



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**20th ANNUAL EVENING OF ALOHA NATIONAL BROADCAST TO
HONOR LIVING WWII NISEI VETERANS**
*Virtual Celebration To Feature Intergenerational Voices From Los Angeles,
Maui, O’ahu and Denver About The Legacy Of The Nisei Veterans*

LOS ANGELES (November 4, 2021)—Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) will broadcast its 20th Annual Evening of Aloha Virtual Gala on Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 4 p.m. PST. With new voices and perspectives, the virtual program will highlight the remarkable stories of courage, patriotism and sacrifice of the Japanese American WWII soldiers and the relevance of their legacy to the issues our nation faces today. The program is accessible online, free of charge, on YouTube, Facebook and on www.goforbroke.org.

Each first Saturday in June since 1999, GFBNEC has held a community gathering in downtown Los Angeles’ historic Little Tokyo district to commemorate the Go For Broke Monument, a striking dedication that honors more than 16,000 Japanese American men and women who served overseas during WWII. In total, more than 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the segregated military units of the 100th Infantry Battalion; 442nd Regimental Combat Team; 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; 232nd Combat Engineer Company; Military Intelligence Service; 1399 Engineering Construction Battalion; Women’s Auxiliary Corps; Army Nurse Corps; and Cadet Nurses.

Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC’s President and Chief Executive Officer, and David Ono, ABC7 News Anchor and member of GFBNEC Board of Directors, will host the live tribute presentation. Nikki Kodama, granddaughter of Yoshio “Buddy” Mamiya, 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran and Founding Member of GFBNEC, will give the keynote address. Kendyl Yokoyama, the actress currently in the cast of the *Hamilton!* national tour, will sing the national anthem and *America the Beautiful*.

“This past year has been both equally challenging and exciting as we were able to engage online with national and international audiences well beyond our pre-pandemic reach,” Maki said. “While we once again cannot gather in person, we will present another inspiring program that includes more than 30 people and highlights their connections to our veterans and our organization. I am especially pleased that viewers will hear six personal stories about each of the military units, including the women nurse corps units.”

In support of GFBNEC’s expanded educational programming and outreach, event sponsorships and general contributions can be made pre- and post-event online at www.goforbroke.org. The

Monument Anniversary program will also be available on GFBNEC's YouTube and Facebook channels after the live broadcast.

For more information on ways to support GFBNEC's educational initiatives, or for questions about the virtual event, contact develoment@goforbroke.org, or call (310) 328-0907. The event is presented, in part, by Signature Sponsor Richard & Patricia Shinto and Family; Legacy Sponsor Tokuji Yoshihashi and Family; and Patriot Sponsors Nikki Kodama & Arnold Yniguez, The Pacific Bridge Companies and The Kazuo & Mary Yamane Foundation. The event media sponsors are *The Rafu Shimpō* and *The Hawai'i Herald/Hochi*.



Note to Media: “Go For Broke” was the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawai'i and the mainland. The term was Hawaiian slang for “shooting the works,” or risking everything for the big win in gambling—as the Nisei soldiers did while fighting in the field in WWII and facing prejudice at home in the U.S.

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 WWII and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the interactive *Defining Courage* exhibit 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.

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