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

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NEWS RELEASE  
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*Narrated by Masao Masuda*

From the  
Battlefields  
to the Homefront  
*the Kazuo Masuda  
Legacy*



*Foreword by*  
W. Yoshito Thompson

*Written by*  
Russell K. Shoho

PUBLISHED BY NIKKEI WRITERS GUILD A DIVISION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN LIVING LEGACY

### **“From the Battlefields to the Home Front: The Kazuo Masuda Legacy”**

Nikkei Writers Guild, the publishing subsidiary of Japanese American Living Legacy has published its second book: “*From the Battlefields to the Home Front: The Kazuo Masuda Legacy.*” In September 2006, while researching Japanese American farmers in Orange County, Susan Uyemura (CEO, Japanese American Living Legacy) had an opportunity to meet and interview Masao Masuda. Masuda showed her numerous photos and newspaper clippings on the Masuda family, their struggles, participation in redress and Kazuo’s ultimate legacy, VFW Post 3670 and the Kazuo Masuda Middle School. Masao Masuda felt his brother’s life should be shared with future generations.

A year later, Uyemura was unable to dedicate the necessary time to author such an important historical publication so she asked her retired father if he would write it. Russell K. Shoho had never written a story of this kind but he agreed to give it a try. Little did he realize that this project would take another year in research before it would finally start to take shape and ultimately become this book.

There were numerous communications with various individuals and groups. Members of F Company, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team shared memories. Jim Yamashita (442<sup>nd</sup>, I Company) provided data from his *Echoes of Silence* educational CD ROM. Shoho made trips to Las Vegas, Hawaii and to NARA in Washington D.C. gathering data and testimonials. Daily e-mails with 442<sup>nd</sup> President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Headquarters Battalion - William Thompson also provided Shoho with insight to add to his book. All of this research, insight and “talk story” culminated in this publication.

Shoho feels that this book portrays the many sacrifices made by our community’s soldiers and their families during World War II. “If you read what Kazuo did, surely he represents the very nature of the Medal of Honor – that is, putting one’s country before himself,” said Shoho. Masao Masuda diligently prepared photos, illustrations and newspaper clippings for this publication while Shoho worked on the text.

*The Kazuo Masuda Legacy* book will be available beginning Memorial Day weekend, 2009. Both Masao Masuda and Russell K. Shoho will be in attendance to sign any books at the Kazuo Masuda Memorial Day Celebration at 3:00 PM, Westminster Veterans Cemetery, Westminster, California. Nikkei Writers Guild is offering this book for \$15 (paperback, 104 pages with numerous some never before seen photographs). Please visit [www.jalivinglegacy.org](http://www.jalivinglegacy.org) and click on the Nikkei Writers Guild link for the order form.

This is Russell Shoho’s first book. He is currently working on another book presenting the Mineo Inuzuka story, a veteran of the 442<sup>nd</sup>, F Company and the Korean War; it is scheduled to be published in 2010.

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](http://www.jalivinglegacy.org) or call them at (714) 278-4483.

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