


JA LIVING LEGACY. ORG

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

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NEWS RELEASE
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Sgt. Rock meet members of 442nd Regimental Combat Team at San Diego International Comic Convention 2011



From left to right (top row) Jim Yamashita (I Company), Billy Tucci illustrator and David Katagiri (F Company)

San Diego International Comic Convention, the world renowned comic book and animation convention, made its annual presence known in San Diego this past Wednesday, July 20 as it opened to a record-breaking 125,000 attendees and selling-out passes for all four days. This is a stark contrast to the first Comicon in 1970 that gathered 140 attendees.

This year, Comicon entertained some new attendees. World War II 442nd veterans David Katagiri (F Company) and Jim Yamashita (I Company) along with their escorts, JA Living Legacy's Susan Uyemura and retired Judge Bryan Yagi. Yagi's uncle, the late Tom Yagi, was a medic assigned to the second platoon of L Company, 442nd RCT. For Yagi, Comicon was a chance to combine his two passions: comic books and his new found admiration of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

William “Billy” Tucci invited the veterans. Attendees lined up to say thank you and have Yamashita and Katagiri autograph Sgt. Rock hardcover books. Yamashita was amazed at the amount of attendees and the age variance. Since the re-release of the famed Sgt. Rock series honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Sgt. Rock has enjoyed a new generation of fans including the veterans themselves. Tucci has released his Sgt. Rock series in both paperback and hardcover books. Both are available at amazon.com (Billy Tucci Sgt. Rock). Individual editions are also available for purchase.

Tucci is the creator of “*Shi*.” *Shi* is an industry superstar that has additionally produced many blockbuster cross-over projects with some of the most well know Marvel and independent characters including *Daredevil*, *Witchblade*, and *Wolverine* of *X-Men* fame. After the mega-success of *Shi*, Tucci has used his artwork to teach society about our history.



In 2010, Tucci's wife Deborah was diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer. Deborah has spent the past year enduring multiple surgeries, chemotherapy and intense therapy. In honor of his wife and her courageous battle, Tucci has a new limited edition (399) "Shi" prints honoring Breast Cancer survivors. Please buy your print at www.ebay.com (billy tucci shi limited edition). Proceeds benefit Judi Shesh Memorial Foundation.

Currently, Tucci resides in New York with his wife, Deborah and sons William and Matthew.

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 or call them at (657) 278-4483.

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