



JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida Visits Tule Lake

The Japanese American Citizens League's (JACL) Executive Director, Ms. Priscilla Ouchida, visited the Tule Lake Unit for her second time this fall. During her visit on the 26th and 27th of September, Ms. Ouchida engaged the Tule Lake Unit's superintendent, Mike Reynolds, and park staff in conversations about the upcoming National Park Service's Centennial Celebration in 2016, and the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 in 2017. Ms. Ouchida will be speaking with the National Park Service Deputy Regional Director, Patty Neubacher, about potential programming and commemoration of these two events in November.

In addition to the work that Ms. Ouchida is doing with the NPS, her past includes accomplishments such as working with state Senator Patrick Johnson to pass the first Japanese American redress bill that was adopted by the state of California which preceded the national redress draft legislation to exempt state taxes on the redress payment that former incarcerated received. Ms. Ouchida's connection to the Tule Lake Unit spans beyond the scope of her career as her family was incarcerated there during World War II.



Priscilla Ouchida
Courtesy of Priscilla Ouchida



**Embossing Seal from the California
Department of Social Welfare**
NPS photo

A few notable accomplishments were working state Senator Patrick Johnson and passed the first Japanese American redress bill that was adopted by the state of California, and she also drafted the legislation to exempt state taxes on the redress payment that former incarcerated received.

Last year, on behalf of the JACL, Ms. Ouchida donated a historical cast iron seal with the California Department of Social Welfare embossing seal. The seal was originally donated to the JACL by Mr. Isasc Erlich, an attorney in Sacramento, California. This seal was used on the official document that sent 8,000 Sacramentans to Tule Lake. Ms. Ouchida also

personally donated four original copies of the Tulean Dispatch, which she obtained from Eugene Okada's estate.

Toward the end of Ms. Ouchida's visit she participated in National Public Lands Day cleanup. As a volunteer, she helped Tule Lake's sister park, Lava Beds National Monument, with a cave cleanup project at Valentine Cave. Both park sites were excited to host such a wonderful guest, and look forward to working with her in the future.



**Ms. Ouchida and the other National Public Lands Day volunteers
Valentine Cave, Lava Beds National Monument
Courtesy of Priscilla Ouchida**



**Four copies of the Tulean Dispatch
NPS Photo**