

# **“WE THE PEOPLE”**

## **PROGRAM #3 - GO FOR BROKE**

**Length: 14:35**

(Depending on the specific audience and the facilitator, some *Suggestions for Discussion* questions could also include Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders)

### **Suggestions for Discussion:**

1. Would you go to war for a country that took away your civil rights?
2. How did this presentation of Japanese American and Native Hawaiian bravery during WWII affect you?
3. As an American citizen what must it have been like when suddenly, having done nothing wrong, you were classified by the government as an enemy alien?
4. What were the reasons why some men in the camps chose not to enter the military? How were they treated differently?
5. Although attitudes toward Japanese Americans slowly changed after WWII, returning Japanese American soldiers faced intense prejudice. Describe how it might feel to you if you came back from serving your country in war and were the target of racism.

***After discussions have ended ask volunteer viewers what they are thinking/feeling.***

**People to Research:**

Military Intelligence Unit

The 100 Battalion

442nd Regimental Combat Team

The Lost Battalion

Lawson Sakai

The “No No” Boys

President Truman

**Photos to Discuss:**

President Truman holding his hat over his heart reviewing the Japanese American troops of the 442nd having just returned from rescuing the captured Texas Battalion. (“The Lost Battalion”)

**Interviews to Discuss:**

Lawson Sakai and Les Ouchida sharing their honest and revealing insights about their experience of internment and Sakai’s subsequent US Army service.

**Possible Follow-Up Activities:**

1. Have students take turns reenacting Japanese Americans trying to enlist in the Army right after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Have one student assume the role of the Army recruiting officer. Have the rest of the class comment on the mini drama.