

RESOLUTION 14 — S.F.No. 531

A resolution memorializing the President and Congress of the United States to provide medical care for former members of the military forces who were exposed to atomic radiation in the course of their duties.

WHEREAS, there are approximately 250,000 veterans in the United States who were exposed to atomic radiation during the occupation of Japan and in conjunction with at least 235 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests conducted in the 1940's and 1950's and up to as recently as 1962; and

WHEREAS, these veterans are now suffering myriad health problems, including cancer, degenerative bone and nerve diseases, intestinal disorders, blood and respiratory diseases, emotional problems, and birth defects in children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, recent medical evidence indicates that these ailments are associated with exposure to atomic radiation; and

WHEREAS, these veterans have typically been hesitant to come forward for fear of prosecution under secrecy statutes and possible loss of employee medical benefits and diminished employment potential; and

WHEREAS, regulations published by the United States Veterans' Administration on December 2, 1981, pertaining to the provision of health care to veterans exposed to atomic radiation do not address health symptoms other than cancer; and

WHEREAS, current Veterans' Administration regulations have been used to deny 98 percent of the claims by veterans for health care and compensation; and

WHEREAS, under these regulations, it is incumbent upon the veteran to prove his or her exposure to atomic radiation through his or her own initiative in securing records that often are incomplete or missing entirely; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota, that the President and Congress of the United States should direct the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to revise the current regulations of the Veterans' Administration regarding the provision of health care to veterans exposed to atomic radiation to fully recognize the body of medical evidence associating exposure to atomic radiation with a wide range of health effects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that other appropriate agencies and resources of the United States be brought to bear in an investigation of the health and genetic complaints of veterans exposed to atomic radiation and of the apparent loss of records and documentation pertaining to exposure of individuals and military units.

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to transmit certified copies of this memorial to the President of the United States, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Chief Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each Senator and Representative from Minnesota in the Congress of the United States, and to the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs.

Approved April 25, 1984

RESOLUTION 15 — S.F.No. 751

A resolution memorializing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to recommend to the United States Congress to provide adequate compensation to internees.

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the uprooting and imprisonment of all persons of Japanese ancestry on the Pacific Coast; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1942, exactly 120,313 persons of Japanese ancestry, most of whom were American citizens, were forcibly evicted from their West Coast homes and subsequently incarcerated in what amounted to concentration camps; and

WHEREAS, not a single charge of wrongdoing was ever filed against any Japanese American residing in the United States during World War II; and

WHEREAS, American citizens of Japanese ancestry and their alien parents, who were legal permanent residents, were never allowed the basic constitutional right of the benefit of a hearing or trial; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the \$400 million in property losses estimated by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in 1942, there were immeasurable damages suffered, such as the loss of individual freedom, the destruction of personal human dignity, the loss of income and disruption of careers, and psychological trauma of having been innocent victims imprisoned for three and a half years; and

WHEREAS, Japanese Americans volunteered from within barbed wire camps to join the armed forces and demonstrated exemplary heroism, courage, and patriotic loyalty as evidenced by the fact the one unit became the most highly decorated unit in World War II for its size and length of service; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians established on July 31, 1980, conducted an inquiry and reported its

Changes or additions are indicated by underline, deletions by ~~strikeout~~.