During World War II during a dark chapter in our history, Japanese-Americans citizens were strongly discriminated against and many were placed in internment camps. Japanese-American males were given the opportunity to serve in the war effort and their units, the 442nd Combat Team, the 100th Infantry Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service went on to be some of the most decorated military units in the history of the United States.

On Sunday, Congressman Blumenauer had the honor of speaking to over 450 people who gathered in Portland to honor Oregon's Japanese-American WWII Veterans, known as Nisei Veterans. The Nisei Veterans were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal last November for their courage and bravery in WWII. Because many of these veterans were unable to travel to Washington DC, a local ceremony was held to award the medals.

"The Nisei Veterans fought to win a horrific war; but they fought in another sense to restore a stain on America's honor--which they did." said Blumenauer. "The Congressional Gold Medal has only been awarded 147 times and there has rarely been a more deserving set of Americans." After his remarks Blumenauer had the honor of introducing Army Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson, the highest ranking Army official of Hawaiian decent.

COMBAT INFANTRY BATTALION
MAY 1942 - 1 SEP 1945
CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL