



美洲同源總會

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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Congress Awards Highest Civilian Honor to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On December 9, 2020, seventy-five years after the end of World War II, Congress will award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II in recognition of their patriotism, loyalty, and courage during a time when our nation denied citizenship to Chinese immigrants in America. The Congressional Gold Medal, along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, are the highest civilian awards in the United States. The Medal will be presented by the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in a virtual Ceremony.

Spearheaded and led by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.), the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act was enacted into law on December 20, 2018. The bill was bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Congressmen Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ted Lieu (D-CA). C.A.C.A. through its project the [Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project](#) has worked with the many generous donors to ensure every verified Veteran or next of kin receives an official replica of the Medal.

“Chinese American men and women served in every theatre of World War II and sacrificed their lives defending American values of freedom,” said Edmond Gor, National Project Director and past President of C.A.C.A. “There are an estimated 300 – 550 Chinese American Veterans of World War II living today. We are pleased Congress has the opportunity to recognize the Veterans and the families of those who served in this national event.”

World War II U.S. Army First Lieutenant [Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo](#) will accept the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the Chinese American World War II Veterans. She will be joined by additional World War II Chinese American Veterans across the nation, who will receive the Medal from the Chinese American general and flag officers who had the opportunity to succeed because of their sacrifice.

“The Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in effect during World War II, prevented non-US born Chinese Americans from obtaining citizenship,” said Melanie Chan, President of C.A.C.A. “However, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans, including 40% without citizenship served, to protect their country. Recognizing their contributions and sacrifices is long overdue and we thank Congress for awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.”



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“Congress has a proud tradition of recognizing marginalized groups who fought in World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Native American Code Talkers and Women Airforce Service Pilots,” said Maj. General Robert G.F. Lee, U.S. Army Ret. “Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II completes the story narrative of World War II and recognizes the struggles and patriotism of the Chinese American Veterans who fought to liberate Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and Middle East, and the Pacific from fascism.”

“My father Captain Moon Chen served during World War II and inspired me to follow in his footsteps,” said Maj. General William S. Chen, U.S. Army Ret. “Chinese Americans served across the U.S. Armed Forces—Army, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. The award of the Congressional Gold Medal completes the story arc for the Chinese American World War II Veterans and paved the way for future generations to serve. They are a source of inspiration and motivation for our younger generations.”

To learn more about the Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project visit www.caww2.org.

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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), Orange County (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.