

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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SPECIAL **CONVENTION** **ISSUE 2013**

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A Convention of Superlatives

By Priscilla Ouchida
JACL National Director



The 44th JACL National Convention, held July 24-27 in Washington, D.C., represented the best of what we are as an organization. The Convention brought together our historical past, our current membership and our future vision in a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. "I never knew . . ." was the phrase I heard most often after a successful Opening Banquet. The comments were in response to a video created by Bill Yoshino and Christine Munteanu that stitched together photographs and interviews in a never-before-seen documentary of the JACL redress movement. Congressional representatives Doris Matsui, Mike Honda and Mark Takano, as well as Sen. Mazie Hirono, joined a capacity audience that paid tribute to Sen. Daniel Inouye, Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Secretary Norm Mineta and

Congressman Bob Matsui. President's Award recipient Wade Henderson inspired guests with his testimonial to JACL and to the role the organization continues to play in the civil rights community.

Day 2 began with a bang when Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae announced to the National Council the launch of the Kakehashi Bridge to Tomorrow project and the commitment of the government of Japan to host 100 JACL students for trips to Japan in 2014.

In an unprecedented show of AAPI strength, JACL delegates visited 64 congressional offices and members on immigration reform. As Monica Thammarath of the National Education Assn., organizer of the visits, said, "I always knew of JACL's long history of advocacy but [was] still very impressed by the number of responses from offices and the wide range of offices that wanted to meet with JACLers — not many organizations can [get] the number of meetings and the number of high-level target meetings that we were able to get." Buzz about the visits were heard around the Hill.

Thursday ended with a historic reception at the National Archives and the exhibit of Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties

Act of 1988. Never before has JACL had such an opulent reception in such a grand institution. The exhibit was 15 months in the making and would not have been possible without the willingness of the National Archives to partner with JACL. Head Archivist David Ferriero was on hand to welcome JACLers to "Words That Changed a Nation."

It was touching to have Mollie Fujioka, Phil Shigekuni, Tom Kometani and John Tateishi present to view the document they worked so hard to get passed. Their attendance was made possible through a generous contribution from the Eastern District Council and ticket vouchers from Southwest Airlines. It was even more moving to see former World War II prisoners wipe away their tears as they read the five-page display. Sometimes we forget how much pain is still felt by those who lost so much.

The Convention ended with a high at a reception hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Sasae at their official residence. JACLers mingled with D.C. dignitaries at the event that feted the accomplishments of Gov. Ralph L. Carr, President Ronald Reagan, Speaker James Wright and Glenn Roberts.

JACLers came, JACLers worked and JACLers reminded the D.C. community of the organization's member-based strengths.

The convention was covered by NBC and NPR and internationally by Fuji Television News.

We left the Renaissance Hotel with a final message about what it means to be the JACL. Hotel staff commented that the convention was the best-organized convention that has taken place at the hotel. The convention committee chaired by Floyd Mori, the D.C. intern team led by Amy Watanabe and national staff deserve those accolades for organizing a seamless convention. If you missed the Convention, there is only one thing I can offer as consolation. Attend the 2014 Convention in San Jose. It is going to be just as special.

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JACL's Priscilla Ouchida addresses the audience at the Opening Banquet.

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FOR THE RECORD

Heroes of Redress

By John Tateishi

Last month, the JACL held its 2013 convention in Washington, D.C., an appropriate venue for the organization's celebration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, the act that provided redress to Japanese Americans 46 years after their expulsion and imprisonment during World War II.

The Sayonara Banquet, traditionally the closing event of JACL conventions past, this year was the opening event in which the organization recognized the contributions of the Legislative Education Committee (LEC), a fitting recognition to begin the three-day series of ceremonies and events since it was the LEC that made the final push in the last three years of the 18-year campaign to get the redress bill passed.

There were several highlights from the dinner: a video presentation that featured commentaries from and about the four Japanese American members of Congress who so valiantly championed the several bills that led ultimately to the success of the campaign. Also included in the video were a few of the individuals who played key roles in the campaign, including Grayce Uyehara, the LEC workhorse who labored daily to win votes for HR442, the final bill that led to redress, and Grant Ujifusa, who guided the work of the LEC and played an important role in the final days of the campaign.

>> See **HEROES** on page 16



Members of the National Committee for Redress (standing) meet with Japanese American members of Congress in Washington, D.C., in January 1979. Seated (left to right) are Sen. Spark Matsunaga, Sen. Daniel Inouye, Rep. Robert Matsui and Rep. Norman Mineta. Standing (left to right) are Karl Nobuyuki, Ron Mamiya, Clifford Uyeda, Ron Ikejiri and John Tateishi.

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

My First JACL Convention

By Rayna Williams

"I can't describe it to you. It's one of those things that you have to experience yourself to understand."

This was the response my friend, Jennifer Okabayashi, gave me when I asked her about the JACL's National Convention. I was a little confused with the vague response, but now I understand what she meant. The National Convention has various events, and it's difficult to choose one word to describe the convention as a whole.

I never attended a convention before, and the Washington, D.C., convention was my first time attending a JACL convention. I was proud to represent the JACL Riverside Chapter as one of its youth delegates. I'm glad to say D.C. was my first convention since it allowed me to see a lot of politics in a political-based city.

Day 1 started off with the Pentagon tour. The tour was early in the morning. Too early, that the other delegate from my chapter, Jennifer, decided to sleep in rather than join me on this early bird adventure. Initially, I regretted signing myself up for the tour, believing the time would have been better spent sleeping in, but I'm glad to say my assumptions were wrong.

It's scary meeting new people when it seems like everyone

'An event could be wonderful or terrible depending on who you experience it with. Meeting and interacting with (JACLers) made convention a wonderful experience for me.'

knows each other. During the tour, I met the Honolulu delegates, Alison and Kevin. We talked a lot about Hawaii, and they were very friendly. I'm happy I got to know them in the beginning of convention. During the tour, I spoke with other delegates, and I realized I was with a friendly bunch, and it made me glad to attend my first event solo with a welcoming crowd.

Upon our return from the tour, we made it just in time for the delegate's orientation. The orientation was all right. It felt like I was in a business conference rather than an orientation. After all, this is what I initially had in mind of what the

convention meeting sessions may be like. Fortunately, this meeting was the only time that portrayed my initial expectations of the National Convention.

The Opening Banquet was like an awards show. It reminded me of a scholarship dinner I attended earlier this year for my Native American Student Assn. The banquet awarded many prominent figures regarding redress. It was wonderful to see those who were unafraid and fought for what was right to be recognized.

Shortly after the banquet ended, we headed toward the other side of the conference hall to watch the film screening of "Lil' Tokyo Reporter."

The screening was nice. It was about a reporter exposing the card club in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. I have been to Little Tokyo many times (I'm currently interning there), and I was unaware of this history. Despite being exhausted from a long day, I'm glad I went and learned something new about the city I'm familiar with.

On my second day, the congressional visits were an interesting opportunity to see politics in action.

>> See **CONVENTION** on page 16

A Historic Night to Remember

At the National Archives Reception, attendees gathered in the main rotunda to view Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which were on display together for the first time.

By Christine Fukushima
Correspondent

The sound of tinkling champagne flutes and excited conversations filled the cavernous hall, made intimate by the crowd of sharply dressed attendees. A long line snaked through the center of the space, but for the first time in what was probably a long time, the people patiently queuing were not there to see the National Archives' usual main attractions. The Magna Carta, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights could wait.

Instead, attention was dominated by two documents that held a similarly heightened historical significance for many of those present: Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

"Executive Order 9066 was perhaps the biggest challenge to constitutional rights that any people in this country has ever faced. . . . The (Civil Liberties) Act was a statement that even a small group of people can effect enormous change, and [it] placed JACL in history," said JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida during a speech personalized by her own family's incarceration experience. Her father's family lost their farm; her aunt lost her husband.

"Two different documents. Two different kinds of tears. Words that changed a nation," she continued.

In anticipation of the reception on July 25, for the first time the documents were displayed together.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed and issued Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942. The order eventually cleared the way for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. President Gerald Ford rescinded E.O. 9066 on Feb. 19, 1976.

During its 1978 national convention held in Salt Lake City, the JACL adopted a resolution calling for redress payments of \$25,000 per individual and an apology by Congress for the incarceration.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (the CLA) was signed into law by

President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10 of that year. The CLA granted each surviving internee \$20,000 and "acknowledge[d] the fundamental injustice of the evacuation, relocation and internment of citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II," among other provisions. The CLA was sponsored by then-Rep. Norman Mineta, who had been incarcerated at the Heart Mountain American concentration camp in Wyoming.

JACL New York Chapter member Stanley Kanzaki was at the National JACL Convention in Seattle when he heard rumors that the CLA would be signed.

"I remember all of a sudden everyone disappeared to go . . . see the signing (in Washington, D.C.)," he said. Kanzaki stayed behind. And so did then-JACL President Harry Kajihara, who had been a key player in the redress movement, said Kanzaki.

"I asked him, 'Why? You were one of the main [supporters].' And he said, 'I'm tired. I just want to relax. Let everybody else enjoy it.'"

Although Kajihara eventually did make it to D.C. in time for the signing — he can be seen in pictures of the presidential signing with President Reagan — the July 25 reception was the first time Kanzaki had ever seen the bill.

"I'm glad that I was able to see it before I passed away," he said.

Even many of the Japanese Americans attending the event who had not faced incarceration during WWII felt that the CLA was an important symbol for civil rights.

Wearing his "Go for Broke" military cap, Terry Shima recounted how he finally found out about the CLA in the early 2000s through his job as public relations director of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. As a Hawaii resident during the war, the bill did not affect him personally, but he appreciated all the "heavy lifting" that the Japanese American members of Congress had done during the redress movement, he said.

"The CLA of 1988 is a culmination of all that we have strived to achieve on Dec. 7, 1941, when we were accused of being traitors, when we were accused of being disloyal," Shima continued.

The line to see E.O. 9066 and the CLA eventually grew shorter as the night drew to a close, but some attendees took the opportunity to take one last look at the documents as National Archives volunteers stood watch over the night's main attractions.

The National Archives Reception attendees were "sincerely looking at the documents. You don't always see that here. Sometimes even when people look at the [Constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence] in the rotunda, it's like, 'Oh, isn't this interesting,'"

observed Don Huff, one of the National Archives volunteers. "But clearly, I think there's an attachment, there's a recognition that these are documents that truly impacted their ancestors." ■

Five Leaders of the Redress Movement Were Honored During the National JACL Convention's Opening Banquet

Although the event celebrated a victory — the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 — the theme running throughout the JACL Convention's Opening

Spark Matsunaga, the late Congressman Robert Matsui, former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and Henderson — were awarded with the JACL President's Award during the evening's festivities.

The award is "presented to an individual in recognition of outstanding national leadership in promoting civil and human rights."

Members of the JACL National Committee for Redress and the JACL Legislative Education Committee were also recognized for their contribution to the redress movement.



PHOTOS: NALEA J. KO

Banquet on July 24 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C., was "eternal vigilance."

Speaking to a capacity audience, "Tonight occurs against a backdrop of great historic moments," said Wade Henderson, the president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. "This is the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. It is the 50th anniversary of the march on Washington. . . . It is the 50th anniversary of the bombing of four little girls in Birmingham, Ala."

"What all of these incidents have in common is that they reinforce the view that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty and that change does not happen without a struggle," he continued.



David Lin with Irene Hirano Inouye

Five leaders at the helm of the redress movement — the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, the late Sen.

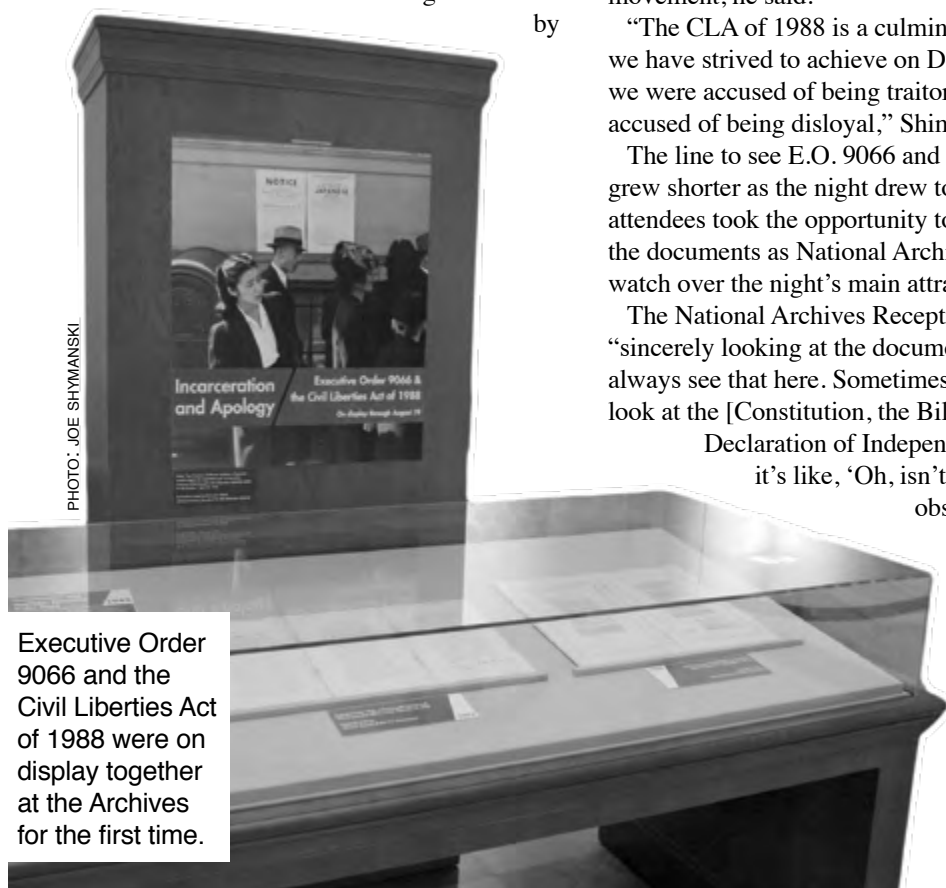


Sen. Mazie Hirono

According to its website, the Leadership Conference is the nation's premier civil and human rights coalition, with a diverse membership of more than 200 organizations. The JACL was the founding member of the organization in 1948. During the redress movement, the Leadership Conference extended critical support to the JACL's efforts.

Henderson, who has helmed the organization since 1996, spoke about the value of an expanded civil and human rights movement today. For example, he said, the United States is currently struggling to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In addition to eternal vigilance, "what that shows you is that in order for America to be great, we're going to have to measure civil and human rights by a single yardstick," he said.



Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 were on display together at the Archives for the first time.

PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI

Congresswoman
Doris Matsui

Accepting the President's Award on behalf of her late husband, Congressman Matsui, Congresswoman Doris Matsui said: "I remember those days when Danny Inouye and Spark Matsunaga and Norman Mineta and my husband, at the beginning, thought it was a battle up a mountain. And as Wade said, when there's actual struggle but you know you're right, it seems sweeter when you get to the top of the mountain."

"But we will not ever forget either, and that is the beauty of what we are doing today. Remembering," she continued.

Secretary Mineta remembered coming across his 19-year-old brother crying in his room, his 4-C draft card in hand. When 10-year-old Mineta called the draft board to ask what the designation meant, he was told, "Enemy alien."

David Lin and Sec.
Norman Mineta (right)

It was that experience that came to Mineta's mind in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001. During a Cabinet meeting shortly thereafter, Congressman David Camp expressed his Muslim constituents' concerns regarding "some talk about rounding them up."

"President Bush said, David, you're absolutely correct. We're equally concerned about those statements. . . . We do not want to happen today what happened to Norm in 1942."

— C. F.

Balancing Act

Youth delegates at the 2013 JACL National Convention work to balance their personal and political lives.

By Christine Fukushima
Correspondent

Even more than politics and our nation's history, JACL youth delegates were the common denominator in seemingly every event during the 2013 JACL National Convention, held in Washington, D.C.

Youth delegates lead workshops on combating anti-Asian racism. Youth delegates posed tough questions to Sen. Mike Lee about his stance on immigration reform during a visit to the Capitol. Youth delegates stepped up to the mic at the National Board meeting to defend a proposed resolution lowering dues for the JACL Japan Chapter.

With more than 60 youth delegates attending the convention, in presence and on paper, they appeared to be everywhere.

And among the youth in attendance, a common denominator beyond their relative youthfulness materialized: their struggle to unite their career goals with their activism; to find a balance between the personal and the political.

Where the line between "the personal and the political" should be drawn was the question on Twin Cities Chapter member Matthew Walter's mind throughout the entire convention, he said. Although he is 34 years old and thus does not technically qualify as a youth, he does recognize the importance of "focusing on the intergenerational continuity of [the JACL]."

The education committee of Walter's Twin Cities chapter was honored with a JACL grant during the Legacy Luncheon for their project of developing a middle school social studies curriculum. The curriculum will teach primarily sixth graders about the Minnesota military intelligence service training camps for Niseis who later served in the Pacific Theater during World War II as interrogators, interpreters and translators.

Although Walter used to be very active in organizations like Americorps, now he feels that his "activist life" and his "personal life" are "diverging," he said. He currently teaches educational psychology at the University of Minnesota.

"It's hard to raise a family as an activist unless you're really, really, really diehard passionate, you know? So, I guess for me it's not my life. I don't live every waking second as an activist," said Walter.

En route to the National Archives Reception, JACL National Youth Representative Mariko Newton, 23, spoke about a similar struggle to balance her career goals

Finding a balance
difficult during
season," she said.

and her political interests.
was particularly
"convention
Newton

would wake up at 6 in the morning to be at her research lab job by 7 a.m. She'd spend a full day in the lab and then rush home to work on convention planning until midnight. Time-management skills were key, she said.

"I think anybody can find time, even if it's a little bit of time that you can devote each day. It's really important for personal development, I think, for people to be involved in the community. So, even if it's one hour a day or one event per month — it's important for people to be connected to the community," said Newton.

Like many JACL youths at convention, Newton was inspired to join the JACL and pursue a higher position within it because of a "sense of responsibility . . . to give back." When she first moved from Japan to a small town in Oregon where she and her sister were the only part-Asian students in their school, she felt left out and offended by the racist comments her classmates would sometimes make. Her local chapter in Portland provided her with a community, she says.

Newton values the much more than one hour a day or one event per month that she devotes to the JACL. Her work for the JACL and another grassroots public-policy organization with a focus on public health have inspired her to attempt to merge her career goal of pursuing science with her passion for public policy.

Legacy Luncheon keynote speaker Thula Thor, who recently served as the executive director of the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center, offered advice to JACL youths like Newton for dealing with finding a balance.

"I always tell people that it's a privilege to be involved in this work and that people's true lives aren't divided that way, like today I care about social justice and tomorrow I don't — even though sometimes that's the reality," she said.

"You're not marching every day. But it's the little things you do, like watch the news or read a blog or donate \$10. . . . Often people get caught up in thinking, 'This has to be my career,' when the truth is it's our daily life. And for young people more so than ever this country is going to be making many decisions about their daily lives," Thor continued.

"If [the government] does it without the input of young people, then it will be at a loss to those young people," Thor concluded. ■



(From left) Legacy Luncheon keynote speaker Thula Thor, Kevin Mori, Mariko Newton, Bryan Namba and Jennifer Okabayashi

Japanese American Community Leaders Recount Fighting for Redress on the 25th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act

AT THE JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL, JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY LEADERS REFLECTED ON THE HISTORY OF THE REDRESS MOVEMENT AND CONTEMPORARY CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

Keeping with the JACL National Convention's theme of "Justice for All," civil rights leaders recounted their personal efforts and the community's struggle to secure justice for Japanese Americans, 25 years after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act.

Nearly five decades after some 120,000 people of Japanese descent were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated in World War II camps, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, which granted surviving internees reparations of \$20,000 and a formal apology.

Then-Rep. Norman Mineta was one of the few legislators pictured in the historical photo of the president when the legislation was signed.

"We were on the 10-yard line trying to get to the other end of the field. It took 10 years to do it," said Mineta, who served in Congress when President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act on Aug. 10, 1988, and was also secretary of transportation under President George W. Bush on Sept. 11. "It was the lining up of the stars and moons to be able to come together."

Mineta was one of three speakers who participated and

shared personal anecdotes during a panel discussion about the journey to secure redress on July 25 in Washington, D.C. Mineta was joined by speakers John Tateishi, who chaired the JACL's Redress Committee and served as JACL redress director, and Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

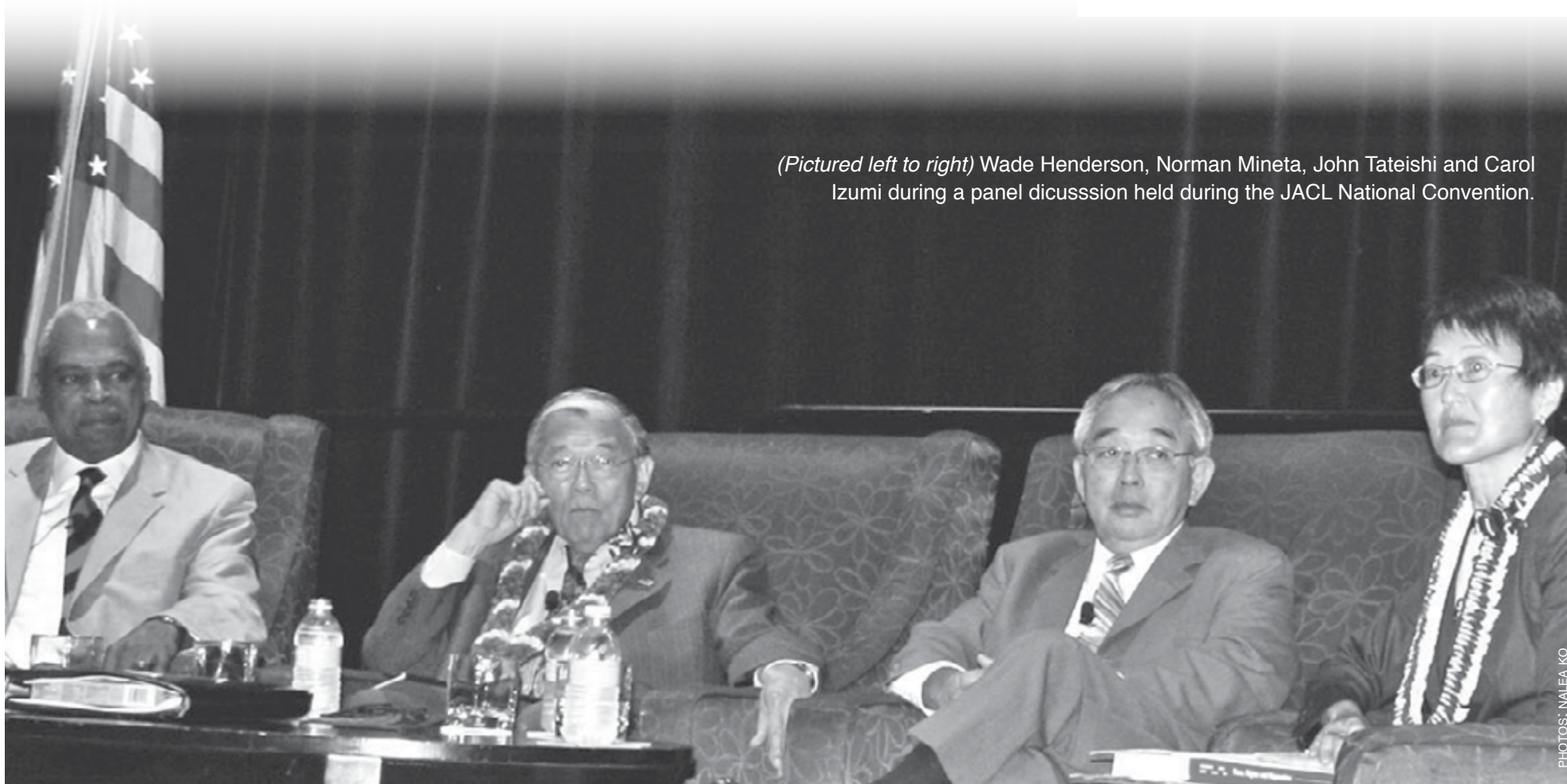
Carol Izumi, a faculty adviser at the University of California Hastings Asian Pacific American Law Students Assn., moderated the plenary session. "A perfect storm of judicial, legislative, executive and grassroots actions had to occur," Izumi said about all of the elements that made the redress movement a success.

To honor their leadership roles in promoting civil and human rights work, Mineta and Henderson were awarded the JACL President's Award. Other legislators who were integral in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act that granted some 80,000 people of Japanese descent compensation were also honored by the JACL. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Sen. Spark M. Matsunaga and Rep. Robert T. Matsui were posthumously given the JACL Presidential Award at the convention's opening banquet on July 24.

A push for redress was born when Edison Uno attempted to mobilize JACLers at the 1970 national convention in Chicago. JACL in 1978 passed a resolution to support the legislation. But the idea of redress, Tateishi said, was



Former JACL National President Larry Oda attended the panel discussion on July 25 at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Downtown Hotel.



(Pictured left to right) Wade Henderson, Norman Mineta, John Tateishi and Carol Izumi during a panel discussion held during the JACL National Convention.

PHOTOS: NALEA KO

PHOTOS: NALEA KO



PHOTOS: NALEA KO

'I was the subject of one of the largest racial profiling cases ever conducted by the government. There was no trial, no charges against us, our only guilt was being of Japanese ancestry.'

- Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation.

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Seoul, Jeju Island, Busan, Oedo Island, Tongyeong, Gwangju, Daejeon, Namiseom Island, Chuncheon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ (Japanese-American Korean War Memorial).
- NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE TOUR OCT 12-18
Boston, Stowe, Vermont, Green Mountains, Woodstock, Ogunquit Booth Bay Harbor, Maine.
- DISCOVER CUBA HOLIDAY TOUR (limited space) NOV 3-10
Havana, Hemingway's Farm, Pinar Del Rio, Guanabacoa, Museum of Revolution, Tobacco Farm, Cigar & Rum Factory, Craft Market & Art Center, Tropicana Cabaret Show.
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 3-12
Ishigaki Island, Yufu Island, Buffalo Cart Ride, Taketomi Island, Onna Son, Ryukyu Mura, Churaumi Aquarium Expo Park, Manzano, Himeyuri Monument, Peace Memorial, Gyokusendo at Okinawa World Park, Okinawa Cultural Show, Orion Beer Brewery, Shuri Castle, Traditional Hands-on Experience, Naha.
- TROPICAL COSTA RICA HOLIDAY TOUR NOV 16-24
San Jose, Guanacaste/Tamarindo Beach, Doka Coffee Estate, Monteverde, Cloud Forest Reserve, Arenal Hot Springs, Lake Arenal Cruise, Cano Negro Nature Preserve River Cruise viewing exotic animals.
- SAN ANTONIO HOLIDAY SEASON TOUR DEC 5-9
"American Venice with its River Walk", Fiesta de Las Luminarias, Mission San Jose, Alamo, riverboat ride on the illuminated Paseo del Rio, LBJ Ranch-Texas White House, BBQ dinner at Bandera dude ranch, South Texas Heritage Center, Texan Farewell Dinner

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- CHINA ICE FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR (Beijing, Harbin). FEB
- JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR (Kyushu, Shikoku) MAR
- NORTHERN LIGHTS HOLIDAY TOUR (Aurora Borealis-Alaska) MAR
- AMERICAN HERITAGE HOLIDAY TOUR APR
- AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND HOLIDAY TOUR JUN
- OREGON TRAILS HOLIDAY TOUR JUN
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (New) JUN
- SOUTH DAKOTA ADVENTURE HOLIDAY TOUR JUL
- CANADIAN ROCKIES VIA RAIL HOLIDAY TOUR JUL
- EAST-WEST MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE AUG
- ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA HOLIDAY TOUR OCT
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Carol Izumi, faculty adviser of the University of California Hastings Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, or APALSA, moderated a panel discussion on the redress movement. Izumi held up a copy of the Washington Post featuring Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, joking, 'Would you like this for your scrapbook?'

initially divisive within JACL and the larger Japanese American community.

"It was hard enough just in the JACL because we didn't have consensus at all. The leadership of the organization, the old guard, opposed redress. So, for us it was a matter about trying to figure out: How do you deal with the Japanese community?" Tateishi said. "I felt that if we took this issue public, it would force the community to come out. The difficulty is that you had Nisei, who had to be the heart and soul of this campaign, very reluctant about talking about camp. If you couldn't get the Nisei to talk, you didn't have a campaign."

Henderson echoed Tateishi's sentiments, telling the crowd of JACLers who attended the panel discussion that personal stories of tragedy, like those of the Issei and Nisei former internees, can fuel public support.

"Never give up. Never give up," Henderson said. "A failure to remind the country of incidents like this is to do so at our own peril."

The panelists drew many parallels between the discrimination against Japanese Americans after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the anti-Muslim sentiments expressed by Americans following the Sept. 11 attacks.

"When you have something like the National Defense Authorization Act and see it as carte blanche to do anything you want, it's a problem," Tateishi said. "And redress is relevant in so many ways — the internment, the lessons from it — that you cannot look at individuals by race alone or by religion and determine that person because of those two factors is probably guilty of something."

Mineta, who was interned with his family at Heart Mountain during World War II, was U.S. secretary of transportation on Sept. 11 and issued an order to ground all planes. Drawing on his personal experiences with internment, Mineta after Sept. 11 was vocal in opposing racial profiling of Muslims on airplanes.

"I was the subject of one of the largest racial profiling cases ever conducted by the government. There was no trial, no charges against us, our only guilt was being of Japanese ancestry," Mineta said about his personal experience.

The ultimate outcome of the redress movement, the panelists said, should be a reminder of the power of a community to effect change.

"We faced this obstacle of something that had no precedent, that was virtually impossible, but we were determined to do it, and we thought it was important to do because it was the right thing. This country needed to know what happened to us during World War II," Tateishi said. "No matter how much you think your issue isn't significant or doesn't have a chance in hell, if you believe in it, don't ever give up on that."

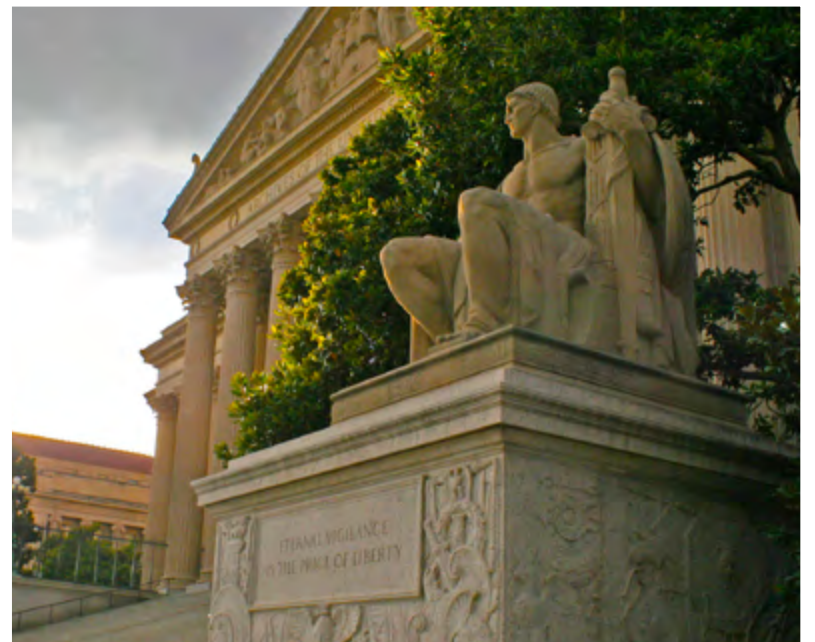
JACL NATIONAL 2013 CONVENTION

'Justice for All' was the theme of the Washington, D.C.-based convention that commemorated the 25th anniversary of Civil Liberties Act.

PHOTOS BY NALEA J. KO AND CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA



JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida (*right*) addresses the crowd at the National Archives. Former House Speaker Jim Wright (*bottom left*) stops to sign autographs for eager JACLers at the National Archives Reception.



U.S. Rep. Mike Honda took to the podium at the JACL's National Archives Reception on July 25.



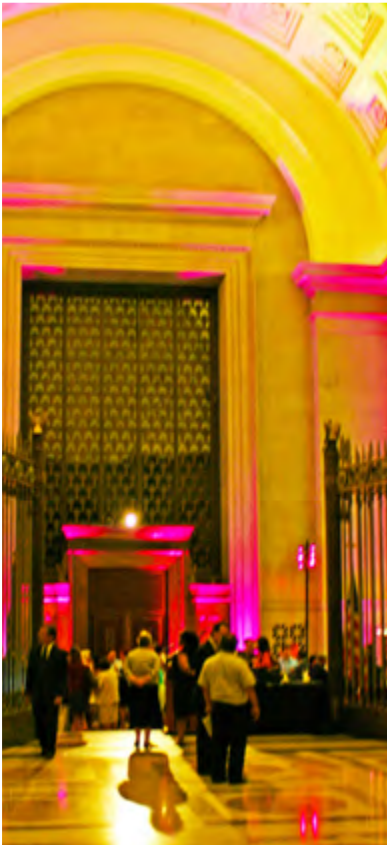
Margie Yamamoto and Mark Hopkins of New England examine Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.



Kirk Achterman (*above*) fixes his tie before boarding the bus to the National Archives.



Kevin Mori and Traci Ishigo (*left*) get up close to the original Executive Order 9066.



Past JACL national presidents Larry Oda and Lillian Kimura share a laugh with John Tateishi (*center*), former national director.



OPENING NIGHT BANQUET RECEPTION



Irene Hirano (*above*) accepts the President's Award on behalf of her late husband Sen. Daniel K. Inouye.



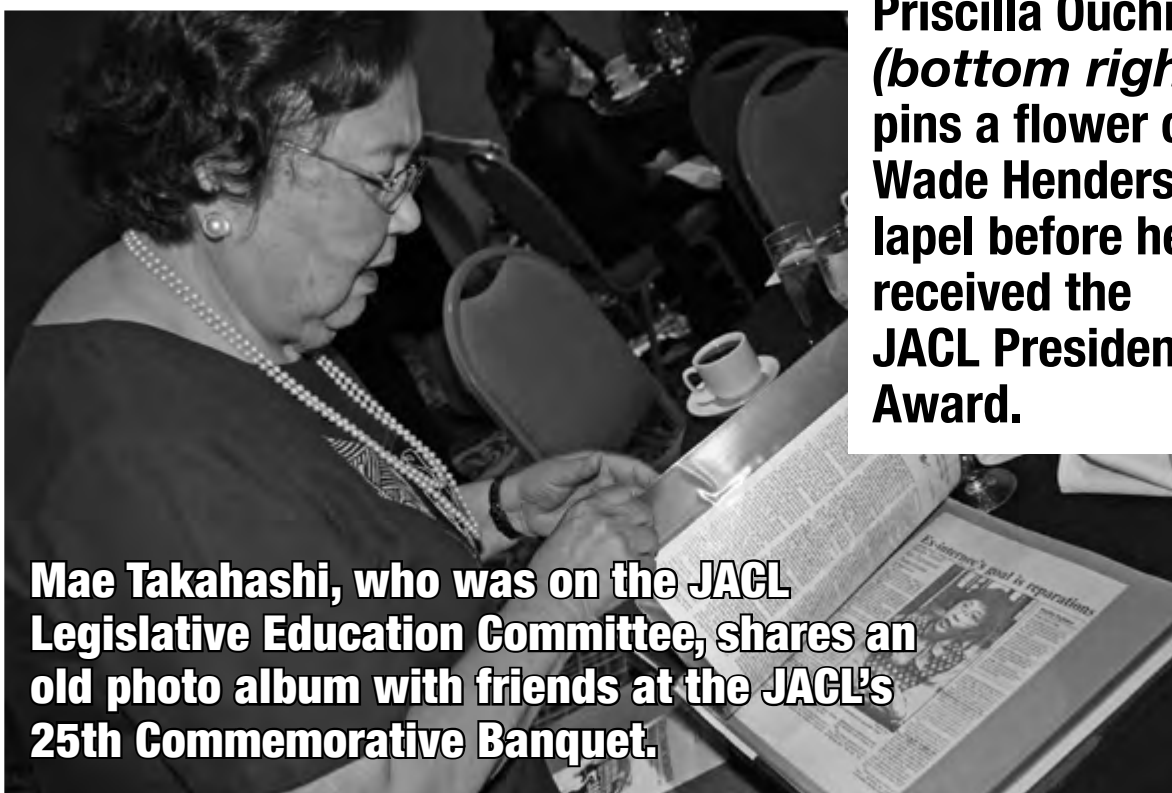
David Lin presents former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta (*right*) with the President's Award.



Sen. Mazie Hirono accepts the President's Award for the late Sen. Spark Matsunaga.



National Director Priscilla Ouchida (*bottom right*) pins a flower on Wade Henderson's lapel before he received the JACL President's Award.



Mae Takahashi, who was on the JACL Legislative Education Committee, shares an old photo album with friends at the JACL's 25th Commemorative Banquet.



CLOSING NIGHT RECEPTION AT THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN'S RESIDENCE



Japanese Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae (above) tries on a hat gifted by James Kuhn, who accepted the Gov. Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage on behalf of the Reagan family.



James K. McCallum (above) of the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration makes a toast.



JACL National President David Lin (right) presents the Gov. Ralph L. Carr Award to Glenn Roberts, who was asked by Norman Y. Mineta (left) in 1987 to draft what became the Civil Liberties Act.



Andy Noguchi looks at photos of the Japanese Imperial family at the ambassador's residence.



National JACL Stands Up for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

By Andy Noguchi

An eerie silence hung over the annual JACL National Convention as 200 people anticipated the delegate vote on the comprehensive immigration reform resolution in Washington, D.C., July 26. What was the result? An astounding 72-0 tally!

This vote capped a three-month organizing campaign led by the N. California – W. Nevada – Pacific (NCWNP) JACL District to promote common sense reform. The campaign helped to spark discussion and rally support among JACL's vast network of more than 100 chapters across the country.

This JACL resolution backs the controversial pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, including "Dream Act" youth brought in as children, and will reunify families.

It also shields from deportation residents who live peacefully in the United States, respecting civil and human rights, plus invoking American labor protections for any foreign workers admitted.

To show the impact on Asian and Pacific Islander American communities, proponents amended their own resolution on the convention floor.

They highlighted the "11 million undocumented immigrants of which 12% (1.3 million) are APIs" and the "4 million individuals (applying for legal entrance) of which 40% (1.6 million) are APIs enduring inhumanely long backlogs for family reunification."

Two JACL youth members spoke in support of the resolution on the convention floor. They recounted personal experiences with immigration.

Desun Oka, a recent University of California, Davis, graduate and Florin Chapter member, related his parents' journey

from Japan to the high-tech industry, plus challenges faced with visas, green cards and eventual citizenship. He later shared that the resolution "was a reminder to people that the same struggles the Issei faced before are confronting newcomers now."

Mariko Fujimoto, a San Francisco State University student and Silicon Valley Chapter member, spoke about a Latino college friend brought to the U.S. while a young child. She later explained that her chapter is co-hosting a fundraiser to help pay for the high visa fees to legalize under the Dream Act and "hopes that other JACL chapters will be encouraged to help others."

To kick off the resolution campaign, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz (WSC) JACL adopted a local immigration measure on April 25 following support of other marches and rallies calling for reform, explained Chapter Delegate Jeanette Otsuji Hager. This inspired the NCWNP JACL District to take action.

The NCWNP committee, including Carol Kawase (Sonoma County), Jim Duff (Berkeley), Jeanette Otsuji Hager (WSC), Andy Noguchi (Florin), Governor David Unruhe and Regional Director Patty Wada, headed the campaign. Twenty chapters, governors, youth reps and districts across the country joined as co-sponsors.

Other major parts of the immigration push included legislative visits and a workshop. Monica Thammarath of the National Education Assn. volunteered to organize the hill visits to 64 congressional members or their staffs by about 200 delegates.

The largest legislative visit she has ever arranged is how Thammarath described the huge effort.

To continue momentum, Thammarath and Amy Watanabe, JACL Fellow, encouraged delegates in an email to meet locally with their congressional reps. "August recess



PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI

Nearly 200 JACL delegates visited 64 congressional offices to discuss immigration reform. Delegates are pictured in front of the U.S. Capitol on July 25.

will be critical for movement on immigration reform as members go back to their districts to meet with their constituents (you!)."

The NCWNP committee also urged JACL members and other APIs to support their local immigration coalitions. Leaders of JACL chapters across the country, from Sonoma County (California), Arizona, Mile High

(Denver) to Philadelphia, shared stories of their grassroots coalitions. This is a key way activists can advance the ongoing campaign for fair immigration reform.

Andy Noguchi is the NCWNP JACL District Civil Rights Co-Chair and Florin Chapter member. He may be reached at andynoguchi@hotmail.com.



PHOTO: CHRISTINE FUKUSHIMA

JACL delegates (pictured) met with Sen. Dianne Feinstein's aides to discuss their stance on comprehensive immigration reform.

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Caroline Kennedy Nominated by President Barack Obama as U.S. Ambassador to Japan

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama announced July 24 he is nominating former first daughter Caroline Kennedy as U.S. ambassador to Japan, offering the most famous living member of a prominent American family a new role of service to the country.

Kennedy, an attorney and bestselling book editor, is being rewarded for helping put Obama in the White House, where her father served until his assassination 50 years ago. If confirmed, she would be the first woman in a post where many other prominent Americans have served to strengthen a vital Asian tie.

In Tokyo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Japanese government appreciated the nomination as “reflecting the great importance the Obama administration attaches to the Japan-U.S. alliance.”

Kennedy helped propel Obama to the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination with a celebrated endorsement over Hillary Rodham Clinton — the only time she’s endorsed a presidential candidate other than her uncle, Ted Kennedy, in 1980. She played a prominent role, particularly in courting female voters by headlining events in key states for Obama during both his presidential campaigns.

In the 2012 race, she served as one of 35 national co-chairs of Obama’s re-election campaign. She called Obama “the kind of leader my father wrote about in ‘Profiles in Courage’” during a primetime speech at the

2012 Democratic National Convention.

The White House announced her nomination without any particular fanfare, listing her in a news release along with other selections for administration posts. Obama said in a statement that all the choices bring “a depth of experience and tremendous dedication to their new roles,” but he offered no comment specific to Kennedy.

Kennedy, 55, doesn’t have any obvious ties to Japan, a key ally in dealing with North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. She would replace John Roos, a wealthy former Silicon Valley lawyer and top Obama campaign fundraiser.

Japan is one of the United States’ most important trading and military partners and accustomed since the end of World War II to having renowned American political leaders serve as envoy. Former U.S. ambassadors to Japan include former Vice President Walter Mondale, former House Speaker Tom Foley and former Senate Majority Leaders Mike Mansfield and Howard Baker.

Thomas Berger, an international relations professor at Boston University, said some may be concerned that Kennedy doesn’t have the experience to deal with thorny issues in the U.S.-Japan relationship, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade talks and the dispute over islands in the East China Sea claimed by both Japan and China. But Berger argued that Kennedy will have an experienced staff to guide her through policy matters, while she offers other assets — celebrity appeal to the Japanese, a close relationship with Obama and her gender.

“Japanese women continue to look for role models who demonstrate that it is possible to be a woman and have a successful career in politics,” Berger said. “I expect that many in both the United States and in Japan will want to use her to send that message to the Japanese public.”

Kennedy would bring a third generation of her family into the U.S. diplomatic corps. Her grandfather, Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., was President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s ambassador to Britain, while her aunt, Jean Kennedy Smith, was ambassador to Ireland under President Bill Clinton.

Caroline Kennedy was five days shy of her 6th birthday when her father was killed, and she lived most of the rest of her life in New York City. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, got a law degree from Columbia University, married exhibit designer Edwin Schlossberg and had three children.

Kennedy is president of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and chair of the senior advisory committee of the Institute of Politics at Harvard. She has served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, helped raise millions of dollars for New York schools and edited numerous bestselling books on history, law and poetry.

She considered running for political office after Hillary Rodham Clinton resigned the New York Senate seat to serve as Obama’s secretary of state. But Kennedy eventually withdrew herself from consideration to fill the seat, once held by her uncle, Robert F. Kennedy, citing unspecified personal reasons.

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Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 31	Chilean Fjords & Patagonia & Easter Island
Oct. 21 ~ Oct. 30	Autumn Japan: “Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo”
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: RICH IWASAKI



CALENDAR

>>EDC

A Lecture Series on Asian American Women in Startups CAMBRIDGE, MA

Aug. 20, 6-8 p.m.

Microsoft NERD Center
1 Memorial Drive

The 10th ASPIRE Speaker Series, a free event, explores topics that impact Asian American girls and women. The series includes a panel discussion, Q & A and networking session. Speakers include Jessica Kim of BabbaCo, Parul Singh of Gradeable and Lean Start-up Challenge and Annie Wang of Her Campus Media.
RSVP: <http://aspirestartups.eventbrite.com>.

The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop BROOKLINE, MA

Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m.

Brookline Ballet School
1431 Beacon St.

Cost: \$30/General admission

This workshop is designed to teach beginners the basics of taiko drumming. Participants are encouraged to bring a group of friends.

Info: Call Karen at (617) 308-4900 or email Karen@TheGenkiSpark.org.

The Annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival LOWELL, MA

Aug. 17, 9-5 p.m.

Lowell Heritage State Park
500 Pawtucket Blvd.

The Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival celebrates the different Southeast Asian cultures in the area. There will be boat races in the morning. Food and craft vendors will

also serve up tasty treats.
Info: Visit www.lowellwaterfestival.com or email lowellseawaterfestival@gmail.com.

>>NCWNP

'Jack's Show: His Life and Sketches' Art Exhibit SAN JOSE, CA Japanese American Museum of San Jose 535 N. Fifth St.

This new exhibit features cartoons by Jack Matsuoka, a Nisei cartoonist who was a member of the prestigious National Cartoonist Assn. The featured artwork spans his 70-year career, including his book "Poston Camp II, Block 211."
Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or visit www.jamsj.org.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center Tours COARSEGOLD, CA Aug. 20, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino 711 Lucky Lane

Cost: \$30/Active senior members; \$35/Guests

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center will go on a one-day trip to Chukchansi Gold Casino. Cost includes \$10 e-cash and \$5 food coupon.

Info: Call Carol Kaneko at (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto at (831) 464-6721.

>>PSW

East West Players' Theatrical Production of 'Steel Magnolias' LOS ANGELES, CA Sept. 11, 7 p.m. David Henry Hwang Theater

120 Judge Aiso St. Cost: \$26/Preview seats; \$36-\$46/General admission

East West Players, a national organization of Asian American artists and the longest-running professional theater of color in the country, is kicking off its 48th anniversary season with "Steel Magnolias." Opening night is Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. Previews begin Sept. 5-8. The production runs until October.

Info: Call (213) 625-7000, ext. 16 or visit www.eastwestplayers.org.

Nisei Week Japanese Festival LOS ANGELES, CA Aug. 10-18 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 jammed-packed with fun events.

Info: Visit www.niseiweek.org or call (213) 687-7193.

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.

Seichi Kiyohara's Posthumous Retrospective Art Exhibit SANTA MONICA, CA Aug. 10-Sept. 19 Bergamot Station Arts Center 2525 Michigan Ave.

ADC Contemporary & Building Bridges International Art Exchange is showcasing Seichi Kiyohara's art in a posthumous retrospective exhibit. The Japanese American artist was born in San Francisco in 1921 and is remembered for his exhibits at the Modern Art Gallery, Doizaki Gallery and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. The opening reception is Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.

Info: Call (310) 770-1961 or visit www.adcbuildingbridgesartexchange.org.

>>PNW

Nikkei Community Picnic PORTLAND, OR Aug. 18, Noon-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.

Olympia Bon Odori OLYMPIA, WA Aug. 17, 5-9 p.m.

A Night of Minidoka Swing Band & 'Searchlight Serenade' PORTLAND, OR

Aug. 24, 6:30 p.m.

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower
921 S.W. Sixth Ave.

Cost: \$25/General admission; \$10/Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Oregon Historical Society

This screening of the documentary "Searchlight Serenade," about World War II internees coping with their experience through music, will be followed by a performance by the Minidoka Swing Band.
RSVP: Call (503) 224-1458 or email info@oregonnikkei.org.

Water Street, S.W. (Between Fifth Ave. and Legion Way)

The JACL Olympia chapter and the Olympia Kato Sister City Assn. are hosting the annual Bon Odori, a Japanese American summer dance festival. Food booths open at 5 p.m. Bon Odori dancing begins at 7 p.m. Free practice dance lessons will be offered on Aug. 16 from 7-9 p.m. at the Olympia Community Center.

Info: Contact Bob Nakamura at (360) 556-7562.

>>MDC

Modern Japanese Woodblock Prints Exhibit TOLEDO, OHIO Oct. 4-Jan. 1 Toledo Museum of Art 2445 Monroe St.

The Toledo Museum of Art is revisiting its 1930 show "Fresh Impressions: Early Modern Japanese Prints" in the Canaday Gallery. The exhibit features woodblock printmaking in Japan, or *shin hanga*. Kimono, kabuki costumes, samurai swords and armor will also be on display.

Info: Call (419) 255-8000 or visit www.toledomuseum.org.

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In Memoriam

Eisenhart, Nora Yaeno, 79, Los Angeles, CA; July 24; she is survived by her husband, Fred; children, Sharlene (William) Carson, Lyn (Patrick) McGonagle and Tod (Rosa); step-grandchild, Ryan McGonagle; siblings, Sayoko "Ethel" Kamiyama and Emi Yonesaki; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Fujikawa, David Kinya, 81, Los Angeles, CA; July 23; a former internee of Poston and a veteran of the U.S. Army; survived by children, Glenn, Lori Diegel and Donna; brother, Sachi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 1 gc.

Fukasawa, Harry Jin, 88, Culver City, CA; July 26; a decorated WWII veteran who served with the 100th/442 RCT; he is survived by his daughters, Carol (Mamoru) Nakatsui, Patricia (Steven) Doyle and Jeannie (Glynn) Farmer; siblings, Tommy and Fred; other relatives; and longtime friend, Noby Okamoto; 6 gc.

Hamada, Justine Yuriko, 85, Los



Angeles, CA; July 9; her family was interned at Amache during WWII, where she met Miles M.; survived by children, Miles Stanley (Betty), Pauline (Ray) Cerullo, David Shawn (Ofelia), Emi Sandra (Tom Braceland); also survived by niece, Jodi (Kirk) Suga and cousins, Joanne Funakoshi (Ian) Maclaren and Kay and Gabriella Torres; 4 gc.

Hanamoto, Michiko "Ginger," 85, Los Angeles, CA; July 16; survived by her husband, Ben Hanamoto; children, Jane (Doug) Topper and Nancy Hanamoto; 3 gc.

Hirakami, Masao, 89, Los Angeles, CA; July 14; an Army veteran of the 1399th Battalion at Schofield Barracks; predeceased by his first wife, Elaine Nishihara; he is survived by his wife, Maebelle Chiyoko; children, Cheryl (Bill) Craft, Janyce (Jerry) Melnyk, Brian Hirakami and Lisa Hirakami; he is also survived by his brother, Richard Hirakami and many

nieces, nephews and relatives; 2 gc; 3 ggc.

Ikeda, Kayora Alice, 97, Los Angeles, CA; July 25; survived by her husband of 70 years, Michito Stanley; children, Irene (Kenneth) Hirose, Robert (Lillian) Ikeda and Andy (Savita) Ikeda; 2 gc; 1 ggc.



Kojima, Noreen Izumi, 26, Gardena, CA; July 24; she is survived by her mother, Chikako Kojima; grandparents, Harry and Yoko Uneda and Tom Kojima; uncle, Ronnie (May) Uneda and aunt Joanne Uneda; uncle, Mike (Myra) Kojima; cousins, Mykel and Natalia Kojima and Miyuki Co.

Miki, Minoru, 78, Torrance, CA; July 10; a veteran of the Korean Conflict; survived by his wife, Asako Miki; children, Mitch Miki, Carrie (Greg) Black, Lorne Miki, and Alison (Ritchie) Paik; siblings, Kayoko Ochi and Setsuko Kawau-chi; mother-in-law, Fumiye Kawasaki; sister-in-law, Margie (Eric) Cohen; brother-in-law, Michael (Susan) Kawasaki; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Nakajima, Ichiro, 95, Los Angeles, CA; July 22; he co-owned Empire Printing Company with his brother, Toshio; survived by his wife, Mary N. Nakajima; daughters, Frances Kiku Shibuya, Karen (Michael) Dote, Kay (Richard) Yang and Janice Yuki (Jun) Date; 8 gc; 5 ggc.

Shintani, Matsuko, 81, Long Beach, CA; July 17; predeceased by husband, Yoshinori; survived by her daughter, Shirley (Duane) Asao; siblings, Riyoichi (Fumiko), Setsuko Hamada, Kikuko (Soji), her sister-in-law, Osami, Kazuko Kishi and Mary Yamada; 3 gc.

Takahashi, Noboru, 89, Los Angeles, CA; July 23; he is survived by his wife, Molly Takahashi; children, Willie (Gail) Takahashi, Patti (Tod) Sugawara and Rich (Stef) Takahashi; sisters-in-law, Yo Kuramoto and Sue Takahashi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc.

Takasugi, Terry Iwao, 91, Los Angeles, CA; July 20; predeceased by his son, Mark Takashi Takasugi; he is survived by his wife, Mihoko Takasugi; daughter, Janine Takasugi; sister, Misao Takasugi; sister-in-law, Dorothy Takasugi; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan.

Tamano, Masato, 96, Culver City, CA; July 18; predeceased by wife, Kiyoko, and daughter, Susan; survived by his daughters, Gail Masako (Howard Hiromi) Ogasawara, Joyce Kaori (Guy Christian) Haratani, Elaine Yasuko (Ronald Tadashi) Uyematsu and Judy Tomoko (Cordy Hideo) Kawamoto; 8 gc.

Tamura, Kunima, 90, Torrance,



CA; July 19; predeceased by his wife, Toshiko, son, Alan, and grandson, Preston Stephens; survived by his children, Patricia Ann (Joe) Greenbank, Lloyd, Susan (Greg) Kishiyama and Richard (Liza); daughter-in-law, Marie; 10 gc; 6 ggc.

Terusaki, Shizue "Sue," 91,



Chicago, IL; Feb. 25; wife of the late Ben H.; mother of Gary and Debbie (Erwin) Buscato; sister of Grace (the late Shig) Yamaki, the late George (Maomi) Asai, the late Nobuko (the late Hachiro) Shinbo and the late Jan (the late Fuji) Yonehara; aunt and great-aunt of many nieces and nephews; and devoted grandmother of Nikki Buscato.

Tokihiro, Masao, 85, Los Angeles, CA; July 17; survived by his wife, Kiyoko; children, LaVerne (Sidney) Merrill, Linda Gates-Hawkins, Diane (Bruce) Hawkins, Darlene, Robert and Karen Gates and Lei (Guy) Barrett; 18 gc; 24 ggc. ■

TRIBUTES

ROBERT T. AZUMA, COL. USAF (RET)



Robert T. Azuma passed away on July 4 at age 75. He was born in Los Angeles. His family was interned at Amache, Colo., and moved to Chicago after WWII. He served 37 years in the Air Force, including a tour of duty in Vietnam. Bob was a master navigator with over 4,300 flying hours, including 695 combat sorties in Vietnam. His medals include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal and 15 other decorations. He retired from the Air Force in 1991, moved to Sacramento and later to Gilbert, Ariz. He was a longtime JACL member. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Kayko; son, Brett (Coleen); daughter, Tamiko (Steve Goldinger); five grandsons; and sister, Hiroko Miyakawa.

AKIRA YAMAZUMI



San Marcos, CA, Tuesday, June 18, 2013
Akira Yamazumi, born in Fresno, Calif., on Sept. 2, 1923, passed away on Tuesday, June 18, 2013. He is preceded in death by his parents, Mike and Suyeno Yamazumi, and brother, George. Akira will be remembered by his wife, Linda; children, Rebecca, William and Kim; and grandchildren, Christopher, Richard, Patrick and Ashley.

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For me personally, there was something bittersweet in watching the video and seeing those who are no longer with us: Dan Inouye, Spark Matsunaga and Bob Matsui. It was Inouye who took me under his wing when I first started lobbying our first bill, telling me to focus on the House. "Norman needs all the help he can get," he said, telling me that he and Sparky would take care of the Senate.

And Sparky, that wonderful guy who believed so much in what this effort was all about. This may not be an appropriate analogy, but I was always struck by Sparky's Odie to Dan's Garfield: That is, at times Sparky was all over the place, fearless, implacable in his belief in justice, a virtual whirlwind around the Senate scooping up votes from even unexpected members. He couldn't be stopped, and before any of us knew it, he had worked with Inouye to get over 80 sponsors on the commission bill with promises he and Inouye would get most of them to sign on to any redress bill that would follow.

In some ways, Sparky is the forgotten hero of the campaign

because he was so much in Inouye's shadow, who was such a monumental figure. You couldn't help but like and respect Sparky. I don't think you could find a more sincere and genuine human being in the entire United States Congress. There was a lot to like about Matsunaga.

I remember he once called me to his office to talk about his pet project, a bill to create a Peace Academy. We build institutions of war, like West Point, Annapolis and the Air Force Academy, so why, he asked, can't we create an academy to teach peace instead of war? He wanted me to help lobby his bill as I made my daily rounds on the Hill to lobby the redress bill. Not surprising that Sparky would feel so strongly about creating peace, a man with such an honorable war record. It's death and killing, he once told me, that makes one believe in peace and the need for it.

Sometime around 2009 or thereabouts, I was in Denver at an annual conference of social studies teachers, and I ran across a booth for the Peace Academy, manned by two college-aged students. I asked them if they knew the origins of that project, and when they told me they didn't, I told them about Sparky's dream of peace. He would be proud of both of you, I told them, and if he were still around and you visited him in Washington, he'd take you to the Senate dining room and treat you to their famous navy bean soup!

When I think about him, I miss Sparky and the kind and gentle man he was, always a smile, always a kind heart. And I miss Inouye. What a terrible loss for us. Who could have imagined we would have as a friend one of the most powerful men in the United States Senate, one of the most powerful men in the world. He was a good friend to me, would always make time for me despite a crowded schedule, always interested in hearing about what was going on with the campaign and in my life.

As I watched and listened to these two men in the video, I looked over at Norm Mineta at the next table. Still looking good at 81, still the twinkle in his eyes, still full of life's passions.

What a group of guys: Dan, Sparky, Norm, Bob. Whatever any of us did to get redress, none of it would have happened without those four. Without them, we would still be talking about how to get to the mountain, let alone how to stand at its summit.

I'm glad the convention started with the dinner to honor our friends in Congress and to recognize their contributions. Floyd Mori, who chaired the convention, came up with another stroke of genius, a real hole-in-one, when he put the champions of redress front and center.

John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.



Williams (left)
with fellow JACL
delegate Jenni-
fer Okabayashi

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Politics was an unknown realm to me, so visiting Sen. Dianne Feinstein's office and seeing how her office was organized was interesting. Although we couldn't meet the senator herself, the meeting with the council was successful.

After our meeting, we headed over to the Dirksen Senate Office Building to eat at the Senator's cafeteria. One of our group members, Alice, heard raving reviews about a special soup in that cafeteria called the "Senate Bean Soup."

The Senate Bean Soup consists of bean and pork. I wish I could've taken the time to truly savor the taste of the soup, but we were already late, and the legislative debriefings that we were scheduled to attend had already begun.

That night, I attended the National Archives Reception.

The reception was beautifully organized. Green and deep pink lights illuminated the ceiling of the Archives building. Dressy waiters walked around with trays of indulgent finger foods, and to top it all off, we were greeted with wine and an open bar.

We were able to walk around and view the historic documents in the rotunda, or if we walked near the entrance, we were able to see Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, together for the first time. Being able to freely move from one end of the building to the other, I was able to meet new youths and had the opportunity to get to know them better, which I appreciated.

Day 3 may have been the roughest day during convention week. The morning began with our surprise district meeting



Williams (right) along with fellow JACL delegates at the office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Nearly 200 delegates had the opportunity to visit 64 congressional offices on July 25 to discuss immigration reform.

at 7:30 a.m. We covered the topics that would be covered in the voting sessions later that day. I'm glad I attended the meeting since it educated me on the presented topics.

The Legacy Luncheon that afternoon was interesting. The National Youth Council introduced themselves, and they talked about various projects that youths are working on. It was admiring to see younger people taking action and serving the API community for the better.

That afternoon's national voting session was bittersweet. Participating in a debate club in high school, I loved watching debates. It's interesting to hear both sides of the opinion and their reasoning why we should be convinced. When I heard about how the debates got heated from past conventions, I was looking forward to this event. Perhaps it was the topics covered this year, but the session overall was mild compared to what I had imagined it to be.

The closing night reception at the Ambassador of Japan's residence was beautiful. The area where Ambassador Sasae holds events was spacious, and the interior design was absolutely gorgeous. That night, the Gov. Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage was bestowed upon President Ronald Reagan, Speaker Jim Wright and Glenn Roberts.

Overall, I had a blast at the National Convention. The only drawback was the unexpected changes in the schedule. For example, the voting session went over the allotted time on the schedule. We also had to resume the meeting after having dinner at the ambassador's residence. I also believe

the convention activities should be more spaced out. I may be overreacting, but I felt rushed to a lot of the events since the time given between these events was so little.

Despite this, I believe the National Convention committee did a tremendous job organizing this event, and I feel very fortunate that I had the opportunity to attend this year in the beautiful city of Washington, D.C.

I would like to thank the members of the Riverside Chapter for allowing me to represent as their delegate, and I would like to also thank JACL NY/SC for making the trip to the other side of the nation possible with their generous scholarship voucher.

The part I loved about the National Convention was getting to know each of the delegates. Speaking with different people from all over the nation, you learn about the cultures in their respective cities. Jennifer told me she fell in love with JACL after attending the national convention, and now I could see why.

Every person in the convention has his or her own unique quirks and charm, which makes each of the individuals alluring. An event could be wonderful or terrible depending on who you experience it with. Meeting and interacting with these people made convention a wonderful experience for me. Now I want to attend more conventions in the future!

Rayna Williams is currently an intern in the JACL PSW District office and a youth delegate from the JACL Riverside Chapter.