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Committee Item No.	
Board Item No.	37

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Prepared by: <u>Lisa Lew</u> Prepared by:	Date: February 28, 2020	, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,	

[Commending the California State Assembly - House Resolution No. 77 (Muratsuchi) - Apology for World War II Japanese American Internment Camps]

Resolution commending the California State Assembly for passing House Resolution No. 77, authored by Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi, issuing a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps.

WHEREAS, Discriminatory laws rooted in xenophobia previously enacted on the State and Federal levels created undue hardships and restrictions on civil right; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature passed the 1913 Alien Land Law barring immigrants of Japanese descent from owning land; and

WHEREAS, As the largest and oldest Japantown (known as Nihonmachi) in the country, San Francisco's Japantown was a thriving community, home to thousands of Japanese American families, small businesses as well as cultural and religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 (EO9066) that authorized the incarcerations of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry to internment camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, EO9066 forcibly uprooted the lives of more than 120,000 Americans and residents of Japanese ancestry, disrupting educations and careers, causing the loss of their homes, businesses, farms, and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, The California Assembly had previously approved legislation against Japanese Americans and, shortly after Pearl Harbor, had approved Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 (1942), questioning the loyalty of Japanese Americans and those holding dual citizenship; and

Supervisors Fewer; Yee, Walton, Haney, Mandelman, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 requested that the State Personnel Board dismiss state employees who "may be proved to be disloyal to the United States of America in this present war"; and

WHEREAS, During the next legislative session in 1943, the Assembly approved Senate Joint Resolution 3, on a 60-5 vote, urging Congress to determine the identity of those holding dual citizenship in the United States and Japan and to forfeit their citizenship and prevent them from becoming American citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Assembly approved Senate Joint Resolution 21 (1943) on a 52-0 vote, urging Congress to release "implements and commodities" owned by incarcerated Japanese Americans for use by other Americans during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 40 years after the United States Supreme Court decisions upholding the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui, and Gordon Hirabayashi for violations of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, in the case of Korematsu, and curfew in the cases of Yasui and Hirabayashi, all authorized pursuant to EO9066, it was discovered that officials from the United States Department of War and the United States Department of Justice had altered, destroyed, and withheld information that testified to the loyalty of the people of Japanese ancestry from the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, On May 24, 2011, Acting Solicitor General Neal Katyal said World War II Solicitor General Charles Fahy, who represented the United States Department of Justice in the Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi cases, "acted dishonorably" by withholding relevant information; and

WHEREAS, Many attorneys and interns contributed innumerable hours to win a reversal of the original convictions of Korematsu, Yasui, and Hirabayashi in 1983 by filing a petition for writ of error coram nobis on the grounds that fundamental errors and injustice occurred; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologized on behalf of the people of the United States for the forced exclusion, mass removal, and incarceration of Americans and permanent residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II, and provided restitution to those individuals of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, Remembrance of the moral, social and legal injustices stemming from this dark chapter in our history is essential for ensuring future generations do not repeat the mistake; and

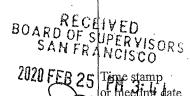
WHEREAS, On February 20, 2020, the Assembly of the State of California unanimously passed House Resolution No. 77 (HR77), issuing a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for its past actions in support of the unjust exclusion, removal, and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and for its failure to support and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Japanese Americans during this period; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco appreciate and commend Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi and the California Assembly for the passage of HR77; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco affirms its commitment to protecting the civil rights and liberties of all communities.

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor



I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):	Ming date
1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment).	and the same of th
2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee.	
3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.	•
4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor	inquiries"
5. City Attorney Request.	
6. Call File No. from Committee.	·
7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion).	
8. Substitute Legislation File No.	•
9. Reactivate File No.	
10. Topic submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on	
ease check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission	
Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission	
Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative	Form.
Sponsor(s):	
Fewer; Yee, Walton, Haney, Mandelman, Preston, Ronen	
Subject:	
Commending the California Assembly for Passage of HR77 (Muratsuchi) – Apology for World Walderican internment camps	r II Japanese
The text is listed:	
Resolution commending the California Assembly for Passage of HR77, authored by Assemblymem Muratsuchi, issuing a formal apology to all Americans of Japanese ancestry for the unjust exclusion incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II internment camps.	
Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:	

For Clerk's Use Only