

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

BUKKYOKAI • FUJINKAI • ADULT BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (ABA) • YOUNG ADULT BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (YABA)
DHARMA SCHOOL • SANGHA TEENS • JUNIOR YOUNG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION (JR. YBA)

12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230-5869 • Tel. (310) 391-4351 / Fax. (310) 398-1491
Website / Email: www.vhbt.org

Rev. John K. Iwohara
Minister

December 2, 2009

Councilman Bill Rosendahl
Los Angeles City Council District 11
200 North Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilman.rosendahl@lacity.org

Dear Councilman Rosendahl:

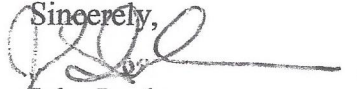
The Board of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple would like to go on record as in support of the recent efforts to erect a commemorative marker at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln Boulevards. There, on April 25, 1942 hundreds of Japanese Americans in the Venice community reported, as ordered by the U. S. military with whatever they could carry, for transport to temporary assembly centers. These assembly centers included the Santa Anita Racetrack in Arcadia and the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds in Pomona, where Japanese American families resided for months while the War Relocation Authority completed construction of ten concentration camps in the interior of the U. S.

The commemorative marker will serve as a reminder of the denial of U. S. Constitutional rights such as habeas corpus and due process to a minority group that simply shared the ethnicity of the nation that attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Suspicion of Americans of Japanese ancestry on the west coast, coupled with longheld prejudices and discriminatory practices in California in particular, led citizens' organizations like the Native Sons of the Golden West to mount a media campaign to encourage the federal government to rid the state of "enemy aliens and non-aliens" alike. General John L. De Witt cited the very absence of any acts of espionage or sabotage as "disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken."

We urge you to support this commemorative marker, so that all who pass by it may be reminded of the fragility of our democratic heritage and legacy, that they might be inspired to know and

exercise their rights, and acknowledge the damage that prejudice and discrimination inflicts on the fabric of American society.

Sincerely,



John Iwohara
Minister



Dianne Kujubu Belli
President