

Board Meeting – December 13, 2022

Item VI. Consent Calendar Recommendations

- B. Adoption of Board Resolution No. 21: Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution (Education Code 37222.15), January 30, 2023

The Superintendent recommends that the County Board adopt Board Resolution No. 21. The Superintendent further recommends that the County Board recognize January 30, 2022 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution; and encourages districts and schools to include history curriculum about the life and legacy of Korematsu and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII; and calls on education communities to observe this day with appropriate activities recognizing the importance of preserving and protecting our civil rights and liberties.

The Board resolution is shown on the following page.

NEXT STEPS:

- Send out LACOE Communication to the 80 districts to encourage districts, schools and community organizations to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.
- Celebrate the day through LACOE Communications channels.
- Professional Development Day Offered for Asian Pacific Islander Studies
- **Event:** Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies Symposium, May 11, 2023 at the Japanese American National Museum: Educators will learn of the life and legacy of Fred Korematsu as part of a day designed to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the history, culture, struggles, and contributions to American society of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Presenters from the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Resource Center at San Diego State University and the Japanese American National Museum will prepare educators to teach Ethnic Studies and commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month all year long.

BOARD RESOLUTION

NO. 21: 2021-22

Fred Korematsu Day (January 30, 2023)

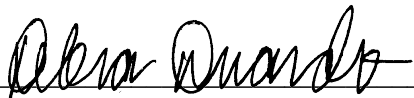
- WHEREAS**, the California Assembly and State Senate passed AB 1775 designating January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and was signed into law in 2010; and
- WHEREAS**, this day commemorates the life and legacy of Korematsu, a courageous American who defied the Roosevelt administration's internment policies during World War II; and
- WHEREAS**, Korematsu refused to comply with Civilian Exclusion Order 34, based on a federal executive order that imposed strict curfew regulations and required more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes to be incarcerated in concentration camps; and
- WHEREAS**, Korematsu, who was arrested and convicted, fought back because he believed the conviction went against the basic freedoms guaranteed to him by the U.S. Constitution; and
- WHEREAS**, in his dissent, Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy argued that the internment "falls into the ugly abyss of racism"; and
- WHEREAS**, Korematsu's conviction was ultimately overturned in 1983 a decision that influenced the US government's passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, recognizing that a grave injustice was done by forced relocation and incarceration of civilian Americans because of wartime prejudice; and
- WHEREAS**, Fred Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor from President Bill Clinton in 1998; and
- WHEREAS**, the Fred T. Korematsu Institute was established to provide information, educational resources, exhibits and advocacy to communities and schools to honor the legacy of Fred Korematsu as a civil rights hero for all Americans; and
- WHEREAS**, As the nation continues to face issues of social injustice and racism, it is especially important to commemorate and reflect on the life and legacy of Fred Korematsu and the injustice committed against him and other Japanese Americans during WWII; and
- WHEREAS**, LACOE is committed to combat racism and strives to be a leader in equity, diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, the History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, K-12, states that the history curriculum at each grade level relating to community, state, region, nation and the world must reflect and integrate the experiences of men and women of different racial, religious and ethnic groups; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic Studies has been established as a graduation requirement for high school students across California, beginning with the graduating class of 2029-2030, Asian American and Pacific Islander studies is essential in order to prepare young people to understand, recognize, and value the history, culture, challenges, and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in American society, past and present.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools hereby recognize January 30, 2023 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution; and encourages districts and schools to include history curriculum about the life and legacy of Korematsu and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII; and calls on education communities to observe this day with appropriate activities recognizing the importance of preserving and protecting our civil rights and liberties.

ADOPTED December 13, 2022, by the Los Angeles County Board of Education in Downey, California.



Debra Duardo, M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent



James Cross
Board President