



# PRESS RELEASE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 21

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## **Reps. Clem and Gilliam File Bill to Honor Minoru Yasui**

*Yasui was incarcerated for standing up to Japanese internment;  
won Presidential Medal of Freedom*

SALEM – Today, Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem), and Rep. Vic Gilliam (R-Silverton), filed House Bill 4009 with the Chief Clerk of the House to mark March 28<sup>th</sup> as Minoru Yasui Day.

Born in Hood River in 1916, Minoru Yasui was the first Japanese American graduate of University of Oregon School of Law, and the first Japanese American member of the Oregon State Bar. He was also commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the United State Army.

On March 28, 1942, Minoru challenged the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066, which 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. After the court ruled in his favor and he was released, he was then incarcerated in the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho.

Last November, Yasui was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of America's highest civilian honors.

“Minoru refused to be incarcerated because of his ancestors’ homeland,” says Rep. Clem. “At great personal risk, and during a time of great cultural bias, he stood up for what was right, and he refused to be silenced. Honoring him with a day of remembrance is the least that we as a state can do to show our native son that his legacy is an example for us all to follow.”

Yasui passed away in 1986.

The bill now goes to the Speaker of the House for committee referral.

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