

Nov. 2, 2011

*Washington, D.C.* – Today, approximately 19,000 Japanese American veterans will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service in World War II. The Gold Medal is Congress' highest civilian honor.

“We honored men and women today whose service has gone unacknowledged for too long. I was proud to express our country’s gratitude for their patriotism and sacrifice,” said Rep. Jerry McNerney.

“In particular, I want to thank these veterans being honored today who are from our region, as well as all of the veterans who have fought so bravely for our country,” said Rep. McNerney.

The veterans are being honored today by legislation that was made law on Oct. 5, 2010. The Japanese Americans served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The Japanese soldiers of the three units were known as the “Go For Broke” regiments because of their willingness to do whatever it took to succeed.

“The men and women being honored today are true heroes. Even while other Japanese Americans were being sent to Internment camps, they selflessly served in the Army to protect our country. Their sacrifice is finally being given the recognition it deserves,” said Rep. McNerney.