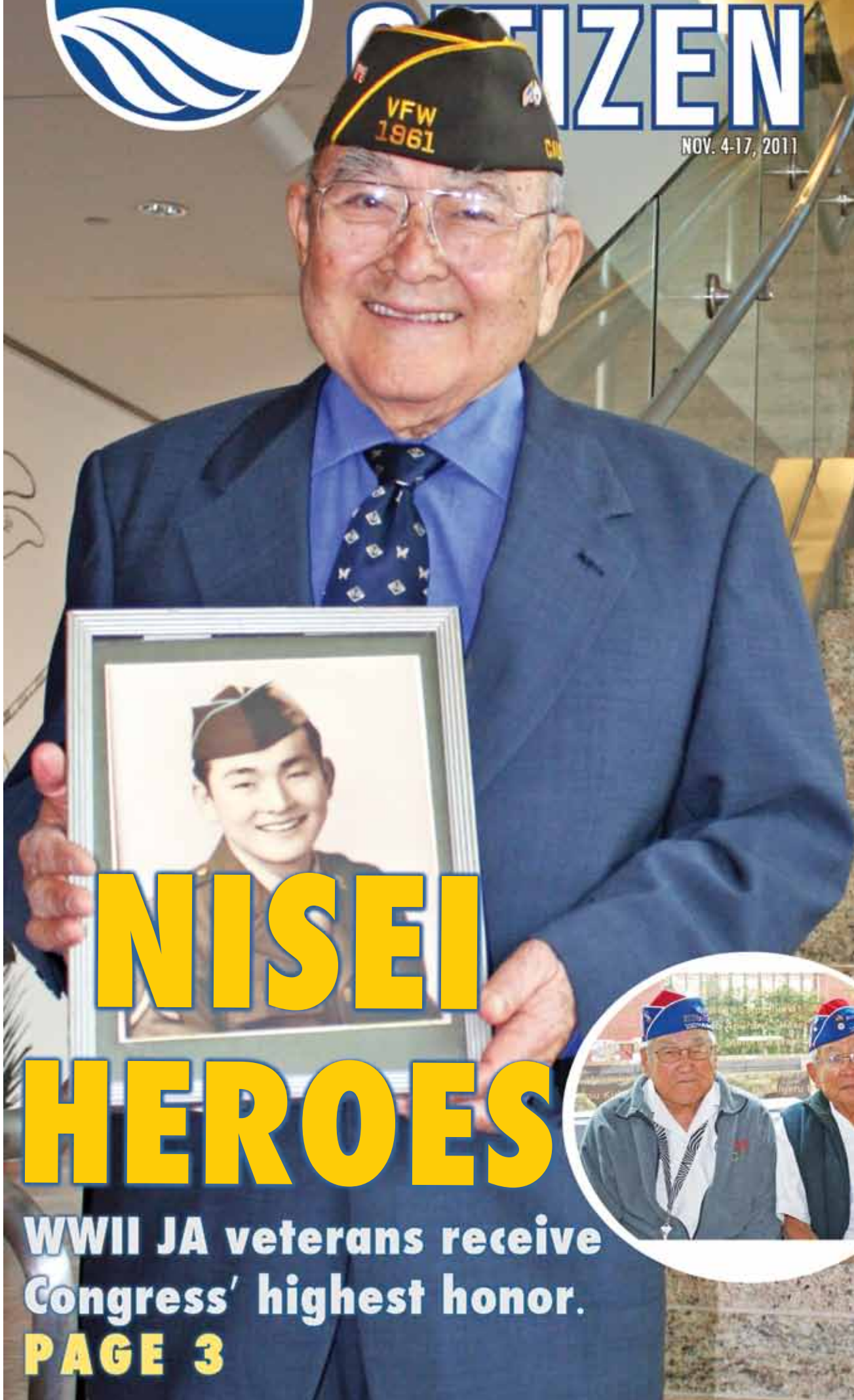




PACIFIC CITIZEN

NOV. 4-17, 2011



NISEI HEROES

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Congress' highest honor.

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Kari Asai is the
real 'Top Gun.'



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A Seattle ceremony
for ailing veterans.

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Crisis and Commitment

By Floyd Mori



This week I had a great opportunity to attend a conference on Confronting Discrimination in the Post 9/11 Era that was sponsored by George Washington University and the U.S. Department of

Justice. It was a good chance to learn of the impact on the Muslim, Sikh and South Asian communities and the attempts of the Department of Justice to stem the tide of bigotry and racism.

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

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

SEE **MORI**/PAGE 15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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

Francis Bellamy (1855-1931), a Baptist minister, carefully wrote the pledge without any reference to any God or superior being. He would not approve the changes to his pledge any more than Michelangelo appreciated the tampering of his "Last Judgment" (fresco painting) in the Sistine Chapel. Onward!

Mas Hashimoto
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL

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

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

John Tateishi
Former National JACL Director

WRITE TO US

Send signed letters with your name and address to: pc@pacificcitizen.org

or
Letters
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250 E. First St.
Suite # 301
Los Angeles, CA, 90012
Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.

Change in Health Plan for JACL Seniors

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

In early November, current Medicare-eligible subscribers will receive information from Blue Shield with details on the new

plans. Staff will be available to help with the enrollment process in the following locations:

ANAHEIM

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

LOS ANGELES

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

CLOVIS

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

SACRAMENTO

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

SAN FRANCISCO

JACL Insurance Services
220 Sansome St. #1360
Monday through Friday until Dec. 30 (call 800/400-6633 to make an appointment)

Bay Area staff members will be on hand at Contra Costa/Berkeley/Diablo JACL, San Francisco JACL, San Mateo JACL and at Kimochi. Call the JACL Insurance Services office at 800/400-6633 for dates and times.

The current JACL seniors plans will be discontinued on Jan. 1, so it's important for JACL seniors to complete enrollment to avoid a break in coverage. The enrollment period begins on Nov. 14. All forms must be submitted by Dec. 30. ■

JACL MEMBERS
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JA WORLD WAR II VETERANS RECEIVE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

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

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

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

As a veteran who served in World War II with the Military Intelligence Service, Bruce Kaji said he would don his military cap when receiving the Congressional Gold Medal Nov. 2 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

But the 85-year-old jokingly says he will now need to find more space on his cap for a Congressional Gold Medal pin.

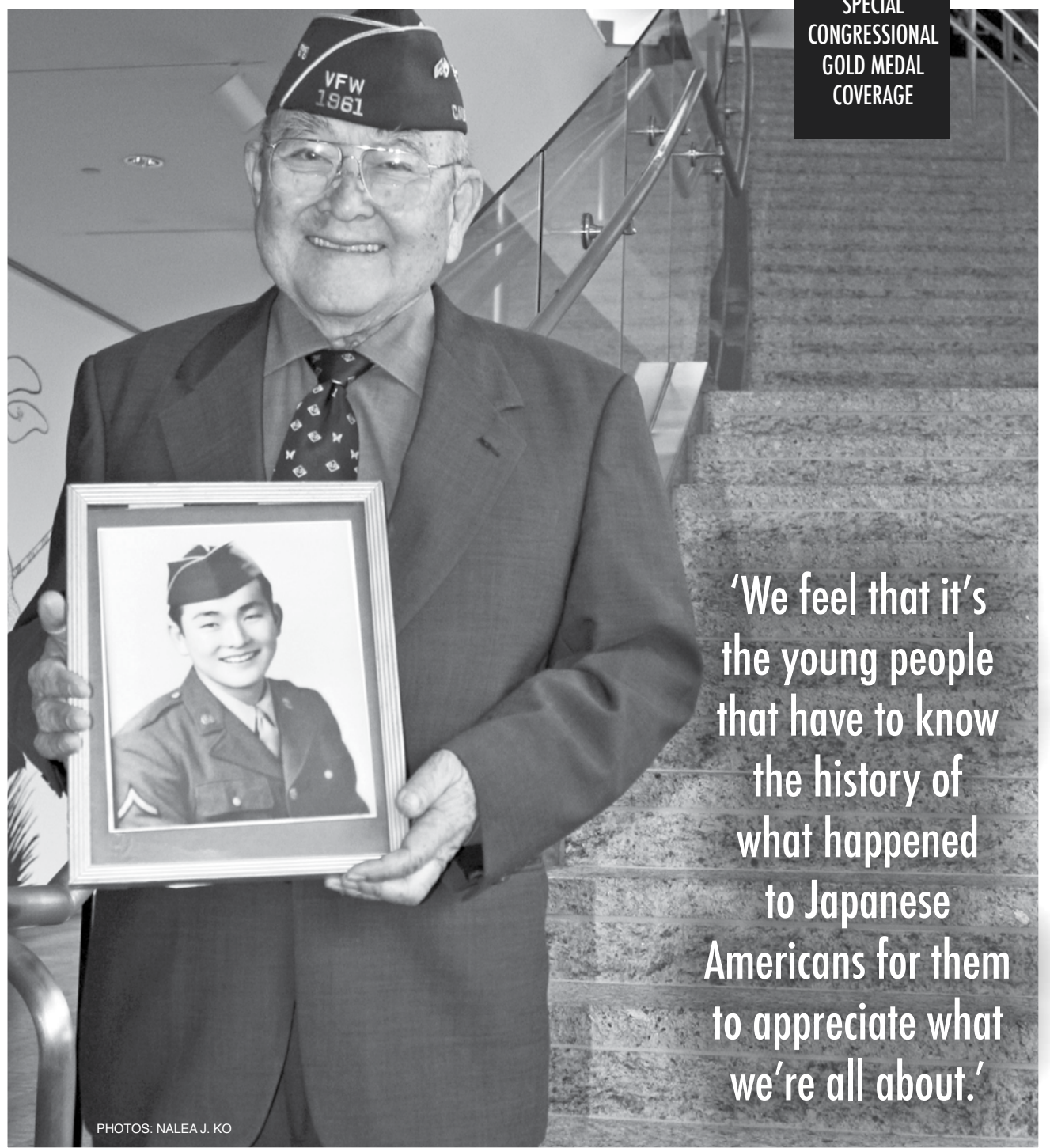
"It's going to go on here," Bruce Kaji said days before leaving to the ceremony, laughingly pointing to a bare spot on his cap. "I'll make room for it. I'll just move it over."

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

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

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

The National Veterans Network, a coalition of 25 JA civic and veteran organizations, including JACL, helped to organize the ceremony, which was hosted



PHOTOS: NALEA J. KO

'We feel that it's the young people that have to know the history of what happened to Japanese Americans for them to appreciate what we're all about.'

Bruce Kaji, founding chairman of the Japanese American National Museum, reminisces about his service as a MIS soldier during World War II just days before he was to receive a Congressional Gold Medal in Wash., D.C.

by Congress. House Speaker John Boehner's (R-OH) office worked closely with the organization to organize the event, said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, chair for NVN.

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

"NVN's goal was to ensure that the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony would truly be a national

celebration," Sato-Yamazaki said. "The age and health of the veterans prevented many from attending, but we are hoping that they will watch the ceremony live on the Pentagon Channel."

Days before the ceremony Sato-Yamazaki said some 1,250 people were expected to attend the event at the United States

SEE **GOLD MEDAL**/PAGE 10

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At 5 feet 3 inches tall Kari Asai fell one inch short of the pilot height requirement, but that hasn't stopped her from pursuing a career as a navigator in the U.S. Air Force.

Asian American Air Force Pilot is the Real 'Top Gun'

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

**By Christine McFadden
Correspondent**

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

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

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

"I'm not surprised she's as mentally strong as anybody I know," said Jan.

With a family full of pilots — her maternal grandfather and maternal uncle were a former U.S. Air Force pilot and Thunderbird pilot, respectively — Kari was no stranger to

the service.

"I would say it was probably a self-conscious motivator," she said about growing up "in a house with a lot of pictures of planes."

In the Air Force, Kari, 26, is often one of the few women among men.

"A quarter of airmen are women," she said. "Once you get to aviation, it's maybe 10 percent of them."

But she's used to that.

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

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

From Art Major to Air Force Captain

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

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

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

Kari graduated with a 3.98 GPA in 2007 and earned ROTC distinction as the number one cadet for her region.

"Once I kind of got engaged in it, I realized that I really wanted to pursue a flying course at the Air Force," she said.

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

After getting her "wings", she had top pick for which aircraft she wanted to be placed in. She chose the F-15.

"I think I chose it because I like the idea of a challenge. Going through flight school, it's kind of the elite aircraft. It can bomb, do air-to-air engagements; you always have to be current in all these different ways to deploy."

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



Johnny Minoru Okazaki
1918-1982
MIS
New Guinea

**Thank You,
All Veterans!**



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'The human body is not meant to be in a jet doing all those things,' said Asai.

"If you watch 'Top Gun', that's what we learn," she said about the 1986 movie.

She also endured "the centrifuge" at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico — the same one that potential astronauts have to survive.

"They have to make sure that you're physically capable to take the G's," she said about gravitational force. "It was really painful. The more G's your taking, it'll push the blood to the bottom of your body."

The natural response is to pass out once the blood drains from your head, but Kari was trained to squeeze her calves together to "physically squeeze the blood back to your brain."

"If you pass out, you fail," she said.

Kari passed on the first try.

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

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

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

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

"Overnight, they were like, 'Ship up and head out,'" she said. "It was pretty exciting ...you train every single day, but deep down I was like 'I don't know if it'll ever happen.'"

Suited up in her survival gear, night vision goggles and her required 9-millimeter gun, she described being deployed as "surreal."

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

She says that she'll be deploying again in the next year.

Nicknamed "One Inch"

She says she was scared when she first began flying.

"The human body is not meant to be in a jet doing all those things," she said. "Usually on your first flight, you feel horrible and you throw up. I didn't throw up, thankfully. The first few flights up you just try to focus on what you're trying to do."

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

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

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

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

Other nicknames have included "Flash."

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

Her workday lasts anywhere from 12-14 hours. She flies an average of three times a week. With so much



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SEE ASAI/PAGE 8

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Johnny Chuichi Niizawa 8-9-25 to 10-11-11 MIS
service in Tokyo Occupation 1945-46

Floyd N. Niizawa 7-18-27 Tokyo Occupation 1946

Misao Niizawa 5-26-32 Army Corps of Engrs
Alaska 1953 and 1954

Shigeru Niizawa 12-12-36 U.S. Army/
Air Force Reserves

*All the brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces and
nephews thank the Niizawa Brothers for their service
to our Country. We will miss Chuichi our O-Niisan.*

HONORING OUR
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honors
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and
Fumio (Ike) Ikeda, MIS
of
Clovis, California



Toshio Taniguchi, here in a 2007 vacation in Cancun with his wife Lois, cannot travel to Washington, D.C. to pick up his Gold Medal, but the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee will host a smaller ceremony for the vets in 2012.

Seattle Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony Planned for Ailing Vets

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

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

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

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

Toshio Taniguchi, 90, served in the Military

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

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

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

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

Hosted by Congress, the ceremony in the nation's



Taniguchi joined the U.S. Army in 1942.

capital is being spearheaded by the National Veterans Network, a coalition of some 25 JA organizations including JACL. A series of events for the ceremony began Oct. 31 and culminated on Nov. 2.

The ceremony's agenda included a visit to the National World War II Memorial, a presentation of 50 Bronze Star Medals to the 100th Battalion and 442nd RCT, and a gala dinner.

The Seattle ceremony will mirror the Washington, D.C. ceremony on a smaller scale.

Much like the ceremony in the nation's capital, replica bronze medals will be presented to veterans at the Seattle ceremony and Bronze Star Medals to those that are eligible. The one gold medal will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

"We also realize this might be the last large gathering for our 442nd and MIS veterans in the Seattle area, so this event will also be an appreciation for all they have done for our community," Kaku said. "Our NVC Hall might be slightly small for this gathering, but we wanted to hold this celebration in a historic location."

The presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal comes over a year after President Barack Obama signed the legislation of the

same name on Oct. 5. The legislation outlines the JA experience during WWII, starting with classification of JAs as enemy aliens and the mass unjust incarceration of JAs.

Many of the soldiers in the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT and MIS fought bravely while their families were incarcerated behind barbed wire.

Taniguchi was interned in Tule Lake and Minidoka. He joined the U.S. Army in 1942, traveling to India and Africa and serving in Burma with the Chindits, an allied special force. Maj. Gen. Orde Charles Wingate, a British army officer, led the unit.

At the end of the war, Taniguchi returned to his wife Lois and daughter Brenda, who was born in Minidoka. His wartime experience was not a popular topic of conversation, said Brenda Matsudaira.

"I think it was a period that they really didn't come home and talk about," said Brenda Matsudaira, who will take her father to the Seattle-based ceremony in January. "Because when they came home from camp then people would call them names and everything and they

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

— DALE KAKU,
NVC chairperson

SEE SEATTLE/PAGE 9



The Taniguchis celebrated the birth of their first child, Brenda, at Minidoka.

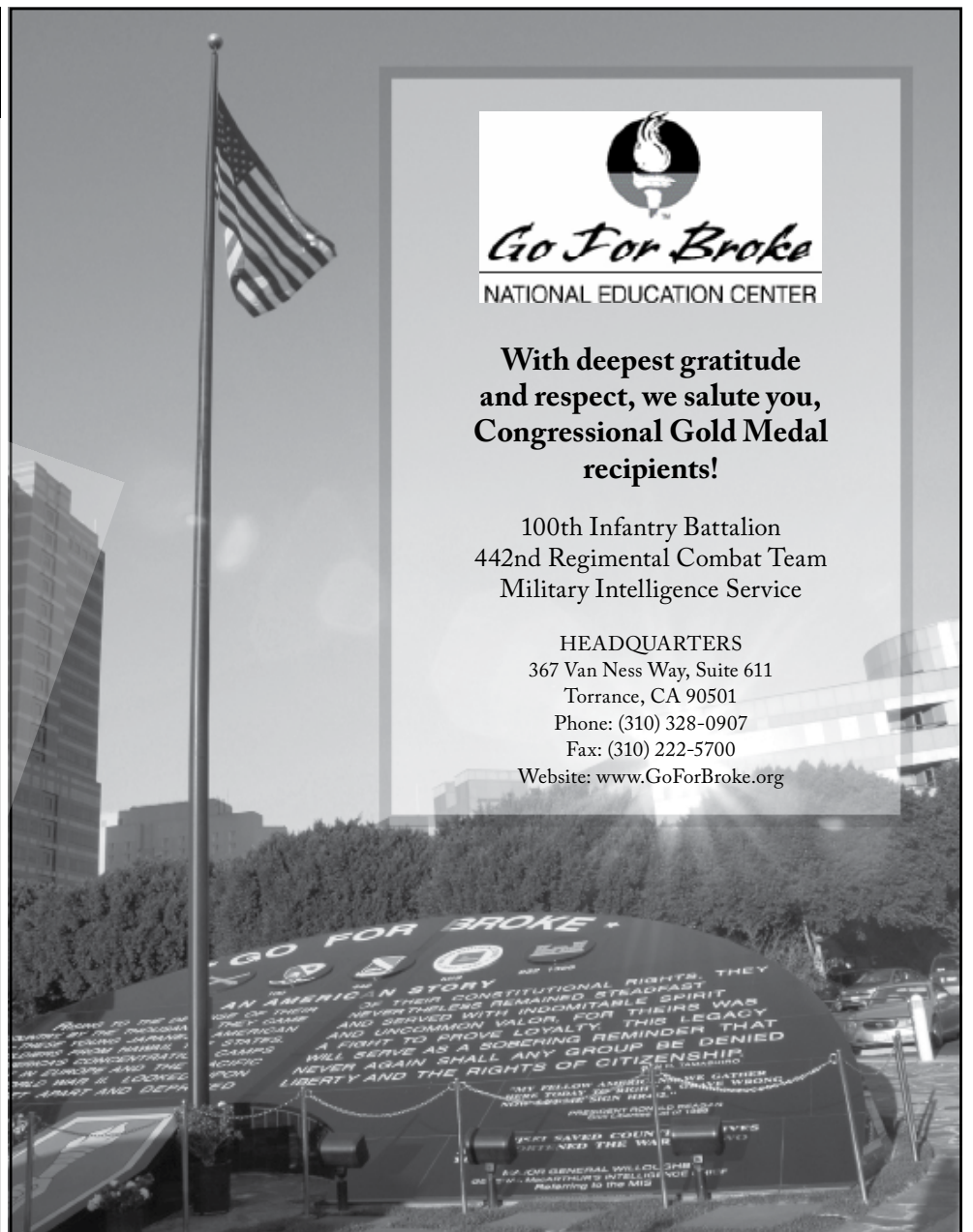
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Asai's current position is a "wizzo," or Weapons Systems Operator.

ASAI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

intensive training and focus, her mom always checks in and asks if she is having fun.

One day, she looked out the window from her plane and reveled at the beauty.

"I took a second and it was a beautiful day out. I could see all the way up the English coast to Scotland, and I thought, 'Well, that's pretty dang cool.'"

Kari, who will be spending Thanksgiving

away from home this year, keeps in touch with her family through Skype, a software application that allows users to video chat.

"I'm really close with my family," she said. "Even when I was in North Carolina, I'd call my mom almost every day just out of habit."

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

"You never really know what you're capable of until you get there." ■

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SEATTLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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

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

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

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

"I was really looking forward to it. But things happen," said Lillian Matsudaira, 86, who planned to attend the ceremony with her son Gerald, but cancelled her plans days before because of health problems. Her late-husband John Matsudaira served in

the 442nd RCT, which is known as the most decorated military unit for its size in U.S. history.

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

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

**— SUSAN JAHROMI,
about Toshio
Taniguchi's award**

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

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

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

"I think he will be proud to receive the medal, but it is coming a little late for him to fully appreciate since his short-term memory is failing him," Jahromi said. "I am glad that he is getting recognition now. People need to realize what the Nisei did during the war while their families sat in internment camps." ■



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

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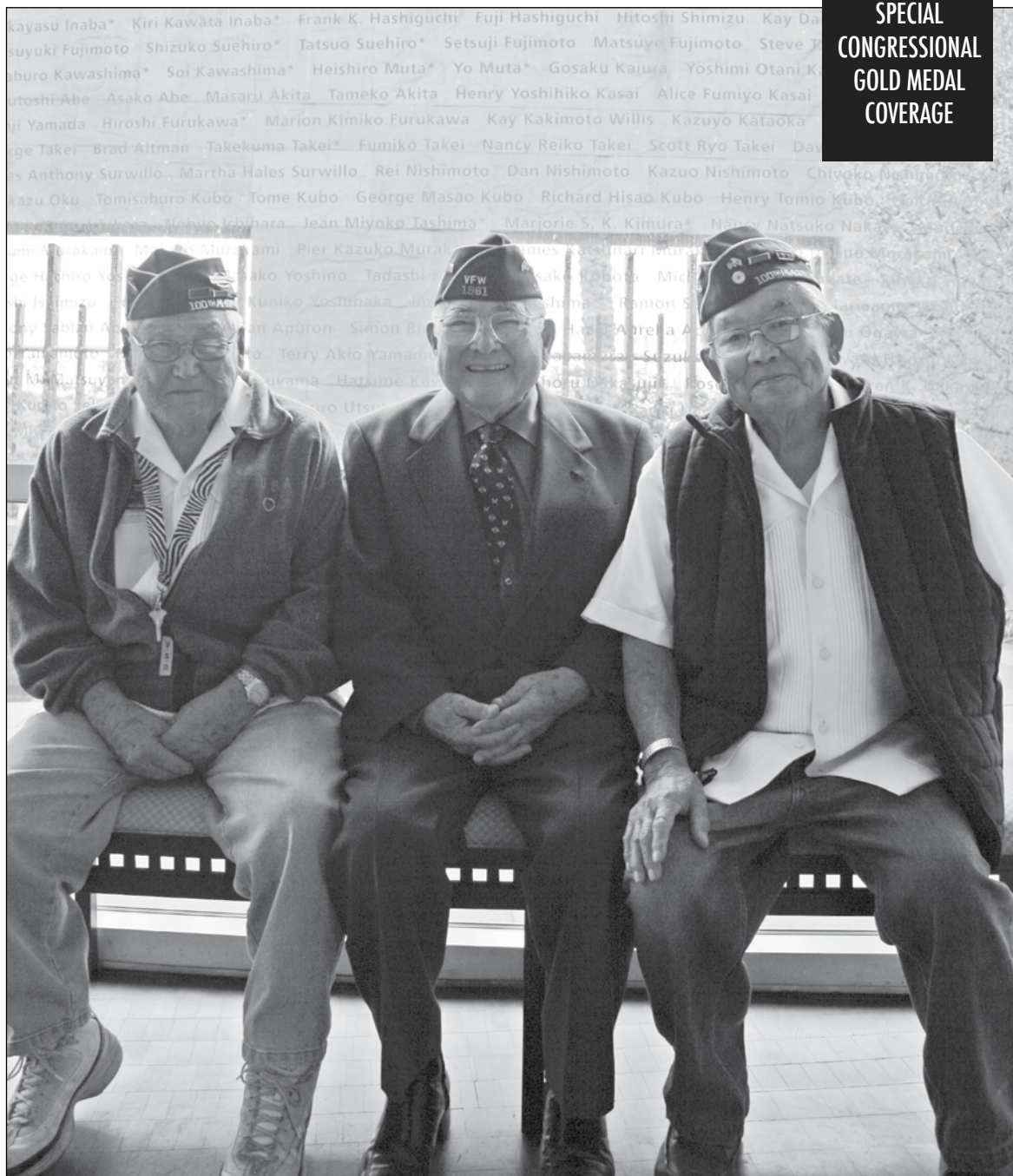
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SPECIAL
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GOLD MEDAL
COVERAGE



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

JA WWII Veterans Receive Gold Medals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

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

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

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

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

"Southwest Airlines had donated free tickets called Green Passes to be used by veterans only to see the event," McLaughlin said. "In many cases without the

free tickets these heroes may not be able to attend the event intended to honor them and their service."

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

The JACL, among others, worked to pass the bill since its introduction in the House in 2009.

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

The bill originally did not include the heroics of MIS veterans like Bruce Kaji, but was later amended. About 6,000 JAs served in the MIS. Soldiers in the MIS

handled classified intelligence, interrogated enemy prisoners of war, intercepted radio transmissions, and

'While this is a proud moment for Japanese American veterans of World War II, it is a time for the entire community to rejoice at the rich legacy which they left us.'

— FLOYD MORI
JACL National Director

SEE **GOLD MEDAL**/PAGE 11

translated enemy documents, among other things. Their work was secret until the passage of the Freedom of Information Act in 1974.

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

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

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

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

"That's why I think even with this Congressional Gold Medal ceremony my own hope is that the government of Japan will also recognize the Nisei

for their role in Japan," said Jon Kaji. "To me I think that would really bring balance to the MIS story."

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

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

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

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

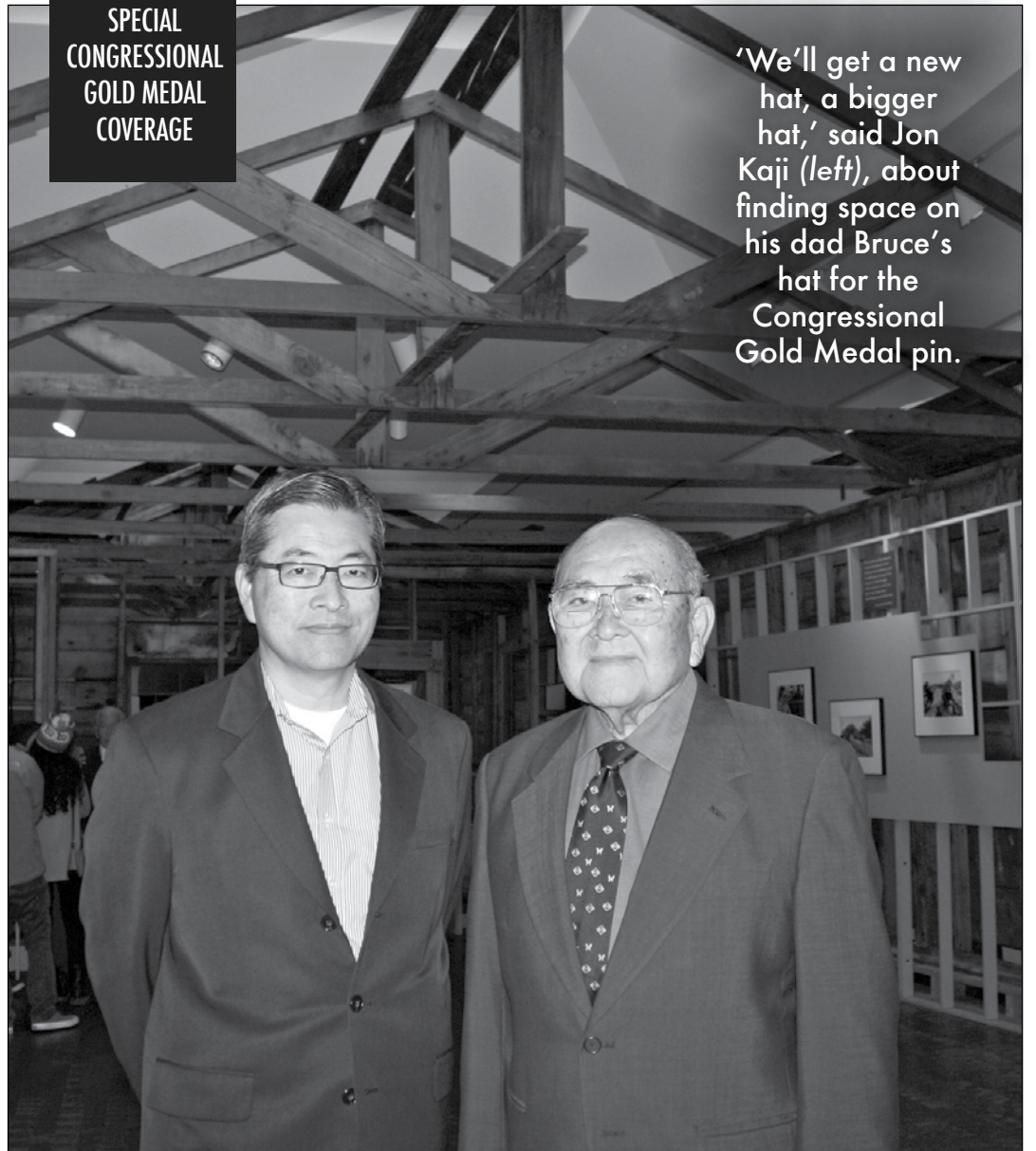
"Well, I'll see you 6:30 in the morning at the airport," Seki said, a veteran of the 442nd RCT, shortly before he boarded the Honor Flight to the ceremony with Bruce Kaji and other veterans. ■

'Well, I'll see you 6:30 in the morning at the airport.'

— DON SEKI,
WWII veteran about taking the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.


**SPECIAL
CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL
COVERAGE**

'We'll get a new hat, a bigger hat,' said Jon Kaji (left), about finding space on his dad Bruce's hat for the Congressional Gold Medal pin.





Alaska
Japanese American Citizens League

The Alaska Chapter JACL would like to honor these World War II veterans who were awarded the Gold Medal posthumously. We honor and thank them for what they did for Our Country and for each and every American. There is a connection with them and our chapter.




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


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—Congressman Adam Schiff





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BY HARRY K. HONDA

A DVD and 2 Books About Pearl Harbor

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

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

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

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

The next book, Ulrich Straus' "The Anguish of Surrender: Japanese POWs of World War II," (2003, 282pp) focuses on Sakamaki as U.S. prisoner of war no. 1. A graduate of the naval academy at Etajima who had met Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Combined Fleet in October, 1941, minsub crews were told they were about "to engage in an operation offering far greater glory than much more senior officers in the surface navy could hope to win."

Life at Etajima was rigorous, physically and mentally. It left no room for individual thinking, just the need for absolute obedience to military superiors. He came to believe it was "critical for us to die manfully on the battlefield."

At age 21, Sakamaki's mind was set to sink the battleship Pennsylvania with his two torpedoes — but bad luck dogged his mission. When his minisub was launched with a malfunctioning gyrocompass, he never found the entrance to Pearl Harbor.

As the minisub careened undersea, his grim determination to sink the Pennsylvania remained. The minisub eventually hit a reef near Kaneohe and

began to sink. Impact split the minisub in two, and threw him into the water. His companion perished.

Ensign Sakamaki swam 500 yards to shore and was arrested at dawn on Dec. 8, 1941, by Sgt. David Akui and Roy Terada, two territorial guards on patrol, who had witnessed the bombing at Pearl Harbor. The damaged minisub was spotted and brought ashore for study. Sakamaki was imprisoned at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

In accordance with the Geneva Convention, the U.S. notified Japan that Sakamaki was taken captive. The Japanese navy was in a quandary; death notices were not made public but a prisoner was listed as "attached to Yokosuka Navy Yard". During his first eight weeks in Hawaii, he was constantly interrogated by

Lt. Gero Iwai and Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Wada, two Nisei in the Navy prewar.

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

Following Japan's surrender, Sakamaki was returned to his homeland, debriefed by

Japanese naval officers now compiling a history of POWs and was told not to feel ashamed nor worry about his POW status.

Called as a prosecution witness at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, he testified that the Allies' treatment of Japanese POWs was good and years later appreciated how humane their approach was. He participated at a symposium on POWs in Austin, Texas, where he finally saw his minisub at the Nimitz War Museum.

Near the end of his life when asked to comment on how Japan developed postwar, Sakamaki believed Japan was still somewhat feudal and needed to grow and adjust to the globalized world. He died on Nov. 29, 1999. At the family's request, the funeral was private.

In conclusion Straus compares the treatment of POWs by the Allies and by the Japanese. Allied prisoners encountered brutality, death and extreme working conditions and made no pretense of living up to the Geneva Convention, although Japan's foreign minister indicated at the outset of the war they might do so. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.



NIKKEI

VOICE

BY GIL ASAKAWA

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

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

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

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

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

Mainstream American culture goes in cycles when it comes to anti-Chinese sentiment, and we're in one of those periods, mostly because China is ascending to its new position as one of the top world economies and that stirs up race-based xenophobia.

In the 1880s, the Chinese were accused of driving down wages by providing cheap labor and the solution was to clamp down on immigration (sound familiar?). Today, the exploding Chinese economy is combined with their undervalued currency and blamed for American job losses.

The Chinese were the first Asians to immigrate to the U.S. in large numbers. Only a few Filipinos and a stray Japanese sailor or two preceded them, although there are historians who think Chinese settled in North America before the Europeans. But their experience is mirrored in the waves of Asian immigrants that followed: the Japanese, East Indian and Filipino. The immigrants are welcomed as manual laborers, but when they attain business success white Americans felt threatened and their rights were curtailed.

These cycles will continue to repeat

unless we educate ourselves. There are some great sources to become more familiar with the history of Chinese immigration to the U.S.

The late Asian studies professor Ronald Takaki's "Strangers from a Different Shore, A History of Asian Americans" is the definitive source. But I also found engrossing the history "Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans" by Jean Pfaelzer, which comprehensively covers the many attempts by towns and cities as well as states (especially California) and the U.S. government to ban Chinese, chase out Chinese and otherwise eliminate Chinese from mainstream America.

Another great source for insight into the history of Chinese in America is the boxed set of films on DVDs (also available individually) by filmmaker Arthur Dong, who explores his Chinese American identity in sharply observed, evocative documentaries and short features. (<http://deepfocusproductions.com/>)

His "Stories from Chinese America Collection, Vol. 2" includes "Hollywood Chinese," a fascinating documentary that traces Chinese in the U.S.

movie industry with revealing insights from Asian actors as well as Caucasian actors like Christopher Lee and Luise Rainer, who played Chinese characters in yellowface makeup.

The second disc in the set, "Forbidden City, U.S.A.," is a loving chronicle of a famed nightclub — Forbidden City was considered the Asian Cotton Club — in San Francisco throughout the 1930s to the '50s.

The third disc in Dong's trilogy is "A Toisan Trilogy," shorter films directed by Dong that include the 29-minute feature, "Lotus," about a woman in early 20th century China with bound feet and the changing role of women.

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

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

Gil Asakawa is a former Pacific Citizen editorial board chair.

'Allied prisoners encountered brutality, death and extreme working conditions and made no pretense of living up to the Geneva Convention ...'

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

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Mar. 19 - Mar. 29 Majestic China: "Shanghai, Guilin, Xian, Beijing"
Apr. 03 - Apr. 12 Spring Japan: "The Beauty of the Cherry Blossoms"
Apr. 12 - Apr. 24 Beautiful South Korea: All Major Highlights & Drama Sites
Apr. 12 - Apr. 18 100th Anniversary Cherry Blossoms in Washington DC & Williamsburg
May 05 - May 20 Treasures of Turkey: Where Europe meets Asia
May 24 - May 26 Summertime Las Vegas: Show: Rod Stewart or Garth Brooks
Jun. 11 - Jun. 24 Discover Croatia: Dalmatian Coast & Slovenia
Jul. 24 - Aug. 02 Summer Japan: "Vacation with the Whole Family"
Aug. 04 - Aug. 12 Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park
Sep. 06 - Sep. 17 Let's Go Hokkaido
Sep. 29 - Oct. 10 The Legendary Danube River Cruise: Hungary, Austria, Germany
Sep. 28 - Oct. 02 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta: New Mexico's Most Dazzling Spectacle
Oct. 03 - Oct. 12 New England Colors & Eastern Canada: Fall Foliage
Oct. 16 - Oct. 25 Autumn Japan: Magnificent Fall Colors
Oct. 25 - Nov. 06 Spectacular South Africa
Nov. 01 - Nov. 11 The Best of Kyushu
Nov. 29 - Dec. 01 Holiday in Las Vegas: Show: TBA

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In Loving Memory of

2nd Lt. David M. Tsuruda

442nd Regimental Combat Team, Co. E

Lovingly,

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

www.pacificcitizen.org

GO·SEE·DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



The documentary "Valor with Honor" features interviews with over 35 vets of the 442nd RCT.

NYU Film Screening of 'Valor with Honor'
NEW YORK, NY
Nov. 9, 6 to 8 p.m.
New York University's The Great Room
A screening of the documentary "Valor with Honor" documents the heroics of the Japanese Americans who fought in the 442nd Regimental

Combat Team during World War II. A Q&A will follow the screening. DVDs will be available for sale. A screening will also be available at Hofstra University on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m.

**Info: e-mail apa.rsvp@nyu.edu
or call 212/992-9653**

NCWNP

The Florin JACL's 77th Anniversary Reception
SACRAMENTO, CA
Nov. 6, 2 p.m.
Delegata Building
2495 Natomas Park Dr., Suite 200
Cost: \$30/General admission
Florin JACL's 77th Anniversary Reception "Unity After 9/11: Building Common Bonds" highlights community civil rights organizations. The event honors Dr. Satsuki Ina, filmmaker of "Children of the Camps."
**Info: FlorinJACL@hotmail.com
or call 916/685-6747**

GO!

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Tours
FRIANT & SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Nov. 8, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. & Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cost: \$30/Active senior members; \$35/Others
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center will go on two day trips: one to the Table Mountain Casino and another to San Francisco's Japantown, Daly City's Daiso and San Jose's Mitsuwa.
**Info: Carol Kaneko 831/476-7040 or
Rubie Kawamoto 831/464-6721**

PNW

An Osechi Ryori Primer
PORTLAND, OR
Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Art Institute of Portland
34 NW 8th Ave.
Cost: \$55/Non-members; \$55/Registered before Nov. 18; \$65/ Registered after Nov. 18
Celebrate the Japanese New Year with a hands-on demonstration and cooking class. Participants will learn how to make makizushi, inarizushi and nishime.
Info: Call 503/224-1458

SEE!

PSW

Theatrical Premiere of "The Language Archive"
LOS ANGELES, CA
Nov. 10 to Dec. 4 (regular performances)
David Henry Hwang Theater
120 Judge John Aiso St.
Cost: \$31-41/General admission
East West Players celebrates its 46th anniversary season, themed Languages of Love, with the premiere of "The Language Archive" by Julia Cho, directed by Jessica Kubzansky. Preview performances

run from Nov. 3-6. An opening night gala will be held Nov. 9.

Info: Visit www.eastwestplayers.org

Pacific Asia Museum 'Auspicious Beauty' Exhibit
PASADENA, CA
Oct. 7 to March 25
Pacific Asia Museum
46 North Los Robles Ave.
Cost: \$9/General admission; \$7/ Students and seniors
The Pacific Asia Museum presents the exhibit "Auspicious Beauty: Korean Folk Painting" in the Focus Gallery. Eight-panel screens of flowers and rocks will be on display.
Info: Visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org

The Tag Project Opening Exhibit
SAN DIEGO, CA
Feb. 10, 2012, 6-8:30 p.m.
San Diego State University Art Gallery
5500 Campanile Dr.

DO!

The Tag Project, which consists of replicated internee tags, will celebrate its opening reception. There will also be an inaugural celebration March 10.
Info: Linda Canada at Lcanada509@aol.com

Solemn Zen Japanese Tea Ceremony
LOS ANGELES, CA
Nov. 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Zenshuji Soto Mission
123 S. Hewitt St.

Cost: \$45/General admission
The Zenshuji Soto Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo will host its annual Chasen Kuyo, a celebration of the bamboo tea whisk used to make matcha.
Info: Call 213/624-8658

Arizona Buddhist Temple Mochi Fundraiser
PHOENIX, AZ
Dec. 18, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Arizona Buddhist Temple
4142 W. Clarendon Ave.
Cost: \$3.50/Ko-mochi per pound; \$5/ Anko-mochi per package; \$3.50/Kagami-mochi per set
The Arizona Buddhist Temple is holding a mochi fundraiser. Payments can be made to the temple and sent before Dec. 4 to the address listed above.
Info: Call Betsy Matsumoto at 602/973-3128 ■

TRIBUTE

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

NIIZAWA, JOHNNY CHUICHI passed away on October 11, 2011 in the Fresno Veterans Administration Hospital after a lingering illness. He was born in Turlock, Calif. in the Lillian Collins Hospital on August 9, 1925, the first born of the late Take and Zitaro Niizawa. Johnny leaves behind his wife

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

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

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

TRIBUTE

Masaye Hiura*October 18, 2011*

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

at 11:00 on Sat. Nov. 12 at Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church.

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Floyd Mori (center) receives a SALDEF award from Manjit Singh (left) Jaideep Singh.

MORI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to pervade the current presidential debates and legislative battles in our nation's capital. It seems to be a race to see who can out-hate immigrants and Muslims more than the other.

However, there has been a clear benefit from the 9/11 tragedy. Muslim American, Arab American, Sikh American and South Asian American groups have become more effectively organized to fight discrimination. Youth have become more engaged and aware of the racial and religious issues that they face and are more willing to become involved in the advocacy process.

We in the JACL have had the privilege of working with a number of the national Arab, Sikh and South AA advocacy and civil rights groups. Because of this close relationship, I was honored by the Sikh American Legal Defense Fund for our close collaborative work on

hate crimes and other civil rights issues. So this crisis has harvested stronger and more cohesive community organizations with a youth segment that is more willing to become involved in the quest for justice.

So, I had to ask myself, what has happened to the Japanese American community and its rise in America as the "model minority," and where assimilation has occurred and economic status has been achieved? Have we forgotten the crisis that brought us together as a strong national voice for justice? Have we become so used to the good life that we haven't the will to fight for justice for those who now face similar circumstances as we did in the 1930s and 1940s?

I do feel that some in the community fall into this category. "Now that we have ours, there is no need to commit ourselves to the hard task of maintaining a just and fair community for all," may be the mind set of many within our ranks. There are too many who just don't

see a need to get "involved," yet they are now enjoying the fruits of those who sacrificed plenty, even life and limb, in order for them to have the benefits of the good life they enjoy today. These are the "blue bloods" of the JA experience. And, yes, I know that this may be offensive to some who feel that they made it on their own talents and good looks.

But you know, I am an optimist from the experience I have had in interacting and rubbing shoulders with the new generation of JA youth and the Hapa generation. I think that they "get it" and they understand the injustices of the past and want to avoid a repeat in the present and future. Our young people have a keen sense of fairness and justice and see that crisis within our system today in too many places. So they are willing to get involved and they are willing to commit to spending time working to ensure that justice is preserved. Our youth are our future, and the future looks good. ■

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*Congratulations
to New England's Gold Medal honorees*

James Inashima, MIS

Susumu Ito, 442nd

Tetsuo Takayanagi, MIS

*and to all the Gold Medal recipients
with grateful thanks for all they did for us.*

New England Chapter JACL

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



Upcoming event

Veterans Day

Friday, Nov. 11, 2011
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Presidio Cemetery Overlook
Presidio of San Francisco

(In recognition of the CGM Award Ceremony, Nov. 2, 2011)



President Obama signs Congressional Gold Medal into law, Oct. 5, 2010.



Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640 in the Presidio of San Francisco, restoration expected late 2012

Support the establishment of the **Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at Building 640** in our nation's National Park—the Presidio of San Francisco and honor the 6,000 MIS soldier linguists who served during World War II and the Allied Occupation of Japan.

The story...

On the eve of war with Japan in November 1941, the US Army recruited 58 Japanese American (Nisei) and 2 Caucasian soldiers for the coming war. Trained in the utmost secrecy as military linguists, these enlisted men comprised of the first class at Building 640 at Crissy Field in the Presidio of San Francisco. From its humble beginnings, the MIS grew to over 6,000 graduates, and evolved into the renowned Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey.

Serving in every major battle and campaign in the Pacific Theatre of War, while their families languished behind barbed wire in America's concentration camps, the Nisei MIS were credited for shortening the war by two years. During the Occupation of Japan, the MIS worked to establish a lasting peace. For their role, the MIS have been honored with a Presidential Unit Citation and most recently with a Congressional Gold Medal along with veterans of the 100th Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

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 still 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 is underway to save the building and develop it as an adaptive reuse project—an interactive MIS Historic Learning Center devoted to the MIS Legacy of peace and reconciliation. To date, it has already received nearly \$4.6 million in federal support. **Today, NJAHS seeks matching private dollars to ensure its long-term viability.**

What you can do...

Honor our heritage and make a contribution to the MIS Historic Learning Center! Gifts of \$2,500 and up will be recognized on the Inaugural Donor Wall when the restoration is complete, November 2012. Naming Opportunities are also available.

Join our campaign to realize this dream!

To learn more,
call **415-921-5007**
visit www.njahs.org/mis
or email njahs@njahs.org

