

Submitter: Jack E Sheppard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

To whom it may concern:

I was told this by my barber many years ago. When WWII broke out the animosity toward our citizens of Japanese ancestry was immense. Koe enlisted for service in the army and was accepted, was waiting for the date he was to present himself for assignment to basic training. His family had been gathered and shipped to the concentration camp. He had to sit in a darkened house at night for fear of attack. He could do nothing during the day but wait.

Koe wanted a haircut so he could look decent when he arrived for training. After many tries in Hood River Koe wandered into Wade Mosely's barbershop and was welcomed and given service as any other patron would have received. Then Wade invited Koe to dinner at his home. Wade had to pick him up and return him to his home. Koe never forgot it.

Long after the war had ended, I asked Mr. Mosely if he needed any apples. He told me he did not, that Koe Nishimoto had kept him supplied with apples for many years from his own place, and he proceeded to tell me of the great injustice, and the terrible irony, of a man who could not emerge from hiding in his own home valley for fear of attack, while he was on his way to fight for the freedom and sovereignty of the USA. And, while his own parents had been locked into a concentration camp!

You damned well can and must allow this memorial action to be carried out for the honor befitting citizens like Koe.

John E. Sheppard

Hood River County

My father was a proud member of the Liberty and Justice League and did his best to secure justice. I am immensely proud of my dad and hope that I may do justice to his memory.