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A D D E N D U M C

JAPANESE AMERICAN CREED AND HYMN

"Go For Broke, Inc." Statement

Endorsing H. R. 4110

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THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CREED

Written by Mike Masaoka in November 1940 and first read into the Congressional Record for May 9, 1941, by Senator Elbert D. Thomas of Utah.

I am proud that I am an American citizen of Japanese ancestry, for my very background makes me appreciate more fully the wonderful advantages of this nation. I believe in her institutions, ideals, and traditions; I glory in her heritage; I boast of her history; I trust in her future. She has granted me liberties and opportunities such as no individual enjoys in this world today. She has given me an education befitting kings. She has entrusted me with the responsibilities of the franchise. She has permitted me to build a home, to earn a livelihood, to worship, think, speak, and act as I please--as a free man equal to every other man.

Although some individuals may discriminate against me, I shall never become bitter or lose faith, for I know that such persons are not representative of the majority of the American people. True, I shall do all in my power to discourage such practices, but I shall do it in the American way: above-board, in the open, through courts of law, by education, by proving myself to be worthy of equal treatment and consideration. I am firm in my belief that American sportsmanship and attitude of fair play will judge citizenship and patriotism on the basis of action and achievement, and not on the basis of physical characteristics.

Because I believe in America, and I trust she believes in me, and because I have received innumerable benefits from her, I pledge myself to do honor to her at all times and in all places; to support her Constitution; to obey her laws; to respect her flag; to defend her against all enemies, foreign or domestic; to actively assume my duties and obligations as a citizen, cheerfully and without any reservations whatsoever, in the hope that I may become a better American in a greater America.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN HYMN

The words are by Marion Tajiri and the music by Marcel Tyrrell, 1952:

There was a dream my father dreamed for me
 A land in which all men are free -
 Then the desert camp with watchtowers high
 Where life stood still, mid sand and brooding sky.
 Out of the war in which my brothers died -
 Their muted voices with mine cried
 This is our dream that all men shall be free -
 This is our creed, we'll live in loyalty.
 God help us rid the land of bigotry -
 That we may walk in peace and dignity.

N. B. Both the Creed and the Hymn have been adopted by the JAACL as its official credo and song. GFB members have also subscribed to these two as symbolic of their views and hopes for their futures.