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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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2017

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) Chinese Americans served the United States
9 in every conflict since the Civil War, and distin-

1 guished themselves in World War II, serving in
2 every theater of battle and every branch of service,
3 earning citations for their heroism and honorable
4 service, including the Congressional Medal of Honor;

5 (2) Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans
6 faced institutional discrimination in the United
7 States since before World War II, limiting the size
8 of their population and their ability to build thriving
9 communities in the United States;

10 (3) the Act of May 5, 1892 (27 Stat. 25, chap-
11 ter 60) (commonly known as the “Geary Act” or the
12 “Chinese Exclusion Act”), was the first Federal law
13 that broadly restricted immigration and a specific
14 nationality, making it illegal for Chinese laborers to
15 immigrate to the United States and limiting the Chi-
16 nese population in the United States for over 60
17 years;

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

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

11 (6) there were only 78,000 Chinese Americans
12 living on the United States mainland, with 29,000
13 living in Hawaii, at the start of World War II as re-
14 sult of Federal and State legislation and judicial de-
15 cisions;

16 (7) despite the anti-Chinese discrimination at
17 the time, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans
18 served in the Armed Forces during World War II,
19 of whom, approximately 40 percent were not United
20 States citizens due to the laws that denied citizen-
21 ship to persons of Chinese descent;

22 (8) Chinese Americans, although small in num-
23 bers, made important contributions to the World
24 War II effort;

1 (9) of the total Chinese Americans serving, ap-
2 proximately 25 percent served in the United States
3 Army Air Force, with some sent to the China-
4 Burma-India Theater with the 14th Air Service
5 Group;

6 (10) the remainder of Chinese Americans who
7 served in World War II served in all branches of the
8 Armed Forces in all 4 theaters of war;

9 (11) the first all Chinese-American group was
10 the 14th Air Service Group, 859th Signal Corps in
11 the China-Burma-India Theater which enabled ex-
12 tensive and effective operations against the Japanese
13 military in China;

14 (12) Chinese Americans are widely acknowl-
15 edged for their role in the 14th Air Force, 23rd
16 Fighter Group, widely known as the Flying Tigers;

17 (13) the Flying Tigers eventually established
18 United States air superiority in China and supported
19 cargo flights from India to China over “The Hump”;

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

24 (15) in the Pacific Theater, Chinese Americans
25 were in ground, air, and ocean combat and support

1 roles throughout the Pacific including New Guinea,
2 Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa,
3 Philippines, Mariana Islands, and Aleutian Islands;

4 (16) throughout the Pacific and China-Burma-
5 India theaters, Chinese Americans performed vital
6 functions in translating, coordinating National Chi-
7 nese and United States combat operations, servicing
8 and repairing aircraft and armaments, training Na-
9 tional Chinese troops and sailors, delivering medical
10 care, providing signal and communication support,
11 gathering and analyzing intelligence, participating in
12 ground and air combat, and securing and delivering
13 supplies;

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

21 (18) Chinese Americans flew bomber missions,
22 served in infantry units and combat ships in the
23 Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant
24 Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air at-
25 tacks;

1 (19) Chinese-American women left traditional
2 domestic duties for patriotic service, serving as
3 translators who interpreted Japanese documents
4 containing military plans;

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

11 (21) Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chi-
12 nese American who served in World War II to have
13 been awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor, the
14 highest military award given by the United States

15 (22) Captain Wai was posthumously awarded
16 the Distinguished Service Medal in 1944, which was
17 upgraded in 2000 to a Congressional Medal of
18 Honor;

19 (23) Chinese Americans also earned Combat In-
20 fantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver
21 Stars, Distinguished Service Medals, and Distin-
22 guished Flying Medals;

23 (24) units of the Armed Forces with Chinese
24 Americans were also awarded unit citations for valor
25 and bravery;

1 (25) the United States remains forever indebted
2 to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the Chi-
3 nese-American Veterans of World War II displayed;
4 and

5 (26) the commitment and sacrifice of Chinese
6 Americans demonstrates a highly uncommon and
7 commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the
8 face of discrimination.

9 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act—

11 (1) the term “Chinese-American Veterans of
12 World II” includes individuals of Chinese ancestry
13 who served—

14 (A) honorably at any time during the pe-
15 riod December 7, 1941, and ending December
16 31, 1946; and

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

19 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
20 of the Treasury.

21 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tem-
23 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the
25 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of

1 appropriate design to the Chinese-American Veterans of
2 World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service
3 during World War II.

4 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
5 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary shall
6 strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and
7 inscriptions to be determined by the Secretary.

8 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.—

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

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

21 (d) DUPLICATE MEDALS.—Under regulations that
22 the Secretary may promulgate, the Secretary may strike
23 and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck
24 under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the cost of

1 the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machin-
2 ery, and overhead expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The gold medal struck
5 under this Act shall be a national medal for the purposes
6 of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section
8 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
9 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

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