



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon House Passes Bill to Honor Minoru Yasui

Yasui, who was incarcerated for standing up to Japanese internment, to be honored with official Minoru Yasui Day

SALEM – Today, the Oregon House unanimously voted to pass [House Bill 4009](#), which will officially mark March 28th as Minoru Yasui Day. The bill was co-carried on the floor by Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem).

On March 28, 1942, Minoru Yasui, a Japanese American from Hood River, challenged the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, an order that led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, by breaking curfew and walking the streets of Portland in protest. He turned himself in to the Portland police and eventually ended up spending nine months in solitary confinement awaiting his appeal to the United States Supreme Court before he was then incarcerated in the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho.

“This is one of the proudest moments of my legislative career,” says Rep. Clem. “Min was a trailblazer and lifetime defender of civil and human rights, and everyone should know about his legacy. He is a shining example of courage in the face of extreme racial discrimination and social injustice. His story is as important now as it was in 1942.”

“Today we face similar battles, as Oregonians and Americans all across the nation still strive to be judged by what Dr. King called the ‘content of their character’ and not simply by the color of their skin,” Rep. Clem adds.

This bill is especially personal for Rep. Clem as his father-in-law, Hideo “Suzy” Suzuki, who grew up in the Hood River valley was held in the same internment camp as Min Yasui.

The bill, which was also chief sponsored by Rep. Vic Gilliam (R-Silverton), now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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