

Military, Law, and more ...

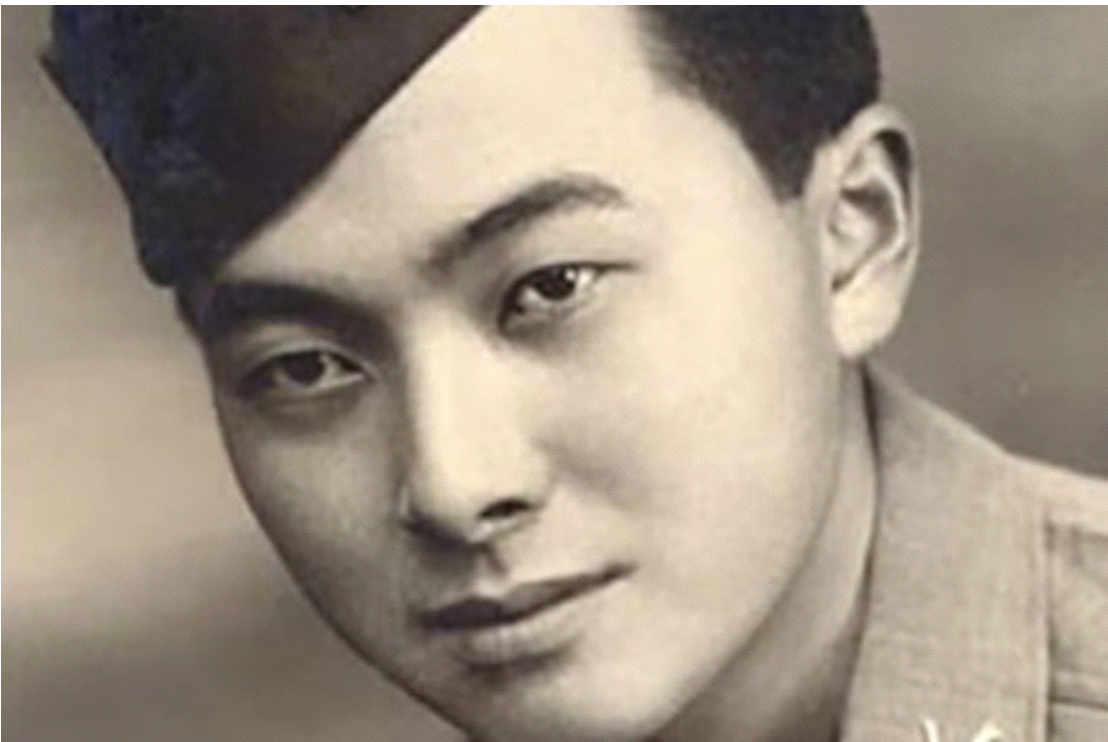
Medal of Honor Profile: Army Capt. Daniel Ken Inouye

By Katie Lange
Department of Defense

Army Capt. Daniel Ken Inouye's time in the military was just the start of a storied public service career that spanned more than half a century. During World War II, Inouye proved his dedication to the U.S. through battle. That loyalty was honored decades later when a review of his record determined he should receive the Medal of Honor.

Inouye was born Sept. 7, 1924, in Honolulu to Hyotaro Inouye and Kame Imanaga, who were Japanese immigrants. He had two brothers and a sister.

While still in high school, Inouye worked for the American Red Cross and dreamed of becoming a surgeon. When the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, happened his senior year, he volunteered as a medical aide, which inspired him to join the World War II effort. But when he tried to enlist in the Army, he was denied. At the time, fear of Japanese Americans, known as nisei, was rampant in the U.S., so they were barred from service due to concerns about their allegiance. Inouye petitioned his service denial. In the meantime, he began



Army Capt. Daniel Ken Inouye

studying for a premed degree at the University of Hawaii.

By late 1942, the Army decided to let nisei join to prove their allegiance. In February 1943, the Army activated the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was one of four units created for Japanese Americans to serve. It became one of the most decorated units in U.S. military history, where Inouye was finally allowed to join.

The 442nd deployed to Italy in June 1944. Two months later, it absorbed another nisei unit, the 100th Infantry Battalion. Together, the new unit performed with such distinction that it was reassigned to combat in southern France, where it took part in heavy fighting in the Vosges

mountains. The 442nd liberated towns across the country and helped rescue soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry Regiment — famously known as the "Lost Battalion" — which had been surrounded by the German military.

Toward the end of the war, the 442nd was sent back to Italy. On April 21, 1945, then-2nd Lt.

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Inouye was part of Company E, which was tasked with attacking an enemy-defended ridge that guarded an important road junction near San Terenzo, Italy.

Through heavy fire, Inouye led his platoon in the siege of an artillery and mortar post, which led to the capture of several enemy combatants. It also brought the platoon within 40 yards of the main hostile force before fire

from three enemy machine gun nests hidden in bunkers and rock formations pinned them down.

Disregarding his own safety, Inouye crawled up the treacherous ridge and, after getting to within 5 yards of one machine gun, tossed two grenades to destroy it. He then stood up and took out the second machine gun nest before the enemy could retaliate.

Inouye was wounded by a sniper bullet, but he pushed on, engaging other hostile positions at close range until a grenade shattered his right arm.

"I looked at it, stunned and disbelieving. It dangled there by a few bloody shreds of tissue, my grenade still clenched in a fist that suddenly didn't belong to me anymore," Inouye wrote in his 1967 autobiography, "Journey to Washington," cowritten by author Lawrence Elliott.

In that memoir, Inouye wrote that he pried the grenade out of his destroyed hand and threw it, killing a German gunman. He then continued firing his own gun until he was shot in the leg and thrown down a hillside. Despite being badly wounded, Inouye pressed his men to continue the attack until they'd captured the ridge. Only then did Inouye allow himself to be evacuated.

At a field hospital, Inouye's arm was amputated without the use of anesthesia. According to government reports, he'd been given a lot of morphine while in the field, and medics feared that any more would lower his blood pressure and kill him.

The loss of Inouye's arm brought an end to his dream of becoming a surgeon. He spent nearly two years recovering in hospitals before being honorably discharged as a captain, May 27, 1947.

A New Chapter of Service

Inouye used the GI Bill to finish a degree at the University of Hawaii, where he met Margaret Shinobu Awamura, an instructor at the school. They married on June 12, 1949, and had a son.

Inouye continued his education at George Washington University Law School, graduating in 1952 before returning to his home state, where he served for two years as an assistant public prosecutor in Honolulu.

In 1954, Inouye was elected to serve in Hawaii's legislature when it was still a territory. Five years later, when Hawaii achieved statehood, Inouye became the island chain's first U.S.

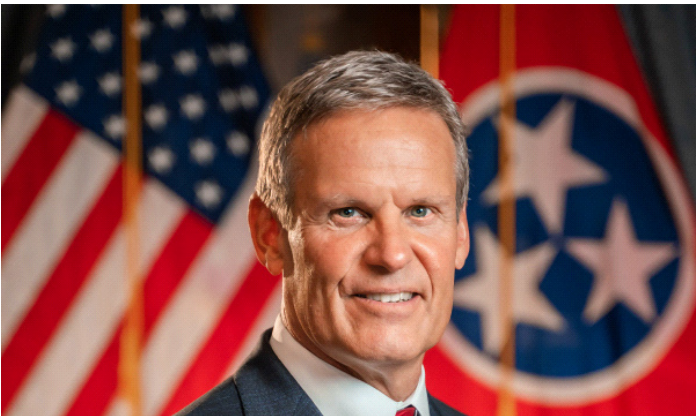
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TN Gov. Bill Lee gets praise from NSSF for signing

Firearms Industry Protection Law to fight lawfare

From the Outdoor Wire

May 6, 2025 - NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, hails Tennessee's Gov. Bill Lee for signing SB 1360 into law which brings added protections to the firearm industry and Second Amendment rights in the Volunteer State. The law protects the state's growing firearm and ammunition industry from special-interest "lawfare" abuse of the judicial system against firearm and ammunition manufacturers, distributors and retailers. The legislation was approved by Tennessee's General Assembly with an overwhelming majority. "Governor Lee, and Tennessee's lawmakers, are sending a clear message that gun control lawfare targeted against our industry, which is vital to Tennessee's economy and the nation's her-



Tennessee Governor Bill Lee

itage of Second Amendment freedoms, will not be tolerated," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. "Governor Lee's commitment to the lawful commerce in arms and free exercise of the rights to keep and bear arms in Tennessee is demonstrated by the growth of firearm

manufacturers moving to the state to grow their businesses. The firearm industry is grateful for state Representative Monty Fritts and state Senator Joe Hensley for shepherding this bill through the legislature and for Governor Lee's leadership in signing these important protections into law."

"Governor Lee, and Tennessee's lawmakers, are sending a clear message that gun control lawfare targeted against our industry, which is vital to Tennessee's economy and the nation's heritage of Second Amendment freedoms, will not be tolerated," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel.

Tennessee is home to Smith & Wesson, Inc., Beretta USA Corp., TROY Industries, Cheytac and Barrett Firearms Manufacturing, among others. The firearm industry brings over 13,500 jobs, with \$3.7 billion in total economic activity and \$7.5 million in tax revenue to the Volunteer State. Tennessee's SB 1360 builds upon

the federal Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to bring added state-level protections. The law protects firearm industry members from "qualified civil liability actions" — or lawsuits based on the criminal acts committed by remote third parties — from being brought against firearm manufacturers, distributors and retailers. Tennessee laws prohibit frivolous lawsuits that cannot be proven that firearm industry members directly caused harm. SB 1360 adds a deterrent by requiring plaintiffs attempting to bring frivolous lawsuits against firearm industry members to pay those defendants three times the damages cited in their legal complaints — plus attorney's fees — if those lawsuits violate Tennessee law.

For more information, visit nssf.org.

Email sports news and photos to
MSTsports@prodigy.net or

TN State Parks offer Mother's Day

Specials ... from sports page 3

of items.

Lamar Alexander Rocky Fork State Park, getting a head start, will hold a Mother's Day weekend moon hike on Saturday, May 10.

Details on events at all the state parks can be found online at the

Tennessee State Parks events page.

For those who simply want to give mom a gift with a Tennessee State Parks theme, the parks suggest:

A subscription to the Tennessee Conservationist with great stories

and stunning photography available in print and online; apparel, accessories, and more available at the Tennessee State Parks shopping page; or simply a donation in honor of Mom to the Trail Pack, which protects 1,400 miles of trails at the parks.

For The Love Of Springs

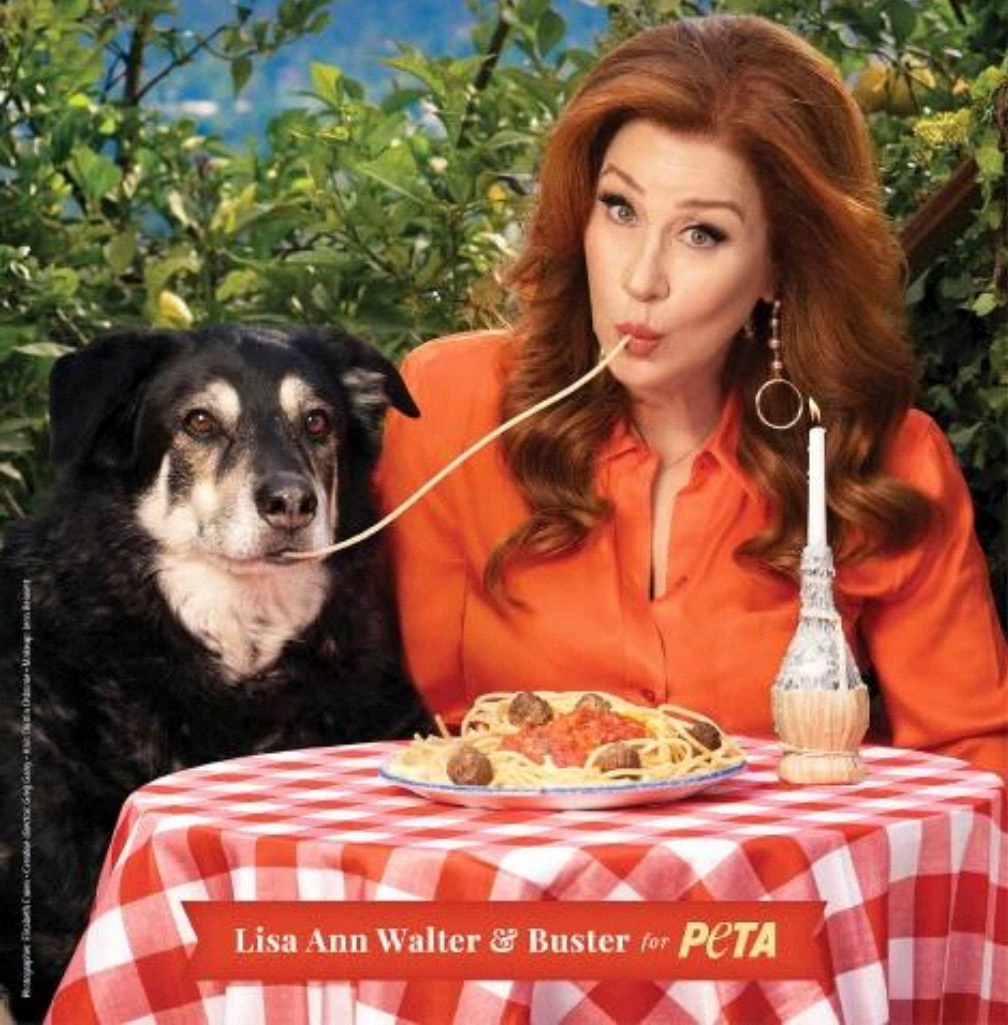


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