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**Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund
Mourns the Loss of Dr. Ronald Takaki**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 28, 2009) – The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted solely to providing college scholarships to Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) students, mourns the recent loss of Dr. Ronald Takaki, professor emeritus of ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

“The loss of Dr. Takaki leaves a large void not only in the Asian and Pacific Islander American community, but in the field of education,” said Neil Horikoshi, APIASF President & Executive Director. “Dr. Takaki was able to inspire thousands of students during his tenure at Berkeley to really think about diversity in our country. His work has undoubtedly changed America for the better.”

Dr. Takaki taught for more than 30 years at the University of California, Berkeley and was a pioneer in the field of ethnic studies. He established the nation's first ethnic studies Ph.D. program and was one of the leading scholars on diversity in America. He was a trusted advisor to many leaders and counseled President Clinton on his 1997 “One America in the 21st Century” speech on race. Dr. Takaki was also a critically acclaimed author.

“In a field like higher education where Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are so vastly underrepresented, Dr. Takaki was a bright light of inspiration,” said Horikoshi. “For this reason, APIASF is particularly saddened by this loss. I know that his legacy will continue to inspire future leaders in our community and in the field of education.”

Dr. Takaki passed away on Tuesday, May 26. He is survived by his wife, Carol, their three children and their grandchildren.

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About APIASF

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted solely to providing scholarships for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA). Since 2003, APIASF has provided a critical bridge to higher education for APIA students across the country by awarding more than \$2.4 million in scholarships to 1,075 students. APIASF manages two scholarship programs: APIASF's general scholarship and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Corporate supporters include, but are not limited to: The Coca-Cola Company, Farmers Insurance Group of Companies, ING, Macy's Inc., McDonald's, Sodexo Foundation, United Health Foundation, USA Funds, Wachovia Foundation, Wal-Mart Foundation and Wells Fargo. For more information on APIASF, please visit www.apiasf.org.

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