

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION**

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION No. 2330-1**

**WHEREAS**, January 30, 2024 is designated as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution recognizes the extraordinary civil rights activist and advocate; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred T. Korematsu was born in Oakland, California, on January 30, 1919 to Japanese immigrant parents. His refusal to enter Japanese internment camps during World War II, his subsequent arrest and conviction, and the issues raised by the U.S. Supreme Court Case, *Korematsu v. United States*, stand as civil rights advocacy landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred T. Korematsu remained a civil rights activist throughout his life, and in 1998 he was awarded the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton. In 2011, the State of California passed the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution Bill marking the first time in the United States that a day was named after an Asian American of Japanese ancestry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters (SCCROV) encourages youth to learn about civic engagement through its Future Voters program providing activities and support to educators and parents for youth education. School and community activities that pre-register and register, and educate new voters about their voting rights in Santa Clara County are highlighted through the partnership campaign with SCCROV, Power of Democracy. According to studies, educating youth at an early age about government and democracy has a great impact on whether they will become voting adults; and

**WHEREAS**, to echo the importance of civic duty, multiple cities within Santa Clara County support civic engagement and dispositions of civic learning and participation amongst youth. Cities such as San Jose, Cupertino, Gilroy, and Santa Clara provide students with the opportunity to partake in the Youth and Teen Commissions, which are recognized as the official advisory group to the Mayor and City Council regarding the development of policies and recommendations affecting youth; and

**WHEREAS**, social justice issues continue to be at the forefront of the country's consciousness and our local communities. The life of Fred T. Korematsu can be a valuable instructional tool when teaching our youth about civil rights, advocacy, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, to amplify student voice, the Santa Clara County Board of Education includes a student board member from a Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) program. The student board member may exercise preferential voting rights by stating their opinion and/or position on action items; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE offers programs such as the Power of Democracy that promotes civic engagement opportunities amongst students in Santa Clara County and focuses on the importance of voting and being an informed citizen, which has a significant and lifelong impact on the civic engagement and advocacy of youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the SCCOE continues to support the Asian American and Pacific Islander community within the organization through programs such as the Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators Network (AAPIEN) and Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), a national nonprofit organization that cultivates a pipeline of Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders. LEAP leaders and members of the AAPIEN participate in professional development, which is facilitated by SCCOE staff, where they are encouraged to aim for leadership roles and hone and strengthen leadership skills. Participation in these programs encourages educators from SCCOE and other educational institutions to share and celebrate their lived experiences; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize January 30, 2024 as “Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.”

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on December 13, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES: President Chon, Vice President Sreekrishnan, and Trustees Di Salvo, Lari, Mah, and Rocha

NOES: none

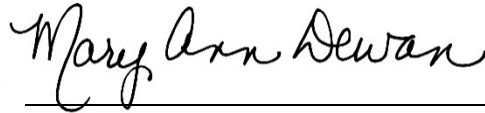
ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Maimona Afzal Berta



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Victoria Chon, President  
Santa Clara County Board of Education



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Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.  
County Superintendent of Schools