20 Years. 16,000 Names. An Unprecedented Legacy.

A CELEBRATION OF THE GO FOR BROKE MONUMENT

On the morning of June 8, 2019, Nisei veterans and nearly 300 community members and families of veterans gathered for a special commemoration at the Go for Broke Monument in Little Tokyo. 20 years ago, this powerful tribute—etched with 16,000 names of Japanese Americans who served in World War II—was unveiled to the world.

The attendance at the anniversary celebration reflected the community’s continued passion and interest in preserving this American story. As the granite Monument shone softly in the morning sun, hundreds of flowers hugged its perimeter, with each potted plant bearing the name of a loved one remembered and honored for their service. As guests found their seats, the North Torrance Youth Musicians Ensemble played beautiful patriotic pieces to set the tone, and 10 Nisei veterans took their places on stage next to the Monument.

David Ono, GFBNEC board member and ABC Eyewitness News anchor, and GFBNEC board member Craig Ishii hosted the event as co-emcees, leading the audience through the architectural symbolism of the Monument and a recognition of all the Nisei veterans’ units from WWII. After giving his own welcome speech, President Mitch Maki presented the Go for Broke Monument Award to this year’s honorees: Kenjiro “Ken” Akune of the Military Intelligence Service, and Tokuji “Toke” Yoshihashi of the 100th Infantry Battalion. Both veterans have been committed to the mission of GFBNEC and the Monument from their earliest days, assisting with fundraising, speaking engagements, and participation in countless events. Chip Mamiya, GFBNEC board member and son of Yoshio “Buddy” Mamiya, one of the Monument’s earliest supporters, spoke about the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)
Thirty years ago, the founders of Go For Broke National Education Center recognized the need to make sure that the legacy of the Nisei soldiers of WWII would always have a home—a place where their story would live on. In response, the organization was created.

Twenty years ago, the Go For Broke Monument was built. A beautiful tribute to the courage, sacrifice and honor of the Nisei soldiers of WWII. The Monument continues to attract tens of thousands of visitors each year. This past year, the Monument was designated as one of the top 40 places under 40 years old in the nation by Preservation Magazine.

Five years ago, GFBNEC moved to Little Tokyo—into the historic Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple—a very fitting location for the story to be told. Coming home to Little Tokyo has helped to further embed our organization into the pulse of the JA community.

It has been quite a journey and it is far from over! The evolution and growth of GFBNEC continues.

On Wednesday, June 5, 2019 the Los Angeles City Council approved GFBNEC’s renewal of a ground lease for a 37,000 square foot parcel of land directly north of and adjacent to the Monument. For those who remember, it is the same parcel of land on which GFBNEC was contemplating building the interpretative center—before the historic Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple was secured.

The plan is to build a five story mixed use facility—floors two through five will be subsidized housing for veterans and families. This will provide the required income for GFBNEC to have the first floor rent free going forward. It will also place the organization in direct proximity to the Monument. As such, we will be able to see, care for, and be directly tied to the Monument.

Just to be clear, the Los Angeles City Council’s action was just the first step in what will undoubtedly prove to be a multi-year journey. There is much work to do in the planning, eventual ground breaking, and construction of this building. However, it is a critical step to making this dream of our founders, our former staff and boards, and our current supporters a reality.

So in this 30th year anniversary as an organization and the 20th anniversary of the Monument, Go For Broke National Education Center continues to thrive. We look to the future and to cherish the legacy of our heroes—the Nisei veterans of WWII.

Okage sama de—because of them we are.

Because of them, we will continue to be. And in doing so, their legacy will not be forgotten.

Thank you for your support in this journey!

●
I carry many fond memories of my father, Yoshio “Buddy” Mamiya. I miss him greatly to this day, and his spirit and passion for the experience he went through firsthand inspires me daily. And when I think about the legacy he wished to leave behind, and the kind of impact he hoped the stories of the Nisei veterans would have on us today, I can't help but look fondly back on the early days when the Go for Broke National Education Center was just in its infancy, and before something remarkable like the Monument even existed.

Thirty years ago, Colonel Kim and my father would often discuss forming an organization that would honor the legacy of the Nisei soldiers’ service and memorialize those that had made the ultimate sacrifice. My Dad and the Colonel certainly had a special friendship. They were very close. I can't remember a single family gathering when the Kims weren't there with us, just like family. I relished the moments when the Colonel, my Dad, and the original members of the organization came together to think about how they would manifest the vision they held in their hearts to honor the 442nd, the 100th, the MIS. It was imperative that the veterans' story—their story—was remembered far beyond their own lifetimes.

As they began working on the Monument in the early ’90s, it was no easy undertaking. Even the “simplest” task in gathering and verifying all the names took nearly 10 years. My Dad used to go through phone books that he took from the cities he traveled to, looking for Japanese names and writing letters to inquire if they were veterans. Thousands and thousands of letters were all written by hand because Dad knew that people would respond to a handwritten letter. This repetitive, detailed work is what it took to build the Monument.

With this year marking its 20th anniversary, I am reminded of the challenges my Dad and his friends faced to build something from scratch. To build this Monument took an extraordinary amount of dedication and volunteers to make it happen. From the early design concepts, to the architects, engineers and laying out of the names, to raising the funds, docents, and the maintenance, this Monument as it stands today is a testament to not only the 16,000 names forever etched on the back; it is a testament to all who were part of transforming this dream to a reality.

This Monument stands today to tell a story—a uniquely American story—of courage and dedication. When you stand and look up at its black granite slope, you see the story of what our Nisei soldiers accomplished during the war and their significant contribution to our nation. But when you walk around to the back, you see the 16,000 names inscribed, each with its own history to tell. It is those stories that will inspire future generations to create their own stories of courage.

As I imagine the future of the organization, I see the fourth, fifth and sixth generations of Japanese Americans, and all Americans, still learning about the complexities of this story and interpreting the relevancy of the lessons learned in WWII to their own lives. It will be our role at GFB NEC to make those stories available to the future, and it will be up to those generations to take their own action. It will be up to those generations to remember what was done in the spirit of American democracy, freedom, and dignity.

And that, I know, is what Dad would have wanted.
dedication and tedious behind-the-scenes work it took to build the Monument from the ground up.

Five exquisite wreaths made of white roses stood tall in front of the Monument, representing the units in which the Nisei served. Veteran and family representatives from each military unit came to the stage for the floral tributes: Don Miyada for the 100th Infantry Battalion; Fernando Sosa Masuda and his daughters Joanne Abu Qartomy and Pat Rothrock for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; Ralph Matsumoto for the Military Intelligence Service; Carole Zaima, Irene Kakita, and Nancy Ennis, daughters of 522nd Field Artillery Battalion veteran Sho Douchi; and Carrie Morita, daughter of 232nd Combat Engineer Company and 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion veteran George Furuya.

As musician Daichi Sakai ended the program with “Taps” and the colors were retired by Boy Scout Troop 738, the veterans stood at attention once more, saluting the flag under which they served some 75 years ago despite their loyalty having been wrongfully questioned by their own government. But history will continue to shine gloriously on the Nisei legacy. Their pride and dignity never faltered, and the gratitude for their service and sacrifice grows with each passing year. The Monument—a landmark to be revered—remains a symbol of all the greatness they deserve. All that they represent remains all we aspire to be.


"COURAGE AND COMPASSION" GOES TO NEW MEXICO
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 3, 2019

“Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience” reveals little-known stories of bravery among local, everyday Americans and explores the legacy of Albuquerque’s Japanese American community and the impact World War II-era incarceration camps had on New Mexicans. This exhibit explores the stories of citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry whom the FBI targeted as “enemy aliens.” Thousands were held without due process in Department of Justice and U.S. Army-run camps in Lordsburg, Santa Fe, Fort Stanton, and Old Raton Ranch. Personal objects and photos loaned by descendants of prisoners and Japanese American families living in New Mexico at the time tell a complex story of uncertainty inside and outside the barbed wire.

Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104, Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information, visit www.cabq.gov/museum

FIRE FOR EFFECT: JOURNEY OF THE 522ND FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION
JUNE 7 - AUGUST 25, 2019

“Fire for Effect” chronicles the valiant advances through Italy, France, and Germany made by the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion as part of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. The roughly 650 soldiers of the 522nd earned the reputation as one of the quickest and most effective artillery units in the European Theater. Learn about the men behind the unit with in-depth stories and photos on display within Defining Courage.

355 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. “Fire for Effect” is held inside GFBNEC’s Defining Courage exhibition on the corner of 1st Street and Central Avenue in Little Tokyo.
THE LAST SPAMURAI  
July 25, 2019  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
GFBNEC’s annual Spam musubi eating contest will be held this year at Wolf & Crane. Come early for a special meet-and-greet with WWII Nisei veterans before the contest begins at 6 p.m.

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE IN SALT LAKE CITY  
July 31 - August 4, 2019

GFBNEC X JANM PUBLIC PROGRAM: HANASHI ORAL HISTORY POP UP  
September 21, 2019  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Come see a selection of GFBNEC’s Hanashi Oral Histories celebrating Constitution Day. The program will explore the legacy of these veteran stories and the consequences and lessons of passing an unconstitutional order such as E.O. 9066.

GFBNEC 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA/EVENING OF ALOHA  
October 12, 2019  
Congratulations to last year’s Evening of Aloha Opportunity Draw winner, Amy Wilson! Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, American Honda Motor, Inc. for its generous donation.

Please visit www.goforbroke.org for additional information on these events.

Exhibit Openings & Events

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

CALLED TO SERVE: JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN IN THE U.S. MILITARY  
JULY 19 - OCTOBER 13, 2019

“Called to Serve” tells the story of the courageous Japanese American women who served in the United States military during WWII. As nurses, translators, medical technicians, clerks, and more, these women joined the military from concentration camps, Hawaii, and throughout the United States to prove their loyalty to their nation. Visit this temporary exhibit to learn about this rarely told story and how it relates to issues faced by women in the military today.

Location: 355 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
“Called to Serve” is held inside the exhibition lobby located on the corner of 1st Street and Central Avenue in Little Tokyo.

442 GRAPHIC NOVEL TALK AND DRAWING WORKSHOP WITH ROB SATO  
JULY 27, 2019  
2 P.M. - 4 P.M.

Meet the team behind 442, a graphic novel that details the story of a young man who volunteers to serve in the 442nd. Authors Koji Steven Sakai and Phinneas Kiyomura will discuss the collaboration process with artist Rob Sato, followed by an interactive drawing workshop. 442 follows the journey of Hiro, who volunteers out of Manzanar and gives a detailed perspective of the battle to rescue the “Lost Battalion.”

Free admission to the program (does not include admission to JANM)  
Japanese American National Museum  
100 North Central Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90012
GFBNEC BACKPACK
$58.00
The GFBNEC modern laptop backpack features an embroidered logo and comes with a zippered wide-mouth opening and padded laptop/tablet compartment. Other highlights include a large front zip pocket with organizational pouches and two side slip pockets for easy access to on-the-go items such as a water bottle or sunglasses.

JAPANGELES HATS
$30.00
Shield from the sun and get with this Little Tokyo-inspired and Japangeles-designed hat. A perfect gift for family or your favorite veteran. Available in Black or Olive Green.

GFBNEC ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRT
$30.00
Help us celebrate 30 years of GFBNEC and 20 years of the Go for Broke Monument with this Japangeles-designed commemorative t-shirt. The design proudly pays tributes to each of the units in which Japanese Americans served—100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the 232nd Engineering Combat Team and 1399 Engineer Construction Battalion

OKAGE SAMA DE KIDS’ SHIRTS
$25.00
“Okage Sama De,” (‘Because of you, I am’), is commonly spoken to our Nisei veterans. This one-of-a-kind, unisex toddler tee plays off that phrase, and pays homage to the brave Japanese American soldiers of World War II in a warm, sweet way. Made from tri-blend material, these soft and stylish tees are great for everyday wear.
Help GFBNEC Inspire Generations to Come

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER (GFBNEC) EDUCATES AND INSPIRES OTHERS THROUGH THE VIRTUE AND VALOR OF OUR JAPANESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS. BY SUPPORTING GFBNEC, YOU ENABLE US TO SHARE THE COURAGEOUS STORIES OF OUR VETERANS AND EMPOWER OTHERS TO TAKE ACTION FOLLOWING THEIR SAME SPIRIT.

Donate

Your generous donation helps advance our mission and continues the legacy of our Japanese American World War II veterans. Go For Broke National Education Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and your gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

DONATE ONLINE
Visit our website at www.goforbroke.org and click the “donate now” button on our homepage.

DONATE BY CHECK
Write a check payable to “Go For Broke National Education Center” or “GFBNEC” and mail to:
355 E. 1st Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90012

DONATE BY PHONE
Call (310) 328-0907 to make a donation by credit card over the phone. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

MONTHLY GIVING
Consider making a recurring monthly gift, in an installment of your choosing. A monthly recurring gift is an investment in our long-term sustainability.

TRIBUTE GIFTS
Consider making a gift to GFBNEC in honor of someone on a special occasion (e.g. anniversary, birthday, etc.) or in memory of a loved one.

Other Ways to Give

PLANNED GIVING
Planned giving is a philanthropic approach that allows you to support GFBNEC through your will or trust. In addition to investing in the future of GFBNEC, a planned gift may have tax benefits as well. For additional information about making a bequest to GFBNEC, visit our website at www.goforbroke.org or call (310) 222-5712.

MATCHING GIFTS
Your employer may have a matching gift program. Matching gifts can double, or even triple, the impact of your contribution to GFBNEC. Ask your company’s Human Resources Department to see if your company is eligible.

APPRECIATED SECURITIES
Donating appreciated securities, including stocks and bonds, is an easy and tax-effective way for you to make a gift to GFBNEC.

AMAZONSMILE
Support GFBNEC when you shop online! By selecting “Go For Broke National Education Center” when shopping on AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to GFBNEC.

VEHICLE DONATIONS
You can support GFBNEC through a vehicle donation. We accept vehicles in almost any condition. We can arrange to have the vehicle picked up from you. It’s a convenient and eco-friendly way to support GFBNEC.

For more information on any of the above ways to give, please contact GFBNEC at (310) 328-0907 or development@goforbroke.org.
Go For Broke National Education Center’s Legacy Society

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

Go For Broke National Education Center is proud to recognize and honor the generosity and commitment of our planned giving donors with membership to our Legacy Society. By becoming a member, you will ensure that your generosity supports GFBNEC’s long-term vision of inspiring others through the courageous stories of the Japanese American World War II veterans.

As a member of the Legacy Society, you will receive:
- An invitation to an annual Legacy Society event
- Periodic updates from GFBNEC’s President & CEO
- Recognition in our annual publications and website

Membership in the Legacy Society is as simple as informing us that you have made a planned gift. Gifts that qualify for inclusion in our Legacy Society include:
- Including Go For Broke National Education Center as a beneficiary in your will or trust
- Naming Go For Broke National Education Center as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust
- Naming Go For Broke National Education Center as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan assets
- Using assets to establish a charitable lead trust that would provide income to Go For Broke National Education Center for a term or years
- Many other gifts may also qualify

If you have already made a planned gift to Go For Broke National Education Center, would like to speak to someone about a planned gift, or would like more information about the Legacy Society, please contact Brandon Leong at (310) 222-5712 or brandon@goforbroke.org. Planned giving resources are also available on our website at www.goforbroke.org.

Membership

Help support GFBNEC by becoming a member. Your tax-deductible membership donation allows GFBNEC to educate and inspire character and equality through the virtue and valor of our World War II Japanese American veterans.

To become a member, choose from one of these tiers of support:

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<th>INDIVIDUAL LEVELS</th>
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<td>$25 Student (ID required)</td>
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ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS IN 2019:
- A year of FREE unlimited admission to Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) Defining Courage Exhibition
- Free admission to public programs
- 10% discount on GFBNEC merchandise
- Subscription to “The Torch” newsletter and “eTorch” online
- Hawaiian Airlines Preferred Affiliate Program (access to lowest available trans-Pacific web fares)

SPONSOR LEVEL MEMBERS ($500) RECEIVE ALL OF THE ABOVE BENEFITS AND
- Invitation to all special exhibitions
- Invitation to a special donor appreciation event (date TBD)

PRESIDENT’S CLUB ($1,000 AND ABOVE) RECEIVE ALL OF THE ABOVE BENEFITS AND
- Opportunity for a VIP guided tour of GFBNEC’s Defining Courage Exhibition
- Invitation to a special President’s Club event (date TBD)
- Special recognition in GFBNEC’s publications

*Benefits subject to change without notice. Join now at goforbroke.org/membership
IN HONOR OF

SHIG IBA
Mitty Hamano

FRED MASAO IGE
Mary Sadahiro

JAMES K. ISHII
Curtis & Emily Ishii

AKIRA IWASAKI, 442nd RCT
Oregon Nisei Veterans

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COL. YOUNG OAK KIM
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Ron Satow

TOMIO SATOW
Ron Satow

BILL SEKI’S Birthday

Stephen Kagawa

DON SEKI
Tracey Seki Matsuyma

LLOYD SEKI, 442nd RCT

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George & Nadine Nakai

Nancy L. Furumoto

SHUKO AKUNE-PACELLI’S Birthday

Yuri Ogawa

Tammie Kanda

Bert Dare

KEN AKUNE

Christina Stevens

THE 442nd RCT

 joints received. Consider making a gift to GFBNEC in honor of someone on a special occasion (e.g. anniversary, birthday, etc.) or in memory of a loved one.
President’s Club Members

Thank you to our President’s Club members who contributed $1,000 or more to GFBNEC’s Membership program.

Esther T. Abe  
Natsuko Akiyama  
Kenjiro & Alice Akune  
Jeff and Lorraine Dohzen  
George Henning  
Betty & Frank Hiji  
Dean Hughes  
Beverly Iba  
Stephen Kagawa  
David & Carol Kawamoto  
Ralph & Amy Matsumoto  
Timothy & Maryanne Mayeda  
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Grace Sakioka  
Bill & Chris Seki  
Richard & Patricia Shinto  
James A. Suyemasa  
Richard M. Watanabe  
Roy Yamaguchi  
Tokuji Yoshihashi

Gifts In-Kind

We appreciate the generous in-kind support we receive to help us reduce our operating expenses.

Teresa J. Akune  
The Comedy Store  
The Distinguished Speaker Series  
Michelle Enriquez  
Joan Flax  
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center  
Japanese Americans  
Marsha Kawasaki  
Keiro  
Megan Keller  
Tom Keller  
Andrea Kimura  
Mark Kuwata  
Brandon Leong  
Madame Tussauds Hollywood  
Mitchell Maki & Cayleen Nakamura  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
New York Philharmonic  
Nixon Presidential Library & Museum  
OLIV A Trattoria  
Pickwick Gardens Ice Center  
Rafu Bussan, Inc.  
Schramsberg & Davies Vineyards  
Bill & Chris Seki  
Christina Tatsugawa  
Union Bank

Sustaining Monthly Donors

A special thank you to our Sustaining Donors for their monthly gifts, which are the foundation of our sound operational planning. Sustaining Donors are recognized at their annual level of giving:

$1,000 - 2,499  
Jeff & Lorraine Dohzen

$500 - 999  
The Children & Grandchildren of Yuki Akaki

$250 - 499  
Christine Kirsch

WISH LIST

We appreciate the generous in-kind support we receive to help us reduce our operating expenses. Here are some wish list items that will significantly help GFBNEC:

- Copy paper (8.5 x 11 – Double A Brand preferred)
- Address labels (White, laser labels 1” x 2 5/8” – 3M Brand preferred)
- Office Depot Gift Cards (we take advantage of loyal customer discounts to stretch our buying dollars)
- Costco and/or Sam’s Club Gift Cards
- U.S. Postal “Forever” stamps
- Amazon Gift Cards
- Airline Miles

To make an in-kind donation, please contact us at (310) 328-0907.
Fan Salutes

THE BEST OF SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THE FRIENDS AND FANS OF GFBNEC.

Tag us in your future visits to the center, monument or exhibits! Follow us at @gfbnec on Instagram and Go for Broke National Education Center on Facebook. You might be featured in our next issue of the Torch.

@hill555project
"Mayor Yves Bonjean from Bruyeres visits California! We welcomed him to Alameda at the USS Hornet to see the 100th/442nd museum aboard. Here at a luncheon after, President Mitch Maki presents the Mayor of Bruyeres with a beautiful photo of troops enlisting. We couldn’t be happier for this visit, celebration and remembrance of the 100th/442nd. Go For Broke!"

@littletotmoppet
“Spending some time today to remember my great uncle, who I never had the pleasure of meeting, who died while in service. My grandfather never got over losing his twin brother, and he carried that baggage and passed on those emotions to me. I’m so grateful I had the chance to take my son to the Go for Broke memorial. Don’t forget to continue to pass these important patches of history on for each generation after us.”

@zaire.anika
“Ventures through Little Tokyo.”

@samson8551
“They stood up to serve their country when their country saw them as untrustworthy. In the end, they became the most decorated Army unit of their size and length of service. 21 Medals of Honor awarded!!”

Okage Sama De: Because of You, I Am Tribute Panel

In commemoration of GFBNEC’s 30th Anniversary, join us for a rare opportunity to have the name of your loved one inscribed on the “Okage Sama De: Because of You, I Am” Tribute Panel at the Go For Broke Monument. Your contribution to the Tribute Pillar will allow GFBNEC to continue its mission of inspiring others by sharing the courageous stories of the Japanese American World War II veterans. For additional information about this opportunity, please contact Brandon Leong at (310) 222-5712 or brandon@goforbroke.org.

CORRECTION: In the February Torch, we featured a Talk with a Torchbearer, Michael Oguro. His last name was misspelled in that interview, and we apologize for any confusion that may have caused. Thank you again, Michael, for sharing your family’s story and to read the updated version, please visit http://goforbroke.org/news/torch/torch_201902.pdf
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