

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7058

To grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. FARR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) On January 19, 1942, 6 weeks after the
6 December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor by the

1 Japanese Navy, the United States Army discharged
2 all Japanese-Americans in the Reserve Officers
3 Training Corps and changed their draft status to
4 “4C”—the status of “enemy alien” which is ineli-
5 gible for the draft.

6 (2) On January 23, 1942, Japanese-Americans
7 in the military on the mainland were segregated out
8 of their units.

9 (3) Further, on May 3, 1942, General John L.
10 DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 346, or-
11 dering all people of Japanese ancestry, whether citi-
12 zens or noncitizens, to report to assembly centers,
13 where they would live until being moved to perma-
14 nent relocation centers.

15 (4) On June 5, 1942, 1,432 predominantly
16 Nisei (second generation Americans of Japanese an-
17 cestry) members of the Hawaii Provisional Infantry
18 Battalion were shipped from the Hawaiian Islands
19 to Oakland, CA, where the 100th Infantry Battalion
20 was activated on June 12, 1942, and then shipped
21 to train at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin.

22 (5) The excellent training record of the 100th
23 Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent ci-
24 vilian and military personnel helped convince Presi-
25 dent Roosevelt and the War Department to re-open

1 military service to Nisei volunteers who were incor-
2 porated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
3 after it was activated in February of 1943.

4 (6) In that same month, the 100th Infantry
5 Battalion was transferred to Camp Shelby, Mis-
6 sissippi, where it continued to train and even though
7 the battalion was ready to deploy shortly thereafter,
8 the battalion was refused by General Eisenhower,
9 due to concerns over the loyalty and patriotism of
10 the Nisei.

11 (7) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team later
12 trained with the 100th Infantry Battalion at Camp
13 Shelby in May of 1943.

14 (8) Eventually, the 100th Infantry Battalion
15 was deployed to the Mediterranean and entered com-
16 bat in Italy on September 26, 1943.

17 (9) Due to their bravery and valor, members of
18 the Battalion were honored with 6 awards of the
19 Distinguished Service Cross in the first 8 weeks of
20 combat.

21 (10) The 100th Battalion fought at Cassino,
22 Italy in January, 1944, and later accompanied the
23 34th Infantry Division to Anzio, Italy.

1 (11) In May and June of 1944, the battalion
2 was joined by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
3 and helped push the German Army north of Rome.

4 (12) The battalion was awarded the Presi-
5 dential Unit Citation for its actions in battle on
6 June 26–27, 1944.

7 (13) On August 14th, 1944, the 100th Infantry
8 Battalion was formally made an integral part of the
9 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and fought for the
10 last 9 months of the war with distinction in Italy,
11 southern France, and Germany.

12 (14) The 442nd Regimental became the most
13 decorated unit in United States military history for
14 its size and length of service.

15 (15) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and
16 members of the team, received 7 Presidential Unit
17 Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished
18 Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze
19 Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier’s Med-
20 als, and nearly 10,000 Purple Hearts, among nu-
21 merous additional distinctions.

22 (16) The United States remains forever in-
23 debted to the bravery, valor, and dedication to coun-
24 try these men faced while fighting a 2-fronted battle
25 of discrimination at home and fascism abroad.

1 (17) Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
2 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
3 sense of patriotism and honor.

4 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

5 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
6 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
7 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
8 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal
9 of appropriate design to the 100th Infantry Battalion and
10 the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States
11 Army, collectively, in recognition of their dedicated service
12 during World War II.

13 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
14 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
15 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
16 retary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems,
17 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
18 retary.

19 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
21 gold medal in honor of the 100th Infantry Battalion
22 and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United
23 States Army, under subsection (a), the gold medal
24 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where

1 it will be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
2 able for research.

3 (2) SENSE.—It is the sense of the Congress
4 that the Smithsonian Institution should make the
5 gold medal received under paragraph (1) available
6 for display elsewhere, particularly at other appro-
7 priate locations associated with the 100th Infantry
8 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
9 United States Army.

10 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

11 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
12 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
13 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price
14 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
15 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

16 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

17 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
18 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
19 Code.

20 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
21 **OF SALE.**

22 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
24 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000

1 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section
2 2.

3 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
4 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
5 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
6 Fund.

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