

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 23, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 21

Introduced by Assembly Members Yamada and Furutani

(~~Coauthor: Assembly Member Torrico~~ *Coauthors: Assembly Members Torrico, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Tom Berryhill, Blakeslee, Block, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, De Leon, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fletcher, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Hill, Huber, Huffman, Jeffries, Knight, Krekorian, Logue, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Monning, Nava, Nestande, Niello, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Portantino, Price, Ruskin, Salas, Saldana, Silva, Skinner, Smyth, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Tran, and Villines*)

February 6, 2009

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 21, as amended, 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
14 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
15 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

16 WHEREAS, The 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat
17 Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion heroically suffered
18 nearly 10,000 casualties and are honored as being among World
19 War II's most decorated combat teams, having received seven
20 Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations, 52 Distinguished Service
21 Crosses, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars, and 9,486 Purple
22 Hearts; and

23 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
24 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
25 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
26 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest military
27 decoration—the Distinguished Service Cross—to receive the
28 nation's highest military decoration—the Medal of
29 Honor—bringing the total number of Japanese Americans who so
30 received the Medal of Honor to 21; 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, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
37 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
38 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
39 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
40 United States Department of War and the United States Department

1 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
2 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
3 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on
16 behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
17 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
18 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II and provided for
19 restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were
20 interned; and

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

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
26 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
27 declares February 19, 2009, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
28 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
29 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
30 II; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
32 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
33 Instruction, the State Library, and the State Archives.

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