

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GFBNEC PRESENTS THE 2023 EVENING OF ALOHA GALA**  
*22nd Annual Celebration to Honor Legacy of Nisei WWII Veterans*  
*Set for Saturday, September 23, 2023*

**LOS ANGELES (SEPT. 16, 2023)**—Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) will present the **22<sup>ND</sup> Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner (EOA)** on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites in downtown Los Angeles. This event will honor the Go For Broke spirit and legacy of the American WWII soldiers of Japanese ancestry and the relevance to the contemporary issues of social justice, civil liberties and democracy. Event registration and Silent Auction open at 4 p.m., and the dinner and program will begin at 6 p.m. Limited individual tickets and contributions to GFBNEC’s “Fund the Future” annual campaign remain available at [goforbroke.org/events/evening-of-aloha](https://goforbroke.org/events/evening-of-aloha). The program will be recorded live and aired later on GFBNEC’s YouTube channel.

Evening of Aloha is the annual hallmark gathering where the community collectively pays tribute to the courage, patriotism and sacrifice of the 33,000 Japanese American men and women who valiantly served during the war. Chris Komai, Public Relations Specialist, and Vice-Chair of the Little Tokyo Community Council, will serve as emcee. The GFBNEC Torchbearers, Go For Broke Journalism students and community leaders, will also present their unique connection to the Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) veterans and their commitment to share a great American story.

“This year’s Evening of Aloha will be another special Gala as we bring together a multi-cultural and intergenerational perspective on the meaning and relevance of the legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of WWII,” Dr. Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC President & CEO, said. “It is vital that Go For Broke National Education Center continues to seek the opportunities and share the Go For Broke spirit to new audiences across the nation. Now more than ever, our work remains important given the contemporary dynamics of racial tolerance, social justice and civil liberties we all face today.”

The program will incorporate the unique traditions of the Gala that honor the Nisei veterans, including the **Soldier’s Memorial Table** and “**In Memoriam**” acknowledgments; **on-stage Nisei veteran recognition**; and the **4th Annual Living Nisei WWII Veteran Photo Tribute**. Another unique feature of Evening of Aloha is the dinner menu created by Chef Roy Yamaguchi, Founder & Owner of Roy’s Restaurants, and the Westin Bonaventure’s Chef Andreas Nieto; and the dessert is prepared by King’s Hawaiian Innovation Pastry Chef, Heather Campbell. Hawaiian hula dancers and musicians will also perform at the Gala from the Hālau Hula Keali’i O Nālani, under the direction of Kumu Hula Keali’i Ceballos.

The annual “Fund the Future” campaign, launched at the Gala each year, supports GFBNEC’s educational programming and outreach during these challenging economic times. Contributions made now through the end of the year will provide vital funds to support GFBNEC’s new educational initiatives including expanded national outreach; enhanced online and social media presence; and dynamic online programming to engage younger, more diverse audiences.

The 2023 EOA major sponsors include: **Presenting Sponsor** – The Aratani Foundation; **Ruby Sponsor** – Rick & Patee Shinto and Family; **Emerald Sponsors** – MUFG Bank, Ltd, Yoshio Nakamura and Family, Bill & Christy Seki/Dennis & Lorraine Kimura, The Sugimoto Family – George, Lisa & Nathan and US Bank; **Platinum Sponsors** – King’s Hawaiian Bakery & Restaurant and Nikki Kodama and Family; **Gold Sponsors** – The Haruo Hayashi Family, Fukui Mortuary, Pacific Global Investment Management Co. and Seki, Nishimura & Watase, LLC; and **Media Sponsor** - *The Rafu Shimpō*. For more information, visit [goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org), or contact the Development office at [development@goforbroke.org](mailto:development@goforbroke.org), or call (310) 328-0907.



**Note to Media:** “Go For Broke” was the motto of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawaii 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 World War II and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the *Nisei* (second-generation) 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 programs, traveling exhibitions and other initiatives. For more information, visit [goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org).

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