

# Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



## “GOING FOR BROKE”



Nisei Infantrymen hike up muddy French road, 2nd battalion, 442nd RCT 10/14/1944 cite: [nvnvets.org](http://nvnvets.org)

Each May, we recognize Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month—a time to celebrate the rich cultures, lasting contributions, and deep-rooted legacies of AANHPI communities across our nation. From science and public service to the arts and the armed forces, the impact of AANHPI Americans is woven into the fabric of our shared American story.

This month, we proudly highlight the legacy of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, activated on February 1, 1943, and composed almost entirely of second-generation Japanese American soldiers—many of whose families were forcibly relocated to internment camps during WWII. Despite adversity, they served with unmatched valor and loyalty.

The 442nd Regiment became the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in U.S. military history, earning various awards and recognition, including:



21 Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team received the medal of honor.



9,500 Purple Hearts were awarded to individual soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—reflecting the immense sacrifice and bravery of its members on the battlefield.



Congressional Gold Medal In recognition of their extraordinary heroism and service, Japanese American soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal—one of the highest civilian honors in the United States.

Among these courageous individuals was 2nd Lt. Edwards H. Androvetta of Mountain Lakes, New Jersey (pictured below), who served in L Company. His service exemplifies the bravery and patriotism of AANHPI Americans who have shaped our nation’s history.

Their motto—“Go For Broke”—was more than a phrase; it was a testament to their courage and commitment. This month, we celebrate this legacy in the broader context of our shared American history. Let’s continue to uplift the unique stories that strengthen our collective success. Learn more about the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regiment by visiting the [Defense.gov](http://Defense.gov).



Nisei soldiers move past knocked out Nazi half-track. Bruyeres, France 10/24/1944 cite: [nvnvets.org](http://nvnvets.org)



Studying a map of their new bivouac area at a roadside are (L-R) 2nd Lt. Edwards H. Androvetta, of Mountain Lakes, NJ; 2nd Lt. Robert H. Foote, of Hebron, CN; S/Sgt. Min Sumida, of Los Angeles, CA; and Sgt Minora A. Ikehara, of Honolulu, HI; part of L company, 442nd Combat Team Chambois Sector, France 10/13/1944 cite: [nvnvets.org](http://nvnvets.org)



Vosges Forest, France Bob Yorita, Shigeru Suekuni, Lefty Ichihara, Michio Takata and Capt. Joe Hill of F Company, 2nd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, moves out of its old command post. It is holding a section of the front lines. 11/13/1944 cite: [nvnvets.org](http://nvnvets.org)



SLT. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., CG, U.S. Fifth Army, salutes after fastening the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation Banner to the guidon of L Company, 3rd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, at a ceremony at Leghorn, Italy. 9/4/1945 cite: [nvnvets.org](http://nvnvets.org)