



THE LONG JOURNEY HOME:

HONORING UW NIKKEI STUDENTS FROM 1941-42

MAY 18, 2008

Bachelor of Arts, honoris causa, nunc pro tunc

Citation

Japanese American students at the University of Washington in 1941-42, whose lives were untimely interrupted, who were taken away, lifted from your homes and incarcerated for your Japanese ancestry, we come together this day to honor you and to confer upon you what rightly should have been yours decades ago.

In the dim fog of war, the threads of fear and intolerance wove a clouded shroud. We gather to dissolve that shroud and enlighten.

You have shown us the way. You have taught us perseverance, integrity, and loyalty that will not be weakened or compromised. You have demonstrated that an indomitable spirit transcends hardship and that dignity is inviolable.

You have taught us of impregnable family bonds, of parents who give wings to their children's dreams and children who revere and protect their parents.

You have taught us that true greatness lies in an open heart, a steadfast presence that does not bend under provocation, and a willingness to forgive.

You have taught us the critical importance of speaking out in defense of our civil liberties. You have sacrificed to preserve a nation committed to liberty and justice for all, so that all might one day comprehend the true meaning of freedom.

So much was taken from you, yet you have given much in return. You have traveled a long, arduous road. We remember those who have died along the way and those still living who could not be here for this moment. We remember all who stood with you against blind prejudice and offered support during your journey.

A trust was violated. We come together to restore. We acknowledge the injustice of the past, and we walk with you now into the future.

For your courage, your grace, your magnanimity, for your remarkable achievements in the aftermath of what you endured, for your allegiance to your principles and your country, the University of Washington is proud to confer upon you the degree of Bachelor of Arts, honoris causa, nunc pro tunc.



STANLEY H. BARER

Chair of the Board of Regents



MARK A. EMMERT

President of the University