
SUBSTITUTE SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8036

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on State & Local Government (originally sponsored 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 02/07/2002.

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 sent to
10 the Manzanar internment camp located in a remote California desert; and

11 WHEREAS, Not every Japanese-American from Bainbridge Island boarded
12 that fateful ferry; some were drafted into the military, some were
13 unjustly imprisoned, and some moved away, but all were forced to leave;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Their only crime was being Nikkei - persons of Japanese
16 ancestry; and

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

24 WHEREAS, It is the vision and hope that the proposed national
25 memorial will honor those who suffered, cherish the friends and
26 community who stood beside them, and inspire all Americans to not
27 repeat the mistakes of the past by safeguarding constitutional rights
28 for all; and

29 WHEREAS, The proposed national memorial could become an
30 international treasure, attracting, informing, and inspiring people
31 from around the world by telling an important and timeless story for
32 future generations; and

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

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

1 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
2 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
3 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
4 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
5 Washington.

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