

Various Speakers 0:04

Yeah, I'm letting in people. Okay. 97 participants, so you guys are very popular. Very good. Good job seem over 100 now. Oh, fantastic.

Ted Gong 0:26 Okay. So I want to get started, I want to say hello to everyone. Happy New Year of the ox. And my name is Ted Gong. I'm the president of the DC chapter of the Chinese American citizens Alliance. I'm here to welcome you all, and to our program and explain a few considerations in this zoom process. First, you should know that this program is being recorded. So if you don't want to be recorded, turn off your mic and your camera throughout the program. But you'll still be able to hear, hear and see the program, but you won't be recorded. For everyone else. There will be a portion of the program where we will open for questions and answers. Until then, I suggest that you're on mute yourself, because the extra mics interfere with some of the broadcast. So However, I do encourage you to use the chat box that's at the bottom over there, greet everyone in the audience, or pass a note to a friend and acquaintances, you could do that individually, or you do that as a group, Saniya will bet also monitoring the chatter in the chat box. And she'll bring up questions during the q&a sessions. Or you can you can to through the chat box or by raising your virtual hat. Finally, stay around after the formal programs over you have a period where you can escape but we're going to hang on, we're going to have a Hangout time. And that would be a 15 or 30 minutes in which you guys just unmute yourself and gab away. And like to say we'll keep that for 15 30 minutes very informal. You know for now I want to start the program with the presentation or the colors and the national anthem. Immediately afterwards, we'll have a we have the honor of having ben de Guzman from the DC Mayor's Office of the Asian Pacific Islander Americans affair. He will read a greeting and congratulations from the Honorable Mayor. Mayor Bowser. Immedately after Ben, Susan Lee state senator Susan Lee will representing Maryland's district 16 will make remarks that she will be with her mother, which is really a wonderful, wonderful to have you two with us. Robera Chew will then come on after the senator and she's with the Chinese American citizens Alliance. And she will guide us through the rest of the program. So Saniya, and all please honor our colors and our national anthem. And let's start.

Unmuted Person 3:45

Yeah, well, you know, I'm, uh, I'm sorry, I have to dash off. I have a 3pm. But let me follow up with that.

Unmuted Person 3:58

After afterwards, if you've got a convenient time, and then, um, and then I'll just proceed as you wish. But by all means, keep an eye on my email. Okay, go ahead. Yeah, I'm not at all offended. Oh, Sure, john,

Unmuted Person 5:02

let me get back to you. I'll see I don't know what your time is. Maybe

Unmuted Person 5:09

later in the day or maybe tomorrow, early in the day. Can everyone. Always, always text me?

Ted Gong 5:38

All right. Now we have Ben from the mayor's office.

Ben de Guzman 5:50

Yes. Good evening, everybody. Thank you for having me here. On behalf of Mayor Muriel Bowser. I'm honored to join you here tonight. You know, in a previous life, I served on the executive committee for the Filipino veterans recognition and Education Project, and worked for a number of years to make sure that Filipinos who served under US command in World War Two, were able to get this recognition as well. So it's a particular honor for me to be here tonight with you all. So again, as Ted mentioned, I am pleased to be here to be able to read to you an official proclamation that has been sent on behalf of the mayor. So let me just read that for you now. I believe we've sent it over to Ted and Roberta, but if I'm able to I will try to attach it in the chat so you can all see it as well. So the letter reads as follows. Dated February 19 2021. As mayor of Washington DC, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate and send greetings to the Chinese American World War Two veterans who are today's honorees and recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal. Chinese Americans served in every branch of the military during World War Two in defense of our democracy, and undeterred by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The legislation, the first of its kind to explicitly name a specific ethnic group for institutionalized exclusion, prevented Non US Born Chinese Americans from attaining citizenship and codified into law anti Chinese sentiment rampant at the time. Today's event honors the Chinese American World War Two veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow on an individual or group. These American heroes join an esteemed Band of Brothers for this recognition. Service members in World War Two that also face discrimination at home, such as the Tuskegee Airmen, the nisei soldiers whose families languished in internment camps during their service, and Filipino soldiers whose military service was revoked after the war. Washington DC has sent its sons and daughters into military service for the United States in every war since the revolution. We also know this thing of second class citizenship despite tremendous sacrifice and service to our nation. DC residents lack full political representation that American citizens in all other 50 states enjoy. It is with a sense of empathy and profound pride that I officially congratulate on behalf of a grateful nation these Chinese American World War Two veterans, today's recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal. With sincere thanks from all 712,000 residents of Washington DC we are deeply appreciative of your service. Signed Muriel Bowser, Mayor washington DC.

Ted Gong 9:04 Thank you and Susan, you are on mute. Okay, can you hear me now everybody? Okay. Can you hear me?

Susan Lee 9:13

Okay, can you hear me now everybody? Okay, Ted can you hear me? Okay,

great. Hello, everyone. Maryland State Senator Susan C. Lee and I also serve as our Senate Majority Whip. And on behalf of myself and the Maryland General Assembly, I'd like to extend our most heartfelt greetings and congratulations to the Chinese American citizens Alliance, your wonderful leaders Ted Gong at Ed Gore, my dear friend, Roberta Chu. Wilson and Esterly I'm not sure they're on this and and of course, Admiral Alma Grocki and our dear friend, General Bill Chen and Melanie Chan And everyone, everyone who has had a part of organizing this event. We're so grateful to be here. It's a real honor on this occasion of this wonderful Congressional Gold Medal celebration, honoring Chinese American War Two veterans. Thank you also to Ben de Guzman for being here on behalf of Mayor Bowser. We're so grateful for your presence and you honor us today. While the pandemic may have prevented us from having an in person, United States capitals ceremony last April, I want you to know that over 30,000 viewers nationwide tuned in to a cellular cellular December 2020 online celebration, hosted by our wonderful United States House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, along with the other congressional members, including those in our congressional Asian Pacific, American Congressional Caucus, and other wonderful VIPs. As you know, during World War two thousands of Chinese Americans bravely served in the United States armed forces, including my father, Harry Park Lee, who served in the United States Navy on the perilous Atlantic and Pacific. And despite facing overwhelming discrimination and obstacles, particularly in the face of the Chinese Exclusion Act, they sprang to action to defend freedom against tyranny and injustice. And these men and women were members of the greatest generation, who served not for fame, not for recognition. But because it was the right thing to do. And through their courage, their sacrifice and service they did their part in uplifting the world out of one of the most darkest periods in history. So it's a it's a privilege, and it's an honor to be a part of this historic celebration. To honor our living veterans in the Greater Washington area. They will be presented today with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest the highest civilian honor the United States Congress can bestow. And I'd like to acknowledge the 140 families of our world war two veterans who reside also in the Washington DC area, some of course, who are my constituents, and I hope they'll be able to participate today. My father passed in 2014. But I know he would have been very happy to know that extraordinary courage, sacrifices and contributions he and his fellow Chinese American War Two veterans made, are finally now being recognized and celebrated. And on behalf of my family, and all the families of the veterans, I thank the Chinese American citizens Alliance. And all the organizations and all the leaders who are here today, who've made this day happen and the celebration happen. My mother Mee Yi Lee has also joined our ceremony. And she'd like to share just a brief account, my father's story, but I'm also here, joined by my uncle who lives in Piedmont California, Dr. Thomas Lee, who is a Vietnam War veteran. He was a he was in the United States Navy, and now he's a retired oncologist in California enjoying his life. So they all everybody proudly serve. Now I'd like to turn it over to my wonderful mother. Mee Yi Lee to tell you a little bit about my father's story. Thank you, everyone.

Mee Lee 13:47

Mother, you. Yeah. Can you hear me now? Hello, my name is Mee Yi Lee. And my husband Harry Park Lee he was, he was born in San Antonio, Texas, with a hard working immigrant parents and they own a grocery store in Texas, with his parents, his older brother and his four sisters. They work at the store and during the war during World War Two at that young age of 17. without finishing high school, without telling his parents, he enlisted in the US Navy. So he served in the Atlantic and the Pacific. And he told me his ship had to zigzag underwater, to avoid being torpedoed by the enemy submarines. It was dangerous times. But he survived and he came home from the war. Because he had never left Texas before the war. He the war took him to so many places. And it opened his eyes. And he came home, he wanted to change the world. So he used his GI bill to go to college. And he earned a master's degree in social work. And he met me and we were married. We were married for 64 years. And we raised three daughters. My oldest is Patricia. She's a medical doctor in Houston now. And my middle daughter, Susan, she's a Maryland State Senator, and an attorney. And the youngest youngest daughter, my Catherine. She's a Smithsonian docent in Washington DC. So when Mary came after he finished college, he worked at the Veterans Hospital in Dallas, there he counseled veterans and widows, and the families, and he was elected to be the first first president of the first integrated union in the hospital. He worked tirelessly to empower the workers to give them a voice to make the working situation better. And in 1961, he was detailed to Washington DC, so he moved the family to Maryland, just across the border from DC. He work for the federal government, and I worked for The Washington Post as a newspaper artists. For many years, Harry was active in community. He mentor many young Chinese Americans who want to come to Washington DC to work for the federal government. We open our homes to them. We had good conversations with them. We had bountiful meals with them. It was great times. So Harry, always belief is to serve and give back to the community and the country that he loves, and make life better for us. And for the future generation. Thank you. Roberta you have to unmute.

Roberta Chew 18:14

Thank you, Mrs. Lee. I'm Roberta Chew. I'm with the Washington DC area recognition project. And I'm pleased to introduce you to Ed Gore, who is the founding light even though he doesn't think so he is the founding light of this recognition project, also past national president of the Chinese American citizens Alliance. So the Ed will give some background on the entire project, and also talk about next steps. And after him, we are honored to have Admiral Alma Lau Grocki and General Major General Bill Chen, do the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medals to our local veterans. So on to you, Ed.

Ed Gor 19:10

Thanks so much, Roberta. I think it's really ironic and unique that we have Susan and Mrs. Lee. We also have Walker Wu from the DC area as well. And they are all former San Antonians who came in who decided to move out to Texas. And this was a good week to do it if you wanted to escape the cold. So

I just want to remind Mrs. Lee, the best Mexican food is still in San Antonio, you agree with that. So thank you so much. But Ted, thank you for hosting this. And thank you also Roberta and Evelyn for you guys putting this entire thing together. I think it's really, as soon as you're saying a minute ago. It's interesting that because of the pandemic, we've had to kind of resort to different ways to do things. And of course, this is where the great technology has come about to help us out. So let me acknowledge all of you put thing together and do that for us. I also want to acknowledge ben de Guzman as well and all the work that the Filipino veterans recognition project had done to help us out. So there's there's nothing that that I can say about this project that lots of hands and minds and feet haven't been part of. So let me just say it that way. So this is like an army of the Army, Navy and Marines of people that have put this entire thing together and made it a successful project. So Chinese American assistance allies did start this back in towards the end of 2016. So this is my, almost my fifth year into this thing. So those of you who started with us from the very beginning, it's time to re up again, but, you know, for the next volunteer, work on this, but let me just take a couple of minutes to talk about what today means to the seven people who are going to be recognizing today. These are among the seven of the 20,000, who served during World War Two, these are the seven of the 3200 that we have located in the United States so far, who are registered now and confirmed to receive the Congressional Gold Medal? So for that, we say, well, we're looking for the 17,000. Where are they? Well, a lot of times, it just takes us to do a little bit more legwork and a little bit more emailing or zooming to find individuals and some, some are not Unfortunately, no longer with us. Some are relatives are just out of touch now, but we will still have some time, at least through the end of the year, to register more individuals. But I really want to give you a note, as this was just mentioned, this is kind of coming in our fifth year, we've been registering people since the beginning of 2017. At the end of this month, we're actually going to end the I'll call it the no cost medal program. So if you're registered and confirmed, if you're interested in getting your application, in before the end of this month, we'll still consider you to get a no cost medal. After that, you'll unfortunately have to go go to the US Mint and purchase your own medal. Now I see general Bill Chen has been one of my partners in reviewing almost all the applications, we can still review the application for consideration to put your name on the website. So if you go to our website at caww2, the number 2.org. And you'll see a listing of over 3000 names who have already been registered and confirmed in all branches of service. And so those of you have seen our medals so far as I you know, I am not an artistic person. But even I can look at those medals on both sides. And hopefully you'll agree that is one of the most beautiful medals that you'll ever see, it encompasses the whole story of what we've been trying to say to everyone about that the service the sacrifice and commitment of our world war two veterans who served in a period of time, many of whom just went unnoticed for the most part until the last several years. And I just want to say how important it is for people like Mee Lee and for other veteran families to step forward and talk about your story. If someone asked you to share your story, don't shun them away, like you did your

kids, when you're when they were growing up, is this is your time to talk about yourselves. This is your time to tell us what you know. Because other than that, I would say you'd be missing out on letting your children but especially your grandchildren, your great grandchildren of knowing what they did what you did, to further the story along because the whole success of what you did is not just serving in the armed forces it's actually what you did after you serve and came to make a life in the United States and to make our country a better country. So if you take that to heart, you as a veteran you as a veteran family need to continue to have the story. And so I know Andrew later will be talking about how you can participate in that effort. But But I think today is really the day that we've looked forward to for those of you in the DMV area, those of you live in DC, have an opportunity now to congratulate these seven individuals who served across various branches of service. I also want to acknowledge Major General Bill Chen and Major General Bob Lee, for all their commitment and work on this project ourselves. I would let you know that this was all done in one session of Congress. And Ben and Andrew you guys know that being on the hill in DC that doing anything in one session of Congress to get a bill passed is almost a miracle. And so I gotta tell everybody who works the heart of this to get this thing passed. I have to tell you that after after year one, we were like dragging around. We were like on our last, you know, rations in the field after year one. And so I wanted to run and let you know that if you get a chance to congratulate or applaud Bill Chen and Bob Lee and some of the other some of the other presenters that will have if you haven't tuned in to us in future ones, these zoom presentations, please take a moment to send them a note thank them as well, because they're very instrumental in getting us work, worked on the hill. So it's amazing what happens when you just wear uniform into a congressional office. They almost let you in. So my secret to you Who want to advocate for a bill from now on if they just walk in with a uniform, and it look like you were in the service, and they'll probably let you in. So I don't know if I'm I making fun of bill, but it's almost like that's the case. I just want to say that and this is with this bill, I just want to let you know that this is such an important thing for all of us as Chinese Americans to understand and appreciate, because I've heard nothing but pride and joy in every community that has a large and significant Chinese American population in your city, is that Congress doing this for you, has brought a tremendous amount of joy and pride to your community, and to acknowledge that you are 95 105 year old veteran has done for this country. So if you have any questions, I'll probably be here at the end. And so I use the chat function if you like and, and, and take advantage of that. With that, let me go ahead and introduce one of the individuals that's helped us also on the hill. I walked with Alma a couple of times on the hill. So Rear Admiral Alma Lau Grocki, please take this moment and let's let's get this celebration started.

Alma Grocki 26:05

Thank you very much. Thank you also for allowing me the opportunity to be involved in this special ceremony. My father was also a World War Two veteran. And it's it's so wonderful to be able to honor and recognize these World War Two

vets and the greatest generation because that's my heritage. So, let me begin. The USL world war two Merchant Marine fleet provided critical logistical support to the war effort, carrying personnel, supplies and equipment, which allowed the Allies military forces to do what they needed to do. It is a little known fact that the wartime Merchant Marine fleet suffered the highest percentage of war related deaths than any other US service. One of the merchant mariners who survived this with us here today. I am pleased and very honored to present this Congressional Gold Medal. The Merchant Marine third mate David W. Leo. At 18 years old David joined the Merchant Marines in 1941. his duties ranged from second cook to acting second mate. Early in his career, he served on oil tankers, one of those tankers, the EM Clark was sunk by torpedoes off the coast of North Carolina in March 1942. After attending officer training, David served on freighters as an officer his Commission's to come to the north and south Atlantic Oceans, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean, the Pacific Ocean, North Sea, Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Merchant Marine third mate David Leo served until 1948. Today he is 97 years old and lives in Maryland. Congratulations, Mr. Leo.

Alma Grocki 28:08

I am pleased and very honored to present this Congressional Gold Medal to Navy radioman Lindy Leo Lindy Ringling Leo was named after Charles Lindbergh and the Ringling Brothers, Lindy, served in the US Navy from 1946 to 1949 of all aboard the cargo ship, USS Yancey. Yancey sailed through the Panama Canal to West Coast naval supply depots for supplies and unloaded naval battalion construction sailor seabees. USS Yancey also joined Admiral Richard birds task force 68 and the US Navy at Arctic expedition. homebound trips to offload the seabees resulted in Port visits to New Zealand, Samoa and Hawaii as well as Tsingtao China. In 1949, Wendy received an honorable discharge then worked for the US Navy telecommunications command headquarters for 35 years, and then the Washington bureau of Newsweek magazine for 10 years. Lindy age 92 has been married to Helen Yip for 67 years. both natives of washington dc they currently reside in silver spring Maryland, and have six grand six children 16 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They are lifelong members of the Chinese Community Church of washington dc Congratulations, Mr. Leo.

Tim Low 29:42

Congratulations, Dad here your medal Well, thank you Sherry. I presented me this beautiful medal for for admiral Grocki, I thank you admiral Grocki for my brief biography, and rewarding me with this beautiful Chinese American World War Two veterans progressional medal. I congratulate and thank the national headquarters of the Chinese American citizens Alliance recognition project for their planning and completion of this task. I also thank the washington dc chapter of the Chinese American citizens alliance, especially Colonel Bill Garner, Commander Evelyn Moy, Roberto Chu, and all the volunteers for their support and this event. And my closing remarks, I want to say it has been an honor and a privilege to have served my country. God bless America. Thank you.

Alma Grocki 30:55

I am pleased and very honored to present this Congressional Gold Medal to you Luther Chien for your service during World War Two as a fireman, second class and electrician aboard the USS Portland, which was part of the Atlantic Fleet responsible for guarding the shipping channels between the US and Great Britain and later for evacuating US troops Cherbourg France. Luthor is 97 years old and resides in Great Falls, Virginia. His Son, Dr. Kenneth Chien is one of the founders of the Moderna company responsible for the breakthrough COVID-19 vaccine that is being used throughout the United States and the world today. Congratulations, Mr. Chin.

Presenter 31:40

Oh, grandpa. Well do. Class firemen and Luther C. Chien, I present this Congressional Medal to you for your service to your country during World War Two aboard the USS Portland. Congratulations.

Luther C Chien 32:09

Thank you. It's a great honor to receive the Congressional Medal. I've always been grateful to the United States for a scholarship that I received from Harvard. I still remember my hazardous escape from a Japanese occupied China in 1941 via the Philippine Islands. While on board, a American steamship evacuating US missionary from Japan. Our ship took a circuitous route before arriving Pearl Harbor the day after a devastating in horrific Japanese attack. After school, I decided it was my duty to join the US Navy to fight the enemies of my newly adopted country. I was trained at US Navy boot camp in Geneva, New York, and later assigned as firemen third class on the USS Portland cruiser. However, my greatest achievement during my Navy service was becoming a naturalized US citizen. I was honorably discharged from the US Navy as firemen second class. And years later, I became the senior vice commander of American Legion post number 49 in Pittman, New Jersey. Thank you again. Congrats. Congratulations, Luther. Go grandpa. Thank you. Say anything then.

Alma Grocki 33:48

I am pleased and very honored to present the Congressional Gold Medal to Austin Carol Wah. Austin was inducted into the US Navy on December 7 1943. Two years to the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Austin completed his basic training in Norfolk, Virginia. He was assigned to the USS breeze performing minesweeping operations in the Pacific, Austin participated in the battle Okinawa, which started in April 1945 and was the largest amphibious assault in the Pacific Theater. The USS breeze led the US fleet in an attempt to clear the sea of mines in advance of the planned land invasion of Japan. Austin and his shipmates were among the first to encounter Japanese kamikazes on a daily basis, actively scanning the skies of the Japanese warplanes, Austin recounts seeing one particular Japanese plane flying very low over the water heading rapidly towards his ship. Recognizing a kamikaze, he sounded the alarm. As a plane grew closer Austin and his shipmates frantically tried to shoot it down. In mere moments before the plane is about to strike this ship, Austin

suddenly saw its wings tilt downward, hit the water and disappear into the Pacific. The ship and crew were spared that day. Excuse me. Another time, Austin was on the ships bridge, exposed to the full force of the typhoon, as as his job was before was to look out for Japanese warplanes in the treacherous weather. Austin and the crew felt completely helpless against the power of the typhoon. He remembers wedging himself into a niche on the bridge, which no doubt saved him for being swept overboard. He will always remember being alternatively high on the top of the waves, and then plunging deep behind 100 100 foot walls of water. having survived the Battle of Okinawa, the USS breeze headed toward Japan for the planned invasion. When word was received, that the Emperor of Japan announced his country's unconditional surrender on August 15 1945. Austin continued his military service until May 4 1946. He and his wife Kim live in Maryland and have two sons and grandchildren. Congratulations, Mr. Wah

Roberta Chew 36:46 Saniya, do you have the clip?

Roberta Chew 37:12

I want to just mention that Austin was recently admitted to the hospital. So we hope very much for his well being and wish his family Well.

Presenter 37:46

Mr. Wah, on behalf of the Congress of the United States, I present you with a US Congressional Medal of Honor.

Austin Wah 38:01 It is an honor to serve the country. And we were we were in desperate need of winning the war. We all took part of it. Yeah, but I'm lucky. I thought that war would end all war, but it didn't work that way. Thank you, Mr. Wah. Enjoy your medal. Thank you. Thank you.

Roberta Chew 38:42

Thank you. Next we have major general bill chen to present the army awards. unmute. unmute. Bill unmute yourself.

Bill Chen 39:08

Our next recipient is Army veteran Wah Bong Lee, born in washington dc in 1925. In 1945, at the age of 20, he was drafted and was sent to Germany to control German detainees. He provided support also for the detainees. Then as a corporal, he was assigned to the Third Army in Europe and then afterwards, joined general Patton's seventh army in Germany and throughout Europe. He's married had two sons, and now resides in Washington, DC. Thank you for your service, and congratulations with the award of the Congressional Gold Medal.

Presenter 40:16

Dad this Congressional Gold Medal is given to you for your service and sacrifice in world war two in the army of the seventh division.

Wah Bong Lee 40:29 Oh, thank you very much.

Bill Chen 40:37

Next, we want to honor First Lieutenant Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo who outstandingly represented all Chinese American veterans in accepting the Congressional

Gold Medal at the Speaker of the House Congressional Gold Medal Award ceremony on December 9 2020. will show a video of her acceptance speech later on. Elsie has a fascinating story. Starting out as a nurse, she tells her own story in an article that she wrote in our CACA Boston book, unsung heroes. She was born in Stockton, California. But when she was 12 years old, her family moved back to China. She graduated from high school in Canton and went to Hong Kong to study nursing. As she was just completing the end of our three year program to become a registered nurse, Japan attacked Hong Kong on December 8 1941. The Japanese one of the hospital staff were Elsie worked to stay on, but she didn't want to. She and a few other nurses snuck out of Hong Kong and trekked for months to reach Guiyang in southwest China. There she joined the Chinese Red Cross. By late 1942, she was working at the hospital like Quinn Ming airbase. She also spent seven months in India, training medics for the Chinese army. In July 1944 Elsie was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Nurse Corps, and served for two years becoming a first lieutenant. She worked at hospitals in Kunming Chengdu and Shanghai until early 1946. When she returned to the States. She married and had four children. Now 102 years old, Elsie has seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. We thank you first lieutenant Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo for your service. Let's now view your acceptance video.

Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo 43:10

I want to thank speaker Nancy Pelosi for organizing this special ceremony to present the congressional golden medal to the Chinese American veterans of World War Two. Also thanks to the members of Congress who is the lead co sponsors of this bill. Senator Tammy Duckworth the late Senator Ted Sam Tadler, senator Marie Hirono. Representative Lieu and former representative Royce. My name is Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo. I am 102 years old now. But during World War Two, as Elsie Chin I served as a first lieutenant in the US Army underscore session was the 14th Army Air Force in China. Today, I am proud to represent a 1000s of Chinese American veterans who served side by side in every branch of our country's military and every at the time. We answered the call to duty when our country faced threats to our freedom. Now, I welcome my fellow veterans who are watching for as many who are not able to watch or will have already passed on, may they be with us in spirit. We have waited a long time for this moment. I am deeply honored to receive this Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of my sisters and brothers. I hope our perseverance, commitment, and hard work will further inspire our young people to serve this wonderful country. We thank God for his protection and provision over the years, and may he bless America and our troops. And I want to thank you again for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Bill Chen 45:36

Next, we want to recognize Robert M. Lee, who received his Congressional Gold Medal as part of the Speaker of the House ceremony on December 9 2020 from my friend, Major General Garrett Yee, and we're pleased to have Robert with us live today. Robert and his family fled South China, after the Japanese invaded

Hong Kong in December 1941. Over the course of several months, they kept heading west, barely staying ahead of the occupying Japanese forces. They ended up in Kunming, where the US had an airbase and there 14 year old Robert enlisted as a private in the 14th Air Force. He claimed he was 16. In 1945, he was sent to Lido India, where he worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers on building an alternative route to the Burma road to bring supplies to China. After being discharged in mid 1946, Robert remained in India for several years working for the Tennessee Valley Authority building dams in India. In the 1950s, Robert joined the US foreign service as a cultural officer. He served in Burma, where he was liaison officer between the American Embassy in Rangoon and the Karen rebels in the north. Robert later worked for 30 years in information technology for the US Senate. Active in the 14th Air Force Association, Robert Lee served as its president for several years. Robert, thank you for your service and congratulations. I enjoyed talking to you, when we met about the 14th Air Force, and the Flying Tiger races that we knew, such as Texas Hill, Ed Rector, and Johnny Allison. And so indeed, that was really great that you had the opportunity to be the president of the 14th Air Force Association. Congratulations. Robert, how are you? Robert, unmute yourself. And can you hear me now? Yes. Yes.

Robert Lee 48:24

Good. Well, all I can say is, it's such an honor to have that medal. I know it's late my regret is that so many of my fellow veterans are no longer with us. Again, I'd thank Major General. 10. And so many of you, and other leaders that worked so hard and dedicated so much time to bring this medal. And I hope that you will continue with the good work for the future of the Chinese Americans. Thank you bye.

Bill Chen 49:28 Back to you, Roberta.

Roberta Chew 49:31 All right back to Ted.

Ted Gong 49:34

You know, I want to take a moment maybe all of us can give a virtual hand of applause to all these individuals and all the people who made it possible to get this medal awarded to these people. Can we just have a quick clap, but maybe you could put up your electric hand clap or you can just go like this. You know, you know our recognition of these individuals and the Honoring of all our compatriots who served and defended our country during World War Two is beyond question. What I want to what I would like to add to this thought is that this moment, and their service has a story arc to borrow a term that I think general Chen had used in another presentation. And that story arc extends through the endeavors that reach back to almost the founding, and certainly, through the building of this nation seen in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, that President Lincoln authorized in the midst of a civil war, to ensure that our nation's future was united as a modern world power. It extends to all the other stories of contributions and sacrifices for country, family and faith, whether in war or other services, but especially in war, we need

to continuously remind ourselves, our children, and all our fellow Americans that Chinese Americans contributed, and their contribution and their willingness to their willingness to defend to the death, the American ideals. And that is why it's very, it is with a great deal of gratitude that I'm gonna I'm going to introduce Andrew Andrew hover Huber. He's the bearded guy in the corner. But he's the curator of the Library of Congress working with the veterans oral history project, he will explain the project funded by Congress, that was that sees the national importance of uncovering and preserving stories, such as we have heard here, so that generations after us will know. Now I know that many have already recorded your their fathers and their mothers in the brothers and sisters stories and sent them to the Library of Congress. But there is more detail that needs preserving, not just about World War Two, but Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and not just about war, but in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Andrew will explain how it can be done. And I hope there's time here or in the Hangout room for him to talk about his future outreach plans going out among us in the nation working with you all in your community, communities to help collect the stories. Andrew, I'm passing it over to you.

Andrew Huber 52:34

Thank you so much, Ted. And thank you, everyone for for being here. And having me here. There have just been so many incredible stories here tonight, of just you know heroism and, and bravery and compassion and everything. And these are exactly the stories of the Library of Congress is looking to preserve, and not just world war two stories, veterans, from all conflicts, as Ted said, the Library of Congress wants individuals to be able to tell their own story, so that we can archive those and then they won't be forgotten by future generations, and so that they'll be accessible to people like students, young people who are thinking of joining the military, or even creators of content, people who are writing books, making movies, filming documentaries, all sorts of things, so they can have these real life experiences and, and know exactly what it was like to serve in the military, from the people who were there and lived it. So I recorded a short video explaining sort of who we are and what we do, and how you can participate. And just a little tour of our facilities that people in the DC area can take advantage of. So thank you, and I will be around afterwards to answer any questions you have as well. Hi, there, my name is Andrew Huber. And I'm with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. Since the year 2000, when we were established by unanimous act of Congress, our mission has been to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans, so that future generations may hear directly from them and better understand their selfless service. Now, what does that actually mean? It means that we are collecting the first person narratives of veterans going all the way back to World War One, and all the way up to current conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, around the world and at home. And the way we do that is through collecting oral history interviews, along with correspondence, photographs, artwork, diaries, journals, memoirs, and any other primary source materials that tell a better story of a veteran and what they experienced while they're in the military. Now, while oral

history interviews do make up the bulk of our collections, we absolutely love it when people donate these letters, photographs, artwork and diaries, because it gives a snapshot of exactly what was happening at the time, instead of an oral history interview, which might be a little bit fuzzy if there were counting it 10 20 or In the case of world war two veterans, sometimes up to 70 or 75 years later. VHP We are the largest oral history repository in the United States. We get hundreds of new collections every week. And our collections, they don't just sit on a shelf somewhere. They are used all the time, whether by documentary filmmakers like Ken Burns, who used us in his documentaries, the war and the Vietnam War, or nonfiction, book writers, fiction book writers, as well, textbook writers, students, and just young people who might be interested in joining the military and want to know more about what it's really like. Any us veteran can participate, and that is regardless of whether they saw combat or deployed, we are looking for everybody's story, every veteran has a story they should tell and every veteran story matters. So regardless of whether you saw combat or deployed, we're not just looking for Medal of Honor, bronze star Silver Star, Saving Private Ryan storming the beaches at Normandy collections. We want Everyone's story because everyone played an important part in the military. Now I'm here at the VHP info center in the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress. And we have some examples of our collections, lining the walls that the public can come in and see, Hey, see, we've got things like a world war one diary from Albert john carpenter. We have a photograph collection from Frank Acevas who served in Vietnam. We've got emails, which count as correspondence from RoseMarie Noel, who's served as a marine in Iraq and Afghanistan. We've got photographs from Vietnam, World War Two, we've got original artwork, from James Alan Scott, who actually drew these while in a combat zone in the Pacific. We've got all sorts of these collections, ranging from all different conflicts. And, of course, handwritten letters from World War Two, this is by Kenji Ogata.

Andrew Huber 57:16

Now, you may have noticed that in our displays, we have Caucasian veterans, we have Hispanic veterans, we have African American veterans, we have Japanese American veterans. But one thing you might not have seen is Chinese American veterans. And the reason for that is because Chinese American veterans are severely underrepresented in our collections. And that's one of the reasons I'm here today is to encourage Chinese American veterans to tell their stories, so that you can be better represented and that we can share your story with the world. One thing to keep in mind is that veterans retain all of their copyrights their experiences and their story when donating their materials to the Veterans History Project. That means that while researchers can access your story and your materials for academic purposes, they cannot use them for for profit purposes, and they will be required to get your permission before they use that for any sort of commercial purposes. It also means that you're free to use your story in any way you like. We recommend keeping a copy of your interview and actually if you come to us, we will give you a copy of take home with you.

And you can put that on your Facebook, your YouTube, share that with your friends, family, anybody that you care to share that with. Now speaking of coming to us and doing interview with us, that is sort of our next topic. at the Library of Congress in the Jefferson Building, we actually have a purpose built studio overlooking the main reading room, where people locals to Washington DC can come in and conduct an interview at our location. The only thing we require for that is that you bring somebody with you to interview you and the required forms. And I bet you're interested to see what the studio looks like what our setup looks like. So I'm going to take you on a tour of that right now. So we are now entering the VHP recording studio, which is set up in one of the 12 alcoves that line the great Reading Room of the Library of Congress. You might remember the reading room and these alcoves from the movie national treasure starring Nicolas Cage which was actually filmed here on location. Now that was our entrance chamber. This is our actual recording studio, we actually have two of these setup one either side of the alcove, both overlooking the main Reading Room. We do have a professional setup with prosumer cameras, external microphones, boom mics and a full lighting setup to make this look as professional as possible. And of course, you've got that wonderful backdrop of the main reading room behind you. So this is what it will look like when you're sitting down and telling your story I think it really is a magnificent backdrop, and really just a appropriate and somber setting and tone for such an important historical contribution. So we would really hope for you to come in and tell your story, we are happy to set up appointments, once the library is taking visitors again, my email is ahub@loc.gov. I am happy to set up appointments in advance for when we start taking visitors again. But also, if you want to do a workshop, explaining how to conduct interviews outside of the library for any groups, social clubs, veterans organizations, that you might be a member of who might be interested in this. So now I am going to go live because I'm actually on this zoom, and answer any questions that you might have regarding the Veterans History Project, participating in telling your story, or setting up a workshop for an organization that you're a part of. Thank you very much. So I am going live, but I'm not actually going to answer questions right now. But I will stick around after the program to answer any questions that anybody has. I've just, you know, it's my entire job to help you get set up telling your story, to set up events where other veterans can tell their stories, and to recruit volunteers to help us in our mission. And I really hope you'll participate. So thank you very much for having me. And I will be around if you have any questions. And I'll also put my email in the chat as well.

Roberta Chew 1:01:37

Thank you, Andrew. Saniya. Yeah. Okay. We're going to go now to Evelyn Moy, who will host an open mic. We welcome all veterans, if they'd like to say something about themselves or a relative. And we'd like to talk about his service. We appreciate hearing from him.

Evelyn Moy 1:02:17

Thank you, Roberta. Hi, everyone. My name is Evelyn Moy commander, US

Navy retired. I'm honored to be here with those who advocated and supported this Congressional Gold Medal to honor and recognize the 20,000 plus Chinese America World War Two veterans, like my dad who served in the Coast Guard. My dad Stewart's stewards class first class Mugu Moy, served officers and did their laundry. But he also was trained as a gunner, a loader and an ammunition passer. So, so proud of you, Dad, what a legacy? Today, this is a special occasion to be an eyewitness to history as we witness and recognize our living world war two veterans. I want to add my congratulations and say how honored I am to follow in your footsteps. Those of us in uniform look to those who came before us for strength and inspiration. Your sacrifice did not go unnoticed. And we are forever grateful. Thank you. Thank you. Now as Roberta said, this portion of the program is the open mic. She and I will be calling one those here in attendance so that you can come forward and talk about your loved one past or present or if you've had military service or if you have liked or if you would like to say thank you to the living veterans who are in attendance right now. I'd like to call on grant Moy, Jr. First to talk about his father Dr. Moy, Grant.

Grant Moy 1:04:22 Thank you, Evelyn. I'm Grant Moy Jr. My dad Dr. Grant Moy served as an army doctor during World War Two. He was born in Chicago in 1917. And except for a few years as a teenager studying in China, grew up, went to college and medical school and married his sweetheart Betty in Chicago. While he was studying medicine at the University of Illinois, the United States entered the war after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and medical schools were ordered to accelerate their programs and steer graduates directly into military service. So in 1942 dad enlisted in the Army but continue There's medical school studies under the army specialized training program. Upon graduation, he was commissioned to First Lieutenant and the army supported his medical internship and residency training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. Because of his extensive practical experience in treating bone fractures during his residency, the army sent him to keesler airfield in Biloxi, Mississippi, and assigned him to serve there as chief of orthopedics at the military hospital. The airfield is a major training ground and training site for airman and produced many injuries. So my dad's expertise in treating bone fractures was especially welcomed. While at keesler, Dad was promoted to the rank of captain, completed his army service in 1948, and went home to Chicago to complete to complete specialty training in general surgery. Saniya, you can move in head there's a picture of keesler Air Base among the slide collection. There's my mother and my dad, there's a there's keesler Air Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. that's taken in about 1942. After his service, and after his training in general surgery, our family moved to California, where my dad established a surgery practice in San Francisco in 1952. He and a close colleague were the first two Chinese Americans in the California to be certified by the American Board of surgery. In addition to his practice, Dad served as an adjunct professor of surgery at the University of California Medical School, and helped found the Chinese community health plan. He retired in 2003, and enjoyed spending time with his five children, nine grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Sanyia, there's a picture of my

dad towards the end of the slide set if you can move forward. One more. There's my dad is 100 birthday party. And Saniya one more picture. Well, there's my dad, sadly, dad passed away peacefully at home in California last month at the age of 103. So thank you all for letting me tell my dad story and, and a tribute to him. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:07:19

Thank you very much Grant. And we're so sorry, for your loss. We love Dr. Moy. And we were happy that he did see his Congressional Gold Medal. So we thank him for service, what a legacy he left for all of us. And now, I see in the chat room. We have two people who raise their hand. And if you can unmute a person who had their hand raised and go ahead.

Evelyn Moy 1:08:05

Okay, do we Oh, Jerry. Jerry. No, I'm sorry, Jerry, get your Go ahead. Can you hear me now? Yes, yes. Go ahead.

Jer Get 1:08:22

Yes. So I go by Don. But my dad was a Jer Get and he served in the 14th Air Force. He actually enlisted in the Army for Pearl Harbor, went out to Detroit to learn how to work on p 40s. And he was the tech sergeant in the 14th Air Force served through the duration. And then I didn't know anything about his military service until very late in life. When I was commissioned after my graduation from West Point, because like many of our our parents, they really didn't talk much about their military service in World War Two. You know, they serve faithfully and then came back to America and just resumed their lives. So just wanted to sort of my dad passed in 1999. After his service, but also mentioning another veteran, his younger brother 20 years younger, who then served in the Korean War. I followed them into the service and did 27 years in the Army. And then the legacy has continued as my daughter Sarah is a serving major at Fort Meade and in on the Army's newest branch in cyber. We were lucky enough to and I put it on chat that my daughter and I were invited to represent Asian Americans in a brats to boots display at the National Museum of the United States Army on Fort Belvoir. So, in in that display, my mother I mean, my father and uncle were mentioned, as well as my daughter and her sister who served in the United States Air Force. So it's sort of the family business. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:10:09

Thank you very much for that wonderful comment, and also to father. Now, I see so many familiar faces in the chat in the pictures, who would like to step forward next, and say a few words about their loved one, or have a few words to our veteran. This is an informal session. So please feel comfortable in saying a few words. Those of us in uniform know that if you're a civilian, you're not going to know all the ranks and wars and conflicts. So don't don't let that hold you back. Please. Say a few words about your loved one. We welcome it and we have plenty of time.

Charlene Fontaine 1:11:02

Yes, Evelyn. Good afternoon or good evening to you all eat most of you are back east I think. I'm in San Diego. I'm Charlene Fontaine. I'm the executive director of the Flying Tigers 69th DRS Association. We took over from our dads who were the Flying Tigers for the 14th Air Force Association in 2005. It's been my privilege and honor to interview a number of the Chinese American Flying Tigers in my travels to write their stories and do a documentary of the 69th. And the stories of the men and women who served in China, Burma and India. I don't see any of Richard Gong's family on here today. I do see some of Joe Lai's daughters on. I am so honored to be able to meet all of you today. I haven't seen some of you in many years, but to all of our veterans. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. That's not enough. It took us a very long time to get to you to honor you to our world war two veterans, to our Korean veterans, to our Vietnam, to our current day veterans and to the family who's taking the generations forward. We're very honored that you all chose your route. And please continue the best wishes of health to all of them. I'd like to just share a little story about Richard Gong that he shared with me. He was stationed in CBI he was a tiger. And he served in a small village that will remain nameless somewhere between Burma and China. He told me his tales of how he got there of crossing the Burma road. them they wrote they took a Jeep a truck as far as the truck would take them then they took donkeys or excuse me donkeys. Yes, the donkey burls had their voice boxes removed by our US veterans. So they would be quiet. And his job was in this little village and they were British soldiers. They're American soldiers. And different allied forces were there and a teeny little village and he said we would go out on reconisance and the Chinese soldiers would finish the job. To when they captured the POW because he said there was no way for us to bring them home. But I learned a lot from Richard. I've learned a lot from all of the men that I've been privileged to interview and their families. So thank you. Thank you, thank you again, veterans Congratulations, and best health to all I will give this to you. You put your right hand on your left shoulder, your left hand on your right shoulder, it's a way you just like to neuropathways down, you give yourself a big hug. It's called a hard hug. And then you send it out to all of our world in all of our veterans so they know and their families that their heart hugs. So thank you. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:14:02

Thank you Charlene. That's wonderful. That's very warm and wonderful. I'd like for others to step forward. This is being recorded. And if you'd like to say your father's name, or your mother's name, or your loved ones name out loud. Later on, other people may have heard your loved ones name and may connect with you. So would someone else like to say their father's name, or their loved ones name and say a few words. Please, please step forward. We do have time and we want to recognize all the veterans who would like to go next.

Roberta Chew 1:14:49

David chin I know I didn't. We didn't give Luther an opportunity to say more. So if you would like to now this will be a great opportunity.

David Chin 1:15:00

Okay, my father who's usually very boisterous, doesn't want to say anything, but I know my brother Ken Chang, who founded a co founded Moderna is on. And so I think, you know, he deserves our, you know, salute for that. And I also want to mention my uncle, Horace Ang who we, I just talked to my aunt, I thought that she had, you know, put in the paperwork, but we're going to try to get that going. Because he was a general Weitemeyer, he was the translator for General weitemeyer, and

Luther Chin 1:15:34

general Marshall in the in turn King when they were negotiating with the Chinese Communist Party.

David Chin 1:15:42

And I think the thing that makes it a little bit, my father told me, he actually has a book that he had written. And I kind of forced him to do that, because you know I wanted to know about his history. And one of the things I think is a little bit different about him that he told me is that is that, you know, he came from China and emigrated over here, so it's a little bit different for him. And when he came over, you know, as he had been mentioned, he came the day after Pearl Harbor, and saw the mess that was there, and the destruction. And you know, how sad that that situation was, and had told me that after his shift left, with all the other immigrants, you know, there were some people that actually, you know, there were down below, and, you know, it was pretty bad smell down there. And people wanted to get up top to get some fresh air. And unfortunately, you know, some some Japanese came flying by and the waves came up, and it just took some people right off the boat, you know, so it's a shame, they didn't quite make it. But I just want to salute those people that actually went through that hard time, like my father. And I don't know dad, you don't want to say anything, about what's your Harvard days and your MIT days, you know, and what it was like for you in the Navy. Not really. My relatives that are listening are probably shocked, he doesn't want because he's been telling us about these stories where he used to, you know, being a Chinese American on a American ship with sailors, you know, it's a little bit tough, obviously. And, you know, it was a little discriminatory. And the way that he, what he told me was that the way he got back at them, as he learned how to play cards really well. And so he played poker really well. So his way of getting back at them was to take their money.

Ted Gong 1:17:41

And then we're heading toward close to thank you very much for the opportunity. Thank you so much. And we're going to have another period, which we have a Hangout period in which we're going to be on so you continue to share your stories, think about ones that you want to share with us not just about World War Two, but all the other conflicts and all the all the missions that we've done. So we're going to ask the national president of the Chinese American citizens Alliance to make some closing remarks first and Melanie. Need to unmute

yourself.

Melanie Chan 1:18:27

Hello can you hear me now? Yeah. Okay. All right. Good. Thank you. Alrighty, um, you know, it's my honor and pleasure, as the national president of the Chinese American citizens Alliance really have this opportunity to recognize and express my appreciation and honor to Chinese American men and women who served during World War Two with valor and bravery. CACA has a long history of supporting and honoring our veterans. And many of the world war two veterans were actually members of our leadership. You know, to the veterans, you leave a legacy of dedication and sacrifice to protect the freedoms and liberties that we're all privileged to enjoy today. And you all become leaders in our communities. And as role models you inspire the community and our youth to believe in themselves and to live with integrity and honor. I want to thank all the veterans attending today's virtual presentation. We wish we could really celebrate with you in person, but we hope that you will enjoy this virtual celebration. There will be multiple regional presentation events. They're being planned for later this year. Once the pandemic has subsided to present the medal to the registered veterans or their next to kin, and we hope that you can return to these Regional events to continue the celebration. We know that the regionals will be a wonderful and unique event that the families of the veterans will have the opportunity to experience and learn about how the family member served our country during World War Two. And this will be our time to recognize, acknowledge and remember the members of America's greatest generation. I would like to express my gratitude today speakers. Susan Lee, Maryland State Senator, rear Admiral Alma Lau Grocki, Major General William chin, and Andrew Hoover From the Library of Congress with the Veterans History Project, for inspiration in heartfelt words. But most of all, thank you to all the Chinese American veterans, men and women who probably answered the call to defend and preserve our freedom and serve our country during war and peace. I am humbled and so grateful for your selfless sacrifice and service. And now I will turn it back to Evelyn to continue the open mic portion of the program. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:21:15

Thank you very much, Melanie, for those wonderful remarks. And that concludes the formal part of our program. Let's give a big hand to all of our living veterans. And thank them right now.

Ted Gong 1:21:36

You know Evelyn, I don't know if you're able to see the chat room, but there are a number of people who also would like to say a few words, you know, I and of course, everybody, just unmute yourself. Jab, you'll come in here and say something or raise your hand if you don't want to raise your hand. Just shout out. That's okay. This is the Hangout session. And I see that Gerry, you were. Is that right? Gerry? You have mentioned something you wanted to say? And maybe I'll sort of single you out here.

Geraldine Low-Sabado 1:22:09

Well, thank you. And although I'm not from the Boston area, I'm from California. I just joined in and I wanted to since there there was sounded like there was a lot of time I thought I would just mention my father. But for the longest time my family didn't talk about any of this. So my father didn't talk about his experiences really. So my generation really didn't know and then when we did know anything, it was don't talk about it. Because he didn't. And but I just wanted to to mention that um, with a lot of prodding my cousin who was a president of the CACA, Salinas LOD kept urging me to register my my father, so I did, I registered my father and my uncle, and they both were approved. And my father was a single signalman in the Navy. And I remember in Monterrey, when the Navy ships would come in at Fourth of July, and be parked out in the Monterey Bay, he was able to read the, you know, the light signals that were going back and forth, he was able to read that. And, and I think when I look at pictures of of him, and his, I guess, platoon or all the other sailors, I see that he looks like he's the only minority in the group. So I wonder what it was like for him because he didn't talk about it. We don't really know. During that, during that time, then for my auntie, she joined the army. And she was the first Chinese wack to join from the San Francisco office. And she thought she was going to travel the world, but she ended up in Idaho. And she mentioned she told me the story that so she was a cook. And when the or nutritionist when the when the soldiers came who were wounded, when they came back to America and they came to her, her her base, and whatever time of day it was, then they had to be ready to cook, to cook for them. And she said that she remembers that the thing that they really liked the most was fresh milk. I think because they had powdered milk when they were over, over in Europe fighting and they that was something she remembered that they all really enjoyed the fresh milk. that those are the stories anyway that I I remember.

Ted Gong 1:25:13

Yeah, it's good. You know, fresh milk, condensed milk bar milk. You know, I saw Collin Chu you had kind of raised your hand. I'm going to single you out to give you a chance to speak.

Collin Chu 1:25:23

Great. Can you hear me? Yes. Okay. My father was harsh on Chu a 11 5714 Air Force in Kunming came back with the pride. Yesterday was my uncle Judson Chu's birthday. And he's his daughter is Congresswoman Judy Chu. And then I'm glad we're finally getting acknowledgment for all the Chinese Americans that served. My other cousin was Betty Tom Chu, who is the mayor of Monterey Park, and they petitioned to put a play memorial to Chinese American veterans. And one of the other councilmen said, What did the Chinese ever do for us? It's a little bit upsetting. I have been curious about one question. My brother in law's oldest brother is John Angel, Chu. We're not related. I'm a Chu, and he's a Chu. But John was learned to fly in Oakland when he was in the thirties. And in 1939 he lied about his age and joined the Chinese Air Force and true for the Air Force. Captain. And he's probably one of the very last combat pilots from

World War Two. And he's the voice on Boyd. And so I was just curious if there would be anything that you can be acknowledged for the work acknowledged by President Clinton many years ago?

Ted Gong 1:27:01

I mean, what you're saying is so important for us, because we have to tell the stories. We don't share these stories uncover them. I think Ed mentioned it to his people won't know what it was though. We as American citizens did for this country you want. What did the Chinese Americans do for us? And my parents, like Gary was saying, hardly ever spoke about the war. Again, it's only later that we find out that there are some notes and things of which is one words. But there is a there are other people you don't remember also, that the way to store these stories will tell the story. proofread project through oral history project. It's also a question, Where are we going to? Where are we? Where are we going to display the the actual gold medal? Yeah, it might be related with the other gold medals that were awarded for the Filipino veterans, for free other veterans. So that's the topic for discussion. If people want to have some committee questions to who been to Andrew Huber, Huber, we can talk about how do you how do you store those stories? How do you tell them? How do you record him, and certainly asked him questions about how that's done. So that's another thing which I think Andrew will be there to talk while you formulate those questions. I saw that Ben. Ben de Guzman, what is this thing about you having twin brothers are what is this thing about?

Ben de Guzman 1:28:41

Well, my twin brother is here tonight with his wife who actually her family received a Congressional Gold Medal as well. Her family has served in World War Two. So um, yeah, no, so but he was a spent 29 years in the Navy. So always very proud of his service. And so yeah. But, uh, yeah, it informed my the work that I did for Filipino World War Two veterans. So again, it's always a, you know, watching you all do your work on behalf of the veterans that we honor tonight. Again, it has a special meaning for me because of that work. So thank you again, for bringing us here today.

Ted Gong 1:29:25

I've always thought that the gold medals like the one of the Filipinos and for the Chinese and for a few others, we should group them all together and permanent display at the American History Museum at the Smithsonian. So we ought to work on that. Susan, Susan, you You had a question for Andrew, would you like to to ask?

Susan Yu 1:29:46

Hi, my name is Susan Yu. I helped out with the reunions for the 14th Air Service Group and the 987 signal company they were they fought under generalship Not and every year that that they had a reunion, they put out a journal. So there's these two journals. And the head of the group was, was named, whose name escapes me right now was named Matt, Pon and Matt died a couple years ago. But he made me promise that I would get these journals into the Library of

Congress. So but I had a friend who did work for the library Congress. And she said, No, they'll probably just throw them away. So this is my kind of fulfilling for him, but actually, I have been in contact with now Callaway, who is a general schmaltz, granddaughter, and they have this shmaltz museum in Monroe, Louisiana, who Charlene introduced me to. So I am sure that they would take them if the Library of Congress does not want them. So this is my promise to, to, to, to our head to try to fulfill what he wanted. years later. So thank you.

Andrew Huber 1:31:10

You're welcome. Thank you, Thank you, Susan. And so to answer your specific question, we would, I would be glad to take a look and see if it's something we accept, we are, we're not going to throw it away. I'll tell you that much. We do have though, because we are created by congressional mandate, we have very strict rules on what we can and can't accept. And we don't really have a lot of leeway on that. So I'd have to look at it individually on an individual basis and see if it's something that we can accept. I will say that whether that particular journal qualifies on its own is kind of irrelevant as long as we can get one veteran from that unit to contribute their story as an oral history, because then we can add that as a supplemental item to their collection. So one way or another, I'm going to find a way that we can get this into our collections and preserve it. I hope you've got my email. If not, it's a it's in the chat or here, it's h AHUB@Loc.gov, send me an email, and I will make some time to take a look and let you know what we should do.

Susan Yu 1:32:12

Okay. And I think we have the we actually have these electronically, too. So I could give it to you chronically, if that would be more helpful.

Andrew Huber 1:32:19

Oh, perfect. Yeah, that's that's, and also just get in contact me as well, because I would love to talk to you about arranging interviews at your reunions as well, because I think that that might be an interesting,

Susan Yu 1:32:31

they, they stopped in 2013. So they couldn't have the last one was in Oakland, but that was their 66 weeks, 66 years of getting together. So that's pretty amazing. Yeah, it really is. They were wonderful.

Ted Gong 1:32:46

Andrew, two things. One is would you repeat the email slowly. That's awesome. The other thing is that you might want to talk about your plans to go about the country, maybe to if you can get people to help help organize things you I think would be willing to go out and actually give workshops, right?

Andrew Huber 1:33:07

Yeah, absolutely. So first of all, sorry, I'm I'm a very fast talker. My email is A H U B. That's alpha hotel uniform bravo@loc.gov. And thank you, Ted for reminding me that, that we have me and Ted have been talking about plans for

a lot of different things, actually. But the one that he's specifically mentioning, is we were thinking about doing a tour of the different Chinatown's around the country and setting up events in in various ones where we would set up interview stations and veterans could sign up for an appointment to be interviewed locally, and then just come down at the appointed time. And there'd be people and cameras there ready for them to give their story. And we just go from town to town to town, collecting all these stories so that people can do it from where they live. Which is which they can already do. If they've got a phone, you know, somebody who's able to help them, record their story and send it into us, but we want to make it even easier and then come to them. That is still very much possibility. COVID has made it the timeline on that a little up in the air. But it's we're absolutely trying to make that happen at some point. And if you'd be if any of you would be interested in participating, either telling your story, hosting the interviews there or volunteering to be an interviewer. I would love to hear from you and then we can get all that started.

Ted Gong 1:34:42

That's great. There are a couple of other people I see that Evelyn Lee would like to talk about her. Her.

Evelyn Moy 1:34:51

Ted we have Betty Jan's Evelyn Li and Calvin Moy lined up. All right, yeah. So let's start with the think Betty Jans are first in line Ted, I'm looking at, but in any of you, Betty Jans Calvin Moyer, Evelyn Li, please go ahead.

Betty Jans 1:35:10

How are you? I'm Betty Jans My father was Charles F Wong. He he entered the service at Fort Meade in Maryland. And he joined in April 25 1941. I learned a lot of this after he passed away when I was looking through his papers. He of course, didn't speak much about the service other than some anecdotes. And one of the and well, the other thing is he was one of the first troop ships to Pearl Harbor after the attack of Pearl Harbor. And one of the anecdotes he had was that since they he was he, when he joined the army, he noted he was a restaurant manager, so they put them in charge of the mess. And of course, he he made sure that everyone was fed and everyone, I think was happy because he was a good cook. He was honorably discharged. He served in the Philippines, he received the Philippine liberation medal and bronze star and the Asiatic Pacific Service Ribbon, the American Defense Service Medal, and of course, the good Conduct Medal. He was discharged honorably discharged in August 29 1945. As a staff sergeant, he served in the headquarters battery 179th coastal artillery battalion. And I know that even though he didn't speak about his service, he was very proud to serve.

Evelyn Moy 1:37:01

Thank you Betty. wonderful story. And we honor your dad. We honor your father. Thank you. Let's see Calvin, Calvin. I have one. Yeah, hi, Calvin.

Calvin Moy 1:37:16

So like Betty I didn't really learn much about my father's service, until recently, by looking at his discharge papers and all the photographs he took during the war, right before he joined the service and 42 after he got his master's degree in economics at Columbia University. He worked in DC in the Adjutant General's Office for about a year, and then was a joint active service 42 boot camp was in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then he was shipped to North Africa, in 1943. And then he subsequently spent two years fighting in Naples, Rome, Italy, southern France, and the Rhineland. And when it was over, came back home in October of 1945, but he was in the 9/95th field artillery, artillery field battalion. And in some of his personal effects, we came across a document called the record of the events. And it was amazing documented the whole chronology of that 9/95th Field Artillery Battalion from beginning to end. And some of the comments in there, said that the battalion served in the Fifth Army in seventh army briefly. And so, like most of you, my dad never said really much about his war service. And it's only recently I started going through and trying to learn about what he what he did. I also want to mention that his brother, Harry Han Monmoy, served in the Navy in the Pacific. And he served on an attack transport, and also a landing craft infantry gunboat. And after the war, my dad worked at the Pentagon for pretty much his whole career in department of Army and the Air Force department, and he passed away in 1988. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:39:34

Okay, thank you, Calvin. I just want to mention, Calvin is the Vice President of our clan, and I was very fortunate to take the Moy story, World War two dads on the road on three public zooms, and I want to encourage all of you to do that. your loved one has a story and if you can tell your own story or from your own perspective that would amplify all of our voices. Because world war two was a horrible war. And I don't blame them who would want to keep talking about that, especially since they lived through it. But please tell your story as a public affairs officer. You can call on me to help do the interviews and I have a whole gaggle of public affair officer friends to help in that. So thank you, Calvin. And the next person we have is Evelyn Lee. Evelyn, would you like to talk about your dad?

Evelyn Li 1:40:43

Yes, thank you so much. And of course, my cat knows that I'm about ready to speak. So she came to say hello to you all. First, I would like to thank those veterans who are honored this evening. With the Congressional Gold Medal, thank you for your service, and congratulations on receiving the honor. Our dad, my sister, Jennifer is on the zoom this evening with me and as Charlene called us out, our dad is Joseph Li. He served as with his Chinese name, Li Wing Fok. And he served in the 14th Army Air Force under the command of General Clairetional. And very glad and proud to do so. Um, he was based in Kunming. So he was his rank was sergeant, and he was in, I'm going to read from a document for you. He was a radio operator, and mechanic, and he served on combat cargo missions that flew over the hump, delivering supplies. And he flew over 38 missions over the hump with his his crewmates, and was received

on a medal for doing so. His his unit was the third combat cargo Squadron, the first combat cargo group, I always get that confused. So I needed to read that for you. I don't know where dad did his training, I know that he he did the the radio, the technical training at Scott field. And he has said that after graduating the course, his class was going to be deployed and he was offered a lead. And he took the lead and the rest of his class was sent to Europe. And when he came back from leave, they he was sent to to CBI. And that's that's where he served. Like Geraldine, and Calvin and Grant and so many others have spoken. Our dad did not talk about his service, though he was and is and remains very proud of, of his service. I think for those who served it's a it's a defining experience in their lives. So it's very significant to be a part of the war effort, and a part of something that would change the world. So we didn't, we didn't know anything about it until until probably the last 10 years. And we're continuing to learn more through events like these for which we're grateful to hear to learn to participate. And just a shout out to my dad, he had a birthday on Monday, he turned 98. And we're very happy and proud to wish him a happy birthday. Thank you.

Evelyn Moy 1:44:06

Thank you Evelyn. Happy Birthday to your dad. So proud of his service. Thank you very much for that story. Right, very wonderful. We have David daliah. Then Betty hawks, then Rita Moy. David, would you like to talk about your dad? Albert Shu Yuan

Margaret Delia 1:44:27

This is Margaret Delia, um, David signed on. So sorry for me, but my name is Margaret Delia, and I'm speaking about my dad. And I had written a book about my parents a few years ago. But my father basically was an illegal immigrant when he came to the US, and he was drafted in the army in 1943. And he was assigned in Casablanca. Where he was a sergeant and a battalion chef. He actually fed all of the servicemen who flew the B 24 bombers and the P 38 fighter escorts. So he met my mother there. And before they married, he had to become an American citizen, before he could bring my mother to the US. And so he applied for citizenship and was denied because of his race. But fortunately, his commanding officer went into fight for him and managed to for him to get his American citizenship. And that way, he was able to bring my mother to the US. Now, my mother was a war bride, and she was the only Asian only Chinese person on the ship coming from Europe, who was, uh, was Chinese. And obviously, everybody else was Italian or British. And the Daily Mirror at the time in New York had taken a picture of her, it's too bad I don't have it. had taken a picture of her she made the front page. Anyway, I have a couple pictures can can I show that I think?

Evelyn Moy 1:46:16

Yes, please. Go ahead. Yes. Would love to see them.

Margaret Delia 1:46:21

Okay. Let's see. Is that working? closer with the camera? Yes. That's my

father. And I'll show you the picture of my mother. All right. This is this is the cover of the book actually. And I titled it from Casablanca to the white rice garden. Because Casablanca is where my mother was, my parents were coming from and the white rice garden is the name of the restaurant that my father opened in Brooklyn after the war. Okay, so here is the picture of the Thomas H. Berry, which is the ship that what the war Brides, were lucky to have all these pictures. And here's the picture of all the war brides on the ship, they had a group picture taken, and my mother is on the far left of the picture. You can see her on the far left. But anyway, so I wrote this book, because I've been pestered by a friend to write this history of my mother, because my mother's side is actually quite interesting. History. She, she witnessed the Battle of Casablanca, with the USS Massachusetts, which is now permanently docked in Fall River in Massachusetts. And we had, she was invited to go there. When I was telling you the story about her life, to a friend of this friend knew a neighbor who served on the USS Massachusetts during the Battle of Casablanca. And my mother was on the rooftop of where she lived. And she was witnessing the battle going on between the two ships between the USS Massachusetts and the Jean Bot, which was a French ship. And some of the, the shells of the shrapnel wood was going and putting holes in the roof of where she was standing, she decided that she probably shouldn't be standing there so she wouldn't get killed. But, um, but it's about 10 years ago, she was invited to the USS Massachusetts in the Fall River, and was interviewed. And got to meet that young man who was 17 at the time, he was a gunner on the USS Massachusetts. And so they got to meet and we got a tour of the ship. And, and they wrote this lovely article about her. But it was a lovely moment to see my mother talking about her experience and what she saw during the battle.

Evelyn Moy 1:49:25

Thank you, Margaret. Many of our mothers are war brides also. So that's a whole different story in itself, and that's wonderful, because they can share that with your father. And that was a very critical time in our world. So thank you. Thank you for

Margaret Delia 1:49:45

this honor to speak about my father. Thank you very much.

Evelyn Moy 1:49:50

Thank you. Betty, would you like to talk about your father willingly. Betty hawks Wait for Betty. Rita. Would you like to talk about your father? Rita Moy? What about Billy? Oh, hi there. Oh, Rita. Okay. Okay.

Rita Moy 1:50:19

I'm going to talk about my father. His name is was Roy yu pan. That's the way he was registered. He was a not a naturalized. He was not a citizen when he was drafted into the service 1943 he had been in the US, he came over to US from Taishan. 1922 was about like 10 or 11 years old. And I'm still trying to figure out how you got from Vancouver to Boston. But anyhow, he was drafted in 1943. He had minimum English, but he had we finished maybe up to a few years of never

finished high school, he went up to that junior high school and went to work in the restaurant business in Boston, New York. And then 1943 he was drafted into the army, Washington DC. And at that time, he still was not a citizen. And during his two years in service, which was with the US Army and the CBI CBI, he was a supply manager as well as a gunner was I have pictures of him using a rifle to he got naturalized. And I have a picture a photo officially showed him the naturalize This photo was official photo from the National Archives. You know, I show it Oh, how do I show it?

Rita Moy 1:52:11

I just hold it up? Yes, really? Yes, we can see it, thank you. Oh, this is her father right here.

Rita Moy 1:52:19

He's the short guy. short one, and through the army, he was very sociable person. And a person said next to him was my mother's cousin. So after the service, when they were based back into Washington, DC, got hooked up with my mom. But anyhow, my dad served that his citizenship, you know, 1945, or 44. And he ended to serve as old, man, he was 35 years old at that time. So compared to all the others, it was a 35 year old. Not a citizen, you know, with minimum English, but it was a very sociable person. And he met some lifetime friends in the service. So after he left the service, he went back to the restaurant business, worked in a restaurant in Washington, DC known as the Lotus. And he would know that all his buddies, come visit me in Washington DC at the lows. So that's the

Ted Gong 1:53:32

story. Evelyn, we're heading to the top of the hour. And these stories are wonderful. And we continue forever, I would recommend that you very much try to get ahold of Andrew and get them recorded. That way, they'll be permanently in the national national records with the Library of Congress. And that's where we want our stories kept. So please take note of Andrew and the oral history project at the Library of Congress. All these stories are great. And also, Margaret is just it's wonderful to see you after exchanging the messages about the about the war bride, and I'm trying to think very much how we can develop that into full blown talks story. So I hope that you will be able to participate in that. There's so much that the war is affected, and veterans have effect and it's not just the veterans, it's the families and the children and the wives. And that is something we always have to keep in mind as well. So I want to thank everyone, Ed Gore, Melanie, all the all the speakers and you all for attending this session. So congratulations to the world war two veterans, and congratulations to all of you and for being part of this experience. It is part of the American story and we want to make sure that people know that we are also part of the American story. So thank you all. And we'll see you at the next session. By the way, tomorrow we are having a regular talk story. And that's at two o'clock, look at our 1882 website its going to be with the provocative title of the failure of Asian American Studies question mark. And so that will be interesting topic

very different from this, but still something that's very important to all of us.
So again, thank you all. Good night. And yeah, we'll see you next time.