

PACIFIC CITIZEN

★ VETERANS DAY ISSUE ★



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VETERANS RECALL VIETNAM

Decades later, scars and questions still haunt Nikkei who served in America's most controversial war.

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Photographer Captures Veterans' Spirit in New Book.

JACL Calls Foul on MLB Decision

JACL and other Asian American community groups express dismay over MLB's ruling regarding Yuli Gurriel's offensive gesture and derogatory comment aimed at Dodgers' pitcher Yu Darvish.

By P.C. Staff

The morning after the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Houston Astros and forced a deciding Game 7 of the 2017 World Series, JACL National President Gary Mayeda joined a coalition of community groups that expressed dismay in Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred's decision to delay the punishment of Astros' player Yuli Gurriel following his racist mockery of Dodgers pitcher Yu Darvish in Game 3 on Oct. 27.

On Oct. 28, Manfred announced that Gurriel would have to undergo sensitivity training and be suspended without pay for five games beginning in the 2018 season, allowing the Cuban-born player to continue to play in the series.

During the Oct. 27 game, which the Dodgers ultimately lost, Gurriel hit a homerun off Darvish and upon returning to the dugout was seen on national TV making a mocking "slant eye" gesture in reference to Darvish and saying *chinito*, Spanish for "little Chinese boy." Darvish is a Japanese national of Iranian and Japanese heritage.

The incident caused a social media uproar among Asian American community organizations and fans, as well as amongst baseball supporters in general.

Gurriel later issued an apology to Darvish for his actions.

At the Nov. 1 news conference, which was held at the Japanese



PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

(From left) JACL National President Gary Mayeda, JANM's Rick Noguchi, MANAA's Guy Aoki, Rev. Tim Yee and GFBNEC's Mitch Maki during the Nov. 1 press conference

American National Museum in Little Tokyo, Mayeda compared Manfred's punishment to a parent disciplining a child months after misbehavior.

"Baseball is a test of skills, but more importantly, it is a test of character and respect," Mayeda said. "Commissioner Manfred, you fell short of that test and should have suspended Yuli Gurriel immediately."

Mayeda, asked by the *Pacific Citizen* whether he had watched the live broadcast of Friday night's game and Gurriel's gesture, said he had not.

"I found out about it over social media, the Internet and just seeing all the images come out, and I was

just shocked and appalled," he said. "I thought it was an older picture. I really couldn't believe it was a current image from the game that was on the night before."

Mayeda said he also received supportive comments from different individuals and community organizations following the incident.

"It was a shock," he said. "I really couldn't believe this would happen today. It was a lesson for our community to figure out how to react to it."

Also at the news conference, Rev. Tim Yee of the Union Church of Los Angeles cited church member Hagi Kusunoki and her late husband, George, a member of the

100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In WWII, the segregated U.S. Army unit, comprised mostly of Americans of Japanese descent, famously rescued 211 members of the so-called "Lost Battalion," the 1st Battalion of 141st Texas Regiment that had been trapped behind enemy lines for several days. The 442nd suffered more than 800 casualties in the rescue and its members were famously made "honorary Texans." George Kusunoki was awarded the Bronze Star in that battle.

"Hagi and George made incredible sacrifices for their country so that we would always remember the pain and injustice that racism can lead to," Yee said as he held up a photo of Hagi Kusunoki. "So, when 40,000 fans give a standing ovation to Yuli after being cleared to continue playing in the World Series, I think that Hagi's story has been forgotten."

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans called on Manfred to not only have Gurriel undergo sensitivity training but also make such training a requirement for all Major League ballplayers. MANNA's Guy Aoki also wanted Gurriel to come to Los Angeles for a meeting and tour of the Japanese American National Museum to "learn how at least one community has suffered because of ignorance, stereotypes and racial animosity."

Mitch Maki, president and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center, also weighed in, saying that "Major League Baseball failed to seize the moment. They failed to take the opportunity to say to Americans across the nation that racism has no place in baseball."

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NIKKEI VOICE

A Salute to Our JA Veterans

By Gil Asakawa

When the word “veterans” comes up in conversations within the Japanese American community, I suspect most of the time the image the word conjures is a picture of Nisei soldiers of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team fighting during World War II. More and more people might think of the Military Intelligence Service, the lesser-known group of Nisei who served bravely during WWII in the Pacific, island hopping with Gen. Douglas MacArthur and then helping as interpreters in the U.S. Occupation of Japan. So many of the MIS kept mum about their experience because the government demanded secrecy about their service. Today, they deserve the spotlight of history to shine brightly on their accomplishments.

These men are the JAs’ “Greatest Generation,” the generation that came of age before the baby boomers and fought for the rights that so many of us enjoy without worry today.

Their invocation is appropriate.

It’s even more important to remember them and celebrate their accomplishments today, as so many are passing from our families and communities.

I salute the Japanese American WWII veterans, always have.

And, I also salute all the thousands of other JAs who’ve served in America’s military, both men and women, in both wartime and peace.

My father was in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. His journey there makes for an interesting story (and a future book-in-waiting). He was born and raised in Honolulu, but my grandfather took the entire family, including my then-8-year-old dad, to Japan in 1940. Bad timing, obviously. He and his siblings attended Japanese schools and were teased as American spies. They spoke only Japanese outside the home and sang Glenn Miller songs inside at night.

After WWII when my dad was 13 years old, he went to work for the U.S. Occupation Forces . . . as a houseboy. When he was old enough, he joined the Army, worked for the CIC, the Counter Intelligence Corps, mainly interrogating returning Japanese prisoners from Siberia and identifying potential Communist sympathizers

and spies.

When the fighting broke out in Korea, my father was sent there. Back in Japan, he was stationed in Nemuro, Hokkaido — my mom’s hometown. They met, they married, and my two brothers and I were all born in Japan.

My dad was a handsome, dashing figure in his uniform, with dimples punctuating his impish grin. We grew up around U.S. military bases in Tokyo and later, in Iwakuni, south of Hiroshima, but we always lived off base. That’s because after I was born, my father was told my grandfather was dying, and he came to live with us. Because my grandfather was a Japanese national, we couldn’t live on-base. My brother and I took the bus to base schools for elementary school in English and then played with our Japanese neighborhood pals in the afternoons.

My dad kept working for the Army as a civilian — he took a transfer to a Corps of Engineers job in northern Virginia in the 1960s, and we moved stateside. He remained involved with the U.S. military through the Army Reserve, and he would fly often to Japan to Camp Zama, or to San Diego every year, for Reserve duty. Only upon his death in 1992 did I find

out that he had been instrumental in U.S.-Japan negotiations with Russia over the disputed islands, and he received a commendation from the Japanese government and a U.S. government peacetime medal at his funeral.

He never talked about his military life, even though we grew up around bases and PXes for shopping and were very familiar with the “look” of military bases everywhere, with their wide-open roads decorated with statues and military equipment like tanks and jets, tidy rows of low buildings (that all

were painted institutional green inside) and barracks and schools. He never acted particularly “military” at home, except we all made our beds like they were Army cots, and we always had dinner at 5:30 on the minute.

He never talked about the Army. He’d get nostalgic when he hung out with his military pals and they drank beers — lots of beers. But he never told us about his childhood experience in Japan until he was diagnosed with cancer, and I asked him what it was to be at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. “I don’t know,” he said. “I wasn’t there.” That’s when he explained how his family had gone back to Japan the previous year.

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PHOTO: COURTESY OF GIL ASAKAWA



Gil Asakawa’s father, George, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. Following the war, he continued to work for the Army as a civilian.



YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

Speech and Social Change

By Kenji Kuramitsu,
JACL NY/SC Representative

I recently returned from the JACL’s fall National Board meeting, held in our San Francisco office on Oct. 21. Some highlights from our time together were working through our strategic plan with Deb Ikeda and Rob Buscher, spending quality time with other young community leaders and meeting our organization’s new Masaoka and Inouye fellows.

One comment that *P.C.* Editorial Board Chair Gil Asakawa shared stuck with me: the *Pacific Citizen* is in many ways this organization’s *organ*. That is, this forum is a living member of the wider JACL body, forming public connective tissue that helps us to actively

structure our community discourse and values.

As Maya Angelou observed, the written and spoken word clings to us: “Words are things . . . they get on the walls. They get in your wallpaper. They get in your rugs, in your upholstery and your clothes — and finally into you.”

Words carry immense power to order and define reality. Through the enchantments of speech, we enact the powers of life and death upon one another, summoning either healing or great destruction.

The battle for words and their meanings is why we write and speak with such fervor. It’s why the JACL produced a handbook called “Power of Words,” decrying “internment” terminology and other phrasing as “euphemistic and misleading vocabulary.” In addition to “enemy nonalien” and “relocation

camp,” there may be other rhetoric we should bury.

For instance, we can challenge the idea that we are an “immigrant nation.” As many indigenous and black voices have pointed out, this teaching is violent fable, based on a fundamentally unjust premise — one cannot build a multicultural democracy upon a settler colonial state founded upon genocide and enslavement.

Language allows us to properly diagnose oppression or to mask it with euphemism and gloss. Our capitol’s stunning monument to the Nikkei incarceration is officially named “Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during WWII.” A more honest name, one critical of the state-run concentration camps, was eschewed in favor for inscribing a blood atonement politics of respectability onto our

communal history.

Our language shapes our values and our public witness. One of the lessons I’ve learned during my tenure as National Youth Representative is that some of the nastiest intergenerational squabbles I’ve dealt with in the JACL have come from our lack of a shared vocabulary for social justice.

One of the ways that we can bridge this experiential gap and enrich age-diverse conversation and shared youth/elder activism is through introducing and standardizing consistent language that other activist movements have long enshrined.

For instance, empty vernacular such as “racial tension” may be more effectively remedied by terms such as “white supremacy,” a more accurate descriptor of the central organizing principle in American public life.

When we get too far ahead of our own people, it can be easy to mistake one another for the enemy. We cannot afford to leave one another behind. Participating in an intensive antiracism or social justice competency training with your local chapter board, district council or other body may be one key way of narrowing this yawning gap. Do any groups offer trainings like this in your area? Are there better ways you can think of to further decolonization and critical consciousness in your JACL community?

Your honest speech can be a tool to address the ongoing currents of violence and exclusion that pervade our society. You can start at your next chapter meeting, on social media or even by writing an article here in the *P.C.*

Let’s use our voices and our actions in whatever spheres of influence we have access to in order to daily denounce the snares of colonialism and capitalism.

Kenji Kuramitsu is the NY/SC Youth Representative of the JACL.

JACL Identifies Strategic Plan as Means to Secure Organization's Longevity

The National Board convenes in San Francisco to re-energize its efforts to show people why they should be a JACL member.

By P.C. Staff

Action. It's a term that the JACL has long been familiar with since its inception in 1929. Through the years, that terminology has been used to see the follow-through of great moments in the organization's history — from civil rights advocacy to redress to supporting landmark court cases.

It's a term that JACL still recognizes and fights for, clearly now more than ever, as the organization was all about "action" at its latest National Board meeting, conducted at its San Francisco headquarters from Oct. 21-22.

JACL convened to outline a "strategic plan" that opened up a broad discussion about the organization's mission statement, its vision for the future and how to best ensure its sustainability in an ever-evolving world.

Chief among topics discussed were financial fundraising initiatives, membership goals and ways for all JACL chapters to work together along with the National Board to remain relevant.

"We have a lot of work to do with this organization to re-energize our grassroots network," said Executive Director David Inoue. "One of my goals is that JACL is known for its political clout and its strength in that area. We are the only Asian American group that has chapter membership across the country. . . . That's something I really want



The JACL National Board convened at its San Francisco headquarters on Oct. 21 to discuss the organization's current state of affairs.

to work on to get our chapters and members engaged in this process."

And it is paying off. Inoue noted that JACL chapters have been working closely together on many important social issues, including grassroots advocacy on the DACA/Dream Act, the Tule Lake Fence Proposal and writing letters to support Fred T. Korematsu Day in New York City in 2018.

Inoue, who officially joined the organization in July, has been working to ensure that all of the organization's moving parts are in concert with each other.

"We're all in this for the same reason," he said. "We love this organization and want it to move forward. We just need to figure out the best way on how to do that."

As part of the organization's strategic plan, JACL is working on a fundraising campaign to raise \$1 million, as National Secretary-Treasurer Alan Nishi outlined during his report that although the organization's YTD revenue (as

of July 31) exceeds the budget by \$217,000, fundraising revenue is still \$49,000 below the forecasted amount, the P.C. is \$44,000 less than budgeted, grants are \$30,000 below budget and membership revenue was \$11,000 less than budgeted.

Nishi noted that a general donation of \$100,000 and bequest of \$90,000, as well as high-performing investment income due to strong market conditions largely accounted for this surge.

"My target is to build at least 20 percent of the budget so that we can stash it away into our reserve funds. It's set up right now for any surplus to go into the reserve," Nishi stated.

VP of Membership Haruka Roudebush, along with Membership Coordinator Mariko Fujimoto, outlined an aggressive strategy to increase membership.

Membership is currently at a 2 percent overall decline through Oct. 19, though some chapters have had more than a 10 percent



JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow Mackenzie Hirai (left) and Daniel K. Inouye Fellow Elle Kurata were introduced at the National Board meeting. Both fellows will be based in Washington, D.C.

increase. Top-performing chapters include Chicago, Portland, Sacramento, Seattle and Watsonville-Santa Cruz.

Roudebush also announced plans to form a National Membership Committee that would work on objectives to raise membership across all chapters, in addition to collaborating with the NY/SC to launch a social media campaign to raise JACL's profile and presence with all people.

Looking ahead, VP of General Operations Michelle Amano announced that next year's National Convention will be held in Philadelphia from July 18-22.

"A big idea within this convention is to make sure that it shows that JACL is relevant, exists and you should be a part of it," said Philadelphia Board Member Rob Buscher. "Through this convention, we're hoping to have larger connections with the AAPI community. From a national perspective, we're hoping to highlight our past and our future." ■

Manzanar Set to Host Special Veterans Day Program

In 1943, 22-year-old Marine Pfc. Robert E. Borchers returned from fighting in the Pacific to learn that the U.S. had incarcerated 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens. In October, he wrote a fiery letter in defense of Japanese Americans, saying, "We are fighting for freedom for all Americans regardless of their ancestry. Yes, we believe in those things for which we fight, and we believe in fighting until we get those inalienable rights, liberty and justice for all, no matter how long it takes to secure them." His letter was published in Time magazine, angering some but lifting the spirits of many others — including Japanese Americans who read his words from behind barbed wire.

Robert Borchers Jr. will share his late father's incredible story in the West Theater at the Manzanar National Historic Site in Independence, Calif., on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m.

Also in attendance will be Ross Stone of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe, who will speak about local Native American veterans, and Manzanar Latino Heritage Intern Rocio Gomez, who will highlight Ralph Lazo, a Mexican Irish American who joined his Japanese American friends at Manzanar. Lazo lived in the camp until 1944, when he volunteered for the U.S. military.

"As we honor the many contributions by these special military veterans, I am reminded that veterans throughout our nation's history have been protecting our freedoms and our constitution. I invite all veterans to join us and share your own, or a loved one's story," Manzanar Superintendent Bernadette Johnson. "You are welcome to bring photos or other memorabilia to show."

The program, which is free and open to the public, is co-sponsored by Manzanar's nonprofit partner, the Manzanar History Assn., which is supporting Borchers' travel from Wisconsin. MHA will also provide light refreshments following the program. ■

Marine Pfc. Robert Borchers during World War II



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ROBERT BORCHERS JR.

Former Congressman Mike Honda Feted at San Jose

JACL Dinner

A capacity audience was on hand to help the San Jose JACL honor the life-long accomplishments of former U.S. Congressman Mike Honda at the chapter's annual dinner at the Holiday Inn in San Jose, Calif., on Oct. 21.

In keeping with the evening's informal atmosphere, guests were greeted with a life-size photo of Honda in fishing gear, with directions for them to take "selfies" with the honoree.

Serving as the evening's master of ceremonies was Mike Inouye, traffic anchor at NBC Bay Area, who also moderated a "Fireside Chat" as a vehicle for recounting Congressman Honda's distin-



Pictured (from left) are David Inoue, Mike Honda, Sharon Uyeda and Tom Oshidari

guished history and service to his community. In addition, a video created by student interns Jason and Josh Fujinaga highlighted comments from local citizens who

voiced their appreciation to Honda.

A commendation was also presented to Honda by Dave Cortese, president of the Santa Clara Board of Supervisors, followed by a joint

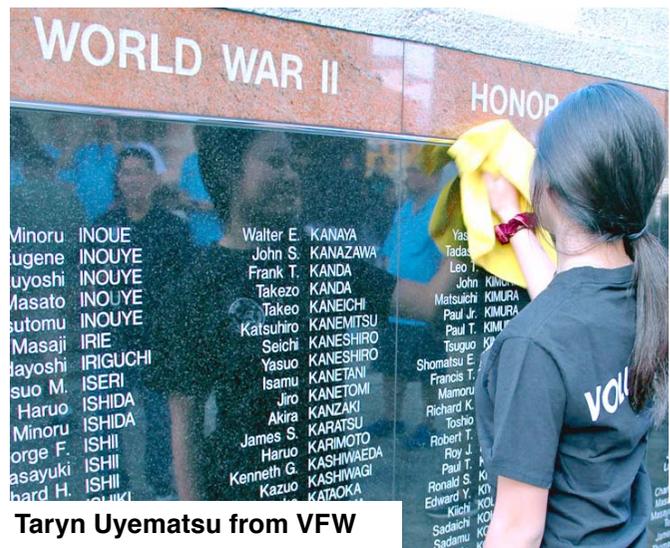
toast by the Honorary Committee and special guests, including JACL Executive Director David Inoue, Union Bank's Nancy Okubo, Yosh Uchida, Dr. Jerrold Hiura and Robert Handa, host of NBC Bay Area's "Asian Pacific America," who was also Honda's former student.

Acknowledging Honda's enjoyment of karaoke, the evening concluded with a musical performance by an ensemble of local musicians.

Serving as the event's co-chairs were Tom Oshidari and Sharon Uyeda; committee members included Reiko Iwanaga, Joyce Iwasaki, Leon Kimura, Iris Lous, Joyce Oyama and Steve Yamaguma. Sponsors included Hiura, Union Bank and California Retired Teachers Assn. — Mid-Peninsula, Division 54. ■

PHOTO: GARY JIO

PHOTOS: RONALD YAMADA



Taryn Uyematsu from VFW



Kole Kikuta uses a power washer to clean up the Memorial Wall.



Members of the Yonsei Basketball Assn. participated in the Oct. 28 "Spit & Polish" event at the Japanese American Veteran's monument.

HONORING AND PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN HEROES

Youth take part in the biannual 'Spit & Polish' event at the Japanese American Veteran's monument in Little Tokyo.

Every spring and fall, a group of young people gathers together at the biannual "Spit & Polish" event in Little Tokyo at the Japanese American Veteran's Monument, located just outside of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

Hosted by the JA National War Memorial Court Preservation Committee, participants help clean up and maintain Memorial Court. The most recent cleanup occurred on Oct. 28.

Following is a reflective essay written by Kiley Murakami, who participated along with fellow youth from the Yonsei Basketball Assn. in the spring event on May 13, as well as the Oct. 28 cleanup.

Last spring, my friends and I had an opportunity to represent the Yonsei Basketball Association at the annual 2017 Spring "Spit & Polish" event in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

At first, I just thought that we would be helping to clean an important Japanese American Veteran's Monument outside of the

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. What transpired that day, however, would change the way we look at our lives.

Yonsei volunteers comprising of Kyle Eng, Kylee Ishibashi, Ty Nishikawa, Emily Sarashina, Katie Ikemoto, Micah Misumi, Brendan Ikeda, Alyssa Miyamoto, Nolan Tanaka, Tyler Minami, Hannah Tanita, Tyson Murata and I arrived at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court located next to the JACCC.

There, we met Ron Yamada, who helped to coordinate this event for us, and he introduced us to Ken Hayashi, a Vietnam War veteran, as well as other Japanese American veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War.

As we assembled in the Memorial Court, Hayashi handed each of us a picture and short biography of a Japanese American veteran whose name was on one of the granite walls. What was striking to us was how young all of the soldiers looked. All the soldiers were only a few years older than we were.

We found the names of the soldiers on the wall, and we stared at them. Some of us touched the names with our hands. It was a solemn moment — we realized that all of the names had faces and stories behind them. Now, cleaning the Memorial Court took on a deeper meaning.

We followed the direction of Javier from the JACCC, and we power-washed the walls and concrete floors. Then, we hand dried and polished the black-granite monument until it was shiny.

As I passed my cloth over the engraved names, I silently told the fallen veterans, "Everything is all clean now. Thank you for all that you have done, so that I can have the life that I have today."

I am sure that my Yonsei friends that were furiously polishing the black granite were having the same silent conversations with their parts of the memorial, too.

Next, we gathered at the JACCC for lunch and visitation with some very special Japanese American war veterans.

Jim Yamashita was the first to speak to us. He was a

member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II. He spoke about some of the names on the Memorial Court wall, and one of the first casualties that he would remember forever. A young Japanese American soldier was hit by enemy fire and called out, "Okaasan, Okaasan," as he lay wounded.

Min Tonai, a Korean War veteran, spoke of fighting for a country that took his father away from the family for more than three years during WWII. He was also imprisoned along with his family in a concentration camp.

Don Suehiro, a Vietnam War veteran, told us that he understood that we were too young to fully know or understand about the Japanese American involvement in the wars or the camps, but we should. Yes, I thought. We definitely should.

As the meeting wrapped up, I noticed a sense of quiet appreciation on the faces of all the Yonsei players and our parents. It was an emotional and educational afternoon for all of us.

We were there to provide community service to the JACCC by

cleaning the Memorial Court, but the special veterans that met with us that day gave us an invaluable lesson on a greater type of community service.

Jim Yamashita and the panel of veterans never complained about their hardships and the prejudice that they and their families had to endure. They never spoke about their personal accomplishments, but instead chose to tell us about the brave soldiers that they fought alongside with and those that lost their lives too early.

The veterans wanted to convey that they fought hard for their families and fought hard for their country, so that no one could ever say anything bad about the Japanese Americans. The Japanese American veterans left us a wonderful legacy, and all of us Yonsei players appreciate their humbleness, honor, courage, love for family and the United States of America.

Memorial Day has passed and now Veterans Day is coming up soon. I hope all of us will reflect on the way that the Japanese American veterans have touched our lives and have made it possible for us to have the lives that we have today.

Arigato, Arigato!

Kiley Murakami resides with her parents in La Palma, Calif. She is currently a freshman at Oxford Academy in Cypress, Calif. Along with balancing schoolwork with on-campus activities such as student government, clubs and choir, Murakami also is a Girl Scout and plays basketball. This past summer, she traveled to Shimane, Japan, as a member of the Yonsei Basketball Assn., an experience of a lifetime.

PHOTO: RONALD YAMADA



Biographies of fallen veterans memorialized on the tribute wall were given to participants, detailing each soldier's life and ultimate sacrifice for their country.

PHOTO: ROBERT HORSTING



Kiley Murakami at the Memorial Court

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

JAPANESE AMERICAN VETS STILL PONDER THE VIETNAM WAR

Scars, questions still haunt Nikkei who served during America's most-controversial war.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor,
Digital & Social Media

More than four decades have passed since the Fall of Saigon ended the United States' military exploits in Vietnam and other parts of Southeast Asia. The Vietnam War was the first war America lost.

That war, plus the ever-present Cold War, combined with changing social norms and challenges to the status quo that arose in the 1960s — the Civil Rights Movement, the Anti-War Movement, the Draft, the Generation Gap, Women's Liberation, assassinations of national leaders, increased environmental awareness, psychedelic drugs and that so-called music young people were listening to — strained nearly every facet of American life to the breaking point.

The Japanese American community was not unaffected by those strains and changes that were blowing in the wind. When the term *model minority* was coined in 1966 by the *New York Times* in reference to Japanese Americans, there were, below that composed surface, fissures that would manifest soon in campus unrest, drug abuse, gang activity, a burgeoning Yellow Power Movement — and mixed feelings by Asian Americans about being called upon to go to war against other Asians to keep communism at bay in a land that many might have been challenged to find on a world map.

In the larger society, those strains would impact even the political fortunes of the men who sat in the Oval Office. Now, with a new, polarizing POTUS occupying that same Oval Office, it's worth noting that many splits and strains seem to be on the rise again, meaning it may be the time to revisit the still-ringing reverberations caused by the Vietnam War.

"People, welcome to Vietnam," bellowed the senior NCO of the Tropic Lightning Division Replacement Training School. "You have arrived at the end of the world.

Gravity does not exist here. You remain on the ground only because this whole country sucks. Even the birds here fly upside down because there's nothing worth shitting on in the whole country.

— Excerpted from "Wolfhound Samurai," written by Vincent H. Okamoto

When the 10-part, 18-hour long "The Vietnam War" premiered in September, the first installment of the Ken Burns-Lynn Novick-directed epic documentary garnered the season's highest Nielsen ratings for pubcaster PBS.

Among the dozens of soldiers and civilians interviewed for the documentary was Vincent H. Okamoto, a former Army Ranger who served in the infantry as a second lieutenant in Vietnam circa 1968. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and would eventually be inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge since 2002, Okamoto also authored "Wolfhound Samurai," a novel inspired by the experiences his men and he encountered while fighting in the jungles, swamps, tunnels and rice paddies of Vietnam.

While Okamoto's profile was raised thanks to "The Vietnam War" documentary, there were other Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during that war.

On a recent evening in Long Beach, Calif., the *Pacific Citizen* hosted an informal dinner at Number Nine — not ironically, a Vietnamese restaurant owned by Hideki "Dickie" Obayashi — to discuss with three Japanese American Vietnam War-era vets their experiences from decades ago, compare notes and talk story about their not-so disparate experiences.

At 73, Art Ishii is the eldest amongst the trio of vets and the lone member of the Air Force, the military branch in which he served during the 1960s for five years — two years stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas, which he hated, and then three years stationed

at Tachikawa Air Base in Japan, which he loved.

"I was so happy to get the orders to go to Tachikawa. Frankly, for the most part, the three years when I was overseas were some of the best years of my life," said Ishii.

But before that assignment, Ishii says he recalls two huge events that happened in his first year of active duty.

"I got out of boot camp and immediately there was the prospect of World War III because of the Cuban Missile Crisis," he said. "We're on alert for like, 60, 90 days, because we were a Strategic Air Command base. Within a year, (President John F.) Kennedy gets assassinated. Boom. We go on red alert again, and I'm guarding a B-52."

At the time for Ishii, Vietnam was the furthest thing from his mind. Although never stationed in Vietnam, he did visit while on TDY (temporary duty) during his stint at Tachikawa, which he saw go from a small, sleepy American military outpost to a buzzing pit stop for the thousands and thousands of U.S. troops on their way to Southeast Asia as America's involvement in the war escalated.

... 2.7 million Americans would be sent to fight in Vietnam. More than 58,000 would be killed. Nearly 300,000 would be wounded. Over 2 million Vietnamese would die.

— "Wolfhound Samurai"

"You started hearing little ripples about places you've never heard of before — French Indochina, then you start hearing about Vietnam. By the time they joined, Vietnam was obvious," Ishii said.

The "they" to whom Ishii was referring are David Miyoshi and Mike Nakayama, both 68, who each served in Vietnam as Marines, officer and enlisted, respectively — and both had experiences while in training of being singled out as Americans of Asian ancestry, including being called racial slurs that are no longer tolerated in today's military.

While Nakayama recalls be-

ing "so traumatized" by the entire boot camp experience that when it happened, "it was just another incident" — but the time when a drill instructor called him up before at least 100 other recruits during a lecture remains an unsettling memory.

"This drill instructor looks at me and goes, 'Pvt. Nakayama, stand up.' I was like, 'Oh no, what did I do now?'"

"I stood up, and he goes, 'Turn around so everybody can see you,'" Nakayama continued. "So, I did a 360, and he goes, 'All right everybody, this is what a gook looks like. You remember this because this is the person that you need to kill when you get over there. You can sit down now.'"

Nakayama remembers being worried, thinking, "This is not cool because everyone's going to have loaded weapons and if I look like [the enemy], what's going to keep them from doing something to me?" Fortunately, Nakayama said that when he got to Vietnam, he wasn't "singled out as an enemy by my fellow Marines."

For Miyoshi, when he was in the 13-weeklong Officers Candidate School, an older, wizened NCO who had fought the Japanese at the Battle of Guadalcanal during WWII seemed to zero in on him.

"Sgt. Keyes was always just staring at me," Miyoshi said.

Noting that there was a 30 percent failure rate for OCS, the challenges were not just physical — which Miyoshi says were quite severe — but also mental, emotional and psychological.

"They're constantly messing with your head," Miyoshi said. "That racial element — not only for Asians, but also for blacks and Latinos — this is the weakest point, they believe, for a human being, that sense of who you are and if they can attack that part and they can get this guy off balance, they can see what you're made of."

Miyoshi remembers, ironically enough, that on Dec. 7, 1966 — two weeks away from learning if he would graduate or not — Sgt. Keyes yelled, "Sgt. Miyoshi, get your

An early morning photograph of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

fucking ass up here," summoning him in front of the other candidates.

The sergeant tossed him a rifle and had him put on a coolie hat and black clothing.

"All right, face us now and growl, goddamn it," Keyes ordered him. To the assembled candidates, Keyes said, "This is what you'll be facing in 'Nam, and when you see it, you kill it! You got that? You kill it!"

"I was getting kind of angry," Miyoshi recalled, while thinking, "Why blow it now? Just look down." Keyes then ordered him to put the props away.

"As I was putting the stuff back, an arm comes around me," Miyoshi said. It was Sgt. Keyes. In a whisper, he said, "Candidate Miyoshi, you're going to make a fine lieutenant." Then he just turned around and walked away. It was sort of an early Christmas present for Miyoshi, being told two weeks before everyone else that he had passed OCS — and his next two weeks were stress-free.

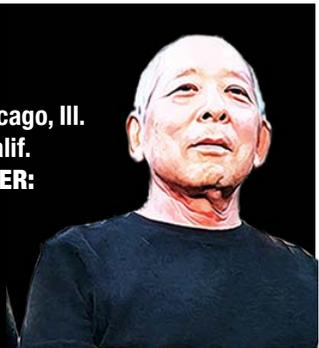
Unlike Nakayama and Miyoshi, Ishii didn't himself have a similar story of being singled out during boot camp for being Asian.

"When they were coming in, I was already on my way out," he said, noting that their experiences and perceptions were much different from his, due to where the U.S. involvement in Vietnam was at the time.

"It's not just the Viet Cong and the NVA you have to fear. Nearly everything in this treacherous country can kill you. An innocent looking object you pick up might be a booby trap rigged to explode in your face. Drink water without purification tablets, and you'll get dysentery. Stay out in the sun without headgear, and you can die of sunstroke. If you don't take malaria pills, you can die from a mosquito bite. You can get blood poisoning from infected leech bites. Vietnam has some of the most poisonous snakes on earth: cobras, kraits and pit vipers. If a krait bites you, the medics can't help. You'll be dead in 30 seconds, so just bend over and kiss your ass goodbye."

— "Wolfhound Samurai"

NAME & AGE: Art T. Ishii, 73
BIRTHPLACE AND/OR HOMETOWN: Chicago, Ill.
CURRENT HOMETOWN: Los Angeles, Calif.
NUMBER OF SIBLINGS AND BIRTH ORDER:
 1 older sister, 2 younger brothers
RANK, BRANCH OF SERVICE & YEARS SERVED: Staff Sergeant, USAF, 1962-67 (2 years in Texas, 3 years in Japan)
REASON(S) FOR SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Needed to get off of the streets/lifestyle change. Chose Air Force solely because while "looking at posters in the recruiter's office, I liked the look of the Air Force dress blues more than the other branch uniforms."
OCCUPATION: Head instructor, Matsubayashi-Ryu Karate of Little Tokyo and owner of a printing and advertising/promotional marketing business



When he was stationed in Vietnam, Miyoshi was part of a combined action platoon — and his first day, while amusing in retrospect, was not so funny at the time, as it underscored the potential hazards of being an American with an Asian face.

As it began to get dark, Miyoshi decided to use the officer's shower. After removing his uniform and while showering, a loud siren went off.

"I was thinking, 'This probably isn't good,'" he said. He was correct — the camp was getting hit with a rocket attack. "All of a sudden, boom, boom, boom!"

Just then, a Marine sergeant was walking by.

"He sees me — an Asian, cowering in the officer's shower, and he runs in there, and he grabs me and throws me against the wall," said Miyoshi.

The sergeant continued to curse at Miyoshi and physically assault him.

"My clothes were in the far corner. I didn't have anything on. I didn't know what to do, so I did the only thing I could think of. I shouted out in English, 'Goddamn it, sergeant, if you touch me on more time, I am going to have you court martialed.'"

The African-American sergeant backed off, uncertainly, and the next morning, an embarrassed Sgt. Bell showed up in front of Miyoshi's desk at 0800 and said, "Lt. Miyoshi, I'm sorry about last night."

Apology accepted, and Miyoshi said from that point on, they had a great relationship. "He was one of my closest sergeants that I had."

Less amusing was what happened to Nakayama when he and his men were hit by a rocket.

"I was medevac'd to Da Nang," he said. Nakayama had shrapnel in his head and face, blown-out eardrums and he had been shot in the chest. Nakayama still has shrapnel in his shoulder.

"They took me to the triage," he recalled. "I was on a stretcher, and they laid me down next to about eight other guys from my squad and my platoon. One by one, they took each of them away and treated them. I was just lying there. I said, 'Hey man, you forget about me? Are you going to do something for me?' They said, 'Shit, why didn't you tell us you was a Marine? We thought you was a gook!' I was like, 'Good thing I said something because they were going to let me fucking bleed out.'"

In addition to being awarded the Purple Heart, Nakayama also received a Bronze Star for, as he put it, rescuing a couple fellow Marines.

"There was no grand cause or noble crusade to fight and die

for in Vietnam. Inevitably, idealism turned to skepticism then deteriorated into cynicism."

— "Wolfhound Samurai"

If World War II was "the good war," and the Americans who fought in it were "the greatest generation," then the Nisei men who served in the Army's segregated and acclaimed 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team had to be considered among the best of the best — and that legacy was something that loomed large over the next generation of Japanese Americans that came of age in time to serve during the Vietnam War.

"As a Japanese American kid, I heard the stories about the 442nd and how much they were touted as heroes of our community and our nationality. They were glorified," Nakayama said. "It had a kind of influence in that sense of being part of that."

Ishii concurred. "I've got uncles who were 442, MIS. You hear of their legendary heroism, things like that," he said.

Compared to WWII, however, the Vietnam War took place not only at a different time, but it also was under a completely different context.

"WWII had a justification and a meaning," according to Miyoshi, and that was Pearl Harbor.

"We didn't have that in Vietnam," he said. "All we had were platitudes. 'We have to stop the scourge of communism, the Domino Theory. If Vietnam falls, then come Cambodia and Laos.'"

As for the war itself, Miyoshi said, "The United States screwed up because we fought the wrong war."

He says there were two wars going on — the smaller war in which units like his combined action platoon — a squad of Marines and a platoon of South Vietnamese regulars — would live in a village together. It included using propaganda and collecting intelligence, but also trying to teach villagers skills like animal husbandry, constructing buildings and raising crops.

"Then there was the big or conventional war led by [Gen. William] Westmoreland. That, to me, was the biggest failure because the whole strategy of the big war was search-and-destroy, search-and-destroy," said Miyoshi. "All you're doing is messing up the country and getting everybody pissed off."

Arguments as to whether the U.S. should have been there in the first place aside, he felt a nationwide "capture-and-hold" approach would have been a better strategy.

Nakayama was blunter in his assessment.

"The Domino Theory was bullshit," he said. "It still is."

Compared with WWII, Nakayama says there was a greater sense of purpose for Japanese Americans

who fought for the U.S.

"It was almost a matter of proving how American Japanese were. It was an opportunity that the 442nd partially took on as a reason," Nakayama said.

In contrast, he says the Vietnam War was America attacking a sovereign nation and not a case of "defending ourselves."

Despite this, Nakayama said he had no hesitation when he volunteered to join the Marines and fight in Vietnam after graduating from Dorsey High School in L.A.'s Crenshaw area — and he ignored those who had been "in country" and counseled him against enlisting.

"I had three friends who had been in [Vietnam] and had come back — actually, only two came back. One of them was killed in Khe Sanh... they never found his body," Nakayama said. "He got hit with a mortar at his feet, and he was gone."

"I knew these guys and they were telling me, 'Don't go. Don't do this,'" Nakayama continued. "And that just made me want to do it more. It was like challenging me, which was a mistake. It's not easy for me to rationally explain. It was just that things were so bad in my day-to-day life with my friends. We were just in this downward spiral of fighting and taking drugs."

It got to the point where Nakayama thought he was going to either die on the streets or get out of there and change his life. Volunteering for Vietnam, however, turned out to be a leap out of the frying pan and into the fire.

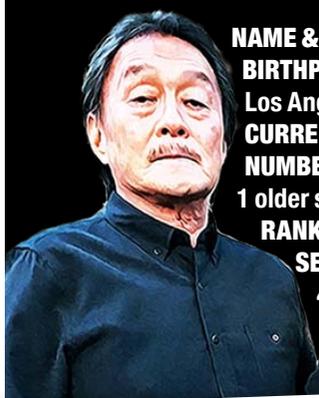
Ishii, who said he also joined the service to escape an environment that had him on a path toward a life of crime and violence, was one of those older guys who advised younger guys about what was going on in Vietnam.

"I was home on leave, maybe '66 or '67, and one guy, maybe a year, year and a half younger than me, came running up to me. He said, 'Hey Art, I want to talk to you. I just got drafted.'"

"I remember telling him, 'Have you considered going to Canada or joining the Coast Guard or the Reserves or something like that?'" he continued. "If you go in, you're going to boot camp, and you're going 'in country.' That's all there is to it.' We talked for a while about what his options were, and I just remember we went on to other things."

"I got back overseas and just a few months later, I got a letter that he had gone to Vietnam and within three weeks, he was killed. I always wondered, 'Did I impress upon him deeply enough?' His name's right there on the [Memorial Court] wall. I go visit him every time I go into Little Tokyo," Ishii concluded.

» See WAR on page 9



NAME & AGE: Mike Nakayama, 68
BIRTHPLACE AND/OR HOMETOWN: Los Angeles, Calif.
CURRENT HOMETOWN: Culver City, Calif.
NUMBER OF SIBLINGS AND BIRTH ORDER:
 1 older sister
RANK, BRANCH OF SERVICE & YEARS SERVED: Corporal, USMC, 1 year, 4 months. Of that, he spent 10-1/2 months in Vietnam. He was wounded twice and was hospitalized for 6 weeks in Vietnam, 2 months at Yokosuka Naval Hospital and 3 weeks in Long Beach, Calif.

REASON(S) FOR SERVING IN THE MILITARY: "I volunteered. I wanted to get away from the negative cycle fighting and drugs in our community. I was looking for some direction and productive focus in my later teen years."

OCCUPATION: Graphic designer



NAME & AGE: David Masao Miyoshi, 68
BIRTHPLACE AND/OR HOMETOWN: Overton, Nev.
CURRENT HOMETOWN: Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.
NUMBER OF SIBLINGS AND BIRTH ORDER: 2 siblings; he is the eldest.
RANK, BRANCH OF SERVICE & YEARS SERVED: Captain, USMC, 1966-69. In Vietnam, Miyoshi led a Combined Action Platoon. He received the Naval Commendation Medal With "Combat V."
REASON(S) FOR SERVING IN THE MILITARY: "I felt it my duty as a citizen of the U.S.A."
OCCUPATION: Attorney specializing in the fields of international business, trusts, wills and real estate.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SHANE SATO



George Morihiro

GEORGE MORIHIRO

From September 21, 1954, Tacoma, Washington
1 Company, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, US Army



"American people don't understand freedom... Until the day you lose it, you'll never understand the word freedom."

On Dec. 7 while Mr. Morihiro was listening to the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor, his son George was confused by his father's reaction of anger at Japan. "I couldn't understand it because I thought he was loyal to Japan and since as I analyzed the whole thing, I realized that he was here since 1918 and had a son in the US Army and it was only right that he felt very much for the USA. After coming to terms with the fact that the war they knew was coming had finally become a reality, George and his family had to take a careful look at their own position and how life would change going forward. When George heard of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which President Roosevelt signed on Feb. 19, 1942, he remembered being different than a lot of other people. "My brother was already in the service. I was very proud of him. I was very proud of my country, and I was very proud of my parents because I knew what side they were on."

Just thinking about the degree to which the Mathews expressed their devotion to the USA, you could imagine the sense of sorrow and shame they must have felt when the government demands meant that they were only to be sent to M...
"When you... by your s...

Toe Yoshino



THE GO FOR BROKE SPIRIT
PORTRAITS OF COURAGE



Don Seki

Photographs by Shane Sato



Barney Hajiro

SHUTTERBUG SATO CAPTURES VETS' 'GO FOR BROKE SPIRIT' IN NEW BOOK

'Portraits of Courage' was nearly 20 years in the making.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor,
Digital & Social Media

In 1999, Shane Sato began what seemed to be a pretty straightforward assignment: shoot portraits of as many still-living Japanese American World War II veterans as possible.

According to the preface of the photographer's newly published coffee-table book "The Go for Broke Spirit," it began when Christine Sato-Yamazaki and Diane Tanaka of the then-still-nascent Go For Broke National Education Center saw some of Sato's work — "portraits of ladies in a retirement home" — and asked if he would take portraits of some veterans, which would be used to publicize the Go For Broke Foundation, back in the pre-Little Tokyo days when the GFBNEC had its offices in Torrance, Calif.

Over time, the initial concept — black-and-white photos of veterans of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service wearing their iconic white Go for Broke/MIS short-sleeved shirts and garrison caps — evolved. In part, it was due to technological advances as photographic film gave way to digital and a decision to also shoot in color.

But Sato also realized he could have a more expansive, inclusive photographic vision that included Army uniforms, weapons and other

props (like a camera for the late Susumu Ito, who famously brought an illicit 35mm Agfa with him as part of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion) — and with other veterans who also embodied the "Go for Broke" spirit.

As the years rolled by, Sato continued to photograph veterans, traveling outside of Los Angeles to Hawaii and Seattle, Wash.

"About five or six years ago, I realized I had a pretty strong collection. People always wanted me to show it in a book, but I didn't know if I had the capability, time and funds to do that," he said.

He had about 80 or so portraits — but he needed some help.

Enter Robert Horsting. Sato had known him for many years, thanks to Horsting's involvement with GFBNEC's Hanashi Oral History Program, which sought to record on video for posterity the recollections of Japanese American veterans of their experiences before they passed away.

Sato continued to work on the portraits and writing the accompanying essays, with Horsting picking up much of the rest of the work of writing, along with Ken Mochizuki, Russell Shogo and Mariko Yukawa.

The source material for those essays, according to Sato and Horsting, was a combination of the Hanashi interviews with the vets, as well as notes and audio recordings from the photo shoots themselves.

"We were lucky," Horsting said, "that these relationships, particularly through the Hanashi Program, being in contact with the 100th Club in Hawaii, the 442nd Club in Hawaii, the Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle — these different organizations and friends and family of Nisei veterans; these were all resources that we were able to contact and help us collect candid photos or even help us identify the guys."

While some vets were comfortable with being photographed, there were also those who were not, and it took Sato's accumulated years of experience and powers of persuasion to get some vets to let their guards down and be photographed.

"A lot of these men were very hesitant to get their photos taken. They didn't want to do it. So, sometimes I would go, and there would be a group of men but only a couple of volunteers," said Sato. "It was very interesting and trying."

If there was one vet Sato regrets not being able to photograph, it was Daniel K. Inouye. Despite repeated efforts, the stars just never aligned due to the busy schedule of the late senator and Medal of Honor winner from Hawaii.

"The Go for Broke Spirit" should have been completed in July, but when Sato went to China to conduct a press check at the Shanghai-based printer, he found many problems.

"When they looked at the pages, I don't think they really cared nec-

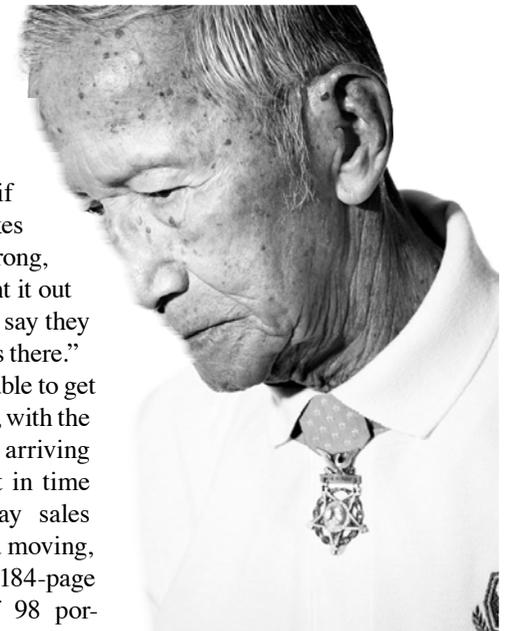
essarily about what I was looking at. They were just trying to get it done as fast as they could," Sato said. "So, if there were some mistakes or something going on wrong, we definitely had to point it out and approve it. Let's just say they were not happy that I was there."

Fortunately, Sato was able to get the project back on track, with the initial shipment of books arriving in early October — just in time for all-important holiday sales — and the end result is a moving, beautiful and delightful 184-page hardcover collection of 98 portraits that are a testament to Sato's skill and expertise at bringing out a revealing, truly human side to each vet.

Sato said there are about 40 unpublished portraits and some vets who are still alive who he would like to photograph for a second volume. It is, however, a race against the clock, with any still-living vets now in their 90s.

To accomplish this goal, Sato and his team have set up a Kickstarter program to raise necessary funds to cover the costs of, for example, a trip to the East Coast. (*The Kickstarter URL is tinyurl.com/y9ftz99m*.)

Sato and Horsting note that all the vets who appear in the book — or their families, if they've passed away — are getting a gratis copy of "The Go for Broke Spirit." For everyone else, however, the cover



price is \$45. The book can be purchased online (*TheGoForBrokeSpirit.com*), with tax, postage and handling boosting the price to \$60.

Sato says he will also be in person to sell books Dec. 3 at the St. Francis Xavier Church Japanese Catholic Center's (aka Maryknoll) festival. Interested parties can also learn more at *Facebook.com/goforbroke-spirit/*.

So, nearly 20 years after he began photographing his heroes, Sato is at the beginning stages of a new project: getting the book that collects those photos out to the public.

"I want people to remember what they did when they had everything against them," Sato said. "Hopefully, the next generation will be able to look at what these men did and talk about that." ■

MLB >> continued from page 2

Asked if an "official letter" had been sent to Major League Baseball regarding the concerns of the organizations represented at the news conference, JANM COO Rick Noguchi said letters would be sent to both the League and Guriel.

To read JACL National President Gary Mayeda's full statement, visit www.jacl.org.



PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

Rev. Tim Yee of the Union Church of Los Angeles holds up a photo of Hagi Kusunoki holding the Bronze Star awarded to her late husband, George Kusunoki.

VETERANS >> continued from page 3

I've met other Japanese American veterans over the years, including many who, like my father-in-law, were stationed in Okinawa in the years before we got tangled in Vietnam. Or my wife's uncle, who served during Vietnam while protests raged at home. I was glad that there was a Japanese American Vietnam veteran who was interviewed in some of the episodes of Ken Burns' landmark "The Vietnam War" documentary series. It shows we've served as patriots throughout American history.

JAs — and, in fact, Asian Americans from across the ethnic landscape — have served in all the "modern" wars in Afghanistan,

Iraq, Iran and Syria. I would lay odds that AAPIs and JAs are serving as I write this, in the secret or lesser-known battlefields of Niger and elsewhere in central Africa.

So, I want to pay tribute to the awesome Nisei who fought to display their valor and for our pride, and for every Japanese American who has put on an American uniform in the decades since. We all owe you so much.

Thank you, truly, for your service.

Gil Asakawa is chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

WAR >> continued from page 7

His name was Skylar Hasuike.

"For many returning veterans, it was a bittersweet homecoming marked by cold indifference or overt hostility."

— "Wolfhound Samurai"

Because of their service, Ishii, Miyoshi and Nakayama all had experiences most civilians avoid. Despite not having a combat role, Ishii was surprised by a medical diagnosis related to his five years in the Air Force.

"It was 40 plus years later that the VA told me — and I was absolutely shocked — that I had PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder)," Ishii said. "I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Mike would have PTSD. David would have PTSD. I got no business having PTSD! But over the course of the VA getting to know me, they said it was classic, yours is just emerging now."

As the Vietnam War escalated and the workload at Tachikawa's big hospital facilities grew, Ishii says he volunteered to help.

"I thought I was a tough guy, but I walked down the hospital ward where I was supposed to look after these guys," Ishii said. "I walked about six beds deep, and I turned around and walked out, and I leaned up against the wall. My knees were weak."

What he saw were fellow Americans, about the same age, with half their faces blown off, missing limbs and with holes in their bodies big enough to see through.

"And maybe the next day you meet and greet some young kid on his way to Vietnam, and he can't wait to kill a gook for God and Country," Ishii said.

Nakayama recalls how he and his men would be used to draw enemy fire and then take cover.

"The lieutenant would call in airstrikes and artillery and blow up the immediate village that we thought it came from," he said. "We would go through that village and find nothing but small children and old women and old men, and they were all blown into pieces. I mean, pieces of a baby's head. I could see the inside of a skull that looked like cheese on a pizza."

With body counts serving as the measurement for success in the prosecution of the war, if they found 20 body parts, they'd count it as 20 bodies.

"That's one of the main things I still think about. I have recurring dreams about that shit because I can't get it out of my head," Nakayama said.

"Like Mike was saying, there are some scenes that are so difficult to erase. Body parts, yeah," Miyoshi concurred. "I had to,

14 years after coming back, go through therapy for PTSD. I was waking up with nightmares. I was taking medication and all that. Gradually, time heals. Knock on wood, but I don't have any of those dreams anymore."

Because of his war wounds, Nakayama says he came back to "the World" — GI slang for the U.S. — on a stretcher, eventually being sent to Long Beach Naval Hospital. Once discharged, readjusting to civilian life was a new challenge.

"I felt like I had just come back from Mars," he said, laughing at it now. "When I came back, I didn't want to ride in a car. I felt so fucking vulnerable. I had to sit in the back, and I was like, 'Slow down, goddamn it! I'm going to fucking die here after surviving the fucking war!'"

In addition to PTSD, all three vets said they still feel residual anger.

"There is anger. There is anger of our country, because of politics, put young men through all of this," Miyoshi said.

For Nakayama, there are also actual physical reminders. "Having shrapnel in my body affects me everyday," he said. "There's not a day that I don't think about it. My ears are ringing louder than any sound that you might hear on a day-to-day basis."

If there's any lesson to pass on from his experiences fighting in Vietnam, Nakayama said, "The best thing I can do is let people know that it was a bad war."

The wisdom Ishii says he got out of his military service in the 1960s during the time of the Vietnam War is more general.

"We have to just remain vigilant. We, as people of color and as Asian Americans, need to look out for ourselves. How do you do that? You have to be proactive, you have to be vigilant and know our history," he said. "I don't have any kind of link or tie to China or North Korea. But to the general population of, say, whites, we're one and the same. That's why we were gooks. It didn't matter that we were Japanese. Like Mike says, we need to stay out of other people's business unless they really come knocking on our door and bombing our shores."

As for Miyoshi, serving in the military and being stationed in Vietnam gave him a newfound gratefulness for being an American in America.

"I really got to appreciate America for what it had when I came back," he said. "I gained an appreciation for what we have here, albeit we have some pretty messed up politicians and things like that here. That is one of the sole benefits of going through Vietnam — appreciating America."

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As of Memorial Day 2017, there are currently 58,318 names inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall. Approximately 1,200 of these are listed as POW's, MIA's and others.



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Sushi Social 42nd Anniversary of Nihonmachi Little Friends San Francisco, CA
Nov. 17; 6-8 p.m.
Nihonmachi Little Friends
1830 Sutter St.

Price: Suggested donation \$125 per person

Help celebrate Nihonmachi Little Friends' 42nd anniversary with this Sushi Social evening event that will feature a special wine tasting and meeting with local winemaker Jason Mikami of Mikami Vineyards. Guests will also be treated to a musical performance by the trio of Dr. Anthony Brown, Mark Izu and Masaru Koga, as well as a performance by NLF children. Sushi will be prepared by chefs from We Be Sushi. All proceeds from the evening will benefit NLF's programs and its Building Fund.

Info: To make reservations, contact NLF at (415) 922-8898 or nlfchildcare@gmail.com.

'Hold These Truths' Reading San Francisco, CA
Nov. 18; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Cowell Theater
Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture
2 Marina Blvd.

Price: Matinee \$25/\$20 Seniors; Evening \$50 General/\$100 VIP/\$40 Before Nov. 1/\$45 JACL Members

The San Francisco chapter of the JACL presents Jeanne Sakata's "Hold These Truths" featuring Greg Watanabe, which brings to life the courageous actions of Gordon Hirabayashi, who challenged the government's orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast during WWII. Following the evening performance, a panel discussion moderated by SF-JACL's John Hayashi featuring Dale Minami, Don Tamaki and Watanabe will be held along with a post-panel reception. Please note: The event is recommended for ages 14 and up. Contains mature language. The estimated run time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.
Info: Email judy.hamaguchi@gmail.com for tickets or additional information.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts and Food Faire San Francisco, CA
Dec. 16; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral
1111 Gough St.
Price: Free

Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifting needs! This popular event will feature unique homemade and crafted items perfect for everyone on your gift list. A complimentary shuttle

service will be available to/from Japantown, and all proceeds will benefit Kimochi.

Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org or call (415) 931-2294.

PSW

Yayoi Kusama: 'Infinity Mirrors' Los Angeles, CA
Thru Jan. 1, 2018
The Broad Contemporary Art Museum
221 S. Grand Ave.

Price: Advance tickets \$25; Standby tickets \$30; Children 12 and under free

This exhibit will explore the celebrated Japanese artist's immersive Infinity Mirror Rooms — the artist's most iconic kaleidoscopic environments — alongside large-scale installations and key paintings, sculptures and works on paper. Tickets go on sale beginning Sept. 1. Don't miss your chance to view this rare exhibit of Kusama's greatest works.
Info: Visit thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors.

Manzanar Veteran's Day Program Independence, CA
Nov. 11; 2 p.m.

Manzanar National Historic Site 4001 Hwy. 395
Price: Free

Robert Borchers Jr. will share the story of his late father, Marine Pfc. Robert E. Borchers, who in October 1943 wrote a letter that was published in Time magazine in defense of Japanese Americans that were interned during World War II. Ross Stone of the Big Pine Paiute Tribe will also speak about local Native American veterans, and Manzanar Latino Heritage Intern Rocio Gomez will highlight Ralph Lazo, a Mexican Irish American who joined his Japanese American friends in Manzanar.
Info: Call (760) 878-2194, ext. 3310 or visit www.nps.gov/manz.

Soba: A Life of Longevity Los Angeles, CA
Nov. 19, 1-3 p.m.
JACCC Garden Room
244 S. San Pedro Ave.

Price: General \$100, JACCC member \$90

Food writer, cooking instructor and buckwheat advocate Sonoko Sakai will demonstrate the proper traditional soba-making technique and presentation in this intimate culinary workshop. Participants will learn how to make and serve soba in this hands-on class just in time to celebrate the New Year.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Origami With Ruthie Kitagawa: Holiday Wreath and Cards Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 9; 1-3 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave. Price: \$12 members, \$15 nonmembers. Supplies and admission included.

Limited to 10 participants, this workshop led by Ruthie Kitagawa will show participants how to make beautiful cards and a wreath using origami techniques.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Toyo: Behind the Glass Eye Los Angeles, CA
Thru Dec. 10
JACCC

George J. Doizaki Gallery 244 S. San Pedro St.

"Toyo: Behind the Glass Eye" includes photographer Toyo Miyatake's early experimental studio images as well as the more well-known scenes inside the barbed-wire fencing of the Manzanar incarceration camp. Together, these photographs tell the story of an artistic life interrupted by war. (Closed Nov. 3 & 4).

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Omakase Holiday Dinner Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 10; 5 p.m. Cocktails and 6 p.m. Dinner
Chaya Downtown
525 S. Flower St.

Price: \$250
Join the Japan America Society of Southern California as it holds its Executive Chef Omakase Holiday Dinner, an epicurean adventure featuring a five-course meal and wine pairings prepared by the four renowned executive chefs of Chaya, Joji Inoue, Yuko Kajino, Yuichi Natori and Katsuyuki Wako. It promises to be a culinary meal to remember!
Info: Email erber@jas-socal.org.

PNW

Youth Leadership Seminar Series' 'A Primer on 510(c)(3)'s for Young Professionals' Seattle, WA

Nov. 18; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Keiro Rehab Center Garden and Kimochi Rooms 1601 E. Yesler Way
Price: Free but registration required

In this second JACL Youth Leadership seminar presented by the Seattle JACL, it will look at the basics of a 501(c)(3) organization and the do's and don'ts of political advocacy. Wayfind, an organization of volunteer lawyers, will give an overview of topics essential for anyone aspiring to lead an NPO. Funding provided by the Seattle JACL Presidents Fund and made possible in part with a grant from the Robert Chinn Foundation.
Info: Visit <https://jacclleadershipnonprofits.eventbrite.com/>.

Tuna Canyon Detention Station Exhibition 'Only the Oaks Remain'

Portland, OR
Thru Jan. 7, 2018
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
121 N.W. Second Ave.
Price: Adults \$5; Students/Seniors \$3; Free for Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment

This traveling exhibit, sponsored by the National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant 2015, brings to life the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, which housed more than 2,000 individuals during World War II. The exhibit features government documents, diorama, diaries and memoirs from detainees, interviews with detainee descendants and an honor wall in memory of all those interned there.

Info: Visit oregonnikkei.org.

Portland JACL 90th Birthday Bash Happy Valley, OR
Feb. 17, 2018
The Aerie at Eagle Landing
10220 S.E. Causey Ave.

Join the Portland JACL as it celebrates its 90th birthday! Lunch will be hosted at the Aerie at Eagle Landing in Clackamas and entertainment will be provided by the Minidoka Swing Band. More details to follow so stay tuned!
Info: Visit www.pdxjacl.org.

IDC

From the Fire: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics From the Robert and Lisa Kessler Collection Denver, CO
Thru Nov. 19
Denver Art Museum, North Building
100 W. 14th Avenue Pkwy.
Price: Included in general admission

This exhibition features 65 examples of Japanese ceramic arts created by 35 Japanese artists from the collection of Robert and Lisa Kessler. The works include pieces made by master ceramists who were designated as Living National Treasures in Japan, as well as by emerging artists.
Info: Visit www.colorado.edu.

MDC

Kodomo Matsuri Chicago, IL
Nov. 11; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Japanese American Service Committee
4427 N. Clark St.
Price: Free

Join JASC at its annual Holiday Delight and Kodomo Matsuri (Children's Festival). The event features Japanese, Japanese American and Asian handcrafted goods — from jewelry and accessories to specialty paper items, ceramics and books — as well as delicious food such as sushi, teriyaki kabobs and burgers and homemade desserts. Kids will be entertained with games, craft projects Japanese dance and drumming demonstrations and a pre-Christmas visit from Santa!

Info: Call (773) 275-0097.

Chrysanthemum Banquet Bloomington, MN
Nov. 11; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Blvd.

This event will feature a luncheon, silent auction and guest speaker John Matsunaga, a Minneapolis-based visual artist/photographer, educator and activist. His work in the visual arts explores Asian American and Japanese American history, identity and experience, with an emphasis on the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans. He is currently a member of the education committee of the Twin Cities chapter.
Info: Visit tcjacl.org.

EDC

'Hold These Truths' Boston, MA
Dec. 1-31
Lyricstage

140 Clarendon St., 2nd floor
"Hold These Truths," a play by Jeanne Sakata and directed by Benny Sato Ambush, is the story of Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese American college student who resisted incarceration during World War II. Michael Hisamoto plays Hirabayashi.
Info: For more information and tickets, visit <http://www.lyricstage.com/productions/production.cfm?ID=131>.

FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition Hyde Park, NY
Thru Dec. 31
FDR Presidential Library & Museum

4079 Albany Post Road
Price: Regular hours and admission apply.
This special exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.
Info: Visit <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.

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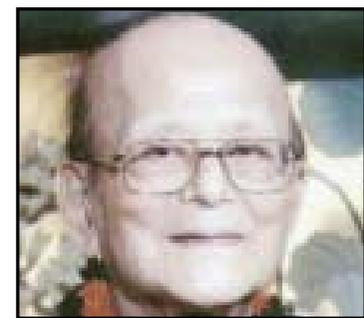
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(213) 620-1767

IN MEMORIAM

Asato, Anne, 89, Torrance, CA, Oct. 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Noboru Asato; she is survived by her daughter, Linda Asato; she is also survived by her sisters-in-law, a brother-in-law, nieces and a nephew; gc: 2.



Eguchi, Michiko, 93, Gardena, CA, Oct. 6; she is survived by her children, Sheila (Ronald) Yamaguchi, Byron (Christine), Wayne (Karen), Dean (Margaret) and Gregory (Ann Marie) Eguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8; ggc: 7.



Fukuji, Charles Masao, 99, Norwalk, CA, Oct. 14; during WWII, he served in the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team; he is survived by his children, Charlotte (Donald) Beier, Ronald (Barbara) and Raymond (Evelyn) Fukuji; gc: 6.



Hashizume, Tom Yoshio, 87, Portland, OR, June 26; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; he was predeceased by his brother, George; and sister, Arlene; he is survived by his sisters, Sato and Kiyoko Hata; he is also survived by many other relatives.

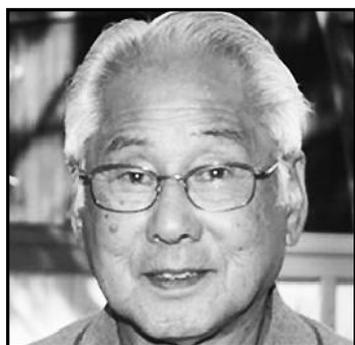


Ichikawa, Dana Kimi, 56, Tustin, CA, Oct. 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Russell Ichikawa, and her father, Tom Tomita; she is survived by her son, Ethan; mother, Tomoko Toni Tomita; brother, David (Sharon) Tomita; 2 nephews; and other relatives and friends.

Ishima, Amy Masako, 92, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 11; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she is survived by her children, Ellen (Duane) Plankell and Raymond; gc: 3.



Kaji, Teruo Bruce, 91, Torrance, CA, Oct. 26; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA and he later served in the Army's MIS; he was also a principal in the founding of the Japanese American National Museum; he was predeceased by his wife, Frances; he is survived by their children, Jonathan (Lisa), Miki Hamill (Brad) and Troy (Marguerita); gc: 8.



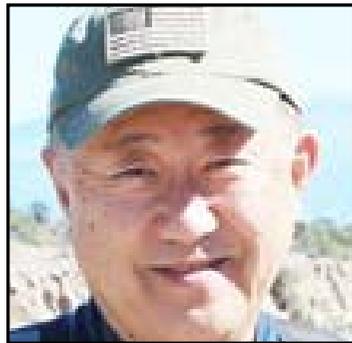
Kawamoto, Takeshi, 84, Loomis, CA, Oct. 17; he is survived by his wife, June; children, Carole and Kent (Janet); siblings, Kawaye, Sadako and Ray; gc: 3.

Kuwata, Lillian, 100, Glendora, CA, Oct. 1; she is survived by her children, Thomas (Delcene) and Albert (Dolores) Kuwata, Madalyne Adams and Jane Patten; gc: 9 and many ggc.

Maeshiro, Kenyu, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 7; he was predeceased by his wife, Mae Maeshiro, and son, Jack Maeshiro; he is survived by his children, Sandy (Kenwood Jung) and Jamie Maeshiro; sister, Florence Yoneko Carr; daughter-in-law, Susan Fujimoto; gc: 4.



Matsumoto, Janet, 72, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 2; she is survived by her son, Ray; siblings, Glenn and Caroline Kurimoto; she is also survived by nieces and nephews and great-nephews.



Sakoguchi, Richard, 60, Foothill Ranch, CA, Oct. 16; he is survived by his wife, Kathleen; siblings, Ben (Jan) and Helen (Yas); sister-in-law, Debbie (Phil); mother-in-law, Dottie.

Taniwaki, Michio, 91, Denver, CO, Oct. 15; he is survived by his wife, Hisae; sons, George and James; and sister, Hideko.

Uchida, Sandra Shigeko, 73, Culver City, CA, Oct. 3; she is survived by her husband, Gennie Uchida; children, Ginelle (Chris) Sebastian and Garrett (Lyssa) Uchida; sister, Patty (Stan) Abe; sister-in-law, Delcene (Tom) Kuwata; gc: 4.

Yanagihara, Toyoji Jimmy, 85, Fresno, CA, Sept. 19; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA in AZ; during the Korean War, he served in the Army as a medic; he was predeceased by his wife, Patsy Harue; he is survived by his son, Dale Michio (Boku).

Yokoyama, Stan, 68, Alhambra, CA, Oct. 20; he is survived by his wife, Arlene (Yamada); children, Jana Yokoyama and Megan (Daryl) Ogawa; sister, Kathy (Wayne) Yamashita; he is also survived by many other relatives.

Yoshimura, Midori, 98, Seattle, WA, Oct. 13; she is survived by her daughter, Ann Kumata; gc: 1; ggc: 2.

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:
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TRIBUTE

ROY H. DOI



Roy H. Doi, distinguished Professor Emeritus of Molecular Biology at the University of California, Davis, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by family, at the age of 84, on Oct. 9. He had been diagnosed with inoperable cancer earlier this year.

Roy was born in Sacramento, Calif., on March 26, 1933, and grew up in Loomis, Calif. His parents immigrated from Japan in the early 1900s and worked as migrant farm laborers to support their family of six children. From 1942-45, the family was incarcerated in the Tule Lake and Heart Mountain internment camps.

Roy was a faculty member in the Molecular and Cellular Biology Department at UC Davis for over 40 years. In 2004, the Asian American Studies Program at UC Davis recognized him for outstanding commitment, generosity and service to the Asian American Studies Program and Community. In 2006, he was elected into the National Academy of Sciences, considered one of the highest honors a scientist can receive. He was also inducted into the Placer High School Hall of Fame in 2009.

Roy married Joyce Nao Takahashi in 1958, and they had two children, Kathryn (James Gold) and Douglas (Amelia Rosales) Doi. After their divorce in 1991, Roy married Joan Ritchie, whom he had first met at the Heart Mountain camp when they were in middle school, on Valentine's Day in 1992. Their happy union lasted until Roy's death. Roy is also survived by his brother, Steven (Charlotte) Doi; sister, Keren Doi; and many grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Roy will be remembered for his intellectual curiosity, his humility, his compassion, his avid support for the Cal football team, the 49ers and baseball and his love of his family, the arts and travel. In 1972-73, he wrote a series of articles for the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper about his experiences as a Nikkei professor on sabbatical in Japan. He will be greatly missed by his family and his colleagues in the scientific community here and around the world.

A memorial service for Roy will be held at the Putah Creek Lodge on the UC Davis campus on Saturday, Nov. 11, at noon (doors to open at 11:30 a.m.). In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts be made to the Roy Doi Memorial Fund at the University of California, Davis. Gifts may be made online at <https://give.ucdavis.edu/go/roydoi> or checks made payable to the UC Davis Foundation and sent to UC Davis, Development and Alumni Relations — Advancement Services, 1460 Drew Avenue, Suite 100, Davis, CA 95616.

TRIBUTE

MASAYASU BILL TAURA



Masayasu Bill Taura died peacefully on Oct. 17 at age 91. Preceded in death by his parents, Kiku and Masajiro Taura, and brothers, Masayuki and Joe. Devoted husband of Martha Masako Taura (Sugimoto), beloved father of Jill Kiku Taura (Takamasa Onose), Richard Bill Taura and Constance Mie Tsuchiya (Todd Tsuchiya). Doting grandfather to Joseph, Jacob and Ian Taura and Kyle Tsuchiya. Visitation was held on Oct. 28 and memorial service was held at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee, Chicago IL 60614.

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DISRUPT EVERYTHING

Recognizing Veterans' Entrepreneurial Spirit

PHOTO: RON MORI

By Ron Mori

November is always a month that reminds me of all the things that I need to be thankful for in my life. I'm especially thankful on Veterans Day, when so many men and women have served our country and so many have paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Of course, the Japanese American community has its rich history of Nisei veterans who fought in World War II, and we will always honor their service.

On Oct. 25, I attended the Filipino and Filipino American Congressional Gold Medal presentation ceremony in Washington, D.C., which was attended by more than 380 family members of veterans who fought in WWII. It was a moving and inspiring ceremony to see 21 living Fil-Am vets finally receive the highest civilian honor for their service to our country.

I heard so many heartfelt stories from family members that came to honor current and fallen heroes from WWII. A common American story was how an uncle or father came back from service overseas and started a business or worked for a couple years and then decided to start a business. "It was a different time in America," said one Fil-Am Veteran, who is 94 years old.

One thing these veterans had in common with others who would open small businesses was their tenacious never-give-up spirit that helped them survive the ups and downs in starting a new business. While November is widely known as a time our country honors and recognizes the contributions veter-

ans have made to our country, it's also a moment we acknowledge the impact entrepreneurs have made to our economy.

In addition to Veterans Day, November is National Entrepreneur Month (as well as National Family Caregiver Month). It's a time we can also acknowledge our veterans who took the leap of faith to open small businesses across the country.

While becoming an entrepreneur is challenging and rewarding all at the same time, tenacity and a leap of faith are sometimes required. As noted, today is a different time than 75 years or even just 10 years ago in America.

Perhaps, now is the time. If you're a veteran, or anyone who's interested in getting your business started but don't know where or how to get started, here are few things to consider: Make a plan, and attend trainings, workshops or webinars.

To get started, register now (www.aarp.org/startabusiness) for the free AARP From Passion to Profit, Part 2: Veteran Entrepreneurship Webinar on Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. EST. If you miss it, you can view the Webinar in our archives along with other entrepreneurship tools (www.aarp.org/50plusentrepreneurship). Or, attend an event during SBA Veterans Small Business Week to learn more about becoming an entrepreneur.

Then, talk to an expert. I'm sure you know someone who has experienced the highs and lows of being a business owner. Reach out and request time to chat. Here you can ask about his or her experiences and how he or she got started, particularly if he or she is in your desired industry. Ask the expert about the challenges and successes

of being a business owner and being one's own boss. From there, you can determine if starting a small business is right for you.

Get a mentor. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has great resource partners such as SCORE, a group of retired business executives, which offer persons in business or interested in starting a business one-on-one assistance to help you get and stay on track. SCORE mentors are located in most cities throughout the U.S. and have a proven track record helping entrepreneurs be successful.

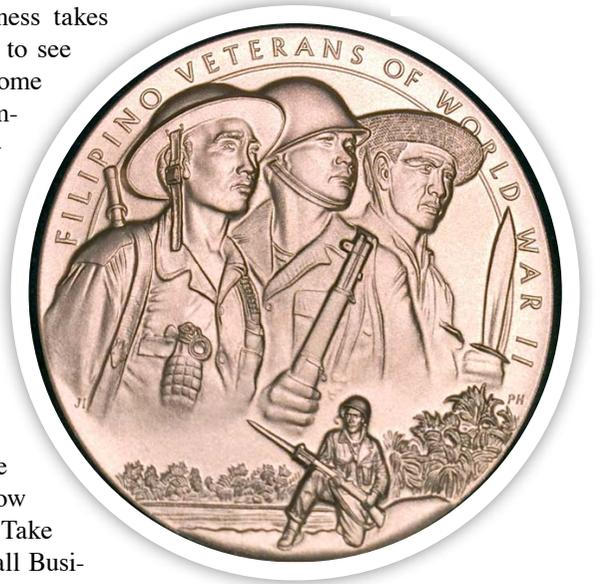
Get funded, and don't feel like you're alone. Funding is one of the most common road blocks to getting your business off the ground. There are a number of nontraditional ways to get funded through entities such as KIVA, Fundera and Community Development Funding Institutions (CDFI) looking to help your business build and grow. Consider seeking an angel investor(s) and/or fundraising through GoFundMe or other online "crowdfunding" sites to get people interested in supporting your business.

Don't let failure stop you. Studies show that many businesses fail in the first five years. This may not apply to you, so don't let that discourage you. Launch-

ing a small business takes risk and fortitude to see your dream become a reality. Be committed to moving from idea to "open for business."

Seek out others' small businesses. The challenges and rewards of self-employment are partly due to the support of fellow business owners. Take a moment on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 25, to support small businesses. Remember, their survival depends on you!

Ron Mori is the co-president of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.



In honor of their military service during World War II, 21 living Fil-Am veterans received the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor, on Oct. 25.

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