On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, authorizing the unjust incarceration, for up to four years, of 120,000 innocent, loyal Americans and permanent legal alien residents of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, on false claims of “military necessity” and “national security.” Detainees had just 10 days to dispose of their businesses, property and possessions, and could bring “only what they could carry” to hastily built concentration camps scattered in the most desolate areas of Arkansas, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Arizona and California.

Additional Resources:

- **Power of Words** [jacl.org/education/power-of-words](jacl.org/education/power-of-words)
- **Fresno JACL** [fresnojacl.com](fresnojacl.com)
- **Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial** [pinedalememorial.org](pinedalememorial.org)
- **Japanese American National Museum** [janm.org](janm.org)
- **National Japanese American Historical Society** [njahs.org](njahs.org)
- **Densho Digital Oral History Project** [densho.org](densho.org)
- **Go for Broke National Education Center** [goforbroke.org](goforbroke.org)
- **Japanese American Relocation Digital Archives** [calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/jarda](calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu/jarda)

For additional information:
Central California District Council
Post Office Box 26925
Fresno, CA 93729
ccdcgov@jacl.org
Japanese Americans in the San Joaquin Valley, Fresno County Historical Museum

The rich heritage of Japanese Americans in the Valley and their contributions to the local communities is shared through photos, artifacts and personal stories. Items on display share the relationship between Japanese Americans and Muslim Americans who have forged a strong partnership to educate the public about protecting the rights of all citizens. The display points out the danger of using stereotypes to target any group for mistreatment.

Fresno Fairgrounds at Chance Avenue Gate.
Dedicated October 7, 2015.

West Alluvial Avenue between Ingram Avenue and Palm Avenue.
This memorial marks the site of a second Valley detention center located only 12 miles from the Fresno center. The 4,800 residents of Japanese ancestry imprisoned here during World War II came from Oregon, Washington and California. They were housed on the site of a former mill workers’ housing area which before that time was a lumber yard operated by the Sugar Pine Lumber Company.

Fresno Fairgrounds next to Commerce Building.
Dedicated October 5, 2011.

Pinedale Remembrance Plaza, Pinedale

Japanese American Archival Collections are housed at the Henry Madden Library, Special Collections Research Center and include digital and physical items related to Japanese American Internment. There is a special focus on the internment of Japanese Americans in the San Joaquin Valley.

Soul Consoling Tower, Simonian Farms, Fresno

The strength, dignity and “soul” of Valley Japanese Americans is honored in this unique memorial sculpture. Dennis Simonian, owner of Simonian Farms, sponsored construction of the tower as a tribute to his childhood Japanese American friends and mentors. Original wood from Poston concentration camp barracks in Arizona was used to build the tower.

Clovis Avenue at Jensen Avenue.
Dedicated November 19, 2013.

Japanese American Citizens League
JAACL.ORG

This memorial marks the fairgrounds as the former site of a temporary detention center that imprisoned 5,344 Valley residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II. Most of the detainees were housed in barracks in the infield area of the racetrack.