

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2020-4661, by Representatives Jenkins, Wilcox, Appleton, Barkis, Bergquist, Blake, Boehnke, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, DeBolt, Dent, Doglio, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gildon, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hansen, Harris, Hoff, Hudgins, Irwin, Jenkin, J. Johnson, Kilduff, Kirby, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, Mead, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Pellicciotti, Peterson, Pettigrew, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robinson, Rude, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shea, Shewmake, Slatte, Smith, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Van Werven, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wylie, Ybarra, and Young

1       WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
2 issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the United States  
3 military to forcibly remove and incarcerate more than 120,000 persons  
4 of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, including 12,000 Japanese  
5 American residents of 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 report to hastily constructed detention centers like Camp Harmony  
10 on the grounds of the Washington State 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 the concentration camps surrounded by barbed wire  
17 in which they and their families were detained; and

18       WHEREAS, More than 12,000 volunteers responded to questions about  
19 their loyalty and patriotism by amassing a battle record unparalleled  
20 in United States military history with 7 Presidential Unit Citations,  
21 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished  
22 Service Medal, 588 Silver Stars, more than 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22  
23 Legion of Merit Medals, 145 Soldier's Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 16

1 decorations from France and Italy, and, in 2010, the Congressional  
2 Gold Medal; and

3 WHEREAS, Equally loyal and patriotic Japanese Americans fought to  
4 protect our constitutional rights and liberties through dissent, like  
5 University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi who was arrested,  
6 convicted, and imprisoned for defying the military curfew on select  
7 civilians and refusing to evacuate when ordered; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Congressional commission on wartime  
9 relocation and internment of civilians found "no military or security  
10 reason for the internment" of persons of Japanese ancestry, but  
11 determined the cause of the incarceration as "racial prejudice, war  
12 hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

13 WHEREAS, Through this travesty of justice, Japanese Americans  
14 suffered immense economic loss of property and assets, immeasurable  
15 physical and psychological harm, and were deprived of their  
16 constitutional liberties without due process of law; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1979, Washington State Congressman Mike Lowry  
18 introduced H.R. 5977 to provide reparations and an apology to the  
19 Japanese American incarcerated, thus initiating a ten-year legislative  
20 quest that ended when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil  
21 Liberties Act of 1988; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout Washington State, the last remaining  
23 survivors of the European and Asian Pacific battlefields of World War  
24 II and of American incarceration camps live their golden years in  
25 quiet contrast to their extraordinary acts of conscience and valor  
26 while all of America continues to benefit from their heroic  
27 patriotism;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
29 of Representatives pause to acknowledge the seventy-eighth  
30 anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066; to recognize and  
31 remember Japanese American veterans, incarcerated, and civil rights  
32 activists from the State of Washington, and to honor the lessons and  
33 blessings of liberty and 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, Densho, the Japanese  
37 American Citizens League, the Japanese Cultural and Community Center

1 of Washington State, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific  
2 American Experience.

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