

FEB 02 2009

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO ISSUE POSTAL STAMPS
HONORING THE WORLD WAR II JAPANESE-AMERICAN NISEI SOLDIERS,
OTHER DISTINGUISHED MILITARY UNITS IN UNITED STATES
HISTORY, AND AMERICAN'S WHO FOUGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
BASED ON RACE OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

1 WHEREAS, Over 20,000 Nisei (Second-generation Japanese-
2 American) enlisted in the United States Army in World War II,
3 many from internment camps, despite the prejudice generated
4 after the attack of 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

10
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

16
17 WHEREAS, the most famous Nisei unit, the 100th/442nd
18 Regimental Combat Team also known as the "Go For Broke"
19 regiment, was the most decorated unit for its size and length of
20 service in American history; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team's rescue of
23 the "Lost Battalion" was acknowledged to be one of the prominent
24 battles in Army history in which they led a heroic drive through
25 German lines in the Vosges Mountains in October 1944 freeing
26 over 200 fellow American soldiers of the 36th Texas Division; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Nisei soldiers of World War II earned 21
29 Medals of Honor, nine Presidential Unit citations, and more than
30 9,000 Purple Hearts; and
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1 WHEREAS, Japanese-American soldiers of World War II proved
2 their 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 Japanese-American soldiers of World War II; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Postal Service has issued stamps honoring
13 other brave and distinguished minority veterans groups, such as
14 Hispanic-American soldiers recognized in 1984 and African-
15 American Buffalo Soldiers in 1994; and
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17 WHEREAS, the service of these minority soldiers throughout
18 our country's history helped to dispel many of the myths that
19 were so prevalent about the abilities and loyalties of these
20 individuals, and worked towards enhancing race relations and
21 ending discrimination based on race; and
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23 WHEREAS, numerous other military units have served with
24 distinction throughout the history of this great nation,
25 including units such as the 54th Massachusetts during the
26 American Civil War, and the 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions
27 during World War II; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009,
31 that this body urges the Postmaster General to approve the
32 issuance of a United States commemorative stamp honoring the
33 significant contributions of the Nisei Soldiers in the United
34 States Army during World War II and honoring their shining
35 example of patriotic sacrifice in our nation's history, for
36 their service with outstanding valor despite the many obstacles
37 against them; and
38



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Postmaster General is also
 2 urged to consider and approve the issuance of United States
 3 commemorative stamps honoring other distinguished military units
 4 from throughout the history of this great nation; and
 5

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Postmaster General is also
 7 urged to consider and approve the issuance of United States
 8 commemorative stamps honoring individuals and organizations who
 9 were instrumental in enhancing race relations in the United
 10 States and who worked towards ending discrimination based on
 11 race or national origin; and
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 14 Resolution be transmitted to United States Postmaster General
 15 and Chief Executive Officer John Potter and Hawaii's
 16 Congressional Delegation.
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