

Submitter: Marimo Berk

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

As a former high school history teacher, I strongly urge the Oregon legislature to approve Sen Bill 1509.

The 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team are a group of WWII heroes who served valiantly for this country, despite the intense anti-Japanese sentiment they experienced in their homeland. Like African American soldiers in WWII, the 100th/442nd served in segregated units and fought many significant battles, include the Rome-Arno campaign, The Rhineland campaign/Vosges and Maritime Alps, and the Central European campaign which included the liberation of subcamps of Dachau. Meanwhile, the families of mainland Japanese American soldiers were themselves incarcerated in "internment" camps in the US, solely because of their race and virulent wartime propaganda that promoted anti-Japanese sentiment and legislation. Members of these battalions earned at least 4,000 Purple Hearts, 4,000 Bronze Stars, Medals of Honor, a Presidential Citation and a Congressional Gold Medal for their bravery and valor in battle. That makes them the most decorated unit for their size and length of service in the history of the American military.

It is time for Oregon to recognize these amazing soldiers and educate the public about their service to this country. This is an honor that is well deserved and long overdue.

Thank you!