

# Japanese American Citizens League

An All American Organization of American Citizens

## National Headquarters

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Salt Lake City

June 1, 1943

Mr. Roger Baldwin  
American Civil Liberties Union  
170 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

May I take this opportunity, as I am on my way to report for induction in Salt Lake City for the armed forces of the United States, to express my deep and heartfelt appreciation to you and your colleagues for the many kindnesses and courtesies extended to me as an individual as well as a representative of the Japanese American Citizens League. Your kind interest in our problems and your sound advice and judgment have contributed materially to what little I have been able to do on behalf of the loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Ours is a difficult and tragic lot, but I shudder to think of how much more difficult and tragic it would be were it not for the admirable work which you and your associates, as well as others like you, have done in our behalf. Most of the people whom you have so nobly aided are unaware of the part which you have played in shaping their destiny, but I am sure that in the days to come they will become cognizant of the part which you have played and will be grateful for your interest.

Speaking for myself, no words which I can muster can begin to express my admiration for you and my thanks to you for all that you have done for me. I came east last spring, ignorant in the ways of organizations and power politics. I came burdened with the untold sufferings of a dispossessed and confused people. I know not how much or how little I have contributed to making their lot a happier one, but whatever have been able to do, I have been able to do because of you and those like you. I hope that some day I may be able to repay in part your kindly interest in me, and I trust that you will never regret the fact that you were associated with me in a cause which I believe to be just.





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I am happy and proud of this present privilege of fighting for this, my country, but I do look forward to the day when we can meet once again under happier circumstances in a new and greater world where prejudice and discrimination are only "bad dreams" of a by-gone civilization.

My wife joins me in wishing you well.

Gratefully yours,

*Mike Masaoka*

Mike Masaoka  
National Secretary

Japanese American Citizens League  
National Headquarters

MM:fbv

For Better Americans in A Greater America