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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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## **C.A.C.A. Congratulates Filipino Veterans of World War II following Long Overdue Recognition Ceremony at the Nation's Capitol Building**

San Francisco, October 26, 2017— the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) congratulates Filipino Veterans of World War II on their long overdue recognition of military service with the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal yesterday in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2016, the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act authorizes official recognition collectively to those who served honorably in an active duty status between July 26, 1941, and December 31, 1946, under the command of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) and within various Philippine combat units.

Filipino vets, many in their 80s and 90s, along with family members of surviving and deceased veterans were among the hundreds who attended a late morning ceremony on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, held in Emancipation Hall at the Capitol. It is an acknowledgement that comes seven decades after these honored veterans were denied benefits promised for their service.

Among Congressional leaders participating in the ceremony were House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI-1), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12).

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of the nation's highest civilian awards bestowed by Congress as an expression of gratitude for distinguished achievements and contributions by individuals, groups, or institutions. In addition to Filipino veterans, other World War II units honored with the medal have included Native American code talkers and the Monuments Men who found and recovered countless artworks stolen by the Nazis.

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance is pursuing similar Congressional Gold Medal recognition for Chinese American veterans who also served during World War II. Begun in December 2016, the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project seeks the medal for the estimated 20,000 servicemen and women who volunteered or were drafted when the Chinese Exclusion Act was still in place (repealed in 1943).



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C.A.C.A. lodges/chapters nationwide are encouraged to support the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project. For information on involvement opportunities, please contact Project Director Samantha Cheng at [e.samantha.cheng@gmail.com](mailto:e.samantha.cheng@gmail.com) or visit [caww2.org](http://caww2.org).

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Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://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), 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.