

1 [Supporting House Joint Resolution 45.]

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3 **Resolution supporting House Joint Resolution 45, introduced by Congressman Mike**
4 **Honda, which posthumously proclaims soldiers of Asian descent who fought in the**
5 **Civil War to be honorary citizens of the United States.**

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7 WHEREAS, The United States on rare occasions confers honorary citizenship on
8 individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this country or to humankind
9 throughout the world; and,

10 WHEREAS, Honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not
11 lightly nor frequently granted; and,

12 WHEREAS, Posthumous citizenship is an honorary status commemorating the bravery
13 and sacrifices of these person, it does not convey any benefits under the Immigration and
14 Nationality Act to any relative of the decedent; and,

15 WHEREAS, Current law provides for the granting of United State citizenship to aliens
16 or noncitizen nationals of the United States who die because of injury or disease incurred in or
17 aggravated by honorable, active duty service in the United States Armed Forces; and,

18 WHEREAS, It has been determined that more than 250 soldiers of Asian descent
19 fought bravely and honorably in the Union and Confederate armed forces during the United
20 States Civil War; and,

21 WHEREAS, Many of these soldiers were denied citizenship following their service as a
22 result of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and general anti-Asian sentiment prevalent at that
23 time and similar restrictions were expanded to people from India, Japan, Korea, the
24 Philippines and other Asian countries; and,

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1 WHEREAS, The Congress overturned the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in 1943 to
2 end this injustice to Asian immigrants but did not extend this citizenship to those who had
3 rightfully earned this honor but were denied the chance to seek it by the Chinese Exclusion
4 Act of 1882; and,

5 WHEREAS, In April of this year, Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) introduced
6 legislation, now known as House Joint Resolution 45, which is currently co-sponsored by 40
7 members of the House of Representatives, will confer honorary citizenship upon soldiers of
8 Asian descent who fought in the Civil War; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
10 does hereby support the passage of House Joint Resolution 45; and, be it

11 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco does hereby ask
12 that copies of this legislation be sent to our Congressional representatives with instructions
13 that all actions be taken for its successful passage.

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