

## FORWARD

The NCRR was born out of the struggle for redress that took place during the decade of the 1980's. The organization was founded in 1980 at a conference that took place at California State University, Los Angeles. Joining us were representatives of the Aleut Nation of Alaska, who cast their fate with the NCRR to call attention to their removal from the Pribiloff Islands and the cruel destruction of their communities. Joining with the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), the NCRR took part in waging a successful campaign, which culminated in Congress passing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. President Reagan then signed this historic redress bill into law on August 10<sup>th</sup> of that year. The Act called for a one-time payment of \$20,000 to those who were still living (as of the date the bill was signed into law) and a formal apology by the President on behalf of the United States.



(Back) Richard Katsuda, Wilbur Sato, Jim Matsuoka, Kathy Masaoka, Christine Shigemura, David Urmston  
(Front) Suzy Katsuda, Rei Osaki, Lily Okamoto, Haru Kuromiya, Kay Ochi, Janice Yen

As the NCRR, we acknowledge the enormous contribution offered by all segments of the American public in order for this historic milestone in our civil rights to pass. The individual efforts of Senators Spark Matsunaga, Daniel Inouye and Alan Cranston as well as Representatives Mervyn Dymally, Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui must also be noted in addition to the encouragement given to us by the Black and Hispanic Congressional Caucuses.

We also need to note with gratitude, the role that was played by the Lutheran Church in America and the Western Synod, which brought its members to our support through the efforts of Reverend Paul Nakamura of Gardena.

The purpose of this reader, however, is to note and document the efforts, recollections and contributions of the "community" of people that led the day-to-day decade-long fight for redress. As the NCRR of Southern California, we wish to thank all who contributed to this reader. The articles and remembrances are drawn

**from the recollections of the members of Southern California and do not include the activities and tremendous contributions of our NCCR members and allies in other parts of the nation, notable those from San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego and Sacramento.**

**We fully acknowledge the limitations of this reader but hope that it can shed some light on how a “grassroots” campaign can be created and become successful. We hope also that it will act as an inspiration for others who seek empowerment in the face of a never-ending quest for justice.**

**For the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress,**

**Richard Katsuda**