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DANIEL KEN INOYUE WAS BORN INTO A JAPANESE AMERICAN FAMILY IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.

INITIALLY SPURNED BY THE COUNTRY OF HIS BIRTH, INOYUE WOULD GO TO EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS TO PROVE HIS LOVE OF AMERICA.

DANIEL INOYUE

DANIEL WAS TAUGHT BY HIS PARENTS FROM A YOUNG AGE THE VALUE OF HONOR AND LOYALTY.

I OWE SO MUCH TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII. I EXPECT YOU TO REPAY THAT DEBT.

TAKING THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO HEART, DANIEL VOLUNTEERED WITH THE RED CROSS.

ON THE DAY IMPERIAL JAPAN ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR, HE RUSHED TO HELP TREAT THE WOUNDED.
When he turned eighteen a few months later, Daniel tried to join the army to fight for his country. We're not taking enemy aliens into the service.

Hell, son, we're at war with your kind.

This ban was reversed by executive order by the start of the following year.

Americanism is a matter of the mind and heart. Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry.

A brand-new combat unit was formed. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

They proved their loyalty again and again in combat.

In Italy. In southern France. And back again in Italy.

When he turned eighteen a few months later, Daniel tried to join the army to fight for his country. We're not taking enemy aliens into the service.

The 442nd Regiment, in its short existence, would become one of the most decorated units in American military history.

As well as a unit the German army would soon come to fear.
April 1945, San Terenzo, Italy. The Wehrmacht was every bit as dangerous in retreat as on the attack.

In a desperate rearguard action, the Germans were determined to slow the Allied advance up the Italian Peninsula.

Into the teeth of this defense marched the soldiers of the 442nd.

Their task was to sweep the Germans off this mountainside.

C’mon, go for broke!

Thanks to a battlefield commission, Inouye was now a second lieutenant in command of his own platoon.

It was a charge he took very seriously.
FULLY EXPOSED TO ENEMY FIRE, HE WAS STRUCK BY A SNIPER'S BULLET.

LIEUTENANT!

YOU'VE BEEN HIT, SIR.

YOU NEED A MEDIC.

HE WAS IN PAIN BUT COULD WALK.

FOR INOUYE, THAT WAS ENOUGH.

INOUYE AND HIS UNIT FOUND THEMSELVES PINNED DOWN BY THREE MACHINE GUNS.

IT WAS APRIL 21, THE DAY AFTER ADOLF HITLER'S BIRTHDAY.

STAY DOWN. WE'RE IN A CROSSFIRE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, SIR?

LET ME HANDLE IT.

ALONE, INOUYE CRAWLED TO THE NEAREST MACHINE GUN NEST.
he made it within fifteen feet of the concealed emplacement.

with two hand grenades he took the german position out.

before they could train their weapon on him, inouye moved to neutralize a second machine gun crew.

gun emplacement number two was destroyed.

from the third mg nest, a soldier fired a rifle grenade at inouye.
The explosion created a crippling blow. Though there was no sensation in his now-ruined arm, the live grenade remained clutched in his fingers.

Fighting to remain conscious, Inouye took the grenade in his left hand. Grenade! Get down!

A southpaw toss landed close to the third nest. But the third machine gun still needed to be eliminated. And neither blood loss or shock or pain was going to keep Inouye down.
His own safety was not to be considered.

His only thoughts were for the debt he owed to the place he called home.

A country that had not always returned his devotion.

He was struck once more.

A round fractured his right leg.

His men caught up with him, astounded to find Inouye alive.

Sir, are you--?

Help me up.

Inouye refused evacuation until the job was done.

Keep going, men! Nobody called off the war.

His platoon took the third machine gun--and the ridge.
America owes an unrepayable debt to you and your colleagues.

Inouye spent twenty months in army hospitals. There he met future colleagues Phil Hart and Bob Dole who would help influence his choice of civilian careers.

Inouye's war was over but there was still work to be done. This time at home.

The loss of his arm meant he would never realize his dream of becoming a doctor.

He was discharged as a captain in 1947 with a distinguished service cross, bronze star, and two purple hearts. In 2000, Senator Daniel Inouye and 21 other Asian American WWII veterans received the nation's highest honor.

Inouye was discharged as a captain in 1947 with a distinguished service cross, bronze star, and two purple hearts.

In 2000, Senator Daniel Inouye and 21 other Asian American WWII veterans received the nation's highest honor.

He went to school under the GI Bill and was elected the first congressman for Hawaii when it gained statehood. In 1962, he became the first Japanese American elected to the U.S. Senate.

America owes an unrepayable debt to you and your colleagues.

The end.
For information on the AUSA Book Program and to download a copy of *Medal of Honor: Daniel Inouye*, visit [www.ausa.org/moh](http://www.ausa.org/moh).