



HR0052

LRB100 08603 MST 18737 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The people of Illinois seek to uphold the values
3 that make the United States and the State of Illinois great,
4 those of freedom, justice, and equal treatment under the law
5 for all, and all civil liberties enshrined in the United States
6 and Illinois Constitutions; and

7 WHEREAS, It is most appropriate and necessary to
8 commemorate those incredible individuals who have defended
9 civil liberties and resisted oppression within our Nation; and

10 WHEREAS, An assault on civil liberties was launched on
11 February 19, 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed
12 Executive Order No. 9066, authorizing the internment of all
13 people of Japanese descent in the United States; under the
14 order, those of Japanese ancestry, many American citizens, were
15 subject to a curfew and ordered to submit to imprisonment and
16 placed in American internment camps without trial, access to
17 legal counsel, or notice of any criminal charges; and

18 WHEREAS, Fred T. Korematsu of Oakland, California,
19 valiantly refused to comply with these directives in an
20 admirable display of civil disobedience and continued to
21 proudly live his life as a free American citizen; Fred
22 Korematsu was subsequently arrested and tried for refusing to

1 comply with Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, which was
2 authorized by Executive Order No. 9066, and sent to Topaz
3 internment camp in Utah; and

4 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu, in a selfless act of sacrifice,
5 agreed to be the representative for those wrongfully
6 imprisoned, and appealed his case with the help of Earnest
7 Besig of the American Civil Liberties Union; the case was heard
8 by the United States Supreme Court; and

9 WHEREAS, The Supreme Court upheld the decision to imprison
10 Fred Korematsu in a 6-3 ruling, as well as the
11 constitutionality of discrimination against a racial group as
12 justified under conditions of war; that decision remains a
13 scourge upon civil liberties and American values of equal
14 protection; the conviction of Fred Korematsu was overturned via
15 a writ of error corum nobis on November 10, 1983 by the United
16 States District Court of Northern California; the Supreme Court
17 decision has yet to be challenged; and

18 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu and his legal team appealed to
19 overturn his conviction inspiring the Civil Liberties Act of
20 1988, which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan
21 which formally apologized to those wrongfully incarcerated
22 under Executive Order No. 9066, and acknowledged the order was
23 issued because of "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a

1 failure of political leadership"; Fred Korematsu was later
2 awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill
3 Clinton, the highest honor awarded to a civilian who has
4 admirably served the interests of the Nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu continued throughout his life to
6 raise his voice for the voiceless and defend the defenseless in
7 solidarity with those denied civil liberties, including
8 speaking out against the solitary confinement of an American
9 Muslim man in a United States military prison without trial;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu passed away on March 30, 2005;
12 today, the Fred Korematsu Institute works to educate people
13 about his life story and the importance of civil liberties; the
14 institute also aims to promote awareness of Fred Korematsu by
15 observing his birthdate, January 30, as Fred T. Korematsu Day
16 of Civil Liberties and the Constitution by schools, the general
17 public, and state and federal legislators; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 honor Fred T. Korematsu for his courageous efforts; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That we honor the legacy of Fred Korematsu, his

1 institute, and his children, who work so diligently to educate
2 the public by encouraging schools and institutes of higher
3 learning throughout the State of Illinois to incorporate the
4 story of Fred Korematsu and his valiant stand for American
5 values of justice into their curriculum; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 presented to the Illinois Department of Education, and each
8 Illinois state university.