

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 9445

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE SUPPORTING  
H.R.2358 / S.1050 – THE CHINESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS  
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

WHEREAS, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives introduced bills to collectively award the Congressional Gold Medal to Chinese American Veterans of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Representatives Ed Royce and Ted Lieu from California were the lead co-sponsors of bill H.R.2358, while Senator Tammy Duckworth from Illinois and Senator Thad Cochran from Mississippi were lead co-sponsors of bill S.1050; and

WHEREAS, the introduced bills aim to recognize the contributions of Chinese American veterans in World War II, where some 20,000 Chinese Americans served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war, despite having fewer than 120,000 Chinese Americans living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Chinese American soldiers made important contributions in World War II efforts, as they served in all theaters of the war, including in New Guinea, Iwo Jima, Philippines, North Africa, Italy, the Normandy D-Day Invasion, and the Battle: of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25% of Chinese Americans enlisted served in the U.S. Army Air Force, and the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group assigned to the 14<sup>th</sup> Air Force was an all - Chinese American unit, which provided supply, transportation and communications support as well as repairs to aircrafts and armaments; and

WHEREAS, despite their patriotism and valor, Chinese Americans faced blatant racial discrimination at the time, with The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 restricting Chinese immigration to the U.S., and the law was still in effect at the beginning of World War II; and

WHEREAS, approximately 40% of the Chinese Americans who served were not citizens of the United States, and many were not able to become citizens until midway through World War II; and

WHEREAS, bills H.R.2358 and S.1050 will commemorate the contributions and patriotism of Chinese American veterans in World War II by awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the whole group, an honor that other veteran groups have had; and

WHEREAS, the timing for the passage of these bills is crucial, as many of the Chinese American veterans in World War II have already passed away, and 2018 will be the 75th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which will make the passage even more memorable.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Bellevue supports bills H.R.2358 and S.1050, and calls on Congress for a timely passage of the bills during its current session.

Passed by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018, and signed in authentication of its passage this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Chelminiak, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kyle Stannert, City Clerk