

To: Representative

I urge you to support the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II as delineated in H.R. 2358, which was introduced in the House on May 4, 2017.

Prior to World War II, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 -- the first significant law restricting immigration into the United States -- was still in place, and there was long standing discrimination against its Chinese American community.

Despite barriers to citizenship and equality, Chinese Americans remained patriotic and maintained a belief in service to country. Chinese Americans served in every war since the Civil War. Despite fewer than 120,000 Chinese Americans living in the United States and Hawaii at the time of World War II, more than 20,000 volunteered or were drafted and served in all major theaters of the war. Approximately 40% of those who served were not United States citizens due to laws that denied citizenship for persons of Chinese descent.

Chinese American veterans demonstrated their skills, competencies, and loyalty. Their commitment and sacrifice demonstrated a highly uncommon sense of patriotism and honor in the face of discrimination. By their actions during the war, they helped to open up opportunities for all Chinese Americans to be a part of Mainstream America post-World War II.

Please support the award of the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II by cosponsoring H.R. 2358.