

2/28/00

FILE NO. 000339

RESOLUTION NO. 188-00

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[John McCain]

URGING SENATOR JOHN McCAIN TO STRICTLY ADHERE TO HIS PLEDGE TO CEASE USING THE OFFENSIVE EPITHET "GOOKS" AND TO RECOGNIZE THAT HIS USE OF THE RACIAL SLUR HAS BROADER IMPLICATIONS IN PERPETUATING PREJUDICE AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS.

WHEREAS, U.S. Senator John McCain, R-AZ, has repeatedly used the word "gooks" to describe the North Vietnamese prison guards who held him captive and tortured him as a prisoner of war in Vietnam; and,

WHEREAS, In response to complaints that "gooks" is a racist and disparaging remark about Vietnamese people, in February 2000, Senator McCain continued to defend his use of the word, telling reporters, "I hated the gooks and will continue to hate them as long as I live," in reference to his captors; and,

WHEREAS, Senator McCain stated that he would continue to use the term even though such language might offend some individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Senator McCain is a candidate for President of the United States, an office representing all Americans, including citizens and other residents of Asian descent; and,

WHEREAS, Historically, the word "gooks" has been used as a racist epithet aimed at individuals and groups of Asian descent; and,

WHEREAS, Use of the word "gooks" is offensive, disparaging, and perpetuates prejudice against Asian Americans; and,

WHEREAS, Asian American advocacy, anti-defamation, and community groups nationwide have condemned Senator McCain's use of the racial slur, expressing hurt and disappointment; and,

1 WHEREAS, In response to the outcry in the Asian American communities, Senator
2 McCain finally apologized to the American people for using offensive and bigoted language
3 and stated that he would cease repeating the racist epithet “gooks”; now therefore be it,

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 hereby urges Senator John McCain to strictly adhere to his pledge to cease using the
6 offensive epithet “gooks” and to recognize that his use of the racial slur has broader
7 implications in perpetuating prejudice against Asian Americans.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails Resolution

File Number: 000339

Date Passed:

Resolution urging Senator John McCain to apologize to the American people for using the offensive epithet "gooks" and to cease immediately from repeating it, and urging government leaders and all Americans to condemn Senator McCain's use of the racial slur.

February 28, 2000 Board of Supervisors — SEVERED FROM FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT COMMITTEE REFERENCE AGENDA

February 28, 2000 Board of Supervisors — AMENDED, AN AMENDMENT OF THE WHOLE BEARING NEW TITLE

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Bierman

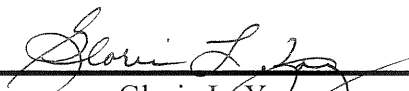
February 28, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED AS AMENDED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Bierman

File No. 000339

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on February 28, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

MAR 10 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.