

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2021-4609, by Representatives Jenkins, Wilcox, Abbarno, Barkis, Bateman, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Boehnke, Bronoske, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Chase, Chopp, Cody, Corry, Davis, Dent, Dolan, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Frame, Gilday, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hansen, Harris, Harris-Talley, Hoff, Jacobsen, J. Johnson, Kirby, Klicker, Klippert, Kloba, Kraft, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Lovick, MacEwen, Macri, Maycumber, McCaslin, McEntire, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Riccelli, Robertson, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Santos, Schmick, Sells, Senn, Shewmake, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Steele, Stokesbary, Stonier, Sullivan, Sutherland, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Valdez, Vick, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Wicks, 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 a casualty rate of 314% and
21 earning a collective 7 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of
22 Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1 Distinguished Service
23 Medal, 588 Silver Stars, more than 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of

1 Merit Medals, 145 Soldier's Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 16
2 decorations from France and Italy, and, in 2010, the Congressional
3 Gold Medal; and

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

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

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

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

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

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
30 of Representatives pause to acknowledge the seventy-ninth anniversary
31 of the signing of Executive Order 9066; to recognize and remember
32 Japanese American veterans, incarcerated, and civil rights activists
33 from the State of Washington, and to honor the lessons and blessings
34 of liberty and justice for all; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
36 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
37 Representatives to the Nisei Veterans Committee, Densho, the Japanese
38 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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4 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
5 Resolution 4609 adopted by the House of Representatives
6 February 15, 2021

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12 Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk