



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 19, 2000

Motion 11025

Proposed No. 2000-0504.1

Sponsors Nickels, McKenna, von
Reichbauer, Miller, Pullen, Irons,
Fimia, Hague, Vance, Phillips,
Gossett, Pelz and Sullivan

1 A MOTION urging the United States Congress to enact legislation to name the
2 United States District Courthouse for the Western District of Washington after
3 Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient William K. Nakamura.

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6 WHEREAS, William Kenzo Nakamura was born in Seattle, attended
7 Washington Elementary School, graduated from Garfield High School in 1939,
8 and attended the University of Washington until he and his family were forcibly
9 relocated to Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1942, despite a military deferment, William Nakamura
11 volunteered to enlist in the United States Army hoping to prove that Japanese-
12 Americans were loyal Americans and not the enemy; and

13 WHEREAS, on July 4, 1944, Private First Class William K. Nakamura
14 now a member of the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the most
15 decorated unit in American Military history composed almost entirely of

16 Japanese-Americans, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action
17 near Castellina, Italy. During a fierce firefight, Private First Class Nakamura's
18 platoon became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire from a concealed
19 position. On his own initiative, Private First Class Nakamura first single-handedly
20 attacked an enemy machine gun nest and later with his platoon again pinned down
21 due to enemy fire he positioned himself to engage the enemy allowing his platoon
22 to withdraw to safety without additional casualties. Private First Class Nakamura
23 while saving the lives of members of his platoon was killed during this heroic
24 stand; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1944 PFC Nakamura was nominated for the Congressional
26 Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military honor, but instead received the
27 Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest honor; and

28 WHEREAS, In May 2000, PFC William K. Nakamura was posthumously
29 awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor after the United States government
30 determined that he, and 20 other brave Japanese-American soldiers, had been
31 unfairly deprived of the Medal of Honor 55 years ago; and

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

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

38 WHEREAS, the Federal government is building a new United States
39 Courthouse for the Western District of Washington;

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by THE COUNCIL OF THE
41 KING COUNTY

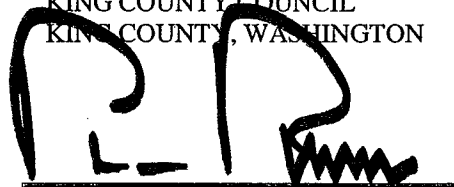
42 That the King County Council respectfully requests that the members of
43 the Washington State Congressional Delegation introduce and secure passage of
44 legislation to name either the U.S. Courthouse for the Western District of
45 Washington or the new U.S. Western District Courthouse in honor and

46 recognition of Washington native and Medal of Honor recipient William
47 K. Nakamura.
48

Motion 11025 was introduced on 9/5/00 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 9/18/00, by the following vote:

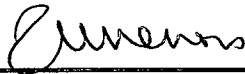
Yes: 12 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Miller, Ms. Fimia, Mr. Phillips, Mr. McKenna, Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Nickels, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Vance and Mr. Irons
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Mr. Pelz

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Pete von Reichbauer, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments None