

SEEKING STAMP OF APPROVAL **Of Postal Stamp for Japanese Americans** **who served in World War II**

About four years ago, a drive was started by relatives and friends of Japanese American soldiers of WWII to get approval for the issuance of a postal stamp honoring Japanese American soldiers. Last year (2007) the drive caught fire and over 10,000 signatures were collected to support the drive.

More than 30,000 Nisei, or second generation Japanese Americans, served in the U.S. military service during WWII. Many of them joined the mostly Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Infantry Battalion, whose valor under fire made it among the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history. Others joined the Military Intelligence Service as interrogators, translators and interpreters, crucial roles credited with shortening the war by as many as two years. About 300 Nisei women served in the Women's Army Corps and Cadet Nurse Corp.



Sam Fujikawa - president of the 100th inf Btn Vets

Now, as Japanese American World War II veterans rapidly dwindle in number – most are in their 80s – their supporters are pushing for a commemorative postage stamp in their honor.

And, they have attracted support from an unexpected quarter: the Jewish community. Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center cited his friendship with the late Clarence Matsumura, who helped liberate Holocaust survivors from the Dachau concentration camp.

The Postal Service has stated that they have issued commemorative stamps honoring minority veterans in the past. It issued a stamp in 1984 honoring Latino veterans and another a decade later recognizing the African American Buffalo Soldiers. The Nisei veterans stamp would be the first to honor an Asian American military group.

The Postal Service's citizens stamp advisory committee is to begin formally reviewing the proposal in late January. The selection process usually takes about three years so the stamp, if approved, can be issued in the year 2010.

Don Seki, a 442nd vet, who lost an arm to German fire believes that the stamp would help memorialize their story and give pride to younger generations of Japanese Americans. Source: LATimes, Teresa Watanabe

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2008 **SOUTH BAY CHAPTER JACL** **KIICHI EGASHIRA and** **JANICE KOBATA ZOEGER** **MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Interested students are invited to visit our web site at www.southbayjacl.org. Detailed eligibility requirements such as: eligibility, fields of study, membership, deadlines for applications, application forms are contained in this web site. The South Bay Chapter JACL is the administrator for the Kiichi Egashira and the Janice Kobata Zoeger scholarships and several scholarships are awarded each year.

NATIONAL JACL SCHOLARSHIPS

The National JACL based in San Francisco administers a scholarship program consisting of over thirty awards. Interested students are invited to visit the internet web site www.jacl.org for detailed information and application information. Click on "leadership"; then "National Scholarship Awards" The program consists of eleven college entry level award, eight undergraduate awards, three law awards, eight graduate awards and several special categories such as piano, performing arts, and art. The scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. If you have any questions, call David Kawamoto at (619) 557-5796

JAVA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Japanese American Veterans Association of Washington, DC has established a Memorial Scholarship Program. At this time, the lives and memories of Douglas Ishio, Orville Shirey, and Jack Tashiro are being honored. The requirements are (1) the application, supported by documentation, with a record of academic excellence and a seriousness of purpose in pursuing post-secondary education/training goals; and (2) the applicant must provide information showing that he or she is related, by blood or marriage, to a person who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S., or, to a person who has been a member of JAVA for a period of no less than one year. The first scholarships will be given at the second quarterly meeting of the JAVA in mid 2007. and will consist of three \$1,000 scholarship. Interested students should check for complete information on the JAVA scholarships online at www.admin@javadc.org.

EIRO YAMADA MEMORIAL AWARD

The Go-For-Broke National Educational Center has announced the Eiro Yamada Scholarship for students entering or now going to college. No minimum grade point average requirement is required, just an essay. The applicant must be a direct descendant of a JA veteran who served during WWII. The deadline is March 15, 2008. For more information please contact Julia Tominaga of the Go-For-Broke National Educational Center, (310) 328-0907 or (310) 222-5719.

NARUMI NAKAYAMA WINS AWARD

The Greater LA Singles JACL announced the winner of their Hana Uno Shepard Memorial Scholarship \$1000 award as Narumi Nakayama. Narumi won our South Bay Janice Kobata Zoeger Memorial Scholarship this year.