



# JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

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## Mr. Gerald H. Yamada, Esq. President



**Gerald H. Yamada** is President of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA). As JAVA President, he initiated the annual “Day of Affirmation,” which is the wreath laying ceremony at the World War II Memorial to honor the Japanese American soldiers who served in World War II. This ceremony commemorates President Harry S. Truman’s salute on July 15, 1946. On that date, the President reviewed returning Japanese American soldiers at the White House and affirmed that they are America’s heroes. Mr. Yamada served in the U.S. Army from 1969 to 1971 and was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation Medal for outstanding performance of duty.

Other leadership positions that he has held include General Counsel, JAVA; General Counsel and then Executive Director, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation; Governor, Japanese American National Museum; National Coordinator and chief strategist, National Japanese Heritage Coalition that created the legislative initiative authorizing the National Park Service’s Japanese American Confinement Sites Program; Founder and current Treasurer, National Japanese American Political Action Committee; Co-Founder and first Co-Chair, Asian Pacific American Heritage Council that worked to establish the month of May as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; and President, Washington, DC Chapter, Japanese American Citizens League. He was selected by AVENUE ASIA as one of “The 500 Most Influential Asian Americans.”

Mr. Yamada is an attorney with over 20 years of federal service at the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He served two terms as EPA’s representative to the U.S. Administrative Conference and was EPA’s Designated Agency Ethics Official under 4 EPA Administrators. When he left government service, he had reached the highest level of the Senior Executive Service as EPA’s Principal Deputy General Counsel for 13 years and had received two Presidential Meritorious Executive Awards, one from President Reagan and the other from President Clinton.

He also has 25 years of experience with Washington, DC law firms. When he retired from the private practice of law, he was working with the law firm of Covington and Burling. He is the Principal for Going Forward Strategies, an environmental consulting firm.

He taught at the George Washington University Law School and at American University Law School. He has written numerous articles for national publications on environmental and administrative law issues.

He is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and the University of California, Berkeley. He received executive leadership training as a graduate of the “Senior Managers in Government” Program, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and the “Leadership for a Democratic Society” Program, Federal Executive Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia.

He was born at the Jerome War Relocation Authority Center, Arkansas. He and his wife reside in Vienna, Virginia, and they have 3 children.