

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL BROADCAST SET TO MARK GO FOR BROKE MONUMENT 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

### ***June 2 Virtual Tribute to Commemorate the Legacy of the Nisei Soldiers of WWII***

**LOS ANGELES** (May 23, 2024)—Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) will present its annual hallmark event marking the 25th anniversary of the iconic Go For Broke Monument on Sunday, June 2, 2024 at 2 p.m. PDT. The pre-show will begin at 1:45 p.m. and will feature this year's "Honor A Veteran" digital tributes. The program will highlight the Go For Broke spirit and legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of WWII, and the relevance of their legacy to the social dynamics our nation faces today. The program is accessible online, free of charge, on GFBNEC's [YouTube channel](#), Facebook and on [goforbroke.org](https://goforbroke.org)

On June 5, 1999, the Go For Broke Monument was presented to the City of Los Angeles following the tireless efforts of our founding Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans) veterans. For the past 25 years, GFBNEC has held a community gathering in downtown Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo district to commemorate the Monument, a striking dedication that honors the more than 16,000 Japanese American men and women who served overseas during WWII. In total, more than 33,000 Nisei soldiers served in the U.S. Army's military units of the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate); 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 Nurse Corps.

In February of this year, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new mixed-use, multi-story Go For Broke Plaza. At the heart of the 330,000 sq. foot Plaza is the Go For Broke Monument, which will now be embraced by 248 affordable housing units, urban green spaces and thru-block pedestrian linkages which not only will revitalize the formerly vibrant Jackson Street Paseo, but will also return a portion of Little Tokyo once taken away by eminent domain in the 1950s.

The ground floor of the Plaza will house community-serving commercial spaces for legacy small businesses, such as the 118-year-old Fugetsu-do Bakery, and the highly anticipated permanent home for Go For Broke National Education Center. Completion of the project is slated for 2026. Due to the Plaza construction, and for the safety of our visitors, access to the Monument is temporarily closed, and the Monument Anniversary Tribute will be held virtually.

The program will be hosted by David Ono, ABC7 News Anchor and member of GFBNEC Board of Directors. Additional speakers featured include Nisei veterans and descendants, Torchbearers, Go For Broke Journalism high school students, programming partners and past and current GFBNEC leadership.

“This is an especially exciting time for Go For Broke National Education Center with the construction of our permanent home in the new Go For Broke Plaza,” said GFBNEC President and CEO, Dr. Mitch Maki. “Over three decades ago, our founding Nisei veterans envisioned the building of the Go For Broke Monument to forever stand as a reminder of their contributions to our democracy. They also planned for a vibrant education center to be built next to the Monument to ensure that their story remains an important American story. Today’s Monument Anniversary affirms our continued commitment to broadly share and inspire intergenerational, multicultural audiences from across the nation.”

Monument Anniversary sponsorship and general donations can be made on GFBNEC’s website at [goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org). For more information on ways to support GFBNEC’s educational initiatives, or for questions about the June 2 virtual event, contact [development@goforbroke.org](mailto:development@goforbroke.org), or call (310) 328-0907. To learn more about the history of the Nisei WWII soldiers, visit [goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org).

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**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 [goforbroke.org](http://goforbroke.org).

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