

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2015-4613, by Representatives Santos, Morris, Tharinger, Takko, Kochmar, Smith, Caldier, Parker, Zeiger, Cody, Harmsworth, Johnson, Fagan, MacEwen, Chandler, Stambaugh, Magendanz, Short, Rodne, Buys, Pike, Walkinshaw, Springer, Pollet, Riccelli, Hansen, Young, Gregerson, Peterson, Ormsby, Gregory, Fey, Condotta, Nealey, Walsh, Harris, Kagi, Wylie, Appleton, Ryu, Senn, Stanford, Kirby, Moscoso, Fitzgibbon, Reykdal, Stokesbary, Van De Wege, and McBride

1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
2 issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the military to forcibly
3 remove and incarcerate more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry
4 from the West Coast, including 12,000 Japanese-American residents of
5 Washington State; and

6 WHEREAS, The first Civilian Evacuation Order gave Japanese-
7 Americans from Bainbridge Island less than one week to leave behind
8 homes, farms, businesses, friends, and family and to report to
9 hastily constructed detention centers, such as Camp Harmony on the
10 grounds of the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup; and

11 WHEREAS, This drastic course of action allegedly aimed to prevent
12 acts of espionage and sabotage by Japanese-Americans who were deemed
13 untrustworthy and disloyal to the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, On March 23, 1943, the War Department organized a
15 segregated unit of Japanese-Americans, many of whom reported for
16 military duty from concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire in
17 which they and their families were detained; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 volunteers responded to unfounded
19 questions of their loyalty and patriotism by amassing a battle record
20 unparalleled in United States military history that, according to
21 General Douglas MacArthur's chief of intelligence, "saved a million
22 lives and shortened the war by two years"; and

23 WHEREAS, Equally loyal and patriotic Japanese-Americans fought to
24 protect our constitutional rights and liberties through dissent and
25 civil disobedience, including University of Washington student Gordon
26 Hirabayashi who was arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for defying
27 the military curfew on select civilians and refusing to evacuate when
28 ordered; and

29 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Congressional Commission on Wartime
30 Relocation and Internment of Civilians found "no military or security
31 reason for the internment" of persons of Japanese ancestry, but
32 determined it "was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a
33 failure of political leadership"; and

1 WHEREAS, As a result of this travesty of justice, Japanese-
2 Americans suffered immense economic loss of property and assets,
3 immeasurable physical and psychological harm, and were deprived of
4 their constitutional liberties without due process of law; and

5 WHEREAS, President Gerald Ford rescinded Executive Order 9066 in
6 1976, calling upon the American people to "resolve that this kind of
7 action shall never again be repeated"; and

8 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature enacted token
9 compensatory redress for forty state workers who lost their jobs due
10 to their incarceration while Congressman Mike Lowry of Washington
11 State introduced federal legislation to provide reparations and an
12 apology to all living former Japanese-American internees, initiating
13 a ten-year quest that ended when President Ronald Reagan signed the
14 Civil Liberties Act of 1988;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of
16 Representatives, along with the people of Washington, pause to
17 acknowledge the seventy-third anniversary of the signing of Executive
18 Order 9066 as well as the seventieth anniversary of the end of World
19 War II, to recognize and honor the heroism, sacrifice, patience, and
20 loyalty of the Japanese-American World War II veterans and internees,
21 and to remember the lessons and blessing of liberty and justice for
22 all; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
24 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
25 Representatives to the Nisei Veterans Committee, the Military
26 Intelligence Service - Northwest Association, the Japanese American
27 Citizens League, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of
28 Washington State, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific
29 American Experience.

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31 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
32 Resolution 4613 adopted by the House of Representatives
33 February 19, 2015
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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk