

Densho Digital Repository  
Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories of US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs Collection  
Title: Donald K. Tamaki Interview  
Narrator: Donald K. Tamaki  
Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
Location: San Francisco, California  
Date: September 28, 2015  
Densho ID: ddr-densho-1021-10-1

**<Begin Segment 1>**

NW: So, um, please, uh, start with telling me a little bit about yourself. Uh, first of all your name, and your, um, where you're from, and uh, your work, today. Um, your career, and uh, whatever else that you wish to share with me.

DT: Okay. My name is Donald Tamaki. I'm a third generation Japanese American. Um. . . born, uh, 1951. So . . . about, um, you know, postwar . . . just a few years after the internment camps closed.

NW: Mhm.

DT: And um, I'm now a partner in a law firm. . . called Minami-Tamaki LLP here in San Francisco, California.

NW: And, uh, the reason why I got to know you first was, uh, because of my work that I started in 2010, uh, that involved oral history interviews with survivors . . .

DT: Mhm.

NW: . . . and their supporters here in America. And one of them—well, actually more than one person, uh, mentioned your name to me, uh, as somebody who helped out their activism or their community, uh, to put it more broadly, in uh . . . organization called the Friends of Hibakusha. Could you please tell me a little bit about your involvement in the organization?

DT: I don't know that I did that much. So, I'm—I am um, just, you know, cautioning you how—as to how useful this interview might be. But . . . we were, um . . . the topic interested me because these, um, survivors of the A-bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or, the last living witnesses to nuclear warfare.

NW: Mhm.

DT: And, I—we thought, among people I was working with, we thought that they had an important message to convey.

NW: Mhm.

DT: So that was one reason and then the other reason was, uh, Japan . . . Japanese government of course—was sending uh, teams of doctors and researchers every other year, I think it was . . . uh, to the United States for medical examinations. And so they needed some practic—they—logistical assistance on getting the word out, coordinating with hospitals and facilities, and so on. So there was a two-fold purpose. One was, um . . . you know, a policy or political message about A-bomb survivors living in the United States. And, um, the other was more practical in terms of just treatment and, um . . . allowing the researchers to study the after effects of, uh . . . radiation exposure.

NW: Mhm.

**<End Segment 1> - Copyright © 2015 Densho and Naoko Wake. All Rights Reserved.**