

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. ____

SUPPORTING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL 2358 AND
SENATE BILL 1050 THE CHINESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II
VETERANS CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States. At the start of World War II, there were 78,000 Chinese Americans living on the United States mainland, and 29,000 living in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, despite anti-Chinese immigration policies, over 13,000 Chinese Americans served in units of the Army Ground Forces and Army Air Forces in World War II; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 40 percent of Chinese American soldiers who served our country in World War II were not born in the United States. After Congress repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1943, many Chinese American soldiers became naturalized citizens; and

WHEREAS, Chinese Americans served in every theater of battle and every branch of service in World War II. Most Chinese Americans were assigned to regular ground units. Chinese American personnel made up the majority of the 14th Air Service Group, which provided support units for the China-Burma-India theater. Chinese Americans also trained as pilots and aircrew and fought in Europe and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, many Chinese American women served in the Women's Army Corps (WACs), the Army Air Force, and the United States Naval Reserve Women's Reserve (WAVES). Chinese American woman became pilots, air traffic controllers, flight trainers, translators, weather forecasters, occupational therapists, and nurses; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2017, members of the United States Senate and United States House of Representatives introduced bills to collectively award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Chinese American World War II Veterans made significant contributions to our country without being honored. In recent years, other historically overlooked military units, including the Filipino World War II Veterans, Native American Code Talkers, Members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, and the Monuments Men have been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2358 and S. 1050 recognize the dedicated service of Chinese Americans during World War II. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census, more than 30 percent of people living in the City of Alameda are of Asian Pacific Islander heritage; many with relatives who served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and to whom our community is deeply thankful for their service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Alameda that the Council supports the recognition of all United States service members, and supports efforts by the United States Congress to recognize the contribution made to America by Chinese Americans during World War II by awarding Chinese American World War II Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal.

* * * * *

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted and passed by the Council of the City of Alameda in a regular meeting assembled on the 24th day of July 2018, by the following vote to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said City this 25th day of July 2018.

Lara Weisiger, City Clerk
City of Alameda

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Janet C. Kern, City Attorney
City of Alameda