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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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National Lodge
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C.A.C.A.: An Independence Day Message for Challenging Times

San Francisco, July 4, 2020 — Today, July 4th, Americans will celebrate Independence Day, when in 1776, 13 colonies established its separation from distant, autocratic rule and chartered a course toward establishing a new nation. The birth of the United States has always been celebrated with great fanfare—fireworks and flags, parades and concerts, barbecues and picnics. However in this time of pandemic and civil unrest, all federal holidays have taken on a different venter. Even those observances rooted in solemnity, such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, are further subdued when submicroscopic invaders threaten lives at public gatherings.

The Declaration of Independence proclaims, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” On Independence Day, we should reflect on these words and consider how we as citizens and leaders can inspire and motivate others in our community to make real changes that will positively impact social equity.

Let rockets, sparklers and grilled holiday treats not be the only demonstrative outpouring of our patriotism; let us celebrate advocates marching peacefully in the name of racial justice; essential workers who ensure city buses run, neighborhood services continue, and food is stocked on store shelves; and COVID-19 first responders saving our lives while risking theirs. Let us continue striving to live up to these ideals.

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) wishes everyone a safe and meaningful observance of the Nation’s 244th Birthday.

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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.