



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed and issued Executive Order 9066 resulting in the forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast; and

WHEREAS, during World War II the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Naval Intelligence reported that the Japanese community did not pose an internal danger to the United States while no charge of wrongdoing was ever filed against any Japanese American; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Japanese Americans who served demonstrated exemplary heroism and courage volunteering to serve in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity and the decisions which resulted from it were not driven by analysis of military conditions; and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, finding that Executive Order 9066 was not justified by national security, and that the incarceration constituted grave injustice to Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, today we hold the annual Day of Remembrance, commemorated by families and individuals of all backgrounds across the United States, to recognize this moment in our history as interconnected with all forms of injustice; and

WHEREAS, the 2021 Day of Remembrance — February 19, 2021 — marks the 79th Anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order 9066, an event that forever changed the course of American culture and history; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago has long been the proud home of a vibrant Japanese American community and our local Day of Remembrance is sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Council, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, the Japanese American Citizen League—Chicago Chapter, the Japanese American Service Committee, and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago and will be marked by a series of interactive virtual programs aimed at education and reflection:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LORI E. LIGHTFOOT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2021 to be DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN CHICAGO and urge all Chicagoans to stand together in acknowledging both the hardships and the courage and resolve of the Japanese American community during this turbulent time in our nation's history.

Dated this 19th day of February, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot".
Mayor