

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27TH ANNUAL GO FOR BROKE MONUMENT ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

Virtual Program Features Centenarian Veteran, Celebrates New Plaza

LOS ANGELES (May 27, 2026)—Go For Broke National Education Center is celebrating the 27th anniversary of the landmark Go For Broke Monument with a virtual tribute program on June 7, 2026. The program will air on GFBNEC's YouTube channel at 2 p.m. and features 103-year-old Japanese American World War II veteran Tokuji "Toke" Yoshihashi, descendants of the organization's founding veterans, and current and past leadership.

In June of 1999, the Go For Broke Monument was presented to the city of Los Angeles. Each year, GFBNEC commemorates the iconic anniversary on the first weekend of June. The Monument is located in downtown Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo district, near GFBNEC's permanent "Defining Courage" exhibition housed in the former Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The striking granite Monument honors more than 16,000 Japanese American men and women who served overseas in the European and Pacific theaters during World War II. In total, more than 33,000 Japanese American men and women served in the segregated military units of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, 232nd Combat Engineer Company, Military Intelligence Service, 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion, Women's Auxiliary Corps, Army Nurse Corps, and Cadet Nurse Corps.

By the end of 2026, the Monument will be surrounded by the new mixed-use, five-story, 330,000-square-foot Go For Broke Plaza. The project will include 248 affordable housing units, urban green spaces, and through-block pedestrian linkages, which will not only revitalize the formerly vibrant Jackson Street Paseo but also return a portion of Little Tokyo taken away by eminent domain in the 1950s. The Plaza ground floor will house community-serving commercial spaces for legacy small businesses such as Suehiro Cafe and the highly anticipated permanent home for Go For Broke National Education Center with 10,000 square feet of space for expanded programming.

"My fellow veterans would be very happy," said Toke Yoshihashi (100th Infantry Battalion) upon his recent visit to the nearly complete Plaza. "They would really be surprised, as I am right now." Mr. Yoshihashi was one of several Japanese American World War II veterans who used to volunteer as docents to welcome visitors to the Monument.

"We have sure come a long way," stated Patricia Kinaga, whose father, Thomas Kinaga (442nd RCT), was one of GFBNEC's founding veterans. "It is going to be a space that is life-affirming — especially with all that we are going through as a country right now — to see this testament about where we have come from and how much more we have to do to make sure that our civil rights continue to be protected."

In addition to Monument Anniversary sponsorships, veteran floral tributes and “Honor a Veteran” digital tributes provide ways to honor the veterans. To make a sponsorship or tribute gift, or for more information, visit goforbroke.org/monument-anniversary/ or email development@goforbroke.org.

GFBNEC relies primarily on individual and family contributions to present its educational initiatives, including the Go For Broke Journalism Institute and the National Torchbearers Program. Visit goforbroke.org/support/ to make a general donation, become a member, donate a vehicle, make a planned gift, or learn other ways to ensure that the Go For Broke spirit and legacy of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II remain an important and relevant story to all Americans.

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Note to Media

“Go For Broke” was the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawai‘i and the mainland. The term was Hawaiian Pidgin slang for “shooting the works,” or risking everything for the big win in gambling — as the Japanese American soldiers did while fighting on the warfront in World War II and facing prejudice at home in the U.S. To learn more, visit goforbroke.org.

About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy. GFBNEC aims to inspire new generations to embody the veterans’ core values of courage, sacrifice, service, equality, humility, and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the permanent “Defining Courage” exhibition in downtown Los Angeles’ historic Little Tokyo district, as well as extensive oral histories and archives, education programs, traveling exhibitions, and other initiatives.

Media Contact

Joyce Kwon
Communications & Engagement Manager
(213) 375-1283
communications@goforbroke.org