

Ways to take action to help pass S. 1055:

There are several ways to help. The bill has passed in the house and now we need to get Senators to co-sponsor this legislation. Find out who your U.S. Senator is by clicking [here](#).

- **Write a personal letter to your Senator:**
Use any facts from this information packet, personal stories, or historical facts in your letter. There is also an example letter to Senators that you are free to use. It's best to keep it short, to the point, and include specific supporting examples of why they should support S. 1055. Please check if your Senator is already a co-sponsor below. Faxes are okay too.
- **Call your Senator:**
You can call your Senator and ask them to support S. 1055. Here is an example of a short message: "Hello, My name is _____ from the city _____ in the Senator's state. Today, I'm calling to ask the Senator to co-sponsor S. 1055, a bill that would grant a congressional gold medal, collectively, to the segregated Japanese American units during World War II called the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Teams who served the United States military during WWII. I think they deserve this medal because _____. Could you make sure the Senator hears my request? Thank you."
- **Share this information** and other information about S. 1055 with friends, family and community members by asking them and emailing them to write their Senators

List of Co-Sponsors:

[Sen Akaka, Daniel K.](#) [HI]
[Sen Bayh, Evan](#) [IN]
[Sen Begich, Mark](#) [AK]
[Sen Bennet, Michael F.](#) [CO]
[Sen Brown, Sherrod](#) [OH]
[Sen Burris, Roland](#) [IL]
[Sen Byrd, Robert C.](#) [WV]
[Sen Cantwell, Maria](#) [WA]
[Sen Cardin, Benjamin](#) [MD]
[Sen Casey, Robert](#) [PA]
[Sen Coburn, Tom](#) [OK]
[Sen Cochran, Thad](#) [MS]
[Sen Cornyn, John](#) [TX]
[Sen Dorgan, Byron L.](#) [ND]

[Sen Durbin, Richard](#) [IL]
[Sen Feinstein, Dianne](#) [CA]
[Sen Gillibrand, Kirsten E.](#) [NY]
[Sen Hutchison, Kay Bailey](#) [TX]
[Sen Inhofe, James M.](#) [OK]
[Sen Inouye, Daniel K.](#) [HI]
[Sen Isakson, Johnny](#) [GA]
[Sen Johnson, Tim](#) [SD]
[Sen Kerry, John F.](#) [MA]
[Sen Kirk, Paul](#) [MA]
[Sen Landrieu, Mary L.](#) [LA]
[Sen Levin, Carl](#) [MI]
[Sen Lieberman, Joseph](#) [CT]

[Sen Lugar, Richard G.](#) [IN]
[Sen Menendez, Robert](#) [NJ]
[Sen Merkley, Jeff](#) [OR]
[Sen Murkowski, Lisa](#) [AK]
[Sen Murray, Patty](#) [WA]
[Sen Reed, Jack](#) [RI]
[Sen Rockefeller, John](#) [WV]
[Sen Specter, Arlen](#) [PA]
[Sen Stabenow, Debbie](#) [MI]
[Sen Udall, Mark](#) [CO]
[Sen Vitter, David](#) [LA]
[Sen Whitehouse, Sheldon](#) [RI]
[Sen Wyden, Ron](#) [OR]

Facts on S. 1055

- This bill will grant a congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team who served the United States military during WWII
- S. 1055 has 40 co-sponsors on a bi-partisan basis including Senator Barbara Boxer (the bill's creator on May 14, 2009) and Senator Daniel Inouye who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
- The House version (H.R. 347) passed with 411 yeas to zero nays
- This bill is URGENT and should pass while as many World War II Veterans are still living. We estimate that there are about 4,900 Japanese American WWII veterans living today and by 2014, this number will drop to 2,000
- This bill needs to pass by September 2010 when the second session of the 111th Congress ends
- Senate rules require that 67 Senators sign on as co-sponsors before the bill can be brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Currently about 40 Senators have signed on.

Background on the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team

- After the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941, the United States Army discharged all Japanese-Americans in the reserve and changed their draft status to enemy alien. Then on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 forcibly removing 120,000 Japanese Americans to concentration camps
- On June 5, 1942, 1,432 predominantly Nisei (second generation Americans of Japanese ancestry) members of the Hawaii Provisional Infantry Battalion were given the opportunity to serve in a new US military unit called the 100th Infantry Battalion
- 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 re-open military service and in February 1943, 3,800 Nisei soldiers joined this new unit called the 442nd Regimental Combat Team
- The 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion bravely fought in Italy, southern France, and Germany and became the most decorated unit in the United States military for its size and service
- 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.
- *“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. Their commitment and sacrifice demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor”* (as reported from Section 1 of H.R. 347)

Medal Design and Public Display

- The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the award
- The Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, designs, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary
- The gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution and displayed at other appropriate locations, where it will be displayed as appropriate and made available for the public to view and remember these heroes

SAMPLE LETTER TO SENATOR

Date

The Honorable Senator [Full Name]
[Room #] [Building Name] Senate Office Building [Find here]
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: [Find here]

Dear Senator:

My name is _____ from [City/Town] in [Senator's State] and I am [Provide background info like: Go For Broke National Education Center supporter, A Japanese American WWII Veteran, the child of a 2nd generation Japanese American WWII Veteran, etc.]. I am writing to ask you to co-sponsor S. 1055, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army. These are the Japanese American soldiers who fought for the United States during World War II even though the government placed their families into concentration camps under Executive Order 9066.

I strongly believe that the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team deserve this highest of civilian awards. Not only did these heroes fight fascism abroad in Italy, France, and Germany during WWII, but they also fought discrimination at home. The 442nd came home from battle as the most decorated unit in the United States military history for their size and length of service. This is a story about exceptional bravery and patriotism that is worthy of a congressional gold medal.

[INSERT PERSONAL STORY. Tip: Use any family histories, personal feelings, or any facts from above or other sources.]

The house passed their version of the bill, H.R. 347, with bipartisan measures of 411 yeas and zero nays. I hope that with your co-sponsorship of S.1055, these American heroes will be granted this much-deserved medal and the public will be able to view the accomplishments it symbolizes. Thank you for your time and considerations.

Sincerely,

[You Name]

[Return Address]

September 16, 2009

**HONORING JAPANESE-AMERICAN "GO FOR BROKE"
REGIMENTS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

Dear Colleague:


We invite you to cosponsor legislation (S. 1055) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the United States Army in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

These military units, known as "Go for Broke" regiments, served with pride, courage and conviction, waging a war on two fronts – abroad against a forceful and oppressive enemy and at home against racial intolerance. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese-Americans, these men proudly served our nation even as their families and friends were relocated to internment camps.

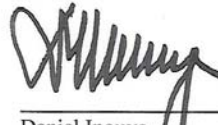
The "Go For Broke" regiments went on to earn several awards for their distinctive service in combat, including: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts. For their size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were the most decorated U.S. military units of the war. However, these regiments have yet to be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal.

If you wish to become a cosponsor of S. 1055, or if you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Denise Braemer of Senator Boxer's staff at (202) 224-3553 or at Denise_Braemer@boxer.senate.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,



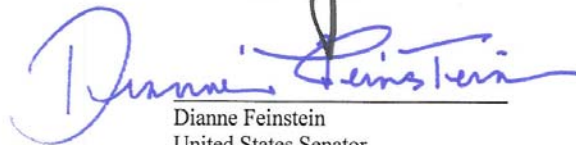
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Daniel Inouye
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 5, 2009

**HONORING JAPANESE-AMERICAN "GO FOR BROKE"
REGIMENTS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

Dear Colleague:

We invite you to cosponsor legislation (S. 1055) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the United States Army in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

These military units, known as "Go for Broke" regiments, served with pride, courage and conviction, waging a war on two fronts – abroad against a forceful and oppressive enemy and at home against racial intolerance. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese-Americans, these men proudly served our nation even as their families and friends were relocated to internment camps.

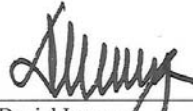
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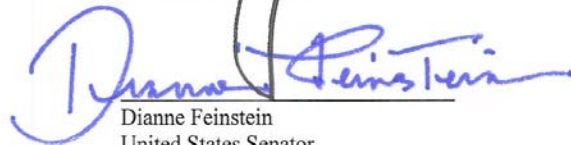
Barbara Boxer
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