

# *In Commemoration of Minoru Yasui Day*

*March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017*



From the Desk of  
**Representative**  
**Mark Johnson**

Performed by Kendra Wilkins, Minoru Yasui's great-great-niece:

## **Manzanar**

*by Tom Russell*

He said my name is Nakashima  
And I'm a proud American  
I came here in '27  
From my homeland of Japan

And we picked your grapes and oranges  
Made some money, bought a store  
Until 1942  
Pearl Harbor and the war

Came those relocation orders  
They took our house, the store, the car  
Then they drove us to the desert  
To a place called Manzanar

The Spanish word for "apple orchard"  
Though we saw no apple trees  
Just the rows of prison barracks  
And barbed wired boundaries

And we dream of apple blossoms  
Waving free beneath the stars  
Till we wake up in the desert  
The prisoners of Manzanar  
Manzanar

Fifty years, they've all but vanished  
And now I am an old man  
But I don't regret the day  
That I came here from Japan

But on moonlit winter nights  
I often wish upon a star  
That I'd forget the shame and sorrow  
That I felt at Manzanar

And we dream of apple blossoms  
Waving free beneath the stars  
Till we wake up in the desert  
The prisoners of Manzanar  
Manzanar