

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Cautioning )  
Against Racial Exploitation )  
on the Commemoration of the )  
50th Anniversary of the )  
Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor )

RESOLUTION  
91-179

WHEREAS, the 50th Anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor will be commemorated on December 7, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oregon and several cities in the state have established strong cultural and economic ties with the Japanese government, its cities, business firms, their family members and with students from Japan; and

WHEREAS, the occasion of the 50th anniversary commemoration has the potential for racial exploitation by some individuals and groups and the perception by some that Japan is an enemy; and

WHEREAS, the 1980's has witnessed a dramatic increase in hate crimes directed at Asian Americans caused by various factors including "Japan Bashing" which has resulted largely from economic and trade frictions between the United States and Japan; and

WHEREAS, the animosities toward Japanese often also directed towards Americans of Japanese ancestry and all other Asian Americans who have served with valor in the U.S. Military Services and in other capacities as civilians; and

WHEREAS, Racism was the primary cause of the internment and denial of justice to 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II and the cause of numerous acts of violence toward all Asian Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Multnomah County abhors any attempts to exploit racism that would adversely affect persons of Japanese ancestry or others of Asian ancestry as a result of the 50th anniversary commemorating Pearl Harbor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to commemorating those who died at Pearl Harbor, Multnomah County takes the occasion of this anniversary to emphasize the need for the development of economic partnership between the State of Oregon and Japan and mutual commitment towards lasting peace by everyone concerned.

Adopted, this 5th day of December, 1991.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

BY Gladys McCoy  
Gladys McCoy, County Chair



REVIEWED  
LAURENCE KRESSEL, COUNTY COUNSEL  
for Multnomah County, Oregon

By John DeBay