

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 17, 2012

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 Yamada, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins,
Beall, Bill Berryhill, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley,
Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Conway,
Cook, Davis, Dickinson, Donnelly, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes,
Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Gatto, Gordon, Hagman, Halderman, Hall,
Harkey, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Logue,
Bonnie Lowenthal, Mansoor, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Nestande,
Nielsen, Perea, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Skinner,
Solorio, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, and Wieckowski)
(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

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

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

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

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

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

1 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
2 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
3 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
4 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
5 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
6 errors and injustice occurred; and

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

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

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

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

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