



ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
AMERICAN
APIA BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Fighting for the American Dream

9th Annual
Asian Pacific
Islander American
(APIA) Heritage
Month Celebration

Designed by Lily Nguyen with updates by Joyce D. Bantugan



APIA WWII Military Gold Medalists

- **An Activity Book** -

APIA Biography Project
Asian American Studies Department
College of Ethnic Studies
San Francisco State University

© 2022

Fighting for the American Dream: APIA World War II Military Gold Medalists

An Activity Book

Table of Contents

Preface.....	1
Some Resources for Elementary School Students.....	3
Japanese American Congressional Gold Medal.....	5
Filipino American Congressional Gold Medal.....	13
Chinese American Congressional Gold Medal.....	21
WWII Segregated Asian American Military Units.....	29
Activities.....	33
2022 APIA Event Cosponsors.....	43

© 2022

Cover Design: Lily Nguyen with updates by Joyce D. Bantugan

Activity Book Overall Design and Layout: Joyce D. Bantugan

Printing Courtesy of San Francisco Main Public Library

THE APIA BIOGRAPHY PROJECT



Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo, Directors

The Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Biography Project began in 2012 under Asian American Studies Professors Lorraine Dong and Jeannie Woo at San Francisco State University. The project's primary mission is to provide free and accessible APIA resources for children and adults through events and a website. It is a Community Service Learning project based mainly on the works done by AAS 512 (Asian American Children's/Adolescent Literature) students at San Francisco State. It is funded by donations and the University's Instructionally Related Activities grant.

Email: apiabiography@gmail.com

Website: apiabiography.sfsu.edu

FIGHTING FOR THE AMERICAN DREAM

APIA World War II Military Gold Medalists

An Activity Book

World War Two Veterans and the Congressional Gold Medal

The United States entered World War II in 1941, but it started a few years earlier in Asia and Europe. That is a long time ago! The people who lived then were probably your great-grandparents. That generation is sometimes called "The Greatest Generation" because of their sacrifices and service during World War II.

Who Were They?

This Activity Book features some of the Asian American veterans who served in the US Armed Services: the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines, along with nurses and intelligence operators. They served mostly in three "theaters of war": in the Pacific, Europe, and North Africa. Some also served in Burma-Southeast Asia.

More than thirty countries fought in World War II. The world was divided into two groups:

The Allies – United States, Great Britain, Soviet Union, China, Philippines, France, Mexico, Canada, Australia, and more.

The Axis Powers – Germany, Italy, and Japan

Here are some famous names and quotes in history: the Flying Tigers, the 442nd "Go for Broke" Battalion, the 1st Filipino Regiment, "A day that will live in infamy," "I shall return," and more. Have you ever heard of them? (Your grandparents have!)

The Congress of the United States has awarded Asian American World War II veterans a Congressional Gold Medal, one of the highest awards given to Americans for their service to our country. The three Asian American ethnic groups that received this honor included the Japanese in 2010, the Filipinos in 2016, and the Chinese in 2018.

Let's meet some of them, and see why they are so important to our country. Let's honor our ancestors and the Greatest Generation, and thank them for their service. And, let's remember them on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.



2010



2016



2018

This Activity Book for elementary school was created by Asian American Studies students at San Francisco State University and community cosponsors to honor the three groups of Asian American World War II veterans who received the Congressional Gold Medal. This was the 2022 theme of the APIA Biography Project's 9th annual Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Heritage Month Celebration. Due to the lingering impact of COVID-19, the celebration was unable to continue with its in-person community event this year. Nevertheless, the APIA website (apiabiography.sfsu.edu) features activities, resources, PowerPoints, and videos on the subject matter. And, for the entire month of May 2022, with the full collaboration of the San Francisco Main Public Library, our annual APIA Wall of Fame was displayed at the Children's Center in addition to a special Chinese American World War II veteran display accompanied by three videos at the Chinese Center. The latter was put together by cosponsor Square and Circle Club.

2021-22 APIA BIOGRAPHY PROJECT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lorraine Dong (SFSU; Square and Circle Club) and Jeannie Woo (SFSU), Directors

Nolan-Kyle Sumala (Square and Circle Club), Website Manager

Nick Bartel (TACT Curriculum Committee)

Jerry Dear (SF Main Library, Magazines and Newspapers Center Librarian)

Emily Salcido (Square and Circle Club)

Joyce D. Bantugan (Square and Circle Club Intern)

SOME RESOURCES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

compiled by
Lorraine Dong

Picture Books with APIA WWII Veterans

NOTE: There are a few non-fiction picture books focusing on the lives of specific APIA WWII veterans. Children's fiction with APIA WWII military characters as the protagonist is basically non-existent. Below is an annotated list of what can be found to date. San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) call numbers are provided by Jerry Dear, Librarian. Nick Bartel of the TACT Curriculum Committee provided links to the Read-Alouds.

Collins, David R. *Grandfather Woo Goes to School*. Illustrated by Deborah Wilson, Milliken Publishing, 1990. [Fiction: Chinese American Grandfather Woo shows up for Career Day as a war veteran but his war stories are not included in the book.]

Dixon, Chuck, script. *Medal of Honor: Daniel Inouye*. Illustrated by Christopher Ivy, Association of the United States Army, 2020. www.military.com/off-duty/2020/06/02/read-free-graphic-novel-honoring-medal-honor-recipient-sen-daniel-inouye.html [A graphic short story covering Daniel Inouye's WWII military experience.]

Goodsell, Jane. *Daniel Inouye*. Illustrated by Haru Wells, Thomas Y. Crowell, 1977. Crowell Biographies. [This biography covers Inouye's military experience on pp. 15-24.] **SFPL Call No.: jB Inou**

Langcaon, Jeff. *My Grandpa's Battleship Missouri Tour*. Mutual Publishing, 2007. [Fiction: A Japanese American grandfather shows students the battleship where he served during World War II, but does not talk about his military experience. Read-Aloud: www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4pfgD_uD7s (6:50)]

Leung, Julie. *The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee*. Illustrated by Julie Kwon, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2021. [This is a picture book biography. Read-Aloud with Julie Leung and Julie Kwon: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tq2I_o70Vq4 (29:11)] **SFPL Call No.: jB Lee**

Mochizuki, Ken. *Heroes*. Illustrated by Dom Lee, Lee & Low Books, 1995. [Fiction: The Japanese American protagonist's father and uncle served during World War II, whose military experiences are not described in the story. Read-Aloud: www.youtube.com/watch?v=roP5O_5gfb8&feature=emb_logo (8:11)] **SFPL Call No.: jF Moch**

Moss, Marissa. *Sky High: The True Story of Maggie Gee*. Illustrated by Carl Angel, Tricycle Press, 2009. [This is a picture book biography. Read-Aloud on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfD1gpEoUdg (8:41)] **SFPL Call No.: jB Gee**

Shigekawa, Marlene. *Welcome Home Swallows*. Illustrated by Isao Kikuchi, Heian International, 2001. [Fiction: The Japanese American protagonist has one uncle who served in World War II and one who was a no-no boy. It does not go into details about the two uncles' experiences.] **SFPL Call No.: jPS Shig**

Some APIA WWII Media of Interest for Children

Gee, Shannon, director and producer. *An American Hero: Shiro Kashino*. Animation by Randy Eng, Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, NVC Foundation, and Seattle Channel, 2015. vimeo.com/138931027 [16 min.]

Jesus Villamor: Pinoy Top Gun. Masid, [2020].
www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0vA3VCi2k8&t=82s [8 min.; animation]

Lowe, Felicia, producer, director, and writer. "Maggie Gee: WWII Aviator." *My Chinese Californian Story*. California Museum, Full Frame Production, 2020.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=daWwsWxNE-s&t=15s [2.25 min.]

PBS Learning Media. *Asian Americans in Military Service during WWII*. WETA, Washington DC and CAAM, 2020. ca.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/asian-americans-military-service/asian-americans-video/ [7 min.]

A Story of Asian American Pacific Islanders in the United States Military since the War of 1812. AARP Real Possibilities, [2019]. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1jeUyRdxrl [7 min.]

WASPs: The Maggie Gee Story. Southern Oregon Chinese Cultural Association, 2010.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDcAiW5Y6ww [28 min.; contains a *Sky High* Read-Aloud with a Maggie Gee interview]

**The Japanese American World War II Veteran
Congressional Gold Medal Act
(October 5, 2010)**



Princess De Guzman (SFSU 2021)

**Public Law 111-254
111th Congress**

AN ACT

**to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to
the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
United States Army,
in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.**

APIA Wall of Fame
Japanese American WWII Veterans
Post-War

Daniel Inouye

Daniel used the GI Bill to pursue a law degree to become a lawyer. He was the first Japanese American to serve in the House of Representatives and US Senate, both times representing Hawai‘i. He served in multiple Senate committees and was among the most powerful statesmen in America.

Frances Iritani

Frances married Donald M. Kawano. Together, they had six children. She passed away in Colorado at age 80.

Sadao S. Munemori

Sadao was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroism in action when fighting against the enemy to rescue the “Lost Battalion” in Seravezza, Italy.

Allan Masaharu Ohata

Allan left the Army, went back to school, and earned a degree in engineering. He worked for Northrop Aircraft and Lockheed Missile and Space Company in California. He rarely talked about the war, and most of his later friends did not even know he served in the war until after he died. He earned a Medal of Honor posthumously for his bravery in the war.

Kazuo Otani

Kazuo died in action on July 14, 1944, near Pieve di Santa Luce, Italy, where he exposed himself to enemy fire and saved a wounded soldier. He received a Medal of Honor posthumously.

Noboru “Don” Seki

Noboru worked thirty-seven years as a comptroller at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in California. He eventually retired to West Los Angeles and passed away in 2020.



Marina Zhou (SFSU 2021)

DANIEL KEN INOUE (1924-2012)
US Army, 442nd Regimental Combat Team
Captain

Place of Birth: Honolulu, Hawai'i

Military Honors: Distinguished Silver Cross; Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Medal of Honor; Presidential Medal of Freedom

Service: Dan was rejected by the Army when he was eighteen years old because of his race. He volunteered again and was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Dan wanted to be a surgeon but lost his right arm in battle.



Christopher Elliott (SFSU 2020)

FRANCES IRITANI (c. 1922-2002)
Women's Army Corps (WAC)
Private

Place of Birth: Colorado

Service: Frances was the first nisei woman inducted into WAC. Her family was not interned because they left the West Coast before internment was implemented. Frances helped to influence Colorado's governor to welcome Japanese Americans during the war. She was named "WAC of the Week" in Florida in 1944.



Allyssa Madriaga (SFSU 2020)

SADAO S. MUNEMORI (1922-45)
US Army, 100th Infantry Battalion
Private First Class

Place of Birth: Los Angeles, California

Military Honor: Medal of Honor

Service: A teenager Sadao was banned from a public swimming pool because of his Japanese ethnicity. At age twenty, his family was interned in Manzanar because they were Japanese. Sadao died fighting for America in Italy; he dived on top of a grenade to save the lives of his fellow American soldiers. His mother's blood-stained photo was found among his personal belongings.



Maya Ochoa (SFSU 2020)

ALLAN MASA HARU OHATA (1918-77)
US Army, 100th Infantry Battalion
Staff Sergeant

Place of Birth: Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Military Honors: Distinguished Service Cross; Medal of Honor

Service: Allan was the son of Japanese immigrants and had seven siblings. One month before Pearl Harbor was attacked, he was inducted into the Army in Hawai‘i, and eventually assigned to the 100th Infantry Battalion. His heroism in Cerasuolo, Italy earned him a Distinguished Service Cross and posthumously, a Medal of Honor.



Kenia Najarro (SFSU 2020)

KAZUO OTANI (1918-44)
US Army, 442nd Regimental Combat Team
Staff Sergeant

Place of Birth: Visalia, California

Military Honors: Bronze Star; Distinguished Service Cross; Purple Heart; Medal of Honor

Service: Kazuo's parents immigrated from Japan and the family was interned at the Gila River War Relocation Center in Arizona. He received his Medal of Honor posthumously for heroism in Italy where he was killed in action trying to save a fellow American soldier.



Samantha Ortiz (SFSU 2020)

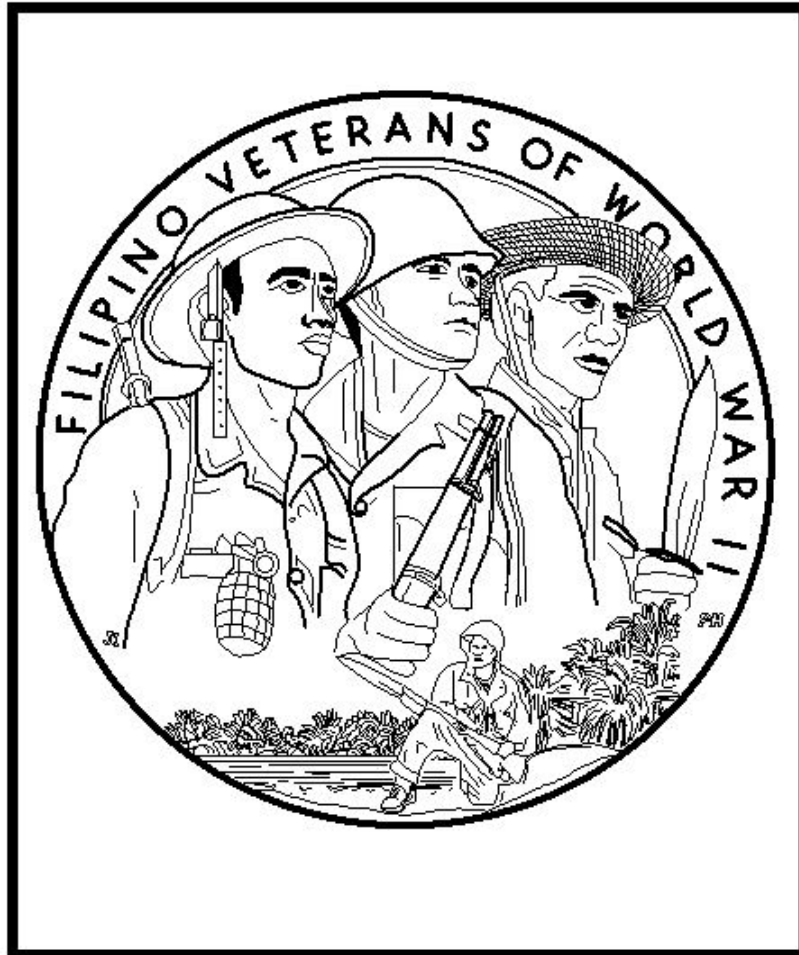
NOBORU “Don” SEKI (1923-2020)
US Army, 442nd Regimental Combat Team
Corporal

Place of Birth: Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Military Honors: Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Medal of Honor

Service: Noboru’s parents were immigrants from Japan. When he was seventeen years old, they moved back to Japan, but he chose to stay in Hawai‘i. Unable to enlist, Noboru first worked as a civilian for the Army Corps of Engineers. Later, he volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Noboru lost his left arm in combat while in France rescuing the “Lost Battalion” of Texas National Guard troops.

**The Filipino Veterans of World War II
Congressional Gold Medal Act
(December 14, 2016)**



Jesse Matthews (SFSU 2021)

Public Law 114-265

114th Congress

AN ACT

**to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to
the Filipino veterans of World War II,*
in recognition of the dedicated service of the veterans
during World War II.**

*"Filipino veterans of World War II": the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Philippine Scouts, the Philippine Constabulary, Recognized Guerrilla units, the New Philippine Scouts, the First Filipino Infantry Regiment, the Second Filipino Infantry Battalion (Separate), or the First Reconnaissance Battalion

APIA Wall of Fame
Filipino American WWII Veterans
Post-War

Ramon A. Alcaraz

Ramon helped create a naval infantry force under the Philippine Navy that was modeled after the US Navy. He became known as the “Father” of the Philippine Marine Corps. An outspoken anti-Ferdinand Marcos regime activist, Ramon was forced to retire from the Navy and immigrated to the United States to continue with his anti-Marcos work.

Celestino G. Almeda

Celestino resumed his career as a teacher. He immigrated to the United States. After many years of appeal and protest, he finally naturalized as a US citizen in 1996. He was also an activist for Filipino veteran rights and benefits.

Rey Cabacar

Rey served during the Korean War as a minesweeper. After twenty-five years in the Navy, he became a chef for high-ranking government officials and a Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post commander and activist.

Jose Cabalfin Calugas

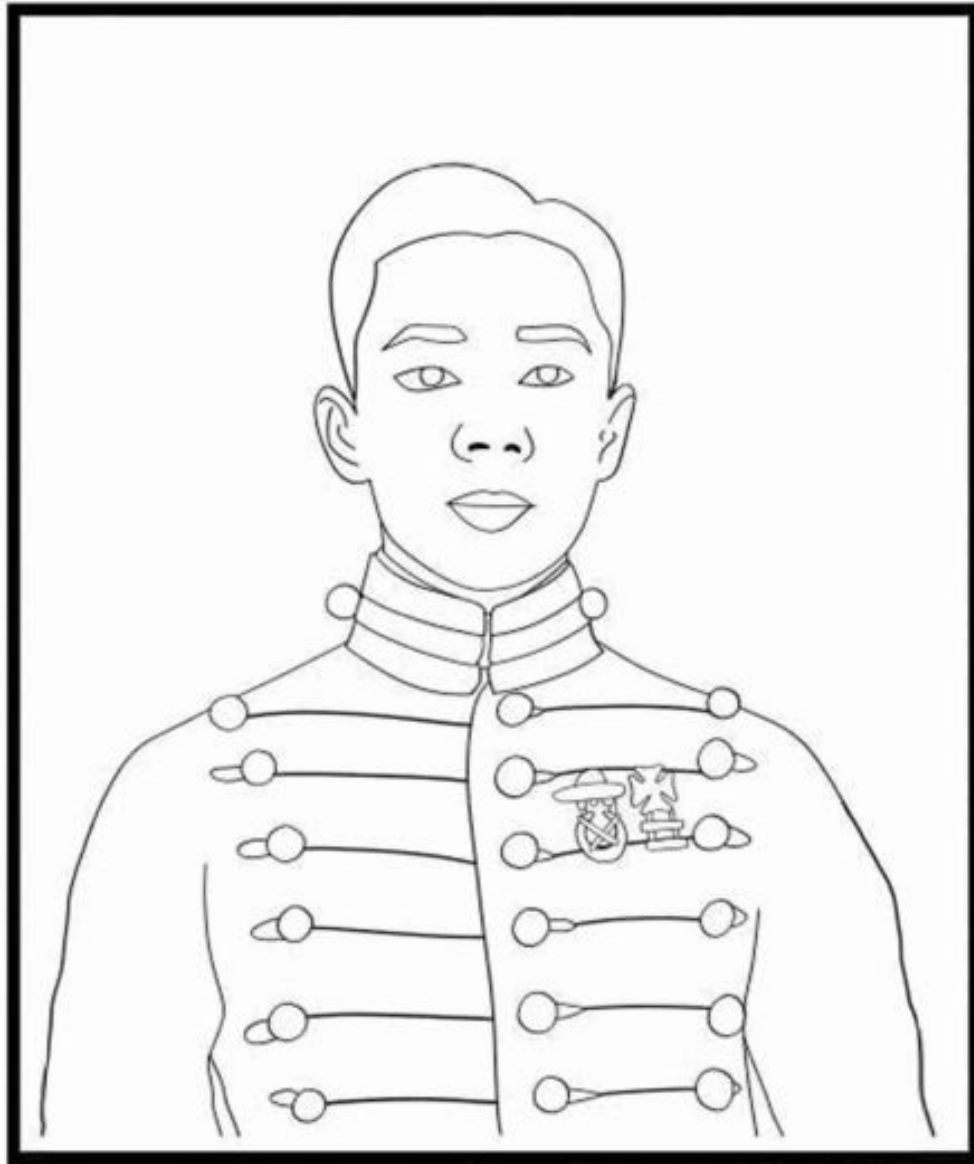
Jose was assigned to occupation duty on Okinawa, Japan, where he fulfilled the requirements to earn US citizenship. He retired from the US Army in 1957 and moved to Tacoma, Washington. He worked for Boeing in his 50s and used the GI Bill to earn a business degree from the University of Puget Sound. He also had a vegetable farm when he retired.

Florence Ebersole Smith Finch

Florence married an Army veteran and raised a family in Ithaca, New York. In 1995, the Coast Guard honored her by naming an administration building on Sand Island, Hawai‘i, after her.

Jesús Antonio Villamor

Jesús returned to the United States in 1948. He was in military aviation during the Korean War and became a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent during the Vietnam War. He also helped with the planning of the Manila International Airport and was the director upon its completion. The Philippine Air Force’s main facility in Metro Manila is named the Colonel Jesús Villamor Air Base.



Lauren Pattugalan (SFSU 2020)

RAMON A. ALCARAZ (1915-2009)
US Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE)
1st Lieutenant (Offshore Patrol, Philippine Navy)

Place of Birth: Quingua, Bulacan, Philippines

Military Honor: Silver Star

Service: After Ramon graduated from the Philippine Military Academy, he joined the USAFFE Offshore Patrol (the USAFFE consisted of US and Philippine military forces). Ramon earned a Silver Star for commanding a torpedo boat that shot down three Japanese planes attacking US and Filipino forces in Bataan.



Marina Zhou (SFSU 2020)

CELESTINO G. ALMEDA (b. 1917)
Philippine Commonwealth Army, USAFFEE

Place of Birth: Binan City, Laguna, Philippines

Service: During World War II, Celestino fought in the Anti-Sabotage Regiment of the Philippine Commonwealth Army Forces that was under the command of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFEE). He also served briefly with a US-backed guerilla army.



Khaliunaa Erdenepurev (SFSU 2020)

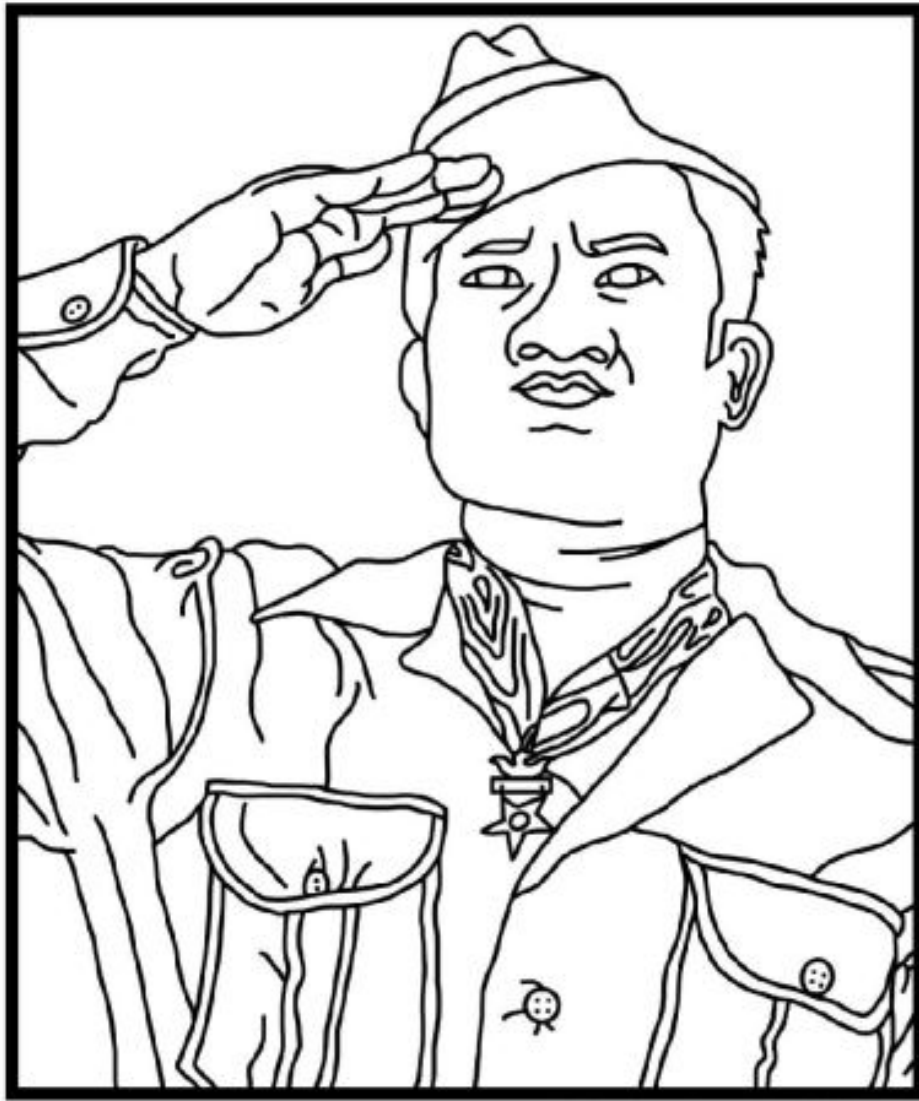
REY CABACAR (b. 1927)

US Navy

Senior Chief Petty Officer

Place of Birth: San Marcelino, Zambales, Philippines

Service: Rey enlisted in the US Navy to provide for his family. He served on a PT boat during World War II. He recalled that as a Filipino soldier, he received fifty cents for every dollar an American soldier got.



Blake Sanchez (SFSU 2020)

JOSE CABALFIN CALUGAS (1907-98)
Philippine Scouts; US Army
Captain

Place of Birth: Leon, Iloilo, Philippines

Military Honor: Medal of Honor

Service: Jose served in the Philippine Scouts under the US Army. He was a mess sergeant in Bataan when they were attacked in 1942. Jose was taken prisoner by Japanese soldiers and survived the Bataan Death March. He became the first Filipino American to receive a Medal of Honor in World War II.



Ashley Nicole C. Gutierrez (SFSU 2020)

FLORENCE EBERSOLE SMITH FINCH (1915-2016)

US Coast Guard Women's Reserve

Seaman Second Class

Place of Birth: Santiago, Isabela, Philippines

Military Honors: Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon; Medal of Freedom

Service: Florence was the daughter of a Filipina mother and an American father. When she was working with the Philippine Underground, the Japanese captured and tortured her. Before Japan surrendered, she enlisted in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. She was the first woman to receive the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon.



Larry Torres (SFSU 2020)

JESÚS ANTONIO VILLAMOR (1914-71)

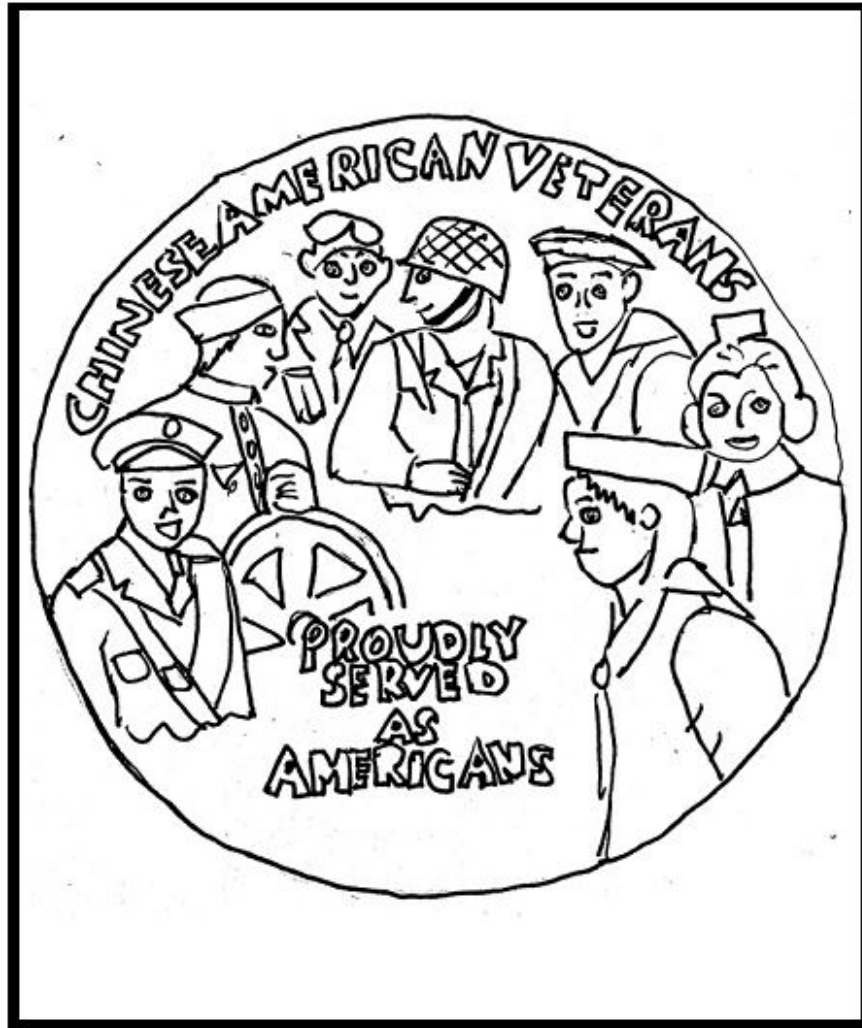
**US Air Force
Colonel**

Place of Birth: Abra, Philippines

Military Honors: Distinguished Service Cross; Medal of Valor; Legion of Merit

Service: Jesús started in the Philippine Army Air Corps Flying School and was sent to the United States for training. After three years, he flew B-17s as part of the US Air Force's Strategic Bombing Squadron. Jesús was also an intelligence officer and helped to coordinate guerilla activities in the Philippines.

**The Chinese American World War II Veteran
Congressional Gold Medal Act
(December 20, 2018)**



Trine Abildgren (SFSU 2021)

**Public Law 115-337
115th Congress**

AN ACT

**to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to
the Chinese American veterans of World War II,
in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.**

APIA Wall of Fame
Chinese American WWII Veterans
Post-War

Edward “Eddie” Fung

Eddie enrolled at Stanford University on the GI Bill and refused to apply for his diploma even though he qualified to graduate. He then worked on research projects on high-melting-point metals at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

Margaret “Maggie” Gee

Maggie returned to University of California at Berkeley to finish her degree in physics. She then worked at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory helping to design nuclear warheads and the Poseidon missile. She finally earned military status for her World War II service in 1977.

Stanley Hung Gee

Stanley used the GI Bill to attend University of California at Berkeley and worked at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory as a mechanical design draftsman. Together with his wife Amy, Stanley opened the successful Bazaar Canton, an import goods store in San Francisco Chinatown.

Hazel Ying Lee

Hazel died from an accidental collision on a runway. She became the 38th and final WASP to die in the line of duty. Her brother, who was serving with the US Army in France, was also killed at the same time. Both were not allowed to be buried in the “white” section of a Portland cemetery. This was challenged by the Lee family and the two siblings were eventually buried side by side in River View Cemetery.

Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo

Elsie graduated in 1948 with a BS in nursing from the Woman’s College of the University of North Carolina (now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). She did freelance work for a translation agency and was a technical publications writer for the Naval Medical Center.

Delbert E. Wong

Delbert became the first Chinese American graduate from Stanford Law School. In 1959, he was appointed to the Los Angeles County Municipal Court, becoming the first Chinese American judge in the continental United States. Delbert eventually served in the Los Angeles Superior Court for over twenty years. The City of Los Angeles recognized its first Chinese American when they named a square in Chinatown after Delbert as an official landmark.



Tracy Lin (SFSU 2020)

EDWARD “Eddie” FUNG (1922-2018)

US Army

Private

Place of Birth: San Francisco, California

Service: When young, Eddie went to Texas to be a cowboy. After signing up for the National Guard, he was assigned overseas to the US Army. Eddie became the only Chinese American soldier captured by the Japanese in World War II. He was among the thousands of prisoners who spent sixteen months under brutal slave conditions to build a railroad in Burma.



Regene Fulgueras (SFSU 2020)

MARGARET "Maggie" GEE (1923-2013)
Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
Civilian Pilot

Place of Birth: Berkeley, California

Service: Third-generation Chinese American Maggie dreamed of being a pilot since girlhood. She eventually became part of the 8% of applicants accepted into WASP, and the second of two Chinese American WASP in World War II. She co-piloted B-17 bombers and trained male pilots, but was denied the opportunity to become a full fledged pilot because she was female.



Fatema Azam (SFSU 2020)

STANLEY HUNG GEE (1920-2011)

US Army Air Force

Private

Place of Birth: China

Service: An eighteen-year-old Stanley landed on Angel Island in 1938 from Hong Kong to escape poverty. He worked as a houseboy and at the Richmond shipyard. He enlisted after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and served in the 42nd Airdrome Squadron of the US Air Force.



Marina Zhou (SFSU 2020)

HAZEL YING LEE (1912-44)
Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP)
Civilian Pilot

Place of Birth: Portland, Oregon

Service: Hazel's immigrant parents married in America and raised eight children. Hazel saved money working as an elevator operator for private flying lessons. She became the first Chinese American woman to earn her pilot's license and to serve in WASP during World War II.



Salma Ahmed (SFSU 2020)

ELSIE CHIN YUEN SEETOO (b. 1918)
US Army Nurse Corps
First Lieutenant

Place of Birth: Stockton, California

Service: Elsie lost her US citizenship because she was training at a Red Cross medical unit that was technically a part of the Chinese army. She had to take an oath of allegiance to regain her citizenship. Elsie served the remaining of her war years in the US Army Nurse Corps, where she was a member of the Air Service Command.



Lily Nguyen (SFSU 2021)

DELBERT E. WONG (1920-2006)
US Army Air Force
First Lieutenant

Place of Birth: Hanford, California

Military Honors: Distinguished Flying Cross; four Air Medals

Service: Delbert enlisted in the Army Air Forces after graduating from University of California at Berkeley. He was a B-17 Flying Fortress navigator and completed thirty bombing missions in Europe.

UNITED STATES

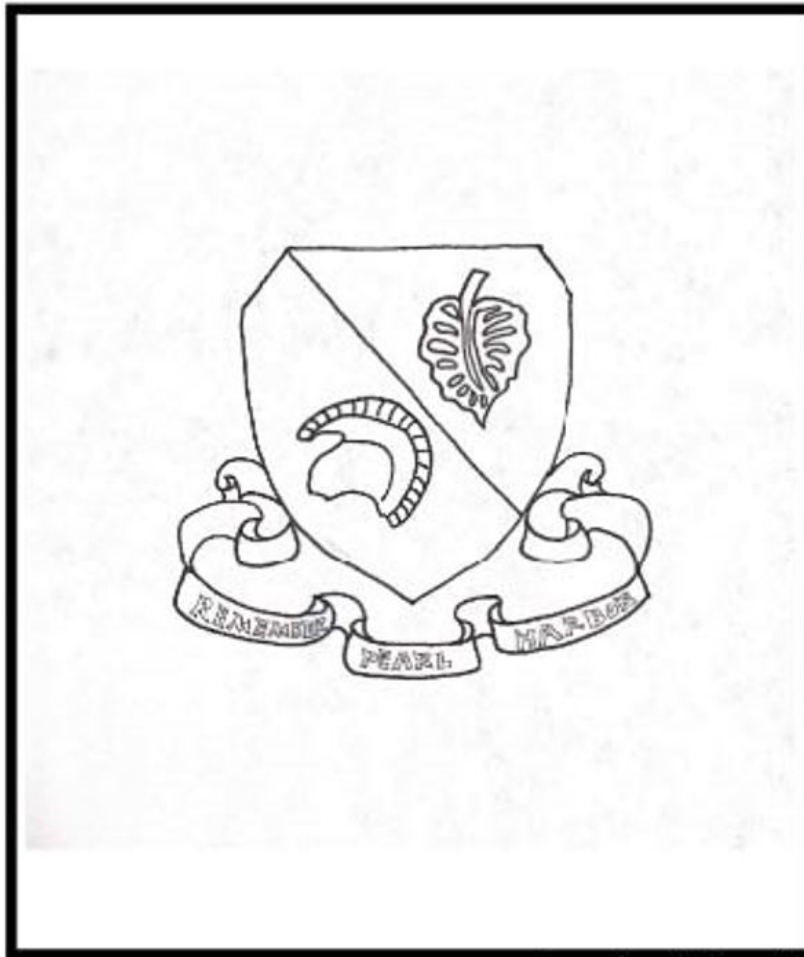
WORLD WAR II

**SEGREGATED ASIAN AMERICAN
MILITARY UNITS**



**EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981:
Desegregation of the Armed Forces
President Harry S. Truman
July 26, 1948**

**“There shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for
all persons in the armed services without regard to race,
color, religion, or national origin.”**



Persephone Wilson (SFSU 2020)

100th Infantry Battalion (1942-46)

In 1942, the Hawaiian Provisional Infantry Battalion, comprised mostly of Japanese Americans, was activated in the Territory of Hawai‘i. They were renamed the 100th Infantry Battalion after being transferred to mainland United States. The 100th was deployed in 1943 to Europe, where they became known as the “Purple Heart Battalion” and received two Distinguished Unit Citations. In 1944, they formally joined with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and together, they were called the 100/442. The unit was inactivated in 1946. More than 1,400 nisei served on the 100th.

The Distinguished Unit Insignia of the 100th contains their motto, “Remember Pearl Harbor” as a reminder of why the men were fighting. The leaf symbolizes protection in Hawaiian culture and the Hawaiian chieftain helmet symbolizes strength and valor.

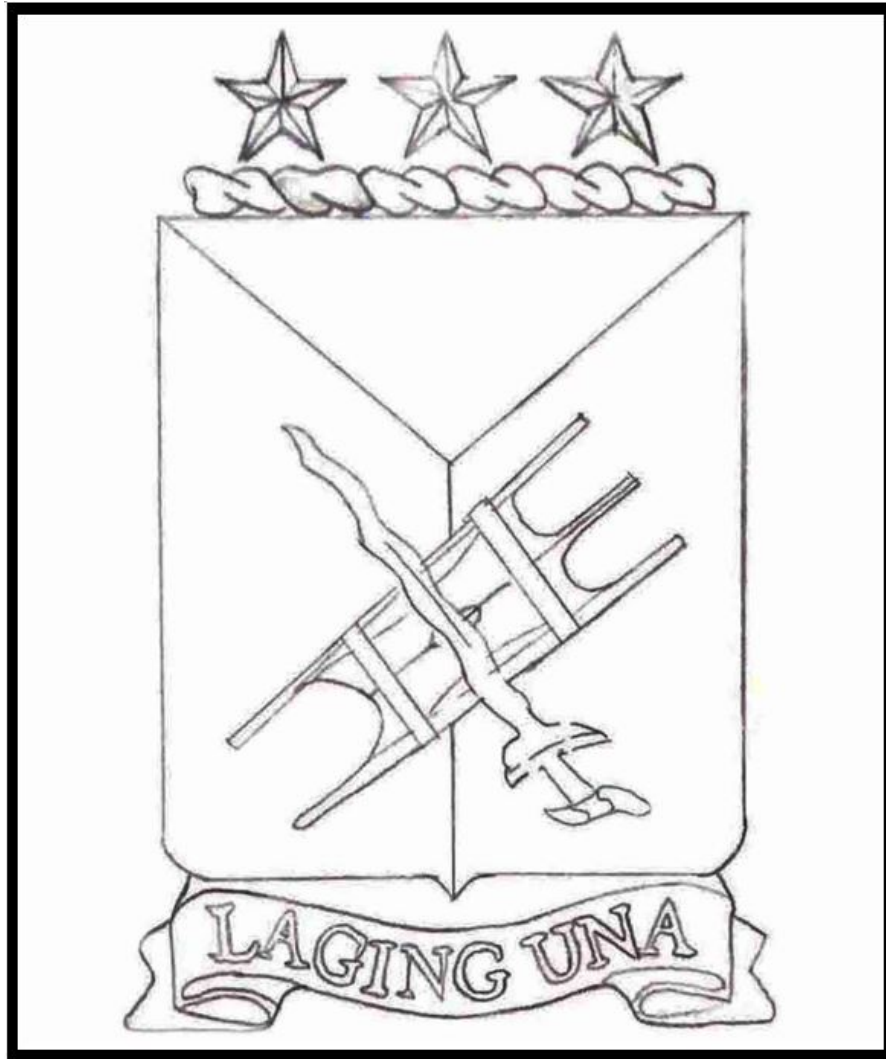


Persephone Wilson (SFSU 2020)

442nd REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM (1943-46)

The 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team was activated in 1943, comprised mainly of Japanese Americans whose families were still held in America's ten internment camps. Most volunteered to prove their loyalty to the United States. After a year of training, they were deployed to Europe and joined the 100th Infantry Battalion already in Italy. The two formally merged in 1944, called the 100/442. When they were inactivated in 1946, about 18,000 nisei had served and they were the most decorated unit in US military history with 14,000 awards.

The Distinctive Unit Insignia of the 442nd contains the "Go for Broke" motto, a slang used by Hawaiian gamblers to mean "wager everything." The leaf represents protection in Hawaiian culture and the Mississippi River steamboat symbolizes Camp Shelby, the site of their activation and training.



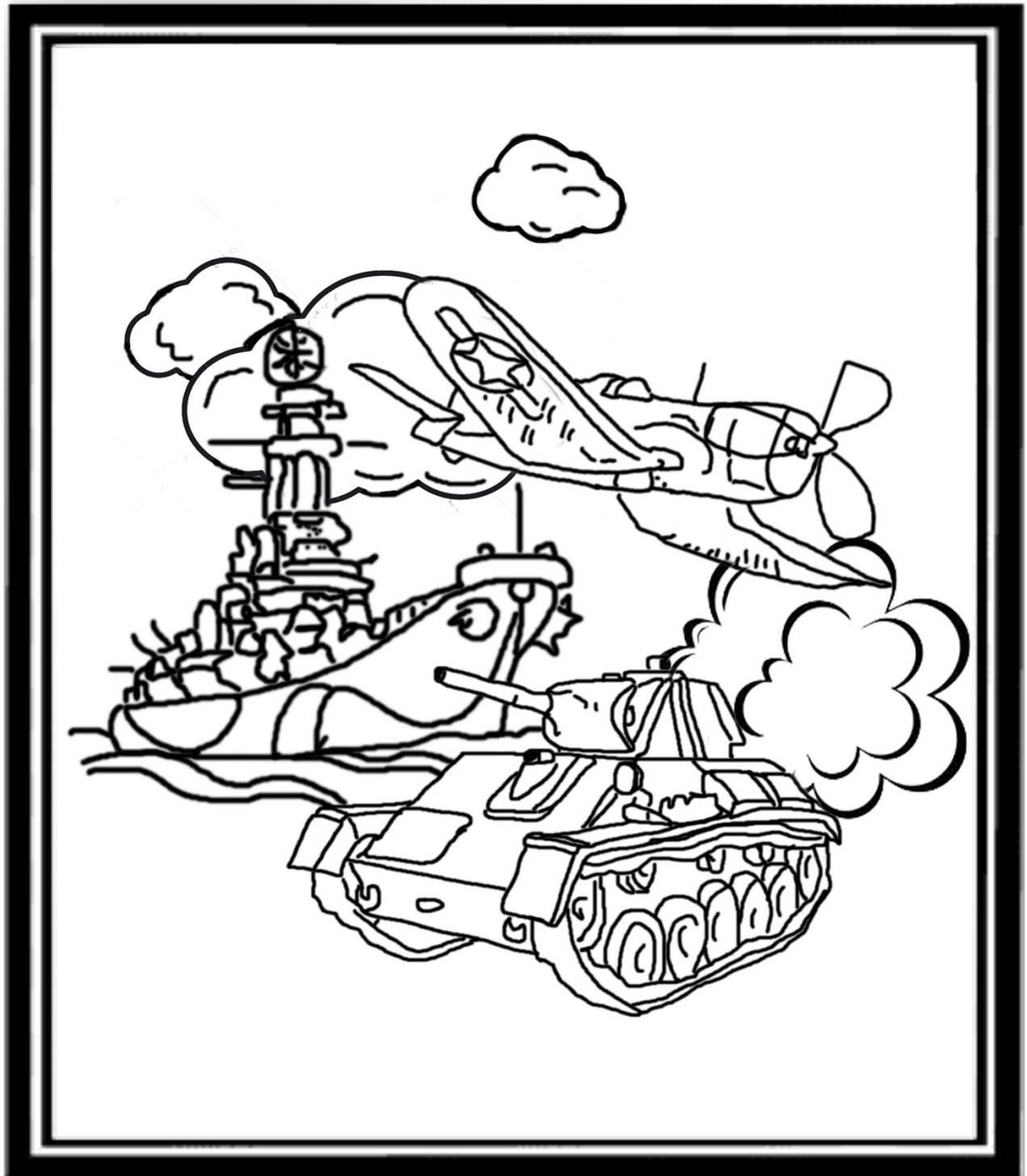
Celine Pena (SFSU 2020)

1st FILIPINO REGIMENT (1942-46)

Under the Selective Service and Training Act, Filipinos were ineligible to serve in the US Armed Forces because they were American nationals. In July 1942, the War Department activated the 1st Filipino Regiment for both Filipino Americans and resident Filipinos (a 1st Battalion, 2nd Filipino Regiment was activated in October). More than 7,000 served and over 1,200 soldiers participated in a 1943 mass naturalization ceremony before going overseas.






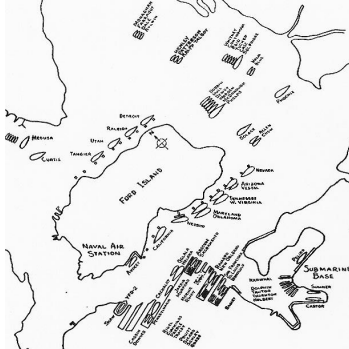
The regiments' motto, "Laging Una" means "Always First" in Tagalog. The red, white, and blue colors of its coat of arms represent the national colors of the Philippines and the United States.

ACTIVITIES



Some Countries and Territories Involved in World War II

Instruction: Draw lines to match the countries and territories to their names in the left column.

USA		
Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i		
Philippines		
China		
Japan		
Germany		

Concept by Eduardo Alvarado (SFSU 2020); adapted by Lily Nguyen (SFSU 2021)

Help Our World War II Veterans Find Their Congressional Gold Medal



Jose Calugas



Maggie Gee





Noboru "Don" Seki

Concept by Blake Sanchez (SFSU 2020);
adapted by Joyce D. Bantugan (2021)

War Veterans and the Military Units They Served

Instruction: Connect APIA war veterans to the military units they served.

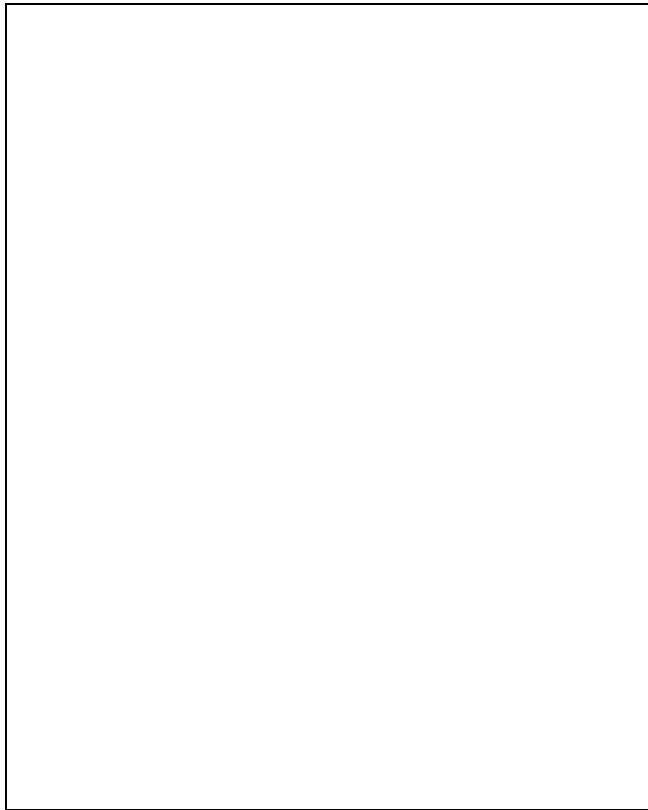
 442 nd Infantry Regiment 	 Frances Iritani  Allan Masaharu Ohata
 WASP Coast Guard	 Florence Finch  Hazel Ying Lee
 Navy  WAC	 Rey Cabacar

Joyce D. Bantugan (2021)

Brave Asian American World War II Veterans

Instructions: Read the Preface and then answer the following questions.

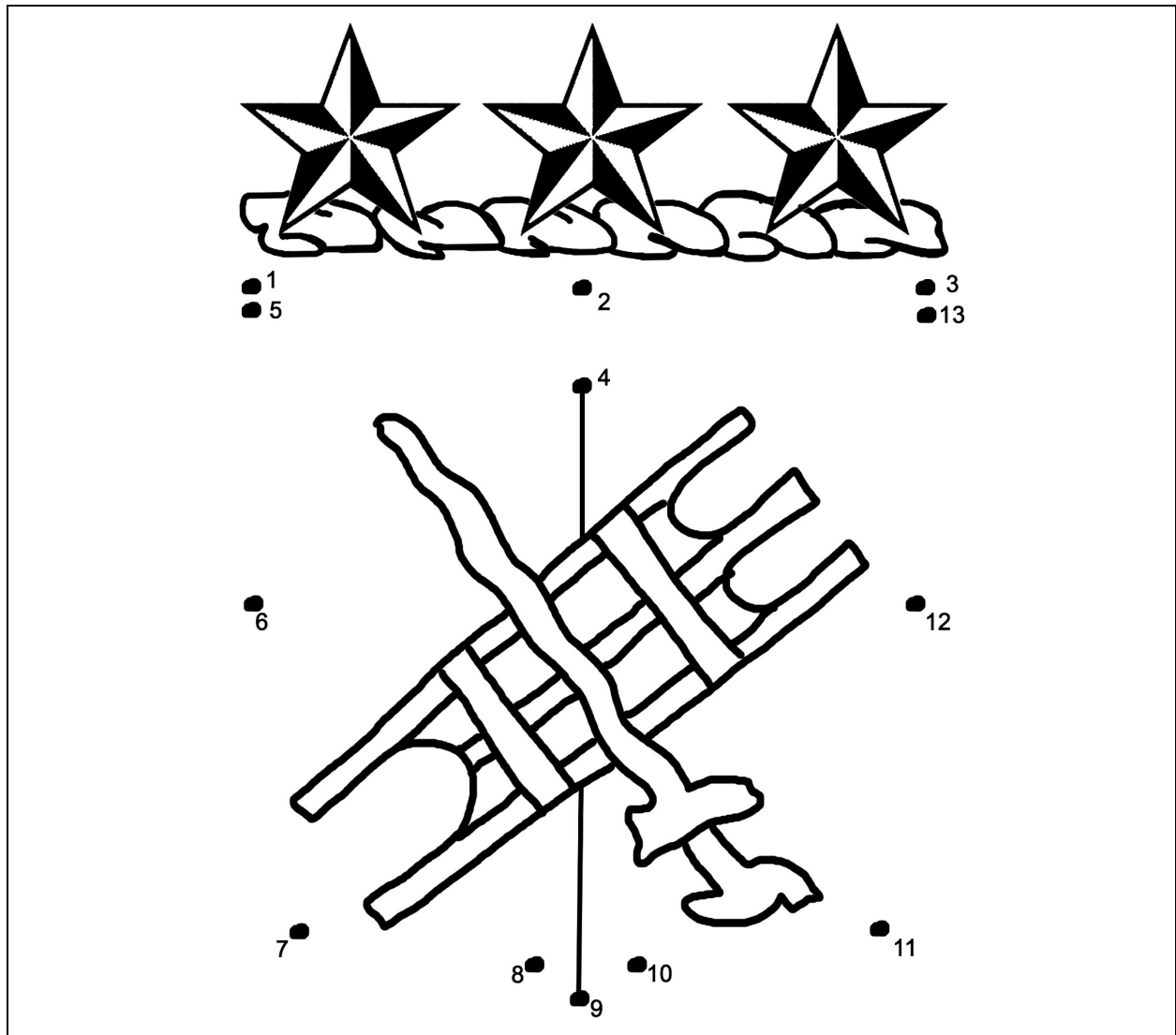
1. Why is it important to learn about Asian American WWII veterans?
2. How have these veterans been brave?
3. Name and draw someone whom you know to be brave.



Concept by Maya Ochoa (SFSU 2020)

Connect the Dots

Instructions: Read p. 32 about the 1st Filipino Infantry. Connect the dots starting from #1 and continue until #13, then answer the following questions.



What does the image look like?

What do you think the image is?

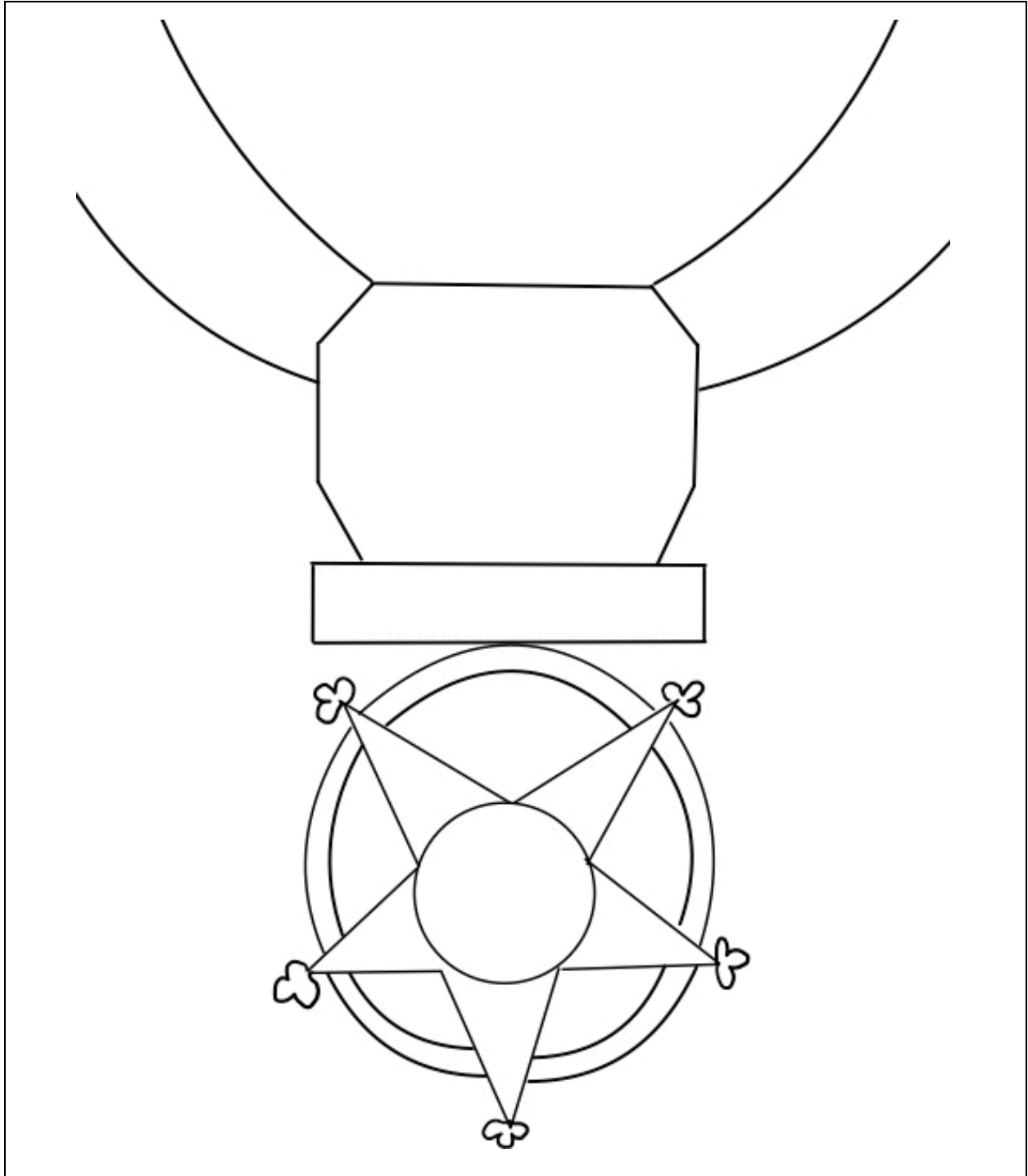
Celine Pena (SFSU 2020)

Instructions: Choose a war veteran from the Wall of Fame. First, write why the veteran earned a Congressional Gold Medal. Then, write a short thank-you note to the veteran.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Who Do You Honor?

Instructions: Choose an individual in your life whom you consider to be a hero. Below, color and decorate your badge and write why you consider that individual to be a hero.



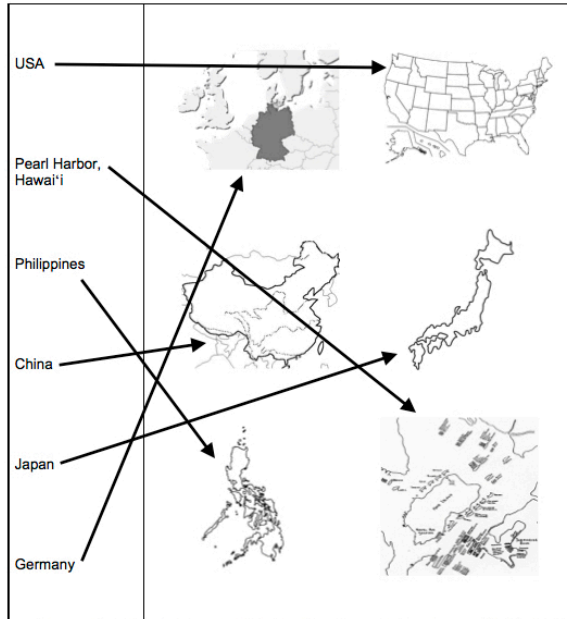
Who do you honor?

Why do you honor them?

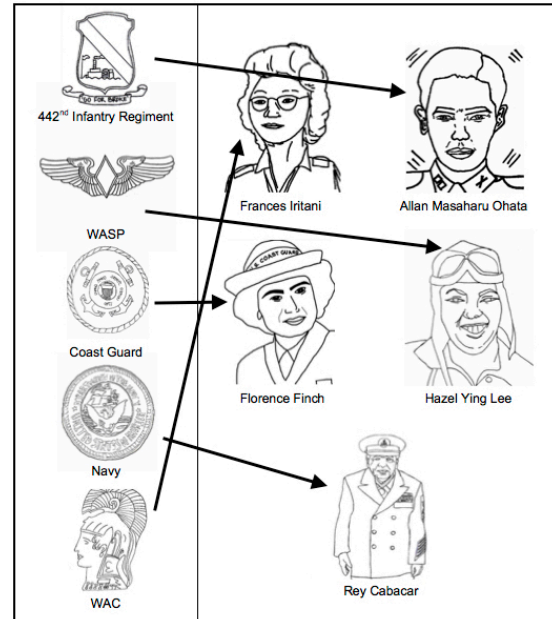
Jasmine Hui (SFSU 2020)

Answer Key

PAGE 34: Some Countries and Territories Involved in World War II



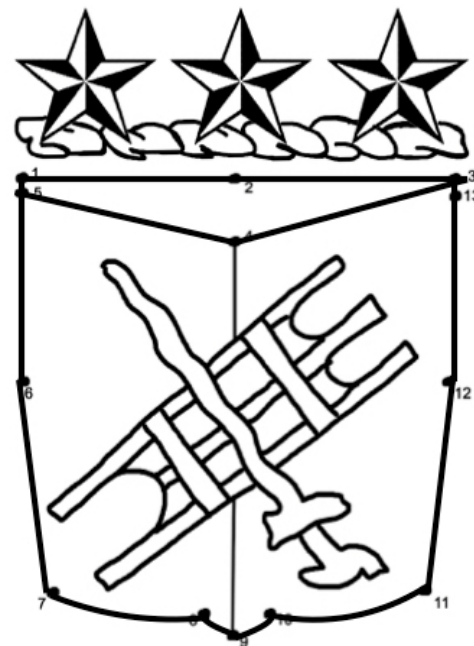
PAGE 36: War Veterans and the Military Units They Served



PAGE 35: Help Our World War II Veterans Find Their Congressional Gold Medal



PAGE 38: Connect the Dots



2022 APIA Event Cosponsors

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY (SFPL)



San Francisco Public Library

Established in 1878, the San Francisco Public Library, a 28-branch library system, serves San Francisco through its diverse and extensive collections, programs, and exhibits. In 2013, the APIA Biography Project launched its inaugural event at the Merced Branch Library. In subsequent years, the Magazines and Newspapers Center at the Main Library collaborated with the APIA Biography Project as a cosponsor to celebrate APIA Heritage Month. Then in 2022, the Library's Children's Center and Chinese Center joined to support this annual program. SFPL champions community engagement in its mission to provide "free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning, and the joys of reading for our diverse community."

Website: sfpl.org

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS (TACT)



Founded in 1969, The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) is a not-for-profit organization in San Francisco. Over the years, it has been involved in issues such as affirmative action, bilingual education, curriculum, and teachers' working conditions. TACT awards scholarships to high school seniors and holds yearly professional development events. Beginning in 2013, TACT has been cosponsoring the annual APIA Heritage Month celebration with the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University and the San Francisco Main Public Library.

Website: tactsf.org

SQUARE AND CIRCLE CLUB



Square and Circle Club was founded in San Francisco Chinatown in 1924 by seven young women to aid flood and famine victims in China. Since that compassionate beginning and to this day, the Club has continued its tradition of supporting and caring for the needs of the community. Through the years, in addition to volunteering and assisting numerous community organizations and individuals, Square and Circle has grown and evolved as a multi-tasking philanthropic organization. It is the oldest Chinese/Asian American women's service organization in the nation. The Club became an APIA Heritage Month cosponsor in 2016 and is now also serving as the Project's fiscal agent.

Website: squareandcircleclub.org