



American Latino Heritage



GUY GABALDON

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As a member of the Second Marine Division in 1944, Private Gabaldon took part in the invasion of Saipan during World War II. He received the Navy Cross, the Marine Corps' second highest award for valor for single-handedly capturing more than 1,000 Japanese soldiers at the age of only eighteen. Gabaldon grew up in Los Angeles with his Mexican-American family until the age of 12 when he moved in with a Japanese-American family with whom he learned to speak Japanese.