

Whereas: In 1942, Presidential Order #9066 caused approximately 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were United States citizens, to be forcibly evicted from West Coast States,
And

Whereas: Without trials or hearings in total violation of the protection guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of The United States, were incarcerated in concentration camps, with armed guards, And

Whereas: When these Japanese Americans were evicted from their homes and placed in concentration camps, seven of the articles of the Bill of Rights were arbitrarily suspended, And

Whereas: The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, after a series of nation-wide hearings, concluded that because of war hysteria, racial prejudice and political expediency, an entire group of loyal Americans and their family members were deprived of their Constitutional Rights, And

Whereas: While the Issei [parents or first generation] were incarcerated in these concentration camps, the Nisei, [second generation] volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces in our war with Japan,
And

Whereas: It has been acknowledged by the top military officials that the Nisei serving in the Military Intelligence Services helped to shorten the war between The United States and Japan and thus saved thousands of lives of American Combat Troops, And

Whereas: The Nisei serving in The 100th. Battalion and The 442nd. Regimental Combat Team, 34th. Division, contributed to the success of Gen. Mark Clark's landings on the European Front and in so doing, became the highest decorated unit in the history of The United States Armed Forces, And

Whereas: Upon their return to civilian life after discharge joined and looked to The American Legion as their Veterans Organization that would uphold the civil rights and constitutional guarantees of all Americans, Therefore

Be It Resolved: That The American Legion set forth principles against a recurrence of such a tragedy in deprivation of human rights, to uphold the ideals of what this nation fought for and that the rights of citizenship in no way depend on race or ancestry,

Be It Further Resolved:
That The American Legion continue to champion the rights of all Americans so that the rights of citizenship will never depend on race or ancestry,

Be It Further Resolved:
That this resolution be considered by all echelons of The American Legion, including the National Convention of The American Legion to be held in the city of Salt Lake City, Utah, in August, 1984, and if favorably considered that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all members of The United States Senate, and House of Representatives.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by members of Chicago Nisei Post #1183, The American Legion, at it's regular meeting held at Chicago, Illinois on April 5, 1984.

Attested: *Saul S. Kurland*
Commander

Arthur T. Morimoto
Adjutant

The above resolution was adopted by the Sixth District Council of the American Legion at a regular meeting held on April 25, 1984 at Lincoln Square Post Headquarters.

Herbert Wunar
Herbert Wunar
Commander,
Sixth District Council

Roger Bodin
Roger Bodin
Adjutant,
Sixth District Council

GO FOR BROKE RECOLLECTIONS

The midwest opening ceremonies of the GO FOR BROKE/MIS Photo Exhibit at the Chicago Daley Center Plaza is now history. If Japanese Americans had any squeamish feelings that the American public, especially, veterans would not support this tribute honoring Nikkei who died fighting for a country whose wartime leaders had figuratively turned their backs on them, it was dispelled by the tremendous support from nearly every veteran organization in Chicagoland.

When emcee John Mahoney, one of the five national Legion officers who participated in the program, opened the ceremonies with the 'Posting of the Colors' two long files of color guards carrying unit and American flags and led by riflemen from the U.S. Marine Corps and the Ft. Sheridan Army were accompanied by the stirring march music from the 42 piece 81st Army Band.

For many of the Nikkei veterans standing rigidly at attention with the playing of the national anthem it was a moment to savor. Many had participated in bloody campaigns overseas in the Pacific and European battlefields. This tribute for their ultra patriotism by their fellow Americans meant far more than mere words. What other Americans had volunteered for the services leaving their loved ones in the internment centers!

Ironically, while prewar and postwar civilians had often disparaged and insulted Nikkei in American uniforms, the American veterans, especially, those who knew of the Nisei battlefield records, were unfaltering in supporting their fellow Americans in time of need. A former national president of the 34th Infantry Division, Warren Fencl, was serving in the Italian campaigns with the Red Bull Division which had Nikkei from the 442nd Combat Team attached to it. After he found out that many of the Nikkei had family members interned in detention camps the outraged Fencl sent letter after letter to his congressmen. The 34th Inf. Division Association was one of the veteran organizations along with the Illinois American Legion which sent resolutions in 1980 supporting the commission bills to investigate the internment of Nikkei.

At the 1983 national American Legion convention in Seattle, Washington, a burly member of a Chicago legion district, overheard a legionnaire from another state making disparaging remarks about 'Japs' and offered to punch his face. Chicago Nisei Post happened to be very active in his particular district.

At the recent Cook County Council meeting of the American Legion (biggest in Ill.) a resolution was unanimously passed to be sent to the state convention in July and to the national convention in August. This resolution giving unqualified support and recognition to Japanese Americans for their wartime services, was vigorously supported by John Mahoney and Nick Livas, both key participants at the GO FOR BROKE ceremonies.