

Korematsu v. United States / Congressional Gold Medal Celebration Invitation

Directions:

Read the following excerpt from a press release from Senator Mazie Hirono's office¹ regarding the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu. Then complete the questions and tasks that follow.

January 30, 2019

Hirono, Murkowski, Coons, Gardner, Takano Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Award Fred Korematsu the Congressional Gold Medal

Civil Rights Hero Led the Opposition to the Illegal Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II

WASHINGTON, D.C.— On what would have been his 100th Birthday, Senators Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Chris Coons (D-Del.), and Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) and Representative Mark Takano (D-Calif.) introduced bicameral legislation to award Fred Korematsu the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his fight against the illegal incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and his work to advance civil rights.

“Fred Korematsu stood up for the rights of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, and continued his fight for decades to expand civil rights and overturn his own false criminal conviction,” Senator Hirono said. “Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, Congress’ highest civilian honor, to Fred Korematsu is a fitting tribute to his lifelong pursuit of justice and equality.”

“The placement of Japanese Americans in internment camps during WWII is a reprehensible part of our nation’s history, and the bravery demonstrated by Fred Korematsu in the defense of freedom is something that all Americans should aspire to,” Senator Murkowski said. “In remembrance of Korematsu’s unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and the promotion of civil liberties, I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will posthumously award him with the Congressional Gold Medal.

“Every American should know Fred Korematsu’s story, and Congress should honor his bravery and sacrifice by posthumously awarding him a Congressional Gold Medal,” Senator Coons said. “Fred Korematsu courageously challenged discrimination and

¹ Office of U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono, “Hirono, Murkowski, Coons, Gardner, Takano Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Award Fred Korematsu the Congressional Gold Medal,” News release, January 30, 2019, <https://www.hirono.senate.gov/news/press-releases/hirono-murkowski-coons-gardner-takano-introduce-bipartisan-legislation-to-award-fred-korematsu-the-congressional-gold-medal>.

3. Create or paste your invitation below: