

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 10, 2002**

Contact: Clarence Moriwaki (206) 855-9038 [clarence@bainbridge.net](mailto:clarence@bainbridge.net)

**60<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony of the first Japanese Americans sent to internment camps to be held on Saturday, March 30**

The first 227 Japanese Americans to be forcibly removed from their homes and taken to internment camps left Bainbridge Island on March 30, 1942.

On that day, with only six days prior notice and allowed to bring only what they could carry or wear, they were gathered up by armed U.S. Army soldiers and delivered in military trucks to the Eagledale ferry landing. There they boarded the ferry Kehloken and departed on a lonely journey with an unknown destination and fate.

The 227 Bainbridge Island men, women and children were the first of 120,000 Japanese Americans – two-thirds of them United States citizens – to be forcibly exiled from the West Coast. While more than 114,000 were sent to internment camps, others served in the U.S. military, some were unjustly imprisoned and some moved away, but all were forbidden to stay.

Their only crime was being Nikkei – persons of Japanese ancestry.

**A special ceremony commemorating that tragic day in American history and honoring all excluded Japanese Americans will be held on Saturday, March 30, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the site of the former Eagledale ferry landing, located at the end of Taylor Avenue across Eagle Harbor from the Winslow ferry dock, Bainbridge Island.**

A special granite marker, just steps away from the actual location of the former Eagledale ferry landing, will be unveiled at the ceremony. Participants will include members of the Japanese American community, Gov. Gary Locke, U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee (D-Bainbridge Island) and performances by the Seattle Kokon Taiko drum group.

After the ceremony, an open house from 1 – 2:30 p.m. will be held at Bainbridge Island City Hall featuring conceptual designs of a proposed national memorial – *Nidoto Nai Yoni* or “let it not happen again” – and an award-winning historical display of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community. Refreshments will be provided.

**Parking is not available at the ceremony site. Free and frequent bus service directly to the site will be provided by the Bainbridge Island School District beginning at 10 a.m. from three park-and-ride lots, and from the Winslow ferry terminal for walk-on passengers arriving on the 9:25 and 10:15 a.m. sailings from Seattle to Bainbridge Island. Return service to the park-and-ride lots, the ferry terminal and the open house at city hall will be from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. The three park-and-ride lots are:**

- Bethany Lutheran Church, intersection of High School Road and Sportsman Club Road, 7968 Finch Road NE (Disability-accessible bus available from this stop only)
- Bainbridge Alliance Church, north of Sakai Elementary School, 9624 Sportsman Club Road
- Capt. Blakely Elementary School, 4707 Blakely Ave. NE

**Limited parking for media vehicles is available on a first asked, first reserved basis.**

**Please contact Clarence Moriwaki at (206) 855-9038 or [clarence@bainbridge.net](mailto:clarence@bainbridge.net) to reserve a parking spot.**

The Washington State Legislature has unanimously passed HJR 4026, asking President Bush and the U.S. Congress to designate the Eagledale ferry landing as a national memorial.