



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO WERE INCARCERATED DURING WORLD WAR II

- WHEREAS:** Two months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive Order on February 19, 1942, that resulted in the incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans at internment camps across the United States during World War II; *and*
- WHEREAS:** During this period, widespread anti-Japanese sentiment spread throughout the country, and many Japanese American families were evacuated from their homes and forcibly put and confined in internment camps. At the same time, over 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. military, putting their lives on the line for our nation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The internment had a major impact on many Japanese American families, where they lost a combined \$400 million in property, businesses and belongings, and where they removed themselves from any cultural and historic connection to the Japanese American way of life; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Families were not allowed to speak Japanese or practice their tradition, sports, and culture during internment, and this fearfulness to practice one's own culture continued after the war, where many Japanese American families - afraid that this could happen again - taught their children to adopt the American way of life; *and*
- WHEREAS:** After World War II, Congress passed the *Japanese-American Claims Act* in 1948, which paid \$38 million in compensation to those who had lost their property, businesses and belongings. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan issued a formal apology towards Japanese Americans for their incarceration during World War II, and signed into law the *Civil Liberties Act*, which gave surviving Japanese Americans \$20,000 in reparations; *and*
- WHEREAS:** As we recognize this Day of Remembrance and reckon with our flawed history, we must also note the rising anti-AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) sentiment in our community since COVID-19. We must learn from our past to not be quick to discriminate and fan xenophobic sentiments and remain committed in standing up against anti-Asian racism and hate. We must also reflect and acknowledge this horrific injustice, and educate future generations of these past lessons; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council recognizes this Day of Remembrance for Japanese Americans and to remain steadfast and committed to our AAPI communities and standing up against discrimination and hate.

Filed on: February 21, 2024