

TOWNS and I had offered, had been accepted, that were rejected by the Senate. So I am pleased today that when we look and realize that we have, as Ranking Member BACHUS said, we have the chairwoman of the SEC on our side, we have the chairman of both the committee that I serve on, the Government Oversight Committee and the Financial Services Committee, plus both of us as ranking members saying that sometimes you just have to take "yes" for an answer. The Senate has moved and moved quickly. This is a step in the right direction. For all those entities who have historically filed and believed in good faith they were entitled to freedom of information delivery, we're taking a step back to where we were.

I might note that only a fraction of those applications are ever granted and the SEC is but once ever reversed when they deny FOIA. So we believe this does not open Pandora's box, that section 929I will in fact still be intact for purposes of privacy, something that we think is important.

We do note, and I think we're noting in every single statement, that we need to ensure that additional work is done to make certain that no one uses FOIA as a backdoor way to receive information in litigation or other matters that they would otherwise not receive. We certainly do not want to have the SEC be a place that you withhold by any means possible information even when you have nothing to hide because, of course, as we know, voluntary compliance is what allows the SEC to do what they should do which is look for those who are not following the rules.

□ 1720

So in my support of Senate 3717, I certainly would say it's a big step in the right direction. It's one in which I believe all four of us, as chairmen and ranking members, are here today to say we support it. We are glad that it will be in front of the President in a matter of days.

In the next Congress, we will put together, with all four of our staffs, the kind of additional follow-on legislation that the American people expect after any large piece of legislation. I, for one, would like to thank Chairman FRANK. I do want to be associated with his intellect and hard work and immediate grasp that this and other matters need to be followed on.

I don't know about the gentleman from Alabama, but I am happy to believe that smart people don't always reach the same conclusion. But if they are smart, they work on common solutions whenever possible.

Mr. BACHUS. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHU). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3717.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GRANTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JAPANESE AMERICAN BATTALION

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1055

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

(3) Further, on May 3, 1942, General John L. DeWitt issued Civilian Exclusion Order No. 346, ordering all people of Japanese ancestry, whether citizens or noncitizens, to report to assembly centers, where they would live until being moved to permanent relocation centers.

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

(5) The excellent training record of the 100th Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent civilian and military personnel helped convince President Roosevelt and the War Department to reopen military service to Nisei volunteers who were incorporated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team after it was activated in February of 1943.

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

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

(8) Eventually, the 100th Infantry Battalion was deployed to the Mediterranean and entered combat in Italy on September 26, 1943.

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

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

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

(12) The battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions in battle on June 26-27, 1944.

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

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

(15) The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication to country these men faced while fighting a 2-fronted battle of discrimination at home and fascism abroad.

(16) Their commitment and sacrifice demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor.

(17) The Military Intelligence Service (in this Act referred to as the "MIS") was made up of about 6,000 Japanese American soldiers who conducted highly classified intelligence operations that proved to be vital to United States military successes in the Pacific Theatre.

(18) As they were discharged from the Army, MIS soldiers were told not to discuss their wartime work, due to its sensitive nature, and their contributions were not known until passage of the Freedom of Information Act in 1974.

(19) MIS soldiers were attached individually or in small groups to United States and Allied combat units, where they intercepted radio transmissions, translated enemy documents, interrogated enemy prisoners of war, volunteered for reconnaissance and covert intelligence missions, and persuaded enemy combatants to surrender.

(20) Their contributions continued during the Allied postwar occupation of Japan, and MIS linguistic skills and understanding of Japanese customs were invaluable to occupation forces as they assisted Japan in a peaceful transition to a new, democratic form of government.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

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

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal in honor of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army, under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display elsewhere, particularly at other appropriate locations associated with the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.

Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUNDS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section 2.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, 6 weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Army discharged all Japanese Americans in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and changed their draft status to 4C or "enemy alien," making them ineligible for the draft.

Japanese American military soldiers on the mainland were soon segregated out of their units. And in a matter of months, all people of Japanese ancestry, whether U.S. citizens or not, were ordered by the government to report to permanent relocation centers.

In spite of this treatment at home, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in our military abroad—to protect our freedoms from the threat of fascism. In 1942 over 1,400 second-generation Japanese Americans, American troops, known as Nisei, were shipped to Oakland, California, to join up with the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Their excellent training record convinced President Roosevelt to reopen military services to Nisei volunteers. These were incorporated into the 442nd

Regimental Combat Team. The battalion was deployed to Italy in 1943, where its members fought with valor, earning six Distinguished Service Crosses in the first 8 weeks.

The battalion was eventually integrated into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team where it fought with bravery for the remaining 11 months of the war. Together, these units received seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts.

While these brave Japanese Americans fought for their country abroad, another 6,000 Japanese American soldiers became part of the military intelligence services. MIS soldiers conducted highly classified intelligence operations that were vital to U.S. military successes in the Pacific and in post-war Japan.

MIS soldiers intercepted radio transmissions, translated enemy documents, interrogated enemy prisoners of war, volunteered for reconnaissance and covert intelligence missions, and persuaded enemy combatants to surrender. Upon discharge from the Army, MIS soldiers were prohibited from discussing their wartime work; so their accomplishments were not known until many years later.

It is appropriate that Congress recognize the contributions of these brave Japanese Americans with the honor of a Congressional Gold Medal. Earlier this Congress the House passed similar legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF). So today I urge my colleagues to support the Senate version of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of S. 1055, sponsored by Senator BOXER and recently passed by the Senate.

At this time I want to say to Congressman CARSON that I have many fond memories of his grandmother. Julia Carson and I served as cochairmen of the Zoo and Aquarium Caucus. She was a real lady, and I know she is very proud that you have taken her place representing the good citizens of Indianapolis. I would just like to acknowledge what a fine lady she was, and that's a heritage you can be proud of.

This legislation, as Congressman CARSON said, would award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to the United States Army's 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in recognition of their exemplary service during World War II.

□ 1730

This bill makes minor additions to its House companion bill that Mr. CARSON mentioned by adding language in the findings and the existing Sense of Congress section that points out the

contributions made by the Military Intelligence Service, which was made up of 6,000 Japanese American soldiers.

The House bill was cosponsored by 296 Members and agreed to by this Chamber in May of last year. I urge my colleagues to again support this legislation.

As we all know, the world changed instantly after the dreadful attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. I think for the first time, on 9/11, many Americans could get some sense of what it must have been like to have lived during those times. And though its impact was felt by every American, Japanese Americans were hit particularly hard.

Six weeks after the attack, the U.S. Army discharged all Japanese Americans in the Reserve Officers Training Corps and changed their draft status to "enemy alien." Active military Japanese Americans were segregated out of their units. We all know what happened afterwards. The U.S. and Canadian Governments gathered Japanese Americans in all the Western States and moved them to internment camps.

In June of 1942, the 1,400 members of the Hawaii Provisional Infantry Battalion were shipped from the Islands to Oakland and formed into the 100th Infantry Battalion, and then they were shipped to Wisconsin by train for training. Eight months later, based on the battalion's excellent training record, the President and War Department agreed to let second-generation Japanese Americans into the service, and they were formed into the 442nd Regimental.

Madam Speaker, the 100th Infantry Battalion was deployed the next year to the Italian front in September 1943, and while it encountered heavy fighting, it handled itself so well that its members earned six Distinguished Service Crosses in their first 2 months of action. The 442nd arrived in Italy 9 months later, after which the two units joined forces, fighting with distinction in Italy, France, and Germany to the war's conclusion.

Together, they received seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters, 4,000 Bronze Stars with 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters, and more than 9,000 Purple Hearts.

This bill recognizes their service and appropriately provides for the collective awarding of a Congressional Gold Medal. It would be given to the Smithsonian Institution for display and for research purposes.

Madam Speaker, this award is long overdue. I urge its immediate passage.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

Mr. SCHIFF. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of legislation granting

the Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, commonly known as the "Go for Broke" regiments, as well as veterans of the Military Intelligence Service, for their dedicated service to our Nation during World War II.

It is an honor and a pleasure to offer humble thanks to this storied and inspirational group of men who answered their country's call in the face of tremendous adversity. Today, through final passage of a bill that will grant these regiments Congress' highest honor, we recognize those who have served our Nation at great risk, as well especially those who sacrificed all for our freedom.

These men served the Nation at a pivotal moment in our history, displaying their heroism and courage on two fronts—abroad in the fight against an absolutist fascism and at home in the face of the intolerance of racial injustice.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited many doubts about the loyalty of Japanese Americans, these men who enlisted to protect our Nation were faced with segregated training conditions, family and friends relocated to internment camps, and repeated questions about their combat ability. It has been said many times about this group: to answer the call of duty requires exceptional courage and sacrifice, but to respond with a vigor and persistence unaffected by those who sought to malign and impede their every achievement reveals an incredible spirit and indomitable will.

Six weeks after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens from Japan. But even as xenophobia gripped the country, Japanese Americans were already lining up to join the war effort.

In June of 1942, 1,432 members of the Hawaii Provisional Infantry Battalion were shipped from the Hawaiian Islands to Oakland, California, where the 100th Infantry Battalion was activated on June 12, 1942, and then were shipped to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, for training. Thanks to the excellent training record of the 100th Infantry Battalion and petitions from prominent civilians and military leaders, President Roosevelt and the War Department reopened military service to Nisei volunteers.

Eventually, their exemplary training record convinced the doubters, and the 100th Infantry Battalion was deployed to the Mediterranean where they entered combat in Italy in September of 1943. Due to their bravery and valor, members of the Battalion were honored with six awards of the Distinguished Service Cross in the first 8 weeks of combat.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team arrived in Italy in June 1944, where the 100th Infantry Battalion was formally

integrated as a part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. As a unit, these regiments fought for the last 11 months of the war with selfless distinction in Italy, southern France, and Germany. Their performance in combat demonstrated their ability as remarkable soldiers; however, their poise, courage, and patriotism showed they were also remarkable men. They looked to support from their interned families, friends, and communities. And in turn, their service and commitment inspired their supporters back home to pursue aspirations of their own.

Today, we also honor the Military Intelligence Service, known as MIS, who were made up of several thousand Japanese American soldiers who conducted highly classified intelligence operations that proved to be vital to U.S. military successes in the Pacific theater. These men fought alongside U.S. and Allied combat units where they translated radio transmissions and enemy documents, interrogated prisoners, and completed reconnaissance and covert intelligence missions. Often they were faced with peril from both enemy and friendly forces—unrecognized by allies and attacked by enemies.

Their contributions continued during the Allied postwar occupation of Japan, and MIS linguistic skills and understanding of Japanese customs were invaluable to occupation forces as they assisted Japan in a peaceful transition to a new, democratic form of government.

The "Go for Broke" regiments and the MIS were not the only servicemen of Asian Pacific Islander descent to serve in World War II. I also want to recognize those groups who faced similarly daunting conditions at home and abroad—the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, the 1399th Combat Engineer Company, the Women's Army Corps, the Filipino Scouts, and other heralded units. The "Go for Broke," MIS, and other Japanese American men and women who have served deserve our continual rededication and appreciation. The debt we owe them is immeasurable.

Their aggregate service record speaks for itself and drove me to introduce legislation last year—this legislation—which recognizes these regiments with the Nation's highest and most distinguished civilian award—the Congressional Gold Medal. My colleagues in the House of Representatives saluted the valor of these regiments by voting unanimously last year on my bill to honor them with a Gold Medal. Recently, the Senate passed the bill authored by Senator Barbara Boxer with the same unanimous approval. With this vote today, we can begin to truly express our appreciation for a group of men who left a segregated country to fight and defend an America with no guarantee that their own freedom would be defended in return. Their true heroism lies in how they fought for values of America, equality, justice, and

opportunity, even when those values were not fully extended to them.

We will continue to look towards their example to provide hope to our communities, to look past our differences, and to unite around our common bonds. Men and women are able to serve their country today without regard for ethnicity, race, or nationality because of what these men endured and accomplished.

It's an honor to be part of this moment, Madam Speaker, and I urge you to join me in recognizing these courageous men by supporting the granting of a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

□ 1740

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO).

Ms. HIRONO. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Madam Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to support S. 1055, which honors the thousands of Japanese-American veterans who served during World War II, and I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), for introducing the legislation in the House and for his eloquent words today in support of the Senate bill.

At a time when many of their fellow Americans questioned their loyalty to the United States, these Japanese-American soldiers enlisted and put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms overseas while fighting against fear and discrimination at home. S. 1055 awards the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service in honor of their military service.

Many of the soldiers comprising these units were Nisei, the American-born sons of Japanese immigrants. Some served in the University of Hawaii's Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), which aided the wounded, buried the fallen, and helped defend vulnerable areas in Hawaii after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In spite of these acts of loyalty and courage, the U.S. Army discharged all Nisei in the ROTC unit, changed their draft status to ineligible, and segregated all Japanese Americans in the military on the mainland out of their units. During this time, more than 100,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated from their homes to internment camps.

Undaunted, members of the Hawaii Provisional Battalion joined the 100th Infantry Battalion in California to train as soldiers. The sheer determination and pursuit of excellence displayed by this battalion in training contributed to President Roosevelt's decision to allow Nisei volunteers to

serve in the U.S. military again, leading to their incorporation into the 442nd.

Members of the 100th and the 442nd risked their lives to fight for our country and allies in Europe. The 442nd "Go For Broke" unit became the most decorated in U.S. military history for its size and length of service, with its component, the 100th Infantry Battalion, earning the nickname "The Purple Heart Battalion."

In addition, the 6,000 or so Nisei that comprised the Military Intelligence Service made vital contributions to wartime successes by conducting critical classified intelligence operations. Only in recent years has their invaluable service come to light, and it is long past due to acknowledge and honor the MIS's critical role during the war.

In the spirit of celebrating these courageous soldiers, I would like to share the stories of three men from Hawaii who overcame humble beginnings and adversity to become successful scholars and community leaders in Hawaii.

Kobe Shoji was a junior at Pomona College when he and his family received orders to go to an internment camp in Arizona. They brought nothing more than a suitcase with them to the camp. Kobe enlisted the next year and went to Germany to fight as a member of the 442nd. Although he was wounded twice, he came back to the States, never complaining about the discrimination that he and his family had faced, or about the wounds he suffered in the war. Kobe returned to complete his studies as though "nothing had happened. . . . except we were all much more mature due to the wartime experience. We all had the feeling we must do something to make the world a better place to live."

Kobe earned his doctorate in plant physiology from UCLA and moved to Hawaii thereafter to teach at the University of Hawaii and work as a respected agricultural expert. He later enjoyed watching his oldest son, Dave, coach the university's Rainbow Wahine volleyball team to many national championships.

Ken Otagaki is another example of resilience and success. As the second son of a field laborer on the island of Hawaii, Ken left home at the age of 12 to work in Honolulu on the island of Oahu as a houseboy before putting himself through college. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Ken enlisted and joined the 100th Infantry Division, serving overseas as a litter bearer. In January 1944, Ken was near Cassino, Italy, when he and six other litter bearers were called upon to help soldiers in front of them. Ken and seven other soldiers faced a barrage of mortar shells from the enemy. Three were killed. Four, including Ken, were seriously injured and were not evacuated until nearly a day later.

Ken recuperated at Walter Reed Hospital and later received the Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart.

Ken wrote to his sweetheart, Janet, telling her that he had lost his right leg, two fingers on his right hand, and the sight in his right eye. Their daughter, Joy, recalled that her mother thought that her father "wasn't going to sit around feeling sorry for himself." Ken and Janet married later that year.

Because of his war injuries, Ken had to give up his plans to become a medical doctor, instead earning a PhD in animal science. The Otagakis began their life together on the mainland and had five children before moving back to Hawaii, where Ken taught at the University of Hawaii and later led the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture. Ken never let what others perceived to be his physical disabilities stop him from being active. He climbed trees to pick ripe mangoes and taught his kids how to swim and ride a bike.

The last veteran I would like to talk about is Yoshiaki Fujitani who +Pauwela, Maui.

A second generation Japanese-American, Yoshiaki was taught ethics at Japanese language school, where he learned about honesty and perseverance by hearing stories about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. He was also taught what is known in Japanese as "kuni no on," or gratitude to one's country, America.

After serving in ROTC at the University of Hawaii, Yoshiaki rose through the ranks in the Hawaii Territorial Guard, becoming squad leader. Of course the guard was later disbanded without any explanation, but they believe it was because the Japanese Americans in the guard were viewed as potential traitors.

On December 7, 1941, while preparing to play softball, Yoshiaki saw smoke and planes flying above Pearl Harbor before learning about the attack on the radio. He volunteered for the civilian Varsity Victory Volunteers but quit when he learned that his father was being held at a Department of Justice camp for being a potentially dangerous enemy alien.

When his friends joined the 442nd, Yoshiaki's initial anger about his father's incarceration subsided, and he decided to join the MIS. Yoshiaki served in Tokyo on assignment for the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section. After the war ended, he got married, raised a family, returned to Maui as a minister of the Buddhist faith, and he focused on fostering interfaith cooperation, eventually becoming the bishop of the Hawaii Kyodan. In 1976, he established a program called the "Living Treasures of Hawaii" to recognize the cultural contributions of individuals in Hawaii.

The life stories of these three men serve as an inspiration for all of us, and they certainly exemplify the history and the courage and the Americanism, the love of America, exhibited by the people we are honoring.

This legislation also honors Senator DANIEL INOUE and the late Senator Spark Matsunaga, who served in the

442nd and 100th units, and of course they later went on to serve the people of Hawaii for many decades, and the people of our country.

Again, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of S. 1055. It is long overdue.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. DJOU).

Mr. DJOU. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1055 to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I want to echo the words of my colleague, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO). Madam Speaker, it is with great pride the people of Hawaii join in the recognition of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

And I speak also with a bit of personal pride that we are recognizing the 442nd today. I had served in the United States Army Reserve, and today the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry Division is part of the 9th Mission Support Command based at Fort Shafter in my congressional district. And in my previous service as an Army reservist, the 442nd was my sister battalion, and it is with great pride I see them being recognized today.

□ 1750

The 442nd has a long and illustrious history having served our Nation in Vietnam as well as most recently in Operation Iraqi Freedom, although the most important amount of recognition for the 442nd and the reason we are here today is for their initial service in World War II.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, when somebody asks, Where does the strength of our Nation come from? I say to all of them, It does not come from machines. It does not come from a regulation. It does not come from the Halls of the United States Congress. The strength of our Nation comes from young individuals who are willing to raise their hands, to take an oath of office and to defend this Nation—with their lives, if necessary.

When the 442nd was formed in 1942, it was these young men, Americans of Japanese ancestry, who raised their hands, despite facing discrimination from their own country in having expressed a willingness to fight on behalf of this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman such additional time as he may consume.

Mr. DJOU. It was their willingness to go into harm's way, to risk their lives in the fields of Italy, that has accorded the 442nd this honor and this well-deserved respect from the United States Congress.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself, my colleagues and the people of the State of Hawaii, I strongly urge the passage of S. 1055.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I will make the offer that if additional time is needed on the majority side, I would be willing to yield time to Mr. McDERMOTT or to others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I did not come over to the floor to speak on this issue; I came for the next issue. But I am an honorary Nisei vet. I have been involved with the Nisei community and with the Nisei vets of the 442nd in Seattle for a number of years.

Two weeks ago, we dedicated a wall at the Nisei vet hall on which the names appear of all the people from Seattle. It was an extremely moving event to have not only some of the old vets but to also have the young sons and daughters and grandsons and granddaughters get up and talk about their relatives and what they did.

I found out about the Nisei when I was in college. I had a roommate named Dave Sukura. One day, he told me about having been in a prison camp when he was in elementary school. I couldn't believe it. I was a kid from Chicago, and had never heard of such a thing; 127,000 people were rounded up for no other reason than we were panicked about the Japanese, and we put them in concentration camps.

Now, you can imagine having a store or having a hotel or having a farm and suddenly being told you have 1 week to get your stuff together and get out of here. They lost all their land. They lost all their holdings. They lost everything. They were sent to these camps. Someday, when you're in Idaho, go out to Minidoka, and see the national monument that we have created. We call it a "monument" now, but it was a concentration camp then. There was nothing there. They came and put up barracks very quickly and said to the people, Move in.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BACHUS. I yield to the gentleman such time as he may consume.

Mr. McDERMOTT. In a room of 20-by-20, you had seven people living with no running water and with no hot water for 4 months, and they were trying to deal with babies and diapers and with all the things that go on in ordinary living. Then the people who have put you there turn around and say, We will accept you into our Army to go

and fight for us in Italy. Now, you can imagine among these Japanese families the discussions that went on about whether or not they should participate in this.

David's grandfather came from Japan and started the Japanese Baptist Church in Seattle. He told his sons, We are Americans, and we will support our country no matter what.

This was long before the war, so he was dead when that happened. They were then taken off to the camps.

The mother—her name was Misa Sukura—had four sons. She said to her boys, You must go.

The camp people were mad at her. How can you send all of your sons to this?

She said, They are Americans. We are proud and we will serve.

Now, you have to understand what it took then to be thrown into the toughest part of the war. They didn't become the most decorated unit in United States Army history because they were sent out to some easy deal. They were sent into the toughest fighting in Italy. They are the ones who went in when they couldn't find the lost battalion. They said, Send in the 442nd—and they found them. A simple medal hardly speaks to what they did for us, but what they did beyond that is to say, if you're in America and if you're an American, we treat you all the same.

We are at a time now when their example needs to be carefully looked at because panic among the American people says suddenly, Oh, those people are to be feared. We can't stand those people. They're not like us. What happened in 1941 can happen again if we do not honor those Nisei vets and their families who stayed at home. They lived through without fathers, without mothers, with all the people who got killed, and everything else.

Several years ago, it was my honor to name the courthouse in Seattle, Washington, after a young man named William Nakamura. He went at 19 years old, out of Garfield High School, and won the Medal of Honor. The family never got the medal because the medals were buried. Nobody wanted to demonstrate and distribute them until President Clinton went back and reviewed the records and found these Medals of Honor. They were then given to the families of the fallen.

We have much to be proud of in this country, but the Nisei vets have more than most of us because they overcame the racism and the attitudes that put them in concentration camps, and they came out and stood tall. For that reason, I am very proud to be here today. I commend Mr. SCHIFF and the other members of the committee who brought this gold medal. It's about time.

Mr. BACHUS. Madam Speaker, I yield 9 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. I do not plan to take that time except that, because I am re-

tiring this year, I will take every bit of time I can get as an outgoing Member to still speak on anything. It's just an inside joke for those of us who have been accustomed to being listened to for a long time. I am sure it's not going to hold true once I leave Congress.

Madam Speaker, one thing we all need to listen to is our hearts when it comes to treating each other as we, ourselves, would want to be treated. When we think of something like this resolution and what it means to record history, we record history so that we learn from those aspects of history we do not want to repeat and by acknowledging the people who need to be acknowledged as amazing Americans, as this bill does.

They had the fortitude to fight, as all brave Americans have who serve our Armed Forces, whether in peacetime or wartime, never knowing whether their lives are going to be called to be donated to this country. Every single servicemember may be called to make the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country when they sign up and serve our country, never knowing.

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But in this case, we had a group of Americans who signed up to fight for freedom when their own was being challenged here at home.

It's reminiscent of the stories of the Buffalo Soldiers in World War II, African Americans who were being denied the very rights that they were fighting to protect and uphold around the world, and they were doing so on behalf of a country that had refused to treat them as coequals.

In this case, Asian Americans, Japanese Americans who, because of the perception of who they were as Americans simply by what they look like, were being judged as whether they were American enough. Why is that important for us to remember today? Well, because last time I checked, we have Arab Americans right now making the ultimate sacrifice in the war against terrorism, Arab Americans who are being stigmatized, stereotyped, and wholesale bigotry against anybody of a different faith or ethnicity, somehow they are judged to be less American in their opportunities. And basically the requirement that they be treated the same as every other American, those rights are being challenged. And in spite of that, they are still out there defending our country.

Native Americans, who have been denied in one of the great shames on this country's history of the way our country treated its indigenous peoples who serve at greater numbers on behalf of this country than any other group in this country, Native Americans, and it is quite extraordinary when we think about heroes to think about those who are not only willing to lay their life on the line for freedom and this country, but are willing to do so in spite of the fact that they are being denied the very same rights that they are fighting

for here in America. That is why they deserve gold medals, because they fought two fights. They fought the fight for liberty around the world, and they fought the fight against bigotry that is denying them those same freedoms here at home.

And why else do we remember this? Because we're talking about the fact that no matter what you look like, we are all Americans, because that's America. We're the greatest country on the face of the Earth. Why? Because there's no other country in the world that has peoples from every other part of the world, and yet we're still divided by race, by color, and by creed by those who would like to foment fear and prejudice and use that as electoral victories, using the oldest wedge issue that we have ever known, and that's fear of difference, when actually the strength of our country is our diversity as a Nation.

My uncle, President Kennedy, in giving the National Civil Rights Address, first of any American President in American history, said it's a moral question at its base. Who amongst us would be willing to change the color of their skin? Who amongst us would be willing to change the color of their skin and abide by the counsels of patience and delay in terms of civil rights? Well, you know, if you're white and you're accepted as looking like an American, this might not seem like a big issue to you. But think about trading the color of your skin for a day and living like Americans who are Latino in a culture like today that stigmatizes people with brown skin as somehow less than Americans because maybe they got here illegally just because of the perception of the color of their skin. Set aside the fact that in my area of the country the biggest illegal immigration are people that look like me, with red hair and freckles on their face; that's the biggest illegal immigration, Irish overstays. It's an interesting battle that's been the battle for the heart and the soul of America since the beginning of time.

I propose that the final question of our time for our veterans is whether we are going to abide by the counsels of patience and delay in setting our veterans free from their war injuries. Because how many of us suffering at home now from traumatic brain injury and PTSD would be willing, because the Congress is not ready to put the money into biomedical research that it needs to because they say that's not government's job to do medical research; that's someone else's. I don't know whose job it is, but if I'm a veteran coming back from fighting for this country and I'm trapped behind the enemy lines of stigma and shame, trapped behind the enemy lines of indifference because you can't see my wound—my wound is an invisible wound; it's brain injury—think about what it must be like for them to know that our country has the wherewithal to save those with TBI and rescue them

from being prisoners of their war injury if we put the money behind it, if we match our action with our rhetoric. We're not going to leave those veterans behind, okay. Then let's do something that makes sure we don't. Let's invest in the kinds of stem cell research, the kinds of genetic biomarkers that are going to allow us to make sure that they are going to be saved from enemy territory, prisoners of their war injuries.

You could say, oh, well, it's going to take 10 years before we are able to repair spinal cord tissue and allow those veterans to stand up out of their wheelchair because they were paralyzed. Well, if you're 25 years old, I should hope that they get an indication from this Congress, from this country, from this President that we are in it to win it when it comes to saving them, because you know what? We would put our full might of military power to go get them if they were held by al Qaeda. Why aren't we doing the same when it comes to them being held hostage by their TBI and PTSD?

If we think of each other as human beings and advancing the great cause, or the fact that we all breathe the same air, drink the same water, live on the same planet, want the same things for all of our families, why would we ever treat each other differently, discriminate against one another, when it's the very strength of our country?

These Japanese Americans, they fought the roughest fights. They were put in the biggest harm's way, just like the Buffalo Soldiers were in the European theater as well. Why? They wanted to take it on to demonstrate they weren't about to be cowering in the fear of those with bigotry in their hearts.

Let's pass this legislation and set all Americans free, because we're all human beings, all Americans, irrespective of color, creed, or the way we look.

Mr. SABLON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1055, 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.

The grant of the Congressional gold medal to this very distinguished "Go for Broke" unit is well deserved and the award is long overdue. The unit is the most decorated military unit in our Nation's history. In World War II this was known as the "Purple Heart Battalion."

I must admit that I have a personal attachment to the "Go for Broke" unit. Company E, 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, is now stationed in the Northern Mariana Islands and I was once a member. A further point of pride is that Echo Company was once under the command of the distinguished Senator from Hawaii, Senator DANIEL K. INOUE.

I support passage of S. 1055 and I say again that the grant of the Congressional gold medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team is long overdue and well deserved.

I encourage my colleagues to support S. 1055 and I thank Senator BARBARA BOXER for bringing this legislation forth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DAHLKEPNER). All time for debate has expired.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1055.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DR. MUHAMMAD YUNUS

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 846) to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 846

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) Dr. Muhammad Yunus is recognized in the United States and throughout the world as a leading figure in the fight against poverty and the effort to promote economic and social change;

(2) Muhammad Yunus is the recognized developer of the concept of microcredit, and Grameen Bank, which he founded, has created a model of lending that has been emulated across the globe;

(3) Muhammad Yunus launched this global movement to create economic and social development from below, beginning in 1976, with a loan of \$27 from his own pocket to 42 crafts persons in a small village in Bangladesh;

(4) Muhammad Yunus has demonstrated the life-changing potential of extending very small loans (at competitive interest rates) to the very poor and the economic feasibility of microcredit and other microfinance and microenterprise practices and services;

(5) Dr. Yunus's work has had a particularly strong impact on improving the economic prospects of women, and on their families, as over 95 percent of microcredit borrowers are women;

(6) Dr. Yunus has pioneered a movement with the potential to assist a significant number of the more than 1,400,000,000 people, mostly women and children, who live on less than \$1.25 a day, and the 2,600,000,000 people who live on less than \$2 a day, and which has already reached 155,000,000, by one estimate;

(7) there are now an estimated 24,000,000 microenterprises in the United States accounting for approximately 18 percent of private (nonfarm) employment and 87 percent of all business in the United States, and the Small Business Administration has made over \$318,000,000 in microloans to entrepreneurs since 1992;

(8) Dr. Yunus, along with the Grameen Bank, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his efforts to promote economic and social opportunity and out of recognition that lasting peace cannot be achieved unless