

House Resolution 1151

By: Representatives Pak of the 108th, O`Neal of the 146th, Abrams of the 89th, Marin of the 96th, and Coleman of the 97th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Fred Korematsu and recognizing January 30, 2014, as Fred Korematsu Day
2 at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of the country's most loyal,
4 patriotic, and distinguished citizens with the passing of Fred Toyosaburo Korematsu on
5 March 30, 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu was born on January 30, 1919, in Oakland, California, a
7 beloved son of Japanese immigrants; and

8 WHEREAS, on December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the United States military base at Pearl
9 Harbor, Hawaii, forcing the United States to enter World War II against Japan, Germany, and
10 Italy; and

11 WHEREAS, the United States Army issued the Civilian Exclusion Order Number 34, which
12 stated all persons of Japanese ancestry, considered a security threat, were to be removed from
13 designated areas of the West Coast; but when his family reported to Tanforan, one of ten War
14 Relocation Authority camps, he refused to go based on his belief that he was a loyal
15 American; and

16 WHEREAS, after being jailed and unsuccessfully challenging the Order in the United States
17 Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, he appealed his conviction to the United States Supreme
18 Court, where his conviction was also upheld; and

19 WHEREAS, he continued to maintain his innocence for decades following World War II,
20 and in light of new information that the federal government suppressed findings that
21 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were not security threats, United States District Judge
22 Marilyn Hall Patel overturned Fred Korematsu's conviction on November 10, 1983; and

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

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

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

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

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body join in recognizing January 30, 2014, as Fred Korematsu Day at
35 the state capitol.

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