

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1991

FOUNDER OF GO FOR BROKE - NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION DIES ...

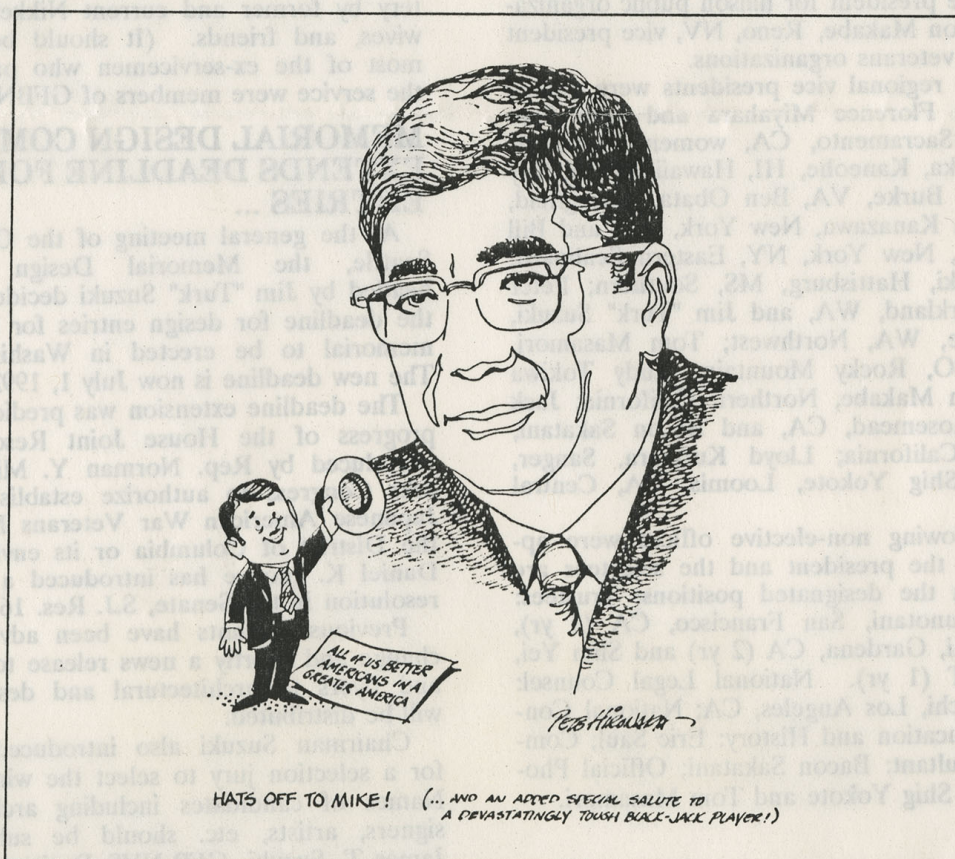
Mike Masaru Masaoka, 75, one of the original members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, died of heart ailments June 26, 1991 at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington D.C. He was the founder and guiding spirit of the Go For Broke - National Veterans Association in its formative stages.

Funeral services were held at the Chevy Chase (MD) United Methodist Church on July 2, 1991. Tributes were paid by the Honorable Robert Matsui; the Honorable William Marutani, president of the GFB-NVA; the Honorable William Sherman; Cressey Nakagawa, president of the National JACL; and Juichiro Takada.

The Japanese American Creed which was authored by Mike Masaoka was read by Toshio Hoshide. The eulogy was given by the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta. Speaking for the family was Tad Masaoka.

Paying their respects were veterans and friends from various sections of the country including Dr. Harold Harada, GFB-NVA treasurer of Culver City, CA and Rudy Tokiwa, GFB-NVA membership chairman of Sunnyvale, CA. Harada, speaking of Masaoka said, "his prophetic vision as he saw it in 1941-42, has come to pass and the status of the Japanese Americans today as I see it with 20-20 hindsight could not have been a more perfect decision on behalf of the future of Japanese Americans and not only in national affairs and international affairs as well."

Tokiwa recalled that he had talked to Mike about three months ago and he (Mike) said to him "onegaishimasu" (loosely translated - "I will depend on you"). He also reminisced that his father and Mike's father were good friends.



Courtesy of the Pacific Citizen

Go For Broke-National Veterans Association Concludes General Meeting in Seattle

SEATTLE, WA - Go For Broke - National Veterans Association (GFB-NVA), the only national Japanese American veterans group, held their annual general membership meeting in this Northwest city at the Mayflower Park Hotel June 21-22, 1991. President William M. Marutani presided over the two-day meeting.

A highlight of the meeting was the election of new officers for the new term. William Marutani, a MIS veteran, was reelected for another term. Four executive vice presidents were selected: Tosh Okamoto, Seattle; Jun Yamamoto, Los Angeles; Harold Fukunaga, Honolulu; and George Hagiwara, Honolulu. Toro Hirose, Hyattsville, MD, was named National Administrative Assistant and Dr. Harold Harada, Culver City, CA, was chosen National Treasurer.

Others named include: Joe Ichijima, Rockville, MD, Assistant Treasurer; Hitoshi M. Shimizu, Culver City, CA, National Finance Officer; Yaye Herman, San Francisco, CA, Secretary; Rudy Tokiwa, Sunnyvale, CA, vice president for membership; Richard Oguro, Honolulu, HI, deputy for membership; and Bacon Sakatani, West Covina, CA, assistant for membership; George M. Wakiji, Alexandria, VA, vice president for press and public affairs; Art Morimitsu, Chicago, IL, vice president for liaison public organizations; Wilson Makabe, Reno, NV, vice president for liaison veterans organizations.

At-large regional vice presidents were named as follows: Florence Miyahara and Kiyo Sato Viacrusis, Sacramento, CA, women's veterans; Chet Tanaka, Kaneohe, HI, Hawaii liaison; Key Kobayashi, Burke, VA, Ben Obata, Springfield, VA, Tooru Kanazawa, New York, NY, and Bill Kochiyama, New York, NY, Eastern Seaboard; Herb Sasaki, Hattisburg, MS, Southern; Peter Okada, Kirkland, WA, and Jim "Turk" Suzuki, Woodinville, WA, Northwest; Tom Masamori, Denver, CO, Rocky Mountain; Rudy Tokiwa and Wilson Makabe, Northern California; Jack Nagano, Rosemead, CA, and Bacon Sakatani, Southern California; Lloyd Kurihara, Sanger, CA, and Shig Yokote, Loomis, CA, Central Valley.

The following non-elective offices were appointed by the president and the selectees are to serve in the designated positions: Trustees: Wallace Nunotani, San Francisco, CA (3 yr), Paul Bannai, Gardena, CA (2 yr) and Slim Yei, Ogden, UT (1 yr). National Legal Counsel: Mark Kiguchi, Los Angeles, CA; National Consultant, Education and History: Eric Saul; Computer Consultant: Bacon Sakatani; Official Photographers: Shig Yokote and Tom Masamori.

Memorial Day Service held at Arlington National Cemetery

On a warm Sunday morning (5/26) in Virginia, a memorial service was held at the grave site of Pfc Saburo Tanamachi, Co. E, 442nd RCT, sponsored by the Washington, D.C. Chapter of the JACL. Fifty area residents from the Washington D.C. metropolitan area were in attendance. Former Navy linguist Capt. Roger Pineau, who attended the Navy Japanese language school at Boulder, Colorado, was the guest speaker. He is the former director of the U.S. Navy Memorial Museum and is a Captain, USNR. He spoke of his experience during WWII with the language program and his association with many Nikkei. Ben Obata, LTC, U.S. Army Ret., MIS, WWII and Korea, was chairman for the event. Serving as master of ceremonies was Terry Takahashi, LTC, U.S. Army, MIS, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Representing the Go For Broke National Veterans Association was its president Judge William Marutani, MIS, WWII. Key K. Kobayashi, Capt. USAR, MIS, WWII and Korea, president of the local JACL gave greetings. Rev. Shojo Honda gave the invocation and benediction. A bugler from the U.S. Army blew taps. After the ceremony, flowers were placed at all the grave sites of the Nikkei military personnel buried at the National Cemetery by former and current Nikkei servicemen, wives, and friends. (It should be noted that most of the ex-servicemen who participated in the service were members of GFBNVA).

MEMORIAL DESIGN COMMITTEE EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES ...

At the general meeting of the GFB-NVA in Seattle, the Memorial Design Committee headed by Jim "Turk" Suzuki decided to extend the deadline for design entries for the national memorial to be erected in Washington, D.C. The new deadline is now July 1, 1992.

The deadline extension was predicated on the progress of the House Joint Resolution 271, introduced by Rep. Norman Y. Mineta, which asks Congress to authorize establishment of a Japanese American War Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye has introduced a companion resolution in the Senate, S.J. Res. 161.

Previous entrants have been advised of the change and shortly a news release to the media and flyers to architectural and design schools will be distributed.

Chairman Suzuki also introduced the need for a selection jury to select the winning entry. Names of candidates including architects, designers, artists, etc. should be submitted to: James T. Suzuki, GFB-NVS Design Committee, P. O. Box 358, Woodinville, WA 98072.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE M. MASAOKA

Mike M. Masaoka dead at 75. Masaoka, JACL's first National Executive Secretary and probably one of the most acclaimed and disclaimed (by some critics) Nisei, died from numerous ailments that had plagued him in later years.

Masaoka, who was born in Oct. 15, 1915, in Fresno, CA, grew up in Salt Lake City, attended the University of Utah where he attained great honors on the debating team which won numerous national awards.

As a brash youngster with great oratorical skill, Masaoka became involved with the young JACL organization in the early '30s when Walter Tsukamoto and Saburo Kido, both former National JACL presidents, invited him to join the JACL.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, by Japan, Masaoka and other young JACL leaders were hard-pressed to prevent the tragic internment of all Japanese Americans residing on the west coast states. Since Japanese Americans had no one to speak on their behalf, unlike those of German and Italian backgrounds, west coast anti-Nikkei special interest groups put tremendous pressure on political leaders to oust all Japanese Americans from the west coast areas. Lt. Gen. John De Witt, in charge of the west coast defense, finally gave in to these anti-Nikkei groups and recommended forcible evacuation of all Japanese Americans to inland internment centers. Ironically, Japanese Americans and their alien parents living in Hawaii where the attack took place were not all interned except for a thousand or so suspected ones.

With the nation in a wartime frenzy, Masaoka and other young JACL leaders felt that the future of Japanese Americans in the United States depended on their acceptance by the American public as loyal Americans; so after consulting with other leaders, Masaoka convinced Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy that the loyal Americans of Japanese descent were willing to serve in the American military service to prove their utmost loyalty to the United States. Unbeknown to Masaoka, Nikkei by the thousands had been besieging the American armed forces to volunteer their services.

When the all-Japanese American combat regiment was finally formulated, Masaoka was the first to volunteer along with his four brothers.

The rest is history. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team compiled a military record second-to-none in the U.S. military history as

the most highly-decorated unit of its size. The 442nd RCT received seven Presidential Unit Citations which is the equivalent of a Distinguished Service Cross for the entire regiment.

The war record of the 442nd RCT vindicated Masaoka and the JACL wartime leaders for their justification for the formation of the all-Nikkei combat team. Their tremendous patriotism and battlefield awards helped Masaoka when he campaigned with members of Congress to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950 which codified the Presidential authority used in 1941 to imprison American citizens of Japanese ancestry. That provision is no longer law and the original executive order used to justify the relocation has been discredited and withdrawn. Masaoka and the JACL lobbied for, and succeeded in, the repeal of the Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924 which prevented Japanese immigrants from owning land or becoming American citizens. His lobbying also resulted in the amendments to the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 which gave Japanese immigrants the same rights as Europeans in earlier immigration laws. The amendments helped war brides join their American husbands and helped bring families together by giving relatives of American citizens preference in immigrating to the U.S. Masaoka and the JACL also campaigned to obtain compensation for Nikkei who had lost their jobs, homes, and property when they were evacuated to the internment centers. The evacuees were partially compensated at that time for loss of property, but not for personal suffering or loss of income.

Masaoka received many honors and in 1949 the Reader's Digest magazine reprinted an article called Masaoka "Washington's Most Successful Lobbyist."

In 1950 he was the first recipient of JACL's "Nisei of the Biennium" award and in 1957 he was featured on the national TV show, "This Is Your Life" as the outstanding Japanese American of the quarter century.

In 1970 he was honored at a Chicago testimonial where the Mike Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award was established by JACL.

He is one of the few Americans to have been honored twice by the Japanese government. In 1968 he was decorated with the Order of the Rising Sun, Third Grade. In 1983 for his further contributions to Japanese American relations, he was again honored, this time with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Second Grade, the high-

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est decoration given to non-Japanese who are not government officials.

Masaoka was one of the few non-governmental Americans to be invited by then-Secretary of State Dean Acheson to attend the Japanese Peace Conference in San Francisco in 1951. Subsequently, because of his work and involvement, he was invited to attend the signing of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Commerce Navigation and Friendship later that year. The head Abbots of the major temples in Kyoto also honored Masaoka for his efforts during World War II to dissuade the American air force from bombing the sacred treasures and buildings in Japan.

In 1987 his autobiography, They Call Me Moses Masaoka, written in collaboration with Bill Hosokawa, was published by William Morrow & Company and translated into Japanese. Masaoka served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe even though he had been originally rejected for the draft. For his military service as an information and press non-commissioned officer, he received the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, and the Italian Cross for Military Valor.

He was also the founding father of the Go For Broke National Veterans Association to campaign for the establishment of a monument to all Japanese Americans who served in the wars involving the United States. The monument will be on the Avenue of Heroes leading to the Arlington National Cemetery.

Masaoka is survived by his wife Etsu Mineta Masaoka, sister of Rep. Norman Mineta (D-CA); granddaughter Michelle Amano of Chevy Chase, MD; sister Mrs. Kiyoko Ito of Chicago; and brother Tad Masaoka of San Mateo, CA.

EPILOGUE

In 1959 when Hawaii became the 50th state, Masaoka received a warm letter of thanks from Hawaii delegate Jack Burns: "We shall be forever in your debt for the vital assistance you gave us in the campaign for statehood and it is a debt we shall never forget." Masaoka also received a resolution from the Territory of Hawaii's last legislature: "Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the Territory of Hawaii, its deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to Mike Masaoka for the major role which he played in obtaining statehood for Hawaii."

Masaoka's former comrade-in-arms from Hawaii, Senator Dan Inouye, spoke as the keynote speaker of the 1979 National Americans of Japanese Ancestry Veterans Reunion at

Honolulu and announced that he was sponsoring a bill to investigate the wartime internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry. The bill was adopted by Congress and signed into law by President Carter.

The late Senator Spark Matsunaga, a close associate of Masaoka, almost single-handedly persuaded his Senate colleagues to adopt his Senate Bill which would compensate former internees for their wartime internment.

Inouye would also later sponsor the Senate Entitlement Bill which made it possible for the redress compensation funds to be included in the national budget similar to Medicare and not required to be presented as a separate bill to Congress. Masaoka's efforts on behalf of his wartime "buddahead comrades" was repaid in full by Hawaii's Senators Inouye and Matsunaga, on behalf of the mainland Americans of Japanese descent and their alien parents.

Arthur T. Morimitsu, Chairman
GFB-NVA Mid-America

Vietnam Memorial ...

Fourteen Americans can visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and find their names carved in black granite among the names of those killed in the war. Those names were listed among the 58,175 names of dead and missing on the wall by a Government clerk who typed the wrong number into a computer. All 14 computer records have been corrected, but the names in the continual chronological list on the memorial cannot easily be erased from the polished granite.

Operation Desert Storm ...

Among the Nikkei who served in Operation Desert Storm was 1st Lt. Michael Seiji Oshiki, 25, who was executive officer for the MIAI Tank group which is part of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment of Fort Bliss, Texas. After training in New Mexico his unit arrived in Saudi Arabia the beginning of September 1990. Oshiki attended both Ranger and Paratroop schools and graduated from the Armored Cavalry School at Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1987. He is the son of Kaz and Jean Oshiki of Washington, D.C. He returned back to the states on March 18, 1991.



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

The giant who strode among us

HOW DOES ONE describe a once-in-a-generation soul such as Mike M. (Masaru) Masaoka who unselfishly gave so much for so long for so many? A man who forthrightly addressed issues that all too many of us had shied away from for far too long; who dared to dream and act on goals that others of us remained reluctant to confront in our fears that such were "not feasible" if not impossible; who exhorted and cajoled and pressed us into action, even as he was giving his own utmost to the effort. Who has not been awed by the spell-binding oratory of this prophet who, to our utter amazement, spoke without the aid of any text or even notes?

The voice is now stilled.

LIKE THE REST of us, Mike was, of course a mortal - a husband, a father and grandfather, a cohort, a friend. And precisely because he was a mortal being like any of us, his forward-looking vision with daring to act thereon, was awe-inspiring

to all of us. He had his detractors of course; but what person of vision does not—it's part of the price one has to be prepared to pay. And Mike paid his share, and at times more. Indeed, he and I disagreed on some key issues and to this day I remain amazed by the absence of any acrimony or vehemence on his part in the face of unmovable stances on my part. I must confess that on a number of issues, the wisdom of his ways finally seeped through. With further passage of time, perhaps the wisdom of other positions may become clearer to me. For my part, I have always been fully content that in balancing the credits with any debits, Mike's scale overwhelmingly tipped on the credit side, resoundingly so.

ONE'S DIMENSIONS of a person are often composed of fragments of memories that provide an adumbration of a character. Important and always busy as he was, his graciousness in coming to the station to personally receive one's arrival. At a time when civil rights was hardly a fashionable

item, including among the Nikkei, boldly proposing that JACL participate in a "demonstration" - namely the March on Washington in August of 1963, over a quarter century ago - and successfully getting the Nikkei to participate. Then just a few years later, in 1967, successfully promoting JACL's participation before the U. S. Supreme Court in the case of *Loving v. Virginia*, which struck down as unconstitutional the anti-miscegenation laws that then existed in 17 states. Mike remained intently in the spectator seating when the case was presented. Among Mike's capabilities, I had long admired his ability to quickly grasp the nances of legal issues and then succinctly articulate them. In my time I have seen a few lawyers in action not only in this jurisdiction but also in various parts of this country, and I can attest to the fact that Mike would have made one helluva lawyer.

THE VOICE of a giant has been stilled; but his footprints immutably remain. ©

Reprinted from the Pacific Citizen, July 5-12 issue

Short takes ...

In Tacoma, Washington Kimo Yoshikawa paid \$4,200 for General Norman Schwarzkoph's four-star insignia at a Red Cross benefit auction. The stars were worn by the General while he was commander of Operation Desert Storm. "In a lifetime, you don't often run into an opportunity to purchase something like this," said Yoshikawa...Author Paul Lyon has titled his second novel "Going for Broke." Lyon revisits the high stakes passions of a generation that is young, affluent and aimless. Seems that GFB has become a part of the national vocabulary...A 15th Century Buddhist temple bell seized by the United States Marines on Okinawa in June 1945 and exhibited as a war trophy at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia for the last 45 years was returned to Okinawa in April 1991...President Bush has awarded posthumously the Medal of Honor to the first black to be honored with the nation's highest citation for valor during World War I or World War II. The family of Army Cpl. Freddie Stowers was given the award on April 24, 1991. Cpl. Stowers, of Sandy Springs, S.C., was killed in France Sept. 28, 1918, as he led his company in a charge to take a German-held hill. At least 40

percent of Cpl. Stowers' roughly 200-man company died in the effort, according to Army records. The award came after almost three-year review by the Army into the citation records of black World War I soldiers. The review was launched by then-Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci after historian Leroy Ramsey publicized the fact that none of the 1.5 million blacks who served in the world wars had received the Medal of Honor...The nomination process and criteria for placing names on the Honor Roll of the Japanese American WWII Veterans Memorial in Little Tokyo (Los Angeles) was announced by Harry Akune, Name Criteria Selection Committee chair of the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation. Thus far, the 100th/442nd Veterans Association has nominated those listed in two 1946 books: Orville Shirey's *Americans: The Story of the 442nd Combat Team* and Thomas P. Murphy's *Ambassador in Arms*. The MIS Club of Southern California has placed those listed in the 1946 Military Intelligence Language School Album. Additional nominations can be made by obtaining forms from the NCS Committee, 1438 Oak Street, Los Angeles, CA 90015...

ORA SEEKS WWII VETS WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE ...

Deputy Administrator Paul W. Suddes, Office of Redress Administration, met with GFB-NVA members and their wives in attendance at the general meeting in Seattle on June 22, 1991. He said the major issue facing ORA was to get money to pay all eligible claimants. When the program was begun it was believed that 60,000 were eligible for payments but it now appears that 70-75,000 are eligible. Included in that number are approximately 5,000 Japanese Americans who were serving in the U.S. Military before WWII. According to Suddes, ORA has contacted 2,075 veterans but many are yet to be contacted.

Suddes asked the audience members to help get the word out to these eligible veterans who would receive payment from the Civil Liberties

Act of 1988. There are two ways an individual may be eligible: (1) Loss of Property--the individual must have lost real or personal property of any value as a result of being prohibited by the U.S. government from entering a prohibited zone to safeguard their property, or had property seized by the government, and/or... (2) Deprivation of Liberty--the individual must have been prohibited from visiting family who were interned, or forced to submit to undue restrictions amounting to a deprivation of liberty prior to visiting family.

If you know someone who might qualify for compensation, tell them to contact Paul Suddes, Deputy Administrator, ORA, P.O. Box 65310, Washington, D.C. 20035-5310 or call 1-800-395-4672 and ask for Laurel Tanaka.



GO FOR BROKE - NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS meet at General meeting in Seattle...(L to R)Dr. Harold Harada, National Treasurer; Hitoshi M Shimizu, National Finance Officer; Yaye Herman, Secretary; Bill Marutani, President; and Joe Ichijui, Assistant Treasurer.



GO FOR BROKE - NATIONAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION presents award to officers for outstanding service at Seattle general meeting. Front row: Dr Harold Harada, Culver City, CA; Peter Okada, Kirkland, WA; Rudy Tokiwa, Sunnyvale, CA; Chester Tanaka, Kaneohe, HI; Yaye Herman, San Francisco, CA; Tom Masamori, Denver, CO; Hitoshi Mike Shimizu, Culver City, CA; Back row: Bill Marutani, Media, PA; Jun Yamamoto, Los Angeles, CA; and Jack Nagano, Rosemead, CA.

NEW EDITOR SELECTED ...

George Wakiji has been appointed the newsletter editor by President Bill Marutani. His duty will consist of editing materials from members and other organizations. Regional vice presidents are especially asked to compile news of their respective areas and submit them for publication. Any member having ideas on the name of the newsletter as well as the appropriate masthead are urged to turn them in. As yet, there is no set publication schedule. George's address is:

5820 Iron Willow Court
Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 719-0337

Formatting and printing the material will be Bacon Sakatani.



July 17, 1991

Go for Broke National Veterans
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 2525
Culver City, CA 90231-2525

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your generous donation to the Mike M. Masaoka Fund.

This Fund is a tribute to the leadership and dedicated efforts of Mike Masaoka in all that he did for JACL and for the Japanese American community. The purpose of the Fund is to support the civil rights mission of the JACL and to provide for leadership training and development among our youth and young adults. It is with these objectives that the Fund will promote the fine tradition of leadership inspired by Mike Masaoka.

We greatly appreciate your support of JACL and the Mike M. Masaoka Fund.

Sincerely,

Gregory Nakagawa
Gregory Nakagawa
National President

LOS ANGELES
AUG 2
1991
CALIF.



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