

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act (H.R. 42)



Japanese Latin Americans leaving a temporary internment camp in the Panama Canal Zone to join their relatives in U.S. internment camps. April 7, 1942. Courtesy of San Francisco Public Library.

A little known fact: during World War II, approximately 2,300 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry were forcibly deported from 13 Latin American countries to the United States and placed in an internment camp in Crystal City, Texas. Between 1941 and 1945, our government orchestrated and financed the forced transfer of these Japanese Latin American internees to use them as hostages in exchange for Americans held by Japan.

Over 800 individuals were included in two prisoner of war exchanges between the U.S. and Japan, where many were deported to a foreign country that they had never set foot on since their ancestors' immigration to Latin America. The remaining Japanese Latin Americans were imprisoned in internment camps without the benefit of due process rights until after the end of the war.

In an effort to acknowledge and rectify this injustice, Rep. Becerra introduced H.R. 42, the

Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act. This legislation would create a commission to review and determine the facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation of Japanese Latin Americans, and subsequently recommend appropriate remedies.

To learn more about H.R. 42, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, follow the links below:

Bill Information

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