

# EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

SUBMISSION BY 07 AUGUST 1988

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### DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX.

\*\*To be assigned by Resolutions Committee.

Received @ Headquarters: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolutions Chairperson

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Counsel

### ENDORSEMENTS FOR FLOOR RESOLUTIONS. ORIGINAL SIGNATURES REQUIRED.

Signature	Chapter
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____

NOTE: Only resolutions with assigned numbers shall be considered by the National Council.

On the back of this sheet please list all background and/or fact(s).

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We, the Golden Gate JACL Chapter of the N. CA-W. NV-P District submit for adoption by a majority vote of the National Council of the JACL at the 30th Biennial Convention the following resolution:

## RESOLUTION STATEMENT

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the JACL response to the internment orders was sincere and thoughtfully performed with the best interest of the community in mind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as the federal government has acknowledged its past error in judgment, the JACL acknowledges that it erred in its counsel to the Japanese American community in the early days of the war and in its reaction toward Japanese American wartime dissidents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that JACL actively promote community unity and healing by recognizing the contributions made by individuals and organizations with positions different from the JACL.

The most appropriate time for this resolution seemed to be with the final presidential approval of the redress bill. As we enter July we are still waiting.

It is entered as "emergency resolution" because although the redress bill's fate is undecided as of this date, the convention dates are pressing ever closer. Delegates should have time to consider the resolution in depth.

## BACKGROUND AND/OR FACT(S)

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has made apology and remedy for the wrongs suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry due to wartime internment; and (to be used if the President signs the bill)

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has recommended apology and remedy for the wrongs suffered by Americans of Japanese ancestry due to wartime internment; and (to be used if the President vetoes the bill)

WHEREAS, the Japanese American community at the time of the internment was young and inexperienced; and

WHEREAS, JACL had advised willing cooperation rather than the imposed compliance under protest; and

WHEREAS, JACL had branded those who did not fully agree with its advice as "disloyal" and "un-American;" and

WHEREAS, the Japanese American community has suffered serious internal division over the JACL response to the internment during wartime; and

WHEREAS, the redress campaign held as one of its fundamental objectives the aim of making the Japanese American community whole;

As everyone knows there still exists today a serious internal division in the Japanese American community over JACL's response to internment orders during World War II. It is time to attempt to heal this wound.

If we can ask the federal government to admit its wartime error, JACL should be able to do the same to its own people.

The admission of error in no way diminishes the need for redress for Japanese Americans, nor does it diminish the impact of the heroic achievements of the Japanese American soldiers during World War II. JACL was not at fault for the incarceration of Japanese Americans.

Whatever stands that were taken by the JACL and its opponents during wartime, there is now a need to amend and come together. We should be able to understand each other's reasons for respective wartime behaviors, and after 46 years we should be able to view history more objectively.

It is true that the Japanese American community in 1942 had no choice about going or not going into camps. They were the defenseless civilians against government orders backed by armed soldiers. It was the JACL attitude of over-solicitousness and their vituperative denouncing of all those who disagreed with JACL that must be admitted as grave error committed against its own people.