



SJ0051

LRB098 19263 GRL 54415 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D.
3 Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the
4 forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 persons of
5 Japanese ancestry living on the west coast; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to property losses, the affected
7 individuals suffered immeasurable damages that included the
8 loss of freedom, the loss of personal dignity, the loss of
9 income, and the disruption of careers and education, as well as
10 the psychological trauma of having been wrongfully detained for
11 periods of up to 4 years; and

12 WHEREAS, No charges of wrongdoing were ever filed against
13 any Japanese-American residing in the security zone; and

14 WHEREAS, Japanese-Americans volunteered to serve in the
15 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and
16 the Military Intelligence Service and demonstrated exemplary
17 heroism and courage; the 442nd Regimental Combat Team became
18 the most highly decorated unit in United States Army history,
19 with the unit earning 21 Medals of Honor and the Congressional
20 Gold Medal; and

21 WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after Executive Order 9066 and

1 United States Supreme Court decisions upholding the
2 convictions of Fred Korematsu, Minoru Yasui, and Gordon
3 Hirabayashi for violations of curfew, it was discovered that
4 officials from the United States Department of Justice altered
5 and destroyed evidence regarding the loyalty of
6 Japanese-Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry
7 and withheld information from the United States Supreme Court;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed
10 the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law, finding that
11 Executive Order 9066 was not justified by national security and
12 that the broad causes were wartime hysteria, racial prejudice,
13 and a failure of political leadership; and

14 WHEREAS, February 19, 2014 marks the 72nd anniversary of
15 the signing of Executive Order 9066, which initiated a grave
16 injustice to Japanese-Americans, who, without individual
17 review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded,
18 removed, and detained by the United States government during
19 World War II; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
22 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate February 19, 2014 as a Day
23 of Remembrance in the State of Illinois in order to increase

1 public awareness of the forced removal and incarceration of
2 Japanese-Americans during World War II.