

Submitter: Rich Iwasaki

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

As a third generation Japanese American whose father was a Nisei veteran of World War II, I wholly support Oregon Senate Bill 1509, to create an Oregon Nisei Veterans WWII Memorial Highway. Both my Nisei father Akira "Ike" Iwasaki and his Nisei brother Arthur Iwasaki were veterans of the famed 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team respectively, and both served with distinction during the war. In November 2011, they were among other distinguished Nisei soldiers of the 442nd, 100th Battalion, and Military Intelligence Service who were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington DC.

The creation of a Nisei Veterans WWII Memorial Highway would be a fitting honor for all of the Nisei soldiers who served admirably for this country. The highway would also be a powerful reminder of the loyalty and dedication of these brave soldiers, and would serve to remind and educate future generations about the sacrifices they made in service to our United States of America.

Respectfully,

Rich Iwasaki

Board member

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland