



RESOLUTION 2020.23

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING JANUARY 30 AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, National civil rights hero Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, California, on January 30, 1919 to Japanese immigrant parents. During World War II, in 1942, and at 23 years old, he was arrested and convicted after refusing to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court, who ruled against him, arguing that incarceration was justified due to military necessity. Four decades later, Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the United States District Court overturned Korematsu's wrongful conviction for the Northern District of California. In her decision, Judge Patel acknowledged that "a grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any probative evidence against them, were excluded, removed, and detained by the United States during World War II"; and

WHEREAS, Korematsu remained a tireless advocate for every American's right to liberty, due process, and equality without regard to race, ethnicity, or national origin. In 1998, Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Fred Korematsu Day bill, AB 1775, into law on September 23, 2010. The Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution is the first day in U.S. history named after an Asian American.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Milpitas Unified School District hereby proclaims January 30, 2020 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and encourages all educators to commemorate this day of remembrance with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Milpitas Unified School District Board of Education at a meeting held on January 28, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Hon Lien, President
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education

Kelly Yip-Chuan, Clerk
Milpitas Unified School District
Board of Education