

**The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)
and American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291
Gives Press Conference with
Major General William S. Chen, USA, Ret.
on the
Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal**

The Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project (CAWW2) is a program of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), a 501(c)8, and the National Chinese American Citizens Alliance Community Involvement Fund, a 501(c)3. Congressional Bills S.1050 and H.R. 2358 "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act" were introduced and passed as a result of a national campaign organized through the CAWW2 project of C.A.C.A., which continues to work on the design of the medal with the U.S. Mint, the official database and registration of the vets, and awarding of the medal.

Veterans and Next-of-kin are encouraged to go to its website caww2.org to register Chinese American WWII Vets and to check that applications for registration have been approved.

Major General William S. Chen, USA, Ret. (陳紹章)'s update on September 21 at the **Kimlau American Legion Post 1291** on the status of the "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal, includes the design's preliminary approval by the Citizens Coinage Committee and the Commission on Fine Arts.

C.A.C.A. member from Boston **General Chen** is the first Chinese American 2-Star General in the U.S. Army; his father was a captain and pilot of the U.S. Army Air Forces assigned to the 14th Air Force under General Claire Chennault in the Chinese-Burma-India Theater during World War II.

CACAGNY, the New York Chapter of C.A.C.A., is honored to stand with the Chinese American Veterans of the **American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291** for this meeting with **General Chen**, C.A.C.A. member and the first Chinese American 2-Star General in the U.S. Army, and C.A.C.A.'s past national president, **Ed Gor** (敖錦賜).

Wai Wah Chin, CACAGNY President, said, "General Chen and Ed Gor are the best people to update us on the gold medal. Ed Gor took the idea in 2016 and made it into reality, leading C.A.C.A. to be the organization to execute the multi-year, national effort to honor our vets. General Chen lent his unique expertise and access, fasttracking the project multiple times. They both, more than any others, tirelessly marched through the halls of Congress in numerous trips, reached out nationally to increase awareness, pored over documents and did much more, so the bill could pass. It is wonderful that by their efforts we can properly honor and recognize our Chinese American WWII Vets with the Gold Medal."

Ed Gor, Past National President of C.A.C.A., National Director of CAWW2 Project, and son of WWII Vet said, "This is a project that I felt had to be done. We owed it to our WWII veterans to get the gold medal awarded to them to recognize their role in this nation, and in this world. 20-25% of all the Chinese Americans, an enormous percentage, served in the military during the WWII. And nearly half weren't citizens. There were so many people who helped along the way. It is one of my greatest satisfactions to work successfully on such an important project."

General Chen said, "Chinese Americans Veterans of World War II made known to the American public who Chinese Americans were and what their abilities were. They volunteered or were drafted in spite of the discriminatory aspects of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act which was in-place until its repeal in December 1943. They served with pride as Americans and demonstrated their skills, competencies, loyalty, and patriotism, and opened up opportunities for Chinese Americans to be in Mainstream America and continued a Legacy of Progress of Chinese Americans in the U.S. — enabling the Living of the American Dream."

American Legion Post 1291 Commander Tony Chuy said, "I'm honored that we still have many WWII vets on our register at Post 1291. We still have a handful who come frequently to the post and celebrations and memorials. I personally feel honored by their presence!"

American Legion Post 1291 Adjutant Gabe Mui said, "We want to make sure our WWII vets will be recognized for their great contributions to this country. They served honorably in so many areas throughout the world, in every theater of the war. Our Post is named after a WWII hero who gave his life in service to this country. We are glad that we can honor our vets."

David Lee, CACAGNY First Vice President, Post 1291 Sons of the American Legion Vice Commander, and son of WWII Vet, said, "Advocating for the Congressional Gold Medal was the very least that we could do for the Chinese American WW II veterans of the greatest generation. The foundations they laid down have benefitted their own families and the lives of millions of Chinese American in this country and we can never honor them enough."

Chris Kwok, CACAGNY Secretary and Congressional Gold Medal Volunteer Proponent, said, "It's been an incredible honor to be there at the start and uncover the untold stories and heroism of Chinese Americans."

Larry Sit, CACAGNY Compliance Officer, son of WWII Vet and father of two active-duty US Air Force captains, said, "I consider the Congressional Gold Medal as a great recognition for what our Chinese American WWII Vets contributed to this country and to world peace."

Thomas Ong, CACAGNY Sentinel, American Legion Post 1291 Sergeant-at-Arms, and Son of WWII Vet, said, "This is a great moment for us to celebrate our World War II Vets and their recognition with the Gold Medal. I'm a second generation Vet, and very proud of our parents who served in WWII."

David J. Louie, CACAGNY member, Vietnam era Vet, Post 1291 Past Sergeant-at-Arms and leader of the Color Guard, and son of WWII Vet, said, "It's wonderful to honor and thank the Chinese American WWII vets who conscientiously served this country and bravely fought for the liberties we enjoy in this great nation. They deserve our appreciation and recognition."

Corky Lee, CACAGNY member, Post 1291 Sons of American Legion Immediate Past Commander, son of WWII Vet, and renowned photographer, said, "A picture is worth a thousand words," and gave General Chen an autographed photo from the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, noting that General Chen was also a Transcontinental Railroad worker descendant.

Veterans and Next-of-kin are encouraged to go to its website caww2.org, where donations are also accepted, to register Chinese American WWII Vets and to check that applications for registration have been approved. Questions regarding applications can also be answered there.



Post 1291

Founded in 1895 in San Francisco, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest Chinese American civil rights organization in the United States. CACAGNY is its New York Chapter. www.CACAGNY.org

1895年在舊金山成立之同源會，是美國最古老的民權組織

The American Legion Lt. B.R Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 was founded in 1945 in memory of Lt. Kimlau, an American of Chinese descent who gave his life as an Air Force bomber pilot in World War II.