

75th Anniversary of the Japanese American Incarceration

Day of Remembrance

February 19, 1942: A Day the Constitution Died Could It Happen Again?

This program is presented by the
Twin Cities Japanese American Citizens League
Education Committee
in co-sponsorship with the
Minnesota Historical Society
with funding from
The JACL Legacy Fund
Les and Karen Suzukamo
and The Donald S. Maeda Memorial Fund

Pocket-size copies of the Constitution donated by the Minnesota American Civil Liberties Union

Banners on display in the rotunda courtesy of
Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association

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February 19, 2017

Minnesota History Center 345 West Kellogg Boulevard St. Paul, MN 55102 3M Auditorium

Program

Welcome Remarks: Gordon Nakagawa, Emcee

Greetings: D. Stephen Elliott, MNHS Director and CEO

What Is the Constitution? Judge Susan Burke

Fourth Judicial District, Hennepin County

Day of Remembrance

75th Anniversary of Japanese American Incarceration

February 19, 1942: A Day the Constitution Died

Could It Happen Again?

Narrator: David Mura - Poet, Author and Playwright

Readers (in order of appearance):

Steve Lucas - Physician HealthPartners

Kathryn Haddad - Playwright, Artistic Ex. Dir. New Arab American Theater Works

Amy Kuniyoshi - Quality Engineer, 3M

Ben Hartmann - Student, University of Minnesota

Carol Dean - Teacher, Minneapolis Public Schools

Matt Farrells - Capital Markets Trading, Ameriprise Financial, Inc.

Lisa Hintermeister - Mortgage Banker

Amy Dickerson - Property Manager

Jim Farrells - Teacher, Minneapolis Public Schools

Jon Dickerson - Property Manager

Fred Tsuchiya - Mechanical Engineer

Sylvia Farrells - Teacher, Minneapolis Public Schools

Gordon Nakagawa - Communication and Diversity Consultant

Lucy Kirihara - Minidoka Incarceree, Teacher, St. Paul Public Schools

Elizabeth Fugikawa - Student, Macalester College

John Matsunaga - Artist/Photographer

Yuichiro Onishi - Professor, University of Minnesota

Albert Yamamoto - MIS Veteran/Small Business Owner

Kafia Ahmed - Vice President, Khyre Solutions

Mustafa Jumale - President, Khyre Solutions

Jaylani Hussein - Exec. Dir. CAIR MN Council on American-Islamic Relations

Maryama Dahir - Student, University of Minnesota

Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre "Dust"

Kogen Taiko "Growing Beyond"

You are invited to join us for the reception in the rotunda immediately following the program.

Executive Order No. 9066 The President Executive Order

Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas

Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense material, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 4, Act of April 20, 1918, 40 Stat. 533, as amended by the Act of November 30, 1940, 54 Stat. 1220, and the Act of August 21, 1941, 55 Stat. 655 (U.S.C., Title 50. Sec. 104):

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order. The designation of military areas in any region or locality shall supersede designations of prohibited and restricted areas by the Attorney General under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, and shall supersede the responsibility and authority of the Attorney General under the said Proclamations in respect of such prohibited and restricted areas.

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area hereinabove authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

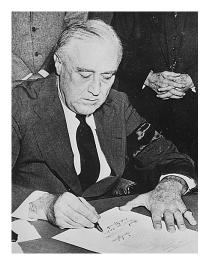
I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in

carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of medical aid, hospitalization, food, clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services.

This order shall not be construed as modifying or limiting in any way the authority heretofore granted under Executive Order No. 8972, dated December 12, 1941, nor shall it be construed as limiting or modifying the duty and responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with respect to the investigation of alleged acts of sabotage or the duty and responsibility of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, prescribing regulations for the conduct and control of alien enemies, except as such duty and responsibility is superseded by the designation of military areas hereunder.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House, February 19, 1942



AMY KLOBUCHAR

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

JUDICIARY
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 19, 2016

Dear friends,

While I am unable to attend in person, I was grateful for your invitation to attend today's event honoring the local Japanese-Americans who were imprisoned in camps on U.S. soil during World War II. Today, the 75th Anniversary of the Executive Order that triggered this tragic moment in our history, I join you in honoring their sacrifice and vowing to never let that tragic history repeat itself.

Seventy five years ago, approximately 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry were uprooted from their communities, forced to migrate, and held without due process of law. The heartbreaking and painful stories that followed – from our fellow citizens, our neighbors, and our friends – can never be forgotten. Their stories make up one of the darkest chapters in our nation's history. But they also shine a bright light on an important lesson about the consequences for any society where good people fail to stand up for what is right. It is as important today as it has ever been that we don't lose sight of that lesson.

As we face an uncertain world today, we must steel our resolve. We all must do our part. We should tell their stories and reflect on what happened, and how it happened. No matter what, I will continue to stand up for what's right. And I know you will, too.

Thank you for coming together today to honor the sacrifice of the many who suffered.

Klobban

Sincerely,

Amy Klobuchar United States Senate



A Senate resolution

recognizing a "Day of Remembrance" for Minnesota Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II and who served in the United States Military.

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans residing in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 9066 led to the exclusion and subsequent incarceration of Japanese Americans. causing them to lose millions of dollars in property and assets, to suffer immeasurable physical and psychological damage, and to be deprived of their Constitutional liberties without due process of law because they were assumed to

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans demonstrated incredible patriotism to the United States of America by volunteering to serve in the United States military, including its Military Intelligence Service whose Language School was based at Camp Savage in Savage, Minnesota, and later at Fort Snelling; and

WHEREAS, about 6,000 Japanese American officers and enlisted men graduated from Camp Savage and Fort Snelling after intensive and accelerated training in the Japanese military language, becoming the eyes and ears of the Allied Forces which fought the Japanese forces in the Pacific battles, with acclaim by General Willoughby, Chief Intelligence for General MacArthur, for shortening the war by two years; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Japanese American linguists in the Military Intelligence resulted in the successful Occupation and democratization of Japan after World War II; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army's segregated 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of about 18,000 Japanese American volunteers, including those recruited from American concentration camps and Hawaii, suffered about 800 killed or missing in action, and became the most decorated American unit of its size and length of service, with seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Congressional Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, one Distinguished Service Medal, 588 Silver Stars, 22 Legions of Merit, 15 Soldier's Medals, over 5,200 Bronze Stars, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and a total of 18 decorations from France and Italy; and

WHEREAS, no American citizens or permanent legal residents of Japanese ancestry were charged with espionage or sabotage or other crimes against the United States during World War II, and it was found that the government had suppressed critical information from our own intelligence agencies that previously determined that there was no military necessity for incarceration orders, leading the United States Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to conclude in 1982 that the incarceration was motivated by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership, which subsequently resulted in Congress and then-President Ronald Reagan to issue an apology for violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, patriotic Japanese Americans relocated to our great state of Minnesota, establishing residency in this state, and continuing as upstanding citizens to raise families, work, and contribute to the economic and moral fiber of our community through high civic standards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it, along with the people of Minnesota, pause in its endeavors on February 19, 2017, the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, to recognize Japanese American incarcerees and World War II military personnel from the state of Minnesota, honor their sacrifice and patriotic loyalty, and remember the lessons and blessings of liberty and justice for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota.

Cal R. Ludeman

Secretary of the Senate

Paul E. Gazelka Chair, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Sandra L. Pappas State Senator, District 65



A House resolution

recognizing a "Day of Remembrance" for Minnesota Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II and who served in the United States military

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans; and Executive Order 9066 caused Japanese Americans to suffer immeasurable physical and psychological damage, lose millions of dollars in property and assets, and be deprived of their Constitutional liberties without due process; and

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans demonstrated incredible patriotism to the United States by volunteering to serve in the military, including its Military Intelligence Service Language School based at Camp Savage in Savage, Minnesota, and later at Fort Snelling; and

WHEREAS, about 6,000 Japanese American officers and enlisted men graduated from Camp Savage and Fort Snelling after intensive training in the Japanese military language, becoming the eyes and ears of the Allied Forces and were credited by Major General Charles A. Willoughby, Chief of Intelligence, for shortening the war by two years; and the efforts of Japanese American linguists in the Military Intelligence Service aided in the occupation and democratization of Japan after World War II; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army's segregated 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of about 18,000 Japanese American volunteers, including those recruited from American concentration camps and Hawaii, suffered about 800 killed or missing in action, and became the most decorated American unit of its size and length of service, with 15,410 medals and decorations; and

WHEREAS, no American citizens or permanent legal residents of Japanese ancestry were charged with espionage, sabotage, or other crimes against the United States during World War II, and intelligence agencies previously determined there was no military necessity for incarceration orders, leading a commission to conclude in 1982 that the incarceration was motivated by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and failure of leadership, and Congress and then-President Ronald Reagan later issued an apology for violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, patriotic Japanese Americans relocated to our great state of Minnesota, established residency in this state, and raised families, worked, and contributed to the economic and moral fiber of our community through high civic standards; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration of the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota that it, along with the people of Minnesota, pause in its endeavors on February 19, 2017, the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, to recognize Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II and World War II military personnel from the State of Minnesota, honor their sacrifice and patriotic loyalty, and remember the lessons and blessings of liberty and justice for all.

Dated: January 20, 2017

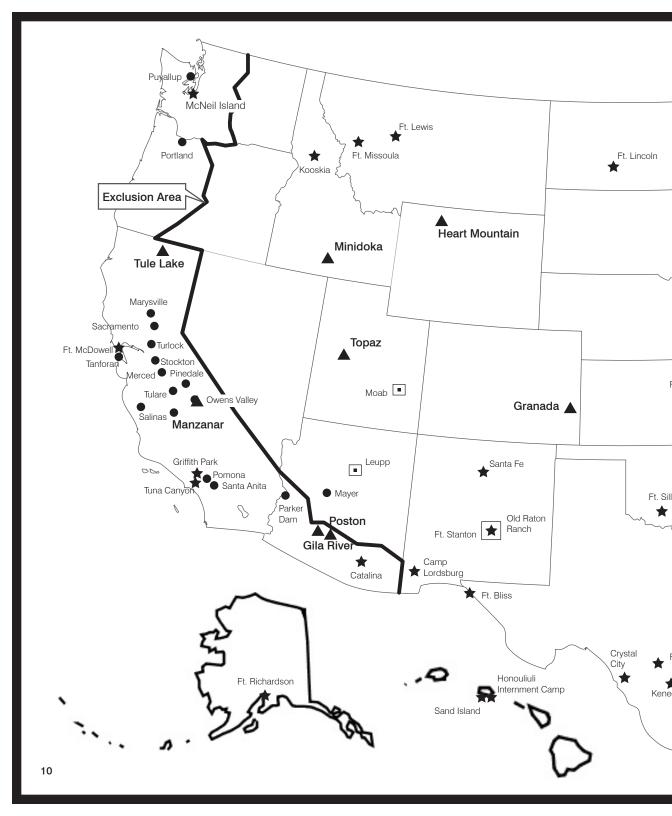
with Dans Kurt Daudt, Speaker

Minnesota House of Representatives

Joyce Peppin, Chair

Rules and Legislative Administration

Rod Hamilton State Representative There is a joint statement of solidarity from the TC JACL and CAIR-MN that will go here





TIMELINE: IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORY: BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WORLD WAR II MASS INCARCERATION (adapted from www.densho.org)

March 26, 1790 The U.S. Congress, in the Naturalization Act of 1790, states that "any alien, being a free white person who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for a term of two years, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof."

1870 The Naturalization Act of 1870 adds the phrase "persons of African nativity or descent" to the language of the act of 1790, which is used to deny citizenship to Japanese and most other Asian immigrants until 1952.

May 6, 1882 Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, ending Chinese immigration to the United States. This was the first U.S. immigration law that singled out a group for exclusion based on race. It was repealed on December 17, 1943.

February 8, 1885 Japanese laborers begin arriving in Hawaii, recruited by plantation owners to work the sugarcane fields.

1887 Thirty Japanese immigrants arrive in San Francisco to start an agricultural colony in California. The group buys 20 acres in Calaveras County.

June 27, 1894 A U.S. district court rules that Japanese immigrants cannot become citizens because they are not "a free white person" as the Naturalization Act of 1790 requires.

May 7, 1900 The first large-scale anti-Japanese protest in California is held, organized by various labor groups.

February 23, 1905 The front page of the San Francisco Chronicle reads, "The Japanese Invasion: The Problem of the Hour," which escalates racism towards the Japanese in the Bay Area.

May 14, 1905 The Asiatic Exclusion League is formed in San Francisco. In attendance are labor leaders and European immigrants, marking the first organized effort of the anti-Japanese movement.

October 11, 1906 The San Francisco Board of Education passes a resolution to segregate children of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean ancestry from the majority population.

1907 Concerned about the growing military power of Imperial Japan, President Theodore Roosevelt leads negotiations between the San Francisco School Board and Imperial Japan which results in the Gentleman's Agreement (2/15/1907) under which children of Japanese immigrants would not be required to attend segregated schools with children of other Asian immigrants. For its part, Japan would stop issuing passports to laborers who intended to come to the U.S. Japanese women are allowed to immigrate if they are wives of U.S. residents.

1913 California passes the Alien Land Law, forbidding "all aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning land. This later grew to include prohibition on leasing land as well, and 12 other states adopted similar laws.

Minnesota enacts an Alien Land Law in 1877. It is repealed in the mid 1950s.

November 1920 A new, more stringent 1920 Alien Land Law passes in California, intending to close loopholes found in the 1913 Alien Land Law.

1920 Japanese American farmers produce \$67 million dollars worth of crops, more than ten percent of California's total crop value. Of the 111,000 Japanese Americans in the U.S., 82,000 are immigrants and 29,000 are born in the U.S.

July 19, 1921 White vigilantes deport 58 Japanese laborers from Turlock, California, driving them out by truck at gunpoint. Other incidents occur across California and in Oregon and Arizona.

November 13, 1922 The United States Supreme Court rules on the *Ozawa v. United States* case, reaffirming the ban on Japanese immigrants from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. This ban would last until 1952.

- 1924 Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1924, effectively ending all Japanese immigration to the U.S.
- **1940** The U.S. Census finds 126,947 persons of Japanese nationality living in the U.S. 75,642 (62.7%) are U.S. citizens by birth. Fifty-one of them live in Minnesota.
- **1940** The Alien Registration (Smith) Act requires adult non-citizens to register with the Federal Government for the first time in US history. Still in effect, some provisions of the Act have been superseded by the Patriot Act of 2001.
- **November 1941** A U.S. Intelligence report known as the "Munson Report" commissioned by President Roosevelt concludes that the great majority of Japanese Americans are loyal to the U.S. and do not pose a threat to national security in the event of war with Japan.
- **November 1, 1941** The U.S. Army establishes the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at the Presidio of San Francisco for Japanese language training with 4 instructors and 60 students.
- **December 7, 1941** Japan bombs U.S. ships and planes at the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii. Over 3,500 servicemen are wounded or killed. Martial law is declared in Hawaii.
- **December 7, 1941** President Franklin Roosevelt issues Proclamation No. 2525 which authorizes the FBI and other law enforcement agencies to begin arresting Japanese immigrants identified as community leaders: priests, Japanese language teachers, newspaper publishers, and heads of organizations. Within 48 hours, 1,291 are arrested. Most of these men would be incarcerated for the duration of the war, separated from their families.
- December 8, 1941 A declaration of war against Japan is brought by the President and passed by Congress.
- **December January 1941** The FBI searches thousands of Japanese American homes on the West Coast looking for contraband. Short wave radios, cameras, heirloom swords, and explosives used for clearing stumps in agriculture are among the items confiscated.
- December 11, 1941 The Western Defense Command is established with Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt as the commander.
- **December 15, 1941** Without any evidence of sabotage, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announces to the press, "I think the most effective Fifth Column work of the entire war was done in Hawaii..."
- **December 30, 1941** A Naval intelligence report states that the majority of Japanese Americans are loyal; that the "Japanese problem . . . is no more serious than the problems of the German, Italian, and Communistic portions of the United States population, and, finally that it should be handled on the basis of the individual, regardless of citizenship, and not on a racial basis."
- January 5, 1942 All Japanese American selective service registrants are classified IV-C, enemy alien.
- **February 19, 1942** President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 authorizing the Secretary of War and other military authorities to establish military areas from which any civilians may be excluded without trial or hearing. The order does not specify Japanese Americans—but they were the only group to be forcibly removed and incarcerated as a result of it.
- **February 20, 1942** Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson appoints Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt as the military commander responsible for executing Executive Order 9066.
- **February 25, 1942** The U.S. Navy orders all Japanese Americans living on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles—some 500 families—to leave within 48 hours. As the first group to be removed en masse, they incur especially heavy losses.
- March 2, 1942 General DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command issues Public Proclamation No. 1 and begins the process of removing all persons of Japanese ancestry—U.S. citizens and aliens alike—living in the western halves of Washington State, California, Oregon, and parts of Arizona.
- March 5, 1942 The State of California "releases" 34 Japanese American civil servants from their jobs.

March 11, 1942 General DeWitt establishes the Wartime Civil Control Administration. Colonel Karl Bendetsen is appointed as the director of the forced removal program. During March 1942, the Wartime Civil Control Administration opens 17 "Assembly Centers" to detain approximately 92,000 men, women, and children until the permanent incarceration camps are completed.

March 18, 1942 President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9102 establishing the War Relocation Authority with Milton Eisenhower as director. He is charged with the task of implementing a program of removing and incarcerating designated person from the restricted military areas.

March 21, 1942 Congress passes Public Law 503 stating that persons subject to military orders in the military zone would be fined \$5000 and imprisoned for 1 year if convicted of violating such orders.

March 24, 1942 Public Proclamation No. 3 is issued which establishes designated areas where a curfew (8 p.m to 6 a.m) must be observed. This is only applied to Japanese Americans and they are forbidden to travel any further than five miles from their place of residence.

March 24, 1942 The first Civilian Exclusion Order is issued by the Army for Bainbridge Island near Seattle, Washington. Forty-five families are given one week to prepare. By the end of October 1942, 108 exclusion orders would be issued.

March 27, 1942 Public Proclamation No. 4 is issued which prohibits the "voluntary evacuation" of Japanese Americans from the western halves of Washington State, California, Oregon, as well as southern Arizona to areas outside of this military area (designated as Military Area 1).

March 28, 1942 Minoru Yasui walks into a Portland police station to surrender himself for arrest in order to test the curfew regulations in court.

May 1942 Due to the exclusion of Japanese Americans from the West Coast, the Military Intelligence Service Language School is moved from the Presidio in San Francisco to Camp Savage, Minnesota at the invitation of Governor Harold Stassen.

May 1942 Japanese American incarcerees begin transfer to permanent War Relocation Authority concentration camps. There are a total of ten camps: Manzanar, Poston, Gila River, Topaz, Amache, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Tule Lake, Jerome, and Rohwer.

May 16, 1942 University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi turns himself in to the authorities with a four-page statement explaining why he would not submit to the imprisonment on Constitutional grounds.

May 30, 1942 Fred Korematsu is arrested in San Leandro, California for violating Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34

July 12, 1942 Mitsuye Endo's attorney files a writ of habeas corpus on her behalf. The case will not be decided upon until December 1944, but its ruling signals the end of the American concentration camps.

July 27, 1942 Two men are shot to death by a camp guard while allegedly trying to escape from the Lordsburg, New Mexico, internment camp. Both men had been too ill to walk from the train station to the camp gate prior to being shot.

January 28, 1943 The War Department announces the formation of a segregated unit of Nisei Japanese American soldiers, and calls for volunteers in Hawaii (where most Japanese Americans were not incarcerated) and from among the men incarcerated in the WRA concentration camps. They become the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

February 1943 The War Department and the War Relocation Authority requires that all adults over the age of seventeen complete a "loyalty questionnaire." As a result of this questionnaire, Japanese American incarcerees are branded as either "loyal" or "disloyal." Those that were labeled "disloyal" are segregated from the rest of the camp population and sent to Tule Lake. Those found to be loyal become eligible for leave the incarceration centers upon finding jobs or being sponsored by persons living outside the Military Exclusion Zone.

March 1943 10,000 Japanese American men volunteer for the armed services from Hawaii, 1,200 volunteer out of the WRA concentration camps.

April 11, 1943 A 63 year old Issei man, James Wakasa, is shot and killed at Topaz concentration camp by a military sentry for walking to close to the camp's barbed wire fence.

June 1943 The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the curfew order in *Hirabayashi v. United States and Yasui v. United States*.

July 15, 1943 Tule Lake is designated as a segregation center used for incarcerating "disloyal" Japanese Americans.

September 1943 "Loyal" incarcerees from Tule Lake begin to depart to other camps and "disloyal" incarcerees from other camps begin to arrive at Tule Lake.

January 20, 1944 The War Department imposes military conscription on male Japanese American Nisei, including those incarcerated in the camps. While the vast majority comply, a few hundred resist and are brought up on federal charges.

June 26, 1944 Sixty-three Heart Mountain draft resisters are found guilty of violating the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and sentenced to serve three years in federal penitentiaries. All sixty-three resisters are pardoned on December 24, 1947 by President Truman.

August 1944 The Military Intelligence Service Language School is moved to Fort Snelling, Minnesota to accommodate more students. There are eventually 21 graduating classes totaling more than 6000 students. They were attached in small teams to American and Allied Forces in the Pacific, U.S. Zone of the Interior, and Europe as interpreters, translators, interrogators, psychological warfare specialists and frontline infantrymen. They also served during the occupation of Japan.

December 17, 1944 Public Proclamation No. 21 is issued by the U.S. Army declaring the end of the exclusion of Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

December 18, 1944 The Supreme Court announces its decisions on *Korematsu v. United States and Ex parte Mitsuye Endo*. The conviction of Korematsu is upheld on the grounds of "military necessity." In the Endo case the court rules that "citizens who are concededly loyal" could not be lawfully incarcerated in War Relocation Authority concentration camps.

January 2, 1945 The rescinding of the exclusion orders officially goes into effect and Japanese Americans are now free to return to the West Coast.

May 7, 1945 Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.

August 6, 1945 The U.S. drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrenders on August 14.

August 1945 Some 44,000 people still remain in the WRA concentration camps. Many have nowhere to go, having lost their homes and jobs. Many are afraid of anti-Japanese hostility and refuse to leave.

March 20, 1946 The Tule Lake "Segregation Center" closes. This is the last WRA concentration camp to close.

July 15, 1946 "You not only fought the enemy but you fought prejudice...and you won." These were the words of President Truman on the White House lawn as he received the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

June 2, 1948 President Truman signs the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act. Approximately \$38 million was paid from this act, only a small fraction of the estimated loss in income and property.

1950 U.S. Census shows there are 1049 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the state of Minnesota.

June 27, 1952 The Congress overrides President Truman's veto and votes the McCarran-Walter Act into law. Among other effects, this bill grants Japan a token immigration quota and allows Japanese immigrants to become naturalized U.S. citizens.

- **1980** The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians is established calling for a congressional committee to investigate the detention program and the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066.
- **1981** The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians holds hearings in 10 locations. Over 750 witnesses testify during these hearings.
- **1983** The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians issues its report, *Personal Justice Denied*, on February 24 and its *Recommendations*, on June 16. The Commission finds that the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans was the result of "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" not military necessity. The *Recommendations* call for a presidential apology and a \$20,000 payment to each of the approximately 60,000 surviving persons excluded from their places of residence pursuant to Executive Order 9066.
- **1983 1988** The wartime convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu (the three men who legally challenged the curfew and/or incarceration orders) are vacated ("nullified") on the basis of newly discovered evidence that the U.S. military lied to the Supreme Court in the original proceedings.
- **August 10, 1988** President Ronald Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (HR 442) into law. It acknowledges that the incarceration of more than 110,000 individuals of Japanese descent was unjust, and offers an apology and reparation payments of \$20,000 to each surviving person incarcerated that was incarcerated.
- October 9, 1990 In a Washington D.C. ceremony, the first nine redress payments are made.
- March 3, 1992 Public Law 102-248 establishes the Manzanar National Historic Site, making Manzanar the first former Japanese American concentration camp site to become a National Park Service Unit. Subsequently, the Minidoka (2001), Tule Lake (2008, as part of the Valor in the Pacific National Monument), and Honouliuli (2015) become NPS units.
- **June 12, 1998** The federal government settles *Mochizuki, et al. v. United States*, a lawsuit brought on behalf of Japanese Latin American internees that results in a letter of apology and \$5,000 in reparations to surviving internees. Efforts to secure redress comparable to that granted Japanese Americans are still ongoing.
- **September 17, 1998** The California Civil Liberties Public Education Act is signed into law, creating a grant program for educational resources about the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans that would award some \$9 million in grants over a twelve year period. The state of Washington introduces a similar program in 2000.
- **November 9, 2000** The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II is dedicated in Washington, DC.
- **September 11, 2001** al-Qaeda carries out a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks on the United States. Approximately 3000 people were killed in these attacks. In the days and years following these attacks, Muslim and Arab Americans are subjected to similar kinds of racial profiling, detention, and prejudice that Japanese Americans experienced after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The Japanese American community speaks out in defense of Muslim and Arab Americans in the aftermath of these attacks.
- **December 21, 2006** Public Law 109-441 authorizes what would become the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program administered by the National Park Service. Up to \$38 million in grants to "identify, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair, and acquire" former confinement sites was authorized. The first grants are awarded in 2009.
- **November 2011** The Congressional Gold Medal is collectively bestowed upon the Japanese American veterans of the U.S. Army's 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.



The poetry trees were created by Marilyn Keo and Jason Dawson as a final project for an Asian American Studies class in Fall 2016 at the University of Minnesota "75 Years After Japanese American Incarceration: Remembering a Tragic Past in the Age of Islamophobia and resurgent Bigotry and Violence."

Creative writing, such as poetry, offered incarcerated Japanese Americans a way to cope with the mental, emotional, and physical stresses and injustices burdened on them by the United States government. Reminiscent of tanabata tradition, these trees are adorned with colorful strips of paper featuring poems written by various Issei and Nisei during their incarceration.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

I STILL LOVE YOU, MY AMERICA

America, this is my homeland,
I know no country but you.
You gave me my education;
An equal chance in the battle of life,
liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
So when they ironically ask, do you believe?
I proudly answer, with my head held high;
I am an American.

Then came the memorable December the Seventh.

Because of the blood that flows in my veins

My people were forsaken or shunned,

Discriminated, they were put into camps.

Oh, how my heart was sore with grief;

For my American has lost a chance to prove herself in the world.

Today, forsaken, discriminated, trampled, and shaken,

I still believe in you, America.

My America is not that America which put me here.

My America is far greater, more beautiful.

The living dream of our forefathers.

Perhaps that America is dead;

But for me, it is living underneath, in the hearts of true Americans.

So no matter how hard the test,

The suffering I may endure;

My destiny is forever linked with yours,

I still love my America.

Shoji Onishi Poston Reporter 1942 Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to

Rick Shiomi
Co-Artistic Director
Full Circle Theater
for direction with the script and presentation

Danielle Dart
Public Program Specialist
Minnesota Historical Society

Kyle "Guante" Tran Myhre
Poet
for "Dust", an original piece
written specifically for this program

and Randy Kirihara Photographer

Members of Kogen Taiko

Todd Tsuchiya, Connie Tsuchiya, Pam Dagoberg, Tim Dagoberg, Brian Tsuchiya Cheral Tsuchiya, Charissa Uemura, Joyce Yamamoto, Kimi Aisawa Romportl, Al Zdrazil

Planning Committee

Carolyn Nayematsu - Co Chair, Janet Carlson - Co Chair Amy Dickerson, Sylvia Farrells, Elizabeth Fugikawa, Lillian Grothe Ben Hartmann, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kirihara, Gloria Kumagai Haruhiko Kuramochi, John Matsunaga, Gordon Nakagawa, Yuichiro Onishi Sally Sudo. Teresa Swartz, Karen Tanaka Lucas Julie Tsuchiya Diaz (program design)

Other Events Commemorating 75 Years of Japanese American Incarceration



Roger Shimomura Exhibit "Mistaken Identity"

January 27 – March 10, 2017 February 23, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

Panel discussion; "Legacy of Incarceration" featuring Twin Cities JACL members

Macalester College 1600 Grand Avenue, St. Paul, MN Wallace Fine Arts Center Law Warschaw Gallery





IN FOCUS: LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT

Paul Kitagaki Photographs "Gambatte: Legacy of an Enduring Spirit"

Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center 200 Tower Ave. St. Paul, MN

Opening ceremony: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 Viewing begins at 5:30 p.m.

Program at 6:30 p.m. Exhibit runs from May 27 – Oct. 28, 2017