

United States Senate

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September 29, 2016

The Honorable Megan Brennan
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20260

Dear Postmaster General Brennan:

I write to you today to express support for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp to honor Japanese American veterans for their dedicated service to our country during World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, an estimated 120,000 Japanese Americans residing in the United States were removed from their homes on the Pacific Coast and placed into internment camps. Though their family and friends were unjustly incarcerated, over 30,000 Nisei—second generation Japanese American men and women—volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army and fought valiantly for our country.

Most served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. These units were highly decorated, and the 100th/422nd remains the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in American military history. The 442nd also saw the highest percent of casualties of any unit in the Army, earning it the nickname “Purple Heart Battalion.” Over 800 soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice.

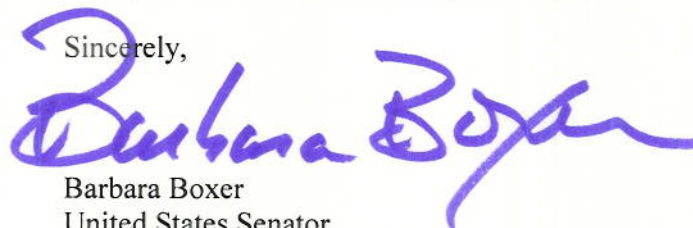
These brave soldiers fought World War II on two fronts—against the enemy abroad and against prejudice at home. While we can never repay the debt that we owe them, we can and must recognize their valor and patriotism.

In 2011, members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service were awarded the highest civilian award given by Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal. Yet, many Americans remain unaware of their story of unwavering loyalty and courage on the battlefield despite the harsh treatment they faced.

Next year, as we remember 75 years since Japanese Americans were interned in the United States, a commemorative postage stamp honoring the Nisei veterans of World War II would be a fitting tribute to these soldiers who served our country with distinction and would ensure that their story is shared for generations to come.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator