

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-4672, by Representatives Shavers, Stonier, Santos, Taylor, Jinkins, Stokesbary, Abbarno, Alvarado, Barkis, Barnard, Bateman, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Bronoske, Caldier, Callan, Chambers, Chandler, Chapman, Cheney, Chopp, Christian, Connors, Corry, Cortes, Couture, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dye, Entenman, Eslick, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goehner, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Harris, Hutchins, Jacobsen, Klicker, Kloba, Kretz, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Low, Macri, Maycumber, McClintock, McEntire, Mena, Morgan, Mosbrucker, Nance, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Orwall, Paul, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Ramos, Reed, Reeves, Riccelli, Robertson, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Sandlin, Schmick, Schmidt, Senn, Simmons, Slatter, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Street, Thai, Tharinger, Timmons, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Waters, Wilcox, Wylie, and Ybarra

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, Washington less than one week to  
8 leave behind homes, personal belongings, farms, businesses, friends,  
9 and family and report to detention centers like Camp Harmony on the  
10 grounds of the Washington State fair in Puyallup, where hastily  
11 converted horse stables housed the evacuated families; and

12       WHEREAS, These detention centers were temporary quarters for the  
13 evacuees while the United States military department constructed ten  
14 mass incarceration sites for Japanese-Americans located in remote  
15 inland areas of the United States; and

16       WHEREAS, This drastic policy of removal and relocation allegedly  
17 aimed to prevent acts of espionage and sabotage by Japanese-Americans  
18 who were deemed untrustworthy and disloyal to the United States; and

19       WHEREAS, On March 23, 1943, the War Department organized a  
20 segregated unit of Japanese-Americans, the 442nd Regimental Combat  
21 Team, most of whom reported for military duty from the concentration  
22 camps in which they and their families were held as prisoners  
23 surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards; and

1       WHEREAS, More than 12,000 volunteers responded to questions about  
2 their loyalty and patriotism by amassing a battle record unparalleled  
3 in United States military history with a casualty rate of 314 percent  
4 and earning a collective seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals  
5 of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service  
6 Medal, 588 Silver Stars, more than 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of  
7 Merit Medals, 145 Soldier's Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 16  
8 decorations from France and Italy, and, in 2010, the Congressional  
9 Gold Medal; and

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

15       WHEREAS, In 1982, the Congressional commission on wartime  
16 relocation and internment of civilians found "no military or security  
17 reason for the internment" of persons of Japanese ancestry, but  
18 determined the cause of the incarceration as "racial prejudice, war  
19 hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

20       WHEREAS, Through this travesty of justice, Japanese-Americans  
21 suffered immense economic loss of property and assets, experienced  
22 immeasurable physical and psychological harm as individuals and  
23 collectively as a community, and were deprived of their  
24 constitutional liberties without due process of law; and

25       WHEREAS, In 1979, Washington State Congressman Mike Lowry  
26 introduced H.R. 5977 to provide reparations and an apology to the  
27 Japanese-American incarcerated, thus initiating a 10-year legislative  
28 quest that ended when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil  
29 Liberties Act of 1988; and

30       WHEREAS, Vowing *Nidoto Nai Yoni* - Let it Not Happen Again, the  
31 Japanese-American community now wields the lessons of this experience  
32 to fight for equity and justice in solidarity with all Americans who  
33 seek to protect and preserve the civil liberties we are guaranteed;

34       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House  
35 of Representatives pause to acknowledge the 82nd anniversary of the  
36 signing of Executive Order 9066; to recognize and remember Japanese-  
37 American veterans, incarcerated, and civil rights activists from the  
38 State of Washington, and to reflect on, and honor the lessons,  
39 blessings, and responsibilities of the phrase, "...with liberty and  
40 justice for all"; and

1       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
2 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
3 Representatives to the Nisei Veterans Committee, Densho, the  
4 Japanese-American Citizens League, the Japanese Cultural and  
5 Community Center of Washington State, and the Wing Luke Museum of the  
6 Asian Pacific American Experience.

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