

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, Executive Order 9066 was issued, resulting in the uprooting and imprisonment of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States, who were subsequently evicted from their homes in the Spring of that year and placed in government detention centers; and

WHEREAS, this massive group of people, composed of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and their alien parents who were legal permanent residents, were never allowed the basic constitutional right of a hearing or trial; and

WHEREAS, though not a single charge of wrongdoing was ever filed against any person of Japanese ancestry residing in the United States during World War II, these West Coast residents of Japanese descent were incarcerated in American-style concentration camps for more than three and one-half years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$400 million in property losses estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in 1942, there were other immeasurable damages suffered, including the loss of individual freedom, the destruction of personal human dignity, the loss of income, the disruption of careers and the psychological trauma of having been imprisoned as innocent victims; and

WHEREAS, from within the barbed wire camps, Japanese-American men valiantly volunteered their services to our country as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, in which they demonstrated exemplary heroism, courage and patriotic loyalty as evidenced by the fact that the 442nd RCT became the most highly decorated unit in the history of the

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United States Armed Services for its size and length of service; and.

WHEREAS, some forty years have passed without an official inquiry into the treatment of Japanese-Americans in this chapter of American History; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed Public Law 96-317 establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to conduct such an inquiry and to recommend appropriate remedies to the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has made a number of major proposals to the Congress of the United States which, if implemented, would make enormous strides in rectifying the grave injustices inflicted upon citizens of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby supports the recommendations of the U. S. Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and urges Congress and the Administration to act on these recommendations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the members of the Missouri Congressional Delegation.