

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 18, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 126

Introduced by Assembly Member Ting

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bonta, Chang, Chu, Kim, Low, and Williams Williams, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bonilla, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, and Wood)

(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 amended, 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

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

16 WHEREAS, On June 21, 2000, President William Jefferson
17 Clinton elevated 20 Japanese Americans who served in the 100th
18 Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and were among
19 52 individuals who received the nation's second highest military
20 decoration, the Distinguished Service Cross, to receive the nation's
21 highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, bringing the total
22 number of Japanese Americans who so received the Medal of
23 Honor to 21; and

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

28 WHEREAS, Nearly 6,000 veterans of Japanese ancestry served
29 with the Military Intelligence Service and have been credited for
30 shortening the war by two years by translating enemy battle plans,
31 defense maps, tactical orders, intercepted messages and diaries,
32 and interrogating enemy prisoners; and

33 WHEREAS, Many Japanese American veterans continued a
34 life of public service after the war, including Medal of Honor
35 recipient and United States Senator Daniel Inouye, who passed
36 away in December 2012 while representing his home state of
37 Hawaii; and

38 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme
39 Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu,
40 Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of curfew and

1 Executive Order 9066, it was discovered that officials from the
2 United States Department of War and the United States Department
3 of Justice had altered and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty
4 of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry and withheld
5 information from the United States Supreme Court; and

6 WHEREAS, Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae, Dennis Hayashi, Rod
7 Kawakami, and many attorneys and interns contributed
8 innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of
9 Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition
10 for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental
11 errors and injustice occurred; and

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

17 WHEREAS, The federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized
18 on behalf of the people of the United States for the evacuation,
19 internment, and relocation of Americans and permanent resident
20 aliens of Japanese ancestry during World War II. The act also
21 provided for restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry
22 who were interned; and

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

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

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