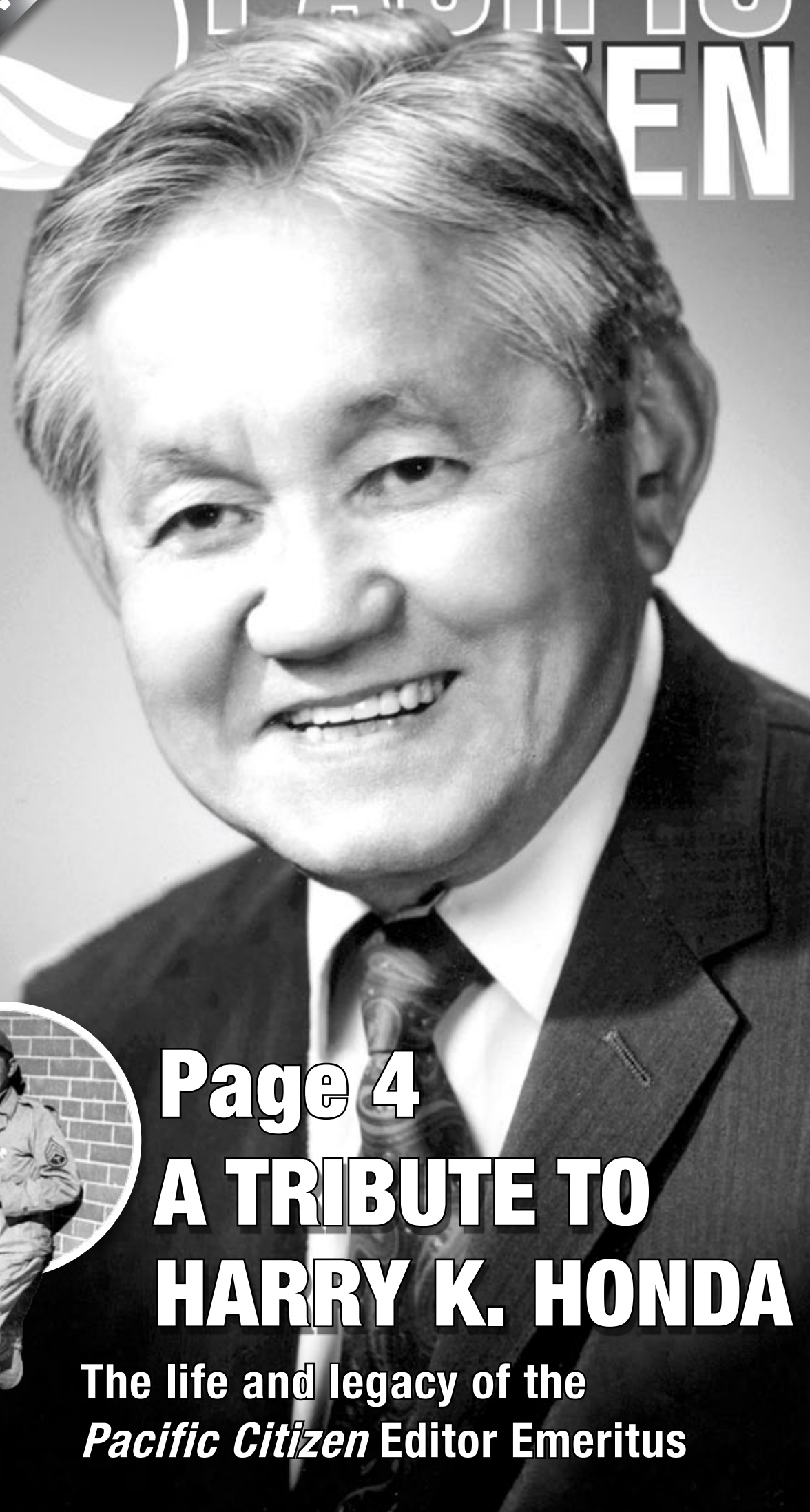


Redress 25th  
Anniversary

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



## Page 4 A TRIBUTE TO HARRY K. HONDA

The life and legacy of the  
*Pacific Citizen* Editor Emeritus



**Page 6**

**Harry K. Honda  
Reports on  
Redress.**



**Page 8**

**A Complete  
Redress Timeline**



**Page 12**

**Seattle Plaque  
Dedication**



# Letter From the Editor

It is with great pride and pleasure that I have officially stepped into the executive editor position of the *Pacific Citizen*. Having served as interim executive editor since the end September, I am greatly relieved to finally move full-steam ahead into getting the *P.C.* back on track 100% — where it deserves to be.

But as I begin my tenure at the *P.C.*, earlier this month the Asian American community and the world lost a journalism legend in Harry K. Honda, a man who spent countless hours and years working in my very same position to provide our readers the most comprehensive AAPI news coverage imaginable.

Although I have more than 20 years of journalism experience — having spent more than 13 of those years working at *The Hollywood Reporter* — this is my first foray into the Asian American news community, and I have to admit that I was unsure of where to even begin when I first entered the *P.C.*'s doors. But right around that time, Harry Honda was honored with a "Living Legends" award by the JACL PSW district council, and the *P.C.* was there to cover his achievement. Soon after the issue was printed, I was honored when Harry came into our office to personally congratulate the *P.C.*'s staff on the paper. He was very surprised, pleased and humbled to be featured in it. And imagine his shock when he discovered that he was on the cover!

My first meeting with Harry was memorable indeed.

He very graciously shook my hand and told me how happy he was to see someone heading up the *P.C.* again. He gave me a huge smile, and

he wished our entire staff good luck — and that he would still make sure to send me his "Very Truly Yours" column. I told him that I would try my best to continue the work he started, and he looked at me and said, "I know you will."

Even one of his last emails was to acknowledge my appointment by the JACL, writing, "About time considering all her prior years in journalism and publications."

Thank you, Harry, for your faith in me. And on that note, thank you to the JACL for believing in my abilities, too, and to my tireless *P.C.* staff for all that you do. Together we will continue the legacy . . .

Please feel free to send the *P.C.* your comments, questions and concerns, as well as newsworthy items that you feel should be addressed. The *P.C.* is here to serve you, our dedicated readers, in always covering the AAPI news and information you need to know — stories that affect you, the community in which you live and the world around you.

Here's to a most promising future for us all.

— Allison Haramoto,  
*Pacific Citizen* Executive Editor



**HOW TO REACH US**  
Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 250 E. First St., Suite 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**STAFF**  
Executive Editor  
Allison Haramoto

Reporter  
Nalea J. Ko

Business Manager  
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist  
Marie Samonte

Circulation  
Eva Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. First St., Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

**JACL President:** David Lin  
**National Director:** Priscilla Ouchida

**P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Carol Kawamoto, chairperson;  
Paul Niwa, EDC; Kevin Miyazaki, MDC; Roberta Brown, CCDC; Mark Kobayashi, NCWNPDC; Hugh Burleson, PNWDC; Gil Asakawa, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Kevin Mori, youth rep.

**SUBSCRIBE**  
Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (800) 966-6157

**ADVERTISE**  
To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (800) 966-6157 or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

**LEGAL**  
No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *Pacific Citizen* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2013

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

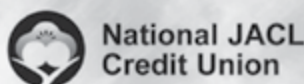
## JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:  
National JACL  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)



## Put your mortgage on the fast track



Now is your chance to eliminate your long-term, high-rate mortgage. That's because right now, the National JACL Credit Union is offering short-term mortgages that can save you thousands of dollars compared to a traditional 30-year loan.

Plus, you may not need an appraisal and the National JACL Credit Union will pay most of your closing costs.

You can match your mortgage to your retirement date or just pay it off in five to 10 years.

To find out how much we can lower your mortgage, call Terri at

(801)424-JACL (5225).

[www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)

Rates and terms subject to credit approval.  
Equal housing lender. NMLS 644166.  
Promo code: 62133

## Letter to the Editor

Jean-Paul deGuzman is absolutely correct in pointing out my statement that "the path to naturalization was always open to newcomers" fails to mention the exception of Asian immigrants. I intended my comment as a statement about economic strategy and should have stated it more carefully. As deGuzman notes, the McCarran-Walter Act (supported by the JACL) gave the Issei naturalization rights. Mike Masaoka led the successful effort to overturn President Truman's veto, a rare accomplishment, because the JACL had fought hard for the passage of the legislation on behalf of the Issei. McCarran-Walter may have been flawed, as deGuzman points out, but I don't know of any act that isn't, some more than others.

— John Tateishi





## VIEWPOINT

### My JANM Conference Recap

By Roberta Barton

Rolling past the fields, forests and coastline of the scenic Pacific Northwest by rail car seemed an eerie reflection of the same journey taken by Japanese Americans on their way to the Pinedale Assembly Center in Fresno, Calif., from Oregon and Washington more than 70 years before. But my trip home to the Central Valley from Seattle after the Japanese American National Museum's fourth national conference, "Speaking Up! Democracy, Justice, Dignity," which commemorated the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, was under very different circumstances.

I was not torn away from my home and friends, uncertain of my final destination.

This was my first time attending JANM's conference. Three days of learning and inspiration offered a lot to reflect upon during my long journey back home.

My first day began at the Community Marketplace helping staff at an information table for the Poston Community Alliance. As an Alliance board member, I enjoyed meeting many Poston detainees and their descendants. Everyone I greeted was very receptive to information about our new donor brick campaign at the Poston Monument site, and some visitors agreed to be interviewed for our new documentary honoring mothers and their babies born at Poston.

Soon, the powerful rhythm of taiko called everyone to the opening general session. More than 500 attendees from points as diverse as Canada, Japan and Latin America cheered the drummers' high-energy welcome. Emcee Mitch Maki welcomed the audience and connected the power of taiko and the power of the conference's theme, urging all to "feel the strength of speaking up."

Maki next paid tribute to Nikkei veterans. About a dozen veterans marched into the grand ballroom to the haunting melody of singer-songwriter Harold Payne's "Quiet



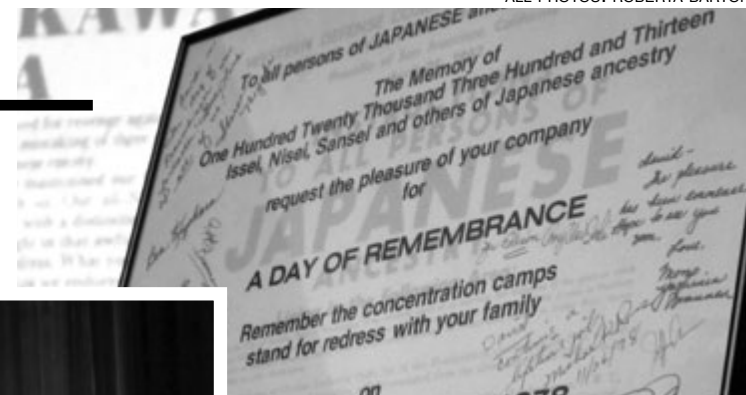
Nikkei veterans salute the flag at the JANM conference's opening session.

Heroes." As an honorary color guard marched up onstage, many of the vets raised their hands in a poignant salute to their flag and fellow servicemen. The power of the audience and the veterans reciting the pledge of allegiance was indeed a special moment.

Densho founder-director Tom Ikeda was one of several speakers who followed. Ikeda noted the many stories associated with Seattle as a "place of firsts" in the history of the Japanese American experience and the struggle for redress. "We advance democracy by sharing and protecting stories. It is the responsibility of everyone in this room to do that," Ikeda said.

The general session ended with lots of energy to start the opening day. The first workshop I attended was "Tangled Routes to Redress," which expanded on Seattle's role in 1978 as the birthplace of the first Day of Remembrance.

Panelist Franklin Abe remembered how hundreds of families lined up in cars to join the evacuation re-enactment



A poster with signatures of original participants from the first Day of Remembrance event, held in Seattle in 1978, was displayed at a workshop.



P.C. Editorial Board Member Roberta Barton (left) reconnected with author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston for an autograph and "fond memories of Fresno." Houston spoke at a California Reads program in Fresno last fall.

— on Thanksgiving Day! Detainees finally opened up and inside the safety and privacy of their cars shared with their family members about the trauma of camp. "It broke the ice," Abe said. In fact, reframing the re-enactment as a "family activity" was key to the event's success and a major strategy in fighting negative news coverage. "The air was leaking out of the redress balloon," described Abe.

>> See JANM on page 16



## FOR THE RECORD

### Reflections

By John Tateishi

In this, the 25th anniversary year of the Civil Liberties Act, I find myself wondering what would have happened if we had never embarked on that journey that became the redress campaign.

What if Edison Uno had never introduced the resolution in 1970 that challenged the JACL to take up the cause to seek vindication and redress? What would have happened if the JACL had rejected the resolution in favor of less threatening and psychologically safer challenges? There were so many issues to deal with, so much wrong, still so many injustices in 1970 that needed rectifying. So why redress?

Why a campaign that would force every one of us to come face-to-face with the past, that would force the Nisei to break 25 years of silence, force that generation to allow a light into the dark corner of their minds where, for so many, this part of their lives had lain hidden? And why an issue that would force an entire generation to open such deep wounds?

In the perspective of so many years past now, it's easy, I suppose, to forget just how wrenching it was to bring the community to this issue. The group of young activists in Los Angeles who formed E.O.9066 Inc in the '60s knew, I think, the storm they would unleash by raising the issue of camp in the community. I'm not sure, but maybe that was their ultimate purpose, to force the issue into the light, to talk about the injustice of the expulsion and incarceration to let the country know something of this dark and dirty secret.

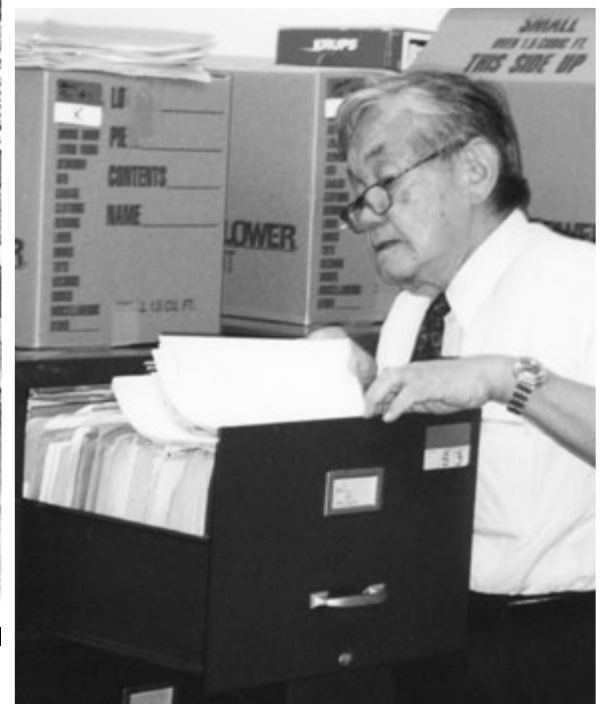
But it took the JACL to move the issue into the public arena in a way that unleashed this beast. Well, in the perspective of reality, maybe not a beast — more like a little critter looking for a voice.

The JACL, because it is what it is, was able to articulate the issue through its endless debates between those who wanted that voice and those who sought to push the light back into the psychological box where it had been protected so tenuously for almost three decades. It's not the pain, said the proponents, it's not the hurt: It's the injustice, and it's about shoring up the foundations of democracy; it's about all the sacrifices we made as a community to prove that we were better than what mainstream America was saying about us. This was as much about America as it was about finding our rightful place in this country. This was about America and the Constitution and about everything we believed in as a generation of loyal Americans. This was about our children and their children's children.

*Kodomo no tame ni.* Always the children.

I sometimes wonder, did we have a choice? Was it inevitable? Would the anger of the younger Sansei upon learning about the camps be enough to drive this issue into a campaign? Or would we have resolved this issue as we so often had, keeping it within the community and as often as not, burying it where it needed to be for our own comfort?

>> See REFLECTIONS on page 16



# Remembering *Pacific Citizen* Editor Emeritus Harry Honda

IN TRIBUTE TO THE NISEI'S LEGACY, THE JACL NATIONAL PRESIDENT SAYS A MOMENT OF SILENCE WILL BE OBSERVED AT THE UPCOMING CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHICH HONDA HAD PLANNED TO ATTEND.



By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

There is no shortage of adjectives and nouns that loved ones use to describe the late Harry Kazue Honda. He was a husband, father, Army veteran, grandfather, journalist, the *Pacific Citizen* editor emeritus and a walking encyclopedia of facts and figures.

Honda died on July 3 while working on the computer at his home in Rowland Heights, Calif. He was 93.

Second in capacity to Honda's personal archive of Japanese American historical facts he stored in his brain were the numerous metal, gray file cabinets that once lined his office at the *P.C.*, where he worked since 1952 and served as editor for nearly 30 years.

Filed under "H" in those same aging file cabinets still stored at the *P.C.* are smiling photos of Honda stuffed in a single folder that he perhaps once created.

"He had great pride in his job. I know he just really enjoyed his job, was always there, was always working hard, was always engaging with people, writing away and making sure that the paper didn't miss a deadline," said Patty Arra, Honda's daughter with Misako, his wife of 56 years.

Born on Aug. 12, 1919, in Los Angeles, Honda graduated from Belmont High School, located a little more than a mile from the *P.C.*'s current Little Tokyo office. Drafted before World War II broke out, Honda spent four years in the Army's Quartermaster Corps. His family was forcibly removed to Rohwer Relocation Center, where Japanese mostly from Los Angeles were unjustly rounded up and incarcerated. Honda later received his bachelor's degree in political science from Loyola University in 1950.

Before Honda worked for the *P.C.*, he started his journalism career as a sports writer

at the *Rafu Shimpo* in 1936. From there, Honda served as the English editor for 10 years at the *Sangyo Nippo* and the assistant editor at *Nichibei Shimbun* from 1940 until he was drafted in the Army.

It wasn't until the JACL moved the *P.C.* newspaper from Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1952 to Los Angeles that Honda joined the staff.

Honda's words will continue to live on in brittle, faded newspaper archives that preserve his stories and longtime column "Very Truly Yours." But Honda's legacy and compassionate demeanor will carry on in the memories of those who worked beside him.

"Harry Honda was always a wonderful mentor not only for me, but the entire *Pacific Citizen* staff. We always knew we could tap into Harry's wealth of knowledge, not just about the *Pacific Citizen*, but the entire Japanese American community," said Caroline Aoyagi-Stom, former *P.C.* executive editor who worked at the newspaper for 15 years.

"We always knew that if we showed him a historical photo, Harry would be able to identify the people in it and give us some important background information about it."

Eva Ting, who has worked at the *P.C.* in different capacities for more than 18 years, recalls how Honda always made it a tradition to take employees out to lunch following completion of the annual 120-page Holiday Issue. He'd also make sure every staffer received a box of See's Candies for the holidays. "He always stayed late and came early. He was always working," Ting recalled of Honda who was the first to arrive and last to leave the office.

Also a fixture at Japanese American community events held in Southern California and the JACL conventions, Honda was awarded the "living legends" award at last year's JACL Pacific Southwest Regional District Council awards dinner.

"Harry wasn't just the *Pacific Citizen*'s editor with the longest tenure (over 28 years), he was JACL's best historical resource," said David Kawa-

moto, former JACL national president. "Whenever I asked Harry for clarification on a JACL issue, he would, off the top of his head, tell me the people involved, when and where it occurred and the references I could use for more information. He was so well read on all things Japanese American."

Beginning in 1997, Honda served at the *P.C.* as an archivist, filing and organizing documents that chronicled the pre- and post-WWII Japanese American experience, which he reported on and witnessed firsthand. Honda was one of the founding members of the Nisei Athletic Union and the Asian American Journalists Assn. He was also a regular attendee at JACL and the Pan American Nikkei Assn. conventions.

Honda had planned to travel to the 2013 JACL convention to be held in Washington, D.C., from July 24-26.

"I've always enjoyed visiting with Harry at the national conventions," said JACL National President David Lin. "Harry's words of wisdom and encouragement will always mean so much to me, especially when I was new to the JACL. I know I will miss him dearly when I am at the national convention in Washington, D.C., this month."

In honor of Honda's legacy in JACL and at the *P.C.*, Lin says there will be a moment of silence dedicated to Honda and others who have passed this year at the beginning of the national council meeting.

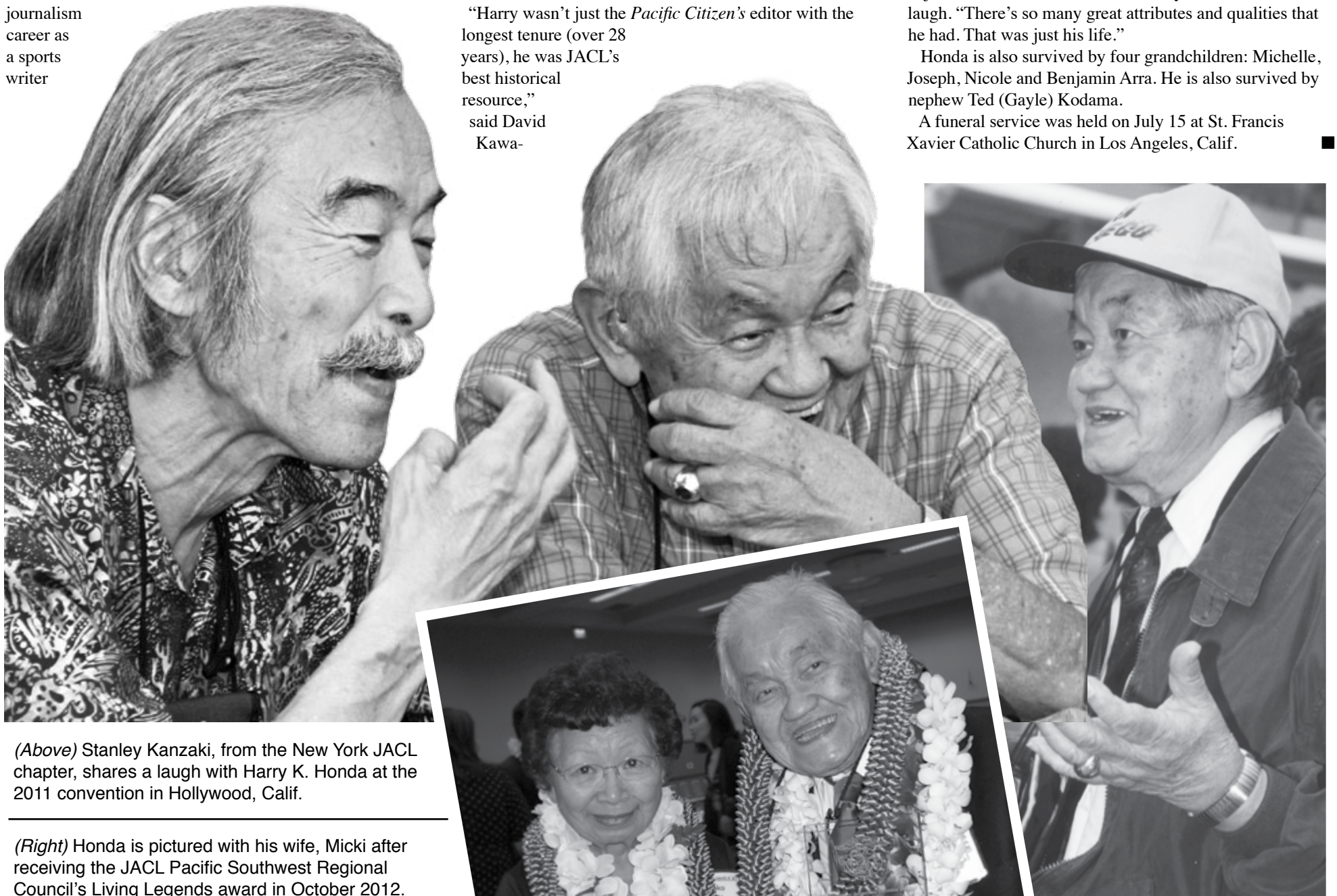
Never missing a deadline, Honda submitted what would be his last "Yours Very Truly" column for the *P.C.*, which ran in the July 5 print edition.

Honda remained active until his last day, sending the day of his death words of congratulations to the newly hired *P.C.* executive editor, Allison Haramoto.

"He had an amazing mind and memory and could recollect things effortlessly. But really, I don't know, there's so many adjectives — I don't know what to say," Arra said with a laugh. "There's so many great attributes and qualities that he had. That was just his life."

Honda is also survived by four grandchildren: Michelle, Joseph, Nicole and Benjamin Arra. He is also survived by nephew Ted (Gayle) Kodama.

A funeral service was held on July 15 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Los Angeles, Calif.



(Above) Stanley Kanzaki, from the New York JACL chapter, shares a laugh with Harry K. Honda at the 2011 convention in Hollywood, Calif.

(Right) Honda is pictured with his wife, Micki after receiving the JACL Pacific Southwest Regional Council's Living Legends award in October 2012.

# President Reagan Signs Redress Bill

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the historic signing of H.R. 442 on Aug. 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan referenced the *Pacific Citizen* in his closing remarks. It was a triumphant moment for the community and the newspaper, whose staff members, including Harry Honda, were onsite to cover the historic event. Honda wrote this article, which was originally published in the Aug. 19-26, 1988, edition of the *P.C.*

By Harry Honda

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The day of Aug. 10 when President Ronald Reagan signed H.R. 442 to “right a grave wrong” and apologize for the World War II removal and detention of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry has eclipsed Feb. 19 — the date when all this began in 1942.

It also set into motion the Justice Department’s search for those eligible to receive individual apologies and \$20,000 payment signifying redress of grievances for being deprived of freedom and property because of race during WWII.

It evoked messages of joy and jubilation from those who had recognized the wartime detention as a fundamental injustice.

And it was the biggest story for the Japanese American community, judging by the banner headlines in the vernacular press, since the Issei won citizenship rights in

1952 when Congress overturned President Truman’s veto of the measure.

## Congressional Comments

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), who spent his wartime years as a child at the Heart Mountain, Wyo., camp, said the redress bill dealt with fundamental questions of the U.S. Constitution.

“Does our Constitution indeed protect all of us regardless of race or culture? Do our rights remain inalienable even in times of stress, especially in times of war? Passage of this legislation answers these questions with a resounding YES.”

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.), called the passage a “commitment to the Constitution that will be remembered in history books for generations to come . . . (the president’s) signature demonstrates that principles of justice can transcend any partisan lines politics may draw up.”

Chief sponsor in the Senate, Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), was especially pleased since he himself signed the bill as acting Senate president pro tempore to certify passage. Mineta earlier had signed the same bill as acting speaker of the House.

Matsunaga reminded: “Many believed we would never see this day, the issue was so controversial and emotional.

“Realization did not come overnight, but it did come across the political spectrum with a clarity which affirms our national purpose and bodes well for America’s future.”

## Compensation to Evacuees

The redress law provides \$20,000 tax-free payment to Japanese Americans who were affected by E.O. 9066 with some exceptions. And the Justice Department is required within 12 months to identify and locate each eligible individual “without requiring any application,” as stipulated in the reconciled version of H.R. 442.

The JACL-LEC is expected to mount an information campaign to accelerate the process.

Individuals may submit documentation to the attorney general (Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530) upon date of enactment of the redress bill, who then will acknowledge their receipt and compile a roster of eligible individuals.

Eligible individuals will have 18 months upon notification to accept payment or to pursue settlement of a claim against the U.S. arising from the evacuation.

Eligible individuals living on the date of enactment — Aug. 10, 1988 — now have vested rights to receive payment. If deceased, payment is limited to: (1) a surviving spouse of one year, (2) or in equal shares to all children living at time of payment, (3) and if there is no such surviving spouse or child, then in equal shares to parents living on date of payment.

If there is no surviving spouse, child or parent, then the payment remains in the redress fund.

Excluded from the eligibility list are those who, during



“For here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law,” said President Ronald Reagan of officially signing H.R. 442.



the period from Dec. 7, 1941, to Sept. 2, 1945, were “relocated to a country at war with the United States.”

In accepting payment, evacuees agree to drop all legal claims pending against the government.

#### Appropriations Due From 1990

While the redress bill authorizes payment, Congress must still “appropriate” the funds on a yearly basis through the budget, which must be signed by the president.

No more than \$500 million is to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

The JACL intends to monitor this process in the forthcoming sessions of Congress.

Payments are expected over a 10-year period starting with the most elderly as early as the next Congress, which would pass an appropriations bill in 1989 with payment following from 1990, according to Grayce Uyehara, JACL-LEC executive director, who was responding to queries at the National JACL Convention in Seattle.

She indicated even the renunciants present at Tule Lake at the end of war are eligible.

#### A Day to Remember

National JACL President Harry Kajihara, long identified with the redress effort at the grassroots Ventura County JACL level, later as district governor and national JACL redress campaign leader, issued the following statement upon Mr. Reagan’s signing of the bill.

“Today is truly a grand and glorious historic day that will be rejoiced and remembered by all Americans of Japanese ancestry. In 1942, at the hands of our own government, we were deprived of our freedom, our liberty, our pursuit of livelihood, and forcibly herded into 10 incarceration centers located in God-forsaken barren wastelands of the United States.

“Now 46 years later, our government has officially proclaimed that injustice was inflicted upon loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. Today, President Reagan has affirmed this declaration by affixing his signature on to redress bill, H.R. 442.

“Many people, inside and outside of the Japanese American community toiled long to right this wrong. We are ecstatically gratified that this redress pursuit has at long last come to a successful conclusion.”

#### An Ironic Experience

Judge Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City had joined the Army after he got out of Heart Mountain, Wyo., because he noted that it was about the only option open to young Nisei after the war. He had served in the Korean War, but it wasn’t until he was in law school that he realized the irony of having fought to defend the freedom he was once denied.

“It brought out the best and worst of the Japanese American people,” Uno told the *Salt Lake Tribune* the day after the House passed the conference report to the redress bill. “It taught a lot of us about self-government and self-reliance, but there was a lot of bitterness. A lot of tension.”

Uno felt the \$20,000 being paid to internees is valuable because of its symbolism. “The apology is a good thing, but there’s something else. It is of sufficient economic value that people will realize this is a very serious thing,” he said.

The same day in San Francisco, National JACL Executive Director Ron Wakabayashi said: “I am thankful to President Reagan for his expression of support for the redress bill. His efforts to indicate his position eases the remaining anxiety regarding the culmination of this community’s long campaign to restore ourselves and strengthen the nation. I am personally pleased to have this take place in my mother’s lifetime.”

#### The P.C. Clipping

Referenced by the president in his closing remarks about a newspaper clipping from the *Pacific Citizen* dated December 1945 was from the Dec. 15 issue, which featured photos of General Stilwell presenting the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for Sgt. Kazuo Masuda to his sister, Mary Masuda, on the porch of “her small frame shack near Talbert,



President Ronald Reagan signed H.R. 442 on Aug. 10, 1988. Among those present at the signing with the president are (from left) Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), Rep. Patricia Saiki (R-Hawaii), Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) and Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska).

Orange County (now Fountain Valley)”.

George Johnston of the *P.C.* staff had researched the files for this story for Rose Ochi, who then sent the clipping to the president, as was acknowledged in his remarks.

Apparently, it was the many JACLers present who appreciated Mr. Reagan’s mention of JACL’s official publication, the *Pacific Citizen*, as most accounts the following day did not attribute the story of Gen. Stilwell’s presentation nor the remarks by “one young actor (who said): ‘Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way — an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength of the world. That is the American way.’”

“The name of that young actor,” Mr. Reagan concluded, “I hope I pronounce this right (evoking laughter here by some who knew of the incident — was Ronald Reagan.” It drew strong applause.

#### Last-Minute Switch

Over 100 Japanese Americans, plus the press corps accredited to the White House, congressional and White House staff witnessed President Reagan’s signing of H.R. 442.

National JACL President Kajihara was the lone non-Congressional member among the 14 standing around President Reagan at the signing.

Spotted from the Congress were Sens. Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, Ted Stevens, Reps. Norman Mineta, Robert Matsui, Toby Roth, Patricia Saiki, Dan Akaka, Guam Delegate Ben Blaz.

Change in the locale of the signing was announced by Rep. Mineta during the luncheon he had hosted. The ceremony had been scheduled for the White House Rose Garden but

the heat (97 degrees with humidity to match) forced the ceremonies indoor to the White House press briefing room in the Old Executive Office Building.

#### Among Those Invited

Here is a partial list of Japanese Americans invited by the White House to the signing ceremony. A number of lists were amalgamated to make up the group.

Jerry Enomoto, Hitoshi H. Kajihara, Cherry Kinoshita, True Yasui, Denny Yasuhara, Shigeo Wakamatsu, Mollie Fujioka, Henry T. Tanaka, Thomas Y. Kometani, Hid Hasegawa.

Cressey Nakagawa, Gene Takamine, Takashi Moriuchi, Tom T. Shimasaki, Claence Nishizu, K. Patrick Okura, George Ogawa, Masaaki Hironaka, Marleen Kawahara, Sam M. Nakano.

Homer Yasui, Junji Kumamoto, Judy Niizawa, George Sakaguchi, Gordon Yoshikawa, Frances Tojo, Betty Waki, Jefferson R. Itami, Frank Iritani, George K. Baba.

Ted Inouye, Meriko Mori, John N. Kanda, Harry K. Honda, Wayne Kimura, Grayce K. Uyehara, S. Ruth Hashimoto, Sumiko Kobayashi, Charles T. Nagao, Sandi Kawasaki.

Hiroshi Uyehara, Rudy Tokiwa, Mae Takahashi, Sumi Koide, Pete Oda, June Masuda Goto, Rita Takahashi, Mary Tsukamoto, Al Tsukamoto, Ron Wakabayashi.

Bob Moteki, Carole Hayashino Kagawa, Bob Sakaguchi, John Hayashi, Susan Kamei, Hiroshi Kamei, Peggy Sasashima Leggitt, Willam Yoshino, Rose Ochi, Steve Nakashima.

Mary Toda, Joseph Ichijui, Frank Sato, Katherine Sasaki Nunotani, Joe Kosai, Aiko Takeshira, Alan Nishi, the Emori family of six, Susumu and Sumi, parents of David, Helen, Grace and Walter, Medford, Ore., Doris and Brian Matsui.

— *Harry Honda was Editor Emeritus of the Pacific Citizen. He passed away on July 3 at the age of 93.*

## A HISTORICAL TIMELINE

# The Journey to Justice

Twenty years after the redress bill, it's time to take a look back at the steps taken toward this historic moment in Japanese American history.

## 1970

**July:** The first resolution in support of redress is approved by the JACL National Convention in Chicago. Similar resolutions will be passed in 1972 and '74.

## 1976



**February:** President Gerald Ford signs a proclamation officially terminating Executive Order 9066 (E.O. 9066). Ford writes, "We now know what we should have known then — not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese Americans were and are loyal Americans."

## 1978

**August:** The JACL National Convention adopts a plan calling for a flat payment of \$25,000 per internee and establishment of a \$100 million trust fund for the benefit of the Japanese American community and makes redress the organization's top priority.

## 1980

**July:** President Carter (pictured) signs a bill creating a Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to review the facts and circumstances surrounding E.O. 9066 and its impact; review the military directives requiring relocation and internment; and recommend appropriate remedies.

The commission includes Joan Bernstein, Esq. (chair), Judge William Marutani of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas; former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg; and Rep. Daniel Lungren (R-Calif.).



## 1983

**February:** The commission's report, *Personal Justice Denied*, is submitted to Congress. The commission finds the exclusion of Japanese Americans to be "a grave injustice," without foundation, and the result of "racial prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership."

**June:** The commission recommends a congressional resolution to be signed by the president apologizing for the internment; and funds to provide "personal redress to those who were excluded."

Specifically, the commission recommends that Congress appropriate \$1.5 billion to be used first for one-time payment of \$20,000 to each of the "surviving persons excluded from their places of residence pursuant to E.O. 9066" and the remaining funds to be used for research and education.

The recommendations have the unanimous support of all but one member of the commission, Rep. Lungren, who opposes the recommendation on redress.

**October:** H.R. 4110, a bill to accept and implement the recommendations of the Commission is introduced in Congress; the bill has 74 co-sponsors; House Majority Leader Jim Wright (R-Texas) is the lead sponsor.

## 1984

**May:** The Federal District Court for the District of Columbia rules in favor of the government and dismisses the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) class action suit.

The court rules that the statute of limitations has run out for former internees to sue the government and suggests that they ask Congress for reparations. The decision will be appealed.

**June:** Members of the both the Black Caucus and Hispanic Caucus in the House announce their support of the redress bill.

*The Wall Street Journal* reports that Republicans in Congress "back an apology, but oppose paying \$20,000 to each of the 60,000 survivors." It adds that the Reagan Administration is opposed to the bills. A White House spokesman, however, has not "announced our opposition yet."

The House Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations begins hearings on H.R. 4110.

**August:** Testifying on S. 2116 before a Senate subcommittee, Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) states that second only to slavery, the internment of Japanese Americans was "the single worst mass violation of civil rights and liberties in our nation's history."

**October:** The redress bills die in subcommittee as the 98th Congress adjourns.

The signing of Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, resulted in the forced removal of some 120,000 people of Japanese descent (of which nearly 70% were American citizens).



## 1985



**January:** House Majority Leader Wright (*pictured*) reintroduces redress legislation with 99 co-sponsors during the opening days of the 99th Congress.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1985 is identical to H.R. 4110, but the bill's number has been changed to H.R. 442 in honor of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

**May:** Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) reintroduces the

redress bill in the Senate.

S. 1053 is similar to H.R. 442 and has 26 co-sponsors.

**September:** Grayce Uyehara becomes the interim executive director of the JACL-LEC. She will later become the permanent director.

## 1986

**January:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia overturns a district court ruling dismissing the NCJAR class action suit. The decision permits the case to proceed to trial.

**February:** In a letter to the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, the Department of Justice opposes the redress bill, stating that it is "futile" to attempt to judge national leaders who ordered the internment during "extreme wartime conditions."

**October:** The 99th Congress adjourns; the redress bills never make it out of subcommittee.

**November:** The Supreme Court agrees to hear the U.S. government's appeal of the NCJAR suit. The Court will order the case back to another federal district court of appeals.

## 1987

**January:** The House redress bill, H.R. 442, is reintroduced with 125 co-sponsors during the opening days of the 100th Congress by House Majority Leader Tom Foley (D-Wash.). The climate in Congress is more favorable than it has been in years, with both Houses now controlled by Democrats.

**April:** The Senate redress bill, S. 1009, is reintroduced by Sen. Matsunaga with 75 co-sponsors.

**May:** The House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, chaired by Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), approves the redress bill. It is the first time the legislation has ever gone past the subcommittee level.

**June:** The House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Peter Rodino (D-N.J.), votes to send H.R. 442 to the full House for a vote.

**August:** The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), passes S. 1009 by a unanimous vote. The bill can now proceed to the Senate floor. There are 76 co-sponsors of the Senate bill; the House bill has 167 co-sponsors.

**September:** On the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, the House passes H.R. 442 by a margin of 243-141.

Reps. Norman Shumway and Lungren (both R-Calif.) introduce amendments that would eliminate or reduce payments to former internees; the amendments are voted down.

**October:** The JACL National Board declines to take a position on President Reagan's selection of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court. Many civil rights organizations oppose the nomination. The JACL cites fears of retribution by Reagan against the redress bill as the reason for not taking a stand.

**December:** JACL-LEC Executive Director Uyehara reports that threats of a filibuster by Republican senators opposed to redress mean that the bill will not be voted on by the end of the year.

## 1988

**January:** A form letter from the White House responding to people who sent letters asking the president to support redress indicates he will not sign the legislation. The letter says the Japanese Evacuation Claims Act of 1948 handled reparations, while President Ford's repeal of Executive Order 9066 in 1975 took care of the apology.

Rep. Mineta says White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker told him that, contrary to some reports, Reagan has not yet made a decision on the redress bill.

**March:** The Congressional Record lists 11 amendments to the Senate redress bill, many of them by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). Most of the amendments weaken the bill, while others address the individual payments.

**April:** Grant Ujifusa of the JACL-LEC reports that the Justice Department has changed its position on the redress bill. "The current position is that the redress bill is under review" by the department, says Ujifusa.

The Senate passes S. 1009 by a vote of 69-27. The bill will now go to a joint Senate-House conference committee.

Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.) says he is optimistic that there are enough votes in both houses of Congress to override a presidential veto of the redress bill.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater says the president is "generally supportive" of redress legislation but has not yet decided whether to sign it.

**May:** The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit sustains a lower court's decision to dismiss the NCJAR suit. The group will appeal to the Supreme Court.

**June:** During the last day of the campaign for the California presidential primary, Republican candidate Vice President George Bush declares his support for the redress bill.

Unidentified White House and congressional sources say the president intends to sign the redress bill, reports the *San Jose Mercury News*. Reagan supposedly feels a veto might damage Republican chances in the upcoming elections, especially in California, where many JAs reside.

**July:** The final version of the redress bill comes out of the conference committee. By a voice vote, the Senate passes the final version of the redress bill.

**August:** In a letter to House Speaker Wright, President Reagan says he will sign the redress bill.

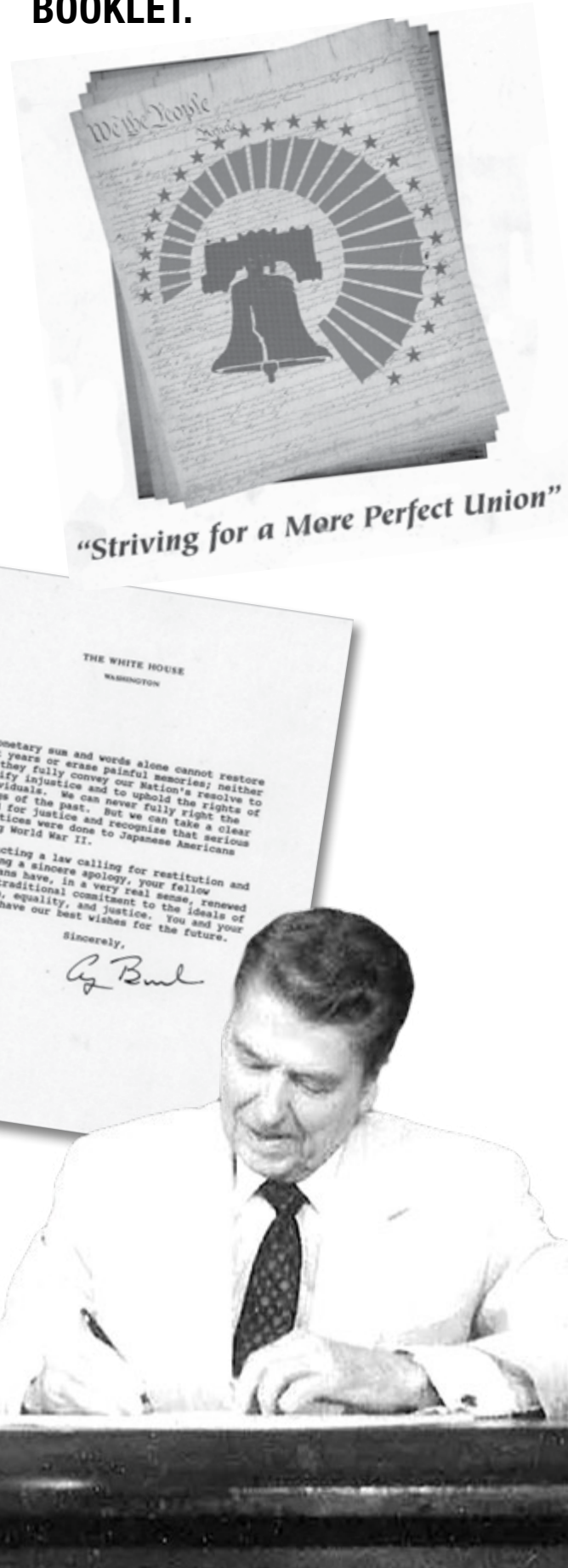
The house votes 257-156 in favor of H.R. 442.

After 10 years, a redress bill will finally make it to the president's desk.

## Aug. 10, 1988

President Reagan signs the redress bill.

## THIS REDRESS TIMELINE WAS REPRINTED FROM THE 35TH BIENNIAL JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION PROGRAM BOOKLET.



"The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution of a payment . . . Yet no payment can make up for those lost years. So what is important is this bill has less to do with property than honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we affirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

— President Ronald Reagan  
Aug. 10, 1988



# JCCH Awarded Funds for Honouliuli Internment Camp Project



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii will be awarded \$111,557 from the National Park Service to help educate the public about the Honouliuli Internment Camp on Oahu, where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, announced Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii) (pictured) on July 11.

The grant will fund a multimedia and virtual tour project of the camp, which was located in central Oahu.

“My Grandpa Muroda was interned at Honouliuli, so this is personal to me,” said Hanabusa. “The detention of Japanese Americans during World War II is a dark chapter in our nation’s history, but through education and awareness, these stories can help ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

“I hope those who have the opportunity to experience JCC Hawaii’s virtual tour of the Honouliuli camp gain inspiration to continue to stand for equality. I would like to say mahalo to the National Park Service for their work to preserve and interpret our country’s Japanese American internment sites and their history,” she concluded.

The funding is part of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. ■



PHOTO: R.H. LODGE, COURTESY OF HAWAII'S PLANTATION VILLAGE

A view of the Honouliuli Camp in central Oahu. The camp was one of at least five sites in the Hawaiian Islands that housed Japanese Americans who were detained by the federal government in the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

## REVERSE MORTGAGE

Call for a free information package

If you are 62 or older and own your house, a Reverse Mortgage may benefit you!

- Turn Home Equity into Tax Free Cash
- You keep title to your home
- No Monthly Mortgage Payments
- FHA Program Designed for Seniors

SECURITY 1 LENDING

*“I pledge to provide excellent customer service with the highest standard of ethics”*

25+ Years Experience as a Financial Professional

**David C. Miyagawa Chee**  
Certified Public Accountant

1-800-967-3575

CA Dept. of Real Estate – Real Estate Broker #01391106  
NMLS ID 263222

## NPS Grants \$1.3 Million to Preserve and Interpret WWII Japanese American Confinement Sites

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On July 11, National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced that more than \$1.3 million in grants will be given to help preserve and interpret the sites where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans — two-thirds of them U.S. citizens — were imprisoned during World War II.

“Our national parks tell the stories not only of American success, but of our failures such as the dark history of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II,” said Jarvis. “We make these grants so that present and future generations are reminded what happened and how the people survived these camps. And we make these grants to demonstrate our nation’s commitment to the concept of ‘equal justice under law’ that grew out of these and other civil rights experiences.”

**The 14 grant projects include:**

- Creation of a memorial to honor Japanese Americans forcibly removed from Juneau, Alaska, and sent to the Camp Lordsburg Internment Camp in New Mexico and later Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho.
- Installation of exhibits at the San Bruno Bay Area Rapid Transit station featuring photographs by Dorothea Lange and Paul Kitagaki telling the story of forced relocation of California Bay Area Japanese Americans.
- Plan for acquisition and preservation of an abandoned root cellar, one of five remaining original structures at the former Heart Mountain internment site in Wyoming.
- An exhibit at the Los Angeles Go for Broke National Education Center — “Divergent Paths to a Convergent America: A 360-Degree Perspective of the Japanese American Response to WWII.”



A guard tower at the Heart Mountain internment site in Wyoming

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program supports projects in seven states. The grants given on July 11 bring the grant totals to \$12 million of the \$38 million Congress authorized when it established the JACSGP in 2006.

Grants from the program may go to the 10 War Relocation Authority camps established in 1942 or to more than 40 other sites, including assembly, location and isolation centers. The goal of the program is to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the WWII confinement and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law. These are competitive grants with required matches — a dollar of nonfederal funds or \$2 in-kind contributions for every grant dollar.

*For more details about these projects, visit <http://www.nps.gov/hps/hpt/JACS/>.*

## THRIVE IN THE CULTURE, FAMILY & WARMTH OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY



**KOKORO**

AN ACTIVE, CARING COMMUNITY FOR SENIORS



Managed by NCP Senior Ventures, LLC

- 24-Hour Building Security
- Social and Recreational Activities (Including Japanese Crafts and Hobbies)
- Outdoor Courtyard
- Library and Reading Areas
- Emergency Call System in Every Apartment
- Housekeeping/Laundry Services



- Personalized Care Services
- Round the Clock Care Staff
- Restaurant Style Dining Room
- Three Nutritional Meals a Day Plus Snack
- Japanese and American Cuisine
- Hospice Service and Short Term Stay Available

1881 Bush Street ♦ San Francisco, CA 94109 ♦ (415) 776-8066 ♦ [www.kokoroassistedliving.org](http://www.kokoroassistedliving.org)





(From left) Scholarship recipients Danielle Kitagawa, Karissa Ogawa, Nick Wang, Dylan Nakagawa Jew, Justin Hashimoto and Kyle Takeda

## JACL San Jose Awards Student Scholarships

At this year's JACL San Jose annual scholarship luncheon, held at the Issei Memorial Building on April 27, six high school seniors were awarded scholarships totaling \$13,500.

Nick Wang from Mountain View High School was honored with the \$3,000 Kenji Sakauye Memorial Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship; Dylan Nakagawa Jew from Saratoga High School took home the \$2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship; Kyle Takeda from St. Lawrence Academy was awarded the \$2,500 Phi Matsumura Community Scholarship; Justin Hashimoto from Los Gatos High School won the \$1,000 San Jose JACL Award and \$1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Memorial Scholarship; Karissa Ogawa from Gunn High School won the \$1,000 Ray & Lucy Matsumoto Business Scholarship and \$1,000 Ninja Youth Foundation Scholarship; and Danielle Kitagawa from Leigh High School was awarded the \$500 William K. Yamamoto Memorial Scholarship.



(From left) Scholarship winners Christina Guiang, Garrett Kodama, David Satoda and Keana Nakata

## Students Receive Awards From JACL San Diego

JACL San Diego awarded scholarships to local high school seniors at a recognition ceremony on April 28 at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Students honored were Christina Guiang from Canyon Crest Academy High School, who will be attending Portland State University; David Satoda from La Costa Canyon High School, who will be attending the University of California, Berkeley; Keana Nakata from Helix High School, who will enroll at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; and Garrett Kodama from Coronado High School, who plans to attend California State University, Chico, this fall.

# Berkeley JACL Awards Nine Scholarships and Honors Pioneer Recipients



JACL Berkeley recently awarded nine scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Pictured are (front row, from left) Maggie Chen, Kristen Koyama, Angela Luu, Mali McGuire and Reiko Nabeta. Standing are (back row, from left) Leroy Morishita, Tyler Tagawa, Whitney Tamaki, Eric Phung, Cody Dam, Briana Adams, Joyce Shindo and Eric Torigoe.

The JACL Berkeley chapter recently awarded scholarships to nine college-bound, high school seniors: Briana Adams, Maggie Chen, Cody Dam, Kristen Koyama, Angela Luu, Mali McGuire, Eric Phung, Tyler Tagawa and Whitney Tamaki. Pioneer Awards were also presented to Lewis Suzuki and Marvin Uratsu.

Phung, a senior at Oakland High School, was awarded the chapter's Dan and Kathleen Date Memorial scholarship. Phung will enter Yale University as a political science major.

McGuire, a senior at Miramonte High School (Orinda), was the recipient of the Bea Kono Memorial scholarship. McGuire will enroll at Loyola Marymount University and major in biology. In addition, she was awarded a Loyola Marymount University scholarship based upon her merit and academic achievements.

Tamaki was awarded the Terry Yamashita Memorial scholarship. A senior at Albany High School, Tamaki will be a biology major at the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall.

Adams, a senior at Northgate High School (Walnut Creek), will be studying nursing at Chico State University.

Several students from Oakland High School were also recognized. Chen will enter the University of California, Davis, as an undeclared major; Dam is set to enroll at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he plans to major in biology; and Luu will enter the University of California, San Diego, as a biochemistry major.

Koyama, a senior at Oakland Technical High School, will enter California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, where she plans to study biology.

Tagawa, a senior at Rogriguez High School (Fairfield), will enter the University of California, Santa Cruz, as a computer science major.

The Berkeley chapter also honored Suzuki and Uratsu as recipients of its Pioneer Award. Established in 1996, the Pioneer Award is designed to honor individuals for their contributions to the JACL and to the broader community.

The chapter recognized Suzuki and Uratsu's contributions to the United States for their service in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. Both men were recipients of the nation's highest civilian honor at the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor ceremony in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2011. Suzuki is an accomplished watercolor artist who is known for using his art to reflect his work as a lifelong peace activist. Uratsu serves on the board of the National Japanese American Historical Society, which worked with the National Parks Foundation to create the MIS Historical Learning Center at the Presidio in San Francisco.

During the awards presentation, Leroy Morishita, president of California State University, East Bay, served as keynote speaker, and recognition was given to the chapter's scholarship contributors as well as its scholarship committee.



(From left) Pioneer honoree Lewis Suzuki, Fumi Suzuki, Miyo Uratsu and honoree Marvin Uratsu





PHOTOS: EMILY HANAKO MOMOHARA

May Namba (pictured at center with bouquet) along with Washington state Sen. Bob Hasegawa (far left), Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos (far right), Mako Nakagawa (standing behind Namba's left shoulder) and supporters at the Seattle School District plaque rededication ceremony on July 3.

## Redesigned Plaque Presented to the Seattle School Board

By Monica Luhar  
Contributor

**M**ay (Daty) Namba remembers all too well a dark time in her life when she was forced to give up her career and virtually all she owned because she was a Japanese American living on the West Coast during the onset of World War II.

Growing up, Namba had attended Elementary Washington Grade School and was employed by the Seattle School District in the 1940s. She was able to work at Stevens Elementary School until Feb. 27, 1942, when she was forced to resign by the school board. It is a date that she will always remember.

At a board meeting July 3, the Seattle School District was presented with a new commemorative plaque honoring 27 Nisei office clerks who had been forced to resign from their jobs following the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Namba, one of 27 office clerks — all of whom were women — was ordered to resign from her position by the Seattle Public School Board as a result of the public's heightened sense of fear and distrust toward Japanese Americans.

During the recent meeting, Namba expressed her

gratitude for the rededication of the plaque, but she also shed light on some of the injustices and repercussions following the infamous attack on Pearl Harbor.

During the war, several members of the community, including concerned parents and mothers from Gatewood Elementary School, raised protests in the hopes of dismissing and firing Japanese office school clerks, following growing opposition and fears of the Japanese American community.

Namba even explained that many people would try and wrongly illustrate Japanese Americans who were loyal to the country as dissidents out to poison the schools' lunches.

"These moms were afraid that we, simply being of Japanese ancestry, was enough evidence to believe we would subvert air raid drills, act as spies and even poison school lunches," Namba noted in her speech at the board meeting.

As a result of pressure and concern, the school district forced Namba and several other Japanese American office clerks to resign. Namba said she and the office clerks were presented with two options: either to resign on the spot or be fired by the school district.



Namba speaking at the July 3 board meeting. She was one of 27 office clerks who were forced to resign from their jobs by the Seattle Public School Board following the onset of World War II.

***'The new plaque will once again serve as a reminder of the fragility of a democracy . . . and the need for constant vigilance to preserve equality and justice for all people.'***

— Karen Yoshitomi



Shortly after resigning, Namba noted that she and several other Japanese Americans had lost everything. "With it, we lost our jobs, which supported our families, our dignity and due process."

Namba was incarcerated at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, Idaho, where she met her future husband, Tom Namba, who enlisted in the Army and served overseas as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

For nearly two years, Namba was separated from her father, who was deemed a "prisoner of war," according to records from a 1984 school board meeting.

Following the war, the Namba's resettled in Seattle, where they raised five boys. May Namba went on to become a spokesperson for the group of Seattle clerks

former clerks at the district.

Aaren Purcell, archivist and records manager at Seattle Public Schools, said 12 years ago the school district was moved to a new building. During the move, the original 1984 plaque was lost.

"I think that it was interesting how little history people know about the school district and how this incident is well known in the Japanese American community," Purcell said.

Purcell emphasized the importance of preserving history as a way to remember and learn from the mistakes that have been made in the past.

"It's a reminder that that's why plaques and having this information is important," he said. In losing that history, we end up making some of the same

## Reflections on the Injustice

Mako Nakagawa, a retired educator and member of the JACL, says the new plaque is inscribed with the words, "When justice prevails, everyone benefits."

"It's really important that we look at history and look at it honestly because if we don't, it's going to happen again. And the way we hear over and over again in every corner of the Japanese American community, 'Don't let it happen again,'" Nakagawa said.

"We keep saying that, but we have to do more things than the mantra. We have to do things [to prevent] it from happening again. Make sure that [we know the] Constitution. Look at our liberties, civil rights . . . We really have to work hard to protect them," she said.

Those responsible for the new rededication and redesign of the plaque included members of the Japanese American plaque committee: Wendy Kimball, Nakagawa, Namba, Purcell, May Sasaki and Stan Shikuma.

Namba particularly expressed thanks to the JACL, Cherry Kinoshita for the resolution and the current school board for replacing the original lost redress plaque.

"The rededication of the plaque on July 3 was a reaffirmation by the Seattle School Board of their commitment to ensuring that such an injustice will never be forgotten or repeated," said Karen Yoshitomi, JACL Pacific Northwest regional director. "The new plaque will once again serve as a reminder of the fragility of a democracy in the face of fear and prejudice and the need for constant vigilance to preserve equality and justice for all people."

Other dignitaries who were present for the dedication of the replacement plaque included Washington state Sen. Bob Hasegawa and Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos. ■



May Namba is pictured in this Japanese Club photo provided by Seattle Public Schools, as well as an undated school yearbook photo (at right).



who were forced to resign from their jobs. To this day, May Namba continues to share her story with others. She hopes people can learn from her experiences so that future generations do not make the same mistake.

## Changes and Redress in the 1980s

The original plaque was presumed to have been lost during the district's move in 2001. On April 11, 1984, Seattle Mayor Charles Royer had appeared before the school board to express his support for a resolution proposed by T. J. Vassar, vp of the Seattle School Board. The resolution had asked to provide redress payments and apologies to the 27 school clerks who were forced to resign from Seattle Public Schools.

The employees who were once asked to resign from the district were awarded monetary redress in light of their losses in 1984, after the redress resolution passed 4-2 during a packed school board meeting.

During that time, a special ordinance was passed in the city of Seattle that would provide \$5,000 to Japanese American employees who had lost their jobs during WWII. In 1986, Gov. Booth Gardner approved legislation that authorized monetary redresses to

bad decisions we have made in the past if we don't understand that."

Co-sponsors JACL and Seattle Public Schools had provided a replacement commemorative plaque intended to hang in the Seattle School District administration building during a special seminar "Redress: An American Issue" at the Nippon Kan Theatre on May 16, 1987.

After the original plaque was lost, a plaque committee decided to draft a proposal to commission new art in 2012.

## The New Plaque

Seattle Public Schools Board President Kay Smith-Blum says the new plaque will be placed in the board offices as a historic reminder of past injustices and the ways in which the community can work toward fixing those inequalities.

"We are honored to have the plaque placed in our board offices. It will serve as a visible reminder of past injustices and the need to rededicate our work to equitable outcomes for all in the Seattle Public Schools," said Blum.

## The following is a list of clerks who forcibly had to resign from their jobs following the outbreak of World War II:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. May (Daty) Namba  | 15. Toyo Okuda         |
| 2. Martha T. Inouye  | 16. Alice M. Kawanichi |
| 3. Ester T. Uchimura | 17. Sally Shimanaka    |
| 4. Kiyoko Kikuchi    | 18. Teruko Nakata      |
| 5. Mariko Ozaki      | 19. May Ota            |
| 6. May (Daty) Namba  | 20. Emi Kamachi        |
| 7. May K. Yokogama   | 21. Masa Yamamura      |
| 8. Yoshiko Kozu      | 22. Anna Yamada        |
| 9. Ai Takizawa       | 23. Ayako Morita       |
| 10. Yoshiko Yano     | 24. Kazuko Kuroda      |
| 11. Kiku Tomita      | 25. Jane Sugawara      |
| 12. Chizuko Ikeda    | 26. Yuri Ike           |
| 13. Marjorie Ota     | 27. Ayame Ike          |
| 14. Rubi Shitama     |                        |



## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Book Talk with 'Twice Heroes'**  
**Author Tom Graves**  
**SAN JOSE, CA**  
**Aug. 3, 1 p.m.**  
**Japanese American Museum of San Jose**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**

Author and photographer Tom Graves spent a decade collecting stories from Japanese American veterans. Graves' book "Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veteran's of WWII and Korea" chronicles the JA experience before, during and after the war.  
**Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org).**

## CALENDAR

## &gt;&gt;EDC

**The JACL National Convention**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**July 24-26**  
**Renaissance Hotel Downtown**  
**999 Ninth St., NW**

This year's 2013 JACL National Convention falls on the 25-year anniversary of the historic signing of the Civil Liberties Act. The convention's theme is "Justice for All." It will kick off with an opening banquet on the first evening. The reception will be held in the National Archives, with the original Redress bill on display.

**Info: Email [dc@jaci.org](mailto:dc@jaci.org) or visit <http://jaci.org/2013>.**

**The 36th Asian American International Film Festival**  
**NEW YORK CITY**

**July 24-Aug. 3**  
 The Asian American International Film Festival will feature documentaries, a world premiere, a tribute to female filmmakers, award-winning films and LGBTQ-themed films. The festival is being held in partnership with Myx TV. Screenings will be held at the Anthology Film Archives, Asian Society, Museum of Chinese America and the New York Institute of Technology.  
**Info: Visit [www.asiancinevision.org](http://www.asiancinevision.org).**

**Michio Ihara's 'Looking Back, Looking Forward' Exhibit**  
**CONCORD, MA**  
**Until Aug. 14**  
**Concord Art Assn.**  
**37 Lexington Road**  
 Japanese kinetic sculptor and

artist Michio Ihara has devoted over 50 years to creating sculptures for public and architectural spaces. His exhibit "Looking Back, Looking Forward" is currently on display.  
**Info: Visit [www.concordant.org](http://www.concordant.org) or call (978) 369-2578.**

## &gt;&gt;NCWNP

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL's Redress Anniversary Celebration**  
**WATSONVILLE, CA**  
**Aug. 10, 2-4:30 p.m.**  
**JACL Tokushige Kizuka Hall**  
**150 Blackburn St.**

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter is hosting a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act. Special guests include former WWII internees. Those who contributed to JACL chapter's redress and reparations campaign 30 years ago will also be honored. In addition, light refreshments will be provided.  
**RSVP: Call Mas Hashimoto at (831) 722-6859 or email [hashi79@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hashi79@sbcglobal.net).**

## &gt;&gt;PSW

**Summer Soboro Chicken Rice Supper Workshop**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**Aug. 24, 11 a.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Cost: \$70/Members; \$80/Nonmembers**

This workshop will focus on making the Japanese dish soboro chicken. Those who are interested in attending the workshop are encouraged to RSVP early. There are

16 seats available.  
**Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

**Nisei Week Japanese Festival**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**Aug. 10-11 & Aug. 17-18,**  
**10 a.m.**

**Los Angeles' Little Tokyo**  
 Come share in the Japanese American community spirit and attend the nation's longest-running ethnic festival of its kind. Held every summer, this year's Japanese cultural events, activities and exhibits are filled with fun events for all ages.  
**Info: Visit [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org).**

**JACCC's 'Remembering Sadako: Folding for Peace' Event**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
**Aug. 3-6, 3 p.m.**  
**Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**

In remembrance of Sadako, who was 2 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, attendees continue this four-day tradition of folding a thousand origami cranes.  
**Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).**

## &gt;&gt;PNW

**Hiroshima & Nagasaki Anniversary Commemoration**  
**PORTLAND, ORE.**  
**Aug. 6, 6-7 p.m.**  
**Japanese American Historical Plaza**  
**Portland Waterfront at NW Naito Parkway and Couch Street**

The Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility will be hosting a commemorative ceremony marking the 68th anniversary of the atomic

bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The event will also highlight the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Portland. There will also be performances by Portland Taiko and Satori Men's Chorus.  
**Info: Call (503) 274-2720 or email [info@oregonpsr.org](mailto:info@oregonpsr.org).**

**Nikkei Community Picnic**  
**PORTLAND, OR**  
**Aug. 18, 12 noon to 5 p.m.**  
**Oaks Park**  
**South Park Area**

The Portland JACL chapter is gearing up for its Nikkei Community Picnic with food, taiko, bingo and amusement rides for children. Attendees are advised to look out for the "Nikkei Community Picnic" banner on the south end of the park.  
**RSVP: Call Connie Masuoka by Aug. 9 at (503) 243-3291.**

## &gt;&gt;IDC

**Tri-Chapter Matsumoto Sister City Picnic**  
**SALT LAKE CITY, UT**  
**July 24, 12:30-3 p.m.**  
**Jordan Park**  
**100 S. 900 W.**  
**Cost: \$5/General admission; \$3/Kids; Free/JACL members and students**

Keeping with a tradition that began several years ago, the JACL Utah chapters will host a potluck picnic for students and their host families from Matsumoto, Japan. Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. JACL chapters will provide the main dish (chicken) and drinks.  
**Info: Visit <http://jaci-utah.org>.**

## &gt;&gt;MDC

**'Beyond the Great Wave' Art Exhibit**  
**CHICAGO, IL**  
**May 23-Oct. 27**  
**The Art Institute of Chicago,**  
**Bluhm Family Terrace**  
**111 S. Michigan Ave.**

Five sculptures of urban youth created by Japanese artist Tomoaki Suzuki are on display at the Bluhm Family Terrace. The bronze sculptures were inspired by Suzuki's life living in London.  
**Info: Call (312) 443-3600 or visit [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu).**

**Missouri Botanical Garden's 37th Annual Japanese Festival**  
**ST. LOUIS, MO**  
**Aug 31- Sept. 1,**  
**10 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**Missouri Botanical Garden**  
**4344 Shaw Blvd.**

**Cost: \$15/Adults; \$5/Members**  
 The Missouri Botanical Garden's 37th Annual Japanese Festival returns with traditional music, martial arts, sumo, sushi, bon odori, bonsai, taiko and more.  
**Info: Call (314) 577-5100 or visit [www.mobot.org/events/japanesefestival](http://www.mobot.org/events/japanesefestival).**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[nalea@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:nalea@pacificcitizen.org)  
 (800) 966-6157



# In Memoriam

## Arimizu, Masae, 100,



Northridge, CA; June 30; she is survived by her daughters, Hazel Isa, Janet Chinn, Doris Arimizu; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc; 5 ggc.

## Hiromoto, Tadashi, 90,

Los Angeles, CA; July 4; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko Hiromoto; children, Bobby (Phyllis) Hiromoto, Mae (Paul) Saito, Sammy (Dione) Hiromoto and Stella (Norman) Tamashiro; brother, Noriyuki Hiromoto; sisters, Tazuko Yoshimura and Yoko (George) Nakamura; many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; 7 gc.

## Hiroshige, Taeko, 94,



Los Angeles, CA; July 3; she is survived by her sons, Tadashi and James Akira (Carol) Hiroshige; daughter, Terry Misako (Doug Vedvick) Hiroshige; brothers, Toshiaki and Kenji (Kiyoko) Watanabe; sisters, Hideko (Tadao) Ishibashi and June Masako Imamura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

## Iha, Magohiro, 89,



Pacific Palisades, CA; July 1; he is survived by his wife, Miyoko Iha; sons, Kazuo (Ivette), Shin and Toshio Iha; daughter, Hiroko J. Iha (Enrico) Tarantini; grandchildren, Alexander, Hiromi Marie Iha and

Joe Iha Tarantini; other relatives.

**Iwasa, George Yutaka, 86,** Ontario, OR; June 15; he was born in Hood River, Ore., to Inosuke and Harue Iwasa; his family was interned at Tule Lake and Heart Mountain; he served in the Army during the Korean Conflict and then became an optometrist; preceded in death by his wife, Elsie; daughter, Deborah; granddaughter Lauren McDonald; survived by his sons and their families, Dr. Steve and Sue Iwasa, with Ben Iwasa, and his great granddaughters Kierra and Kaori McDonald; Bruce and Valerie Iwasa with Aubrianne, Andralyn, Joben and Jillana; Doug and Angela Iwasa with Seth; Dr. Dan and Yvonne Iwasa with Carly, Makoto and Chloe; and David and Kathy Iwasa with Kaily and Dawson.

**Kadowaki, Hank Hitoshi, 66,** Villa Park, CA; July 2; survived by his wife, Alice Kadowaki; mother, Shigeko Kadowaki; siblings, Tom (Lorene) and Ted (Donna) Kadowaki; sisters-in-law, Sharon (Glenn) Sugita and Gail (Ken) Nishida; nieces and nephews, Bryan, Ryan and Lisa Kadowaki, Blaine (Jill) Ishii, Staci (Garin) Yoshimura, Trisha Nishimura and Kevin and Kayla Nishida; also survived by many other relatives.

## Kaneko, Helen N., 96,



Sherman Oaks, CA; June 29; she is predeceased by her husband, John; survived by her children, Chris (Jo Brockway); Janet (Paolo Equinozio); Kevin (Gail) and Roger; 7 gc; 1 ggc.

**Kehara, Amy Ichiye, 75,** Los Angeles, CA; July 4; survived by her husband, Umio Takehara; son, Ron (Pia) Takehara; brothers, Joe (Noriko) Iwama and Henry (Yumi) Sumida; brothers-in-law, Yone (Jane) and David (Yoko) Takehara; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

**Kimura, Taro, 91,** Los Angeles, CA; July 1; he is survived by his wife, Asako Kimura; children, Phyllis (Eugene) Hayashibara, Claudia (Carlos) Nakata,

and Marie (Ken) Baker; siblings, Yuki (Tad) Tanagi, Yone (Aki) Asai and Hiro (Henry) Shimizu; sisters-in-law, Nobuko Shoji, Hanako Oshita and Clara Ike; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc.

**Matsuda, Sam Isamu, 93,** Salinas, CA; June 29; he is survived by his wife, Nobuko Matsuda; sons, Tak (Virginia), Tommy (Lindy) and Kenny Matsuda; sister-in-law, Chieko Nakamura of Japan; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

## Morikawa, Kiyoshi, 89,



Mission Viejo, CA; June 30; survived by his wife, Misao Morikawa; children, Wesley (Deborah) Morikawa, Janet (Dave) Tanizaki, Paula (Joey) Lum; sisters, Sumiko (John) Kanno and Harumi Saavedra; brother, Kazuo Morikawa; also survived by many other family members; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

**Morita, Aiko Hamaguchi, 94,** Bloomfield Hills, MI; June 12; internee of Manzanar, where she was a nurse; preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Yoshikazu Morita; survived by her brother, Roy Hamaguchi; sister, Hana Kurachi; nieces and nephews.

**Murao, Naohide Ken, 78,** Culver City, CA; July 4; he is survived by his daughter, Eiko Murao (Edward) Valparaiso; also survived by many other relatives; 4 gc.

## Nakashima, Yoneo, 88,



California; June 26; he is survived by his wife, Ayako Nakashima; children, John (Jody) Nakashima, Kathy (Dave) Schreiber, Cyndy (Don) Witscher, Rick (Bessie), Dave (Judy), Steven (Mary Beth) Nakashima; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other

relatives; 19 gc; 7 ggc.

**Osaki, Henry Kaz, 84,** Los Angeles, CA; July 5; he is survived by his wife, Kimie Osaki; son, Kenny Osaki; sisters, Sue Murata, May Ikemoto and Irene (Katsumi) Takai; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Takada, Kazuo, 70,** San Diego, CA; July 9; survived by his wife, Waka Takada; children, Miki Takada and Kentaro Takada; mother, Toshiko Takada of Japan; siblings, Akio (Michiko), Nobuo (Yoko) and Michiko Takada of Japan; brothers-in-law, Shunichi (Michiko) and Koji (Yoshiko) Tajima of Japan; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in Japan.

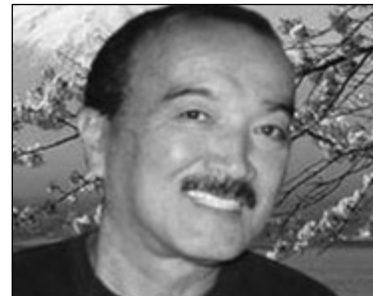
## Takemoto, Rev. Teruo Ted, 86,



Stockton, CA; June 30; he is survived by his children, Eddie, Glenn and Gary Takemoto and Tina (Ken) Bone; brother, Frank (Katsuko) Takemoto; nieces and nephews, Karen (Brad) Kouno, Tom Takemoto, Victor Seiji (Masako), Sandra, Richard Fukuhara, Akiye (Mike) Vaughn, Larry and Tracy (Joann) Fukuhara; also survived by many grandnieces and grandnephews; 6 gc.

**Tokuda, Kip, 66,** Seattle, WA; July 13; the former Seattle state lawmaker suffered from a heart attack while fishing on Whidbey Island; he founded the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation; he is survived by his wife, Barbara Lui; daughters, Molly and Pei-Ming; his mother, Tama Tokuda; brother, Floyd; sisters Valerie Chin, Wendy Tokuda Hall and Marilyn Tokuda.

## Yamashiro, Paul T., 73,



## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

### Contact:

nalea@pacificcitizen.org or  
(213) 620-1767

California, June 28; he is survived by his wife, Millie Yamashiro; sons, David (Diane) and Craig (Renee) Yamashiro; siblings, Pat (Tosti) Hirai, Fred (Alice) Yamashiro and Kiko (Yukio) Matsumoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

**Yamashita, Ichiro, 63,** Los Angeles, CA; July 2; survived by his wife, Kumiko Yamashita; son, Michael Kenji Yamashita; mother, Teruyo Yamashita; sister, Kazuko (Jimmy) Uchida; also survived by other relatives.

**Yamashita, Noriko, 84,** Camarillo, CA; July 8; she is survived by her niece, Irene (Larry) Kawata; brother, Eiichiro (Toshiko) Seino; brothers-in-law, Minoru Ohara and Kanou (Hiroko) Yamashita; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

**Yoshida, Taketsugu Tak, 72,** Los Angeles, CA; July 2; a Japan-born Issei and veteran of Vietnam War; he is survived by his wife, Hiroko Yoshida; children, Julie Sanae and Andrew Masafumi Yoshida; sisters, Emiko (Kiyoshi) Tashima, Yoko Ichikawa and Tomoko Yoshida; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

**Yoshinaga, Tokiye, 85,** Los Angeles, CA; July 2; she is survived by her husband, Kazuo Yoshinaga; siblings, Carol Jimenez and Tokusei Mayeda; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives. ■

福井
FUKUI
MORTUARY
Five Generations of Experience
FD #808

707 East Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Ph. 213/626-0441  
Fax 213/617-2781

Gerald  
Fukui  
President

日本
KUBOTA NIKKEI
MORTUARY
久保田日昇葬儀社
日本語でも親切にお世話をさせていただきます。
T 213-749-1449
F 213-749-0265
911 Venice Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90015
www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com



## JANM >> continued from page 3

The re-enactment was the largest gathering of Japanese Americans since World War II.

Soon, the news media's attitude completely reversed from "\$3 billion is too much for redress" to "\$3 billion is a small price to pay." Amazingly, the publicity battle was won in just three months of brilliant grassroots organizing.

The need to remain vigilant was the message for the second day of the conference. Alan Nishio, board president of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo Service Center, pointed out that the infrastructure that led to incarceration could be easily resurrected today.

Nishio cited several factors: a lot of money in a small concentration of hands; record amounts of money spent on politics and lobbying; increasing corporate control of news media; and the majority of Americans having little to no confidence in our government. "It's the perfect storm for incarceration to happen again!" he said. Nishio urged the activist college students of the 1960s to reunite with today's college graduates to reignite ideals of what the world can be and the passion to fight for those whose rights are violated. "Dissent is not disloyalty! It is democracy!" he concluded.

Stories of those who made a difference continued during the morning's general session. The Hon. Mary M. Schroeder shared the stories of Tom Tang, Wallace Tashima and Herbert Choi. Judge Schroeder noted that though the three men came from different ethnic roots — Chinese, Japanese and Korean, respectively — they shared a common desire to change the status quo.

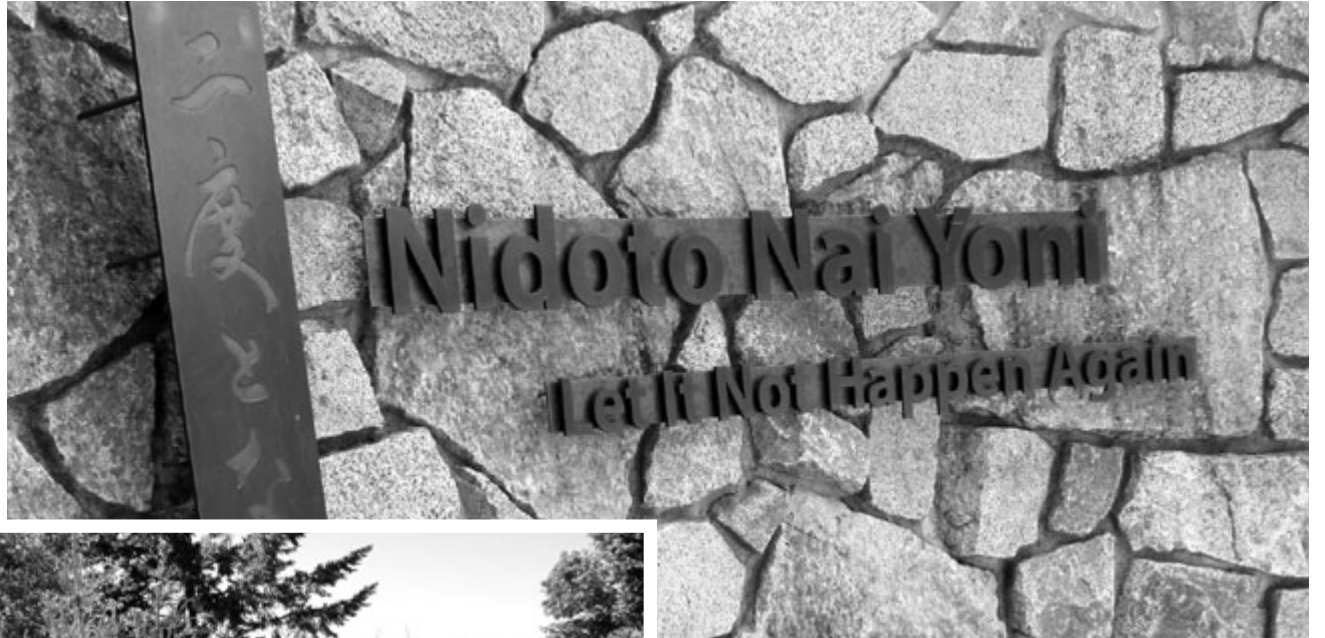
"Anniversaries are about change. Today, we are celebrating change and those who made that change possible," she said. Judge Schroeder was herself an agent of change, having authorized the order that vacated Gordon Hirabayashi's conviction. "Actions of government must always be constrained by the Constitution. The people in charge of upholding the Constitution must not fail in our duty," she noted.

One the most memorable workshops was "East of the Exclusion Zone." Shiz Watanabe, a petite woman with an adorable, sparkling personality, lived in Montana during World War II.

She recalled with great emotion the trauma of living free even as thousands of people who looked just like her were imprisoned by their own government behind barbed wire. Her presentation brought the audience to tears and also to laughter as she good-naturedly asked the moderator several times to let her share "one more story."

One of the most fascinating workshops was "World War II Nikkei Experiences in the Pacific Rim." Panelist Grace Shimizu shared the story of Latin American Japanese who

were kidnapped and taken to concentration camps. These prisoners were often used as pawns in government hostage exchanges, classified as illegal aliens even though they were brought to the United States against their will. Sadly, Latin American Japanese have not achieved redress or an official apology despite five lawsuits and lobbying for two pieces of failed legislation. Shimizu emphasized the importance of Nikkei opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act. She added that NDAA discredits the Civil Liberties Act and raises questions about the sincerity of the original redress apology.



The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial begins with a plea of "Let It Not Happen Again."



Attendees were touched by the moving beauty of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.

Another eye-opening workshop was "Standing on Principle," moderated by Grateful Crane director Soji Kashiwagi. Panelist Mary Woodward paid tribute to her parents, Milly and Walt Woodward, owners and editors of the *Bainbridge Review*. This was the only newspaper in the country to oppose the incarceration. It was truly inspiring to hear about her parents' support of Japanese Americans through open discourse in the newspaper on both sides of the issue. They also hired local detainees to serve as off-site

not participate in the ceremony with their school friends.

The conference closed with a dinner banquet featuring a tribute to the late Sen. Daniel Inouye and a keynote speech by the Hon. Norman Mineta. After the video tribute, Mineta posed the question, "What do we do with our pride for Daniel Inouye and his story, as well as the stories of all Japanese Americans?" He answered that we have an important standard of honor to live up to. He added that JANM is part of the American story to which we have been given custody and that we must not be too mired in the past without ensuring that we invest in the future.

There were so many other highlights during this amazing conference. There were stirring renditions of songs from George Takei's original play "Allegiance"; Ansel Adams' Manzanar exhibit; a display about the Congressional Gold Medal; a trip to the Bainbridge Island Memorial. When the next JANM conference returns (maybe to California?), I will hopefully have gained my own personal experience speaking up for civil liberty and justice.

*Roberta Barton is a P.C. Editorial Board Member and CCDC JACL Vice Governor.*

## REFLECTIONS >> continued from page 3

The Americanization of Japanese Americans, I'm convinced, was what drove this issue out from behind the curtains that surrounded the community and into the public for all to see. But what if those few college professors — oh, those damn progressive liberal socialist pinko history professors — didn't make passing mention about the evacuation and relocation of Japanese Americans during WWII, as they would have described it? What if they never mentioned it and the young Sansei sitting in those classes weren't confused and stunned and angry and compelled to learn the truth from their silent parents?

Then what?

***'At times we were our own worse enemy. But we prevailed. Because of who we are. Because we believed so deeply in what we sought. And because we had the courage to travel that road.'***

The truth will out, as one of Shakespeare's characters states. What happened to us during the war, what we experienced — the indignity, the shame, the injustice — were too profound for it not to come to light at some point in time.

Many in the community did not really want this issue, but a significant number of the JACL's Nisei felt compelled to seek justice no matter the cost. It was not "what if" for them but what is and what will be. For them from the outset, it was the Constitution and what was right.

It was momentous, that moment when Edison stood at the mic and led the JACL to redress. The road was treacherous and full of conflict from within. At times we were our own

worst enemy. But we prevailed. Because of who we are. Because we believed so deeply in what we sought. And because we had the courage to travel that road.

And so, here we are, 25 years later acknowledging that journey. But in doing so, let's not forget those who were part of that journey, each and every one of them, and let's not forget that we were all travelers on that road.

For me, it all starts with the memory of Edison standing at the mic with those profound words: "What I'm going to propose this afternoon is a new direction for the JACL . . ."

*John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.*