

Press Release

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Flag Day

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY) and American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291

Calls for Support to Pass

U.S. Congressional Bills S.1050 and H.R. 2358

**“Chinese-American World War II Veteran
Congressional Gold Medal Act”**

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY) and American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 urge our legislators to pass the Congressional Bills S.1050 and H.R. 2358 “Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

These bills were introduced as a result of a national campaign organized by the **Chinese American Citizens Alliance**, with the work of many individuals and chapters who reached out to legislators as well as created the Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project to document and memorialize the contributions of Chinese Americans to the war effort.

CACAGNY thanks all our vets, but we express deep, special gratitude and respect for the Chinese American World War II Vets who fought for a better future for their community, as well as for the entire nation and the world. CACAGNY calls upon our representatives to recognize a group that has contributed greatly to this nation despite facing tremendous hardships and discrimination. CACAGNY is honored to stand with the Chinese American Veterans of the **American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291** to urge all citizens to contact their Senators and Representatives to pass the **“Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act”**.

Chinese Americans have suffered segregation, hostility, and violence, including massacres in some Western states, in the United States for nearly two centuries. Chinese Americans are also the only group targeted for denial of entry to and citizenship in America based solely on ethnicity, through the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. In the decades following the enactment, the Chinese American population decreased by nearly 30% during a period when the general U.S. population increased by more than 100%. The 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed only in 1943, with advocacy led by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

Chinese Americans faced discriminatory barriers daily, but they have been patriotic and proudly served our nation in every war since the Civil War. When World War II was formally declared, there were only 78,000 Chinese Americans in the mainland United States. As many as 20,000 Chinese Americans volunteered or were drafted into armed service.

CACAGNY President Wai Wah Chin said, “That's one quarter of the Chinese American population in the country then. One out of four Chinese Americans. That's an amazing percentage. And nearly half of them were not citizens. I am humbled by the enormous sacrifice and achievement of the Chinese Americans who served their host country in its hour of need, in all parts of the world. We cannot forget these valiant men and women – yes, men and women: while it was mostly men, Chinese American women also served, in jobs ranging from translators and nurses to pilots and flight trainers. It is our generation's duty to make sure they are all honored. Our CACAGNY members are unanimous in urging Congress to act now, before more years pass, to honor the Chinese American WWII Vets with its highest honor, a Congressional Gold Medal.”

American Legion Post 1291 Commander Kenneth Wong said, "I'm honored that we still have close to a hundred WWII vets on our register at Post 1291. We still have a handful who come daily or weekly to the post, namely, our Past Chairman Peter Woo, Past Commander Stanley Moy and our past Sargent-At-Arms Raymond Gee. I personally feel honored by their presence!"

David J. Louie Sr., the son of a WWII Chinese American Veteran and himself a Vietnam Era Veteran, the Sergeant-At-Arms and leader of the Color Guard for Post 1291, said, "I fully back this effort 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."

David Lee, CACAGNY First Vice President and son of a WWII Vet, said, "Our fathers and grandfathers showed great dedication to their new country to help fight the tyranny that was engulfing the world. Chinese American WWII veterans are an example of how we, as Chinese Americans, are dedicated to supporting this country and the freedoms and opportunities we have here. This was their legacy to us which we must carry on. We salute our forefathers for their bravery and sacrifice to provide a better country for their children and fellow Americans."

Thomas Ong, CACAGNY Sentinel, son of a WWII Veteran and also a veteran himself, said, "My father served during WWII. As he was here with his parents fleeing the oppressive takeover of China, they had the true immigrant spirit of forging a new life here in the USA, without looking back. They taught us to have an American spirit, but never to forget the rich heritage of China, where they came from. When my turn to serve during the Vietnam Era, being a Veteran's son, it was not so unusual. God Bless America, the Land I love."

The Chinese American WWII Vets served admirably, receiving much recognition for their valor, including the awarding of a Congressional Medal of Honor, a distinction separate from the Congressional Gold Medal.

The United States Congress has recognized many groups, including Native Americans, African Americans, Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, and women, who served their country during World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal. CACAGNY and Post 1291 ask Congress to continue this important tradition and recognize the struggles and patriotism of Chinese Americans who fought to liberate Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and Middle East and the Pacific from fascism.

Fewer and fewer Chinese American veterans of World War II remain with us. CACAGNY and Post 1291 urge our legislators to vote Yes to S.1050 and H.R. 2358 "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act" to honor them and their comrades who have passed away.

To voice your support:

CACAGNY has prepared sample letters for individuals or groups which all interested parties may copy from its website **CACAGNY.org** and send to their Senators and Representatives, whose contact information can also be found on links provided in the website. We encourage you to ask others to do the same. Or, please email CACAGNY2016@gmail.com and we will forward your email to the legislators.

For more information:

CACAGNY will hold an information meeting on the "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act" and Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project with pro bono Project Director Samantha Cheng at 6pm on June 28, 2017 at 21 Pell Street, Chinatown, New York, NY.



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

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