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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chinese American Citizens Alliance Celebrates Birthday of Civil Rights Icon Martin Luther King, Jr.

San Francisco, January 15, 2018 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) honors civil rights icon Martin Luther King, Jr. on the occasion of what would have been his 89th Birthday today. January 15 has been designated as a federal holiday in the United States since 1986.

Born in 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. shed a powerful light on the nation's long, agonizing struggle with racial equality and tolerance. His battles against institutional bigotry and racial violence specifically in the American South elevated him to the nation's most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement that began in the 1950s.

Dr. King advanced the cause of justice and equality by adopting the tactics of nonviolence and civil disobedience based on his Christian beliefs as a Baptist minister and as a practitioner of the nonviolent activism of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi.

The March on Washington, D.C. on August 28, 1963, is considered one of the watershed moments in American history. Dr. King led more than a quarter million people to peacefully protest and call for greater attention and action to the country's need to address economic and employment disparities, discrimination, voting irregularities, racism and violence perpetrated upon minorities. The momentous day is immortalized in his "I Have a Dream" speech at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial.

The work of Dr. King through the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as its first president helped to pave the way for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

He fell by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

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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), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), 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.