



MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF FRED T. KOREMATSU

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu was born in Oakland, California on January 30, 1919 as the third of four sons to Japanese immigrant parents, and

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu was one of the 120,000 Japanese Americans who was interned following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942 authorizing the Secretary of War and military commanders to require people of Japanese ancestry to be placed in internment camps;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, resulting in the December 1944 decision of *Korematsu v. United States*, a 6 to 3 decision that declared the incarceration was justified as military necessity;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu later moved to Detroit, Michigan where his younger brother resided, and there he met his wife Kathryn, and the two wed before moving back to California;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu's conviction was vacated on November 10, 1983 by U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the Northern District of California, which cleared Fred's name but did not overturn the decision in *Korematsu v. United States* until the Supreme Court repudiated and overruled it in June of last year;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu remained a civil rights activist throughout his life, and in 1998 he was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu was recognized in 2010 when the State of California passed the Fred Korematsu Day Bill marking the first day in the United States named after an Asian American of Japanese ancestry;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu Day has been recognized in California, Hawaii, Utah, Georgia and Virginia;

Whereas, Fred T. Korematsu is recognized as a national civil rights hero whose legacy continues to inspire activists of all backgrounds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission hereby recognizes the achievements of Fred T. Korematsu as a civil rights hero and encourages the Michigan Legislature and the Governor to join in recognizing Fred T. Korematsu and his contributions to the nation's civil rights movement by advancing civil rights for all people in Michigan and across the nation.

Passed unanimously on the 1st day of February 2019, by the
MICHIGAN CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

Alma Wheeler Smith, Chair	Stacie Clayton, Vice Chair
Laura Reyes-Kopack, Secretary	Ira Combs
Rasha Demashkieh	Regina Gasco-Bentley
Denise Grim	Jeffrey Sakwa

