[Urging Support for Honoring Chinese American World War II Veterans with a Congressional Gold Medal]

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to award Chinese American World War II Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans served on behalf of the United States in every conflict since the American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, More than 13,000 Chinese Americans served in all branches of the Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces by the end of World War II despite the total population of Chinese Americans living in the United States was under 120,000; and

WHEREAS, Chinese American soldiers made significant contributions to the World War II efforts, as they served in all theaters in both combat and support roles, including in New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Philippines, North Africa, Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, and the Battle of the Budge; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 25% of enlisted Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Army Air Force and many were assigned to the 14th Air Service Group, which was composed of primarily Chinese Americans based in the China-Burma-India theater providing effective communications, supply, transportation, and technical support to advance war efforts; and

WHEREAS, Despite the valor, patriotism, and bravery exhibited by Chinese

Americans, they faced blatant institutional racism and prejudice at home especially as The

Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 continued to restrict Chinese immigration to the United States;

and

WHEREAS, Approximately 40% of Chinese American soldiers were not native born citizens of the United States and were unable to naturalize until after 1943 when the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed; and

WHEREAS, On May 4, 2017, United States House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 2358 and Senate Bill (S.) 1050, "The Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act", on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 180627, which are hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein, were introduced in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Other historically overlooked military units, such as Filipino World War II veterans, Navajo Code Talkers, Monument Men have been already honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the recognition of all service members, particularly those marginalized by history; and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal would serve as a symbol of gratitude for our country's indebtedness for the selfless sacrifices made in the face of enormous adversity; and

WHEREAS, The timing of the passage of the Congressional bills are crucial as many Chinese American World War II veterans are no longer alive to see this recognition and both Congressional bills have been stalled at their respective Committees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States

Congress to expeditiously pass the bills to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese

American veterans who served in World War II; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the members of the United States House of Representatives from the San Francisco Bay Area and the United States Senators from California with a request to take all necessary actions to achieve the objectives of this resolution.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

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

Resolution

File Number:

180627

Date Passed: June 12, 2018

Resolution calling on the United States Congress to award Chinese American World War II Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

June 12, 2018 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani, Tang and Yee

File No. 180627

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/12/2018 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Clerk of the Board

Unsigned

Mark E. Farrell Mayor

6/22/18

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Clerk of the Board