

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2025-4619, by Representatives Jinkins, Stokesbary, Abbarno, Abell, Barkis, Barnard, Berg, Bergquist, Bernbaum, Berry, Bronoske, Burnett, Caldier, Callan, Chase, Connors, Corry, Cortes, Couture, Davis, Dent, Doglio, Donaghy, Duerr, Dufault, Dye, Engell, Entenman, Eslick, Farivar, Fey, Fitzgibbon, Fosse, Goodman, Graham, Gregerson, Griffey, Hackney, Hill, Hunt, Jacobsen, Keaton, Klicker, Kloba, Leavitt, Lekanoff, Ley, Low, Macri, Manjarrez, Marshall, McClintock, McEntire, Mena, Mendoza, Morgan, Nance, Obras, Orcutt, Ormsby, Ortiz-Self, Parshley, Paul, Penner, Peterson, Pollet, Ramel, Reed, Reeves, Richards, Rude, Rule, Ryu, Salahuddin, Santos, Schmick, Schmidt, Scott, Shavers, Simmons, Springer, Stearns, Steele, Stonier, Street, Stuebe, Taylor, Thai, Tharinger, Thomas, Timmons, Volz, Walen, Walsh, Waters, Wylie, Ybarra, and Zahn

1 WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt
2 issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the United States
3 military to forcibly remove and incarcerate more than 120,000 persons
4 of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast, including 12,000 Japanese-
5 American residents of Washington State; and

6 WHEREAS, The first civilian evacuation order gave Japanese-
7 Americans from Bainbridge Island, Washington less than one week to
8 leave behind homes, personal belongings, farms, businesses, friends,
9 and family and report to detention centers like Camp Harmony on the
10 grounds of the Washington State fair in Puyallup, where hastily
11 converted horse stables housed the evacuated families; and

12 WHEREAS, These detention centers were temporary quarters for the
13 evacuees while the United States military constructed mass
14 incarceration sites for Japanese-Americans located in remote inland
15 areas of the United States; and

16 WHEREAS, This drastic policy of forced removal allegedly aimed to
17 prevent acts of espionage and sabotage by Japanese-Americans who were
18 deemed untrustworthy and disloyal to the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, On March 23, 1943, the War Department organized the
20 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit of Japanese-
21 Americans, most of whom reported for military duty from the
22 concentration camps in which they and their families were held as
23 prisoners surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 12,000 volunteers responded to questions about
2 their loyalty and patriotism by amassing a battle record unparalleled
3 in United States military history, earning a collective seven
4 Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished
5 Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, 588 Silver Stars,
6 more than 4,000 Bronze Stars, 22 Legion of Merit Medals, 145
7 Soldier's Medals, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 16 decorations from France and
8 Italy, and, in 2010, the Congressional Gold Medal; and

9 WHEREAS, Equally loyal and patriotic Japanese-Americans fought to
10 protect our constitutional rights and liberties through dissent, like
11 University of Washington student and Auburn native Gordon Hirabayashi
12 who was arrested, convicted, and imprisoned for defying the military
13 curfew on select civilians and refusing to evacuate when ordered; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Congressional commission on wartime
15 relocation and internment of civilians found "no military or security
16 reason" for the incarceration of persons of Japanese ancestry, but
17 determined the cause as "racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a
18 failure of political leadership"; and

19 WHEREAS, Through this travesty of justice, Japanese-Americans
20 suffered immense economic loss of property and assets; experienced
21 immeasurable physical and psychological harm as individuals and
22 collectively as a community; and were deprived of their
23 constitutional liberties without due process of law; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1979, Washington State Congressman Mike Lowry
25 introduced H.R. 5977 to provide reparations and an apology to the
26 Japanese-American incarcerated, thus initiating a 10-year legislative
27 quest that ended when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil
28 Liberties Act of 1988; and

29 WHEREAS, With this historical lived experience, the Japanese-
30 American community has become an authentic and powerful voice for
31 equity and justice and against racism, bigotry, and hate through the
32 message *Nidoto Nai Yoni - Let it Not Happen Again*;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
34 of Representatives pause to acknowledge the 83rd anniversary of the
35 signing of Executive Order 9066; to recognize and remember Japanese-
36 American veterans, incarcerated, and civil rights activists from the
37 State of Washington; and to reflect upon the responsibilities of the
38 phrase, "...with liberty and justice for all"; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
2 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of
3 Representatives to the Nisei Veterans Committee, Densho, the
4 Japanese-American Citizens League, the Japanese Cultural and
5 Community Center of Washington State, and the Wing Luke Museum of the
6 Asian Pacific American Experience.

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8 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
9 Resolution 4619 adopted by the House of Representatives
10 February 19, 2025
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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk