



18 JUL -5 PM 3:42

Councilmember Abel Guillén

CITY OF OAKLAND

CITY HALL - ONE FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, 2ND FLOOR - OAKLAND - CALIFORNIA 94612

DATE: July 5, 2018
TO: City Council
FROM: Council President Pro Tem Abel Guillén and Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington
SUBJECT: Resolution Calling on the US Congress to Pass the Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act

RECOMMENDATION

Council President Pro Tem Abel Guillén and Vice Mayor Annie Campbell Washington recommend that the Council adopt a resolution urging the United States Congress to pass the 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" and calling on other cities, counties and other jurisdictions to also urge their passage.

SUMMARY

On May 4, 2017, Senator Tammy Duckworth introduced United States House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 2358 and Representative Edward Royce introduced Senate Bill (S.) 1050, "The Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act," to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II. Over a year later, both bills are still stalled in their respective Committees.

More than 13,000 Chinese Americans served in the Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces by the end of World War II, while the total population of Chinese Americans was under 120,000. Chinese American soldiers made significant contributions to the World War II efforts, but despite their valor, patriotism, and bravery, they faced blatant institutional racism and prejudice especially in the face of The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was not repealed until 1943. Under The Chinese Exclusion Act, approximately 40 percent of Chinese American soldiers who served were unable to naturalize.

This resolution declares that City Council urges the United States Congress to expeditiously recognize the selfless sacrifice of Chinese American Veterans who served in the face of adversity and marginalization and also calls on other cities, counties and other jurisdictions to urge their passage.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Adopt this resolution urging the United States Congress to expeditiously pass the United States House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 2358 and Senate Bill (S.) 1050, "The Chinese American World War II



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Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act” and calling on other cities, counties and other jurisdictions to also urge their passage.

Thank you,

Abel Guillén, City Councilmember, District 2

Annie Campbell Washington, Vice Mayor

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City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY PRESIDENT PRO TEM ABEL GUILLÉN
AND VICE MAYOR ANNIE CAMPBELL WASHINGTON

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
PASS (H.R.) 2358 AND SENATE BILL (S.)1050, "THE CHINESE
AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL ACT"**

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 Bulge; 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", 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 Oakland City Council 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 Oakland City Council 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 City of Oakland calls on other cities, counties and other jurisdictions throughout the country to urge the passage of the bills to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American veterans who served in World War II.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California