

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 347

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18, 2009

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) On January 19, 1942, 6 weeks after the
4 December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor by the
5 Japanese Navy, the United States Army discharged
6 all Japanese-Americans in the Reserve Officers
7 Training Corps and changed their draft status to
8 “4C”—the status of “enemy alien” which is ineli-
9 gible for the draft.

10 (2) On January 23, 1942, Japanese-Americans
11 in the military on the mainland were segregated out
12 of their units.

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

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

1 (5) The excellent training record of the 100th
2 Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent ci-
3 vilian and military personnel helped convince Presi-
4 dent Roosevelt and the War Department to re-open
5 military service to Nisei volunteers who were incor-
6 porated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
7 after it was activated in February of 1943.

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

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

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

21 (9) Due to their bravery and valor, members of
22 the Battalion were honored with 6 awards of the
23 Distinguished Service Cross in the first 8 weeks of
24 combat.

1 (10) The 100th Battalion fought at Cassino,
2 Italy in January, 1944, and later accompanied the
3 34th Infantry Division to Anzio, Italy.

4 (11) The 442nd Regimental Combat Team ar-
5 rived in Civitavecchia, Italy on June 7, 1944, and on
6 June 15 of the following week, the 100th Infantry
7 Battalion was formally made an integral part of the
8 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and fought for the
9 last 11 months of the war with distinction in Italy,
10 southern France, and Germany.

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

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

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

24 (15) The United States remains forever in-
25 debted to the bravery, valor, and dedication to coun-

1 try these men faced while fighting a 2-fronted battle
2 of discrimination at home and fascism abroad.

3 (16) Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
4 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
5 sense of patriotism and honor.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

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

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

21 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
23 gold medal in honor of the 100th Infantry Battalion
24 and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United
25 States Army, under subsection (a), the gold medal

1 shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where
2 it will be displayed as appropriate and made avail-
3 able for research.

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

11 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

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

17 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

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

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

23 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
25 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.

Passed the House of Representatives May 14, 2009.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.