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December 17 designated "A Day of Inclusion"

By Carolyn Gan

At a press conference called by Assemblyman Mike Eng (D-Monterey Park) and civic leaders from Los Angeles and all over California, a "Day of Remembrance and Inclusion," Dec. 17 is to be commemorative of The Magnusom Act which finally repealed the unjust Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 after 61 years of targeted discrimination.

Born from an era of economic strife, hatred and despair, the heinous act of legally forbidding people of Chinese ancestry from entering the United States has changed to a call for grace, love, and a "Day of Inclusion" by numerous civil rights leaders in the Chinese communities.

On May 29, Assemblyman Eng provided historical photographs of the harsh discrimination placed against Chinese in America.

Brought to the California State Assembly Floor on May 26, 2009, "Dec. 17" has been designated as Assembly Concurrent Resolution (ACR) 76. "It serves as a time to acknowledge this history and to honor how all immigrants continue to contribute to all aspects of our society," stated Assemblyman Eng.

"By breaking down cultural barriers, and appreciating cultural diversities, the contributions of immigrants would further racial, religious and cultural tolerance," stated Eng.

Other speakers included; Steve Yee of Sacramento Yee Fow Museum who sponsored the legislation; Munson Kwok, National President of the Chinese American Citizen Alliance; Jeri Okamoto Floyd, Executive Council, Organization of Chinese Americans; Peter Ng, President, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association; Mary Lee, Development Manager, Korean American Federation; Kenshin Kubo, Japanese American Citizens League; Saadia Khan, Muslim Public Affairs Council; and Winston Wu, Secretary, Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

More information and educational resources on Dec. 17 and the Day of Inclusion can be found on www.dec17.org or www.dayofinclusion.org