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Period 6

William Takano
Nancy Takano
Internees
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To many people, the phrase, "serving our country" involves fighting and going into war, but that is not the case for all Americans. William and Nancy Takano were not old enough to contribute in World War II, but instead were discriminated against and placed in internment camps at ages three and four as a result of the Alien Act and Executive Order 9066. The Alien Act of 1934 barred Japanese immigrants from coming to America, which led them to be held in internment camps. In 1934 the government enforced the alien act which sent illegal immigrants back to Japan. At this same time, Japanese immigrants in America began to become very successful which angered the government and caused Franklin Roosevelt to enforce an act where ALL Japanese Americans would be forced into 10 different camps. A total of ten internment camps were located around the United States and were filled with over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. William was in Tule Lake California while Nancy was in Heart Mountain Wyoming. Even though both encountered rough toddler years, William and Nancy grew as individuals, and thrived through life.

The Takanos' grew up in different rural areas. Mrs. Takano was born on August 31, 1940 in Los Angeles California. Before the war Mrs. Takano's father was a successful farmer in which he contributed to a fruit and vegetable trade. Eventually her father worked with the experimental scientists of food at UCR to see what experimental fruits and vegetables they could create. The experimental group came up with results such as Tangelos and strains of asparagus. However, in

1978 her father sold the farm. After the war, Nancy Takano lived in Coachella Valley with her father, mother, and five sisters. Both of her parents were first generations from California. Her mother's main focus for her children was strictly education. While growing up, Mrs. Takano went to Oasis Elementary School and Coachella Valley High School, the only high school in the desert. Nancy and her family would leave their house at three in the morning in order to make it to school on time. In high school, Nancy was the only Japanese in her class and also became the first Japanese to be crowned homecoming queen. Her father's side was known to be athletic, recognized as CIF record breaking, and competing in the 1932's Olympics being the first Japanese to represent Judo. While Mrs. Takano attended Coachella Valley High School, she participated in many sports, but her favorite was basketball. The discrimination was beyond horrifying, including not being allowed to sit on a counter because of her race. Mrs. Takano pursued the career in cosmetology in a private school in San Bernardino, but later found out that she was allergic to many chemicals being used. She also worked as a V.P. Secretary Discipline officer at North High School for thirteen years, and came across several mishaps and first handly witnessed the amount of racism and discrimination throughout the school. In 1979, she retired from that job and joined New York Life and became an estate planner, which contributes to wills and trusts. Even though she has had multiple jobs, she still manages a knit shop going on 17 years now.

Mr. Takano was born on the third of February in 1939, and was three and a half years old when he was sent to his internment camp. His memory of his experience is a little vague, but he remembered being transported through a train and was scolded every time he tried to lift up some shutters. In the internment camp, he was able to learn how to read and write, and spent a maximum of three and a half years there. Each camp had about fifty nine blocks which contained

about eight or ten barracks per block which could fit about five families in each. His father was an issea, meaning first generation, while his mother was an American citizen being a second generation. Even though he never joined the war, two of his three of his uncles participated on his mother's side. After three years in Tule Lake, William and his family travelled on a ship heading towards Japan, but his mother endured a sudden nervous breakdown causing the whole family to change courses and settle in California. During his childhood, he rarely went to school because of discrimination. His high school years involved being elected as class president, leader, and balanced playing tennis. William was the first of the Takano family to complete college; he went to Cal Poly and graduated in 15 years. Later in life, he became very interested in data processing which then becomes his future career. In his adult life, his first job was in the produce department at a grocery store named Smith Market in Perris, and worked there for 15 years. As time continued, he worked for the government as a programmer supervisor and worked for 27 to 28 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Takano both met on Valentines Day in a chicken ranch, and on the 26th of February in 1960, they were married; William being 21 years old and Nancy 19. They were blessed with four sons; each successful in their own ways. Starting with the oldest, Mark, then Douglass, followed by Derek, and the youngest Jerry. Mark was accepted into many IVY League schools, including Princeton, Stanford, MIT, but his dream and final choice was Harvard. Throughout his journey of becoming a congressman Mark Takano attended Harvard and got his masters at UCR. Mark overcame racial profiling and became a United States Congressman. He eventually became part of the board of education for RCC and assisted in the Social Justice Department. Douglass, who is married to Helen, is currently living in Australia with their daughter Mia. He graduated from Amherst College and chose the path in becoming a teacher.

Derrick is also a teacher who teaches at Ramona High School who graduated from UCR. He is the father of two children; Riley Takano, who is married to Julia and graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a Bachelors and a Masters, and Nicholas who is currently attending Cal Poly and expects to finish this June. Riley Takano has two little girls, Aria who is almost three years old and Cadence who is one. Jerry is the youngest of the four, and was the 82nd airborne to North Carolina Peace Corps. He retired as a lieutenant. William and Nancy survived harsh times, but were able to recover and succeed in their own way. For that, we thank you for your service William and Nancy Takano.