



## **GSGV Lodge Elected Board Officers for 2021**

C.A.C.A. Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge held its Board Officers election in a virtual Lodge meeting on November 9, 2020. As a standard procedure, before this took place, President Sharon Wong compiled a list of Lodge members who were eligible for the office of President or Vice-President (5 years as member and 3 years as Board Officer), the office of Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer or Financial Secretary (3 years as member and one year as Board Officer) and all other offices (3 years as member). On election day, all Board Offices had only one nomination from the attending members, and all candidates were voted into office by acclamation. The list of Officers-elect is:

John Y. Wong	President
Tak Charles Mau	Vice-President
Dean Ng	Secretary
Sam Gee	Assistant Secretary
Jason Dhing	Treasurer
Hollie Luong	Financial Secretary
Shirley Hwong	Compliance Officer
Angela Lai	Compliance Officer
Alice Mah	Marshall
Scott Kwong	Sentinel
Valerie Lee	Collector
Sharon Wong	National Representative

Congratulations to all the Elected Officers. They will be sworn in at the top of the January 11, 2021 Lodge meeting, during which the Board of Associates will be announced and also sworn in.

## **Asian American Candidates in Our Area: How They Fared in November Election**

The November 3 general election is finally behind us. This year, our Lodge did not endorse any candidate vying for a congressional seat or national office. In the San Gabriel Valley, Judy Chu easily won re-election as US Representative, 34<sup>th</sup> District, and Ed Chau was also re-elected to a new term as Member of the State Assembly, 49<sup>th</sup> District. On the West Side 33<sup>rd</sup> District, voters elected Ted W. Lieu to another term as US Representative. In neighboring Orange County, in the US House race, two Korean American candidates won their seats, for the first time, Young Kim in District 39 and Michelle Steele in District 48. In the state ballot, Dave Min took the State Senate seat in 37<sup>th</sup> District,

while Philip Chen, Steven Choi and Janet Nguyen won their State Assembly seats in Districts 55, 68 and 72, respectively.

## **Proposition 16 Defeated in State Ballot**

Proposition 16, which would have restored affirmative action to university admission, state contract awards and state employment, was defeated by a margin of 57% to 37% in the state referendum. According to analysis by the print media, the measure failed because of doubts about the fairness of affirmative action, especially among Asian and Latino voters. Before the November election, GSGV Lodge voted overwhelmingly to say “NO” on Prop. 16

The defeat marked a major setback for the California Democrats and many activists who supported this proposition. It also shows that there is a major gap between California political leaders and grassroots voters on this issue that has stirred up a lot of controversy.

The Los Angeles Times reported that in a poll conducted jointly by many community organizations, voters from different ethnic groups showed support for education and public employment diversity. But at the same time, a large number of voters doubt the fairness of affirmative measures that allow the government to make decisions based on an individual's ethnic and gender background.

Nearly 25 years ago, the California government banned most of the affirmative measures previously supported by the government following referendum No. 209 that Californians voted to pass. Since then, the repeal of Prop. 209 has become the target of many Democratic lawmakers and state officials. Many University of California (UC) presidents have also repeatedly stated that because they could not consider ethnicity in college admissions, the ratio of Hispanic and African-American students at the UC system has been lower than that of high school graduates for many years. Nonetheless, the results of the referendum show that Californians have mixed feelings about affirmative action.

In public opinion surveys, two-thirds of California adults believe in the diversity of universities based on ethnicity, country of origin, and gender. Among them, the percentage of white communities supporting diversity is

60%, that of Asian and Latino communities is 70%, and that in African communities is 80%.

But broad support for campus diversity has not translated into support for affirmative measures. In Hispanic communities, only 30% of people think that affirmative action is a good idea. In contrast, 41% of Hispanics think Affirmative measures are a bad idea. In the Asian-Pacific community, 35% of residents favor affirmative measures, and 46% think it is a bad idea. In the Chinese community, the ratio of opposition to and support for affirmative measures is about 2:1.

White communities have the most negative views on affirmative measures. 53% of white residents think affirmative measures are a bad idea. In African-American communities, only 19% of African-American residents believe that affirmative measures are a bad idea, and 56% support them.

In addition to ethnicity, communities with a higher proportion of first-generation immigrants have a more negative view of affirmative action. In the Asia-Pacific community, consisting mostly of people aged over 50 and first-generation immigrants, the ratio of opposition to and support for affirmative measures was about 3:1. However, there are slightly more Asian-Pacific residents under the age of 50 who hold positive views on affirmative action. Regarding this phenomenon, experts believe that for the first generation of immigrants who came to the United States to find opportunities, it is difficult to gain their trust in any policy biased towards specific ethnic groups.

In the African-American community, the situation is exactly the opposite of that in the Asian community. African-American residents over 50 support affirmative measures, while young African-Americans have serious differences on this issue. Regarding this phenomenon, experts said that the reason is that the vast majority of young Africans have not experienced the period when Prop. 209 was passed, so it is difficult for them to understand the feelings of many older Africans towards affirmative measures.

[Report partly based on World Journal article, Nov. 25.]

### 5000+ Remotely Attend Chinese American WWII Veterans CGM Award Ceremony

On December 9, 2020, seventy-five years after the end of World War II, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II in recognition of their patriotism, loyalty, and courage in a virtual ceremony hosted by the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. This award is well-deserved because about 20,000 Chinese in America

chose to serve their country during a time when our nation denied citizenship to Chinese immigrants in America.

Spearheaded and led by C.A.C.A., the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act was enacted into law on December 20, 2018. The bill was bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Thad Cochran (R-MS), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), and Congressmen Ed Royce (R-CA) and Ted Lieu (D-CA). C.A.C.A. through its project the Chinese American World War II Veterans Recognition Project has worked with the many generous donors to ensure every verified Veteran or next of kin receives an official replica of the Medal.



Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi with the Congressional Gold Medal

Many Congressional leaders and sponsors of the CGM Bill appeared at the ceremony and commended these Veterans for their patriotism and sacrifices at a time when Chinese in America suffered discrimination under



Rep. Ted Lieu (left), Senators Duckworth (center) and Hirono.



the Chinese Exclusion Act. Leaders of the Army, the Marines, the Navy, the Air Force and the Coast Guards also appeared and thanked the service of the Veterans being honored.

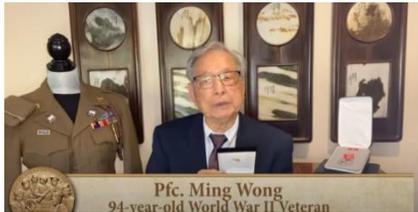
World War II U.S. Army First Lieutenant Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo accepted virtually the Congressional Gold



**Veteran Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo holding CGM**

Medal on behalf of the Chinese American World War II Veterans from Speaker Pelosi. She was joined by a number of WWII Chinese American Veterans across the nation, who received the Medal from the Chinese American general and flag

officers who had the opportunity to succeed because of their sacrifice.



**Veteran Ming Wong holding CGM**

“Chinese American men and women served in every theater of World War II and sacrificed their lives defending American values of freedom,” said Edmond Gor, National Project Director and past President of C.A.C.A. “There are an estimated 300 – 550 Chinese American Veterans of World War II living today. We are pleased Congress has the opportunity to recognize the Veterans and the families of those who served in this national event.”

“The Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in effect during World War II, prevented non-US born Chinese Americans from obtaining citizenship,” said Melanie Chan, President of C.A.C.A. “However, as many as 20,000 Chinese Americans, including 40% without citizenship served, to protect their country. Recognizing their contributions and sacrifices is long overdue and we thank Congress for awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal.”

“Congress has a proud tradition of recognizing marginalized groups who fought in World War II with a Congressional Gold Medal, including the Tuskegee Airmen, Native American Code Talkers and Women Airforce Service Pilots,” said Maj. General Robert G.F. Lee, U.S. Army Ret. “Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the Chinese American Veterans of World War II completes the story narrative of World War II and recognizes the struggles and patriotism of the Chinese American Veterans who fought to liberate Europe, the Mediterranean, Africa and Middle East, and the Pacific from fascism.”

“My father Captain Moon Chen served during World War II and inspired me to follow in his footsteps,” said Maj. General William S. Chen, U.S. Army Ret. “Chinese Americans served across the U.S. Armed Forces— Army, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. The award of the Congressional Gold Medal completes the story arc for the Chinese American World War II Veterans and paved the way for future generations to serve. They are a source of inspiration and motivation for our younger generations.”

For those members and friends who would like to view the ceremony video, here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo6OMaFRwSU&feature=youtu.be>

For more info on the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project and its latest update, please visit:

[www.caww2.org](http://www.caww2.org).

*[This article is partially based on the press release issued by C.A.C.A. National Lodge.]*

## **GSGV Lodge Celebrates the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Award**

In our Lodge meeting in November, members voted to contribute \$1,000 to the CGM Virtual Ceremony hosted by the House Speaker’s Office, including \$500 donated by Sister Shirley Hwong. Thank you, Sister Shirley, for your dedication and generosity. The Lodge also contributed \$150 for a congratulatory advertisement in the ceremony booklet.

**The first Lodge meeting in 2021 will be on Monday, January 11, 8:00 PM, when the new Officers will be sworn in. It will be a virtual meeting on the Zoom platform.**

