

September 17, 1987

Dear Mrs. Gunderson,

Today is the bicentennial of our Constitution. I sent a letter to the editor of the local newspaper on my thoughts on the Constitution, and it was published in yesterday's paper. I enclose a copy here. Did I make you a year older than you are? Sun thinks I did. If so, I am sorry. But, as you can see, the whole piece is once again a tribute to you, who inspired me during those dark days of incarceration.

Today is also the day the bill to offer an apology and some monetary compensation to all of us survivors of the camps was voted on in the House of Representatives and passed. Apparently the Senate votes on it next week. Peter Jennings of ABC News reported that Reagan is likely to veto the bill. I'd like to hear what he says about it when he does veto it. To me, an official admission of wrong-doing is sufficient (though many disagree with me).

Congratulations to Harry! I didn't know he was active in JACL. Best wishes to him.

I will send Margery a copy of my latest tribute to you and the picture of Castle Rock. I hope to get enlargements of some of the Tule Lake pictures and send to you and Margery (if I do get around to it).

I am typing this on my word processor, now that I have my computer in working order. The advantage of a word processor over a regular typewriter is that I can correct and edit (move paragraphs around, etc.) before I print the piece. I can also store the piece for later use and revision, if necessary. All that I am typing now is showing on the TV screen that I have my computer hooked up to. When I am done, I will look over the letter for any misspelled words and possible revisions I may want to make before I press the key to have it printed. I can specify how much space to allow between lines and how many copies to have printed, and whether to have the pages numbered for a multiple-page letter.

Junko has read most of Aesop's fables, some even in Japanese. She hasn't read much Greek myths as yet. She does like to read a lot. She was placed in the highest reading group and also was the only sixth grader in her school to survive 17 levels (out of 18 levels) of spelling. All of her classmates fell out by the 15th level. Her teacher praised her and mentioned to her that she is the only one to have attained that high level at her school in all the years that her teacher has been teaching there. We are proud of her accomplishment especially because she had a limited chance to read English books during the past year, as she was busy trying to learn Japanese and keep up with lessons in Japan. To

keep up with her Japanese and to maintain her friendship with her Japanese classmates, we have her writing a letter once a month to her class. She has also resumed her violin and piano lessons, with new teachers. Her piano teacher is the cousin of Zubin Mehta (who conducts the NY Symphony) and teaches at Eastern Michigan University, which is located in Ypsilanti, just east of Ann Arbor.

We are enjoying our Toyota. They do say it has the lowest repair record of all mid-size cars, imports or domestic. We will see. We had a bad experience with our Plymouth Reliant before we left for Japan.

I always wondered what had become of Juji Wada. Do you still hear from him? If you do, kindly give my regards. I do remember Akio Adachi.

I was able to find someone related to each of the six victims of the balloon bomb, through the Patzke's I met up in Bly, Oregon. I wrote to them and sent them copies of the messages from the Japanese women and some pictures from the ceremony we held on August 10. I also heard from Dottie McGinnis (the oldest sister of Dick and Joan Patzke) that the one brother who continued to be bitter about what happened in Bly, Oregon, reacted warmly to what the Japanese women did. A minister in Santa Paula wrote to tell me how touched he was with what was described in the Los Angeles Times and plans to base his sermon in October on it. We are glad, of course, that many people have read or seen the coverage of that event. Many of my colleagues here saw the TV coverage. I wanted the exposure as widely as possible for the sake of the Japanese women who wanted to reach out to the victims' families and to the American public at large. The warm reception from the relatives whom we were able to contact and the favorable reactions from the general public in various parts of the country please us immensely. We are happy to have had the opportunity to serve as an intermediary.

I am teaching two classes, both on program evaluation---one for Population Planning majors and the other for Health Education majors. I do all my teaching on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The rest of the week, I spend time on research and all kinds of committee work. I am, for example, director of the doctoral program and a member of the curriculum committee, among other duties. On weekends, we are continuing our house painting, one room at a time. We are also getting two of our rooms recarpeted, so at the moment our house is still a big mess. I have cleaned up our yard from a year's neglect and now preparing to plant some tulip and other bulbs to add some color for next spring. I put some mums in last week and twice they were completely dug up by skunks! I think they were attracted by the smell of the organic fertilizer I put in the ground before planting.

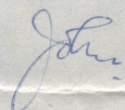
Our freight sent off from Japan on July 29 arrived in

Chicago already and is now on its way here. Junko can't wait to dig into her many Japanese books we packed in it along with my numerous books on Japan that I purchased during the past year. I also have my Japanese word processor in the freight.

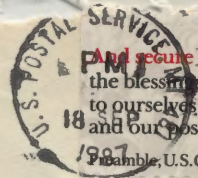
We are enjoying a cool September, and leaves are already changing color. Is it still hot in Fresno?

Hello from Sun and Junko, too.

Love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John", enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Yuzuru J. Takeshita
3391 Bluett Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI. 48105



And secure
the blessings of liberty
to ourselves
and our posterity...

Preamble, U.S. Constitution



OCTOBER
STAMP COLLECTOR
MO

USA 22

Answered

Mrs. Margaret Gunderson
3787 N. Barton
Fresno, California 93726

