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

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Fall, 2018

To Our NSRCF Supporters,

We honor the life and work of Ryozo Glenn Kumekawa whose moral vision and conviction was carried out with kindness, encouragement and dedication. He was always bringing people together for a cause bigger than himself. Throughout his

long association with the Fund, Glenn steadfastly focused on the importance of the NSRCF's efforts to commemorate the WWII forced relocation and internment, but also the generosity and goodness of people who reached across race differences and wartime hatred to offer a helping hand to Japanese American students. Recalled here, in his own words, are some of those reflections.

"Again this year we ask for your support to continue the legacy of the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council. Its work from 1942 to 1945 assisting over 4,000 Nisei students from those desolate camps to attend college must not be forgotten. The Council's efforts were consistent with the values of the Issei generation, many whose lives in the United States were characterized by extraordinary family stability, a fierce work ethic and a profound belief in the intrinsic worth of education. I believe this foundation provided the Nisei with the basis to affirm our citizenship in the emerging, dynamic post war society, and to forge ahead in a variety of careers such as law, medicine, science, engineering, social work, education, and the arts. It also enabled our children and our children's children to open more doors of opportunity.

During that period of internment the acts, both individual and institutional, of the very best of American traditions, by the American Friends Service Committee, the Columbia Foundation (of San Francisco), and the individuals, churches and educational institutions were courageous and redeeming. They comprised the National Japanese American Student Relocation Council whose purpose was to obtain our release from the camps so that we could continue our interrupted studies. My sister, Nobu Kumekawa Hibino, was one of the earliest recipients of the helping hand extended to those of us behind barbed wire. I was one of the last to be helped during those four short incredible years of the Council's existence.

To commemorate that effort is to honor those who dared to help students from a populace deemed to be "disloyal" and a "threat." It pays tribute to the very best values of our society for fair play and justice. But most of all, it is the affirmation of our worth in an atmosphere of rejection, suspicion and outright hostility that remains the singular legacy of the Council.

We reaffirm the critical importance of providing opportunities for higher education. We are also reminded that while higher education provides the basis of a more fundamental fairness within our society, there is still much to be done to address the unfinished items of our society's agenda. May the mission of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund continue to remain sensitive to those in our society whose stunted opportunities, rejection and turmoil require that same affirmation of self-worth and potential. Just as we were once encouraged and assisted, we continue to do the same with those whose experiences reflect our own. As we find our bearings during these most troubling of times, one thing is certain, our commitment to help those in need has not wavered."

Glenn's legacy continues to inspire us to give in that same spirit of "ongaeshi" - repaying a kindness. We hope you will join us. Thank you.

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