



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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JACL GALA HONORARY COMMITTEE

Washington, D.C.—The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization, will hold its fourth annual Gala in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel.

The Gala is billed as a “Salute to Champions” and honors outstanding individuals and corporations which have been instrumental in furthering the causes in which the JACL is engaged. This year's Gala will present awards to four women who have had remarkable accomplishments and will also honor Eli Lilly, which has given generous financial support to the JACL.

The Co-Chairs of the Gala Honorary Committee are the two United States Senators from Hawaii, both of whom were past recipients of the Salute to Champions Awards. Senator Daniel K. Inouye received the award at the first JACL Gala for his outstanding service to the nation. He has been a role model for Japanese Americans for decades. Senator Daniel K. Akaka received the award last year with particular emphasis on his work with and for veterans.

Other members of the Honorary Committee are: Congressmen Mike Honda, Xavier Becerra, Rob Bishop, Anh (Joseph) Cao, Jim Costa, Eni Faleomavaega, Sam Farr, Jerry Lewis, Adam Schiff, and Congresswomen Doris Matsui, Madeleine Bordallo, and Maxine Waters, Richard Foltin, American Jewish Committee, Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, Hilary Shelton, NAACP, and Michael Lieberman, Anti-Defamation League (partial list).

The outstanding women being honored this year are: Senator Dianne Feinstein, who has been an advocate for civil rights during her long career; Etsu Mineta Masaoka, who has given much of her life to the JACL along with her husband Mike Masaoka; Christine Toy Johnson, who is an actress, playwright, and filmmaker, who with her husband Bruce Johnson, produced a documentary film about the Japanese American experience and Wat Misaka who was the first person of color to play in what is now the National Basketball Association; and Roxana Saberi, a journalist and writer who showed great courage as she was imprisoned in Iran.

National JACL Executive Director Floyd Mori encourages all to attend and support the JACL Gala. “We are grateful to everyone who has supported the JACL Gala in the past and wish to extend an invitation to all to join with us in this celebration this year as we honor some outstanding women and our corporate partner, Eli Lilly.”

The JACL Gala registration information may be found at the website at www.jacl.org or call the JACL DC office at 202-223-1240.

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