Robert Masao Baba collection 2014.002

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2018-04-19
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Robert Masao Baba was born to immigrants from Japan, Yukichi and Momoe Baba, on September 2, 1917 in Sacramento, California. After high school, he worked his way through California State College at Fresno. However, he left college, one semester short of graduation, when, in February, 1942, Executive Order 9066 forced him to Gila River Detention Camp in Arizona. He worked as a medic in the Gila River Camp hospital. Dr. Baba then went on to serve as a medic in Italy during World War II. He was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the highly decorated Japanese American military unit.

After World War II ended, he returned to California, where he found anti-Japanese sentiments still strong, so he then moved to Chicago, Illinois. While in Chicago, he attended Loyola University Chicago Dental School, simultaneously working fulltime in the blood bank of Cook County Hospital. He graduated dental school in 1957. He returned to California and opened his dental practice in Whittier, California, in 1957. He passed away on January 4, 2018.

Preferred Citation
[Item], [Collection], Go For Broke National Education Center, Los Angeles, California.

Existence and Location of Originals
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Access Information
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Processing Information
Processed by Erin Sato 03/23/2015.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Japanese Americans
United States. Army. Infantry Battalion, 100th
United States. Army. Regimental Combat Team, 442nd
World War, 1939-1945
World War, 1939-1945 -- Japanese Americans
Italy
Gila River Detention Camp
Baba, Robert Masao, DDS, 1917-2018