

# KOREMATSU INSTITUTE

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FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND EDUCATION

February 28, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Nomination of Fred Ross to Receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Dear President Obama:

The Fred T. Korematsu Institute for Civil Rights and Education, a program of the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, respectfully requests that you consider bestowing the Presidential Medal of Freedom upon the late Fred Ross.

The late Fred Korematsu (1919-2005) was an American civil rights hero who bravely resisted the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and dedicated his life to protecting the civil liberties of all people. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton.

Like Mr. Korematsu, Fred Ross was also a man of great courage who supported communities whose members were subject to racism and unequal rights. Not only did Mr. Ross work with Latino farm workers to advocate for better working conditions, he also worked with Latinos and African Americans on voting rights, as well as Japanese Americans during and after their unconstitutional incarceration during World War II.

The Korematsu Institute's mission is to advance pan-ethnic civil rights through education. We are hopeful that you will seriously consider bestowing the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Mr. Ross. By shedding light on Mr. Ross' legacy, we will have the opportunity to educate Americans, young and old, about the importance of working across our differences to strive for universal social justice.

Sincerely,



Ling Woo Liu  
Director, Korematsu Institute

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