[ Somber orchestral music playing ]

-A date which will live

in infamy.

-Daddy, I hate Pearl Harbor Day.

I'm the only Japanese

in the whole class,

and the other kids stare.

The boys say mean things like,

"Your dad fought for Japan during the war."

-I'm so sorry, Beverly.

I guess it's about time

I told you about World War II

and how thousands

of Japanese-Americans

fought to free Europe

from the Germans and Italians.

[ Somber orchestral music playing ]

I volunteered

out of the Minidoka, Idaho, concentration camp

to fight with

the all-Japanese-American

442nd Combat Team

and the 100th Battalion

from Hawaii.

We wanted to prove

our loyalty to America.

Little did we know

we would become heroes.

[ Indistinct conversations ]

-We will never serve a country

that keeps our families

and us captive.

-Yes, we will prove our loyalty

and fight for America.

[ Marching footsteps ]

-I became a sergeant in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Our motto was the Hawaiian

dice players' saying --

"Go for broke!"

[ Whistling, explosions ]

[ Music continues ]

[ Men shouting indistinctly ]

The army gave us

many dangerous missions.

Leading a scouting mission

in Italy,

I learned what it meant

to be responsible

for all my men.

On that day,

my squad was almost wiped out.

[ Music continues ]

I yelled at the colonel

because he didn't tell us

it was a suicide mission.

To this day,

I still see the faces of my men.

I regret that bloody mission

and will never forget it

and them.

[ Music continues ]

I wept for those

I could not save.

I felt sorry for their families,

who were in

American concentration camps

when they received the news.

In October 1944,

our next assignment was to save

the Texas Lost Battalion,

which was surrounded by Germans

for over a week

in the mountains

of Eastern France.

The Texans were

taking heavy casualties

and running out of food

and ammo.

All rescue attempts failed,

so they called in

the 442nd and 100th,

even though we were exhausted

and other troops were rested.

[ Dramatic orchestral music plays ]

[ Whistling, explosions ]

The German artillery

blasted trees

as we were crawling up the hill.

I heard a loud crack and thud.

A huge limb fell next to me,

which broke my buddy's neck.

[ Music continues ]

I led the charge against

a German machine-gun nest

that had us pinned down.

Bullets were flying

all around me,

and, luckily, I was not hit.

All I could think about

was my men, your mom,

and my family and Minidoka.

Everyone was counting on me.

[ Whistling, explosions ]

[ Dramatic music plays ]

-American troops

of Japanese descent,

men who have distinguished themselves repeatedly

in the European War,

move out to rescue

the battalion.

[ Music continues ]

-Oh, it was a bloody battle

in the rain and mud.

But we finally freed

the 212 Texans.

The 442nd and 100th

suffered more casualties

than troops saved.

We were so exhausted.

We hardly celebrated.

We had lost so many friends.

-Although the Lost Battalion's situation seemed hopeless,

these men kept their...

-After,

I heard we made

the Movietone News

at the theaters back home.

They called us heroes

for rescuing the Texans.

-These American-born troops

of Japanese ancestry

received decorations

from General Dahlquist

for their work in rescuing

their comrades in arms.

[ Heroic orchestral music

plays ]

[ Slow orchestral music plays ]

-Later, we were able to get some

rest and relaxation in town.

[ Mid-tempo orchestral music playing ]

One of the Hawaii boys

got into an argument

and punched a white American officer at a French tavern.

[ Men shouting indistinctly ]

The military police broke it up,

and four of us were handcuffed.

[ Shouting continues ]

[ Music continues ]

[ Fabric tears ]

I was busted

to the rank of private

and thrown in the army stockade

with three other guys.

I felt guilty because

the rest of my buddies

went back into battle

without us.

They needed squad leaders

on the line,

so they let us out

of the stockade.

I was happy to get out of jail

and rejoin my troops.

[ Slow orchestral music plays ]

[ Mid-tempo orchestral music playing ]

in April 1945,

the 442nd and 100th

broke the German Gothic line

of defense,

something the white Americans could not do.

We risked our lives

in full combat gear,

scaling a 3,000-foot cliff

of granite at night.

The enemy was waiting,

but we surprised

the Germans from the rear,

and they surrendered quickly.

It took the 442nd

only a few hours

to break the famous Gothic line.

[ Somber orchestral music playing ]

But the climb

was very dangerous.

Those that fell

did so in silence.

Otherwise, there would have been 5,000 dead Buddha-heads

at the bottom of the cliff.

Any loud sound

would have alerted the Germans,

and we would

have been sitting ducks.

[ Mid-tempo orchestral music playing ]

We had just enough time

to grab a hot meal

before we got orders

to head out again to the front.

[ Music continues ]

I received a letter

from my friend Ichido

in the 522nd Field Artillery

Battalion.

They shot a lock off

one of the Dachau death camps

and found prisoners who looked like walking skeletons.

[ Music continues ]

When I read Ichiro's letter,

I said a prayer

for the prisoners in Europe.

Then I remembered

that your mom and my family

were safe, not starving,

in Minidoka.

[ Music continues ]

[ People cheering ]

Victory in Europe Day,

or VE Day,

was May 2, 1945.

On May 10, 1945,

I was summoned to appear

at my court-martial trial

about the tavern fight.

No one represented me

as legal counsel,

so I was found guilty.

[ Music continues ]

The judge gave me six months

in the stockade,

which included

the loss of six months' pay.

My sentence was reduced, however,

because I served time

in the stockade in France

and fought to break

the Gothic Line.

[ Men shouting indistinctly ]

[ Explosion ]

The bombing of Hiroshima

and Nagasaki

ended the war with Japan.

Over 250,000 people were killed.

They were women, children,

old people, and invalids,

not soldiers.

I worried about my cousins

in Hiroshima.

Later, we found out that a few

of them had survived the blast.

After the war was ending,

prisoners in Minidoka

and other camps

were able to return home.

Some had nowhere to go

but had to leave anyway.

The government gave them

$25 each

and a train ticket.

[ Air horn blows ]

I returned on a troop ship

that docked in New York.

The Statue of Liberty

welcomed us all.

It -- It was like a --

It was like a whole new world

opened up in an instant.

Immediately,

I caught a train back to Chicago

to meet your mother.

[ Music continues ]

The 442nd and 100th

were called

The Purple Heart Battalion

because so many of us

were wounded.

We became the most decorated

unit in American history

for its size.

President Truman said that we fought the enemy and won

and we fought prejudice and won.

The ceremony lifted my spirits,

and all I could think about

was going back home.

I couldn't wait to see your mom.

[ Music continues ]

In 1945, four years

after Pearl Harbor,

your mother and I were married in Minneapolis.

Our new life was beginning

as we packed

and returned to Seattle.

[ Baby crying ]

I worked several different jobs

after returning to Seattle.

I was at Tashiro Hardware

a short while

and then moved on to Smith-Gandy

Automotive for 20 years.

Finally, I sold cars

for Bill Pierre Motors

in Lake City for 24 years.

[ Music continues ]

So, Beverly, that is my story.

I should have told you sooner.

We fought for liberty

and justice,

even though our families were

in American concentration camps.

We became American heroes

fighting for freedom

and gave our blood

for this country.

So never be ashamed

on Pearl Harbor Day again.

Be proud.

We proved our loyalty.

Every Pearl Harbor Day,

I still think about my men

who did not make it.

I wish I could have done more.

[ Music continues ]

-I would have never made it back

if it weren't

for Shiro's bravery.

-I would have never been born

if it weren't for Shiro.

[ Music continues ]

[ Indistinct conversations ]

-In 1983, at the 442nd/100th reunion in Hawaii,

the veterans decided

to seek justice for Shiro --

start a campaign to overturn

the court-martial decision

and restore Shiro's rank

to Sergeant.

They said that it was just

another battle

like the old days,

fighting against the odds.

-Thank you to all my friends

and family

for your efforts

to restore my rank.

-The Army responded

to the appeal

in 1997.

General Walter B. Huffman,

Major General U.S. Army,

the Judge Advocate General

sent a letter that came

on December 9, 1997,

six months after Shiro's death.

The letter states,

"Sergeant Shiro Kashino

is a hero

and should always be remembered as such.

His rank has been reinstated."

[ Music continues ]

Shiro's stripes are restored.

[ Music continues ]

Shiro passes away

before the letter is received.

In 2012, members of the 442nd

were awarded

the Congressional Gold Medal.

[ Music continues ]

Many of the 442nd/100th

paid with their lives

at the same time

their Japanese-American

friends and relatives

were in American

concentration camps.

The 442nd/100th

never lost a battle,

never retreated,

and never left a comrade

on the field of battle

as they held their

"Go for broke" banner high.

[ Music continues ]

[ Slow orchestral music

playing ]

Shiro Kashino was born

in Seattle, Washington,

on January 19, 1922,

to as the sixth child

of Bujinosuke Kashino

and Hatsune Oda.

Shiro enjoyed sports

throughout his life.

From Leschi Elementary

and Garfield High School,

he participated

in baseball, soccer,

basketball, and football.

At Garfield,

he prided himself on making

the All-City championship

football team in 1938.

He played quarterback

and later, due to injuries, played guard.

He was offered

a football scholarship

to Willamette University

in Oregon

but delayed his studies

to earn money

before commencing

his college education.

[ Dramatic orchestral music plays ]

-These planes are headed

for the Hawaiian Islands...

Pearl Harbor.

-His plans were disrupted

with the bombing of Pearl Harbor

on December 7, 1941,

and the subsequent

forced incarceration

of Japanese

and Japanese-Americans.

-When the Japanese attacked

Pearl Harbor,

our West Coast became

a potential combat zone.

Living in that zone

were more than 100,000 persons

of Japanese ancestry.

We knew that some among them were potentially dangerous.

Military authorities

therefore determined

that all of them,

citizens and aliens alike,

would have to move.

The many loyal among them

felt that this was a sacrifice

they could make in behalf

of America's war effort.

[ Somber piano music playing ]

-Shiro was incarcerated at

the Puyallup Assembly Center,

a temporary detention center,

and later at

Minidoka War Relocation Center,

a concentration camp

near Twin Falls, Idaho.

In 1943,

when the opportunity to serve

in the U.S. Army opened,

he volunteered for the

442nd Regimental Combat Team.

-They volunteered to fight

for the land of their birth,

the adopted land

of their parents.

These boys

look like tough fighters.

Aren't you glad

they're on our side?

[ Somber orchestral music playing ]

[ Explosions ]

[ Music continues ]

-He fought in all

the major battles

of the European campaigns

with the 442nd.

Shiro was awarded

the Congressional Gold Medal,

six Purple Hearts,

two Bronze Stars,

and one Silver Star,

along with other

miscellaneous commendations.

Shiro was active in the Nisei

Veterans Committee in Seattle

and was its commander

in 1947-'48.

He was also very proud

of his work

on the Nisei War Memorial Monument

at Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle,

which was dedicated in 1949.

He was an active member until

his death in 1997 from cancer.

Every Memorial Day,

the Kashino family gathers

to honor

Japanese-American soldiers.

His granddaughter Shina

also joins them

because it is a tradition

that has taught her

about the 442nd legacy

which opened opportunities

for future generations.

[ Music continues ]

[ Music continues ]