One of GFBNEC’s newest projects, *Letters to Home*, is in partnership with David Ono, ABC7 News Anchor, documentarian and member of GFBNEC Board of Directors. Based on written material: letters, diaries and journals, both to and from Nisei veterans during WWII, this project looks to understand the layers of complexity and emotions felt by the young Nisei who were serving, often in dire and unpredictable situations. Their correspondences to family and friends shed light on their fears, their hopes and their optimism in the face of daily uncertainty and in the fight against tyranny.

The stories we collect will be the basis for a future full-length documentary. We need the help of families of Nisei veterans to fill in the gaps and encourage any and all submissions of letters, diaries and journals. For more information, or for help scanning documents, please email takeaction@goforbroke.org. **Deadline for submissions is June 30, 2021.**

An original letter envelope scanned by the daughter of Gary Uchida, writing to his brother, Walter Uchida in Honolulu (Letters and envelopes courtesy of Janice Sakoda).
When I assumed the role of president at Go For Broke National Education Center in 2016, I was familiar with the story of the Japanese American soldiers of WWII. They were my heroes — larger than life figures who I revered. In the last five years, I have had the privilege of knowing them as more than unparalleled soldiers and heroes. I have gotten to know them as human beings. I have heard their stories and, more important, their feelings about being young men and women whose lives were filled with dreams, aspirations and hopes. They were ordinary, young people who found themselves the target of racism, discrimination and hate. In the face of this hate, they proved that being an American is not a matter of the color of one's skin, but, rather, the content of one's heart. The lesson of their example is timeless and evergreen.

Currently, our nation and the Asian American community are again facing similar racial vitriol, discrimination and harassment. It is disheartening that our nation has not progressed as far as we had all hoped. For our leadership and staff, our resolve to ensure that all Americans know about the Nisei veteran story is stronger than ever. Together, the GFBNEC family — volunteers, staff, leadership, supporters — can continue to drive America towards becoming a more perfect union. Our nation can continue to become a union which embodies the values of our Nisei veterans — courage, humility, sacrifice, inclusion, patriotism and, most of all, equality.

During this past year of pandemic and social crisis of race based bigotry and violence, our organization has been challenged in many unexpected ways. However, through it all, the GFBNEC family of supporters and donors stepped forward with generous support. This support propelled the organization in successfully pivoting from in-person to online programming. We are able to connect the Nisei veteran story to an expanded nationwide audience well beyond our pre-pandemic reaches.

In this Torch issue, you will see the different virtual programs which we are developing. Programs which are designed to attract younger audiences, remain true to maintaining the legacy of our veterans and highlighting the relevance of this story to today's reality. The challenges facing our nation underscore the urgency and purpose of our work. Please remain engaged with us as we further evolve our ability to share the values of our veterans across the nation.

Their legacy, our future.

MITCHELL T. MAKI, Ph.D.
This is an excerpt from a current submission we received from a niece of a Nisei veteran, Fred Yamamoto (442nd RCT), who was killed in action in October 1944:

“Everything happens in the Army and believe me – we’re no exception. The cities and towns are much cleaner than those of Italy – and the people – especially the mademoiselles!! Ooh-la-la!! The French that I took in high school 9 years ago, comes in handy but I’m afraid that I’ve forgotten most of it. The civilian population seems to be a whole lot better off than the people of Italy. – Parisian style – now I know why – Paris and France are world renown for its individuality, the dash and flair in the way that people dress. We’ve been quite fortunate till now – that it was summer – but with the winter days coming on – we will feel the impact of what war is really like. Along with the weather will be the fact that the Jerries will be in there fighting for all their worth in a last ditch stand!”

Letters from Fred Yamamoto (courtesy of Pamela Hashimoto).

SAVE THE DATE:
Go For Broke Monument 22nd Anniversary Tribute
SATURDAY, JUNE 5 • 12 P.M. PDT (LIVE STREAMED EVENT)

Every year on the first Saturday in June since 1999, GFBNEC has held a community gathering to commemorate the unveiling of the Go For Broke Monument. It serves as a striking dedication to honor the more than 16,000 Japanese American men and women who served during WWII and whose names are forever etched into the dark granite.

On Saturday, June 5, 2021, Go For Broke Monument’s 22nd Anniversary Tribute will be held to pay tribute and honor the remarkable legacy of all Nisei WWII veterans. In the interest of the community’s safety and an abundance of caution, this event will be a virtual, live stream broadcast beginning at 12 P.M. PDT.

The pre-show featuring “Honor the Veteran” tributes and sponsor acknowledgements begin at 11:45 A.M. PDT.

Official invitations and information including sponsorship opportunities, Veteran Floral Tribute gifts and “Honor the Veteran” tributes will be mailed out in early May. The Veteran Floral Tributes will be displayed at the Monument on the morning of Sunday, May 30. The decorative potted plants, each with the name of the veteran will be available for pick-up at the Monument on May 30 from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. Plants not picked-up will be taken to Evergreen Cemetery and placed at the Nisei WWII veterans markers. For questions, contact the Development Department at (310) 328-0907 or development@goforbroke.org.
When Andrew Williams recalls his grandfather’s presence, an audible smile carries in his voice. “He was always laughing, always happy. He was incredible to be around.” Williams, a native Texan, is the grandson of Bob Peiser, a 141st Infantry Regiment veteran, colloquially known as the “Lost Battalion.” This battle, for which the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is perhaps best known, was the rescue of more than 200 men of the 141st Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, who were cut off from the rest of their regiment in the Vosges Mountains in France. And though Bob himself was not one of the soldiers trapped behind German lines in the fall of 1944, he was part of the rescue effort that met and celebrated with the Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who had liberated the besieged Texas soldiers.

After his return from the war, Bob looked back on that brief but significant moment with the 442nd soldiers as a deeply meaningful point in his life. He attended several events and gatherings in his later years that honored the Nisei soldiers and keeping in touch with many by email.

“I always heard Granbobby say how incredible the Japanese American soldiers were,” Andrew says. Andrew himself kept such traditions going for his grandfather and attended the opening of GFBNEC’s Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience at the Lone Star Flight Museum in Houston in January 2020, just before the pandemic shut the
exhibition down. In this brief interview, Andrew reflects on his grandfather’s service during WWII, and the colliding of two segregated worlds that met in the hilly terrain of the Vosges Mountains on October 30, 1944.

**Can you share what you know about your grandfather’s experience during the war?**

Growing up he really didn’t talk about it too much, at least not with me. I remember a couple of times he’d tell stories about his life and the war and everything [but] wasn’t until I was older and I attended events with him that I started to learn more about Granbobby’s involvement with everything and the Lost Battalion. Growing up he didn’t talk much about it [so] most of what I know is through those events and hearing stories.

**What was his involvement with the rescue of the Lost Battalion?**

At *Courage and Compassion*, they had a video about how the soldiers were being held down; they were sitting ducks waiting for someone to save them. He was part of A Company of the 141st (led by Captain Martin Higgins) and he was being sent in to rescue the Lost Battalion but by that time, the 442nd had come and already saved them. I think that’s when he first formed relationships with the Japanese American soldiers. He said, “I met a lot of them and everyone was so thankful [to them]. In that encounter we met each other.”

But he did become a POW when he was in France with his group and they were doing some patrols. I believe they were very close to the France/Germany border and they were attacked by Germans, completely outgunned. They took them prisoner and they had to walk 300 miles to a German camp [which he was in] for five months. His recollection was that as far as he was concerned, they treated him well. He recalls a story helping rebuild a bar or restaurant and after they finished it they were able to have dinner with the Germans. The Germans knew [the war] was winding down and as he recalled, it was George Patton who came in and liberated everyone. My grandfather was German, so he was trying to make friends with the guards, trying to save himself and make the best of a bad situation.

**When did he return home from the service?**

December 10, 1945 is when he finally made it back to the states.

**How do you think the war affected your grandfather?**

One thing that came up was PTSD. He’s one of the happiest people I’ve ever known so I thought, “He doesn’t have it,” but my mom said he *did* have it and struggled through it. I didn’t realize he went

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
through that—he was always laughing, always happy. He was really incredible to be around. I never saw it and I only ever heard about it once or twice. It didn't have any major impact, although it probably affected him more than anyone realized.

**Did he stay in touch with any Nisei veterans?**

I do know that whenever he saw them at the events, it was like they had been best friends for years. As long as I knew him, he was hard of hearing but he would love to send emails. I can only imagine he was keeping in touch with all these people.

**What do you think your grandfather felt about his service?**

We didn’t talk a lot about it but just by going to the events, I think he was honored to have been able to serve. He was always incredibly humble about his service and would say, “I was just there.”

**What did you learn about this history that you didn’t know before attending Courage & Compassion?**

Something it drove home was how dedicated the Japanese American soldiers were to America and feeling like they had to prove their worth. And even after everything America put them through — interning Japanese people and treating them like no human should be treated — they were still fighting for America. How incredible they were able to overcome what their own country put them through.

I always heard Granbobby say how incredible the Japanese American soldiers were. “I was there when they saved the Lost Battalion and these people are hugely underrepresented, they're not getting the recognition they deserved. These are the people we should be honoring. They saved the Lost Battalion.”

*For his service, Bob received the Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge. He passed away on July 4, 2020. Photos courtesy of the Williams and Peiser families. We thank them for their time in contributing to this article.*
Continuing the Legacy

PEGGY MIZUMOTO, DAUGHTER OF ROBERT KATSUMI MIZUMOTO,
100TH BATTALION

Continuing the Legacy spotlights those within our GFBNEC family of supporters and donors who continue to be inspired and influenced by the contributions and sacrifice of the Nisei veterans.

“Sometimes a look back at history, can give us hints about our path forward. My Dad seldom spoke much about his time in combat in WWII; I suspect painful, sad memories were most difficult. It was better to focus on the hope and joy of future generations. Thanks to the GFBNEC efforts to teach and never forget, I have learned more about the courage and patriotism of a special group of veterans. With the help of GFBNEC, I can honor my father’s service and his lifetime of hard work — focused on making a “place” for his family and his immigrant parents, regardless of the unfairness he suffered. The series, Living the Nisei Dream, triggers feelings of gratitude, knowing my genealogy is tied to such a humble, giving and brave generation.”

— Peggy Mizumoto, March 2021

Torchbearers Continue to Serve Our Veterans

GFBNEC is grateful for the active participation of our Torchbearers. These young professionals connect to the meaning of the Nisei veterans story, understanding why it is important that their generation and the next continue to be inspired. Following COVID-19 protocols, the Torchbearers found time last year for their fall clean-up at Evergreen Cemetery. Over 20 volunteers came to remove weeds and adorn the headstones with potted plants from the Monument Anniversary Veteran Floral Tributes. The Torchbearers continue to plan activities to serve, including a letter campaign to the veterans with local Nikkei Student Union clubs. For more information about the Torchbearers, email esoldier@goforbroke.org.

In 2021, GFBNEC launched new and original GFBNEC programming, featuring intimate conversations with our living Nisei veterans, community leaders, entrepreneurs and next-gen creatives who are forging their own paths to success. In January, we formally launched the first episode of **Heroes Among Us: Stories of Courage, Patriotism & Sacrifice** with the story of how the 442nd RCT broke the nearly impenetrable Gothic Line in the spring of 1945, drawing nearly 2,000 views across Facebook and YouTube.

Our second series, **Living the Nisei Dream**, premiered on February 27 drawing another 2,000 viewers from Bainbridge Island to the Bronx to Honolulu. Host Sierra Katow explored with special guest hip-hop lyricist and educator, Kaze Jones, how he is able to pursue his dreams and passions as a result of the sacrifices of the Nisei. The two-segment episode also featured Little Tokyo's iconic Far Bar and a visit with Irene Tsuakada Simonian, owner of Bunka-do.

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**Heroes Among Us: Stories Of Courage, Patriotism & Sacrifice** features expanded stories from GFBNEC’s Hanashi Oral History Collection with more in-depth narratives that highlight the valor, character and selfless acts of the Nisei veterans as they fought for equality. The first episode, *The Gothic Line* aired January 28, 2021. Next episodes will be released on April 24, July 31 and October 30.

**Living the Nisei Dream** showcases up close conversations hosted by writer, comedian and actor, Sierra Katow, and special next gen guests who explore the significance of the Nisei veterans’ accomplishments and how today’s youth have the undisputed freedom to pursue their own dreams and passions. First episode with guest hip-hop lyricist and educator, Kaze Jones, aired February 27, 2021. Next episodes will be released May 29, August 28 and November 20.

**Sharing Stories Around the Table** presents intimate stories hosted by GFBNEC President & CEO, Mitch Maki about the significance and meaning of the Japanese American WWII veteran story from an intergenerational, multi-ethnic perspective. The first episode, *I Feel With My Heart* aired on March 27, 2021. Next episodes will be released June 26, September 25 and December 18.
Our third and most recent programming, *I Feel with My Heart*, the first episode in our series, *Sharing Stories Around the Table*, premiered on March 27 with over 3,000 views. This episode tells the story of Fernando Sosa Masuda, a veteran of the 442nd RCT, who was born in East Los Angeles to a Japanese father and a Mexican mother and unaware of his Japanese heritage until he was drafted in 1945. A special conversation is also featured between Maya Hernandez, Mia Lopez and GFBNEC President and CEO, Mitch Maki about the shared experiences of bi-cultural identity within their own Japanese and Mexican American families. Maya, 2018 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Queen Program (NCCBFQP) Court, grew up in all corners of the U.S. and in Japan, and is currently the NCCBFQP Tri-Chair and a Nisei Week Foundation volunteer. Mia is from Los Angeles and was the First Princess on the 2019 Nisei Week Court.

All programs continue to have an increased number of views and positive comments appreciative of the stories about our Nisei veterans. The new series and more videos are available to watch on GFBNEC’s Facebook page or YouTube channel. Final live stream times to be announced in our bi-weekly newsletter, the eTorch.

GFBNEC is continuously looking for new photos and heartfelt stories that reflect the growing diversity of the Japanese American community. If you have a personal experience, a family memory or even a photo with a remarkable story behind it to share, email us at takeaction@goforbroke.org.
GFBNEC/LTSC BUILDING PROJECT APPROVED BY L.A. CITY COUNCIL

GFBNEC and Little Tokyo Service Center’s (LTSC) building project on First Street North was unanimously passed on March 18, 2021 by the Los Angeles City Council’s Information, Technology and General Services Committee to expand the footprint of the ground lease. In passing the motion, the chair of the committee, Nithya Raman, “... acknowledged the appropriateness of passing this motion in light of the context of anti-Asian hate spreading across the nation.” At the L.A. City Council March 23, 2021 meeting, the project again was unanimously approved, allowing GFBNEC/LTSC to focus on additional city approvals, financing, project design and community meetings.

“The Nisei veterans of WWII served our community and nation 75 years ago, and they continue to serve us today,” GFBNEC President and CEO, Mitch Maki said. “Thanks to the leadership and energy of Councilmember Kevin de León, his staff and the L.A. City Council, this building project will help to energize Little Tokyo and carry on the Nisei soldiers’ legacy of service, valor, patriotism and humility. This First Street North development will not only house our nonprofit organization — it will represent a significant step in addressing the housing, community and commercial needs of Little Tokyo.”

VOICES MAGNIFIED TO FEATURE NISEI VETERAN STORY

A&E Networks will present the story of the Nisei veterans and GFBNEC in the original short form series, Voices Magnified. Slated to begin airing in late April through May 2021 in alignment with Asian Pacific Heritage Month, the series will focus on people in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and their contributions to the history, culture and achievements in the U.S. Nisei veteran Yosh Nakamura, 442nd RCT, along with GFBNEC President and CEO, Mitch Maki, were interviewed for this project. Check the eTorch for further confirmation of air dates and times. For more information on Voices Magnified, visit aetv.com/voicesmagnified.
In the spring of 2019, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i (JCCH) and GFBNEC, in collaboration with the Hawai‘i State Department of Education (DOE), implemented a pilot testing of their new curriculum Ganbare! Never Give Up! Nisei Soldiers of WWII. This 40-minute lesson plan was presented in 12 high schools across the islands of O‘ahu, Maui, Hawai‘i and Kaua‘i. Based on feedback from the high school teachers, the lesson plan was expanded to an Instructional Design Model (IDM) Blueprint, a full instructional unit that presents the history of the Japanese American WWII soldiers and the sociopolitical effects of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The expanded curriculum, which meets two of Hawai‘i’s DOE educational standards, is framed around the question, “Can Hawai‘i’s Aloha Spirit Survive a War?”

In 2021, after a year’s delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JCCH and GFBNEC teamed up with the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) and Nisei Veterans Legacy (NVL) to formally roll out the expanded curriculum. Two O‘ahu high school teachers are currently testing it in their classrooms. In order to introduce the curriculum to more teachers, a virtual teacher orientation will be held in late July with the goal of presenting the unit in classrooms during the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers who complete all of the requirements, including providing feedback after the curriculum is taught to a minimum of two classes, will receive a stipend. Hawai‘i’s DOE is also seeking to place the expanded curriculum on the national educator website. For more information, visit jcch.com/lesson-plans, or email essoldier@goforbroke.org.

JCCH/GFBNEC HAWAI‘I CURRICULUM UPDATE

Thanks to the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) grant and members’ generous support of GFBNEC’s 2020 year-end appeal, we have begun research for two federal grants, Valor in Confinement: Perspectives of the Japanese American Veterans of WWII and Unsung Service: Preserving the Nisei Cadet Nurse Corps. JACS grants are awarded to preserve and interpret U.S. Confinement Sites where Japanese Americans were detained during WWII. Grants are awarded to organizations and entities working to preserve historic Japanese American confinement sites and their history, including: private, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions and state, local and tribal governments and other public entities.

Work for Valor in Confinement has begun in identifying soldiers who were previously incarcerated in one of the 10 WRA camps. Funding has also allowed GFBNEC to resume indexing oral histories in our Hanashi Oral History Collection, a task that is essential in determining subject matter, brief descriptions and keywords per segment. This will not only help in
Natalie Osako’s grandfather, Masami Tsurudome, was 10 years old and living in the West Adams neighborhood of Los Angeles when Pearl Harbor was attacked and the war broke out. Shortly after the signing of E.O. 9066, his family met the same fate that nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans experienced: They were told to leave their home and move into a remote area of the country with no knowledge or comfort of knowing when or how they would ever return. To add to their stress, their father suffered a stroke, was hospitalized and unable to travel with the family to Santa Anita and Arizona. When he finally was able to join them in Gila River, he died shortly after arriving in camp, compounding the heartbreak of their unjustly uprooted lives.

With this family history deep in her heart and 122-year-old roots in the United States traced back to Hawai‘i, Natalie Osako, a Gosei and junior in high school, was confronted with a shocking assignment this year in her AP US History class. Along with a list of debate topics was a prompt on the Japanese American incarceration and whether or not it was a justifiable action. Natalie’s response to this, and her perspective drawn from learning the story of the Nisei veterans, was nothing short of inspiring. She brought up her concern to her teacher, pointing out the fundamental flaw in assigning this as a debate prompt, which was a completely courageous act on her part. The actions she took compelled us to ask her to contribute a written reflection in this issue of The Torch. Thank you, Natalie, for taking a stand.

“Given the circumstances during the war, FDR’s Executive Order #9066 was justified.”

I felt my heart drop when I read this prompt for a debate in my U.S. history class. How could this be a question at all? To me, the issue has always been undeniably wrong. Slavery and the Holocaust would never be put up for debate.
Likewise, E.O. 9066, as a violation of human rights, should be put on the list of things that can never be justified.

I wrote to my teacher about my concerns and he was responsive. In my letter to my teacher, I referenced Mr. Maki’s 2019 Los Angeles Times Op-Ed titled, “Japanese internment was wrong. Why do some of our leaders still try to justify it?” It contained the same sentiments I felt regarding the issue, but in a more concise and elegant way. He acknowledged my viewpoint and explained that the class would not have to debate this topic. His intention was to prompt further research, where hopefully students would come to the conclusion that E.O. 9066 was wrong. My fear was that the lack of information in our sources would not give students the whole picture. They wouldn’t necessarily know about how people were forced to live in horse stalls, the conflict over the “Loyalty Questionnaire”, the bravery of the Japanese Americans in the armed forces, the living conditions of the camps or the after-effects on the Nikkei community. Asking the question of whether E.O. 9066 was right or wrong creates the illusion that the decision could even remotely be justified, thereby enabling racism and xenophobia. I see it in modern politics, where politicians refer to internment as grounds for incarcerating people on the basis of identity. The camps were not just an isolated case of hysteria from a war that ended decades ago; we still face that same anti-Asian racism and xenophobia today.

A few years ago, I had the privilege of attending the Nisei Veterans event put on by the Go For Broke National Education Center at the Orange County Buddhist Church. I was awed by these men. They described events that I had read about in books and web articles. Hearing them told by the people who were actually there really brought the stories to life. I was deeply saddened to find that their heroism was barely even a side note in my textbook.

I don’t want the tragedies of internment to be forgotten, especially given my own family’s story. I want to acknowledge the grief and the spirit that people carried as they moved through their lives in the camps and after the war. I want to honor the people who sacrificed so much to give us the lives we have today. For all these reasons, I knew that I couldn’t stay quiet.

To those who came before: we have not forgotten where we came from. We still care about what happened 79 years ago. We remember your struggles, your pain and your resilience. We are still trying to create the land of equity and opportunity that the Issei dreamed of, so that something like Executive Order 9066 will never happen again.

— Natalie Osako, April 2021
Thank you to all who responded to our 2020 supporter survey. Your feedback and input is not only important for the future of GFBNEC, but also vital for us to understand more deeply who our supporters are and why this history remains important to you. Here are a few of our results:

Most of you want to learn more about GFBNEC’s upcoming programs and events, followed by being able to conduct more research on Japanese American veterans and using our Hanashi Oral History Collection. You can learn more about our new programming and events with every bi-weekly eTorch. Sign up for the newsletter at goforbroke.org/news/etorch.php, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. For more information on the history of the veterans by year, visit goforbroke.org/learn/history/timeline/index.php. Access our Collection at goforbroke.org/learn/archives/oral_histories_archives.php.

The majority of our supporters, 59%, had family that was incarcerated in a camp during WWII.
In supporting GFBNEC, our respondents believe in the mission and work that we do, followed closely by a desire to uphold the Nisei veteran's legacy of WWII. Collection and preservation of historical information was a close third.

Education was by far the most important area of focus to our supporters, followed by historical preservation, then an emphasis on social justice and civil liberties.

For more on how we preserve the legacy of the Nisei veterans, please visit our site at goforbroke.org/about/what_we_do.php.
finding clips for the YouTube playlists on each camp as part of Valor in Confinement, but more broadly benefit all to quickly search for specific topics within our Collection. All completed indexed oral histories are continually being added and may be accessed through the Japanese American Military History Collective at ndajams.omeka.net.

For Unsung Service, we have started preliminary research and the pre-interview process to conduct oral histories with living Nisei women who served in the Cadet Nurse Corps. Not only will these interviews be entered into our permanent Collection, but the research will expand the scope of the current resources available on the Nisei Cadet Nurses, and further establish GFBNEC as a trusted source of information on the subject.

Funding for these projects provided in part by the National Park Service and Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant.

2021 NEW GRANTS UPDATE

KEIRO

In March 2021, GFBNEC was awarded a 2021-2022 grant from Keiro which will continue support for our “Monthly Monday Veteran” meetings. Currently, the meetings are held twice a month on Zoom and now includes special guests from outside the California area. Recently, Ken Tamura (442nd RCT/MIS) joined the March 22 meeting from Chicago along with his daughter, Janice, and his son, Paul, who joined from Culver City, CA. Mr. Tamura was also reunited virtually with his former MIS colleague, Ken Akune. He also discovered during the meeting that he, Yosh Nakamura and Don Miyada, also present at the meeting, all fought at the Gothic Line.

In addition to meeting support, the grant provides care packages and meal deliveries to local veterans and their families.

GETTY FOUNDATION

GFBNEC will receive a new internship position through the Getty Foundation’s “Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program.” With this grant, we will hire a Collections intern this summer from June to August. This paid internship will allow the Collections intern to work with staff to review the Hanashi Oral History and Special Collections and assist in the development of new educational programming content. For more information about the GFBNEC Getty internship, email esoldier@goforbroke.org.

This internship is made possible through the generous support from the Getty Foundation through its “Getty Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program” initiative.
Register With the VA

Many veterans have not registered with the Department of Veterans Affairs, despite their service history. We would like to remind members of the benefits of being registered with the VA, and to assist however we can.

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT TO BE REGISTERED:
As we have learned from the pandemic and the gradual rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations, there are great advantages to being registered with the VA prior to the need of services.

The VA provides an outstanding number of benefits for veterans and their families, from healthcare, education and career services to independent living, burial and memorial services and more. Even if veterans and their families do not have immediate need for VA assistance, being registered is a simple way to avoid unnecessary challenges in the future and to ensure quicker access to benefits when needed.

HOW TO REGISTER:
We recommend families start by applying for VA health care services. To register, you will need:

- Discharge Papers (DD214 member-4 or equivalent)
- Your most recent tax return
- Social Security numbers for you and your dependents
- Account numbers for insurance programs you’re enrolled in and submit: 10-10EZ Form

For more information, visit the VA website’s “Welcome Kit” at va.gov/welcome-kit/. For additional assistance, contact Anna Takada, GFBNEC Special Projects Associate, at anna@goforbroke.org.

U.S. Postal Service Honors Japanese American Veterans with “Go for Broke” Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service announced that the First Day of Issuance for the commemorative “Go for Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII” stamp will be on Thursday, June 3, 2021 in Los Angeles, where three California Nisei women, Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King and the late Chiz Ohira, started the campaign in 2005. Chiz was a dedicated GFBNEC volunteer, along with her husband, Ted Ohira, who was a founding Nisei veteran member of GFBNEC Board of Directors.

The Postal Service’s virtual unveiling ceremony will air at 11 A.M. EDT on June 3. In its statement introducing the stamp the Postal Service writes, “With this commemorative stamp, the Postal Service recognizes the contributions of Japanese American soldiers, some 33,000 altogether, who served in the U.S. Army during WWII. The stamp, printed in the intaglio method, is based on a photograph. ‘Go for Broke’ was the motto of the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and came to represent all Japanese American units formed during WWII.”
Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) supports the legacy of Japanese American WWII veterans who served their country at a time when the United States denied their civil rights. Join us in advocating for civil liberties and equality, the cornerstone of our American democracy, by entering our 2021 contest.

In addition to monetary award prizes, first place winners from each category will be acknowledged in our 20th Annual Evening of Aloha Gala on November 6, 2021. All winning entries will be published in an online booklet on our website.

TO ENTER: Submit a 400-500 word ESSAY, or a work of POETRY (2 typed pages or less) on one of the following topics:

- The Japanese American WWII veteran experience remains relevant to our society today. Explore one of the ways this is true.
- One goal of GFBNEC is to inspire new generations to embody the Japanese American veterans’ core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. How has the Nisei veterans’ story impacted your life, identity and/or values? How do you embody any or each of these values?

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021 11:59 PM PDT

Thank you to the following sponsors for their continued generous support: Pacific Global Investment Management Company in memory of Manabi Hirasaki (WWII veteran) and Sig Kagawa, Ken and June Shimabukuro and anonymous in memory of WWII Veteran Masao “Mas” Takahashi.

NEW - LAWSON IICHIRO SAKAI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

GFBNEC is pleased to announce the launch of the “Lawson Iichiro Sakai Memorial Scholarship,” an annual scholarship established by family and friends of the Nisei WWII veteran to recognize students with outstanding community service. One high school student and one college (undergraduate/graduate) student will be selected based on active participation and support of their community. For 2021, a $500 scholarship will be given to each student. Only applicants who participate in the 2021 GFBNEC Student Essay and Poetry Contest are eligible for consideration.

GFBNEC is honored to administer this scholarship on behalf of the generous family and friends of Lawson Sakai. Visit goforbroke.org/StudentContest to apply and see a full list of scholarship contributors.

This program is not affiliated with nor endorsed by any school or school district.
Go For Broke National Education Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Visit goforbroke.org for more information.
Help us share our vital mission with future generations

WITH YOUR GENEROSITY, GFBNEC CAN CONTINUE TO EDUCATE AND INSPIRE OTHERS THROUGH THE VIRTUE AND VALOR OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII VETERANS. BY SUPPORTING GFBNEC, YOU ENABLE US TO SHARE THEIR COURAGEOUS STORIES AND EMPOWER OTHERS TO TAKE ACTION IN THE SAME SPIRIT. WE HAVE A MULTITUDE OF WAYS THAT YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CAUSE:

Donate

Your generous donation helps advance our mission and continues the legacy of our Nisei WWII veterans. GFBNEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Federal Tax ID #95-4245623.

DONATE ONLINE
Visit our website at 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
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DONATE BY PHONE
Call (310) 328-0907 to make a donation by credit card over the phone. We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discover, 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 Donate

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.

PLANNED GIVING ~ LEGACY SOCIETY (details on next page)
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 goforbroke.org, or email development@goforbroke.org.

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.

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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.

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

Membership

GFBNEC 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 WWII 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

If you have already made a planned gift to GFBNEC, would like to speak to someone about a planned gift, or would like more information about the Legacy Society, please contact Janis Tanji Wong, V.P. of Development & Strategic Initiatives at janis@goforbroke.org, or at (213) 375-1282. Planned giving resources are also available on our website at goforbroke.org.

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 GFBNEC as a beneficiary in your will or trust
- Naming GFBNEC as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust
- Naming GFBNEC as a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan assets
- Using assets to establish a charitable lead trust that would provide income to GFBNEC for a term or years
- Many other gifts may also qualify

INDIVIDUAL LEVELS

- $1,000+ President’s Club
- $500 Sponsor

- $250 Contributor
- $100 Advocate
- $60 Partner

- $35 Supporter
- $25 Student/Veteran (ID requested)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- $250 Community Supporter

For corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Janis Tanji Wong, V.P. of Development & Strategic Initiatives at janis@goforbroke.org, or at (213) 375-1282.

ALL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:
- A year of FREE unlimited admission to GFBNEC’s Defining Courage exhibition and temporary exhibits
- 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
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- Invitation to a special President’s Club event (date to be determined)
- Invitation to all special exhibitions
- Special recognition in GFBNEC publications
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**9/1/2020 - 2/28/2021**

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


### 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:

- U.S. Postal "Forever" stamps
- 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
- Amazon Gift Cards
- Airline Miles

To make an in-kind donation, contact development@goforbroke.org or at (310) 328-0907 ext. 806.

Join Go Little Tokyo online and in community for the 6th Annual Delicious Little Tokyo with a multi-weekend series of virtual events and special in-person promotions for all to experience and celebrate authentic culinary experiences from one of Los Angeles's most historic, iconic and favorite foodie neighborhoods.

Tadaima! A Community Virtual Pilgrimage will bring together many of the unique traditions from each camp site's pilgrimage with new content — online exhibits, workshops, performances, lectures, panel discussions, film screenings, a community archive and more — to create accessible and an array of opportunities for learning, sharing stories, and building community. Stay tuned for final dates by following @jampilgrimages on Instagram or visiting jampilgrimages.com.

Every time you shop or make a purchase from our online store, big or small, your contribution keeps our organization afloat during uncertain times. Your support allows us to enhance our upcoming programming and educational initiatives and as always, support the legacy of the Nisei veterans. **100% of the profits from Akashi-Kama and Japangeles purchases go directly to GFBNEC.**

### AKASHI-KAMA

This apparel line of Nikkei-inspired streetwear is a special collaboration between GFBNEC and Akashi-Kama. Each piece in the collection is named after the location in which the archival image was shot. Alec Nakashima, the founder and lead designer, reflects on the inspiration behind the collaboration. “We wanted to show the Japanese American veterans the way that other WWII heroes are often depicted in their day-to-day, not just saluting or posing for photographs.” Stay tuned for the next collaboration, which will pay homage to the iconic military jackets the Nisei wore during their service.

**AKASHI KAMA TEES / $35**
*Sold exclusively on goforbroke.com*

### JAPANGELES

Japangeles founder Roy Kuroyanagi continues to be a great friend and creative partner to GFBNEC, as our apparel collaboration with the popular Little Tokyo-based streetwear company continues. The designs continue to feature the iconography and insignia worn by the different Japanese American units.

**JAPANGELES REFLECT AND RESPECT HOODIE / $48**
*Sold exclusively on goforbroke.com*

### BUNKADO

Help support our neighbors across the street and institutional Little Tokyo business, Bunkado, with a purchase from our *Living the Nisei Dream* collection! In this curated collection you’ll find several items featured in the show’s premiere episode, like the *Maneki Neko* and a small version of the mischievous *Tanuki*.

**MANEKI NEKO / $12.95**

**SMALL TANUKI / $10.95**
IN THIS ISSUE:

► GFBNEC Seeks Letters From Nisei For Forthcoming Media Project

► U.S. Postal Service Honors Japanese American Veterans with “Go for Broke” Stamp

► SAVE THE DATE: Go For Broke Monument 22nd Anniversary Tribute Saturday, June 5, 2021