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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

DATE: November 12, 2018

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On Veterans Day, C.A.C.A. Honors and Thanks Those Who Chose a Dedicated Life of Service to Our Country's Armed Forces

Work Continues to Pass H.R. 2358—Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act

San Francisco, November 12, 2018 — In observance of Veterans Day, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) honors and thanks the many women and men who accepted the duty and chose to sacrifice their lives in service to our country's armed forces. Veterans Day* is but one day we choose to honor the real heroes of safeguarding our American life of freedom and democracy with ceremonies and parades as well as free meals or discounts, but to surely remember that veterans live the other 364 days where some return to adjust well to a normalcy of their chosen life, family and career, while others are homeless, jobless, mentally impaired, physically disabled, divorced or separated. How do we best thank ALL veterans? It's incumbent upon us to find ways where our own professions, contacts, and influences can bring the needed life necessities to those who served.

In advocating for improving the quality of care and treatment for veterans throughout the VA, I've often used a quote often attributed to George Washington as a standard for how we view our Veterans and how others perceive our current armed forces members. He said,

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation."

Chinese Americans who served in the military during war and peace times are no different as Veterans. They saw it as their duty. They saw it as their commitment. They saw it as an honor. They never thought of sacrifice, but of service. They saw it as patriotic. They saw it as the proof to others and themselves that this country was their home, despite many not even being citizens.

Though few Chinese American World War II Veterans will speak of their service during this war against fascism and imperialism, that's likely led to their absence in the many books, stories and documentaries about this period. But for many Chinese Americans today whose parents or grandparents served and subsequently contributed to the greatest of our country, they also recognize them as part of Tom Brokaw's "America's Greatest Generation."



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Over its 123 years of existence, C.A.C.A. has counted among its membership the greatest numbers of Chinese America veterans in one organization. That's why now, more than at any other time, we bring this urgent call for C.A.C.A. members, relatives and friends to step up, show up and shout out to their Congressional members to pass the **Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act**. To date, Senate Bill **S. 1050** was passed by unanimous consent on September 12, 2018. For House Bill **H.R. 2358**, many C.A.C.A. members and friends have labored tirelessly and sacrificially in D.C. and local districts to attain 243 House Co-Sponsors. Yet, we still remain 47 shy of the 290 House Co-Sponsors for passage.

NOW IS THE TIME to contact those in your circle of relatives, friends, and business contacts (especially those who reside in states where no C.A.C.A. lodges exist). Specifically, California, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania have many Congressional districts whose Representatives have not co-sponsored. If you believe that this generation of forgotten World War II Veterans truly should receive this recognition, help! **Find FIVE Friends** who live in any of the states listed (preferably outside California) and make the urgent plea for their help in contacting their Representative. Today, let's focus our attention to House members only.

The **simplest method** is registering at the PopVox website so they can verify your constituent location. Popvox will electronically send letters of support on your behalf to your House Representative by going to: **www.popvox.com/us/federal/bills/115/hr2358**

As Chinese Americans, we have few opportunities to honor and recognize our own and now precious little time is left in this 115th Congress. Time is running out and H.R. 2358 must be passed by the end of this year. This is your opportunity.

By Ed Gor, Past National President

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

National Lead Project Coordinator, Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project

* Note: Commemorating and honoring all veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States of America, Veterans Day is officially observed on November 11 and Federal Government offices are closed. This year, Veterans Day falls on Sunday; therefore, Federal Government offices are closed on Monday, November 12.

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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.