WHY IS A NEW MONUMENT BEING BUILT FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN PRISONERS?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A new monument is being planned in Torrance, California, to remember about 126,000 people of Japanese ancestry who were forced from their homes and imprisoned by the United States during World War Two. The project began with Kanji Sahara, a survivor who was taken to a prison camp when he was young. Another survivor, Hiroshi Yokoyama, was 16 when he was sent to Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming. The monument will have granite walls listing the names of people held in each camp. It is being designed to look partly like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the names will be written from top to bottom in the style of Japanese writing. The project has taken eight years to organise and is expected to be completed in 2028. Supporters say the monument will help make sure this part of wartime history is not forgotten.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

During World War Two, fear and racism led the United States to imprison people who were treated as enemies because of their Japanese ancestry. The new monument shows how memories of injustice can change over time. A government once defended the camps as necessary for security, but many people now see them as a serious violation of rights. Remembering the past can be part of trying to prevent similar actions in the future.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Why did the United States imprison Japanese Americans during World War Two?”

Source: CBS News Los Angeles

https://www.cbsnews.com/losangeles/news/torrance-wwii-japanese-american-incarceration-monument/