



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
DC Office: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 802 • Washington, DC • 20036  
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082 • E-mail: [natdir@jacl.org](mailto:natdir@jacl.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Floyd Mori  
National Director

(202) 223-1240  
[natdir@jacl.org](mailto:natdir@jacl.org)

June 23, 2008

### **2008 JACL Convention To Honor Distinguished Community Members At Banquet**

Washington, D.C. – A host of accomplished individuals will be honored with awards at the 2008 JACL National Convention's Sayonara Banquet on July 19, 2008. The Ruby Pin Award will be presented to Tom Tamaki, and the President's Awards will be presented to Neil King, Franklin Odo and Raymond Uno for their achievements and contributions to the community.

The Hon. Raymond Uno was the first minority judge to sit on the Third District Judicial Court of the State of Utah, has been an active civic leader and community organizer for over 50 years. A Korean War veteran and former internee, Judge Uno is also the co-founder of the Utah Minority Bar Association.

Mr. King recently retired as Superintendent of Hagerman Fossil Beds and the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Over the course of his 42 years of service with the National Park Service (NPS), Mr. King forged a lasting bond with the Japanese American community as he worked to preserve and commemorate the Minidoka internment site, paving the way for development of the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

Dr. Odo has been Director of the Asian Pacific American Program, Smithsonian Institution, since its inception in 1997. He is also the author of *No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawai'i During World War II*, and has edited several books, such as the *Columbia Documentary History of the Asian American Experience*. He has secured many Asian American exhibits at the Smithsonian, and has been visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Columbia, and Princeton.

The Ruby Pin Award will be presented to Dr. Tamaki, a longtime member of the JACL who has served as Chair of the Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellowship Program since its inception 20 years ago in 1988. Dr. Tamaki's history with the organization reaches far back, having served as president of the Philadelphia Chapter in 1954, and subsequently receiving the JACL Sapphire Pin award for 10 consecutive years of service in 1963.

The awardees will be honored at the 2008 JACL National Convention held in Salt Lake City, Utah from July 14-20. For more information on the convention, please visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

*The Japanese American Citizens League, established in 1929, is the oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. Our mission is to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others victimized by injustice.*