

Resolution of Commendation

Subject: Resolution No.

In Support of the San Francisco Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium's 2008 Day of Remembrance Program: *GENERATIONS OF ACTIVISM* – Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the Struggle for Redress and Reparations
- Commissioners Eric Mar and Mark Sanchez

WHEREAS: On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which set into motion the exclusion of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West coast of the United States and the internment of United States citizens and legal permanent residents of Japanese ancestry in internment camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS: Hundreds of San Francisco students, parents, social justice and community activists worked with local public officials, including school board members, State and Congressional Representatives around the nation to build the Redress and Reparations Movement and successfully urged Congress to pass the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, in which it apologized on behalf of the Nation for "fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry" and authorized partial monetary compensation for the suffering endured; and

WHEREAS: For over 25 years the Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium or its predecessor member organizations have presented an annual "Day of Remembrance" program, pursuing the following broad goals:

- To honor and remember the courage and perseverance of those who experienced this grave injustice;
- To educate the public around the injustices and lessons of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans; and raise awareness of related injustices suffered by other communities (i.e. Japanese Latin Americans, German and Italian Americans) during World War II;
- To acknowledge the significance of the redress movement and those who made it possible; and reaffirm our commitment to the unfinished issues of redress.
- To do all we can to prevent and/or speak out against similar injustices experienced by other communities, such as Arab and Muslim American communities currently; and to build cultural bridges and mutual understanding; and

WHEREAS: The Consortium today consists of the following organizations: Asian Improv aRts, Japanese American Religious Federation, Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern CA, Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project, Campaign for Justice - Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans, Center for Asian American Media (formerly NAATA), National Coalition for Redress/Reparations [NCR], Tule Lake Committee, and SF JACL (partial list); and

WHEREAS: The annual Day of Remembrance programs provide our schools and communities a valuable teaching moment of opportunity for students, parents, teachers and all people to reflect on the importance of social justice and civil liberties, especially in times of war and crisis; and

WHEREAS: The DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2008 - Carrying the Light for Justice, *GENERATIONS OF ACTIVISM* - commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; the program will take place Sunday, February 17, 2008 2 p.m., at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter Street (nr. Webster) SF Japantown.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District commends the Bay Area Day of Remembrance Consortium for its work to highlight the history of the internment camps and our generations of activism within the Redress and Reparations Movement, and to advocate for multiracial justice and multicultural understanding; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: That the San Francisco Board of Education looks forward to working in partnership with the Consortium.

2/12/08