

The logo for the Japanese American Museum of Oregon features a stylized circular emblem with a grey and blue gradient, partially overlapping the text. The text "JAPANESE AMERICAN" is in dark blue, and "MUSEUM OF OREGON" is in a lighter blue.

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON

I am writing in support of Oregon Senate Bill 1509. As Deputy Director of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, I want to impress upon you the importance of this recognition for our community, family, friends and supporters. As a third generation Japanese American who had two great uncles who served in the famed 442nd Battalion, this would be a source of personal pride and a recognition of a past wrong righted. The lessons of sacrifice and love of country embodied by these heroes are timeless reminders that even under terrible circumstances, there is courage and hope. The Nissei Soldiers embody what is best about us.

The Japanese American Museum of Oregon collects and shares stories of the challenges and resilience of this generation of Americans and while there are only a few remaining veterans from that time, their families and friends know and understand that their sacrifices created the opportunities that benefit us all.

Our mission is to guard the legacy of this community and share the common threads of prejudice overcome, triumph over adversity and ultimate belonging and recognition that are common to so many American's stories. We care for and engage with these histories to insure that this kind of thing never happens again.

The commemoration of Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway would honor the sacrifices of these true American Heroes who helped win the war. It also presents an educational opportunity for many Oregonians who may not know this story or that there are still living resources to learn from and listen to about this important piece of Oregon and U.S. History.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Takiguchi", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Takiguchi
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