



JA LIVING LEGACY. ORG

The real story. Japanese American History told by those who lived it.

Ms. Susan Uyemura, CEO  
(714) 278-4483  
[suyemura@jalivinglegacy.org](mailto:suyemura@jalivinglegacy.org)

NEWS RELEASE

May 2009

### **Sixty Years Later, Chosin Few Survivor visits the USS Chosin**



Chosin Few Survivor, Roy Shiraga takes photo with Ray Uyemura from JA Living Legacy

Fifty-nine years ago, Roy Shiraga's life changed, forever. Shiraga remembers all too well November, 1950. Assigned to ATIS (Allied Translator Interpreter Service) in Sapporo, Japan, Shiraga never thought he would be on the front lines in Korea. Running short of men and the promise to end this war by Christmas, Truman sent every man he could to Korea immediately. Soon, Shiraga found himself with a gun and in clothing unfit for the cold winter in Korea. Outnumbered, exhausted and under fire, Chosin Reservoir would be one of the Army's forgotten defeat and the Marines biggest battles. Shiraga doesn't like to remember, but he can't forget. His frostbitten arms and legs won't let him.

The USS Chosin pulled into San Diego Navy for a 10 day stop over during which the captain invited all of the local Chosin Reservoir Survivors to come aboard and be honored. Over 200 Marines and one army veteran came and enjoyed the festivities, which included donuts/coffee and lunch cooked by the navy ships personnel. Shiraga invited JA

Living Legacy to attend because he wanted to show us that everyone has a legacy. This is his legacy. Proudly, he walked on board and greeted the personnel with a brief thank you. In return they saluted him as an honored guest.

Tootsie roll supplied over 700 lbs to the USS Chosin (*an inside joke between Tootsie Roll and the Chosin Few Survivors.*) During the battle of the Chosin Reservoir, the marines wired headquarters for more ammunition. Somewhere along the line, confusion occurred and what was dropped were pounds of Tootsie Rolls. While this may have seemed like a huge “snafu” it turned out to be of assistance because the GI’s were running out of food as well. To this day, Tootsie Roll still has a great relationship with the Chosin Few Survivors.



In 1989, the USS Chosin is a is a *Ticonderoga*-class guided-missile cruiser serving in the United States Navy. She is named in honor of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir of the Korean War. Launched in 1989, she has a crew of over 350 personnel including 33 officers. Nicknamed the “War Dragon” she represents the ongoing threat from China and her motto is “Invictus” which means unconquered.

The USS Chosin is scheduled to head to Pearl Harbor next where they will conduct maneuvers before their official deployment to Iraq in October.



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](http://www.jalivinglegacy.org) or call them at (714) 278-4483.

###