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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: December 15, 2017**

**CONTACT: [info@cacanational.org](mailto:info@cacanational.org)**

## **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Notes 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Repeal of Chinese Exclusion on December 17, Supports Inclusion Programs**

San Francisco, December 15, 2017—the United States of America has been a destination for immigrants since its founding. But in 1882, rising xenophobia led to the U.S. Congress' 1882 passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act and its signing by President Chester A. Arthur. The 1882 Act explicitly blocked the immigration of Chinese laborers to this country for ten years. This law was expanded in subsequent decades to prohibit immigration by all persons of Chinese descent, and to impose restrictions on persons of Chinese origin, such as having to carry identification at all times or face deportation.

This month marks the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the repeal of these Chinese Exclusion policies, when the Seventy-eighth Congress passed the Magnuson Act on December 17, 1943. Leaders of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), established in 1895 in San Francisco, by American-born Chinese, had vigorously fought in the courts against discriminatory immigration policies and for Chinese American civil rights, including the right to become naturalized citizens, over the decades. California-born attorney You Chung (Y.C.) Hong, a Los Angeles member of the Alliance, testified in Congress, asking for repeal. The political and military recognition of China as an ally in the Pacific War (1941-1945) also contributed to the repeal of the Exclusion Acts.

In order to provide a better understanding of the impacts of Chinese Exclusion and to study its relationship to American civil rights progress, including current immigration policies, the Alliance has supported the 1882 Foundation, a nonprofit based in Washington, D.C. The public is encouraged to visit the 1882 Foundation website and to participate in its ongoing activities: [www.1882foundation.org](http://www.1882foundation.org).

Additionally, the California State Legislature has recognized December 17 as the annual “Day of Inclusion” in recognition and appreciation of the valuable contributions of all immigrants to the United States and California. This weekend, events observing and celebrating the Day of Inclusion will involve C.A.C.A. Chapters. On December 17, 1882 Foundation will hold A Talk Story annual year-end review in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit [www.1882foundation.org/event/talk-story-annual-review-pioneer-dinner](http://www.1882foundation.org/event/talk-story-annual-review-pioneer-dinner).

There will be Day of Inclusion-related events in several Southern California cities, free and opened to the public:

On Saturday, December 16, County of Los Angeles Public Library in Rosemead will screen documentary *Bittersweet Roots: The Chinese in California's Heartland*. Library, 11:00am-12:00pm. Hosted by the Asian American Resource Center. Information: [www.colapublib.org/calendar/index.php?eID=118673](http://www.colapublib.org/calendar/index.php?eID=118673)

WAPOW Los Angeles Chinatown Quarterly will launch its second issue and feature a commemoration of the Chinese Exclusion Act repeal at C.A.C.A. Los Angeles headquarters, on Sunday, December 17, 10:00am-5:00pm. Information: [wapow.la/calendar/wapow-issue-2-launch-event/](http://wapow.la/calendar/wapow-issue-2-launch-event/)



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Riverside Museum Associates will host a Day of Inclusion program on Sunday, December 17, 1:00pm-4:00pm, at The Box at the Fox Entertainment Plaza, located at Market Street and Mission Avenue. Information: [riversidemuseumassociates.org/event/join-us-for-the-day-of-inclusion/](http://riversidemuseumassociates.org/event/join-us-for-the-day-of-inclusion/)

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1044 Stockton St.  
San Francisco, CA.

Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://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.