

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 21

**Introduced by Assembly Members Yamada and Furutani
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Torrico)**

February 6, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 21—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 21, as introduced, Yamada. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2009, 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

1 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
2 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and
3 WHEREAS, The 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat
4 Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion heroically suffered
5 nearly 10,000 casualties and are honored as being among World
6 War II's most decorated combat teams, having received seven
7 Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, 52 Distinguished Service
8 Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple
9 Hearts; and

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
24 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
25 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
26 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
27 United States Department of War and the United States Department
28 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
29 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
30 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

31 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
32 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
33 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
34 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
35 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
36 errors and injustice occurred; and

37 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson
38 Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding
39 that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity

1 and, hence, was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a
2 failure of political leadership; and

3 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on
4 behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
5 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
6 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for
7 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
8 interned; and

9 WHEREAS, February 19, 2009, marks 67 years since the signing
10 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
11 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
15 declares February 19, 2009, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
16 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
17 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
18 II; and be it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
20 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
21 Instruction, the State Library, and the State Archives.

O