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Robinson /

NISSAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 10, 1988

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT SIGNING CEREMONY FOR
JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

2:33 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all very much. The members of Congress, and distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, we gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it's not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake. For throughout the war, Japanese-Americans in the tens of thousands remained utterly loyal to the United States.

Indeed, scores of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up entirely of Japanese-Americans, served with immense distinction -- to defend this nation, their nation.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words, "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 survivors, Japanese -- surviving Japanese-Americans -- of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.

MORE

I'd like to note that the bill I'm about to sign also provides funds for members of the Aleut community who were evacuated from the Alutian and Pribilof Islands after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from "The Pacific Citizen" and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on Mary Masuda in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. She was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers -- like the heroic Kazuo -- had served in the United States Army. After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. and one young actor said: "Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor -- I hope I pronounce this right -- was Ronald Reagan. (Applause.) And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you. And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd. (The bill is signed.) (Applause.)

Thank you all again, and God bless you all. I think this is a fine day. (Applause.)

END

2:40 P.M. EDT

(ROBINSON)

8/10/88 - 10 A.M.

**SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS, MY FELLOW AMERICANS:**

**WE GATHER HERE TODAY TO RIGHT A GRAVE
WRONG.**

**MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, SHORTLY AFTER
THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, 120,000 PERSONS
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY LIVING IN THE U.S. WERE
FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES AND PLACED
IN MAKESHIFT INTERNMENT CAMPS. THIS ACTION
WAS TAKEN WITHOUT TRIAL, WITHOUT JURY.
IT WAS BASED SOLELY ON RACE -- FOR THESE
120,000 WERE AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT.**

**YES, THE NATION WAS THEN AT WAR,
STRUGGLING FOR ITS SURVIVAL -- AND IT IS NOT
FOR US TODAY TO PASS JUDGMENT UPON THOSE WHO
MAY HAVE MADE MISTAKES WHILE ENGAGED IN THAT
GREAT STRUGGLE.**

YET WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE
INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS WAS JUST
THAT -- A MISTAKE. FOR THROUGHOUT THE WAR,
JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS
REMAINED UTTERLY LOYAL TO THE UNITED STATES.

INDEED, SCORES OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS
VOLUNTEERED FOR OUR ARMED FORCES --
MANY STEPPING FORWARD IN THE INTERNMENT
CAMPS THEMSELVES. THE 442ND REGIMENTAL
COMBAT TEAM, MADE UP ENTIRELY OF
JAPANESE-AMERICANS, SERVED WITH IMMENSE
DISTINCTION -- TO DEFEND THIS NATION,
THEIR NATION.

YET BACK AT HOME, THE SOLDIERS'
FAMILIES WERE BEING DENIED THE VERY FREEDOM
FOR WHICH SO MANY OF THE SOLDIERS THEMSELVES
WERE LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES.

CONGRESSMAN NORMAN MINETA, WITH US TODAY, WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN HIS FAMILY WAS INTERNED. IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S WORDS: "MY OWN FAMILY WAS SENT FIRST TO SANTA ANITA RACETRACK. WE SHOWERED IN THE HORSE PADDOCKS. SOME FAMILIES LIVED IN CONVERTED STABLES, OTHERS IN HASTILY THROWN TOGETHER BARRACKS. WE WERE THEN MOVED TO HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING, WHERE OUR ENTIRE FAMILY LIVED IN ONE SMALL ROOM OF A RUDE TARPAPER BARRACK."

LIKE SO MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, THE MEMBERS OF THE MINETA FAMILY LIVED IN THOSE CONDITIONS NOT FOR A MATTER OF WEEKS OR MONTHS, BUT FOR 3 LONG YEARS.

THE LEGISLATION THAT I AM ABOUT TO SIGN PROVIDES FOR A RESTITUTION PAYMENT TO EACH OF THE 60,000 SURVIVING JAPANESE-AMERICANS, OF THE 120,000 WHO WERE RELOCATED OR DETAINED. YET NO PAYMENT CAN MAKE UP FOR THOSE LOST YEARS.

SO WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS BILL HAS LESS TO DO WITH PROPERTY THAN WITH HONOR. FOR HERE WE ADMIT A WRONG. HERE WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT AS A NATION TO EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW.

I'D LIKE TO NOTE THAT THE BILL I AM ABOUT TO SIGN ALSO PROVIDES FUNDS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ALEUT COMMUNITY WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM THE ALUTIAN AND PRIBILOF ISLANDS AFTER A JAPANESE ATTACK IN 1942. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN FOR THE ALEUTS' OWN PROTECTION, BUT PROPERTY WAS LOST OR DAMAGED THAT HAS NEVER BEEN REPLACED.

AND NOW IN CLOSING, I WONDER WHETHER YOU'D PERMIT ME ONE PERSONAL REMINISCENCE -- ONE PROMPTED BY AN OLD NEWSPAPER REPORT SENT TO ME BY ROSE (OH-CHEE), A FORMER INTERNEE. THE CLIPPING COMES FROM THE PACIFIC CITIZEN AND IS DATED DECEMBER 1945.

"ARRIVING BY PLANE FROM WASHINGTON," THE ARTICLE BEGINS, "GENERAL JOSEPH W. STILWELL PINNED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS ON MARY (MAH-SUE-DAH) IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY ON THE PORCH OF HER SMALL FRAME SHACK NEAR TALBERT, ORANGE COUNTY. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO RETURN FROM RELOCATION CENTERS TO CALIFORNIA'S FARMLANDS."

"VINEGAR JOE" STILWELL WAS THERE THAT DAY TO HONOR (CAH-ZOO-OH) (MAH-SUE-DAH), MARY'S BROTHER.

YOU SEE, WHILE MARY AND HER PARENTS WERE IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP, (CAH-zoo-oh) SERVED AS STAFF SERGEANT TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. IN ONE ACTION, (CAH-zoo-oh) ORDERED HIS MEN BACK AND ADVANCED THROUGH HEAVY FIRE, HAULING A MORTAR. FOR 12 HOURS, HE ENGAGED IN A SINGLE-HANDED BARRAGE OF NAZI POSITIONS. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER AT CASSINO, (CAH-zoo-oh) STAGED ANOTHER LONE ADVANCE. THIS TIME, IT COST HIM HIS LIFE.

THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPING NOTES THAT HER TWO SURVIVING BROTHERS WERE WITH MARY AND HER PARENTS ON THE LITTLE PORCH THAT MORNING. THESE TWO BROTHERS -- LIKE THE HEROIC (CAH-zoo-oh) -- HAD SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY.

AFTER GENERAL STILWELL MADE THE AWARD,
THE MOTION PICTURE ACTRESS LOUISE
ALLBRITTON -- A TEXAS GIRL -- TOLD HOW
A TEXAS BATTALION HAD BEEN SAVED BY THE
442ND. OTHER SHOW BUSINESS PERSONALITIES
PAID TRIBUTE -- ROBERT YOUNG,
WILL ROGERS, JR. AND ONE YOUNG ACTOR SAID
THIS:

"BLOOD THAT HAS SOAKED INTO THE SANDS
OF A BEACH IS ALL OF ONE COLOR.
AMERICA STANDS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD, THE ONLY
COUNTRY NOT FOUNDED ON RACE, BUT ON A WAY --
AN IDEAL. NOT IN SPITE OF, BUT BECAUSE
OF OUR POLYGLOT BACKGROUND, WE HAVE HAD ALL
THE STRENGTH IN THE WORLD. THAT IS THE
AMERICAN WAY."

- 8 -

THE NAME OF THAT YOUNG ACTOR WAS RONALD REAGAN.

AND, YES, THE IDEAL OF LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL -- THAT IS STILL THE AMERICAN WAY.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

AND NOW, LET ME SIGN H.R. 442 --
SO FITTINGLY NAMED IN HONOR OF THE 442ND

.

AND NOW IN CLOSING, I WONDER WHETHER YOU'D PERMIT ME ONE PERSONAL REMINISCENCE -- ONE PROMPTED BY AN OLD NEWSPAPER REPORT SENT TO ME BY ROSE (OH-CHEE), A FORMER INTERNEE. THE CLIPPING COMES FROM THE PACIFIC CITIZEN AND IS DATED DECEMBER 1945.

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"VINEGAR JOE" STILWELL WAS THERE THAT DAY TO HONOR (CAH-ZOO-OH) (MAH-SUE-DAH), MARY'S BROTHER.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 08/09/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT
LEGISLATION

(08/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HOBBS	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☒	HOOLEY	☐	☐
POWELL	☐	☒	KRANOWITZ	☐	☒
MILLER - OMB	☐	☒	MASENG	☐	☒
OGLESBY	☐	☒	RANGE	☐	☒
BAUER	☐	☒	RISQUE	☐	☒
CRIBB	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
CRIPPEN	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CULVAHOUSE	☐	☒	TUCK	☐	☐
DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI	☐	☒	DOLAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

RR - none

(Robinson/ARD)
August 9, 1988
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

1988 AUG -9 PM 6:5

Members of Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow
Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the U.S. were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake. For throughout the War, Japanese-Americans in the tens of thousands remained utterly loyal to the United States.

Indeed, scores of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans, served with immense distinction -- to defend this Nation, their Nation.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words: "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for 3 long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans, of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those 3 lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also provides funds for members of the Aleut community who were evacuated from the Alutian and Pribilof Islands after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi [oh-chee], a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the [Distinguished Service Cross] on...Mary Masuda [mah-SUE-dah]...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. ...she was one of the first [Americans of Japanese ancestry] to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo [KAH-zoo-oh] Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers -- like the heroic Kazuo -- had served in the U.S. Army after General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

(Robinson/ARD)
August 9, 1988
6:30 p.m. *RR*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

Members of Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow
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More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the U.S. were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

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Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

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Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for 3 long years.

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"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo [KAH-zoo-oh] Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers -- like the heroic Kazuo -- had served in the U.S. Army after General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

Master

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

Members of Congress, distinguished guests

My fellow Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 ^{persons of Japanese ancestry living in the U.S.} ~~Americans~~ were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake.

For Throughout the War, ^{Japanese-Americans in the tens of} ~~no Americans of Japanese ancestry~~ ^{thousands remained utterly loyal to the} ~~committed any acts of disloyalty, let alone treason. On the~~ ^{United States}

Indeeds ^{contrary} ~~tens of~~ ^{scores} Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed

Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps

themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, ^{made up} ^{immense} almost

entirely of Japanese-Americans, ^{served with} ^{distinction}

throughout the War.

To defend ^{this Nation} ~~their Nation~~, ~~their homeland~~, the United States of America.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

He ~~A Member of Congress~~
~~Congressman Norman Mineta~~, with us today, ^{He said:} was 10 years old when his family was interned. ~~In the Congressman's words:~~ "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

get his
~~Mineta~~ family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

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So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we ^a reaffirm our commitment as ^a Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also ^{members of} provides funds for ^{the} Aleut community, of American Indians, a community of several hundred. ^{who} ~~The Aleuts~~ were evacuated ^{from the} ~~Aleutian and Pribilof Islands~~ ^{island of Attu} after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced. ~~This bill will offer~~
compensation.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi,^[Oh-CHEE] a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins,

"General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the ^[mah-sue-dah] Distinguished Service Cross on...Mary Masuda...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County.##..she was one of the first ^{tr} (Americans of Japanese ancestry) to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo^[mah-zoo-oh] Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers^{and her parents} were with Mary[^] on the little porch that morning. ~~Like their dead brother, both served in the Army.~~ ^{These two brothers - like the heroic Kazuo -}

After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And ^{had served in the U.S. Army,} one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor, ~~the newspaper records,~~ was *Ronald Reagan*.
~~Ronald Reagan.~~

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/9/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HOBBS	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☒	HOOLEY	☐	☐
POWELL <i>none - 2/4/88</i>	☒	☐	KRANOWITZ <i>asked</i>	☒	☐
MILLER - OMB <i>3040</i>	☒	☐	MASENG <i>called on</i>	☒	☐
OGLESBY	☐	☒	RANGE <i>WON'T</i>	☒	☐
BAUER <i>none</i>	☒	☐	RISQUE <i>talked to Carol Hayes</i>	☒	☐
CRIBB	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
CRIPPEN	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CULVAHOUSE <i>none</i>	☒	☐	TUCK	☐	☐
DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI <i>asked</i>	☒	☐	DOLAN	☒	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan's office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Tuesday, August 9, 1988.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION 1988 AUG -9 PM 12:11
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

My fellow Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake.

Throughout the War, no Americans of Japanese ancestry committed any acts of disloyalty, let alone treason. On the contrary, tens of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team -- made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans -- served with distinction throughout the War.

To defend their Nation, their homeland, the United States of America.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words: "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans, of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those three lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also provides funds for the Aleut community of American Indians, a community of several hundred. The Aleuts were evacuated from the island of Attu after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced. This bill will offer compensation.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on...Mary Masuda...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County....she was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

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After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor, the newspaper records, was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m. 8

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/9/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HOBBS	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☒	HOOLEY	☐	☐
POWELL	☒	☐	KRANOWITZ	☒	☐
MILLER - OMB	☒	☐	MASENG	☒	☐
OGLESBY	☐	☒	RANGE	☒	☐
BAUER	☒	☐	RISQUE	☒	☐
CRIBB	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
CRIPPEN	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CULVAHOUSE	☒	☐	TUCK	☐	☐
DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI →	☒	☐	DOLAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan's office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Tuesday, August 9, 1988.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

For comments see pp. 1, 2, 3.

(JJD)

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

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INTERNMENT LEGISLATION AUG 9 PM 12:11
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

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After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor, the newspaper records, was Ronald Reagan.

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576664

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

LEGIS. AFF.
① Please include
generic reference
to Members of
Congress present
(suggestion
marked)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

Members of Congress, distinguished guests,
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② Please delete
Mineta Name and
substitute generic
reference
as
marked
(campaign concern)
ASA
9 Aug

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Dave Addington

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

~~A Member of Congress~~
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 8/9/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAYSUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HOBBS	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☒	HOOLEY	☐	☐
POWELL	☒	☐	KRANOWITZ	☒	☐
MILLER - OMB	☒	☐	MASENG	☒	☐
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BAUER	☒	☐	RISQUE	☒	☐
CRIBB	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
CRIPPEN	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CULVAHOUSE	☒	☐	TUCK	☐	☐
DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI	☒	☐	DOLAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan's office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Tuesday, August 9, 1988.
Thank you.

RESPONSE:

88 AUG 9 10:10

RECEIVED IN OMB

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

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INTERMENT LEGISLATION 1988 AUG -9 PM 12:11
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

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Make should this
is factually
correct

Mur
(x 4864)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



August 9, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY R. DOLAN
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: C. DEAN MCGRATH, JR. *Wdmc/12*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Signing Ceremony for
Japanese Internment Legislation

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks, and we have no legal objection to their delivery.

cc: Rhett B. Dawson

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/9/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HOBBS	☐	☐
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DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI	☒	☐	DOLAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

Excellent statement
RD

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

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INTERMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

1988 AUG -9 PM 12:11

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The name of that young actor, the newspaper records, was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

August 9, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY DOLAN

FROM:

PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *Paul
fn*

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Signing Ceremony for
Japanese Internment Legislation

The NSC staff concurs on the Presidential Remarks for the Signing
Ceremony for Japanese Internment Legislation (Tab A).

Attachment

Tab A Presidential Remarks

cc: Rhett Dawson

(Robinson)
August 9, 1988
12:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

1988 AUG -9 PM 12:11

My fellow Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake.

Throughout the War, no Americans of Japanese ancestry committed any acts of disloyalty, let alone treason. On the contrary, tens ^{of thousands} of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team -- made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans -- served with distinction throughout the War. ✓

To defend their Nation, their homeland, the United States of America.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words: "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans, of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those three lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also provides funds for the Aleut community of American Indians, a community of several hundred. The Aleuts were evacuated from the island of Attu after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced. This bill will offer compensation.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on...Mary Masuda...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County....she was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

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