

1 [Annual Day of Remembrance in Commemoration of the Signing of Executive Order 9066 -
2 February 19th]

3 **Resolution declaring February 19th to be an Annual Day of Remembrance to**
4 **commemorate the signing of Executive Order 9066 in the City and County of San**
5 **Francisco, which resulted in the wrongful incarceration of Americans of Japanese**
6 **ancestry during World War II.**

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8 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area Day of Remembrance is an annual
9 commemoration of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on
10 February 19, 1942; and

11 WHEREAS, The Federal government forcibly detained, excluded, removed and
12 incarcerated some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry (two-thirds of them U.S. citizens)
13 from the West Coast into American concentration camps in remote areas of the U.S. for up to
14 four years; and

15 WHEREAS, On February 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a
16 Resolution commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Signing of Executive Order 9066 and
17 declaring February 19, 2022, as a Day of Remembrance, on file with the Clerk of the Board of
18 Supervisors in File No. 220153 which is hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if
19 set forth fully herein; and

20 WHEREAS, The Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium (BADOR) annually
21 remembers and honors all those who survived the unjust treatment and abrogation of their
22 civil liberties imprisoned in American concentration camps; and

23 WHEREAS, The Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium includes the Fred T.
24 Korematsu Institute, Asian Law Caucus/Asian American Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific
25 Islander Legal Outreach, Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin

1 Americans!, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, Japanese American Citizens League
2 San Francisco Chapter, Japanese American Religious Federation, Japanese Community
3 Youth Council, Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California, Nakayoshi Young
4 Professionals, National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), and the Nichi Bei
5 Foundation / Nichi Bei Weekly; and

6 WHEREAS, At the Bay Area Day of Remembrance 2023 event “Carrying the Light for
7 Justice,” the lighting of the candles representing each internment camp will be performed by
8 Nisei, second generation Japanese Americans camp survivors, who were involved in redress
9 hearings and other social justice activities; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States government wrongfully rationalized the exclusion,
11 detention, and confinement on the grounds of military necessity; and

12 WHEREAS, Japanese American grassroots organizations such as the Japanese
13 American Citizens League (JACL) initiated the redress effort which led to the establishment of
14 the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; and

15 WHEREAS, The petition for redress, which is a fundamental right in the First
16 Amendment, was activated as a grassroots redress and reparations movement emerged as a
17 means of uncovering the truth behind government action and ensuring that a similar
18 internment will never again take place; and

19 WHEREAS, The National Coalition for Japanese American Redress sought judicial
20 remedy, a class action against the government, and to overturn the Supreme Court decisions
21 that legitimized the internment; and

22 WHEREAS, The National Coalition for Redress/Reparations was formed in 1980 joined
23 in to help win compensation for those who were incarcerated during WWII, through redress
24 legislation; and

1 WHEREAS, The Coram Nobis Legal team, headed by Dale Minami of San Francisco,
2 worked toward vindicating the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min
3 Yasui, who challenged the Supreme Court rulings; and

4 WHEREAS, Donald K. Tamaki, who served on the same Coram Nobis Legal team, will
5 be honored with the Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda Peace and Humanitarian Award, and will speak
6 about his current appointment by Governor Gavin Newsom on the “Task Force to Study and
7 Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans”; and

8 WHEREAS, The investigation by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and
9 Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) resulted in the first public hearings in San Francisco in 1981
10 and its findings in 1983 concluded that the incarceration “was not justified by military necessity
11 and the decisions which followed from it; detention, ending detention, and ending exclusion,
12 were not driven by analysis of military conditions. The broad historical causes which shaped
13 these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership”; and

14 WHEREAS, In October 1983, a Federal District Court in San Francisco vacated Fred
15 Korematsu’s 40 year-old conviction for defying the government’s evacuation and internment
16 orders of 1942; and

17 WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was signed into law granting a
18 formal apology to Japanese Americans for their unjust eviction, removal and incarceration
19 during World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, In subsequent years, reparations were paid to the oldest Japanese
21 American survivors of camps in monetary reparations; and

22 WHEREAS, The BADOR Consortium acknowledges the continuing struggle to seek
23 redress for Japanese Latin Americans not included in the Civil Liberties Act; and

24 WHEREAS, The BADOR Consortium supports reparations for Black Americans, such
25 as studies underway both at the state and city level; and

1 WHEREAS, The persistence of incidences of hate against members of the Asian
2 Pacific Islander community to date, including physical assaults and racist vandalism, emerge
3 from the same xenophobic attitudes that led to the internment of Japanese Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, As a community that knows all too well the effects of hysteria, racial
5 prejudice and the failure of political leadership, the Bay Area Consortium responded, using its
6 own experience as a stark reminder of the effects of the deprivation of civil liberties; and

7 WHEREAS, In a show of unity with the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
8 (BIPOC) communities; the Japanese American and Japan-town community is taking a clear
9 and unequivocal stand against hate; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Civil
11 Liberties Act of 1988, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declares February 19th to be an
12 annual Day of Remembrance, reflects upon the fragility of a constitutional democracy, and
13 raises awareness of the shared responsibility to protect the rights of all individuals at all times.