

RESOLUTION 4261

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO NAME THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AFTER CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT WILLIAM K. NAKAMURA.

WHEREAS, William K. Nakamura was born in Seattle, attended Washington Elementary School, graduated from Garfield High School in 1939, and attended the University of Washington, and

WHEREAS, despite a military deferment, later in 1942 William Nakamura volunteered to enlist in the United States Army to demonstrate that Japanese-Americans were loyal Americans; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 1944 less than a month after D-Day Private First Class William K. Nakamura a member of the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most decorated unit in American military history, composed almost entirely of Japanese-Americans, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action near Castellina, Italy. During a fierce firefight, Private First Class Nakamura's platoon became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire from a concealed position. On his own initiative, Private First Class Nakamura crawled 20 yards towards the hostile nest with fire from the enemy machine gun barely missing him. Reaching a point 15 yards from the position, he quickly raised himself to a kneeling position and threw four hand grenades, killing or wounding at least three of the enemy soldiers. The enemy weapons silenced, Private First Class Nakamura crawled back to his platoon, which was able to continue its advance as a result of his courageous action. Later, his company was ordered to withdraw from the crest of a hill so that a mortar barrage could be placed on the ridge. On his own initiative, Private First Class Nakamura remained in position to cover his comrades' withdrawal. While moving towards the safety of a wooded draw, his platoon was pinned down by deadly machine gun fire. Crawling to a point from which he could fire on the enemy position, Private First Class Nakamura quickly and accurately fired his weapon to pin down the enemy machine gunners. His platoon was then able to withdraw to safety without further casualties; however, Private First Class Nakamura was killed during this heroic stand; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the United States government, after reviewing the records of Private First Class Nakamura determined that Private First Class Nakamura and 20 other brave soldiers had been unfairly deprived of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and issued their medals; and

WHEREAS, other U.S. cities have named buildings, parks, public facilities, and airports after local Medal of Honor recipients, including O'Hare Airport in Chicago, Illinois that is named after Lieutenant Commander Edward O'Hare, a Chicago native who was also killed in World War II; and


WHEREAS, the United States Courthouse for the Western District of Washington located in Seattle, Washington is not named after any individual,

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Kirkland as follows:


Section 1. That the City of Kirkland supports and respectfully requests that members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation secure passage of S. 3109 and H.R. 5302 to name the United States Courthouse for the Western District of Washington in Seattle for Washington native and Medal of Honor recipient William K. Nakamura.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in regular, open meeting this 3rd day of October, 2000.

Signed in authentication thereof this 3rd day of October, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Springer, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting City Clerk