

HOUSE BILL No. 4595

May 13, 2015, Introduced by Reps. Singh, Chang, Zemke, Irwin, Pagan, Greig, Cochran, Heise, Hughes, Dillon, Townsend, Driskell, Hoadley, Rutledge, Sarah Roberts and Howrylak and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 2003 PA 225, entitled

"An act to designate March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day in the state of Michigan; to designate July 14 of each year as President Gerald R. Ford day in the state of Michigan; and to designate July 30 of each year as Henry Ford day in the state of Michigan,"

(MCL 435.301 to 435.303) by amending the title and by adding section 4.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

TITLE

An act to designate **JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY**, March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day, ~~in the state of Michigan,~~ to designate July 14 of each year as President Gerald R. Ford day, ~~in the state of Michigan,~~ and to designate July 30 of each year as Henry Ford day in the state of Michigan.

SEC. 4. (1) THE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO CIVIL LIBERTIES MADE BY FRED KOREMATSU. FRED KOREMATSU WAS BORN TO

1 JAPANESE IMMIGRANT PARENTS IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, ON JANUARY 30,
2 1919, THE THIRD OF 4 SONS. FRED KOREMATSU WAS 1 OF THE MANY
3 AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY LIVING ON THE WEST COAST
4 DURING WORLD WAR II. FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR BY THE
5 IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN
6 DELANO ROOSEVELT ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9066 ON FEBRUARY 19,
7 1942. THE ORDER AUTHORIZED THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND HIS MILITARY
8 COMMANDERS TO REQUIRE ALL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO BE
9 PLACED IN INTERNMENT CAMPS. FRED KOREMATSU IS FAMOUSLY KNOWN FOR
10 HIS ARREST, AT THE AGE OF 23, ON MAY 30, 1942, AND CONVICTION ON
11 SEPTEMBER 8, 1942 FOR DEFYING THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER TO REPORT TO
12 AN ASSEMBLY CENTER TO BE MOVED TO AN INTERNMENT CAMP. HE APPEALED
13 HIS CASE ALL THE WAY TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. IN THE
14 DECEMBER 1944 LANDMARK DECISION OF KOREMATSU V UNITED STATES, THE
15 HIGH COURT RULED AGAINST HIM WITH A 6-TO-3 DECISION THAT DECLARED
16 THAT THE INCARCERATION WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE ARMY'S CLAIMS THAT
17 AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE RADIO-SIGNALING ENEMY SHIPS
18 FROM SHORE AND WERE PRONE TO DISHONESTY. FRED KOREMATSU LATER MOVED
19 TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN, WHERE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER RESIDED. THERE HE
20 MET HIS WIFE KATHRYN, AND THE 2 WED BEFORE MOVING TO CALIFORNIA, TO
21 RAISE THEIR CHILDREN, KAREN AND KEN. FRED KOREMATSU'S CONVICTION
22 WAS FORMALLY VACATED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1983 BY UNITED STATES DISTRICT
23 JUDGE MARILYN HALL PATEL OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF
24 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SAN FRANCISCO. THIS ACTION, CONSIDERED TO BE
25 A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, CLEARED FRED KOREMATSU'S
26 NAME BUT DID NOT OVERTURN THE 1944 SUPREME COURT DECISION. FRED
27 KOREMATSU REMAINED AN ACTIVIST THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. ON FEBRUARY 9,

1 1989, FRED KOREMATSU SPOKE TO 400 STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND FORMER
2 INTERNEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL. HE SAID,
3 "AMERICA FINALLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME, BUT I DON'T WANT THIS TO
4 HAPPEN AGAIN". IN 1998, HE RECEIVED THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN
5 HONOR, THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON
6 FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS. FRED KOREMATSU SERVED ON THE CONSTITUTION
7 PROJECT'S BIPARTISAN LIBERTY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE FROM 2001 UNTIL
8 HIS DEATH ON MARCH 30, 2005. FRED KOREMATSU WAS RECOGNIZED IN 2010
9 WHEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PASSED THE FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL
10 LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION BILL, MAKING JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR
11 THE FIRST DAY IN UNITED STATES HISTORY DESIGNATED TO HONOR AN ASIAN
12 AMERICAN. FRED KOREMATSU DAY HAS ALSO BEEN RECOGNIZED IN HAWAII,
13 UTAH, GEORGIA, AND VIRGINIA. FRED KOREMATSU IS CONSIDERED BY MANY
14 AS A NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS HERO WHOSE GROWING LEGACY CONTINUES TO
15 INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS.

16 (2) IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT FRED KOREMATSU
17 HAS MADE, THE LEGISLATURE DECLARES THAT JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR
18 SHALL BE KNOWN AS "FRED KOREMATSU DAY".