



The real story. Japanese American History told by those who lived it.

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2007

Remembering December 7, 1941 A Day That Will Live in Infamy

As I watched the television news reporters and their coverage of various ceremonies commemorating the 65th anniversary of December 7, I am reminded how history remembers only what it wants. Channel after channel showed Caucasian veterans and citizens who had survived the attack on Pearl Harbor. These Americans were questioned, "Do you remember where you were on December 7, 1941?" Associated Press covered a story titled, "Japanese attackers, American survivors of Pearl Harbor reconcile before 65th anniversary." What about us? What about Japanese AMERICANS? Where are the stories about our horror? Maybe it will come on the anniversary of redress.

I can bet, almost every Japanese American remembers what they were doing or where they were on December 7 and if they don't, they know what events followed December 7 because the ramifications affected the future generations of all Japanese Americans.

We are silent. Maybe it is "gaman" that we feel. This was not our act, yet Japanese Americans paid the price and the price was heavy. But the moniker of "December 7th" is used to fan the flames of anger and distrust rather than edify the current public about our experience and our contributions ... ultimately our sacrifices for this country.

The aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor brought out the best virtues our community had to offer. We sent our fathers, sons, brothers, sisters into war and they honored their families with patriotism. Others fought humiliation and stood up for their civil rights in a very different way. Too many paid the ultimate price with their lives to go unnoticed! Humility may be the reason for our silence now; however, it will also be the reason that the rest of America forgets our place in its history. How long will the silence last against the cries of "INFAMY?!"

American history is OUR history. It is left to those who remember it. What will happen to future generations if no textbooks cover "our history?" Silence again ...

I thank all Japanese Americans who survived World War II and the aftermath. Your struggles continue to give me the life and opportunities that you didn't have due to the

injustices you faced. However, your life is a legacy to all Americans now. Don't let us forget ... what should have never happened.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a nonprofit (501c3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (714) 278-4483.

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