

Asian American Action Fund

Electing Our Leaders, Empowering our Community

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Chinese-American Historical Day Now CA Law

Dear Friends and Supporters:

Please join California State Assemblymember Mike Eng, Yee Fow Museum, and other state and national organizations in commemorating the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and the recent passage of ACR 76 into Californian law. ACR 76 acknowledges December 17 as a "Day of Inclusion" in recognition and appreciation of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. This landmark repeal of anti-Chinese immigration has led to the priceless contributions of all immigrants to the greatness of the United States and especially to our great state of California.

More information can be found online at <www.dec17.org>. We welcome your participation in this historic event.

Please join us:

Day of Inclusion Press Conference 1 PM – 1:30 PM, Sunday, Dec. 6th
Chinese American Museum
425 North Los Angeles St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Followed by a reception a few steps from the museum: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The Pico House
424 N. Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Steve Yee
Vice Chair
Yee Fow Center for History, Culture, and Trade
Advisory Board
www.yeefowmuseum.org
California Deserves No Less

Assemblymember Mike Eng
ACR 76 (ENG) – Day of Inclusion
Sponsored by: Yee Fow Museum

Summary

ACR 76 would acknowledge December 17 as a "Day of Inclusion" in recognition and appreciation of the priceless contributions of all immigrants to the greatness of the United States and especially to our great state of California.

Background

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was the first major law to single out and forbid a specific ethnic group, the Chinese, from immigrating to and becoming naturalized citizens of the United States. The Geary Act of 1892, then extended the prohibitions of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and imposed new and onerous requirements on Chinese immigrants. In the wake of both statutes, additional laws were enacted to perpetuate discrimination and unequal treatment of Chinese and other minority groups, such as the Alien Land Law of 1913 that prohibited "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning land or property and the Immigration Act of 1924 which limited the total number of immigrants who could be admitted from any one country and also prohibited immigration of all Asians.

On December 17, 1943, the Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and marked a turning point regarding society's harsh attitudes towards immigration and immigrants. By repealing the "Chinese Exclusion" prohibitions, the United States expressed its commitment to continue to break down cultural barriers, appreciate differences, enrich cultural diversity, and further racial, religious and cultural tolerance.

In many respects, immigrants and their descendants play and have played a large and central role in the continuing progress and betterment of our nation and society. For example, according to data from the 2000 United States Census, immigrant business owners generate \$67 billion of the \$577 billion in United States business income, or approximately 12 percent, as estimated by the federal Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy.

Staff Contact:

To support this measure or for more information, contact Annie Lam in Assemblymember Eng's office at (916) 319-2049 or Annie.Lam@asm.ca.gov

Posted by sallyzhu on Tuesday, November 17th, 2009 at 5:22 am.