

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 125

Posthumously proclaiming soldiers of Asian descent who fought in the Civil War to be honorary citizens of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 14, 2002

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. FROST, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BACA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DeFAZIO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FILNER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. RADANOVICH, and Mr. PITTS) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Posthumously proclaiming soldiers of Asian descent who fought in the Civil War to be honorary citizens of the United States.

Whereas the United States on rare occasions confers honorary citizenship on individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this country or to humankind throughout the world;

Whereas honorary citizenship is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted;

Whereas posthumous citizenship is an honorary status commemorating the bravery and sacrifices of these persons; it does not convey any benefits under the Immigration and Nationality Act to any relative of the decedent;

Whereas current law provides for the granting of United States citizenship to aliens or noncitizen nationals of the United States who die because of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by honorable, active duty service in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas it has been determined that numerous soldiers of Asian descent fought bravely and honorably in the Union and Confederate armed forces during the United States Civil War;

Whereas many of these soldiers were denied citizenship following their service as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and general anti-Asian sentiment prevalent at that time; and

Whereas the Congress overturned the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 in 1943 to end this injustice to Asian immigrants but did not extend citizenship to those who had rightfully earned this honor but were denied the chance to seek it by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
- 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 3 That soldiers of Asian descent who fought in the Civil War
- 4 are posthumously proclaimed to be honorary citizens of
- 5 the United States.

○