

1.1 A Senate resolution

1.2 recognizing a "Day of Remembrance" for Minnesota Japanese Americans who were

1.3 incarcerated during World War II and who served in the United States Military.

1.4 **WHEREAS**, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order

1.5 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese

1.6 Americans residing in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, and Hawaii; and

1.7 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 9066 led to the exclusion and subsequent incarceration of

1.8 Japanese Americans, causing them to lose millions of dollars in property and assets, to suffer

1.9 immeasurable physical and psychological damage, and to be deprived of their Constitutional liberties

1.10 without due process of law because they were assumed to be disloyal; and

1.11 **WHEREAS**, Japanese Americans demonstrated incredible patriotism to the United States

1.12 of America by volunteering to serve in the United States military, including its Military Intelligence

1.13 Service whose Language School was based at Camp Savage in Savage, Minnesota, and later at Fort

1.14 Snelling; and

1.15 **WHEREAS**, about 6,000 Japanese American officers and enlisted men graduated from Camp

1.16 Savage and Fort Snelling after intensive and accelerated training in the Japanese military language,

1.17 becoming the eyes and ears of the Allied Forces which fought the Japanese forces in the Pacific

1.18 battles, with acclaim by General Willoughby, Chief Intelligence for General MacArthur, for

1.19 shortening the war by two years; and

1.20 **WHEREAS**, the efforts of Japanese American linguists in the Military Intelligence resulted

1.21 in the successful Occupation and democratization of Japan after World War II; and

1.22 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army's segregated 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat

1.23 Team, composed of about 18,000 Japanese American volunteers, including those recruited from

1.24 American concentration camps and Hawaii, suffered about 800 killed or missing in action, and

1.25 became the most decorated American unit of its size and length of service, with seven Presidential

2.1 Unit Citations, 21 Congressional Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, one
2.2 Distinguished Service Medal, 588 Silver Stars, 22 Legions of Merit, 15 Soldier's Medals, over
2.3 5,200 Bronze Stars, 9,486 Purple Hearts, and a total of 18 decorations from France and Italy; and

2.4 **WHEREAS**, no American citizens or permanent legal residents of Japanese ancestry were
2.5 charged with espionage or sabotage or other crimes against the United States during World War
2.6 II, and it was found that the government had suppressed critical information from our own
2.7 intelligence agencies that previously determined that there was no military necessity for incarceration
2.8 orders, leading the United States Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians
2.9 to conclude in 1982 that the incarceration was motivated by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria and
2.10 a failure of political leadership, which subsequently resulted in Congress and then-President Ronald
2.11 Reagan to issue an apology for violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of
2.12 these individuals; and

2.13 **WHEREAS**, patriotic Japanese Americans relocated to our great state of Minnesota,
2.14 establishing residency in this state, and continuing as upstanding citizens to raise families, work,
2.15 and contribute to the economic and moral fiber of our community through high civic standards;
2.16 and

2.17 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that
2.18 it, along with the people of Minnesota, pause in its endeavors on February 19, 2017, the 75th
2.19 anniversary of Executive Order 9066, to recognize Japanese American incarcerated and World War
2.20 II military personnel from the state of Minnesota, honor their sacrifice and patriotic loyalty, and
2.21 remember the lessons and blessings of liberty and justice for all.

2.22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Senate is directed to prepare an
2.23 enrolled copy of this resolution, to be authenticated by the Secretary's signature and that of the
2.24 Chair of the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, and transmit it to the Twin Cities Chapter
2.25 of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Japanese American Veterans of Minnesota.