

# KOKORO

the heart and soul of our community

San Mateo Chapter Japanese American Citizens League September 2010

[www.sanmateojacl.org](http://www.sanmateojacl.org)

inquiries: Steve Okamoto 650.574.2641

San Mateo JACL is dedicated to promoting the historical and cultural understanding of the Japanese American experience and to protecting and advancing the human and civil rights of our multi-ethnic society through educational and community programs.

Articles must be submitted before the first Friday (one month prior to publication) [steveokamoto1@gmail.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@gmail.com)

## Community Center News

New Flu shots available with H1N1 included on Oct. 6 at the San Mateo Japanese-American Community Center. Please contact the Center for more Information regarding the shots and hours.

The Holiday Rummage Sale is planned for November 13th in the Gardener's Hall. This will be a good time to stock up on Japanese items, holiday gifts, and delicious desserts and Japanese food. Hours will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

## National JACL News

**The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Congressional Gold Medal Bill. The JACL applauds the passage and acknowledges the leadership and work of Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Adam Schiff to honor these heroes.**

**Congressman Adam Schiff, who introduced the House version of the bill, had stated: "... Man for man they were the most highly decorated combat units of the war. I can't imagine a group more deserving of Congress' highest honor."**

**This bill recognizes the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service with the nation's highest civilian honor by the United States Congress. The recognition extends not only to those who are living but to those who were killed in action and those who have passed on.**



JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori, commented on the debate. "It was very emotional to listen to Congressman after Congressman extol the valor of the Japanese American soldiers during World War II in spite of the fact that their families were incarcerated behind barbed wire for no reason other than their race. Many referred to the similarity of then and today's hatred aimed at loyal Muslim Americans. We thank the veterans, and we commend the Congress for the unanimous support of a measure that provides a great lesson that patriotism is beyond color and ethnicity."

The next step is for the President to sign the bill. The JACL eagerly awaits to join in with all the other veteran groups and civic organizations to celebrate this momentous event.

#### PROFESSOR GOODWIN LIU AND JUDGE ED CHEN VOTED OUT OF COMMITTEE AND SEEKS CONFIRMATION

Judge Edward Chen and Professor Goodwin Liu were voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and now await Senate confirmation for federal judgeships. Both Chen and Liu have been delayed in the confirmation process, as President Obama had to re-nominate them earlier this month on September 13.

It is known that Asian Pacific Americans make up approximately five percent of the whole U.S. population, but only 1 percent of the federal judiciary. Only 11 out of 875 federal judges are Asian Pacific Americans. Thus it is importance for the Asian American community to urge the confirmations of both Chen and Liu to have more Asian American representation in the federal court system. National Executive Director, Floyd Mori and Daniel K. Inouye Fellow, Jean Shiraki along with other Asian American leaders met with Senator Harry Reid back in June to express the Asian American community's support for both Chen and Liu.

The JACL strongly urges the Senate to confirm Chen and Liu before the elections. To learn how you can help to urge the confirmations of Chen and Liu, please visit [www.confirmnow.org](http://www.confirmnow.org).



**JACL**  
***HealthBenefitsTrust***

1-800-400-6633

**Japanese American Citizens League**  
415 Claremont San Mateo CA 94401

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #440  
San Mateo, CA