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**Senate Passes Bill to Honor Japanese American Veterans of World War II  
100<sup>th</sup>, 442<sup>nd</sup>, MIS would receive Congressional Gold Medal**

WASHINGTON, DC (Aug. 3, 2010) – Last night, the United States Senate approved S.B. 1055, legislation introduced by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Japanese American soldiers of the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service (MIS). The legislation must be approved again by the U.S. House of Representatives before it can be submitted to President Barack Obama to be signed into law. The House is expected to take that action in September 2010.

The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress' highest civilian honor. Before it can be presented for vote, two-thirds of both the House and Senate are required to sign on as cosponsors. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) initiated the legislation in the House as H.R. 347 and it was passed with approximately 300 cosponsors in May 2009. The National Veterans Network supported Senator Boxer's work in the Senate on behalf of the legislation with a nationwide grassroots campaign to secure the 73 co-sponsors.

Senator Boxer said, "I am so pleased that the Senate is honoring these courageous soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal for their service to the United States during World War II. These brave Japanese Americans enlisted in the Army and fought for their country even as many of their family members and friends were sent to internment camps. This recognition of their service and patriotism is long overdue."

A tireless champion of this legislation, Rep. Schiff applauded its passage by the Senate. "After the bombing of Pearl Harbor incited doubts about the loyalty of Japanese Americans, these brave men who enlisted to fight to protect our nation were faced with segregated training conditions, families and friends relocated to internment camps and repeated questions about their combat abilities," Rep. Schiff said. "Man for man, they were the most highly decorated combat units of the war. I can't imagine a group more deserving of Congress' highest honor."

Commonly known as the Go For Broke regiments, the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup> is the most highly decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. military history. Among the many awards and distinctions earned through the bravery and sacrifice of soldiers of these units are: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 15 Soldier's Medals, 4,000 Bronze Stars and more than 4,000 Purple Hearts.

The contributions of the 6,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in the highly classified MIS were not known until passage of the Freedom of Information Act in 1974. Their work proved to be vital to U.S. military successes in the Pacific Theatre, from China to Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima to Leyte, and in occupied Japan. The MIS has been credited with shortening the war in the Pacific and saving countless Allied lives. President Bill Clinton honored the MIS with a Presidential Unit Citation in 2000.

The National Veterans Network is an alliance of 22 World War II veterans' organizations and nonprofits from throughout the United States whose missions are to serve the interests of the Japanese American World War II veterans or to preserve the Japanese American WWII experience. Participating organizations include: Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), Washington DC; National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Washington DC; National Japanese American Veterans Council, Washington DC; National JAACL, Washington DC; Chicago Nisei Post 1183/American Legion, Chicago, IL; Houston JAACL, Houston, TX; Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota, MN; Oregon Nisei Veterans, Portland, OR; Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Portland OR and Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle WA.

Additional National Veterans Network participants are National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco, CA ; Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, San Francisco, CA; Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Project, Fresno CA; Go For Broke National Education Center, Torrance, CA; 100/442 Veterans Association, Los Angeles, CA; MIS Club of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA; Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council, Los Angeles CA; 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Veterans Club, Honolulu HI; 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT Veterans Club, Honolulu HI; MIS Club of Hawaii, Honolulu HI; Go For Broke Association, Honolulu HI and Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, Maui, Kahului, HI.

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