



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS



PHOTOS: JOE SHYMANSKI



SPECIAL VETERANS DAY ISSUE



The Congressional Gold Medal: An Accomplishment for the Ages for Nisei Veterans of WWII **» PAGE 5**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Hello, Mr. Johnston — I came upon your Frank Fujino story in the *Pacific Citizen* (Nov. 6-19, 2020) after another of my internet searches for him. I had done a few of these over the years, hampered by the fact that I was misspelling his name (“Fujima”) — which I had only seen once, in his own handwriting.

I was looking for information on him because I had met him in the autumn of 1982, while canvassing for an organization called the Citizens Action League, getting donations and petition signatures (for the record: It was a campaign against the decontrol of natural gas prices — CAL took on a lot of issues, but that was what we were working on at the time.) Having never forgotten him, I wondered what his fuller story was.

When I door-knocked him that evening, he answered in his wheelchair. During our exchange (he signed the petition), I noted on the wall a framed movie poster for “Go For Broke” and remarked

that I had seen the film.

He looked up in surprise — “Really? You know about that?” I said yes, I knew about the 442nd, including that it was the most-decorated unit of WWII. He grew excited and asked if I wanted to see his book from the 442nd’s last veterans’ convention, and, of course, I said yes.

Wheeling to the kitchen table, he told his wife, “Get him some cookies! He knows about my unit!” So, we spent some time going over this book full of photos and reminiscences. I recall one photo of him sitting up in bed smiling in a French hospital, minus his leg, young and good-looking.

His wife — a pretty, beleaguered-looking woman — did as he asked and never smiled or said a word. What lingered with me was his excitement at finding a young white-bread stranger who knew what the 442nd was and who had some vague idea of what he and Japanese Americans had endured.

So, I left with my baggie full of cookies and proceeded to the house of Frank’s neighbor, a 40-something

blue-collar white guy, who looked at the petition and said, “Oh, I see you got Frank.” And I told him about my visit.

He said, “Yeah, poor Frank,” adding that while he was over there fighting, his wife (or future wife, going by your story) had been interned — at Manzanar, he said, though that detail was evidently wrong. Thinking of him and of his wife, and all the men like him, and all those families, still makes me stop and catch my breath.

I remain glad that I stayed up late one night and watched that movie, however simplified and sanitized its depiction was. (I’m impressed that it was made at all, back then.)

And I am very grateful for your article. Frank at the time was the age that I am now — 64 — and had less than a year to live, it turned out. My main feeling about him is poignance. He struck me the way other men of that generation have, whose damage made them more volatile and overbearing than they would otherwise have been.

(I’m recalling (the late-actor) Sam

Shepard talking about his father, a bomber pilot and world-class alcoholic — and all the men who came home from the war broken, and all the women who tried to fix them but could not. In the case of Japanese Americans, add internment and virulent racial prejudice.)

I was left with the impression of a fundamentally good man, possibly a great one, who would have been hard for a wife or child to contend with.

Sincerely,

Bernie MacKinnon,
Memphis, Tenn.



MAYORAL WINS MARK MILESTONE FOR ASIAN AMERICANS



(From left) Aftab Pureval and Michelle Wu were elected mayor of Cincinnati and Boston, respectively; Bruce Harrell awaits results in Seattle.

By Associated Press

Asian Americans will serve as mayor in Boston and Cincinnati for the first time in both cities’ histories, signaling

political progress for a population that has struggled for almost two years with a rise in anti-Asian hate.

Boston voters tapped City Councilor Michelle Wu, 36, on Nov. 2 to serve in the city’s top political office. In Cincinnati, Aftab Pureval, 39, easily defeated former Democratic Congressman David Mann.

“Tonight, we made history in Cincinnati,” Pureval, the son of a Tibetan mother and Indian father, told a large gathering of supporters.

Wu, Boston’s first Asian American city councilor, was the favorite,

especially after getting a coveted endorsement from Acting Mayor Kim Janey.

Meanwhile, in Seattle, Bruce Harrell, who is second-generation Japanese American and Black, was ahead of current City Council President M. Lorena Gonzalez. But it could be days before there’s a clear winner.

Pureval says his election “will show not just that AAPIs can run and win on the coasts or where there’s large Asian populations, but that AAPIs can run and win anywhere.” ■

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— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

'PERFECT IS THE ENEMY OF THE GOOD'

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

The phrase "Perfect is the enemy of the good" is widely attributed to Voltaire and has no better application than when talking about the legislative process. It seems that every day, the components of the \$1.75 trillion-\$3 trillion Build Back Better social infrastructure package keep shifting depending on what priority is taking precedence or which costs need to be cut.

What is inevitable is that the final legislation, if passed, will be very different from what the president originally envisioned as ideal. But that doesn't mean that the final bill will be bad and likely not something anyone would oppose because of what it does or doesn't fund.

Compromise is a key part of the process, and while some of our top priorities may be excluded, it's not a

reason to torpedo the legislation for the other good that it can do.

Similarly, in our own community, we are seeing this process play out in the evolution of the Japanese American Confinement Education Act.

When the JACE Act was initially conceived, it was as a direct analog to the Never Again Holocaust Education Act, which supports Holocaust education through the National Holocaust Museum.

The JACE Act was written to be as close a replica of that model, run through a museum-based organization. We had a model, and the legislation was penned as a fairly direct copy of the model that had already passed through Congress with no opposition.

As with any legislation, it then had to go through the process of review by other members of Congress, the Department of Interior and National Park Service and, of course, the public. The result is that the legislation that is now going through the House

Natural Resources Committee is quite different from the original proposal.

The most noticeable change is that the new education program funded by the JACE Act would be open for application from any "Japanese American organization established to promote the understanding and appreciation of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States by illustrating the Japanese American experience throughout the history of the United States."

Rather than focus on a single museum site as the Holocaust education act did, this would be open to a broader range of funded organizations who would apply for competitive grant funding.

Funding would be split amongst grantees, with minimum funding in the range of \$500,000-\$750,000 per grantee. This would ensure the depth of programming possible through the program and set it apart significantly from the JACS program, which funds at a lower level.

Just as the original concept of the JACE Act was to create significant programs with permanence, the minimum funding levels would similarly promote programs that would stand the test of time and be established for permanence.

On the other hand, permanence is also a concern for Congress. We had hoped to eliminate the sunset provi-

sion on the authorization. Unfortunately, some in Congress do not like to create permanent programs such as this and would not be supportive of this permanent authorization.

Instead, it is looking like Congress will authorize an additional \$28 million in funding for the JACS program, which will extend it another seven to eight years.

This is not necessarily a bad twist, in that we will need to continue to mount our advocacy efforts with Congress to continue to educate them on the need to continue to tell our Japanese American story from our nation's history. As we observe Veterans Day this week, we are reminded of the need to continue to educate everyone of the contributions of the Nisei soldiers during World War II.

In expanding the program to a wider range of potential applicants, one concern was that the funding could be swallowed up by organizations that are not rooted in the community. One provision to prevent this would be a limit on the size of applicants to under a threshold of employees.

This would prevent an organization such as a university from capturing significant amounts of funding. The hope is that universities might engage in the program by working in collaboration with an organization from the community that could seek the direct funding.

Before I close, I want to especially highlight the leadership of Rep. Doris Matsui, who has marshalled this legislation from the original concept. It was House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office that highlighted the Never Again Holocaust Act as the model for developing around.

Without the leadership of these two women, we would not be where we are today, on the cusp of millions in additional funding for the JACS program and a \$10 million commitment to further develop resources to educate on the Japanese American story.

As the JACE Act has gone through the grinder of Congress, it is in some ways very different from the original details of the bill, however, the overall concept remains the same. Most importantly, it will shore up the existing JACS program and create a new program to solidify the importance of the Japanese American wartime story to our nation's history by allocating significant resources to our community to better tell the story for generations to come.

That would be a sausage worth our community gathering and feasting on together.

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



NIKKEI VOICE

FINALLY, A SALUTE TO WWII NISEI VETERANS

By Gil Asakawa

It took 15 years, but the U.S. Postal Service this past June released a Forever stamp that memorializes the "Go For Broke" 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Nisei soldiers of World War II who served in Europe and became the most highly decorated unit in the history of the U.S. military for their size and length of service.

The *Pacific Citizen* reported last year on the approval for the stamp, which was the result of a decades and a half of work by a volunteer trio of women who founded the Stamp Our Story Campaign in 2005, as well as JACL members across the country and organizations such as the Japanese American Veterans Assn. (<https://www.pacificcitizen.org/usps-announces-go-for-broke-stamp-for-2021/>).

The stamp is a portrait etched in a printmaking process called intaglio, of U.S. Army Pvt. First Class Shi-

roku "Whitey" Yamamoto of Ninole, Hawaii. Yamamoto is the avatar for all Japanese American soldiers who fought for their country, and though the USPS didn't overtly include the members of the Military Intelligence Service or MIS in its tribute, JAs understand the respect is shared with the soldiers who were in the Pacific during the war and afterwards, working in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Occupation Forces in Japan.

Denver, where I live, has claimed its share of 100th/442nd veterans — 11 local men were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011 and honored at a White House ceremony hosted by President Barack Obama. Among them, George "Joe" Sakato had already received the Distinguished Service Cross in 1944 for heroism in battle, and then his medal was upgraded in 2000 after the awards of Nisei veterans was reviewed, to the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor. His medal was placed around his neck by then-President Bill Clinton.

Joe earned his medals because of the valor he showed as a soldier under the most terrible of circumstances.

Imagine being a young American whose family is uprooted and sent to a concentration camp just because of your ethnic heritage. Then, when your country needs help, you volunteer and leave your family behind barbed wire while you go across the world to fight for the country that locked you up.

Joe Sakato's family moved from California to Arizona to avoid incarceration, but like the men who enlisted from prison camps, Sakato joined the Army in 1944, along with almost 18,000 other Japanese Americans who fought in Europe, and 6,000 who were in the MIS. The 100th/442nd suffered so many casualties, they became known as the "Purple Heart Battalion."

One of the many battles that contributed to this nickname was the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion, which had been trapped by Nazis in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France in October 1944. The JA troops were sent to rescue the surrounded Texans and suffered 800 casualties to save 211 men.

Among the casualties was Joe Sakato's best friend, Saburo Tanamachi. Sakato and his platoon were pinned down by a German machine gun nest on the forested mountain, and when his friend stood up to try and figure out the enemy's location,

he was shot and died in Joe's arms.

This enraged Sakato to the point that he left his foxhole and advanced uphill, killing German soldiers and eliminating the machine gun nest. Whenever he told the story of his friend's death, Sakato's eyes welled up with tears as he remembered crying out why Tanamachi had stood up.

Joe was a regular presence at the annual Memorial Day service at Denver's Fairmount Cemetery, where a Nisei Veterans' Memorial had been built. He would point out the name of his late best friend, Saburo Tanamachi, etched in the memorial, if anyone asked about his wartime experience.

Joe died in 2016, but in 2013, his portrait was included on the sheet surrounding a USPS stamp honoring Medal of Honor recipients. Ironically, Joe worked for the Post Office for decades until his retirement. After the war, he couldn't find a job — he said there was too much hatred

toward JAs, even though he wore his military uniform to job interviews. But he was hired at the Post Office. In 2019, the USPS renamed the post office branch where he had worked in his name.

Now, Joe Sakato's legacy has come full circle, thanks to the 15-year Stamp Our Story Campaign's efforts. The contribution of Sakato and so many other JA soldiers has officially been recognized with a postage stamp. It's a small but significant and powerful symbol. I bought sheets of the stamp not to use but to keep. But if you ever see a Go For Broke stamp on a letter, or if you stick one on an envelope, you'll feel the history that went into it.

Gil Asakawa is the author of "Tabemasho! Let's Eat! A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America," which will be published by Stone Bridge Press in 2022. He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.



In this 2014 photo, Nisei veteran Joe Sakato, recipient of the nation's highest military honor, is pictured at the Denver Nisei War Memorial.
PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

Remembering Vietnam War Vet **KAY KIMURA**

Fellow Marine Pat Garrett uncovers a remarkable backstory.

By P.C. Staff

When 2nd Lt. Kay Kazu Kimura, USMC, was killed in action on March 7, 1970, at age 26, he had been stationed in Vietnam for only about three months.

According to retired Col. Pat Garrett, USMC, Kimura had nevertheless in that short time “established himself as a star early on — he was focused and good at everything at what he did. My sense is that he had established himself in the mind of the squadron as one of the ‘good ones.’”

Garrett told the *Pacific Citizen* he began researching Kimura’s story after his wife, retired Maj. Gen. Tracy Garrett, USMC, had identified Kimura as someone possibly worthy of creating a namesake scholarship for the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation as a means to address a situation with the Marine Corps vis-à-vis Japanese Americans.

“One of the problems that the Marine Corps has had, candidly, is that . . . unlike the Army, the Marine Corps has not had a great representation in the Japanese American community,” Pat said.

When Tracy came across Kay’s Japanese surname, Pat said she “was kind of intrigued by that because that’s fairly uncommon.” He volunteered to conduct some internet research on Kimura.

One of the facts he learned, as mentioned, was that Kimura had only been in Vietnam for about three months. The other was that Kimura, who was born in 1943 at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona, had posthumously been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

“It was extraordinary to get the DFC, you know, for a kid that hadn’t even qualified as a pilot in command to get the Distinguished Flying Cross,” said Garrett.

Garrett learned that Kimura’s DFC was awarded for his actions that took place before the mission that killed him, gunner Sgt. Andrew William Smith, pilot Capt. Albert Henry Gates Jr. and crew chief Cpl. Glenn Frederic Austin. Door gunner Ed Bohan was the mission’s lone survivor.

Four days before that fatal mission, Kimura was involved in a hair-raising mission that earned him the DFC.

“The helicopter squadron that he was assigned to had a mission that was heavily focused on supporting reconnaissance operations in the mountainous areas, inland from the Hue–Da Nang region of Vietnam,” Garrett said. The squadron conducted many extractions of recon teams that had been inserted into hostile territory.

According to Garrett, Kimura had been the co-pilot in a chopper that had gone in to extract a reconnaissance team and “came under extremely heavy enemy fire in the zone.”

“Kay essentially took over,” Garrett said, “coordinating things for the whole mission while his pilot concentrated on trying to keep the aircraft in the sky that involves not just a whole bunch of piloting skills, but a whole

bunch of talking on the radio, coordinating with supporting arms, fire support and things.

“For a brand-new guy, on one of his first combat missions,” he continued, “it was just extraordinary that he did so well.”

The irony was that the mission for which Kimura and his crewmates lost their lives was one that might be considered comparatively low-risk: flying escort for a three-star general — and one for which Kimura was a last-minute replacement.

There were, however, a couple of ominous factors. One was the weather, which had turned “zero-zero,” meaning the visibility needed for horizontal and vertical reference was nearly nil. “The weather was so bad that even extract missions hadn’t been launching,” Garrett said.

Nevertheless, the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter carrying the five men took off.

“They somehow managed to meet up with the other helicopter,” said Garrett. Then, a squall came in, and the already bad visibility worsened. Then, the other ominous occurrence took place. According to the lone survivor, a moment or two later, “there was a very loud bang from the back of the helicopter.”

“He recalled seeing Kay and the pilot look back toward the tail to see what was going on, and a moment later, the aircraft crashed into the water,” Garrett said. The source of the loud noise remains a mystery.

Kimura’s body was recovered about a week later. “People were genuinely affected by someone like him being killed,” Garrett said, including Barbara Berthiaume, also of Port Townsend, but formerly of Nampa, Idaho.

Although a couple years younger than Kay Kimura, Berthiaume, née Yoshida, remembers him as the older brother that Ted Kimura, a classmate who was her age, looked up to. Berthiaume says Kay Kimura’s death was “a huge blow” to the whole family and Kay’s widow, Naomi (Nagai) Kimura, who is now, like Ted Kimura, deceased.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Fund has created a scholarship in honor of Kimura, but according to Tracy Garrett, the Kay Kimura scholarship is not yet an endowed, perpetual scholarship. She said that to make that happen would entail raising about \$100,000.

Berthiaume, meantime, is hopeful that an endowed, perpetual scholarship for Kay Kazu Kimura does eventually come to fruition as more people learn the story of this remarkable young man’s brief but promising life, cut short in service to his country.

EDITOR’S NOTE: To learn more about how to donate to the Kay Kimura scholarship fund, visit <https://my.mcsf.org/mcsf-content-pages/support/support---kay-kimura> for details.



2nd Lt. Kay Kazu Kimura, USMC

Ret. Col. Pat Garrett, USMC (top) and his wife, Ret. Maj. Gen. Tracy Garrett

Pat Ward, U.S. Air Force
Sam Owada,
U.S. Merchant Marine and the U.S. Coast Guard
Bob Nakamura, U.S. Army

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Susumu Ito, in the red, white and blue garrison cap and displaying his Congressional Gold Medal, is flanked by members of the House and Senate at the Nov. 2, 2011, ceremony at the nation's capitol.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAVA



Speaker of the House John Boehner (left) presents MIS vet Grant Ichikawa his Congressional Gold Medal on Nov. 2, 2011.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JEAN SHIRAKI



THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL: AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE AGES

Ten years later, a look back to when the U.S. paid tribute to Nisei WWII veterans.

By P.C. Staff

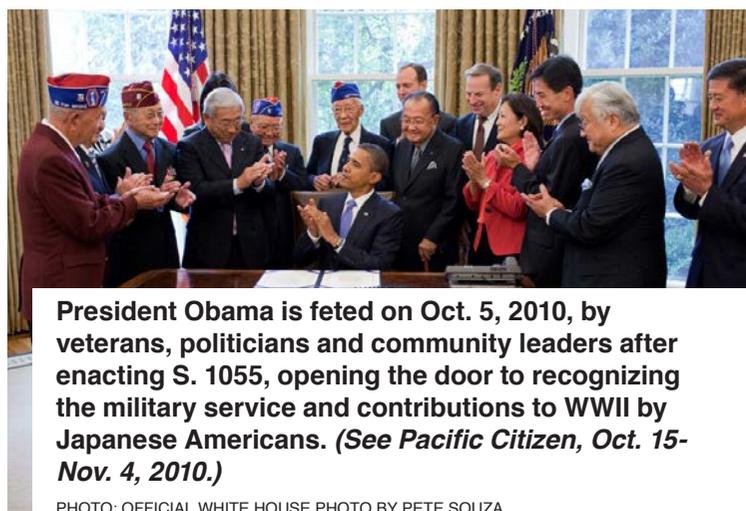
November 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of highest recognition among the many marks of distinction achieved by the extraordinary service of second-generation Japanese Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II: the Congressional Gold Medal.

With Veterans Day 2021 coinciding with that 10th anniversary, when the United States Congress honored collectively the Nisei members of the Military Intelligence Service, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Battalion, the Pacific Citizen looks back at how this recognition came to pass.

Following are the recollections of a few of the many individuals from several organizations that worked together to turn a vision of kansha and reconciliation for those men, still-living and deceased, into a medallion of honor, an heirloom that validated for those still-living veterans the sacrifices, physical injuries and psychological traumas that accompanied serving their nation.

Nov. 2, 2011, was when this nation embraced the now-elderly Japanese American soldiers, who held firm to their steadfast belief in the promise of freedom, justice and equality for all, decades after America initially rejected them as enemy aliens and, for those who lived on the Pacific Coast, incarcerated them and their families.

Most of those men who were fortunate to be a part of that ceremony a decade ago have since passed, for not even the greatest human warrior may live forever. The recollections and images of that day and what they accomplished to earn that commendation, however, can be passed to their American heirs of all backgrounds, creeds and beliefs. It is a tale for the ages.



President Obama is feted on Oct. 5, 2010, by veterans, politicians and community leaders after enacting S. 1055, opening the door to recognizing the military service and contributions to WWII by Japanese Americans. (See Pacific Citizen, Oct. 15-Nov. 4, 2010.)

PHOTO: OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY PETE SOUZA



MIS veteran Bruce Kaji in front of the U.S. Capitol in November 2011

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JON KAJI

Revisiting President Obama's Oct. 5, 2010, authorization of the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal on Nov. 2, 2011, to American WWII veterans of Japanese heritage, it might appear that those events were obvious, straightforward courses of action, akin to a *fait accompli*.

In a word, no. National Veterans Network Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki told the Pacific Citizen, "I think most of the country does not know what it took to get the Congressional Gold Medal passed in Congress."

Despite the well-documented and, to Japanese Americans at least, well-known WWII exploits of those Nisei who served in combat roles in the European Theater and intelligence

roles in the Pacific Theater, it turned out that there were many members of Congress who needed to be educated about what they evidently did not learn in school or via popular culture.

That history in question occurred during that greatest of wars, when Americans whose ancestors hailed from Asia — Japan, to be specific in this scenario — served the U.S. as ably, if not more so, than Americans with European roots.

With help in Congress from Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) and then-Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), the Japanese American community commenced a roughly two-year long campaign to educate, cajole and compel members of Congress in both houses and all political parties to unite in favor of honoring the Nisei soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal.

As it turned out, convincing the House of Representatives to pass a bill to award the Nisei veterans was the easier task, thanks to Schiff's

leadership in the House. On the Senate side, things were a bit more difficult.

Although Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) was held in high esteem within the Senate, having been awarded the Medal of Honor as a member of the 100th Battalion, he did not take a visible role in pushing for Congressional Gold Medal recognition for his fellow Nisei veterans, lest his advocacy seem self-serving.

According to Floyd Mori, who in 2010 was the JACL's national director, it was Boxer, "having represented many of the Japanese Americans in California, knew of the story and was very strong in advocating," who advocated for the Congressional Gold Medal on the Senate side.

Puyallup Valley JACL thanks its chapter members for their military service.



MIS vet Paul Bannai scrutinizes the program at the gala banquet.

PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI



Rep. Adam Schiff addresses the audience during the Nov. 2, 2011, banquet.

PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI

(From left) Jean Shiraki, Terry Shima, Grant Ichikawa and Phillip Ozaki split into two teams to visit 50 U.S. senator's offices to persuade them to support a bill to award Nisei WWII vets the Congressional Gold Medal.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PHILLIP OZAKI



Mori also credited Sen. Robert Bennett (R-Utah), who was “very familiar with the Japanese American story,” including that of 442nd veteran (and Medal of Honor awardee) George Sakato, who Mori said was inducted into the Army from Salt Lake City.

Having Inouye, Boxer and Bennett — and maybe 30-35 other senators — committed to “the Boxer bill,” aka S. 1055, was, however, not enough; it would need 67 bipartisan votes before it could move forward to the White House.

Different strategies were needed for different states. Decisions on dividing the labor were needed. Time was of the essence, due to the advanced ages of those still-living veterans, not to mention the looming summer recess.

Fortunately, there were two elderly vets and two much-younger people up to the task of helping to persuade senators and their staffs on the importance of passing the bill.

The elders were Grant Ichikawa and Terry Shima. The “youngsters” were winners of the JACL’s Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship and Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship: Phillip Ozaki and Jean Shiraki, respectively, both of whom served on Mori’s staff.

Sadly, Grant Ichikawa died in 2017. But Shima, who turns 99 on Jan. 20, Shiraki and Ozaki remember well the work it took to convince senators on the import of passing the bill.

A decade after the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony, Shiraki is a practicing family physician in San Diego; Ozaki, meantime, is a JACL staffer with the title of development director and before that, he served as membership and program manager.

Floyd Mori: As we moved into the campaign for the Congressional Gold Medal, one of the

important aspects of that was we, as JACL, made an effort to visit many of the offices of the senators, and we took along with us WWII veterans Terry Shima, who was in the 442nd, and Grant Ichikawa, who was MIS.

To take these real-life veterans of WWII office to office . . . how could the senator refuse to support the bill when there are two veterans like those two explaining the role of Japanese Americans and what they did during WWII?

Phillip Ozaki: *I was 23, fresh out of college, first time doing this, but I felt really good about it because I really believed that my grandfather (Sam Ozaki) and the 4-4-2 were deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal.*

Christine Sato-Yamazaki: *There was a period in our campaign where it stalled in the Senate. Floyd took Terry Shima and Grant Ichikawa, and they walked the floor of Congress . . . their contribution was significant.*

Jean Shiraki: *We both were tasked to . . . start the momentum again for the Senate Bill 1055. . . . There already had been some core co-sponsors of the bill, but it kind of had been a little stagnant in terms of having enough senator co-sponsors.*

Ozaki: *We did what I called the “bull rush” strategy. Since 50 senators had signed on, we had 15 Senate visits to make. So, we split up into teams. I took Grant, and Jean took Terry, and then we had a list of 25 senators each to visit. And so, in one day, the four of us visited half the Senate.*

Shiraki: *I just remember Philip and I laughed because if we were very exhausted, then we could only imagine how exhausted Terry Shima and Grant Ichikawa were that day.*

» See MEDAL on page 8



Bruce Hollywood (left) confers with Norman Mineta at the Remembrance Ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

PHOTOS: JOE SHYMANSKI

(From left) Gen. Eric Shinseki (Ret.) and Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostic (Ret.)



Terry Shima, 442nd RCT



Gen. Paul Nakasone served as the keynote speaker of the NVN Celebration.

Army Museum Finally Opens Nisei Soldier Experience After Pandemic Delay

By P.C. Staff

Nearly 10 years after the Congressional Gold Medal recognition that was bestowed upon Nisei soldiers who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, that generation of Japanese American servicemen was again honored, this time in conjunction with the recently reopened National Museum of the United States Army, located at Fort Belvoir, Va.

After a pandemic-induced delay, the Nisei Soldier Experience exhibition at the NMUSA officially opened with a three-day gala that began on Sept. 2.

According to National Veterans Network Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki, whose organization has worked closely with the NMUSA on the Nisei Soldier Experience since 2017 to make and execute plans, as well as gather artifacts for the display, it was a long time coming.

“We were supposed to have the event in April 2020. It was actually right before the museum was supposed to open to the public. Of course, that’s when the pandemic all started. So, we had to cancel that event,” Sato-Yamazaki said.

The NMUSA itself had originally been slated to officially open on Veterans Day 2020, which it did, only to be promptly shut down by Dec. 14 due to the spread of SARS-CoV-2, not reopening until Flag Day, June 14, 2021, which was also the Army’s 246th birthday.

Fast-forwarding to September, the Nisei Soldier Experience finally opened. In attendance were guests of honor Helen and Charles Moriyama of Honolulu, and Amy and Ralph Matsumoto of Paramount, Calif. Charles Moriyama, 96, and Ralph Matsumoto, 100, both served in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII.

Charles Moriyama, who retired from the Army as a colonel, was quoted in an NVN news release: “My wife, Helen, and I made the decision in 2019 that we would visit the museum when it opened. Nothing could have stopped us from coming for this historic event. I wish more of my fellow Nisei veterans were still here to see this exhibit that honors the sacrifice, service and honor of our units during WWII. I thank everyone who worked so hard for this exhibit, especially the National Veterans Network.”

In the same news release, Ralph Ma-

tsumoto said, “I never thought a day or exhibit like this would happen in my lifetime. I am so grateful to everyone who made this exhibit a reality. I am grateful to the National Veterans Network for their commitment to telling our story.”

Joining the two couples were about 40 families of veterans of the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS. Included in that cohort were families of Medal of Honor recipients Pfc. Kaoru Moto, 100th Infantry Battalion; Pfc. Sadao Munemori, 100th Infantry Battalion; and Pfc. George Sakato, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

“Most of the veteran families had either an object or a story in the Nisei Soldier exhibit itself,” Sato-Yamazaki told the *Pacific Citizen*. “So, it was really about having these daughters and sons and family members, grandchildren come and see.”

“For example, George Sakato, who’s a 442nd Medal of Honor recipient, Leslie, his daughter, came, and her father’s helmet that he wore during the war was on display. . . . It was very emotional, it was very inspiring.”

The Nisei Soldier Experience will be on display at the NMUSA until January 2025. That this particular exhibition is included so prominently in the museum’s early programming is a testament to a case of preparation and hard work meeting opportunity that began years before the opening of the museum to ensure that the WWII contributions of the Nisei Army vets were included.

“We had gone and talked to the museum leadership about four years ago, and they did not actually know about the 100th and 4-4-2 and MIS. The historians did, but the museum leadership did not,” Sato-Yamazaki said.

“I think that, one, they were just surprised that they didn’t know this or learn the story. And they recognized that it was an American story, it was part of the 246-year history of the Army,” she continued. “So, to their credit, one of the things that we had done with them is they traveled with us for about a year to eight different Japanese American communities across the United States. And so, the director of their museum, Tammy Call, and then the former military curator, Dr. (Charles) Cureton, Gen. (Eric) Shinseki and I traveled to all eight cities. And we introduced the museum, and then we introduced the concept of incorporating the Nisei soldiers into the museum.”



Ralph Matsumoto and Charles Moriyama

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NVN

» According to Sato-Yamazaki, during the eight-city tour, they asked members of the respective Japanese American communities whether they had any objects that families would be willing to donate to the museum.

“At the time, the museum had zero Nisei objects,” she noted, adding that without objects, there was nothing around which to build an exhibition.

“As a result of the tour, they had hundreds of objects that were donated. And then from there, NVN took the lead to develop the stories around the objects,” Sato-Yamazaki said. Furthermore, she said the Nisei contribution to the Army and WWII is baked into the museum in several permanent ways, as well.

“The 100th/4-4-2 and MIS are actually incorporated in three other areas of the museum. It’s not talked about very much, but I think it’s important. There is a permanent exhibit in the Army in Society Gallery,” Sato-Yamazaki said. “And there’s space that’s dedicated to the Japanese American soldiers, World War II soldiers, and it’s in the context of Executive Order 9066. And just the overall contributions of the three units.

“In that display case, Sadao Munemori’s Medal of Honor, his Purple Heart and his Gold Star pin are on display. And also, the senninbari worn by 442nd veteran Jimmy Mizote and a dictionary that was used by an MIS [soldier], so there’s like about 11 objects in there. That’s on permanent display.

“And then, in the Soldiers’ Stories Gallery, which is right when you enter the museum, there are these steel pylons. One is dedicated to Don Oka from Los Angeles. He served in the MIS.”

Sato-Yamazaki also related that there are also some digital pylons where visitors can swipe through different profiles — among them are profiles of 10 Nisei. Finally, among permanent exhibitions that include Nisei is the Medal of Honor experience, where the 21 members of the 100th/442nd who were awarded the Medal of Honor are memorialized. “So, the Niseis are actually in four areas of the museum,” she said.

Among the dignitaries and speakers who were present for the Nisei Soldier Experience were Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville; Commander, U.S. Cyber Command, and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service Gen. Paul Nakasone; retired Gen. Eric Shinseki; Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to President Joseph Biden and Rep. Mark Takano. Also present were JACL Executive Director David Inoue and former JACL National Director Floyd Mori.

To learn more about the National Museum of the United States Army, visit thenmusa.org/exhibit/nisei-soldier-experience/. The NMUSA is located at 1775 Liberty Dr., Fort Belvoir, VA 22060.

To learn more about the National Veterans Network, visit nationalveteransnetwork.com/.

Leslie Sakato points out the helmet once worn by her father, George Sakato, a 442nd veteran who was awarded an upgraded Medal of Honor in 2000.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NVN



The National Museum of the United States Army is now open to the public, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The Nisei Soldier Experience will continue through January 2025.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NMUSA



Thanking all the World War II veterans and all the veterans before and after who have made life in America so wonderful for us.

v/r

Setsy Sadamoto Larouche
Chip Larouche

Photo by Rich Iwasaki at the Portland unveiling of the GO FOR BROKE Stamp

MEDAL » continued from page 6

Thelma Suzuki,
wife of MIS
vet Clarence
Suzuki, and
George "Joe"
Sakato



Mitsuo Kunihiro shares a grin.



Terry Shima: Shiraki and Ozaki did all the planning, contacted and made appointments, briefed the senator's staff and requested them to have their senators sign on to the Boxer bill. They then asked Grant and me to explain what the Nisei did in Europe and the Asia Pacific Theater.

Shiraki: We split 50 offices. . . . Eventually, though, we did tag on about 20 more offices afterwards just like to be fully complete because we really wanted a two-thirds majority of Senate co-sponsors for the bill. . . . I think it was pretty effective in really getting the momentum back. . . . I think, obviously, what really helps is having a personal story, and that's what Terry and Grant brought.

Shima: Initially, senators were reluctant to sign on, preferring to wait and see how other senators responded. We were told this is common practice among senators who did not have pressure from their constituents and the bill's sponsor. This motivated us to work harder — to use all options available to us.

One wrinkle that occurred early in the process cropped up when it was learned that the MIS vets were not part of Schiff's original version of the bill.

Shima: On Jan. 14, 2009, I received a call from Bill Takakoshi, who was doing his firm's business in Capitol Hill. Bill said Congressman Adam Schiff's bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT was being voted that day. Takakoshi then introduced me to Aaron Baird, Schiff's staff officer.

I asked whether the MIS was included in the bill, and Baird said no. When he was told why MIS should be included, he invited me to come to his office as soon as possible to meet Schiff.

When the inclusion of the MIS was explained to Schiff, he agreed, said it was too late to include in his bill, which was being voted on that day, and suggested an amendment be included in Sen. Boxer's bill. I maintained contact with Schiff's office until the bill, which contained the MIS, had passed the House.

The hard, collective work of visiting different senators' offices did, in fact, pay off. S. 1055 passed through the Senate, with 73 voting in favor: 49 Democrats, 22 Republicans, one Independent and one Independent Democrat. The president signed it on Oct. 5, 2010.

A little more than a year later, on Oct. 31, 2011, registration began for a three-day program that included the Congressional Gold Medal presentations at the United States Capitol, a gala banquet at the Washington, D.C., Hilton Hotel that

drew more than 2,500 people and visits to the WWII Memorial and National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

On the morning of Nov. 1, 2011, the program commenced with a tribute to the veterans of WWII in the Washington Hilton's Columbia Hall, followed by a visit for veterans only to the WWII Memorial.

On the cold morning of Nov. 2 was the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, held at the Capitol. That evening was the gala dinner titled "Tribute to 100th, 442nd and MIS." And, on Nov. 3, this last large muster of old soldiers took part in the Remembrance Ceremony at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, attended only by the members of KIA families.

Mori: The speaker [of the House] at the time was John Boehner. And he spoke very eloquently about the role of Japanese Americans at the ceremony. And, of course, on the Senate side, Sen. Inouye spoke. Harry Reid was the leader on the Senate side. So, there was a great bipartisan effort in recognizing the (Nisei) soldiers of WWII.

Darrell Kunitomi, a longtime *Los Angeles Times* employee, and Jon Kaji, who is running for a seat on the Torrance City Council next June, are sons of MIS vets Jack Kunitomi and Bruce Kaji. They relayed to the *Pacific Citizen* their recollections from 10 years ago.

Darrell Kunitomi: I recall a few incidents that stand out in my memory: Our dad meeting Sen. Daniel Inouye, taking pictures with him, smiling broadly at meeting the living legend that was the senator; visiting the WWII memorial with him, and taking a family portrait there; seeing him sitting with other vets, then he looked over at his neighbor for a moment, then said, "Is that you, Ard?" It was his old buddy from the MIS, Ardaven Kozono, who he hadn't seen since they had served together.

Jon Kaji: All of the members got on a bus, which took us to the Capitol. We all cleared



Rose Ochi and MIS veteran Jack Kunitomi



The Washington Hilton Hotel's largest ballroom accommodated more than 2,500 guests who attended the gala dinner on Nov. 2.

PHOTOS: JOE SHYMANSKI

security and then were ushered into the assembly room for the ceremony.

Kunitomi: There was time to sit and chat with other Japanese Americans from around the country. And that was just wonderful. So many told of their dads' and granddads' service, many knew a lot, and some knew precious little. Yet, all were proud and grateful. It was moving to talk with someone and know that you shared very similar stories.

Kaji: As Bruce sat down with some of his friends from MIS, I think that take by the MIS members was a lot different than the 100th/442nd vets.

As I listened to them, I think the sense they got was, after the war, of course, the 100th/442nd, they're recognized by President (Harry) Truman at the White House and had a ticker tape parade. But no one knew about the MIS.

But I think over the years, they felt kind of

miffed that, well, what the 100th/442nd did was great and tremendous. A lot of the guys lost their lives or got wounded as a result. But there was a certain sense of competition.

And I think that event helped to equalize the recognition, among all the Nisei vets. I think for the MIS members that day, they were really, really happy.

On Nov. 2, the National Veterans Networks released an online video in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony. It can be viewed at tinyurl.com/bb4ekskm.

To watch C-Span's coverage of the 2011 Congressional Gold Medal presentations, visit tinyurl.com/y9erasj9.

To purchase any of Joe Shymanski's photographs, visit [https://joeshymanski.zenfolio.com/p373963016](http://joeshymanski.zenfolio.com/p373963016).

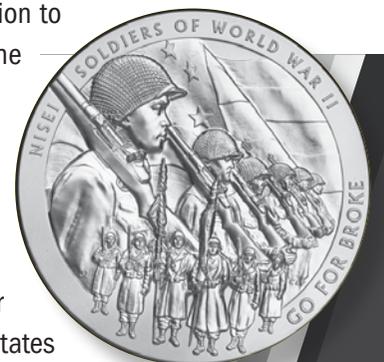


THE NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK INVITES YOU TO 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NISEI SOLDIER CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

Join us for a 30-minute virtual presentation to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Nisei Soldier Congressional Gold Medal that highlights the two year journey to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the men and women of the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT and Military Intelligence Service for their extraordinary service to the United States of America.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

To watch the 10th Anniversary video, please visit
www.nationalveteransnetwork.com/NiseiCGM





REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP LAUNCHES NEW TOOL TO HELP VETERANS ACCESS HEALTH CARE

By Ron Mori

AARP recently launched a new tool to bring together valuable information and resources to help veterans, military families and their caregivers navigate their health care options. The Veterans and Military Families Health Benefits Navigator provides veterans and military families with critical information about what is required to qualify for health care benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) or Department of Defense (DoD).

Not only will those who wore the uniform and their surrounding family members find this a useful tool, caregivers will find this to be a much-needed repository of information as they assume their caregiving

duties and get up to speed on what's available for their wounded warrior

More than ever, veterans and military families need help accessing the health care benefits they earned serving our country. My uncle was in his 80s when he found out that he qualified for a hearing benefit through the VA. This free, one-stop resource will help make the process less confusing and overwhelming for veterans and military families as they navigate their options.

Even before the pandemic, veterans and their families struggled with where to begin when deciding the best path for their health care needs: VA health care, Military Tricare, Medicare, private insurance or Medicaid.

Recently, more than 340,000 veterans have been diagnosed with

Covid-19, and VA medical centers has reported almost 15,000 deaths from the disease. More than 9 million veterans, about 47 percent of all veterans in 2019, are 65 or older, according to the VA; nearly three-quarters are 50 and older.

How Does the Navigator Help?

Don't let your veteran be one of those who are eligible but not receiving important health benefits. I know the vital difference it can make for our loved ones, so I urge you to check out the new AARP online tool, the Veterans & Military Families Health Benefits Navigator, to access critical information about what is required to qualify for health care benefits from the VA. The tool will help you:

- Learn more about health care benefits provided through the VA and DoD.
- Understand how to qualify for, apply and enroll in VA health care.
- Understand how these health care benefits may be combined with Medicare and Medicaid to expand options.
- Identify how to get help from representatives who have experience and knowledge of the VA's process for awarding benefits.

AARP also provides free resources

for family caregivers, who often play a critical role in helping veterans access the care they need, including the newly updated Military Veterans Caregiving Guide and the Financial Workbook for Veteran and Military Family Caregivers.

Nearly 60 percent of all veterans are eligible for VA health care services, while less than half of those eligible veterans use VA health benefits, according to a RAND study. Yet, quality of care delivered by the VA is generally equal to or better than care delivered in the private sector. A misunderstanding or frustration with the application process causes many veterans to simply forgo VA health benefits. Oftentimes, confusion about qualification requirements keeps veterans from receiving their health benefits.

AARP's Veterans and Military Families Health Benefits Navigator is available at www.AARP.org/VetsHealthNavigator.

For more information and other resources for veterans, visit www.aarp.org/veterans.

aarp.org/veterans.

To all the veterans, thank you for your service and sacrifice for our great country.

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



PHOTO: AARP



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK REGARDING THE STATUS OF EVENTS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE'S CALENDAR SECTION.

NATIONAL

Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ+ Community Conference

Nov. 12-14
Los Angeles, CA
Virtual Event
Price: \$10-\$25 (Scholarships Available)

Join Okaeri for a weekend of support, education and community that will begin with a "speed meetup" where you'll get to meet new friends. On Nov. 13 and 14, participants will choose between 23 workshops and 11 affinity groups. Nov. 13 will also feature Okaeri Performs! an event that will showcase queer and trans community performers. On Nov. 14, the conference will close with its keynote, Gia Gunn, who was featured on "Ru Paul's Drag Race."

Info: Visit <https://www.okaeri-losangeles.org/conference>.

NCWNP

Nihonmachi Little Friends' 46th Anniversary and Sushi Social

San Francisco, CA
Nov. 19; 7-7:30 p.m.
Virtual Event
Price: \$25

Join Nichonmachi Little Friends at its anniversary celebration that will feature special sushi bento boxes from We Be Sushi and recognition of Robert "Bob" Rusky, an attorney and parent of an NLF alum.
Info: To purchase event tickets, call NLF at (415) 922-8898 or email nlfchildcare@gmail.com.

Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown: Liberation Technology, Art and Community Building in Action

San Jose, CA
Thru Jan. 16, 2022
JAMSj is excited to feature this exhibit that combines augmented reality technology, art and local history and culture to explore little-known, "hidden" stories of connection.
Visit: <https://hiddenhistoriesjtown.org/>.

PSW

'Japanese Americans: Community, Incarceration, Activism and Local History' Class for Participants 50+

Ventura, CA
Nov. 17-Dec. 15 (Break on 11/23); 1-3 p.m.
Virtual Lecture

JACL Ventura Co-President Dr. Lily Welty Tamai will be teaching this Zoom class through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSU Channel Islands focusing on the Japanese American community in the U.S. during the 20th century.
Info: Visit <https://ext.csuci.edu/programs/professional-community-ed/osher-lifelong-learning-institute/osherfall2catalogfinalresized.pdf>.

Wooden Chopsticks, Metal Chopsticks: Grab Japanese and Korean Culture Through the Languages

Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 18; 7 p.m.
Virtual Lecture
Japan Foundation Los Angeles
Price: Free

Japan and Korea share many similarities and contrasts in customs and language. In this lecture, sampling from various Korean and Japanese video clips, Dr. Don Lee, professor of Korean and Japanese at Mt. San Antonio College, in Walnut, Calif., will explore some unique aspects of the two cultures, especially as it connects to how people communicate with one another. All are welcomed to explore the two cultures!
Info: Registration is required. Visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jjXSwVU9QV-43XrdkdNjmw.

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami

Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 9, 2022
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Timed advanced tickets are required; JANM members do not need a timed ticket. Just show your membership card for free admission.

Stanley Hayami's diary and writings from camp and during his wartime incarceration are brought to life in this presentation that reveals the hardship he and his family faced during World War II. At the age of 19, he was killed in Italy after being drafted into the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His legacy lives on through these letters, which were donated to JANM by his family.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Mine Okubo's Masterpiece: The Art of 'Citizen 13660'

Los Angeles, CA
Thru Feb. 20, 2022
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Check Museum Website for Ticket Information

Mine Okubo's graphic memoir, "Citizen 13660," was first published in 1946. Through nearly 200 illustrations, Okubo captures how WWII and the subsequent incarceration upended her life. This is the first time the materials comprising her book will be on exhibit.
Info: Visit <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mine-okubo-masterpiece>.

'Hayao Miyazaki' Inaugural Exhibit

Los Angeles, CA
Thru June 5, 2022
Academy Museum of Motion Pictures
6067 Wilshire Blvd.
Price: Advanced ticket reservations required. Adults \$25; Seniors \$19; Students \$15; Free for Children 17 and under.

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is

pleased to announce details of the museum's inaugural "Hayao Miyazaki" temporary exhibition. Curated in collaboration with Japan's renowned Studio Ghibli, which Miyazaki co-founded in 1985, the exhibit marks the first North American museum retrospective dedicated to the acclaimed artist and his work.
Info: Visit www.academymuseum.org for additional details and information.

PNW

Grace, Grit and Gaman: Japanese American Women Through the Generations

Portland, OR
Thru Dec. 31
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
411 N.W. Flanders St.
Price: Check Museum for Admission Prices

Curated by Marsha Matthews and Linda Tamura, this new exhibition shares the rarely revealed story of the grace, grit and gaman (perseverance) displayed by JA women. Viewers will gain a view of multiple generations of JA women and the unique challenges they have faced — in their own ways, on their own terms and in their own times.
Info: Visit <http://www.oregonnikkei.org/exhibits.htm> for more information.

MDC

Hoosier Chapter Annual Holiday Luncheon

Indianapolis, IN
Dec. 5; 1 p.m.
Ocean World Restaurant
1206 W. 86th St.
Price: Information to Come
Join the Hoosier chapter of the JACL at its annual holiday luncheon. Don't miss this

opportunity to celebrate the spirit of the season and join friends and family as the chapter celebrates its accomplishments and achievements. More information to follow!
Info: For more information, visit www.hoosierjacl.org or email info@hoosierjacl.org.

EDC

Japanese Screen: Parodies and Legends

Worcester, MA
Thru December
Worcester Art Museum
55 Salisbury St.
Price: Museum Admission

This exhibit will feature a handscroll by painter Furuyama Moromasa representing one of the most elaborate and extensive works by the artist. It contains 20 separate paintings, each approximately four feet long. The screen will be unrolled in stages to exhibit different portions of the scroll.
Info: For more information, visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/japanese-screens/>.

Asia in Maryland Fall 2021 Exhibition

Towson, MD
Thru Dec. 11
Towson University, Asian Arts Gallery
8000 York Road
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Closed Nov. 24-28)

Explore work by 33 artists that express the divergent and interconnected experiences and aesthetic styles of AAPI's in Maryland. Artists include Tima Afilitunov, Annika Cheng, Bok Kim, Anson Lin, Manzar Rassouli, Ellie Rha, Nimi Trehan, Carole Lee and Monica Youn. The Asian Arts and Culture Center was recently named best art space by Baltimore magazine's 2021 Best of Baltimore list.

Info: Visit https://events.towson.edu/center_for_the_arts_gallery#/YTqXVY1h3GI.



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M MEMORIAM



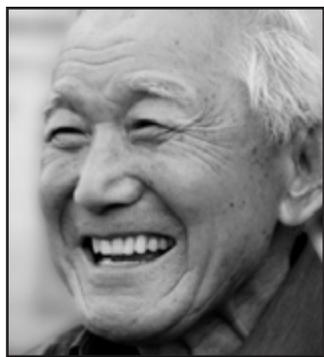
Endo, Steven Isamu, 69, Roseville, CA, April 12.



Kondo, Frances, 81, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA, Feb. 23.



Miyata, Kawaye 'Kay,' 87, Sacramento, CA, July 13; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry, and brothers, Gunichi and Takeshi; she is survived by her siblings, Sadako Kudow and Ray Kawamoto; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



Higashida, James, 92, North Hills, CA, Feb. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Rose; he is survived by his children, Kathy (Gerald) Kozai, Neil (Donna) Higashida and Terri (Chuck) Amano; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Masumoto, Takashi Ted, 70, Ontario, CA, Aug. 6; he was predeceased by his father, John; uncle, Johnny; mother-in-law, Yukiko; father-in-law, George; aunt, Chichan; brothers, Mark, Glenn and David; he is survived by his wife, Miki; children, Jennifer and Randy; gc: 1.

Miyamura, Fusako, 104, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 25; she is survived by her daughters, Fusaye Helen Miyamura and Janet Lee; siblings, Tamiko Kobayashi and Jimmy Nitao; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

Miyata, Gerald, 70, Sacramento, CA, Aug. 1; he is survived by his wife, Peggy; mother, Helen; 4 daughters; brother, Greg (Phyllis); gc: 11.



Miyata, Lily Yoshiko, 98, Alhambra, CA, July 31; she was

predeceased by her husband, John; she is survived by her children, Donna (Mike) O'Kane, Allan (Melissa) Miyata and Sharon (Teresa Clark) Miyata; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Mizukami, Ted, 95, Torrance, CA, July 10; he was predeceased by his brother, Kiyoshi; he is survived by his wife, Tomoko; children, Sharon (Dan) Kato and Ryan Mizukami; gc: 3.

Shimamura, Mitsuyuki, 93, Los Angeles, CA, March 1; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; Army veteran (WWII, Korean War); he is survived by his wife, Patsy; children, Diane Toshiye Stauber, Robert Kenji Shimamura and Richard Mitsuo Shimamura; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Shimizu, Helen, 81, Sherman Oaks, CA, July 31; she is survived by her children, Clay Shimizu and Kelli Shimizu.



Shimizu, Iyoko, 89, Oregon, OH, March 23; she was predeceased by Bill Hurrelbrink; she is survived by her daughter, Kumiko (Ronald) Campbell; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Tanaka, Sumiko, 88, Monterey Park, CA, April 28; she is survived by her brother, Shoji Sugiura; brother-in-law, Sam Tanaka (Carol);

1 niece.

Teragawa, Robert, 90, Los Feliz, CA, Aug. 2; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; he is survived by his wife, Iris; he was predeceased by his siblings, Ken and Jane Oshita; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Tokeshi, Joseph, 92, Claremont, CA, Aug. 8; he is survived by his children, Douglas Joseph (Lori) Tokeshi, Gregory Dean (Lucy) Tokeshi and Patricia Anne Tokeshi (Clyde) Colinco; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; ggc: 4.

Tomatani, Katie, 81, Pasadena, CA, July 2; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsuneo; she is survived by her son, Kevin (Junko); siblings, Steven Shimamoto and Joyce Nehira; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Urushibata, Yukio 'Jim,' 85, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Feb. 4; he was predeceased by his parents, Tatsuo and Toshi Urushibata; sister, Itsuko WeHara; he is survived by his wife, Mable; sisters, Yeiko (Fred) Fukunaga and Alice (Mark) Kammerman; brother-in-law, Russell WeHara.

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TRIBUTE

TETSUKO NAKAMURA



Tetsuko Nakamura, 101, born April 27, 1920, in Los Angeles to Masato and Setsuyo Fujii, eldest of six daughters, died peacefully on Sept. 29, 2021, in Takoma Park, Md. Interned at Manzanar during WWII, she moved to New York in 1944 where she met and married James I. Nakamura, her husband of 70 years. They lived in occupied Japan, returning to Tokyo in 1954 for Jim's thesis research. They called NYC home for 55 years, moving to Maryland in 2010.

She worked as an innovative nursery schoolteacher, then as departmental secretary at Columbia College and Teachers College. Beloved by her family and friends, she hosted family gatherings and dinners for friends and the Japan Economic Seminar. At 65 she backpacked and camped in the Grand Canyon. At 89 she learned to pump iron. In her retirement, she was a garden volunteer in Riverside Park and Battery Park.

She is survived by her sons, Richard (Sandra) and Leonard (Myra); sisters, Yoshiko Beskorovan and Miyako Sammons; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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 ETO, MATE
 ETO, WALT
 FUJIKI, CHARLES
 FUJIKI, TOM
 FUJITA, NAGATOSHI R.
 FUJITA, YOSHIO
 GOTO, SAM
 GOTO, TOM
 HADA, KATSU *KIA*
 HAMA, EIJI
 HASHIMOTO, MARK
 HAYASHIDA, LOUIE
 HIRANO, SHIG
 HIROKAWA, KENJI
 HIURA, BOB
 HORIUCHI, PAUL *KIA*
 ICHIKAWA, BUSTER
 INMARU, FRANK
 INOUE, YUTAKA
 IYAMA, HARVIE
 IZUMIZAKI, ARTHUR
 IZUMIZAKI, HENRY *KIA*
 IZUMIZAKI, JAMES
 KAWAGUCHI, MITSUGI
 KAWAGUCHI, YOSHIMI
 KITAHARA, ART
 KIZUKA, SHIG
 KOBAYASHI, ROBERT S.
 KOKKA, TOMMY
 MADOKORO, HARRY *** *KIA*
 MAMETSUKA, LARRY
 MANABE, BOB
 MATSUDA, IRVIN
 MATSUMOTO, NOBU GEORGE

MATSUSHITA, PAT
 MATSUSHITA, RAY
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 MORIMUNE, SHIG
 MORITA, GEORGE
 MURAKAMI, SUNAO
 NAKAMICHI, AIDO
 NAKAMURA, PAUL
 NAKAMOTO, MAS
 NAKAO, HARRY
 NITTA, MAS
 NODA, MAS
 OGAWA, YOSHIO
 OKAMOTO, MAS
 OKAMURA, MAS
 OKINO, WATARU
 ONO, WILLIAM
 OTSUKI, GEORGE
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 SERA, GEORGE
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 SUGIDONO, ICHIRO SAM
 SUGIDONO, JIRO
 SUKEKANE, KAZUO C.
 TAKEMOTO, SHIGE
 TASHIRO, KEN M.
 TORIGOE, KENJI
 TSUDA, MAS
 TSUKIJI, JOHN
 UCHIYAMA, ARCHIE
 URA, GEORGE
 UTSUNOMIYA, TOM
 UYEMATSU, ROY
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WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS

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 ARAO, TETSUO
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