

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 giving the U.S. Department of War the authority to create internment camps and to establish the War Relocation Authority and create internment camps within the United States for Japanese Americans on the suspicion of espionage and fear of invasion on the American West coast; and

WHEREAS: Japanese Americans were forcibly placed in these internment camps, as well as required to list the names of their family members. The number of Japanese Americans placed in the internment camps rose to over 120,000 where they remained until the end of the war; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas housed 16,000 Japanese in two internment camps in Rohwer and Jerome in Southwest, Arkansas until the end of the war; and

WHEREAS: In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled in *Korematsu v. United States* that the actions to place Japanese Americans in internment camps were constitutional. In addition, the ruling led to the U.S. Government investigating the loyalty of Japanese Americans which came to the conclusion that the Japanese Americans in the camps were loyal to the United States; and

WHEREAS: The Supreme Court ruled that U.S. Citizens with recognized loyalty to the United States could not be wrongfully detained and released many detainees deemed loyal. After Japanese Americans were released from the internment camps, many enlisted in the US Army and fought bravely for the United States and returned back to the West coast to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS: On August 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the federal Civil Liberties Act granting Japanese Americans wrongfully forced into internment camps a formal apology and reparations; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas takes this time to remember the anguish caused by the internment camps, and to honor the courage of the Japanese Americans that resided in these camps for over two years;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020, as

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR JAPANESE AMERICANS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, in the year of our Lord 2020.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

  
John Thurston, Secretary Of State