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Chicago opposes Supreme Court nominee—page 3

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Friday, August 30, 1991

Full investigation of Arizona killings urged

PHOENIX — The unprecedented slaughter of six Thai Buddhists, two acolytes and the grandmother of the youngest victim, discovered on Aug. 10, remains a mystery to investigators and fellow monks said it was the largest of its kind in the history of Buddhism.

From San Jose, Calif., Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) urged Arizona authorities this past week (Aug. 20) to investigate the murders as a possible hate crime because of the high level of fear among Asian Americans in the state and everywhere. He also requested the FBI for daily briefings on the case. (Last December, Mineta had met with Asian American leaders in Phoenix who were frightened by a number of violent anti-Asian incidents.)

"Recent statements from local law enforcement people suggested that they ruled out racial hatred as a motive," Mineta stated. "Those comments are adding to the fear and tension. Asian Ameri-

cans must be assured that they will be protected from further attacks."

Meanwhile, Thai Buddhist (of the Theravada-Hinayana branch) officials in Los Angeles said new monks will not be assigned until the killers are caught or a motive established to Wat Promkunaram, the meditation sanctuary founded here in 1985 and moved to its present location in 1988.

They also said the 1,000 Thai Buddhist temples in the U.S. have been advised to lock their doors overnight—contrary to the 24-hour open door custom of their temples in Asia.

Maricopa County Sheriff Tom Agnos has said the execution-style killings appeared to have been premeditated, but theories that the slayings were a hate crime or were conducted by an Asian gang were primary concerns in the Arizona Asian community. Pacific Southwest JACL regional direc-

See KILLINGS/page 3



—Photo by Alvina Lew

ETSU MASAOKA, widow of the late Mike Masaoka, squeezes into line-up of the men who participated at the Aug. 17 memorial in Los Angeles. Others (from left) are Togo Tanaka, Dr. Harold Harada, Cressey Nakagawa, Bill Hosokawa and Tad Masaoka.

Final tributes paid to Mike Masaoka in Los Angeles

By HARRY HONDA
Senior Editor

LOS ANGELES — Eulogies filled with memories, the accomplishments and honors surrounding the late Mike M. Masaoka continued to echo at the memorial service Aug. 17 at Westwood United Methodist Church before the committal of his remains at the family plot in Green Hills Memorial Park overlooking Los Angeles Harbor.

Speaking at the service, officiated by the Rev. John Miyabe of the Venice-Santa Monica Free Methodist Church, were Togo W. Tanaka, Cressey Nakagawa, his brother-in-law Rep. Norman Mineta, Bill Hosokawa, Jerry Enomoto and Dr. Harold Harada. The last surviving brother of five, Tad of San Mateo, Calif., delivered the family's words of appreciation.

Nearly 300 attended, many of them longtime JACLers as well as the Masaoka family and nucleus of nieces and nephews. Masaoka died June 26 at age 75 of complications from heart disease at a Chevy Chase, Md., hospital near his home. Funeral service was held July 2.

Being read for the first time were words from President George Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle and former President Richard Nixon during Mineta's tribute. (Actual copy appears on page 4.)

Nixon, who has known Masaoka since 1947, wrote he "always valued his wise counsel on Japanese-American relations during my service as a Congressman, Senator, Vice President and President."

In his eulogy, Togo Tanaka called Mike a fighter who won "our war" in the halls of Congress, before the U.S. Supreme Court, the White House and the bar of public opinion across the nation.

At the outbreak of World War II, which Tanaka remembers too well for he was briefly jailed as English section editor of the Rafu Shimpo, Mike "was almost buried in the seemingly hopeless arena of a hysterically racist white society ... (and) was entrusted with the only viable organization to represent a beleaguered minority"—a constituency which was soon locked up behind barbed wire and watchtowers.

Tanaka recounted those tur-

See MASAOKA/page 4

Saiki, Dunne address Tri-district conference

By RICHARD SUENAGA
Editor

Opportunities exist in business, says SBA leader

PHILADELPHIA—The door—once creaky and sticky—is opening wider for Asian Americans interested in business opportunities, Patricia Saiki said.

As co-keynote speaker for the JACL Tri-District meeting here Aug. 23, Saiki, head of the Small Business Administration, told members that the outlook for Asian American entrepreneurs is better than ever.

Opening the conference, Saiki quickly threw out a few statistics. Among them: Asian Americans

See SAIKI/page 5

Justice official promises ongoing fight for rights

PHILADELPHIA—What he gave was an update on redress. What he got back was a warm feeling of support and gratitude.

Assistant Attorney General John Dunne, who rubbed elbows and rolled up shirt sleeves with the many JACL officials and members working for redress, told members attending the Tri District conference that the Justice Department continues its efforts to support the Japanese American community.

He quickly won over the audi-

See DUNNE/page 5

REDRESS IN HAWAII:

'Non-internees' may qualify

HONOLULU—Government papers found in the state and University of Hawaii archives are being reviewed by the Justice Department's Office of Redress Administration to help nearly 500 claimants qualify, the Honolulu JACL chapter president William M. Kaneko announced.

Specifically, Japanese Issei and Nisei living and farming in eight areas in Oahu (Luahalei, Waiiau, Kalihi, Maunawili, Puuloa, Wahiawa, Haleiwa and Waipahu) were ordered to evacuate but allowed to return to the restricted sites each day to farm.

Military documents, uncovered in mid-July by Pam Funai at the U.H. Manoa campus Hamilton Library archives, did not pertain to all of Hawaii's wartime evacuees. They cited the families lived near military installations or on land the armed forces wanted to use, but

the need to maintain food production was imperative and they returned to farm by day.

An alternative plan to evacuate these families to farm on Molokai was deemed impractical, it was recalled by Masanori Matsuda, who still lives near his parents' former farm. Neighbors not Japanese were allowed to stay, while those evacuated had to stay with friends or move into empty shelters.

Asher Ota, chief entomologist with Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association, was 7 years old when he and his family were ordered by the Navy to evacuate with about 75 others from Luahalei Homesteads in Waianae, where Navy radio stations and ammunition dumps existed.

On Dec. 7, Alice Hokama's family, who farmed near the Hawaiian Electric plant in Waiiau, had but a day to move with three

other families to a nearby gas station. The same orders moved the Ruth Yamaguchi family from its farm in Puuloa, Ewa, by sundown.

Al Goya's family had a long-term lease in Haleiwa along the shore. It was canceled on March 31, 1942, and the military forced them out the next day. The land was not used for any military purpose as another family eventually assumed the lease, Goya recalled at the Aug. 7 JACL press conference at the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

Robert Bratt, ORA director, found the documents "extremely significant" because they show a pattern of race to identify individuals to be evacuated. Several hundreds may qualify under a special category for "non-internees." About 2,000 Japanese Americans were interned at Sand Island and Honouliuli during the war.

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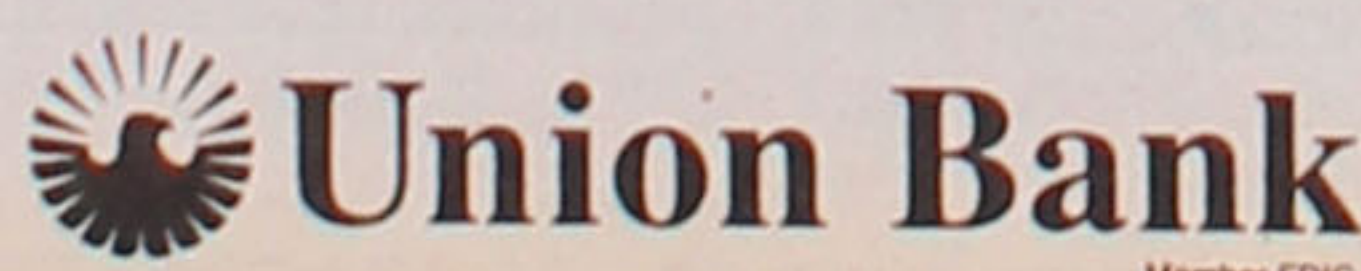
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Calendar

Minnesota

Minneapolis/St. Paul

Sunday, September 8—Twin Cities JACL's Aki Matsuri held in conjunction with the 11th Annual Sukiyaki Dinner, Normandale Community College, 9700 France Ave. So., Bloomington, noon to 6 pm. Benefits the Normandale Japanese Garden. Dinner tickets: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. Information: 612/544-1537.

Washington D.C.

Saturday, September 28 through Thursday, October 3—JACL's Washington, D.C. Leadership Seminar, Mayflower Hotel. Tuition: \$800 per person. Information: JACL National Headquarters, 415/921-5225.

Washington

Seattle

Saturday, September 7—Seattle First Hill Lions Scholarship Fund Sukiyaki Dinner, Blaine Memorial Methodist Church, 3001 24th Ave. So., 4 to 7:30 pm. Donation: \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and children under 12. Information: Ketch Toyohara, 206/772-2184.

Wednesday, September 11 through Friday, September 13—Heart Mountain Reunion IV, Sea-Tac Red Lion Hotel. Golf tournament, exhibits, slide show, banquet. Information: Gilbert Inaba, 206/364-3594.

Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2—"Beyond the Barriers," National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Third Annual Convention, Stouffer Madison Hotel. Travel arrangements: Eric Hart, Global Express Travel, 206/682-3080. Information: Sharon Sakamoto, 206/682-9932 or Mimi Castillo, 206/624-1913.

Colorado

Denver

Friday, August 30 through Monday, September 2—5th National JACL Singles Convention, Scanticon Hotel. Information: Denver Nikkei Singles Club, P.O. Box 21321, Denver, Colo. 80221 or Jim Hada 303/237-2159.

Reminders

- 3rd annual reunion of former employees of the Hiroshima Atomic Casualty Commission, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 8, Akasaka Hanten restaurant, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Cost: \$15 per person. Contact Dr. Yas Tatsuno, 213/329-0261.

- Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation's "Week in Washington," Sept. 7-13, Hampshire Hotel, 1310 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. Seminars, meetings, briefings, and luncheons with national leaders, government officials, Congressional representatives, foundation executives and other Asian American leaders in the fields of mental health and civil rights. Information: 301/530-0945.

- "Asian Pacific Americans: Political Leadership in the Nineties," Saturday, Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m., University of Washington, Seattle; Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Oct. 5, Tacoma Community Hall, Tacoma, Wash. Keynote speaker: Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo. Information: Velma Veloria, 206/786-7974.

California

San Francisco area

Through Saturday, October 19—The Eden Township JACL, Eden Japanese Community Center and the Hayward Area Historical Society's Japanese American Exhibit, Hayward Area Historical Society Museum. Information: John Yamada, 415/278-6145 or Kair Fujii, 415/886-0543.

Sunday, September 1—National Japanese Historical Society's annual fundraising picnic, Shibata family's Japanese garden in Mt. Eden. Tickets: \$25, children under 12 free. Information: 415/431-5007.

Sunday, September 8—Sycamore Congregational Church's 25th Annual Bazaar, 111 Navellier St., El Cerrito, noon to 6 pm. Everyone is invited for food, fun and fellowship under the blue awning. Information: Jan Fabini, (415) 237-0266.

Tuesday, September 10—San Mateo JACL and Community Center's lecture "Memory Problems Experienced by all Ages," San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo, 7 pm. Speaker: Paul Takayanagi, outreach worker for the San Francisco Institute on Aging. Information: 415/343-2793.

Friday, September 13—Contra Costa JACL's Bingo Night, Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, 32975 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 6:30 pm. Information: Natsuko Irei, 415/237-8730.

Saturday, September 21—San Francisco JACL's fund raising fashion show and luncheon, Westin St. Francis Union Square. Feature fashions by "Obiko." Tickets: \$50. Information: Les Hata, 415/653-7012 or Yo Hironaka, 415/751-1267.

Sunday, September 22—Contra Costa JACL's Annual BBQ, Point Richmond. Information: Natsuko Irei, 415/237-8730.

Sacramento

Saturday, September 28—Florin JACL's first Women's Day Forum, Sacramento Harbormaster, Broadway and Front Street, 8:45 am to 1:30 pm. Topics: Diabetes, AIDS, Family Mental Health and much more. Tickets: \$5 for members and \$15 for non-members. Includes lunch. Information: Dr. Eileen Namba Otsuji, 916/427-2690 or Carol Hisatomi, 916/444-5827.

San Jose

Saturday, September 14—Wesley United Methodist Church's annual Aki Matsuri, a Japanese Fall Festival Bazaar, 566 No. Fifth St., noon to 5 pm. Experience Japanese American food, culture and entertainment. Information: 408/295-0367 or Christina Higashi, 415/449-3970.

Saturday, October 12—Yu-Ai Kai's 9 day "Heritage of America" tour. Stops in New York City, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Cost: \$1349 for twin. Information/brochure: 408/294-2505.

San Benito County

Saturday, September 21—Former San Benito County residents' 1991 annual reunion, Ridgemark Country Club in Hollister, noon to 5 pm. Cost: \$25. Information: Tak Obata, 415/345-5565; Mitsugi Hane, 408/293-7108; Lily Yamashita, 408/722-0282; Hiroshi Wada, 213/321-9761.

Marysville-Yuba City

Friday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 29—Third Yuba, Sutter

Butte and Colusa Counties' Nikkei Reunion. Newsletter, registration information: Mazie Sasaki, 938 Chestnut St., Yuba City, 95991.

Tule Lake

Friday, Sept. 27, through Sunday, Sept. 29—Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Tour of Tule Lake Campsite, Abalone Hill & Castle Rock tour Workshops. Memorial Service, cultural program. Information: San Francisco: Julie Hana, 415/221-2608, eve.; East Bay: Stephanie Miyahiro, 415/524-2624; San Jose: Tom Izu, 408/292-6938; Sacramento: Diane Tomoda, 916/443-6917.

Fresno

Sunday, September 15—Fresno JACL Shinzen Run, Woodward Park; IK kid run, 2-mile walkers, 2-mile and 10K run, wheelchair division. \$10 preregistration by Sept. 8. Information: Glenn Hamamoto, 209/432-2484.

Los Angeles area

Saturday, September 21—The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce's Chinese Moon Festival 1991, throughout Los Angeles Chinatown, 1 pm to 10 pm. Information: 213/617-0396.

Saturday, September 28—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California's Community Service/Achievement Awards Dinner, Shangri-La Restaurant, 6 pm. Honorees: East West Players, Shiro Nomura and Betty K. Mitson. Tickets: \$35. Information/reservation: Iku Kiriya, 213/326-0608.

Saturday, September 28—50th Anniversary celebration, Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School, L.A., Classes of '41, '42, Marriott Hotel, L.A. International Airport. Information: 800/244-6106 or write to Madeline Levine, 9603 Beverlywood St., L.A. 90034.

Thursday, October 17—Asian Pacific American Legal Center's 6th Annual Awards Dinner, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Honorees: Hitachi Ltd., Congressman Howard Berman, Frederick Hong, Maria Hsia, John Huang and Gloria Ochoa. Information/tickets: Stewart Kwoh or Faith Chen, 213/748-2022.

Thursday, October 24 through Saturday, October 26—The Asia Society's National Symposium "The Asian American Experience: Looking Ahead," the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Explore the critical issues facing Asian Americans in the 1990s and the importance of these issues to American society at large. Information: 213/624-0945.

Saturday, October 26—Little Tokyo Community Health Fair, Japanese American Cultural Community Center. Information: Bill Watanabe, 213/680-3729.

2nd and 4th Fridays, Every Month—The Legal Aid Foundation's legal clinic, Little Tokyo Service Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Suite 411, 4 to 6 p.m. Japanese language services available. Info: 213/680-3729.

San Diego

Sunday, September 1—Ocean View United Church of Christ's Annual Bazaar, 3525 Ocean View Blvd, 11 am to 4 pm. Food (sushi, udon etc.), live entertainment, games, fun, fun and more fun. Information: 619/233-3620.

Calendar items must be submitted at least THREE WEEKS in advance of the day of event. Include day or night phone numbers for further information.

News

Minority groups sue for Census adjustment

SAN FRANCISCO—Hispanic, Black and Asian minority groups and individuals filed a class action voting rights suit Aug. 12 at the U.S. District Court in Sacramento.

The court was asked to stop any redistricting or reapportionment efforts by the state legislature until and unless an adjustment is made for the 1990 Census undercount, the five public interest law firms, including the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, explained. Asians were undercounted at a rate of 3.1 percent, according to a post-enumeration survey. The 1990 Asian-Pacific Island population in the state was 2,845,659 (9.6% of the total).

Japan should apologize for Pearl Harbor, says mayor

HONOLULU—Mayor Frank Fasi asked President Bush in a letter to invite Japanese officials to the 50th anniversary ceremonies of the Dec. 7 attack on Pearl Harbor, but only if they agree to formally apologize.

Gov. John Waihee declined to comment, saying it should be up to the U.S. officials planning the ceremonies.

In Tokyo, deputy cabinet secretary Nobuo Ishihara implied the

KILLINGS

(Continued from page 1)

tor Jimmie Tokeshi of Los Angeles appeared with local community leaders at a press conference to underscore JACL's concerns.

Deputy sheriffs finished their work at the temple Aug. 15, clearing the way for the three-day funeral, as no new clues were reported.

Arizona Gov. Fife Symington told Thai representatives the state is adding \$100,000 into a special investigative task force for personnel and crime-laboratory costs. "The state is doing everything that it can to bring the people who did this to justice," he added.

Royal Thai ambassador to U.S., M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri, met with state and local officials and asked the probe be given top priority.

The United Thai Council, representing Thai community leaders from across America, held a press conference Aug. 27, at the Wat Thai Temple, 8225 Coldwater Canyon Ave., North Hollywood, to announce measures to promote Thai-American harmony.

Relief and reward funds were also announced: Relief—Phairuch Foundation, P.O. Box 10773, Glendale, AZ 85318; Reward—Arizona-Asian American Association Reward Fund, Account No. 1369-17012, First Interstate Bank of Arizona, 3515 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85010. ☐

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JACL mementos




—PC Photo
PANA-PARAGUAY leaders receive National JACL plaque of recognition and copies of Bill Hosokawa's book, "JACL in Quest of Justice," at Sayonara banquet of the 6th Pan American Nikkei Association convention July 25-28 at Asunción's Yacht & Golf Club. Pictured (from left) are Harry Honda, senior editor, Pacific Citizen; Takao Moriya, president, Centro Nikkei Paraguayo; Emi Kasamatsu de Enciso, convention chair; and Cressey Nakagawa, National JACL president.

U.S. should apologize to Japan for WWII, the United Press International reported Aug. 15, the 46th anniversary of Japan's surrender.

When asked whether Japan should apologize for the Dec. 7 attack, Ishihara said the "entire

world is responsible for the war ... If everyone had done their utmost, the war could have been avoided."

Ishihara also said Japan has no plans to mark the anniversary and no comment on Mayor Fasi's letter.



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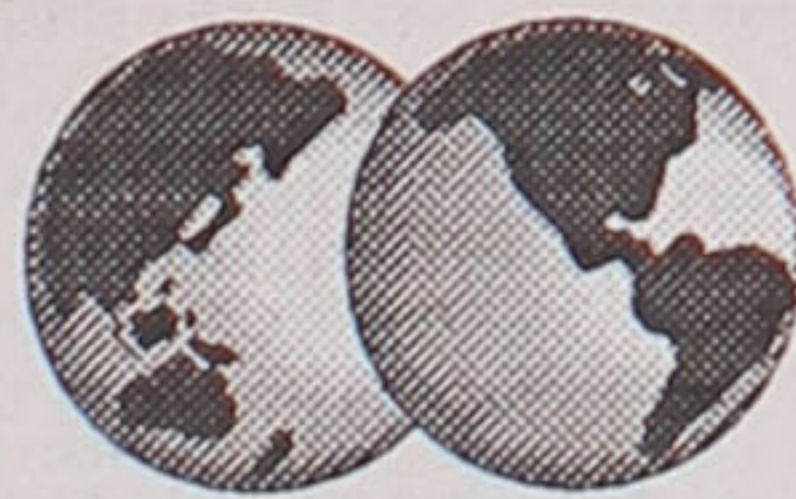
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Write to Richard Suenaga, editor

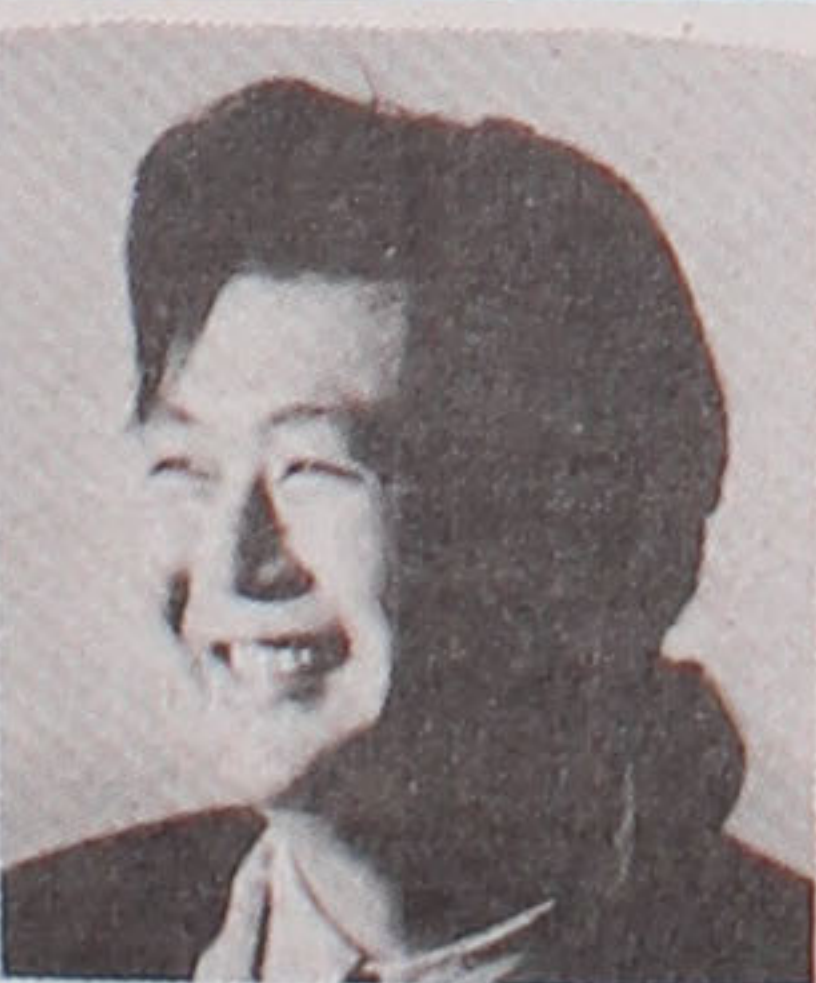


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"A fine work" *Washington Post*

"Any Sansei who has visited Japan will relate to the subject matter and any person of color who has looked in a mirror and wondered why he didn't fit in with the majority in America will want to read this book for its insight."
--Chris Komai, *Rafu Shimpo*



Chicago JACL board opposes Thomas nomination to U.S. Supreme Court

CHICAGO—The Chicago JACL board of directors unanimously voted to oppose the nomination of Hon. Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court at its recent meeting.

"The most urgent concern for us, as an Asian American organization, is the fact that Judge Thomas has publicly and repeatedly attacked affirmative action, a necessary tool to combat the effects of a history of past discrimination,"

chapter president David K. Igasaki said.

"It's also important that we show support for the coalition of civil rights organizations that supported us in our historic fight for redress/reparations," Igasaki added. "(Thomas)" expressed desire to put religion back in the public schools means that the right to religious freedom of Buddhist and other non-Christian children will be jeopardized." ☐

Next redress checks due for evacuees at least 63 years old

WASHINGTON — The Office of Redress Administration on Aug. 13 announced it has contacted all persons born before 1928 who may be eligible for a redress payment in October. Those who have received "letters of potential eligibility" were reminded to respond by Sept. 6.

Over 21,000 contacted, born between July 1, 1920, and Dec. 31,

1927, have been verified as eligible to receive. ORA has also nearly 25,000 individuals of this period on file.

Anyone who was born before Jan. 1, 1928, and still has not heard from ORA are expected to call toll-free 800/395-4672 (800/727-1886 Telephone Device for the Deaf), providing name, date of birth, current address and circumstances. ☐

U.S. CIVIL SERVICE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN JAPAN

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MASAOKA
(Continued from page 1)

bulent months: "the men who had hired him were beaten and attacked in the camps and narrowly escaped death. Yet, in that crazy chaos as he fought to preserve our place and future ... Mike took his campaign, incredibly, to the battle-fronts of Europe" as he persuaded the President to form the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

"How else do we survive when most Americans regarded us (Nisei) as the enemy, our draft classification reduced to (enemy) alien? ...

"Throughout the trials of World War II and the struggles of the postwar years, Mike's compelling challenge as an American patriot was single-minded. He fought to gain acceptance for not only those whom he had been charged to represent, but he sought equal treatment before the law for ALL citizens ...

"(B)ound by loyalty to principle, it was unthinkable for him to compromise for personal gain...

"He lived an idealism that sought to build integrity and virtue into the fabric of humankind. He lived to share rather than to accumulate. He willingly sacrificed for what he perceived to be the common good..."

As a younger Nisei in Mike's life, Jerry Enomoto (who was a teenager at Tule Lake) said that by the time he was privileged to serve as National JACL president (1966-1970), Mike "was on his way to becoming a living legend among Japanese Americans ... and a role model."

Enomoto shared his innermost feelings: "when I was uncomfortable about taking unpopular positions (as JACL president), talking with him always made me feel right.

"No matter how many times I listened to Mike speak, I never tired of hearing him ... He was easily the most accomplished speaker of his generation."

Of the controversial decisions in which he was a major factor during the pre- and post-internment years "since proven correct by time and history," Enomoto said "(Mike) made it possible for us to make the comeback that was culminated in the successful fight for redress.

"No history of Americans of Japanese ancestry could be written without including the story of Mike's life," Enomoto concluded. "We who are left will all continue to work for the 'greater America' that he envisioned."

Bill Hosokawa, who co-authored Mike Masaoka's autobiography, *They Call Me Moses Masaoka*, read in tribute, his letter sent on April 11 and it was snowing in Denver that morning, reminiscent of the cold weather in Salt Lake City in November, 1942, when both met for the first time. (Hosokawa was a delegate from Heart Mountain, Wyo., to the JACL emergency conference Nov. 16-23.)

"I still remember," he told Mike, "the debate over whether to ask for military service for Nisei, the hesitation of some of the delegates, and your fiery insistence we could take no course but to demand that we be given the right to defend our country alongside other Americans ... The position we enjoy in our country today is in very large part due to the decision you helped us to make."

Hosokawa described that decision "charted the course of Japanese American history."

Dr. Harada expressed his remarks on behalf of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association, which Mike had founded in 1988 at the national Nisei veterans reunion in Reno. He called Mike "a man who wasn't afraid to take risks," citing his role in the formation of the 442nd. He also repeated Mike's dream of building a Nisei GI monument in Washington, D.C., a major project of the GFBNVA now underway.

JACL president Cressey Nakagawa read the "JACL Creed," which Mike had authored in 1940 and printed in the Congressional Record in May, 1941, by his political mentor, Sen. Elbert Thomas of Utah. "Americans are always looking for men to match our mountains," Nakagawa noted before reciting the Creed, "and Mike was one of them."

At most Japanese American funerals, words of appreciation are briefly put. For Tad Masaoka, those words included an emotional revelation as he recalled some intimate dialogues between brother-to-brother of those times when Mike argued for reinstating Nisei to Selective Service, of fighting for Issei naturalization, for evacua-

tion claims and for repeal of alien land laws.

As the service was being videotaped, Tad's spirited praise of Mike will be a fitting finale to the hour-long event, which opened with 442nd veterans posting of the colors, followed by the minister, the ushers (who were Mike's nephews: Mark Masaoka, Ben Masaoka, Robert Masaoka, Dr. Grant Masaoka, Alan Masaoka, James Nakano, Edward Nakano and Stuart Mineta) and the five men who paid tribute and who sat up front in the choir section of the church.

Soloist Gina Shaw rendered the "JACL Hymn," accompanied by Charles Shaffer at the organ. Reception followed in the Fellowship Hall.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 10, 1991

Dear Mrs. Masaoka:

Barbara and I were very saddened to learn of your loss. While the days ahead will not be easy, maybe it will help a little bit to know that your friends are thinking of you.

We send our sincere condolences to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Etsu Mineta Masaoka
5406 Uppingham Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

CONDOLENCES—Making special note of the passing of Mike Masaoka were President George Bush (above), former President Richard Nixon (below), and Vice President Dan Quayle (bottom).

RICHARD NIXON
June 29, 1991
877 CHESTNUT RIDGE ROAD
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY

Dear Mrs. Masaoka:

I was deeply saddened to read of Mike's passing in the New York Times this morning. As you know, I first met him when I came to Congress in 1947 when he was the legislative representative of the Japanese-American Citizens League. Through the years since then I always valued his wise counsel on Japanese-American relations during my service as a Congressman, Senator, Vice President and President.

The commendation I presented to him 1972 referred to his "exceptional service to others in the finest American tradition." I personally dictated those words because I deeply believed that he richly deserved such an accolade.

Mrs. Nixon joins me in expressing our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Sincerely,

THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON
July 12, 1991

Mrs. Etsu Mineta Masaoka
5406 Uppingham Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Dear Mrs. Masaoka:

I was deeply saddened to hear the news of your husband's death.

While I know that there is nothing that I can say that will ease your sorrow, I want you to know that Marilyn, the children, and I are thinking of you in our thoughts and prayers.

We send our most heartfelt wishes during this very difficult time. We hope that your faith and your loving family will help give you strength.

Sincerely,



Photo by Alvina Lew

1991 HONOREES—Holding Nisei Week Festival plaques of recognition are (from left): Cressey Nakagawa, Tamlyn Tomita and Mayor Tom Bradley.

Nisei week honors JACL

LOS ANGELES—National JACL President Cressey Nakagawa accepted on behalf of organization the 1991 Nisei Week Japanese Festival Award for Distinguished Community Service at the Aug. 12 award dinner at New Otani Hotel. Grand marshal Mayor Tom Bradley and parade marshal and film star Tamlyn Tomita, 1984 Nisei Week queen, were

also honored by the festival board.

With about half of the 130 attending the dinner representing visitors and business firms from Japan, it was impressive to oldtime JACLers to hear the JACL being extolled for its achievements in Nihongo from Akemi Miyake, president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California.

Agenda

JACL Cleveland

Seven high school and five university Nikkei graduates were honored at the 33rd annual Cleveland JACL scholarship luncheon held on June 29 at Otani's Restaurant. Honorees were: High School—Michael Akiya* (Benedictine), Dustan Ichida (Fairview Park), Amy Kurokawa* (Westlake), Kimberly Malarkey and Tracey Malarkey (Cleverleaf), Douglas Rick (Willoughby South), Keith Yamamoto (Newbury); University—Daniel Ebihara, J.D. (Iowa), Todd Ichida, B.S. (Ohio State), Betty Idemoto, M.S. nursing (Toledo Medical College, Gary Ochi, B.S. (Baldwin Wallace). [* Scholarship awardee from Cleveland Japanese American Foundation and Cleveland JACL, respectively, of \$500.]

Watsonville

Irene Fujii, daughter of Sid and Nobue Fujii, of Watsonville High, and Takeshi Kaneko, son of Paul and Carol Kaneko (erstwhile Coachella Valley JACLers), received the \$500 Watsonville JACL scholarships, it was announced by scholarship chair Mas Hashimoto.

Finishing in the top 2%, Irene will enter UC Santa Barbara majoring in political science. She won the Most Outstanding Delegate gavel at the Model United Nations, MVP on the girls' tennis team varsity, student scholar athlete award in softball, a four-year Honor Roll scholar and was a homecoming princess and active with the Watsonville Buddhist Temple.

Also in the top 2%, Takeshi will enroll at Harvey Mudd College to major in engineering at Claremont. A graduate of Harbor High at Santa Cruz, he starred in swimming, water polo and was active in several campus clubs including Students Against Drunk Driving, Friday Night Live and Chess.

Diablo Valley

The June 6 board meeting on "Restructuring JACL" was reported in the newsletter. Some

concern was expressed over the nature of the questions, especially if the goals and objectives appear uncertain and which may jeopardize the JACL Legacy Fund campaign. "If there are serious apprehensions about JACL (since the chapters are being requested to respond to questions about restructuring), we must disclose these forthrightly to all members, and especially to those who are soliciting and to those from whom we are soliciting contributions to the Legacy Fund," co-president Dr. Elsie Baukol commented.

The district governors were asked to pose four questions: (1) Is there a need to change the JACL's core mission? How well are we achieving our mission? (2) What is the JACL's future? What should we be five years from now? Should we become an Asian Pacific organization or remain Japanese American? (3) What is JACL today? What are our weaknesses and strengths? (4) How do we get to our desired future?

The chapter sponsored an information booth at the annual Mexican American Cultural Association Fourth of July Festival (July 6-7) in downtown Concord's Todos Santos Plaza. Board member Akiko Toriyama's *minyō* dance group entertained. Proceeds go MACA's scholarship program.

A "once-in-a-lifetime" tour of San Quentin prison with lunch inside was conducted July 24, thanks to Eizo Kobayashi (a state parole administrator), who made the arrangements. The members were forewarned to come in casual attire but blue jeans are prohibited. (Eizo was recently appointed by the Contra Costa County board of supervisors to the five-member Merit Board, a grievance hearing panel for county employees. His wife Mary is a city human relations commissioner in Concord.)

Heading for UC San Diego in the fall, Roger Kenji Long, oldest son of Ken and Janet Long, a Diablo Valley JACL scholarship recipient of Monte Vista High, Danville, sported a 4.43 GPA, and volunteers his summers for Amigos de las Americas, a student group committed to improving health and sanitation in Latin America. He is in Oaxaca, Mexico, on a community sanitation, dental hygiene and oral rehydration project.

SAIKI

(Continued from page 5)

were natural entrepreneurs, that in 1987 some 355,000 Asian American and Pacific Islanders were engaged in small business, an increase of 89 percent over the 1982 total. They accounted for some \$33 billion of the economy. Of the total involved in businesses, 53,000 were Japanese Americans. Relatively speaking, Asian Americans, she added, owned more small businesses than any other minority.

"Asian Americans are good investments," Saiki said. "Cultural values bind all Asians—education, hard work and persistence, parental influence—these are qualities that build leaders."

More specifically, Saiki pointed to the \$174 billion the government spent last year in federal project procurements and purchases from the private sector. Small businesses enjoyed \$26 billion worth of business of that total.

"This is an open area for all," she said.

Last year, she said that federal contracts with Asian Americans is up 44 percent over 1989. Saiki especially targeted the exporting business, saying that Asian Americans "excel in international trade."

"The opportunities are exciting in exporting," she said. "It is a global marketplace."

Adding more fuel to the global view is the fact that the Pacific Rim grows stronger every day.

"The SBA is available to assist people into the exporting," Saiki said. "For Asian Americans this is most natural."

DUNNE

(Continued from page 1)

ence by relating the story of a recent meeting with JACL members at a ceremony in which everyone sang "God Bless America" in the Hall of Justice. It was, he said, one of the most uplifting experiences of his life.

The overall message was clear: He and his department would continue to work for justice for Asian Americans. And in that statement, Dunne also took time to note the accomplishments of Mike Masoka, whom he called "a hero of our time who believed in America, equal justice and that the Constitution must prevail."

The current work of the Office of Redress Administration involves efforts to investigate possible new eligible redress persons.

The upshot of all these new potential eligible redress recipients is that more money is needed. Dunne said that a financial plan is being developed for fiscal 1993. "A quarter of a billion dollars is needed," he said. "By next February, we hope that President Bush will include it in the proposed '93 budget."

That quarter of a million dollars, he added, would include provision for the \$50 million education trust fund that had been earmarked. "We have recommended to the President that that money be included for the trust fund," Dunne said. There is no reason not to believe it won't.

The assistant attorney general finished his talk by highlighting the recent efforts of his organization in the area of civil rights.

Dunne said that he was currently working on a statute that would assist the 43 million Americans with disabilities. "It's a very important statute. I know you have a very full plate but I hope you'll be aware of it and support it." He also talked about the activities and work that led to the recent conviction on civil rights violations of Lloyd Piche in the Ming Hai Loo murder in North Carolina in 1989, as well as effort to look into a number of cases of alleged discrimination against Asian Americans.

A particular area of concern, Dunne said, is the Voting Rights Act that will soon expire. The Asian American population, he said, may be sufficiently large in many places to create opportunities for Asian American leaders. "Work with us to extend this vital legislation into the next century," he said.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

If you missed meeting the ambassador

Our town was visited recently by the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Ryohei Murata by name. Several organizations, including the Japan America Society, the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Japanese American Association, joined to sponsor a reception for the ambassador, and all their members were invited. Since the sponsoring organizations picked up the tab, there was no charge for showing up to sip drinks, munch finger food and shake hands with the guest of honor.

Several hundred of our townspeople attended, but only a handful were Japanese Americans. I wondered why more of them didn't show up. It wasn't obligatory to come meet the ambassador, but it would have been nice, wouldn't it?

Since the missing couldn't be asked why they weren't there, I asked myself some questions: Were they too busy? Had conflicting commitments? Don't like receptions? Didn't know about it? Don't like ambassadors? Opposed to drinking? Can't digest hors d'oeuvres? Didn't have a clean shirt? Too tired to go out of the house?

Wasn't interested and would rather spend time doing something else?

Well, what else, for instance? Assuming that it's reasonable for Japanese Americans to have a more than passing curiosity about the ambassador from Japan, I wondered what Nisei and Sansei consider to be their primary interests these days outside of jobs. Here are some categories that come to mind.

Family—Kids, grandchildren, parents, relatives, their health and welfare.

Church—Religious services, social service, church organization activities.

Volunteer Services—Helping at retirement and nursing homes, hospital auxiliaries, shelters for the homeless, thrift shops, leading youth groups, public speaking.

Sports—Golf, fishing, bowling, hiking and camping, and spectator sports like football, basketball and baseball games.

Community Involvement—Local and national politics, social activism, environmentalism, civil and minority rights is-

sues, fund-raising for good causes, fighting substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, child abuse.

Asian-American issues—Helping new immigrants, combatting racial discrimination.

Self-improvement—Reading, cooking and other adult education classes, Great Books groups.

Traveling—

Hobbies—Gardening, gambling, woodworking, sewing, photography, handcrafts, playing cards. Complaining.

Watching television—'Nuff said.

Your priorities are your business and more power to you if American relations with Japan are not among them. But consider this: Whether we like it or not, what the Japanese do continues to have an important effect on our lives as Japanese Americans. Taking advantage of an opportunity to meet Japanese officials is a pretty good first step toward letting them know of our concerns. Particularly when there is no admission charge. ☐



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Sitting, Japanese style

MANY JAPANESE restaurants in the U. S. have so-called "tatami rooms" where the table, a-la Japanese style, is about a foot and some inches off the tatami floor. Somehow, eating *nihon-meshi* in such a setting enhances the flavor of the dining experience. There's one big "IF": if there's at least a big hole under that table so one's legs can dangle over the edge. And if the restaurant supplies back supports, just all the better. But if the establishment has no such accommodations, one ends up maneuvering the food between a couple of knees protruding into the face. Trying to sit cross-legged (*agura* position in *Nihongo*) can only last so long (at least in my case) and so the affair ends up engaging in various calisthenics as the various joints begin to stiffen. Sitting in the *seiza* position (sitting with the legs tucked under one's body), the sitting position long mandated for Japanese women, quickly leads to freezing of nerves and joints for me.

I READ WHERE in Japan, they've relaxed the rules of etiquette for the la-

dies that they may now assume the *agura* position, at least in the drinking establishments of Nippon. Several reasons are assigned for this modification in female sitting posture. One is the change in clothing fashions, more particularly women donning slacks or short pants. Assuming the *agura* position while attired in a skirt, not even a mini-skirt, particularly in a *nomiya* (drinking establishment) could prove to be somewhat disconcerting. The other assigned reason is a physiological one involving the physical development of the stature of Japanese women: post WW-II, the average height of the Japanese increased markedly and with such increase, the ratio of legs-to-total-height is said to have so increased that it is now extremely difficult for the young ladies to sit *seiza* style.

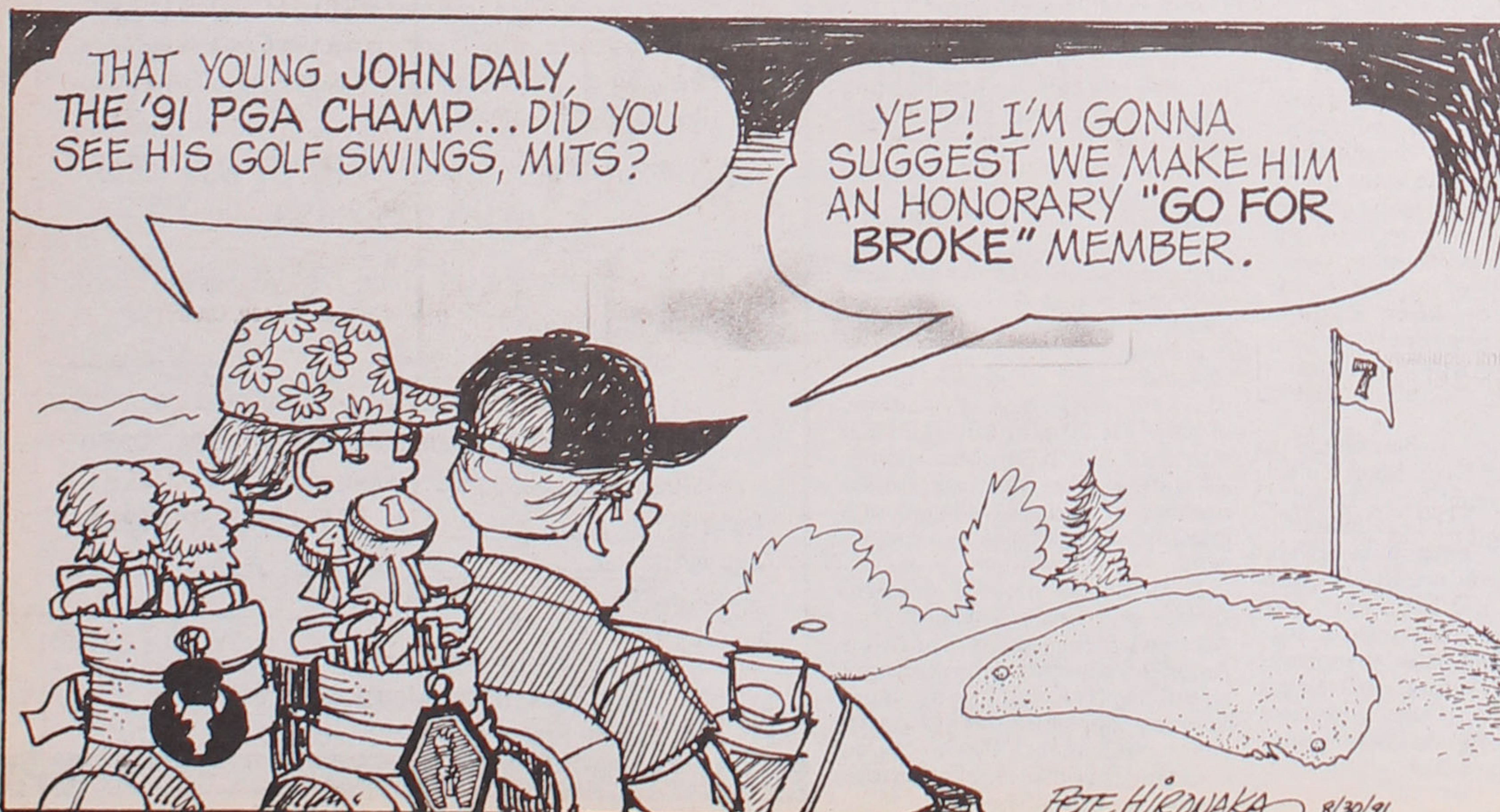
I don't know about ladies, but this pre-war Nikkei who cannot claim such expansive legs-to-height ratio, can nonetheless attest to the punishing pressure of the *seiza* freeze which we were compelled to assume at times during *judo* sessions.

SOME JAPANESE HISTORIANS

would lend legitimacy to women adopting the *agura* posture while resting. Reportedly, a form of *agura* seating existed among the high ladies of the aristocratic court during the Heian Period, some 1,200 years ago. It involved the legs not only being crossed but also one knee being drawn up so that the lady could rest thereon. But, of course, she was adorned in enough layers of kimono that no one could hardly tell the difference. It is said that the punishing *seiza* kneeling position mandated for women and vassals in formal proceedings, was introduced in Japan some 300 years ago.

BEFORE WE in the West become too smug, we must remind ourselves that (shorty) King Louis of France introduced that damnable high-heeled footwear that continues to plague style-conscious women throughout the world, including those (liberated) souls here in the U. S.

Thank goodness Louie didn't tamper with the seating style in the palace and stayed with chairs. ☐



Letters

PC letter policy

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 941 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90013.

Couple pays respect at 442 cemetery

We happened to read the recent article in the Aug. 2-9, 1991 *Pacific Citizen* concerning the memories of Mr. and Mrs. Kawai's brother, Teruo Ted Fujioka.

In October, 1987, we decided to visit Bruyeres and the U.S. military cemetery at Epinal in Alsace Lorraine. We wanted to visit the area where the 442nd Regimental Combat Team had encountered so much heavy action gathering so much recognition and pride for all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The cemetery at Epinal is a tranquil resting place for the over 5,000 American servicemen buried there. The cemetery is so unbelievably well-maintained. The day we visited the cemetery there was some gentle rainfall where the sun's rays filtered through the scattered clouds. A double rainbow developed in the horizon overlooking the cemetery. The setting was too beautiful to fully describe.

We took several photographs of the cemetery and of the marble markers that identify the graves of several 442 servicemen. (We have a photograph showing) the marker for their brother. It could be that prior to our visit they or some other relatives had visited the cemetery placing the small American and French flags on the sides of the marker.

We'll never forget our trip to Bruyeres and the cemetery at Epinal. We'll always be most grateful to those servicemen such as their brother whose service and sacrifice have undoubtedly secured and enriched all our lives.

Russell and Miyo Ukita
Quartz Hill, Calif.

Applauding Nikkei's life and writing

I only had the pleasure of meeting Nobu Kawai (profiled as a Legacy Fund contribution in the Aug. 2-9 issue) a few times but I do know he is a gifted writer. I only met him in the mid-1980s but seem to recall in my mind he was a graduate journalist, among his many personal accomplishments.

However, I knew people over the years who had met with or worked with Nobu. All spoke glowingly of this man without qualification. Those who have met his wife know that she is a tower of strength, too. They were longtime residents of Pasadena, outstanding contributors to our community.

Nobu worked for many years with a leading regional dairy firm headquartered in Pasadena. Before that he was a star athlete for the Pasadena Junior College football team. That is the little I can recall.

Everyone I knew who mentioned his name said his life would have had no ceiling had it not been for discrimination he was subjected to in his earlier years of life. He is a rare human being, a rare American. PC should ask him to reflect his thoughts on his life's experiences so that many others could benefit, for he is a chronicler of his time, especially in the northeast portion of Los Angeles County.

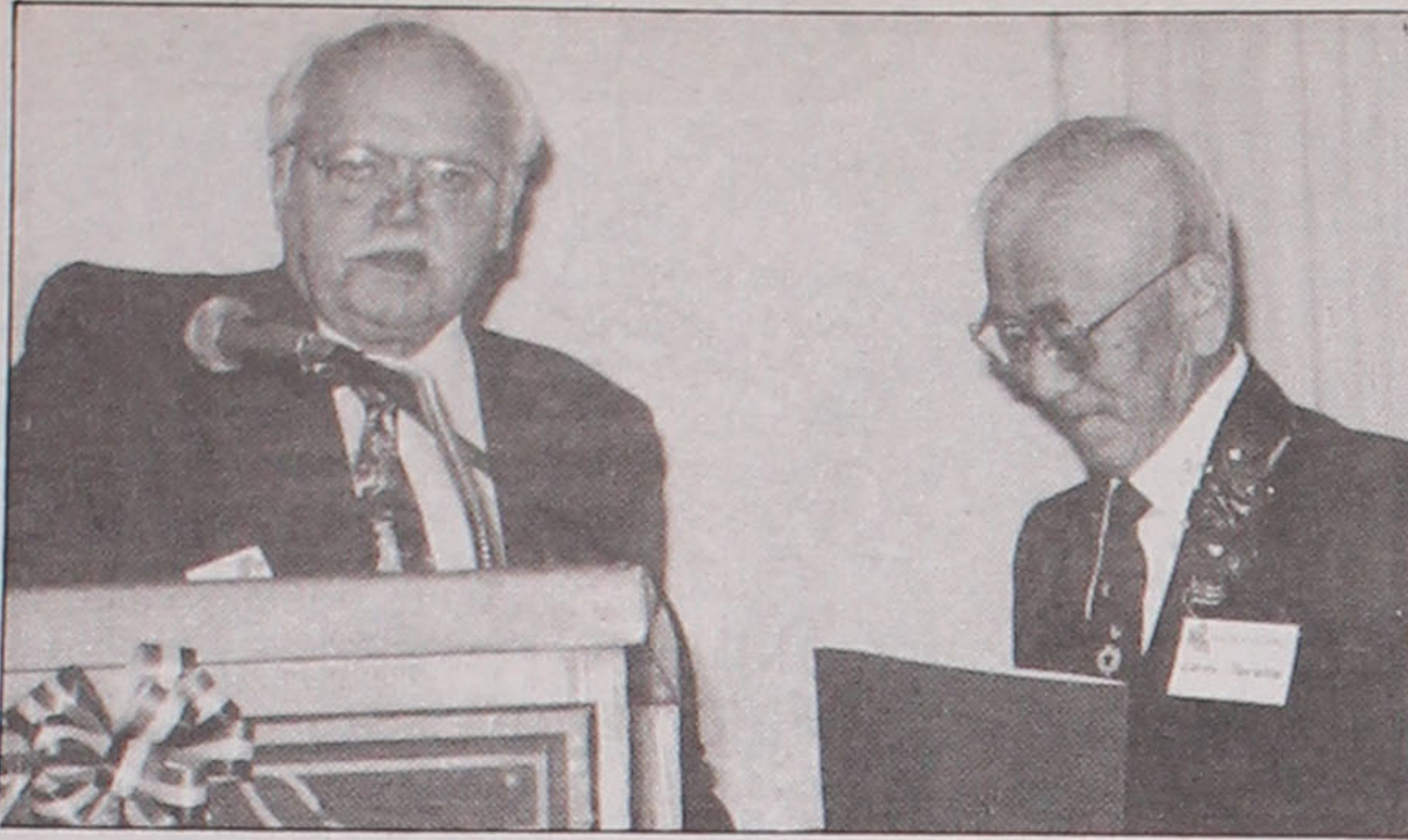
Robert L. Aronoff
Pasadena, Calif.

She likes special issue on Mike Masaoka

Thank you for the call to Sacramento alerting us to Mike Masaoka's passing. He was a great man of our time! His sincere voice for equal justice will ring in our hearts and minds forever. I am so glad he lived at a most historic, crucial time in our Japanese American history. He was a model of sterling, articulate rhetoric and "lifted all of us from what is low." More than anything, I'm glad he lived to know Redress was triumphant. Our Constitution was upheld and honor came to us, as he struggled for decades to enoble our cause for justice.

I shall take this opportunity to commend the editorial staff for an outstanding *Pacific Citizen*.

Mary Tsuruko Tsukamoto
Florin, JACL, Redress Civil Rights co-chair



—Photo by Shigeo Yokote
442ND VETERAN Larry Tanaka of Sacramento VFW Nisei Post 8985 receives commendation for efforts with other VFW posts in defeating anti-Nisei measures introduced at VFW district and national conventions from Bob Drew (left), VFW 17th District commander.

1st Japanese PW in U.S. reunited with MIS vet

From the MIS/SC Newsletter

LOS ANGELES — A former Japanese imperial naval officer who took part in the Pearl Harbor attack and the Nisei who questioned him as an investigator of war crimes met in Los Angeles on May 10 — their first time in 45 years.

Kazuo Sakamaki, 72, then an ensign, became the first prisoner of war in America after participating in the Pearl Harbor attack as a crew member of a special submarine. [WWII historian Gordon Prange notes it was Sgt. David M. Akui had captured Sakamaki on Dec. 8, lying on the beach off Kaneohe-Bellows Field.]

During the reunion, former investigator Jim Matsumura, 73, gave Sakamaki an English-language transcript of his statements made at the Yokohama District war crimes trial. The transcript contained Sakamaki's statement about the riot started by Japanese POWs protesting their treatment at a prison camp.

The reunion was realized when Sakamaki stopped over after attending a symposium in Austin, Texas, held to observe the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Matsumura, president of the

Military Intelligence Service/Southern California during the 1987 - 1988 term, is promoting a project for the Japanese American veterans monument in Little Tokyo facing the Japanese American National Museum.

MIS Reunion Reminders— Meanwhile, registration deadline is coming, Aug. 31, for the MIS 50th anniversary reunion Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 1991 at San Francisco/Monterey. For packet, write to MIS 50th Anniversary Registration, P.O. Box 2350, San Jose, CA 95109-2350. Hotel reservations must be made directly at San Francisco Miyako (Oct. 29-30) and Hyatt Regency Monterey (Oct. 3-Nov. 1.)

Fees schedule: registration, \$25 single, \$35 couple; Oct. 29 dinner (\$35), Oct. 31 dinner (\$35), Nov. 1 banquet (\$35). Full return of fees made on cancellations until Sept. 15. Optional motorcoach from San Francisco to Monterey and back to SFO International Airport (\$30).

The reunion is being coordinated by the MIS/Northern California group, Tom Sakamoto, steering committee chair. Panel discussions by MIS veterans are being planned at the Miyako Oct. 30. ☐

Dan Komai of Washington, D.C., files first job bias redress claim

NEW YORK—Dan Komai, who was terminated Feb. 1, 1942, by the U.S. General Accounting Office in Washington because of his Japanese ancestry, filed for restitution under section 103 of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

It is the first redress claim of its kind, according to the Asian American Defense and Education Fund and pro-bono co-counsel law firm of Latham & Watkins in an Aug. 23 announcement.

Komai, a Los Angeles native and college graduate, began working as a junior file clerk at the GAO on Dec. 1, 1941. Two months

later, his supervisor said he must either resign or face dismissal. When he asked for a reason, it was because his father, a Japanese newspaper publisher in Los Angeles, had been interned. He resigned and was promised a letter of termination "without prejudice" which he never received. He was unable to find employment commensurate with his education and skill from 1942 - 1945 in either government or private section.

For information, contact Stanley Mark, AALDEF, 99 Hudson St., New York, NY 10013, 212/966-5932. ☐

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Travel tips

All about discounted air tickets

By TYLER TANAKA

The most frequently asked travel question is: "Is it safe to buy discounted tickets?" The answer: It depends on the type. If the ticket is for domestic travel, unless it is offered by the airline, it is suspect. It could even be stolen property. In that case, by buying it, you could become a party to the crime.

Most discounted tickets can be seen advertised in the newspapers. The ones you will see most often offer low cost travel to Tokyo. However, tickets are not limited only to Tokyo. A shopper with tenacity can find very attractive buys to practically any city in the world served by a commercial airline.

Discount tickets appeared before President Jimmy Carter introduced de-regulation of the airline industry. These tickets were first limited to the ethnic market. They were offered by high volume ticketing offices known as "consolidators." Since that time, the market for these tickets proliferated. The only persons aboard international flights traveling on full revenue tickets these days are commercial travelers on posh expense accounts, or the unfortunate few that were not aware that major savings were so easily available. Even commercial expense account travelers are reverting to "consolidators."

How much cheaper is a ticket through a consolidator? On one carrier, the cost of a \$950 ticket is \$740. That is about a third less. A savings of \$310. That's a lot.

Tour passengers, those buying air tickets as part of an entire travel package, have enjoyed traveling on highly discounted air tickets for many years prior to the introduction of "consolidation." The reason this was kept quiet was because tour operators using highly discounted tickets for the construction of tour packages were not allowed to separate cost of tour components. They were enjoined from revealing the true cost of the air component. If traveling on an international vacation, the best bargain was to buy a tour product. It is true even more so today. Building a tour price involves using discounted airfare as well as discounted hotel rates.

There are many things to watch out for when looking for a good discount. More and more frequently we read reports of scams. We hear how people were cheated when they purchased tickets offering fabulous savings. Like anything else, it is not always best to buy the cheapest. Since the discount ticket market is still relatively new, there are pitfalls for the unwary.

The safest is to buy through your authorized appointed travel agent. The agent's small markup, only about 10%, is the best insurance you can buy. It is also the cheapest if you were to consider the possible consequences. Your agent knows the suppliers so he assumes the risk when securing tickets for you. The agent will carefully explain restrictions, if any. This is important.

Yes there are some restrictions. Usually these tickets are based on the lowest published fares. The most discounted tickets are restricted to off-travel periods of the year. There are discounted tickets for peak seasons as well, but they do cost more though far from the normal fare. Should it be necessary to cancel your trip, the amount you receive as a refund will be less the penalty assessed by the airline. Additionally, refunds are restricted to the office from which you purchased the ticket. The reason for the latter is because your

tickets will show the normal tariff price, not the discounted amount you paid. Your refund, naturally, is limited to the amount you paid, less any airline penalties. So, with the exception as to who makes the refund, regulations are usually identical to tickets purchased at the higher normal rate.

Although discounted air tickets were previously limited to traveling economy class, some carriers are now making business and first class discounted seats available. This is the case if flying to Tokyo.

So, regardless of which international destination you are traveling to, be sure to ask your travel agent the cost for a consolidated ticket. It may be necessary to do a

little shopping. It is important to compare prices so you can be sure you are getting the very best bargain, price versus safety. Once you have the airline ticket paid for and in hand, most worries are behind you. Start packing to enjoy a care-free vacation. You will have more money to spend from the savings on your ticket.

Tyler Tanaka is chairman of the United States Tour Operators Association.

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