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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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The Spirit of Independence Day Resonates Beyond the Annual Observance in these Challenging Times for Our Nation

San Francisco, July 5, 2021 — Yesterday, Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) joined the celebration of the United States' independence from Great Britain by the Second Continental Congress on July 4 in 1776. Twelve of the then 13 North American colonies voted for the separation from the British Empire amid the Revolutionary War, an armed struggle for freedom.

The new American nation accepted the Fourth of July as its birthday but it was not made official until 1870 when President Ulysses S. Grant signed a congressional act making Independence Day, including Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, federal holidays in the United States.

“We are fortunate to have a document that immortalizes the founding principles of our country,” said C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan. “The Declaration of Independence proclaims that all people are equal, that we have certain Inalienable Rights including ‘Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness,’ and we have a civic duty to defend these rights for ourselves. We are mindful that our history has shown we have not lived up to these aspirations. Yet, acknowledgement also means we continue to work to address where inequities and injustice still exists. This should be a daily lesson of American patriotism we embrace not just at celebratory gatherings once a year with family and friends.”

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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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.