

John and Grayce

I recently read in the PC that John Tateishi has published a book purporting to tell the “inside story” of the success of redress. But Mr. Tateshi is no position to tell that story. Why? Because at the March 1985 JACL National Board meeting, he was relieved of his duties as the JACL redress staffer. This preceded by more than three years and six months the day Ronald Reagan signed HR 442 on August 10, 1988.

When Mr. Tateishi was let go, HR 442 was left for dead in both the House and Senate, while Reagan Administration all along had taken a firm stand against the legislation.

HR 442 began to move only after a non-taxable deductible entity called the Legislative Education Committee was given responsible for moving the bill. The LEC, as it was called, was headed by the indomitable Grayce Uyehara of Philadelphia. Now Grayce, if she were still with us, could tell you the “inside story” of how the bill moved toward August 10, 1988. But Mr. Tateshi cannot because long since absent from the redress effort.

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