

Submitter: Melanie Glatter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Veterans and Emergency Management

Measure: SB1509

Hi, I'm Melanie Glatter and I'm a junior at Hood River Valley High School. I am also a resident of Hood River County and I drive on Oregon Route 35 at least once a week. I've grown up with the knowledge of the brave Japanese Americans who fought in WWII because of my ancestral connection to them, but most of my peers have little to no knowledge of the Nisei soldiers or even of the Japanese American Incarceration during WWII.

I was so surprised and excited to see that this bill was sponsored and granted hearings within the Oregon Legislature, and I believe the co-name for Route 35 that is being proposed honors the brave Japanese Americans who fought for a country that didn't fight for them.

My second great uncle fought and died in the 442nd Battalion. I'm so proud of him and also of the other Nisei soldiers, specifically the ones who liberated a Nazi death camp. The other side of my family is Jewish and we lost many relatives to the Nazis, so the special role that the Nisei soldiers played in liberating the Jewish people means a lot to me.

There's a long history of anti-Japanese sentiment and racism against Japanese Americans in Oregon but specifically in Hood River County and I think this honorific name is a small step in respecting Americans of color who have fought and died to protect the freedoms of all American citizens. For these reasons, I am in strong support of SB 1509. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.