

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1387

Recognizing the heroic contributions of Japanese-Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service during and after World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2010

Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. CHU, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. FILNER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. COLE, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. REYES, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MCDERMOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the heroic contributions of Japanese-Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service during and after World War II.

Whereas the approximately 6,000 troops, mostly second generation Japanese-Americans (Nisei), volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service (M.I.S.) to learn the Japanese language and use their knowledge of Japanese culture in order to help the United States win the war in the Pacific;

Whereas the Nisei volunteering for this service became the nucleus of the Military Intelligence School established on November 1, 1941, with 4 Nisei as the instructors and 58 Nisei among the 60 students;

Whereas the Military Intelligence School later came to be known as the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, located in Monterey, California;

Whereas in 1969, the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center dedicated Nisei Hall and several buildings in honor of the outstanding Japanese-Americans who served in the M.I.S.;

Whereas many of these founding members who volunteered for the M.I.S. had been incarcerated, along with their families, in one of 10 “camps”;

Whereas this duty was determined so essential to the war effort that the M.I.S. agents served in all units of the United States Army, Navy, and Marines stationed in the Pacific, participated in all theaters of the Pacific War, and were embedded with other Allied Forces fighting in the Pacific;

Whereas members of the M.I.S. served with distinction by translating acquired Japanese plans, personal interpretation, POW interrogation, monitoring Japanese radio broadcasts, intercepting enemy radio messages, and preparing surrender leaflets, while requiring body guards to avoid mistaken identity by their fellow soldiers;

Whereas the greatest contributions of M.I.S. agents, among many, included the discovery of “Operation Z”, a plan to conduct an all-out counterattack by the Japanese Combined Fleet in the Central Pacific that allowed the United States Navy to defend against and weaken the Japanese

military, and the discovery of the plane that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto arrived in to visit front line troops, thereby allowing the Allies to intercept and destroy the leader who orchestrated Pearl Harbor;

Whereas these M.I.S. linguists were instrumental in the occupation and rebuilding of Japan, cultivating cooperation between the occupational forces and the Japanese people as cultural ambassadors, helping to draft the new Japanese Constitution, and building the foundation of current United States relations with Japan; and

Whereas M.I.S. agents were heralded by President Harry S Truman as the “human secret weapon for the U.S. Armed Forces” against the Japanese in the Pacific and by Major General Charles A. Willoughby, MacArthur’s intelligence chief, who said, “The Nisei shortened the Pacific War by two years and saved possibly a million American lives and saved probably billions of dollars”, yet, due to the national security implications, they only received recognition for their valor, a Presidential Unit Citation, the highest honor given to a United States military unit, in 2000: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) expresses its deepest gratitude to the brave
- 3 Japanese-Americans who constituted the Military In-
- 4 telligence Service and the invaluable contribution
- 5 they provided during and after World War II; and
- 6 (2) recognizes and appreciates the hardships
- 7 that the Nisei experienced while serving the United
- 8 States with honor and distinction.

