



Japanese American Citizens League Mile Hi Chapter Notes

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President's Message



This year, I had the honor of attending the 65th Annual Community Memorial Day Service at Fairmount Cemetery. The Service is dedicated to the legacy of the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service. It also honors the memory of all Japanese American Veterans from the Rocky Mountain Region who honorably served in the United States Armed Forces. As cliché as it may sound, we truly do owe these veterans a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

I do not know if we will ever come to a time where war is a thing of the past. With each passing year, it seems that we are becoming more polarized as a nation. More and more of us are quick to demonize our opposition, and less and less of us are willing to take the time to listen. However, I still see a reason for hope. The peaceful democratic revolution in the Middle East gives me hope that dictators may be a thing of the past. The increase in the number of registered voters gives me hope that the government will (finally) put our needs above that of corporations and special interests. Finally, the proliferation of the youth movement gives me hope about our future because it shows that our youths are not afraid to make their voices be heard and hold the government accountable.

Regardless of your political belief, age, race, sexual orientation, or gender, it is important for you to participate in your community and make sure that your voice is being heard. It can be as simple as attending a city council meeting or by writing to your elected officials about a cause that is important to you. Honor the legacies of our veterans by being an active participant in your community. This is the true meaning of Memorial Day.

2010 Census Data Results for the Asian Population

Washington D.C.- On Thursday, the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) held a briefing to share the data collected for the 2010 Census. **Eun Kim**, staff from the WHIAAPI, introduced speaker **Nicholas Jones**, Chief of racial statistics in the population division at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Chief Jones presented on the following topics: race definitions and concepts, 2010 Census Highlights on the Asian Population and the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) Population, and forthcoming 2010 Census Data Products.

In 1997 the Office of Management and Budget defined "Asian" as people with origins in the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent. "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander" (NHPI) are defined as any person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

The results of the 2010 Census collection showed the following:

- The total U.S. Population is currently 308.7 million, and of that population 14.7 million are Asian alone, half a million NHPI, and 9.0 million are two or more races
- From 2000 to 2010, the Asian population has increased 43.3%, the NHPI population 35.4%, and those who identified as two or more races 24.4%
- The U.S. cities with the largest number of Asians include Los Angeles, San Jose, San Francisco, San Diego, Honolulu, Chicago, Houston, Fremont, and Philadelphia

Why is the census data important to the AAPI community?

One of the reasons the census data is collected is so organizations like the JAACL can use it for advocacy purposes. When working with state or federal legislators, census data can be used to provide solid factual information on AAPI population presence; having these numbers is important when advocating for more representation on immigration, health care, environmental justice, or economic issues. The data is also relevant to how land is redistricted, which affects voting representation; as the Asian and NHPI continue to grow in population, voting power in elections will increase and we'll have more "say" on the issues and political officials elected into office.

Check out Census.gov for more information.

Nihongo-o Naraimashyou! (Let's Learn Japanese!)

Words of the Month:

May: Gogatsu (go-ga-tsu)

Baseball: Yakyuu (ya-kyu-u)

Food: Tabemono (ta-be-mo-no)

Mirror: Kagami (ka-ga-mi)

Beverage: Nomimono (no-mi-mo-no)

Vegetable: Yasai (ya-sa-i)

If you're interested in practicing Japanese, join the free Kaiwa (Conversation) Club of Japan America Society of Colorado at Buzz Café (1229 E 6th Ave.) every Wednesday from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm.

Congratulations to the National Honorees for This Year's JACL National Convention

Father Vien

Reverend Vien The Nguyen was the pastor of Mary Queen of Viet Nam Catholic Church in eastern New Orleans, Louisiana. Pre-Katrina, New Orleans East had an enclave of Vietnamese Americans, predominantly Catholics, who came to the area after the Vietnam war in 1975. In the aftermath of Katrina, this quiet and under-the-radar community was forced to the front in the fight against the plan to turn most of New Orleans East into a toxic landfill. As pastor of the parish, Fr. Vien led the effort in the community to defend their homes which was documented in the film, A Village Called Versailles.



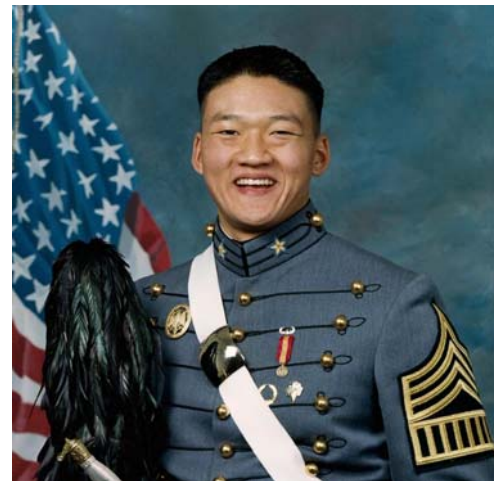
Lisa Hasegawa

Lisa Hasegawa is the Executive Director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), the first national advocacy organization dedicated to meeting the housing and community development needs of low income Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities across the country. Ms. Hasegawa is also an active board member of the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the American Progressive Caucus Policy Foundation. She also currently serves on AT&T's Consumer Advisory Council and Freddie Mac's Affordable Housing Advisory Council. She has provided leadership for the National Council for Asian Pacific Americans for over a decade, serving as the Chair from 2006 through 2007.



Lieutenant Dan Choi

On March 19, 2009, Lt. Dan Choi, a West Point graduate and Iraq veteran fluent in Arabic, announced that he was gay on The Rachel Maddow Show. Because of three words - "I am gay" - Lt. Choi's life changed forever. Despite his immense value as an Arabic speaker able to communicate quickly and clearly with the Iraqi people, one month after his announcement Lt. Choi was notified that the Army had begun discharge proceedings against him. He was one of only eight soldiers from his graduating class who majored in Arabic.



Want to see these amazing awardees at the JACL National Convention? Go to: <http://jacl.org/convention/la>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mile Hi JACL Meeting
Thursday, June 2
7:00 p.m.
JAC Office
Sakura Square (2nd Floor)

**Japanese American
Community Graduation**

Program
Saturday, June 11th
Arvada Center

Cherry Blossom Festival
June 25th and 26th
Tri-State Denver Buddhist
Temple

**Colorado Dragon Boat
Festival**
July 30th and 31st
Sloans Lake

JACL's Top Chefs

The Mile Hi JACL Chapter would like to congratulate Gladys Konishi for her recognition as one of JACL's Top Chefs! Gladys Konishi is a past board member of our chapter and most recently served as 1st Vice President for Programs. For many years, she has provided the somen we sold at our booth for the Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance festival as well as homemade treats for board meetings and gatherings at her home. Gladys, thank you for your generosity and delicious cooking!



DREAM Act Re-introduced into Congress

Washington D.C.- On Wednesday, Senator Durbin (D-Ill.) and Representatives Berman (D-Calif.) and Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) re-introduced the Development Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act). The DREAM Act would allow young people a path to legal immigration status by meeting strict requirements, including completing two years of college or military service.

An estimated 65,000 students - many of whom are Asian Americans -graduate from a U.S. high school every year without legal immigration status.

With a long history of bi-partisan support, the DREAM Act has the potential to positively affect the lives of thousands of youth who are determined to achieve in higher education or serve our country. Last December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the DREAM Act and a majority of U.S. Senators approved it, but it was just five votes short of the 60 needed to overcome a Republican filibuster.

Fair and humane immigration reform would include a workable path to citizenship for the undocumented, address the issues in the employment-based system for immigrant workers, and take care of the overburdened family backlog by fixing the chronic shortage of family visas. It also would recognize same sex partners as part of the family immigration system.

The JACL will continue to work in partnership with other AAPI organizations to advocate for the DREAM Act passage; comprehensive immigration reform is extremely relevant to the AAPI community.

Congressional Briefing: Action Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis

Washington D.C.- On Thursday, Congressman Mike Honda and Senator John Kerry held a Congressional briefing to introduce the cross department plan of "*Combating the Hidden Epidemic: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Action Plan for the Prevention and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis.*"

In the next 10 years, about 150,000 people in the United States are projected to die from liver cancer and liver disease associated with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C. It is estimated that 3.5-5.3 million people, or about 1-2% of the U.S. population, are living with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) or hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections. Chronic viral hepatitis infections are 3-5 times more frequent than HIV in the United States. People in every Congressional district, in every state are affected, yet very few resources are available to help them or their families.

Why is this issue relevant to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders?

It is aptly named the "silent killer" because 2/3 of the population who carry the disease don't realize they're carriers. In particular, Hepatitis B is a disease that affects **Asian American and Pacific Islanders** at rates higher than any other community; 1 out of 12 individuals in the AAPI community have Hepatitis B, and although AAPIs make up 5% of the population, they make up **half** of those affected by Hepatitis B!

Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, **Dr. Howard Ko**, spearheaded the efforts to create the cross department (HHS, CDC, HRSA) plan that will provide the framework for how to combat Hepatitis B in various communities. Increased surveillance, identification, testing, and vaccinations for Hepatitis B must be implemented, and Congress must support this implementation by supporting legislation that will increase funding for the research and action needed for this preventable disease.

How does JACL fit into this framework?

The JACL works in coalition with 29 AAPI organizations on the National Council on Asian and Pacific Americans (**NCAPA**). NCAPA advocates for the interests of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders on the national level. In particular, JACL works with the NCAPA Health Committee to provide recommendations to members of Congress on the health disparity issues important to the AAPI community; these recommendations include a push for increased data collection, disaggregation of data, increased funding for English translation services, and increased preventative care services.

Speakers at the briefing included:

Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA)

Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health

Dr. Kevin Fenton, FFPH, Director, National Center for HIV/Aids, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Rep. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA)

Rep. Donna Christensen (D-VI)*

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)*

"What cannot be achieved in one lifetime will happen when one lifetime is joined to another."

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

Mile Hi JACL

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Not a Member of JACL?

Joining the Mile Hi JACL is a great way to get involved with the community and to help support our programs that educate our youth, develop leaders, and pass on our legacy from generation to generation. Membership benefits include (subject to change):

- Pacific Citizen, the JACL newspaper
- Mile Hi Chapter Newsletter
- Scholarship Program
- JACL Credit Union Services
- VISA Affinity Card
- Hertz Rental Car Discounts
- Long Distance Calling Discounts
- Major Medical Insurance Program*
- Long Term Care Insurance*
- Catastrophic Major Medical Insurance*
- Medicare Supplement Insurance*

*Membership does not guarantee acceptance into the above insurance programs. The insurers have their own acceptance criteria.

If you would like to join, please complete the information below:

Membership Application

(12 month membership from the date of application)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple/Family (\$110) | <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club (\$175) | <input type="checkbox"/> Millennium Club (\$1,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Youth (\$30) - PC excluded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thousand Club Life (\$3,000) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Century Club Life (\$5,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of 1000 or Century Club member (\$37) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Millennium Club member (\$30) | | |

Name: _____ Spouse (if applying): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please mail application and check payable to the Mile Hi JACL to:

PO Box 13061, Denver, CO 80201

