

EVENTS

Library of Congress Recognizes Asian Pacific American Heroes

Veterans History Project and the Library of Congress Asian Division Friends Society Co-Host Unsung Heroes

Editor's Note: This press release serves as a reminder to our readers of the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans during World War II.

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center and the Library of Congress Asian Division Friends Society will co-host a special commemorative program titled **“Unsung Heroes: Asian Pacific American Heroism during World War II” on Monday, Oct. 26 at 9 a.m. in the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building, Room 119, 10 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C.** The event is free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required.

Highlights of the day-long event include Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba’s overview of the war in the Pacific Theater, Japanese American Veterans Association’s Terry Shima’s reminiscence of the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific, Anna Chennault’s recollection of her life with the Flying Tigers, and remembrances of Filipino veterans. Famous Flying Tiger veteran Fred Chiao, 93 years old, will be in attendance.

Other speakers include Kelly Kuruyama and Norman Ikari, who will share experiences of their WWII days on the Italian Front. John Gong will reminisce about his grandfather, Flying Tiger Ace Arthur Chin. Valentin T. Ildfonso will talk about his time as a U.S. scout veteran in the Philippines. Rudy Panaglima, a Filipino guerilla veteran, will share stories about his experience as a 13-year-old runner with the Philippine guerilla resistance.

Poet Vince Gotera will perform a dramatic reading from his book “Ghost Wars,” and the Library of Congress Chorale will perform

favorite songs of the era. Several members of Congress will be in attendance to recognize the veterans, including Rep. Mike Honda (DCalif.), Rep. David Wu (D-Ore.) and Rep. Judy Chu (DCalif.).

During the program, the archival papers of Midshipman Cayetano Catura, a veteran who served two admirals during WWII, will be presented to the Library’s Veterans History Project, and materials donated to the Library by the Flying Tigers Museum will be on view. Also on display will be original watercolors depicting WWII pilots (donated to the Chinese Section of the Asian Division in 1944) and a binder with the original Gung Ho Newsletters mimeographed for the members of the enlisted personnel of the 407th Service Squadron Regiment of Chinese American soldiers.

The Library of Congress, the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution, is the world’s preeminent reservoir of knowledge, providing unparalleled collections and integrated resources to Congress and the American people. Many of the Library’s rich resources and treasures may also be accessed through the Library’s website, www.loc.gov, and via interactive exhibitions on a personalized website at myLOC.gov.

The Veterans History Project was created in 2000 by Congress to record, preserve, and make accessible the first-hand remembrances of American wartime veterans from World War I through the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan so that future generations may hear

directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Approximately 65,000 individual stories comprise the collection to date. The project relies on volunteers to record veterans' remembrances using guidelines accessible at www.loc.gov/vets/.



UNSUNG HEROES

Asian Pacific American Heroism During World War II

Monday, October 26, 2009

The Kluge Room (LJ 119)The Thomas Jefferson BuildingLibrary of CongressWashington, D.C.

MORNING SESSION, The Kluge Room (LJ 119)

9:15 Presentation of Colors

National Anthem by Jennifer Eidson, Maggie Kruesi, and Carolyn Sturtevant

Greetings by Robert Patrick, Director, Veterans History Project

9:25 Welcome by Peter Young, Chief of the Asian Division & Introduction of Dr. James H. Billington

9:35 Welcome by Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress.

9:45 Introduction by Robert Patrick of the Keynote Speaker, Major General Antonio Taguba (Ret.)

9:50 Keynote Address by Major General Antonio Taguba (Ret.)

10:05 Greetings from the Department of Veterans Affairs by Assistant Director L. Tammy Duckworth, introduced by Mr. Robert Patrick

10:15 Photo Op with Special Guests More Than Allies, We were America in Asia: Filipino Heroism

10:25 Dramatic Reading by Poet Vince Gotera from GHOST WARS

10:40 Valentin T. Idefonso U.S. Scout Veteran

10:50 Presentation to VHP of the Cayetano Catura Collection by Mr. Del Bermudez, Ms. May Bermudez and Zerina Bermudez

10:55 - 11:05 COFFEE BREAK

The Flying Tigers & The 14th ASG & 987th Signal Company

11:10 Address by Congr. David Wu, introduced by Peter Young

11:25 My Life with the Flying Tigers by Mme Anna Chennault, Intro'd by Congr. David Wu.

11:40 "Being with The Flying Tigers Again" by Sen. Ted Stevens

11:50 Our Grandfather, Arthur Chin, Biplane Fighter Ace by John Gong

12:05 Maj. Gen. Fred W.O. Chiao, Flying Tiger & Living Legend

12:20 Introduction of Ambassador Jason Yuan, by Congr. David Wu.

12:25 Acknowledgment by Ambassador Jason Yuan Photo Op with Congressional Guest.

12:45 Luncheon: Speakers (Whittall Pavilion); Guests (LJ119)AFTERNOON SESSION, The Kluge Room (LJ 119)The 100th Battalion/442 Go for broke!Japanese American Team

1:45 Overview by Terry Shima

2:00 "From 'Questionable Americans' to 'Job Well Done!'" by Dr. Norman Ikari

2:10 Our Mission at MIS by Terry Shima & Grant HirabayashiAsian Pacific American Women in the Military, World War II

2:45 "The Story of Florence Ebersole Finch Smith, U.S. Coast Guard" By film documentarian Mary Estacion

3:00 "The True Meaning of Asian Pacific American Heroism" by Congr. Judy Chu (D-California) Introduced by Peter R. Young

3:15 Photo Op with Congressional Guest. Proceed to Asian Reading Room Viewing of materials at the Asian Reading Room donated by the Flying Tigers Museum to the Library

3:40 Introduction of Director-General Tan, Chih-lung (Flying Tigers Museum) by Judy Lu, Head, Collection Services, Asian Division

3:45 Acknowledgment by Director-General Tan, Chih-lung

3:55 CLOSING REMARKS by Congressman. Mike Honda, introduced by Peter Young

CLOSING RECEPTION, The Kluge Room (LJ 119) 4:10 Light Refreshments & Social Gathering