

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 2358 / S.1050 - THE CHINESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

- WHEREAS:** On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives introduced bills to collectively award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II; and
- WHEREAS:** Representatives Ed Royce and Ted Lieu from California were the lead co-sponsors of bill H.R. 2358, while Senator Tammy Duckworth from Illinois and Senator Thad Cochran from Mississippi were lead co-sponsors of bill S.1050; and
- WHEREAS:** The introduced bills aim to recognize the contributions of Chinese American veterans in World War II, where some 20,000 Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war, despite having fewer than 120,000 Chinese Americans living in the United States; and
- WHEREAS:** Chinese American soldiers made important contributions in World War II efforts, as they served in all theaters of the war, including in New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Philippines, North Africa, Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, and the Battle of the Bulge; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 25% of Chinese Americans enlisted served in the U.S. Army Air Force, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group assigned to the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force was an all-Chinese American unit, which provided supply, transportation and communications support as well as repairs to aircrafts and armaments; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite their patriotism and valor, Chinese Americans faced blatant racial discrimination at the time, with The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 restricting Chinese immigration to the U.S., and the law was still in effect at the beginning of World War II; and
- WHEREAS:** Approximately 40% of the Chinese Americans who served were not citizens of the United States, and many were not able to become citizens until midway through World War II; and
- WHEREAS:** Bills H.R. 2358 and S.1050 will commemorate the contributions and patriotism of Chinese American veterans in World War II by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the whole group, an honor that other veteran groups have had; and

*WHEREAS:* The timing for the passage of these bills is crucial, as many of the Chinese American veterans in World War II have already passed away, and 2018 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which will make the passage even more memorable; *NOW*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:*

That the Boston City Council, in meeting assembled, express its support of bills H.R. 2358 and S.1050, and calls on Congress for a timely passage of the bills during its current session.

Filed on: September 11, 2017