

NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK
NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PROGRAM
REMARKS BY GEORGE JOE SAKATO
November 2, 2011, 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Mr. Chairman, General Odierno, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Veterans, and other honored guests. My name is George Sakato, Company E, 442nd Regimental Combat Team. On behalf of the 33,000 Japanese Americans who served in the US Army during World War II, including the 800 soldiers who died on the battlefields in Europe and the Pacific, we thank our Congress for awarding the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service.

We also thank the Government which allowed us to serve in the US Army to defend our country and to give us the opportunity to prove our loyalty to America. When President Harry Truman welcomed home the 442nd RCT in ceremonies in Washington, DC on July 15, 1946, he honored the loyalty of all Japanese Americans who served. This contributed to a series of reforms that allowed Japanese Americans and other minorities to compete for any rank and position in the public and private sectors without regard to race or ethnic origin. These actions by our government reflect the Greatness of America. Thank you for treating us as “just Americans”.