



# City of San Antonio

## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** 18-5231

**Type:** Staff Briefing - Without Ordinance

**In control:** Intergovernmental Relations Committee

**On agenda:** 9/12/2018

**Title:** Resolution in support of legislation authorizing the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese-American Veterans of WWII. [Juan Ayala, Director, Office of Military and Veteran Affairs]

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. Draft resolution - Chinese-American WWII Veterans

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### CITY OF SAN ANTONIO GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Intergovernmental Relations Council Committee

**FROM:** Juan Ayala, Director of Military and Veterans Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation Supporting the Awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal Honoring all Chinese-American WWII Veterans

**DATE:** September 7, 2018

Chinese Americans have served the United States in every war since the Civil War, and distinguished themselves in World War II where they served in every theater of battle and in every branch of the armed forces. They earned citations for heroism and honorable service, up to and including the Medal of Honor. As many as twenty-thousand Chinese Americans served in the armed forces in World War II, of whom approximately 40% were not United States citizens due to laws that denied citizenship to persons of Chinese descent.

While their numbers were small, they made significant contributions to the effort, notably serving in the China-Burma Theater, and were widely acknowledged for their role in the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force - 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group known as the Flying Tigers. In the Pacific Theater, they performed in ground, air, and naval combat and support roles in places such as New Guinea, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Mariana and Aleutian Islands. In the European Theaters, they served honorably in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and the Normandy D-Day invasion which helped liberate Western Europe.

Earning Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, Distinguished Service Medals and Distinguished Flying Medals, Chinese Americans demonstrated a high sense of patriotism and honor. In recognition of these accomplishments and their dedicated service to our nation, we ask for City Council consideration of a Resolution supporting federal legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Chinese-American Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.