

## Fred Korematsu Day 2012

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Today, January 30, marks Fred Korematsu Day, named after the ordinary hero who refused to accept the government's order to intern Japanese-Americans during World War II. After being arrested, Korematsu challenged his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Korematsu v. United States*, citing that his conviction went against freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In 2010, California approved the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution, the first day in the history of the United States named after an Asian American.

Words cannot express the appreciation, respect, and debt of gratitude that I have for Fred Korematsu's bravery and heroism in refusing the government's order to intern Japanese-Americans nearly 70 years ago. Having been placed in internment camps myself when I was less than one year old, I am eternally grateful for his bravery in the face of the prejudice, failed political leadership and war hysteria of the time.

Fred Korematsu will be forever honored for standing up to racial prejudice and committing his lifetime to activism as a leader of civil rights. Today serves as a constant reminder that any one individual can spark a collective movement to fight injustice, and that together, we can form a more perfect union with justice and liberty for all.