

# *Proclamation*

## **Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution**

**WHEREAS**, the battle for civil liberties has been championed by ordinary Americans who have had the courage to stand up and fight for their basic Constitutional rights; and

**WHEREAS**, Fred T. Korematsu was one of these individuals, who refused to comply with Civilian Exclusion Order 34, based on the federal Executive Order 9066, which imposed strict curfew regulations and required 120,000 Japanese Americans to leave their homes to be incarcerated in American concentration camps during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Korematsu was arrested and convicted, but fought back because he believed the conviction went against the basic freedoms guaranteed to him by the U.S. Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, research uncovered evidence that federal government officials had suppressed documents which concluded that Japanese Americans posed no security risk, that the military had lied to the Supreme Court, and government lawyers had made false arguments; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Korematsu's conviction was ultimately overturned in 1984; a decision that influenced the US government's passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which recognized that a grave injustice was done by forced relocation and incarceration of civilian Americans because of wartime prejudice; and

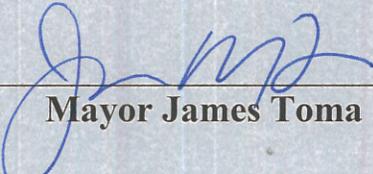
**WHEREAS**, Mr. Korematsu devoted the balance of his life to educating Americans about civil liberties, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States in 1998, before passing away on March 30, 2005 at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Assembly and State Senate passed AB 1775, the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution, without opposition and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed this bill into law on September 23, 2010.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I James Toma, Mayor of the City of West Covina**, proclaim January 30 as the Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution and encourage all residents to contemplate the life of Fred Korematsu and the importance of preserving civil liberties, even in times of real or perceived crisis.

On this 30<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016



  
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**Mayor James Toma**