

Enrolled

House Joint Memorial 8

Sponsored by Representative CLEM; Representatives BAILEY, BARKER, BARNHART, BEYER, BOONE, BUCKLEY, CANNON, COWAN, DEMBROW, D EDWARDS, GARRETT, GILLIAM, HARKER, KAHL, KOMP, KOTEK, KRIEGER, MATTHEWS, READ, RILEY, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLER, SHIELDS, J SMITH, STIEGLER, TOMEI, WITT, Senator DEVLIN

To the Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

We, your memorialists, the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

Whereas the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, thrust the United States into World War II; and

Whereas most Americans eligible for military duty were called upon to serve their country in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

Whereas Japanese-Americans were categorized as "4C (enemy aliens)" who were not eligible for military service; and

Whereas many Japanese-Americans were required to live in relocation camps in the western United States, from which they were not free to leave for the duration of the war; and

Whereas Japanese-Americans residing in relocation camps petitioned the federal government to be allowed to volunteer for military service; and

Whereas in June 1942, the 100th Infantry Battalion—known as the One-Puka-Puka—was formed by the United States Army in Hawaii, consisting of more than 1,400 Nisei, or second-generation Americans of Japanese ancestry; and

Whereas the 100th Infantry Battalion so impressed military trainers at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, that on February 1, 1943, the federal government reversed its decision and allowed other Japanese-Americans to volunteer for military service, and formed the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—whose motto became "Go For Broke"—of the United States Army; and

Whereas these Japanese-American volunteers served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service, saving tens of thousands of lives because of their knowledge of the Japanese language and culture and helping the Allies end World War II more quickly in the Pacific; and

Whereas the 100th Infantry Battalion deployed to Oran, Algeria, in September 1943, then subsequently redeployed to Salerno, Italy, where the unit took Monte Milieto, joined in the assault on Monte Cassino, suffering heavy casualties, and continued on to help defend the beachhead at Anzio, Italy; and

Whereas the 442nd Regimental Combat Team landed at Anzio in June 1944, and joined the 100th Infantry Battalion in Civitavecchia, north of Rome; and

Whereas the 100th Infantry Battalion was officially assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as its 1st Battalion but was allowed to keep its unit designation in recognition of its distinguished fighting record; and

Whereas the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team engaged in combat operations continuously for 12 months throughout northern 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 period; and

Whereas the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most decorated unit in United States military history for its size and length of service, including 21 Medals of Honor and 9,486 Purple Hearts; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

(1) The Board of Governors of the United States Postal Service and the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee are respectfully requested to create a postage stamp commemorating the 100th Infantry Battallion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team for heroic service and sacrifice to the United States of America and its fellow citizens during World War II.

(2) A copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Postmaster General of the United States and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by House April 15, 2009

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 20, 2009

President of Senate