

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 17, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 7, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007—08 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 33

Introduced by Assembly Member Eng

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Coto, Davis, De Leon, Hayashi, Karnette, Lieu, Ma, Nakanishi, Plescia, Sharon Runner, Strickland, Swanson, and Torrico)

July 5, 2007

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 33—Relative to a commemorative stamp recognizing the Nisei (Japanese American) veterans of World War II.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 33, as amended, Eng. Commemorative postage stamp: Nisei (Japanese American) veterans of World War II.

This measure would urge the ~~President and the Congress of the United States to embark on congressional efforts~~ *Legislature of California* to encourage the ~~Citizens~~ *Citizens'* Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service to approve a commemorative postage stamp honoring the Nisei (Japanese American) veterans who served in the United States Army during World War II.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Over 20,000 Nisei (American-born children of
- 2 Japanese immigrants) enlisted in the United States Army in World
- 3 War II, many from internment camps, despite the prejudice against

1 them generated after the attack of Pearl Harbor by Japan in 1941;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Nisei served in a number of capacities in the United
4 States Army during the World War II era both at home and abroad.
5 Many were born and raised here in California, where they and
6 their families would be unjustly incarcerated at internment camps
7 like Manzanar in Inyo County and Tule Lake in Modoc County;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Over 300 Nisei women across the nation enlisted
10 in the Women’s Army Corps and Cadet Nurse Corps; and

11 WHEREAS, Among their many battles, Nisei soldiers in Europe
12 fought at Monte Cassino and Anzio and they were critical in
13 breaking the German “Gothic Line.” They liberated towns such a
14 Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and Belvedere. They also freed and aided
15 Holocaust victims from the Dachau concentration camps; and

16 WHEREAS, The most famous unit, the 100th/442nd Regimental
17 Combat Team also known as the “Go For Broke” regiment, became
18 one of the most decorated and acclaimed units in American ~~history~~;
19 *history. The 100th Infantry Battalion established a reputation as*
20 *a tough combat outfit in Italy and were known as the “Purple*
21 *Heart Battalion” because of the heavy number of casualties it had*
22 *suffered at Monte Cassino and Anzio in May 1944; and*

23 WHEREAS, The 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team’s
24 “Rescue of the Lost Battalion” was acknowledged to be one of the
25 prominent battles in United States Army history. This battle became
26 one of 16 depicted in “The Army in Action” series of paintings
27 for the United States Army’s Center of Military History. This
28 regiment led a heroic drive through German lines in the Vosges
29 Mountains in October 1944 freeing over 200 fellow American
30 soldiers of the 36th Texas Division; and

31 WHEREAS, The Nisei of the United States Army’s secret
32 Military Intelligence Service (MIS) played a key role in the Pacific,
33 using Nisei soldiers’ knowledge of the Japanese language and
34 culture to support the Allied war efforts, including the occupation
35 of Japan; and

36 WHEREAS, The Military Intelligence Service was awarded a
37 Presidential Unit Citation for their contributions to the war effort,
38 and is considered to be the pioneering group of what would become
39 the United States Armed Forces’ Defense Language Institute
40 Foreign Language Center located at the Presidio of Monterey,

1 which today trains military linguists in over 84 languages and
2 dialects, and is considered one of the finest schools for foreign
3 language study in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Among their many awards, Nisei soldiers of World
5 War II earned over 9,000 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor, and
6 a total of nine Presidential Unit Citations; and

7 WHEREAS, Congress would later apologize for the en masse
8 World War II incarceration of 120,000 American citizens and
9 permanent residents of Japanese ancestry as “a grave injustice”
10 that grew mainly from “racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a
11 failure of political leadership” as stated in the Civil Liberties Act
12 of 1988; and

13 WHEREAS, Nisei World War II veterans are a shining example
14 of patriotic sacrifice in our nation’s history, and their service
15 cautions the nation against questioning the loyalty of a person
16 based on their heritage. The constitutional rights of these American
17 citizens were removed due to their ancestry, and we need to be
18 vigilant against similar actions in the future; and

19 WHEREAS, The Nisei World War II veterans commemorative
20 stamp is being considered for issuance by the United States Postal
21 Service Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, The dedicated service of our current Armed Forces
23 being so honorably served by minorities today, we find it fitting
24 that the diverse heritage of our military be recognized; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE OF
27 THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, JOINTLY, That the Legislature
28 calls upon the President and the Congress of the United States to
29 ~~embark on congressional efforts to encourage the United States~~
30 ~~Postal Service Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee and~~
31 ~~Postmaster General to approve a commemorative stamp honoring~~
32 ~~the~~ *urges the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee of the United*
33 *States Postal Service to approve the issuance of a commemorative*
34 *postal stamp honoring the significant contributions of Nisei in the*
35 *United States Army during World War II; and be it further*

36 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
37 copies of this resolution to the President and the Vice President of
38 the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
39 to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and

- 1 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
- 2 States, and to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

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