



HR0921

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On January 19, 1942, 6 weeks after the attack on
3 Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy, second-generation Americans
4 of Japanese ancestry, Nisei, were reclassified by the Selective
5 Service as "4C," enemy aliens, ineligible to be drafted; and

6 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D.
7 Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, which authorized the
8 Secretary of War and his designees to exclude any and all
9 persons from prescribed military zones; and

10 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 9066 was the basis for General
11 John L. DeWitt, Commander of the Western Defense Command, to
12 forcibly remove over 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry,
13 over 70% American-born citizens, from parts of Washington,
14 Oregon, California, and Arizona and detain them for nearly 3
15 years without charges or trials; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 5, 1942, the War Department activated the
17 100th Infantry Battalion, a racially-segregated unit composed
18 of Nisei volunteers from Hawaii, that fought in the European
19 Theater and became known as the Purple Heart Battalion due to
20 its high casualty rate; and

21 WHEREAS, The War Department established the 442nd

1 Regimental Combat Team, a racially-segregated unit composed of
2 Nisei volunteers from confinement sites used to detain
3 Americans of Japanese ancestry, known as War Relocation
4 Centers; and

5 WHEREAS, The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which came to
6 include the 100th Infantry Battalion, spearheaded numerous
7 battles, fought valiantly and courageously, and is widely
8 regarded as the most decorated unit in American history for its
9 size and length of service, with its members having earned 7
10 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29
11 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars, 4,000 Bronze
12 Stars, and over 4,000 Purple Hearts; and

13 WHEREAS, President Harry S. Truman, while presenting the
14 seventh Presidential Unit Citation on the White House lawn,
15 aptly observed, "You have fought not only the enemy, but
16 prejudice, and you have won"; and

17 WHEREAS, The Military Intelligence Service was made up of
18 approximately 6,000 Nisei soldiers attached to combat units in
19 the Pacific Theater where they intercepted radio
20 transmissions, translated enemy documents, interrogated enemy
21 prisoners of war, volunteered for reconnaissance and covert
22 intelligence missions, and persuaded enemy combatants to
23 surrender; and

1 WHEREAS, The Military Intelligence Service soldiers served
2 during the post-war occupation of Japan, assisting Japan in a
3 peaceful transition to a democratic form of government and
4 helping to win a lasting peace; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States House of Representatives and
6 United States Senate unanimously passed Public Law 11-254 on
7 October 5, 2010, which was signed by President Barack Obama,
8 conferring the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest
9 civilian honor, to members of the 100th Battalion, 442nd
10 Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service at a
11 national ceremony held at Emancipation Hall in Washington,
12 D.C., on November 2, 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to the many veterans that served with
14 the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team,
15 and the Military Intelligence Service, there were many other
16 Japanese-American veterans that served this country during
17 World War II; through the sacrifice and dedication of
18 Japanese-American Veterans, negative attitudes and stereotypes
19 were changed about these brave people; and

20 WHEREAS, The Japanese-American veterans of World War II are
21 being honored at a special event, the Nikkei World War II
22 Tribute, on Sunday, April 22, 2012, sponsored by the Chicago

1 Japanese American Citizens League, Chicago Nisei Post 1183, the
2 Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago Japanese
3 American Historical Society, the Japanese American Service
4 Committee, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Association; therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we honor the Japanese-American veterans of World War II and
9 thank them for their service to the country; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented and read at the Nikkei World War II Tribute on
12 Sunday, April 22, 2012 as a symbol of our respect and esteem.