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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium includes the Fred T.
Korematsu Institute, Asian Law Caucus/Asian American Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific
Islander Legal Outreach, Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin
WHEREAS, At the Bay Area Day of Remembrance 2023 event “Carrying the Light for Justice,” the lighting of the candles representing each internment camp will be performed by Nisei, second generation Japanese Americans camp survivors, who were involved in redress hearings and other social justice activities; and

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

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

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

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

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

Supervisors Preston; Chan, Peskin, Walton, Stefani, Mandelman, Dorsey, Safai, Melgar, Engardio, Ronen
WHEREAS, The Coram Nobis Legal team, headed by Dale Minami of San Francisco, worked toward vindicating the convictions of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Min Yasui, who challenged the Supreme Court rulings; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The BADOR Consortium supports reparations for Black Americans, such as studies underway both at the state and city level; and
WHEREAS, The persistence of incidences of hate against members of the Asian Pacific Islander community to date, including physical assaults and racist vandalism, emerge from the same xenophobic attitudes that led to the internment of Japanese Americans; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors declares February 19th to be an annual Day of Remembrance, reflects upon the fragility of a constitutional democracy, and raises awareness of the shared responsibility to protect the rights of all individuals at all times.
Resolution declaring February 19th to be an Annual Day of Remembrance to commemorate the signing of Executive Order 9066 in the City and County of San Francisco, which resulted in the wrongful incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

February 14, 2023 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/14/2023 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board