



Frank  
Watanabe  
in uniform  
in 1945

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## RECOGNITION LONG OVERDUE

Frank Watanabe is finally  
awarded the Nisei Soldiers of  
WWII Congressional Gold Medal  
after a fire nearly extinguished  
that honor forever.

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Novelist Dr. Andrew Lam  
Puts Focus on 442nd in  
His Latest Book.

» **PAGE 12**

Shane Sato Returns  
With Vol. II of 'Go for  
Broke Spirit.'

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE WATANABE FAMILY



# JAVA TO SPONSOR DAY OF AFFIRMATION FOR NISEI SOLDIERS

July 15 will forever commemorate the legacy created by Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during World War II.

By Gerald Yamada,  
JAVA President

The executive council of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. approved a proposal to designate July 15, starting in 2020, as a Day of Affirmation to commemorate the legacy created by the valor and sacrifices made by Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during World War II.

I have long felt that the Japanese American community needed to have a special occasion to acknowledge what was accomplished by those who choose to put country first while their family and friends were imprisoned in America's war relocation internment camps.

July 15 was selected because on July 15, 1946, President Harry Truman received the returning 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team at the White House Ellipse at Noon in the rain.

President Truman praised their battlefield accomplishments by saying, "You fought the enemy abroad, and you fought prejudice at home, and you won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win."

The president affirmed the decision made by the Japanese American soldiers to serve their country and fight for its ideals, as well as demonstrate loyalty as their way to combat the prejudice that they faced at home.

The legacy of the Nisei soldiers

must also be credited for making redress a reality. Being reminded of that legacy is what changed President Ronald Reagan's decision not to veto, but to sign the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka "redress legislation" or "HR 442") into law.

Just before President Reagan signed the redress legislation, he stated that "HR 442 was so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd (Regimental Combat Team)." When he signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, he stated, "Here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a Nation to equal justice under the

law." This affirmation is inscribed in the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II, located in Washington, D.C.

JAVA wants the Day of Affirmation to be the opportunity for our community to remember and express our appreciation for how the legacy created by the Nisei soldiers has benefited and will continue to benefit our community's efforts to fight prejudice and promote equal justice under the law.

On July 15, 2020, JAVA is planning to lay a wreath at the World War II National Memorial in Washington, D.C., at Noon to honor all of the Japanese Americans who served during WWII. The memorial is located within sight of the White House Ellipse.

The honor guard each year will consist of Japanese American

veterans of WWII or lineal descendants or ancestors of Japanese Americans who served during WWII. JAVA will create on its website — [JAVA@wildapricot.org](http://JAVA@wildapricot.org) — a simple application process so that interested persons can volunteer to be considered to be part of the honor guard.

On July 15, 2021, JAVA has reserved the National Museum of the United States Army for a gala event to honor the Nisei soldiers, in addition to the wreath-laying ceremony at the World War II National Memorial earlier that day. Tours of the museum will be a part of the evening event. A dinner committee is already being organized for this event. JAVA members and friends are asked to mark their calendars for these two events.

For more information, contact [JAVAPotomac@gmail.com](mailto:JAVAPotomac@gmail.com).



JAVA will lay a wreath at the World War II National Memorial in Washington, D.C., on July 15 to honor all Japanese Americans who served during WWII.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

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By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# BETTER AMERICANS FOR A GREATER AMERICA

If there is one thing that all Americans today can agree upon in these especially divisive times, it is the unimpeachable loyalty and dedication to country of our World War II Nisei veterans.

To appreciate the gravity of the sacrifices made by the Nisei veterans, you might visit the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II in Washington, D.C. Alongside the panels listing the 10 War Relocation Authority concentration camps are panels listing the 810 Japanese American soldiers who gave their lives in service.

The Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo neighborhood lists the 16,131 Nisei soldiers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 232nd Combat Engineer Company and the 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion.

Both of these sites do well to honor the history and sacrifices of WWII Nisei veterans.

I would urge anyone visiting Washington, D.C., to visit the memorial during the day to make sure you can catch every detail, but return at night, when the memorial takes on a serenity and peacefulness unrivaled by almost any other monument in a city full of them.

Only then can you truly feel the full gravity of what faced the Japanese American community during WWII and the battles fought by the Nisei soldiers — both at the battlefield and the home front.

Although we as a country have done much to recognize all of those who served during WWII, and even the Korean War soon after, that has not always been the case.

The Vietnam War was a tragedy both for the Vietnamese but also for the American soldiers we sent to fight that war. Like the Nisei veterans, the Vietnam vets also fought a battle at home upon their return.

We have recognized our mistakes since and do much to recognize those returning from the more recent Gulf War and the ongoing war on terrorism. Sometimes that recognition can ring hollow. Does everyone standing and applauding at a baseball game really address the challenges

faced by veterans upon their return?

Prior to coming to JACL, I worked at a medical shelter for the homeless in Washington, D.C. Roughly 15 percent of our clients were veterans. In the general population, veterans make up only 7.3 percent, according to the most recent census estimate.

In the most recent homeless count by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, only 8.6 percent of veterans were homeless. The fact that veterans were requiring the services at my previous workplace meant we were not only failing them in preventing them from being homeless, but also failing to provide adequate health care services, leading them to require stays at our facility.

Japanese Americans have always been supportive of our veterans, most of all our WWII vets, as well as those who have served since.

For JACL, we have an additional imperative to support our veterans. As a civil rights organization, it is the right of veterans to be treated with dignity by our country, and we, as an organization, must work to preserve that right.

So, as you pause this year on Veterans Day, or perhaps at your next sporting event when everyone rises to recognize the service of men and women in attendance and on the Jumbotron,

make sure that those are just the dots connecting what should be a regular recognition of our veterans.

Fight for improved funding and services from our Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as continued reform of that agency. Hold our politicians accountable to provide the oversight of these programs, and not just show up for the Veterans Day services once a year.

When we tell of what it means to be Japanese American and why we fight for civil rights, the story of our Japanese American veterans is a vital part of that story.

Also, take the time to stop and contemplate the sacrifices others have made because of their love of country, and ask yourself if you are taking full advantage of the opportunities given to you to make this country better.

We don't all have to serve in the armed services to demonstrate our patriotism and love of country, but we must always find ways to celebrate and live out our nation's ideals so that we might all strive to be better Americans for a greater America for everyone.

*David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.*



By Gil Asakawa

## NIKKEI VOICE

# CAN WE TALK? ABOUT 'MISS SAIGON'?

Let me say right upfront: I don't like "Miss Saigon."

The musical has been a megahit staple of the stage since it made its debut in London in 1989 and then Broadway in 1991. It ran for a decade in New York and was revived in 2017. Touring versions have crisscrossed the U.S., including a stop in Denver in September.

"Miss Saigon" makes lots of money for its producers and the theaters that can accommodate its huge and complex stage sets and large number of cast members. It's a popular musical with popular, instantly recognizable songs.

But, I don't like "Miss Saigon."

If you don't know the show's plot, it's about a Vietnamese woman and a white American GI who fall in love during the last days of the Vietnam War. They're married, and though he plans to take her back to the U.S., they get separated during the fall of Saigon. Chris, the soldier, doesn't find out until three years later that Kim, his wife, had a son, Tam. By then, he's remarried to a white woman in Atlanta, and together they travel to Vietnam to try and establish a relationship with Kim and Tam.

Kim is devastated when she learns that Chris has remarried, and in the end (spoiler



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

"Miss Saigon" DCPA posters

alert), she kills herself so that Chris and his wife, Ellen, would be forced to take Tam back with them and raise him in America, which had been her dream since the end of the war.

It's a pretty conventional love story, and if the specifics of the plot seem familiar, it's because it's a modernized version of Giacomo Puccini's "Madama Butterfly," the 1904 opera about a white American naval officer who marries a Japanese woman, leaves her and returns to Japan with his "real" wife, who is white. The Japanese woman, Cio Cio (*cho-cho* in Japanese means "butterfly"), kills herself at the end of the opera.

I don't like "Madama Butterfly" either.

"Miss Saigon" hypnotizes its audiences with its production pomp and dramatic musical thrills, but the story is the same as a century

ago, and it seems even more outrageously anachronistic and out-of-step today, in the #MeToo era, and with our heightened awareness of racial stereotypes, especially of Asians.

The musical is about cultural and physical imperialism, white privilege and savior complex, as well as unabashed misogyny and sexism, written with a condescending attitude by white people looking back at a terrible and tragic time in the history of Vietnam.

It's not all awful and negative. The second act opens with "Bui Doi," a touching number about veterans and their responsibility for leaving behind the *bui doi*, or "dust of life," the Amerasian children left behind by departing GIs. The song is the moral center of the production.

There have been protests at many productions

of "Miss Saigon" to decry its racial and sexual stereotypes — available, weak and submissive Asian women and ineffectual, impotent Asian men. In one much-publicized fiasco during a Madison, Wis., stop of this current tour, the theater agreed to schedule a community panel discussion about the stereotype, then canceled it at the last minute, pouring fuel on the fire of protest. (It should be noted that the New York producers of the tour were all for the community panel discussion, but the theater canceled it.)

So, when the Denver Center for the Performing Arts announced it was bringing "Miss Saigon" for a two-week run, a group of Asian American Pacific Islander community members met with DCPA management to share our concerns. To our surprise, they were open to our comments and willing to work with the community to find ways to make "Miss Saigon" a learning experience for audience members.

For starters, they published accurate portrayals of Vietnamese refugees from our community in interview articles on its website and program book, telling their stories.

We suggested a talk-back panel discussion with local Vietnamese community members, and the DCPA countered that they could schedule an unprecedented series of talk-backs during the production and include members of the cast and crew in addition to community members.

» See SAIGON on page 4



# CITY OF WATSONVILLE HONORS DR. MASAKO MIURA

Present during the proclamation ceremony honoring Dr. Masako Miura were (front row, kneeling) Rev. Dan Hoffman of Westview Presbyterian Church, Marcia and Mas Hashimoto and (back row, from left) Diane Mio, Jane Yoshida, Gary and Cindy H. Mine, Watsonville Chief of Police David Honda, Hans and Sandra Goto, Sean Sheehan and Victor Kimura.



PHOTO: WATSONVILLE-SC JACL



PHOTO: SANDRA GOTO

**Dr. Masako Miura with her son, Hans Goto, and the proclamation given to her by the City Council of Watsonville, Calif.**

The City Council of Watsonville, Calif., honored Dr. Masako Miura, 105, with an official proclamation on Oct. 22 to celebrate her birthday and honor her lifetime work as a physician and U.S. government civil servant.

Signed by Watsonville Mayor Francisco Estrada, the proclamation was

presented to Miura's son, Hans Goto, during a ceremony that also included a speech by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACler Mas Hashimoto.

Miura, who also is a longtime member of the JACL Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter, was unable to attend the evening ceremony but was presented with her proclamation the next day by her son.

In his remarks, Hashimoto said, "Thank you for this proclamation honoring a most highly respected Japanese American in our country. Dr. Masako Miura stands with our most notable Japanese Americans Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, Mitsue Endo (all Supreme Court cases), Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Congressman Bob Matsui, Congressman Norm Mineta and with our JACL leaders of World War II, Mike Masaoka, Saburo Kido and Fred Tayama."

Hashimoto went on to describe how Dr. Masako Miura, along with her then-husband, Dr. James Goto, protected JACler Masaru Fred Tayama in December 1942 by hiding him in Manzanar at the "hospital," sandwiched between two mattresses, in order to keep him safe from a pro-Japan group who was threatening him with bodily harm.

As a result of their heroic actions, the Gotos were removed from Manzanar and sent to Topaz, Utah, in order to protect them, too, from violence by the pro-Japan group.

At the conclusion of the war, Dr. Miura went on to work at Los Angeles County General Hospital, as well as the Los Angeles City School District and then from 1955 until her retirement in 1981, served as a civil service physician in the U.S. Army hospitals in Oakland and later Fort Ord (Monterey) for soldiers, veterans, retirees and their dependents. ■

## SAIGON » continued

I also helped research facts about Vietnam, the war, its aftermath, pop culture trivia and movies and books for more information, which the DCPA printed on a triptych of huge poster boards that audience members clustered around and read before the curtain calls.

I don't like "Miss Saigon." But it's unrealistic to think that we can make the musical go away and be put on a

shelf to turn to dust. All of the DCPA's efforts allowed room for dialogue around the troubling issues that still pervade the production. And that, to me, is a big win — just to be able to have the conversation.

So, can we talk?

*Gil Asakawa is former chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and author of "Being Japanese American" (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).*

## NVN ANNOUNCES STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST: 'THE IMPACT OF A NISEI SOLDIER'

Preservation and education are important goals of the National Veterans Network. The NVN is holding a national video contest for high school students that encourages them to study the stories of Japanese American World War II soldiers.

The competition seeks videos from individual students that shares the impact of a Japanese American Nisei Soldier story on their personal lives.

The contest is open to high school students in the U.S. The NVN will accept submissions thru Dec. 31, 2019. Students are to select the story of a Nisei soldier, either from the Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal Smithsonian Digital Exhibition (<http://cgm.smithsonianapa.org/index.html>) or a relative who is a Japanese American WWII veteran. The student is then asked to create a video to describe the impact of the soldier's story on their life today.

The video should incorporate one more of the following Army values: loyalty, duty, respect,

selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. The video should be no more than three to four minutes in length.

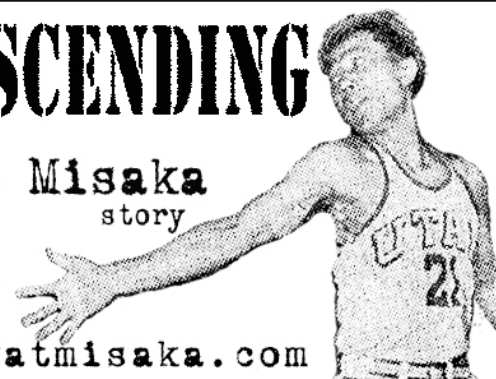
There will be a committee of judges that will determine the winner of the contest. Judging criteria includes: how well the video reflects the value of the Nisei soldiers, its relevance to today and historical accuracy.

The winner of the national contest will be invited to Washington, D.C., to visit the National Museum of the United States Army, where he/she will be able to meet veterans, their families and see the exhibits about the WWII Nisei soldiers. The winner will also receive a prize package of \$300 and travel accommodations.

*For more information about the video contest, along with complete rules and submission information, visit <http://nationalveteransnetwork.com/exhibit.shtml>.*

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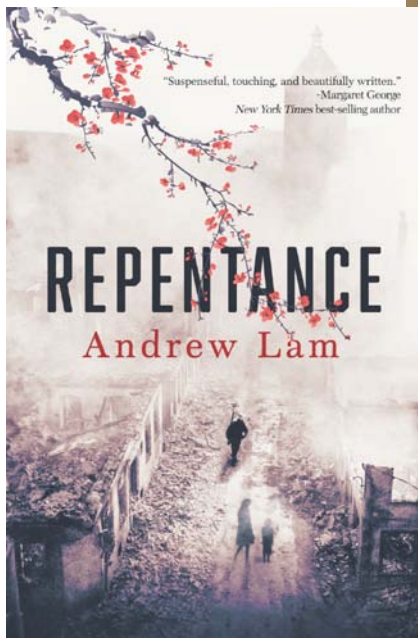
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“Repentance” is author/doctor Andrew Lam’s third book.



Dr. Andrew Lam with Dr. Susumu Ito, a professor at Harvard Medical School who also served in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion during World War II.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DR. ANDREW LAM



Dr. Andrew Lam

## NOVELIST ANDREW LAM, M.D., PUTS FOCUS ON 442 RCT

The retinal surgeon moonlights to spotlight a fictional Nisei soldier.

By P.C. Staff

The first question one has to ask when talking over the phone to author Andrew Lam is, “Do I have the right Andrew Lam?”

That’s because there is another Andrew Lam — who happens to be Vietnamese American — who has also gained renown as a writer.

The author of the novel “Repentance,” which was released last spring, however, is not only a different Andrew Lam, he also is younger, Chinese American, lives near the East Coast and is a physician — a retinal surgeon, to be precise.

“More than once, someone has come to a book talk or one of my patient’s has come with one of his books for me to sign,” Dr. Lam laughed. Although they have yet to cross paths, he says he’d love to meet the other Andrew Lam.

(In an odd sort of way, though, Lam is actually someone one would *not* want to meet professionally. That’s because those who come to see him are referred by other doctors who can’t help their patients, meaning one would have a very serious condition, such as a detached retina.)

Referring to his literary namesake, whom he described as a “full-time writer,” this

Andrew Lam spends the bulk of his workday practicing medicine and serving as an assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Tufts University School of Medicine.

Nevertheless, Lam, 43, has managed to write three books in his spare time, with “Repentance” (Tiny Fox Press, 283 pp., ISBN: 978-1-946501-12-7, \$15.95) having been preceded by “Saving Sight,” a non-fiction book about being an eye surgeon, and “Two Sons of China,” another work of historical fiction.

Said Lam: “I basically write about World War II and history.”

The subject matter of “Repentance” fits that description.

“As a writer, my main goal is to basically shine a light on aspects of our history that aren’t necessarily well-known but deserve to be,” Lam told the *Pacific Citizen*. “I knew about the story of the 442nd because I actually spent a year in Hawaii for my medical internship, and I met many veterans. One day I was in church, and there was a guy sitting next to me — he was in the 442nd.

“I knew about them just from history, but getting to know them personally — meeting them — was very valuable,” Lam continued. “So, when I decided to start a book on the 442nd, my goal was to get more mainstream

Americans to know their story.”

The plot of “Repentance” is the journey — with a surprise twist or two — of a superstar Sansei heart surgeon named Daniel Tokunaga who has a fraught relationship with his Nisei father, a heroic 442nd veteran who is hiding a decades-old secret, as well as a less overtly strained relationship with his Japanese American mother, who has a secret past of her own.

As Tokunaga tries to reconcile his relationship with his parents, he must also take steps to salvage his marriage to a white American woman who has spent most of their marriage doing the heavy lifting of raising their now-grown offspring because Daniel put his work first, causing her to let die her own career aspirations. Daniel’s upbringing, not surprisingly, had a direct effect on his relationship with his wife.

Inspired as Lam was by meeting 442nd vets in Hawaii, it was a mainland Nisei veteran — and fellow physician — who served as his sensei and guide to all things 442nd.

**Enter Dr. Sus**

Susumu Ito was a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School who, as a young man, served in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the artillery arm of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. In his

later years, photos he took while in Europe as he served in the Army were the subject of an exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

During the six-year quest to write and have “Repentance” published, Lam met Ito.

“I had many back-and-forths with Dr. Ito. I visited him, and he showed me all his memorabilia, which was a real treat,” Lam said. “He endorsed the book, which was great, but he passed away, unfortunately, in 2015, so he never got to see the final, *final* version.

“He’s probably the person who I feel most connected to who was actually a veteran,” Lam continued.

It would no doubt be happy to learn that, according to Lam, sales of the book have thus far exceeded its publisher’s expectations.

“I just love the fact that people are reading it and learning so much about the 442nd and the Japanese American experience during the war,” he said.

Although not autobiographical, Lam drew on his own experience as a surgeon and family man to lend credibility to the character of the novel’s protagonist.

» See **NOVELIST** on page 8

## SAKAI, KIYOMURA AND SATO TELL A ‘442’ TALE VIA GRAPHIC NOVEL

Published earlier this year, “442” is a graphic novel from writers Koji Steven Sakai and Phinneas Kiyomura and illustrator Rob Sato. The 80-page graphic novel originated via Lynnwood, Wash.-based Stela, which has been described as Netflix for graphic novels delivered to one’s digital device.

According to Sakai, Stela approached him about doing a project, and he pitched five ideas — one on zombies, an action story, a superhero story, a drama — and, because he likes to include at least one Asian American story when opportunities like that come up, one on the 442nd and the

Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

“To my surprise, that’s the one they took,” Sakai said. “Part of the deal with them was that I had all of the other rights outside of it because I wanted more people to see the story.”

According to Sakai, illustrator Sato “works perfectly because his grandfather was [a member of the] 442nd, so he had a connection.”

To read “442,” it will cost \$9.99 for a monthly Stela subscription. Or, the printed version can be purchased for \$9.99 via Amazon.com. (Be sure to visit [PacificCitizen.org](http://PacificCitizen.org) first and click on the Amazon banner before you order!)



“442” is an 80-page graphic novel that “follows young Japanese American soldiers as they suffer prejudice, internment and terrible casualties in their battle to rescue the Lost Battalion.”



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WATANABE FAMILY

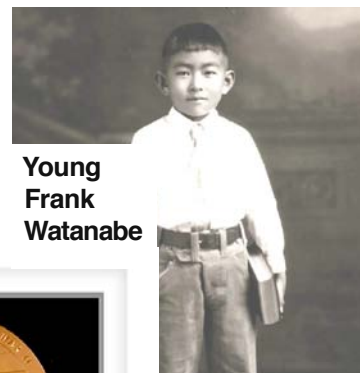


The Watanabe family in 2011 for Frank and Margaret's 50th wedding anniversary

Frank Watanabe with his parents, Risaku and Teruyo Watanabe



Margaret and Frank Watanabe on their wedding day, March 10, 1961



Young Frank Watanabe



Frank Watanabe

# GO FOR GOLD: DELAYED RECOGNITION FOR A VET'S FAMILY'S QUEST

Modest in life, a passed-over Frank Watanabe is finally recognized after his death.

By P.C. Staff

(Editor's note: The Sept. 13-26, 2019, *Pacific Citizen* contained a story about the posthumous recognition given to Frank Watanabe, who did not receive the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Nisei who served in the military during WWII. The following article is a more detailed account of Watanabe's story.)

The July 13, 1973, *Associated Press* dispatch from Overland, Mo., described a conflagration as follows: "A fire on the sixth floor of the massive Military Personnel Record Center raged out of control in this St. Louis suburb Thursday night. Weary firemen continued efforts to save military files housed in the building." Items not burned or damaged by the flames sustained water damage.

The article also reported, according to the General Services Administration, that the repository contained the "records of 56 million members and former members of all branches of the military," including "about 9 million from World War II."

In addition, it noted that the "loss of the records is expected to create problems that could take years to solve."

For the family of the late Frank Watanabe, that assessment proved to be all too true.

♦♦♦

Shunso Frank Watanabe, who died at 92 on June 18, was born on April 9, 1927, in Reedley, Calif., to emigrants from Japan's Hiroshima-ken. A mechanical engineer by training who spent decades in Detroit's automotive industry, his name is on more than 150 patents, many in control systems for electronics.

Both of his daughters, Alysa Sakkas and Kari Aguinaldo, characterize him as brilliant, yet humble. His interests were wide-ranging, from the practical, as evidenced by his many patents, to the philosophical and spiritual,

especially in his twilight years.

Like thousands of other first-generation Japanese and their second-generation American offspring living along the U.S. West Coast with the advent of World War II, the Watanabe family was removed from their home to be incarcerated in one of 10 U.S. concentration camps, in their case, the Gila River War Relocation Authority Center in Arizona.

Before that, the young Watanabe learned to appreciate music. According to an autobiographical essay he wrote for a family member, he first learned the violin, then the trumpet.

"In the seventh grade, I became the solo trumpet in the school marching band and the first chair brass in the orchestra," he wrote.

But Watanabe's "consuming interest" as a boy was model airplanes.

He wrote, "I started building balsa stick and Japan tissue models from kits since I was 6 years old, and because I had no mentors, I learned to read the *Model Airplane News* hobby magazine and technical publications.

"By the time I reached the eighth grade, I was as familiar with advanced topics as the Davis laminar airfoil, which made the B-24 and P-51 American war planes great," he continued in his essay. It was a hobby and aptitude that no doubt augured his future career as a mechanical engineer.

Before he would embark on that journey, however, Watanabe and his family would first need to deal with life at Gila River. With America's entry into WWII, Frank's father, Risaku, foresaw the imminent fate of West Coast ethnic Japanese and therefore made preparations.

"While facing the total devastation of the lifestyle he had built, his main concern was to keep the family together in one camp. He calmly sold the farm equipment, the family car and personal possessions," Watanabe wrote of his father's actions, including arranging in



Nisei Soldiers of WWII  
Congressional Gold Medal



Frank Watanabe makes a speech at a JACL Detroit chapter event.

advance to have the Reedley branch of Bank of America hold his investment accounts and allow him to manage his checking account by mail, before becoming Family No. 40411.

Watanabe graduated from Gila River's Canal High School, where he served as class president ("I made shambles of my office," he wrote in his essay) at age 17, having already skipped two grades, according to Aguinaldo.

After graduation and with help from the Religious Society of Friends and after being cleared by the WRA, Watanabe enrolled at the University of Detroit.

"My camp life was ended by being launched into my new world by Quakers who enrolled me, a Buddhist farm boy, at an urban Catholic university by the authority of an almost-unknown government agency," he wrote.

After just one year at the University of Detroit's College of Engineering, the government would again intervene in his life when Watanabe was drafted into the Army.

♦♦♦

"When he was in the Army, his dream — he told my husband and I this — was to lead a



Alysa Sakkas offers remarks upon accepting her father's Congressional Gold Medal. Also present during the posthumous award ceremony were Congressman Ro Khanna (left) and Consul General of Japan in San Francisco Tomochika Uyama.



Frank Watanabe served as chairman to the 1964 JACL National Convention. He is pictured here in an article from the *Pacific Citizen*.

tank battalion," Sakkas told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Her father had high test scores and to reach this goal, he studied military strategy. But when he told his superiors of this aspiration, Sakkas said they told him, "We would never let someone like you do a job like that." Translation: You're Japanese, so you don't get to do that.

Instead, Watanabe was sent to serve in the Military Intelligence Service to further strengthen his Japanese language skills in areas such as the translation of documents, serving as an interpreter or interrogating Japanese prisoners of war.

» See QUEST on page 8



# Where it all began... at the Presidio of San Francisco



## Now on display

@ MIS Historic Learning Center

**Dislocation & Divergence:  
Causes & Consequences of EO 9066**

Open on Weekends: 12-5 PM  
Wed-Fri: Group Tours by appointment

640 Mason Street, Crissy Field West,  
Presidio of San Francisco,  
San Francisco CA 94129  
415-921-5007, njahs@njahs.org



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with MIS Veterans during annual Veterans Day Event at Building 640 (11/15/2014).



Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640 in the Presidio of San Francisco.

**Join in the support 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 4,000 MIS soldier linguists who served during World War II and the Allied Occupation of Japan.**

## The story...

On the eve of war with Japan on November 1, 1941, the US Army secretly recruited 59 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 4,000 graduates, and evolved in the today's renowned Defense Language Institute and 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 pursuant to Executive Order 9066, the Nisei MIS were credited for shortening the war by two years.

During the Occupation of Japan, the MIS worked to establish a lasting democracy and peace. For their role, the MIS have been honored with a Presidential Unit Citation in 2000, and with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2011 along with veterans of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team.

## The place.

Set in the breathtaking Presidio of San Francisco (a designated National Historic Landmark District of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service), Building 640 stands as a place of

historic significance. Spearheaded by the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. (NJAHS) together with the National Park Service and The Presidio Trust, and bolstered by grass roots support from the JACL, and veterans groups, this effort has saved the building site. In 2013, we opened our doors to this new adaptive reuse project—an interactive MIS Historic Learning Center devoted to the MIS legacy of peace and reconciliation. **To date, the campaign has raised \$5 million in private and public support.**

Today NJAHS seeks matching private dollars to ensure its long-term viability.

## What you can do...

**Honor the legacy and make a contribution to the MIS Historic Learning Center.** Gifts beginning at \$2,500 and up will be recognized on the new Commemorative Donor Wall. Naming Opportunities are also available.

Join us to realize the dream!

To learn more,  
Call 415-921-5007  
visit [www.njahs.org/mis](http://www.njahs.org/mis)  
or email: [njahs@njahs.org](mailto:njahs@njahs.org)





## QUEST » continued from page 6

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE WATANABE FAMILY



**Frank Watanabe (seated at center) is pictured with the 1964 JACL National Convention board.**

Sakkas said her father, however, didn't want to join the MIS.

"He told us that during some of the testing, he would purposely try to score low because he was really hoping to get a different assignment," she laughed. He did not get his wish.

Watanabe nevertheless completed the MIS training, going on active duty on Aug. 31, 1945. WWII, meantime, would officially end on Sept. 2, 1945.

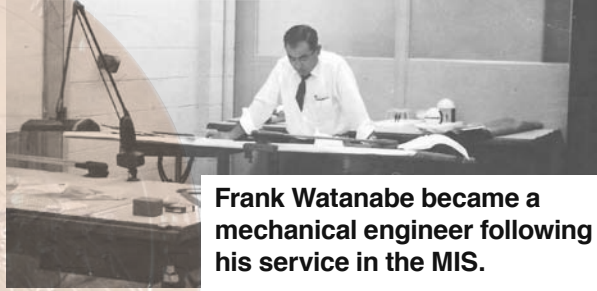
"He used to say he was in the first graduating class of the Defense Language Institute in Monterey," Sakkas said. Watanabe was honorably discharged on Dec. 5, 1946. It wasn't a long stint — but serve he did.

After leaving the Army, Watanabe returned to Michigan's University of Detroit and earned his bachelor's degree. He then attended Wayne State University to obtain his master's degree in mechanical engineering and went on to work for Kelsey-Hayes Corp., where he worked on the initial patent for the disc brake.

"He probably would have stayed with them for his entire career," said Sakkas, "but they were swallowed up in a merger, and he lost his job in the process."

Watanabe eventually found work at firms such as American Motors Corp., Bendix Corp., Rockwell International and the Ford Motor Co., where he was employed when he retired.

In 1961, he and Margaret Ueki were married. They later lived in Livonia, Mich., and raised their two daughters, Alys and Kari. Watanabe was active in the Detroit JACL chapter, even



**Frank Watanabe became a mechanical engineer following his service in the MIS.**

serving as its president one year and chairman of the 1964 JACL National Convention.

When they were old enough, the sisters both moved to California, where they would spend their summers with relatives. According to Sakkas, after her father retired, Margaret said, "Now that you're retired, what are we doing in Michigan, when both of our daughters live in California and we have two grandkids who live in California?"

Watanabe, however, loved Michigan and its four seasons and thought his family would return.

"My dad said, 'Eventually, they're going to move back to this house.' And I said, 'No, we're not,'" said Sakkas. So, the Watanabe's moved back to California in the early 2000s and found a house in Cupertino, when it was relatively more affordable than today.

♦♦♦

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law a bill that would award the Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the Nisei who served in 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and MIS during WWII.

Sakkas remembers talking about that development with her father: "So, when I heard about

the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded, I asked him, 'Are you going to get one?' and he said, 'No, no one's notified me.'"

Sakkas insisted that he must be eligible, but her father played it off. She remembers him saying that maybe he didn't serve long enough.

"He just kind of left it at that," Sakkas said. Aguinaldo corroborated that conversation. "When my sister told him she wanted to research it, he said, 'Aww, it's so long ago, who cares? Nobody's going to care,'" Aguinaldo said.

When Watanabe was approaching his 88th birthday or *beiju*, Sakkas decided to collect some memorabilia to celebrate it, and she contacted the Defense Language Institute. She thought, perhaps, she might be able to get a copy of his diploma.

She was taken aback to learn it had no records from the first two years of the Institute. Watanabe did mention, in passing, that there had been a fire that destroyed the records of many veterans. "I didn't pursue it any further," she said.

According to Sakkas, her father was very conscientious about his health and made sure to exercise to maintain it. But a couple of years after his 88th birthday, he encountered some health problems and needed in-home care.

"One of my friends said, 'Your dad was a veteran. Well, my dad was a veteran, and he gets 40 hours of in-home care paid for. You should really look into whether your father is eligible for anything,'" Sakkas recalled.

When she inquired with the Department of Veterans Affairs to see if Watanabe was eligible for any benefits, however, she was told it had no record of him ever having served in the military.

"I told my dad, 'The VA doesn't even have any record of your service,'" Sakkas said. But Watanabe did know exactly where his discharge documents were. Therefore, Sakkas sent a copy to the VA and was told that the records between a certain time period and part of the alphabet were lost in the 1973 fire. It therefore accepted as authentic the copy of Watanabe's DD214.

"It dawned on me that that was the fire the guy (from the Defense Language Institute)

was talking about, and that's why my father was never recognized as being a member of the MIS," Sakkas said.

♦♦♦

Sakkas later contacted the office of U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, whose district includes Cupertino, Calif., to inquire whether her father was eligible for the Congressional Gold Medal and provided her father's pertinent information.

Meantime, Watanabe's health was deteriorating. Death came quickly and painlessly.

That same day, June 18, Sakkas received a call from Rep. Khanna's office. "They called me literally two hours after he died to say, 'We're just getting back to you. It's been a long time, but we figured out that your father did earn the Gold Medal, and so we're wondering when we can present it to him.'"

The Nisei Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Watanabe's family at a Town Hall Meeting on Aug. 24.

"I felt like he was sending me a sign," Sakkas said of a phone call she would then receive from Rep. Khanna's office. "You're the only one who cared about this. I don't care about it, so he taps someone on the shoulder and says, 'OK, you can call her now.'"

In retrospect, Sakkas realizes that her father's situation, i.e., not being recognized because of the records fire from 1973 was unusual, but not necessarily unique, might prove valuable to others.

"My hope is that there are other people who find out that they have relatives who should have received this award but did not," Sakkas said.

One remaining mystery is her father's first name. Although he mainly went by his middle name, Frank, his first name is spelled Shunso. But Sakkas found that in a book on Japanese American veterans and engraved on a wall at the Defense Language Institute in San Francisco is the name Shunzo F. Watanabe.

Meantime, Sakkas looked on her father's birth certificate, where it's spelled Shiyunso Watanobe, with both names mangled.

Unlike the outcome on the Gold Medal, the reasons behind the mysterious spellings may never be completely solved. ■

## NOVELIST » continued from page 5

"Since I'm a doctor, I knew I could benefit from showing the realism of being a surgeon because I not only know what it's like to be in the OR to deal with complications but also what it's like to be in a family where one of the spouses has a very demanding job."

### **Prescription for Success**

For Lam, writing historical fiction is a creative outlet that uses different parts of his brain than what he uses for his medical endeavors. But he has bigger goals than just telling random stories.

"The ultimate goal, of course, is to share history with people, especially people who wouldn't necessarily want to pick up a nonfiction book," he said. "I like historical fiction because it entertains, but it also reaches an audience that wouldn't necessarily think that they'd be interested in history, for example.

"The other thing that I realized long ago when I started writing is that in historical fiction, the story is paramount," Lam contin-

ued. "You can have all the greatest history in the world, but if the story isn't compelling and the characters are not compelling, then nobody is going to read it, and it's not going to be a success."

The saga of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team is, in and of itself, as compelling a story as anyone could ask for. Researching that history and combining it with compelling characters took time to be done right. For example, in the 442nd's famed Rescue of the Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains in France in October 1944, Lam noted how shrapnel from trees hit by artillery bursts could be as deadly as bullets.

He also cited how Internet tools like Google Earth could give one a realistic picture of the terrain of places like the French town of Bruyères, where the 442nd fought, as well as the mountains.

"The Internet was enormously helpful because you can literally get a Google Earth

map of Bruyères and the mountains, and also connect that with the people who have been on reunions."

Part of the six years it took to finish the book was also in the rewriting, in order to get the relationships down properly.

"The father-and-son relationship is so critical because it ties into paternalism, the importance of education in the achievements we see in the Asian American community and families — and then, of course, the sacrifices that were made [during] internment. That was a huge part of it.

"I'm not Japanese American," Lam continued. "So, as an Asian American, I understand there are some similarities between Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans growing up in our society, but I still had to take a little bit of a leap — that people would consider what I'd written to authentic."

Lam added that he also wanted the book to be a page-turner, balanced by well-developed characterizations to make it succeed. As a physician, he also wanted to incorporate how for some, PTSD or post-traumatic

stress disorder, while invisible, can manifest as depression, psychosis or anxiety in ways that can be as devastating as an actual physical wound.

"PTSD can literally change people's personality," he said.

As for his next writing project, Lam was cagey about what the subject matter will be.

"I learned after I wrote my first book ('Saving Sight') not to mention what my next book is going to be because you don't know when that's going to come out," he said. Lam did allow, however, that it may be similar to his first book, which was nonfiction.

And, should Hollywood come a-knockin' to see about adapting his novel into a motion picture in this post-"Crazy Rich Asians" era, Lam wouldn't slam the door in a producer's face. But as an ophthalmologist, he knows it's better to keep his eyes focused on reality.

"I've already been through the process with my other novel ('Two Sons of China')," he said. "The stark reality is that even if your book gets optioned for a film, the odds of it being made are extremely slim." ■





# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## WHY AARP CARES

By Ron Mori

I am very fortunate to be surrounded by dedicated individuals and teams working on all things related to aging and caregiving at AARP. One area very close to my heart is caregiving. AARP is striving to make it easier for older people to live independently and remain in their homes and communities where they prefer to be, surrounded by family and friends.

By providing planning resources and additional forms of support to family caregivers, AARP hopes to create a country where people can continue to live in their homes and communities for as long as they choose.

To help achieve this, AARP is supporting the millions of family caregivers who provide unpaid care to their loved ones with resources and tools. AARP also continues advocating for and providing better quality, affordable and accessible services to help older people live independently and the family caregivers who help them.

### Who Is a Caregiver?

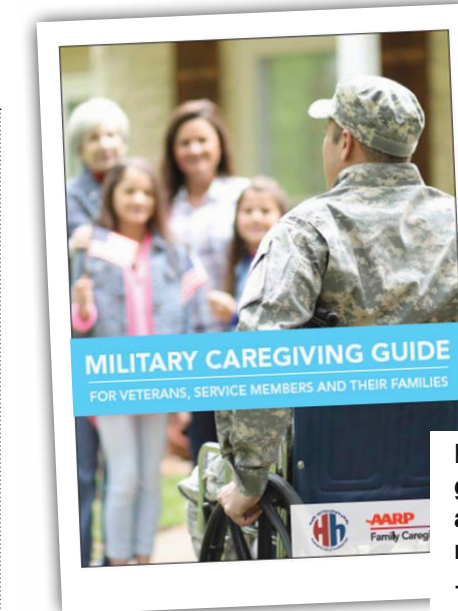
A “family caregiver” is defined as an adult age 18 or older who is providing unpaid short-term or long-term care to a parent, spouse, friend or other adult loved one who needs help with everyday activities and personal tasks such as transportation, managing finances, scheduling appointments, shopping, bathing, dressing, preparing meals, wound care and/or medication management.

Family and friends are the backbone of America’s care system, providing the bulk of care for older people in the U.S. as they strive to live independently. If you are not currently a family caregiver, at some point in your life you either will be a caregiver or need a caregiver.

Family caregiving is harder and more complicated than ever as families have increasing demands on their time. Many family caregivers don’t think of themselves as caregivers — they see themselves as sons, daughters, spouses and friends just doing what families do for each other.

Today, family caregivers are asked to carry out health care tasks that would make a first-year nursing student tremble (like wound care, tube feedings) without adequate training.

The job of caregiving that family members



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do for free can be harder than a job in the paid workforce. Workplace policies that support employee caregivers can also benefit companies by enhancing productivity and enabling workers to keep up with their duties. Almost 3 out of 4 workers age 40 and older say that allowing work flexibility for caregiving would help improve work/life balance.

### Emotional and Financial Impact of Caregiving

Family caregivers are at risk of emotional,

health and financial problems:

- 38 percent of family caregivers report high emotional stress from the demands of caregiving.
- Nearly half (46 percent) of higher-hour (21 or more hours per week) caregivers report high levels of emotional stress.
- More than half (55 percent) of family caregivers report being overwhelmed by the amount of care their family member needs.

» See AARP on page 12

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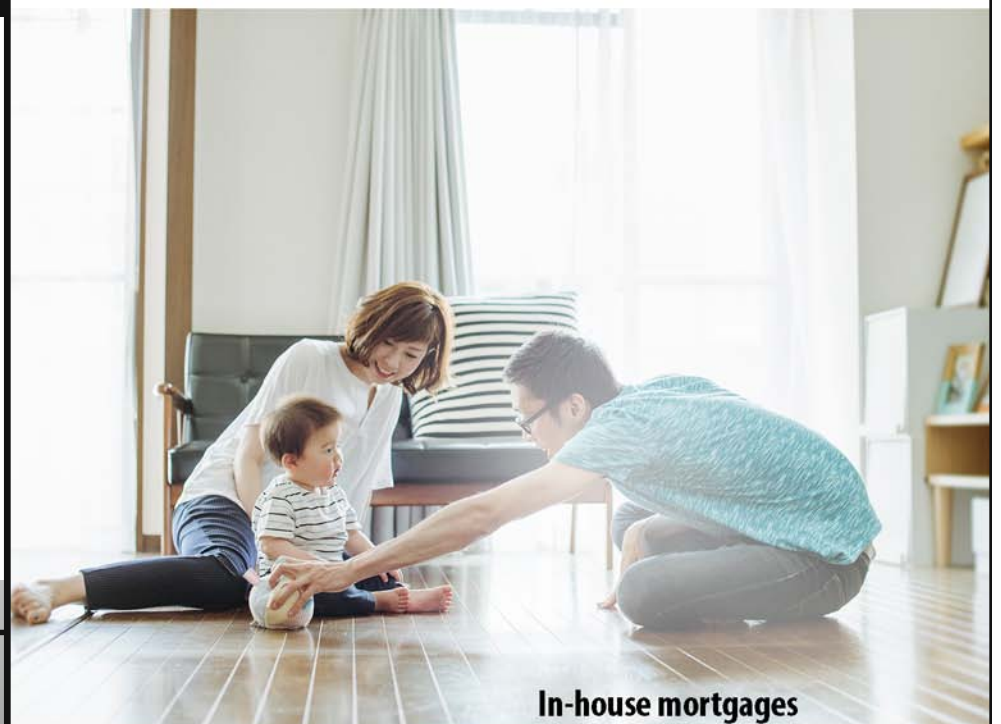
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Kimochi Silver Bells**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Dec. 14; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**1111 Gough St.**  
**Price: Free; Complimentary shuttle service available to/from Japantown (Peace Plaza on the corner of Post & Sutter Streets)**  
 Don't miss this opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done at this event that will showcase Asian and Pacific Islander-themed handmade crafts, unique art and much more from over 90 vendors!  
**Info: Visit [www.kimochi-inc.org](http://www.kimochi-inc.org) or call (415) 931-2294.**

**12th Annual Mochi Madness Pounding Workshop, Tasting and Potluck**  
**Florin, CA**  
**Dec. 14; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Florin Buddhist Church**  
**7235 Pritchard Road**  
**Price: Free for JACL members and ages 5 and under; Nonmembers \$5**  
 Sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Florin, Buddhist Women's Assn. and Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley, this family-friendly event will feature plenty of mochi tasting, mochi for sale and a delicious year-end potluck.  
**Info: RSVP by Dec. 11 by email to [judyfukuman@comcast.net](mailto:judyfukuman@comcast.net) or call (916) 421-5253. For mochi presale order form, visit [www.florinbuddhist.org](http://www.florinbuddhist.org) or call (916) 383-1831. General information, visit [www.florinjACL.com](http://www.florinjACL.com).**

## PSW

The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in

**Portraits**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru Nov. 24**  
**George J. Doizaki Gallery**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
**Price: Free and Open to the Public**  
 This exhibition brings together the stories of the Japanese American soldiers who fought in America's wars and the works of photographer Shane Sato, whose portraits of Japanese American WWII veterans are featured in his book "The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage." Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, Noon-4 p.m.; closed Mondays, Tuesdays and holidays.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.jaccc.org/jaccc-calendar/2019/11/3/the-go-for-broke-spirit-legacy-in-portraits>.**

**'Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Atomic Bomb'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru June 7, 2020**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
 To commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, this special exhibition will present photographs, explanatory texts, artifacts and contemporary art that will shed

light on this painful history as well as provide a safe space for discussion with the hope that such events never happen again.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

## PNW

**Asian American Santa & Gift Craft Fair**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Dec. 7; Noon-3 p.m.**  
**Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**  
**719 S. King St.**  
**Price: Museum general admission \$17**  
 This special holiday event will feature a photo opportunity with Santa, as well as the museum's first-ever local artist craft fair featuring unique gifts from vendors such as Aki Sogabe, Kimono Revivify, 2 Squirrels and a Nut, On Point Pins and Kela Designs. RSVP recommended for a photo time slot.  
**Info: Visit [https://www.wingluke.org/single-exhibit/?mep\\_event=3436](https://www.wingluke.org/single-exhibit/?mep_event=3436).**

## CCDC

**Meet Santa at the Kearney Mansion Museum**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Dec. 7; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Price: \$6 Adults; \$5 Seniors; \$4 Children (3-12); Free for Historical Society**

**members**  
 Create a unique family memory in a gorgeous setting during this opportunity to take a photo with Santa as well as enjoy a self-guided tour of this historic home that is decorated with 10 themed Christmas trees and antique toys.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.valleyhistory.org/index.php?id=16>.**

## MDC

**Hoosier JACL Annual Holiday Luncheon**  
**Indianapolis, IN**  
**Dec. 8; 1-4 p.m.**  
**Ocean World Restaurant**  
**1206 W. 86th St.**  
**Price: Bento Lunch Prices Vary for Members/Nonmembers: Adults \$21-\$27**  
 The Hoosier chapter is celebrating its holiday luncheon with delicious bento box fare at varying prices. The luncheon will also feature door prizes, games, installation and caroling. Reservations deadline is Nov. 25.  
**Info: Payment and reservation must be received by Nov. 25, payable to Hoosier JACL. For information, call (317) 257-1516.**

## EDC

**Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling**  
**Boston, MA**

**Thru Feb. 7, 2021**  
**Institute for Contemporary Art**  
**25 Harbor Shore Dr.**  
 An icon of contemporary art, Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works and more during her influential career. This exhibit is the most immersive and kaleidoscopic of the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>.**

**En/trance**  
**New York, NY**  
**Through 2020**  
**New York Japan Society Gallery**  
**333 E. 47th St.**  
 This exhibit features a series of art projects aimed at bringing visual art and interactive experiences into the institution's public spaces. Artist Yoshitomo Nara launches the series with new works he created in Shigaraki, one of Japan's oldest areas for pottery making. Don't miss this unique exhibit.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.japan-society.org/page/programs/gallery/entrance>.**

### ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
**[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)**  
**(213) 620-1767**

# Veterans

of  
 yesterday, today,  
 and tomorrow...

# Thank you!!!

From JACL, Idaho Falls chapter





# In MEMORIAM

**Kido, Suzy, 80**, SeaTac, WA, Aug. 30.

**Kojima, Yoshio, 90**, Newport Beach, CA, June 18; a Korean War veteran, he is survived by his wife, Seiko; daughters, Peggy Chiaki (Scott) Correia and Lisa Hitomi (Will) Gordon; brother, Kyoichi (Yoko) Kojima; sister-in-law, Asako (Kanetoshi) Inoue; gc: 2.

**Kondo, George, 71**, Burien, WA, June 6; he was predeceased by his brother, Ray; he is survived by his siblings, Lorraine (Calvin) Hoshibata and Charles (Marianne) Kondo; he is also survived by nieces and a nephew.

**Kono, Yoshio, 95**, Sacramento, CA;

he is survived by his wife, Mieko; and his children, Gayle and Robert.

**Miyashiro, Mitsuo, 89**, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 23; an Army veteran, he is survived by his daughter, Jean Miyashiro-Saipa'ia (I'a Saipa'ia); gc: 2.

**Miyashita, Lily Haruko, 97**, Los

Angeles, CA, Aug. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Izuo; she is survived by her children, Albert (Moni) and Carolyn (Edmundo) Soto; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Moriyama, Sam Susumu, 96**, Pasadena, CA, Aug. 12; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko; sons, Jeffrey (Michele) and Harvey (Karilynn) Moriyama; gc: 7.

**Murayama, Hiroko, 78**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 6; she is survived by her brother; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nagao, Masato Joe, 95**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 5; he was predeceased by his wife, Sadako; he is survived by his daughter, Miki Nagao; gc: 1.

**Nakagawa, Fumiko, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 30; she is survived by her husband, Isamu "Sam"; daughter, Donna Nakagawa Higa; gc: 1.

**Nishi, Yoshiko, 97**, Fresno, CA, Sept. 11.

**Nishimoto, Molly, 98**, Gardena, CA, Aug. 22; she is survived by her children, Connie Megumi (Edwin) Gohata, Heber Minoru (Linda), Cyril Nozomu Nishimoto and Phebe Jun (Michael) Arlen; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; ggc: 3.

**Nitahara, Frances Tsuneko, 88**, Wahiawa, HI, July 28.

**Nomura, Hisako, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 31; she is survived by her husband, George; son, Craig; siblings, Haj (Kayoko) Shimada and Sachiko "Susie" Nakada; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Sadamitsu, Mitsuye Mitzi, 94**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 17; she is survived by her children, Lynn Emi (Eddie) Imoto and Mark (Kathy) Sadamitsu; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Sugita, Midori, 90**, Torrance, CA, Oct. 5; she is survived by her daughter, Katsuyo (Bert) Roberts; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

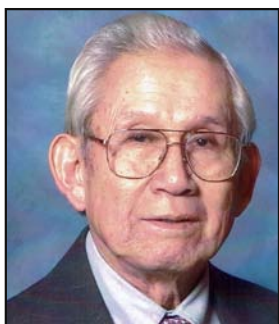
**Takara, Steve Yukio, 80**, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 18; he is survived by his wife, Keiko; children, Kristine (Scott) Barrella, Tim (Traci) Takara and David (Sung Hee) Takara; sister, Ritsuko (Herbert) Miyamoto; gc: 7.

**Takeda, Chiyeko, 88**, San Jose, CA, Sept. 26; during WWII her family and she were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center No. 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Herbert, and siblings, Aki (Ed) Yoshioka, James Kogura, Kazu (Mits) Kumamoto and Tachi (Grace) Kogura; she is survived by her children, Tim (Vivian) Takeda, Leslie (Gary) Morrison, Alan (Nancy) Takeda and Steven (Dian) Takeda; siblings, Frances (Henry) Watanabe, Al (Jan) Kogura and Bill Kogura; gc: 6.

**Tanioka, Cedric Tsugio, 74**, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 4; he is survived by his children, Carie Anne, Dorie, Guy, Jordan and Taylor; siblings, Michael and Leburta; gc: 2.

## TRIBUTE

### HARRY TOJI KUROTORI



Passed away peacefully at his home in Pleasanton, Calif., on Oct. 18, 2019, at the age of 97. He was born May 13, 1922, in San Francisco and raised in Martinez, Calif., where he attended Alhambra High School.

In 1942, he was interned at the Gila River Relocation Center before being drafted into the US Army, where he served in the Military Intelligence Service. After his service in the Army, Harry continued to serve in Japan as a civilian, helping in the rebuilding of Japan.

After one year, Harry returned to the U.S. and attended Armstrong Business College, where he met his wife, Rose Moritomo, who passed away in 2012. He pursued a career in the insurance industry and eventually established Kurotori & Murata Insurance Service in San Francisco. Harry and Rose married in 1953, moved to Hayward, Calif., where they raised their three children and resided for 50-plus years. Throughout his life, he was active in the Japanese American community as a member of the Buddhist Churches of America, Buddhist Church of Oakland, Eden Township JAACL, Eden Nikkei Seniors (Bowling) League and the SF Nisei Fishing Club. His hobbies included gardening, fishing and bowling (active 'til age 94!).

He is survived by his children, Craig (Robin) Kurotori, Dona Anderson and Dee Dee (Tom) Gray; grandchildren, Kimberly (Nick) Anagnost, Tyler Anderson, Erin Gray, Zachary Anderson, Jaime Gray, Cameron Kurotori, Jeremy Anderson and Shannon Gray.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m. at the Buddhist Church of Oakland, 825 Jackson St.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Buddhist Church of Oakland or the Eden Township Japanese Community Center building fund.

## TRIBUTE

### FRANK TOSHIO SUZUKI

July 3, 1921-Oct. 19, 2019

Frank Toshio Suzuki passed peacefully on Oct. 19 in Alameda, Calif., with his wife, Marion, at his side. Born in San Francisco to Chiyosaku and Aki Okamoto Suzuki, the family settled in the Cressey expansion of the Yamato Colony in Merced County. His parents were from Toyohashi in the Aichi prefecture of Japan. Frank was joined by the arrival of sisters, June, Mary, Ruth and Pat.

At the Suzuki Farm, they raised barley, beans, black-eyed peas, corn, mustard seed and sunflower seeds. Later, they farmed chinchilla rabbits, chickens, pigs, grapes, peaches, sweet potatoes and, most recently, almonds. Frank farmed until he retired at age 89.

During high school, Frank played baseball with Nisei friends on the Livingston Dodgers, traveling to play Japanese American teams in Lodi, Stockton, French Camp, Delta and other Central Valley towns. He continued to play baseball at the Merced Assembly Center and Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado. Frank studied veterinary science at California Polytechnic School and worked for the county's only veterinarian. When war with Japan was declared, he returned to Cressey, Calif.

The Suzukis were incarcerated in the detention facility at the Merced Fairgrounds for several months in 1942, then transported to the Granada concentration camp also known as Amache. Frank attended a semester at University of Wyoming. He was able to leave Amache to farm in Lamar, Colo. and Greeley, Colo. He returned to Cressey in 1946, where he would farm for the next 63 years.

He met Marion Oishi of Oakland, Calif., at a church conference in Reno. They married in 1953 in Oakland, making their first home in Livingston, then moving to the Cressey home, where they raised five daughters. Frank and Marion were active with the Livingston United Methodist Church and Livingston-Merced JAACL, and they bowled in the Nisei Bowling League until well into their 80s. Frank was also a member of Blue Diamond Growers, Livingston Farmers Association and Livingston Lions, and later, Buena Vista United Methodist Church in Alameda.

Frank enjoyed Friday poker nights with friends, family camping trips and vacations, especially trips to Lake Tahoe and Hawaii, celebrating friends' special occasions, making investments and attending San Francisco Giants and Golden State Warriors games. In 2009, at the age of 88, he received an honorary diploma from Cal Poly.

Besides his wife of 66 years, Frank is survived by sister, Pat; daughters, Lori (Dean Ito Taylor), Wendy Horikoshi (Peter), Heidi (George Oyama), Tami (Richard Eijima) and Teri; and grandchildren, Steven and Kevin Horikoshi, Masao Ito Taylor, Derek Oyama and Riki and Tomi Eijima. He was predeceased by his parents and sisters, Ruth, Mary Sabusawa and June Mochizuki. Donations may be made to Livingston United Methodist Church, Buena Vista United Methodist Church or Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. A memorial service to celebrate Frank's life was held at Livingston United Methodist Church on Nov. 9, at 1 p.m., 11695 Olive Ave., Livingston, Calif.

## TRIBUTE

### JANE KOSAKURA



Jane M. Kosakura passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 26 surrounded by her loving family.

Jane was born on Nov. 10 in Tule Lake, Calif., and spent most of her childhood on the family farm in West Sacramento. Jane attended Clarksburg High School before graduating from UC Berkeley, where she met her beloved husband of 54 years. Jane received her teaching credential from San Francisco State University and taught elementary school in Oakland before spending the rest of her career with her husband at their travel agency, Kosakura Tours & Travel. They planned hundreds of trips, experienced numerous adventures while traveling the world and made lifelong friends. After retirement, Jane stayed close to home and enjoyed spending time with family, especially events related to her grandchildren.

Jane is survived by her husband, Morris; sons, Ryan (Cheryl) and Keith (Grace); granddaughters, Kelli, Emi and Miya; sister, Phyllis Iwasaki; sisters-in-law, Gwen Iwasaki, Ruth (Rich) Kaneko, Ann (Min) Uyehara and many nieces, nephews, extended family and dear friends who will all miss her infectious smile. She was predeceased by her brother, Richard, and parents, Nathan and Yoshie Iwasaki.

A celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Nov. 30 at the Japanese American Religious & Cultural Center at 3165 Treat Blvd. in Concord, Calif.

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## PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

## CONTACT:

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or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104



# SHANE SATO RETURNS WITH VOL. II OF 'GO FOR BROKE SPIRIT'

A sister tome contains more vet portraits for the ages.

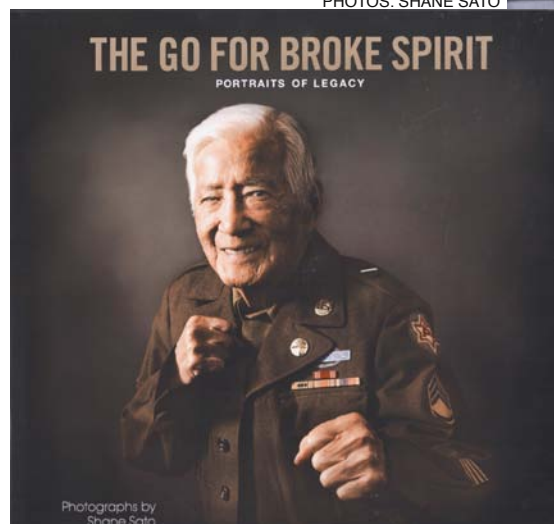
By P.C. Staff

Since publishing “The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage” two years ago (*Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 3, 2017), photographer Shane Sato has been busy — and not just promoting that photographic collection of portraits of Japanese American World War II veterans and others who embodied the “go for broke” ethos they exemplified.

In addition to his marriage to Claire Hur, Sato has been busy promoting that first book but also finishing the second, a sister book titled, “The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy,” copies of which just arrived from the printer and includes unseen photos as well as more recent portraits.

Sato, who describes himself as a half-kotonk, half-buddhahead Sansei, said the response to Volume One was “very positive.” In that collection, each portrait was accompanied on the facing page with text that encapsulated the subject’s story. “Everyone likes the photos, and they all think the stories are very good,” Sato said.

“The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy” shares the same mission as its predecessor, said Sato, and that it’s not just about the veterans or to discuss history. “It’s to get the next generation involved and open up the conversation, which



**Volume II of “The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Courage” continues the mission of its predecessor: to get the next generation involved and open up the conversation.**

my family and I never did,” he said.

“The only thing my family ever talked about was go to school, get a job, be successful, become a doctor or lawyer, which obviously never happened,” Sato said.

Sato never really got much from his family in the way of their experiences as Americans of Japanese ancestry, which for his Hawaii-born father included owning and operating Sam Sato Bowling Supply and for his mother, the former Mary Yasuda, working for the city. They met at the long-defunct but fondly remembered Holiday Bowl in L.A.’s Crenshaw District.

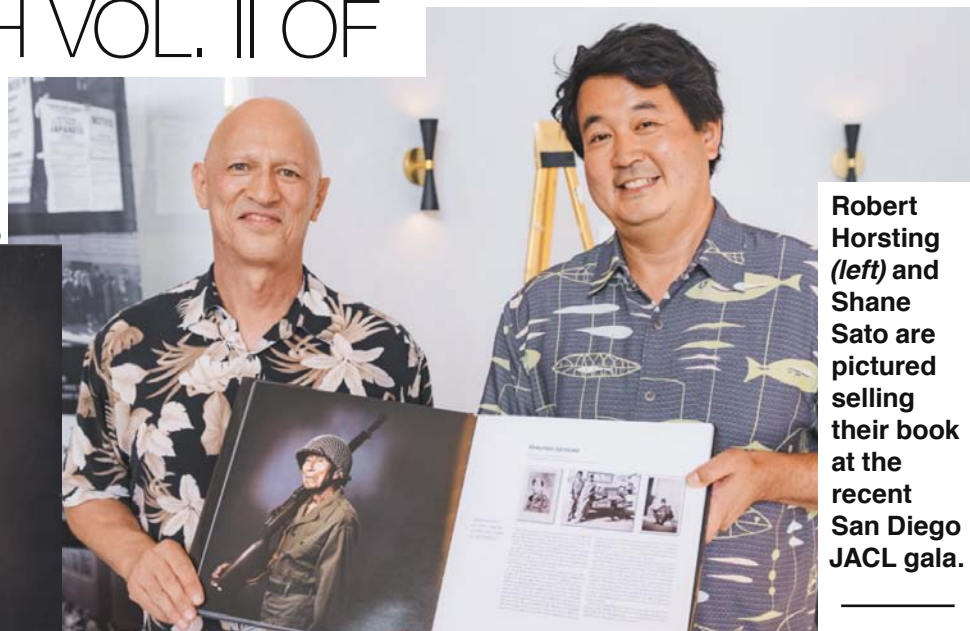
“Everyone who bowled in Los Angeles at that time knew my dad,” Sato said, adding, “The only thing my dad told me about his childhood was, ‘Don’t do what I did. Do something else.’”

Later in life, Sato realized his mother was equally reticent about her past, which included living at the Poston 3 WRA Center. Not even direct questions elicited much of a response.

“My mom never talked about camp,” he said. “They never talked about injustice. I had no idea what redress was.”

Asked to speculate why, Sato said he’ll never know why his folks never opened up about the past. But while producing his books, he noticed the same was true with other Japanese American families.

“Talking with a lot of these veterans and veterans’ families, it’s the same story,” he said. “It could have been a shameful time for them. They didn’t want to go back to that time when they were forced to go to camp.”



**Robert Horsting (left) and Shane Sato are pictured selling their book at the recent San Diego JACL gala.**

For Sato’s parent’s generation, he believes the intention behind not talking about that past may have been to give their offspring “a clean slate” and not grow up with a chip on their shoulders.

Still, it left a void that Sato was compelled to fill — and producing this second volume of portraits was like a soothing balm for him.

“My parents would tell me, ‘It’s not important’ all the time. Don’t worry about our past, and so I believed them,” Sato said. “But in reality, their past was very important, and I didn’t realize until much later in life that they were wrong. So now, I try and tell those stories because many, many Sanseis don’t know about their family history, nor do they know about the war necessarily. They know about internment, but they don’t know necessarily what their families had to go through because, again, their families didn’t talk about it.”

Like with the first book, which Robert Horsting helped promote and produce, he again collaborated with Sato for Vol. II to write the aforementioned profiles that accompany each portrait.

“Just like before, we took different ones if we had a personal relationship or some kind of angle to a particular story, depending on who the veteran was,” he said.

Over the past two years since the first volume was released, Sato traveled to Chicago, Colorado, New York, Utah and Washington, D.C., to collect more portraits for inclusion in his latest offering.

One unexpected development Sato had to deal with was the tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump upon China, where the book was printed. Because of that, Sato said the price has not yet been settled. “It’ll be at least \$55,” he said.

The trade tensions may also have even caused

the book to be red-flagged this time around by Chinese authorities, who thought it might be some sort of pro-Trump book.

“My broker had to explain to them that they (the veterans in the book) fought for America, but they also fought against the government for the injustice that happened to them,” Sato said. “They could not understand that. They just did not get it. But we were able to get the book through . . . I found that kind of funny.”

Through Nov. 24, Sato’s portraits will be on display at the JACCC’s George J. Doizaki Gallery in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. Included will be some newer portraits not in either book, with veterans from the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as America’s long-running conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

While it has been a personal and financial sacrifice for Sato to make the books, one difference in the producing the second book that Sato noticed was less reluctance by the veterans compared with 15 years or more years ago.

“Getting them to do the photo shoot and open up was much, much easier,” he said.

To that point, Sato had a humorous story about a vet in Hawaii who was looking through the first book. He looked and looked for a portrait of himself — but didn’t see one.

“How come I’m not in this book?” he asked. Someone had to tell him that Sato asked him three times if he would pose for a portrait, to no avail. Chagrined, the vet said, “I didn’t know it was gonna be good!”

**Visit [www.TheGoForBrokeSpirit.com](http://www.TheGoForBrokeSpirit.com) for news about “The Go for Broke Spirit: Portraits of Legacy.” See Shane Sato’s photographs at an exhibition titled “The Go for Broke Spirit: Legacy in Portraits,” with video storytelling thru Nov. 24 at the George J. Doizaki Gallery, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Visit [www.JACCC.org](http://www.JACCC.org) for details.**



**Mas Tsuida**



**Wat Misaka**

## AARP » continued from page 9

- Nearly 4 in 10 (38 percent) of family caregivers report a moderate (20 percent) to high degree (18 percent) of financial strain as a result of providing care.
- It has been estimated that U.S. businesses lose more than \$25 billion annually in lost productivity due to absenteeism among full-time working caregivers. The estimate grows to above \$28 billion when part-time

working caregivers are included.

- Caregiving can be an all-consuming experience that leaves the caregiver exhausted and lonely. But it can also be an enormously meaningful accomplishment.

### AARP Resources

AARP has tools, information and support available for family caregivers. The AARP

Caregiving Resource Center ([www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving)) provides an easy way to join an online community of other family caregivers, learn about local services, get helpful information and connect with others who understand caregiving challenges.

Our newest guide is our Military Caregiving Guide for Veterans, Service Members and Their Families. This 44-page guide, developed in collaboration with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, addresses the unique issues faced

by the 5.5 military caregivers in the U.S. and provides information and resources, glossary of terms, and checklists to help them find and organize more support.

You can download the Military Caregiving Guide at [AARP.org](http://AARP.org).

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