

that members on both sides of the aisle will be able to agree to do and I would therefore like to urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 56, a resolution recognizing the historical significance of February 19, 1942 and supporting the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance.

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, under which authority approximately 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated during World War II. The last of the detainees were released in October 1946, 4½ years after the signing of the Executive Order, and over a year after the end of the war. But this dark chapter in our American history did not end there.

Upon release from the internment camps, Japanese Americans could not return to the lives they had led before the tragic Executive Order. During the period of internment, they lost their homes, their businesses, their livelihoods.

Thirty years passed before the Executive Order was formally rescinded in 1976. And it took the government an additional 12 years before reparations and a Presidential apology were issued in 1988.

Mr. Speaker, it took over 40 years for the government to acknowledge the magnitude of the mistake it had made in interning Japanese Americans. We must now vow to remember the unspeakable injustice perpetrated upon our fellow Americans by our American government so that it may not be repeated. I thank Mr. HONDA for introducing this important resolution which reminds us not to forget the mistakes of our past.

We support the Japanese American, German American, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance. This dark period in our history not only devastated the lives of Japanese Americans, but also restricted the freedoms of Italian Americans and German Americans during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, we must recognize that measures such as Executive Order 9066, which was found to be shaped by "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership," violate not only the rights of those they target, but in fact, attack the basic freedoms of all Americans guaranteed by the Constitution. Let the lessons of the past teach us to be wary of the actions we as a Congress take hastily, based on fear. Let us remember.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my good friend MIKE HONDA as a cosponsor of H. Res. 56, a bill that commemorates the suffering of the Japanese-American, German-American and Italian-American communities during World War II by recognizing February 19 as a National Day of Remembrance. It is my sincere hope and belief that establishing a National Day of Remembrance will increase public awareness about the loss of civil liberties that were suffered by individuals as well as entire families in this country during World War II.

I recently had the privilege to speak to the San Mateo Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens Leagues (JACL), whose mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Ameri-

cans of Japanese ancestry and others who have been victimized by injustice. Several of the members attending the talk were, in fact, children of parents who had been interned in camps, and some had even been interned themselves. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the JACL, and also Former Representative Norm Mineta, whose leadership has been instrumental to ensuring that the American public is educated about this tragedy.

As we are all well aware, following the issuance of Presidential Executive Order No. 9066 on February 19, 1942, tens of thousands of Americans were evicted from their homes, rounded up, and sent to internment camps across the western United States. In San Francisco, this program began in earnest on April 1, 1942, when all persons of Japanese ancestry—whether they were American citizens or not—were notified to report for "relocation." In my own Congressional district, 7,800 people were assembled against their will at the San Bruno Tanforan Racetrack, which was recently portrayed in the movie "Sea Biscuit."

Mr. Speaker, I submit that it is not only in retrospect that the internment of the Japanese appears absurd and unacceptable. As early as 1946 Harold Ickes, President Roosevelt's own secretary of the Interior, characterized the mass detention of Japanese Americans as a "mass hysteria over the Japanese," he noted, "we gave the fancy name of 'relocation centers' to these dust bowls, but they were concentration camps." Mr. Speaker, ultimately the way we treated Japanese Americans was inexcusable. Moreover, the enormous human suffering and violation of civil liberties that this policy caused vastly outweighed any purported national security benefit derived from the government's internment policy.

Mr. Speaker, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of the most ignominious and repugnant acts that our Nation has committed. Americans of Japanese descent, some of whom had been in our nation for generations, were herded into internment camps, and denied the basic human rights afforded to all other Americans. Although we have taken the first steps toward recognizing the insidiousness of the internment policy, apologies and reparations are not enough by themselves. Indeed, we ought to be reminded on a regular basis of the dangers of fanaticism. Today, as we face a new set of challenges to civil liberties in our Nation, it is imperative that we work together to preserve our basic freedoms. After the September 11th tragedy, Arab, South Asian, Muslim and Sikh Americans faced real threats to their safety. Many immigrant communities were concerned that America's legitimate anger towards the foreign terrorist who masterminded and carried-out September 11th would be turned towards them. We must constantly be vigilant that his does not occur, and establishing a national day of remembrance is a laudable step toward this necessary goal.

As the only Member of this body to have survived the Holocaust I bring a unique perspective to today's debate. As an oft quoted saying goes, "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it," and this legislation is the first step to ensuring that all Americans learn from the mistakes of our Nation's past mistreatment of Japanese-, German-, and Italian-Americans. I applaud Congressman HONDA for introducing it, the Japanese American Citizens' League for endorsing it, and urge all of my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 56.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY BLOCKING PROPERTY OF PERSONS UNDERMINING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS IN ZIMBABWE—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-168)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication. It states that the national emergency blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2004.

The crisis caused by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on March 6, 2003, blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 2, 2004.