



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 16, 2016

Dear Ms. Brennan:

Next year marks 75 years since the start of a legendary patriotic story featuring a unique group of Americans. We would like you to commemorate this subject through a postage stamp in 2017.

In the face of great adversity, over 33,000 "Nisei" (American-born children of Japanese immigrants) stood tall for our nation during World War II. Even while war hysteria and racism were overtaking our government, these Nisei wanted to show their loyalty. Over 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated in "internment camps" at gunpoint. Two-thirds were American citizens. Yet, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered for military service, many even volunteering from behind barbed wire. They went off to war leaving wives, children and their extended families still in these camps. Over 800 Japanese American soldiers died during the war.

These Nisei enlisted in the US Army, and served with utmost valor. They served mainly in two segregated units: the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The 100/442 would become one of the most highly decorated units in US military history. They earned 560 Silver Stars, 7 Presidential Unit Citations and 21 Medals of Honor. The Military Intelligence Service would be credited with shortening the war in the Pacific by two years using their linguistic skills, and founding the modern-day Defense Language Institute (DLI) in the process. The DLI serves our Armed Forces today by developing military linguists. Both groups were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

Earlier this month, Representatives Mark Takai (HI-01) and Judy Chu (CA-27) sent a letter urging you to issue a stamp which would commemorate this subject. 32 members of Congress joined them in signing the letter.

I am sending you this letter to add my name to the list of supporters of this stamp subject. We urge you to take decisive action to support this subject by 2017.

Very few historical Asian American Pacific Islander stamp subjects have ever been issued. This inspirational stamp would be a big step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles B. Rangel", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress