



Legislation Text

File #: Res 0654-2018, **Version:** *

Res. No. 654

Resolution declaring December 17 as a Day of Commemoration of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943.

By Council Members Holden, Vallone, Koo, Chin, Dromm, Brannan and Levin

Whereas, The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and subsequent anti-Chinese laws severely restricted Chinese people from immigrating to the United States and prevented them from becoming American citizens; and

Whereas, The Magnuson Act, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943, was proposed by Representative Warren G. Magnuson and signed into law on December 17, 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

Whereas, The Magnuson Act sought to repeal the discriminatory exclusion laws against Chinese immigrants which, in a letter to Congress, President Roosevelt wrote the passing of the bill was vital to correcting the “historic mistake” of Chinese exclusion; and

Whereas, according to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Chinese Americans still face aspects of Chinese exclusion as pertain to education admissions policies among some American institutions of higher learning such as Harvard University; and

Whereas, In 2011 and 2012, the US Senate and US House of Representatives unanimously passed resolutions to condemn and express regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act and other legislation that discriminated against Chinese Americans; and

Whereas, Chinese Americans have contributed substantially to the strength of our City and nation in government, culture, business, education, science, and all fields, and have defended the nation in all wars and

from all threats; and

Whereas, December 17, 2018 is the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act; and

Whereas, New York City has the largest Chinese population of any city outside of Asia within the United States with an estimated population over 570,000 individuals; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York declare December 17 a Day of Commemoration of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943.

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LS 9076
12/3/18