L.A.’S JAPANESE AMERICANS COMMEMORATE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

MATSUI URGES AUDIENCE TO WORK FOR REDRESS

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

Los Angeles’ Nihonmachi community observed the annual “Day of Remembrance,” with a salute to the Japanese American members of Congress who were instrumental in passing the redress bill in the House of Representatives, at a program held on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Japan America Theatre, located in the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza, in Little Tokyo.

The “Day of Remembrance” commemorated the signing on Feb. 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt of Executive Order 9066 authorizing the government to forcibly uproot 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their West Coast homes and businesses and intern them in U.S. concentration camps.

The event, sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations and Japanese American Citizens League’s Pacific Southwest District in association with the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, emphasized the need for people to write letters to President Reagan and to their Congressmen urging them to ensure passage of the redress bills.

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento) was keynote speaker for the evening. Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose) and Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) made appearances and spoke to the estimated throng of 500 via videotape.

Seven years ago, Matsui said, he would not have been able to talk about the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans—U.S. citizens and resident aliens—and redress talk would not have been possible.

“The whole issue . . . would have been something we put in our closet in 1945, and closed the door and we refused to acknowledge for 40 years. I remember as a young student asking my parents, who were born and raised in Sacramento, what it was like, and I remember their inability to acknowledge the internment and their desire that it (the issue) not come up at the dinner table. And I think it happened to all of us of Japanese American ancestry who were interned,” Matsui commented.

It was not until 1982 when the presidential Commission on War Relocation and Internment of Civilians was established to study the internment of Japanese Americans. Matsui noted, “that we finally had to face reality in our collective histories.”

Recalling the CWRIC hearings held in various cities where large numbers of Japanese Americans lived, he said, “for the first time in 42 years, Issei and Nisei were spilling their emotions, their stories and their shame with tears in their eyes, describing the humiliation of the internment.”

He remembered how his mother revealed having nightmares about the internment and his father confessed having been jailed once for violating curfew.

“As a result of those hearings, as a result of having faced and confronted the internment we began to speak out and acknowledge it and say ‘it wasn’t our fault, it was the government’s fault. Why should we be afraid in discussing the internment.’”

Matsui repeated Edison Uno’s analysis of the Nikkei internment situation in which the San Francisco Nisei activist noted, “what happened to us in 1942 was similar to what happened to a woman when she was raped. Here she was the victim, nevertheless because of the very act of the rape, her virtue was questioned.”

The Sacramento congressman continued. “He said that’s what happened to the 120,000 of us. We were incarcerated by our own government, accused of being disloyal . . . so we had this sense of guilt, sense of shame. That we must have done something wrong to warrant the incarceration.”

The hearings finally brought out the true fact, Matsui stated. “It was not our fault. We were victims of racism, we were the victims of a government that did not follow the principles of the Constitution . . . we have no reason to be ashamed. In fact, we should hold our heads high and say we were loyal Americans and the government was wrong.”

In 1942, the Sansei solon said, the Supreme Court held that the convictions of Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi—who challenged the curfew and evacuation orders—were correct in interpreting us because of military necessity, and it was correct to abrogate individual human rights. Nevertheless, some 40-plus years later on the 200th anniversary of our constitution, we have constitutional rights to speak out and our rights to justice,” Matsui added.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER CONGRESSMAN ROBERT MATSUI joins the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations’s Miya Iwataki at the “Day of Remembrance,” on Saturday, in Little Tokyo.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL SAYS U.S. TAKING EXTREME MEASURES IN WHALING CONTROVERSY

WASHINGTON - D.C. (AP) - Japan has asked the United States to exclude Japanese fish and fish products from U.S. markets.

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SAN GABRIEL QUARTERLY

WEST COVINA - The East of San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community center is seeking candidates to represent the group in the 1988 Nisei Week Queen selection.
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—Some 500 persons attended the “Day of Remembrance” observance on Saturday at the Japan America Theatre. The event commemorated President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 authorizing the evacuation and internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry on Feb. 17, 1942.

NIKKEI SHOW ENTHUSIASM AT DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By TAKESHI NAKAYAMA

People from varied backgrounds attended the “Day of Remembrance” to commemorate the 46th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 which authorized the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry—U.S. citizens and resident aliens alike—in concentration camps without due process.

Participating in the show of support for the redress movement was Frank E. Emi, who during World War II was a member of the Fair Play Committee which counseled the Heart Mountain Resisters—young Nisei at the Wyoming internment camp who refused to report for induction into military service until the government restored all their civil rights.

“This was one of the most successful ‘Day of Remembrance’ observances that I’ve ever seen,” he said.

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QUEEN CONTEST

of the San Gabriel Valley.

Applications are available by writing the center at 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina, 91790, or by calling weekday mornings, except Mondays, at (818) 960-2566.
An orientation meeting will be held on Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. at the center's social hall.

Among the committee members are Mrs. Toshi Ito, Mrs. Marvel Miyata, Mrs. Lillian Nishihara, Mrs. June Fujita, Ms. Julie Tsutsumi, last year's candidate, Keiji Horichi, Mamoru Marugaki, Mr. and Mrs. William Cuthbert, Ms. Janet Yamashige and Adam Nakawatase.

Jack Namio Sakauye

Huntington Beach—Funeral services for Jack Namio Sakauye, 85-year-old Kagoshima-born Issei resident of Huntington Beach who passed away on Feb. 21 at Huntington Beach Convalescent Home, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 p.m., at Green Hills Memorial Park Chapel, 27501 S. Western Ave., San Pedro, with the Rev. Norio Ito of Higashi Honjanji Buddhist Temple officiating, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

The deceased is survived by his wife Rose Sakauye; a daughter Ruth Mariko (Tamio) Sakurai; a wife Rose Kazuye; a daughter Alice Chieko) Sakauye; a sister Fumie Shibuya; brothers, George Shibuya of San Diego; sister Kazue Muramatsu; mother-in-law Ruth Mariko (Tamio) Sakurai; two brothers, Tom Hami, Akiro Hami; three brothers, Tom Hami, Akiro Hami, Miwa (Harley) Asari; two brothers-in-law, Kay Kiyomi (Fumiko) and Jay Michio (Lily) Takahashi; a sister-in-law Ethel Misao (Ty) Kajimoto.

Koichi Shibuya

Funeral services for Koichi Shibuya, 68-year-old Salt Lake City-born Nisei resident of Los Angeles who passed away on Feb. 20 at Cheviot Garden Convalescent Hospital after a prolonged illness, will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27, from 1 p.m., at Rose Hills Memorial Park Chapel, 2900 S. Workman Mill Rd., Whittier, with Dr. Aron Sato and the Rev. Tatsuyo Kato of West Adams Christian Church officiating, under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

The deceased, who was a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, is survived by his wife Fusako; sons, Edward Hiroaki (Frances Kikue), Dr. Mark Lance of Colorado and Patrick Ko; grandchildren, Kiko and Jon; mother Fusia Shibuya; brothers, George (Lilly) and Dr. Yoshindo (Betty) Shibuya of San Diego; sister Kazue Muramatsu; mother-in-law Takiyo Tsuji; brother-in-law Dr. Masachika (Kasumi) Tsuji of Japan; and sisters-in-law, Chiyoko Tsuji, Hisako Tsuji and Mary (Mike) Kusuda.

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We wish to thank you for your warm response to the John F. Aiso tribute and for your generous contribution to the John F. Aiso Memorial Funds.

Additional contribution may be sent to:
Mr. Frank K. Omatsu
C/O Sumitomo Bank of Calif.
101 So. San Pedro St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90012

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