

A RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING THE AWARD OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL HONORING ALL CHINESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS.

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WHEREAS, Chinese Americans have served the United States in every war since the Civil War, and distinguished themselves in WWII where they served in every theater of battle and every branch of service, earning citations for their heroism and honorable service, up to and including the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, despite anti-Chinese discrimination laws existing at the time, as many as twenty thousand Chinese Americans served in the Armed Forces in WWII, of whom approximately forty percent were not United States citizens due to laws that denied citizenship to persons of Chinese descent; and

WHEREAS, despite their small numbers, Chinese Americans made important contributions to the WWII effort honorably serving in the China-Burma Theater which enabled extensive and effective operations against the Japanese military in China; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans are widely acknowledged for their role in the 14th Air Force, 23rd Fighter Group, known as the Flying Tigers which established allied air superiority in China and supported essential cargo flights from India to China over the “Hump”; and

WHEREAS, in the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans performed in ground, air and ocean combat and support roles, to include vital translating duties in places such as New Guinea, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, Mariana Islands, and the Aleutian Islands; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans also served in combat and support roles in the European and African theaters, serving honorably in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and the Normandy D-Day invasion which helped liberate Western Europe; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans flew bomber missions, served in infantry units and combat ships in the Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant Marine convoys vulnerable to submarine and air attacks; and

WHEREAS, Chinese-American women also served their country, performing patriotic service as translators interpreting Japanese documents containing military plans, and served in the Women’s Army Corps, the Army Air Forces the Naval Women’s Reserve becoming pilots, air traffic controllers, nurses, weather forecasters, occupational therapists; and

WHEREAS, Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chinese American to have been posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2000, upgraded from a Distinguished Service Medal awarded in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans also earned Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Medals, and Distinguished Flying Medals; and

WHEREAS, the United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chinese-American veterans of WWII displayed, demonstrating a high sense of patriotism and honor in the face of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Antonio is proud to be the home to Chinese Americans who served in WWII, and proudly honor them for their dedicated service to our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City of San Antonio and “Military City USA” honor all Chinese American WWII veterans and fully support the award of the Congressional Gold Medal for their dedicated service to our nation.

SECTION 2. This Resolution is effective upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

Passed and approved on the 4th day of October, 2018.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk

Andrew Segovia
City Attorney