



# DC NEWS NOTES

Publication of the Washington D.C. Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League

## CALENDAR

### CHERRYBLOSSOM FESTIVAL

March 20–April 13, 2014

### FREEDOM WALK

April 5, 2014  
Japanese American Memorial

### APA HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

Week of May 4, 2014

### CAPAL BALL

May 9, 2014

### MEMORIAL DAY

May 25, 2014  
Arlington Cemetery

### JACL PICNIC

June 21, 2014  
Wheaton Regional Park

### JACL CONVENTION

July 9–12, 2014  
San Jose, CA

### KEIRO KAI

September 13, 2014  
TBD

### JACL ANNUAL GALA

October 9, 2014  
Washington DC

### MOCHITSUKI

December 6, 2014  
North Bethesda Middle School

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Janice Nakano Faden

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John Tobe

202-390-5020 or e-mail: [john.tobe@gmail.com](mailto:john.tobe@gmail.com)



*LT Jason Osuga speaking at the 2014 Installation Luncheon*

We are pleased to report that our Chapter is one of the fastest growing JACL chapters in the country. Last year our membership increased by 19%, the largest rate of increase of any local chapter. We have all of our members to thank for attracting new folks, and especially younger people, to our dynamic community.

With the onset of our new year, various organizations have approached our Chapter to co-sponsor events and plan joint activities. On February 22, we co-sponsored an event organized by the DC Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAADC) at Georgetown University. The event was a screening and panel discussion (JET Talks: HAFU) on the mixed-race experience in Japan. We are planning future events with the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) as well. We look forward to strengthening our organization and advancing the JACL mission through collaboration with other Asian organizations and, at the same time, maintaining the close relationships we have established in our Chapter.

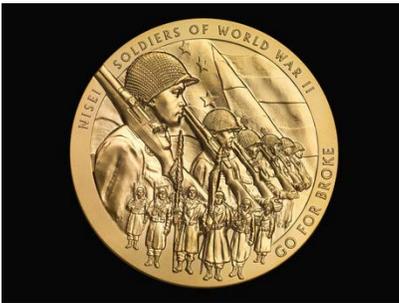
We continue to attract and nurture a growing cadre of energetic young people who are motivated to promote the legacy of their elders and rejuvenate our Chapter with new ideas and technical skills. They are assuming leadership roles as speakers at our events, board members, project leaders, grant writers, and social media communicators.

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## MEDAL FOR WWII JAPANESE-AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNS HOME

Written by Hansi Lo Wang, NPR



More than 70 years ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order that led to the internment of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (marked) the Day of Remembrance with a homecoming for the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Japanese American veterans of World War II.

The highest civilian honor given to Congress, the medal was presented at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in 2011. Last year, it went on a yearlong tour of museums around the country. Its last stop is the Smithsonian's American History Museum, which unveiled a new display for the medal.

The museum also announced the donation of a Medal of Honor by the family of Army Pfc. Joe M. Nishimoto, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The medal will be added to the permanent collection, according to curator Jennifer Jones of the museum's Division of Armed Forces History.

About 19,000 Nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, as well as the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service. Many fought for the U.S. in World War II while their families lived behind barbed wire as suspected "enemy aliens" after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Born and raised in Laupahoehoe, Hawaii, Terry Shima and his family were spared from living in internment camps, which mainly housed Japanese Americans living on the West Coast. Now 91, Shima, who spoke at Thursday's ceremony, was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944 and deployed to Italy the following year as a replacement in the 442nd's public relations office.



"The display of the Congressional Gold Medal here at the Smithsonian symbolizes the greatness of this country," says Shima, a former executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association who received the Presidential Citizens Medal last year. "[This country is] so big that it can apologize. It can apologize, make corrections and move on."

The U.S. government formally apologized for the internment of Japanese Americans with the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, more than four decades after the end of World War II. And the Nisei veterans — once banned from serving in the U.S. military because of their "enemy alien" classification — were vindicated with the many honors they received, including 22 Medals of Honor and more than 4,000 Purple Hearts.

## HAFU: THE MIXED-RACE EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN

On Saturday, February 22, almost 200 people attended the screening and panel discussion of the film, *HAFU: The mixed-race experience in Japan*. The JAACL DC Chapter along with the DC JET Alumni Association and the Asia Pacific Forum of Georgetown University co-sponsored this event which was held on the campus of Georgetown University.

The film follows the lives of five hafus—the Japanese term for people who are half Japanese—as they explore what it means to be multiracial and multicultural in a nation that once proudly proclaimed itself to be mono-ethnic. According to the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, one in forty-nine babies born in Japan today are born into families with one non-Japanese parent. This newly emerging minority in Japan is under-documented and under-explored in both literature and media. The film was well received and the panel discussion brought up many thought provoking topics about what it means to be multi-ethnic, multi-racial and multi-cultural.

If you are interested in learning more about the film, please go to: <http://hafufilm.com/en>



## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

February 19, 2014, marked the 72nd "Day of Remembrance," the anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which led to the unlawful incarceration of more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent during World War II. In acknowledgement of the impact of this shameful moment in the history of the United States, the JACL and the Smithsonian both held tributes to honor and celebrate those who sacrificed during this period of history.

In the morning the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History marked the occasion with a homecoming of the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) awarded to Japanese American Nisei veterans who served the United States with the 100th Infantry Battallion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during WWII.

A panel discussion followed with our DC Chapter treasurer Craig Uchida moderating. One panel member highlighted the significance of the Congressional Gold Medal as the embodiment of the Japanese American story and greatness of America. Another emphasized that the Gold Medal cannot stand alone but must be accompanied with personal stories to communicate the moving experiences, the historical significance, and the legacy.

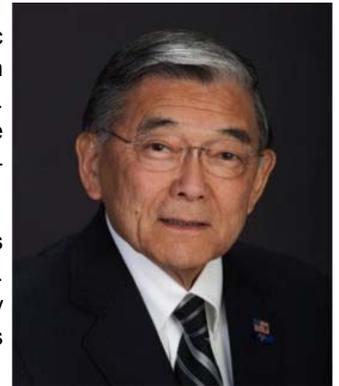


On Wednesday evening, the National JACL and our Chapter hosted a reception at the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB). The event gave all of those present an opportunity to acknowledge the importance of remembering the legacy of the Japanese American internment and to honor those who served during WWII. The reception was followed by a performance of the first half of [Hold These Truths](#), a one-man play by Los Angeles-area playwright Jeanne Sakata, about the struggles and passionate beliefs of Gordon Hirabayashi. Ryun Yu played Hirabayashi, who was a student at the University of Washington in 1941 and challenged the legality of his community's deportation in a case that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Although he lost the case, Hirabayashi was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012 by President Barack Obama.

## NORMAN Y. MINETA NAMED HONORARY CO-CHAIR

Norman Mineta, former U.S. Cabinet Member and Member of Congress has been named Democratic Honorary Co-Chair of The Congressional Study Group on Japan (CSGJ), a bipartisan organization dedicated to frank and candid dialogue between current American lawmakers and their peers in Japan. The CSGJ is led in the U.S. Congress by Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, Rep. Diana DeGette, Sen. Mazie Hirono, and Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Mineta takes on the role as Honorary Co-Chair alongside Republican counterpart former Speaker J. Dennis Hastert.

"Secretary Mineta's commitment to bipartisanship at home and the U.S.-Japan alliance abroad is evident throughout his many decades of public service," said Connie Morella, President of the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress, which serve as secretariat for The Congressional Study Groups. "We have appreciated his leadership on our Board of Directors and look forward to his continued guidance in this additional role."



## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

To honor Japanese American and American veterans who served their country during World War II and in other wars, the JACL and the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) are sponsoring the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday, May 26, 2014.

As in past years we are asking for donations to help cover the cost of the graveside flowers and the wreath that we lay at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The cost of the bouquets of flowers placed on the graves has been covered by our chapter and JAVA and through donations from other chapters as well as individuals. Anyone interested in making a donation to help cover the cost of flowers may do so by sending a check to the DC Chapter.

**Yes**, I will donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Memorial Day event. Make check to: JACL DC Chapter and send it to: Craig Uchida, Treasurer, P.O. Box 6188, Silver Spring, MD 20916. Donations are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTALLATION LUNCHEON

### 2014 JACL-DC Chapter Board of Directors

Janice Nakano Faden	Co-President
John Tobe	Co-President
Michelle Amano	Governor, EDC
Leona Hiraoka	Vice-President
Georgette Furukawa-Martinez	Secretary
Craig Uchida	Treasurer
Lauren Yamagata	Membership, Youth Chair
Jack Tobe	Scholarship Chair
Linda Sato Adams	News Notes Chair
David Inoue	Anti-Hate Liaison
Janelle Kuroda	Program Chair
Ron Mori	Program Chair
Kelly Honda	Member-At-Large
Tara Ohrtman	Member-At-Large
Rhianna Taniguchi	Member-At-Large
Amy Watanabe	Member-At-Large

### U.S. Navy Lieutenant Jason Osuga and Operation Tomodachi

LT Jason Osuga discussed his involvement in Operation Tomodachi following the tragedy of events that occurred on March 11, 2011 in Japan. Osuga, who was born in Japan and moved to the U.S. at the age of seven, began his address by discussing why he joined armed forces. "I wanted to join the Navy because I liked the uniform and wanted to be stationed in Japan, in hopes of one day contributing to the U.S.-Japan Alliance," said Osuga. Growing up, he attended Saturday Japanese weekend school, and often wrote about wanting to be a bridge spanning the Japanese and American cultures. This training in Japanese language served him well, as he would later use his skills during two tours of duty in Japan.

Osuga described his assignment during his tour of duty in Japan, where he managed liaison between the various U.S. Navy elements in Japan, including Commander, Naval Forces Japan (CNFJ), along with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), also known as Kaijo Jietai. The U.S. Navy-JMSDF relationship is the largest Navy to Navy relationship in the world.

On March 11, 2011, Japan experienced three catastrophes at once – a series of 9.0 earthquakes, followed by a powerful tsunami, which subsequently affected nuclear reactors that lost their ability to cool themselves. Osuga described the immediate action by both the JMSDF and the



U.S. Navy to aid Japan. The Japan Self Defense Force was the first to respond, and a record two-thirds of the self defense force was mobilized, including the mobilization of the reserves, both firsts in Japan Self-Defense Force history. One of the U.S. Navy ships to respond was the USS Ronald Reagan, under Commander, Task Force 70.5. Crew from the USS Ronald Reagan flew countless missions to look for survivors and deliver water and food supplies to many victims in remote locations throughout Japan, many of which were inaccessible due to collapsed roads and bridges.

"The silver lining to this triple tragedy was that the Japanese people came to understand the United States military as a dependable humanitarian assistance response force willing to contribute all efforts toward search and rescue and disaster recovery," said Osuga.

"This was important given the spate of critical media coverage that U.S. forces continued to receive which had cast doubt on U.S. dependability in the minds of many Japanese. Likewise, the Japanese people and the world also came to witness and appreciate Japan Self-Defense Forces' contributions as they led recovery and assistance efforts from the front and stayed until the very end being the last to leave the Tohoku region. People of both nations recognized the tireless efforts from both militaries which contributed to the success and enhancement of the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance," said Osuga. "I was just one of many liaison officers and servicemen who tried humbly to help the people of Japan overcome this period of difficulty."

He concluded his remarks by speaking on why Japanese Americans should serve our country. "We must continue the legacy of service that was started by Japanese Americans during World War I and II. We must continue to contribute to the history of America with new stories of heroism, commitment, and bravery. Our generation must step up and create new stories like Senator Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, and Terry Shima. It's not just in creating new stories, but in repeating those histories for younger generations. Japanese Americans need to continue that tradition of service to the country and leadership to the community, and retell those stories in every possible venue."

"The work of JACL is critical and plays an important part to all that we do. To fight for the rights of all citizens, its mission provides all of us the opportunity to level the playing field and break down existing barriers. I believe we should continue to fight for those who can't advocate for themselves...the work of JACL is difficult but important for equal opportunity," said Osuga.

Following Osuga's rousing remarks on service and commitment to our community, Eastern District Council Governor Michelle Amano swore in the 2014 JACL-D.C. board with the JACL Oath of Office.

Osuga was recently selected for promotion to Lieutenant Commander. He is married to his wife, Joyce. They have two children.

## LEGACY FUND GRANTS

JACL Chapters, Districts and the National Youth/Student Council are eligible to apply for a grant to support a project or activity that is supportive of the national JACL Program for Action. Grants of up to \$3,000 each will be awarded by the Legacy Fund Grants Committee to selected applicants. Funds for the program grants are provided by Legacy Fund revenues.

### ELIGIBILITY

- Only JACL Chapters, Districts or the National Youth/Student Council are eligible to apply and they may apply individually or jointly. Eligible entities may submit more than one application.
- The maximum amount for each grant, including those awarded to joint applicants, is \$3,000. *Partial grants may be awarded.*
- Activities supported by grants may be ongoing or new, but must be carried out and completed no later than July 2015 and must support the national JACL 2012-2014 Program for Action.

### APPLICATIONS <http://www.jacl.org/2014-LegacyFundGrants.htm>

- All applicants must properly complete an application and secure the required signatures of at least two individuals.
- All applications must be **filed no later than April 1, 2014** by one of the following methods:
- A scanned copy of the completed, signed application sent by e-mail by midnight (PST) April 1, 2014 in Word or pdf format (together with supporting documents, if any, in pdf or other readily available software format) to [pnw@jacl.org](mailto:pnw@jacl.org). **Or** Mail the original, signed application together with supporting documents, if any, to JACL PNW Regional Office, 671 S. Jackson Street, Suite 206, Seattle, WA 98104, postmarked by the filing deadline.

### SELECTION OF GRANTEES AND AMOUNTS

The Legacy Fund Grants Committee will review each properly completed, timely filed application. The Committee will consider the following criteria in reviewing and evaluating each application:

- Relationship of the project to the JACL Program for Action
- Potential impact of the project for the organization and community.
- Capacity to implement the project.
- Clarity of project goals and objectives.
- Reasonable budget and adequate timeline.
- Presence of a unique or specialized program.
- The Legacy Fund Grants Committee may also take into consideration criteria such as chapter size, geographic distribution, size of impacted communities and past fundraising participation in the National Legacy Fund in determining the selection of grant recipients.
- The committee may choose to award partial grants or to disburse grants on an installment basis.

## MIKE MASAOKA FELLOW FOR CONGRESSWOMAN COLLEEN HANABUSA

Colette Masunaga is currently the Mike Masaoka Fellow for Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa.

Born and raised on the Big Island of Hawai'i, Colette spent her childhood growing up on her family's coffee farm. In high school she served as a Senate Page to the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye and studied abroad in Thailand for a year. As an undergraduate Colette served at the Youth Representative for the Florin JACL Chapter and created the Florin JACL's community based internship program in coordination with the Asian American Studies Department at the University of California, Davis. She also served on the Florin JACL's Manzanar Pilgrimage Planning Committee and on the Florin JACL Board. Immediately prior to starting the Mike Masaoka Fellowship, Colette interned for the White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel, where she assisted in stakeholder outreach with the Asian American, Pacific Islander, Latino, and African American community.

Colette is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis, with a degree in International Relations and a minor in Asian American Studies.



## JAPAN FAIR

Montgomery County Recreation and Sakura Educational Exchange USA will co-host a student-presented “Japan Fair” on Saturday, March 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bauer Drive Community Center , 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville.

The free annual event is presented by students from Yokohama Hayato High School in Yokohama , Japan who will demonstrate and teach various Japanese arts, games and customs. Adults and children will be able to observe an informal Japanese Tea Ceremony and listen to Japanese songs. There will be a martial arts demonstration and traditional Japanese dances. Visitors will also learn how to create origami and calligraphy, play Japanese games and see Anime/Manga (Japanese cartoons).

For more information, call Alex Taylor at 240-777-6922.

## MOCHITSUKI

On Saturday, December 14, the DC Chapter hosted their largest ever Mochitsuki at the North Bethesda Middle School. Over 250 people came to eat traditional Japanese food (including ozoni) and shared in the tradition of rice pounding and making “daifuku” rice cakes filled with sweet bean paste. As usual, the Crafty Ladies were in attendance selling their unique and clever handiwork. The JACL Board wants to thank the many volunteers who spent hours making mochi, preparing the other food items, and setting up for this event which is always a family favorite. Please join us again next year as we try to break our attendance record!



## BITS &amp; PIECES

## Condolences

**Fred Kazuo Murakami** On March 7, 2014, Fred Murakami (age 90) of Vienna, Virginia passed away peacefully at his home. Fred was born on February 21, 1924 in Berkeley, California, to Kanekichi and Kogiku Murakami.

Fred is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Yuri, and his 2 children Dean Murakami and wife Pat Hamilton of Herndon, Virginia, Sean Murakami and wife Oanh Tran of Oakton, Virginia. Fred was also a grandfather to 5 grandchildren Matthew, Ryan, Isabelle, Jordan and Janelle. He is also survived by one sister, May Sugihara.

His family was relocated near Delta, Utah in the Topaz Japanese Internment Camp. Fred spent three years in the Army in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, or the Military Intelligence Service.

After the military, Fred started his career in the United States Government working at the Pentagon, NASA and ending his career at the National Science Foundation as the Director of Personnel & Management.

Fred also held the role of Chairman of the Japanese American Veterans Association and also received the Congressional Gold Medal which honored the Japanese veterans for their patriotism and dedication to their country.

A memorial service will be held at Money and King, in Vienna, Va. on Saturday, March 22nd at 2pm. His inurnment will be at

Arlington Cemetery at a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Kyle's Kamp which supports Children's Cancer research.



*Dr. McNaughton, Calvin Ninomiya, Fred Murakami-  
photo: Grant Ichikawa*

**Calvin Ninomiya, Esq.**, retired chief counsel of the US Treasury Department Bureau of Public Debt and an official of several major Nisei veterans organizations, passed away on February 28, 2014.

Ninomiya retired from the United States Treasury in 1955 after 40 years of service. He was retained by the Treasury as a consultant to help dozens of developing countries draft legislations and to serve as intermittent legal advisor to the Treasury's Office of Technical Assistance.

He served as acting chair of the National Japanese American Veterans Council, which has been studying the role of the US Military Intelligence Service in the successful occupation of Japan following World War II. He also served on the Steering Committee of the National Veterans Network (NVN), a group of Japanese American veterans organizations and community groups, which sought an amendment to include the Military Intelligence Service in the Congressional Gold Medal Bill, assisted Congress in the

presentation ceremony, and sponsored the two days of celebratory activities in Washington, DC in November 2011.

Ninomiya served as the general counsel of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) and was a member of its executive council. He previously served as the organization's vice president for several terms. In addition, he developed and managed the JAVA scholarship program since 2008.

He is survived by his wife, Hannelore, for 55 years, children Lisa, Roland and Erik, elder sister Rose Masuda, and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Densho, which is devoted to preserving the testimonies of Japanese Americans unjustly incarcerated during WWII, (<http://www.densho.org/>); or to the Metropolitan Opera, (<http://www.metoperafamily.org/>).

## Congratulations

**Marty Herbert**, son of the late Jesse and Taeko Herbert and **Mae Nakamoto**, daughter of Robert and Janet Nakamoto,



were married recently at River Creek Club, Leesburg, VA. They are both JA and JAVA members and very active in the JA community. They will make their home in the northern Virginia area.

Dale and Tony Horos on the birth of their grand-daughter, **Margaret Setsuko Horos**. Proud parents are Anthony and Maria Horos.

## Welcome

Welcome back **Brandon, Dorothy (Hollingshead)** and **Johnny Mita**. Brandon, an attorney with Littler Mendelsohn, was transferred from the Chicago office to DC. Also, happy birthday to Johnny who celebrated his 1st birthday on March 19.

## MEMBERSHIP



**New members since December:** Emi Kamemoto, David McCagg, Pamela Smith, Evan & Katherine Wallach, Amy Watanabe, Summer Dahlen, Yuri Maruyama, Tara Ohrtman, Derek Hirohata, Meredith Nakayama, Shaun Omori

**Let's make 2014 a banner year for membership!**

E-mail Lauren Yamagata at [lyamagata@gmail.com](mailto:lyamagata@gmail.com) for membership information.

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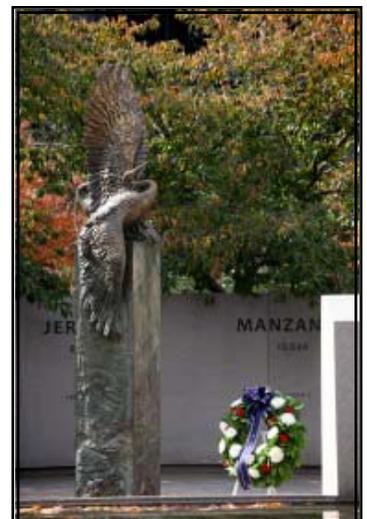
6 Stevens Court  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Telephone: 301-320-4131  
E-mail: [jfaden1@verizon.net](mailto:jfaden1@verizon.net)



### **ABOUT THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**

Founded in 1929, the JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community.

<http://www.jacl.org/about/about.htm>



*Photo by Joe Shymanski*