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**GFBNEC’S “COURAGE AND COMPASSION” & “PORTRAITS OF COURAGE”
EXHIBITIONS SET TO OPEN IN DALLAS**

*Dallas Holocaust & Human Rights Museum to Host National Exhibitions Highlighting the
Japanese American Experience During and After WWII.*

DALLAS and LOS ANGELES (January 20, 2021)—The Dallas Holocaust & Human Rights Museum (DHHRM) will host two exhibitions under the combined name, *Courage and Compassion: The Japanese American World War II Experience*, from January 20-June 12, 2021. The national exhibits, sponsored by Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles (GFBNEC), will explore the lasting legacy of the rescue of Texas' 141st Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Japanese American soldiers.

"Courage and Compassion" reveals little-known stories of bravery and humanity among everyday Americans during and after the turbulent days of World War II. Now in itsFunded in part by a grant from the Aratani Foundation, "Courage and Compassion" covers events from the attack on Pearl Harbor to the fateful decision to incarcerate West Coast Japanese Americans in wartime camps to the courageous segregated units of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT), and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Visitors will learn about the Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) WWII experience and its legacy; study the nature of courage during a time of crisis; and consider the relevance of that wartime experience today.

In late October 1944, members of the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry found themselves stranded on a ridge in France's Vosges Mountains and surrounded by German troops. Two other battalions had tried and failed to break through to the trapped Americans, who were being pounded by enemy fire and were running low on food, water and ammunition. On Oct. 30, 1944, after six days of brutal fighting, the Nisei soldiers of the 442nd RCT finally broke through, rescuing 211 soldiers many of whom were from Texas. The campaign resulted in a staggering number of casualties estimated at more than 400.

Sergeant George Otsuka of the 442nd RCT's Cannon Company fought in the harrowing "Lost Battalion" rescue. After the war, Otsuka moved to Houston to join family members. When he tried to purchase farmland, he was told to "keep away or there would be trouble." Otsuka sent a letter to the Houston Press that was published on August 14, 1946, triggering an outpouring of support from the Houston community. "Either Texans must uphold the principles of democracy at home, or either our boys have died in vain," the Houston Chapter of the American Veteran Committee wrote in a subsequent letter to the newspaper. Otsuka then received many offers of land and finally bought a farm northeast of Houston near Sheldon.

In 1962, Texas Gov. John Connally recognized members of the 442nd RCT as "honorary Texans" for their bravery.

"Courage and Compassion" will be shown at the Lone Star Flight Museum, 11551 Aerospace Ave., Houston, Texas, 77034. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please visit <https://www.lonestarflight.org>.

Mitchell T. Maki, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of GFBNEC, noted that "the battle to save the 'Lost Battalion' remains one of the most famous engagements in U.S. military history. Their legacy of respect and mutual understanding is particularly relevant today as our society debates issues of loyalty, citizenship, due process and Constitutional rights."

"The Museum is pleased to bring in *Courage and Compassion*, which tells the story of Japanese Americans' experiences and bravery during World War II," said Mary Pat Higgins, Museum President and CEO. "The individuals who helped their neighbors by being Upstanders and the young Japanese American men who volunteered for the military to form the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team feature prominently in this important special exhibition."

The Dallas presentation of *Courage and Compassion* is supported by Texas Instruments, the Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, and the Texas Holocaust Genocide and Antisemitism Advisory Council. Exhibition sponsors are Orchid Giving Circle Fund at Texas Women's Foundation and Toyota.

About Go For Broke National Education Center

Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy. Our goal is to inspire new generations to embody the Nisei veterans core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism. Founded in 1989, GFBNEC maintains the Go For Broke Monument and the interactive Defining Courage exhibition in

downtown Los Angeles, as well as extensive oral histories and archives, education and training programs, and other initiatives. For more information, please visit www.goforbroke.org. “Go For Broke” was the motto of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Army unit composed of Japanese Americans from Hawai’i and the mainland. The term was Hawaiian slang for “shooting the works,” or risking everything for the big win in gambling—as the Nisei soldiers did while fighting in the field in WWII and facing prejudice at home in the U.S.

About the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum

The mission of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum is to teach the history of the Holocaust and advance human rights to combat prejudice, hatred, and indifference. Founded in 1984 by local Holocaust survivors, the institution now resides in a new building in downtown Dallas where visitors experience a deeper immersion into the history of the Holocaust, human and civil rights, their centrality to our democracy, and their vital importance in preventing events like those of the Holocaust from happening again. The 55,000-square-foot permanent home covers three floors, and the main exhibition includes four wings that teach about the Holocaust, the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights after World War II, historical and contemporary genocides, and America’s civil rights journey. Please visit DHHRM.org or call (214) 741-7500 for more information.



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