

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 182

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Murphy and Assemblyman Auth

SYNOPSIS

Designates January 30 of each year as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in NJ.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating January 30 of each year as Fred
2 Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in New
3 Jersey.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Fred Korematsu was born on January 30, 1919, in
6 Oakland, California to Japanese immigrants; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Fred Korematsu was denied eligibility twice to serve in the
8 United States military because his selective service classification
9 was changed to enemy alien following the Japanese surprise attack
10 on Pearl Harbor during World War II, even though Fred Korematsu
11 was a United States citizen; and
12 **WHEREAS**, After Fred Korematsu’s rejection from the United States
13 military, he attended the Master School of Welding and worked as a
14 shipyard welder in Oakland, California until his employment was
15 terminated due to his Japanese ancestry; and
16 **WHEREAS**, In an attempt to address the nation’s wartime fear of a
17 subsequent attack by Japan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued
18 Executive Order 9066, which empowered the United States’
19 Secretary of War to establish designated military areas for the
20 evacuation of people viewed as security threats; and
21 **WHEREAS**, In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt authorized
22 Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34 which imposed strict curfew
23 regulations and required 120,000 permanent residents and
24 American citizens of Japanese descent to forcibly leave their homes
25 to be imprisoned in American incarceration camps; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Fred Korematsu refused to comply with Civilian Exclusion
27 Order No. 34 because he believed the order violated the basic
28 freedoms guaranteed to him by the United States Constitution; and
29 **WHEREAS**, On May 30, 1942, Fred Korematsu was arrested and found
30 guilty of violating Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34; a charge which
31 he appealed to the United States Supreme Court; and
32 **WHEREAS**, In 1944, the Supreme Court, upheld the conviction of Fred
33 Korematsu, by a vote of six to three, claiming that his incarceration
34 was justified and not caused by racism; and
35 **WHEREAS**, Following World War II and the release of all Japanese-
36 Americans from incarceration camps, Fred Korematsu attempted to
37 resume an ordinary American life, but the conviction hampered his
38 ability to gain employment; and
39 **WHEREAS**, In 1982, with newly discovered government intelligence
40 reports absolving Japanese-Americans of any wrongdoing during
41 World War II, Fred Korematsu petitioned to have the conviction
42 overturned; and
43 **WHEREAS**, Fred Korematsu’s conviction was overturned in 1983; a
44 decision that influenced Congress’ passage of the “Civil Liberties
45 Act of 1988”, which recognized that a grave injustice was done by
46 the forced relocation and incarceration of Japanese-American
47 citizens during World War II; and

