

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 18, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 85

Introduced by Assembly Members Muratsuchi and Yamada
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chau, Fong, Pan, Ting, and Williams) Williams, Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gorell, Gray, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Logue, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Morrell, Mullin, Nazarian, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, and Wilk)
(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 amended, 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

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 Infantry Battalion, the 442nd
15 Regimental Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion;
16 and

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

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

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

36 WHEREAS, Many Japanese American veterans continued a
37 life of public service after the war, including Medal of Honor
38 recipient and United States Senator Daniel Inouye, who passed
39 away in December 2012 while representing his home state of
40 Hawaii; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
2 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
3 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
4 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
5 United States Department of War and the United States Department
6 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
7 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
8 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

9 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
10 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
11 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
12 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
13 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
14 errors and injustice occurred; and

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

20 WHEREAS, The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized
21 on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
22 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
23 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II. The act also
24 provided for restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry
25 who were interned; and

26 WHEREAS, February 19, 2014, marks 72 years since the signing
27 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
28 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
32 declares February 19, 2014, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
33 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
34 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
35 II; and be it further

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

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