

1 **JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**
2 **50th JACL National Convention**
3 **National Council Meeting**
4 Salt Lake City, Utah
5 August 1, 2019
6

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

10 **WHEREAS**, the JACL is one of the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights
11 organizations in the country, with the purpose of upholding civil and human rights for all people;
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States extends to its citizens certain inalienable
14 rights, including the right to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition
15 government;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the government forcibly removed 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West
18 Coast during World War II and incarcerated them in ten concentration camps and other detention
19 sites without charge or due process of law;
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the JACL has participated in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, including
22 coordinating members at the 1963 March on Washington, and learned the fight for civil rights
23 can take many forms, including picketing, boycotting, lobbying, lawsuits, civil disobedience, and
24 other forms of dissent in order to challenge civil rights violations and unjust laws;
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the War Relocation Authority (WRA), with the support of the JACL leadership,
27 administered an ambiguous and easily misconstrued “loyalty questionnaire” to Japanese
28 American citizens and Japanese resident aliens alike, without evidence of disloyalty and without
29 administering said questionnaire to any other group or ethnicity;
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the WRA, with the concurrence of the JACL, summarily sent all persons who
32 resisted the “loyalty questionnaire” in any way – i.e. refusing to answer, answering in the
33 negative, answering with a qualified yes – to the Tule Lake concentration camp in Northern
34 California, which was re-designated the Tule Lake Segregation Center and converted into a
35 maximum security prison;
36

37 **WHEREAS**, these Resisters, taken from all ten WRA camps and imprisoned at the Tule Lake
38 Segregation Center, had a right to protest and dissent, as guaranteed by the Constitution of the
39 United States and in keeping with the JACL Constitution;
40

41 **WHEREAS**, the government labeled over 12,000 men, women, and children at Tule Lake
42 Segregation Center as “disloyal” to the United States, with the concurrence of the 1946 National
43 JACL Board formally condemning all resisters. This stigma of “disloyalty” and being branded as
44 “no-no’s” persists to the present day – tragically, even carried forward to succeeding generations;
45

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

49
50 **WHEREAS**, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 encompassed an apology from the U.S.
51 Government to all those affected by Executive Order 9066, including those imprisoned in the
52 Tule Lake Segregation Center;

53
54 **WHEREAS**, the National Council voted in July 2000 to apologize to the 315 Nisei draft
55 "resisters of conscience" and in 2002 recognized them in a public ceremony for their
56 conscientious stand against the government's unconstitutional and racist wartime actions against
57 the Japanese American community; and

58
59 **WHEREAS**, the Tule Lake Segregation Center was designated a unit of the World War II Valor
60 in the Pacific National Monument by President Bush in 2008 and was re-designated the Tule
61 Lake National Monument by Congress in 2019, thus acknowledging the suffering imposed by
62 the government and the sacrifices endured by Japanese Americans there.

63
64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese**
65 **American Citizens League that** in the spirit of reconciliation and community unity, a sincere
66 apology is offered to all those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for acts
67 of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the
68 JACL’s attitudes and treatment towards individuals unfairly labeled “disloyal”; and

69
70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council commits itself to encouraging all
71 chapters to gain a greater understanding of the issues surrounding the imprisonment,
72 mistreatment, and resistance of Japanese Americans sent to Tule Lake Segregation Center; and

73
74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council authorizes the National Education
75 Committee to include the narrative of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in an updated edition of
76 the JACL Curriculum Guide in both printed and online formats and to include this narrative as
77 one element of the syllabus for future JACL Teacher Training Workshops; and

78
79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that** the National Council will recognize Tule Lake Resisters
80 at an appropriate public ceremony during the 2020-2021 biennium.

81
82 **Sponsored by:** Pacific Northwest District Council **Dated:** 5/25/2019

83
84 **Approved by:** Chip Larouche **Title:** Governor

85
86 **Signed:** /s/
87 Signature

88 **Contact:** Stanley N Shikuma
89 Name

90 Sktaiko1@mac.com

91 **Email**
92 **(206) 919-1465**
93 **Telephone**

94
95 **Sponsored by: Northern California/Western Nevada District Council Dated: 5/25/2019**

96
97 **Approved by: Carol Kawase Title: Governor**

98
99 **Signed: /s/**
100 **Signature**

101
102 **Contact: Haruka Roudebush**
103 **Name**

104 **hroudebush@JACL.org**
105 **Email**

106 **(415) 203-7002**
107 **Telephone**

108 **Please check one:**

109 **X Fiscal Impact Statement attached**

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