

House Resolution 82

By: Representatives Pak of the 108th, Harrell of the 106th, Watson of the 166th, Ramsey of the 72nd, Chandler of the 105th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of the country's most loyal,
3 patriotic, and distinguished citizens with the passing of Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu on
4 March 30, 2005; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu was born on January 30, 1919, in Oakland, California, a
6 beloved son of Japanese immigrants; and
- 7 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. military base at Pearl Harbor,
8 Hawaii, forcing the U.S. to enter World War II against Japan, Germany, and Italy; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army issued the Civilian Exclusion Order Number 34, which stated
10 all persons of Japanese ancestry, considered a security threat, were to be removed from
11 designated areas of the West Coast; but when his family reported to Tanforan, one of ten War
12 Relocation Authority camps, he refused to go based on his belief that he was a loyal
13 American; and
- 14 WHEREAS, after being jailed and unsuccessfully challenging the Order in the U.S. Court
15 of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, he appealed his conviction to the U.S. Supreme Court, where
16 his conviction was also upheld; and
- 17 WHEREAS, he continued to maintain his innocence for decades following World War II,
18 and in light of new information that the federal government suppressed findings that
19 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were not security threats, United States District Judge
20 Marilyn Hall Patel overturned Fred Korematsu's conviction on November 10, 1983; and

21 WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded
22 that a "grave personal injustice was done to the American citizens and resident aliens of
23 Japanese ancestry"; and

24 WHEREAS, President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, issuing an apology and
25 symbolic payment of compensation to persons of Japanese ancestry;

26 WHEREAS, on January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded the Medal of Freedom to Fred
27 Korematsu; and

28 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu remained a tireless advocate for civil liberties and justice
29 throughout his life and was a role model for all Americans who love the United States and
30 the promises contained in the Constitution.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
32 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Fred Toyosaburo
33 Korematsu.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
35 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Fred
36 Toyosaburo Korematsu.