



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS POSTHUMOUSLY  
HONORS THE LATE WILLIAM FUJIOKA FOR HONORARY  
DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**LOS ANGELES** – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today presented a scroll to Linda Fujioka, posthumously honoring her late husband, William Fujioka, whose dream of becoming a doctor was interrupted by the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Accompanying Mrs. Fujioka were her son, William T Fujioka, her grandson, Jason Fujioka, and several other family members of the Fujioka family. William T Fujioka is the County's Chief Executive Officer.

At the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Fujioka father was a pre-medical student at the University of California, Berkeley. Shortly thereafter, Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, pulling him and about 2,500 other Japanese-American students from their educations at California's higher education institutions.

On December 13, 2009, the late Fujioka, along with about 100 other Japanese Americans whose educations were interrupted, were the recent recipients of honorary degrees presented by the University of California at the Berkeley

campus. In total, about 700 honorary degrees were awarded across four UC campuses – San Francisco, Berkeley, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

“I am glad to join in the University of California’s proper decision to recognize the work and dedication of those students whose dreams were deferred many decades ago,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said.

Also present today was State Assemblyman Warren Furutani, whose legislation, AB 37, spearheaded the presentation of honorary degrees to interned students at four UC campuses.

“I am proud to acknowledge Mr. Fujioka today, by presenting this scroll to his wife and members of his family, who continue to uplift his legacy through their work,” the Supervisor said.

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