

# MINORU YASUI DAY BILL

To commemorate the human and civil rights legacy of an outstanding Oregonian and American hero who was awarded a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the country.

Designating March 28 of each year as **Minoru Yasui Day** in the state of Oregon.

❖ **Minoru Yasui** was born 100 years ago, in 1916, in Hood River, Oregon, son of Japanese immigrant parents. He was the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Oregon School of Law, and the first Japanese American member of the Oregon State Bar.

❖ On **March 28**, 1942, in Portland, Oregon, he deliberately violated a military curfew imposed upon all persons of Japanese ancestry under Executive Order 9066 – which led to the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. He challenged the discriminatory curfew in order to initiate a test case in court.

❖ He spent 9 months in solitary confinement at the Multnomah County Jail as he appealed his case to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was released from jail in 1943, only to be sent to the Minidoka War Relocation Camp in Idaho.

❖ After the war, he moved to Denver, Colorado, where he continued to fight for human and civil rights of all people. In the 1970s-80s, he spearheaded the national movement for redress: an official apology and reparations for Japanese Americans imprisoned in the World War II camps.

❖ In 1983, he returned to Portland to reopen his wartime case in the U.S. District Court of Oregon. While his conviction was vacated, the court denied his request for an evidentiary hearing, which he appealed. His case was pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals when he died in 1986.

❖ **Minoru Yasui** is buried in his beloved hometown of Hood River, Oregon.

On November 24, 2015 President Barak Obama said, as he awarded a posthumous **Presidential Medal of Freedom** to **Minoru Yasui**:

*“Today Min’s legacy has never been more important. It is a call to our national conscience, a reminder of our enduring obligation to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, an America worthy of his sacrifices.”*

**Oregon should be proud to recognize its own native son!**



For more information about Minoru Yasui please see [www.minoruyasuitribute.org](http://www.minoruyasuitribute.org)

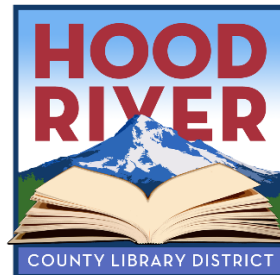


For more information about the **MINORU YASUI DAY BILL** please contact: Kimberly McCullough, Legislative Director, ACLU of Oregon, [kmccullough@aclu-or.org](mailto:kmccullough@aclu-or.org) (503) 810-6939

**Endorsements for HB 4009 – Minoru Yasui Day Bill**



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT



Oregon Marshallese Community  
Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific  
Islander Affairs (OCAPIA)



The President of the United States of America

*Awards this*

Presidential Medal of Freedom

*to*

Minoru Yasui

*From the fruit farms of Oregon to the hallowed halls of the Supreme Court, Minoru Yasui devoted his life to fighting for basic human rights and the fair and equal treatment of every American. In challenging the military curfew placed on Japanese-Americans during World War II, he brought critical attention to the issue, and paved the way for all Americans to stand as full and equal citizens. Minoru Yasui's example endures as a reminder of the power of one voice echoing for justice.*

*The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
November 24, 2015*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written over a circular stamp.