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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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CONTACT: info@cacanational.org

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Observes Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act (Magnuson Act of 1943)

San Francisco, December 17, 2020 — Today, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) observed the 77th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943, an important milestone in the history of Chinese and Chinese Americans and the saga of immigration. Also known as the Magnuson Act named after its author U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson from Washington State, the legislation repealed the legislative prohibitions that prevented Chinese from realizing U.S. citizenship through naturalization. The bill was passed by the Congress and signed by President Franklin Roosevelt at the height of the Second World War when the United States and China were allies.

The Magnuson Act was a major victory for Chinese Americans in that it established a pathway for them to become American citizens and have the right to vote. However, the legislation was also disappointing because Chinese were limited to 105 immigrant visas per year and unlike applicants from other countries the Chinese quota was based on ethnicity regardless of nationality. The repeal of Chinese exclusion also paved the way for admittance of Filipino and Asian-Indian immigrants beginning in 1946. Exclusion of both of these groups harmed U.S. relations with the Philippines and India, according to the Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State. Nevertheless, the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 led to other provisions that relaxed the restrictive legislation on Chinese immigration to include the War Brides Act that allowed wives of veterans to immigrate regardless of quota and eventually to the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act) where Congress did away with the National Origins quota system altogether.

“While the ending of exclusion for the Chinese was influenced by wartime strategy than popular acceptance, removing a significant hurdle by means of legislation was a major turning point in Chinese American history,” states C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan. “And it would be 75 years later when Chinese Americans were finally recognized by our Government for their contribution to the war effort with the Congressional Gold Medal for some 20,000 men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in combat and support.”

Although the bill recognizing the Chinese American World War II veterans was signed into law in December 2018, it would be two years later that veterans received public honor at the official ceremony



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held in Washington, D.C., on December 9, 2020. The replay of the virtual event can be viewed at www.caww2.org.

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.