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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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DEFENSE
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March 14, 2025

The Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Driscoll:

I write to express my deepest concern regarding the recent removal of information about the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) from a U.S. Army website.¹ Any attempt to eliminate the memory of this truly bittersweet chapter of our nation's history would be a direct rejection of the sacrifice and memory of these brave servicemembers and their families and a deep stain on our country.

During World War II, the 442nd RCT was a segregated unit comprised almost entirely of Nisei, or first-generation Japanese Americans. Deployed to the European Theater, the 442nd RCT became the most decorated unit of its size and duration in American history because of the bravery and heroism of its members. Another all-Nisei fighting unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion, had an equally impressive combat record in Europe. The two groups were combined to form 442nd/100th RCT in June 1944. Members of these two units played influential roles in Hawai'i and elsewhere in our country after the war, becoming community, business and government leaders to include the late U. S. Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga.

442nd/100th RCT were not alone in their historic efforts for our nation. The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion (FAB) was the only Nisei unit to fight in Germany and traveled over 1,000 miles within Germany in support of two dozen Allied groups. Scouts of the 552nd FAB liberated camps belonging to the Kaufering concentration camp complex, itself a series of subcamps of the Dachau camp complex. Additionally, the Japanese-American Unit of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) consisted of Nisei who were trained as linguists served as translators, interpreters and interrogators during the Pacific War. In addition to their invaluable service, Nisei members of the MIS assisted with demobilization of the Japanese military and rebuilding of Japan.

All this occurred while the parents and siblings and children and other family members and friends of the Nisei soldiers of World War II were interned in isolated segregated camps solely because of their race. For these truly exceptional circumstances and contributions to a nation that treated them so unjustly, the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation's highest civilian award, was bestowed collectively on them nearly seven decades after the close of the war.

¹ Hawai'i News Now, "History of the Nisei 'Go For Broke' WWII unit removed from Army website," March 14, 2025, <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/03/14/history-nisei-go-broke-wwii-unit-removed-army-website/>

While the Army still maintains some websites covering the history of the 442nd/100th RCT and other Nisei units, a simple search of the Army's homepage (<https://www.army.mil/>) reveals that countless webpages dealing with Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) have been removed. It is clear that the Army is intentionally removing these websites based solely on race without any consideration of or respect for historical context. It must be assumed from these actions that the Army has already begun and will continue to remove further such websites, including those highlighting the 442nd/100th RCT and other Nisei units.

Erasing history one website at a time is no different than the tragic practices of the authoritarian regimes throughout history that so many of our own have sacrificed to oppose. It not only diminishes public access to crucial historical information but also risks erasing the sacrifices and contributions of these American heroes from the digital archive of our nation's military legacy. We must maintain all of our nation's history to understand the present and future, learn from past mistakes and foster a sense of identity and belonging, both individually and as a society.

For all of these reasons, I request that you provide the following information by no later than April 15, 2025:

1. The details of and justification for any removal of the 442nd/100th RCT's information from the Army website.
2. Plans to restore or maintain public access to this critical chapter of our military history, to include their record as the most decorated unit in American history and the decision to award its members and other Nisei WWII veterans the Congressional Gold Medal in 2010.
3. An explanation of the detail, rationale and criteria used to remove other websites related to Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders servicemembers.
4. A briefing on the Army's plan regarding the historical preservation of distinguished military units, to specifically include the 442nd/100th RCT, 522nd FAB and the Japanese-American Unit of the MIS.

As you evaluate and respond to my request, I strongly urge the Army to take immediate steps to ensure that the history of these American heroes is not lost to future generations. I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your response. If you have any questions, please contact my Chief of Staff, Tim Nelson, at tim.nelson@mail.house.gov or my Defense Fellow, Benjamin Smith, at benjamin.smith@mail.house.gov.

With aloha,



Ed Case
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