AMACHE REMEMBERED



1942-1945

Message from dignitary

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol Denver, Colorado 80203 Phone (303) 866-2471



Richard D. Lamn Governor

September 3, 1983

To the Participants
Amache Memorial Project
Dedication Ceremonies
Granada, Colorado

It gives me pleasure to welcome everyone taking part in dedication ceremonies for the Amache Memorial at Granada, Colorado.

A particularly warm greeting goes to members of the Denver Central Optimist Club and the contributors who made it possible for us to remember Amache in this way.

It is fitting that all Coloradans understand the story of the Japanese Americans who were interned at the Amache Relocation Camp from 1942 to 1945. The camp is an unpleasant memory, but it is a part of our state and national heritage that must not soon be forgotten.

Again, my hearty congratulations on the dedication of the Amache Memorial. Best wishes for a thoughtful and fulfilling day.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Lamm

Governor

Message from dignitary

Federico Peña MAYOR



City and County of Denver

CITY AND COUNTY BUILDING . DENVER, COLORADO . 80202

AREA CODE 303 575-2721

August 3, 1983

Mr. Susumi Hidaka General Chairman Amache Memorial Project 3020 Ellis Lane Golden, CO 80401

Dear Mr. Hidaka:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to extend my support to the efforts of the Central Denver Optimist Club in erecting a monument at Amache which depicts the events of 1942-1945. This is an important project and I congratulate the members of the Central Denver Optimist Club for their organization and implementation of the memorial project.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Federico Pena M A Y O R

AMACHE REMEMBERED

In the spring of 1942, the United States government began the relocation of 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry into ten concentration camps. Two thirds of the people evacuated were American citizens by birth. This act culminated a long history of anti-Asian sentiment, feelings which were particularly prevalent along the West Coast. Each of the ten camps were located in some of the most barren sites in this country. Surrounded by barbed wire and ringed by guard towers, many spent up to four years imprisoned by their own country.

The Granada Relocation Center was officially opened on August 27, 1942 with the arrival of the first contingent of evacuees from the Merced Assembly Center. On September 19th, groups began to arrive from the Santa Anita Race Track/Assembly Center where people had been housed in horse stalls. The camp sprang up overnight on desolate prairie where a short time before only sagebrush, cactus and Russian Thistle survived the freezing winter and blazing summer sun. At one time the tenth largest "city" in Colorado, the camp was not even half completed when the first evacuees set foot inside the barbed wire.

Because a postal distinction was necessary from the nearby town of Granada, the camp was called Amache after a Chevenne Princess who married cattle baron John W. Prowers. The camp is located in Prowers County in an area which was originally hunting grounds for the Cheyenne Indians. Amache was bounded on the west by a cemetery and dump and on the east by rolling prairie stretching into the state of Kansas. To the north were rows of warehouses, administration buildings and the Military Police compound. The camp itself was divided into thirty blocks comprised of tar-papered barracks, mess hall, laundry, latrine and shower rooms. The barracks were partitioned into six compartments, each of which housed families of up to seven members. They were without running water and had only a single lightbulb for illumination. The only items provided were an army cot, a mattress and two blankets — wholly inadequate for people who could bring with them to camp only what they could carry. Scrap lumber was coveted for constructing other essential furnishings to set upon floors which were simply bricks laid over the ground.

From the chaos and uncertainty of the first few months, the evacuees organized themselves to provide education, community enterprises and social activities necessary to daily life. The Granada Pioneer was published biweekly and delivered free to each barrack. A consumer cooperative managed stores which provided essential services such as a canteen, shoe-repair, barber shop and optometry supplies. Agriculture became the main industry in camp. Crops included vegetables and grains with livestock production added to try and make Amache self sustaining. Even with these efforts, the internees diet was often substandard. Rationing effected such basic items as coffee and sugar.

The United States military accepted volunteers from the camp and later drafted men into an all Nisei unit which earned more decorations than any other combat group in American history. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team never had a case of desertion while experiencing a casualty rate of over 300%. It was in great part due to this tremendous war record that public opinion slowly began to change toward the internees. As the tide of the war turned, indefinite leave clearence was granted to those internees who had jobs waiting on the outside. Those leaving camp had to first undergo thorough investigation by the FBI and other agencies into their educational, political and environmental background.

More than forty-one years have passed since the opening of Granada Relocation Center in August of 1942. It is a long journey back to what was once an involuntary home for nearly 8,000 evacuees. Trees planted four decades ago struggle to survive on this prairie dotted by sagebrush. They outline the foundations of barracks which once stretched across the milesquare enclosure. Barbed wire still encircles the small cemetary where uniform headstones mark the passing of mostly elderly and very young residents. Nearby, a brick structure protects a monument erected by internees at the end of the war to honor the dead. A wooden plaque is inscribed with the names of those who died in the service of their country, a country which denied them their most basic rights as citizens yet called upon them to defend those rights with their lives. The wind stills blows relentlessly over this barren landscape bringing back biting memories of hardship and uncertainty. We dedicate a monument today to those who died in military service to America, to those who died while interned behind barbed wire and to that part of each of our lives molded by war and its injustices.

Memories



GranadaStation



Into Granada Relocation Center



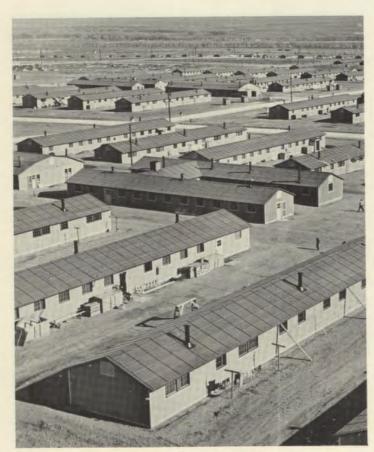
Into Granada Relocation Center



Block 12K area Granada Relocation Center



Co-op Canteen



Granada Relocation Center taken from water tank



Co-opStaffs New Year Party 1944



Main Gate



Memorial Service for the G.I.'s lost in action.



Start of Granada Relocation Center



Co-op Canteen



Granada Relocation Center (from water tank)

Amache Memorial Dedication Schedule

CAMP AMACHE

Granada, CO Saturday, Sept. 3, 1983

*Chartered Bus Leaves Regency Hotel,

Denver, CO for Amache 6:00 AM Arrive at Amache 11:30 AM **Dedication Program** 12:00-1:00 PM 1:00-2:00 PM Tour Amache Leave Amache for Denver 2:00 PM Arrive Denver, Regency Hotel 8:00 PM

Prepared Food at Hospitality Center for all Persons (Chartered Bus and Individual Cars)

8:00-?

*Box lunches will be eaten on bus prior to arrival time to facilitate smooth flow of tight schedule

Dedication Program at Amache 12:00 Noon Susumi Hidaka Master of Ceremonies

Posting of Colors Nisei Post 185 National Anthem Tom Masamori Master of Ceremonies **Opening Statement** Invocation Reverend Hidemi Ito Simpson United Methodist Church

Welcoming Statement—English Master of Ceremonies Japanese Nobuo Furuive

Announcements Introduction—Special Guests Master of Ceremonies

Main Speaker Bill Hosokawa Nisei Post, American Legion Military Service

Shig Morishige, Commander Denver Central Optimist Club Laying of Wreath President Kent Kuroda Former Amache Internees

Dr. Ronald Uyeyama Nihonjin Kai Min Yasui Mrs. Sadako Tsubokawa Nisei Post 185 Commander Shig Morishige Closing Statement Master of Ceremonies

Benediction Reverend Harold Oda Tri State Buddhist Church Retiring of Colors Nisei Post 185

Final Tribute Short graveside service, both Christian and Buddhist immediately following dedication service

Amache Reunion Banquet/Dance

Regency Hotel
Denver, Colorado
Sunday, Sept. 4, 1983
6:00 PM-1:00 AM
Cocktail Hour 6:00-7:00 PM

Henry Okubo Master of Ceremonies

Opening Statement Invocation

Welcoming Statement—English
Japanese

Master of Ceremonies Reverend U. Sugiyama Tri State Buddhist Church Master of Ceremonies Nobuo Furuiye

Dinner

Introduction of Head Table
Introduction of Denver Central Optimist Club Members
Introduction of Guests from Out of State
Introduction of Former Amacha Internace

Introduction of Former Amache Internees

Main Speaker

Min Yasui

Remarks:

Susumi Hidaka, General Chairman Tom Shigekuni, Amache Historical Society of So. Calif.

Edna Berry-Narcisse, Special Assistant to Governor on Human Services

Announcements

Appreciation

Benediction

Master of Ceremonies Nobuo Furuiye

Reverend Hidemi Ito Simpson United Methodist Church

Dance

9:00 PM-1:00 AM

Hospitality Center

Will be open from noon Friday, Sept. 2nd, all day Saturday Sept. 3rd and all day Sunday Sept. 4th for registration, renewing old and making new acquaintances, relaxing, etc.

Memories



Invocation, Rev. Hidemi Ito



Appreciation by Dick Okimoto



Main speaker, William Hosokawa



Benediction, Rev. Harold Oda



Kent Kuroda, Denver Central Optimist President



Former Amache Internee, Dr. Ronald Uyeyama



Nikkeijin Kai representatives Mrs. S. Tsubokawa, Minoru Yasui



Nisei Post #185 Commander Shig Morishige



Military Salute by Nisei Post #185



George Koseki, Min Tonai



Mrs. G. Koseki, Mr. & Mrs. Ishigaki



Aiko Okubo, Mary Tonai



Master of Ceremonies, Henry Okubo



Japanese Address by Nobuo Furuiye



Amache Memorial Project Chairman, Susumi Hidaka



Main Speaker, Minoru Yasui



Award Presentation by Nobuo Furuiye to Mrs. S. Tsubokawa



Optimist President Kent Kuroda, Mrs. S. Tsubokawa, Sus Hidaka



Amache Project Chairman, Susumi Hidaka



Tom Shigekuni, Amache Historical Society of California



Mrs. Ralph Carr, Min Yasui, Mrs. S. Tsubokawa



Meach Nogami, Rev. Y. Sakai, Rev. H. Ito, Lil & Tom Masamori



Mrs. Ralph Carr, Bill Hosokawa, Mrs. S. Tsubokawa



Min Yasui, Dalton Tanonaka, KATU-TV, Portland, Ore.



Mrs. K. Odum, Min Tonai, Chiyo Ishigaki



Corky Kawasaki, Mrs. Kawasaki, Sumi Kawasaki



Henry Suzuki, Yuki Nogami



Aiko and Henry Okubo, Mr. and Mrs. Ti-Hu'a Chang

REFLECTIONS ON THE 1983 AMACHE REUNION IN DENVER AND AMACHE

By Thomas N. Shigekuni, member of the Amache Historical Society from Palos Verdes Estates, California.

As an out-of-town guest at the Amache Reunion, I was thoroughly impressed by many things about the event and its organizers. Although Denver has a miniscule Japanese American population, its leadership is second to none. Those of us Southern Californians present were amazed that such a small group of dedicated people could do so much.

As small as the ethnic community is, it has some of the real giants of the national Japanese American scene. I have read for decades about Bill Hosokawa and Min Yasui. Yet it took the Amache Reunion to give me the opportunity to meet these real, honest-to-goodness Japanese American heroes. Both will go down in history as two of the real giants of our era, and the Denver community is indeed lucky to have such people in its presence.

I believe that the organizers of the Amache Reunion will leave their mark on history in a very significant way. Their monument will remain on site for centuries to come, and it is a monument that outshines all other such monuments at former camp sites throughout the U.S.A. Although it is essentially a tribute to the 31 men killed in action in WW II, it is a provocative monument in what it does not say. What kind of questions might Americans in the year 2200 ask when they see the monument? Suppose future Americans of the year 2200 ask the following questions upon viewing the monument.

What were 7,000 people of Japanese ancestry doing at Amache, a rather desolate spot? The monument says they were "relocated," but under what circumstances were they relocated? Did they travel to Amache in their 1942 Cadillacs all decked out in resort clothing for the 1942 "social season?" Where did they come from and why? Was Amache a health spa exclusively for Japanese Americans who didn't want to mix with others? Why did so many young men die from such a small community? Why was there a racially segregated city in Colorado in that era? Being that there was no apparent economic base for such a city, could Amache have been some kind of socialistic experiment in communal living set up by leftist elements head-quartered in Granada?

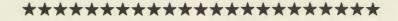
As you can quickly see, intelligent people of 200 years from now will ask questions about Amache and Granada. Will they ask why these questions were not answered in 1983? Might they not suspect a cover up of the kind totalitarian governments of 1983 were infamous for? Will it not be unfair to the good 1942 and 1983 citizens of Granada if future Americans come to the erroneous conclusion that the leadership of Granada had something to do with the creation of the mysterious ancient settlement or was at least involved in covering up its true nature?

All Americans have an inalienable right to hear about Amache so that they too can join the fight to protect their rights of private property and personal liberty guaranteed by the Constitution and to prevent any future socialistic redistribution of wealth which would be the ultimate result of another "relocation."

Memories

On display here in the Amache Hospitality Room is the original wooden marker that was left by the internees in the brick block house they built to commemorate the dead. This was done at the time of the closing of the Amache Relocation Center in September of 1945.

The following is the translation of the wording on the wooden monument placed in the block house at the Amache Grave site by the internees at the time of final closure of the Relocation Center. On this monument were names of all internees who died while in camp, along with the names of the loyal Americans who volunteered from Amache and were killed in action on foreign soil during World War II.



EPITAPH

WE SET FOOT ON THIS SITE, THE AMACHE WARTIME RELOCATION CENTER, ON AUGUST 27, 1942 FROM MERCED, CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY CENTER AND WERE TO SPEND THE NEXT THREE FULL YEARS AS INTERNEES UNTIL OUR RELEASE. DURING THIS PERIOD, THIRTY ONE YOUNG MEN FROM AMACHE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES ON FOR-EIGN SOIL IN THE DEFENSE OF AMERICA, AND IN ADDITION, OVER ONE HUNDRED TEN INDIVIDUALS SUCCUMBED WHILE INCARCE-RATED HERE. UPON TERMINATION OF THE GLOBAL CONFLICT AND THE CLOSURE OF THIS CAMP, ALL INTERNEES WILL BE SCATTERING TO THE FOUR WINDS. IN SPITE OF THE STRONG CAMARADERIE WE CAME TO KNOW OVER THE LONG AND TRYING YEARS, AND THE MANY FOND MEMORIES WE HOLD SO DEAR, IT SHALL BE EVER SO DIFFI-CULT TO REVISIT THESE GROUNDS. MOREOVER, WE SEVEN THOU-SAND PLUS JAPANESE WHO SURVIVED THE LONG AND PAINFUL ORDEAL AS BROTHERS AND SISTERS WILL BE LEAVING THIS SITE, BUT SHALL FOREVER CHERISH THE MEMORY OF OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. LEST WE FORGET, IN FINAL TRIBUTE, WE WHO ARE DEPARTING THESE GROUNDS FOREVER, HEREBY ERECT THIS SMALL MONUMENT IN THEIR MEMORY.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1945 GRANADA, COLORADO IN THE NAMES OF ALL INTERNEES DURING THE WAR YEARS

IN REMEMBRANCE

Following are the names of 31 who died in Service:

Akimoto, John Akimoto, Victor Hattori, Kunio Inouye, Chikara Kanda, Frank T. Karatsu, Saburo Kawamoto, Haruo Kikuchi, Leo Kimura, John Kinoshita, Mamoru Masuda, Eizo Masuoka, Peter Moriguchi, Haruto Morihara, Akira Muranaga, Kiyoshi K. Nakagaki, Masao Nakamura, Ned Ohki, Arnold Okida, Katsunoshin Onouye, Lloyd M. Saito, Calvin Saito, George Sakamoto, Masami Shigezane, Masao Shoji, Toshiaki Sueoka, Robert S. Tabuchi, Shigeo Takeuchi, Tadashi T. Tokushima, Harry Yamaji, Bill Iwao Yasuda, Joe R.

Sumi, Isao

Following are names of the Internees who died while in Amache:

Araki, Kanzo Baba, Tomi Domoto, Kentaro Eijima, Keiichiro Eda, Ayame Emi, Hisakichi Fujiu, Shoko Furumoto, Isono Fukusawa, Tameshiro Gooda, Kennosuke Honda, Kazumi Horiuchi, Giichi Homma, Hisashiro Ito, Shikio Ishizu, Fuji Iwasa, Mura Ito, Masagoro Ito, Emiko Kawamura, Ryosuke Kawase, Kichitaro Kasai, Ai Kimoto, Hannosuke Kawasaki, Kanemasa Kodama, Rie Kawano, Haruko Koyama, Komakichi Kubo, Fusako Kunizaki, Kyo Kajiwara, Kuniko Kitagawa, Mitsu Koda, Matsukichi Matsushita, Iwagoro Murakami, Motome Murakami, Masamichi Matsuda, (Infant) Marumoto, Kikujiro Mayeda, Goichiro

Mitani, Tsuyu

Masuda, Yasuke Mizutani, Masaemon Morimoto, Nobuko Mori, Tokichi Marufuji, Nemokichi Miyano, Tamano Miyazaki, (Infant) Muramoto, Kiyoshi Morioka, Fumio Nakamura, Tsuya Noguchi, Taneko Nomura, Biwa Namura, Haru Namura, Raku Nakamura, Toyajiro Nakamoto, Tamakichi Nagai, Saichiro Miyamoto, (Infant) Noda, Grace Nakane, Yunosuke Nakanishi, Hidemitsu Okimoto, Asayo One, Sosuke Ode, Sohei Oshita, Kanichi Oniki, Fuji Ota, Akihito Ota, Miyo Ohama, Umesuke Oki, Katsuji Okuhara, Tora Ogata, Tomaki Okamura, Hiroshi Otani, Matsukichi Sonoda, Kikuzo Sumimoto, Shinsuke Sugiura, Kasakichi

Shimosaka, Iwakichi Sato, Roku Sugioka, Isamu Sugahara, Hideji Sato, Ryozo Tani, Yasujiro Tsutsui, John Paul Tanita, Eikichi Takemura, Paul Takemoto, Gosaburo Takata, Tokujiro Tomura, Kosaburo Tanizawa, Nakanobu Tsutsui, Shigeo Toyama, Haru Tamura, Steven Uyemoto, Tomiko Uvemoto, Mitsuru Umezawa, Toku Uyeda, Mario Ugi, Kimi Wada, Shizuno Watanabe, Kohei Yoshihara, Eii Yoshioka, Kiyo Yamamoto, Yachio Yamanaka, (Infant) Yoshioka, Masano Yoshimura, Arakichi Yamaguchi, Iwami Yamamoto, Yasue Yama, Suekichi Yamazaki, Kichisuke Yamada, Toozaburo Yokoyama, Kuni Yoshimoto, Keikichi

Shiina, Tatsunosuke (The above was translated by Sadako Tsubokawa and Nobuo Furuiye.)

Sugita, Yoshishige

Special thanks to the following people without whose help the culmination of this worthwhile project would not have been possible.

Thomas Shigekuni Tami Tanabe Sakae Kawashiri Min Yasui Marge Taniwaki Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai Rev. Hidemi Ito Mr. Yutaka Inai Henry Okubo Bill Hosokawa

Special thanks to Mrs. Sadako Tsubokawa



Members of the Denver Central Optimist Club

Takashi T. Aigaki Fred Eberle Harley T. Fujimoto Tsuguo T. Fujita Nobuo Furuiye Yukio Furuiye James Hada Calvin T. Hada Hideo Hamamura Frank S. Hara Susumi Hidaka Steven Hiratsuka George Hishinuma Harry T. Hishinuma Henry H. Hoshiko Show Hoshiko

Samuel K. Inai Hidemi Ito Arthur Iwasaki Thomas Y. Kawano John M. Kobayashi John T. Kondo George Kuramoto Kent M. Kuroda Shogo Kuroda Frank T. Matoba Sam I. Mayeda Takashi Mayeda Paul W. Maynell Art Moriya Leo Murakami Roy Nagai

Michael Nakamura
Massey Nishiyama
Masami Nonaka
Melvin Okamoto
Dick M. Okimoto
Stephen K. Osuga
Robin G. Oye
Aki R. Sawamura
Edwin Shimabukuro
Terry Takamine
Thomas R. Tanaka
Dalton Tanonaka
Jinko Yamaguchi
Richard Yanase
Frank M. Yoritomo



The following list of names are those internees and friends in attendance at the Amache Reunion Banquet.

| Out o | f State | Guests |
|-------|---------|--------|
| | | |

| Out of State Out | 313 |
|--|---------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Hidaka, Bill & Flora | Chicago, IL |
| Mr. Harada, Ryo | Colusa, CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Mrs. Ishigaki, Shig & | Chiyo |
| | Francisco, CA |
| Inouye, Alice M. | Gardena, CA |
| | and Hills, CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Koseki, Wm. & Irene | , |
| | s Angeles, CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Kawasaki, Corky, & Y | |
| rii. de riis. ita nasaki, coris, de r | Portland, OR |
| Ms. Kawasaki, Gladys Sumi | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Matsushima, Dave & | |
| | erey Park, CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Masada, George & Ma | |
| | Petaluma, CA |
| | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Nakamura, Kay & Lill | Chicago, IL |
| Man Onoma Shin | Chicago, IL |
| Mrs. Ozawa, Shiz Mr. & Mrs. Shigekuni, Thomas & | |
| | |
| Daughter Leslie Palos Ve | |
| Mrs. Shimozono, Umeno | L.A., CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tobara, Sam | Hanalulu III |
| | Honolulu, HI |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tomita, Masajiro & M | |
| 15 0 15 M . 15 0 15 | L.A., CA |
| Mr. & Mrs. Tonai, Min & Mary | 1 11.11 ()4 |
| | and Hills, CA |
| Mr. Tanonaka, Dalton | Portland, OR |
| | |

Out of Town Guests

Dr. & Mrs. Uyeyama, Ronald & Yasuko

& Children

Denver & Suburbs

| Mr. & Mrs. Aoyagi, Shun |
|----------------------------|
| Mrs. Agatsuma, Mary |
| Mrs. Carr, Ralph |
| Mr. & Mrs. Eldridge, Roger |
| Mrs. Fujimoto, Jean |
| Ms. Fujikura, Yuka |
| Mr. & Mrs. Furuiye, Nobuo |
| Mr. & Mrs. Furuiye, Yukio |
| |

Mr. Hada, James Mrs. Hidaka, Kayo Mr. & Mrs. Hidaka, Susumi Mrs. Hamano, Mary Mr. & Mrs. Hishinuma, Harry Mr. & Mrs. Hishinuma, George Mr. & Mrs. Hoshiko, Henry Mr. & Mrs. Hosokawa, Bill Mr. Inai, Yutaka Mr. & Mrs. Inai, Samuel Mrs. Ishiyama, Haruko Ms. Ishiyama, Maruko Rev. Ito, Hidemi Mr. & Mrs. Imada, Eiichi Mrs. Ioka, Helen Mrs. Kanai, Shig Mr. & Mrs. Kuge, Isao Mr. & Mrs. Kuroda, Kent Mr. & Mrs. Kuramoto, George Mr. & Mrs. Moriya, Art Mr. & Mrs. Masamori, Tom Mr. & Mrs. Morishige, Shig Mr. & Mrs. Nagai, Roy Mrs. Nakayama Min Mr. & Mrs. Nogami, Meach Mr. & Mrs. Nonaka, Masami Mr. & Mrs. Nakagawa, Harry Mr. & Mrs. Noguchi, John Mr. & Mrs. Nomura, M Mr. & Mrs. Okubo, Henry Mr. & Mrs. Okuno, Iwao Mr. & Mrs. Oya, John Mr. & Mrs. Ota, Tosh Mr. & Mrs. Okimoto, Dick Mr. & Mrs. Shimabukuro, Edwin Rev. Sakai, Yoshio Rev. Sugiyama, Unryu Mrs. Sugioka Tomi Mr. & Mrs. Suzuki, Henry Mr. Tsutsui, N. Mrs. Tsubokawa, Sadako Ms. Tsubokawa, Motoko Mr. & Mrs. Taketa, Tom Mr. & Mrs. Ti-Hua Chang Mr. & Mrs. Torizawa, Frank Mr. & Mrs. Takeno, Roy Mr. & Mrs. Tanaka, Thomas Mr. & Mrs. Tagawa, Albert Mrs. Taniwaki, Marge Mr. & Mrs. Yasui, Min Mr. & Mrs. Yamaguchi, Jinko

Mr. & Mrs. Yoritomo, Frank Mr. & Mrs. Yamamoto, Ronald

We sincerely apologize for the omission of a few of our friends whose names were unavailable to make it 100 percent complete.

San Jose, CA

Lest we forget...







SONAR