



To Members of Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post 9879, VFW

Dear Comrades;

The 100th/442nd/MIS Memorial foundation express their deepest appreciation to the members of Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post for the support and endorsement given to the Foundation in its effort to build a Japanese American World War II Veterans monument in downtown Los Angeles.

The Memorial Foundation is currently on a campaign to raise \$2.5 million for the purpose of building this monument. The city of Los Angeles have allocated a piece of land not far from City Hall, and adjacent to Li'l Tokyo for this monument purpose. \$500,000 have been budgeted by the State of California for the educational aspect of this monument. (Assemblymen Mike Honda and Nao Takasugi assisted us tremendously in getting this included in the budget) The Civil Liberty Public Educational Fund (CLPEF) have granted us \$50,000. We have received many donations so that our total is now over the half way mark. It is now necessary for us to raise the rest of the money to make this monument a reality. We are asking the veterans and the Japanese American community to help us on this endeavor. That is the purpose of this letter.

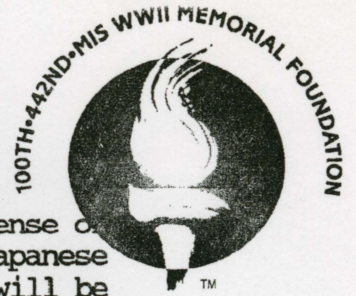
This monument will forever tell the story of how and why Japanese American came from "Behind Barbed Wire", from Hawaii and the rest of America, to form the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service Unit and achieved an incredible military record. The initial group volunteered in an atmosphere of suspicion of disloyalty of all Japanese American from the American public, not to mention, disdain from the "radical" elements within our own population.- We can all remember those camp days. This is a unique story not equaled in the annals of American history. Indeed, there is a right to be proud. However, this monument is not about self aggrandizement, self glorification or about wanting our names emblazoned on a monument wall, as we have been accused of doing. It is only proper and right that this story be preserved. Our future people will be proud of the history and the legacy that they had inherited - you bet!

As a results of the achievements of the "Nisei Soldiers", the course of history for the Japanese American have changed for the better. To name a few; repeal of the Alien Land Law, citizenship for our Issei parents and the right to vote, Statehood for Hawaii, election of Japanese Americans to high political offices, and of course the passage of HR 442 and SB 100 that resulted in the "Redress and Apology" for the internees of World War II. We have come a long ways babe. I submit that all this could not have happened if the "Honor and Integrity" was not earned by the Nisei soldiers of World War II. My personal sense is that there should be a feeling of "O-rei". That is a strong statement, but I think will withstand any kind of scrutiny or criticism.

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The inscription on the monument will read, "Rising to the defense of their country, by the thousands they came - these young Japanese American soldiers". On the outer circle of the monument wall will be inscribed the names of these thousands of Japanese American young men and the officers who served with them. The "Killed In Action" (KIA) will have a star inscribed before their names. The list will include the 6,000 who served with the Military Intelligence Service unit. It will also include the names of other Japanese American, both men and women, who served in other units other than with the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT or the MIS. The thousands of names will be impressive to all viewers. At a future date, it will also represent a great grandpa relationship on the monument wall. This may not be important to us, but it will be important to them.

We believe that the concept of this monument will give equal recognition to all who served during World War II. We also think that this will give equal recognition to all units. This is the way it should be. If we were to have followed the dictates of those who insists that only the "KIAs" be on the monument, this monument will essentially become a 100th/442nd monument and make it appear that the MIS played a minor role. For how would our future people know the difference,

The KIAs are important to us because they were our "comrades in arm". But the reality is that after we pass on and become history, that remembrance will also pass. Witness our cemeteries. Remembrance does not occur beyond the immediate family. Some plots are neglected in a few years. In time, the names of all will become irrelevant, but the struggle, the history and the event will always remain of interest. That is what this monument is all about.

This is not a War Memorial. A War Memorial, by its very nature, would focus more on the KIAs. In a short few years, we World War II veterans will be gone and no one to carry this program forward. That is why we are working so feverishly on this project now. If we are to ignore this task before us, this story will in time fade and be forgotten. We cannot allow that to happen.

Please read our Prospectus carefully. Various methods of donation are given. Some families have collectively given. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. A "Donor Recognition Wall" will be erected for donations of over \$3,000. Amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$25 have been received. If you believe that we are doing the right thing, please consider making a donation to this worthy cause. We need your support.

Sincerely

Sus Satow, Member, Board of Director
100th/442nd/MIS Memorial Foundation
Sacramento Nisei VFW Post 8985
Florin JAFL Chapter