

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-\_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HONORING CHINESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS WITH A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

**WHEREAS**, Chinese Americans served on behalf of the United States in every conflict since the American Civil War; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 13,000 Chinese Americans served in all branches of the Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces by the end of World War II despite the total population of Chinese Americans living in the United States at the time being less than 120,000 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, Chinese American soldiers made significant contributions to the World War II effort, as they served in all theaters in both combat and support roles, including in New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Philippines, North Africa, Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, and the Battle of the Bulge; and

**WHEREAS**, Nearly 25 percent of enlisted Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Army Air Force and many were assigned to the 14th Air Service Group, which was composed of primarily Chinese Americans based in the China-Burma-India theater providing effective communications, supply, transportation, and technical support to advance war efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Despite the valor, patriotism, and bravery exhibited by Chinese Americans, they faced blatant institutional racism and prejudice at home, especially as The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 continued to restrict Chinese immigration to the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Approximately 40 percent of Chinese American soldiers were not native citizens of the United States and were unable to naturalize until after 1943 when the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed; and

**WHEREAS**, On May 4, 2017, the United States Congress introduced House Resolution (H.R.) 2358 and Senate Bill (S.) 1050, "The Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act," to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Other historically overlooked military units, such as Filipino World War II veterans, Japanese-American World War II veterans, Navajo Code Talkers, and the Monuments Men, have been already honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, The County of Alameda Board of Supervisors supports the recognition of all service members, particularly those marginalized by history; and

**WHEREAS,** The Congressional Gold Medal would serve as a symbol of gratitude for our country's indebtedness for the selfless sacrifices made in the face of enormous adversity; and

**WHEREAS,** The timing of the passage of the Congressional bills are crucial as many Chinese American World War II veterans are no longer alive to see this recognition, and both Congressional bills have been stalled at their respective Committees;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors urges the United States Congress to expeditiously pass House Resolution (H.R.) 2358 and Senate Bill (S.) 1050, "The Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act," to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American veterans who served in World War II;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors hereby directs the County Administrator's Office to transmit copies of this Board Resolution to the County of Alameda's Congressional Delegation with a request to take all necessary actions to achieve the objectives of this resolution.

**THE FOREGOING was PASSED and ADOPTED by a majority vote of the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_ day of July 2018, by the following vote:**

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

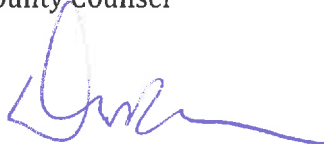
**EXCUSED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Wilma Chan**  
**PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Attest:**  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

**Approved as to Form:**  
Donna R. Ziegler  
County Counsel

By \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna R. Ziegler