

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Eng

February 7, 2011

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 16—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 16, as introduced, Eng. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2011, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D.
2 Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, under which more than
3 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were
4 incarcerated in 10 internment camps scattered throughout western
5 states during World War II; and
6 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 deferred the American dream
7 for more than 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese
8 ancestry by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes,
9 businesses, careers, professional advancements, and disruption to
10 family life; and
11 WHEREAS, Despite their families being incarcerated behind
12 barbed wire in the United States, approximately 33,000 veterans
13 of Japanese ancestry fought bravely for our country during World

1 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
2 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

3 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
4 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
5 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
6 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest military
7 decoration—the Distinguished Service Cross—to receive the
8 nation's highest military decoration—the Medal of
9 Honor—bringing the total number of Japanese Americans who so
10 received the Medal of Honor to 21; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2010, President Barack Obama granted the
12 Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry
13 Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team in recognition of
14 their dedicated service during World War II; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry served
16 with the Military Intelligence Service and have been credited for
17 shortening the war by two years by translating enemy battle plans,
18 defense maps, tactical orders, intercepted messages and diaries,
19 and interrogating enemy prisoners; and

20 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
21 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
22 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
23 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
24 United States Department of War and the United States Department
25 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
26 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
27 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

28 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
29 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
30 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
31 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
32 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
33 errors and injustice occurred; and

34 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson
35 Reagan signed into law the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988,
36 finding that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military
37 necessity and, hence, was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria,
38 and a failure of political leadership; and

39 WHEREAS, The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized
40 on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,

1 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
2 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for
3 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
4 interned; and

5 WHEREAS, February 19, 2011, marks 69 years since the signing
6 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
7 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
10 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
11 declares February 19, 2011, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
12 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
13 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
14 II; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
17 Instruction, the State Library, and the California State Archives.