

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1055

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2009

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. AKAKA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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
7 Japanese Navy, the United States Army discharged
8 all Japanese-Americans in the Reserve Officers

1 Training Corps and changed their draft status to
2 “4C”—the status of “enemy alien” which is ineli-
3 gible for the draft.

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

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

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

20 (5) The excellent training record of the 100th
21 Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent ci-
22 vilian and military personnel helped convince Presi-
23 dent Roosevelt and the War Department to reopen
24 military service to Nisei volunteers who were incor-

1 porated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
2 after it was activated in February of 1943.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (11) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team ar-
24 rived in Civitavecchia, Italy on June 7, 1944, and on
25 June 15 of the following week, the 100th Infantry

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

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

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

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

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

22 (16) Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
23 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
24 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 OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
25 the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution
26 should make the gold medal received under para-

1 graph (1) available for display elsewhere, particu-
2 larly at other appropriate locations associated with
3 the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regi-
4 mental Combat Team, 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

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

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