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**State Government Committee**

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**HB 1460**

**Brief Description:** Creating a Washington state day of civil liberties remembrance.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pettigrew, Santos, Sullivan, Chase, Linville, Schual-Berke, Veloria, Rockefeller, Conway, Darneille, Wallace, Upthegrove, Kenney and McDermott.

<p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• February 19 is recognized as Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/25/03

**Staff:** Anne Warwick (786-7291).

**Background:**

Sixty one years ago, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. This order authorized the military to: 1) designate military areas; and 2) remove any person considered a danger. On March 2, 1942, Lt. General John L. DeWitt, West Coast Commander U.S. Army, issued Public Proclamation No. 1 which designated the entire West coast a restricted military area. The Army issued the first Civilian Exclusion Order for Japanese Americans on Bainbridge Island on March 24, 1942. By June 1942 more than 110,000 Japanese had been forced from their homes and into temporary assembly centers. Over 7,000 residents from Bellevue, Renton, Tukwila, Kent, Auburn, and Seattle were sent to Camp Harmony, a temporary assemble center on the grounds of the Puyallup Fair. From the temporary assembly centers, Japanese Americans were moved to 10 concentration camps scattered throughout the west. After the war, these Japanese Americans returned home. In 1988 HR 442 was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan which provided reparations for surviving internees. Beginning in 1990 \$20,000 in redress payments were sent to all eligible Japanese Americans.

**Summary of Bill:**

February 19 is recognized as Civil Liberties Day of Remembrance, but is not considered a legal holiday.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not Requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.