

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 14, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 104

**Introduced by Assembly Members John A. Pérez and Furutani
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eng, Hayashi, Ma, Pan, Williams,
and Yamada)**

(Coauthors: Senators Lieu, Liu, and Yee)

February 8, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 104, as amended, John A. Pérez. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2012, 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

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

6 ~~WHEREAS, The 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat~~
7 ~~Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion heroically suffered~~
8 ~~nearly 10,000 casualties and are honored as being among World~~
9 ~~War II's most decorated combat teams, having received seven~~
10 ~~Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, 52 Distinguished Service~~
11 ~~Crosses, 558 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple~~
12 ~~Hearts; and~~

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

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

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

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

38 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
39 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
40 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of

1 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
2 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
3 errors and injustice occurred; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, February 19, 2012, marks 70 years since the signing
16 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
17 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
20 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
21 declares February 19, 2012, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
22 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
23 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
24 II; and be it further

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