
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO ISSUE POSTAL STAMPS HONORING THE WORLD WAR II NISEI SOLDIERS, OTHER DISTINGUISHED MILITARY UNITS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY, AND AMERICANS WHO WORKED TOWARD ENDING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

1 WHEREAS, over 20,000 Nisei (second generation Japanese in
2 the United States), many from internment camps, enlisted in the
3 United States Army during World War II, despite the prejudice
4 generated after the attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan in 1941; and
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6 WHEREAS, on February 1, 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat
7 Team was activated by President Roosevelt, stating that
8 "Americanism is not and never was, a matter of race and
9 ancestry"; and
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11 WHEREAS, among their many battles, Nisei soldiers in Europe
12 fought at Monte Cassino, and were critical in breaking the
13 German "Gothic Lines", and liberating towns such as Bruyeres,
14 Biffontaine, and Belvedere, as well as freeing and aiding
15 Holocaust victims from the Dachau concentration camps; and
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17 WHEREAS, the most famous Nisei unit, the 100th
18 Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team also known as the "Go For
19 Broke" regiment, was the most decorated unit for its size and
20 length of service in American history; and
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22 WHEREAS, the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team's
23 rescue of the "Lost Battalion" was acknowledged to be one of the
24 prominent battles in United States Army history in which the
25 Combat Team led a heroic drive through German lines in the
26 Vosges Mountains in October 1944 freeing over 200 fellow
27 American soldiers of the 36th Texas Division; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Nisei soldiers of World War II earned
30 twenty-one Medals of Honor, nine Presidential Unit citations,
31 and more than nine thousand Purple Hearts; and
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1 WHEREAS, the Nisei soldiers of World War II proved their
2 loyalty through the sacrifices they made in service to the
3 United States and the decorations and awards they earned are a
4 permanent and indisputable record of their bravery and
5 patriotism; and

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7 WHEREAS, in 2006 a nationwide campaign started in
8 California to urge the United States Postal Service to issue a
9 commemorative postage stamp to honor the contributions of the
10 Nisei soldiers of World War II; and

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12 WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service has issued stamps
13 honoring other brave and distinguished minority veterans groups,
14 such as Hispanic-American soldiers recognized in 1984 and
15 African-American Buffalo Soldiers in 1994; and

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17 WHEREAS, the service of these Nisei soldiers throughout our
18 country's history helped to dispel many of the myths that were
19 so prevalent about the abilities and loyalties of these
20 individuals, and their efforts served as an example for the
21 individuals and organizations that worked toward enhancing race
22 relations and ending discrimination based on race or national
23 origin in the United States; and

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25 WHEREAS, numerous other military units have served with
26 distinction throughout the history of this great nation,
27 including units such as the 54th Massachusetts during the
28 American Civil War, and the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions
29 during World War II; now, therefore,

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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
33 that the Legislature urges the Postmaster General to approve the
34 issuance of a United States commemorative stamp honoring the
35 significant contributions of the Nisei soldiers in the United
36 States Army during World War II and honoring their shining
37 example of patriotic sacrifice in our nation's history, for
38 their service with outstanding valor despite the many obstacles
39 against them; and
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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Postmaster General is also
3 urged to consider and approve the issuance of United States
4 commemorative stamps honoring other distinguished military units
5 from throughout the history of this great nation; and

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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Postmaster General is also
8 urged to consider and approve the issuance of United States
9 commemorative stamps honoring individuals and organizations who
10 were instrumental in enhancing race relations and who worked
11 toward ending discrimination based on race or national origin in
12 the United States; and

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to United States Postmaster General
16 and Chief Executive Officer John Potter and Hawaii's
17 congressional delegation.
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