

**JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**  
**50th JACL National Convention**  
**National Council Meeting**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
August 1, 2019

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO RECOGNITION OF AND APOLOGY TO TULE LAKE RESISTERS**

**WHEREAS**, the JACL is the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization in the country, with the purpose of upholding civil and human rights for all people;

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States extends to all persons certain inalienable rights, including the right to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition government;

**WHEREAS**, the government forcibly removed 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II and incarcerated them in ten concentration camps and other detention sites without charge or due process of law;

**WHEREAS**, in the face of wartime hysteria, suspicion, and discrimination against those of Japanese descent, the national JACL adopted a strategy of cooperation with the government, emphasizing patriotism and outward loyalty to the United States, including support for the Nisei who served in the 100th Battalion / 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service, and other units of the United States armed forces with great valor and personal sacrifice;

**WHEREAS**, JACL's strategy sought to mitigate the harm to the Japanese American community from discriminatory government policies, and later served –along with the historic legacy of the Nisei veterans - as a foundation for successful advocacy on behalf of that community and others, including redress;

**WHEREAS**, the JACL has participated in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, including coordinating members at the 1963 March on Washington, and learned the fight for civil rights can take many forms, including picketing, boycotting, lobbying, lawsuits, civil disobedience, and other forms of dissent in order to challenge civil rights violations and unjust laws;

**WHEREAS**, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), with the support of the JACL leadership, administered an ambiguous and easily misconstrued “loyalty questionnaire” to Japanese American citizens and Japanese resident aliens alike, without evidence of disloyalty and without administering said questionnaire to any other group or ethnicity;

**WHEREAS**, the WRA, with the concurrence of the JACL, summarily sent all persons who resisted the “loyalty questionnaire” in any way – i.e. refusing to answer, answering in the negative, answering with a qualified yes – to the Tule Lake concentration camp in Northern

California, which was re-designated the Tule Lake Segregation Center and converted into a maximum security prison;

**WHEREAS**, the War Relocation Authority, Army, and incarcerated themselves used repressive violence against detainees, and extremist elements among the incarcerated violently attacked those they suspected of being informants, including some JACL leaders, pro-government individuals, and communists;

**WHEREAS**, among the incarcerated were a group that aligned with Japan and against the U.S. armed forces during the war;

**WHEREAS**, these Resisters, taken from all ten WRA camps and imprisoned at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, had a right to protest and dissent peacefully, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and in keeping with the JACL Constitution;

**WHEREAS**, the government labeled over 12,000 men, women, and children at Tule Lake Segregation Center as “disloyal” to the United States, with the concurrence of the JACL. This stigma of “disloyalty” and being branded as “no-nos” persists to the present day – tragically, even carried forward to succeeding generations;

**WHEREAS**, actions taken by the JACL leadership during and after the war were made in the face of wartime hysteria, hostility, racism, and xenophobia and with concern for the Japanese American community;

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 encompassed an apology from the U.S. Government to all those affected by Executive Order 9066, including those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center;

**WHEREAS**, the National Council voted in July 2000 to apologize to the 315 Nisei draft “resisters of conscience” and in 2002 recognized them in a public ceremony for their conscientious stand against the government’s unconstitutional and racist wartime actions against the Japanese American community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tule Lake Segregation Center was designated a unit of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument by President Bush in 2008 and was re-designated the Tule Lake National Monument by Congress in 2019, thus acknowledging the suffering imposed by the government and the sacrifices endured by Japanese Americans there.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League that** in the spirit of reconciliation, forgiveness, and community unity, a sincere apology is offered to those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for non-violent acts of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the JACL’s attitudes and treatment towards individuals unfairly labeled “disloyal”; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council commits itself to encouraging all chapters to gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the imprisonment, mistreatment, and resistance of Japanese Americans sent to Tule Lake Segregation Center; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council authorizes the National Education Committee to include the narrative of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in an updated edition of the JACL Curriculum Guide in both printed and online formats and to include this narrative as one element of the syllabus for future JACL Teacher Training Workshops; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council will recognize Tule Lake Resisters at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-2021 biennium.

Sponsored by: Pacific Northwest District Council Dated: 5/25/2019

Approved by: Chip Larouche Title: Governor

Signed: /s/  
Signature

Contact: Stanley N Shikuma  
Name

Sponsored by: Northern California/Western Nevada District Council Dated: 5/25/2019

Approved by: Carol Kawase Title: Governor

Signed: /s/  
Signature

Contact: Haruka Roudebush  
Name

**Please check one:**

**Fiscal Impact Statement attached**

**No Fiscal Impact** (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)