

Press Release
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Contact: David Lee
646 249-6915
cacagny2016@gmail.com

**The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater N.Y. (CACAGNY)
and American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291
Recognize Student Volunteers
for Work on Congressional Bill to Honor Patriotic Chinese American WW II Veterans**

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater NY (CACAGNY) and American Legion Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 recognize New York City high school volunteers who solicited petition signatures for Congressional Bills S.1050 and H.R. 2358 "Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act." The ceremony will take place at the Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 Thanksgiving Feast. The Act, honoring Chinese Americans for their patriotism, was introduced in Congress as a result of a campaign coordinated by the Chinese American Citizen Alliance nationwide.

CACAGNY introduced the history and significance of Chinese American World War II Vets to New York City Stuyvesant High School students Max Chan and Charlotte Yee, who adopted the project to gather petition signatures in support of the two bills. Max Chan, a Stuyvesant High School senior, became the Manager of the high school volunteers, assisted by Charlotte Yee, a Stuyvesant sophomore. Their efforts, across several high schools and online, along with those of many other volunteers, helped CACAGNY gather over a thousand signatures for the petition.

Chinese Americans served with extraordinary distinction and patriotism for America during WWII, with over a quarter of Chinese Americans in the U.S., both men and women, joining the military forces. This huge participation is all the more remarkable because Chinese Americans were then still subject to the racism and humiliation legalized by the Chinese Exclusion Acts.

CACAGNY and Post 1291 will recognize the following students: Max Chan (12, Stuyvesant), Charlotte Yee (10, Stuyvesant), Lauren Pehlivanian (10, Stuyvesant), Michael Russo (9, Stuyvesant), Stephanie Chow (12, Bronx Science), Yuanchen (Rain) Liu (11, Hunter), and Erika Chan (11, Marymount).

Max Chan said, "It's been a truly rewarding experience to see and work with so many bright, civic-oriented students. Our cause isn't a well known one, but it should be. Chinese American Veterans deserve respect, prestige, and dignity from the government, and we're fighting for Congress to recognize that."

Charlotte Yee said, "I chose to participate in this project because I think it is extremely important that the efforts of Chinese-American veterans don't go unnoticed. They have done this country a great service and helping them get the recognition that they deserve is my way of saying thank you."

American Legion Post 1291 Commander Kenneth Wong said, "This event is fulfilling and meaningful for both the kids and our WWII veterans."

CACAGNY President Wai Wah Chin said, "We're delighted our youth are engaged in supporting this important effort, honoring earlier generations and connecting to the significant history of Chinese Americans. The patriotism of those WWII Vets is truly inspiring. It is heartening to see our youth moved, and giving appreciation, at this Thanksgiving celebration."



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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