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# HENRY MIYATAKE

APRIL 28, 1929 – SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

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# MY FRIEND HENRY: THE MAN WITH THE PLAN

By Bob Shimabukuro

“Up until high school I was a conscientious student. I guess I would have been a completely different person had I not gone to camp. Maybe I would have been something worthwhile.”

— Henry Miyatake

Henry Miyatake made a Cleveland kit glider when he was a boy in camp.

“I spent a lot of time on it,” he said. . . . “I worked very diligently on it, and painted it. And I guess, I made it too good. I flew it, and it just kept going. The last I saw of it, it was heading toward Hazelton, Idaho.”

History demands that the person who gave birth to an idea must be recognized when it reaches maturation. --- Washington Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith, on Henry Miyatake, 1997.



Henry Miyatake was the Man with THE Plan, the Seattle Plan for redress. In November 1979, Congressman Mike Lowry introduced the first redress bill for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated for no reason other than their ancestry under the guise of “military necessity.” Henry’s plan was the basis for that bill.

The foundation for his plan was individual payments to those forcibly evicted/incarcerated, at a time when most, if they were talking about redress at all, were suggesting a memorial building or payment to organizations that would educate Americans about the constitutional violations that were perpetrated against our community. There were also many who, fearing a backlash from “mainstream” Americans, did not want to address the issues at all.

Henry had researched the constitutional issues, developed a plan for reparations, pitched his plan to his friend, Mike Nakata, who talked to his friend Shosuke Sasaki, and all three started talking to community members and organizations, which put together a campaign that reached out to the remotest parts of the country to gather enough votes in Congress to redress a wrong.

This 20-year organizing campaign, ending in the 1990s when payments of \$20,000 went to individuals who were incarcerated or forcibly evicted from where they were living, is one of the most remarkable stories of the 20th century.

Henry Miyatake should be celebrated as a great hero for our community and our country.



## POSTSCRIPT

Henry Miyatake died September 16, 2014, at Avalon Nursing Home in Federal Way, Washington. He is survived by daughters Laurie, Kathryn, and Diana; niece Carol; and nephews Ron and David.

# MEMORIAL SERVICE

NVC Hall  
1212 S King Street  
Seattle Washington 98144  
December 6, 2014



## WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS

Tom Ikeda

## STORIES FROM HENRY'S LIFE

Setsuko Kojima

## PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG TO FAMILY

Allen Nakamoto, Commander  
Nisei Veterans Committee

## "NEED FOR REDRESS,"

video clip of Henry Miyatake

## THE PLANS (RESCISSION AND REDRESS)

Bob Shimabukuro

## "COMMUNITY ORGANIZING & DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

video clip

## DAY OF REMEMBRANCE & HENRY'S IMPACT ON REDRESS

Frank Abe

## YONSEI PERSPECTIVE

Paul Tashima

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Diana Blasko

# MY FRIEND HENRY THE AMERICAN ISLANDER

1918-1987

1918-1987

Henry Miyake was a... would have been proud to see his name on the list of names...

Henry Miyake was a... of camp



Henry Miyake was a... and a... has kept going the way...

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Densho

JACL Seattle

JACL Puyallup

Nisei Veterans Committee

## REMEMBRANCES

may be made in form of donations to  
an organization of your choice.

FOR THE... THE...

1918-1987

1918-1987

Henry Miyake was a... in Federal Way, Washington... Nelly, and Dora...