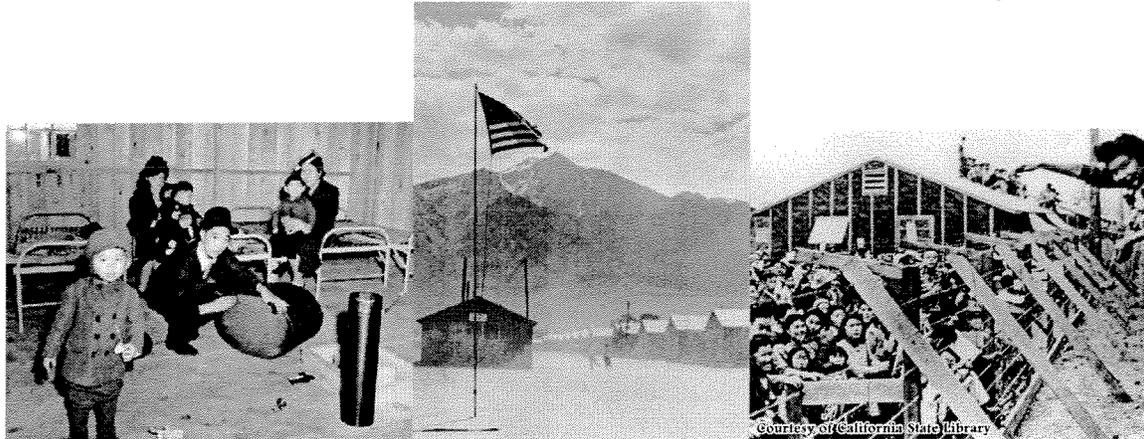


Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

“... for these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologizes on behalf of the Nation.”

**—President Ronald Reagan
August 10, 1988**



February 6, 2007

Dear Colleague:

With the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988, Congress and President Ronald Reagan gave a formal apology and provided restitution to Japanese Americans who endured living behind barbed wire fences during World War II. While most Americans are aware of the internment of Japanese Americans, few know about our government's activities in other countries resulting from prejudice held against people of Japanese ancestry. Government files thoroughly document U.S. involvement in the abduction and internment of an estimated 2,300 people of Japanese descent who lived in 13 Latin American countries. Uprooted from their homes and forcibly transported to the United States, these civilians were robbed of their freedom as they were kidnapped from nations not involved in the war. The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians acknowledged the detention and internment of Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry, but the commission did not fully research the historical documents.

This month we observe the Day of Remembrance — the anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which led to the mass internment of persons of Japanese ancestry. This is a significant day in the Japanese American community since it was first observed in 1978, and the Day of Remembrance is commemorated each year with educational events around the country.

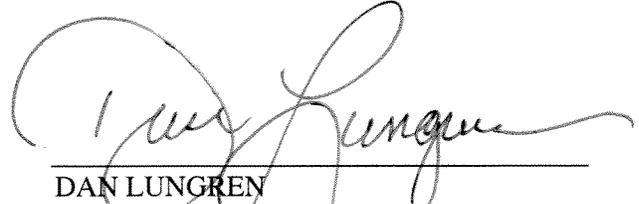
We urge you to join the chorus and mark the Day of Remembrance by cosponsoring the **Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act (H.R. 662)**. The commission would investigate the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans and recommend appropriate remedies.

To cosponsor this legislation or for more information, please contact Christine Oh (Becerra) at 5-6235 or Karin Moore (Lungren) at 5-5716.

Sincerely,



XAVIER BECERRA
Member of Congress



DAN LUNGREN
Member of Congress