



# Newsletter

Honoring & Carrying On the Legacy • Honoring the Past, Educating the Future

October 2024 • Volume 74 • Issue 9

## Robert Eagle Staff Middle School Students Visit NVC Memorial Hall

日本語教室生徒来館  
にほんごきょうしつせいとらいかん

By Geri Lynne Egeler, Past NVC Foundation President and Shawn Brinsfield, Past NVC Foundation President

The NVC Foundation hosted a tour of the NVC Memorial Hall on September 26th, for a group of Japanese language students from the Robert Eagle Staff Middle School. The students listened to presentations by incarceration survivors Mary Tanaka Abo and Paul Tomita and asked pointed questions afterwards.

These same pupils learned from speaker Mary Abo that she had

been forced to move by ship as a child from her home in what was then the Territory of Alaska to the Minidoka prison camp located in the arid high desert of Jerome, Idaho.

The middle school learners also heard Paul Tomita talk about being sent as a toddler to Minidoka. There he barely survived due to his asthma being severely aggravated by the intense dust.

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NVC Commander Dale Watanabe with students.

## NVC Foundation Announces 2025 Scholarship Program

By Brianna Ishihara, Chair, Scholarship Committee

The NVC and NVC Foundation Scholarship Program will award up to four (4) \$3,000 higher education scholarships and one (1) \$2,000 scholarship in May 2025. Student's may apply to multiple scholarships, however, only one scholarship will be awarded per student.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST. Applications may be submitted via email, post, or through the

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National Veterans Network

## "I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience" Traveling Exhibit

From National Veterans Network (NVN)



Washington, DC (September 18, 2024) — Today on Capitol Hill, U.S. Representatives Mark Takano and Jill Tokuda, White House Senior Advisor for Public Engagement Kota Mizutani, and 34th Chief of Staff of the United States Army, retired General Eric K. Shinseki, joined the presentation of plans for "I Am An American," the first traveling exhibit

(continued on pg.4)

Official rendering of the I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience traveling exhibit.

### NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

\*NVC — Executive Council Meeting

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00pm – 7:00pm

\*NVC Foundation — Board Meeting

TBD

**NOTE:** NVC Memorial Hall is fully open, but for the safety of our volunteers and those who use the Hall, the NVC will continue to follow CDC, State, and County Covid protocols. For additional information, email: [info@seattlencv.org](mailto:info@seattlencv.org)

**\*HYBRID General Membership Meeting:** The monthly general membership meeting is in transition. A new schedule will be published for 2025 by the December issue. The general membership meeting will continue to be held on a Hybrid basis, meaning you can either attend **In-Person** at the NVC Memorial Hall or participate **Virtually** through a Zoom Livestream online connection. Check the NVC Website and/or NVC Emails for updates on meeting times and dates.



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## NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



### I am an American: The Nisei Soldier Experience

I was in Washington DC last month as NVC's advisory board representative to the National

Veterans Network. The NVN has worked with the National Museum of the U.S. Army (NMUSA) that opened at Fort Belvoir on Veterans Day 2020, which had been delayed because of COVID. The Nisei Soldier exhibit formally launched in June 2021 as a special section of NMUSA along with the display of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the 100th/442RCT/MIS. I recommend you go see the exhibit while it is there, but in 2026 the traveling version will go on the road to other cities in the U.S. starting with the Presidio, then Hawaii and Portland for 6 months at a time.

### NVC Newsletter Mailing Volunteers Needed

Our valued and hard-working newsletter crew has notified us that they would like to retire at the end of this year. All are in the 70's and 80's and they would love to help new volunteers to get up to speed over the next few months. Please email me at [info@seattlencv.org](mailto:info@seattlencv.org) or call my mobile number at 206-953-2233 if you have questions or know someone who would like to help us keep the hardcopy newsletter going!

### NVC Hall and the Seattle City Council

I want to echo Jay's message that we are communicating with city officials about King Street. There have been several visits to NVC Hall by Seattle government representatives to learn the history of the Nisei soldiers as well as to see the current King Street situation. I gave a tour of the Hall after this month's Nisei Luncheon to City Councilmember Tanya Woo and the following Tuesday, there was a session with the Mayor's office, an SPD representative, and the owners of King Street businesses. We hope to see the start of sustainable action by the time you read this, and we are committed to do our part for a better King Street and safer NVC Memorial Hall.

#### 2024-2025 NVC Officers

<b>Commander</b> Dale Watanabe	<b>Past Commanders (Not Elected)</b> Dale Kaku (veteran)
<b>Vice Commander</b> Lt Col Michael J. Yaguchi, USAF (Ret)	<b>Members At Large (Up to seven)</b> Scott Kushino (veteran)
<b>Recording Secretary</b> COL Kay Wakatake, USA (Ret)	Frank Kiuchi (veteran)
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> Shiz Kaku	Lt Col Bill Wright, USAF (Ret)
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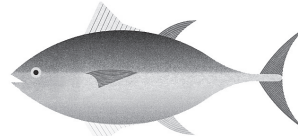
#### 2024-2025 NVC Foundation Officers and Board Members At-Large

<b>President</b> Jay Deguchi	<b>At-Large Board Members</b> Les Inaba
<b>Vice-President</b> Dean Hoshizaki	Dale Watanabe
<b>Treasurer</b> PJ Sugamura	Denise Inaba
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# NVC Foundation President's Column

By Jay Deguchi



We are aware of our members increasing concerns and sense of unease of coming to the hall to our events, especially when the lot is full. It is unfortunate, and we apologize if it has caused any inconvenience or distress. Recently we had our annual clean-up and it was disheartening to see trash accumulating in front of the building before we even finished. It was a battle to

keep the area clean for the Tengu Fishing Club's film documentary that evening.

The board recently met at the hall so all board members could experience and better understand 'LIFE' on King Street, and to discuss what options there may be. The board approved allocating more funds to add a new fence along the east property line providing a better barrier to the new park.

We are hopeful that change is coming. Recently, the city council passed new legislation to create Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) zones. The NVC is in Zone 2, and this will allow the police better capacity to patrol the area and keep multiple offenders out. Also, The DESC Navigation Center (for marginalized high-needs

homeless) located a block away on 12th Avenue is relocating in January 2025. With these two new events, we hope that our continuing problem of loitering and drug use will subside.

I have recently sent letters to Mayor Bruce Harrell and City Council member Tanya Woo expressing the need for safety in the area and I urge members to do the same. A big thank you to Mike Yaguchi who continues to monitor the situation and has remained vigilant in contacting the police when issues arise. When we gathered to discuss our options in 2002, and whether to remodel or possibly

move, we all felt the 'place' was most important. I still believe in that. This current situation will inevitably change, but the NVC and NVC Foundation will remain steadfast and no doubt carry on for future generations.

On a lighter note. We are planning another Thanksgiving Eve party at Terry's Kitchen on November 27th. It will be like last year with a silent auction, lots of raffle items, and pool. We had a great turn out last year and encourage everyone to attend, especially all the young folks we saw at the meeting. Flyers with information to come.



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**"I Am An American: The Nisei Soldier Experience" Traveling Exhibit**  
(continued from pg.1)

of the National Museum of the United States Army, in partnership with the National Veterans Network and The Army Historical Foundation. The speakers shared the experience of family members who served in segregated units for Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II and the significance of the U.S. Army choosing this often-overlooked community of soldiers for its first traveling exhibit.

Ms. Tammy Call, Director of the Museum, highlighted that the exhibit will travel to 11 cities over its five-year tour. The exhibit will highlight 25-35 wartime objects to represent the service of the United States Army's 100th Infan-

try Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service. The first stop will be at the Presidio MIS Historic Learning Center in San Francisco in February 2026 before moving to the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Oregon Historical Society in Portland, and Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Additional venues will be announced at a later date.

Ms. Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Executive Director of the Nation-



Left to right: Kota Mizutani, Representative Jill Tokuda, Representative Mark Takano, Floyd Mori, General Eric Shinseki, Retired, Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Tammy Call.

al Veterans Network, which is providing the historical expertise to develop the exhibit's content, shared the exhibit's design plans. The theme, "I Am An American," was inspired by a photo taken by Dorothea Lange of an "I Am An American" sign placed on an Oakland, California storefront by

Tatsuro Masuda on December 8, 1941, to declare his American identity. The exhibit will highlight the patriotism, courage, and selfless service of the Japanese American World War II Nisei soldiers who served courageously in the European and Pacific Theater

(continued on pg.5)

**"The Minidoka Story"**  
by Sat Ichikawa

A publication from the NVC Foundation.  
Designed and created especially for elementary school students

What Happened to Americans of Japanese Ancestry during World War II? A PICTURE STORY OF THE LIFE OF AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN AMERICANS

This picture story booklet was designed specifically to tell the experience of the WWII Japanese American incarceration through the actual words of a camp survivor. The booklet's colorful graphics and simple but poignant words can be easily appreciated by all.

Available Through the NVC Foundation  
1312 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98144  
Book Inquiries Email: [info@nvcfoundation.org](mailto:info@nvcfoundation.org)

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***"I Am An American:  
The Nisei Soldier Experience"  
Traveling Exhibit***  
*(continued from pg.4)*

while their families battled discrimination at home. Exploring five thematic areas, the 1,500-square-foot exhibit will present the national perspective of the Japanese American WWII soldier experience that includes the historical context of life in Hawaii and Wartime Relocation Authority camps.

"American soldiers of Japanese Ancestry delivered a powerful lesson in citizenship during World War II," said Shinseki. "Their values—loyalty, courage, patriotism—are timeless statements about being American. Rising above fear and prejudice, they wrote an unrivaled battle history that remains legendary, even today. It's an American story for the ages."

World War II American soldiers of Japanese ancestry, known as Nisei soldiers, enlisted from the islands of Hawaii and ten Wartime Relocation Authority Camps that forcibly relocated 120,000 Japanese Americans during the war. An estimated 19,000 Nisei served in the European Theater as part of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which went on to become the most decorated unit in U.S. military history for its size and duration of service.



*Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Executive Director of the National Veterans Network.*



*Tammy Call, Director of the National Museum of the United States Army.*

Another 6,000 Japanese Americans served as translators and interpreters in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service.

The Army Historical Foundation is supporting the production of the traveling exhibit. A special gallery on the Nisei experience will be displayed at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, until 2025.



*General Eric K. Shinseki, Retired, 34th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.*



*National Veterans Network  
Advisory Board,  
General Eric K. Shinseki,  
National Museum of  
the United States Army and  
The Army Historical Foundation.*



**Robert Eagle Staff Middle School Students visit NVC Memorial Hall**  
(continued from pg.1)

The speakers later commented on how impressed they were by the students' sense of interest. "They were the most prepared students of any group we have ever seen."

During the tour, past NVC Foundation President Geri Lynne Egeler engaged with these young people in the Go for Broke Room. She explained the cultural and historical significance behind the museum artifacts. Upstairs in the NVC Military Museum (Medal of Honor Room), NVC Commander Dale Watanabe gave background stories and a touching history of the brave Nikkei soldiers who are honored in the illuminated displays.

Seattle Public School Japanese language teacher Kelli L. Spann and five of the school's adult volunteers accompanied the students on the guided tour. Foundation member volunteer Dorothy Muto-Coleman provided additional needed support.

*[Note: To continue their experiential education, teacher Kelli L. Spann and some of her Japanese language students are planning a trip to Japan.]*

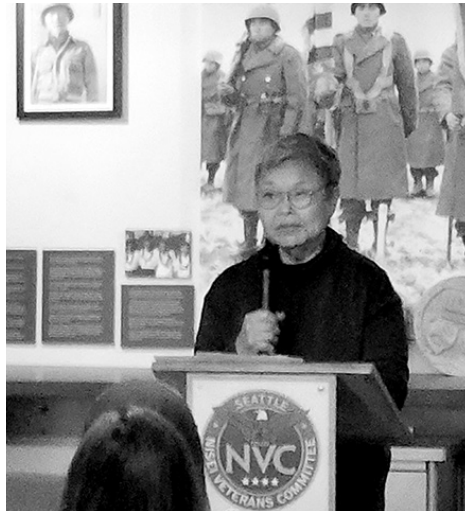
Good luck in your studies!  
お勉強頑張ってください。グッドラック!



Dale Watanabe talking about Nikkei soldiers KIA.



Geri Lynne Egeler in Go For Broke room.



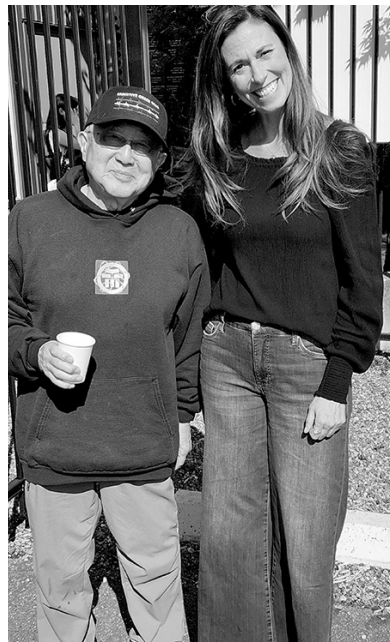
Mary Tanaka Abo



Paul Tomita



Students exploring Memorial Wall.



Paul Tomita and teacher Kelli L. Spann



Geri Lynne answering question from student

Note: 日本語教室 (にほんごきょうしつ) = Japanese class, 生徒 (せいと) = students, 来館 (らいかん) = visit hall  
Nihongo Kyoshitsu Seito Raikan



# Nisei Lunch Report for October

By Keith Yamaguchi

The weather outside the cozy confines of the NVC Memorial Hall was a typical Northwest day with drizzly rain and cool temperatures. However, the meal of Japanese Chicken Curry, Rice, and Green Salad was the fitting meal for the transition into Fall.

In keeping with the Fall focus of the Nisei Lunch, we enjoyed a very special treat provided by Mark Sakagami. Mark generously donated several pre-packaged Matsutake mushroom gift bags as Bingo prizes. Mark harvested the Matsutake earlier in the week. Needless to say,

those packages of Matsutake mushrooms were the first prizes to come off the board.

We had several individuals celebrating their birthdays in October. Those receiving birthday wishes included: Elsie Taniguchi, Teresa Yagi, Sue Beeson, and Mary Ann Yamaguchi.

Be well and stay safe.





**NVC Foundation Announces 2025 Scholarship Program**  
(continued from pg.1)

Google Form provided on the NVC Scholarship website. Please visit the website for specific scholarship information and criteria: <https://nvcfoundation.org/education/scholarships/>

For questions or further information, contact the committee at: [NVCFoundationScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:NVCFoundationScholarship@gmail.com)

**NVC Women's Auxiliary Scholarship**

Amount: \$3,000

Scholarships Awarded: 1

Prior to the establishment of the Women's Auxiliary Committee (WAC), the Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) began as a "boys club" before evolving into the veteran, family, and community-oriented organization it is today. According to former Women's Auxiliary member and lifetime NVC member, Louise Kashino Takisaki, the WAC supported the NVC men in, "...patriotic, social, charitable, educational, and public service within the community".

This scholarship is open to all high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students. Students interested in applying to this scholarship should be prepared to engage in a critical reflection in relation to community and service.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST.

**NVC Foundation Okagesama de Scholarship**

Amount: \$3,000

Scholarships Awarded: 3

*Okagesama de* in Japanese means, "I am what I am because of you". The unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II inspires the mission of the NVC Foundation (NVCF): "Honor the past and educate the future". By "honoring the past" or remembering our ancestors who faced discrimination based on race and hysteria, our goal is to "educate the future".

This scholarship is open to all high school seniors, undergraduate, and graduate students pursuing a degree at a community, technical, or 4-year university in Washington State. Students interested in applying to this scholarship should be prepared to demonstrate a critical reflection in relation to this theme or traditional saying.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. PST.

**Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship**

Amount: \$2,000

Scholarships Awarded: 1

The Mark Shigihara Memorial Scholarship commemorates a Seattle sansei who prioritized the joy and wellness of his family and community. Shigihara's educational and inspirational memoir, *Living Lessons - My Journey of Faith, Love, and Cutting-edge Cancer Therapy*, was shared to "...help others who face life-altering challenges". His professional career spanned leadership roles as a clinical pharmacist, specialist in the pharmaceutical industry, and as an affiliate associate professor with the University of Washington and Washington State University Schools of Pharmacy.

Mark's father, Ken Shigihara, and father-in-law, Ken Sato, served in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service. His uncle, Tom Ohtani, served in the U.S. Navy. Mark's family members continue their generational support of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee.

Scholarship eligibility applies to students who are currently enrolled in the University of Washington School of Pharmacy.

Completed applications and all supporting documents must be submitted by Saturday, February 22, 2025, 11:59 pm PST.

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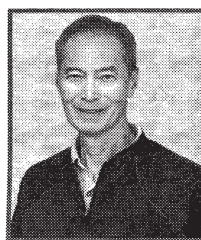


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Julianne Kumasaka

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## Community NEWS

### Reparations: Building Solidarity and Community

Seattle JACL Film Showing and

Panel Discussion with Filmmaker Jon Osaki

Wednesday, October 30, 6:00pm

Seattle Central College, Room 1110, 1701 Broadway, Seattle

Reparations, a 30-minute documentary film by Jon Osaki, explores the four-century struggle to seek repair and atonement for slavery in the United States. Black and Asian Americans reflect on the legacy of slavery, the inequities that persist, and the critical role that solidarity between communities has in acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in America. This story is told by Black and Asian Americans who believe that our collective liberation can only be achieved by standing with one another. Reparations seeks to raise awareness of the Black reparations struggle and how vital it is to healing this country. Watch the film and hear from filmmaker Jon Osaki and a panel of local activists working on Black Reparations. Co-sponsored by Seattle Central College AANAPISI Center, Seattle Chapter JACL, Tsuru for Solidarity, Wing Luke Asian Museum. Email for more information to [info@seattlejacl.org](mailto:info@seattlejacl.org)

### InterImCDA: Connecting with Community Dinner

Saturday, November 2, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Diamond Bay Restaurant, 409 8th Ave S, Seattle

For over 50 years, InterImCDA has promoted the stabilization and revitalization of Seattle's International District for the benefit of its low income, minority, and elderly residents, and small businesses without gentrification and displacement. You are invited to join an intimate gathering of friends for an evening filled with stories, delicious food, and meaningful connections at the new Diamond Bay Restaurant right next to Uncle Bob's Place and the new Bush Garden. Celebrate InterImCDA's strong history of activism in the community. General Tickets: \$150 (Early Bird: \$125) / VIP Tickets: \$200 (Early Bird: \$175). Information and Tickets at the InterIm CDA website.

### Tacoma Buddhist Temple Fall Bazaar

Sunday, November 10, 11:00am – 2:00pm

– In Person / Pre-orders only

1717 S Fawcett Ave, Tacoma

Pre-order your main menu items on-line and choose from beef curry or udon. Pick up your order from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Order Deadline: October 31st at 10:00 pm.

Visit inside, where you can also select homemade desserts from the bake sale, including *daifuku mochi* and whole pies. Enjoy a rummage sale of Japanese items with a selection of kimono, dishes, teacups, and fall produce items. For shopping — credit cards and checks only. All pre-orders must be made online. For Questions, visit the Temple website.

### Ayame Kai Holiday Market

Saturday, November 16, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Blaine Memorial UMC, 3001 - 24th Avenue South, Seattle WA 98144

Join Ayame Kai's annual Holiday Market! This festive event features a wide array of vendors and artisans offering one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted gifts, mouth-watering baked goods, unique Asian-inspired finds, and delightful local flavors. Whether you're shopping for the perfect holiday present or indulging in Ayame Kai's famous treats, there's something for everyone. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to support Keiro Northwest and local creators. Proceeds benefit Keiro Northwest's culturally tailored eldercare services: Nikkei Manor assisted living and respite care and Kokoro Kai adult day program. To eventually be "cash free", all major credit cards and Apple Pay are accepted and encouraged. Information available at the Keiro Northwest website.

(continued on pg.11)

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**Community NEWS**  
(continued from pg.10)

**JASSW 101st Holiday Celebration Dinner & Auction**

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00pm – 8:30pm (doors open 5:00pm)  
The Westin Seattle, 1900 5th Ave, Seattle

Jump start your holiday shopping with fabulous auction items and thank your colleagues and customers for a successful year -- all while supporting a great cause! Master of Ceremonies Tomo Hoku Angie is bringing her energy and unique spirit to this dinner, and you won't want to miss it! Early Bird pricing \$250 / \$300 after November 10.

Register through the JASSW website.

**BIJAC Mochi Tsuki**

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 11am – 4pm  
Woodward Middle School,  
9125 Sportsman Club Rd NE, Bainbridge Island

For more than 30 years, the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community *Mochi Tsuki* celebration has been an important traditional event to bring good fortune in the New Year. Once again, the public is invited to participate in making *mochi* the traditional way – steaming sweet rice over an open fire, then pounding the rice by hand with traditional, handcrafted cherry wood mallets (*kine*) in a granite bowl (*usu*). Visitors can get in on the action by trying their hands at pounding the mochi, forming it into cakes by hand, and eating it while it's still warm and sticky! This event is enjoyed by adults and children alike. All activities are Free to the public -- donations are welcome!

- *Mochi*-pounding
- Form-your-own mochi cakes
- Origami folding lessons
- Odori dance lessons and public participation
- Performances by Seattle Kokon Taiko

More information available at the BIJAC website.



**NVCF JAPANESE AMERICAN  
MEMORIAL WALL BRICK SALE**

**We are now SOLD OUT of all Veteran Bricks.** No further space will be available. We do still have some **Internee Bricks** remaining. The price per brick is \$260.

If you are interested in purchasing an Internee Brick, please go to [www.nvcfoundation.org](http://www.nvcfoundation.org) and click the link under Japanese American Memorial Wall at the bottom of the page. Please print and return a copy of the donation form to: NVC Foundation, Japanese American Memorial Wall, 1212 S. King Street, Seattle WA 98144.

**Questions? Contact Bev Kashino at [bkashino@msn.com](mailto:bkashino@msn.com) or 206-488-6678.**



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John Kikuchi  
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**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FORM**

[www.nvcfoundation.org](http://www.nvcfoundation.org)  
EIN# 46-0517221

*Donate to the **NVC Foundation Endowment Fund** to Help Continue the NVC Legacy!*

- ☐ Check is enclosed in the amount of ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Transfer of stock, bonds, other securities (Please contact one of the persons below for a transfer) . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Planned gift in my will, insurance, or other plan (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check and gifts payable to: NVCF Legacy Endowment**  
**Mail check and form to: The NVC Foundation • 1212 S. King Street • Seattle, WA 98144**

For More Information, Please Contact:  
Leslie Inaba at [info@nvcfoundation.org](mailto:info@nvcfoundation.org) or leave a message at NVC Hall: (206) 322-1122



# Newsletter

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## NVC • MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please do NOT use this for donations.) ☐ New ☐ Renewal

**THIS MEMBERSHIP OPEN TO BOTH VETERANS & NON-VETERANS**

To: **NVC Membership Chair**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill in below applicable information regarding where your served:*

Branch (Co./Div.): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Enclosed are Annual NVC Membership Dues for \_\_\_\_\_ years at \$35 per year; or ROTC Membership Dues at \$20 per year (25 & Under).

☐ Enclosed is \$150 for an NVC Life Membership.



Thanks and Please  
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**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

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Please send check payable to:  
**NISEI VETERAN'S COMMITTEE**  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98144

## NVC • DONATION FORM

(Use this form for donations only)

*Please check the most appropriate heading:*

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
**1**

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
**2**

☐ In Memory of ☐ In Honor of ☐ In Appreciation of  
**3**

**Acknowledge to Next of Kin:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Thanks and Please  
do NOT Staple  
Check to this Form.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

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Please send check payable to:  
**NISEI VETERAN'S COMMITTEE**  
1212 S. King Street, Seattle, WA 98144