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NEWS RELEASE
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Junwo Jim Yamashita honored by the 442nd Clubhouse of Hawaii at the 65th Reunion



Photo caption: Jim Yamashita, Recipient of the Kansha Award.

Jim “Junwo” Yamashita was honored with the “Kansha” Award at the 65th Reunion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team held in Honolulu, Hawaii earlier this year. Mr. William Thompson, current president of the 442nd Veterans Club said, “This leadership award is given to individuals who work toward the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. For the past 15 years, Yamashita has led a team of volunteers to honor those who never made it home. We must never forget those brave soldiers.”

Yamashita is a charter member of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance and has served as the Educational Project Manager since it’s creation in 1997. Current projects include the Echoes of Silence CD ROM and www.ajawarvets.org website which honors the KIA soldiers. Yamashita has been heavily involved in the community since his return from the service.

Yamashita was not present to accept the award in person. Susan Uyemura, CEO of JA Living Legacy accepted the award on his behalf. As a lighthearted gesture of fun and recognition, Uyemura had created hand-held life-sized prints of Yamashita’s face. Mark and John Iwakiri from J & L Press, Inc. (Glendale, CA) donated printing services to honor the 442nd RCT. The I Company members who were present proudly acknowledged Yamashita by waving their “Jim-Heads.” Uyemura also walked up on stage sporting her “Jim-Head” to symbolize his presence that day.

Yamashita is a decorated veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's I Company. He is also an advisor of the Japanese American Living Legacy organization.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a nonprofit (501c3) organization based out of California State University, Fullerton. All of the board of directors, staff and advisors are volunteers. For more information on Japanese American Living Legacy, please visit their website at www.jalivinglegacy.org or call them at (714) 278-4483.

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