

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1050

AN ACT

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Chinese-American
3 World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) Chinese Americans served the United States
7 in every conflict since the Civil War, and distin-
8 guished themselves in World War II, serving in
9 every theater of war and every branch of service,
10 earning citations for their heroism and honorable
11 service, including the Medal of Honor;

12 (2) Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans
13 faced institutional discrimination in the United
14 States since before World War II, limiting the size
15 of their population and their ability to build thriving
16 communities in the United States;

17 (3) the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain
18 treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved
19 May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Ex-
20 clusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126),
21 was the first Federal law that broadly restricted im-
22 migration and a specific nationality, making it illegal
23 for Chinese laborers to immigrate to the United
24 States and limiting the Chinese population in the
25 United States for over 60 years;

1 (4) major court decisions such as the decisions
2 in *Lum v. Rice*, 275 U.S. 78 (1927), and *People v.*
3 *Hall*, 4 Cal. 399 (1854), found “yellow” races to be
4 equal to African Americans with regard to “separate
5 but equal” school facilities, and prohibited Chinese
6 Americans, along with “Black, mulatto, or Indian”
7 persons, from testifying against White men;

8 (5) Chinese Americans were harassed, beaten,
9 and murdered because of their ethnicity, including
10 the Chinese Massacre of 1871, where 17 Chinese im-
11 migrants in Los Angeles, California, were tortured
12 and murdered, the Rock Springs Massacre of 1885
13 where White rioters killed 28 Chinese miners and
14 burned 75 of their homes in Rock Springs, Wyo-
15 ming, and the Hells Canyon Massacre of 1887 where
16 34 Chinese gold miners were ambushed and mur-
17 dered in Hells Canyon, Oregon;

18 (6) there were only 78,000 Chinese Americans
19 living on the United States mainland, with 29,000
20 living in Hawaii, at the start of World War II as re-
21 sult of Federal and State legislation and judicial de-
22 cisions;

23 (7) despite the anti-Chinese discrimination at
24 the time, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans
25 served in the Armed Forces during World War II,

1 of whom, approximately 40 percent were not United
2 States citizens due to the laws that denied citizen-
3 ship to persons of Chinese descent;

4 (8) Chinese Americans, although small in num-
5 bers, made important contributions to the World
6 War II effort;

7 (9) of the total Chinese Americans serving, ap-
8 proximately 25 percent served in the United States
9 Army Air Force, with some sent to the China-
10 Burma-India Theater with the 14th Air Service
11 Group;

12 (10) the remainder of Chinese Americans who
13 served in World War II served in all branches of the
14 Armed Forces in all 4 theaters of war;

15 (11) the first all Chinese-American group was
16 the 14th Air Service Group in the China-Burma-
17 India Theater which enabled extensive and effective
18 operations against the Japanese military in China;

19 (12) Chinese Americans are widely acknowl-
20 edged for their role in the 14th Air Force, widely
21 known as the Flying Tigers;

22 (13) Chinese Americans assigned to the China-
23 Burma-India Theater made transoceanic journeys
24 through hostile territories and were subject to enemy
25 attack while at sea and in the air;

1 (14) in the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans
 2 were in ground, air, and ocean combat and support
 3 roles throughout the Pacific including New Guinea,
 4 Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa,
 5 Philippines, Mariana Islands, and Aleutian Islands;

6 (15) throughout the Pacific and China-Burma-
 7 India theaters, Chinese Americans performed vital
 8 functions in translating, coordinating Nationalist
 9 Chinese and United States combat operations, serv-
 10 icing and repairing aircraft and armaments, training
 11 Nationalist Chinese troops and sailors, delivering
 12 medical care, providing signal and communication
 13 support, gathering and analyzing intelligence, par-
 14 ticipating in ground and air combat, and securing
 15 and delivering supplies;

16 (16) Chinese Americans also served in combat
 17 and support roles in the European and African thea-
 18 ters, serving in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, the Nor-
 19 mandy D-Day invasion, which liberated Western
 20 Europe, and the Battle of the Bulge, occupying
 21 Western Germany while helping to liberate Central
 22 Europe;

23 (17) Chinese Americans flew bomber missions,
 24 served in infantry units and combat ships in the
 25 Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant

1 Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air at-
2 tacks;

3 (18) many Chinese-American women served in
4 the Women's Army Corps, the Army Air Forces, and
5 the United States Naval Reserve Women's Reserve,
6 and some became pilots, air traffic controllers, flight
7 trainers, weather forecasters, occupational thera-
8 pists, and nurses;

9 (19) Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chi-
10 nese American who served in World War II to have
11 been awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest mili-
12 tary award given by the United States

13 (20) Chinese Americans also earned Combat In-
14 fantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver
15 Stars, Distinguished Service Cross, and Distin-
16 guished Flying Cross;

17 (21) units of the Armed Forces with Chinese
18 Americans were also awarded unit citations for valor
19 and bravery;

20 (22) the United States remains forever indebted
21 to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chi-
22 nese-American Veterans of World War II displayed;
23 and

24 (23) the commitment and sacrifice of Chinese
25 Americans demonstrates a highly uncommon and

1 commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the
2 face of discrimination.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “Chinese-American Veterans of
6 World II” includes individuals of Chinese ancestry
7 who served—

8 (A) honorably at any time during the pe-
9 riod December 7, 1941, and ending December
10 31, 1946; and

11 (B) in an active duty status under the
12 command of the Armed Forces; and

13 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
14 of the Treasury.

15 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

16 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tem-
17 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the
19 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of
20 appropriate design to the Chinese-American Veterans of
21 World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service
22 during World War II.

23 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
24 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall

1 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
2 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

3 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the
5 gold medal in honor of the Chinese-American Vet-
6 erans of World War II, the gold medal shall be given
7 to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be
8 available for display as appropriate and made avail-
9 able for research.

10 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
11 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
12 make the gold medal received under paragraph (1)
13 available for display elsewhere, particularly at other
14 locations associated with the Chinese-American Vet-
15 erans of World II or with World War II.

16 (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under regulations that
17 the Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike
18 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck
19 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of
20 the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
21 ery, and overhead expenses.

22 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.**

23 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck
24 under this Act shall be a national medal for the purposes
25 of chapter 51 of title 31, Unites States Code.

1 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section
2 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
3 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

Passed the Senate September 12, 2018.

Attest:

Secretary.

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