



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu, an important civil rights leader in the Asian American community, devoted his life to eradicating racism and seeking justice. His passion for serving others is admirable and provides a wonderful example to the citizens of the Land of Lincoln; and,*

*WHEREAS, born on January 30, 1919, Fred Korematsu was the third of four sons to Japanese immigrants who ran a floral nursery business in Oakland, California; and,*

*WHEREAS, throughout his life, Fred Korematsu faced many forms of discrimination, including being turned away from the U.S. National Guard and U.S. Coast Guard as well as being fired from a welding job due to his Japanese ancestry; and,*

*WHEREAS, at the age of 23, Fred Korematsu refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After being arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he pursued legal action, eventually appealing his historically significant case, *Korematsu v. United States*, all the way to the Supreme Court, and,*

*WHEREAS, despite losing his case in the Supreme Court, with the help of a pro-bono legal team that included the Asian Law Caucus, Fred Korematsu's case was overturned in 1983 by a federal court in San Francisco, a pivotal moment in civil rights history; and,*

*WHEREAS, even after his case was overturned, Fred Korematsu remained a committed activist, serving as a member of the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations and speaking at college campuses across the United States; and,*

*WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu, a trail blazing civil rights leader in the Asian American community, who would also go on to champion the civil rights of Arab Americans and Muslims, is an inspiration to the people of Illinois; and,*

*WHEREAS, in 1998, Fred Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian recognition, from President Bill Clinton; and,*

*WHEREAS, in Illinois, we seek to recognize civil rights leaders such as Fred Korematsu, a heroic figure whose tenacity and commitment to making the world a better place must never be forgotten; and,*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 30, 2014, as **FRED KOREMATSU DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of a remarkable man who lived a life of purpose and action.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* TWENTY-FIRST *day of* JANUARY, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
FOURTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and* NINETY-SIXTH

*Dese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*

GOVERNOR