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C.A.C.A. National Remembers Two Chinese American WWII Veterans from Massachusetts

Boston, May 9, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) mourn the passing of two Chinese American World War II veterans who hailed from the State of Massachusetts.

Youn Tank (“Harry”) Chung passed away on February 27, 2020, at age 95. Born in Boston Chinatown in 1924, Mr. Chung was drafted into the U.S. Army in May 1945. Trained in the Radio Operator School, he was assigned to Troop D 15th Constabulary Squad and sent overseas from November 1945 to October 1946. Mr. Chung returned to the U.S. and received an honorable discharge from the Army with a rank of Private first class and was awarded an Army of Occupation Medal, an Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and a World War-II Victory Medal.

In 1959, he married Ruby Wong and they settled in Belmont, a western suburb of Boston, and raised four children. Mr. Chung was well known at a mobile home park in Cape Cod for showing movies on Saturday nights in the summer for the kids. He enjoyed opera, classical music, and reading about Chinese history. In later years, the Chungs resided in Cambridge and were frequent visitors to the senior center. Ruby Chung passed away 2006. Mr. Chung continued to live on his own in Cambridge and could be seen riding his scooter to the senior center or dining at his favorite Chinese restaurant.

On March 7, he was buried at Highland Meadow Cemetery, located in Belmont.

Dock (“Arthur”) L. Wong passed away on April 26, 2020, at age 96. Born in Taishan, Guangdong province, China, on March 5, 1924, Mr. Wong immigrated to Boston in 1938. He enlisted with the U.S. Army in 1942 and served with Company C, 100th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. In 1944, his unit made an amphibious vehicle landing on a beach in Normandy and was immediately thrust into battle. Following the landing, his regiment fought in several battles and ultimately helped to liberate Paris from the Germans. His division then continued fighting across the Belgium border and into Luxembourg. On November 4, 1944, while battling on the front lines, Mr. Wong suffered severe injuries. He spent over two months in a hospital. He continued with the Army in a non-combat position until Nazi Germany surrendered. In 1947 Mr. Wong married and raised five children in Brookline, Massachusetts.
Mr. Wong was recipient of numerous medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal and WWII Victory Medal. A member of the American Legion Boston Chinatown Post 328, he served as Post Commander from 1998-2000. A longtime restaurateur in Boston Chinatown, Mr. Wong was a member of the Chinese Merchants Association, the Wong Family Benevolent Association, and a co-founder of the Que Shing Chinese Opera Group.

On Friday, May 1, he was laid to rest at Forest Hills Cemetery, located in the southern part of Boston’s Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

Harry Chung and Arthur Wong are recognized as Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) for Chinese American World War II Veterans recipients and they will be honored with a bronze replica of the medal posthumously.

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance led the public campaign for Gold Medal recognition of the 20,000 men and women of Chinese ancestry who fought for the U.S. during the Second World War at a time when exclusion legislation denied them the rights and benefits of citizenship until 1943. In late 2018, U.S. Congress voted and passed the Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act and it was signed into law by President Donald Trump. To view the names of recipients, visit the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project website at www.caww2.org/cgm-recipients

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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), 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.