

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
48th JAACL National Convention
National Council Meeting
Washington, DC
July 7, 2017

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

This proposal could not have been submitted by the regular deadline because the notification of intent to file for National Historic Site status was not known until the announcement at the May 20, 2017 Amache Pilgrimage Dinner by John Hopper, Amache Preservation Society founder.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO THE AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY'S
APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR TO DESIGNATE
THE AMACHE INCARCERATION CAMP AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**

WHEREAS, the Japanese American Citizens League is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization with 101 chapters distributed among seven districts across the United States, dedicated to educating the public about the World War II Japanese American incarceration experience; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan which issued a formal apology and granted reparations to Japanese Americans who were incarcerated by the United States government during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese American Citizens League Education Committee completed six teacher training workshops across the United States, in 2015, on the historical background of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II, through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program, which connected the Japanese American incarceration experience to current events and other communities, with workshops on discrimination, civil liberties and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Granada Relocation Center, also known as the Amache Relocation Camp, was the smallest of 10 camps that housed Japanese Americans forcibly removed from the West Coast by the War Relocation Authority. The incarceration camp was only half complete when the first incarcerated began arriving from temporary detention centers in August 1942. Located in the southeastern corner of Colorado, near the town of Granada, Amache housed 7,597 evacuees, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens; and

WHEREAS, Manzanar and Minidoka Incarceration Camps are designated National Historic Sites and Tule Lake Incarceration Camp is part of the Tule Lake Unit of the WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the Denver Central Optimists Club placed a memorial in the Amache cemetery, listing the names of those 31 soldiers who died while serving in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, fighting for freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1993 by John Hopper, the Amache Preservation Society has maintained the Amache Camp with support from the Granada School District, where the Camp has been added to the high school history curriculum. Mr. Hopper and his students helped procure historic designation and obtained grants to help restore a site that had been reduced to little more than the foundation outlines where barracks and mess halls and other structures used to stand; and

WHEREAS, the Amache Preservation Society maintains a museum to display the many aspects of life in Amache Camp. The accompanying website hosts archival documents and provides general history about Amache and its preservation, as well as a location for updates about events, such as the yearly pilgrimage; and

WHEREAS, the Granada Center, also known as Camp Amache, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Denver Central Optimists undertook to refurbish the Amache cemetery site on April 17-18, 2000 with the help from 294 youngsters from the Granada school system, teachers, and townspeople. Sod was laid and chain-link fencing put up around the sodded area; and

WHEREAS, in 2007 the Friends of Amache (which consists of the Amache Historical Society, the Amache Club, the Amache Preservation Society, and the Town of Granada) and the National Park Service organized a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan and Conceptual Development Plan outlining the interpretive and educational goals of the Amache site¹; and

WHEREAS, the History Colorado Center has a permanent exhibit entitled, *Confined Citizens: The Amache-Granada Relocation Center, 1942–1945*; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado State Archives maintains a site link to important primary documents related to Amache Incarceration Camp, including the correspondence of Governor Ralph Carr, whose strong support of the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans would ultimately cost him his political career; and

WHEREAS, the University of Denver Amache Project is a community based project, under the auspices of Dr. Bonnie Clark, researching the tangible history of Amache, including intensive archaeological study of the camp. Results from that research, including photographs, newsletters, and a short documentary film, are available through the website <http://portfolio.du.edu/amache>; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colorado) has toured the Amache Camp site on

¹ <http://coloradopreservation.org/projects/current-projects/granada-relocation-center/>

June 7, 2017 and agreed to support Senator Cory Gardner’s (R-Colorado) decision to sponsor the application process for National Historic Site designation pending Senator Gardner’s site visit scheduled for July 13, 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League** that JACL supports efforts to designate Amache Incarceration Camp as a National Historic Site.

Sponsored by: NCWNP District
(JACL entity)

Dated: June 11, 2017
Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Carol Kawase, District Governor
Name and Title (Please Print)

Signed: _____ /s/

Please check one:

Fiscal Impact Statement attached

No Fiscal Impact (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)

Note: The proposal must include signatures of three (3) delegates from (3) different districts not including that of the proponent:

Name: David Kawamoto, Delegate
(Please Print)

District: PSW

Chapter: San Diego

Signed: _____ /s/

Name: Eileen Yamada-Lamphere, delegate
(Please Print)

District: PNW

Chapter: Puvallup Valley

Signed: _____ /s/

Name: **Ron Katsuyama, delegate**
(Please Print)

District: **MDC**

Chapter: **Dayton**

Signed: _____ /s/

Name: **Roberta Barton, delegate**
(Please Print)

District: **CCDC**

Chapter: **Fresno**

Signed: _____ /s/