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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

DATE: June 23, 2021

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The 39th Anniversary of Vincent Chin's Death Remembered

San Francisco June 23, 2021 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) remembers the death of Vincent Chin 39 years ago on this day in 1982. The tragedy of the 27-year-old Chinese American, who was beaten to death in Detroit, Michigan, because of his race, was a catalyst and a major turning point in the Asian American civil rights movement. Two white auto workers were charged with second-degree murder but in the ensuing plea bargaining they received probationary sentences and light fines. Public outrage over the injustice and lack of punishment for Mr. Chin's killers inspired Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) advocates and activists to pursue greater Federal civil rights protections.

“In the current climate of rising anti-Asian hate violence impacting AAPI communities, Vincent Chin takes on a more profound meaning,” says C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan. “Efforts seeking justice for Mr. Chin inspired AAPIs toward greater self-empowerment and prominence in civic, academic, societal, and business leadership over the last four decades. Yet the present surge in anti-Asian hate also illustrates how progress toward greater racial understanding, tolerance and unity has suffered serious setbacks as a result of ‘Asianphobia’ exposed through fierce economic competition with China and the politics of the pandemic.”

C.A.C.A. also pays tribute to Lily Chin, Vincent's mother who was a reluctant but courageous champion of justice for her son. Mrs. Chin soldiered tirelessly across the country speaking out in public — a grief-stricken mother losing a child to senseless violence resonated across color lines. Lily Chin passed away 19 years ago this month on June 14, 2002. She is buried next to her son in Detroit.

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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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.