



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, frequently referred to as “internment camps” for Japanese Americans living on the West Coast; and
- Whereas:** More than 120,000 Japanese Americans — including American citizens and those born in the country — were forcibly relocated from their homes to camps in remote inland parts of the continent; and
- Whereas:** Among those incarcerated were more than 300 women, men and children of Japanese ancestry who called Bellevue “home” at that time; and
- Whereas:** The well-documented cost was heavy, both emotionally and financially, with many Japanese Americans losing their homes, businesses, property and savings; and
- Whereas:** Bellevue lost a generation of Japanese American residents when only 11 of the 60 families returned to the area after 1945; and
- Whereas:** The United States government formally apologized for the internment policy in 1988 when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, offering survivors \$20,000 in compensation; and
- Whereas:** The City of Bellevue honors and recognizes the tremendous value and contributions of our Japanese American community and is committed to inclusion, access, equity and opportunity for all.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of its City Council, do hereby proclaim **Feb. 19, 2023**, as:

Day of Action and Remembrance for Japanese American Incarceration During World War II

and urge the residents of Bellevue to reflect on this unfortunate time in our nation’s history. The city further reaffirms its commitment to protecting the civil rights of everyone in our community.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue