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**NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION
COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.**

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Fall, 2013

Dear NSRC Fund Supporters:

As a second generation Japanese American, a Nisei, I am ever mindful that I have become part of a rapidly diminishing group. At age 89 I finally have time to reflect on my life's journey. I was 18 and had just graduated from high school in San Francisco when my family was forced to evacuate. I experienced the loss of my civil liberties, was classed an enemy alien by my own government, lived in a horse stall at Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno, CA, and suffered through terrible dust storms in Topaz, Utah. I finally got that break when I got a helping hand from strangers and was able to leave all that behind. I was one of the fortunate ones who received generous scholarship aid to leave the internment camp to complete my academic training ending with a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

The West Coast Nisei faced a long arduous journey through life. But I think that journey has made life easier for future generations of Japanese in America. The Issei, including my immigrant parents, made great sacrifices, endured untold hardship and discrimination so that their children would have a chance to realize the American dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Nisei soldiers who served during WWII as part of the segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team earned the distinction of being the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. Army history. Along with the Nisei serving in the Military Intelligence Service and Nisei women, about 33,000 Japanese Americans proudly served their country. At the same time, the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council was steadfast in its commitment to help the college-aged Nisei who were left languishing in the camps. Because of the shortage of technical skilled hands during WWII, many Nisei men and women had job opportunities previously denied them. The aid and encouragement from the Council helped the Nisei make their mark in all facets of society - in science and industry, academia, government, the arts, agriculture and even in professional sports. I believe the Nisei more than fulfilled the Council's hope and vision for us.

As a recipient of this letter, you are familiar with what the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund has done for more than 30 years. We remember and honor the Student Relocation Council that came to the aid of the college Nisei during WWII. Our Fund gives financial aid and encouragement to high school seniors in underserved communities just as the Nisei were helped out of the concentration camps. At our annual scholarship award ceremonies, we highlight the story of the Nisei, their history of privation and redemption during WWII, and the need to be vigilant to ensure that their experience during WWII never happens to another ethnic minority.

71 years have passed since I was incarcerated and I am concerned that this history, this chapter of America's history, may be forgotten. I have been on the NSRC Fund board for over 20 years, and have no intention of "retiring." I rejoice every year when another scholarship awards ceremony takes place. We must continue to offer opportunity to these young minds, to offer hope that they too can overcome adversity and succeed in this great country. But this program cannot continue without your help, and I hope my message will not fall on deaf ears. Thank you for your past generosity.

Sincerely,

Yutaka Kobayashi
Yutaka Kobayashi

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I/we would like to "extend a helping hand." Enclosed is my/our tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____
(Please make check payable to NSRC Fund. You may also us PayPal at www.nsrcfund.org)

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Address: _____

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Send information about how to establish NSRC Fund Tribute, Legacy and Named Scholarship Funds

I would like to receive the annual NSRC Fund newsletter by email: _____
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