

1 [Urging the Establishment of a Memorial for "Comfort Women"]

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3 **Resolution urging the City and County of San Francisco to establish a memorial for**
4 **"Comfort Women."**

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6 WHEREAS, According to most international historians, the term "comfort women"
7 euphemistically refers to an estimated 200,000 women and young girls who were kidnapped
8 and forced into sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during its colonial and wartime
9 occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War
10 II; and

11 WHEREAS, During the 15 years of invasion and occupation of Asian countries,
12 unspeakable and well-documented war-crimes, including mass rape, wholesale massacres,
13 heinous torture, and other atrocities, were committed by the Japanese Imperial Army
14 throughout the occupied countries and colonies; and

15 WHEREAS, Of the few top Japanese military leaders who were investigated and
16 convicted as war criminals in the postwar War Crime Tribunals in Tokyo, Nanjing, Manila,
17 Yokohama, and Khabarovsk, many escaped prosecution; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2001 the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution
19 No. 842-01, urging the government of Japan, on the 50th anniversary of the US-Japan Peace
20 Treaty, to fully acknowledge and apologize for Japan's wartime atrocities and provide just
21 compensation for the surviving victims of its aggression; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2007 the U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Mike Honda's
23 bipartisan House Resolution 121, which also called on the Government of Japan to formally
24 acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for its Imperial Armed Forces'
25 coercion of young women into sexual slavery; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2013, the San Francisco Board passed Resolution No. 218-13
2 condemning Japan’s denial of its system of sexual enslavement during World War II and
3 calling for justice for “comfort women”; and

4 WHEREAS, The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II
5 (1941-1945) and the Pacific War (1931-1945) and the defeat of Japanese imperialism and
6 militarism by the Allies; and

7 WHEREAS, Several cities in the U.S., including, Glendale and Rohnert Park, CA; Long
8 Island, NY; Palisades Park and Union City, NJ; Fairfax, VA; and Michigan City, MI have
9 already erected memorials to help remember the "comfort women" during Japanese
10 occupation in the Pacific War; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, human trafficking of women and girls is a form of modern day
12 slavery with 20 million victims worldwide, including an estimated 1.5 million victims in North
13 America alone, forced to perform labor and sexual acts; and human trafficking is a market-
14 driven criminal industry based on the principles of supply and demand, and

15 WHEREAS, San Francisco is not immune to the problem, and has been considered a
16 destination for human trafficking due to its ports, airports, industry, and rising immigrant
17 populations; and

18 WHEREAS, Leaders of the Japanese American community have worked closely with
19 the broader Asian Pacific Islander community in the past decades to strengthen relationships
20 and build trust, understanding, and community for civil rights and social justice; and

21 WHEREAS, San Francisco is a city of immigrants and their descendants, many of
22 whom have ancestral ties to Asian and Pacific Islander nations and have direct or indirect
23 experience with Japan’s past system of sexual enslavement; and

24 WHEREAS, A growing coalition of immigrant communities, women’s organizations, and
25 human rights groups have organized to establish a memorial for “comfort women” and the

1 millions of victims of the Japanese military in San Francisco to ensure that the plight and
2 suffering of these girls and women will never be forgotten or erased from history; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That appropriate City and County agencies will work with the community
5 organizations to design and establish the memorial; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
7 Francisco during the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II expresses its strong support
8 of creating a memorial in memory of those girls and women who suffered immeasurable pain
9 and humiliation as sex slaves and as a sacred place for remembrance, reflection,
10 remorsefulness, and atonement for generations to come.

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