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Ms. Susan Uyemura, CEO
(657) 278-4483
suyemura@jalivinglegacy.org

NEWS RELEASE

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2010 Nisei Week honors Pioneers

Over 200 people gathered at the Kyoto Grand Hotel to pay tribute to the 70th Nisei Week Pioneers. Emcee Kenneth Kasamatsu did an outstanding job keeping the program on schedule. Mr. Hayato Tamura did the introductions of each honoree. The five honorees were Haruo Hayashi, Fusako Kanai, Hiroshi Kawabe, Kosuke Okamoto and Junwo Jim Yamashita.

The honorees were introduced in Japanese by Ms. Junko Yamane. Each awardee was presented by certificates from Councilwoman Jan Perry, Consul General Junichi Ihara and a specially designed certificate by the Nisei Week Foundation. Tamura explained that each certificate contained a unique photo of this Nisei Week. The luncheon included with a special thanks from the honorees made by Pioneer Kosuke Okamoto in both Japanese and English.

Special guests included: Councilwoman Jan Perry, Consul General Junichi Ihara, Takashi Horie - Chairman of the Japanese Business Association of Southern California, Toshio Handa, President of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Francis Hashimoto, President of the Little Tokyo Business Association, Kenji Fukuoka President of the Nanka Kanjinkai Kyogikai. Invocation was provided by Rinban Hiroshi Abiko.

Sponsors Union bank provided everyone with a travel mug and Memorial Alliance gave a complimentary Educational CD Rom of Echoes of Silence. Echoes of Silence contains the profiles of all of the Nisei Killed-in-action soldiers and their officers plus additional information such as short stories, photos and short video tributes. Dessert was provided by Mikawayaya. All floral decorations were donated by Scotty's Flowers in Hacienda Heights.

The Nisei Week Foundation was established in 1999 and it is a California 501c3 non profit organization. Its primary mission - to oversee and organize the Nisei Week Japanese Festival.

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