

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 85

**Introduced by Assembly Members Muratsuchi and Yamada
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chau, Fong, Pan, Ting,
and Williams)**

(Coauthors: Senators Lieu, Liu, and Yee)

January 22, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 85—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 85, as introduced, Muratsuchi. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2014, 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 Infantry Battalion, the 442nd
5 Regimental Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion;
6 and

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

15 WHEREAS, In 2010, President Barack Obama granted the
16 Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry
17 Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military
18 Intelligence Service in recognition of their bravery, valor, and
19 dedication to their country while fighting a two-fronted battle of
20 discrimination at home and fascism abroad; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Many Japanese American veterans continued a
27 life of public service after the war, including Medal of Honor
28 recipient and United States Senator Daniel Inouye, who passed
29 away in December 2012 while representing his home state of
30 Hawaii; 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. The act also
14 provided for restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry
15 who were interned; and

16 WHEREAS, February 19, 2014, marks 72 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, 2014, 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.