



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

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2010 Japanese American Living Legacy Award, Jim Yamashita

In 2008, Ms. Sharon Tani sought to promote an annual community service award as a tribute and legacy to her father, the late Mamoru Tani (L Company 442nd RCT). She approached a few organizations and ultimately chose Japanese American Living Legacy as the host of the award. JA Living Legacy presents this award to community members who truly exhibit a tireless commitment to serving the Japanese American community by participating in work that promotes the community's legacy. This year, the 442nd - I Company of Southern California nominated Jim Yamashita, the Educational Project Manager of the popular Echoes of Silence CD ROM resource for this award. The JA Living Legacy Awards and Scholarship Committee unanimously agreed.

Junwo "Jim" Yamashita, was born in Orange County, California. Jim spent his formative years in Moapa Valley, Nevada. At the age of 19, Jim enlisted in the (then) newly formed 442nd Regimental Combat Team and was sent to Europe with the 442nd, I Company, 4th platoon. Jim survived some of the worst battles in Europe that included the liberation of Bruyères and the rescue of the Texas Lost Battalion in Biffontaine. Jim returned to the United States and relocated to California to attend Radio and Television Repair School. Upon graduation, Jim opened up a successful business from which he retired in 1992.

Jim helped organize the Suburban Optimists, SEYO (Southeast Youth Organization), 442nd Club of Southern California, Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance among many others. However, many recognize Jim for his leadership in a project that has encompassed the past 20 years of his life, the Echoes of Silence Educational CD-ROM Project. EOS contains the profiles of every killed-in-action (KIA) Nisei soldier along with their Caucasian officers. Jim continues to lead a team of volunteers who work to collect data and photographs to ensure that the public never forgets "Freedom is not free." Jim's commitment to the community defines a "Living Legacy."

JA Living Legacy grants this award to outstanding individuals who demonstrate a deep commitment to the community through volunteering time and resources, providing leadership and educating the public of our community's rich history. This award is given

annually. Monetary donations are given as part of the award to various organizations in which Jim has participated (JAVA, JA Living Legacy and Memorial Alliance.)

If you are interested in nominating a deserving individual please contact Natalia Yamashiro-Chogyoji at nyamashiro@jalivinglegacy.org. We thank the Tani family for their belief in our organization and allowing us the privilege of hosting this award.

Japanese American Living Legacy is a California Nonprofit 501c.3 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 (657) 278-4483.

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