

Midwest Office

JACL

Japanese American Citizens League
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August 14, 2009

Mr. Stuart Covington
President
Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club
55 Howard Street
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Dear Mr. Covington,

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights group, is troubled by the repeated use of the term "Jap" as an abbreviation for "Japanese" in your organization's magazine. As you may know, the term "Jap" is a racial slur that has been used to vilify and defame Japanese Americans.

We are concerned that by regularly using this slur in lieu of the proper abbreviation, "Jpn," the Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club suggests to its readers that the use of this slur is acceptable, and it is not. "Jap" is an offensive and derogatory term, and had been used historically as a way to dehumanize the Japanese American population to justify the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Please refrain from using this slur as an abbreviation in the future. We hope that the Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club will accord the same respect to people of Japanese ancestry as they do to Japanese motorcycles.

Sincerely,

William Yoshino
Midwest Regional Director
Japanese American Citizens League

cc: Brendan Dooley, Magazine Editor