

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0508

May 17, 2016

Office of Megan Brennan  
Postmaster General  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington DC, 20260

Dear Postmaster General Megan Brennan,

I strongly urge you to issue a United States commemorative postage stamp that would honor and preserve the inspiring story of the Japanese Americans who served in the US Army during World War II.

Next year marks 75 years since the first Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. It also marks 75 years since second generation Japanese Americans responded to this incarceration not with resentment, but by choosing to serve the United States on the frontlines in its fight against tyranny and oppression around the world

During World War II, Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to incarceration camps. 30,000 Nisei, or Americans of Japanese descent, then responded to this treatment by volunteering to serve in the United States military. Most were part of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. These units were some of the most highly decorated in our nation's history. These volunteers fought for our freedoms and for the future of the free world while their families sat in American incarceration camps across the United States. Over 800 made the ultimate sacrifice during their service.

Many internees and veterans went on to make significant contributions to the United States after the war. Public officials such as Senator Daniel Inouye, Governor George Ariyoshi and Congressman Spark Matsunaga were all Japanese American World War II veterans. Norman Mineta, who was one of the roughly 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated during the war, later went on to become U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Thousands of others have their own amazing success stories, contributing to American life and culture as educators, lawyers, and doctors.

As a Representative from California, I have been able to personally visit the Manzanar incarceration site located in my district. The site helps visitors to relive an incredible time in

American history and tells the story of this resilient and brave community of Japanese Americans. For those who haven't learned this history, a commemorative stamp could stimulate their curiosity and engagement, leading to a deeper understanding of the historical implications of this consequential event. As we look back at how these Japanese Americans were treated, for no reason other than ethnicity, it is important that we find a way to honor their courage, loyalty, and undying patriotism to the United States. This stamp will serve as a tribute to their sacrifice, as well as a necessary reminder that civil liberties belong to us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Cook". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)  
U.S. Congressman  
California's 8<sup>th</sup> District