



MICHAEL M. HONDA
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May 27, 2013

Message from Congressman Mike Honda

For the *Memorial Day Wreath Laying*

Distinguished Veterans, Friends, and Attendees:

It is my honor to be able to deliver this message to you all this morning as we gather to honor Senator Daniel K. Inouye and all of the many Japanese American veterans who valiantly defended our home, the United States of America. It is because of you, and all your brothers in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice, that we are here this morning—to honor and thank you. We are eternally grateful for the heroism, dedication, and service that members of the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service contributed during World War II.

My late father, Giichi “Byron” Honda, proudly served the United States of America in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II, and I am proud to be the son of a man who worked to defend our country. My sincere appreciation goes not only to all those who, like my father, made sacrifices to serve this great country, but also to the families of these brave individuals, and to all those who continue to honor these individuals by providing recognition of their service.

Despite facing the prejudice of the people they fought to protect and defend, Japanese Americans proudly served this great county during World War II. As President Truman told the veterans at the White House at the end of the war, “You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice, and you won.” We must continually honor their sacrifice by dedicating ourselves to keeping our country free of the prejudices that would seek to infringe on the freedoms these men fought to defend.

I thank you all for attending today’s wreath laying. By remembering and learning from our nation’s greatest heroes, we remind ourselves of their lives and stories, and that ordinary citizens can become extraordinary warriors. To our veterans, both living and fallen, today and every day we say thank you, and we will never forget your sacrifice.

Warm regards,

Michael Honda
Member of Congress