



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER TO PRESENT
"NIKKEI SAMURAI: JAPANESE SWORDS AND THE NISEI VETERAN"**

*Exhibit of Rare Arms from Feudal Japan to Celebrate Spirit of Nisei WWII Veterans;
Display from Aug. 15-Sept. 17, 2017 Includes Free Public Event on Aug. 19, 2017*



Kabuto (helmet) by Myochin Masuda Sadakatsu, made in August 1711, featuring three bullet indentations that attest to the strength and quality of his work. Photo: Courtesy of Jidai Arts

LOS ANGELES (July 20, 2017)-Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) today announced the upcoming opening of "Nikkei Samurai: Japanese Swords and the Nisei Veteran," a special exhibition on display from Aug. 15-Sept. 17, 2017, as part of this year's Nisei Week Festival in Little Tokyo. The exhibit, featuring rare and historically significant pieces of arms and armor from Japan's feudal era, will be held within GFBNEC's "Defining Courage" exhibition, located in the historic Buddhist temple on the west side of the plaza at First Street and Central Ave. in Little Tokyo.

The exhibition explores how second-generation Japanese American soldiers of World War II preserved and exemplified the samurai spirit--not only through the heroism of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 100th Battalion in the European Theater, but through the integrity of the Military Intelligence Service that served in the Pacific. The traditional code of bushido includes eight virtues: righteousness; courage; benevolence/mercy; respect; integrity; honor; loyalty; and politeness/self-control.

"Nikkei Samurai" is curated by Darin S. Furukawa and Michael Yamasaki, samurai arts specialists from the educational organization Jidai Arts (www.jidaiarts.com). Furukawa and Yamasaki have provided exhibitions of Japanese swords and armor for the Nisei Week Festival for the past 10 years, and were

the curators for "Art of the Samurai: Swords, Paintings, Prints and Textiles" at LACMA, and "Jidai: Timeless Works of Samurai Art" at the Japanese American National Museum.

"Nikkei Samurai: Japanese Swords and the Nisei Veteran" is free with admission to GFBNEC's "Defining Courage" exhibition. The "Defining Courage" exhibition is free during Nisei Week, which runs from Aug. 19-27, 2017; general admission during regular operations is \$9 for adults and \$5 for seniors. Students and teachers enter for free, courtesy of a generous grant from the Aratani Foundation. Operating hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed on Monday.

In conjunction with the exhibition, GFBNEC will host a free public event on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors will be able to try on a suit of samurai armor. Community members are invited to bring in any samurai swords or sword fittings for a free appraisal by Michael Yamasaki. Yamasaki is the only non-Japanese citizen to ever win first place in the prestigious All-Japan Sword Convention Appraisal Challenge held by the Japanese Sword Museum, and has performed appraisal work for nationally syndicated television shows, including History Channel's "Pawn Stars." Reservations for appraisals should be made in advance by contacting Tessa Cencula at Tessa@goforbroke.org or (310) 222-5711. For more information, please go to www.goforbroke.org.

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 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.

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