

THE
DREAM
AM
RENEWED



Daniel K. Inouye became the first Asian American Congressman when Hawaii became a state in 1959. Here, Senator Inouye receives the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor for individual valor, from President Clinton after his Distinguished Service Cross was upgraded in 2000. Daniel K. Inouye Collection



Norman Y. Mineta became the first Asian American member of the Cabinet as Secretary of Commerce in the Clinton Administration and Secretary of Transportation in the Bush Administration. Here, Secretary Mineta receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bush. Secretary Mineta refused to impose ethnic and religious profiling at airports in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. White House Collection

Congressman Robert T. Matsui was six months old when interned at the Pinedale Assembly Center. He later became a Congressman from Sacramento, where he and then Congressman Norman Y. Mineta were the principal sponsors of the Redress Bill in the House of Representatives. Following Matsui's death in 2005, his wife, Doris (Okada) Matsui, born and raised in Dinuba, was elected to fill his congressional seat. Courtesy of Congresswoman Doris Matsui



"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."
Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

The forced exclusion and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II represents a grave failure of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our government. In times of war, "we, the people," can be torn between civil liberties ("establish justice" and "secure the blessings of liberty") and national security ("insure domestic tranquility" and "provide for the common defense"). How we strike a balance between those goals helps define us as a people. It is a great nation and people that can acknowledge the wrongs of the past and make amends.

The Sansei (third generation Japanese Americans) thank the Issei and Nisei for giving them the opportunity to pursue their versions of the American Dream. This is reflected in the fountain sculpture at the center of this memorial. The "Fountain of Remembrance" was designed and fabricated by Gerard Tsutakawa, a Sansei. Gerard is the son of George Tsutakawa, a noted fountain designer and World War II veteran. The artwork is fashioned in the style of his father's renowned Obos Fountains. "Obos" are the Tibetan vertical stone monuments constructed by travelers who have successfully completed difficult journeys. Each person contributes a rock to the pile signifying safe passage. The Americans of Japanese ancestry depicted here represent those who have endured the journey and paved the way to the American Dream for their children and for the generations yet to come.

The Japanese American story of internment and redress is part of a broader movement of a nation striving to fulfill its ideals of equal opportunity, treatment and justice for all. May this memorial inspire each of us to aspire toward the goal expressed in our Constitution "to form a more perfect union."

Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee

Remembrance Plaza dedicated February 16, 2009



Stanford Librarian Michael Keller presented Kiyoko Sato, a Pinedale Assembly Center internee at the age of 18, with the 2008 Saroyan Prize in nonfiction for her first book, *Kiyo's Story*. This biennial award coincided with the 100th anniversary of William Saroyan's birth. Linda A. Cicero, Stanford News Service

James Hirabayashi was interned at the Pinedale Assembly Center at the age of 15. He later graduated from Harvard University with a doctorate in anthropology. He taught anthropology at San Francisco State University. Professor Hirabayashi was appointed dean of the first ethnic studies program in America following a student strike in 1968. Here, Prof. Hirabayashi receives the Distinguished American Award for the Spirit of Education in 2008. John D. Hix



General Eric Shinseki, a Sansei, became the first Asian American four-star general and Chief of Staff of the Army. President-Elect Obama nominated Gen. Shinseki to serve as Secretary of Veterans Affairs on December 7, 2008, the 67th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Here, General Shinseki (shown above in uniform) presents Marvin Uratsu with a Presidential Unit Citation, our nation's highest military honor for a combat unit, to the Military Intelligence Service. General Shinseki thanked the Nisei soldiers for the opportunity to compete and succeed. "I stand on the shoulders of those great veterans, Japanese American veterans of all those units from years past." Lloyd Kurihara, Sanger

"And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"
Martin Luther King, Jr., March on Washington, August 28, 1963

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