



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

ARTICLE

Floyd Mori, JACL National Executive Director

February 15, 2010

natdir@jacl.org

JACK TOBE JOINS THE DC JACL CHAPTER BOARD

Attendees at the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) DC Chapter Mochitsuki event in December 2009 were greeted warmly by an impressive young teenager who was very attentive and helpful. Jack Tobe, at thirteen years of age, has lots of experience with service and has just become the youngest member of the Board of the DC Chapter of the JACL. He was installed at the Chapter Installation Luncheon in January 2010.

Jack has been attending important functions for years with his father, John Tobe, a Japanese American alumnus of the University of Southern California, who currently works for the Japan Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Jack is in the 7th grade at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington, DC. He is on the varsity basketball team and was also on the varsity cross country team. He received the "Coach's Award" for his performance and dedication on the cross country team. He also received a black belt in Karate several years ago. However, Jack's first love is baseball and he plays first base, pitcher, and outfield on his Little League team. He has been playing Little League for seven years.

He has been a four year volunteer of "Gifts for Good" (GFG) which is an alternative gift fair at St. Patrick's. GFG annually raises over \$30K for various non-profits and charities. Jack has also participated in the "grate patrol" program which helps to feed the homeless. In August 2008, Jack worked for the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Secretary's Office at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado. He was a runner and floor whip for the DNC.

Jack is a Yonsei whose grandfather was interned in Minadoka, Idaho, from 1942-43. Jack's great grandfather was in a detention camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico. His great grandfather and grandfather were part of an exchange program where interned Japanese Americans were allowed to return to Japan. They did so because this allowed the family to be reunited. They traveled to Fort Dix in New Jersey and were put on a Swedish flagged vessel which sailed to Goa, India. There, they were transferred onto a Japanese flagged vessel and sailed to Yokohama, Japan. Jack traveled to Japan in 2006 and visited relatives who still live in the Tokyo region.

He has been a member of the JACL for the last several years and is also a member of the Japanese American National Museum (through his father's membership). He has volunteered at the DC Chapter's annual mochitsuki and other events. He also volunteered at the Shin-Shu Matsuri (a New Year's festival sponsored by the Japan Commerce Association of Washington).

Jack has always had a keen interest in Japan and the Japanese culture. Among his favorite foods are soba, musubi, and mochi. He is on the road to true leadership within the Japanese American community and the nation. Hopefully, other young people will follow Jack's example and become more involved in leadership within the JACL.

###