

# **Duckworth and Ernst Announce Their Bipartisan Bill To Honor WWII Army Rangers Unanimously Passed the Senate**

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– Days after the anniversary of D-Day, combat Veteran and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) joined U.S. Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA), a retired lieutenant colonel in the Iowa Army National Guard, to announce passage of their bipartisan legislation to award the U.S. Army Ranger Veterans of World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal earlier this year. The bill passed the Senate unanimously.

“U.S. Army Rangers bravely wore the uniform of this great nation and participated in some of the most important battles of World War II,” Duckworth said. “The impact and influence of these elite soldiers and the sacrifices they made to protect their fellow

Americans cannot be overstated. I'm glad my colleagues voted to pass this bipartisan legislation that will award these Veterans with a Congressional Gold Medal, and I look forward to it becoming law."

"Whether meeting Iowa veterans who are visiting the WWII Memorial as part of an honor flight or awarding a well-deserved service medal back home, I'm often reminded of the unparalleled courage and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation. When it comes to recognizing the sacrifices and heroic actions of our brave Army Rangers, there's no time to wait," said Ernst. "I'm so thrilled all of my Senate colleagues supported this bill. While we can never say thank you enough, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to these Rangers is a small token of appreciation from a grateful nation."

The WWII Army Ranger Congressional Gold Medal Act is supported by a number of organizations, including U.S. Army Ranger Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National WWII Museum (New Orleans, LA), National D-Day Memorial (Bedford, VA), National Veterans Memorial and Museum (Columbus, OH), Maryland Military Historical Society, Anzio Beachhead Museum, Ranger Museum and Exhibit (Normandy, France), War Museum Winterline Venafro, and Witness to War Foundation.

"Witness to War has dedicated our mission to preserving and promoting the stories of combat veterans, including WWII Rangers, and we're elated that they have the opportunity to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. The men who fought in these units put their lives in harm's way in the name of freedom," Emily Carley, Director, Witness to War Foundation. "This would be such a well-deserved acknowledgment of their incredible service, and we're humbled and honored to have known some of these great soldiers. We at Witness to War are eternally grateful for their selfless service, and look forward to seeing this bill pass in the House."

"On behalf of our nation's Veterans, and especially our Rangers past, present, and future, we would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the U.S. Army Ranger Veterans of WWII and their families on the passage of their Congressional Gold Medal," said Lieutenant General Mike Ferriter, President and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "Whether in North Africa, Italy, Normandy, or the Philippines our Ranger forbearers showed peerless courage, grit, endurance, and determination. Because of their actions and exacting standards our modern day Army Rangers are the finest light infantry and raid force in the world. Our nation can never repay the debt of gratitude to these men and what they accomplished for our country."