

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND JANICE HAHN**

**FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

**Proclaim February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as Day of Remembrance in Los Angeles County**

Seventy-five years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, forcing over 120,000 Japanese-Americans from their homes and businesses and incarcerating them without charge or trial under the pretext of national security, all in violation of their constitutional and human rights.

On January 27, 1942, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a resolution urging the federal government to remove County residents of Japanese ancestry from their homes and hold them, involuntarily, in remote areas. The motion passed as the California Congressional delegation and federal officials weighed the merits and legality of detaining West Coast residents without criminal charges. The Board's resolution gave support and affirmation to a decision-making process clouded by hysteria and bigotry.

The saga of these violations inspired three generations of Japanese-American leaders and families across the nation to seek redress, which resulted in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, providing for a government apology and reparations for over 82,000 survivors.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Board heard testimony from Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated or whose relatives were incarcerated in camps. The Board took historic action and rescinded and revoked its 1942 resolution in support of Japanese-American internment.

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MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

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BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

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The civil liberties of the County's most vulnerable communities continue to require vigilant protection from infringement justified by national security. In reference to Executive Order 9066, former US Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark acknowledged in 1992 that "constitutions and laws are not sufficient of themselves" in safeguarding civil liberties.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

- 1) Proclaim February 19, 2017 as the Day of Remembrance throughout Los Angeles County to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry, so that no other community suffer such violations of constitutional and human rights; and
- 2) Encourage all County employees to voluntarily participate in educational Day of Remembrance events throughout the County from February through October 2017, for which information is available on the following websites:
  - a. Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute: [JCI-Gardena.org](http://JCI-Gardena.org)
  - b. Japanese American National Museum: [JANM.org](http://JANM.org)
  - c. Japanese American Citizens League: [JACL.org](http://JACL.org)

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