

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Adopt the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Kruse, Morrisette, Morse, Monnes Anderson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Bates
Prepared By:	Robert Shook, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Urges Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to create postage stamp commemorating Americans of Japanese descent who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion (IN BN), 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service during and after World War II.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Nisei, Americans of Japanese descent, who served in World War II

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: On December 7, 1941, Japan's navy conducted a military strike against the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Subsequently, the loyalty of Japanese Americans was questioned and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents and police began arresting Japanese American community leaders in Hawaii and the mainland. In the western parts of the U.S. more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were forcibly relocated from their homes, businesses and farms to concentration camps. Despite the treatment, Nisei men and women fought on behalf of their families, their communities, and the nation that questioned their patriotism.

During World War II, the 100th Infantry Battalion engaged in heavy combat in Monte Milieto and Monte Cassino, ultimately defending the beachhead at Anzio, Italy. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which lived its "Go For Broke" motto, comprised entirely of Nisei, departed for the European theater of operation on May 1, 1944. The two units engaged in continuous combat operations for 12 months throughout Italy, France and Germany, including the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" at Biffontaine, France, an operation in which the unit sustained more than 800 casualties—nearly half of its roster—during a five day siege. The Nisei also served with distinction in the Military Intelligence Service as translators of captured enemy documents, interrogators of enemy prisoners of war and persuaders of enemy surrender. Most notably MIS linguists and administrative personnel helped in the drafting of the new Japanese Constitution.

The combined 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most decorated in U.S. military history for its size and length of service with more than 22,500 Japanese American soldiers and officers who served overseas during WWII. Decorations include: 21 Medals of Honor; 52 Distinguished Service Crosses; 559 Silver Stars with 28 Oak Leaf Clusters; 8 Presidential Unit Citations; 1 Distinguished Service Medal; 22 Legion of Merit Medals; 15 Soldier's Medals; 4,000 Bronze Stars with 1,200 Oak Leaf Clusters; 9,486 Purple Hearts; 12 French Croix de Guerre with 2 Palms; 2 Italian Crosses for Military Valor; and, 2 Italian Medals for Military Valor. The MIS was unrecognized for many years, but received a Presidential Unit Citation in 2000.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.