

Executive Department
State of California

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

When Fred T. Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, President Clinton said that "in the long history of our country's constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls — Plessy, Brown, Parks. To that distinguished list today we add the name of Fred Korematsu."

Fred Korematsu was, in the best sense of both words, an ordinary hero. A native Californian, born and raised in Oakland and a welder by trade, he simply refused to accept his government's order to relocate under the brutal and misguided policy of Japanese-American internment during World War II. Korematsu's staunch determination to be treated like the loyal American citizen he was came to define his life story, in both his decades-long legal battle against internment and his later recognition as a leader in the cause of civil rights. On this 92nd anniversary of his birth, we remember him as one who resisted injustice during a dark chapter in our nation's history, and later worked tirelessly to prevent its repetition.

NOW THEREFORE I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim January 30th 2012, as "Fred Korematsu Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 13th day of January 2012.




EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor of California

ATTEST:


DEBRA BOWEN
Secretary of State