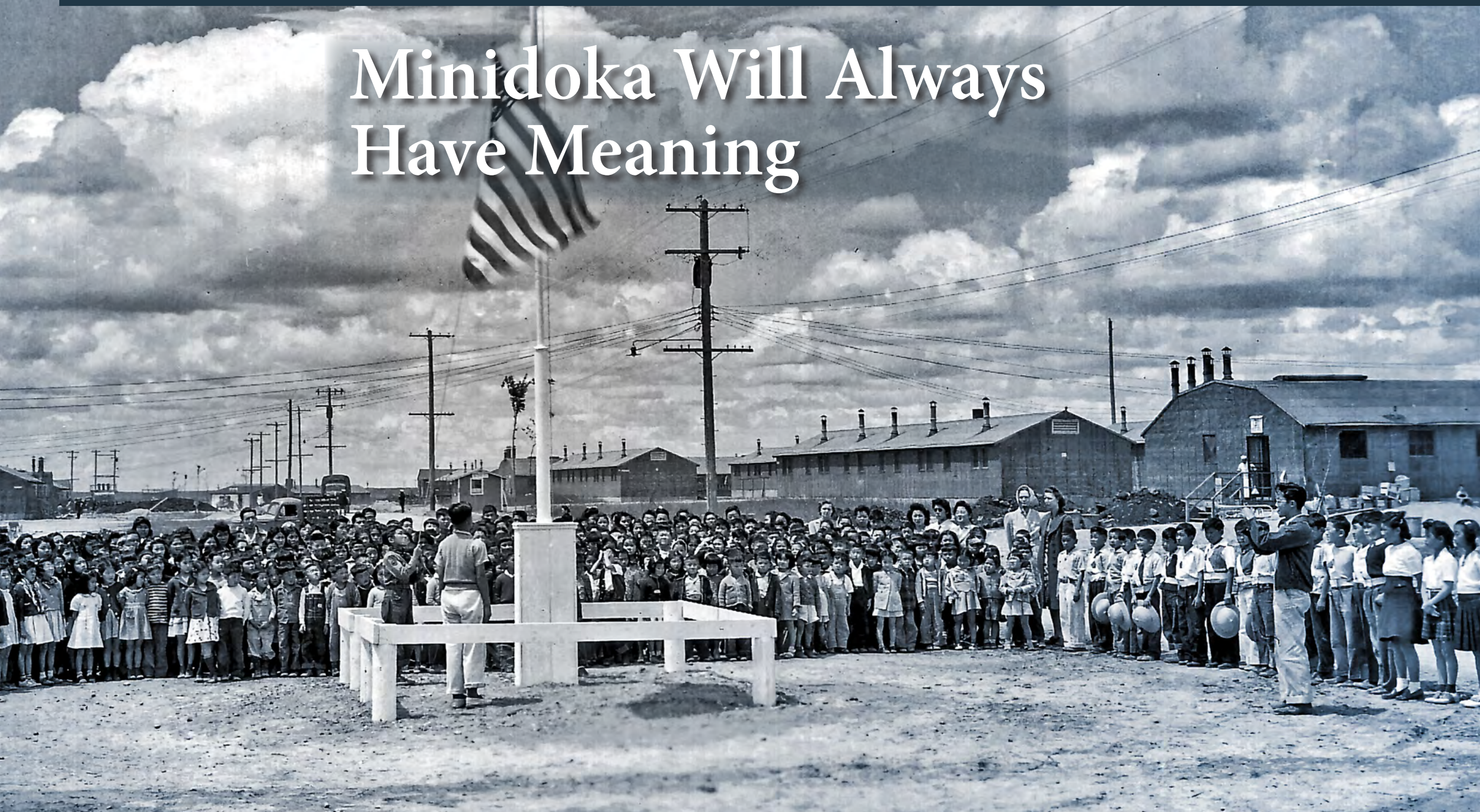


MINIDOKA CHRONICLE

Minidoka Will Always
Have Meaning

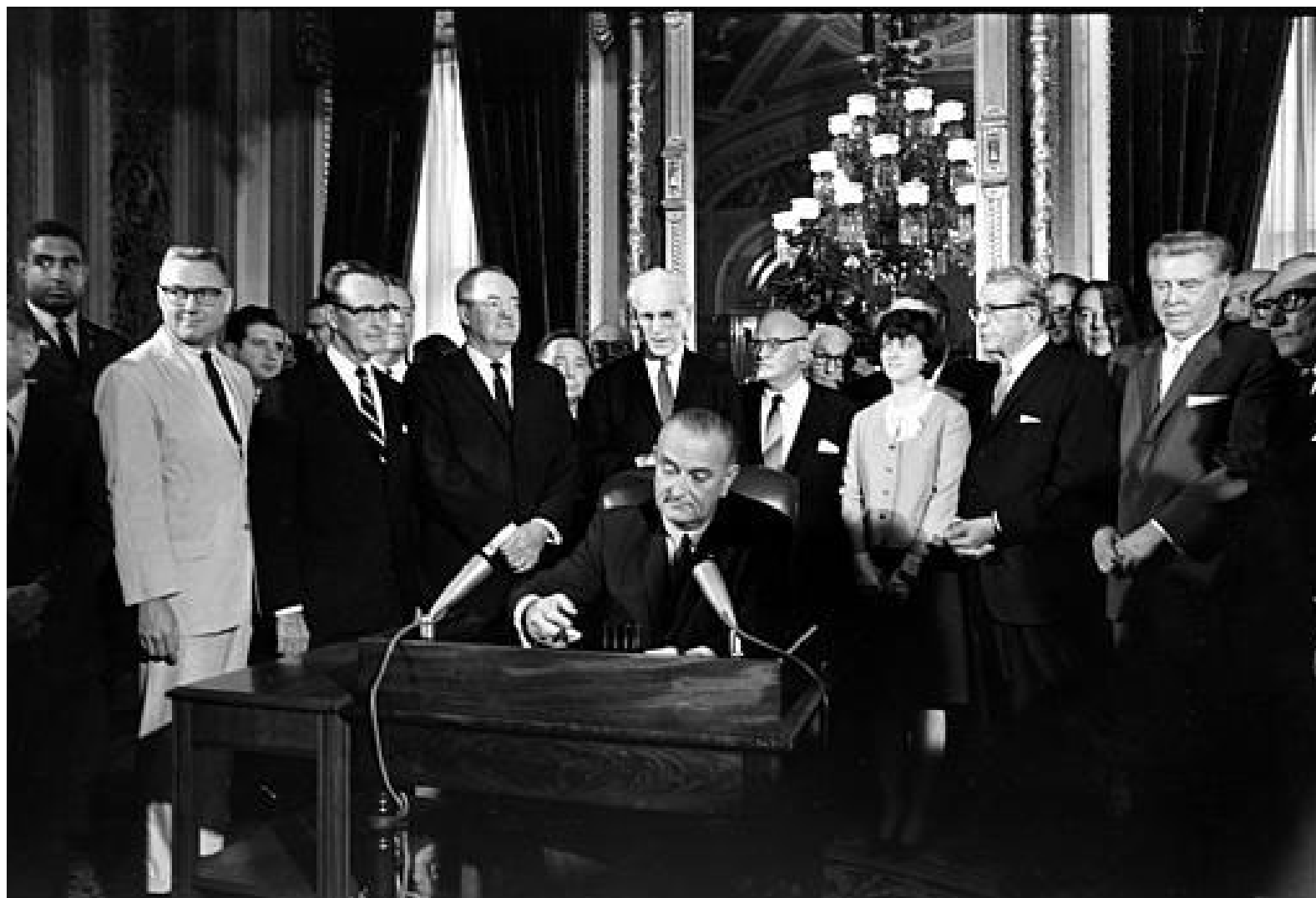


Efforts by Japanese Americans to challenge the US government for wrongful removal and incarceration began in 1942. Four landmark cases filed by Japanese Americans reached the Supreme Court, sparking a movement to seek restitution of civil rights, an apology, and/or monetary compensation.

The early movement spanned from the late 1940s through the 1960s. In the 1970s, three organizations with differing

ideologies and strategies sought redress in the courts and in Congress. Their efforts led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided an apology and compensation for surviving incarcerated.

Japanese American civic organizations continue to support the struggle for civil rights for all people.



President Lyndon B. Johnson signed
the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

President Gerald Ford rescinded
Executive Order 9066, February
19, 1976.

DENSHŌ



An American Promise

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many of the great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the response to the hostilities that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order No. 9066 was issued, subsequently enforced by the criminal penalties of a statute enacted March 21, 1942, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans. Over one hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated.

The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not erase the setback to fundamental American principles. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the indignities suffered by those on our mainland.

We now know what we should have known then—not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans—names like Hamada, Mitsunori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Muenari and Miyamura—have been and continue to be written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation.

The Executive order that was issued on February 19, 1942, was for the sole purpose of prosecuting the war with the Axis Powers, and ceased to be effective with the end of those hostilities. Because there was no formal statement of its termination, however, there is concern among many Japanese-Americans that there may yet be some life in that obsolete document. I think it appropriate, in this our Bicentennial Year, to remove all doubt on that matter, and to make clear our commitment in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all the authority conferred by Executive Order No. 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation No. 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of the hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise—that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

Gerald R. Ford

Seeking justice for wrongful incarceration was approached in different ways by grassroots movement, civic organizations, and individuals. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) first approaches Congress on the issue of redress and Seattle also established a redress committee. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) and hearings were held across the nation to discuss redress and concluded that, “the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity...The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudices, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership.” In the meantime HR442, a bill seeking redress and apology, is introduced in Congress in 1987.





Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, and Minoru Yasui pose for a portrait. Their wartime Supreme Court cases, as well as Mitsuye Endo's case, challenged the constitutionality of exclusion and incarceration, and paved the way for the redress movement of the 1970s and 80s. All three men were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from three different presidents. There is a movement at hand to get Mitsuye Endo a Presidential Medal of Freedom with her Supreme Court case.



The redress bill was introduced in Congress as HR 442, in honor of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. When President Ronald Reagan signed it on August 10, 1988, it was titled the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Two years later, redress payments to 80,000 survivors were issued, along with a formal apology from the government.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

A monetary sum and words alone cannot restore lost years or erase painful memories; neither can they fully convey our Nation's resolve to rectify injustice and to uphold the rights of individuals. We can never fully right the wrongs of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II.

In enacting a law calling for restitution and offering a sincere apology, your fellow Americans have, in a very real sense, renewed their traditional commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. You and your family have our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush".

GEORGE BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1990

The Manzanar National Historic Site was established by President George H.W. Bush in 1992.

In 2001, under authority of the Antiquities Act, President Bill Clinton established Minidoka as a National Monument.

President George W. Bush signed HR 11492 in 2006, guaranteeing federal funds to restore Minidoka. Two years later, he signed the Wild Sky Wilderness Act, changing Minidoka's status from a National Monument to a National Historic Site.

Day of Remembrance

February 19 is the anniversary of the day President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 in 1942. Civil rights organizations and other institutions mark the day with programs and events so that we will not forget the tragedy of what happened.



The Wednell Veterans of Foreign War's Color Guard at the 2004 Pilgrimage. The Pilgrimage has been held every year since 2003.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The reconstructed Honor Roll was dedicated
at the 2011 Pilgrimage.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



The historical reconstruction of the entrance guard tower was dedicated at the 2014 Minidoka Pilgrimage.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Bainbridge Island Memorial

A grassroots movement by the Interfaith Council on Bainbridge Island gained traction and they partnered with island residents and regional, state, and federal governments to create a lasting memorial dedicated to those who went through the incarceration experience.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN EXCLUSION MEMORIAL



Minidoka National Historic Site is a member of the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience and participates in this network of partner organizations.

INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE/AFRICAN
YOUTH NETWORK PROJECT



Every year, the National Park Service sponsors the Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium. It features a wide variety of topics and speakers. Some of the past symposium themes have included:

- 2006 Civil Liberties in Wartime
- 2007 Presidential Power in the War Time
- 2008 Civil Liberties and the Media
- 2009 Color and the Constitution
- 2010 Civil Liberties and the Arts
- 2011 Patriotism, Honor, and Sacrifice
- 2012 Through the Eyes of Children:
Prejudice, Education & Community
- 2013 Immigrant Nation
- 2014 The Struggle for Religious Freedom:
Yesterday and Today
- 2015 Citizenship: Rights and
Responsibilities
- 2016 Mass Incarceration



Japanese Americans were the first to speak out in support of the Arab and Muslim communities after 9/11. They continue their solidarity and support today. Pictured here are Karen Korematsu (right) and Samina Sundas (left) of the American Muslim Voice Foundation. Karen Korematsu is the daughter of Fred Korematsu. 2016

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Front Cover Photo:

The Boy Scouts of the Hunt troop conducted a dedication of the flagpole at the new Stafford Elementary School, June 1943. Stafford was one of two primary schools established at the camp.

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THE BANCROFT LIBRARY

