Thousands attended a vigil organized by the Los Angeles LGBT Center, which was held in front of Los Angeles City Hall.

United We STAND

Nationwide vigils pay tribute to lives lost in the June 12 Orlando shooting.

PHOTO: MARISHA AZUMI

» PAGES 6 & 7
JACL National Convention Preview

» PAGE 8
Norman Y. Mineta
Documentary in Production
JACL ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PRISCILLA OUCHIDA’S RESIGNATION

Dear JACL Members, Friends and Supporters,

The Japanese American Citizens League announces that Ms. Priscilla Ouchida has resigned as Executive Director effective as of yesterday, Tuesday, June 14, 2016. We thank her for her service and for leading the organization for the past four years. We are grateful for her passion and commitment to our organization and we wish her well in her future endeavors.

As JACL moves forward as an organization, we recommit ourselves to our core values and our mission. We will continue to promote civic engagement and advocacy at the national and local levels and to ensure that our community is well represented in all aspects of society. We will also continue to build upon our relationships with partner organizations and our management of successful programs such as the Kakehashi Project. During this transition period, William Yoshino, JACL Midwest Director, has graciously agreed to be JACL’s point person until an interim Executive Director is identified. The JACL National Board will continue to work closely with staff, membership, and community partners to ensure a smooth transition.

We will be sure to keep you updated on the next steps for the organization as we continue to fight for civil rights on behalf of Japanese Americans and all communities.

Sincerely,

JACL National Board

JACL STATEMENT ON THE TRAGEDY IN ORLANDO

The JACL re­leased the fol­low­ing state­ment in re­sponse to the tragedy that struck the Pulse nightclub in Orland­o, Fla., in the early morn­ing hours of June 12 in which 49 peo­ple were killed and dozens wounded follow­ing a ter­ror attack by a lone gun­man. The tragedy is now the dead­liest mass shot­ting in U.S. his­tory.

The Japanese American Citizens League mourns the loss of innocent lives in the hor­ri­fied attack on a nightclub serving the LGBTQ commu­nity in Orlando, Fla. In a larger sense, this was not an attack solely on the LGBTQ community, but rather it was an attack on all Americans because the strength of our country rests in our embrace of the differences that make our society unique.

As we mourn the victims and we express condolences to their families, we also express our thoughts for a full recovery for the wounded.

During this time of profound sadness, we extend our support to the LGBTQ community who may understandably feel a sense of isolation and vulnerability. Moreover, we extend our support to the Muslim American community by urging Americans not to react in hatred.

President Obama aptly stated that the Orlando nightclub “is a place of solidarity and empower­ment.” This message reinforces the unique values that describe America as inclusive, as tolerant and accepting, and as a sanctuary where we can be safe in being who we are.

The P.C.’s mission is to “educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.”

More than ever, your tax-deductible funds will help preserve the legacy of the Pacific Citizen. Donations of $150 or more will be entered in a monthly drawing for a box of “Fugetsu-Do” Japanese manju delivered to the winner’s door.
A MOTHER’S TAKE

A PROMISE TO AIDEN

By Marsha Aizumi

I woke up on Sunday, and my heart broke into a million pieces. Filling the news was the massacre in Orlando. It happened to those I didn’t know, but I fought so hard to keep safe. I thought about the mothers who went to sleep unknowing and woke up finding out their sons were dead. I could feel my heart close up . . . I could feel my spirit begin to lose hope.

The world just felt less safe for Aiden.

My heart shudders at the thought that someone who doesn’t even know my beautiful child would want to harm him because of the fear and judgment that is sweeping the country. But when faced with things they don’t understand, people too often allow themselves to be consumed by fear, distrust and hatred and not compassionately seek the truth.

I mourned, but I didn’t cry. All I felt was numb.

But the LGBTQ community is strong, and so thousands of us came together last night, with so many straight allies there to support us. It was a vigil organized by the Los Angeles LGBT Center in front of Los Angeles City Hall.

Many of us clung to each other as the Los Angeles Gay Men’s Choir sang the song “True Colors.” There were people crying and some even sobbing. We heard speeches. The names of the people murdered in Orlando were read along with their ages. It was a night to grieve, to support each other, to talk about this devastation, to find strength, but most of all to come together with love, so that those who would bring fear, shame and hatred to our door would not be allowed to come in.

Okaeri 2016 was at the vigil. Originally coming together for our monthly planning meeting, our group decided that we all needed to attend the vigil to be with the community and heal our hearts. It is not possible to passionately do this work, if we don’t have hope.

But there are words, and there are actions. And so I thought to myself, “What are you going to do?” I used to think I am only one person, one voice, and so what can I do? Today, I know that one person and one voice can do so much. Am I going to use my voice for more peace and love or am I going to allow darkness and fear into my life? I will always choose love.

So here is what I vow to do. I will vote in the election for those who I believe will bring more peace and love with their leadership. I am not talking about just the president, but any elected official.

I will work to bring more visibility and voice to the churches, so that more leaders of faith will focus on love and not the words that describe the thinking of so long ago, so longer relevant in the modern time.

And today, I am going to have lunch with my son, so I can hold him tighter, tell him how much I love him and promise him I will work harder, so he does not give up hope that he can live a life of purpose and dignity. I want Aiden to know he is respected and valued for all of who he is.

Please help me create this kind of world for all of our children.

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

SHOULD TERRORISTS BE ALLOWED TO BEAR ARMS?

By Matthew Ormseth

A
der a gunman opened fire on revelers at a popular gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 12, President Barack Obama repeated the same threadbare words trotted out after Sandy Hook, Aurora and San Bernardino. “The shooter was apparently armed with a handgun and a powerful assault rifle,” he said. “This massacre is therefore a further reminder of how easy it is for someone to get their hands on a weapon that lets them shoot people in a school, or in a house of worship, or a movie theater or in a nightclub.”

Much has been made of the shooter’s religious beliefs, Afghani background and possible links to the Islamic State, and much less of the fact that he was able to purchase — legally — the weapons used to carry out the massacre.

Time and again, we express shock, grief and outrage after each mass shooting. We change our profile pictures in gestures of solidarity with the victims. We write and read editorials, blog posts and Facebook statuses condemning the perpetrators and the violence they inflicted. And then we do absolutely nothing to reduce the possibility of another one occurring.

Gun sales spike after each new massacre; buyers want to protect themselves, but they also fear the passage of new legislation that might restrict their right to buy firearms at will. They shouldn’t.

President Obama’s pledge after the Sandy Hook shoot-

ing that left 28 dead to “take meaningful action” has been hamstrung by our representatives in Washington who, cowed into submission by the powerful firearms lobby, refuse to take meaningful action to regulate the sale of high-powered assault rifles like the one used in the Orlando attack. Renewed calls for increased firearm regulation have lost their urgency and efficacy because people no longer believe that our politicians will respond to them.

It will be interesting to see how Donald Trump, the presumed Republican nominee, and his supporters respond to the Orlando massacre. On the one hand, Trump has portrayed himself as a staunch advocate of Second Amendment rights. In a July 26, 2015, interview with CNN, he declared, “I’m a Second Amendment person. I believe in it so strongly, and if you take the guns away from the good people, and the bad ones are going to have target practice.”

On the other hand, the presidential hopeful has drawn much of his support on the promise to be tougher on America’s enemies abroad, particularly on terrorist groups like the Islamic State and Al Qaeda.

Just hours after news of the nightclub shooting broke, Trump tweeted, “Appreciate the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism, I don’t want congrats, I want toughness & vigilance. We must be smart!”

If Trump is truly serious about preventing another attack either inspired or directed by the Islamic State, he should support an assault weapons ban.

The husband and wife duo responsible for the Dec. 2, 2015, shooting in San Bernardino acquired their weapons — two semi-automatic assault rifles and two handguns, along with thousands of rounds of ammunition — through legal means. Trumps’ response to the San Bernardino attack? A call for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on,” according to a press release uploaded to the man’s campaign website on Dec. 7, 2015, five days after the attack.

The “toughness and vigilance” we need in the wake of this latest episode of firearm-inflicted violence does not come in the form of a blanket ban on immigration from the Middle East. It comes in the form of a tightening of the absurdly — and now horrifically — lax gun laws we have in this country.

If our leaders are serious about protecting U.S. citizens from the possibility of being gunned down in a nightclub, or a school or a church, they need to take action to ensure that assault weapons are kept out of the hands of the murderers.

Murderers belong to no specific faith or ethnicity. In the days to come, there will no doubt be calls to restrict immigration from the Middle East, monitor Muslim communities in the U.S. and increase online surveillance of Islamic State correspondence.

>> See BEAR ARMS on page 12
JA CL WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS MALIN OUK AND JENNIFER KAKU

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JA CL, Washington, D.C., office recently welcomed summer interns Malin Ouk and Jennifer Kaku, both of whom will work with JA CL for a 10-week period.

Ouk is the 2016 John K. Moy/Southwest Internship Program intern and will also be working with JA CL through mid-August. She is from Long Beach, Calif., and is currently attending San Diego State University, where she is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in International Security and Conflict Resolution with a minor in Entrepreneurship and Women’s Studies.

Ouk’s passions are to inspire others and make a big transformation in the world. She attended the inaugural Kakehashi Project Trip, which began her first journey with JA CL. Ouk is also an active member of the San Diego Chapter and works under the leadership of Carol and David Kawamoto.

Kaku is a participant in the OCA Summer Internship program and will also be working with JA CL through mid-August. She is a junior at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., and is a social-cultural anthropology and Asian American studies double major. She is heavily involved in Asian American Pacific Islander community organizing on her campus and is a program coordinator at the Center for Asian Pacific American Coalition.

Kaku grew up in Arlington, Va., and lived in Tokyo, Japan, for two years.

JACL welcomes Ouk and Kaku!

JA US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COMMANDER CAPS 38 YEARS OF SERVICE


Bostick served as the chief of engineers since May 22, 2012, and retired with 38 years of service in the U.S. Army.

As the USACE commanding general, Bostick served as the senior military officer overseeing most of the nation’s civil works infrastructure and military construction. He was responsible for more than 32,000 civilian employees and 700 military personnel who provide project management, construction support and engineering expertise in more than 110 countries around the world.

USACE has a key role in supporting overseas contingency operations, with thousands of civilians and soldiers having deployed to support military operations and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“USACE is comprised of extremely loyal and competent civil servants,” said Bostick. “I am constantly impressed by our personnel at the locks and dams, and our park rangers, program and project managers, attorneys, scientists and, of course, our engineers.”

Bostick was born in Fukuoka, Japan. His mother was a Japanese national from Amami island, a popular resort area south of Kyushu. She met Bostick’s father, an American soldier, in Okinawa.

Bostick is proud of his Japanese heritage and in 2011 facilitated an Army review that resulted in the award of Bronze Star Medals to some 80 members of the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1978, Bostick holds a master’s degree in civil engineering and mechanical engineering from Stanford University and a master’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia. He and his wife, Renee, will reside in Arlington, Va.

— Bernard W. Tate, Public Relations, Army Corps of Engineers

APAs in the News/News Bytes

Thousands Attend Vigils Across U.S. to Support Orlando Victims

In New York, people crowded the streets June 13 around the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, where large-scale gay rights activism got its start in 1969. Under banners heralding the upcoming Pride Week events, people held hands and chanted “love beats hate” from the crowd as New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke.

In Orlando, thousands of people gathered June 13 to show support for the victims and survivors. The vigil was held on the lawn of the Dr. Phillips Center, the area’s main performing arts venue, the site of the makeshift memorial to the victims of the attack.

Said former Pulse employee Cathleen Daus, “Pulse gave me confidence, made me realize I was normal and so much like everyone else.”

In Los Angeles, Lady Gaga addressed a standing-room only crowd on June 13 at Los Angeles City Hall, and the singer began a joint reading of the 49 victims’ names. Rainbow colors of the gay pride flag also flew on the side of the California Capitol and on the floor of the Senate, and in San Francisco, home to one of the nation’s largest gay communities, police had additional officers on hand at popular LGBT venues to offer increased security and protection.

In Washington, D.C., a Muslim American women’s group held a candlelight vigil June 13 in Dupont Circle to stand together against anti-gay, anti-transgender and anti-Muslim bias.

In Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards described the Orlando shooting victims as “our brothers and sisters” during a vigil with Louisiana’s legislative leaders at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. In New Orleans, dozens gathered June 13 near the French Quarter to pray for the families and victims.

And in Hawaii, members and supporters of Maui’s LGBT community gathered to honor the victims of the Orlando nightclub attack by extending the rainbow colors of the gay pride flag at the sunrise and sunset of the day. The Maui Same Seeks LGBT Resort, where those gathered urged everyone to link arms and not give in to fear and hatred. In Honolulu, Rainbow Family 508 was host to a gathering at Honolulu Hale, where the city government and mayor’s office are housed, to watch as rainbow lights illuminated the buildings.

Keiko Fujimori Is Defeated in Peru Presidential Election

LIMA, PERU — Keiko Fujimori, the daughter of former president Alberto Fujimori, was defeated by a narrow margin by Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, the country’s former prime minister, during a presidential runoff election on June 9.

Kuczynski, 77, won 50.12 percent of the vote vs. Fujimori, 41, who earned 49.88 percent. Kuczynski will now succeed outgoing president Ollanta Humala next month to serve a five-year term.

The runoff election was held after both candidates failed to receive 50 percent of the vote needed to secure office in the first round of voting in April.

If she had won, Fujimori would of become Peru’s first female president. She previously ran for office in 2011, narrowly defeated by Humala in a campaign that was overshadowed by negative feedback from voters regarding her father’s tarnished presidential history.

Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka to Face Potential Five-Year Prison Term

LOS ANGELES — Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, 57, who was convicted in April of felony charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice, will face a potential five-year prison term, prosecutors announced. Tanaka’s sentencing is scheduled for June 27.

Tanaka was found guilty of participating in a multilayered conspiracy to thwart a federal probe of misconduct in the jails. He currently remains the mayor of Gardena, Calif., despite his conviction. He faces a maximum of 15 years in prison, even though prosecutors are seeking a lesser term.

The ultimate decision rests upon U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson.

“After several trials and tens of convictions of Los Angeles County sheriff’s officials, one thing is abundantly clear: Defendant Paul Tanaka is responsible not only for obstructing justice but also for fostering the culture that led to the significant problems in the Los Angeles County jails,” federal prosecutors wrote in presenting papers filed with the court.

Once Tanaka is sentenced, the Gardena City Council has 60 days to decide whether to hold a special election or appoint a new mayor that will serve the remainder of Tanaka’s term, which ends in March 2017.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press
Open Letter to JACL Members,

Recently you may have seen an announcement that I had applied to run for Vice President, General Operations at the upcoming National Convention that starts on July 11th in Las Vegas.

I’ve been on the National Board for 7 years now, both as a District Governor and as the Vice President for Planning and Development. After a little soul searching I’ve decided that it would probably be best if I withdrew my application.

I’ve always let the values of Loyalty, Integrity and Enthusiasm drive the projects that I take on, and during my 21 year Army career, I learned how to take charge, and more importantly, when to get out of the way.

I think it’s time for me to take a sabbatical from my duties on the National Board and to devote more time at the District and Chapter levels of JACL which I enjoy very much. Perhaps this is an opportunity for younger members to run for office from the convention floor to lead JACL into new and exciting directions.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the National Convention in Las Vegas and I hope everyone has a great summer!

Very Respectfully,

Chip Larouche
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN OF THE BIENNIAL AWARD

The Japanese American of the Biennium Award is the highest public award of the National JACL. It has been continuously awarded to an American of Japanese ancestry who has exhibited community leadership or given in recognition of one's distinguished achievement. This year's recipients are Carole Hayashino, Dan and June Kuramoto and Delphine Hirasuna.

Carole Hayashino is receiving the award under “Education and Humanities” for her career-long efforts to address social justice issues facing the Japanese American community. As president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, she has led efforts to highlight and memorialize the World War II experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawaii.

Hayashino is currently directing the creation of a new Honolulu Education Center, in honor of the internment camp in Hawaii, which will be permanently located in the community gallery at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

Among her career highlights, Hayashino served as National JACL staff to the National Committee for Redress in the 1980s and later served as associate director of the JACL. From 1996-2005, she was the associate VP for university development at San Francisco State University. She was then appointed as vp for university advancement at California State University, Sacramento, and was the chief administrative officer of the University Foundation. She retired from California State University, Sacramento, as vp emeriti of advancement in 2012. Hayashino also served two terms on the Marin Community College District Board, having been elected in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. In addition, she served on the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program’s Advisory Board in the State Librarian’s Office from 1998-2011. From 1996-2004, she also served on the Marin County Human Rights Commission.

Hayashino was appointed to the State Commission for One California, where she worked successfully with Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante, Universal Studios and the California Teachers Assn. to release and distribute the video “Farewell to Manzanar” to all California schools and public libraries.

Dan and June Kuramoto are receiving recognition under “Arts, Literature and Communications.” They are the founders of the multi-award-winning jazz band Hiroshima. Their work has proved that Japanese Americans can be leaders in an industry that has had minimal representation from the Asian American community. Hiroshima represents Asian America and has crossed ethnic borders, bringing Japanese American elements to popular American music.

During their illustrious career, Dan and June Kuramoto have received two Grammy nominations, produced 20 albums and earned numerous accolades from the music industry, community and government.

In 1979, Hiroshima received an Emmy Award for “Best Music, Children’s Series.” In 1980, the ensemble was named Billboard’s “Top New Jazz Artist” and in 1981, the group received a Grammy nomination for “Best R&B Instrumental Performance.” In 1985, Hiroshima was named “Top 10 Contemporary Jazz” and received Performance Magazine’s “Best Live Jazz Group” award in 1986. In 2009, Hiroshima received another Grammy Award Nomination for “Best Pop Instrumental Performance” and was featured in the “Thousand Hearts” Japan Relief Concert in 2011. Most recently, Hiroshima performed a musical tribute to Karen Ishizuka and Robert Nakamura at the Japanese American National Museum 2015 Gala Dinner. The ensemble also received the Asia America Symphony Association and Guild 2015 Bravo Award for “Community Champions” for its support of AASA and other community organizations.


Hirasuna’s work has amplified the preservation of artifacts and craft art produced in Japanese American prisons during World War II and the utilization of those artifacts to educate the American public about the Japanese American experience.

In 2001, artifacts featured in Hirasuna’s book “The Art of Gaman” were turned into a traveling exhibition. She organized and curated the exhibition, which has been viewed by more than 500,000 visitors.

Hirasuna also serves as the principal of Hirasuna Editorial, founded in 1985 to provide editorial supervision and copyright writing services to corporations, graphic design firms and advertising agencies throughout the United States. Her projects have won dozens of national and international awards.

In addition to her corporate consulting work, Hirasuna has authored several additional books on design and other subjects. Among her published works are “Presidio Gateways,” “Design Impact,” “Flavors of Japan” (nominated for a National Tastemakers Award), “101 Baseball Icons From the Baseball Hall of Fame,” “100 American Flags,” “Tejon Ranch” and “Obsessions.”

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The Future of the Pacific Citizen

A panel of prominent industry stakeholders will lead a conversation about the current and future prognosis for ethnic newspapers, the outlook for advertising revenue and trends for ethnic media. This plenary offers the audience an opportunity to understand issues relating to the Pacific Citizen from some of the top experts in the field, David Lin, national president of the JACL, will be the moderator, and panel participants are Bill Imada, Gil Asakawa and Jay Kim.

David Lin serves as national president of the Japanese American Citizens League and holds the position of VP public affairs and advocacy at IW Group, Inc. in New York. In this capacity, he advises his clients on developing and implementing winning strategies and campaigns at local, state and national levels to advance clients’ business goals and objectives.

Bill Imada is founder, chairman and chief connectivity officer of IW Group. Imada was appointed to the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by President Obama. Imada is active in the community and serves on more than seven boards and advisory councils.

>>
Jay Kim is currently the managing director of AAAAZA, Inc. His leadership experience includes starting a digital production team for IMG Media to manage clients and build interactive tools for sports marketing. Kim also put together a digital ensemble to manage PlayStation’s CRM and loyalty program. Last but not least, he leads a robust team that handles multicultural marketing, taking his advertising agency to the next level.

Who Do We Represent? Multiracial and Shin-Nikkei Experiences

How can JACL position itself as an organization that is inclusive and affirming of the diversity of identities and experiences that comprise the broader Nikkei community? The Japanese American community is changing. Between the year 2000 and 2010, there was a 55 percent increase in the number of individuals reporting a multiracial and multiracial-multicultural Japanese identity. Japanese Americans have the highest percentage of individuals reporting multiracial and multiracial identities among all Asian American groups. A growing proportion of the Japanese American community is “Shin-Nikkei,” the Japanese community that migrated to the United States after 1975.

The Toy Book, a history of the toys Japanese community of this great nation. Having served in a volunteer leadership position in many community nonprofit organizations for nearly 40 years, I have a lot to give the national leadership of JACL.

Volunteerism started in high school participating in the student body leadership at Eagle Rock High School in Los Angeles, Calif. As a college student at California State University, Northridge (CSUN), I was the leadership of the three student organizations and founded two of them.

The JACL experience for me was one that emphasized service through leadership. The curiosity started when I attended my first National Board meeting in September of 1990 with Lillian Kimura as president.

Having served on the National board from 1996-2002, I have seen first-hand how

JACL OFFICIAL CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Following are statements from the candidates running for JACL national office; voting will take place at this year’s National Convention in Las Vegas at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Gary Mayeda

The JACL has a longstanding history of protecting and serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander community of this great nation. Having served in a volunteer leadership position in many community nonprofit organizations for nearly 40 years, I have a lot to give the national leadership of JACL.

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Having served on the National board from 1996-2002, I have seen first-hand how

issues affect districts differently and to be sensitive to them. Serving on nearly every Convention Committee as well as assisting in writing amendments to the National Constitution and Bylaws helped to understand the organization’s inner workings.

In 2011, I served as the National Convention Chair in Hollywood, Calif., where it was the third-highest profitable convention in JACL’s history. This was also the first year that the profit split was not 50/50, National received 60 percent that year.

JACL needs to deal with financial stability and sustainability. Using every tool such as personal partnerships and Pacific Citizen advertisers, we can develop financial relationships with people that need our outreach and historical knowledge of the APA experience. We need our assets to work for us, and we need to coordinate that so that every arm of JACL knows what the other arm is doing.

With my long-term 28-plus years’ active history with JACL, I can honorably serve the JACL for you

NATIONAL VP FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS
Chip Larouche has withdrawn his nomination for this office.

Jeffrey Moy

My name is Jeffrey Moy, and I am running for a second term as VP for public affairs. I am currently program manager for the Culture of Health Leaders program at the National Collaborative for Health Equity in Washington, D.C., which examines cross-disciplinary collaborative solutions to health inequities facing communities around the country.

My job experience has primarily been in the nonprofit sector managing programmatic initiatives, and I have a Master of Public Administration degree from Baruch College, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Psychology from the University of Southern California.

As I complete my first term, I am excited at the possibility of continuing to serve the JACL and provide continuity as much of the current board transitions.

Without question, the most challenging issue the JACL faces is our budget. Make no mistake, the current budget deficit presents an extremely serious concern, one that could mean the end of our organization as we know it.

Whoever serves on the next National Board will face the difficult task of ensuring that the organization is able to move forward in a sustainable manner, and that all of us as members are engaged during this difficult time.

We must be realistic about what we can achieve, creative when considering solutions and diligent in ensuring that we have the means to support our staff in the continued fight for social justice.

But with this tough situation comes opportunity. As we consider budget priorities and envision new ways to fund our activities, we should also think about what work truly expresses our values. Instead of continuing to talk about our future, we have a chance to start changing today. I look forward to tackling this challenge with all of you in the hopes of making JACL stronger than ever.
AN AMERICAN HERO STORY TOLD IN FIRST-EVER NORMAN Y. MINETA DOCUMENTARY

By P.C. Staff

For the first time ever, a documentary with the commitment and involvement of Norman Y. Mineta will be produced titled “All-American: The Legacy of Norman Y. Mineta.” As part of the Mineta Legacy Project, the documentary will stand alongside an educational curriculum geared toward high school and college-level students.

“We admire and respect what Norm has done and who he is. The public doesn’t know him on a big stage, and we want to take the opportunity to educate on his contributions. What Norm has successfully done is extraordinary,” said the film’s co-producer Dianne Fukami. Fukami and co-producer Debra Nakatomi previously filmed “Stories From Tohoku” together, a film that tells the struggles of the Tohoku earthquake disaster survivors and the nuclear crisis.

The documentary, “All-American: The Legacy of Norman Y. Mineta,” will tell the story of Mineta’s life, career and contributions. From his time as a boy incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming during World War II, Mineta’s life reflects themes relevant to today’s audience: social justice and equality; leadership and statesmanship; bipartisanship and patriotism; civic engagement and inclusion.

“A focal point is harkening back to his experiences at Heart Mountain,” Nakatomi said. “Going back to that time as he experiences loss and seeing the challenges his parents faced gave him perspective as a man and as an elected official. He never lost hope and his sense of belief in the Constitution and what is good about America. Norm is in so many ways an American hero story.”

Mineta was the first Asian American mayor of a major U.S. city (San Jose, Calif.), a respected member of Congress and champion during Redress and as Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of Transportation in the Democratic and Republican presidential cabinets, respectively. He was called upon time and time again to protect the rites of marginalized communities and work with legislative civility as well as bipartisanship. On Sept. 9, 2011, it was Mineta’s voice that grounded all air traffic and reminded President George W. Bush the harm of racial profiling people from the Midwest.

Today at age 84, Mineta continues to travel to Japan annually with his wife and travels across the U.S., inspiring leaders, promoting civic engagement and public service.

For his service to his country, Mineta was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, in 2006. Today he works as a facilitator between the U.S. and Japan and often consults U.S. and Japanese government officials and business executives.

Now, his story will be shared on the national stage with a robust educational component.

Unlike other documentaries where an educational supplement is created after the film is completed, Mineta’s project and the film will be developed together. The Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE) at Stanford University will develop the materials and curriculum. It will be made available for free on an open-source website with exclusive content, materials and anticipated participants include President Bush as well as President Bill Clinton.

The website can also be hosted on other community partner websites such as the Japanese American National Museum, the Japanese American Historical Society and the Heart Mountain Foundation.

Plans for the documentary include a national broadcast on PBS stations as well as discussions with KQED in San Francisco and WETA in Washington, D.C. The documentary will also enter film festivals and be available for community screenings.

Funding is still ongoing. Those interested in supporting this project can visit www.normanminetafilm.com for donations and more information.

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta speaks at the U.S.-Japan Council reception in 2009, celebrating the two nation’s unity and progress.

National VP for Planning and Development

Matthew D. Farrelly

Thank you for the honor of serving as VP for planning and development during the 2016-18 biennium. It is truly a great pleasure to fulfill this role and lead JACL toward continued prosperity. I owe the success of this term to my fellow colleagues on the JACL National Board members, the dedicated and hard-working staff and to the membership who have given me their trust to serve in this important role.

When I ran for office during the period leading up to the 2016 National Convention, I was committed to three vital initiatives: 1) Continued support of existing grant and scholarship programs, 2) Increased focus on long-term strategic planning and short-term tactical goals and 3) An increased effort on fundraising. Not only were these the platform initiatives I ran on, but more importantly the goals, which will define my term as VP for planning and development. Despite our past accomplishments in these areas, I believe there is always room for improvement. So, as I am preparing to serve the membership in this role, I look forward to continually focusing on and improving our grant and scholarship programming, strategic planning and fundraising efforts as an organization.

In closing, I believe my experience serving on the National Board, working in project management and my business education will greatly aide me in contributing towards the success of the organization during the 2016-18 biennium.

National VP for One Thousand Club, Membership and Services

No Applications Submitted.

National Secretary Treasurer

No Applications Submitted.

National Youth/Student Representative

No Applications Submitted.

National Youth/Student Chairperson

Kota Mizutani

To Be Like Dorothy

Today, I am incredibly blessed to call the JACL my home community. Since I was in middle school, the JACL has been central to my personal life, academic pursuits and career aspirations in social justice advocacy.

Yet, when I first encountered the JACL in my home of Northern California, I realized that my background did not fit the JACL’s dominant narrative and feared that I would never find a place in the organization.

As a shin-Nikkei whose parents were born and raised in Japan, I am not related to anyone in the community like my peers, and my relatives endured the hardships of World War II in Japan — far from any incarceration camps.

If it were not for the love and wisdom of a compassionate community elder, Dorothy Shimizu, I may have never been inspired to join my local chapter board, attend every JACL National Convention as a delegate since 2010, serve on the National Youth/Student Council or pursue my passion for civil rights advocacy at Brown University.

Dorothy taught me both the power of sharing and discussing the Nikkei experience to fight social injustice as well as the vital importance of inclusivity.

To combat the crisis of declining membership and decreasing youth engagement, I will prioritize inclusivity as NYSC chairperson. Through new programming and outreach efforts within both the NYSC and general JACL, I will work to elevate the voices and experiences of shin-Nikkei, mixed-race and API identities that are not always heard.

Such inclusion would allow the JACL to not only engage an expanded community of Nikkeis and other minority groups, but also expand its reputation from “the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States” to include “the most effective and innovative civil rights organization in the United States.”

For the latest updates to the 2016 JACL National Convention, visit www.jacl.org.
SEABROOK’S JOHN FUYUUME THROWS ‘FIRST PITCH’

By Sharon Yoshida, JACL Seabrook Chapter

Seabrook Chapter JACL member John Fuyuume threw out the “first pitch” at the Philadelphia Phillies’ Asian Pacific Celebration Night game against the N.Y. Mets on April 18.

JACM Announces Interim President/CEO

LOS ANGELES — Norman Y. Mineta, chair of the board of trustees of the Japanese American National Museum, announced June 8 that Ann Burroughs (pictured) has been named interim president and CEO of the museum, effective immediately. For the remainder of his tenure — through the month of June — Greg Kimura, the outgoing president and CEO, will provide consultation and share institutional knowledge to ensure a smooth transition.

Burroughs brings more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and management, resource development, strategic planning and financial communications. She has worked at the executive director level, as an interim director, as a member of senior management teams, as a nonprofit consultant, and as an executive coach.

She also has deep experience working with organizations in transition and with diverse communities in the U.S. and around the world. Burroughs is currently chair of the board of directors of Amnesty International USA and has served on several other boards.

“The mission and values of the Japanese American National Museum resonate deeply with my own lifelong commitment to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,” Burroughs said. “It’s an honor to be joining the team as interim president and CEO, and I look forward to working closely with the board, staff and volunteers in the coming months of transition.”

Burroughs’ work with Amnesty International USA is particularly meaningful to her because as a young activist in her native South Africa, she was imprisoned as a result of her anti-apartheid activism, and Amnesty International helped to secure her release.

“Burroughs’ work with Amnesty International USA is particularly meaningful to her because as a young activist in her native South Africa, she was imprisoned as a result of her anti-apartheid activism, and Amnesty International helped to secure her release. These experiences will help inform her work as the interim president and CEO at JANM.”

Mineta and other members of the board of trustees worked with the Center for Nonprofit Management to identify qualified candidates and ultimately bring Burroughs onboard at JANM.

JACL SEQUOIA CHAPTER RECOGNIZES STUDENT SCHOLARS

JACL Sequoia Chapter recently recognized three graduating high school students for their outstanding academic and community achievements as they received the Sequoia JACL Sequoia High School Scholarship.

The chapter honored Nicole Chiou, Cory Gong and Jesse Kim on May 10 during an official ceremony.

Nicole Chiou is representing the Tri-City Association in Mountain View, Calif. She is graduating from Saratoga High School and has a 4.56 GPA. Chiou plays varsity and club volleyball and is an accomplished piano musician and a member of the string orchestra ensemble. She also volunteers as a music therapist, playing her piano for a stroke rehab center. Among her other achievements, Chiou tutors math and teaches volleyball for the Tri-City Association Youth Group. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania and plans to major in biomedical engineering.

Cory Gong is graduating from Gunn High School in Palo Alto, Calif., and has a 3.84 GPA. He is representing Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Palo Alto. Gong is active with the church in its YCS-Interact Club as a board member. He also helps coordinate service trips outside the country and helps with projects to build houses and schools. Gong has been active with local projects such as mentoring middle school students, environmental preservation projects and fund raising for overseas projects. He is also active with school activities, including several sports, class council and various student clubs. Gong will attend Santa Clara University and plans to major in psychology.

Jesse Kim is also representing Aldersgate United Methodist Church. She is graduating from Palo Alto High School and has a 4.22 GPA. Kim is proud to have been part of an all-girls robotics team that won the Championship Award at the Nationals for FIRST Lego League. In addition, she has played on varsity and club softball teams with distinction, even though she is usually one of the smallest girls on her teams. Kim gives back to her community as a teacher’s aide for a children’s Japanese cultural school, which she also attended as a child. Kim will attend the University of California, San Diego, and plans to major in biochemistry.
National

47th National JACL Convention Las Vegas, NV July 11-14

Monte Carlo Hotel 3770 Las Vegas Blvd.
Attend this year’s convention at the Monte Carlo Hotel, featuring workshops, plenaries and advocacy opportunities. This year will also host the 2017-18 JACL elections.


PSW

V3Con Digital Media Conference Los Angeles, CA June 24-25
Japan American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Registration fees may vary.

The Topaz Museum is hosting the annual V3con geared toward promoting digital platforms.


2016 GVJCI Matsuri Carnival Gardena, CA June 25-26

Gardena Valley Community Center 1954 W. 162nd St.

Price: Free

Join the National Association of Asian American Professionals as they host their annual summit and recruitment convention.


New Mexico Asian Family Center 10th Anniversary Celebration Albuquerque, NM Aug. 27; 6 p.m.

Albuquerque Garden Center 10120 Lomas Blvd N.E.

Price: $35

The New Mexico Asian Family Center turns 10 and will celebrate by recognizing distinguished community leaders and partners.

Info: Call (505) 717-2877 or visit www.nmafc.org.

PNW

2016 Minidoka Pilgrimage Jerome, ID June 23-26

Minidoka National Historic Site 1400 Hunt Road

Price: $35

Join this year’s pilgrimage, honoring those incarcerated at the former Minidoka Camp in Idaho. This year’s pilgrimage will include access to an original barrack building and mess hall and a tour of the reconstructed fence.


MDC

2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Cody and Powell, WY July 29-30

Heart Mountain Interpretive Center 1539 Rd. 19

Price: Registration fees vary.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation will celebrate five years at this year’s pilgrimage at Heart Mountain.

Info: Register at heartmountain.org/pilgrimage.html or call (307) 754-8000.

Women’s Leadership Series Houston, TX Aug. 25; 7-8:30 p.m.

Louisa Stude Sarofim Gallery 1370 Southmore Blvd.

Price: Free

The Women’s Leadership Series celebrates influential, diverse women making an impact in both the business and culture arenas, locally and globally.

Info: Contact Patron Services to RSVP at (713) 496-9901.

EDC

Life as AAPI LGBT Youth Washington, D.C. June 23; 6-7 p.m.

601 New Jersey Ave. N.W.

Price: Free

The Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and the Mayor’s Office on LGBTQA Affairs are hosting a panel discussion on “Life as AAPI LGBT Youth.”

Info: Call (202) 727-6300.

Advertise Here

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Please visit www.japantown.org for more information.

For More Info:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767

TRAVEL

Topaz for an evening of 3770 Las Vegas Blvd.

July 9-11

JACL elections.

Attend this year’s convention at the Monte Carlo Hotel, featuring workshops, plenaries and advocacy opportunities. This year will also host the 2017-18 JACL elections.


NCWNP

Asian Leadership and Career Planning Event Santa Clara, CA July 9; 12:30 p.m.

Intuit Auditorium 3600 Juliette Lane

Take advantage of this career planning symposium and an expert panel on how to survive and excel in the corporate world.


San Jose Obon Festival San Jose, CA July 9

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Intuit Auditorium 3600 Juliette Lane

Take advantage of this career planning symposium and an expert panel on how to survive and excel in the corporate world.


Mark Inouye Concert for Topaz Museum San Francisco, CA July 10; 6 p.m.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall

Please join the Friends of Topaz for an evening of classical and jazz music performed by virtuoso trumpeter Mark Inouye. Proceeds will benefit the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah.

Info: Email markinouyemuseum@gmail.com or call (408) 294-3138.

Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah. 535 N. Fifth St.

Join the National Association of Asian American Professionals as they host their annual summit and recruitment convention. The event will also include leadership workshops and panels for Asian professionals.


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Info: Call (202) 727-6300.

Ceramics by Ken Matsuzaki Boston, MA July 17

Pucker Gallery 240 Newbury St.

Ken Matsuzaki is considered a master in ceramics in his technique and artistry. The Pucker Gallery will display his works and collection.


AACA 2016 Annual Gala Boston, MA July 20; 6-10 p.m.

Club Royale 279 Tremont St.

The Asian American Civic Assn. hosts its annual gala with co-chairs Gov. Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh. The gala will feature an international food tasting, ethnic performances, dancing and auctions.

Info: Call Tong Gao at (617) 426-9492, ext. 231.

Ikebana Demonstration With Hiroki Ohara Cambridge, MA Aug. 26; 4 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Cambridge 575 Memorial Dr.

Price: $10-$20

The head master of the Ohara School of Ikebana in Japan will host his first public demonstration in the Boston area. Ohara is the fifth head master of the school that was founded over 120 years ago. There will also be a musical performance by Sumie Kaneko with traditional Japanese koto and shamisen.

Endo, Helen Chiyeko, 85, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; May 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Hichiro Endo; daughter, Suzy Shimogaki; she is survived by her children, Catherine (Stuart) Endo Chuck, David (Debbie) Endo, Margaret (Kenneth) Endo Shimada, Bill (Wendy) Endo, Jennifer (Dough) Endo Kawaguchi and Andrew Endo; sisters, Jean Tanibata, Regina Kobayashi and Mary Yamashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Tominaga, Takeshi Endo, 95, Los Angeles, CA; April 16; he was predeceased by his son, Russell; wife, Chiyoko Judy, he is survived by his son, Michael (Tina); siblings, Yukiko Yamanaka, Shizuko Machida and Setsuko Watanabe; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

Hisayasu, Bruce Katsuki, 94, Pasadena, CA; June 13; he is survived by his wife, Yaeko; children, Toru (Diane) and Makoto Hisayasu; Dawn (Wesley) Naritoku; brother, Etsuo Hisayasu; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Inouye, Anne Shizuko, 66, Gardena, CA; June 6; she is survived by her siblings, April (Wanye) Horino, Peter (Lisa) Inouye and Alan (Julie) Inouye; nephews, Brandon, Brent and Bryce; she is also survived by many relatives.

Furumoto, Takao, 95, Los Angeles, CA; April 16; he was predeceased by his son, Russell; wife, Chiyoko Judy, he is survived by his son, Michael (Tina); siblings, Yukiko Yamanaka, Shizuko Machida and Setsuko Watanabe; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

Inouye, Shoichi, 86, Gardena, CA; May 30; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; children, Ronald and Harry (Susie) Inouye; daughter, Karen S. (James) Kohara; she is also survived by many relatives.

Kawamoto, Diana Lynn, 92, Altadena, CA; June 4; she was predeceased by her husband, William; siblings, William and Roy Fujitaki and Chizuko Ikeda; nephew, Michael Ikeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Shimizu, Reyoichi Louie, 92, Culver City, CA; May 31; he was predeceased by his wife, Kiyoko; daughter, Debra (Steven) Drager; son, Glenn Shiroma; brother, Charlie Shiroma; gc: 2.

Funakoshi, Fred, 92, Los Angeles, May 26; he is survived by his sons, Keats and John (Sharon) Funakoshi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Nishimura, Florence Alko, 92, Altadena, CA; June 4; she was predeceased by her husband, William; siblings, William and Roy Fujitaki and Chizuko Ikeda; nephew, Michael Ikeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sakurai, Yukiko Toya, 90, Los Angeles, CA; May 31; she was predeceased by her brothers, James and Akira Toya; she is survived by her children, Ronald (Joni), Kenneth (Diane), Daniel (Anarella) Sakura and Constance Nakata; siblings, George (May) Toya and Grace (Jack) Fujimoto; sisters-in-law, Helen Shishino and Florence (Michael) Ray; brother-in-law, Fred (Charlene) Sakurai; gc: 6.

Suzuki, Chiyo, 98, Los Angeles, CA; May 17; she is survived by her sisters, Mits Katsumaya, Joyce Kameyama and Janet Watanabe; brother, Chester Okimoto; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Taiko Suto, 93, Los Angeles, CA; May 31; he was a Korean War veteran; he was predeceased by his siblings, Hinako, Shigeko (Shigeru limiori) and Tetsuo Takeuchi; he is survived by his niece, Debra Takeuchi; nephew, Yoshihiro (Hiroko) Tabata; grandnieces, Shionina Tini (Hung Ho) and Shino Ellen (Bob) Christian Sugawara; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Tsuruda, Fumi, 90, Los Angeles, CA; May 31; she is survived by her daughter, Gwen (Bob) Nakanishi; sister, Tae Shiozaki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Nagai, Michio, 93, Glendale, CA; June 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Lorraine; he is survived by his sons, David and Toru Nagai; sister, June Kosuge; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Tokyo Suto, 93, Los Angeles, CA; May 31; he was a Korean War veteran; he was predeceased by his siblings, Hinako, Shigeko (Shigeru limiori) and Tetsuo Takeuchi; he is survived by his niece, Debra Takeuchi; nephew, Yoshihiro (Hiroko) Tabata; grandnieces, Shionina Tini (Hung Ho) and Shino Ellen (Bob) Christian Sugawara; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Suto, Fred Kazuo, 97, Los Angeles, CA; May 6; he was predeceased by his wife, Kiyoko; daughter, Debra (Steven) Drager; son, Glenn Shiroma; brother, Charlie Shiroma; gc: 2.

Yamamoto, Roy Koichi, 92, Northridge, CA; June 5; he is survived by his wife, Nana Yamamoto; daughter, Mary Ann Marko (David) Brankow; he is also survived by other relatives; gc: 1.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

NATIONAL PARKS AREN’T JUST FORESTS AND MOUNTAINS

By Ron Mori

Summer is a great time to relive memories of family vacations and hit the road to visit our National Parks. AARP Travel (http://travel.aarp.org), has lots of information and resources not just for travel in general, but this year we have a special section on traveling to National Parks to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park System: http://travel.aarp.org/articles-tips/national-parks.

Many of us remember those road trips, cruising across the country, driving the highways to those national parks to take in the natural majesty of the United States, from Redwood National Park in California to Yellowstone in Wyoming to Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Also, who can forget the memories of loading up the car with mom’s teriyaki chicken and homemade rice balls. As a 10-year-old, that was sometimes the best part of the trip.

Some sites marked a new frontier for a growing country, and other locations for major battles and lives lost during times of struggle. Among those are sites that once held tens of thousands of Japanese Americans in concentration camps. I recently donated photos to the Smithsonian American History Museum, of pictures before, during and post-camp life that I had in a family photo album. I started to reflect on what it was like to be at Rohwer, Ark., and Poston, Ariz., and wondered out loud what if anything identified these sites today. Around 120,000 people were incarcerated during the war years, including almost half whom were U.S. citizens by birth, and most of those just children. Executive Order 9066, signed by FDR, changed the course of our lives for generations.

The reason given at the time was the fear of espionage and sabotage by these Japanese immigrants and their Japanese American children. Of course, after the war, it was clear that not a single instance of espionage or sabotage by people of Japanese descent in America was discovered. JACL members are familiar with this history — many others in our country still are not. That’s why it’s so important to share our history, and next year, the American History Museum will premier an exhibit on the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 in Washington, D.C. The American History Museum is collecting photos and artifacts that depict the story of Japanese Americans. So, it’s great that the National Park Service, with the approval of Congress, is starting to give official status to some of the WWII camps. Manzanar National Historic Site in California is one, and so is the Minidoka National Historic Site in Idaho.

There are other former camps where restoration efforts have begun, and museums or visitors’ centers have been built. Parts of Amache in Colorado are being restored with the help of high school students from nearby Granada High School, and the students maintain a small museum of artifacts from the camp. The Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming isn’t a National Park like nearby Yellowstone, but thanks to donations and volunteer efforts, it now has an Interpretive Center. If you’ve ever visited the wonderful Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, the bunk that’s been rebuilt in the museum was moved, beam by beam, from Heart Mountain.

Of the two camps in Arkansas, Rohwer is now a National Historic Heritage Site, and there’s a memorial at Jerome Relocation Center; halfway in between in the town of McGehee, Ark., is now a Museum of Japanese American Intermigration. The two concentration camps in Arizona, Poston and Gila River Relocation Centers, were built on Indian reservation land. The final camp, Tule Lake in remote northern California, was where actor George Takei spent part of WWII (this family was first sent to Rohwer, Ark., and then moved to Tule Lake). Tule Lake is now part of the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which includes both the “Segregation Center” and a neighboring Camp Tule Lake that held prisoners of war including German soldiers toward the end of the war.

Phew, that’s a lot of history to cover, and, of course, you can’t cover it all during one summer of driving cross-country. But if your family has World War II incarceration in its history, you might want to make plans to visit the places where your parents or grandparents were held. It might give you a new perspective on your family’s spirit.

Ron Mori is a board member for the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

BEAR ARMS >> continued from page 3

But rather than expending our resources creating a profile of the prototypical terrorist and singling out and surveilling those who fit that profile, we should first make it impossible for those who wish to kill and maim others to legally acquire the tools to do so.

An assault weapons ban may not have deterred Sunday’s shooter — but it would have made things much more difficult for him. It would reduce the possibility of a similar attack happening in the future. And in the real world, where there are no quick fixes and few cure-alls, that is about the best we can do.

We can’t ensure that the terrible events in San Bernardino or Orlando will never unfold again. They very well could. But we can reduce the likelihood.

If our leaders are truly committed to protecting the safety of American citizens, they will set the Second Amendment dogma aside and take real, tangible steps to keep devastatingly powerful weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.