



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

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## JACL EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES AND SADNESS

**Washington, D.C.** -- The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the United States, joins the nation in expressing sincere condolences to the families and colleagues of those slain and injured yesterday at Ft. Hood, Texas. The JACL community is saddened that brave and patriotic soldiers were sacrificed in such a defenseless manner. The JACL strongly condemns this senseless taking of innocent lives regardless of the motivation.

In a statement, JACL National Executive Director, Floyd Mori said, “It must be understood that this egregious act was done by an individual and not a community. Japanese Americans know well the sting, humiliation, and heartache that can occur when a community is condemned for an action far from their control or their own behavior. Decades of shame have been the result of the unlawful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. This is a time when understanding and tolerance are of prime importance. We must not allow this incident perpetrated by one individual to cause racial hatred against an entire community. Let us remember our errors of the past and benefit from the lessons learned.”

This shocking and regrettable action of one troubled person does not reflect the values and patriotism of the ethnic community to which he belonged. We must remember that Arab and Muslim Americans have honorably served, and continue to serve with distinction in the armed forces of our country. JACL urges caution and understanding to avoid the potential for any backlash arising from this horrific incident.

Larry Oda, JACL National President, stated: “The World War II experience of Japanese Americans should not be forgotten so as to not unjustly blame the Muslim American community for this appalling act done by one person.”

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