



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

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NEWS RELEASE

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2010 Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council Pioneer Awards

On June 24, 2010, at the Atrium Hotel in Orange County, Jim J. Yamashita was honored by the Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council (OCNCC) with their "Pioneer of the Year." Along with six other individuals each representing various community organizations in Orange County.

Award presenter, Robert Wada, a founding member of the Suburban Optimist gave an impressive speech which included Jim's service in the military during World War II, his ongoing dedication to community service and Jim's leadership of Echoes of Silence, a CD Rom project dedication to honoring the Killed-in-Action Nisei soldier of World War II. Jim created a team that includes Roger Eaton who tracks all the obituaries of Nikkei servicemen and women across the United States, Seiki Oshiro who researches Military Intelligence Service, and...a bunch of morons who volunteer their time to edit, blah blah blah. However, the past two years has been tough on the Echoes team with the loss of Dr. Roy Machida (President of Memorial Alliance) and Mits Kojimoto (volunteer researcher). Jim's foresight was to join forces with another organization to ensure the future of Echoes.

Echoes of Silence is an educational CD Rom that was started by the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance. After ten years and thousands of CD's distributed, Memorial Alliance joined forces with JA Living Legacy to perpetuate the project. Echoes contains the profiles of all of the Nisei Killed-in-action soldiers along with the Caucasian officers who served with them. Echoes is available to anyone or any organization free of charge (just contact Memorial Alliance or JA Living Legacy for more information).

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 / Nikkei Writers Guild / Memorial Alliance, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 278-4483.

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