

**Enrolled**  
**Senate Concurrent Resolution 14**

Sponsored by Senators DEMBROW, MONNES ANDERSON, THOMSEN, Representative CLEM;  
Senators JOHNSON, STEINER HAYWARD, Representative JOHNSON

Whereas on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the military to forcibly remove and place into incarceration camps more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens from the west coast of the United States, including more than 4,000 persons of Japanese ancestry from Oregon; and

Whereas as a result of this reprehensible injustice, Japanese Americans suffered an immense economic loss of property and other assets, as well as immeasurable physical and psychological harm, and were deprived of their constitutional liberties without due process of law; and

Whereas this drastic course of action allegedly aimed to prevent acts of espionage and sabotage by Japanese Americans, who were deemed untrustworthy and disloyal to the United States; and

Whereas more than 12,000 Japanese Americans responded to this unfounded mistrust of their loyalty and patriotism by volunteering for service in the United States Armed Forces, amassing a battle record unparalleled in United States military history that, according to General Douglas MacArthur's chief of military intelligence, "saved a million lives and shortened the war by two years"; and

Whereas the Nisei veterans of World War II were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal on November 2, 2011, and then-Speaker of the House John Boehner read from the medal, which states that the "United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor and dedication to country that these men faced while fighting a two-front battle of discrimination at home and fascism abroad"; and

Whereas equally loyal and patriotic Japanese Americans struggled to protect our constitutional rights and liberties through dissent and civil disobedience, including Oregon attorney Minoru Yasui, who on March 28, 1942, deliberately defied the military curfew authorized under Executive Order 9066 by walking the streets of Portland, Oregon, during the curfew hours and then turned himself in to the Portland police so that he could test the constitutionality of such discriminatory restrictions; and

Whereas despite clear evidence each year of World War II that Japanese Americans had proven themselves to be loyal Americans, in Oregon the House of Representatives of the Forty-third Legislative Assembly introduced House Joint Memorial 9 in February 1945, urging President Roosevelt to "prevent the return of said Japanese aliens and said citizens of Japanese extraction to the west coast states for the duration of the present war with Japan"; and

Whereas President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976, in his "An American Promise" proclamation, in which he called upon the American people to "resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated"; and

Whereas Congress adopted legislation, signed by President Jimmy Carter on July 31, 1980, establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the claim that the incarceration of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens during World War II was justified by military necessity; and

Whereas the commission held 20 days of hearings, heard from more than 750 witnesses on this matter and published its findings in its report "Personal Justice Denied"; and

Whereas the conclusion of the commission was that the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and that the decision to issue the order was shaped by "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

Whereas Congress enacted the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, in which it apologized on behalf of the nation for “fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry”; and

Whereas President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law on August 10, 1988, and proclaimed it a “great day for America”; and

Whereas the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 established the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the purpose of which is “to sponsor research and public educational activities, and to publish and distribute the hearings, findings, and recommendations of the Commission, so that the events surrounding the evacuation, relocation, and internment of United States citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood”; and

Whereas in 2016 the Legislative Assembly passed, and Governor Kate Brown signed, House Bill 4009, recognizing the loyalty and brave resistance of Minoru Yasui and designating March 28 of each year as Minoru Yasui Day; and

Whereas when awarding Minoru Yasui the Presidential Medal of Freedom on November 24, 2015, President Barack Obama described Minoru Yasui’s legacy as “a call to our national conscience, a reminder of our enduring obligation to be the ‘land of the free and the home of the brave’ — an America worthy of his sacrifice”; and

Whereas across the country the Japanese American community observes the Day of Remembrance on February 19 of each year to educate the public about the lessons learned from the incarceration in order to ensure that it never happens again; and

Whereas the Day of Remembrance provides an opportunity for all people to reflect on the importance of political leadership and vigilance and on the value of justice and civil rights during times of uncertainty and emergency; and

Whereas at this time in history it is especially important that Oregonians recognize and cherish those who have come to Oregon as immigrants and refugees to pursue the American Dream for themselves and their families and to contribute to the economic and social vitality of this great state; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-ninth Legislative Assembly, recognize the historical significance of February 19, 1942, the date President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, restricting the freedom of Japanese Americans and other legal resident aliens through required identification cards, travel restrictions, seizure of personal property and incarceration; and be it further

Resolved, That we support the goals of the Japanese American community in recognizing the national Day of Remembrance to increase public awareness of these actions; and be it further

Resolved, That we, along with the people of Oregon, in order to recognize and honor the heroism, sacrifice, patience and loyalty of the Japanese American World War II veterans and internees and to remember the lessons and blessings of liberty and justice for all, acknowledge the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the injustice, pain and suffering inflicted on the Japanese American people by Executive Order 9066; and be it further

Resolved, That we, along with the people of Oregon, pause to reflect upon the lessons learned from the Japanese American incarceration experience, appreciate the contributions that immigrants and refugees bring to our nation and commit to valuing all Americans, irrespective of their ethnicity, religion or country of origin.

Adopted by Senate February 16, 2017

Readopted by Senate June 12, 2017

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Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House March 28, 2017

Readopted by House June 13, 2017

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House