



## CHICAGO-NISEI POST No.1183

The American Legion / ~~1046 West Wilson~~ / Chicago, Illinois 60640 / 312 / 561-9152

**Please,REPLY TO;**

April 9, 1988

Austin L. Andrews, USN (rtd) Commander  
Fla. State Chapter, ADBC  
537 Flotilla Rd.  
No. Palm Beach, FL 33408

Dear Commander Andrews:

In your letter of Feb. 21, 1988 to the President you gave various reasons for opposing his signing of the redress bills for Japanese Americans who were interned en masse during 1942.

As a native-born Californian, I was among the 120,000 people of Japanese descent interned at the Tule Lake Relocation Center without any charges, and without a single individual hearing or trial.

From there I volunteered to serve in the U.S. military intelligence services to serve in the war against Japan. Over 5,000 of us served in the MIS, half of us served from the so-called concentration camps the rest from Hawaii where Japanese Americans were not interned.

It may be of surprise to you that Japanese Americans were on the faculty at Boulder, Colorado Navy Intelligence School where they taught Japanese language to navy cadets who later became intelligence officers. The University of MICHIGAN and Chicago had similar schools for the army.

When Americans were called to serve in our armed forces their family members were honored by our country. In the ten internment centers where Japanese Americans were incarcerated there were Gold-Star mothers who were still locked up by our own government. How many Americans are willing to fight for a country whose leaders rejected them because of their Japanese ancestry?

You evidently do not know that over 1,000 Japanese Americans served at the Allied Translation and Interpreters Section (ATIS) at Brisbane, Australia under Colonel Mashbir and that General Willoughby, Chief of Intelligence under General MacArthur and Mashbir praised the Japanese Americans for helping to shorten the Pacific war and thus saving thousands of Allied troop lives.

When Japanese Admiral Koga's plane was forced down and his documents were translated by the Japanese American intelligence specialists at Brisbane, the Japanese fleets were destroyed in the ensuing naval battles of the Philippine Seas and Leyte Gulf.

Japanese Americans served in nearly every Pacific landings and land campaigns from Attu, China-Burma-India, Okinawa, Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Philippines, Saipan and Occupied Japan. I served with the 124th Cavalry Rgt. of Texas which was part of the Mars Task Force for the North Burma campaign.

Half of the MIS members of our team had members of their family in the internment

centers. Of the 30,000 members of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team that served in Europe, over half of them entered the services from internment centers.

I was still at the Tule Lake Relocation Center when the Army started to recruit Japanese Americans for the armed forces. Many of the internees were angry that the Army wanted us to volunteer after it first rejected us as untrustworthy. Those who did resist stated that if the evacuation order was removed they were willing to serve. Would any American citizen react otherwise if they were first imprisoned without any trial and then told to enlist?

Yours truly,

Arthur T. Morimitsu, Past Commander  
Life Member, American Legion, VFW  
124 Cavalry Assn. Texas, Mars Task Force  
GO FOR BROKE/MIS Midwest Chairman  
National Nisei Veterans Organization

PS Major national veterans organizations--National 34th Inf. Division, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion have adopted strong resolutions recognizing the injustice of interning American citizens of Japanese descent and their great patriotism during World War II in the Pacific and European theaters of war.