

FEATURE



Chinese-American WWII Veterans receive Congressional Gold Medal

More than 20,000 Chinese-American men and women served bravely in WWII.

by Tanner Iskra

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Five Chinese-American Veterans were awarded the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) at VA's Central Office in Washington, D.C., in a ceremony celebrating their service. The Veterans were selected to represent more than 20,000 Chinese Americans who served during World War II.

The five honorees were:

- Elsie Chin Yuen Seetoo, who trained Chinese soldiers in India;
- Robert M. Lee was an engineer with the famous "Flying Tigers";
- James L. Eng served as an electronic technician in the Navy;
- Harry Jung served as a rifleman and runner in the European Theatre; and
- Henry Lee supervised POWs in the Pacific.

[SEE THEIR FULL BIOS HERE](#)

Co-chairs of the [White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders](#), U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao delivered remarks during the event hosted by James Byrne, VA's General Counsel, performing the duties of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary.

The ceremony follows President Trump's signing of [the Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act](#) last month, a bipartisan legislation that was passed unanimously by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

If you have a Chinese American relative who served during WWII but is not recognized, please visit www.caww2.org/preservation

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Tanner Iskra has been a video producer for the VA's Digital Media Engagement team since October of 2018. He is a Marine Corps Veteran, having served as a Combat Videographer. During his military career, he deployed to Iraq in 2005 as well as to Romania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Germany, France and Spain as part of the Black Sea Rotational Force. Tanner is a graduate of the Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Media Studies and holds a Certificate in Military Motion Media from the Newhouse School of Journalism at Syracuse University.