



HOOD RIVER POST 22  
P.O. Box 1803  
Hood River, OR 97031  
February 16, 2022

To The Oregon Legislators,

As the Commander of the American Legion Hood River Post 22, I was approached several months ago by Dick Tobiason, to see if our Post might help sponsor an American Legion Resolution as well as support SB 1509 designating Oregon State Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Historic Highway.

Hood River Post 22 is honored and privileged to be involved in this process. I personally have lived in Hood River for the past 50 years and have friends and neighbors of Japanese descent. We believe it is time for our Community, State, and Nation to honor and recognize the bravery, and sacrifices of all our Veterans of Japanese descent, yet in particular those who gave of themselves, some giving their all in WWII, to fight for their Country.

I believe we all now recognize the tough dark area surrounding WWII and the injustices done to our Nisei friends and neighbors, some of which resided in Hood River County. It was a very troubled time, and some tough decisions were made, that caused internment of some of our neighbors and fellow citizens. Despite their treatment many Nisei citizens volunteered to serve their Country. Some of our Nisei veterans lost their lives defending our Country, while family members suffered in camps, some losing some of their possessions and property.

We regret the actions of even some of our members who chose to dishonor our Nisei Veterans locally, and Hood River Post 22 has lived with the stigma for many years. Vice Commander Dennis Leonard for several years has been at the forefront of our effort to recognize and honor all veterans and in particular all veterans of Japanese descent. We know that a lot has happened and changed since WWII, however we believe that designating a Nisei Veterans Memorial Highway, is another effort to show our Nisei neighbors that we are serious about honoring brave Nisei Veterans who so gallantly fought and even died, to defend their Country. We believe Oregonians want to in some way show our community and State support to right a wrong of many years ago.

When we were approached about helping to sponsor this endeavor, we were humbled to be able to participate in sponsoring and American Legion Resolution to support the adoption of Oregon State Route 35 as the Oregon Nisei Veteran World War II Historic Highway. Hood River Post 22 along with other donations, pledge our financial support to placing the designation markers or other costs needed. We encourage that SB 1509 be unanimously supported by our legislators.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carl L. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carl L. Casey, Commander  
Dennis Leonard, Vice Commander  
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