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City Attorney's Office

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

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

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**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 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citizens of the United States and were unable to naturalize until after 1943 when the Chinese Exclusion Act was finally repealed; and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 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; and, 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; now, therefore, 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