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**Folder Title:** Japanese Internment Legislation, Signing  
Ceremony For

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1988 AUG 10 AM 10:59

(ROBINSON)

8/10/88 - 10 A.M.

**SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE  
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988**

**MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, DISTINGUISHED  
GUESTS, MY FELLOW AMERICANS:**

**WE GATHER HERE TODAY TO RIGHT A GRAVE  
WRONG.**

**MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, SHORTLY AFTER  
THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR, 120,000 PERSONS  
OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY LIVING IN THE U.S. WERE  
FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES AND PLACED  
IN MAKESHIFT INTERNMENT CAMPS. THIS ACTION  
WAS TAKEN WITHOUT TRIAL, WITHOUT JURY.**

**IT WAS BASED SOLELY ON RACE -- FOR THESE  
120,000 WERE AMERICANS OF JAPANESE DESCENT.**

**YES, THE NATION WAS THEN AT WAR,  
STRUGGLING FOR ITS SURVIVAL -- AND IT IS NOT  
FOR US TODAY TO PASS JUDGMENT UPON THOSE WHO  
MAY HAVE MADE MISTAKES WHILE ENGAGED IN THAT  
GREAT STRUGGLE.**

YET WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS WAS JUST THAT -- A MISTAKE. FOR THROUGHOUT THE WAR, JAPANESE-AMERICANS IN THE TENS OF THOUSANDS REMAINED UTTERLY LOYAL TO THE UNITED STATES.

INDEED, SCORES OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS VOLUNTEERED FOR OUR ARMED FORCES -- MANY STEPPING FORWARD IN THE INTERNMENT CAMPS THEMSELVES. THE 442<sup>ND</sup> REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM, MADE UP ENTIRELY OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS, SERVED WITH IMMENSE DISTINCTION -- TO DEFEND THIS NATION, THEIR NATION.

YET BACK AT HOME, THE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES WERE BEING DENIED THE VERY FREEDOM FOR WHICH SO MANY OF THE SOLDIERS THEMSELVES WERE LAYING DOWN THEIR LIVES.

CONGRESSMAN NORMAN MINETA, WITH US TODAY, WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN HIS FAMILY WAS INTERNED. IN THE CONGRESSMAN'S WORDS: "MY OWN FAMILY WAS SENT FIRST TO SANTA ANITA RACETRACK. WE SHOWERED IN THE HORSE PADDOCKS. SOME FAMILIES LIVED IN CONVERTED STABLES, OTHERS IN HASTILY THROWN TOGETHER BARRACKS. WE WERE THEN MOVED TO HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING, WHERE OUR ENTIRE FAMILY LIVED IN ONE SMALL ROOM OF A RUDE TARPAPER BARRACK."

LIKE SO MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF OTHERS, THE MEMBERS OF THE MINETA FAMILY LIVED IN THOSE CONDITIONS NOT FOR A MATTER OF WEEKS OR MONTHS, BUT FOR 3 LONG YEARS.

THE LEGISLATION THAT I AM ABOUT TO SIGN PROVIDES FOR A RESTITUTION PAYMENT TO EACH OF THE 60,000 SURVIVING JAPANESE-AMERICANS, OF THE 120,000 WHO WERE RELOCATED OR DETAINED. YET NO PAYMENT CAN MAKE UP FOR THOSE LOST YEARS.

SO WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS BILL HAS LESS TO DO WITH PROPERTY THAN WITH HONOR. FOR HERE WE ADMIT A WRONG. HERE WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT AS A NATION TO EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW.

I'D LIKE TO NOTE THAT THE BILL I AM ABOUT TO SIGN ALSO PROVIDES FUNDS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ALEUT COMMUNITY WHO WERE EVACUATED FROM THE ALUTIAN AND PRIBILOF ISLANDS AFTER A JAPANESE ATTACK IN 1942. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN FOR THE ALEUTS' OWN PROTECTION, BUT PROPERTY WAS LOST OR DAMAGED THAT HAS NEVER BEEN REPLACED.

AND NOW IN CLOSING, I WONDER WHETHER YOU'D PERMIT ME ONE PERSONAL REMINISCENCE -- ONE PROMPTED BY AN OLD NEWSPAPER REPORT SENT TO ME BY ROSE (OH-CHEE), A FORMER INTERNEE. THE CLIPPING COMES FROM THE PACIFIC CITIZEN AND IS DATED DECEMBER 1945.

"ARRIVING BY PLANE FROM WASHINGTON," THE ARTICLE BEGINS, "GENERAL JOSEPH W. STILWELL PINNED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS ON MARY (MAH-SUE-DAH) IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY ON THE PORCH OF HER SMALL FRAME SHACK NEAR TALBERT, ORANGE COUNTY. SHE WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO RETURN FROM RELOCATION CENTERS TO CALIFORNIA'S FARMLANDS."

"VINEGAR JOE" STILWELL WAS THERE THAT DAY TO HONOR (CAH-ZOO-OH) (MAH-SUE-DAH), MARY'S BROTHER.

YOU SEE, WHILE MARY AND HER PARENTS WERE IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP, (CAH-zoo-oh) SERVED AS STAFF SERGEANT TO THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM. IN ONE ACTION, (CAH-zoo-oh) ORDERED HIS MEN BACK AND ADVANCED THROUGH HEAVY FIRE, HAULING A MORTAR. FOR 12 HOURS, HE ENGAGED IN A SINGLE-HANDED BARRAGE OF NAZI POSITIONS. SEVERAL WEEKS LATER AT CASSINO, (CAH-zoo-oh) STAGED ANOTHER LONE ADVANCE. THIS TIME, IT COST HIM HIS LIFE.

THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPING NOTES THAT HER TWO SURVIVING BROTHERS WERE WITH MARY AND HER PARENTS ON THE LITTLE PORCH THAT MORNING. THESE TWO BROTHERS -- LIKE THE HEROIC (CAH-zoo-oh) -- HAD SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY.

AFTER GENERAL STILWELL MADE THE AWARD,  
THE MOTION PICTURE ACTRESS LOUISE  
ALLBRITTON -- A TEXAS GIRL -- TOLD HOW  
A TEXAS BATTALION HAD BEEN SAVED BY THE  
442ND. OTHER SHOW BUSINESS PERSONALITIES  
PAID TRIBUTE -- ROBERT YOUNG,  
WILL ROGERS, JR. AND ONE YOUNG ACTOR SAID  
THIS:

"BLOOD THAT HAS SOAKED INTO THE SANDS  
OF A BEACH IS ALL OF ONE COLOR.  
AMERICA STANDS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD, THE ONLY  
COUNTRY NOT FOUNDED ON RACE, BUT ON A WAY --  
AN IDEAL. NOT IN SPITE OF, BUT BECAUSE  
OF OUR POLYGLOT BACKGROUND, WE HAVE HAD ALL  
THE STRENGTH IN THE WORLD. THAT IS THE  
AMERICAN WAY."



- 8 -

THE NAME OF THAT YOUNG ACTOR WAS RONALD  
REAGAN.

AND, YES, THE IDEAL OF LIBERTY AND  
JUSTICE FOR ALL -- THAT IS STILL THE  
AMERICAN WAY.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

AND NOW, LET ME SIGN H.R. 442 --  
SO FITTINGLY NAMED IN HONOR OF THE 442ND

# # # .

~~H~~  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1988

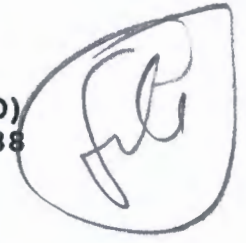
TO: MARI MASENG

FROM RHETT B. DAWSON  
Assistant to the President  
for Operations

These remarks were forwarded to the President, although Norman Mineta's name was left in the text, despite OLA's guidance. Kranowitz will check further to see if he should push the issue. If necessary, this change could be made on the half sheets.

Also, on page 4, speechwriters did not take your fix.

(Robinson/ARD)  
August 9, 1988  
6:30 p.m.



1988 AUG -9 PM 6:50

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE  
INTERNMENT LEGISLATION  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1988

Members of Congress, distinguished guests, my fellow  
Americans:

We gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the U.S. were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race -- for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the Nation was then at war, struggling for its survival -- and it is not for us today to pass judgment upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that -- a mistake. For throughout the War, Japanese-Americans in the tens of thousands remained utterly loyal to the United States.

Indeed, scores of Japanese-Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces -- many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up almost entirely of Japanese-Americans, served with immense distinction -- to defend this Nation, their Nation.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the Congressman's words: "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a rude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for 3 long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese-Americans, of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those 3 lost years.

So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a Nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I am about to sign also provides funds for members of the Aleut community who were evacuated from the Alutian and Pribilof Islands after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleuts' own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced.

And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence -- one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi [oh-chee], a former internee. The clipping comes from the Pacific Citizen and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the [Distinguished Service Cross] on...Mary Masuda [mah-SUE-dah]...in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. ...she was one of the first [Americans of Japanese ancestry] to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo [KAH-zoo-oh] Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers -- like the heroic Kazuo -- had served in the U.S. Army after General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton -- a Texas girl -- told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute -- Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr. And one young actor said this:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way -- an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor was Ronald Reagan.

And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all -- that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you.

And now, let me sign H.R. 442 -- so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 08/09/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR JAPANESE INTERNMENT LEGISLATION

(08/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CRIBB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>DOLAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson/ARD)  
August 9, 1988  
6:30 p.m.

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**WASHINGTON**

Date: August 8, 1988

**TO:** Mari Maseng

**FROM:** **PHILLIP D. BRADY**  
Deputy Counsel to the President

As we discussed, please find attached a letter from Rose Ochi recommending that the President make reference to a statement he made in 1945 on the World War II sacrifices of all races in any statement (signing ceremony) he makes in signing the Japanese internment compensation legislation.

Hope this is helpful.

# ROSE MATSUI OCHI

ATTORNEY AT LAW 730 SOUTH LINCOLN AVENUE, MONTEREY PARK, CALIFORNIA 91754 (818) 573-0324

Phillip Brady:

If a signing ceremony is being planned, I would suggest that you contact Bob [redacted] Chairman of the Cal. Rep. Party, who I would like to suggest a few invitees include Steve Nakashima, Head of Japanese American Council for Reagan.

Phillip Brady  
Acting Counsel  
to the President  
White House,  
Washington, D.C.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Dear Mr. Brady:

ROSE OCHI

As a followup of our telephone conversation yesterday, I am forwarding to you a copy of an article which appeared in the Pacific Citizen, December 15, 1988 edition, which includes Ronald Reagan's quote on behalf of the American Veterans Committee, saying:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way --an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way...."

Such beautiful and fitting remarks could be repeated by the now President of the United States as he signs the historic redress legislation.

Please thank the President for his leadership in upholding the truly American ideal of a country willing to recognize its past mistakes and make amends. This is what makes us so very unique and special in promoting fairness and understanding throughout the nation and the world.

As a former internee, National Vice President of Japanese American Citizens League and first JAACL Legislative Education Committee, Legislative Strategy Chair, I am so very personally delighted after a long struggle, to reach this glorious culmination-a victory for all Americans.

Sincerely Yours,

*Rose Matsui Ochi*  
Rose Matsui Ochi

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR MARI MASENG

FROM: ALAN M. KRANOWITZ *Alan -*

SUBJECT: Signing Ceremony for Japanese Internment  
Legislation

The Japanese Internment legislation has arrived and, at B's direction, my staff is working with Rebecca's staff to put together a "concept schedule proposal" for a ceremony on Wednesday -- either Roosevelt Room or Rose Garden depending on the size of Public Liaison's list of proposed attendees.

Speechwriters will need to move quickly on remarks for the POTUS. Carol Crawford at OMB is the key substance person on this issue.

cc: B. Oglesby  
Rebecca Range

2

Dec. 15, 1945

PACIFIC CITIZEN

## General Stilwell Pins DSC On Sister of Nisei Hero In Ceremony at Masuda Ranch

**"Vinegar Joe" Participates in Americans United  
Rally in Santa Ana; Film Stars Pay Tribute  
To Combat Record of Japanese American Troops**

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Arriving by plane from Washington, General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the D.S.C. on little Mary Masuda Saturday morning, Dec. 8, in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County.

It was the same humble home from which a self-appointed vigilante committee had attempted to drive her a few months before, when she was one of the first Nisei (Americans of Japanese ancestry) to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands.

On Dec. 8 newsreel cameras ground, radio mikes edged in and press photographers shot from many angles to record this presentation of the Army's second highest medal earned by Mary's dead brother, Kazuo Masuda, who was killed at Cassino last year.

The former commander of the China-Burma-India theater of war, "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell, spoke in his traditional democratic manner as he made the award posthumously to Mary Masuda, who like her brother had stood up against the forces of fascism.

Kazuo, staff sergeant with the famous 442nd Infantry Japanese American Combat Team, had ordered his men back and single-handedly advanced through heavy artillery fire, carrying a mortar. Bracing it in a helmet packed with dirt, he poured round after round into the Nazis for twelve hours. A few weeks later in a similar lone advance he was killed, at Cassino on the Italian front. But his men were safe.

That is why Kazuo could not be present to accept the General's medal. His sister Mary, not unlike Mary Pickford in stature and poise, took it for him, with tears in her eyes. Her parents and two of her three living brothers were present on the little porch. All her brothers were or are in the Army.

General Stilwell said as he met Miss Masuda at the ceremony, "I have never yet found a Nisei who didn't do his full duty right up to the hilt. I feel it an honor to be delegated to make this award."

The Distinguished Service Cross did not remain where he pinned it, for Mary turned and fastened it on her mother's dress in recognition. It was Mary, however, who

& Drum Corps played an old war tune.

Louise Albritton, motion picture star born in Texas, gave a sketch telling how the Texas Lost Battalion were saved by the Nisei soldiers. Robert Young did the Arch Oboler bit, "I Have No Prayer." Ronald Reagan, until recently an army captain, spoke on behalf of the American Veterans Committee, of which he is an officer, saying:

"Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way—an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way.

"Mr. and Mrs. Masuda, just as one member of the family of Americans speaking to another member, I want to say for what your son Kazuo did—Thanks!"

Harry Flannery as M. C. pointed out that four years before to the day America in one day, shocked by Pearl Harbor, achieved unity. And, he continued, on this "United America" day, when "Americans-All" gathered in Santa Ana Bowl to honor General Stilwell after the occasion of his presentation to Mary Masuda, perhaps it was not too early to begin peace-time unity.

It was Scout Josh Wilson of Orange Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America, who had led the Allegiance of the Flag. "... with Liberty — and Justice — for ALL."

And it was the Santa Ana Army Air Base Band that played "America the Beautiful" as the audience filed out . . . with many a choke

alone had faced the barrom vigilantes on May 1st when she refused to be frightened from her home

The former commander of the China-Burma-India theater of war, noted for his straight forward Americanism, said later in the day at an afternoon rally at Santa Ana

med out . . . with many a choke in the throat.

Santa Ana extends to all cities the idea—"United America Day."

And little Miss Mary Masuda, attractive Nisei girl, has gone back to run her ten-acre farm with her elderly parents and her veteran brother who assists her.

Talbort will not see such doings



2nd page

"The amount of money, the color of one's skin . . . do not make a measure of Americanism. A square deal all around; free speech; equality before the law; a fair field with no favor; obedience to the majority;—an American not only believes in such things, but he is willing to fight for them.

"Who, after all, is the real American? The real American is the man who calls it a fair exchange to lay down his life in order that American ideals may go on living. And judging by such a test, Sgt. Masuda was a better American than any of us here today."

The General gave the names of winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor—only one surviving—to show that this highest of all military awards had gone to Americans of many races, of Mexican, Italian, Polish, German and other ancestries.

Ronald Reagan, Louise Allbritton, Robert Young, Harry Flannery, Will Rogers Jr., Richard Loo, Chris-Pin Martin, Don Whedlin, Alex Havier and others were on the program, coming down from Hollywood for the occasion. There were also short talks by leaders of several races, including Ruby Merkeley Goodwin, Dan Marshall, Roque E. DeLa Ysla, Maurice Hazan and Walter Hilborn. Protestant, Catholic and Jewish religious leaders gave invocations, and the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign War and American Veterans Committee were represented. Also, the Spanish-American War Veterans Five