



City of Bellevue | Proclamation

Whereas: February 19 marks the anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the creation of military exclusion areas, leading to the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans on the West Coast during World War II; and

Whereas: More than 120,000 Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were American citizens or born in the United States, were uprooted from their homes, losing their communities and enduring hardships in internment camps located in remote parts of the country; and

Whereas: The consequences of this policy were profound and lasting, with families experiencing immense emotional trauma and financial devastation as they lost homes, businesses, property and savings; and

Whereas: Bellevue's Japanese American community was deeply impacted with only 11 of the 60 displaced Japanese American families returning after the war; 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 as redress and a symbolic gesture of atonement; and

Whereas: Bellevue is home to "Emerging Radiance," an interactive and immersive art experience which shares the stories of the Nikkei farmers of Bellevue before, during and after World War II; and

Whereas: The City of Bellevue values and honors the enduring contributions of Japanese Americans to our city, and reaffirms its commitment to fostering an inclusive, equitable, and welcoming community for all.

Now, therefore, I, Lynne Robinson, Mayor of Bellevue, Washington, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2025, as:

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

in Bellevue, and urge all members of our community to reflect on this dark chapter of our nation's history and help maintain a commitment to protecting the civil rights of everyone in our community.

Lynne Robinson, Mayor
City of Bellevue