

Proclamation

Whereas, on February 19, 1942, during WWII and 10 weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, to “authorize and direct the Secretary of War ... to prescribe military areas ... from which any or all persons may be excluded;” and

Whereas, the City of Alameda, home of the Alameda Naval Air Station, was deemed a military restricted area and all Japanese were directed to evacuate Alameda no later than February 22. All of Alameda’s Japanese, of which 80% were American citizens, hurriedly prepared to evacuate; and

Whereas, Alamedan Mas Takano was nine years old, and remembers his parents loading as much as possible, furniture, clothes, etc., onto their friends’ truck and the sadness on his parents’ faces as they had to leave behind the piano, furniture, a second automobile, family treasures, which would not fit onto the truck. The minister of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, who had four small children, and his wife who was pregnant, was detained; and

Whereas, there were 10 internment camps in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming – hot, dusty in the summer, freezing cold in the winter, in hastily and poorly built barracks; incarcerating 120,000 Japanese for almost four years. Alameda Japanese were scattered throughout all of the internment camps. At the internment camps, there were barbed wire fences with soldiers manning the numerous guard towers, brandishing rifles and automatic weapons pointed towards the camp; and

Whereas, families started returning to Alameda in September 1945, a month after the war ended and three and a half years after being forced to leave. School was already in session and Mr. Takano remembers being brought to the Dean of Boys, Mr. Earl Shreiber, who welcomed him, “Nice to have you back!” Unfortunately, for about three weeks, he was ignored or shunned by students and usually chased home from school – each day leaving the school grounds from different exits to avoid confrontation - until other Japanese families returned to Alameda. Friends that had been interned in different parts of the United States, were classmates again; and

Whereas, no Japanese Americans were charged or convicted of espionage or sabotage against the United States. In fact, many Japanese Americans served in the United States Military with honors, including in the 442nd Infantry Regiment of the 100th Battalion, which is one of the most highly decorated units in United States history.

Now, therefore be it resolved, that I, Trish Herrera Spencer, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 19, 2018 as

Day of Remembrance

in the City of Alameda, and encourage Alamedans to learn more about the history and rich contributions of Japanese Americans to the United States of America.



Trish Herrera Spencer

Mayor