

## House Resolution 274

By: Representatives Park of the 101<sup>st</sup>, Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>, Lopez of the 99<sup>th</sup>, Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>, and Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Fred Korematsu and recognizing January 30, 2017, 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 once stated words that remain true today, that "No one should  
31 ever be locked away simply because they share the same race, ethnicity, or religion as a spy  
32 or terrorist. If that principle was not learned from the internment of Japanese Americans,  
33 then these are very dangerous times for our democracy."; and

34 Fred Korematsu remained a tireless advocate for civil liberties and justice throughout his life  
35 and was a role model for all Americans who love the United States and the promises  
36 contained in the Constitution.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
38 the members of this body join in recognizing January 30, 2017, as Fred Korematsu Day at  
39 the state capitol.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
42 Georgia Asian American and Pacific Islander, the Georgia Latino House Caucus, and the  
43 Fred T. Korematsu Institute.