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Title: Donald K. Tamaki Interview
Narrator: Donald K. Tamaki
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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<Begin Segment 12>

NW: Um, we've been spending some time by now, and um, I appreciate that you've been answering my questions, including things that, um, you feel that you don't particularly remember too well. It's a long time ago. But I do really appreciate that you're really answering my questions and, um, it's very useful for me, and. . . inspiring to me as well. Um. . . Do you have anything that you felt that I should be asking you, but didn't ask you?

DT: No. I, you know, I'm glad people are—you're doing this research. I think that's really important. And um. . . I'm glad that there's still. . . well hopefully there's still interest. One of the things I'm surprised about—like I give a lecture on the Korematsu case twice a year at Berkeley.

NW: Uh-huh.

DT: And it's been a long time since we reopened that case. But there's still a very high interest level. And um. . . it's uh, regrettably, probably more relevant now than it was even when we. . . when we reopened the case. And um, I think, you know, depending upon the political scene, what happens with the uh, Iran. . . and U.S. nuclear treaty. What happens with Japan's decision to, um, militarize international, more internationally.

NW: Mhm.

DT: These issues will come up. So. . . the. . . the fact that there are going to be less and less survivors around, I think is important to—to do their—to do the writing now. You know, to memorialize their story now, because the issues are going to get hot again. And they are, you know, as tensions develop with um, Russia to now be a, to reassert itself as a world power, is going to come up. And uh, with China in particular. Um. . .

NW: Very true.

DT: So, it's very relevant. And, like I said. [Laughs] I think it's very moving to have the peace museum in Hiroshima, but it should probably be—every one of these countries should have one of those museums.

NW: Interesting. Yes. I was in Hiroshima just this past summer, and um, of course there are people from all over the world participating in commemoration and, yeah, it's a very powerful,

special place to, uh, find yourself in. So you feel that there's a future for—effort to remember? Especially with regard to US survivors because they have been forgotten in many ways.

DT: I think so. They've been forgotten. Um . . . and it's an effort to keep getting their story out there. But the issue is not going to go away. And, in fact, it . . . you know, the world just gets . . . you know, more dangerous in that regard. Um . . . so, you know, just looking at the controversy over the nuclear deal with Iran in the U.S. and um . . . as a campaign issue. You know, um, Republican candidates are saying the first thing they would do is unwind that deal. But, what's the alternative? The alternative is, they're going to develop a nuclear weapon. Period. And then you have to go in and start a war. Um, so . . . you know, um . . . the issue is going to be there, and uh, so I think it's important to humanize the story. And the—ultimately the people that get humanized are these survivors. So.

NW: Mhm.

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