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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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Chairman Fred Hoshiyama greets the crowd for the Memorial Court Kickoff.

Memorial Court Maintenance Grassroots Fundraising Kick-off

A small but eager crowd gathered at the Memorial Court on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Nikkei veterans representing World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War were on hand to speak to attendees. Medal of Honor recipient, Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura addressed the crowd as guest speaker for this day’s event. The general theme from each of the speakers underscored the importance of remembering our fallen community members. Isami “Mike” Tsuji stated, *“This court is special because it is the only place in the world that you can find the names of every American of Japanese Ancestry who has served and died in all the wars since the Spanish American War.”* He continued with, *“Their sacrifice and their families sacrifice should not be forgotten.”*

Community members have recently decided that the National Japanese American Veterans Memorial Court in Little Tokyo, adjacent to the JACCC, requires a maintenance fund to preserve the court's public appearance and upkeep in the years ahead. Consequently, a small group of volunteers now spearheads a committee to raise money for this fund. This kick-off day promoted an initial outreach to the community at large. No donation is too small. Chairman Fred Hoshiyama said, *"It is not the amount but the effort ~ Let's join together to honor these men."*

Immediately following the morning ceremony, the public was invited to attend a planning meeting hosted by the volunteers. Fundraising strategies and the status of collected funds comprised the bulk of the discussions. Attendees were encouraged to consider creative ways in which funding goals could be achieved during this economic downturn. Representatives from Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, Japanese American Korean War Veterans, Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, Gold Star Mothers, Sadao Munemori American Legion, Kazuo Masuda VFW Post, Japanese American Veterans Association, Military Intelligence Service of Southern California, Japanese American Living Legacy and various community members.

Susan Uyemura, CEO of Japanese American Living Legacy was on hand and mentioned, *"... of course the majority of our community feels the sting of today's poor economy; however, this community has always rallied behind its veterans because our older veterans played a key role in establishing our Nikkei community. We simply cannot afford to forget those who lost their lives while serving in our country's armed forces."*

JA Living Legacy is participating member of this fundraising committee. Any questions or concerns regarding this fundraising campaign can be addressed to JA Living Legacy at (714) 278-4483 or email us at info@jalivinglegacy.org.

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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