



**New Mexico to Host
"Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience"**

ALBUQUERQUE and LOS ANGELES (April 23, 2019) - "Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American World War II Experience" explores the legacy of Albuquerque's Japanese American community and the impact World War II-era incarceration camps had on New Mexicans. "Courage and Compassion" opens at Albuquerque Museum on June 1, 2019. The national exhibit, sponsored by Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles (GFBNEC), reveals little-known stories of bravery and compassion among local everyday Americans during and after the turbulent days of World War II.

Funded in part by a grant from the National Park Service, "Courage and Compassion" covers events from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the fateful decision to incarcerate West Coast Japanese Americans in wartime camps to the courageous segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Visitors will learn about the Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) WWII experience and its legacy; study the nature of courage during a time of crisis; and consider the relevance of that wartime experience today.

The exhibition will be on display June 1 through November 3, 2019 at the Albuquerque Museum, [2000 Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104](https://www.cabq.gov/museum), Tuesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit www.cabq.gov/museum.

"Courage and Compassion" explores the stories of citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry whom the FBI targeted as "enemy aliens." Thousands were held without due process in Department of Justice and U.S. Army-run camps in Lordsburg, Santa Fe, Fort Stanton, and Old Raton Ranch.

Images and personal objects loaned by descendants of prisoners and New Mexico's Japanese American families tell the story of a turbulent time both inside and outside the barbed wire. Historically significant objects include a hand-carved toolbox and a wooden diorama made by Issei (first-generation Japanese Americans) incarcerated in Lordsburg; an original issue of the Lordsburg camp's mimeographed Japanese language newspaper; and New Mexico Department of Justice documents from the 1940s in which John Kaichiro Nakayama requested permission to travel from his home in Las Cruces to El Paso, Texas for medical treatment.

Community curator Nikki Nojima Louis, artistic director of JAACL Players, the New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League (NMJAACL) theater group, developed the local stories in the exhibition. Louis herself was incarcerated as a child with her mother in Minidoka, Idaho.

"Albuquerque is the hub of the story wheel that connects the people and places of New Mexico to the tales of generosity extended to Japanese and Japanese Americans at a time of great turbulence," Louis said. These are the little-known stories of our fathers and grandfathers who were held in Lordsburg and Santa Fe prison camps, of the people of Gallup, Las Cruces, and Clovis who extended helping hands, and of the descendants of these people who've come forward to share their memories."

"The exhibit honors everyday people who rose above the public hysteria of WWII to recognize Japanese Americans as friends, neighbors, and citizens," Dr. Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC's President and Chief

Executive Officer, said. "These untold stories have real relevance today as we confront issues of loyalty, citizenship, due process and Constitutional rights."

Albuquerque Museum is the last stop of 10 on GFBNEC's current national tour, which started in 2017. Other community partners include: Willamette Heritage Center, Salem, Ore.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i; Kingsburg Historical Society, Kingsburg, Calif.; Oberlin College and Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio; Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.; Saint Marys School of Nursing Alumni Association, Rochester, Minn.; History Department, Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.; Japanese American Citizens League of the Monterey Peninsula, Monterey, Calif.; and Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American Service Committee and Japanese American Citizens League-Chicago Chapter, Schaumburg, Ill.

About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the Japanese American veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the interactive "GFBNEC's Defining Courage Exhibition" in downtown Los Angeles, as well as extensive oral histories and archives, education and training programs, and other initiatives. For more information, please visit www.goforbroke.org.

About the NPS JACS Program

This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Site Grant Program. For more information regarding the JACS grant program, please contact Kara Miyagishima, Program Manager, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, NPS, at 303-969-2885.

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