

# SENATE BILL No. 356

May 9, 2013, Introduced by Senators HOPGOOD, ANDERSON, GREGORY, BIEDA, WARREN and BRANDENBURG and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to amend 2003 PA 225, entitled

"An act to designate March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day in the state of Michigan; to designate July 14 of each year as President Gerald R. Ford day in the state of Michigan; and to designate July 30 of each year as Henry Ford day in the state of Michigan,"

(MCL 435.301 to 435.303) by amending the title and by adding section 4.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

### TITLE

An act to designate **JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY**, March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day, ~~in the state of Michigan, to designate~~ July 14 of each year as President Gerald R. Ford day, ~~in the state of Michigan, and to designate~~ July 30 of each year as Henry Ford day in the state of Michigan.

**SEC. 4. (1) THE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZES THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO**

1 CIVIL LIBERTIES MADE BY FRED KOREMATSU. FRED KOREMATSU WAS BORN TO  
2 JAPANESE IMMIGRANT PARENTS IN OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, ON JANUARY 30,  
3 1919, THE THIRD OF 4 SONS. FRED KOREMATSU WAS ONE OF THE MANY  
4 AMERICAN CITIZENS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY LIVING ON THE WEST COAST  
5 DURING WORLD WAR II. FOLLOWING THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR BY THE  
6 IMPERIAL JAPANESE NAVY ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN  
7 DELANO ROOSEVELT ISSUED EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9066 ON FEBRUARY 19,  
8 1942. THE ORDER AUTHORIZED THE SECRETARY OF WAR AND HIS MILITARY  
9 COMMANDERS TO REQUIRE ALL AMERICANS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY TO BE  
10 PLACED IN INTERNMENT CAMPS. FRED KOREMATSU IS FAMOUSLY KNOWN FOR  
11 HIS ARREST, AT THE AGE OF 23, ON MAY 30, 1942, AND CONVICTION ON  
12 SEPTEMBER 8, 1942 FOR DEFYING THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDER TO REPORT TO  
13 AN ASSEMBLY CENTER TO BE MOVED TO AN INTERNMENT CAMP. HE APPEALED  
14 HIS CASE ALL THE WAY TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. IN THE  
15 DECEMBER 1944 LANDMARK DECISION OF KOREMATSU V UNITED STATES, THE  
16 HIGH COURT RULED AGAINST HIM WITH A 6 TO 3 DECISION THAT DECLARED  
17 THE INCARCERATION WAS JUSTIFIED BY THE ARMY'S CLAIMS THAT AMERICANS  
18 OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY WERE RADIO-SIGNALING ENEMY SHIPS FROM SHORE  
19 AND WERE PRONE TO DISHONESTY. FRED KOREMATSU LATER MOVED TO  
20 DETROIT, MICHIGAN, WHERE HIS YOUNGER BROTHER RESIDED. THERE HE MET  
21 HIS WIFE KATHRYN, AND THE 2 WED BEFORE MOVING TO CALIFORNIA, TO  
22 RAISE THEIR CHILDREN, KAREN AND KEN. FRED KOREMATSU'S CONVICTION  
23 WAS FORMALLY VACATED ON NOVEMBER 10, 1983 BY UNITED STATES DISTRICT  
24 JUDGE MARILYN HALL PATEL OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OF  
25 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA IN SAN FRANCISCO. THIS ACTION, CONSIDERED TO BE  
26 A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, CLEARED FRED KOREMATSU'S  
27 NAME BUT DID NOT OVERTURN THE 1944 SUPREME COURT DECISION. FRED

1 KOREMATSU REMAINED AN ACTIVIST THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE. ON FEBRUARY 9,  
2 1989, FRED KOREMATSU SPOKE TO 400 STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND FORMER  
3 INTERNEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LAW SCHOOL. HE SAID,  
4 "AMERICA FINALLY CAME THROUGH FOR ME, BUT I DON'T WANT THIS TO  
5 HAPPEN AGAIN". IN 1998, HE RECEIVED THE NATION'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN  
6 HONOR, THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM, FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON  
7 FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS. FRED KOREMATSU SERVED ON THE CONSTITUTION  
8 PROJECT'S BIPARTISAN LIBERTY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE FROM 2001 UNTIL  
9 HIS DEATH ON MARCH 30, 2005. FRED KOREMATSU WAS RECOGNIZED IN 2010  
10 WHEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA PASSED THE FRED KOREMATSU DAY OF CIVIL  
11 LIBERTIES AND THE CONSTITUTION BILL, MAKING JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR  
12 THE FIRST DAY IN UNITED STATES HISTORY DESIGNATED TO HONOR AN ASIAN  
13 AMERICAN. FRED KOREMATSU IS CONSIDERED BY MANY AS A NATIONAL CIVIL  
14 RIGHTS HERO WHOSE GROWING LEGACY CONTINUES TO INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL  
15 BACKGROUNDS.

16 (2) IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THAT FRED KOREMATSU  
17 HAS MADE, THE LEGISLATURE DECLARES THAT JANUARY 30 OF EACH YEAR  
18 SHALL BE KNOWN AS FRED KOREMATSU DAY.