



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

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NEWS RELEASE
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PROUD TO SERVE
Salute to the Nisei Veterans of World War II

Japanese American Living Legacy, an established nonprofit dedicated to preserving Japanese American history through oral histories, and The Rafu Shimpo, America's oldest and largest Nikkei daily newspaper have produced Proud to Serve, the first comprehensive listing of Nikkei World War II veterans that also includes narratives covering major battle campaigns, personal stories, historical photos, and other features, many never before published. It will also serve as the Rafu Shimpo's first book.

In 2010, President Barack Obama signed Public Law 111-254 awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Congress officially recognized these three distinguished units in an inaugural ceremony on November 2, 2011 in Washington DC. Since that event, Nikkei enclaves across the United States have conducted smaller-scale regional ceremonies that recognize veterans in more "local" settings; many of the community's veterans could not travel to Washington DC for the original ceremony.

Proud to Serve is a permanent keepsake for generations to come. Susan Uyemura, CEO and President of JA Living Legacy said, "Collaborative projects such as this one, between major community organizations, enhance the legacy for future generations. As Nikkei leaders, we are accountable for perpetuating our community's history."

Proud to Serve uses data from the Echoes of Silence Project created and maintained by the Americans of Japanese World War II Memorial Alliance. Educational Project manager, Jim Yamashita, has been leading his team of all volunteers since its inception in the early 1990's. Echoes is the project in existence that tracks all of the World War II Nisei veterans and their Caucasian officers with a special emphasis on the Killed-in-Action soldiers.

Rafu Shimpo - Special Edition

In conjunction with the commemoration ceremonies, the Rafu Shimpo plans to publish a “special edition” that covers the current ceremonies as well as provides historical reprints of news and photographs from the Rafu Shimpo’s archives. The special edition will run in a color newspaper format and will be sold for a nominal price; Rafu Shimpo subscribers will receive the special edition at no additional cost.

The organizations will be selling Proud to Serve at an introductory price of \$29.95. Wholesale pricing and bulk orders are available to other nonprofit organizations and retail outlets; these orders should be arranged directly with the Rafu Shimpo. Please call (213) 629-2231 for details. Online ordering is available at www.jalivinglegacy.org (under Nikkei Writers Guild.)

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California nonprofit (501.c.3). All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy / Nikkei Writers Guild please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (657) 515-5501.

The Rafu Shimpo is the oldest and largest daily Nikkei publication. It has served both the Japanese and Japanese American community since 1903. For more information on the Rafu Shimpo or how you can subscribe, please visit their website at www.rafushimpo.com or call them at (213) 629-2231.

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