

Dates: 2011-2012

Size: 1.5 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract:

A Congressional Gold Medal with accompanying proclamations and letters of congratulation to the 100th Infantry Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service.

Biographical/Historical Notes:

The 100th Infantry Battalion was the first Army combat unit in U.S. Army history to be comprised exclusively of Japanese-Americans. The success of this experimental, segregated unit and petitions from Nisei wishing to serve were eventually rewarded, and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team was born. Often remembered for their courageous rescue of "The Lost Battalion," 211 Texas National Guard Soldiers surrounded by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains, the 442nd RCT remains today one of our Army's most storied and highly decorated commands. And, throughout World War II, six thousand Nisei served in the Army's Military Intelligence Service, performing secret intelligence work against the Japanese military—dispelling any doubt that Japanese-Americans were willing to fight an enemy with whom they shared a similar ancestral background.

The Congressional Gold Medal is an award bestowed by Congress and is the highest civilian award in the United States. The decoration is awarded to an individual or unit who performs an outstanding deed or act of service to the security, prosperity, and the national interest of the United States. Since the American Revolution, Congress has commissioned gold medals as its highest expression of the national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions. Each medal can honor a particular individual, institution, or event. The U.S. Mint designs a special and unique medal to commemorate the achievement of the recipient of the award.

The nation's highest award for combat valor, the Medal of Honor, was conferred upon one Nisei during WWII, Sadao Munemori, after he sacrificed his life to save his fellow soldiers. Twenty-one members of the 100th Infantry Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team received Distinguished Service Crosses during or immediately after their World War II service, but in the 1990s, after a study revealed that racial discrimination had caused them to be overlooked, their awards were upgraded to Medals of Honor. On October 5, 2010, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded collectively to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion, as well as the 6,000 Japanese-Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service during the war.

Scope and Content:

A Congressional Gold Medal with accompanying proclamations and letters of congratulation to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service. The letters are from various state and federal legislators as well as local Japanese related organizations.

The original recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal included in the collection is unknown.

Arrangement: In no specific order.

Condition and Preservation: Good

Citation: Congressional Gold Medal Collection, AC9, Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego Archives.

Collection Access Restrictions:

The collection is open for research.

Collection Use Restrictions:

The Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD) holds the copyright to the unpublished materials.

Processing Information:

Robert Akiyama, July 2019

Language of Materials:

English

Box	Folder	Title/Subjects	Date
1	1	Letter: from John Boehner, Speaker of the House	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Barbara Boxer, Senator	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Dianne Feinstein, Senator	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Brian Bilbray, Congressman	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Darrell Issa, Congressman	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Susan Davis, Congresswoman	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Marty Block, Assemblyman	March 11, 2012
1	1	Letter: from Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Chairperson, National Veterans Network	March 11, 2012
1	2	Proclamation: from Bob Filner, Congressman (2 copies)	March 11, 2012
1	2	Booklet: Congressional Gold Medal Recipients	November 2, 2011
1	2	Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition: from Duncan Hunter, Congressman	March 11, 2012

1	3	Letter: from Linda Canada, President Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego	March 11, 2012
1	3	Letter: from David Kawamoto, President National Japanese American Citizens League	March 11, 2012
1	3	Proclamation: from County of San Diego	March 11, 2012
1	3	Certificate: from San Diego Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL)	n.d.
1		Congressional Gold Medal (recipient unknown)	
1		Red, white, blue woven lei made by Linda Kitsawa, Hawaii	
1		Proclamation Covers (4)	