

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 126

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Chu, Kim, Low,
and Williams)
(Coauthors: Senators Nguyen and Pan)

January 26, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 126—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 126, as introduced, Ting. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 2016, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D.
2 Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, under which more than
3 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry were
4 incarcerated in 10 internment camps scattered throughout western
5 states during World War II; and
6 WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 deferred the American dream
7 for more than 120,000 Americans and resident aliens of Japanese
8 ancestry by inflicting a great human cost of abandoned homes,
9 businesses, careers, professional advancements, and disruption to
10 family life; and

1 WHEREAS, Despite their families being incarcerated behind
2 barbed wire in the United States, approximately 33,000 veterans
3 of Japanese ancestry fought bravely for our country during World
4 War II, serving in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental
5 Combat Team, and the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion; and

6 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
7 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
8 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
9 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest military
10 decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, to receive the nation's
11 highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, bringing the total
12 number of Japanese Americans who so received the Medal of
13 Honor to 21; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2010, President Barack Obama granted the
15 Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry
16 Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team in recognition of
17 their dedicated service during World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry served
19 with the Military Intelligence Service and have been credited for
20 shortening the war by two years by translating enemy battle plans,
21 defense maps, tactical orders, intercepted messages and diaries,
22 and interrogating enemy prisoners; and

23 WHEREAS, Many Japanese American veterans continued a
24 life of public service after the war, including Medal of Honor
25 recipient and United States Senator Daniel Inouye, who passed
26 away in December 2012 while representing his home state of
27 Hawaii; and

28 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
29 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
30 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and
31 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
32 United States Department of War and the United States Department
33 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
34 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
35 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

36 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
37 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
38 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
39 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition

1 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
2 errors and injustice occurred; and

3 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Wilson
4 Reagan signed into law the federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988,
5 finding that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military
6 necessity and, hence, was caused by racial prejudice, war hysteria,
7 and a failure of political leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized
9 on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
10 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
11 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II. The act also
12 provided for restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry
13 who were interned; and

14 WHEREAS, February 19, 2016, marks 74 years since the signing
15 of Executive Order 9066 and a policy of grave injustice against
16 American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
19 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
20 declares February 19, 2016, as a Day of Remembrance in this state
21 to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the
22 internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War
23 II; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
25 of this resolution to the Governor, the Superintendent of Public
26 Instruction, the State Library, and the California State Archives.