



Student Government Association
of James Madison University
HARRISONBURG, V.A.

A RESOLUTION

S. Res. 53

To install a plaque commemorating exceptional alumna Yuri Nemoto ('46)

IN THE SENATE OF JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Senator Marcus Rand submitted the following resolution with Senator Mason Hoey.



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A RESOLUTION

To urge the Student Affairs Communications and Marketing staff to implement a plaque in Madison Union honoring distinguished alumna Yuri Nemoto for her contributions to the Madison Community

Whereas, Yuri Nemoto enrolled at Madison College in 1943 and became the first student of “Japanese descent”, AND;

Whereas, Nemoto’s tenure at Madison College occurred during Japanese-American incarceration, likely requiring special permission, AND;

Whereas, Nemoto made significant efforts challenging racial and discriminatory norms despite the pro-American and anti-Axis powers attitude pervading all through Madison during the war years¹, AND;

Whereas, At Madison College, Nemoto joined the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and began educating the members on issues of “world fellowship” after her election to the YWCA cabinet, AND;

Whereas, Nemoto’s leadership in the Madison community was furthered by becoming the President of the International Relations Club (IRC), an officer in the Frances Sale Club, a leader of the YWCA cabinet, an officer of the Student Government Association’s Student Council (now the Student Senate), and a member of the service sorority Theta Sigma Upsilon, AND;

Whereas, Nemoto’s presidency of the International Relations Club (IRC) focused on improving her peers’ understanding of the plight of Japanese-Americans during forced wartime incarceration, AND;

¹ Margaret Mulrooney, “Yuri Nemoto: Madison’s First Asian American Student,” Margaret M. Mulrooney, May 6, 2022, <https://mmulrooney.net/2022/05/06/yuri-nemoto-madisons-first-asian-student/>.



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Whereas, Nemoto dedicated her years at Madison to combating the pervasive anti-Japanese sentiment on campus through formal talks to student organizations, AND;

Whereas, Nemoto's actions during her time as an undergraduate student reflect James Madison University's stated vision for its students "to be active and responsible participants in a representative democracy dedicated to the common good"², AND;

Whereas, Nemoto was a trailblazer for future generations of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) students on the campus of James Madison University;

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Student Senate of James Madison University, That:

A plaque honoring alumna Yuri Nemoto for her substantial contributions to the Madison community is to be placed in Madison Union, in consultation with Student Affairs Communications and Marketing.

This Resolution is to be sent to:

- I. Ann Simmons, *Student Affairs Communications and Marketing Coordinator*
- II. Angela Ritchie, *Associate Director of Communications and Marketing for Student Affairs*
- III. Joe DeBord, *Event Services and Facility Operations Manager*
- IV. Dr. Tim Miller, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

² "JMU Strategic Planning: Mission, Vision and Values - JMU." n.d. *Strategic Planning Mission, Vision & Values*. Accessed April 14, 2024. <https://www.jmu.edu/pair/strategic-planning/mission-vision-values.shtml>.