



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER NAMES
STEPHEN KAGAWA AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Nisei Veterans' Educational Organization Welcomes New Board Members;
Journalist David Ono Joins as Chairman of Board of Governors*

LOS ANGELES (January 31, 2017)-Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) today announced that Stephen Kagawa, President and CEO of The Pacific Bridge Companies, Inc., has been named Chairman of the Board of Directors of the national Nisei veterans' educational organization. He succeeds Bill H. Seki, a partner at Seki Nishimura & Watase LLP, who continues to serve on the center's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Kagawa has actively supported GFBNEC in various capacities since 2002.

David Ono, broadcast journalist and co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness News, has been named Chairman of GFBNEC's Board of Governors. He succeeds Chip R.Y. Mamiya, senior account executive with Michigan Mutual, Inc., who has joined GFBNEC's Board of Directors. Ono has produced several documentaries about the Nisei WWII soldiers and supported GFBNEC.

Doug Goto, insurance consultant, has been named Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Executive Committee. The Hon. Jeff Maloney, Alhambra City Councilmember, has been named Secretary of the Board. Michael Ozawa, Managing Principal, Enterprise Management Advisors LLC, has rejoined the Board of Directors and continues to serve as the Chief Financial Officer.

George Tanaka, Managing Director, Retail Specialized Services, MUFG Union Bank, has joined GFBNEC's Board of Directors. In addition to his banking expertise, Tanaka also serves as Chairman of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

Kagawa welcomed the new Board of Directors and Board of Governors members, and recognized Seki for his ongoing contributions to GFBNEC. "Bill continues to bring his insight, passion and leadership to GFBNEC, for which we're extremely grateful," Kagawa said. "We extend a special welcome to George Tanaka of MUFG Union Bank and David Ono of KABC7, who are bringing fresh talent and experience to our governing boards at a time of growth and expansion. GFBNEC's messages are particularly relevant today, and we're working to reach new audiences with the Nisei soldiers' stories of loyalty and sacrifice."

Three additional longtime members of the Board of Directors-Cathy Tanaka, Secretary/Treasurer of Fukui Mortuary; Paul Abe, Director, Union Bank; and Art Velarde, retired educator-will lead the newly created Ambassadors' Circle. "As GFBNEC grows, we will continue to rely on their expertise and institutional knowledge as they transition to the Ambassadors' Circle," Kagawa said. "We also pay tribute to our former board member, the late Christie Ichikawa, who carried on the vision of her husband Robert, 442nd RCT, in honoring the legacy of our WWII Nisei veterans."

Note to Media: "Go For Broke" was the motto of the 442nd 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. Today, GFBNEC preserves the story of all Nisei WWII veterans, and uses their history to inspire others to work for social integrity, equality and justice.

About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation 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 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" 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.

Media Contact:

Pauline Yoshihashi

Strategic Communications

For GFBNEC

323/683-8191 Direct

pyoshihashi@earthlink.net