

4/27/00
from Kim Stamer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
TO THE

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

FOR
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY
OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY.

1 MAY 1942 TO 2 SEPTEMBER 1945

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 3RD DAY OF APRIL 2000



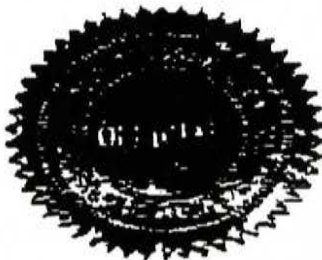
James D. ...
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

**THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM
TO THE
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, UNITED STATES ARMY**

The Military Intelligence Service is cited for outstanding and gallant performance of duty in action against enemies of the United States from 1 May 1942 to 2 September 1945. The Military Intelligence Service provided superior intelligence collection and dissemination services during World War II to combat forces throughout the world; its members were interpreters, translators, interrogators, propaganda specialists, and signal technicians who worked in every echelon of the United States military establishment and with Allied Forces. The Military Intelligence Service participated in every major battle and campaign in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and served in intelligence roles in the United States and in the European Theater of Operations. The more than six thousand linguists were assigned to combat units on every front, primarily in the Pacific Theater, supporting these units with critical interpretation, translation, radio reception, and interrogation services. The Military Intelligence Service not only played key roles in battlefield situations, they also provided United States forces with an unprecedented amount of intimate, authoritative, detailed, and timely information on enemy forces to support planning and execution of combat operations. The key contributions made by the members of the Military Intelligence Service in providing valuable intelligence on military targets helped advance the United States and Allied cause during World War II and undoubtedly saved countless lives and hastened the end of the war. The significant achievements accomplished by the faithful and dedicated service of the linguistic-intelligence specialist graduates of the Military Intelligence Service Language School, who formed the Military Intelligence Service will never be forgotten by our grateful Nation. Their unconquerable spirit and gallant deeds under fire in the face of superior odds, and their self-sacrificing devotion to duty are worthy of the highest emulation.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. TOTAL ARMY PERSONNEL COMMAND
ALEXANDRIA, VA

22332-0471

MEMO TO
ATTENTION OF

TAPC-PDO-PA (600-8-22)

9 May 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Robert A. Underwood, House of Representatives,
1418 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

SUBJECT: Presidential Unit Citation (PUC)

1. The recommendation for award of the PUC to Military Intelligence Service, for the period 1 May 1942 to 2 September 1945, has been approved.
2. The citation and certificate are enclosed. The individual ribbons (emblems) should be procured through local supply channels.
3. This correspondence will serve as authorization for the National Personnel Records Center to issue DD Form 215s.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Ends
as

for, William G. Gay, aw3
BERNARD P. GABRIEL
LTC, AG
Chief, Military Awards Branch

CF:
National Personnel Records Center
Center of Military History



RECOMMENDATION for ARMY MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION.

Approximately 60 Nisei were selectively Recruited for the 4th Army Intelligence School from within the ranks of the Army to study Japanese military language to prepare for WWII.

Forty five of the first graduating class either became instructors or were deployed to the Aleutians, South Pacific, Southwest Pacific and to the Central Pacific in early May 1942, a day after Gen Wainwright surrendered our forces to Gen Honma of the Japanese Imperial Forces in the Philippines.

The first Nisei linguist were tested when the Marine Corp invaded Guadalcanal, August 7, 1942. The Marine Corp and the Navy flew captured documents and POWs, a short flight, from Guadalcanal to New Caledonia for translations and interrogations performed by the Nisei language team attached to Task Force 6814.

The enclosed "Secret" document, August 28, 1942, extract of radiogram from New Caledonia extol the importance and value of nisei language graduates from MISLS. The strong performance, without support or backup and to produce valuable information, must have left an urgent message to seek more qualified men by our forces.

Enclosure; War Dept. Memorandum August 31, 1942. Recruit Nisei.

The most qualified were the Nisei, however they were reclassified 4-c (alien unfit for service.) March 1942, solely on the basis of race and not through any investigation or determination of probable cause.

Initially, language qualified volunteers from the American Internment Camps were accepted for training despite their 4-c classification. Eventually, Niseis were reclassified to 1-a and thousands served as Japanese language specialists during WWII.

Nisei soldiers dedication, their effort, their devotion to country and even giving their life, helped free their families from detention camps and dispel suspicion and distrust placed upon them as Japanese-Americans, and earn them the right to their own future as natural born citizens of America.

Enclosure: Endorsement of Superior Officers.

General Weckerling who served throughout WWII as an intelligence officer wrote an article in 1946 when he was serving as deputy assistant chief of staff, G-2 War Dept. Washington, D.C. he stated in part, "The complexities of the Japanese language are almost beyond occidental comprehension. A rough equivalent understandable to occidental would be the incorporation of the entire French language into English plus a highly complicated and revolutionary system of picture writing."

General Weckerling goes on to state "Japanese officers before the war had openly boasted that the Japanese language was so difficult that it constituted a code itself not susceptible of solution by foreigners---"

The Nisei, Director of Education, John F. Aiso, made sure the young nisei soldiers left the school well prepared to serve their country. Despite discrimination of rank, the nisei accepted their fate and went on to serve with nearly one hundred different units of U.S. and Allied Forces in the War against Japan in near anonymity.

The nisei linguists accepted these conditions, because to do

QUOTATION FROM SUPERIOR OFFICERS - Performance by Nisei

General Douglas MacArthur, Commander in Chief of Southwest Pacific Area stated "Never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement." No single individual would qualify or satisfy the statement made by the General. It was the dedication and determination of many MISLS graduates who made it possible. Not only from one place but from as many places and as many diverse units that had participated in the war against Japan during WWII.

Major General Charles Willoughby G-2 Intelligence Chief of MacArthur's Command stated; There were 6000 Nisei and Kibei who served in Military Intelligence Service. "These 6000 men," in the words of General MacArthur's Chief of Intelligence, "6000 Nisei in the War of the Pacific, saved over 1,000,000 American lives and shortened the war by two years. We used them even on Bataan. They collected information on the battlefield; they shared death in battle, and when one of them was captured, his fate was a terrible one. In all, they handled between two and three million documents. The information received through their special skills proved invaluable to our battle forces."

Colonel Sidney F. Mashbir, Commandant ATIS; "The United States of America owes a debt to these men [Nisei linguist] and to their families which it can never fully repay." "No group had so much to lose. Capture would have meant indescribable horrors to them and their relatives in Japan. They are worthy, as individuals and as a group of the highest praise for their invaluable contribution to the success of Allied Arms."

Joe Rosenthal, News Cameraman, Pulitzer Prize Winner; "They work so close to the enemy on these missions that with the danger of being killed by Japs, they run the risk of being shot, unintentionally, by our own marines. Many have paid with their lives. They have done an outstanding job, and their heroism should be recognized. It has been recognized by the marine commanders where I saw them in action at Guam, Peleliu and Iwo."

Colonel William Van Antwerp, General Staff G-2 27th Infantry Division; "The Makin operation afforded the first opportunity for the language section of this division to operate in combat. Their actions and the results of their work reflect high credit on them and the Military Intelligence Service Language School. We would have been twice as blind as we were, without the graduates. Without a doubt, they have saved many American lives."

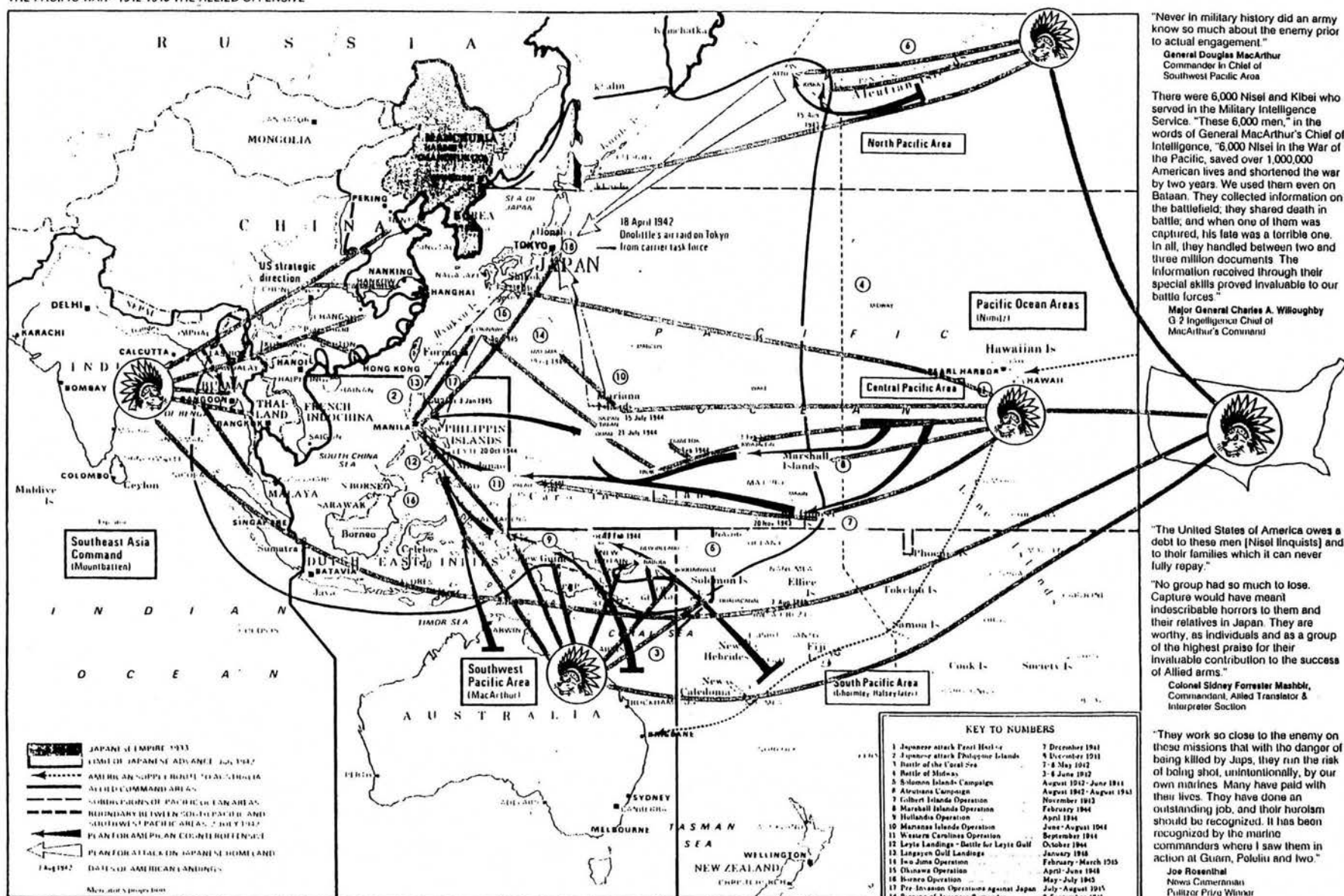
Enclosure:

Memorandum 9 June 1944. Subject: Nisei Col W.H. Wood Chief, Asiatic Theater.

A report by LTC Marcel G. Crombez, AGF special Representative in CBI.

War Department Memorandum, MG G.V. Strong AUG 31-42

Paraphrased Extract from Radiogram (Secret) AUG 25-42



"Never in military history did an army know so much about the enemy prior to actual engagement."

General Douglas MacArthur
Commander in Chief of
Southwest Pacific Area

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Commandant, Allied Translator &
Interpreter Section

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Joe Rosenthal
News Correspondent
Pulitzer Prize Winner

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I quote from Army Regulation 600-8-20, and specifically Chapter 7, United States Unit Awards, 7-1, Intent. Awards are made to organizations when the heroism displayed or meritorious service performed is a result of group efforts. The following unit awards are authorized as recognition of certain types of service, usually during war, as a means of promoting esprit de corps. a. Unit decorations, etc.

MIS personnel were spread throughout several theaters of operations and attached to almost 100 different units during WW II. Although they were with different units, their mission was the same and their weapon was the knowledge of the Japanese language. As mentioned above, promoting esprit de corps was the purpose of the unit citation then, and for those remaining over 50 years later, maintaining the esprit de corps by recognizing their individual deeds in a group or team effort would be the ultimate award for these Nisei unsung heroes.

Attached is a 2 page report with 4 enclosures prepared by Harry Akune. It is a narrative justification for the recommendation of the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the Nisei MIS soldier who served his country in time of need in a capacity that no others could perform.

Harry K. Fukuhara

COL Harry Fukuhara, USA, Ret.
September 9, 1997
Page 3

Unit Citations for MIS

In addition, Congress may enact, as part of this year's defense bill, a provision that would make the MIS organization, per se, eligible for military unit decorations. As all of your fellow MISers know, the MIS is a "service," as opposed to a "unit." The MIS was never deployed in the field; instead, MIS linguists and other intelligence specialists were attached piecemeal to other units, primarily in the Pacific and China-Burma-India theaters. Because MISers were often not considered "official" members of such units, many were not eligible for unit decorations received by the unit to which they were attached, even though MIS members may have performed important combat and support roles for the unit.

If this legislation is enacted, the MIS organization itself--and thus all MIS members--would be eligible for unit awards. An application must be submitted within 2 years for this purpose. I am convinced that the collective heroism and service displayed by the more than 6000 MISers during World War II is worthy of any unit decoration, up to and including the Presidential Unit Citation.

That concludes my report on various MIS initiatives. I appreciate the central role that you, Harry, and other MIS leaders have played in all of these efforts. I hope that we can continue to work together to ensure that all MIS veterans will live to see the day when their achievements are recognized by all Americans. Meanwhile, I extend my best wishes to the hundreds of MISers and their families who are expected to participate in this week's reunion.

Alona pumehana,



DANIEL K. AKAKA
U.S. Senator

7-4. Presentation of awards

Unit awards will be presented at an appropriate formal ceremony at the earliest practicable date after the award is announced. FM 22-5 prescribes the ceremony for presentation of unit awards at a formal review.

Section II Policy

7-6. Records

Appropriate documents concerning unit awards will be placed in the unit's organizational history file. Refer to AR 870-5.

7-5. Restrictions

Not more than one of the above unit awards will be awarded for the same act of heroism or the same period of meritorious service.

7-7. Unit award emblems

a. An individual unit award emblem is authorized for wear on the uniform for the Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award and Army Superior Unit Award. AR 670-1 contains information on the temporary and permanent wear of U.S. and foreign unit awards.

b. Appointments for wear on unit award emblems are outlined below.

(1) Oak Leaf Cluster. An Oak Leaf Cluster is authorized for wear for each additional award of the Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award.

(2) Service Stars. A bronze or silver five-pointed star 3/16-inch in diameter is worn to denote second and succeeding awards of the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy) and Navy Unit Commendation. The silver five-pointed star is worn instead of five bronze stars.

7-8. Unit citation and battle credit register

a. DA Pam 672-1 contains the following types of information concerning all affected units for service during World War II and the Korean conflict:

- (1) Campaign participation credits.
- (2) Assault landing credits.
- (3) Distinguished Unit Citation (redesignated as Presidential Unit Citation [Army] in 1966).
- (4) Presidential Unit Citations.
- (5) Meritorious Unit Commendations.
- (6) Foreign unit citations.
- (7) U.S. Air Force outstanding unit citations.
- (8) Army of occupation credits.
- (9) Berlin airlift credit.

b. Similar information for the Vietnam conflict is contained in DA Pam 672-3.

c. Unit commanders and military records custodians are enjoined to use DA Pam 672-1 and DA Pam 672-3 in conjunction with personnel records to determine and confirm entitlement of individual members to wear the insignia pertinent to each type of unit recognition. All verified entitlements will be entered into personnel records of individuals concerned per AR 640-2-1.

7-9. Unit Decorations for U.S. Army advisory personnel

A U.S. Army advisor to a foreign unit is authorized to wear U.S. decorations awarded to the foreign unit, as long as the advisor was present and assigned to that unit during the cited action or service.

7-10. Supply of unit award emblems, streamers, and other devices

a. Streamers and silver bands will be supplied upon approval of requisitions submitted to the Commander, U.S. Army Support Activity, Philadelphia, ATTN: STRAP-SEF, PO Box 13460, Philadelphia, PA 19101-3460. Unit decorations, campaign streamers and silver bands, and war service streamers and silver bands will be issued by the Commander, U.S. Army Support Activity, Philadelphia, upon verification of entitlement by the Center of Military History. To obtain verification of entitlement, requisitions submitted for these items must show the specific designation of the requiring unit and the appropriate inscription (that is, name of the campaign, war) if applicable.

b. See AR 725-50 and AR 840-10 for additional information on supply and requisition of streamers.

7-11. Issue to next of kin

When it is determined by CG, PERSCOM (TAPC-PDA) or the CG, ARPERCEN, an issue of unit decoration emblems may be made posthumously to the primary next of kin as indicated by official DA records. The following order of precedence will govern: surviving spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest sibling, or eldest grandchild. Duplicate issue will not be made to a next of kin when the records indicate previous issue was made to the living service member.

Section III U.S. Unit Decorations

7-12. Description

a. The following U.S. unit decorations, in order of precedence, have been established to recognize outstanding heroism or exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services:

- (1) Presidential Unit Citation (Army and Air Force).
- (2) Presidential Unit Citation (Navy).
- (3) Joint Meritorious Unit Award.
- (4) Valorous Unit Award.
- (5) Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army).
- (6) Navy Unit Commendation.
- (7) Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy).
- (8) Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.
- (9) Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.
- (10) Army Superior Unit Award.
- (11) Citation in Orders—Unit Recognition.

b. Refer to AR 670-1 for wear instructions for the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), Presidential Unit Citation (Air Force), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation (Navy) and Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

7-13. Presidential Unit Citation (Army)

a. Criteria. Effective 3 November 1966, the Distinguished Unit Citation was redesignated the Presidential Unit Citation (Army). The Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) is awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and belligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy occurring on or after 7 December 1941. The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart from and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual. Extended periods of combat duty or participation in a large number of operational missions, either ground or air is not sufficient. This award will normally be earned by units which have participated in single or successive actions covering relatively brief time spans. It is not reasonable to presume that entire units can sustain Distinguished Service Cross performance for extended periods except under the most

Harry Akune

From: Peter Huisking <peterhuisking@hotmail.com>
To: <hakune@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2000 1:54 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: MIS Unit Citation.

Good remarks by President at the MOH ceremony....Pete

-----Original Message Follows-----

From: "Harry Akune" <hakune@earthlink.net>
To: "Peter Huisking" <peterhuisking@hotmail.com>
CC: "Grant Ichikawa" <ichikawa@erols.com>
Subject: Fw: MIS Unit Citation. June 21, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT CEREMONY HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN MEDAL
OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT CEREMONY HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN MEDAL
OF HONOR
RECIPIENTS

South Lawn Pavilion 4:45 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Chaplain Hicks; distinguished members of the Senate and the House who are here in large numbers; Secretary and Mrs. Cohen; Secretary and Mrs. West; Secretary Shalala; other members of the administration who are here, I thank all of you for being here on this profoundly important day.

In early 1945, a young Japanese American of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team lay dead on a hill in southern France -- the casualty of fierce fighting with the Germans. A chaplain went up to pray over him, to bless him, to bring him back down. As the Chaplain later said, "I found a letter in his pocket. The soldier had just learned that some vandals in California had burned down his father's home and barn in the name of patriotism. And yet, this young man had volunteered for every patrol he could go on."

6/23/2000

In a few moments I will ask the military aides to read individual citations, detailing the extraordinary bravery of 22 Asian American soldiers -- some still with us, some to be represented by family members. We recognize them today with our nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor. They risked their lives, above and beyond the call of duty. And in so doing, they did more than defend America; in the face of painful prejudice, they helped to define America at its best.

We have many distinguished Americans here today -- members of the Senate and House, including at least one Medal of Honor winner, Senator Kerrey. We have former senators and House members here. But there is one person I would like to introduce and ask to stand because, in a profound and fundamental way, he stands on the shoulders of these whom we honor today, and all those who have worked for 50 years to set the record straight. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to recognize the Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Eric Shinseki. (Applause.)

Immediately following Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans in the United States military were forced to surrender their weapons. National Guardsmen were dismissed; volunteers were rejected; draft-age youth were classified as -- quote -- "enemy aliens." Executive Order 9066 authorized military commanders to force more than 100,000 Japanese Americans from their homes and farms and businesses onto trains and buses and into camps, where they were placed behind barbed wire in tar-paper barracks, in places like Manzanar, Heart Mountain, Topaz. I am sad to say that one of the most compelling marks of my youth is that one of those was in my home state.

One resident of the camps remembers his 85-year-old grandmother standing in line for food, with her tin cup and plate. Another remembers only watch towers, guards, guilt and fear. Another has spent years telling her children, "No, Grandfather was not a spy."

The astonishing fact is that young men of Japanese descent, both in Hawaii and on the mainland, were still willing, even eager, to take up arms to defend America.

In 1942, a committee of the Army recommended against forming a combat unit of Japanese Americans, citing -- and I quote -- "the universal distrust in which they are held." Yet, Americans of Japanese ancestry, joined by others of good faith, pressed the issue, and a few months later President Roosevelt authorized a combat team of Japanese American volunteers.

In approving the unit FDR said, "Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart. American is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry." That statement from President Roosevelt, so different from the executive order of just a year before, showed a nation pulled between its highest ideals and its darkest fears. We were not only fighting for freedom and equality abroad, we were also in a struggle here at home over whether America would be defined narrowly, on the basis of race, or broadly, on the basis of shared values and ideals.

When young Japanese American men volunteered enthusiastically, some Americans were puzzled. But those who volunteered knew why. Their own country had dared to question their patriotism and they would not rest until they had proved their loyalty.

As sons set off to war, so many mothers and fathers told them, live if you can; die if you must; but fight always with honor, and never, ever bring shame on your family or your country.

Rarely has a nation been so well-served by a people it has so ill-treated. For their numbers and length of service, the Japanese Americans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, including the 100th Infantry Battalion, became the most decorated unit in American military history. By the end of the war, America's military leaders in Europe all wanted these men under their command. Their motto was "Go or Broke." They risked it all to win it all.

They created a custom of reverse AWOL – wounded soldiers left their hospital beds against doctor's order to return to battle. They were veterans of seven brutal campaigns. They fought in Italy to overwhelm entrenched German positions that blocked the path north. They fought in France and liberated towns that still remember them with memorials. They took 800 casualties in just five days of continuous combat in southern France, to rescue the lost battalion of Texas which had been surrounded by German troops.

As their heroic efforts forced back the Nazis in Europe, news of their patriotism began to beat back prejudice in America. But prejudice is a stubborn foe. Captain Daniel Inouye, back from the war, in full uniform, decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Cluster, and 12 other medals and citations, tried to get a haircut and was told, "We don't cut Jap hair." As Captain Inouye said later, "I was tempted to break up the place," but he had already done all the fighting he needed to do.

People across the country had learned of his heroism and that of his colleagues, and loyal Americans were eager to teach others the difference between patriotism and prejudice. A group of Army veterans who knew firsthand the heroism of Japanese American soldiers, attacked prejudice in a letter to the Des Moines Register. It said, "When you have seen these boys blown to bits, going through shellfire that others refused to go through, that is the time to voice your opinion, not before."

In Los Angeles, a Japanese American soldier boarded a bus in full uniform, as a passenger hurled a racial slur. The driver heard the remark, stopped the bus, and said, "Lady, apologize to this American soldier or get off my bus." This defense of our ideals here at home was inspired by the courage of Japanese Americans in battle.

Senator Inouye, you wrote that your father told you as you left at age 18 to

join the Army and fight a war that the Inouyes owe an unrepayable debt to America. If I may say so, sir, more than half a century later, America owes an unrepayable debt to you and your colleagues. (Applause.)

Fifty-four summers ago, just a few steps from this very spot, President Truman greeted the returning members of the 442nd and told them, "You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice, and you have won." Let us not also forget that Americans of Japanese, Korean, Chinese and Filipino descent, along with Alaskan natives, all faced the same blind prejudice.

That is why we are proud to honor here today the service of 2nd Lieutenant Rudolph B. Davila, an American of Filipino and Spanish descent, who risked his life to help break through the German lines near Anzio; and Captain Francis Wai, an American of Chinese descent, who gave his life securing an important beachhead in the Philippine Islands. Americans of Asian descent did much more than prove they were Americans; they made our nation more American. They pushed us toward that more perfect union of our founder's dreams.

The report of the Presidential Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, some 20 years ago now, called internment an injustice, based on "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership." It prescribed several steps for redress, including an apology from the Congress and the President.

Some years later, many leaders backed legislation sponsored by Senator Daniel Akaka, to review the combat records of Asian Americans in World War II to determine if any deserving service members had been passed over for the Medal of Honor. The review found, indeed, that some extraordinarily brave soldiers never did receive the honors they clearly had earned.

So today, America awards 22 of them the Medal of Honor. They risked their lives, on their own initiative, sometimes even against orders, to take out machine guns, give aid to wounded soldiers, draw fire, pinpoint the enemy, protect their own. People who can agree on nothing else fall silent before that kind of courage.

But it is long past time to break the silence about their courage, to put faces and names with the courage, and to honor it by name: Davila, Hajiro, Hayashi, Inouye, Kobashigawa, Okutsu, Sakato, Hasemoto, Hayashi, Kuroda, Moto, Muranaga, Nakae, Nakamine, Nakamura, Nishimoto, Ohata, Okubo, Ono, Otani, Tanouye, Wai. These American soldiers, with names we at long last recognize as American names, made an impact that soars beyond the force of any battle. They left a lasting imprint on the meaning of America. They didn't give up on our country, even when too many of their countrymen and women had given up on them. They deserve, at the least, the most we can give -- the Medal of Honor.

I would like now to ask the military aides to read the citations.