in Seattle that would approximate the presentations in D.C., including a video of the events in D.C. so our vets could receive a public honor for the Congressional Gold Medal."

Hosted by Congress, the ceremony in the nation's
We also realize this might be the last large gathering for our 442nd and MIS veterans in the Seattle area, so this event will also be an appreciation for all they have done for our community.

— DALE KAKU,
NVC chairperson

The Taniguchis celebrated the birth of their first child, Brenda, at Minidoka.
intensive training and focus, her mom always checks in and asks if she is having fun.

One day, she looked out the window from her plane and realized the beauty. “I took a second and it was a beautiful day out. I could see all the way up the English coast to Scotland, and I thought, ‘Well, that’s pretty ding-dong.’”

Kari, who will be spending Thanksgiving away from home this year, keeps in touch with her family through Skype, a software application that allows users to video chat. “I’m really close with my family,” she said. “Even when I was in North Carolina, I’d call my mom almost every day just out of habit.”

She doesn’t know how long she wants to stay in the service, but she does know that she never believed she would grow up to become a fighter pilot.

“You never really know what you’re capable of until you get there.”

We proudly salute the hard work, courage, and sacrifices made by Roy Matsumoto, Pioneer Award recipient and the men and women of our armed forces.
SEATTLE
continued from page 7

didn't want to advertise that they were Japanese Americans or that they were of Japanese descent." Comprised of about 6,000 JAs, the MIS conducted confidential intelligence work that was kept secret until the Freedom of Information Act passed in 1974. MIS soldiers were assigned on solo missions or with small groups to the U.S. and other allied units, according to the legislation.

The Congressional Gold Medal is an honor that is long overdue, some JAs say.

"It's a long time coming," said Joe Matsudaira, Brenda's husband, who has two late brothers who served in WWII. "It's kind of difficult for most of them to make it like my wife's dad [Toshio Taniguchi]. He's 90 and we'd like to take him but we can't."

Joe Matsudaira's two late-brothers Michael and John also served during WWII. Although they were unable to attend the Washington, D.C. ceremony, their family members were expected to make the trek.

"I was really looking forward to it. But things happen," said Lillian Matsudaira, 88, who planned to attend the ceremony with her son Gerald, but cancelled her plans days before because of health problems. Her late-husband John Matsudaira served in the 442nd RCT, which is known as the most decorated military unit for its size in U.S. history.

The 442nd RCT and 100th Battalion were awarded with 4,000 Purple Hearts, seven Presidential Unit Citations, 4,000 Bronze Star and 21 Medals of Honor among other distinctions.

Due to the secrecy of the MIS, some feel that their service and sacrifices have been underappreciated.

"In Tosh's case he was in the MIS," said Lauryn Morris, Taniwuchi's long-time boyfriend. "And part of being in the MIS will bring them to secrecy for all these years... he had no one he could actually really relate to in his experiences because they were separate from everybody else's and he was an individual within a British outfit."

Taniguchi's family says he also suffers from dementia, but still remembers the past clearly. They hope the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Seattle will be a day Taniguchi remembers.

"I think he will be proud to receive the medal, but it is coming a little late for him to fully appreciate since his short-term memory is failing him."

— SUSAN JAHROMI, about Toshio Taniguchi's award

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The Taniguchis (here on their wedding day) told officials they had an apple-picking job in order to leave camp and take a honeymoon, said Lauryn Morris.
American Holiday Travel

2012 TOUR SCHEDULE

HOKKAIDO SHOW FESTIVAL TOUR FEB 6-13
Sapporo, Otaru, Sounkyo, Abashiri. Two 3 hour trips to festival sites by intercity bus.

ESHA HOLIDAY TOUR FEB 20-MAR 5

JAPAN CHERY BLOSSOM TOUR APR 1-2
Tokyo, Suzuki, Hiyoriya, Matsumoto, Takayama, Shudo Island, Okaya, Kyama.

NEW YORK CITY GET-AWAY TOUR APR 12

BOKKAIDO AUTUMN HOLIDAY TOUR MAY 9-13
Rusutsu, Abashiri, Shiretoko, Lake Toya, Hakooate. See 5 SnowlIce Festivals. Ride Icebreaker ship.

MT. RUSHMORE-YELLOWSTONE HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 21-30
Custer, Rapid City, Mt Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Cody. Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Jackson, Salt Lake City.

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVALS TOUR FEB 6-13
Fukuoka, Hagi, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara. Option to Paris/Lima, Machu Picchu.

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS HOLIDAY TOUR MAY 19-29
Martha's Vineyard, Newport, New England Lobster Dinner, Plymouth, Cape Cod, Provincetown, Boston.

GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUN 26-JUL 3
Tokyo, Hakone, Mt Fuji, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Nara.

ESHA MUSIC CITIES HOLIDAY TOUR OCT 24-NOV 1
Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich, Cape Cod, Providence, Boston, Martha's Vineyard, Newport, New England Lobster Dinner.

SPECTACULAR ANTARCTIC A HOLIDAY CRUISE NOV 27-DEC 4
Santiago, Ushuaia, Drake Passage, Cape Horn, Antarctica, Kaikoura, Christchurch, Akaroa, Picton, Wellington, Auckland, Sydney, the Ganges River.

American Holiday Travel

Congratulations
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL HONOREES

TOPAZ MUSEUM thanks all of the brave heroes for their service and sacrifice
www.topazmuseum.org

American Holiday Travel

GOLD MEDAL HEROES: (L-r) Hiro Nishikubo, Bruce Kaji and Don Seki reflect on their honor.

JA WWII Veterans Receive Gold Medals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3
Capitol Visitor Center. Due to the venue's capacity limitations, another 1,000 people were expected to watch the live broadcast at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Yosh Nakamura, a veteran of the 442nd RCT, boarded the Honor Flight from Los Angeles, Calif., to attend the ceremony with his wife Grace and daughter Linda.

"They figure it's a once in a lifetime kind of thing," Nakamura said days before the event. "When I found out how many people and how important those people are, who had received the Gold Medal in the past, it makes me feel very humble to be in their company."

Bruce Kaji also left on Oct. 31 aboard the Honor Flight bound for Washington, D.C. Some 160 vets used donated airline tickets to get to the ceremony, said James McLaughlin, chairman of the Honor Flight Network.

"Southwest Airlines had donated free tickets called Green Passes to be used by veterans only to see the event," McLaughlin said. "In many cases without the free tickets these heroes may not be able to attend the event intended to honor them and their service."

President Barack Obama signed the Congressional Gold Medal Bill last year in October. The legislation passed unanimously in the Senate on Aug. 2 of last year.

"While this is a proud moment for Japanese American veterans of World War II, it is a time for the entire community to rejoice at the rich legacy which they left us," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "This was a motivation for our Washington, D.C. JACL office to spend many hours visiting over 50 Senate offices to explain the bill, which resulted in a number of senators becoming co-authors."

The bill originally did not include the heroes of MIS veterans like Bruce Kaji, but was later amended. About 6,000 JAs served in the MIS. Soldiers in the MIS handled classified intelligence, interrogated enemy prisoners of war, intercepted radio transmissions, and..."
translated enemy documents, among other things. Their work was secret until the passage of the Freedom of Information Act in 1974.

“They’re just like part of us now. In fact after you read the stories that came out in the ’70s. Those guys went through hell,” said Hiro Nishikubo, who served in the 442nd RCT. “Especially those guys that were in the islands.”

Bruce Kaji was interned at Manzanar with his family. He was drafted in 1944 after graduating from Manzanar High School. He served in Japan and the Philippines.

“So I wound up in the war crimes tribunal in the Philippines,” Bruce Kaji said. “We’re trying the prisoners who were captured after the war, the Japanese prisoners, and had to clear them of atrocities.”

But a perhaps lesser-known story of the MIS, Bruce Kaji says, is their involvement in “the transition of creating a new government” in Japan.

“That’s why I think even with the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony my own hope is that the government of Japan will also recognize the Nisei for their role in Japan,” said Joe Kaji. “To me I think that would really bring balance to the MIS story.”

After the war, Bruce Kaji went on to become a real estate developer and then the founding president of the Japanese American National Museum, or JANM.

Walking around packs of students viewing the museum’s exhibits that tell the story of the JA experience during WWII, Bruce Kaji explains the importance of educating the youth.

“They spend a day here,” Bruce Kaji said. “We feel that it’s the young people that have to know the history of what happened to Japanese Americans for them to appreciate what we’re all about.”

In the lobby of the museum, days before the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, Bruce Kaji exchanged greetings with WWII veterans Don Seki and Nishikubo, who work as docents at the nearby Go For Broke monument.

“Well, I’ll see you 6:30 in the morning at the airport,” Seki said, a veteran of the 442nd RCT, shortly before he boarded the Honor Flight to the ceremony with Bruce Kaji and other veterans.

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.
Cincinnati JACL congratulates our local heroes, Roy Aka, Walter Oka and James Tojo for their service to our country as members of the Military Intelligence Service.

Fellow Cincinnati MIS and 442nd RCT friends have since passed away. We wish they all could have seen this day.

We humbly honor and recognize your service to our country and to the Japanese community.

We offer our thanks to all veterans who have served our country in all the wars and conflicts.

FLORIN JACL

Congratulations and honors all Gold Medal Veterans.

Thank you for your sacrifice, courage, and valor.

The recognition is long overdue and well deserved.

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FLORIN CHAPTER, NOVEMBER 2011

PVT. STANLEY T. OBA

442 E Company
06/28/1923/04/19/1945
Killed in Action
Castelfiorentino, Italy
Purple Heart
World War II Victory Medal

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, VIRGINIA

From your Brother Calvin, Son and Nephew Richard and his wife Sidney.

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA

2012 TOURS

Mar 5 “Reflections of Italy” $3399 - Rome - Assisi - Perugia - Siena - Florence - Chianti - Venice - Murano - Lugano - Venice - Nordic Heritage Museum - Seattle - Portland - San Francisco

Mar 19 Visit of China - $2985 - Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai


Apr 19 Bermuda & Northeast Cruise-Enchantment of the Seas From $1999 - Bull Harbor - King’s Wharf - Bermuda - Boston, Massachusetts - Newport, Rhode Island - Baltimore

May 7 Japan Super Tour - $2895 - Tokyo - Hakone - Mt. Fuji - Nagoya - Ice Grand Shrine - Nara - Kyoto - Asahiyama - Toyota Motors - Lake Hamana Hot Springs - Flower Park - Tokyo

Jun 4 USA Bus Tour - Great Southwest - $1895 - LA Mesquite - Zion/Bryce - Lake Powell - Monument Valley - Santa Fe - Carlsbad Caverns - Lordsburg - Sedona - Laughlin-LA.

Jun 28 Summer Special Japan “Family Tour” - $2323 - Tokyo- Niseko Highlands - Shirakawa Go - Mt. Fuji - Kyoto - Nara - Osaka - Toyota Motors - Lake Hamana Hot Springs - Tokyo


Jul 29 Alaska Family Cruise-Norwegian Pearl From $2050 - Seward - Inside Passage - Juneau - Skagway - Glacier Bay - Juneau - Victoria - Seattle.


Nov 6 Okinawa & Kyushu - $3995 - 4 Days in Okinawa - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu Hot Springs - Fukuoka

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KOKUSAI-PACIFICA

2012 TOURS

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A DVD and 2 Books About Pearl Harbor

RECENTLY I VIEWED “Killer Subs at Pearl Harbor,” a DVD about the five Japanese mini-submarines, called “tubes” produced at Kure Naval Base in Hiroshima. To remain submerged for a long time, air conditioners were installed for the two-man minisubs, torpedoes were trimmed to fit, and a gyrocompass provided direction while underway.

By late November 1941, minisubs were transported to Hawaii. Their mission was not to fire until after the air attack. That their orders were personally handed from the Japanese Sixth Fleet admiral only heightened the glory to come.

The DVD mentions each minisub by number that entered Honolulu Harbor, but not No. 3—it struck a reef miles away from Pearl Harbor and sank. For details, I read Gordon Franges’ “At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor” and sat glued to Chapter 58, “This Means War.”

Aboard the first class sub 1-24, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki peered through the periscope at the lights blinking from Pearl Harbor. His gyrocompass had been out of order and efforts to fix it were fruitless. Nonetheless, Sakamaki’s and his crewman Kiyoshi Inagaki’s enthusiasm were fired, shooting off to Pearl Harbor.


Near the end of his life when asked to comment on how Japan developed postwar, Sakamaki believed Japan was in a quandary; death notices were not made public but a prisoner was listed as “attached to Yokosuka Navy Yard.” During his first eight weeks in Hawaii, he was constantly interrogated by Lt. Giro Iwai and Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Wada, two Nisei in the Navy war.

The only thing Sakamaki knew was that he was a total failure; his submarine fell into enemy hands and he suffered the ultimate shame of becoming a POW. Unprepared psychologically, he fell into deep depression with thoughts of suicide.

Following Japan’s surrender, Sakamaki was returned to his homeland, debriefed by Japanese naval officers now compiling a history of paws and was told not to feel ashamed nor worry about his POW status.

Academy both in a series of laws enacted against Chinese laborers, but when they attain business success while Americans felt threatened and economically threatened.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was one of those periods ... another great source for insight into the history of Chinese immigration to America in the boxset of films on DVDs (also available individually) by filmmaker Arthur Dong, who explores his Chinese American identity in sharply observed, evocative documentaries and short features. (http://deepfocusproductions.com/)

His “Stories from Chinese America Collection, Vol. 2” includes “Hollywood Chinese,” a fascinating documentary that traces Chinese in the U.S. movie industry with revealing insights from Asian actors as well as Caucasian actors like Christopher Lee and Luise Rainer, who played Chinese characters in yellowface makeup.

The second disc in the set, “Forbidden City, U.S.A.,” is a loving chronicle of a famed nightclub — Forbidden City was considered the Asian Cotton Club — in San Francisco throughout the 1930s to the ’50s. The third disc in Dong’s trilogy is “A Toisan Trilogy,” shorter films directed by Dong that include the 29-minute feature, “Lotus,” about a woman in early 20th-century China with bound feet and the changing role of women.

Knowing the history of China and Chinese people, and understanding its relationship to the rest of the world both a century ago and today will surely break down some barriers between our countries and people.

And hopefully, learning about the Chinese will eventually help eliminate the ignorance that spills out into China-bashing every few years when Americans feel economically threatened. ■

Gil Asakawa is a former Pacific Citizen editorial board chair.

**Anti-Chinese Sentiment Lingers, Even After U.S. Senate Apologizes**

It took four decades before Japanese Americans received a formal apology for the WWII internment. The apology was part of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. The Chinese in America are still waiting for an apology from the top. 129 years after the Chinese Exclusion Act was signed by President Chester A. Arthur.

The Chinese Exclusion Act was one of a series of laws enacted against Chinese immigrants starting in 1879 through 1904. The 1882 Exclusion Act squeezed Chinese immigration to the U.S. to barely a trickle — and cut down rights for Chinese already in the U.S., for example by excluding Chinese from citizenship and therefore denying them the right to own any property.

Amazingly, the act remained on the books until 1943, when it was repealed in large part because China began an ally during WWII. It remains to this day the only U.S. legislation that singles out people by ethnicity or national origin.

On Oct. 11, with the help of organizations including the 1882 Project, JACL and OCA, the Senate passed a resolution apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion Act. Now these groups are pushing for a similar bill, House Resolution 282, to pass in the House.

Mainstream American culture goes in cycles when it comes to anti-Chinese sentiment, and we’re in one of those periods ...
Polaris Tours

Presents:

2011 Tour Schedule

Dec. 4 - Dec. 10: Holiday in Las Vegas Show: "The Immortal World Tour"

2012 Tour Schedule

Mar. 19 - Mar. 29: Majestic China: "Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, Beijing"
Apr. 5 - Apr. 12: Spring Japan: "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"
Apr. 12 - Apr. 21: Beautiful South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Site
Apr. 22 - Apr. 28: 100th Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC & Williamsburg
May 6 - May 20: Treasures of Turkey: Where Europe meets Asia
May 24 - May 26: Summer Time Las Vegas Show: Red Stewart or Garth Brooks
Jun. 11 - Jun. 24: Discover Croatia: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia
Jul. 24 - Aug. 22: Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"
Aug. 4 - Aug. 12: Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park
Sep. 6 - Sep. 17: Let's Go Helsinki
Sep. 29 - Oct. 10: The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany
Sep. 28 - Oct. 6: Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle
Oct. 16 - Oct. 25: Austria Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors
Oct. 25 - Nov. 4: Spectacular South Africa
Nov. 1 - Nov. 11: The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 29 - Dec. 1: Holiday in Las Vegas Show: TBA

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Mt. Olympus JACL honors the servicemen of the 100th, 442nd and the MIS.

Thank you for serving our country.

In Loving Memory of

2nd Lt. David M. Tsuruda
442nd Regimental Combat Team, Co. E

Lovingly,
Kay Tsuruda, daughter Nancy Santo, grandsons David and Tim, and Family.

www.pacificcitizen.org
TRIBUTE

Johnny Chuichi Niizawa
August 9, 1925 - October 11, 2011

Yoshiko Kotsubo Niizawa after 60 years and 11 months of marriage. He also is survived by his son, Stanley T. Niizawa of Clovis. He was preceded in death by his daughter Janet H. Niizawa, in 1978.

Johnny was a Military Intelligence Service linguist during WWII, stationed at the Tokyo Headquarters during the occupation period. Johnny was active in the Sanger-Fresno community in the local JACL and was a founding member of the Kerr Nakagawa Baseball History Project. He worked many different jobs in and around the Central Valley farming community and most recently, as an insurance agent. He is still remembered for his prowess as a young teenager and even as an adult for his baseball pitching talent. His hobbies were fishing, hunting and bowling.

Johnny will be missed by his siblings, his in-laws, and many nieces and nephews. Graveside services were held at the Sanger Cemetery on October 19, 2011.

Masaye Hiura
October 18, 2011

Masaye Hiura of Palo Alto passed away surrounded by her loving family on Oct. 18, 2011. She was 98 years old. Masaye was married to the late George Hiura. She worked beside her husband, son and granddaughter as a lab technician for nearly 70 years. She was an avid golfer and enjoyed being with her family. She is survived by her son, Gregory; daughter, Joanne; five grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; and sister, Toshiye. Services will be held at 11:00 on Sat. Nov. 12 at Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church.

TRIBUTE

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Congratulations to New England’s Gold Medal honorees
James Inashima, MIS
Suzumu Ito, 442nd
Tetsuo Takayanagi, MIS
and to all the Gold Medal recipients with grateful thanks for all they did for us.

New England Chapter JACL
Where it all began... at the Presidio of San Francisco

Upcoming event
Veterans Day
Friday, Nov. 11, 2011
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Presidio Cemetery Overlook
Presidio of San Francisco
(In recognition of the CGM Award Ceremony, Nov. 2, 2011)

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.”

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 restoration is complete, November 2012. 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.