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包容日 紀念廢除排華法案

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December 07, 2009 12:00 AM | 296 觀看次數 | 1 • | □ | □ | □

為慶祝加州廢除排華法案66週年,及近日「包容日(Day of Inclusion)」通過,加州眾議員伍國慶與華美博物館6日舉辦紀念活動,邀請亞裔團體領袖及亞裔後代學生參與,了解美國族群融合的歷史,展望未來。

從今年開始, 12月17日將不只是加州政府廢除排華法案日, 還是代表族群融合的「包容日」, 以紀念1943年12月17日廢除1882年排華法案 (Chinese Exclusion Act)。包容日由伍國慶與二埠華人博物館(Yee Fow Museum)負責人鄧仕榮(Steve Yee)共同草擬ACR 76提案, 經過各方奔走, 於今年6月通過。

1882年國會通過的排華法案,是美國歷史上第一個排斥華人的歧視法案。該法案除禁止華人歸化爲美國公民,也禁止華工,使華人備受社會各界歧視,不僅是當時社會上最弱勢的族群,也是華人最黑暗的歷史。直到1943年12月17日國會通過廢除「排華法案」,結束66年對華人的歧視,華人獲得平等對待,也成為移民政策轉捩點。

展望未來,伍國慶認為,提醒美國社會過去排華的歷史外,最重要的是教育社會,美國是一個兼容並蓄、族群融合的國家,各族裔互相尊重,才是這個「包容日」的意義所在。

Inclusive Day to commemorate the abolition Chinese Exclusion Act

CHEN Ke-Rong Los Angeles press coverage

To celebrate the California's 66th anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the new California law "inclusive day (Day of Inclusion)" authored by California Assemblyman Wu (Mike Eng), the Chinese American Museum organized activities on December 6 and invited leaders of many Asian organizations and future generations of Asian leaders to participate in an Asian-American event to better understand the history and the future of ethnic integration in the United States.

Beginning this year, December 17 will not just be significant because of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act but in California the day will also serve to promote racial harmony as a "Day of Inclusion." California Assemblyman Mike Eng and the second port Chinese Museum (Yee Fow Museum) head Teng Shih-jung (Steve Yee) have jointly drafted the proposal ACR 76, after promoting the bill this year through June.

In 1882 Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, the first legislation in American history to deny an immigrant group solely based on race. In addition to the act to prohibit Chinese naturalized U.S. citizen, is also prohibited Chinese laborers, so that much of Chinese society of discrimination, not only was the most vulnerable groups in society, but also the darkest of Chinese history. Until December 17, 1943 Congress repealed the "Chinese Exclusion Act," ending 66 years of discrimination against ethnic Chinese, marking a turning point in immigration policy.

Looking ahead, Wu Guoqing (Assemblyman Mike Eng) reminded hundreds in attendance that in American society, the most important thing is educating the community as to the significance of the Day of Inclusion in promoting ethnic mutual respect in the United States.