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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

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C.A.C.A. Observes Significant Milestones on This Last Day of May 2021

San Francisco, May 31, 2021 — Memorial Day has its origins following the American Civil War where traditions of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers later was declared a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning all military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) salutes all servicemen and women who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country. In the past several years, C.A.C.A worked tirelessly to help bring about official recognition of 20,000 men and women of Chinese ancestry who were drafted or who enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces to fight against the Axis Powers during the Second World War. That honor was achieved at the end of 2018 with the passage of the bipartisan Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act.

Today, the last day of May also closes this year's Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (APAHM) since its official establishment in 1992 by Congress. Quite unlike past APAHM celebrations, APAHM 2021 is especially remarkable with the nation's eyes fixed on the surge in AAPI hate violence that many believe is amplified by widespread blame of China as the cause of the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the country community vigils, rallies, marches and civic actions have helped to bring attention to unprovoked and hostile attacks, which sparked government action.

C.A.C.A. applauded passage of major Federal hate crimes legislation. Known as the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, it had passed in the U.S. House of Representatives in a rare show of bipartisan cooperation on Tuesday, May 18. Earlier in April the Senate, too, in the spirit of bipartisanship, passed a bill condemning discrimination against Asian communities in the United States by a vote of 94-1. On Thursday, May 20, President Joe Biden signed the bill into law.

The legislation, introduced by Representative Grace Meng of New York and Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, aims to make the reporting of hate crimes more accessible at the local and state levels by increasing public outreach and ensuring reporting resources are available online in multiple languages. The new law also directs the U.S. Department of Justice to designate a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19 and authorizes grants to state and local governments to facilitate crime-reduction programs to prevent and respond to hate crimes.



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“For centuries, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders — diverse and vibrant communities — have helped build this nation only to be often stepped over, forgotten, or ignored,” stated President Biden at the bill-signing ceremony held at the White House. “You... lived here for generations, but still considered, by some, the ‘other’... It’s wrong... it’s simply un-American.”

“Racial violence and injustice against Asian Pacific Americans is woven deeply in our American experience,” says C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan. “We cannot cite generations of successes without highlighting our past and present struggles since the pandemic. We have had the opportunities to bring more focus on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) contributions and sacrifices through celebrations and remembrances this APAHM month and Memorial Day weekend.”

With 20 chapters nationwide, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance is the oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry established in 1895.

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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), 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.