



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

- Whereas:** Feb. 19 marks the anniversary of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signing Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the United States government to create military exclusion areas that led to the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast; and
- Whereas:** more than 120,000 Japanese Americans - including American citizens and individuals born in the United States - were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated in camps located in remote inland areas of the country; and
- Whereas:** the impacts of this incarceration were profound and enduring, resulting in the loss of homes, businesses, property, savings and generational wealth, as well as lasting emotional and psychological harm; and
- Whereas:** Bellevue lost a generation of Japanese American residents during World War II, with only 11 of the 60 families returning to the area after 1945; and
- Whereas:** in 1988, the United States government formally acknowledged the injustice of Japanese American incarceration when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, issuing an official apology and providing redress to surviving individuals; and
- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue honors the resilience, contributions and cultural legacy of its Japanese American community and reaffirms its commitment to inclusion, access, equity and opportunity for all residents.

Now, therefore, I, Mo Malakoutian, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **February 19, 2026, as**

Day of Action & Remembrance for Japanese Americans Incarcerated During WWII

in Bellevue and encourage all residents to observe this day by remembering this history, honoring those who were impacted and recommitting to the protection of civil liberties, equity and justice for all.

Mo Malakoutian, Mayor
City of Bellevue