

Submitter: Kylie Pine

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Measure: SB1509

I work for the Willamette Heritage Center history museum in Salem, Oregon, but I write today representing myself and to honor an experience I had a few years ago being part of a team working to recognize Salem's Japanese-American community and their experiences during WWII through a public exhibit at the museum. Through the research for this exhibit I got to learn about the incredibly inspiring stories of Nisei men in our community who chose to risk their lives for their country, the same country that was at that very moment forcibly removing them and their families from their homes and livelihoods on the sole basis of their heritage. Participating in this exhibit gave me the chance to see first hand how few people in our community knew of this story and their bravery. This proposal provides a very public and tangible reminder of the sacrifice made by these men, under extraordinary circumstances. I urge you to consider support of this designation to honor the bravery and sacrifices of John Kyono (KIA 6 July 1944 in Italy), George James Ishida, Tom Takeshi Oye, Kenneth Takayama, Tom Tsuneo Yoshikai, Joe Yada, and Edward Kosaku Yada. Thank you for your consideration.