

1 [Urging Support for Honoring Chinese American World War II Veterans with a Congressional
2 Gold Medal]

3 **Resolution calling on the United States Congress to award Chinese American World**
4 **War II Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.**

5
6 WHEREAS, Chinese Americans served on behalf of the United States in every conflict
7 since the American Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 13,000 Chinese Americans served in all branches of the Army
9 Ground Forces and Army Air Forces by the end of World War II despite the total population of
10 Chinese Americans living in the United States was under 120,000; and

11 WHEREAS, Chinese American soldiers made significant contributions to the World
12 War II efforts, as they served in all theaters in both combat and support roles, including in
13 New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Philippines, North Africa, Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, and the
14 Battle of the Budge; and

15 WHEREAS, Nearly 25% of enlisted Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Army Air
16 Force and many were assigned to the 14th Air Service Group, which was composed of
17 primarily Chinese Americans based in the China-Burma-India theater providing effective
18 communications, supply, transportation, and technical support to advance war efforts; and

19 WHEREAS, Despite the valor, patriotism, and bravery exhibited by Chinese
20 Americans, they faced blatant institutional racism and prejudice at home especially as The
21 Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 continued to restrict Chinese immigration to the United States;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Approximately 40% of Chinese American soldiers were not native born
24 citizens of the United States and were unable to naturalize until after 1943 when the Chinese
25 Exclusion Act was finally repealed; and

1 WHEREAS, On May 4, 2017, United States House of Representatives Bill (H.R.) 2358
2 and Senate Bill (S.) 1050, “The Chinese American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold
3 Medal Act”, on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in File No. 180627, which are
4 hereby declared to be a part of this Resolution as if set forth fully herein, were introduced in
5 the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate to award the
6 Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II; and

7 WHEREAS, Other historically overlooked military units, such as Filipino World War II
8 veterans, Navajo Code Talkers, Monument Men have been already honored with the
9 Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress; and

10 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports the recognition of all
11 service members, particularly those marginalized by history; and

12 WHEREAS, The Congressional Gold Medal would serve as a symbol of gratitude for
13 our country’s indebtedness for the selfless sacrifices made in the face of enormous adversity;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The timing of the passage of the Congressional bills are crucial as many
16 Chinese American World War II veterans are no longer alive to see this recognition and both
17 Congressional bills have been stalled at their respective Committees; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges the United States
19 Congress to expeditiously pass the bills to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese
20 American veterans who served in World War II; and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby directs
22 the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies to the members of the United States House of
23 Representatives from the San Francisco Bay Area and the United States Senators from
24 California with a request to take all necessary actions to achieve the objectives of this
25 resolution.