

**TAYLORSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE: February 15, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: Mayor's Report

PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED – YES _____ **NO** **X**

RESOLUTION/ORDINANCE REQUIRED

ORDINANCE _____ **RESOLUTION** _____ **NONE** **X**

PRESENTER: Mayor Wall

ISSUE SUMMARY:

Proclaiming Saturday, the 18th of February, 2012 as Congressional Gold Medal Day for the Veterans of the 100th/442nd/MIS, including those from Utah, to be observed at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: None

CITY ATTORNEY (Approved as to form):

N/A

ACTION REQUIRED: None

CONTACT INFORMATION: Robin Bronson

**Proclamation
City of Taylorsville**

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL DAY

February 2012

WHEREAS, at the inception of World War II pursuant to Executive Order 9066, 120,000 people of Japanese Ancestry including American citizens were forcibly removed from the West Coast of the United States and incarcerated in one of the United States of America's infamous concentration camps;

WHEREAS, the Nisei (second generation American born citizens) were classified 4 C (enemy alien, unfit for military service because of nationality or ancestry), and were discriminated against and prevented from actively serving in the United States military;

WHEREAS, in 1942, the legendary Mike M. Masaoka, a Utah Nisei and Executive Director of the National Japanese American Citizens League, and others, petitioned to have the 442nd Regimental Combat Team activated;

WHEREAS, during World War II, the 100th Infantry Battalion (100TH) and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (442ND), Nisei soldiers from Hawaii and mainland United States, including Utah, eventually totaling 13,000, entered combat in Europe, serving in the European Theater of War. Many of these soldiers were from the concentration camps which they and their families were incarcerated, and whose families remained incarcerated as they entered combat in Europe.

WHEREAS, after 10 days of bitter combat to liberate the towns of Bruyeres, Belmont and Biffontaine, the 442nd was ordered to effect the rescue of the Texas First Battalion ("Lost Battalion"), 141st Regiment, 36th Division, who were trapped in the French Vosges forest occupied by elite SS German soldiers. After 16 days of battle in one of the toughest battles of the war, the 100th/442nd, suffering 800 casualties, including 200 killed in action, rescued the 211 Texans in October 1944. About 3,000 100th/442nd riflemen accomplished what 2 divisions (40,000 men) could not do in six months, by climbing unrelentingly for 12 hours up a 3,000 foot vertical cliff at night on a side the Germans would not expect, and in 32 minutes breached the Impregnable Fortress, the Gothic Line, in Italy;

WHEREAS, they fought in seven major campaigns in Italy and France – the "Go for Broke Regiment" (the 100th/442nd) suffered extremely heavy casualties, including over 600 killed in action, an extraordinarily high rate of its original infantry strength;

WHEREAS, the 100th /442nd became one of the most decorated units in United States military history in slightly less than two years with over 18,000 individual and unit decorations including the Good Conduct Medal;

WHEREAS, among the awards they were awarded: 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 43 Division Commendations, 13 Army Commendations, 2 Meritorious Service Unit Plaques, 21 Congressional Medals of Honor (the highest award for gallantry awarded by the Military), 29 Distinguished Service Crosses (the second highest award for gallantry), 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 560 Silver Stars with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters in lieu of second medals (the third highest award for gallantry), 22 Legion of Merits, 15 Soldier Medals, more than 4000 Bronze Stars and 1,300 Oak Leaf Clusters (gallantry in action), over 4,000 Purple Hearts including Oak Leaf Clusters (wounded or killed in action), 12 French Croix de Guerre and 2 Palms to the Croix de Guerre, and 2 Italian Medals for Military Valor;

WHEREAS, the Nisei Military Intelligence Service (MIS) consisting of over 6,000 Japanese Americans, including those from Utah, served in all campaigns in the Pacific Theater of War;

WHEREAS, the Nisei MIS conducted highly classified operations and produced tactical intelligence information vital to the United States military's successes, serving as interpreters, translators, interrogators, and communication interceptors in the entire Pacific War, including the Aleutians, China-Burma, East Asia, Guadalcanal, Philippines and Okinawa, and even operated behind enemy lines in Burma and the Philippines;

WHEREAS, after Japan surrendered, the MIS, Nisei soldiers, some from Utah, with their understanding of the culture and ability to build trust, were invaluable and critical in accomplishing the peaceful transition to a new, democratic government and becoming an important ally to the United States;

WHEREAS, the MIS was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, 1 Distinguished Service Cross, 2 Legion of Merits, 5 Silver Stars, 1 Soldier's Medal, over 50 Bronze Stars and 25 Purple Hearts;

WHEREAS, Major General Charles A. Willoughby, Chief, Military Intelligence under General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Military Commander of the Pacific Theater of War, credited the MIS with shortening the Pacific War by two years and saving a million American lives;

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2010, the United States Senate voted unanimously to approve S. 1055, the award of the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the United States, collectively to veterans of the 100th/442nd/MIS;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2010, the United States House of Representatives voted unanimously to approve S.1055;

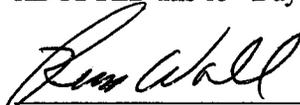
WHEREAS, on October 5, 2010, President Barack Obama signed S. 1055, the bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to veterans of the 100th/442nd/MIS;

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2011, the Congressional Gold Medal was officially presented to the 100th/442nd/MIS, including Utah Nisei veterans, and/or their representatives, by The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader of the United States House of Representatives, The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader of the United States Senate, The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and accepted by The Honorable Daniel Inouye, President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate;

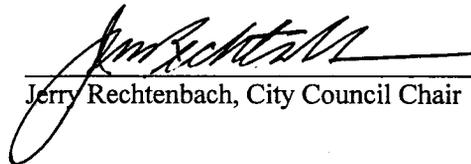
WHEREAS, on November 11, 2011, Veterans Day, Governor Gary Herbert honored these veterans in a ceremony at the Utah State Capitol;

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and the Council of the City of Taylorsville, on behalf of the 61,000 citizens of Taylorsville, UT, do hereby proclaim Saturday, the 18th of February, 2012 as Congressional Gold Medal Day for the Veterans of the 100th/442nd/MIS, including those from Utah, to be observed at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

ADOPTED this 15th Day of February 2012, in Taylorsville, Utah.



Russ Wall, Mayor



Jerry Rechtenbach, City Council Chair

ATTEST:



Cheryl Peacock Cottle, City Recorder

