



VENICE-CULVER CHAPTER  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
12448 BRADDOCK DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066

December 7, 2009

Councilman Bill Rosendahl  
Los Angeles City Council District 11  
200 North Spring Street, Room 415  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
[Councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org](mailto:Councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org)

Dear Councilman Rosendahl:

The Venice Culver Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) supports the efforts of the Free Venice Beachhead and the students of Venice High School in the campaign to recognize the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards with a commemorative marker. On April 25, 1942, hundreds of Americans of Japanese ancestry living in the Venice area reported to that northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevard to board buses that would transport them to temporary assembly centers. Executive Order 90066 had empowered the U.S. military to declare areas of Washington, Oregon and California militarily sensitive and denied Americans of Japanese ancestry their Constitutional rights.

The commemorative marker will serve as a reminder of the denial of the basic civil liberties of habeas corpus and due process. The political atmosphere of 1941 California was one of prejudice and discrimination against Americans of Japanese ancestry fueled by a media campaign to encourage the Federal government to rid the state of "enemy aliens and non-aliens" alike. With the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the United States turned its back on Americans simply because they shared the ethnicity of a nation that attacked the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The Venice Culver JACL urges you to support the commemorative marker. We are part of a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The commemorative marker will remind everyone of the proper balance between issues of national security and our civil liberties.

Sincerely,

Sharon Kumagai  
Venice Culver JACL Chapter President