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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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: info@cacanational.org

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Observes the 147th Anniversary of the Infamous Chinese Massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles

San Francisco, October 24, 2018— Today, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) remembers seventeen Chinese men and one boy who were the victims of the Chinese Massacre of 1871, one of the largest mass lynching recorded in U.S. history that occurred in the City of Los Angeles.

“This was one of the darkest chapters in Los Angeles history,” states C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin, “and an ugly manifestation of racial hatred on the road that led to the exclusion laws against Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans. Today, any observances of the 147th anniversary will remember the victims of these brutal killings and highlight that the epic narrative of our path toward citizenship and mainstream acceptance is composed of proud and bittersweet moments.”

In the early October evening of October 24, 1871, a feud among rival tongs triggered by the kidnapping of a young Chinese woman escalated to a shootout between several Chinese men in a squalid quarter of seedy saloons, gambling houses and brothels in 19th-century Los Angeles. The ensuing response by several police officers resulted in the wounding of one of the officers and the death of a civilian who assisted the officers. In the subsequent mayhem that lasted several hours, the Chinese settlement laid destroyed, property looted and Chinese victims shot and hanged by vengeful rioters. Among the innocent victims killed was Gene Tung, a prominent Chinese physician who counted many whites as patients. While national attention of the mob violence and deaths prompted a grand jury investigation, the California Supreme Court overturned the convictions of the accused on a technicality. Of the men held legally responsible, only one actually served any jail time.

This evening, beginning at 7:00pm (PST), the Chinese American Museum (CAM) and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument will commemorate the 147th anniversary of the Chinese Massacre of 1871 at Pico House, which is located at 424 N. Main Street, Los Angeles CA 90012. Following the program, the Chinese American Museum, adjacent to Pico House, will be opened to view the exhibitions from 8:00-9:00pm. For more information, visit www.camla.org.

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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, youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.