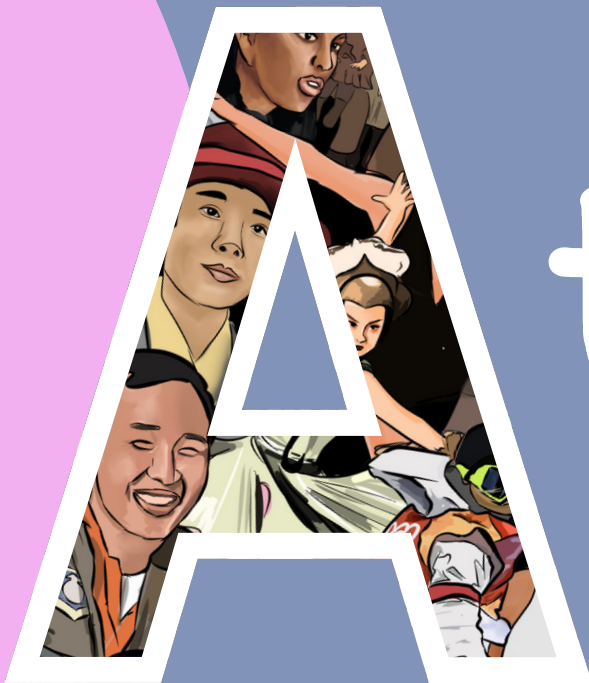


 LEARN AAPI HISTORY



HISTORY



to



written and illustrated by  
DAVID JEN

to my Lao Yeah, who  
taught me the importance  
of a good story

– D.J.



This project was completed as part of the Learn AAPI History Project. This project is by no means a comprehensive picture of AAPI History as we were only able to include 26 figures and constrained to the letters of the alphabet. To learn more visit [www.learnaapihistory.org](http://www.learnaapihistory.org) or @learnaapihistory on all socials.



AAP

HISTORY

A to Z

written and illustrated by

DAVID JEN

**A** is for **Anna May Wong**, a pioneer true,  
Shattering ceilings with the roles she'd pursue.  
Hollywood's history is where she belongs,  
To this day her acting legacy remains strong.



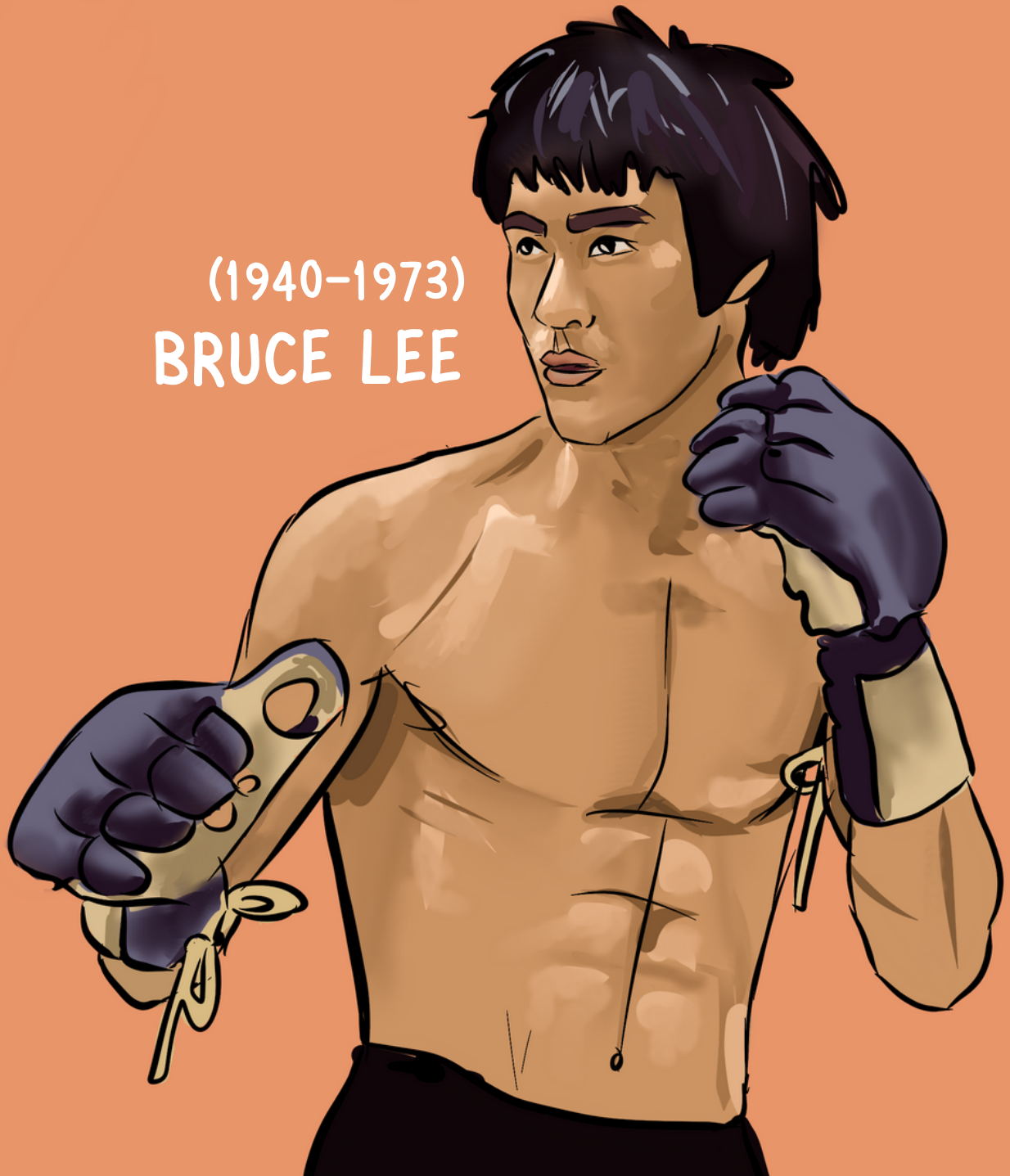
(1905–1961)

**ANNA MAY WONG**

"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN MOVIE STAR"

**B** is for **Bruce Lee**, star of stories so grand,  
A martial arts master, with skills firsthand.  
His kicks and punches, a dazzling light,  
A dragon's spirit, reaching new heights.

(1940–1973)  
**BRUCE LEE**



**C** is for **Chloe Kim**, a snowboarding queen  
Shes soaring, shes flipping, she's truly supreme!  
The slopes are no match, she's fearless, she's bold,  
The youngest Olympian with her medals of gold

**CHLOE KIM**  
(b. 2000)





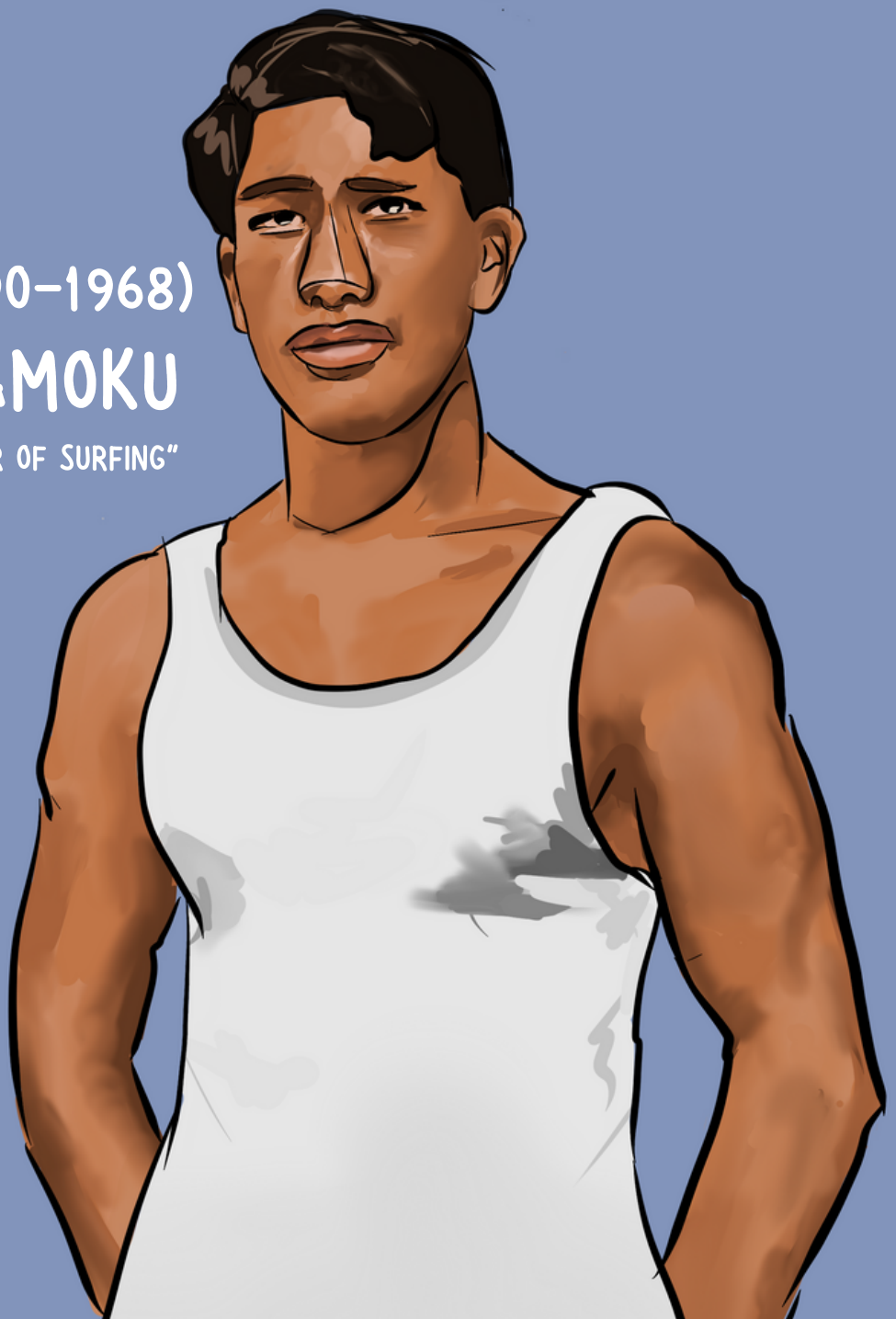
**D** is for surfer **Duke Kahanamoku**,  
a coastal legend, with a heart so true.

Olympic swimmer, with strokes that show,  
A powerful spirit with a sun-kissed glow.

(1890–1968)

**DUKE KAHANAMOKU**

"THE FATHER OF SURFING"



**E** is for **Ellison Onizuka**, astronaut and engineer

A trailblazer in space, without any fear

First Asian American in space, a radiant light,

On the shuttle Challenger, he took his flight.

(1946–1986)

**ELLISON ONIZUKA**

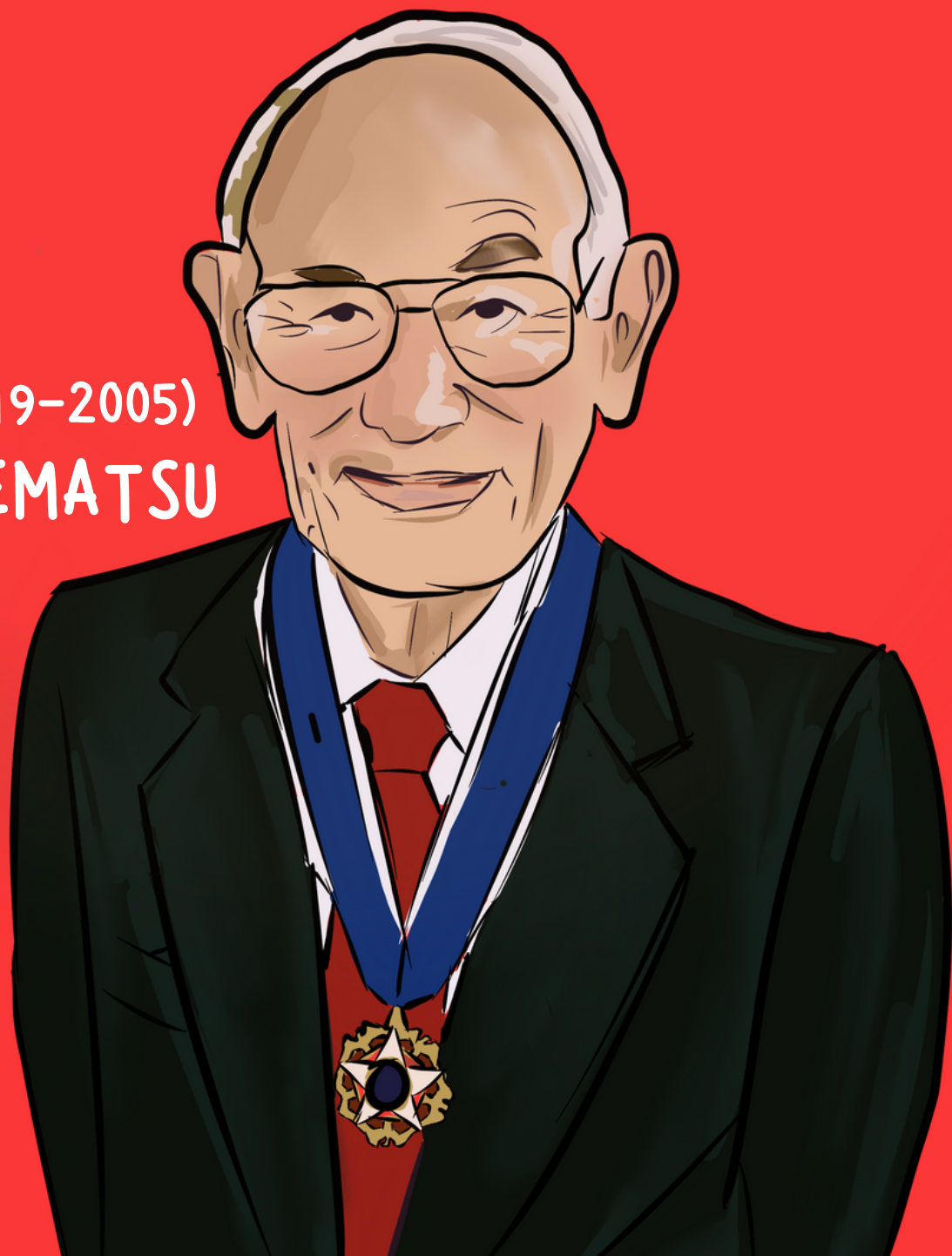
"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN IN SPACE"



**F** is for **Fred Korematsu**, a name to proclaim,  
An activist's spirit, igniting the flame.  
In history's echo, a voice standing tall,  
Leading to internment's overdue downfall.

(1919–2005)

**FRED KOREMATSU**





**G** is for **Georgina Pazcoguin**,  
who fought to see many a closed door open.  
In ballet's embrace, stereotypes she'd undo.  
A trailblazer dismantling biases, anew.



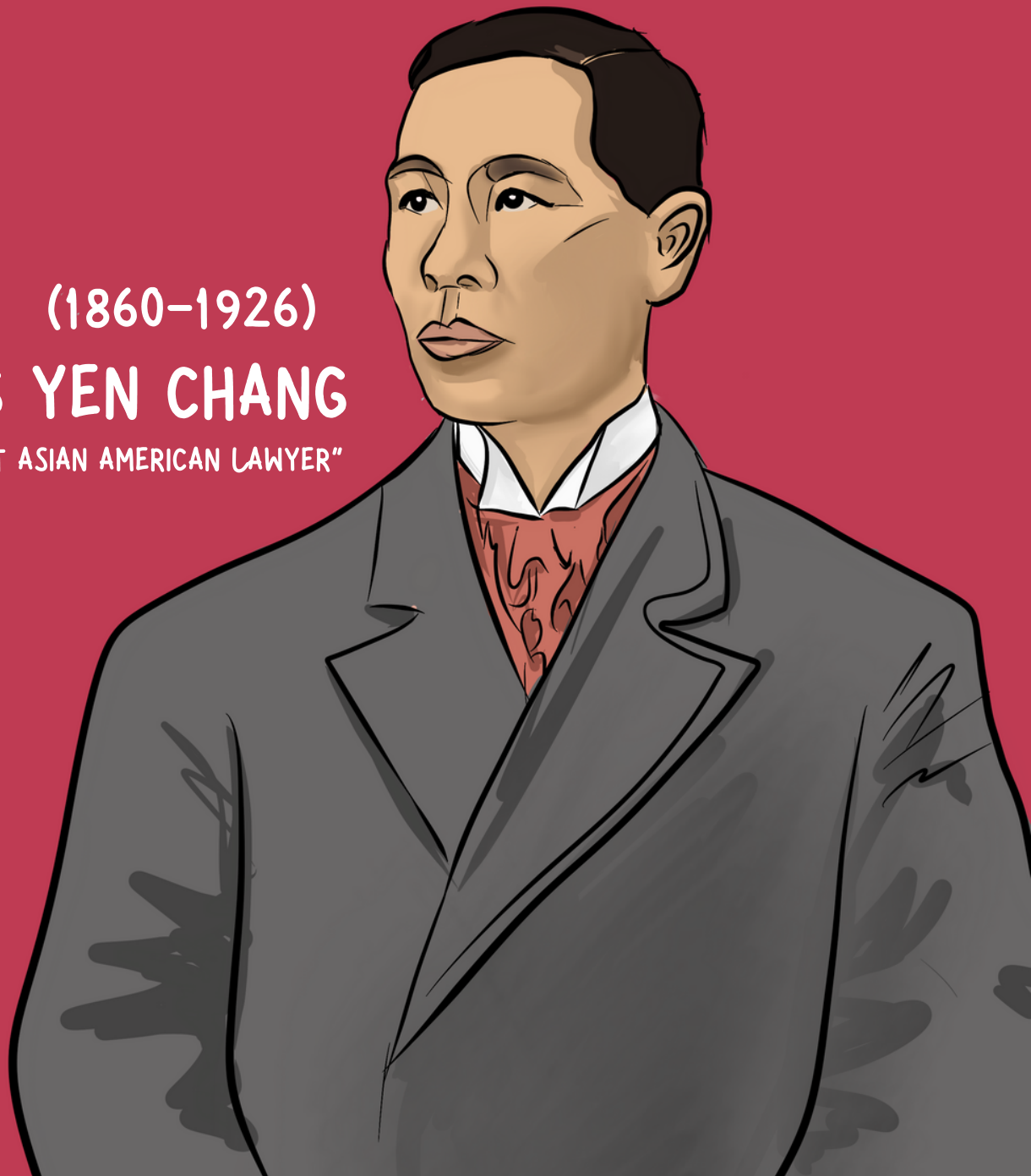
(b. 1984)  
**GEORGINA PAZCOGUIN**

**H**is for **Hong Yen Chang**, a trailblazer true,  
In a world filled with challenges, he broke through.  
In the 19th century, against prejudice's tide,  
A diplomat, a lawyer, breaking them wide.

(1860–1926)

**HONG YEN CHANG**

"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN LAWYER"



**I** is for architect **I. M. Pei**

Whose structures rise in a grand array.

From Louvre's pyramid to towers so high

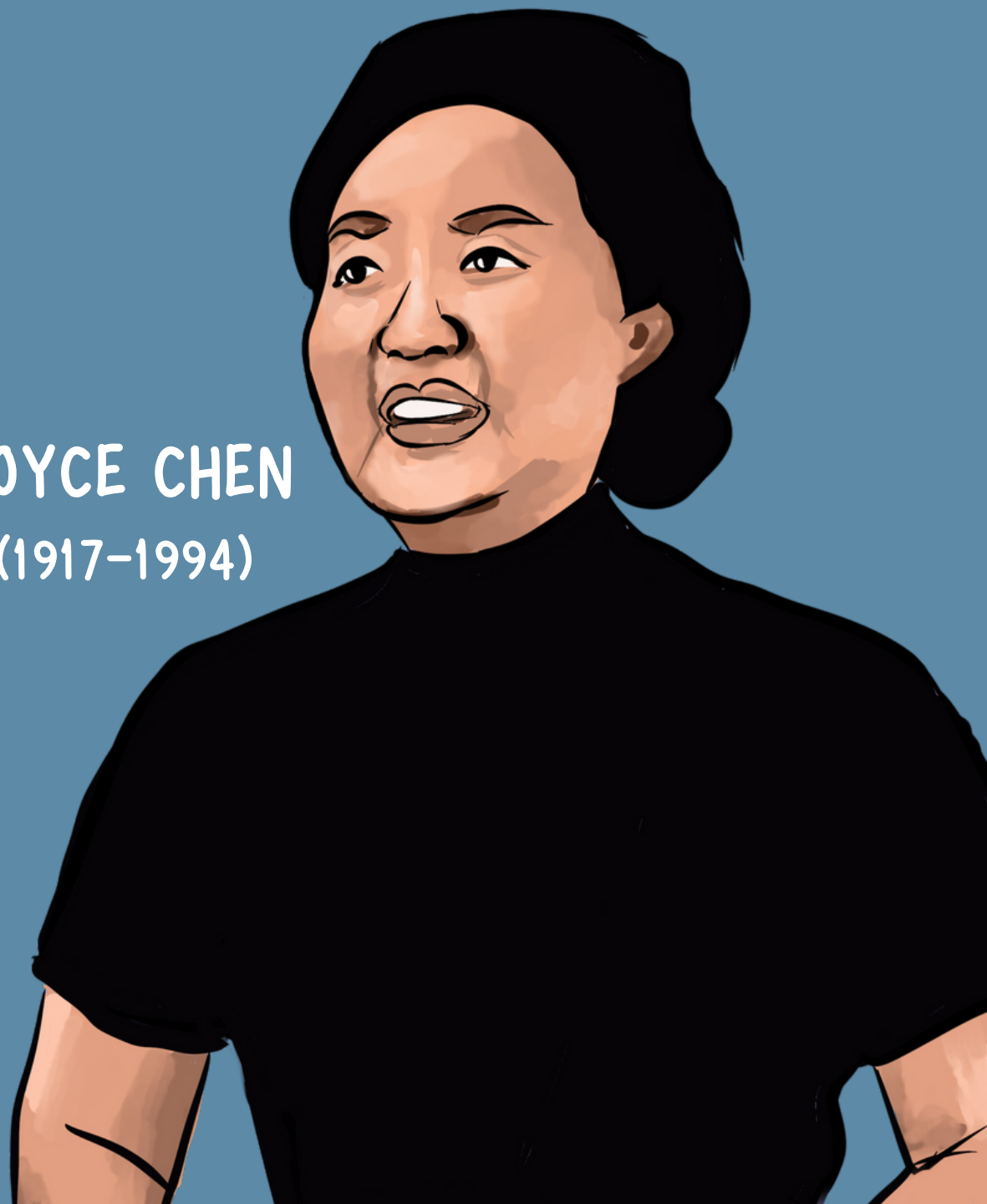
A master of design, reaching the sky.

**I.M. PEI**  
**(1917–2019)**



**J** is for **Joyce Chen** who cooked with delight,  
In the kitchen, she'd work to make it just right.  
From noodles to dumplings, her recipes grand,  
Bringing flavors from China to the American land.

JOYCE CHEN  
(1917-1994)



**K** is for **Kristi**, graceful and bright,  
In the skating rink, where dreams take height,  
Olympic gold adorned her with pride,  
She belongs the podium, where champions reside.

(b. 1971)

**KRISTI YAMAGUCHI**

"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO WIN GOLD AT THE WINTER OLYMPICS"





**L** is for guitarist **Larry Ramos**,  
with the band “The Association” he became famous  
A Grammy winner, inspiration to all,  
His songs echoed, in music's grand hall.

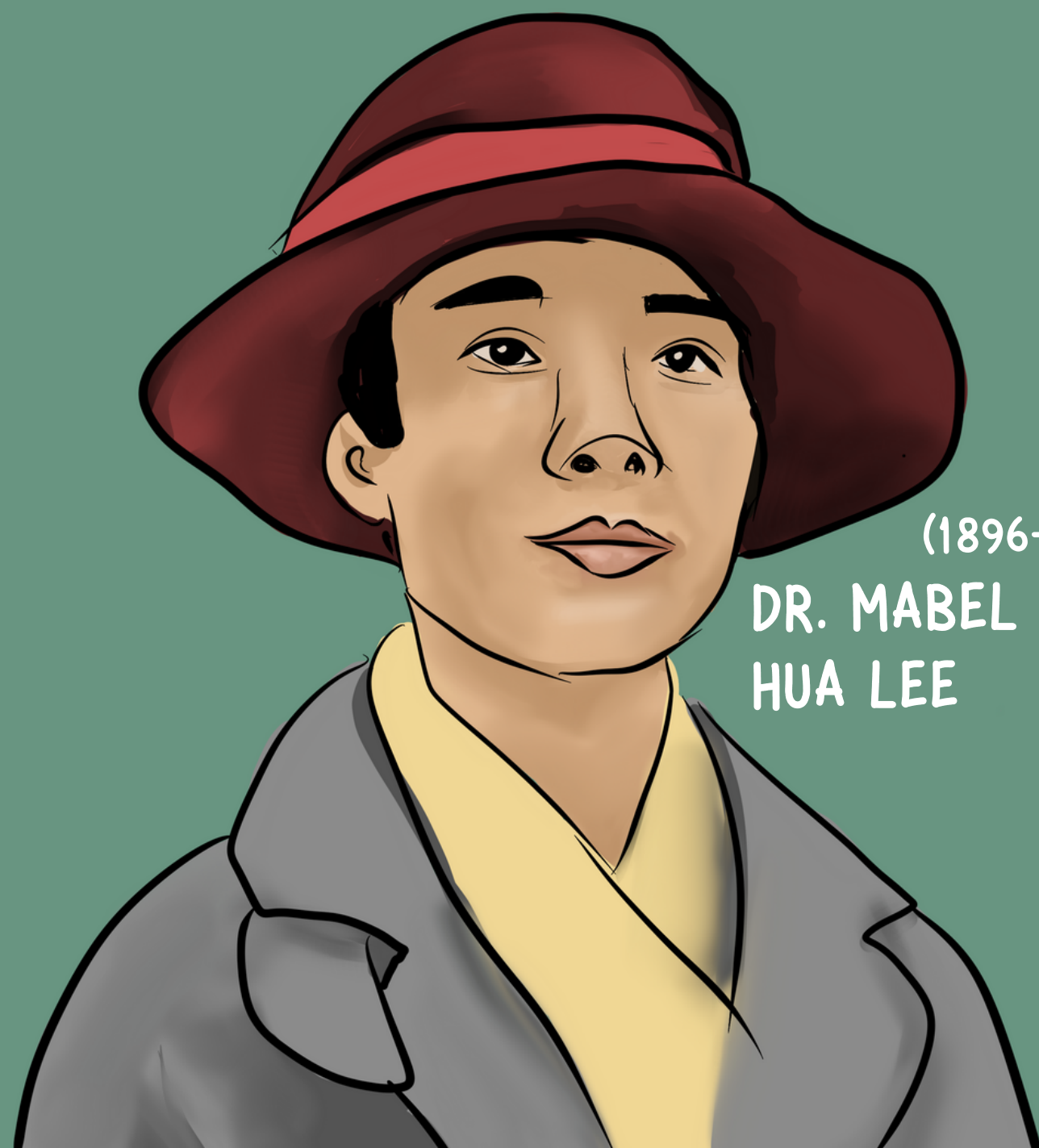


(1942–2014)

**LARRY RAMOS**

“THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO WIN A GRAMMY”

**M** is for **Mabel Lee**, a hero so grand,  
In the fight for fair rights, she'd take a strong stand.  
A scholar and activist, smart as can be,  
Mabel fought hard for equality.

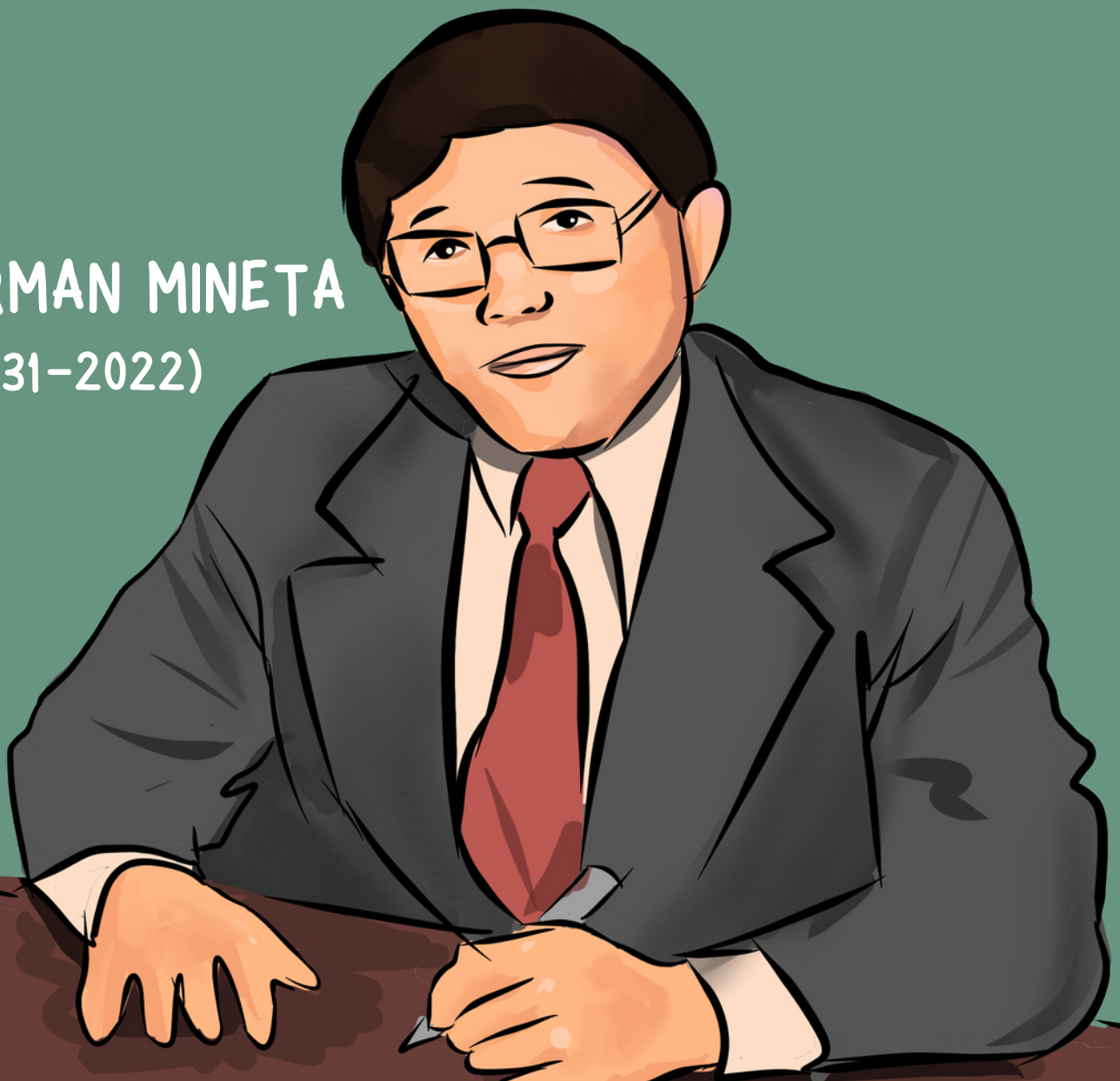


(1896–1966)  
**DR. MABEL PING-  
HUA LEE**



**N** is for **Norman Mineta**, a leader so wise,  
In public service, where his legacy lies.  
In Congress, where his voice would be heard,  
A champion for justice, with every word.

**NORMAN MINETA**  
(1931–2022)



**O** is for dancer **Osato Sono**,  
With each powerful move, an incredible show.  
From Broadway's allure to classic ballet,  
Sono's graceful talents were always on display.



**P** is for politician **Patsy Mink**,  
Advocating rights, with courage to think.  
Education was her fervent call,  
In policy and progress, she stood tall.

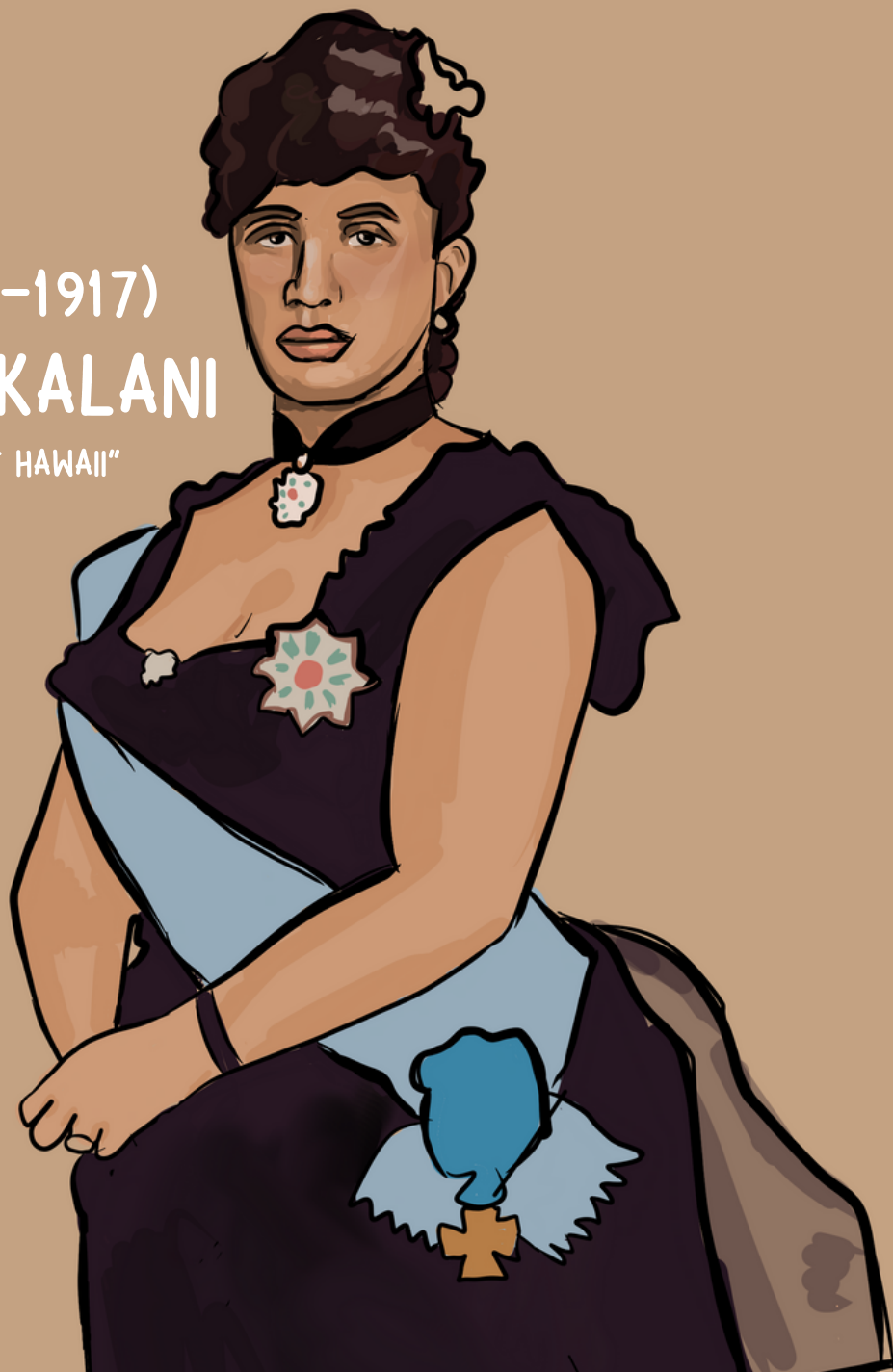
(1927–2002)  
**PATSY MINK**

"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN WOMAN IN CONGRESS"



**Q** is for **Queen Lili'uokalani**, forever esteemed,  
In the tapestry of Hawaii, her story gleamed.  
In the hearts of Hawaiians, she'd remain,  
A queen's impact, felt in every island terrain.

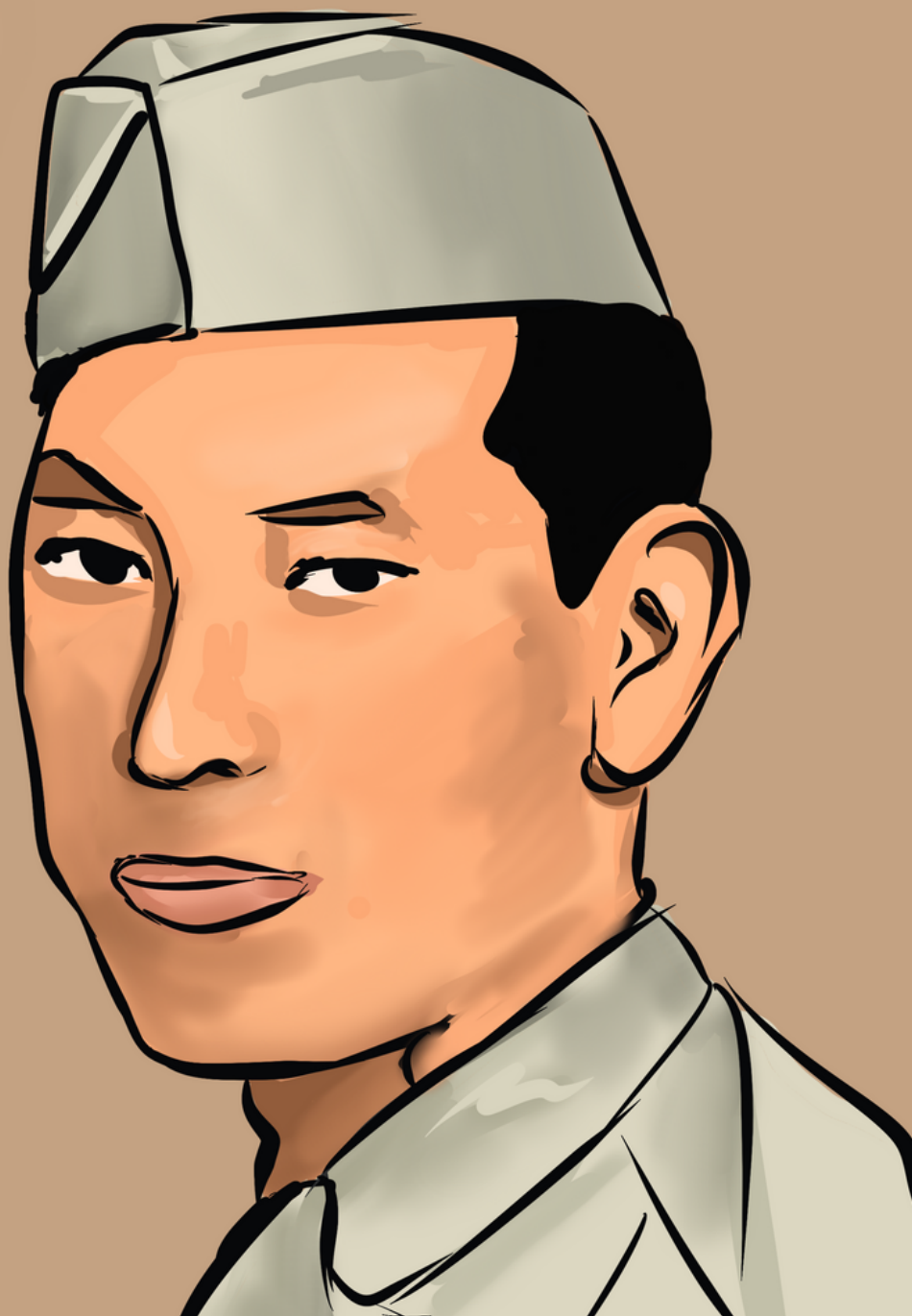
(1838–1917)  
**QUEEN LILI'UOKALANI**  
"THE LAST QUEEN OF HAWAII"





**R** is for **Robert T. Kuroda**, a soldier so bright,  
A hero in uniform, with courage in sight,  
For his deeds, the highest honor would fall,  
A Medal of Honor for this hero to all.

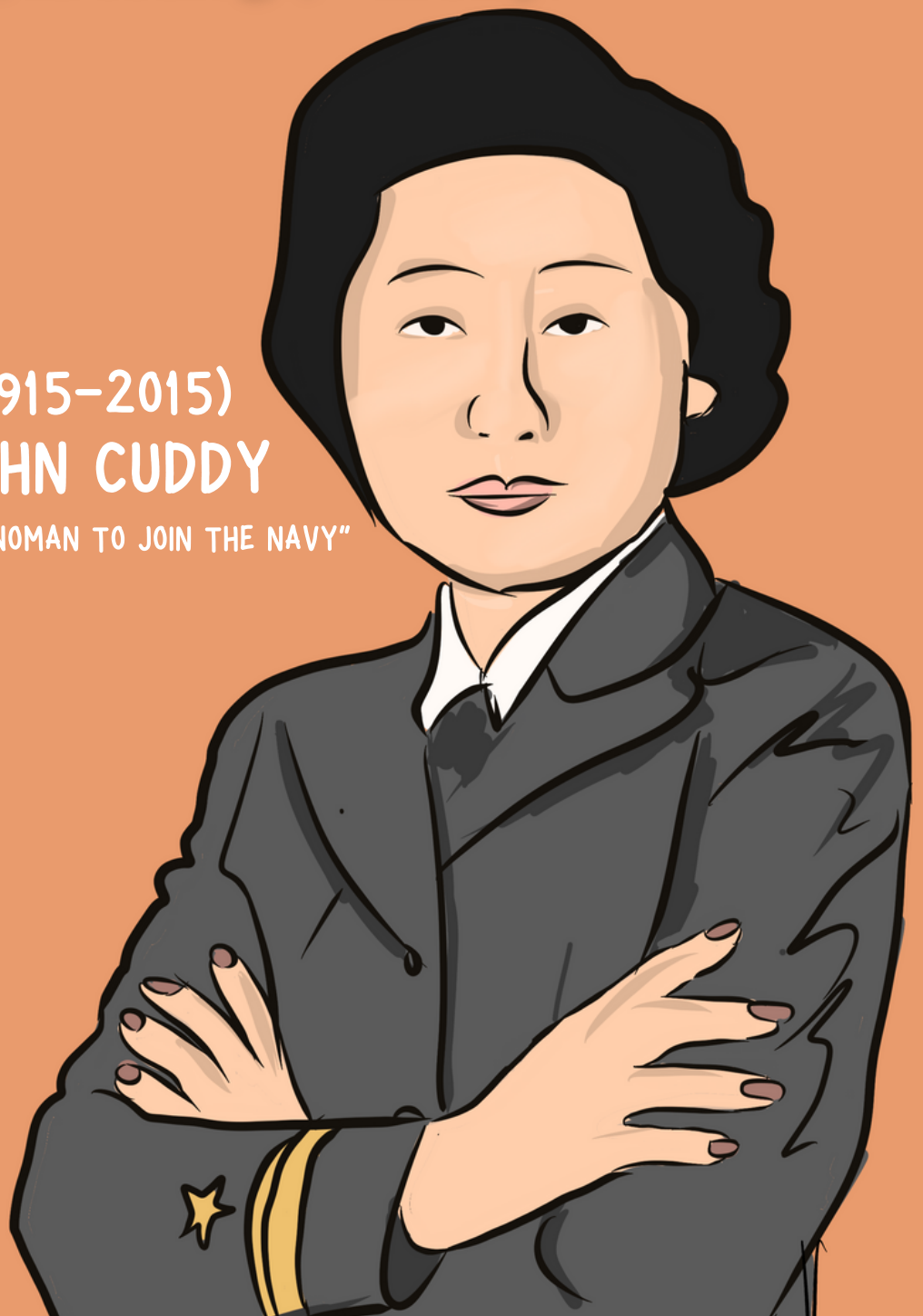
STAFF SERGEANT  
**ROBERT T. KURODA**  
(1922-1944)



**S** is for lieutenant **Susan Ahn Cuddy**  
a skilled linguist who worked hard at the study.  
In the Navy's embrace, she'd find her way,  
Susan's legacy, in courage, will stay.

(1915–2015)  
**SUSAN AHN CUDDY**

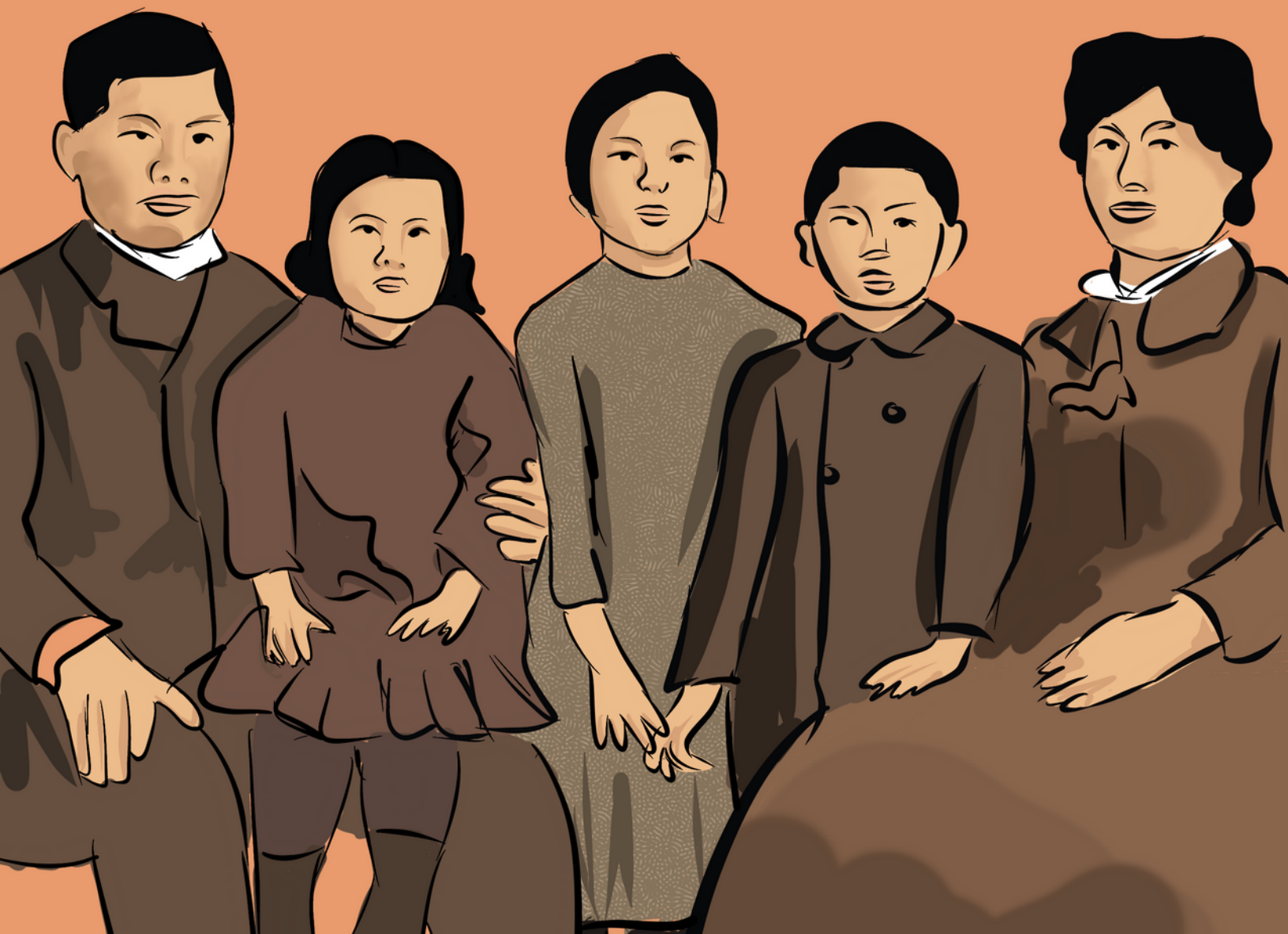
"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN WOMAN TO JOIN THE NAVY"



**T** is for **the Tape family**, a tale so bold,  
With determination and dreams to behold.  
The Tapes fought for the right to education,  
And they won their case against the nation.

**JOSEPH TAPE**  
(1852–1935)

**MARY TAPE**  
(1857–1934)





**U** is for journalist **Uma Pemmaraju**,  
a voice of reason who worked to uncover the truth.  
Interviews conducted at a steady pace,  
In broadcasting's realm, she left a trace.

**UMA PEMMARAJU**  
(1958–2022)



**V** is for **Vicky Draves**, a star in the sky,  
Right off the diving board, she'd gracefully fly.  
The first Asian American to ever win gold,  
She took the dive that was daring and bold.



"THE FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO WIN A GOLD MEDAL"

**VICKY DRAVES**  
(1924–2010)

**W** is for **Wataru Misaka**

a basketball player who reached for the stars.

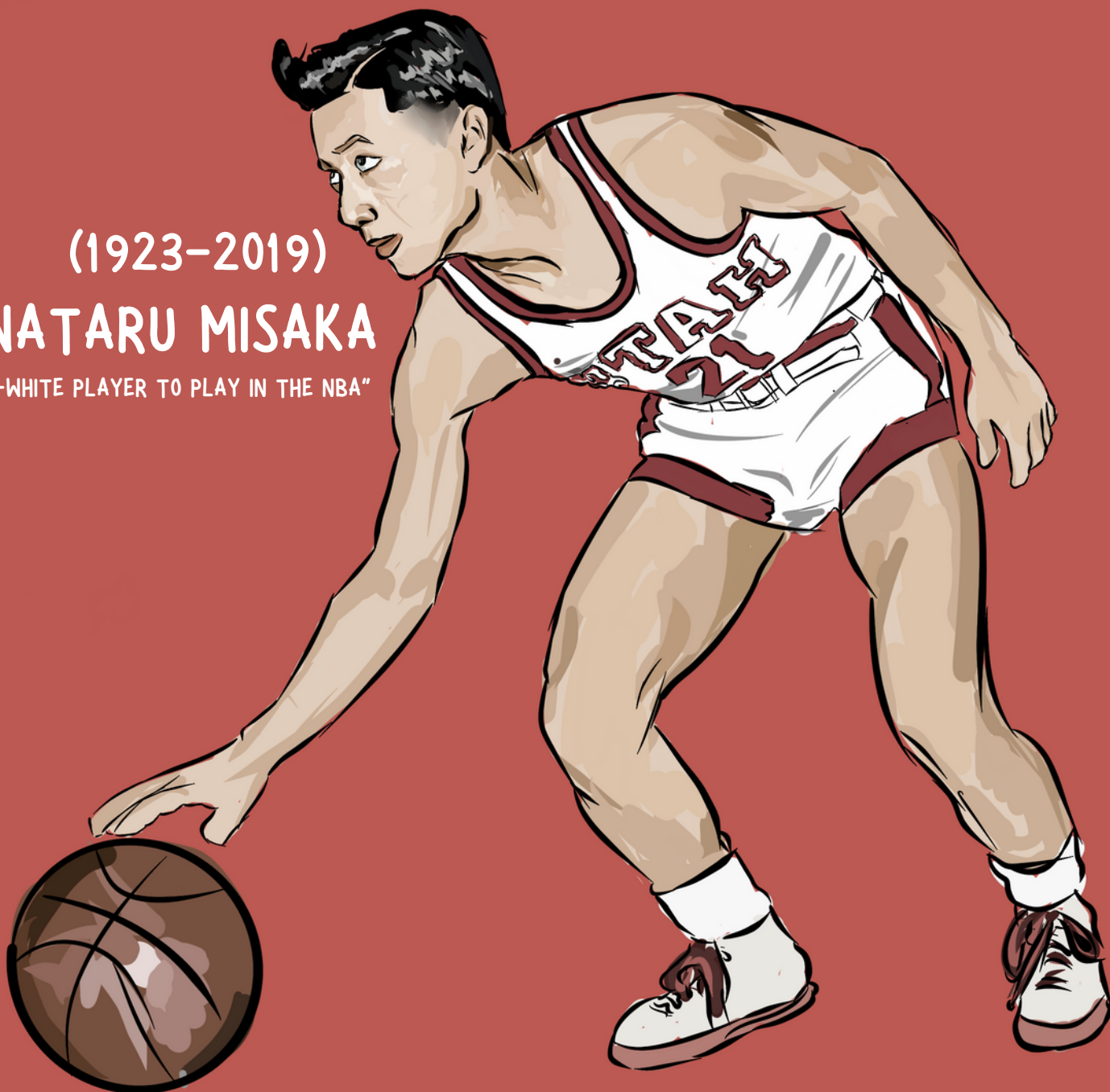
For the first ever non-white professional baller,

There was no basket too high and no goal too far.

(1923–2019)

**WATARU MISAKA**

"THE FIRST NON-WHITE PLAYER TO PLAY IN THE NBA"



**X** is for **Xander Schauffele**, a golfer of might,  
In fairways and greens, skills to win the fight.  
With precision and power, a champion's grace,  
Winning many times in the PGA race.



(b. 1993)  
**XANDER SCHAUFFELE**



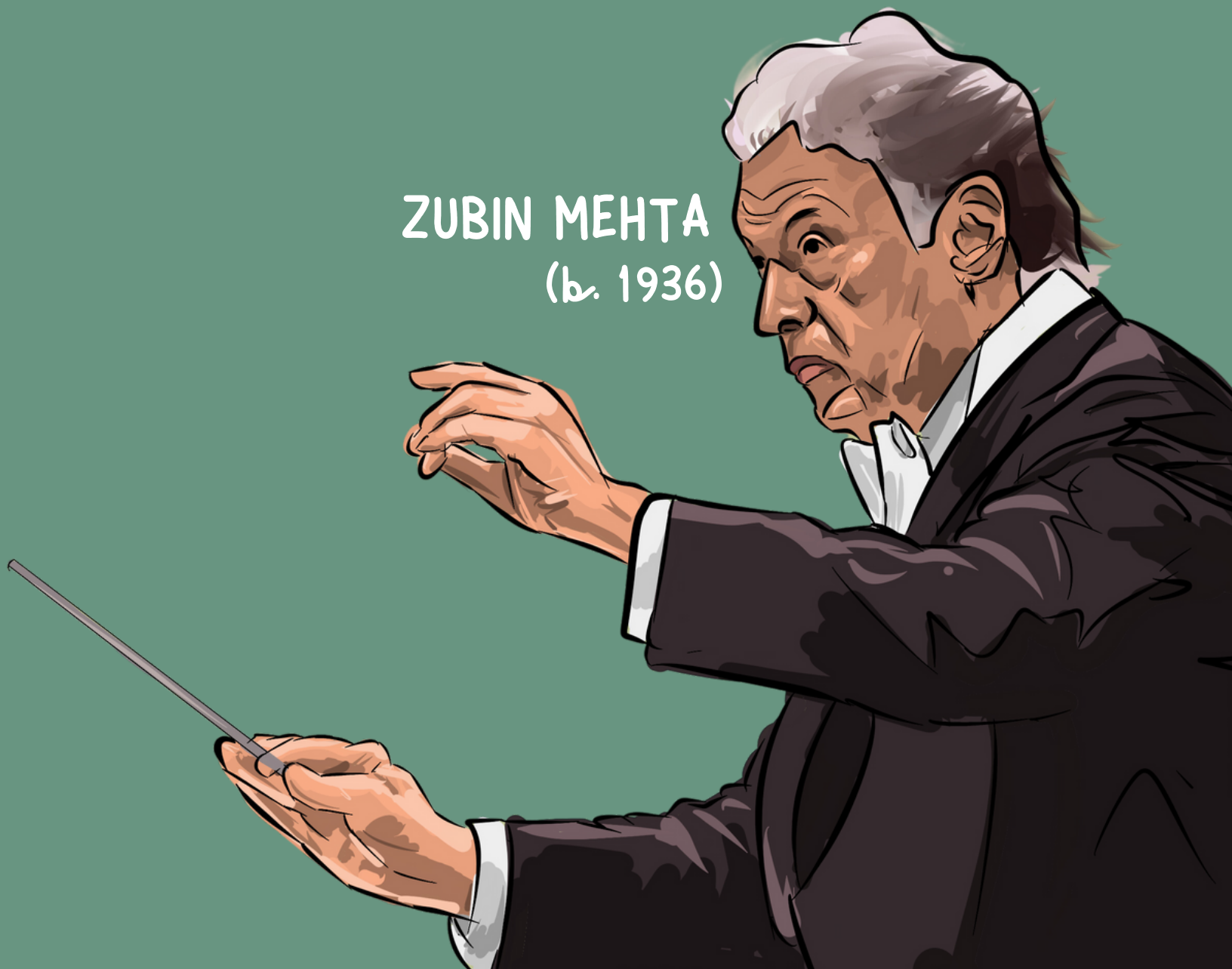
**Y** is for **Yuri Kochiyama**, a voice so clear,  
In the struggle for rights, she'd pioneer.  
From internment's shadow to the activist's stage,  
Yuri's life story, an inspiring page.



**YURI KOCHIYAMA**  
(1921–2014)

**Z** is for conductor **Zubin Mehta**,  
Wielding a baton, an a powerful set up.  
Orchestrating symphonies, a maestro so sweet  
In the world of music, his rhythm can't be beat.

ZUBIN MEHTA  
(b. 1936)





 @LEARNAAPIHISTORY

 [WWW.LEARNAAPIHISTORY.ORG](http://WWW.LEARNAAPIHISTORY.ORG)



## DAVID JEN

is the founder and executive director of the Learn AAPI History Project. An AAPI history aficionado, David wrote and illustrated this childrens book to expose younger audiences to important figures in AAPI history.