



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

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NEWS RELEASE

May 3, 2010

Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars 60th Reunion

Over 175 veterans, wives and friends came together in Reno, Nevada to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Nisei VFW Reunions.

The festivities began on Sunday, April 25, 2010. Veterans' wives from Northern California provided and prepared fresh sashimi, sushi, and home-made goodies for the hospitality suite. The Southern California contingent arrived late on Sunday and brought more than 40 more people to the event including JA Living Legacy CEO, Susan Uyemura. *"This annual event reminds us that Japanese Americans have participated in our country's armed forces throughout our country's history and that our community continues to be fortified by the courage and sacrifice of these veterans,"* said Uyemura.

Bill and Margaret Omoto greeted and welcomed the attendees. As Judge Vincent Okamoto arrived and registered for the event, Margaret Omoto asked him where he was born. Okamoto stated, "Poston, Arizona." Margaret, also having been at the Poston internment camp, recalled that Okamoto's mother was brought into the camp hospital in full labor and that a few moments later, Vincent was born. Uyemura said, *"This coincidental meeting between Judge Okamoto and Margret Omoto illustrates how each individual's personal history combines with others to form our community's history."*

Nikkei authors Kiyoko Sato, Robert Wada, and Vincent Okamoto attended this event to sell and autograph their respective books. The increase in Nikkei authors is encouraging. In some respects, it indicates that we, as a community, are making a concerted effort to document and share our stories and experiences.

Loren Ishii presided as master of ceremonies for the Monday evening prime rib dinner. Among the guests was Medal of Honor recipient Hershey "Hiroshi" Miyamura and his wife Terry, Ranger Hall of Fame Judge Vincent H. Okamoto, Captain Jack Turner (VFW State Commander), Sue Wells (Women's Auxiliary President) and her husband (incoming VFW State Commander) David, and past State Commander Henry Wadahara. Entertainment was provided by San Francisco's and Sacramento's VFW hula and ukulele groups. Photographer Tom Graves was on hand to photograph the event. Each VFW post posed for a portrait.

The reunion concluded on Tuesday morning with a buffet breakfast followed by a memorial service. As people departed by bus, car and plane, windstorms cancelled flights in and out of the local airports. Although delayed, most people were able to catch later flights to their respective destinations. We bid each other goodbye and look forward to next years' reunion in Southern California.

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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