



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
March 28, 2017

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Oregon House Commemorates Minoru Yasui Day, Passes Bill Bringing Attention to the Internment of Japanese Americans

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 today, recognizing a National Day of Remembrance to bring attention to the [75th anniversary of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II](#).

The resolution also recognizes and honors the sacrifices of the more than [19,000 Japanese American World War II veterans](#).

“Today is bittersweet for me and my family,” said **Rep. Brian Clem (D-Salem)**, who carried the resolution on the House floor. “My father-in-law was incarcerated by his government for nothing more than not having European roots. Although he himself was an American citizen who had never been to Japan, he and many others suffered the consequences of not being white in America.”

On Feb. 19, 1942 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which restricted the freedom of Japanese Americans and other legal residents by seizing property, ordering them to be placed in internment camps and requiring them to obtain identification cards. Ultimately, more than 110,000 Japanese Americans were [relocated to camps throughout the West](#).

Last year, the Oregon Legislature honored the work and legacy of lawyer Minoru Yasui, who fought the internment of Japanese Americans even as he himself was held in a camp and later jailed, by designating March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day.

“Those were hard times for my family and for tens of thousands of other persons of Japanese ancestry then living on the West Coast,” said Homer Yasui, the youngest brother of Minoru Yasui, [in a written statement to the Senate Rules Committee](#). “Most Americans had developed an intense dislike for anything Japanese, and too many of our political leaders and newspapers fanned the flames of hatred even more.”

“No one should ever be discriminated against because of their ethnicity, religion, or nation of origin,” Rep. Clem added. “And yet, recently, my biracial 9-year-old daughter asked her mother if ‘they’ would come for her. In this great country, my daughter should never be afraid of her government. We have a responsibility to our children and future generations to not let history repeat itself.”

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