***NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE***

***JAPANESE AMERICAN OF THE BIENNIUM***

**2024 GUIDELINES**

The Japanese American of the Biennium Award is the highest public award of the National JACL. The National JACL has presented this recognition to an American of Japanese ancestry at each biennial national convention since 1950. This honor will be awarded to at least one individual in recognition of distinguished achievement or community leadership. Travel expenses to the national convention in **Philadelphia, PA** and hotel accommodations for the night of the Sayonara Banquet, **Saturday July 13, 2024** will be provided for each of the recipients by National JACL.

# Purpose of the Award:

The JACL recognizes and honors those Americans of Japanese ancestry whose outstanding achievements in different fields of endeavor have received regional and national recognition and whose contributions have added to the sum of human knowledge and/or enhanced the quality of life in our society.

# Award Criteria:

Candidates may be from any of the 50 states and its territories. Candidates need NOT be members of the JACL. Key consideration will be given to the extent to which the candidate’s contributions or achievements have made an impact upon society and/or influenced an area of American life. The scope of the award may include expanded periods beyond the two years of the biennium (January 2022 to January 2024), or lifetime contributions.

# Award Categories:

Candidates will be selected from the following fields:

1. Arts/Literature/Communications (artists, writers, photographers, architects, musicians,

performers, designers, etc.)

1. Business/Industry/Technology (corporate executives, bankers, import/exporters,

inventors, entrepreneurs, engineers, developers, astronauts, agriculturists, etc.)

1. Education/Humanities (educators, humanists, community activists, clergy, etc.)
2. Political/Public Affairs/Law (elected officials, government administrators, attorneys,

diplomats, judges, etc.)

1. Medicine/Science (scientists, physicians, researchers, nurses, optometrists, etc.)
2. Sports/All other fields (Olympic winners, champion athletes, etc.), and unique

professions and occupations.

Nominations of candidates must be submitted on an official Nomination Form and must be returned electronically **time stamped** before **midnight (Hawaiian Standard Time) April 30, 2024**.

Return electronically to: **National JACL Awards & Recognition**

# c/o David Kawamoto

[**dhkawamoto@aol.com**](mailto:dhkawamoto@aol.com)

1. Nominations may be submitted by chapters, districts or by an individual JACL member with appropriate documentation.
2. Nominations should be accompanied by a statement on a single piece of 8½ ” x 11” paper with margins no smaller than 1” (top, bottom and sides), and in a font size no smaller than 10 points, from the nominator stating:
   1. qualifications of the nominee not contained in the application form; and
   2. specific reference as to how the nominator feels the individual has met or exceeds the award criteria.
3. The number of letters of recommendation should not exceed five (5).
4. Three (3) photos of the nominee must be included. Preferably head/shoulder portrait, suitable for reproduction.
5. All news articles, documents or clippings must be photocopied; do not send originals.
6. The nominee MUST be consulted before the nomination is submitted to avoid any withdrawals during the selection process.

***Past Winners - Japanese American of the Biennium***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***1950*** | *Mike Masaoka* | ***1986*** | *Ellison Onizuka* | ***2002*** | *Wayne Nakamura* |
| ***1952*** | *Min Yasui* | |  | | --- | | ***1988*** | |  |   ***1986*** | *Sue Embrey* |  | *Daniel Tani* |
| ***1954*** | *Hiroshi Miyamura* |  | *Yoshiko Uchida* |  | *Lindsey Yamasaki* |
| ***1956*** | *George J. Inagaki* |  | *Grayce Uyehara* | ***2004*** | *Jeanne Wakatsuki-Hou* |
| ***1958*** | *Bill Hosokawa* | ***1990*** | *Ronald Takaki* |  | *Paul Igasaki* |
| ***1960*** | *Daniel K. Inouye* |  | *Steven Okazaki* |  | *Tom Ikeda* |
| ***1962*** | *Minoru Yamasaki* |  | *Robert T. Matsui* | ***2006*** | *Cedar Grove Productions* |
| ***1964*** | *Henry Y. Kasai* | ***1992*** | *Tomio Moriguchi* |  | *(Chris Tashima & Tim Toyama)* |
| ***1966*** | *Patsy T. Mink* |  | *Kristi Yamaguchi* | ***2008*** | *Dale Ikeda* |
| ***1968*** | *Norman Y. Mineta* | ***1994*** | *Jerry Enomoto* |  | *Tetsuden Kashima* |
| ***1970*** | *Paul I. Terasaki* |  | *Evelyn Nakao Glenn* | ***2010*** | *Stuart Ishimaru* |
| ***1972*** | *Spark M. Matsunaga* |  | *Yoshihiro Uchida* |  | *Richard Morimoto* |
| ***1974*** | *Raymond Uno* | ***1996*** | *Yuri Kochiyama* | ***2012*** | *Seattle Nisei Veterans Commi* |
| ***1976*** | *Michi Weglyn* |  | *George Takei* |  | *Seattle NVC Foundation* |
| ***1978*** | *K. Patrick Okura* |  | *George Tsutakawa* |  | *Frank S. Fujii* |
| ***1980*** | *Harvey A. Itano* | ***1998*** | *Aki Kurose*  *Shigeki Ushio*  *Peter Westbrook* | ***2014*** | *Marsha Aizumi*  *Lawson Sakai* |
|  | *Minoru Masuda* |  | *Shigeki Ushio* |  | *Lawson Sakai* |
|  | *George K. Nakashima* |  | *Peter Westbrook* | ***2016*** | *Dan and June Kuramoto* |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | ***1982*** | *Harry Kitano* |   ***1984*** | *Harry Kitano*  *Yori Wada*  *George Ariyoshi*  *Isamu Noguchi* | ***2000*** | *Gordon Hirabayashi*  *Mike Honda*  *Paul Akio Kawata* | ***2018*** | *Carole Hayashino*  *Delphine Hirasu*  *Harriet Beleal*  *Diane Narasaki*  *Lynne Nishijima Ward* |

***2020*** *Lori Matsukawa* ***2022*** *Sam Mihara*

*Lisa Bartlett (Sato) Diane Fukami*

***COMMITTEE GUIDELINES***

The 2024 National Awards & Recognition Committee will be utilizing the following specific criteria in evaluating nominations for work & accomplishments undertaken primarily in the 2022-2024 biennium, and may consider work & accomplishments over time.

* 1. *Impact (1-25 points)*

The proposal should describe the impact that the nominee has had in the organization. A nominee whose efforts have had a national impact would be considered for the maximum number of points.

* 1. *Quality of Life (1-20 points)*

The nomination should describe the degree to which the nominee has enhanced the quality of life in society.

* 1. *Influenced an Area (1-20 points)*

The nomination should describe the degree to which the nominee’s life, or work, has influenced his/her particular field.

* 1. *Human Knowledge (1-15 points)*

The nomination should describe the degree to which the nominee’s life, or work, has added to the sum of human knowledge.

* 1. *Obstacles (1-15 points)*

The nomination should describe the obstacles the nominee has had to overcome in their activities. Maximum points will be considered for nominees who have had to overcome extreme obstacles: for example, the advocacy of human rights in an extremely hostile environment or starting out alone and building a movement.

* 1. *Period of Work (1-5 points)*

The nomination should primarily describe the scope of the nominee’s work during the past biennium, and over time)