

Veterans for Unification

N * E * W * S

January 2025

Our mission is to educate the Veteran community and support quality care and benefits for all Veterans in the VA Healthcare System.

Next Meeting: March 8, 2025 at 10 am

Speaker: Maj. Lorenzo Fiorentino (Ret)~ author, "Illinois Military Monuments"

Message from the VU Executive Committee

Michael J. Curtin (1942 – 2024)

We have learned recently of the passing of our long time member Mike. He always talked about taking his grandson to a baseball game so he was unable to attend our summer meetings. He prioritized his family. We will always remember his quiet presence. We were fortunate to know such a devoted family man and friend.

Mike, rest in peace.

Update on Legislation: In the 119th Congress (2025 – 2026) HR 210 ~ The Dental Care for Veterans Act: To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and for other purposes.

This bill was introduced on January 6, 2025 by Rep Julia Brownley (D-CA) with 6 cosponsors from Illinois: Sean Casten (D-IL), Robin Kelly (D-IL), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Delia Ramirez (D-IL), Nikki Budzinski (D-IL) and Jonathon Jackson (D-IL). There are a total of 33 cosponsors thus far. **Contact your representative today in DC at 202-225-3121 to request their cosponsorship:** there is no longer a toll free number. When you are connected, ask for the legislative aide. Please share this information with family and friends and other vet group to which you belong. Let us attempt to get this bill passed in the 119th Congress: it has been six long years so far with our efforts.

S141: Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (118th Congress) was introduced by Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) on January 30, 2023.

Actions: 18 total cosponsors; Signed by President Biden on January 2, 2025.

Hines VA Veteran Benefit and Resource Fair February 8th ~ 10am – 3pm. Location: Bldg 200 Lobby

Veterans for Unification is a not for profit 501c (3) organization. Address: 805 Lake Street, #198, Oak Park, IL 60301.

Wash your hands ~ wear a mask ~ practice social distancing.~ get vaccinated

Check out our website: veteransforunification.org

For more info: 773-736-1941

EVENTS: Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie IL CONTACT: 847-967-4800

VETERANS FREE / Available on site free parking.

Exhibit: Resilience: A Sansei Sense of Legacy thru June 1, 2025

National Veterans Art Museum, 4041 N Milwaukee, Chicago IL VETERANS FREE

Street parking; elevator in building to exhibit / CONTACT: 312-683-9778 / info@nvam.org

Exhibits: Steven Luu: A Path to Healing & Transformation extended thru April 2025

Leopold Segedin: Conflict & Confrontation In memoriam – 3-22-1927 ~ 1-7-2025

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY * January 23, 2025 / 5:30 to 8:30 pm

RESILIENCE
A SANSEI SENSE OF LEGACY

EXCLUSION AND INCARCERATION

Japanese Americans have a long history of exclusion and incarceration. In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, and in 1906, the Gentlemen's Agreement restricted Japanese immigration. Yet they have not always been treated fairly. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, war hysteria, racism, and fear led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans already living in the United States. Exclusion and incarceration were not just physical confinement, but also a loss of identity and community.

CURATORS' STATEMENT

Japanese American households wrapped around the globe. The Japanese experience was not "exclusion" or "incarceration" with a simple, linear path. The characteristic of the Japanese American response as they navigated this crisis was their ability to find ways to survive and thrive. For curatorial teams, the challenge was to tell the story of resilience and survival. While some Sansei (third generation) Japanese Americans went on to exemplify the American Dream, others continued to face challenges in the aftermath of their parents' and grandparents' long and painful journey—some physically, some artistically.

The eight Sansei artists participating in Resilience are: [names of artists]

SITES OF JAPANESE AMERICAN IMPRISONMENT
WORLD WAR II

Map showing various sites of Japanese American imprisonment during World War II, including Exclusion Area, Tule Lake, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Topaz, Amanche (Granada), Rohwer, Jerome, and others.

LEGEND

- ★ CONCENTRATION CAMP
- ASSEMBLY CENTER
- ◆ ISOLATION CENTER
- ▲ TEMPORARY CAMP, OR OTHER FACILITY
- JUSTICE DEPT., US ARMY, OR OTHER FACILITY
- EXCLUSION AREA



Membership Form

I wish to: (Check one) Apply for a new membership to Veterans for Unification.
Renew my membership to Veterans for Unification.

Name: _____ Referred by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

(Cell) _____

Check one: Veteran
 Associate (non-veteran)

Membership fee:

\$20/Year

Membership fee: \$ _____

I would also like to make a tax
deductible donation to VU:\$ _____

Total enclosed.....\$ _____

Please make checks or money order payable to:
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VETERANS FOR UNIFICATION
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