

FEBRUARY 19, 1985

Chambers of the Sacramento County Board of  
Supervisors, 700 H Street, Sacramento, California

11:00 a.m. (In Board Chambers)

- Opening Remarks - Chairman Bill Bryan
- Supervisor Illa Collin, author  
of the Ordinance, will  
introduce:
  - recipients of Memorial Fund
  - artists - Yoshio Taylor and  
Hiroshi Kashiwagi
- Poem read by Hiroshi Kashiwagi
- Speakers:
  - \* Ron Wakabayashi, National Director,  
Japanese American Citizens League
  - \* Mary Tsukamoto
  - \* Henry Taketa, Attorney
  - \* Diane Tomoda, Attorney
  - \* Randy Shirol, Human Rights Commission

(Move to Lobby Area)

- 11:30 a.m.
- Chairman Bryan to unveil Memorial
  - Viewing of Display

[JC20E:17]

\* B I O G R A P H I E S \*

YOSHIO TAYLOR - Sacramento Ceramic Artist

Yoshio Taylor's art work has been strongly influenced by the culture and art of his native Japan. He began his art training with a very strict grade school teacher in Japan who taught the fundamentals of traditional Japanese art and also instructed his students to look at nature and learn from their surroundings.

Yoshio received an MFA (Sculpture) from the University of California, Berkeley and an MA (Ceramics) and a BA (Art) from California State University, Sacramento. He is presently an instructor at Cosumnes River College. He has had numerous solo exhibitions at local galleries and art museums. Special projects include: ceramic artwork for the Sacramento Light Rail Art Program, 1984, and a ceramic sculpture in a county park for the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, 1983.

HIROSHI KASHIWAGI - San Francisco Poet, Actor, and Playwright

Hiroshi Kashiwagi was born in Sacramento but grew up in Loomis, Placer County. He went to the University of California at Los Angeles and Berkeley. During World War II, he was interned at Tule Lake. He currently resides in San Francisco, working as the Librarian in charge of Parkside Branch Library.

Hiroshi is an actor, poet, and playwright. He has acted with the Asian American Theatre Company and his film credits include "Hito Hata--Raise the Banner" and "Dark Circle." Some of his publications are: poems in SECOND COMING; AYUMI, Japanese American anthology; and a forthcoming Asian American anthology, "Laughter and False Teeth."

## JAPANESE AMERICANS (1942 - 1945)

removed to prison by Executive Order  
confined within barbed-wire fence  
watchtowers manned by guards  
with rifles and machine guns  
searchlights after dark  
homes, farms, businesses, jobs  
a lifetime in America  
faded like a dream  
their rights as citizens denied  
their loyalty questioned  
still they endured  
planting seeds in desert soil  
their faith in America  
steadfast and strong  
many took up arms  
to defend their country  
serving with distinction  
they were decorated for bravery  
buffeted by wind and sand  
they made the flowers bloom in desert soil  
between rows of bleak tar-papered barracks

released from prison at last  
hope and strength gained  
from a new meaning of freedom  
they worked to rebuild their lives  
became productive citizens again  
securing their rightful place in America  
but the memory of prison life  
and the pain from that experience  
make them fierce guardians of justice  
protectors of the Constitutional rights  
no one in this country  
no one group of people  
should ever suffer the same injustice  
never again should it happen





Bill Bryan, Chairman - 4th District  
Joseph D. (Ted) Sheedy - 1st District  
Illa Collin - 2nd District  
Sandra R. Smoley - 3rd District  
C. Tobias (Toby) Johnson - 5th District

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The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a County Ordinance on May 3, 1983, which established a Memorial Fund in recognition of the injustices created by the evacuation of Japanese Americans during World War II. Only former employees of Japanese descent who lost their county jobs because of the evacuation were eligible to file a claim against the Fund. The Ordinance also stipulated that a suitable memorial be permanently displayed as a reminder that such a violation of basic constitutional rights must never happen again to any group of Americans.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a dedication ceremony on February 19, 1985, at 11:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers, 700 H Street. February 19th is etched in the minds of many Japanese Americans as the "Day of Remembrance." On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast of the United States and into internment camps.

The Chairman of the Board will unveil the Memorial consisting of a 6'x15' mural made up of ceramic tiles and a poem. Together they symbolize the tragic injustices endured by Japanese Americans 43 years ago and the belief that no one group of people should ever suffer the same injustices again. To our knowledge, no where else is there such a Memorial to the Japanese American Experience. The Memorial is the collaboration of Yoshio Taylor, a Sacramento ceramic artist, and Hiroshi Kashiwagi, a San Francisco poet, actor, and playwright (see biographies on back).