



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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August 4, 2011

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JACL GALA TO HONOR ENI FALEOMAVAEGA

Washington, D.C. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, will be holding its JACL Gala (A Salute to Champions) in Washington, D.C. on September 29, 2011. The JACL will present an award to the Honorable Eni Faleomavaega of the United States House of Representatives.

Congressman Faleomavaega has served in the U.S. Congress since 1989. Re-elected in November 2010 to a twelfth term, Faleomavaega is the longest serving and only Samoan in the Congress. He is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources. He is the first Asian Pacific American ever to Chair the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Faleomavaega was Lieutenant Governor for American Samoa from 1985 to 1988. Prior to that, he was Deputy Attorney General for American Samoa from 1981 to 1984. He served in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. He served in the Army Reserves where he was a Captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. He was also a proud member of the 100th Battalion / 442nd Infantry Reserve Unit in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Faleomavaega is a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and routinely supports matters of importance to the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. He has supported the JACL and the issues for which it stands. He served as Staff Counsel to the late Congressman Phillip Burton of California. He also served as Chief of Staff for Paramount Chief A. U. Fuimaono, who was American Samoa's first elected Representative to Washington, D.C. from 1973 to 1975.

The Congressman holds a Master of Law degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Houston Law School. He also holds a BA degree in Political Science and History from Brigham Young University (BYU) at Provo, Utah, and an AA degree from Brigham Young University at Laie, Hawaii. Faleomavaega was born in Vailoatai, American Samoa. He is married to Hinanui Bambridge Cae of Tahiti. They have five children and five grandchildren.

Floyd Mori, National Executive Director of the JACL, stated, "It was my privilege to become acquainted with Eni Faleomavaega at BYU many years ago. We are proud of his great accomplishments and are happy to present an award to a very deserving person who has been a true champion. He was also an outstanding athlete who performed traditional Samoan dances."

In addition to Congressman Faleomavaega, the JACL Gala will be honoring several outstanding individuals who made a name in sports and athletics. They will be announced at a later date. For more information on the JACL Gala, please visit www.jacl.org.

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