

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 126

Introduced by Assembly Members Honda and Nakano

February 15, 2000

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 126—Relative to Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 126, as introduced, Honda. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2000, 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
2 D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which forcibly
3 removed more than 120,000 men, women, and children,
4 more than two-thirds of whom were citizens, from Alaska,
5 Arizona, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, to
6 guarded War Relocation Authority centers on the sole
7 basis of their Japanese ancestry; and
8 WHEREAS, Allowed only what they could carry,
9 families were forced into abandoning homes, friends,
10 farms, and businesses to live in remote and rudimentary
11 WRA camps. Some were not released until June 1946. In
12 addition, more than 4,000 men and families were
13 detained in 10 Justice Department camps, including Sand
14 Island, Hawaii; Kooskia, Idaho; Bismarck, North Dakota;

1 Lordsburg/Santa Fe, New Mexico; Missoula, Montana;
2 and Crystal City, Texas, none of whom were ever indicted
3 or convicted or wrongdoing; and

4 WHEREAS, Demonstrating their determined loyalty
5 to America, thousands of Japanese-Americans
6 volunteered for military service. The 100th
7 Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team fighting in
8 Europe, was the most highly decorated army unit for its
9 size and length of service in the military history of the
10 United States Army; and

11 WHEREAS, The 100th Battalion, the 442nd
12 Regimental Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery
13 Battalion heroically suffered nearly 10,000 casualties and
14 are honored as one of World War II's most decorated
15 combat teams, receiving seven Presidential
16 Distinguished Unit Citations, one Congressional Medal of
17 Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 588 Silver Stars,
18 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple Hearts; and

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

25 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Federal Commission on
26 Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found
27 that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military
28 necessity and that a grave injustice had been done to the
29 Japanese-Americans interned during World War II; and

30 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, when President
31 Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of
32 1988, finding that Executive Order 9066 was not justified
33 by military necessity, but was caused by racial prejudice,
34 war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership,
35 Executive Order 9066 was repealed; and

36 WHEREAS, February 19, 2000, marks 58 years since the
37 signing of Executive Order 9066, a policy of grave
38 injustice against American citizens and resident aliens of
39 Japanese ancestry; now, therefore, be it



1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the*
2 *Senate thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the
3 State of California declares February 19, 2000, as a Day of
4 Remembrance in this state to increase public awareness
5 of the events surrounding the incarceration of Americans
6 of Japanese ancestry during World War II; and be it
7 further

8 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages the annual
9 observance of this day in subsequent years so that
10 California's youth may learn from our history; and be it
11 further resolved

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall
13 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the
14 State of California, the Superintendent Education, the
15 California State Library, and the California State
16 Archives.

