



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu was born on January 30, 1919 to Japanese immigrants who ran a floral nursery business in Oakland, California; and

WHEREAS, a bright and energetic young man, he completed his education in the public school system while working in the family nursery business and soon sought admission into the United States Navy, registering for the draft in 1940; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu soon found employment as a welder in the Navy shipyards after health issues inhibited a Navy career, but lost his position with the infamous bombing of Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, only 23 and already a man of determined resolve, Fred Korematsu refused to comply with the Executive Order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to detain Americans of Japanese descent; and

WHEREAS, soon thereafter, he was arrested and permitted the American Civil Liberties Union to allow his case to test the constitutionality of incarceration camps; and

WHEREAS, *Korematsu v. United States* went all the way to the Supreme Court and became a landmark case, whose indelible impact remains rooted in the culture of American progress and equality today; and

WHEREAS, Fred Korematsu went on to champion change and fairness with a distinguishing body of work centered on advocacy and uplift among many diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998 by President Bill Clinton, and his enduring courage and indomitable spirit in the face of racism and oppression not only stands beside those of international human rights icons but also inspires, encourages, and enlightens generations of residents throughout Chicagoland and around the world:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RAHM EMANUEL, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO, do hereby proclaim January 30, 2014 to be FRED KOREMATSU DAY IN CHICAGO, and urge all residents to remember the legacy and work of Fred Korematsu, as we continue the work in building a more just society for us all.

Dated this 29th day of January, 2014.

Mayor