



美洲同源總會

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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Retired General Responds to Call of Duty for Fellow Veterans

San Francisco, May 13, 2018 — There is a saying that there is no such thing as an ex-soldier. There is no specific article in the code of conduct; rather, it speaks of the highest calling to public service and conscientious duty to one's country.



William S. Chen (*pictured left*), the first Chinese American to hold the two-star ranking of major general in the U.S. Army, retired a quarter of century ago. Yet, he continues to soldier on behalf of fellow Chinese American servicemen and women who fought for the United States during the Second World War for Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) recognition. Begun in December 2016, the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project has been seeking a collective medal for the estimated 20,000 servicemen and women who volunteered or were drafted when the Chinese Exclusion Act was still in place.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance's Annual Legislative Education Trip to Washington, D.C. May 14-17, will include representatives of different C.A.C.A. chapters, including National Board officers, and will cultivate legislative support for Senate Bill 1050 and House Resolution 2358, the Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act. General Chen will join the delegation in its visits to Congressional offices on the Hill.

“I believe the Congressional Gold Medal has a special meaning for our Chinese American WWII veterans,” says General Chen. “They served at a time when the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act was still in place and was not repealed until December 17, 1943. These veterans had volunteered or were drafted to serve in the U.S. Armed Services in spite of the discrimination experience resulting from Chinese exclusion laws. Some 40 percent of those that served also were non-U.S. citizens. I believe the award of the CGM will be long-overdue recognition for these veterans, and through award of the Medal, they would sense the gratitude and thanks from the U.S. Government for their service and contributions.”

The main objective of this year's C.A.C.A. D.C. trip, which takes place during Asian Pacific American Heritage Week, is to increase Congressional support for passage of the two bills before the end of the 115th Congress session. Two-thirds majority is required in both Houses to pass the resolutions. The



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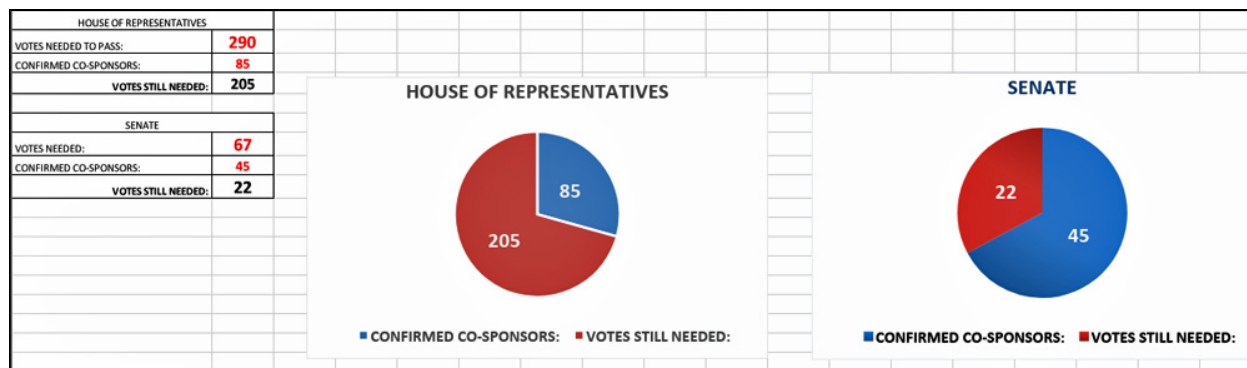
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goal is 22 Senators since 45 have sign up as bill co-sponsors. In the House, 205 members are needed to raise the number of co-sponsors to 290 (*see chart below*).



This week during the delegation's visit, C.A.C.A. members of local chapters can assist by:

1. Write letters to House Representative and Senators; addressed to their local district offices.
2. Call to support each bill to their respective congress members.
3. Conduct a pre-addressed letter writing campaign, collect the letters, and take them to drop off when they visit the district offices.
4. PopVox (electronic notification) your Congress members. To PopVox, simply apply for an account to verify your place of residence at www.popvox.com, and go to: www.popvox.com/us/federal/bills/115/s1050 for S. 1050 and www.popvox.com/us/federal/bills/115/hr2358 for H.R. 2358.
5. Donate at www.caww2.org to help locate these veterans and document their stories.

For more information on how you can support this effort, please visit www.caww2.org.

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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.