

Bronze Star Ceremony / Memorial Event
November 1, 2011
Christine Sato-Yamazaki

On behalf of the National Veterans Network, a coalition of 25 Japanese American veterans and civic organizations, it is my honor to welcome all of you and especially the honorees to this Memorial event and Bronze Star Ceremony to commemorates the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th, 442nd and Military Intelligence Service.

Today, we pay tribute to the Nisei Soldiers who served in World War II. We are here to express our appreciation to these soldiers for making a mark in our history by serving in the US Army at a time when their family and friends were behind barbed wire and when there was suspicion against the Japanese American community. They had a challenge that most of us cannot fathom taking on, fighting discrimination at home, fighting fascism abroad, risking all to prove that they were loyal patriotic Americans. As a result of their perseverance, courage and determination, they proved that Americanism was about heart and mind. We, as beneficiaries of their actions, have benefitted greatly from their actions and because of you we are able to enjoy the freedom and equal opportunities we have today.

We are grateful to all of you for your bravery, sacrifices and service to our country, for making our lives better for our community and a nation. Because of all of you, we can hold our heads up high and for leaving an invaluable message that all of us can carry on about what it means to be an American. Thank you for your service.