



JOURNEY TO TANFORAN

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2007
THE SHOPS AT TANFORAN, SAN BRUNO

TO COMMEMORATE THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE OPENING OF THE TANFORAN ASSEMBLY CENTER AND
THE SIGNING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

Major funding provided by The Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California and The Shops at Tanforan, owned by Breevast U.S. and managed by General Growth Properties.

JOURNEY TO TANFORAN

Some say, they never knew that this place ever existed, some say it wasn't that bad, others wish the memories would just go away...

Today, we are gathered at the place called Tanforan to commemorate, educate, remember and pay tribute to the lives that were impacted 65 years ago at the Tanforan Assembly Center. Although this place looks very different than it did back then, the sky remains the same, the mountains still sit in the background and if we really listen, the wind still echoes with the voices of almost eight thousand men, women and children whose lives were forever changed.

As an American, nothing could be worse than to lose your freedom, your civil liberties and your right to pursue happiness. But that is what happened here and it was just the beginning of a journey that has brought us back again here, today.

To borrow some of the words of a President, so dedicated to the freedom, equality and democracy of this great nation...

"We can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The men, women and children, living and dead, who struggled and persevered here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here today, but it can never forget what happened here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they suffered here for. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that this should never happen again." (Taken in part from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, 1863)

*If we listen to the wind
We can hear the voices of those
who were interned here sixty-five years ago*

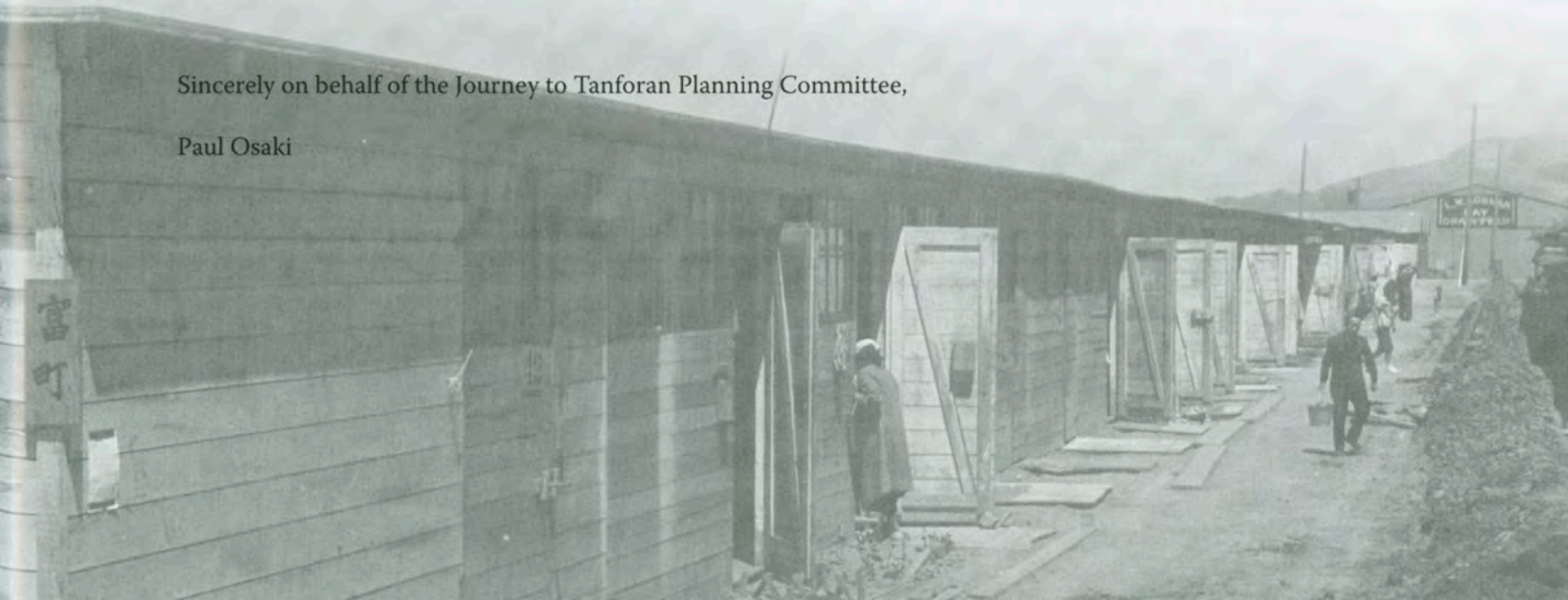
*If we listen to the wind
Their voices are not still*

*If we listen to the wind
Their voices say, don't forget me*

Don't forget what happened here...

Sincerely on behalf of the Journey to Tanforan Planning Committee,

Paul Osaki



FRED NICHOLAS



The Journey to Tanforan Committee wishes to pay special tribute to Fred Nicholas.

Shortly after planning for this event began, we learned of the story and courage of Mr. Nicholas.

In 1942, at 21 years of age, Fred Nicholas was drafted into the Army and assigned to work with the military police in San Francisco. Initially, he was given the task of going door-to-door to the homes of Japanese Americans to inform them of the military orders

to vacate their homes. He was later assigned to Tanforan Assembly Center as an armed guard.

Although ordered to guard his post with a rifle in hand, Mr. Nicholas knew that the individuals forced to reside at Tanforan Assembly Center had done nothing wrong. Thus, throughout his assignment, Mr. Nicholas went out of his way to do whatever he could to make life for the internees a little more tolerable.

Fred Nicholas never forgot about the wartime experience of being a guard at Tanforan, and how Japanese Americans were mistreated during World War II. In 1970, he founded Public Counsel in Los Angeles, the largest pro bono public interest law firm in the world dedicated to advancing equal justice under law by delivering free legal and social services to the most vulnerable members of the community including abused and abandoned children, homeless families and veterans, senior citizens, victims of consumer fraud and nonprofit organizations serving low-income communities.

Three decades after the war, Fred Nicholas returned to Tanforan, this time as the owner and developer of a new shopping mall that would be built on the site. About 1975 one of the first things to be erected was a plaque that Mr. Nicholas personally oversaw – a plaque acknowledging the site as a former Assembly Center for Japanese Americans. At the time, there was little public awareness and no formal admission that the government's action in the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans was wrong. Thus, the creation of this plaque was truly a courageous step for a private citizen to take to right a wrong.

Thank you, Mr. Nicholas, for your individual efforts to educate the world of this important period of history and for your true compassion and dedication to justice and liberty for all.

JOURNEY to TANFORAN EXHIBITS

THE HISTORY OF TANFORAN "ASSEMBLY CENTER" AND THE
INTERMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II

JOURNEY to TANFORAN

THE HISTORY OF TANFORAN "ASSEMBLY" CENTER AND THE
INTERMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WORLD WAR II



In 1942,
110,000
Japanese
Americans,
two-thirds
of them
American
citizens,
were
removed
from their
homes.

LEARN WHAT
HAPPENED
AND WHY.

Visit the exhibits
located near the
Main Entrance
and at store #249

NOW THROUGH JUNE 2007

This exhibit is produced by the National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc. for the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California.

Major funding has been provided by The Wallace Alexander Forbes Foundation, The Stern and Sonneto Takahashi Charitable Foundation, The Jetties Irvine Foundation and The Shops at Tanforan, owned by Emerald U.S. and managed by General Growth Properties.

PHOTO: Michida girls, May 1942. Sarah Lee photo. National Archives.