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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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Veterans Day 2019 Marks a Significant Milestone for Chinese Americans Who Served in World War II

San Francisco, November 11, 2019 — On this Veterans Day, “the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) honors all the brave men and women who fought valiantly to protect the United States,” declared Melanie Chan, national president of C.A.C.A., the country’s oldest, continuous civil rights and advocacy organization for Americans of Chinese ancestry established in 1895.

This year’s observance marks the first Veterans Day where Chinese Americans, who served in the Second World War, also are recognized as recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act on December 12, 2018. Earlier on September 12, the U.S. Senate had passed S.1050, legislation similar to the House bill. On December 21, 2018, President Donald Trump signed the Act into law, awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the nearly 20,000 Chinese American Veterans who dutifully and honorably served in the U.S. military during World War II.

“Collectively, what did these Chinese American World War II Veterans do? They... ‘demonstrated highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor in face of discrimination,’ as stated in PL 115-337*,” wrote Major General Bill Chen, U.S. Army (ret.) and a member of C.A.C.A. Boston, in the article, “Story Arc of Chinese American WWII,” which appears in the November-December 2019 Issue of *China Insight*. “They viewed their war experiences as seeing a whole new world outside their family traditions - making friends and acquaintances from all walks of life in America. Many took advantage of the G.I. Bill and began businesses or attended college and started their professional careers. They provided a better life for their families and encouraged their sons and daughters to attend and graduate from college – to live the American dream and be an integral part of mainstream America.”

The U.S. Mint has completed its design of the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American World War II Veterans. The official award presentation ceremony is scheduled for Spring 2020 to be presided by the Speaker of the House on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Subsequently, regional award ceremonies are planned in major cities nationwide for living veterans and/or their next-of-kin for those who cannot attend the D.C. ceremony.

Information and updates are available at www.caww2.org. To view Major General Chen’s article in its entirety, download www.chinainsight.info/images/past_issues/2019/2019_11_12.pdf



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*Public Laws 115-337, is the text of the Act to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II and can be found at www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ337/PLAW-115publ337.pdf

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1044 Stockton St.
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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), 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.