

# Remarks at NJAMP in WW II

## December 16, 2015

Thank you, Chris!

As the National President of the Japanese American Citizens League, I am excited to be here because I believe that it is extremely befitting to hold this rally here at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II.

This Memorial honors the heroism and sacrifice of Japanese Americans who fought and died for their country while their families were incarcerated in the American concentration camps. This Memorial not only tells an American story of patriotism, it's a story about the rights of every single American.

JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States and we have always been in the forefront of championing the rights for not only Japanese Americans, but for all Americans. The Japanese American internment experience during the World War II put us in a unique position in advocating on behalf of those who are either unserved, underserved or in need of a voice.

We are proud of our legacy and we are proud to carry that torch forward to uphold our nation's values and ideals, especially during times of crisis, like now. In 1994, JACL was the first Asian American organization passed a resolution supporting marriage equality. After the 9-11 tragedy in 2001, JACL was the one of the first organizations to speak up for Muslim Americans.

We are speaking up now condemning dangerous anti-Muslim rhetoric by elected officials and candidates. It is our conviction that what happened to those 120,000 Japanese Americans during the World War II should never be repeated.

Here today, with the Japanese American Memorial as the backdrop, we are proud to stand in solidarity with the Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian American communities. We will continue to do that because we should learn from those painful lessons of history and that is our obligation to this nation!

Thank you!