

## Overview

This book begins with an overview of Chinese American Veterans involvement and contributions in World War II – aptly named the “Story Arc of Chinese American WWII Veterans.” Subsequent chapters expand upon facets of this storyline.

As conveyed in the book’s title “UNSUNG HEROES,” Chinese American World War II veterans were largely forgotten, ignored, and neither recognized nor honored. Accordingly, the chapter on Congressional Gold Medal Advocacy highlights the advocacy challenges marked by the uncertainty associated with the *push toward recognition* of the veterans for the Congressional Gold Medal.

The story arc of Chinese American Veterans in World War II really begins with the chapter on Pre-War Activities. The article on Chinese Americans in San Francisco describes the environment faced by Chinese and Chinese Americans in America as they responded to support China against the Japanese aggression in the Sino-Japanese War. The article on Arthur T. Chin is the story of a Chinese American combat aviator who volunteered to fight the Japanese and became an American flying ace.

The chapter on World War II Operations portrays the deeds and accomplishments of Chinese American veterans in World War II and features notable Chinese Americans who distinguished themselves in ground combat, aviation, and support operations. Included are articles on Captain Francis B. Wai, Medal of Honor recipient; Rear Admiral Gordon Pai’ea Chung-Hoon, U.S. Navy Retired, the first Chinese American to achieve flag rank officer in the U.S. Navy; Major General Dewey Lowe, U.S. Air Force Retired, the first Chinese American General in the U.S. Air Force. Also included are articles on Chinese American Women in World War II.

Of special interest is the chapter on Post-War Activities as sons and daughters provide remembrances and tell the stories of their fathers in World War II and in their post-war life. The veterans' World War II experiences moved them into a whole new world outside family traditions – they made friends with people of other races and saw a bigger life and possibilities. The common thread is the veterans' hard work, sacrifices, and dedication in raising their families as they enabled their follow-on generations to live the American Dream and become a part of Mainstream America. The article on the War Brides Act carries more significance than what many may be aware. Because of a largely male-only Chinese American society, the War Brides Act was the enabler for the growth of the Chinese American population in the United States post-World War II.

The Veterans chapter recognizes and honors the veterans from the New England States and veterans whose next-of-kin reside in the New England States. The biographies highlight the skills, competencies, loyalty, and patriotism demonstrated by the veterans.

The last chapter, *A Photographic Journey*, takes the reader on an image-based journey that documents the diversity and richness of veterans' lives and deeds from World War II to the present culminating in the award of the Congressional Gold Medal and completing the Story Arc of Chinese American World War II veterans.