

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 347

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

JANUARY 8, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. MCCOTTER) 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.

24 (11) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team ar-
25 rived in Civitavecchia, Italy on June 7, 1944, and on

1 June 15 of the following week, the 100th Infantry
2 Battalion was formally made an integral part of the
3 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and fought for the
4 last 11 months of the war with distinction in Italy,
5 southern France, and Germany.

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

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

12 (14) The 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regi-
13 mental Combat Team, received 7 Presidential Unit
14 Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished
15 Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze
16 Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier’s Med-
17 als, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts, among numerous
18 additional distinctions.

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

23 (16) Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
24 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
25 sense of patriotism and honor.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

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

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

16 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
18 gold medal in honor of the 100th Infantry Battalion
19 and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United
20 States Army, under subsection (a), the gold medal
21 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
22 it will be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
23 able for research.

24 (2) SENSE.—It is the sense of the Congress
25 that the Smithsonian Institution should make the
26 gold medal received under paragraph (1) available

1 for display elsewhere, particularly at other appro-
2 priate locations associated with the 100th Infantry
3 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
4 United States Army.

5 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

11 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

12 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
13 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
14 Code.

15 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
16 **OF SALE.**

17 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
19 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000
20 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section
21 2.

22 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
23 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be

- 1 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
- 2 Fund.

