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

November 2024 • Volume 74 • Issue 10

The Nisei Lunch Report: November By Keith Yamaguchi

The November Nisei Lunch is "in the books" as we hosted the busiest lunch crowd of the year. We anticipate a slightly higher number of guest's next month for our final lunch of 2024.

Jim Shinbo and his kitchen crew did an outstanding job (again!), providing a delicious meal of Turkey, rice, dressing, green beans, green salad, lots of gravy to top things off, and for dessert: Pumpkin Pie made in the Costco Bakery (for those of you unfamiliar with the Costco bakery—their Pumpkin Pie is the best deal going. It is a huge pie for a reasonable cost, and it is delicious!) All in all, a very satisfying meal and a great way to start the Holiday Seasons.

The Bingo event has featured an ever-growing number of donated prizes including home baked goods, gift cards, Matsutake (in season), and confectionary treats from our volunteers and guests that recently returned from visiting Japan. It goes without saying that we are appreciative of the gifts received, and I know those lucky winners are too! Thanks for the gifts!

We celebrated three birthdays for the month of November. Happy Birthday to Cho Shimizu, Mike Fukuma, and Eileen Yamada Lamphere.

The December Nisei Lunch will feature Terry Takeuchi's cooking skills. Terry has been providing the main entrée for the December Nisei Lunch since we began back in 2015. We are so fortunate to have Terry as a member of the Nisei Lunch program and are grateful for his ongoing support. This is a lunch that fills up very quickly so don't hesitate to get your RSVP in early. You don't want to miss this lunch!

Thanks for your support and participation in the Nisei Lunch program. Hope to see you in December.

(More Photos on pg.8)



Nisei Lunch- November 1, 2024 -Full House



Bingo prize-Matsutake, provided by Mark Sakagami



Pumpkin pie dessert-Lisa Kunihiro



Bingo prize donated by Nancy Fujimoto





Turkey, dressing, rice, green beans and lots of gravy

TBD

Check the NVC Website and/or NVC Emails for updates on meeting times and dates.



Chef Jim Shinbo

NVC & NVC FOUNDATION CALENDAR

*NVC — Executive Council Meeting

*NVC Foundation — Board Meeting

NVC/NVCF Thanksgiving Eve Party and Pool Tournament

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday, November 27 5:00pm - 11:00pm Terry's Kitchen, 5625 - 119th Ave SE, Bellevue

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@seattlenvc.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.





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Published Monthly (Except July)

Mailed to all NVC, Women's Auxiliary & NVC Foundation Members and to those in the armed forces upon request.

SUBSCRIPTION • \$25 per year

COPY DEADLINE: All news or photos submittals should be sent to Nisei Veterans Newsletter, 1212 S. King St., Seattle, WA 98144, no later than the 5th day of the month publication is intended. Submitting does NOT guarantee placement and will be subject to editing for length or content at the discretion of the Newsletter Staff.

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NVC Commander's Column

By Dale Watanabe



80th Anniversary of 100th/442nd Liberation of Bruyères/Biffontaine

The National Veteran Network live streamed on Instagram in October, the events of the 80th anniversary of the liberation

of Bruyères and Biffontaine along with the rescue of the Lost Battalion. Local Medal of Honor recipient James Okubo's canteen is amongst the artifacts from the battle. It was found a decade ago in a local village communal oven.



Here is the direct link to the Instagram story of this year's post: https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/
17970085988655965/

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@seattlenvc.org or call my mobile number at 206-953-2233 if have questions or know someone who would like

(continued on pg.3)

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NVC Commander's Column (continued from pg.2)

to help us keep the hardcopy newsletter going!

NVC Hall and the Seattle City Council

The clean-up of the park next to NVC Hall by the city with 4x per week cleaning has had a significant effect on the park appearance and the change in the neighborhood. Let's hope the work continues.

National Archives and Records Administration

U.S. Archivist Colleen Shogan, who leads the NARA which oversees government documents, photos and records, has instructed employees to erase references to Japanese American incarceration from education materials, and ordered the removal of Dorothea Lange's photos of WRA incarceration camps from a planned exhibit at the National Archives Museum. JA history is not the only one being targeted for this whitewashing. As our mission includes the "historical preservation and sharing of the legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II" we need to be ever vigilant on those who would work to erase the "ugly" parts of American history to have them happen all over again to others.

Tom Kometani

Personal apologies to the family of our late Past Commander, Tom Kometani. I volunteered to say a few words of remembrance at Tom's service this past month and embarrassed myself and the NVC by missing the date. It was on my mind and on my calendar. I can only apologize to Tom's family and thank Keith Yamaguchi for doing the flag presentation.

Tom was always one of the kindest and friendliest people at every event I attended. He was a hard-working NVC Commander, and I was impressed with his work with the JACL as part of the redress effort.

As you would expect, Tom's kindness was inherited by his family. Susan Kometani-Dittmann, to whom I had committed, was very gracious. My sincere apologies again.

NVC Statement on a False Historical Narrative

By NVC Executive Council

The NVC Executive Council is aware of some influential voices promising to invoke the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 – the same legislation used to justify the incarceration of Japanese American citizens without legal due process during WWII. These same people are also drawing misleading parallels between Americans serving prison terms after being found guilty of well-documented crimes by juries of their peers, and Japanese American families forced into mass detention camps without being charged with any crimes.

The NVC unequivocally refutes and condemns this false historical narrative in its entirety.

The distinction that makes these comparisons false and absurd is that the imprisoned Japanese American citizens were not charged with breaking any laws or committing any crimes before being forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned.

Many Japanese American men of military age volunteered to enlist and fight in the United States Army at the start of WWII. Many volunteered even after being incarcerated. Drawing comparisons between the incarceration of Japanese American citizens and Americans serving prison sentences who were charged with specific crimes, provided access to legal counsel and due process, appeared in open court to be judged by fellow citizens, and found guilty of crimes including property theft, weapons-charges, assaulting, resisting or impeding law enforcement personnel, disrupting Congress, and seditious conspiracy against the United States of America, is misleading. The conduct on January 6, 2020, resulted in 140 police officers injured, one death, and several indirect deaths.

The Nisei Veterans Committee (NVC) was founded in 1946 by Japanese American military veterans who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team (the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of the US military), the Military Intelligence Service (credited with saving countless Allied lives and shortening the war in the Pacific by two years), and other non-segregated units (e.g., 101st Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division). NVC membership includes military veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Shield/Storm, the Global War on Terror (GWOT), and their communities.

NVC is committed to protect the American way of life as set forth by the Constitution of the United States and to preserve, perpetuate, and share the historical legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of WWII.

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NVC & NVC FOUNDATION THANKSGIVING EVE PARTY AND POOL TOURNAMENT

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 • 5:00 pm-11:00 pm

Terry's Kitchen

5625 - 119th Avenue SE • Bellevue, Washington

- Savor Terry's Tasty Bites & Bar Specials
- Silent Auction & Raffle!
- Bring the Whole Family for a Night Out with Friends, Old & New!



POOL TOURNAMENT

- Begins at 6:00 pm
- Limited to First 32 Entrants (Ages 15+)
- Registration Fee: \$50
- To Enter: Contact Chris Suarez at (206) 291-4444

JAVA & NJAMF Honor Veterans Day & Norio Uyematsu

From JAVA

JAVA and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) held its annual Veterans Day Program on Saturday, November 11th, at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C. U.S. Army Corporal Norio Uyematsu was the keynote speaker for the Veterans Day Program.

Norio Uyematsu is a 93-yearold Korean War veteran from Anaheim, California, who has made it his mission to promote the story of the Japanese American Korean War veterans who served from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953.

After his wife Hanako Rose Fujikawa Uyematsu passed away in 2020, he did not know what to do with his life and lost focus on his reason for living. He needed to find a sense of purpose and was asked to write a list of things that he wanted to accomplish before he died. One was to preserve the legacy of the Japanese American Korean War veterans who served and were killed in action, and the other was to honor a man who gave his family a second chance at having a normal life in Brigham City, Utah, after they were told they needed to leave their Japanese American concentration camp, in Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

In 2022, he began his journey and attended the Wall of Remembrance Dedication at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on July 27, 2022. He had just received his Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Medal from the Los Angeles Korean Consulate prior

to his departure so he could wear it for the dedication. He was surprised to find that he was the only Japanese American Korean War veteran in attendance. Jessica Xiao, a contributor for AsAm News, found him as he was going back to the bus and interviewed him for a story at the age of 91. The Pacific Citizen newspaper also published a cover story about his visit as well.

He was invited to speak at the Brigham City Kiwanis Club meeting in November of 2022 for their Veterans Day observance, where he was able to fulfill his second wish about honoring Earl Garret Anderson, an LDS farmer in Brigham City, Utah, who gave his family and other Japanese families a place to live and work on his farm after they were released from camp in 1945. His generosity allowed the Uyematsu family to have a second chance at a normal life, and Norio enlisted in January 1949 at the age of 17 into the U.S. Army. The morning of his address, the Brigham City hometown newspaper, the Box Elder News Journal, had his story on the front page of the paper and made the Uvematsu's the talk of the town.

The following day, Norio and Patti Hirahara had a meeting with the Brigham City Museum. Museum Director Alana Blumenthal had heard Norio's address the day before, and she was ready for the question that needed to be asked. Would the museum consider holding an exhibition on the Japanese pioneers of Box Elder County in the future? The museum immediately

agreed, and his dream continued to flourish.

Congressman Lou Correa (CA-46) heard about Uyematsu and honored his Korean War story on the Congressional Record in November 2022 for Veteran's Day.

Norio (Nori) Uyematsu was
Honorably Discharged from the
U.S. Army in 1952 at the rank of
Corporal, and his unit, the 521st
Military Intelligence Service
Platoon, was awarded the
Meritorious Unit Commendation
in November of 1952, where he
interrogated prisoners of war.

Once he went into civilian life, he still wanted to promote veteran causes, and he joined the Kazuo Masuda Memorial VFW Post 3670, where he was a three-time post commander and is now the oldest member of the post. He was also a charter member of the Japanese American Korean War Association and a vice president. He is also a member of JAVA, the Korean War Veterans Association, and the American Legion.

He was honored at the 73rd Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival in Little Tokyo as a Nisei Week pioneer in 2013, and he rode in this year's Nisei Week parade as part of the military salute as a Korean War veteran.

Last year, he wanted to return to where he served during the Korean War since he was going to visit Japan. Congressman Lou Correa's office sought an opportunity for Norio Uyematsu to visit Misawa Air Base in Aomori Prefecture. Misawa Air Base responded, and Norio would be given a VIP Tour of the base on September 26, 2023. This was his first trip back to Misawa in 73 years since his Army unit was assigned to guard the base in 1950.

Once Misawa Public Affairs met Norio Uyematsu, they highlighted his story as their Veterans Day feature in 2023. The story was picked up by many online publications under the headline "Norio's Story: A Japanese American Korean War Veteran." His story was on the cover of the Pacific Citizen and on the front page of the Rafu Shimpo as well as being featured in the "Graybeards Magazine" of the Korean War Veterans Association.









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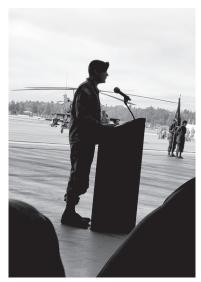


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First Corps Change of Command at Joint Base Lewis McChord



LTG (P) Xavier T. Brunson



LTG Matthew W. McFarlane

On October 25, 2024, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) was the site of a significant military tradition—the Change of Command Ceremony for America's First Corps. This event marked the transition of leadership from Lt. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson to Lt. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane. **NVC Past Commanders Michael** Yaguchi and Allen Nakamoto and current NVC Commander Dale Watanabe attended the ceremony representing the Nisei Veterans Committee.

Lt. Gen. Brunson, who had commanded America's First Corps since October 14, 2021, was celebrated for his exemplary leadership and strategic vision. During his tenure, he enhanced the readiness of the Corps and strengthened JBLM's role as a power projection platform for the Indo-Pacific region. His efforts in championing the Army's modernization initiatives, particularly in multi-domain operations and joint force integration, were highly praised. Brunson's leadership was marked by a strong commit-



L-R: Allen Nakamoto, Mike Yaguchi, LTG (P) Brunson, and Dale Watanabe

ment to the welfare of soldiers and their families, as well as the development of leaders at all levels. His next assignment will be as the commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

Lt. Gen. Brunson began his relationship with NVC during his command of 7th Infantry Division before transitioning to command America's First Corp. He asked NVC to continue the relationship with First Corps and 7th ID through the new commander.

The ceremony was attended by soldiers of America's First Corps, family members, distinguished guests, and friends. The divisional colors were assembled in formation beside major subordinate commands and JBLM tenant units. Gen. Charles A. Flynn, Commander of the United States Army-Pacific, presided over the ceremony as the reviewing officer.

In his outgoing speech, Lt. Gen. Brunson expressed his gratitude to those he served alongside, his

(continued on pg.7)





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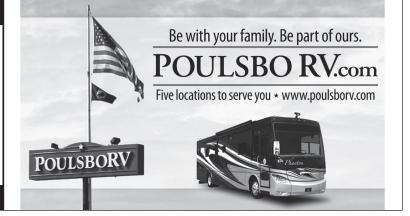
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L-R: Mike Yaguchi, Dale Watanabe,, LTG McFarland, Mrs. McFarland, and Allen Nakamoto

First Corps Change of Command at Joint Base Lewis McChord (continued from pg.6)

family and friends, and God. He encouraged everyone to maintain the connections and relationships built within and around the Corps, to embody the Army values, and to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Lt. Gen. McFarlane, the new commander, addressed the audience with enthusiasm, expressing his eagerness to lead the soldiers of America's First Corps. He wished Lt. Gen. Brunson success in his new role in South Korea.

Lt. Gen. McFarlane echoed his predecessor's sentiment and commitment to the NVC contingent at the reception after the ceremony. He had visited the NVC as First Corp's Deputy Commander earlier this year as



part of the Japan-U.S. Military Program (JUMP) event organized by the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington partnering with the NVC.

The Change of Command Ceremony is a time-honored military tradition that symbolizes the transfer of responsibility, authority, and accountability from one leader to another. It reinforces the continuity of leadership and the values that the Corps upholds.

America's First Corps welcomes
Lt. Gen. Matthew W. McFarlane
as incoming commander: https://
www.army.mil/article/280877/
americas_first_corps_
welcomes_lt_gen_matthew_
w_mcfarlane_as_incoing_
commander

Note: LTG (P) Brunson, The P stands for Promotable meaning he has been selected for the next higher rank. LTC (P) would mean a lieutenant colonel has been selected for colonel.



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Volunteers, Sandie Vea, Alan Abe, and Liz Olchefsk



Birthday gift

Lucky Bingo winner-Paul Kogita



Mel Inouye and Mary Ann Yamaguchi-Bingo Callers

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11-3 SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025



Mochi-making, Origami, T-shirt sales, Educational displays.
Traditional obon group dancing lessons 12:45-1:45.
Seattle Kokon Taiko tickets are first come, first served for performances at 11:45 and 2
NEW! Food available for purchase from Sushiko Bainbridge.

Location: Woodward MIddle School, 9125 Sportsman Club Road NE, Bainbridge Island.





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10

Thank You for a Cup of Joe! By Keith Yamaguchi

NVC has joined "Cup of Joe for a Joe", a Green Beans Coffee program that allows you to thank a member of the armed forces for their service with a hot, fresh cup of Green Beans Coffee and a personal message at over three dozen overseas bases where Green Beans Coffee has an outlet.

Here are some of the messages the NVC has received from Troops wanting to thank you for sending them a Cup of Joe!

Thank you for your support!

—Service member serving in Kuwait

Thank you for the Cup of Joe! I will enjoy a drink on a hot and stressful day. I appreciate your support of the troops!

—Emily serving in Iraq

Thank you so much!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you for the coffee! It's much needed and much appreciated!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Thank you so much!

—Service member serving in Iraq

Thank you so much! I truly appreciate it!

—Service member serving in Qatar

Acknowledgements also received from service members serving in:

Iraq (x2), Japan, Ωatar,

To send your own Cup of Joe, go to:

https://www.greenbeanscoffee.com/products/cup-of-joe-for-a-joe



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 <u>www.nvcfoundation.org</u> 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 <u>bkashino@msn.com</u> or 206-488-6678.



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Community NEWS

Inscape Winter Open Studios

www.nvcfoundation.org

EIN# 46-0517221

Sunday, December 1, 12:00 noon – 6:00pm 815 Seattle Blvd S, Seattle, WA

Inscape is an art-making haven for the city, holding space for history and community for perpetuity. Friends of Inscape is a tenant-led grassroots organization working to preserve the Inscape Arts Building as an affordable arts and culture space for the benefit of the community. From 1932 till 2004, the US Immigration & Naturalization Service building served as Seattle's detention and processing center for immigrants. In 2008, a group of investors purchased the building, renamed it Inscape, and built the spaces out as artist studios with the assistance of arts-friendly tax help from the city. A thriving artist community has been growing there ever since. You are welcome to come see dozens of open studios and guest artists!

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.

JASSW Holiday Marketplace

December 7, 10:00am - 4:00pm NVC Memorial Hall, 1212 S King Street, Seattle

Do some of your holiday shopping at NVC Memorial Hall! Japanese small businesses will be showing and selling their products and services at the first Holiday Marketplace conducted by the Small Business Program of the Japan-America Society of the State of Washington. Look at who will be there:

https://jassw.org/holiday-marketplace/

BIJAC Mochi Tsuki

Saturday, January 11, 2025, 11:00am - 4:00pm 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.

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