



RELEASE

SOUTH SEATTLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE • 6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499

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“Beyond the Call of Duty” Exhibition Comes to South Seattle Community College

The Art Gallery at South Seattle Community College (SSCC) presents “Beyond the Call of Duty.”

The exhibition honors 24 Japanese American Medal of Honor recipients from World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The irony is that until the year 2000, only four Japanese Americans had been awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest and most rarely awarded armed forces decoration.

On June 21, 2000, President Bill Clinton presented 20 additional Japanese Americans with the Medal of Honor, an upgrade from their Distinguished Service Cross decorations. The awards came after a review of records, where it was discovered that Japanese American soldiers initially recommended for the Medal of Honor for their service in World War II instead received the Distinguished Service Cross.

“The bias, discrimination and hysteria of that time unfortunately had an impact on the decision to (not) award the military’s highest honor to Asian Pacific Islanders,” said Senator Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, who initiated the record review.

The exhibit features maps, photos and text panels to honor Japanese Americans who demonstrated personal bravery, self-sacrifice and extraordinary heroism. The display unfolds chronologically, beginning with the Naples-Foggia campaign in September 1943 and ending with the battles on the fields of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

This exhibit is part of the Seattle Community College District’s “Journey to Democracy” program, which is exploring social justice issues raised by the removal and incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II. “Journey to Democracy” is produced by the Seattle Community Colleges in partnership with the Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program, the Seattle chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles.

Where: The South Seattle Community College Art Gallery is located next to the bookstore in the Jerry Brockey Student Center. 6000 16th Avenue, S.W., Seattle, WA 98106-1499.

When: The exhibition runs from February 14 – March 20, 2002.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday – Thursday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Admission is free and open to the public.

For more information please contact
Lisa Palmatier, Art Gallery Coordinator, at (206) 764-5337.

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