



*Recognition &  
Reconciliation  
Ceremony*



**Nisei Resisters of Conscience  
of World War II**

May 11, 2002 • San Francisco, California



Resolution adopted at the  
National J.A.C.L. Convention, July 7, 2000

## *Recognition of and Apology to the Nisei Resisters of Conscience of World War II*

**WHEREAS**, the JACL is one of the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the JACL is to uphold civil and human rights for all people; and

**WHEREAS**, the JACL Constitution states that "the organization and its members shall uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States and the several states;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States extends to its citizens the right to protest unfair treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the JACL has participated in and learned from the civil rights movement of the 1960s that fighting for civil rights takes many forms including picketing, boycotting, lawsuits, lobbying, civil disobedience, etc. in efforts to challenge civil rights violations and unjust laws; and

**WHEREAS**, the Resisters' of Conscience right to protest is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and is in keeping with the JACL constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, history is a great teacher and has shown the JACL that there is no easy and "correct" response, emotionally or politically, to a civil rights violation as massive and destructive as the evacuation and internment; that the various forms of protest by innocent and loyal Japanese Americans to overwhelming injustice are deserving of respect today; and

**WHEREAS**, the JACL took its first steps to acknowledge this at its 1990 National Convention; and

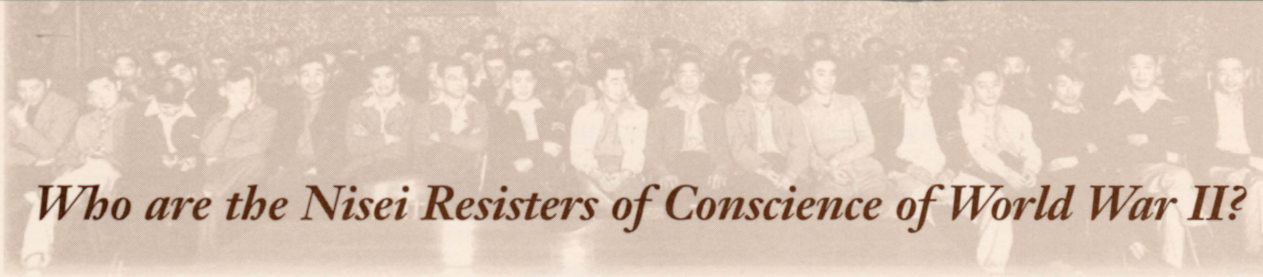
**WHEREAS**, an estimated 315 Japanese American men from the mainland and Hawaii resisted the military draft during World War II because of the United States government's unlawful evacuation of their families and as a result of their position these Resisters of Conscience faced arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment; and

**WHEREAS**, the JACL has recognized others, notably the Nisei veterans of World War II who made great sacrifices in defense of our country and who have won a place of honor and respect in the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry, and that both veterans and Resisters of Conscience made great sacrifices as principled Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the Resisters of Conscience and their families were ostracized by members of their own community for their actions to fight for their constitutional rights; and

**WHEREAS**, the time has come for JACL of the 21st Century to display its leadership in this new millennium, to nurture the healing of divisions within our community; and to fully recognize the Resisters of Conscience.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League recognizes the Japanese American Resisters of Conscience as a group of principled Americans; offers an apology for not acknowledging the resisters' stand of protesting the denial of constitutional rights and for the pain and bitterness this caused; initiate a public education effort; and will recognize them at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2000-2002 biennium.



## *Who are the Nisei Resisters of Conscience of World War II?*

**A**n amazing episode has been kept out of America's history books; this is the story of 315 Nisei Resisters of Conscience who dared to challenge the U.S. government's World War II internment.

When he signed Executive Order 9066, President Roosevelt mandated removal of 110,000 Japanese Americans from the West coast on the mere suspicion of disloyalty. This racist act devastated the lives of people whose only crime was their Japanese face. Japanese Americans were swept from their homes and communities and imprisoned behind barbed wire, despite the fact most were American citizens. Japanese Americans eligible for military service were classified as enemy aliens and barred from serving in the Army.

Adding further insult, the government administered a confusing and divisive loyalty questionnaire from persons it had already labeled disloyal. Forcing such decisions under duress of internment created many impossible, and ultimately tragic dilemmas for Japanese Americans. Most people saw little choice but to endure internment, and tried to maintain their human dignity and make the best of the situation. Some protested the unfair conditions in the camps and were met with repression. Others responded by turning away from the country that rejected them.

When the Army reclassified Japanese Americans from enemy aliens to 1-A, several thousand volunteered, eager to prove their loyalty and patriotism. Several thousand more were later drafted out of camp, and fought for democracy against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. The Nisei soldiers of the 442nd Infantry Regiment/100th Infantry Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service bravely distinguished themselves while their families were locked up behind barbed wire.

Others were compelled to make a different and difficult moral and ethical choice. Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui, and Fred Korematsu, and those who resisted the draft chose to challenge the constitutionality of the internment. From camps like Heart Mountain, they fought the unjust internment in the only legal forum they had — a draft resistance hearing.

This largest group of 85 resisters declared, "We, the members of the Fair Play Committee, ...would gladly sacrifice our lives to protect and

uphold the principles of our country as set forth in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights... The Fair Play Committee believes it has a right to ask for a full restoration of our rights before being drafted into the armed forces." Contrary to common misconceptions, the historical record proves these resisters were not pro-Japan, against military service, nor advocates of violence against the JACL.

Their resistance, however, was denounced by the JACL. Saburo Kido, then National JACL President, on April 3, 1944 declared, "The group at Heart Mountain definitely should be charged with sedition, especially the leaders." The resisters were publicly condemned and accused of being traitors and cowards.

The wartime courts rejected the resisters constitutional challenge and convicted 282 of breaking the selective service law. The resisters were sentenced to Federal prison for an average of two years. However, their actions were legally vindicated in 1947 when President Truman pardoned the resisters and recognized their stand for civil rights. Yet, despite the Presidential pardon and the 1988 passage of the Civil Liberties Act that provided redress and President Reagan's public apology, the World War II-era antagonisms remain, affecting not only Nisei, but Sansei, and even Yonsei generations.

The difficult and unfair choices the government forced people to make on the loyalty oath and military service are still the cause of ostracism, bad feelings, and name-calling. Such continued conflict undermines the strength and effectiveness of the Japanese American community and the JACL.

This Recognition and Reconciliation Ceremony, including an apology from the JACL for failing to respect the resisters' constitutional stand, marks a watershed moment for the Japanese American community — a time to reunite a community that was shattered by Executive Order 9066, the loyalty questionnaire, and the view that all Japanese Americans be of one mind in response to the violation of their civil rights. Today's ceremony is the occasion for us to accept and respect the different choices that were made in response to injustice. It is a time to begin healing divisions and strengthening our common bonds.

The JACL national logo contains the words, "security through unity." May these words guide us as we prepare for the civil rights challenges ahead.

## Nisei Resisters of Conscience of World War II *Recognition & Reconciliation Ceremony*

Senator Daniel K. Inouye was born September 7, 1924, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was a 17-year-old high school student and Red Cross volunteer when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and he rendered first aid to civilian casualties. In 1943 he enlisted in the military and became a member of the U.S. Army's famed "Go For Broke" 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

In Italy, Inouye charged a German machine gun nest, throwing grenades and firing a machine gun even after his right arm was shattered by a rifle grenade. Inouye returned home in 1947 as a Captain with a Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart with cluster, and 12 other medals and citations; he later received a Medal of Honor.

With financial assistance from the G.I. Bill, Inouye graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1950 and George Washington University Law School in 1952. When Hawaii attained statehood in 1959, Inouye won election to the U.S. House of Representatives as the new state's first Congressman.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1962, Inouye is currently serving his seventh consecutive term in the Senate and is currently serves as Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the Communications Subcommittee, and the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator Inouye is one of the most visible and influential Japanese Americans, and became a nationally familiar figure during the televised 1973-74 Watergate hearings. The Senator was instrumental in proposing and sheparding the passage of legislation that established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians that led to redress for Japanese Americans. He again played an important role by proposing creation of an entitlement program that established redress appropriations as a nondiscretionary responsibility of the government.

Senator Inouye is married to Margaret Shinobu Awamura; they have one son, Daniel Ken Inouye, Jr.



Representative Mike Honda was born in California, but spent early childhood interned during World War II with his family at Granada W.R.A. camp in Colorado. His family returned to California in 1953, working as strawberry sharecroppers in Blossom Valley in South San Jose. In 1965, Honda answered President Kennedy's call for volunteer service, serving two years in the Peace Corps building schools and health clinics in El Salvador, while developing fluency in Spanish. Returning home, he completed a degree in Biological Sciences, a BA in Spanish and a Masters in Education. He became a science teacher in Sunnyvale, and later, principal of two public schools.



Congressman Honda began his political career in 1971 after being appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta to the San Jose City Planning Commission. Ten years later, he was elected to the San Jose Unified School Board, and in 1990, Honda became the first Asian Pacific American to serve on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Honda won election to the California Assembly in 1996, and in his second term in the Assembly won reelection with over 75% of the vote. In the Assembly, Honda sponsored legislation that created the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, providing grants for public education activities and materials concerning the exclusion, forced removal and incarceration of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.

In 2000, Honda was elected to represent California's 15th Congressional District; he was selected by his Democratic colleagues to serve as the Regional Whip and work with Democratic leadership to implement legislative priorities for Northern California, Hawaii, American Samoa and Guam. Honda serves as Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and in the House serves on the House Budget Committee, the Transportation Committee, including its subcommittees on Aviation, Highway & Transit, and Water Resources & Environment; and on the Science Committee, including its subcommittee on Research.

Mike's wife, Jeanne, is a teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in San Jose. They have two grown children, Mark, an aerospace engineer, and Michelle, who earned a Masters in public health.

# *Program*

## **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Andy Noguchi, Co-chair, Recognition and Reconciliation Ceremony and  
Florin JACL Civil Rights Co-chairperson

## **INVOCATION**

Reverend Lloyd Wake, Glide Memorial Methodist Church, ret.

## **VIDEO MESSAGE**

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, U.S. Senate

## **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Floyd Mori, President, National JACL

## **MULTI-MEDIA PRESENTATION**

Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

The Honorable Mike Honda, U.S. House of Representatives

## **RESISTER REMARKS**

Frank Emi and Yosh Kuromiya, Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee

## **VETERAN REMARKS**

Marvin Uratsu, member, M.I.S. Association of Northern California  
Warren Tsuneishi, member JACL and Japanese American Veterans  
Association of Washington, D.C.

## **A SANSEI VIEW OF RESISTANCE**

Dan Kubo, son of the late Yoshi Kubo, Amache resister

## **RECOGNITION & RECONCILIATION PRESENTATION**

Floyd Mori, National JACL President

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT & THANKS**

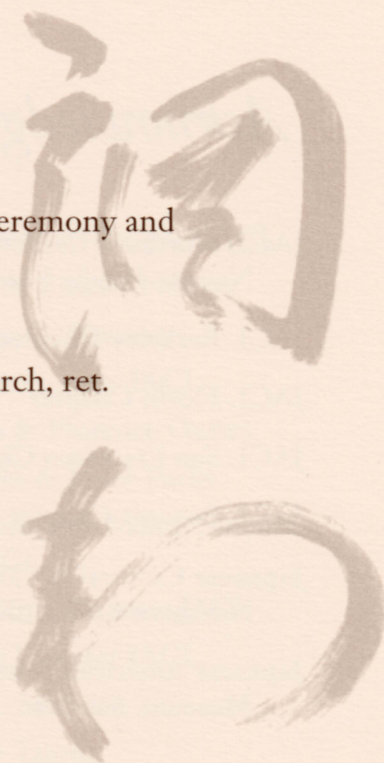
Andy Noguchi

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Reverend Newton Ishiura, Florin Buddhist Church, ret.

## **RECEPTION**

*(Resisters please assemble after program for a group photograph.)*



## *Acknowledgment & Thanks*

JACL Northern California-Western  
Nevada-Pacific District Regional Office

JACL Berkeley Chapter

JACL Florin Chapter

JACL San Francisco Chapter

JACL Sequoia Chapter

Japanese Cultural & Community Center of  
Northern California

Japanese American Resource Center/  
Museum, San Jose

### *Special Thanks*

Steve Dunn & Sam Fung, Visions Plus

Alex Eng, Graphic Design

Craig Ishii, Van Drake Jewelers, Minnesota

May's Coffee Shop

Fred Okimoto, NCWNP District  
Treasurer

Bob Otsuka, San Francisco Flower Mart

Elisa Kamimoto

Kenji Taguma

Stan Umeda

### *Planning Committee*

Andy Noguchi, Co-chairperson & Civil Rights  
Co-chairperson, JACL Florin Chapter

Alan Teruya, Co-chairperson & Governor,  
NCWNP District, JACL

Patty Wada, NCWNP Regional Director JACL

Mike Kaku, President, JACL Sequoia Chapter

Dan Kubo, Cortez, CA (son of the late resister,  
Yosh Kubo of Amache)

Keith Kamisugi, JACL San Francisco Chapter

Fumi Shimada, JACL Florin Chapter, Civil Rights  
Committee Co-chair

Barbara Takei, JACL Florin Chapter

Twila Tomita, JACL Florin Chapter

Aeko Yoshikawa, Stockton, CA

*Many thanks for telling the resisters' story  
and for supporting this event...*

Frank Abe, producer, *Conscience and the Constitution*

William Hohri, author, *Resistance: Challenging  
America's Wartime Internment of Japanese  
Americans*

Eric Muller, author, *Free To Die for their Country*

Emiko Omori, producer/director, *Rabbit in the Moon*



*Photograph of 63 Japanese American draft resisters from the Heart Mountain concentration camp, in Federal District Court, Cheyenne, Wyoming, circa June 1944. National Japanese American Historical Society*

## *Financial Support*

### **PLATINUM \$1,000**

"A Friend"  
Anonymous Donor  
Taye Sakai

### **GOLD \$500**

Anonymous Donor  
Dr. Asao Kamei  
Pacific Northwest District  
Council JACL  
Pacific Southwest District  
Council JACL  
Resister Film Committee  
(Florin/Sacramento area)  
Sachi & Alan Seko, in memory  
of Michi Weglyn  
Sequoia Chapter JACL

### **SILVER \$250**

Frank Abe  
Takashi & Barbara  
Hoshizaki  
David H. & Carol  
Kawamoto  
Yasuko Morimoto  
Susan F. Strauss  
Hideo Tachibana

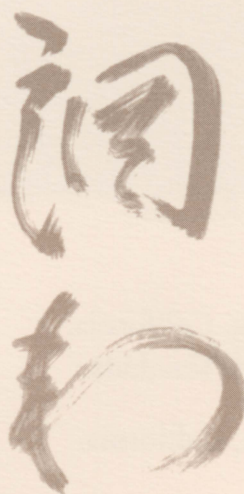
### **BRONZE \$100**

Alaska Chapter JACL  
S. James Arima  
Nobuko Azumano  
Chicago Chapter JACL  
Butch & Diane Enkoji  
Florin Chapter JACL  
Fremont JACL  
Gilroy JACL  
Mary & Babe Karasawa  
William & Janice Kemper  
Drs. Karen S. Kurasaki &  
Alan K. Koike  
Manzanar Committee/  
Special Events  
Kazuo & Mary Miyashita  
Kazuo Morita  
Mt. Olympus JACL  
Paul Murata  
Tsutomu Nakano

New Mexico Chapter JACL  
James & Rosetta Nohara  
George G. Nozawa  
Orange County JACL  
Yoshio & Florence Ozawa  
Douglas & Joyce Parks  
San Fernando Valley Chapter  
JACL  
San Mateo Chapter JACL  
Seattle Chapter JACL  
Kay K. Shiroma  
Calvin Tajima  
Henry T. Tanaka  
Paul & Aiko Tsuneishi  
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Bud Uyeda  
Col. & Mrs. Charles T. Uyeda  
James & Jane Uyeda  
Lloyd K. Wake  
Joe Yamakido  
Aeko Yoshikawa

### **OTHER CONTRIBUTORS**

Rev. George & Misaki Aki  
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Masayuki Ishihara  
Masaji Inoshita  
Mitsuru & Mizue Koshiyama  
Gary N. Mayeda  
Eric L. Muller  
George & Setsuko Nomura  
Tom & Tetsuko Suzuki  
Warren M. Tsuneishi  
Stan Umeda  
Lt. Col. Kanishi S. Yamashita



*The characters represent  
unity and reconciliation.*

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*Resisters Attending the Ceremony*

Mr. Gene Akutsu (Minidoka resister), Seattle, Washington,  
also representing his late brother Jim Akutsu.

Mr. Frank Emi (Heart Mountain resister), San Gabriel,  
California.

Mr. Takashi Hoshizaki (Heart Mountain resister), Southern  
California.

Mrs. Toshiko Kawamoto (wife of the late David Kawamoto,  
Heart Mountain resister), Cupertino, California.

Mr. Mits Koshiyama (Heart Mountain resister), San Jose,  
California.

Mr. Dan Kubo (son of the late Yoshi Kubo, Amache  
resister), Cortez, California, and family members.

Mrs. Gloria Kubota (wife of the late Guntaro Kubota,  
Heart Mountain resister), Saratoga, California, and  
family members.

Mr. Yosh Kuromiya (Heart Mountain resister), Southern  
California.

Mr. George Nozawa (Heart Mountain resister), Mountain  
View, California.

Mr. Noboru Taguma (Amache resister), West Sacramento,  
California, and family members.

Mr. James Uyeda (Heart Mountain resister), Rocklin,  
California, and family members.

Mr. Susumu Yenokida (Amache resister), Galt, California,  
also representing his late brother Menoru Yenokida.

Mr. Ken Yoshida (Topaz resister), San Mateo, California.





Nisei Resisters of Conscience of World War II  
*Recognition & Reconciliation Ceremony Addendum*

*Program*

**INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

John Tateishi, National JACL Director

*Acknowledgment & Thanks*

Mike Furutani, Instructor/Facilities Manager, JCCCNC

Jennifer Hamamoto, Program Associate, JCCCNC

Wayne Sato, Officer, S.F. Police Department

*Resisters Attending the Ceremony*

Ms. Joyce Emiko Kawasaki (daughter of the late Thomas Kawasaki of Amache), Corte Madera, California.

Mr. Joe Norikane (Amache resister), Pleasant Hill, California.

Mr. Terry Uyemoto (Amache resister), San Francisco, California.

Mr. Harry Yoshikawa (Amache resister), Gardena, California.

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**PLATINUM \$1,000**

Kozie & Taye Sakai

**BRONZE \$100**

Anonymous

Karen Kiyo Huster

Mort and Susan Higashi Rumberg

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Benjamin S. Tani