DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 1990

"A Promise Fulfilled"

February 17, 1990
Cortyard Atrium
36th Ave. & Freeport Blvd.
7:00 p.m.

SPONSORS:
Honorable Robert T. Matsui; Jerry Enomoto JACL/LEC;
JACL Chapters: Sacramento, Florin, Placer, Marysville, Stockton, Lodi

ROBERT T. MATSUI
THIRD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
TRADE
HUMAN RESOURCES

WHIP AT LARGE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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8058 FEDERAL BUILDING
650 CAPITOL MALL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 551-2846

February 17, 1990

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all those in attendance tonight to celebrate a "Day of Remembrance: A Promise Fulfilled".

The Japanese American community has faced some tremendous obstacles in the past; however, over the last several years, through collective work and responsibility, we have overcome many of these difficulties. November 21, 1989, was a day of redemption and healing for the American system, for we found that redress payments would be made. A wrong had been made right and national honor had been restored.

President Bush's signature on the entitlement legislation marked the appropriate end to a regrettable chapter in American history, and happily, this chapter ended constructively with a reaffirmation of the values this country was built on. The arduous march toward redemption marked the end of a long ordeal.

I commend the Sacramento Chapter of the JACL and our friends in the neighboring Metropolitan Area Chapters of the JACL for their dedication to securing redress for our fellow Japanese Americans. Through your vital assistance, you have brought our community to victory.

I offer my personal thanks to all those whose tireless efforts have helped lead the fight for Japanese Americans. I commend all of you for a job well done.

Very truly yours,

Robert T. Matsui

ROBERT T. MATSUI
Member of Congress

JACL-LEC JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON OFFICE: 1730 RHODE ISLAND AVE. N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20036 (202) 223-1240
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

A Promise Fulfilled

With the successful passage of entitlement and the inclusion of the first 500 million dollars in President Bush's budget document, a community celebration appears to be timely.

Some may point out that no internee has yet been paid, but it looks very much like they will be. It has taken a long time. Many are no longer with us, and many more will not see the first payment. Yet, let us remember the long odds against which we fought and the struggle to make the point that monetary payment was at the heart of making any government apology meaningful.

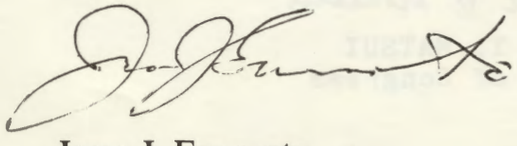
This event is particularly important because it is intended to signify that our success was a community achievement. Every letter and every contribution, large or small, was important. This is a celebration to toast each other, because we did it together.

A couple of years ago, when the issue was still very much in doubt, the valley JACL chapters put on an event called "Americans For Fairness" that netted Redress campaign over $20,000. We have not sat on the sidelines. We have been in the game.

The JACL/LEC is still in business. One of it's remaining priorities is working with the Office of Redress Administration in order to assist in making the search for eligibles and payment of funds as smooth as possible.

Meanwhile, congratulations! You have every reason to feel good about yourselves.

Sincerely,



Jerry J. Enomoto,
Chair, JACL/LEC Board

Japanese American
Citizens League
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1765 Sutter Street • San Francisco, California 94115 • (415) 921-5225
REGIONAL OFFICES: Washington, D.C. • Chicago • San Francisco • Los Angeles • Seattle • Fresno

February 9, 1990

Mr. Jerry Enomoto
7751 Sleepy River Way
Sacramento, CA 95831

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for the kind invitation to attend the February 17, 1990 Day of Remembrance observance in Sacramento at which time a celebration will take place to recognize the years of effort on the part of the Japanese American community in the quest to obtain redress.

Unfortunately, previous commitments will prevent both of us from attending the "A Promise Fulfilled" program.

Please convey to those in attendance, however, that the community has much to be proud of. The successful passage of redress and the forthcoming payments are an acknowledgement of the wrong committed against each individual Japanese American who was interned or otherwise affected in a detrimental manner by the government. We also hope and believe that the experience of Japanese Americans and the passage of the redress legislation will provide a safeguard against future similar individual abuses by the government.

It is a time to celebrate and it is a time to be proud, but let us not forget that it is also a Day of Remembrance of a time when a United States President signed an executive order that shattered the lives of many. Many of those who were harmed the most, our Issei, are no longer with us. Let this be a time to remember them.

Sincerely,

Cressey Nakagawa

Bill Yoshino

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 1990

"A Promise Fulfilled"

February 17, 1990

Prologue

"Evacuation — A Slide Presentation"
By Special Arrangement with Isao Fujimoto of Davis, California

Presentation of Colors	Troop 250 Boy Scouts of America
National Anthem	Leslie Miyamoto
Opening Remarks	Michael Iwahiro, President Sacramento JACL
Introduction of Shasta Taiko	Tom Fujimoto Chairman Tule Lake Cemetery Project
Concert	Shasta Taiko
Introduction of Guests	
Greetings	
Message	Priscilla Ouchida Vice President of Operations National JACL
Message	Jerry Enomoto National Chair JACL/LEC
Message	Hon. Robert T. Matsui Member of Congress
Closing Remarks	Michael Iwahiro
Refreshments	

Committee: Event Coordinator - Toko Fujii; Food Coordinator - Nancy Akabori; Site - Craig Makishima; Robert Matsui's Office - Cindy Kettman; JACL/LEC - Jerry Enomoto, Mike Iwahiro, Mike Sawamura, Gene Itogawa, Tom Okubo, Tom Fujimoto, Henry Taketa, George Matsuoka, Roy Imura, Alan Nishi, Ellen Kubo, Hike Yego, Aster Kondo, Momo Hatamiya, Curtis Namba, Randy Imai, George Baba, Frank Sasaki, Isao Fujimoto, Kuni Hironaka, Eric Kato, Peter Ouchida, Satoshi Matsuda, Wayne Maeda.

Detention camps were usually located in lonely and bleak areas. This is Heart Mountain, Wyoming, camp which held more than 10,000 persons.

THE INCARCERATION

MORE THAN 120,000 PERSONS WERE FORCED INTO CAMPS IN '42

When President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, it set into motion an event many now call an "American Tragedy." It affected the lives of more than 120,000 innocent people who were herded into detention camps ringed with barbed wires and guard towers.

Incarcerated were the elderly, the middle-aged, the teenagers, the young tots, aliens and citizens alike.

No one was charged with any crime. But they had one thing in common—they were all of Japanese ancestry.

Prior to the President signing the executive order, which was about two months after the war started, there was intense politicking by racists and the misinformed to "get rid of the Japs."

Congressman Leland Ford of California was demanding that "all Japanese, whether citizens or not, be placed in inland concentration camps." He also stated that if the Nisei were loyal, they could "contribute to the safety and welfare of this country" by going to camp.

Attorney General Earl Warren admitted that there were no acts of sabotage or fifth column acts in California, but added that the absence of such activities by the Japanese Americans was confirmation that such actions were planned for the future.

John Edgar Hoover, the FBI chief, stated to government officials that there was no sabotage committed in Hawaii, but it fell upon deaf ears.

Things started to get out of hand as Congress joined the act. Senator Tom Stewart of Tennessee declared that, "the Japanese are cowardly and immoral. They are different from Americans in every conceivable way, and no Japanese should have the right to claim American citizenship."

Congressman John Rankin of Mississippi went further. "This is a race war . . . I say it is of vital importance that we get rid of every Japanese whether in Hawaii or on the mainland. . . . Damn them! Let us get rid of them now!"

The coalition of the Southern members of Congress with those from the Western states was not the only group in the capital pushing the President to remove the Japanese from the West Coast.

There was also the War Department. The most vociferous was Lt. Gen. John DeWitt, the commanding general of the Western Defense Command. In recommending exclusion, he wrote that "the Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become 'Americanized,' the racial strains are undiluted . . . It, therefore, follows that along the vital Pacific Coast over 112,000 potential enemies of Japanese extraction, are at large today."

The FBI and the Navy knew that the Army was overreacting to the issue and recommended that nothing more than careful watching of suspicious individuals were called for by existing conditions. They were, however, ignored.

Secretary of War Henry Stimson, without

insisting on a clear military justification for Gen. DeWitt's proposal to clear the West Coast of the Japanese, finally recommended that the exclusion measure be carried out and President Roosevelt signed the executive order.

Nobody seemed to care that martial law had not been declared on the West Coast. Executive Order 9066 gave broad powers to any military commander to exclude any person from any area. Although it did not specifically mention the Japanese Americans or aliens, the document was primarily prepared to remove and incarcerate them.

Very few voices were heard from others to protest this unconstitutional and unnecessary act of the government. The bewildered and helpless Japanese Americans and their alien parents were left alone to meet their fate.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights were bent out of shape. Prejudice, ignorance, fear and greed had won.

Gen. DeWitt, who was one of the strongest advocates of the evacuation and detention order, did not, however, have a plan ready to implement it. Suddenly realizing the huge logistical problem and perhaps to lighten the load on the Army, he first urged the Japanese to "voluntarily" leave the military zone and move inland.

It never worked. Aside from the fact that only about 10,000 tried, many were met at the state borders by hostile vigilantes. It also didn't help to have the governors of the interior states complaining about their state becoming a "dumping ground" for the unwanted Japanese. Only about 2,000 persons moved out.

Gen. DeWitt quickly dumped his "voluntary" program and instead, placed all Japanese, both aliens and citizens, under curfew along with German and Italian aliens.

In March, 1942, Gen. DeWitt announced that all Japanese would be removed from the West Coast and interned in detention camps.

Soldiers in jeeps appeared in various areas up and down the coast where there were concentrations of Japanese residents and began posting signs on utility poles. The signs defined the zones, usually covering an area with about 250 families, to be evacuated, the date of the evacuation and the place to assemble prior to being transported to temporary assembly camps. After the notices were put up, the people were given only about a week before evacuation.

This process went on week after week for months and created havoc with the communities.

While soldiers stand by, Japanese drug store in Los Angeles desperately tries to clear its shelves of goods before owner leaves for detention camp (1942).

Escorted by Army troops, Japanese residents of Bainbridge Island in Washington cross bridge to ferry on their way to confinement in detention camps. They were one of the first to be evacuated from their homes by Army evacuation orders.

Under guard towers looming around them, a group of evacuees enter Tule Lake, Calif., detention center. The Army built ten such camps scattered in seven Western states to confine 120,000 Japanese Americans and aliens.

Daily meals were served in mass "dining halls." With little privacy, family structure and discipline were strained.

With shoes neatly placed by Army cot, nursery school children take nap at Tule Lake, California, detention camp.

Since they were only allowed to take what the family could carry, including bedding and linen, change of clothes, toilet articles, eating utensils and other personal articles, it was an impossible situation for everyone.

Furniture and appliances had to be sold at giveaway prices or abandoned, farmers had to lease their land, cars had to be sold, businesses had to be disposed of, inventories had to be sold, stored or abandoned, and in effect, it was total chaos.

Buddhist and Christian churches, owned by the communities, stored many of the belongings of the members and then locked up. The irony of the situation was that no one knew if they would ever return.

Under the watchful eyes of soldiers with guns, the evacuees boarded buses or trains that took them to one of 15 temporary assembly centers or to two of the permanent detention centers under construction by the Army—Poston in Arizona and Manzanar in California.

Many of the temporary assembly centers were race tracks or fairgrounds and the whitewashed horse stalls were used to house the people.

All of the assembly centers held an average of about 5,000 Japanese with the exception of the Santa Anita racetrack camp near Los Angeles, which crammed in about 19,000 evacuees.

During the turmoil and panic the people faced in preparing for the actual evacuation ordered by the government of the United States, the people in most cases were confused and too busy to concern themselves with what the ominous evacuation and detention meant to them as individuals and also as a group. It was as though it was not really happening.

However, once the people were led to their small barracks room or the repainted horse stalls and sat down on the army cots with their families for the first time in the assembly centers, the reality of their situation hit them like a ton of bricks. Many cried and others were numb with disbelief.

A proud people, many of the elders had lived in the United States anywhere from 20 to 40 years, worked hard, stayed out of trouble, were good citizens although denied naturalization, and made their children toe the line to become good Americans. Now, it was all gone.

From these assembly centers, the Japanese were shipped in old trains, escorted by the military, to the ten detention camps built on government land. Most were located in desolate

Tar-papered wood barracks, where families lived in a single small room, were typical of all camps. This is Manzanar, California, detention center.

areas in the states of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Arkansas and California.

The people lived in tar-papered barracks with families living in a single room. The only furniture was the Army cots. Eating was in a "mess hall" with hundreds of other evacuees. Bathroom facilities were all centered in a common area. Privacy was impossible.

It was cold in Heart Mountain, Wyoming; it was hot in Gila, Arizona; it was wet in Rohwer, Arkansas; it was dusty and hot in Poston, Arizona. But life went on in the detention camps.

Behind the barbed wire fence and the watchtowers, the various churches reorganized, mimeographed newspapers were published, and the schools were being staffed from the ranks of the evacuees. Nothing was normal, and there were a myriad of problems, but the people were determined to make the best of a tragic situation.

But they were still held captive inside the detention camps. And the world outside of the camps did not like them, did not care about them and did not trust them.

Although equipment and facilities of schools in camps were primitive in the early years of detention, it did not deter the enthusiasm of these students in a Rohwer, Arkansas, detention camp elementary school.

When the Army announced the formation of an all-Japanese American military unit, these young men volunteered from Heart Mountain, Wyoming, detention camp.

RESPONSE TO PREJUDICE

NISEI IN CAMPS VOLUNTEER FOR MILITARY SERVICE BY HUNDREDS

When the war in the Pacific broke out, Japanese Americans already in the Army were either discharged or transferred to other units doing less sensitive work. There were about 3,500 Japanese Americans in uniform at the time. Others who were registered for the draft were reclassified as not wanted by the Army.

In Hawaii, the Japanese American soldiers were discharged from the Territorial Guard. On the other hand, due to a shortage of troops for the defense of the islands, Japanese Americans with the 298th and 299th Infantry Regiment were kept in service. Such are the inconsistencies in policies during the war.

The discharging of the Nisei from the Territorial Guard in Hawaii had a catastrophic effect upon the Japanese community. They comprised 37 percent of the population in Hawaii, and although the Japanese on the islands were not removed and incarcerated like the Japanese on the mainland, they were now positive that the government did not trust the local Japanese population.

Hurt by the discharge, the young men decided that the only way they could show the loyalty of the Hawaiian Japanese community was to serve in the Army.

In early 1942, those discharged petitioned Lt. Gen. Delos Emmons, the military governor of Hawaii, to allow them to serve in the Army to prove their loyalty.

In the meantime, the Japanese American Citizens League, the only national organization representing the interests of the Japanese, met in Salt Lake City and passed a resolution to petition the War Department to restore Selective Service for the Nisei.

Mike Masaoka, the Washington D.C. representative of the JACL, reasoned that with Japanese in concentration camps, military service by the Japanese Americans would not only help blunt the anti-Japanese attitude which questioned the loyalty of the Japanese, but could possibly aid the return of the people back to normal life after the war's end.

While all this was going on, the War Department ordered the formation of a special battalion for combat purposes. From the 299th Infantry Regiment in Honolulu, 1,300 Japanese Americans were organized into the Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion. This group was later redesignated as the 100th Infantry Battalion.

In February 1943, the War Department was asked by President Roosevelt to organize a combat team consisting of loyal American citizens of Japanese descent.

President Roosevelt, in ordering this proposal, wrote that "the principle on which this country was founded and by which it has always been governed, is that Americanism is a matter of mind and heart; Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry."

Answering the call, more than 10,000 Nisei volunteered for service from Hawaii and, amazingly, 1,500 from the concentration camps on the mainland. The Army selected 2,700 from Hawaii and 1,500 Nisei from the camps. These volunteers were all sent to Camp Selby in Mississippi for training. It was designated the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Unmindful of the rain, President Harry Truman salutes color guards of the 442nd Regimental Combat Unit after awarding Presidential Unit Citation.

THE SAGA OF THE NISEI SOLDIER

THEIR COURAGE, DEEDS MADE ALL EVACUEES PROUD

Maj. Gen Charles Ryder, the commander of the 34th Division, strode into the command post of the 100th Infantry Battalion. It was June, 1943, and the Allied Army was pushing off from the Anzio beachhead in Italy after being stalled for months by the tough and stubborn German defense. In a coordinated attack, the Allied forces surprised the Germans and broke out from the beachhead.

Two regiments (about 6,000 men) had been attacking a pass for days without success, and the American forces had to capture the pass for the offense to continue.

"We need to take it by tomorrow. It is essential that we capture it," Gen. Ryder emphasized to the officers of the 100th, the all-Nisei outfit. "I know you men could do it, and I am asking you to do it."

The plans for the attack were formulated that evening, and the 100th Battalion, 1,000 men strong, went into action. By noon, the Nisei soldiers had captured the pass and were on their way up to take the mountain when artillery shells from the American forces began falling among them and forced them to stop their advance.

The artillery command post could not believe that the 100th could in a half a day wipe out the German defenses that a larger unit could not after days of trying.

Called by many of the top officers of the Fifth Army as the "finest offensive combat unit" in the Italian theater of operations, the 100th had done it again.

The all volunteer 442nd Regimental Combat Team joined the 100th later the same year in Italy. Together, they compiled one of the outstanding military records of World War II. They fought in Italy, in France, and back to Italy where they helped end the war in Italy.

The 442nd was in France when Gen. Mark Clark of the Fifth Army in Italy requesting the all-Nisei unit for a critical mission. It was March, 1945, and the 442nd was shipped to Italy in secret. The 442nd was already well known among the German command as one of the top offensive combat teams, and their movement to another sector would alert them to wonder, "Hey, something is coming up in Italy."

The Allied Army was stalled by strong fortifications the Germans had built in the rugged mountains of the Apennines, and they had stopped the Allied 92nd Division for five months.

The 442nd attacked the mountain in a frontal assault. Climbing a steep 3,000 foot mountain, the Nisei soldiers surprised the Germans and captured the position within 32 hours. This broke the back of the defense, and the Allied Army raced through the gap. The war in Italy ended a month later.

For their action and successful operation, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, Chief of Staff of the Allied Armies, commended the Nisei outfit.

"The successful accomplishment of this mission turned a diversionary action into a full-scale and victorious offensive . . . an important part in the destruction of the German armies in Italy," said General Eisenhower.

Called the most decorated unit of its size in the

The 442nd's 2nd Battalion moves forward to the battle front in the winter mud of the Vosges Mountains in France.

"THE U.S. OWES A DEBT TO THESE MEN . . . WHICH IT CAN NEVER REPAY."

A Japanese American Army interrogator questions a wounded Japanese soldier in the South Pacific.

U.S. Army, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team hauled in awards like it was going out of style. They received seven Presidential Unit Citations, a Congressional Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars and 9,486 Purple Hearts.

The large number of Purple Hearts was due to many of the men being wounded more than once.

In the seven major campaigns fought by the unit, 680 men were killed in action.

The Japanese American soldiers were also serving in the Pacific campaign. There were 3,700 Nisei members in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) who served with the Allied forces in the Pacific until the cessation of the war in August, 1945.

They were at Guadalcanal, Attu, India, Burma, New Guinea, the Philippines, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, and at other far-flung places where the Allied forces were fighting the Japanese army and navy.

They translated captured documents, interrogated prisoners, monitored radio transmissions, and helped break the Japanese military code.

Probably Col. Sidney Mashbir, who headed the Allied Translator and Interpreter Section (ATIS) said it best in tribute to the Nisei soldiers:

"I want to make an unequivocal statement in regard to the Americans of Japanese ancestry who fought by our side in the war. Had it not been for the Nisei, that part of the war in the Pacific which was dependent upon intelligence gleaned from captured documents and prisoners of war would have been a far more hazardous long drawn-out affair.

"The United States owes a debt to these men and to their families which it can never fully repay. At a highly conservative estimate, thousands of American lives were preserved and millions of dollars in materials were saved as a result of their contribution to the war effort."

On December 30, 1944, Sgt. Frank Hachiya parachuted behind the enemy lines in the Philippines on an intelligence mission. As he was returning to the American lines, he was mistaken for a Japanese soldier and shot. He delivered the maps of the Japanese defenses he had captured. He died three days later.

In the meantime, the American Legion post of his home town, Hood River, Oregon, had the names of 14 Japanese Americans, including Hachiya's, removed from the town's honor roll.

When the Army announced that Hachiya was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously, it was an embarrassed town that restored the names.

The Japanese Americans went to war to fight for democracy and at the same time, to prove to their country that they were loyal Americans. Many were killed in action, and when their parents were notified of their death, many of the fathers and mothers were still in the detention camps.

An elderly patient from a camp hospital is lifted onto a train for his return to the West Coast.

THE RETURN HOME

INTERNEES ON LONG ROAD BACK TO PICK UP PIECES OF TORN LIFE

On December 18, 1944, the Supreme Court ruled that loyal American citizens could not be detained against their will. Anticipating this ruling, the government had earlier announced that restrictions against Japanese Americans were being lifted, including the West Coast.

It had been three long years since the Japanese Americans were exiled from the West Coast. They could have returned earlier, if government and military officials had the courage to make decisions based upon facts and hard opinions rather than political reasons.

For example, the officials of the War Department had known since May, 1943, that the exclusion of loyal Japanese from the West Coast no longer had any military justification, but they never made it public.

Some members of President Roosevelt's administration later learned the same thing, but no one took any action because of the strong and vocal opposition from the West Coast. The fear of political repercussions from the rabid anti-Japanese factions forced government officials to put their heads in the sand on this issue. And so the sham continued until the Supreme Court ruling a year and a half later.

When the exclusion order was finally rescinded, about half of the original 120,000 persons were still in the detention camps. Aside from the young men serving in the military, the others had left the camps under the relocation program of the War Relocation Authority, the agency responsible for the administration of the camps.

Those who had relocated settled mostly in the Rocky Mountain and Midwestern states, since the West Coast was off limits at the time.

Those who remained in the camps when the Supreme Court decision was made were primarily the elderly and the very young. For some of the Issei, the Japanese aliens, the closing of the detention camps meant that they would have to leave the security of the camps and go out into a hostile world, which made them reluctant to leave camp.

It didn't help matters any when the West Coast agitators started to get active again as the Japanese began their long road back to the towns and cities in which they had lived most of their lives prior to their ouster.

As the returnees began to trickle back to the West Coast, some were met by their old neighbors with open arms of welcome and helped with their resettlement problems.

On the other hand, widespread violence met other returnees. There were bombings, nightrider shootings at farmhouses, assaults and other terrorism committed. And many merchants proudly had "We don't serve Japs" signs on their windows.

Many found the farms and orchards they had leased in ruins. The churches and temples where they had stored their belongings had been ransacked. It was a dismal return for many of the Japanese.

Mary Masuda had returned to Santa Ana

Takeo Miyama (arrow) recently returned evacuee, listens as San Francisco municipal bus mechanics protest his employment. Police join the discussion with other officials to mediate the situation.

The Takahashi family inspects a window broken by a thrown stone, missing flag showing a brother's war service. This Seattle incident in 1945 was one of many incidents which greeted returning evacuees.

from the Gila River, Arizona, detention camp and was threatened by local bullies to leave the area. Her brother, Sgt. Kazuo Masuda, had been killed in Italy. He deliberately sacrificed his own life so that his men could return safely from patrol. For this act of bravery, Masuda was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

The presentation of the nation's second highest award was made to Mary a few weeks after she had been threatened. The ceremony was held in front of the Masuda home with Gen. "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell, one of the outstanding generals of the Pacific war, making the presentation.

Stillwell said, "The Nisei bought an awful big chunk of America with their blood. You're damn right those Nisei boys have a place in the American heart, now and forever. We cannot allow a single injury to be done them without defeating the purpose for which we fought."

After the strong statement from Gen. Stillwell, Mary Masuda was never bothered again.

Housing for families was almost impossible to arrange since many places refused to rent to Japanese. As a consequence, the Christian and Buddhist churches, which the returnees reclaimed, were used as temporary hostels for hundreds of families. Many white Christian churches also provided housing for the Japanese.

With all of these problems, the returnees had another hurdle to face. They had to start rebuilding their lives from scratch. After being exiled for more than three years and losing almost everything in the process, it was not easy to begin a new life. Especially when the average age of the Issei was about 50.

With characteristic determination, patience and hard work, the Japanese began their slow climb back to normalcy. Despite continued harassment and agitation from anti-Japanese factions, the former residents were just glad to be back.

After years of being denied naturalization, hundreds of Japanese aliens pledge the oath of allegiance at the Hollywood Bowl. Most in their sixties and seventies, they had lived most of their lives in the United States.

JUSTICE OWED, BUT EARNED

ISSEI GRANTED CITIZENSHIP AS RACIST LAWS FALL

The war was over. The people were back on the West Coast except those who had relocated to Midwestern and Eastern states from the detention camps and chose to remain there. And the young men who went to war were returning.

The Japanese Americans and their Issei parents continued their struggle to rebuild their lives. There was, however, other important work to be done as well.

There were still anti-Japanese laws, remnants of the '20s and '30s, that were in force on federal and state books. Thus, the major goal of the national Japanese American Citizens League in the immediate postwar period was to eliminate all of these racist laws.

For example, three years after the cessation of the war, California was still filing escheat cases against the Japanese under the 1920 Alien Land Law. Other states also had similar alien land laws, which were patterned after California's law.

It was finally wiped off the books in 1949 after a series of separate cases were filed in the courts to fight the racist law, which prevented Japanese aliens from owning land. The courts ruled it unconstitutional.

The big job was to gain naturalization rights for the Japanese aliens. They were the only group denied the opportunity to become naturalized citizens under federal law.

The 1790 law specified that only "free white persons" were eligible for naturalization.

Determining eligibility by color such as "brown" and "yellow," many races had originally been denied the privilege of becoming citizens. Over the years, however, the law had been amended many times to allow aliens of different races to become naturalized.

Chinese aliens were finally granted rights in 1943, and the Filipinos were allowed to become naturalized in 1946. Only the Japanese aliens were left out.

After a few heartbreaking efforts by the Japanese American Citizens League, they finally achieved their goal when a number of bills were spliced together in Congress into the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act and passed.

The legislation primarily restructured the nation's immigration laws, which previously barred immigration from Far East nations and gave them token quotas. But it also eliminated race as a bar to naturalization. It was 1952.

By then, most of the Japanese aliens were in their sixties and seventies, but they diligently went to American history and government classes organized by local churches and organizations. And by the hundreds, they took and passed the citizenship examination and finally stood before federal judges and took the oath of allegiance.

They were the newest citizens of the United States. They had immigrated from Japan 30 to 50 years earlier, suffered harassment and even violence continuously from organized hate groups. Their character and loyalty were questioned and attacked, and they were forcibly removed and confined in detention camps unjustifiably and unnecessarily for three years, losing in the process everything they had worked hard for.

Who else would, or even could, continue to have faith in a nation that had treated them so shabbily for so long? They would—and they did.

FEDERAL COMMISSION FINDS EVACUATION NOT JUSTIFIED

In 1980 Congress passed an Act creating a Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC), which was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter. Organized in February, 1981, the Commission conducted hearings in nine cities across the country, heard testimony from more than 750 witnesses and examined more than 10,000 documents.

In February, 1983, the Commission issued its report and found that military necessity did not exist in fact to justify the evacuation and exclusion of ethnic Japanese from the West Coast.

It also determined that the evacuation and exclusion was the result of "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."

The Commission also confirmed that the excluded ethnic Japanese suffered enormous damages and losses, both material and intangible. In addition to disastrous loss of farms, homes and businesses, there was disruption of many years of careers and professional lives as well as the long-term loss of income, earnings and opportunity.

In areas where no compensation has been made, the Commission estimated the total loss of ethnic Japanese in 1983 dollars was between $810 million and $2 billion. Further analysis made by an independent firm has established the economic losses from $2.5 billion to $6.2 billion.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FEDERAL COMMISSION

[The remedies, which the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issued on June 16, 1983, are based upon their fact-finding report and economic impact study.]

Each measure acknowledges to some degree the wrongs inflicted during the war upon the ethnic Japanese. None can fully compensate or, indeed, make the group whole again.

The Commission makes the following recommendations for remedies as an act of national apology.

1. That Congress pass a joint resolution, to be signed by the President, which recognizes that a grave injustice was done and offers the apologies of the nation for the acts of exclusion, removal and detention.

2. That the President pardon those who were convicted of violating the statutes imposing a curfew on American citizens. The Commission further recommends that the Department of Justice review other wartime convictions of the ethnic Japanese and recommend to the President that he pardon those whose offenses were grounded in a refusal to accept treatment that discriminated among citizens on the basis of race or ethnicity.

3. That the Congress direct the Executive agencies to which Japanese Americans may apply for the restitution of positions, status or entitlements lost in whole or in part because of acts or events between December 1941 and 1945.

4. That the Congress demonstrate official recognition of the injustice done to American citizens of Japanese ancestry and Japanese resident aliens during the Second World War, and that it recognize the nation's need to make redress for these events, by appropriating monies to establish a special foundation.

The Commission believes a fund for educational and humanitarian purposes related to the wartime events is appropriate and addresses an injustice suffered by an entire ethnic group.

5. The Commissioner, with the exception of Congressman Lungren, recommend that Congress establish a fund which will provide personal redress to those who were excluded.

Appropriations of $1.5 billion should be made to the fund over a reasonable period to be determined by Congress. This fund should be used, first, to provide a one-time per capita compensatory payment of $20,000 to each of the approximately 60,000 surviving persons excluded from their places of residence pursuant to Executive Order 9066. The burden should be on the government to locate survivors, without requiring any application for payment, and payments should be made to the oldest survivors first. After per capita payments, the remainder of the fund should be used for the public educational purposes as discussed in Recommendation #4.

The fund should be administered by a Board, the majority of whose members are Americans of Japanese descent appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

This monument stands today in Owens Valley, California, and marks the site of Manzanar Detention Center.

THE CAMPS

There were ten major detention camps built by the government for the purpose of detaining Japanese Americans and aliens expelled from the West Coast during World War II. The last center was closed in October, 1946.

There were also a number of smaller detention centers where hundreds of other Japanese were interned. Most of the persons in these camps were picked up by the FBI a few days after the Pearl Harbor attack. They were mostly leaders of Japanese chambers of commerce, farm associations, martial arts groups, prefecture associations, schoolteachers and Buddhist ministers.

1. Amache, Colorado, camp. (7,318 persons)
2. Gila River, Arizona, camp. (13,348 persons)
3. Heart Mountain, Wyoming, camp. (10,767 persons)
4. Jerome, Arkansas, camp. (8,497 persons)
5. Manzanar, California, camp. (10,046 persons)
6. Minidoka, Idaho, camp. (9,397 persons)
7. Rohwer, Arkansas, camp. (8,475 persons)
8. Tule Lake, California, camp. (18,789 persons)
9. Topaz, Utah, camp. (8,130 persons)
10. Poston, Arizona, camp. (17,814 persons)

Signing of Redress Bill, August 10, 1988

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Since 1983, following publication of the report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWIRC), the JACL consistently pursued legislation to implement the Commission's findings and recommendations.

Redress bills were introduced in the 96th Congress by Representative Mike Lowry (D-WA), in the 97th Congress by Representative Mervyn Dymally (D-CA), and in the 98th and 99th Congresses by Representative Jim Wright (D-TX) and Senator Spark Matsunaga (D-HA). None of these Bills got out of the House and Senate Subcommittees.

On January 6th, 1987, HR442 was introduced by Representative Tom Foley (D-WA) and finally, due primarily to the support and leadership of Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), it was reported out of his Subcommittee. The Full House Committee on the Judiciary, chaired by Representative Peter Rodino (D-NJ), then passed the Bill, which was passed on September 17th, 1987 by the House of Representatives by a vote of 243-141.

During the House debate, it must be noted that Representative Dan Lundgren (R-CA), the only member of the CWRIC to vote against individual compensation, introduced an amendment to eliminate individual compensation. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 162-237.

Lundgren's actions so alienated California Japanese Americans that his later nomination for State Treasurer was rejected by the State Senate, largely due to an opposing political coalition initiated by the Japanese American community.

On April 10, 1987, Senator Matsunaga introduced S1009, which was reported out of Committee and passed by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, chaired by Senator John Glenn (D-OH). On September 20, 1988 the Senate passed S1009 by a vote of 69-27, four Senators not voting. During debate, amendments aimed at eliminating individual compensation were rejected by overwhelming majorities. An unprecedented number of 71 Cosponsors of S1009 was largely the efforts of Senator Matsunaga.

Following the working out of certain details in the Conference Committee, the Bill, renamed HR442, was sent to President Reagan for signature. The advice to veto and the President's initial reluctance were overcome by effective communication to him about the heroic exploits of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, many

Speaking on West Capitol Steps after signing of Redress Bill, August 10, 1988

of whose families were languishing in the internment centers.

Former New Jersey Governor, Tom Kean, a confidant of the President, was persuaded by Grant Ujufusa, JACL/LEC Strategy Chair, to urge Reagan to sign the Bill. These factors are felt to have been significant in the signing of HR442 into law, as Public Law 100-383, on August 10, 1988.

The outstanding leadership and commitment of Representatives Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) and Norman Mineta (D-CA) that resulted in the House passage of HR442 cannot be overstated. Likewise, the influence of Senators Spark Matsunaga and Dan Inouye in the Senate.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

In 1982, the JACL began a legislative lobbying effort, with John Tateishi serving as JACL national Redress Director, to establish a community campaign to achieve redress legislation.

The JACL/LEC, as an independant 501-C3 lobbying body, was established by the JACL in 1985, with a mandate to lobby for passage of redress legislation. Grayce Uyehara, as Executive Director, continued the development of an effective community grass roots network. Following the passage of HR442, Grayce was succeeded by Rita Takahashi, who was, in turn, succeeded by JoAnne Kagiwada, the current Executive Director. Rochelle Wandzura, on loan from the national JACL office, was a valued member of the LEC staff.

The late Minoru Yasui of Portland, Oregon, a long time fighter who challenged the constitutionality of his internment, was the first chair of the JACL/LEC. He was followed by Jerry Enomoto of Sacramento, California, the current Chair.

An outstanding job of National fund raising, needed to support this large scale lobbying effort, was first led by Past National President Harry Kajihara of Oxnard, California, and later by Mae Takahashi of Fresno, California, current JACL/ LEC Fund Raising Chair. A total of $707,000.00 was raised.

Every member, past and present, of the JACL/ LEC Board and staff deserve commendation for significant contributions to the successful Redress campaign. The community network for lobbying and fund raising was a major JACL/ LEC contribution. However, this was a true community effort that crossed ethnic and political party lines. The National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCRR), led by Bert Nakano and Alan Nishio, played an important role in the campaign, as did the National Coalition for Japanese American Redress (NC-JAR), led by William Hohri of Chicago. Although its attempt to seek redress through the courts failed, NC-JAR played an important role, also.

ENTITLEMENT

Disappointment and anger emerged in the community as months passed and no progress seemed to be made in the appropriation of funds for Redress. The grim prospect of years of struggling for scarce funds loomed larger until Senator Inouye proposed that Redress be made an entitlement item, which made the funds non-discretionary and not subject to the annual strug-

Redress Press Conference,
California State Capitol, November 21, 1989

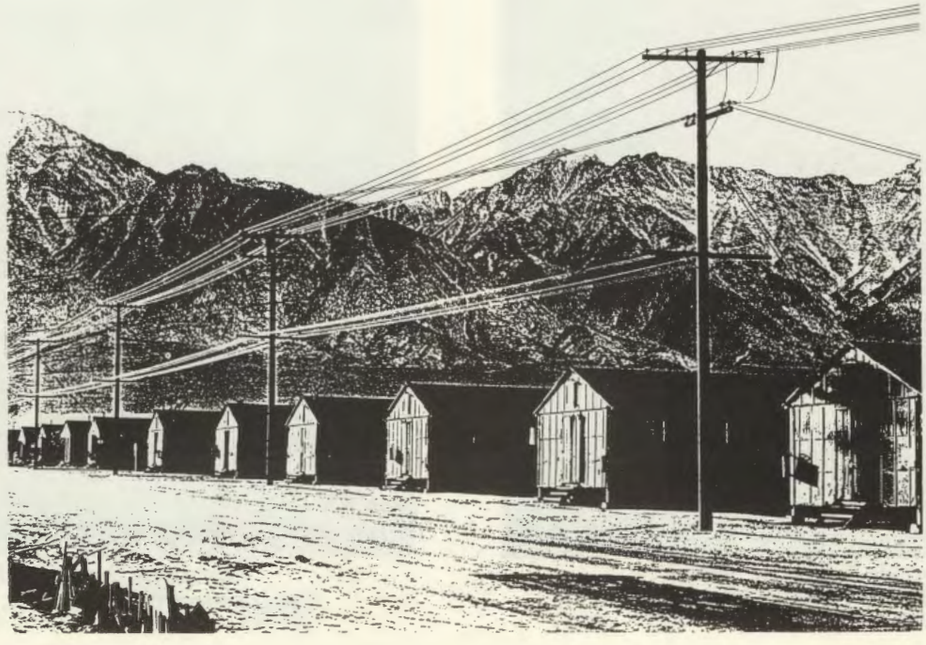
gle for dollars, while competing with many vital and worthy programs. With subsequent approval in both Houses, this successful move by Senator Inouye climaxed years of struggle and hard work in an environment of skepticism, where few believed that the Redress campaign would ever succeed.

Let us also, while we celebrate, remember those friends and loved ones who are gone, and those who will not see the beginning of Redress payments.

A PROMISE FULFILLED

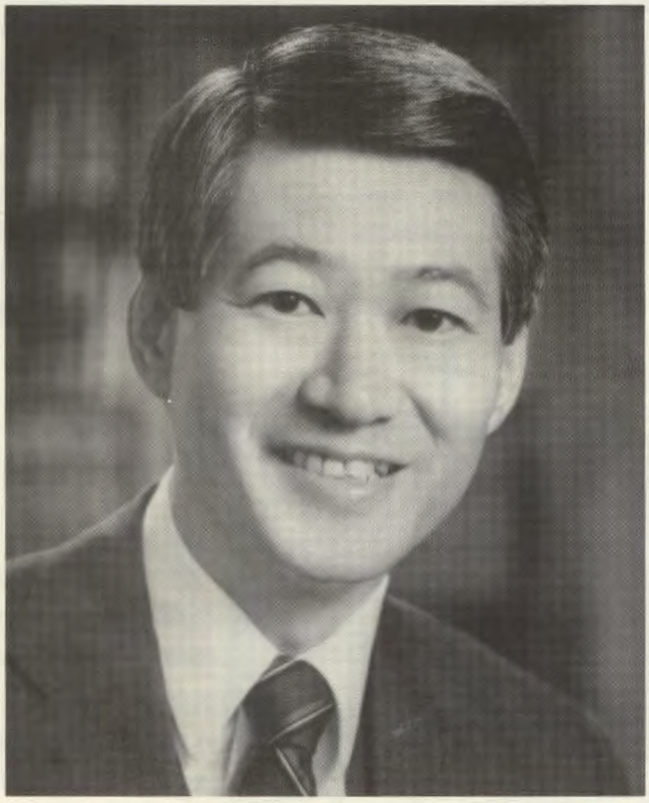
The United States Constitution is a document that holds a promise to every American, regardless of color or ethnicity, that its words mean what they say. In the case of the Japanese Americans, it finally worked for us. It worked because of a true team effort of magnificent dimension by all of us. We should be proud of that achievement.

It is fitting that we particularly salute every person in the Sacramento, Placer County, Stockton Florin, Lodi, Marysville, French Camp, Reno and Livingston-Merced JACL Chapters who had a hand, large or small, in getting us here.



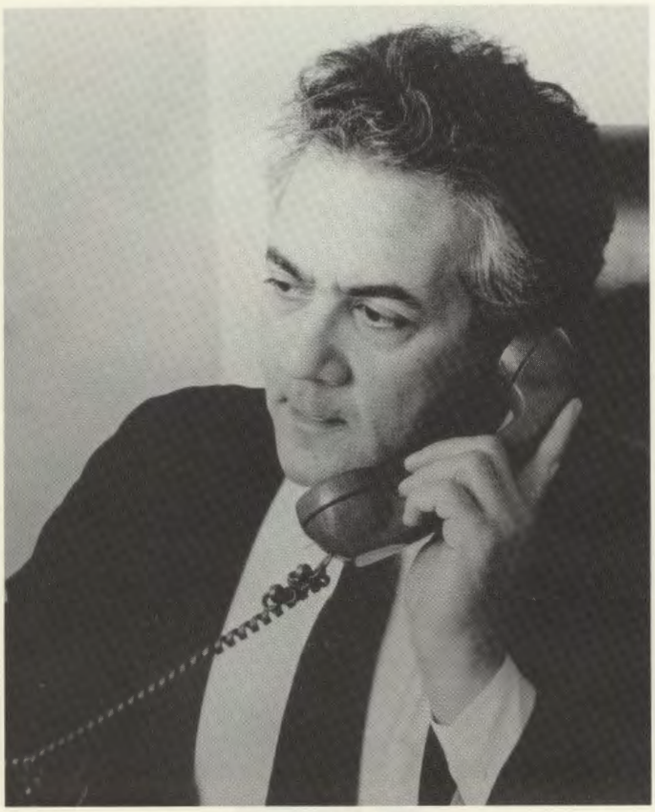
Honorable Daniel Inouye
Senator from Hawaii

Honorable Spark Matsunaga
Senator from Hawaii

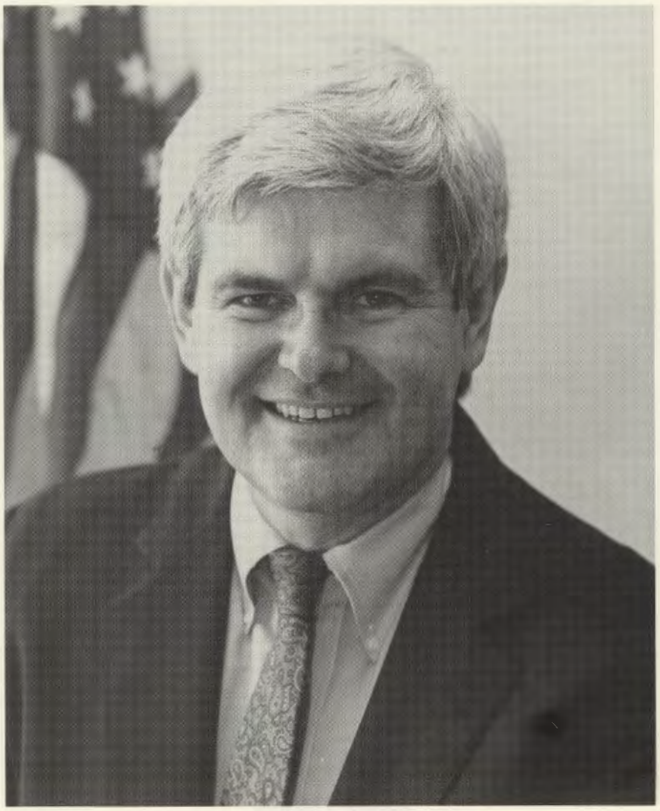


Honorable Robert T. Matsui
Member of Congress from Sacramento

Honorable Norman Mineta
Congressman from San Jose, California



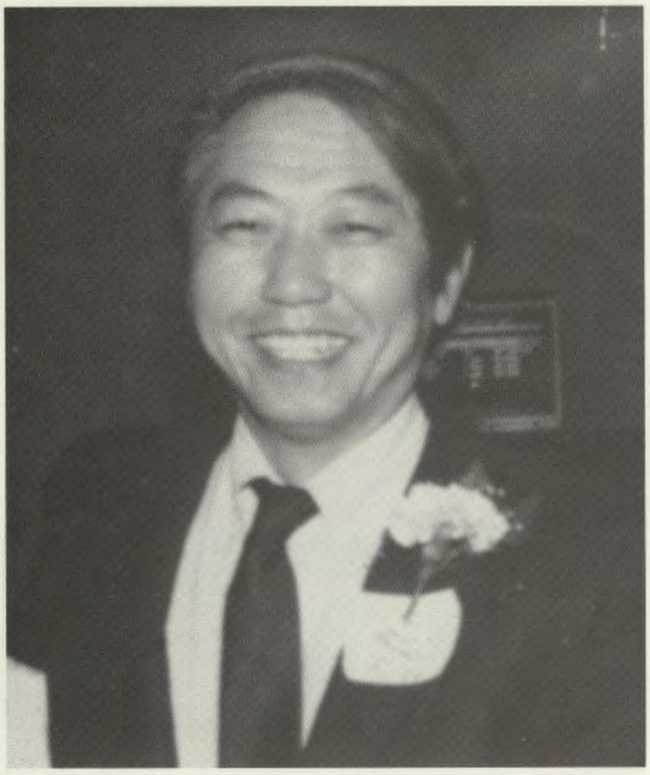
Honorable Barney Frank
Congressman from Massachusetts



Honorable Newt Gingrich
Congressman from Georgia

Minoru Yasui
First Chair, JACL/LEC Board, 1982-86

Jerry Enomoto
Chair, JACL/LEC Board, Sacramento, California



Grant Ujifusa
JACL/LEC Strategy Chair

Shig Wakamatsu
JACL/LEC Treasurer, Chicago, Illinois

Harry Kajihara
First National Fund Raising Chair, JACL/LEC Board,
Oxnard, California

Mae Takahashi
National Fund Raising Chair, JACL/LEC Board
Fresno, California

Grayce Uyehara
First Executive Director, JACL/LEC

JoAnne H. Kagiwada
Executive Director, JACL/LEC

Mollie Fujioka
Secretary, JACL/LEC Board, Mt. Diablo JACL

Cherry T. Kinoshita
JACL/LEC Board Member, Seattle