



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

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NEWS RELEASE
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Memorial Alliance Celebrates Tenth Anniversary for the World War II Memorial at Shinnenkai Celebration

World War II Nikkei veterans attended a *shinnenkai* (new year's celebration) to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the memorial tribute to comrades who were killed-in-action (KIA). Despite the recent and much needed rain, members of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance met in Chinatown last Friday (2/5) at Chinatown's Empress Pavilion restaurant. They honored their founders and supporters. Special guests included Judge Bryan Yagi (from San Francisco), Fumy Machida, Fred Hoshiyama, Roy Shiraga, Sam and Kuni Shimoguchi, Robert and Sumi Hayamizu, Isami Mike and Andrew Tsuji, Jim and Marian Yamashita, Shuji and Chiye Taketomo, Bea Matsumura, Rose and Eddie Ikuta, Tony Sakamoto, Denise and Mary Senzaki, Roger Eaton, Ken Hayashi, Natalia Yamashiro and Susan Uyemura.

Ten years ago, the Memorial Alliance dedicated their monument on February 19, 2000. The veteran community established a monument to Nikkei Vietnam veterans in 1995. The Japanese American Korean War Veterans erected their monument in 1997. Located on San Pedro Street at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, the addition of the World War II memorial completed what is now called the National Japanese American Veterans War Memorial Court. The community has since added more names of Nikkei soldiers who have been killed-in-action in more recent wars.

In 2009, the founders of each of the memorials, along with the JACCC and Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), cooperated to create an endowment for the maintenance of the court. Each participating group has led a fundraising effort; however, the difficult economy has slowed the fundraising effort more than expected. Nevertheless, the Memorial Court Fund Drive continues to receive donations regularly. For more information on the drive email info@jalivinglegacy.org.

The World War II monument lists over 800 Nisei soldiers who were KIA along with their Caucasian officers who made the ultimate sacrifice during the war. Families and friends honor their loved ones here. Memorial Alliance has established a committee to plan the

details of a Veterans Day event that will honor our KIA soldiers and commemorate the court. Details will be revealed as they become available.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit (501.c.3) 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 (657) 278-4483.

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