

# City of Alhambra

## PRESS RELEASE

### City of Alhambra announces “GO FOR BROKE” theme of its 2015 Tournament of Roses® Parade Float

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**ALHAMBRA, CA** – The City of Alhambra is pleased to announce its “GO FOR BROKE” themed-float entry in the 126<sup>th</sup> Tournament of Roses® Parade, which takes place January 1, 2015 in Pasadena, CA. Complimentary to the Tournament’s own theme of “*Inspiring Stories*” – the stirring narrative of “Go For Broke” veterans shares the real life stories of Japanese-American soldiers who served in segregated units during World War II, answering their country’s call to arms with unparalleled bravery.

To this day, the service record of the “Go For Broke” soldiers is unmatched: the 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team are the most highly-decorated units by size and length of service in the history of the U.S. Army. The Military Intelligence Service has been credited with shortening the war in the Pacific by as much as two years, and saving countless lives. In October 2010, these three units were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, which, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, are our country’s highest civilian honors.

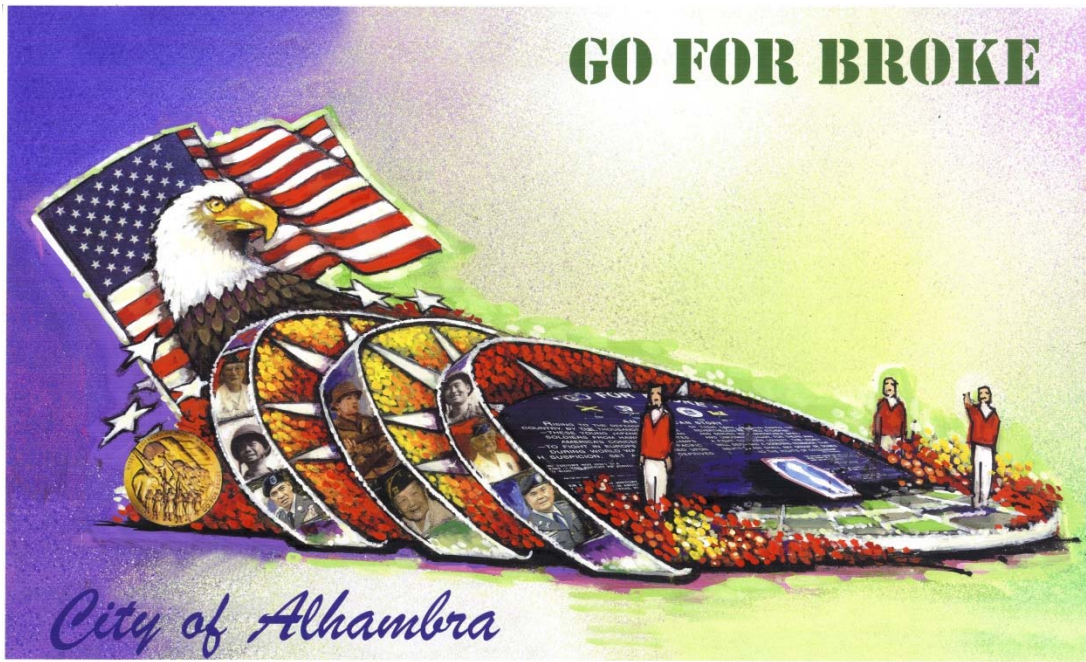
The inspiring stories of these great soldiers became the inspiration for the theme of the City’s 2015 Tournament of Roses® float. Many of the soldiers came from sugar plantations in Hawaii where their immigrant parents were denied citizenship and treated as “second-class citizens.” Others volunteered from internment camps that imprisoned 120,000 ethnic Japanese after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Thanks to Go For Broke National Education Center, which is partnering with the City on this project, the design will feature a motif resembling the “Go For Broke” Monument that is located in the Little Tokyo area of Los Angeles. Dedicated in 1999, it was designed by Los Angeles Architect Roger M. Yanagita, and features a large semicircular face of polished black granite, set at an angle facing the sun as it travels across the southern sky. The Go For Broke Monument is engraved with the names of over 16,000 Japanese American soldiers who served in World War II.

The Alhambra float is being designed, built and decorated by the well-known float designer/builder, Phoenix Decorating Company. It will feature not one, but three, semicircular faces with the main one bearing a striking resemblance to the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles—but using all natural plant elements in stunning and intricate detail. Along the edges of each semicircular face there will be depictions of the 21 Japanese American Medal of Honor recipients. At the rear of the float there will be a large American flag and eagle’s head. A likeness of the Congressional Gold Medal will be incorporated into each side of the colorful float. The float riders will include several surviving “Go For Broke” veterans from World War II.

literally hundreds of oral interviews have been conducted by Go For Broke National Education Center and are available on their website at [www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org).

**GO FOR BROKE**



*City of Alhambra*

Artist's rendering of the City of Alhambra's 2015 Tournament of Roses® Float