

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 26-14

Proclaiming February 19th as the "Day of Remembrance for Japanese American Internment" Yolo County

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the U.S. military to carry out the forced removal and incarceration of thousands of loyal United States citizens because of their Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the broad discretion of Executive Order 9066 led to more than 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry to be incarcerated as "alien enemies", without being charged and convicted of espionage or sabotage against the United States, and without trial or due process; and

WHEREAS, in Yolo County 1,109 people of Japanese descent were targeted by Executive Order 9066, including UC Davis student Kenji Tashiro sent to a camp in Poston, Arizona, nine members of the Nishi family sent to a relocation center in Turlock, California and then an internment camp at Gila River Arizona, and the Shimomura family from Winters who were forced into an internment camp; and

WHEREAS, the incarcerated Japanese were not only stripped of their liberty and civil rights, but they also lost their homes, businesses, properties, and other assets, and were forced to live in one of ten concentration camps scattered in desolate, remote regions of the country; and

WHEREAS, many Japanese Americans sustained physical and psychological damage living in overcrowded and unsanitary "internment camps", enduring miserable conditions and treatment by military guards; and

WHEREAS, despite these experiences, thousands of young Japanese American men enlisted in the U.S. armed forces, bravely fighting to defend the nation that was abridging their own freedoms at home.

WHEREAS, We honor the sacrifice and the resilience of thousands of Japanese American families who reclaimed and rebuilt their lives after the war. Decades after, the U.S. government formally apologized to the survivors of the camp; and

WHEREAS, the internment of Japanese residents by Executive Order 9066 was a shameful action motivated by racial discrimination, prejudice, and baseless fears rather than legitimate concern for safety and national security; and

WHEREAS, on Victory over Japan Day, a suspicious fire burned down the historic Japantown in Winters, making interned members of the Yolo Japanese community feel unwelcome and reluctant to return to their old homes when released from the camps; and

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2024, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors voted to revoke an anti-Japanese resolution first passed by the county in 1943, as the revocation of the resolution is a step towards reconciliation and healing of past discrimination that has no place in a democratic society today; and

WHEREAS, otherization and attacks on minorities and immigrants continue to plague the United States with assaults from the federal government on the rights and presence of community members locally, regionally, and nationally; and

WHEREAS, this Day of Remembrance for Japanese American Internment serves not only as a reminder of the injustices done to Japanese Americans during World War II, but as an occasion to recognize this moment in our history is interconnected with all forms of injustice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, in union with our Yolo County cities and residents, hereby proclaims February 19th as the "Day of Remembrance" of the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942 and its tragic consequences.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of February 2026 by the following vote:

AYES: Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs, Vixie Sandy, Allen.

Sheila A. Allen, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors