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NEWS RELEASE
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Hiroshi H. Miyamura High School Dedication Celebration

Hiroshi H. Miyamura High School, formerly Gallup Junior High School, hosted fellow Japanese American veterans, friends and family of Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura over the recent Labor Day weekend. President Eisenhower presented the school’s namesake with the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1953. Many people from all around the states travelled to Gallup, New Mexico to participate in this event. The weekend’s festivities included a Miyamura Family Dinner hosted by the State Senator Munoz family, a Community Dedication Program at the high school, and an evening barbeque hosted by Comfort Suites Inn and Hershey and Terry Miyamura.

Gallup Junior High School formerly served 7th and 8th graders but in 2007, the citizens of Gallup voted to officially change the name of the school to Hiroshi H. Miyamura High School. The school underwent a two-year massive renovation and reconstruction and is now home to 9th through 12th graders. Although the school is not fully completed, students are already attending the high school. June 2011 will introduce the first graduating class of this school.

The weekend’s special guests included fellow Korean War veteran, Tom Tanaka from Hawaii who flew to Los Angeles where he and his daughter Tracey then drove to Gallup to attend this dedication. Others like Air Force Korean War veterans, Frank Kadota and Mac Nakamura took an all night train to attend this event. Best friend and fellow Ex-POW, Mr. Joseph Anello and his wife Joan drove from Colorado. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge and Ranger Hall of Fame, Vincent H. Okamoto also came to celebrate with the Miyamura family. Over fifty Japanese American Korean War veterans came from out of state and even more friends from local cities such as Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe. Saturday's lunch was hosted at the famous El Rancho Hotel currently undergoing a two million dollar renovation.

Hershey welcomed an auditorium filled with family and friends during Saturday’s dedication ceremony. The Mayor of Gallup, state Senators and local school officials briefly spoke and presented the Miyamura family with plaques, certificates and proclamations. The school hosted the ceremony in their "practice" gym that could only

hold 300 people. Principal, Frank Chiapetti explained that their new gym, currently finishing construction, will hold the entire student body but will not be completed for another few months. Another ceremony will be conducted upon the gym's completion so that faculty, staff, students and local community members can meet Hershey. This weekend's ceremony was specifically planned for Hershey, his family, fellow veterans and closest friends.

JA Living Legacy contacted the Hershey Company about this event and together they contributed fifty pounds of chocolate to this celebration. Some of the folks went shopping at Perry Nulls Trading Post for some authentic handmade Navajo and Zuni creations in between the weekend events. Festivities closed on Saturday night with a barbeque hosted by Hershey and Terry Miyamura and the Comfort Suites Hotel.

For more information and instructions on how to purchase official Miyamura Patriot attire, please visit their website: <http://hnh.gmcs.k12.nm.us> or call them at 505-721-1900.

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