



美 洲 同 源 總 會

# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge  
ESTABLISHED 1895

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## C.A.C.A. Acknowledges the Tenth Anniversary of Fred Korematsu Day

San Francisco, January 30, 2021 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) joins in the acknowledgement of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of Fred Korematsu Day in honor of the renowned civil rights activist who fought the U.S. Government's policy on Japanese American internment during World War II. Officially, the Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution—the only day named after an Asian American—is recognized on January 30 in a growing number of cities and states, including California, Hawaii, Virginia, Florida, and New York City.

Born in Oakland, California, Mr. Korematsu challenged the Government's authority to incarcerate him and more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in internment camps during the Second World War merely because “they happened to look like the enemy.” The cases of Mr. Korematsu and several Japanese Americans landed before the U.S. Supreme Court. In *Korematsu v. United States* (1944), the high court affirmed the lawfulness of Executive Order 9066 ignoring the constitutional protections afforded by U.S. citizenship. Today it is considered one of the more shameful rulings in the High Court's history. Yet, not all the justices were in concurrence with the majority ruling as reflected in powerful dissents, most notably from Associate Justice Frank Murphy: “Racial discrimination in any form and in any degree has no justifiable part whatever in our democratic way of life.”

Although Mr. Korematsu's conviction for evading internment was overturned in 1983, the Supreme Court's 1944 ruling had not been overturned. However in June 2018, the Supreme Court's ruling on the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's travel ban policy (*Trump v. Hawaii*) was justified in the name of national security sparked strong dissent from liberal justices who compared the legal reasoning of the majority to the same baseless conclusion arrived by the Court in the Korematsu case 74 years earlier. “Korematsu was gravely wrong the day it was decided, has been overruled in the court of history, and — to be clear — ‘has no place in law under the Constitution,’” declared Chief Justice John Roberts in his majority opinion. Many court watchers and civil liberties groups viewed the Supreme Court's decision formally repudiating the Korematsu ruling.

Mr. Korematsu had remained a dedicated activist throughout his life, standing up for Muslim Americans and other marginalized groups. He passed away in 2005 at age 86.



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“We remember [my father’s] legacy and how it continues to inspire people across diverse communities and now, more than ever, demonstrates the importance of speaking up and standing up to fight injustice. We will also celebrate other change-makers who got into ‘good trouble’ and have and are working now in our communities,” stated Karen Korematsu, founder and executive director, Fred T. Korematsu Institute in San Francisco.

Today, on Saturday, a virtual celebration of the Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution will be held at 3:00pm (PT) | 5:00pm (CT) | 6:00pm (ET). Register for the online event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fred-korematsu-day-of-civil-liberties-and-the-constitution-registration-138559317649>.

To learn more about Fred Korematsu Day, visit [www.korematsuinstitute.org/fredkorematursday/](http://www.korematsuinstitute.org/fredkorematursday/)

With 20 chapters nationwide, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry established in 1895.

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1044 Stockton St.  
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Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.