HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 18

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**

3 **Day,** March 31 of each year as Cesar E. Chavez ~~day in the state of~~

4 ~~Michigan; to designate~~ **Day,** July 14 of each year as President

5 Gerald R. Ford ~~day in the state of Michigan;~~ **Day,** and ~~to designate~~

1 July 30 of each year as Henry Ford ~~day in the state of~~

2 ~~Michigan.~~**Day.**

3   **Sec. 4. (1) The legislature recognizes the contributions to**

4 **civil liberties made by Fred Korematsu. Fred Korematsu was born to**

5 **Japanese immigrant parents in Oakland, California, on January 30,**

6 **1919, the third of 4 sons. Fred Korematsu was 1 of the many**

7 **American citizens of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast**

8 **during World War II. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the**

9 **Imperial Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941, President Franklin**

10 **Delano Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 9066 on February 19,**

11 **1942. The order authorized the Secretary of War and his military**

12 **commanders to require all Americans of Japanese ancestry to be**

13 **placed in incarceration camps. Fred Korematsu is famously known for**

14 **his arrest, at the age of 23, on May 30, 1942, and conviction on**

15 **September 8, 1942 for defying the government's order to report to**

16 **an assembly center to be moved to an incarceration camp. He**

17 **appealed his case all the way to the United States Supreme Court.**

18 **In the December 1944 landmark decision of *Korematsu v United***

19 ***States*, the high court ruled against him with a 6-to-3 decision**

20 **that declared that the incarceration was justified by the Army's**

21 **claims that Americans of Japanese ancestry were radio-signaling**

22 **enemy ships from shore and were prone to dishonesty. Fred Korematsu**

23 **later moved to Detroit, Michigan, where his younger brother**

24 **resided. There he met his wife Kathryn, and the 2 wed before moving**

25 **to the state of California to raise their children, Karen and Ken.**

26 **Fred Korematsu's conviction was formally vacated on November 10,**

27 **1983 by United States District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the**

28 **United States District Court of Northern California in San**

29 **Francisco. This action, considered to be a pivotal moment in civil**

1 rights history, cleared Fred Korematsu's name but did not overturn
2 the 1944 Supreme Court decision. Fred Korematsu remained an
3 activist throughout his life. On February 9, 1989, Fred Korematsu
4 spoke to 400 people at the University of Michigan Law School. He
5 said, "America finally came through for me, but I don't want this
6 to happen again". In 1998, he received the nation's highest
7 civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President
8 Clinton for his contributions. Fred Korematsu served on the
9 Constitution Project's bipartisan Liberty and Security Committee
10 from 2001 until his death on March 30, 2005. Fred Korematsu was
11 recognized in 2010 when the state of California passed the Fred
12 Korematsu day of civil liberties and the constitution bill, making
13 January 30 of each year the first day in United States history
14 designated to honor an Asian American. Fred Korematsu Day has also
15 been recognized in the states of Hawaii, Utah, Georgia, and
16 Virginia. Fred Korematsu is considered by many as a national civil
17 rights hero whose growing legacy continues to inspire people of all
18 backgrounds.
19   (2) In recognition of the contributions that Fred Korematsu
20 has made, the legislature declares that January 30 of each year
21 shall be known as "Fred Korematsu Day".
22   Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
23 after the date it is enacted into law.