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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8036

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators B. Sheldon, Shin, Carlson, Haugen, Sheahan, Spanel, Oke, Franklin, Rasmussen, Jacobsen, Eide, Winsley, Costa, T. Sheldon, Kastama, Thibaudeau, Gardner, Hale, Swecker, West, Prentice, McAuliffe, Kline, Fraser, Keiser, Johnson, Roach and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/26/2002. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, During World War II on February 19, 1942, President  
9 Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, setting in  
10 motion the forced exile of more than one hundred ten thousand Japanese-  
11 Americans from Washington, Oregon, and California; and

12 WHEREAS, In Washington state, twelve thousand eight hundred ninety-  
13 two men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry - most of them United  
14 States citizens - experienced three years of unconstitutional  
15 internment, deprived of their rights granted under Amendment XIV of the  
16 United States Constitution to protect their life, liberty, and property  
17 through due process of law; and

18 WHEREAS, On March 30, 1942, two hundred twenty-seven Bainbridge  
19 Island men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry - most of them  
20 United States citizens - were escorted by United States Army soldiers  
21 to the former Eagledale ferry landing where they solemnly boarded the

1 ferry Kehloken and departed on a lonely journey with an unknown  
2 destination and fate; and

3 WHEREAS, With only six days' notice they would be taken away and  
4 only allowed to bring whatever they could carry or wear, they were  
5 forced to hastily sell, store, or make arrangements for all of their  
6 possessions, businesses, and property; and

7 WHEREAS, The two hundred twenty-seven people from Bainbridge Island  
8 were the first Japanese-Americans in United States history to be  
9 forcibly removed from their homes by the United States Army; and

10 WHEREAS, Their only crime was being Nikkei - persons of Japanese  
11 ancestry; and

12 WHEREAS, To commemorate this momentous and tragic event in United  
13 States history, the Bainbridge Island WWII Nikkei Exclusion Memorial  
14 Committee, a joint endeavor of the Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap  
15 Interfaith Council and the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American  
16 Community, is working with members of Washington state's federal  
17 delegation and appropriate federal authorities to designate the former  
18 Eagledale ferry landing as a national memorial; and

19 WHEREAS, It is the vision and hope that the proposed national  
20 memorial will honor those who suffered, cherish the friends and  
21 community who stood beside them, and inspire all Americans to not  
22 repeat the mistakes of the past by safeguarding constitutional rights  
23 for all; and

24 WHEREAS, The proposed national memorial could become an  
25 international treasure, attracting, informing, and inspiring people  
26 from around the world by telling an important and timeless story for  
27 future generations; and

28 WHEREAS, It is vital that all Washington citizens remember and  
29 learn from this period of our nation's history;

30 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress  
31 continue its worthy endeavor to designate the former Eagledale ferry  
32 landing on Bainbridge Island as a national memorial to remember the  
33 unconstitutional internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II;

34 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
35 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
36 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the

1 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of  
2 Washington.

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