

I AM AN AMERICAN

NISEI SOLDIER EXPERIENCE TRAVELING EXHIBIT



ARTIFACTS HIGHLIGHTS

Captivating Storytelling Through Historical Objects

The National Army Museum is currently home to an unprecedented collection of Japanese American artifacts that capture the rarely-told story of the Japanese American Nisei Soldiers during World War II. This is currently a temporary exhibit that highlights their struggles both at home and abroad, their courageous acts on the battlefield. This exhibit will be expanded, inspired by a new theme and transformed into the Museum's first traveling exhibition with new stories and artifacts.

"I Am An American," will highlight the service of the Nisei soldiers who chose to serve in the U.S. Army in order to demonstrate that they were loyal patriotic Americans, while they simultaneously fought a war against prejudice at home. The exhibition will display 25-35 rare objects that highlights the Nisei Soldier stories of loyalty and patriotism in World War II from the islands of Hawaii to the mainland US, including those who enlisted from the 10 War Relocation Authority (WRA) incarceration camps.

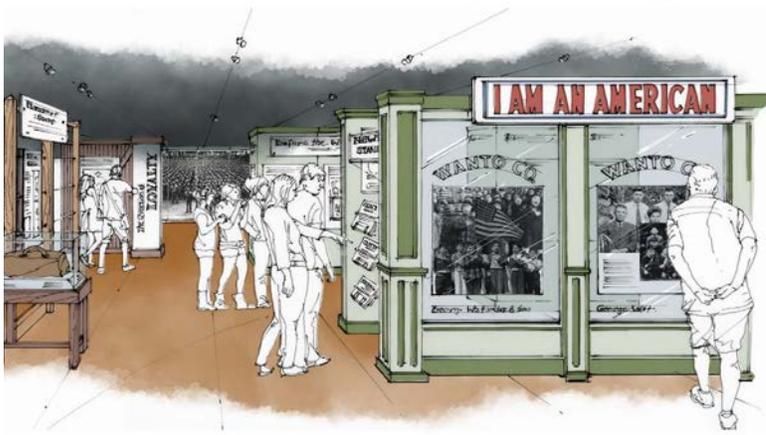


This exhibit will showcase significant historical objects, images and kiosks for visitors to access unique Soldier Stories. An interactive map of the European and Pacific Campaigns will feature customized videos.



To be included in the traveling exhibit are the M1 Steel Helmet that Pvt. George Sakato was wearing during his Medal of Honor action, a 442d Regimental Combat Team shoulder sleeve insignia, and Sgt. Gary Uchida's illustrated travel bag. These items are just a few examples of the roughly 35 artifacts used in the exhibit to highlight the Nisei Soldier's experience during World War II.





A conceptual rendering of the future traveling exhibit design.



An original "I Am An American" sign that was displayed during WWII. The sign will serve as the centerpiece and focal point for the traveling exhibition.

The Nation Museum of the United States Army and the National Veterans Network (NVN) is currently seeking personal objects to include in the exhibition that will represent the Nisei Soldier's "I Am An American" theme. Personal artifacts and archival documents are integral to this storytelling exhibit approach. Photos, letters, diary entries or any items that show the Nisei Soldier expressing their identity as an American is of great interest during this time of discovery as the exhibit design unfolds.

In addition to soliciting specific "I Am An American" objects, NVN is also seeking artifacts from families of Nisei Soldiers who volunteered out of the WRA incarceration camps.

Please contact the National Veterans Network if you have an artifact for consideration for the new traveling exhibit.

info@nationalveteransnetwork.com
nationalveteransnetwork.com



The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian award bestowed by Congress to persons or groups that have made a significant and long-standing impact on American history and culture. A replica of the Congressional Gold Medal will be featured in the traveling exhibit.

2nd Lt. Takeichi Miyashiro was severely wounded on 22 October 1944 in the forests of Biffontaine, France, when he was struck by a projectile that exploded his ammunition belt. Captured during their evacuation by an enemy German patrol, a fellow prisoner of war removed these fragments from Miyashiro and presented him with this little German matchbox containing the metal fragments.



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