

# THE JAPAN VOICE

## COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



### WORLD SEIDO KARATE HQ Moves Near MSG



Nidaime Akira and Kaicho Nakamura

After 44 years, the World Seido Karate Organization's Headquarters (founded by its chairman Tadashi Nakamura) is moving. The new, larger

location is conveniently located near Penn Station and Madison Square Garden at 252 West 30th Street. Seido Karate students will be able to practice on a ground floor with a mezzanine, as well as a basement.

Seido Karate's former dojo on 23rd Street was vacated at the end of last year. The organization is making use of an interim location at 113 West 27th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenue) until the new facility's remodeling is complete.

On January 12 at 10 a.m., around 300 passionate karate students worked up a sweat at Seido's annual Kagami Biraki (New Year's Training). At the event, Mr. Nakamura gave a speech for the new year. His son, Akira Nakamura, later spoke. Akira is the future successor to his father's dojo, who, along with hanshi Charles Martin, serves as a judge at Seido's yearly anniversary tournament.

The new dojo is expected to open in June of this year. Seido Karate's students can train at 120 locations worldwide (including twenty in Japan). The organization's phone number is unchanged: 212-924-0511. (Written by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Marie Calloway)

### Fred Korematsu Day in Fort Lee, NJ

#### Mr. Furumoto gave a speech at Borough Hall

Do you know the name Fred Korematsu? During World War II, Japanese Americans were considered to be enemy spies, and most were put into concentration camps, where they received improper treatment.

"We're Americans. I don't agree with this improper treatment," said Fred Korematsu, who was later arrested and imprisoned.

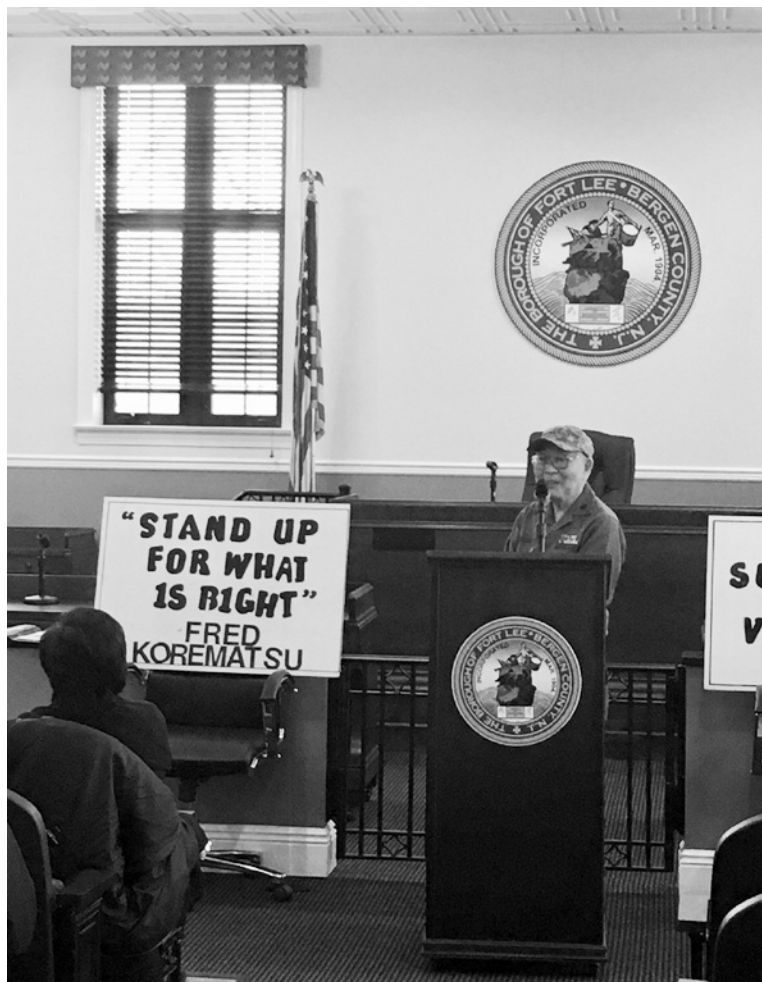
Korematsu continued fighting against the country's injustices after the war. Finally, the United States officially apologized, and, decades later, survivors who had been imprisoned were paid compensation.

As the years passed, Korematsu continued his career as a human rights activist, including advocating for



Islamic Americans who had been treated similarly in the United States since the September 11 terrorist attacks.

In honor of Mr. Korematsu's feat, California declared January 30, 2010, Korematsu's birthday, as Fred Korematsu Day, and forever created the opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the state freedom guaranteed by the Constitution that Korematsu fought for.



Mr. Furumoto gave a speech at Borough Hall

On the East Coast, a movement was started by Japanese Americans who had been imprisoned in the concentration camps to certify the holiday on the East Coast. In 2017, the city of New York recognized Fred Korematsu Day.

One of the key players in the movement was Takeshi Furumoto, an owner of the real estate company in New Jersey and New York. Born in one of the concentration camps during World War II, Furumoto served in the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, and started his real estate business after retiring.

In addition to his main business, Furumoto has also worked to improve the status of Japanese Americans, and to promote immigration freedom and equality. As a result of the steady efforts of Furumoto and his wife, Carroll, Fort Lee, NJ, where the Furumoto Real Estate headquarters is located, also certified Fred Korematsu Day.

The Fred Korematsu Day ceremony was held on Thursday, January 30, at Borough Hall. Mayor Mark Sokolich was urgently absent, but his declaration was read by Mrs. Carol Furumoto.

Mr. Takeshi Furumoto said, "I am lucky to have had the opportunity to start my own business, but many Japanese Americans died and suffered in pain before US government admitted. The war was unfair to Japanese Americans; I want to make advocating for them my life's work."

"In New Jersey, not just the town of Fort Lee, but also the State Legislature and Governor, enacted Fred Korematsu Day across the state, like in California. In the future, we will work to create a society where immigrant Americans are not treated unfairly," he said.

(Article and Photo by ShigeruHisamatsu / Translated by Masaya Watanabe)



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