

HOUSE BILL NO. 4161

February 04, 2021, Introduced by Reps. Kuppa, Stone, Koleszar, Brenda Carter, Liberati, Rabhi, Lasinski, Pohutsky, Puri, Sowerby, Camilleri, Sneller, Cherry, Brabec, Clemente, Tyrone Carter, Witwer, Garza, Coleman, Peterson, Steenland, Ellison, Shannon, Breen, Hope, Scott, Cavanagh, Weiss, Hood, Sabo, Hertel and Aiyash 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:

1 TITLE
2 An act to designate **January 30 of each year as Fred Korematsu**

1 **day**, March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez day, ~~in the state of~~
2 ~~Michigan; to designate~~ July 14 of each year as President Gerald R.
3 Ford day, ~~in the state of Michigan; and to designate~~ July 30 of
4 each year as Henry Ford day in ~~the~~ **this** state. ~~of Michigan.~~

5 **Sec. 4. (1) The legislature recognizes the contributions to**
6 **civil liberties made by Fred Korematsu. Fred Korematsu was born to**
7 **Japanese immigrant parents in Oakland, California, on January 30,**
8 **1919, the third of 4 sons. Fred Korematsu was 1 of the many**
9 **American citizens of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast**
10 **during World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the**
11 **Imperial Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941, President Franklin**
12 **Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 9066 on February 19,**
13 **1942. The order authorized the Secretary of War and his military**
14 **commanders to require all Americans of Japanese ancestry to be**
15 **placed in internment camps. Fred Korematsu is famously known for**
16 **his arrest, at the age of 23, on May 30, 1942, and conviction on**
17 **September 8, 1942 for defying the government's order to report to**
18 **an assembly center to be moved to an internment camp. He appealed**
19 **his case all the way to the United States Supreme Court. In the**
20 **December 1944 landmark decision of *Korematsu v United States*, the**
21 **high court ruled against him with a 6-to-3 decision that declared**
22 **that the incarceration was justified by the Army's claims that**
23 **Americans of Japanese ancestry were radio-signaling enemy ships**
24 **from shore and were prone to dishonesty. Fred Korematsu later moved**
25 **to Detroit, Michigan, where his younger brother resided. There he**
26 **met his wife Kathryn, and the 2 wed before moving to California to**
27 **raise their children, Karen and Ken. Fred Korematsu's conviction**
28 **was formally vacated on November 10, 1983 by United States District**
29 **Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the United States District Court of**

1 Northern California in San Francisco. This action, considered to be
2 a pivotal moment in civil rights history, cleared Fred Korematsu's
3 name but did not overturn the 1944 Supreme Court decision. Fred
4 Korematsu remained an activist throughout his life. On February 9,
5 1989, Fred Korematsu spoke to 400 students, faculty, and former
6 internees at the University of Michigan Law School. He said,
7 "America finally came through for me, but I don't want this to
8 happen again". In 1998, he received the nation's highest civilian
9 honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President Clinton
10 for his contributions. Fred Korematsu served on the Constitution
11 Project's bipartisan Liberty and Security Committee from 2001 until
12 his death on March 30, 2005. Fred Korematsu was recognized in 2010
13 when the state of California passed the Fred Korematsu day of civil
14 liberties and the constitution bill, making January 30 of each year
15 the first day in United States history designated to honor an Asian
16 American. Fred Korematsu day has also been recognized in Hawaii,
17 Utah, Georgia, and Virginia. Fred Korematsu is considered by many
18 as a national civil rights hero whose growing legacy continues to
19 inspire people of all backgrounds.

20 (2) In recognition of the contributions that Fred Korematsu
21 has made, the legislature declares that January 30 of each year
22 shall be known as "Fred Korematsu Day".

23 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
24 after the date it is enacted into law.