



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

Headquarters: 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
DC Office: 1828 L Street NW, Suite 802 • Washington, DC • 20036
Phone: (202) 223-1240 • Fax: (202) 296-8082 • E-mail: natdir@jacl.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director

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(202) 223-1240

NatDir@jacl.org

JACL MOURNS THE PASSING OF DOROTHY I. HEIGHT

Washington, D.C. -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) mourns the passing of Dorothy I. Height, a national icon in the civil and women's rights movement. At the time of her passing Ms. Height remained active as the President of the Leadership Conference of Civil and Human Rights, the premier civil rights coalition in the nation, which includes over 200 major civil rights organizations. The JACL is a charter member of the coalition and Floyd Mori, JACL's National Executive Director serves on its Executive Committee.

Ms. Height was in the forefront of every civil rights accomplishment for over six decades dating back from the 1930s where she participated in local protests in Harlem, all the way to the 1960s where she stood on the same platform as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he delivered his renowned "I have a dream" speech. One of the civil rights issues that Ms. Height worked heavily on included gender equality and women's rights as she served as the President of the National Council of Negro Women for 40 years. During this time, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, by former President Bill Clinton. Her most recent award was in 2004, when former President George W. Bush awarded Ms. Height with a Congressional Gold Medal.

JACL National Executive Director, Mori stated, "We have lost a person who was an inspiration to me and thousands of others who have worked in the civil rights arena. I was privileged to have been a colleague of hers on the Leadership Council's Executive Committee, where she was a regular participant. She always had a word of encouragement and inspiration on the issues on which we all toiled. We will miss her but the spirit of her commitment will continue to inspire us and the many who follow in this great work."

End