

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 17, 2015

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 19, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 13**

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### **Introduced by Assembly Member Williams**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Kim, ~~Low~~, Low, Ting, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Brough, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chávez, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Patterson, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, and Wood)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Liu, Nguyen, and Pan)**

January 29, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 13—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 13, as amended, Williams. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2015, 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 ~~accounty and~~  
19 *were* among 52 individuals who received the nation's second  
20 highest military decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, to  
21 receive the 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, Many Japanese American veterans continued a  
34 life of public service after the war, including Medal of Honor  
35 recipient and United States Senator Daniel Inouye, who passed  
36 away in December 2012 while representing his home state of  
37 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, 2015, marks 73 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, 2015, 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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