

## Japanese-American Military Honored

### Served in World War II as families endured hardships

(AP) — Thousands of Japanese-Americans who fought in the fiercest battles of World War II and became some of the most decorated soldiers in the nation's history were given an overdue thank-you from their country last Wednesday when Congress awarded them its highest civilian honor.

Nearly seven decades after the war, Congress awarded three Army units the Congressional Gold Medal. In all, about 19,000 Japanese-Americans served in the units that were honored at a ceremony Wednesday: the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

"This has been a long journey, but a glorious one," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, who lost his right arm fighting with the 442nd and was one of the honorees.

About 1,250 people attended the award ceremony at the Capitol. About a quarter of those present were former soldiers, now in their 80s and 90s.

"We wanted to show American citizens that we loved our country," Hiroshi Kaku said. "We were born and raised here."

After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese-Americans were viewed with suspicion. Nearly 110,000 were sent to internment camps. Lawson Sakai learned how much the world had changed for Japanese-Americans when he drove with some of his buddies to the local Navy recruiting station and tried to enlist. While his white friends were quickly accepted, Sakai was considered an "enemy alien" and could not join.

Sakai then watched as the FBI rounded up Japanese-American



Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient George Joe Sakato of Denver.

leaders in Los Angeles. When the federal government authorized the relocation of people with Japanese ancestry, a sister and some of his friends were sent to internment camps.

"We were blackballed," Sakai said. "Basically, they took away our citizenship."

Sakai's story is similar to thousands of other "Nisei," or second-generation Japanese-Americans. Even as they fought in Europe, many Japanese-American troops had family members who would spend much of the war in U.S. internment camps. American officials, citing concerns that those of Japanese ancestry could be security risks during war with Japan, sent men, women and children to camps around the country.

President Harry Truman welcomed home many of the Japanese-American soldiers in 1946: "You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice, and you have won."

## Oregon Excels with Veterans

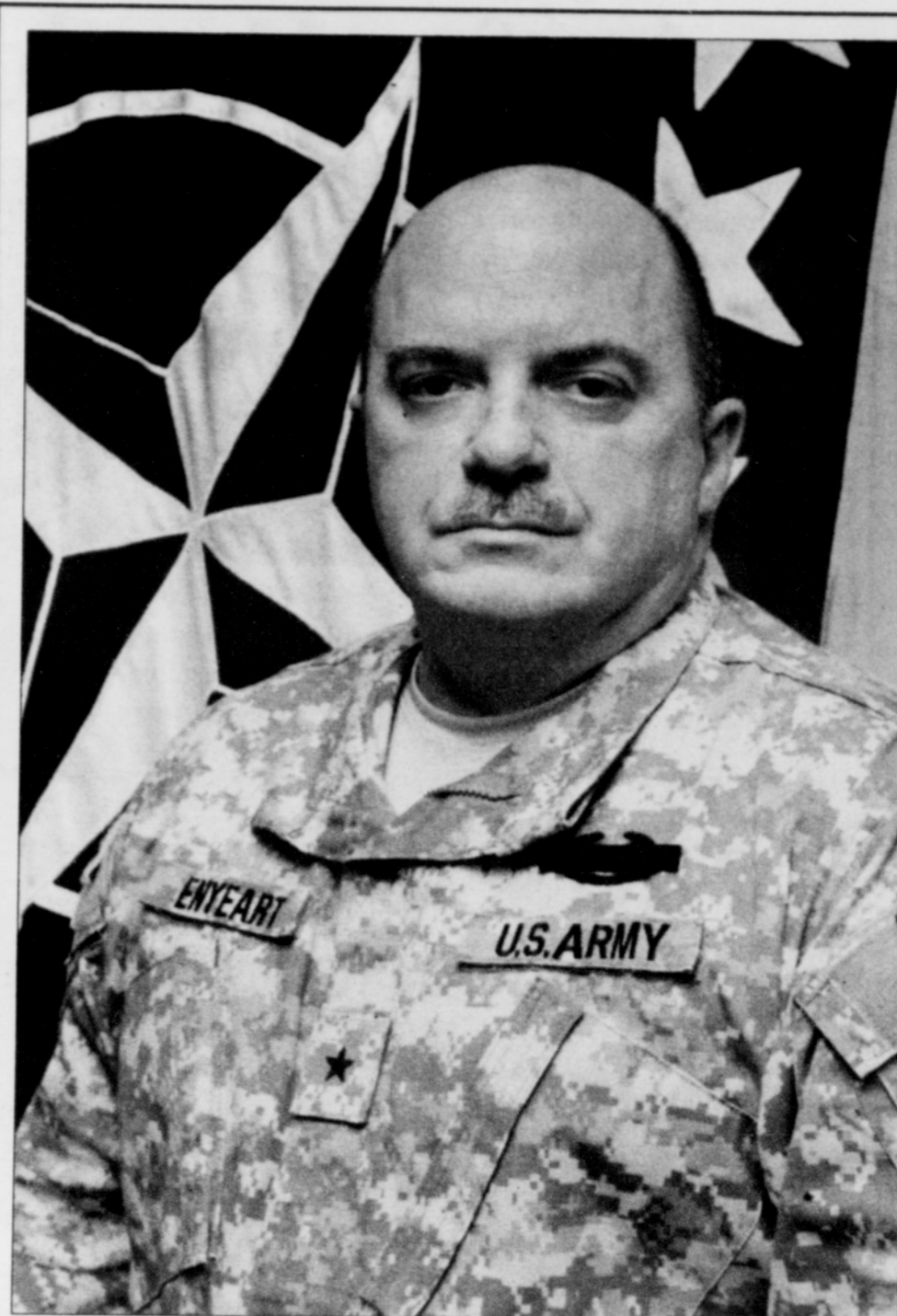
The University of Oregon has been identified as a top military friendly school by G.I. Jobs magazine. The honor puts the UO in the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide, according to the magazine.

The UO provides support services to military veterans and family members and is one of 12 universities serving as a Tillman Military Scholar University Partner for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Five University of Oregon students were awarded a total of \$29,000 in scholarships from the Tillman Military Scholars for the 2011-2012

academic year. The organization was established in honor of the NFL player who left his athletic career to serve in the U.S. Army and was killed in Afghanistan.

"The UO provides many services to military veterans and families, which in part is what led to the recognition on the top military friendly school list and our association with the Tillman Foundation," said Gretchen Jewett, director of nontraditional and veterans education support. "We are part of a supportive community and aim to help all students achieve success on campus."



## UP Campus Celebrates Veterans

Brigadier General David Enyeart will be the featured speaker at the University of Portland's annual Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11. The event will follow a 24-hour candlelight vigil, 21-gun salute and an Air Force jet flyover at the Praying Hands Memorial located in the quad between Kenna Hall and Christie Hall on campus. Sponsored by the University's Air Force and Army ROTC programs, the celebration will recognize campus members who have served during times of war, including WWII and Vietnam veterans. Gen. Enyeart enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 1978. He has served in multiple command positions during his military career and is currently the Chief of Police in Toledo, Ore.

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