



Chambers of
ANN AIKEN
Chief Judge

United States District Court

DISTRICT OF OREGON
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October 8, 2015

Dear School Administrator:

I would like to invite you and your students to come tour the Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake exhibition that is now open to the public at the Wayne Morse U.S. Courthouse in Eugene. The exhibit is impressive and moving, as it showcases the experiences and events at Tule Lake, a Japanese American confinement site during WWII located in Newell, CA.

Tule Lake was the only officially designated segregation center during WWII and was ruled under martial law. It was the largest of the ten confinement sites and, because anyone deemed a troublemaker by the federal government was relocated to Tule Lake, it ultimately housed people from all confinement sites. Many of the people who were brought in under segregation were people who knew their rights had been egregiously undermined and were willing to stand up to the injustice. Accused of being disloyal, in their dissent, they were ironically acting in the most American way. The incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent, most citizens of this nation, was a travesty; Tule Lake was especially disturbing.

The exhibit showcases images of artifacts that give us a glimpse into the lives of those who were held at Tule Lake and encourages us to reflect on both the orchestration of life behind barbed wire and what it might have been like to live with constant turmoil and uncertainty. A video of oral histories will run continuously in the jury assembly room, allowing us to hear many views on the complex issues at Tule Lake in the voices of those held captive. Another video instructs visitors how to fold a paper crane on which they can write a name or message for us to hang in the courthouse. The issues demonstrated by the Japanese internment will always be timely, so I encourage you to bring your students to view and discuss the Art of Survival exhibit.

The exhibit runs from October 5 through November 30, 2015 and is open to the public from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please join us. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email my judicial assistant, Kellie King at kellie_king@ord.uscourts.gov or 541-431-4140.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Aiken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ann Aiken
Chief Judge, U.S. District Court

THIS EXHIBIT HAS BEEN MADE IN COOPERATION WITH THE TULE LAKE UNIT OF WWII VALOR IN THE PACIFIC NATIONAL MONUMENT AND THE US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND IS FUNDED BY A JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO HIROSHI SHIMIZU AND JIMI YAMAICHI.