

Office of the Mayor

City of Saint Louis

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**

during World War II, the United States forced approximately 115,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry living in the West Coast region into internment camps; and

**WHEREAS**, two of the permanent Japanese internment camps established by the U.S. government were in southern Arkansas, named Camp Rohwer and Camp Jerome; and

**WHEREAS**, one remarkable Japanese woman amongst the many who were interred was Janice Hattori Koizumi, who served as a block manager, gave of herself tirelessly as a translator in three different internment camps and exemplified untold patience and kindness always helping others; and

**WHEREAS**, at the conclusion of World War II, the internment camps were closed, and the Japanese exiting Camp Rohwer and Camp Jerome caught trains heading north in search of jobs and a restart to their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Louis residents greeted the Japanese on the trains with food, water and a welcome mat to our fine city, and whole train loads of the interred Japanese stayed in St. Louis and were assisted by many to find employment and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, Janice and her family settled in St. Louis, never forgetting the kindness shown to them upon arrival; and

**WHEREAS**, Janice's remarkable World War II story has forever been memorialized in the book, *The Block Manager*, which is being launched 77 years to the day from which she was notified of her impending interment.

Now, therefore, I, Lyda Krewson, Mayor of the City of St. Louis, do hereby proclaim May 7, 2019, as:

**“JANICE HATTORI KOIZUMI DAY”  
IN THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of St. Louis, this 7<sup>th</sup> Day of May, A.D. 2019.

*Lyda Krewson*

**Mayor of the City of Saint Louis**