



The Manzanar Committee

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MANZANAR COMMITTEE ISSUES APOLOGY FOR CHIN'S REMARKS

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Manzanar Committee expresses their deepest apologies to those who were offended by remarks made by Frank Chin, one of the speakers at the 37th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage. Though the intention and focus clearly communicated to Chin in the Committee's invitation was to focus on his central role with beginning the annual Day of Remembrance and being part of a Pan-Asian movement that supported redress as well as encouraging youth today to become more politically aware and informed, Chin departed from this intention when he resorted to name calling against the Japanese American Citizens League and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. These are views which may reflect those of Chin but not the Manzanar Committee.

At the Pilgrimage, Richard Katsuda, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCRP) chair and co-founder of both NCRP and Campaign for Justice, spoke immediately following Chin in the program. Katsuda brought Chin's statements into context and clarified for youth and those less familiar with the camp experience that Chin's remarks expressed a point of view that existed among many conflicting points of view, showing that internment was a terribly painful experience that caused much turmoil and division within the Japanese American community. The combination of speakers opened discussion among attendees about the difficult decisions made by all in the adverse circumstance of incarceration and the issuance of wartime drafts to internees.

The Manzanar Committee upholds the position of chair Sue Embrey, that both veterans and draft resisters exercised their rights in democracy and that both endured much difficulty and sacrifice in consequence to their actions for future generations. Embrey has understood the larger struggle above the many divisions in the community— that the terrible experience of camp should never be repeated and that all Americans must never forget lest it be repeated.

More information regarding the Manzanar Committee's viewpoints regarding this matter may be found in the Articles/Speeches archives of the 2004 Manzanar Pilgrimage at www.manzanarcommittee.org.

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