

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 114

Introduced by Assembly Member Bradford

February 3, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 114—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 114, as introduced, Bradford. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2010, 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 120,000
3 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were
4 incarcerated in internment camps during World War II; and
5 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 deferred the American dream
6 for 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry
7 by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes, businesses,
8 careers, professional advancements, and disruption to family life;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, Despite their families being incarcerated behind
11 barbed wire in the United States, approximately 33,000 veterans
12 of Japanese ancestry fought bravely for our country during World
13 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
14 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 WHEREAS, February 19, 2010, marks 68 years since the signing
8 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
9 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
13 declares February 19, 2010, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
14 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
15 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
16 II; and be it further

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