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NEWS RELEASE  
May 2009

### **Nisei Veterans Committee 63<sup>rd</sup> Installation Luncheon, Seattle, Washington**



Keynote speaker, Vincent H. Okamoto, Ranger Hall of Fame talking with fellow Ranger Hall of Famer, Roy Matsumoto

Nisei Veterans Committee in Seattle, Washington hosted its 63<sup>rd</sup> Installation Luncheon on March 21, 2009. Keynote speaker, Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, Ranger Hall of Fame addressed the crowd of diverse Nisei Veterans, spouses, family and friends. Okamoto congratulated the crowd on creating a community based organization that encompassed veterans from all wars and conflicts. Over 100 attendees were in attendance including fellow Hall of Famer, Roy Matsumoto, Merrill's Marauders. Outgoing Commander Yuzo Tokita (Vietnam, Airforce) thanked the membership for their ongoing support and participation during the renovation. It was only last year, February 2008, that the clubhouse completed major renovations and hosted a huge 2-day open house. Incoming Commander Keith Yamaguchi commented there was still work to be done and he looked forward to the challenges in the coming year.

On Sunday March 22, NVC hosted a lunch and a book signing for Judge Okamoto. Okamoto's book, "Wolfhound Samurai" has garnered acclaim from Nisei Veterans of all wars. Mas Doi (WWII Nisei Veteran 100th Battalion) stated, "Okamoto's story is one

that should be shared with every soldier and veteran across the United States. His unique courage and distinguished leadership makes him a good example to show the next generation what a true legacy can accomplish." Debbie Kashino (daughter of Shiro Kashino, 442nd RCT, I Company) said, "For so long I have worshipped and honored the 442nd, now for the first time, I have my own hero to honor."

Visitors from Southern California included Hideki Obayashi, Genie Nakano, Kenneth Hayashi, Roy Shiraga (Chosin Reservoir Survivor), and Susan Uyemura (JA Living Legacy). "We made this trip to support NVC and Judge Okamoto and hope to reciprocate their warm hospitality and generosity during Nisei Week 2009," said JA Living Legacy CEO, Susan Uyemura.

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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