



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLENPIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/26/02

February 20, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: RESOLUTION RESCINDING ACTION TAKEN BY **THE**
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON APRIL 23, 1943

Dear Members of the Board:

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League will be holding an event on Saturday, April 27, 2002, entitled "Liberty Lost...Lessons in Loyalty." The purpose of the event will be to re-enact the horrendous tragedy of the evacuation of 1,160 innocent Japanese and Japanese Americans from Santa Cruz County to the Salinas Assembly Center (the California Rodeo Grounds) in the aftermath of the events which took place at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

As part of the League's preparations for the event, a resolution was discovered which was adopted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on April 23, 1943, a copy of which is attached, protesting the release of Japanese and Japanese Americans from relocation camps. While this resolution remains part of the official County record because it was adopted by a vote of the Board almost 60 years ago, we now understand very clearly that the actions taken by various officials at that time were a tragic mistake and a gross miscarriage of justice.


While the action taken by the Board in 1943 represented the opinions and beliefs of the members of the Board then seated, I believe it would be appropriate for our Board to go on record as confirming our categorical opposition to those regrettable statements. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board adopt the

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attached resolution rescinding the action taken by the Board in 1943 which resulted in the adoption of a resolution protesting the release of Japanese and Japanese Americans from relocation camps as a small but heartfelt gesture of apology, and furthermore supporting the League's "Liberty Lost...Lessons in Loyalty" event as an opportunity for remembrance, community education and acknowledgment of its supporters.

Sincerely yours,



TONY CAMPOS, Supervisor
Fourth District

TC:ted
Attachments

cc: Mas Hashimoto, Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter, Japanese
American Citizens League

3222C4

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION RESCINDING ACTION TAKEN BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON APRIL 23, 1943

WHEREAS, on April 23, 1943, a resolution was adopted by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors protesting the release of Japanese and Japanese Americans from relocation camps; and

WHEREAS, while this resolution remains part of the official County record because it was adopted by a vote of the Board almost 60 years ago, we now understand very clearly that the actions taken by various officials at that time were a tragic mistake and a gross miscarriage of justice; and

WHEREAS, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League will be holding an event on Saturday, April 27, 2002, entitled "Liberty Lost...Lessons in Loyalty" to re-enact the horrendous tragedy of the evacuation of 1,160 innocent Japanese and Japanese Americans from Santa Cruz County to the Salinas Assembly Center (the California Rodeo Grounds) in the aftermath of the events which took place at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, to highlight stories of local veterans in the Military Intelligence Service and the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, and to acknowledge with appreciation those individuals and organizations who supported the Japanese and Japanese Americans during the internment and resettlement periods; and

WHEREAS, the event on April 27, 2002, will pay tribute to those who endured and who professed their loyalty to this country, including the 1,160 residents (mostly children) of the County of Santa Cruz who were interned, those who later served our country in the U.S. Army, and individuals in the community who looked after their homes and properties, sent them letters, encouragement, prayers and greatly needed provisions, defended their loyalty and patriotism to this country and welcomed them back to the community; and

WHEREAS, while the action taken by the Board in 1943 represented the opinions and beliefs of the members of the Board then seated, is appropriate that the current Board of Supervisors indicate our categorical opposition to those regrettable statements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors hereby rescinds the action taken by the Board in 1943 which resulted in the adoption of a resolution protesting the release of Japanese and Japanese Americans from relocation camps.

RESOLUTION RESCINDING ACTION TAKEN BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby supports the "Liberty Lost...Lessons in Loyalty" event being sponsored by the Watsonville Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League as an opportunity for remembrance, community education and respect.

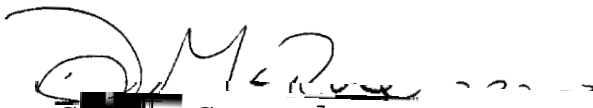
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2002, **by** the following vote:

AYES : SUPERVISORS
NOES : SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board **of** Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of said Board

Approved as to form:


County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: Watsonville Chapter, Japanese American Citizens
League
County Counsel

3222C4

violating
release of
Japanese from
Relocation camps

duly seconded by Supervisor Lewis,
the following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION.

0081

WHEREAS it has been announced through the press:

1. That the Secretary of War contemplates that some 28,000 native-born Japanese shall be incorporated into the United States Army in separate combat units; and
2. That the Federal authorities contemplate the release of from 25,000 to 40,000 Japanese from Relocation camps where they are now restrained, with no announced provision for adequate surveillance or control; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County believes that such contemplated action would be inimical to the best interests and to the welfare and effective defense of our country;

Be it resolved that we most vigorously and earnestly protest against the above proposed actions and each of them.

That we urge upon the Secretary of War, the War Relocation board, our congressmen and senators and the President of the United States the following reasons, based upon an extensive experience with the Japanese, for more than 40 years, an intimate knowledge of their character, and our observation of what occurred on December 7, 1941, and immediately thereafter;

(1) Following Pearl Harbor and for the ~~defense~~ defense of the West Coast against attack and sabotage the Army wisely moved the Japanese from the Pacific Coast. NOW TO PERMIT THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER HABITAT WOULD SUBJECT US AGAIN TO THE DANGER OF SERIOUS SABOTAGE AND DIFFICULTY IN DEFENDING OUR SHORE LINE IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK.

(2) DUE TO THE TEMPER OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SINCE THE DASTARDLY ATTACK AT PEARL HARBOR we feel that IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES TO ALLOW THEM TO RETURN FOR RESIDENCE ON THE WEST COAST, and that difficult policing problems would be presented thereby in effecting their safety.

(3) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LOYAL AND DISLOYAL JAPANESE. We are in no position to Judge the emotions of the Japanese inasmuch as they have maintained their own schools and religions, and in many cases, dual citizenship with their main allegiance to the Emperor of Japan.

(4) IF JAPANESE WERE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THIS AREA WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE COOPERATION OF PRESENT AGRICULTURAL OR INDUSTRIAL LABORERS ALREADY ENGAGED IN THE WAR EFFORT IF THEY WERE CALLED UPON TO WORK WITH JAPANESE EVACUEES.

(5) TO ALLOW YOUNG JAPANESE TO LEAVE RELOCATION CAMPS FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES IN OUR COLLEGES WOULD BE UNJUST AND INEQUITABLE AS IT AFFECTS OUR OWN AMERICAN BOYS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF COLLEGE AND ARE SO LOYALLY SERVING THEIR COUNTRY in the armed forces to the detriment of their education and employment.

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April 23, 1943

(6) IT IS THE OPINION of this Board that these Japanese should be contributing substantially to the ~~A~~ war effort but we feel that it should be in areas removed from the Pacific Coast and by group movement UNDER FULL AND PROPER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION BY THE ARMY. IN NO EVENT SHOULD THEY BE DISBURSED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WITHOUT PROPER PROVISION FOR ABSOLUTE SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE JAPANESE, BOTH ALIEN AND AMERICAN BORN SHOULD BE RETAINED IN RELOCATION CENTERS FOR THE DURATION UNLESS THEY ARE PLACED UNDER DIRECT AND ABSOLUTE SUPERVISION AND FULL CONTROL OF ARMY AUTHORITY and engaged in the furtherance of our war effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this board deplores the fact that native-born Japanese have already been incorporated into the United States Army and urge the exclusion of said native-born Japanese now serving in the armed forces from the army.

Adopted this 23rd day of April, 1943, by the Board of Supervisors of the county of Santa Cruz, state of California, by the following vote:

Ayes: Supervisors Lewis, Maddock, Rostron and Morgan.

Noes: Supervisors None.

Absent: Supervisor Pinkham.

Robert Morgan
Chairman of said board.

Attest: *H. E. Miller*