



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2008 JACL National Convention Commemorates Redress Campaign

San Francisco, CA – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the redress campaign and the successful passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 as major portions of the National JACL Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from July 16-20, 2008.

“Civil liberties are as relevant today as they were twenty years ago,” said Floyd Mori, National JACL Executive Director. “The recent discriminatory actions against the Muslim community are examples of the need for constant vigilance against the abuse of the basic tenets of the Constitution.” The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was passed by Congress, providing reparations and a formal apology from the U.S. government, which incarcerated and interned 120,000 Japanese Americans during WWII.

A plenary session on "Redress, Then and Now," will include panelists who are involved with the civil liberties issues of the past and present. John Tateishi, JACL Redress Committee Chair in 1978 and former National JACL Executive Director, will speak on “The Role of the JACL and the Legislative Process that Brought about the Redress Legislation.” Richard Foltin, Legislative Director and Counsel in the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Office of Government and International Affairs in Washington, D.C., will discuss “Reasons Why the AJC Came on as a Coalition Supporter and the Importance of Coalitions on Issues Such as Redress.” Muzaffar Chishti, Director of the Migration Policy Institute at the New York University School of Law, will discuss “The Relevance of the Issue of Redress and its Relationship to the Muslim Community since 9/11.”

The Edison Uno Civil Rights Award, which recognizes outstanding advocacy in working with other national civil rights organizations, will be presented to Ernest H. Weiner, Director of the Bay Area Chapter of the AJC for over thirty years.

NASA Astronaut Daniel M. Tani will keynote the Sayonara Banquet on Saturday, July 19. Tani is a third generation American of Japanese ancestry and Chicago-area native who has been an astronaut since 1996 and has undertaken two space flights.

The JACL would like to thank its major corporate sponsors for the convention. Platinum Sponsors: Eli Lilly, Salt Lake County, State Farm; Gold Sponsors: AT&T, National JACL Credit Union, Zions Bank; Silver Sponsors: Rocky Mountain Power, Comcast; Bronze Sponsors: Ford Motor Company, UPS; Copper Sponsors: Anheuser Busch, Intermountain Health Care, JACL Health Benefits Trust, Union Bank of California.

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For more information or registration materials to the 40th JACL Biennial Convention in Salt Lake City, please visit www.jacl.org.