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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Remembers Thad Cochran; Late Senator was an Early Supporter of CGM for Chinese American World War II Veterans

San Francisco, June 3, 2019 – The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) remembers former Republican Senator Thad Cochran who passed away in Oxford, Mississippi, on Thursday, May 30, at age 81. After more than four decades serving the United States House of Representatives and the Senate, Senator Cochran stepped down in April 2018 as his health deteriorated.

Senator Cochran was one of the earliest key co-sponsors of Senate Bill 1050, the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, originally sponsored by Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth. On May 4, 2017, the bi-partisan legislation was introduced in the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives (as H.R.2358).

“The United States remains indebted to the bravery, valor and dedication displayed by the Chinese American Veterans of World War II. This legislation honors a group of World War II Veterans who, like many minorities, overcame discrimination to serve their country bravely and honorably,” wrote Senator Cochran along with Senators Duckworth and Mazie Hirono of Hawaii in a letter to their senatorial colleagues for support in June 17, 2017.

On September 12, 2018, S.1050 passed in the Senate. The U.S. House of Representatives passes the bill on December 12, 2018. The bill was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 20, 2018. Now enacted, the U.S. Mint and the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project are working together to design the final medal.

“Many would have thought it highly unusual that a Senator from the Deep South would find it worthwhile to co-sponsor legislation to recognize Chinese Americans who served our country during WWII,” said C.A.C.A. Past National President Ed Gor. “Yet, Senator Thad Cochran lived up to his promise to keep his Mississippi constituents as his top priority. One episode of his long career in public service was how he viewed the hardworking attitudes and contributions of Chinese in Mississippi. Among those constituents was Chinese American WWII Veteran L.K. ‘Pap’ Pang, who passed away in January 2018 at age 105. Though he wished that Pap had lived long enough to see the bill pass last year, Senator Cochran knows Pap knows the kindness of his introducing this bill. I salute both men for their service to our country.”



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“Senator Cochran served Mississippi for 45 years and was a longtime public servant in education, agriculture and hurricane relief. He fought to bring a new Federal Court House to Greenville, Mississippi. He was a true statesman who moved the state and his country forward,” added Shirley Kwan, the national representative of C.A.C.A. Mississippi Lodge.

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1044 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA.

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), 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.