

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 18, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 16

Introduced by Assembly Member Eng

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Campos, Carter, Cedillo, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Hagman, Halderman, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Knight, Lara, Logue, Mansoor, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Olsen, Pan, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Solorio, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, Williams, and Yamada)

February 7, 2011

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 16, as amended, 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

1 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were
2 incarcerated in 10 internment camps scattered throughout western
3 states during World War II; and

4 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 deferred the American dream
5 for more than 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese
6 ancestry by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes,
7 businesses, careers, professional advancements, and disruption to
8 family life; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite their families being incarcerated behind
10 barbed wire in the United States, approximately 33,000 veterans
11 of Japanese ancestry fought bravely for our country during World
12 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
13 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

14 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
15 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
16 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
17 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest military
18 decoration—the Distinguished Service Cross—to receive the
19 nation's highest military decoration—the Medal of
20 Honor—bringing the total number of Japanese Americans who so
21 received the Medal of Honor to 21; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry served
27 with the Military Intelligence Service and have been credited for
28 shortening the war by two years by translating enemy battle plans,
29 defense maps, tactical orders, intercepted messages and diaries,
30 and interrogating enemy prisoners; and

31 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
32 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
33 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
34 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
35 United States Department of War and the United States Department
36 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
37 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
38 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

39 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
40 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed

1 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
2 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
3 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
4 errors and injustice occurred; and

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

10 WHEREAS, The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized
11 on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
12 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
13 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for
14 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
15 interned; and

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

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
21 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
22 declares February 19, 2011, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
23 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
24 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
25 II; and be it further

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