
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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 FOUGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE
OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

1 WHEREAS, Over twenty thousand Nisei (second generation
2 Japanese in the United States), many from internment camps,
3 enlisted in the United States Army during World War II, despite
4 the prejudice generated after the attack on Pearl Harbor by
5 Japan in 1941; and

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7 WHEREAS, on February 1, 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat
8 Team was activated by President Roosevelt, stating that
9 "Americanism is not and never was, a matter of race and
10 ancestry"; and

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12 WHEREAS, among their many battles, Nisei soldiers in Europe
13 fought at Monte Cassino, and were critical in breaking the
14 German "Gothic Lines," and liberating towns such as Bruyeres,
15 Biffontaine, and Belvedere, as well as freeing and aiding
16 Holocaust victims from the Dachau concentration camps; and

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18 WHEREAS, the most famous Nisei unit, the 100th/442nd
19 Regimental Combat Team also known as the "Go For Broke"
20 regiment, was the most decorated unit for its size and length of
21 service in American history; and

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23 WHEREAS, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team's rescue of
24 the "Lost Battalion" was acknowledged to be one of the prominent
25 battles in Army history in which they led a heroic drive through
26 German lines in the Vosges Mountains in October 1944 freeing
27 over two hundred fellow American soldiers of the 36th Texas
28 Division; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Nisei soldiers of World War II earned twenty-
2 one Medals of Honor, nine Presidential Unit citations, and more
3 than nine thousand Purple Hearts; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Nisei soldiers of World War II proved their
6 loyalty through the sacrifices they made in service to the
7 United States and the decorations and awards they earned are a
8 permanent and indisputable record of their bravery and
9 patriotism; and
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11 WHEREAS, in 2006 a nationwide campaign started in
12 California to urge the United States Postal Service to issue a
13 commemorative postage stamp to honor the contributions of the
14 Nisei soldiers of World War II; and
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16 WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service has issued stamps
17 honoring other brave and distinguished minority veterans groups,
18 such as Hispanic-American soldiers recognized in 1984 and
19 African-American Buffalo soldiers in 1994; and
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21 WHEREAS, the service of these minority Nisei soldiers
22 throughout our country's history helped to dispel many of the
23 myths that were so prevalent about the abilities and loyalties
24 of these individuals, and worked toward enhancing race relations
25 and ending discrimination based on race; and
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27 WHEREAS, numerous other military units have served with
28 distinction throughout the history of this great nation,
29 including units such as the 54th Massachusetts during the
30 American Civil War, and the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions
31 during World War II; now, therefore,
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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
34 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
35 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature urges the
36 Postmaster General to approve the issuance of a United States
37 Postal Service commemorative stamp honoring the significant
38 contributions of the Nisei soldiers in the United States Army
39 during World War II and honoring their shining example of
40 patriotic sacrifice in our nation's history and their service
41 with outstanding valor despite the many obstacles against them;
42 and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Postmaster General is also
2 urged to consider and approve the issuance of United States
3 Postal Service commemorative stamps honoring other distinguished
4 military units from throughout the history of this great nation;
5 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 Postal Service commemorative stamps honoring individuals and
10 organizations who were instrumental in enhancing race relations
11 in the United States and who worked toward ending discrimination
12 based on race or national origin; and

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