

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2008

Dear Day of Remembrance Participants:

As members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), we thank you for your observance of the "Day of Remembrance." We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the organizers for their steadfast work to increase public awareness about the significance of this day in our nation's history.

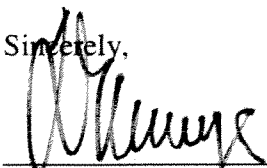
This year marks the 30th anniversary of when the "Day of Remembrance" was first commemorated in Seattle, Washington on February 19, 1978. On that same day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 leading to the reprehensible internment of persons of Japanese ancestry. These legal residents and American citizens faced humiliation such as being branded as "enemy aliens" and severe restrictions including travel limitation, seizure of personal property, forced relocation, and use in prisoner exchanges. When President Gerald R. Ford issued Proclamation 4417 to formally terminate EO 9066, America finally began a healing process that continues to this day.

The "Day of Remembrance" has become an important institution in the Japanese American community; however, its message of tolerance has transcended the cultural and ethnic divide. On this day, along with ceremonies to observe the tragedy suffered by thousands of people of Japanese descent, Americans of all walks of life come together to unite against bigotry and extremism that threaten the values and traditions that make America the shining symbol of democracy, freedom and human rights. In 2004, the House of Representatives unanimously affirmed this with passage of H.Res.56, a resolution supporting the goals of the Japanese American, German American and Italian American communities in recognizing a national Day of Remembrance to increase education about the World War II experience of their communities, and provide an opportunity for all people to reflect on the importance of justice and civil liberties during times of crisis and war.

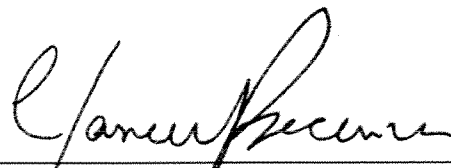
This year also marks the 20th Anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1988 in which Congress and the president recognized the egregious actions of the United States Government against persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Despite the passage of this historic legislation, there are hundreds of Japanese Latin Americans who have yet to receive appropriate redress. While we work to ensure timely passage of legislation that would address the indignities suffered by this wronged group, we encourage you, along with community leaders, activists and volunteers to redouble efforts to increase awareness of this vitally important issue and the cause of Japanese Latin Americans.

Thank you for continuing the tradition of the "Day of Remembrance."

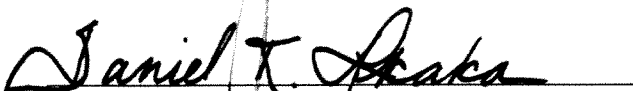
Sincerely,



Senator Daniel K. Inouye
Executive Board Member



Representative Xavier Becerra
Executive Board Member



Senator Daniel K. Akaka
Executive Board Member

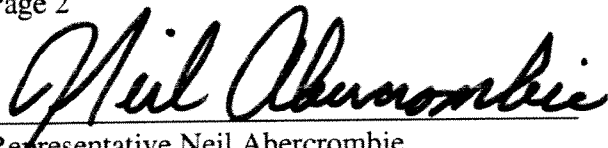


Representative Michael M. Honda
Chairman

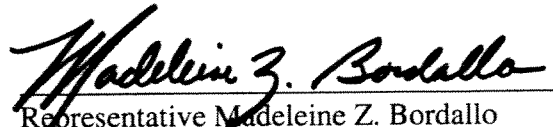
Day of Remembrance Participants

February 1, 2008

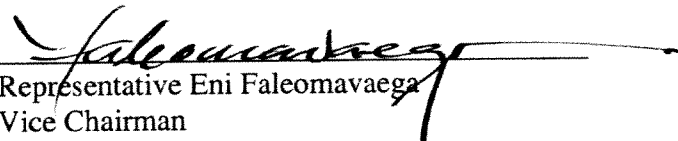
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Representative Neil Abercrombie
Executive Board Member



Representative Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Secretary



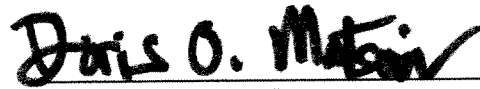
Representative Eni Faleomavaega
Vice Chairman



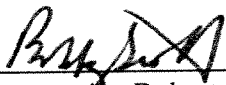
Representative Al Green
Executive Board Member



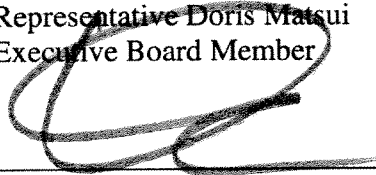
Representative Mazie K. Hirono
Executive Board Member



Representative Doris Matsui
Executive Board Member



Representative Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Executive Board Member



Representative David Wu
Executive Board Member