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ADDENDUM

All the news that wouldn't
fit in the printed PPP

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT 100TH VETERAN

SOUTH DAKOTA HISTORIC SOCIETY PRESS

www.sdhspress.com/books/a-place-for-harvest

A Place for Harvest - The Story of Kenny Higashi is written by **LAUREN R. HARRIS** and illustrated by **FELICIA HOSHINO**. It is 32 pages, hardback and is priced at \$19.95. Pre-order today. Available April 19, 2022.

“A breathtakingly tender story of both person and homeland, *A Place for Harvest* humanizes the incredible diversity of the Japanese American experience. . . . An absolute essential read.” — **KATIE YAMASAKI**, author of *Fish for Jimmy*.

The son of Japanese immigrants, Kenny Higashi works on his family's vegetable farm near the town of Spearfish in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Kenny loves his family, their farm, and his hometown. He cheerfully volunteers for extra jobs.

Then Japan attacks Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and everything changes.

Thousands of Japanese American families are forced out of their homes into guarded camps. Kenny's community comes together in support of his family, but soon two soldiers arrive. Kenny or his brother must join the United States Army or his whole family will be forced to move into a camp. Kenny volunteers for duty.

KENNETH RAY HIGASHI joins the 100th Infantry Battalion, which becomes part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. His battalion is made up of Nisei like him, young men born to Japanese American immigrants. The unit's motto is "Go For Broke." They are brave and loyal soldiers who volunteer for extra duties.

Author **LAUREN R. HARRIS**, who knew Kenny Higashi, transforms his memories of his hometown and the war into a story of community, hope, and determination. Illustrator **FELICIA HOSHINO** transports readers from the heartland of the United States to European battlefields.

About the Author: Lauren R. Harris grew up in a military family that moved across the United States. In each new place, she found the nearest library and devoured every book she could get her hands on. As her love of reading grew, Harris sought to share it with others, becoming a teacher and then a writer. She wrote for the Rapid City Journal, Down Country Roads, and Black Hills Pioneer, documenting community life. When writing her first children's book on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, titled *The Plum Neighbor*, she met and interviewed Kenny Higashi for the first time. Today, Lauren lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband, two sons, and daughter and continues to record soldiers' stories and experiences.

About the Illustrator: Felicia Hoshino is the prize-winning illustrator of multiple children's books, including **JANE ADDAMS** Peace Award winner *A Place Where Sunflowers Grow*. She earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the California College of the Arts and lives with her family in San Francisco, California. Her parents' families were forced to move into the Minidoka (Idaho) and Poston (Arizona) incarceration camps.

Like Kenny Higashi, two of her great uncles served in the 442nd.

KENNETH HIGASHI'S LÉGION D'HONNEUR CONFERMENT CEREMONY by
ANONYMOUS, JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION
<https://java-us.org/JAVA-News/7902993>
September 16, 2019

RAPID CITY, S.D. (KOTA,TV) - The community gathered at Black Hills State University to honor 97-year-old life long Spearfish resident and World War II Veteran **KENNETH HIGASHI**. (Photograph below of Mr. Higashi and his wife, **PHYLLIS HIGASHI**, with the French Consul General in Chicago who is bestowing the French Legion d'honneur Medal to Mr. Higashi in Spearfish, South Dakota. Photo courtesy of **JEFF MORITA** who nominated Mr. Higashi for the Chevalier Medal.)



Honor, sacrifice, and hero were just a few of the words used to describe World War II Veteran, Kenneth Higashi.

"Take this opportunity to properly recognize someone for all that he has done for our nation and the nation of France," says master of ceremonies, **GREGORY DIAS**.

Higashi was a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team who served in Europe during World War II.

"Most highly decorated unit of all time in United States history. And he was being honored with a bunch of United States awards and Frances highest honor," says Dias.

Higashi received a dozen awards including such prestigious honors as the French Legion of honor and the Bronze Star Medal.

"It was really overwhelming and quite emotional," says a friend of Higashi, **LAUREN HARRIS**

Many describe him as an understated, quiet, and reserved individual, so to have a crowd of people honoring him was quite an experience.

"Sacrifices that he made, and his generation made for them for the ones that were to come without really making a big deal out of it," says Harris.

"There are honor and selflessness, and he was willing to put everything on the line," says Dias.

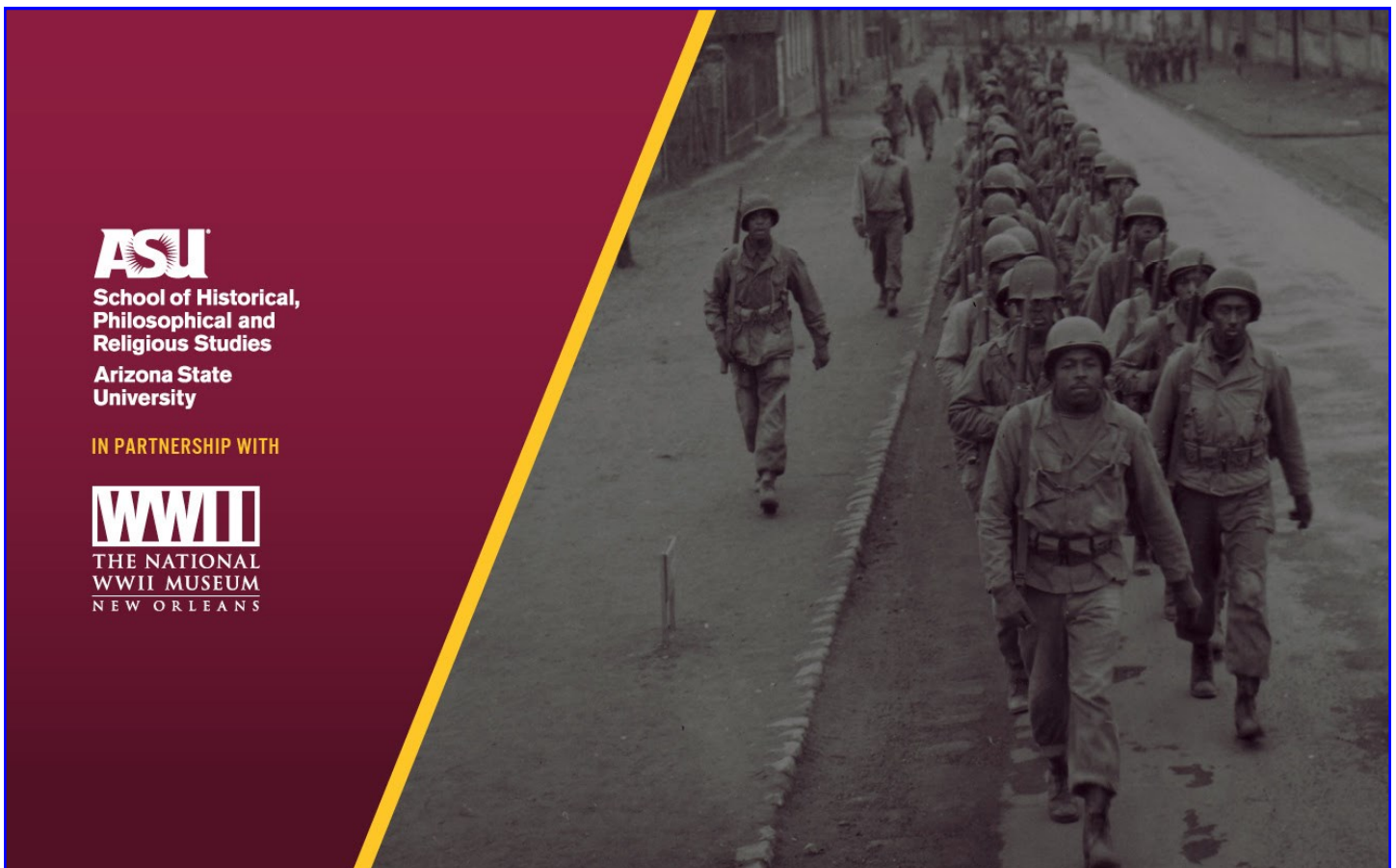
But the awards weren't the most crucial part for Higashi; it was making sure the younger generation learns from history.

"Some things happened to Kenneth and people like him that probably shouldn't have happened and those are lessons that we need to learn and not repeat," says Dias.

A video of the award ceremony can be seen at <https://www.kotatv.com/content/news/World-War-II-veteran-honored-for-his-service--558048061.html>.

(PPP Editor's Note: Since we're on the topic of Jeff Morita, thank you to Mr. Morita for sending me an email about Ms. Harris and for nominating and preparing the packet for Mr. Higashi's to receive the Legion of Honor award.. According to Mr. Morita, Mr. Higashi passed away on November 26, 2020 at the age of 98. His obituary can be viewed here: <https://www.fidler-isburgfuneralchapels.com/obituary/kenneth-higashi>.)

**MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM: EARN A FULLY-ACCREDITED ONLINE
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School of Historical,
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Religious Studies
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Looking for a master's degree program in World War II Studies? Are you interested in the effects and causes of World War II? Are you interested in the diplomatic, cultural and economic impacts of war? If so,

Arizona State University's ("ASU") online Master of Arts in World War II studies may be the perfect program for you.

In this program, you'll explore the second world war through a multitude of first-person and scholarly perspectives on the event and its geopolitical and cultural aftermath. Apply now for summer admission, and earn your degree with the Museum's historians and ASU's faculty at <https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/world-war-ii-studies-ma/>.

Why earn a master's in World War II studies?

This program gives you the opportunity to explore one of the most devastating and far-reaching conflicts in history. Through your online courses, you'll gain critical insight into the causes and legacy that touched every continent across the globe.

Additionally, ASU's partnership with The National World War II Museum presents you with an incredible opportunity to learn from leading experts in World War II from both organizations.

What will I learn from an online World War II studies degree?

The coursework builds an understanding of the timeline, causes, effects and major events of World War II. In this interdisciplinary program, you'll explore the war's evolution through the lens of diplomacy, military campaigns, economic considerations and the impact on civilians. You'll also gain a greater understanding of how governments and political systems have evolved over time.

Our World War II studies degree covers social and cultural themes and examines how humans respond to conflict, violence and genocide. Additionally, electives highlight the interdisciplinary focus of the program as you apply knowledge of the impact of World War II through film and literature, philosophy and sites of memory

The summer session will cover **World War II Studies**, taught by ASU Professor **YAN MANN**, PhD. Future courses will include **The Lived Experience of WWII**, **Leadership and Diplomacy in WWII**, and more, taught by scholars of The National WWII Museum and faculty from Arizona State University. To learn more about all of the program's courses, visit <https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/world-war-ii-studies-ma/>.

Gain insider access to The National World War II Museum collections

As a student, you'll have access to an extensive collection of digital resources through The National World War II Museum. This vast collection includes videos, photographs, oral histories, maps and timelines. Oral histories, film depictions, photographs and other firsthand accounts provide powerful context for deeper insight into the impact of the war on humanity.

To learn more about the online master's degree program, speak with an ASU admissions counselor at 1-844-353-7856 or submit an email inquiry at <https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/world-war-ii-studies-ma/> to get program details from the ASU Enrollment Services Team.

Does my master's in World War II say 'online'?

No, Arizona State University's diplomas don't specify whether you earn your degree online or in person. All diplomas and transcripts simply say "Arizona State University." That's because ASU Online students learn from the same faculty and receive the same course content as in-person students receive.

EXCLUSIVE ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE GO FOR BROKE STORE: THE NEW UNIT COLLECTION

<https://www.goforbroke.com/shop/the-unit-collection/35>

This month we are excited to launch several new merchandise items available only at the Go For Broke Store! **The Unit Collection** features classic crewneck sweatshirts, pocket tees and stickers honoring the Japanese American soldiers who served during WWII.

Remember, each Go For Broke Store purchase ensures that the legacy of the Japanese American WWII soldiers is not forgotten. Be sure to visit goforbroke.com to see all of the Store's exciting merchandise items.

FREE shipping on orders of \$100 or more, and GFBNEC members save 10%

For questions, and to request the member code, email customerservice@goforbroke.com. To become a member, please visit <https://goforbroke.org/membership/>

Thank you for your support in ensuring the story of the Japanese American WWII soldiers remains an important American story for future generations!

THE UNIT COLLECTION

Featuring Classic Pocket Tees & Crewneck Sweatshirts

In honor of the over 33,000 Japanese American men and women who served in Europe, the Pacific and the States, The Unit Collection features unit insignia specific crewneck sweatshirts, pocket tees and stickers. Select one of the six units in which the Japanese Americans soldiers served in: 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 232nd Combat Engineer Company/1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, 522nd Field Artillery Battalion and Women's Army Corps, Army Nurse Corps and Cadet Nurse Corps. Collect all six unit-inspired designs! Please visit <https://www.goforbroke.com/shop/the-unit-collection/35> to see all items in The Unit Collection.

The Unit Collection Pocket Tee (Top photo on right)

A timeless and classic pocket tee which features one of six U.S. Army units that the Japanese American soldiers served in during WWII. Wear one and collect all six units! Unisex adult sizes. Charcoal Grey. 100% ringspun cotton. Machine wash cold with like colors. Tumble dry low. Made in Guatemala. **\$25**. Please visit <https://www.goforbroke.com/shop/the-unit-collection/35> to order and select specific unit insignia.

The Unit Collection Crewneck Sweatshirts & Tees (Bottom photo on right)

Proudly wear the unit insignia from one of the six U.S. Army units that the Japanese American soldiers served in during WWII. The Unit Collection crewneck sweatshirt is both comfortable and classic looking. Wear one and collect all six units! Unisex adult sizes. Black. 50% cotton and 50% polyester fleece. Made in Guatemala. Machine wash cold with like colors. Tumble dry low. **\$45**. Please visit <https://www.goforbroke.com/shop/the-unit-collection/35> to order and select specific unit insignia.



UNSUNG HEROES: THE JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN SOLDIERS OF WWII

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER's E-Torch, emailed on March 10, 2022

Few Americans — even Japanese Americans — know the story of the 500 young Nisei women who volunteered to serve their country during WWII. These brave women faced enormous obstacles to their service. Some had brothers already in the military; others were imprisoned with their families in mainland incarceration camps. Many endured strong disapproval from family and friends for volunteering, which was contrary to cultural and gender norms at the time. As nurses, translators, medical technicians, clerks and more,

these women joined the military from the WRA concentration camps, Hawai'i and throughout the United States to prove their loyalty to their nation.

With America on the Atlantic and Pacific fronts, the military eventually turned to women for needed support. Servicewomen became military clerks, typists, cooks and drivers freeing up men to go to frontline combat roles. Japanese American women served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC), Army Nurse Corps (ANC), and Cadet Nurse Corps (CNC). The ANC began accepting Japanese American women in February 1943, while the WAC began enlisting them in September of that same year. Japanese American women had previously been denied entry to its predecessor, the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps).

Through the end of WWII, 142 Japanese American women volunteered for the WAC and underwent five weeks of basic training at either Fort Des Moines, Iowa, or Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. However, unlike Japanese American men, they were not segregated. When basic training was complete, they received one of 155 different assignments, with the majority being clerical. Forty-eight Japanese American WACS were assigned to the Military Intelligence Service Language School as translators for the Army, but they were trained separately from the men and assigned non-combat roles in document translation. A few were even so successful that they were retained as teachers at the school. Most others were assigned to translate captured Japanese documents while at the Pacific Military Intelligence Research Section at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, and later at the Central Document Center in Washington DC.

At the end of the war, eleven Japanese American WACs accepted military assignments in Tokyo under General Douglas MacArthur's command. However, upon arrival MacArthur did not approve of enlisted women serving overseas and they were ordered to either return to the States as WACs or continue to serve in Japan as civilians. All remained in Japan as civilians and performed their work honorably.

Approximately, 350 Japanese American women participated in the CNC, a non-military unit, which provided free education in nursing programs across the country within an abbreviated 30 month period. In exchange, Cadet Nurses were obligated to provide nursing services for the duration of the war. The program actively recruited Nisei women from the concentration camps with the promise of free education. The CNC program maintained a policy of anti-discrimination and was open to all women, though many nursing schools refused to admit Japanese American students.

Those in the ANC were already nurses. Only a handful of Japanese Americans served in the ANC and did not receive overseas assignments. (*Bottom photograph on the right of female officers, courtesy of the U.S. Government and Bonnie and KEN KASAMATSU.*)



When the war ended, the women of the WAC, ANC and CNC were not only proud of their service, but they also gained valuable education and job skills. And they held their heads high. Like their brothers and husbands, they had answered America's call in its time of duress, and they served their country with courage, patriotism and sacrifice despite how their country treated them. *(Photo below of the Nisei Women's Army Corps (WAC) detachment at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, courtesy of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee).*



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