



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115  
DC Office: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 802 • Washington, DC • 20036  
Ph: (202) 223-1240 • E-mail: natdir@jacl.org

## National JACL Announces Awardees for Gala Dinner

**Washington, D.C.** -- The second annual Gala Dinner Event of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. The focus of this year's Gala will be on the Redress movement, which called for an apology and reparations to Japanese Americans who were interned in concentration camps in remote areas of the United States during World War II. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 which provided for Redress.

Some of the real "Champions of Redress" will be honored at the Gala. The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, former Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce and Congressman from San Jose, California, and last year's honorary chairman of the Gala, who was one of the driving forces in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, will be honored. Grayce Uyehara of Philadelphia, who has been a long time leader within the JACL, will be honored for her work on the grassroots level and in lobbying members of Congress. John Tateishi, immediate past National Director of the JACL and JACL's Redress Chair during the initial stages of the Redress Campaign, will also be an honoree.

The JACL will also honor the American Jewish Committee (AJC) for its strong support during the campaign for Redress. The AJC was the first major organization to endorse the Redress Campaign and assigned Ernest Weiner, the director of its Bay Area Chapter to monitor the issue through the duration of the campaign. Mr. Weiner received the JACL Edison Uno Civil Rights Award at the recent JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City.

The corporate award will be given to AT&T, a key corporate partner of the JACL, which contributes to many programs of the National JACL, including as a major sponsor of the Gala and the National Conventions. David Lin of AT&T has become a great friend of the JACL and many other Asian American organizations. It is also in the plans to honor at the Gala some of the new "Champions" within the Asian American community who are leaders for the future.

The Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii is serving as the honorary chairman for the Gala. Congressman Mike Honda of San Jose, California, will act as master of ceremonies.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL and general chairman of the Gala, stated: "We are excited to make this year's Gala event a fitting tribute to the champions of the Redress Movement, and we thank all who were involved in bringing about the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988."

National JACL President, Larry Oda, who was elected to a second term at the National JACL Convention held July 16-20, 2008, in Salt Lake City, Utah, and who attended the first Gala in 2007, encourages JACL members and friends to make plans to attend this major National JACL event.