

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4660, by Representative Santos

1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
2 issued Executive Order 9066 which authorized 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, personal belongings, farms, businesses, friends, and family
9 and to report to hastily constructed detention centers like Camp
10 Harmony on the grounds of the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup;
11 and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 volunteers responded to questions of
20 their loyalty and patriotism by amassing a battle record unparalleled
21 in United States military history; and

22 WHEREAS, Equally loyal and patriotic Japanese-Americans fought to
23 protect our constitutional rights and liberties through dissent, like

1 University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi who was arrested,
2 convicted, and imprisoned for defying the military curfew on select
3 civilians and refusing to evacuate when ordered; and

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

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

13 WHEREAS, In 1976, President Gerald Ford rescinded Executive Order
14 9066 calling upon the American people to "resolve that this kind of
15 action shall never again be repeated"; and

16 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature enacted token
17 compensatory redress to forty state workers who lost their jobs due
18 to their incarceration; and

19 WHEREAS, Congressman Mike Lowry of Washington State introduced
20 H.R. 5977 to provide reparations and an apology to former Japanese-
21 American internees, thus initiating a ten-year legislative quest that
22 ended when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of
23 1988; and

24 WHEREAS, General Douglas MacArthur's chief of intelligence
25 claimed, "The Nisei saved a million lives and shortened the war by
26 two years";

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
28 of Representatives pause to acknowledge the seventy-fourth
29 anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, to recognize and
30 honor the heroism, sacrifice, patience, and loyalty of the Japanese-
31 American World War II veterans, internees, and civil rights
32 activists, and to remember the lessons and blessings of liberty and
33 justice for all; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
35 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
36 Representatives to the Nisei Veterans Committee, the Military
37 Intelligence Service — Northwest Association, the Japanese American

1 Citizens League, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of
2 Washington State, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific
3 American Experience.

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5 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
6 Resolution 4660 adopted by the House of Representatives
7 February 18, 2016
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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk