

Submitter: David Nishitani

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Measure: SB1509

79 years ago on January 28 1943, the US Army announced the formation of the 442nd RCT. Influenced by the performance of the 100th Battalion, the number of volunteers who answered the call was nearly tenfold the requirement. Many of them volunteered from Oregon and now should be recognized. The 100th Bn/442nd Regimental Combat Team along with the Military Intelligence Service had Japanese-Americans fighting in WW II while their families were taken from their homes and incarcerated in internment camps in California, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and Arkansas. The 100th Bn/442nd proved their worth fighting against the Germans in Italy and France. They are the most highly decorated US fighting unit for its size in our military history. The MIS unit also provided a great deal of intelligence work in the South East Asia area and helped shorten the war with Japan. They weren't even recognized until approximately 45 years after WW II ended. Their work was classified and kept secret for that period of time after the war.

Naming Oregon Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Historic Highway would be debt of gratitude to the Nisei Veterans that fought in WW II . I know that my father would be honored by that gesture if he were still alive.....CWO Thomas Nishitani, Service Co. 442nd RCT Please consider this bill and name the highway after them while there are still a few Nisei Veterans alive.