



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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## JACL PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### JACL ANNOUNCES GALA HONORARY CHAIRMAN

**Washington, D.C.** – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, announces that the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta will serve as Honorary Chairman of its annual Gala. The JACL Gala was started five years ago and will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Norman Mineta served as Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush and as Secretary of Commerce under President William Clinton. He had previously served as Mayor of the City of San Jose, California, and as a United States Congressman from California. He is currently a Vice President at Hill and Knowlton in Washington, D.C.

The JACL Gala is billed as a “Salute to Champions” and honors outstanding individuals who have made a difference by contributing to the causes in which the JACL is involved. Past Gala’s have honored members of Congress and other exceptional individuals who have served the nation in extraordinary ways. Secretary Mineta has been an honoree at a past JACL Gala, and his sister Etsu Mineta Masaoka who recently passed away, was honored last year. Corporations which have helped the JACL further its work have also received awards.

National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori expressed appreciation to Secretary Mineta and his wife Deni. “We are extremely grateful to Norm and Deni for their continued support of the JACL Gala. They have given support and help to the JACL Gala since its inception. We appreciate all they have done for the JACL, for Japanese Americans, for the rest of the Asian American community, and for the nation as a whole.”

David Kawamoto, National JACL President, stated: “Norman Mineta has given outstanding service to the JACL, and we are thankful to him for his continued support in so many ways including at our national conventions.”

Information on the JACL Gala and ways to show support for the Gala may be found at the website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) or by calling the JACL Washington, D.C. office at 202-223-1240.

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