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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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A Symbol of Hate Flies No More

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C.A.C.A. Mississippi

The retirement of the historical Mississippi flag has come with a sigh of relief and a shout of joy from the minority populations of the state. The Confederate Battle Flag has evolved over the years from a symbol of the Confederate soldiers and their cause into a symbol for supremacist groups and their violent hatred. While the majority of these deeds targeted African American populations, any minority population could fall victim to their cruelty.

The Chinese population of Mississippi entered the state as a cheaper labor alternative to newly freed slaves. They spent the next 150 years building strong relationships with African Americans in their local communities. As a result of the strong bonds formed between the Chinese and the African American cultures in Mississippi, these groups became family through marriage and adoption of one another's cultures. As the cultures intermingled, the Chinese and African Americans endured segregation and racism together.

Chinese Americans, stuck between the African American and Caucasian communities, were not allowed to use the facilities of either community. They were denied healthcare and education because they were neither black nor white. They were even denied a place to bury their loved ones. Because of these experiences the Chinese have a unique understanding of the alienation experienced by African Americans from the Caucasian communities. However, there are some experiences the Chinese have not had to endure. Centuries of violence targeted at the African American community is just one example. As time has elapsed, the acts committed against the community have become less blatant and public, but not less violent or degrading. The atrocities committed against George Floyd has been a catalyst for much needed change. As members of one human race, regardless of the amount of melanin in the skin, the world has seen the atrocities that are still being committed against minority communities, and are finally uniting to see that this stops. The changing of the Mississippi flag is only a small step in the direction symbolizing that the people of Mississippi will no longer stand for our citizens to be targeted, tortured and murdered.

Because the Confederate Battle Flag was used as a symbol of oppression against people who



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unconditionally accepted and loved the Chinese, supporting its removal from the flag of Mississippi was never a question for most Chinese. A state flag should unquestionably represent the people of that state as a whole. Since its adoption in 1894, it has never represented every Mississippian equally. It is time that Mississippi has a flag representing that the people of Mississippi have evolved beyond the hatred represented by that symbol.

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Web: www.CACAnational.org

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.