**Japanese American Citizens League**

**Minoru Tamesa & Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship Recommendation Form**

|  |
| --- |
| PART ONE: TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT  Applicant Name:Click or tap here to enter text.  Current or expected college or university:Click or tap here to enter text. |

PART TWO: TO BE COMPLETED BY RECOMMENDER

To the Recommender: The applicant whose name indicated above is applying for the Minoru Tamesa and/or the Bunshiro Tazuma Scholarship.

Each year, Seattle JACL offers two $3,000 scholarships: one to honor Bunshiro Tazuma and the other to honor Minoru Tamesa.

Bunshiro Tazuma was an Issei (first generation) Japanese American who came to this country at the turn of the 20th century. Like many pioneers, he faced many hardships and endured a lifetime of racism in the Seattle community and from the US government. However, like many pioneers he persevered in his dream to provide a better future for his family and children. Tazuma worked on the railroad, as a cook, as a dishwasher, on a fishing boat, running a restaurant, a store, and finally operating a hotel on the current site of the Seattle Sheraton.

Bunshiro Tazuma represents the best of Seattle’s Japanese immigrant Issei generation. After his death, Tazuma’s children established a scholarship to honor his memory and to keep his legacy alive.

During World War II, Minoru Tamesa, a Seattle Nisei (second generation Japanese American and citizen by birth) was imprisoned in Wyoming at the Heart Mountain Incarceration Camp. Tamesa was mild mannered, but strongly principled. Later, during his incarceration, the US government decided to draft imprisoned Nisei. Tamesa joined a group who resisted the WWII draft on the basis that although they wanted to serve in the army, this was not possible while Japanese Americans and their families were incarcerated. Tamesa was arrested and he took his case to the Supreme Court where he personally argued,

“I believe that loyalty is like a covenant between a citizen and his country. A man should fight for his country. On the other hand, he should feel his cause is just, that he is accorded the full privileges of a citizen in a democratic nation.”

Upon Tamesa’s death, his father Uhachi Tamesa endowed a Seattle JACL scholarship in his son’s honor.

We value your candid and honest evaluation of this applicant. Based on your thoughtful consideration, please fill out this form completely. Please submit the completed form at http://seattlejacl.org/letter-of-recommendation/ by the scholarship application deadline.

The sharing of all information provided will be limited to the JACL Scholarship committee, except for positive, supportive statements/ratings that may be shared (anonymously) in the announcement of the scholarship winners. Thank you.

*RECOMMENDER INFORMATION*

Name:Click or tap here to enter text. Title:Click or tap here to enter text.

Email Address:Click or tap here to enter text. Institution:Click or tap here to enter text.

How long have you known the applicant?Click or tap here to enter text.

In what capacity?Click or tap here to enter text.

*GENERAL EVALUATION*

Please check only one box for each criterion. Click on the box to check or uncheck it.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CRITERIA | One of the top few | Outstanding | Good | Average | Below Average | No observation |
| Commitment to supporting/serving diverse communities (Japanese American, Asian American, BIPoC, LGBTQ, etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to persevere under adverse conditions |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Individual resolve to true to one’s belief in face of external pressures |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Character (Using your own criteria) |  |  |  |  |  |  |

OPTIONAL COMMENTS: Feel free to provide, or not, any additional supporting comments and/or information that may assist the scholarship committee in evaluating this applicant.

Click or tap here to enter text.