

By: Vo

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R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The generation of Americans that served this country
2 during World War II preserved this nation's freedom for decades to
3 come, and the Japanese Americans of the 442nd Regimental Combat
4 Team set an inspirational example of the bravery and dedication to
5 duty that were required to assure victory in that conflict; and

6 WHEREAS, Soon after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December
7 7, 1941, Japanese Americans were reclassified to 4-C, "Enemy
8 Alien," status and were barred from enlisting in the U.S. military;
9 moreover, countless men and women, many of whom were U.S. citizens,
10 were relocated and incarcerated in internment camps; and

11 WHEREAS, In January 1943, President Roosevelt and the War
12 Department made the decision to allow Japanese Americans to
13 volunteer for service; in May of that same year, approximately
14 1,800 men assembled for training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, Embracing the motto "Go for Broke," the troops of
16 the 442nd Regiment fought in eight major campaigns in Italy,
17 France, and Germany and, in less than two years of combat, earned
18 more than 18,000 individual decorations, including one Medal of
19 Honor, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200
20 Bronze Star Medals, nearly 9,500 Purple Hearts, and eight
21 Presidential Unit Citations, the nation's top award for combat
22 units; and

23 WHEREAS, In June 2002, the unit received further
24 acknowledgment when President Bill Clinton awarded an additional 20

1 Medals of Honor to its members; and

2 WHEREAS, The 442nd Regimental Combat Team gallantly served in
3 battles at Belmont and Bruyeres, but an incident known as the Rescue
4 of the Lost Battalion at Biffontaine is perhaps the team's most
5 extraordinary action; and

6 WHEREAS, In this legendary confrontation, the unit lost more
7 than 800 troops while on a dangerous mission to rescue members of
8 the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, out of
9 Texas; by placing themselves directly in harm's way, time and again
10 they rendered service and sacrifice that is truly beyond measure;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Through their unfaltering devotion to duty, honor,
13 and this nation, Japanese American soldiers such as these embody
14 the highest ideals of the U.S. armed forces and indeed merit the
15 gratitude and admiration of their fellow citizens; now, therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Japanese Americans for their courageous
19 service during World War II and commend them for their heroism in
20 behalf of this nation.