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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**REMEMBRANCE GALLERY NOW OPEN AT WASHINGTON STATE FAIRGROUNDS**

Honoring the Unjust Wartime Incarceration of Over 7,500 Japanese and Japanese Americans on This Site

When the Washington State Fair opens to the public on August 30, visitors will notice a new permanent exhibit honoring survivors of a dark chapter in American history. Located under the grandstand, the Remembrance Gallery brings awareness to the history of the “Puyallup Assembly Center” (PAC) as the largest temporary American concentration camp in Washington State.

A project of the Puyallup Valley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (PV JACL), the Remembrance Gallery was created to honor the lives that were forever transformed through mass incarceration at the site during World War II. Between April and September 1942, over 7,500 Japanese and Japanese Americans from Alaska, Seattle, and rural areas of Pierce County were imprisoned on what was then known as the Puyallup Fairgrounds, before later being moved inland to more permanent concentration camps for the duration of the war.

To promote understanding about this history and the impact of wartime incarceration on individuals, families, and communities, the Gallery has three distinct sections. At the heart of the space is Monument, a memorial to those incarcerated at the Fairgrounds that lists each person’s name and government-assigned family numbers. To get a sense of living conditions in the camp, visitors can step inside a full-size 8’x10’ re-creation of the horse stalls located under the grandstand that were used as makeshift housing for many PAC internees. In addition, the Remembrance Gallery features interactive touch screen displays that use interviews, maps, archival images, and comprehensive content to humanize the stories of survivors and offer insight into the forcible removal of Washington Nikkei, its causes and repercussions, and echoes of these events today.

The Remembrance Gallery will be open to the public during the Washington State Fair, from August 30 until September 22. The Gallery is also planning to host tours and presentations, by appointment. For further information, please refer to the PV JACL website or contact Sharon Sobie-Seymour, Project Manager, at ssproevents@comcast.net.