


(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2358

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROYCE of California (for himself and Mr. TED LIEU of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

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 Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Chinese Americans served the United States
2 in every conflict since the Civil War, and distin-
3 guished themselves in World War II, serving in
4 every theater of battle and every branch of service,
5 earning citations for their heroism and honorable
6 service, up to and including the Congressional Medal
7 of Honor.

8 (2) Chinese nationals and Chinese Americans
9 faced institutional discrimination in the United
10 States since before World War II, limiting the size
11 of their population and their ability to build thriving
12 communities in America.

13 (3) The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the
14 first federal law that broadly restricted immigration
15 and a specific nationality, making it illegal for Chi-
16 nese laborers to immigrate to the United States, and
17 limiting the Chinese population in America for over
18 sixty years.

19 (4) Major court decisions such as the decisions
20 in *Lum v. Rice* and *People v. Hall* found “yellow”
21 races to be equal to African Americans with regard
22 to “separate but equal” school facilities, and prohib-
23 ited Chinese Americans, along with “black, mulatto,
24 or Indian” persons, from testifying against white
25 men.

1 (5) Chinese Americans were harassed, beaten,
2 and murdered because of their ethnicity. The worst
3 instances include the Chinese Massacre of 1871,
4 where 17 Chinese immigrants in Los Angeles, Cali-
5 fornia were tortured and murdered; the Rock Spring
6 Massacre of 1885 where white rioters killed 28 Chi-
7 nese miners and burned 75 of their homes in Rock
8 Springs, Wyoming; and the Hells Canyon Massacre
9 of 1887 where 34 Chinese goldminers were am-
10 bushed and murdered 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 deci-
15 sions.

16 (7) Despite the anti-Chinese discrimination at
17 the time, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans
18 served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War
19 II. Approximately forty percent (40%) of those who
20 served were not United States citizens due to the
21 laws that denied U.S. citizenship for persons of Chi-
22 nese descent.

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

1 (9) Of the total Chinese Americans serving, ap-
2 proximately 25 percent served in the U.S. Army Air
3 Force/Corps, with some sent to the China-Burma-
4 India (CBI) theater with the 14th Air Service
5 Group.

6 (10) The remainder served in all branches of
7 the U.S. Armed Forces in all four theaters of war.

8 (11) The first all Chinese American group was
9 the 14th Air Service Group, 859th Signal Corps in
10 the CBI theater which enabled extensive and effec-
11 tive operations against the Japanese military in
12 China.

13 (12) Chinese Americans are widely acknowl-
14 edged for their role in the Army's 14th Air Force,
15 23rd Fighter Group, widely known as the Flying Ti-
16 gers.

17 (13) The Flying Tigers eventually established
18 American air superiority in China and supported
19 cargo flights from India to China over "The Hump".

20 (14) Chinese Americans assigned to the CBI
21 theater made transoceanic journeys through hostile
22 territories, and were subject to enemy attack while
23 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, Marianas, and Aleutian Islands.

4 (16) Throughout the Pacific and CBI theaters,
5 they performed vital functions in translating; coordi-
6 nating National Chinese and American combat oper-
7 ations; servicing and repairing aircraft and arma-
8 ments; training National Chinese troops and sailors;
9 delivering medical care; providing signal and commu-
10 nication support; gathering and analyzing intel-
11 ligence; participating in ground and air combat; and
12 securing and delivering supplies.

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

20 (18) Chinese Americans flew bomber missions,
21 served in infantry units and combat ships in the
22 Battle of the Atlantic, including aboard Merchant
23 Marines convoys vulnerable to submarine and air at-
24 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 (WACs), the Army Air
7 Force, and the United States Naval Reserve Wom-
8 en's Reserve (WAVES), and some became pilots, air
9 traffic controllers, flight trainers, weather fore-
10 casters, occupational therapists, and nurses.

11 (21) Captain Francis B. Wai is the only Chi-
12 nese American serving in World War II to have been
13 awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor, the high-
14 est military award given by our nation. His post-
15 humous Distinguished Service Medal, awarded in
16 1944 was upgraded in 2000 to a Congressional
17 Medal of Honor.

18 (22) Chinese Americans also earned Combat In-
19 fantry Badges, Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, Silver
20 Stars, Distinguished Service Medals and Distin-
21 guished Flying Medals. Units with Chinese Ameri-
22 cans were also awarded unit citations for valor and
23 bravery.

24 (23) The United States remains forever in-
25 debted to the bravery, valor, and dedication that the

1 Chinese American Veterans of World War II dis-
2 played. Their commitment and sacrifice dem-
3 onstrates a highly uncommon and commendable
4 sense of patriotism and honor in the face of dis-
5 crimination.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “Chinese American Veterans of
9 World II” includes individuals of Chinese ancestry
10 who served—

11 (A) honorably at any time during the pe-
12 riod December 7, 1941, and ending December
13 31, 1946; and

14 (B) in an active duty status under the
15 command of the United States Armed Forces;
16 and

17 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
18 of the Treasury.

19 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

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

1 World War II, in recognition of their dedicated service
2 during World War II.

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

7 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.—

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDAL.**

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

5 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purpose of section
6 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck
7 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.