

FOR THE RECORD



DANIEL SQUADRON
SENATOR, 25TH DISTRICT

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

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**Testimony of State Senator Daniel Squadron before the New York City Council Committee
on Civil Rights regarding Resolution 1188**

January 27, 2012

My name is Daniel Squadron and I represent the 25th District in the New York State Senate. My district includes the Manhattan neighborhoods of Chinatown, the Lower East Side, Tribeca, Battery Park City, the Financial District, Little Italy, SoHo and the East Village, and the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, Vinegar Hill, DUMBO, Fulton Ferry, Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Gowanus. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

I am here to express my support for City Council resolution 1188, which calls upon the United States Department of Defense to closely examine its policies around cultural diversity and the training of military personnel after the death of Private Danny Chen in Afghanistan. In light of the horrible events that led to the death of Private Chen, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to prevent such tragedies from occurring again.

Private Chen's suicide, brought about by prolonged bullying by eight fellow soldiers, is a tragedy on many levels. Private Chen's family lost a beloved son, and we all lost a member of our community. Moreover, it is tragic when soldiers abuse each other based on their race or ethnicity. Unfortunately, Private Chen's experience is not unique. It has been suggested that many other soldiers have been exposed to similar abuse, which can leave no doubt that the military must take steps to correct the conduct of its personnel.

The nature of the discovery of information about the death of Private Chen is also deeply troubling. Private Chen was found inside a guard tower with a gunshot wound to the head on October 3, 2011, while stationed in the Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. At the time, his family could not be certain of the connection between the racially-charged hazing and his death. It is unacceptable that outrage from the community was required to bring charges against eight soldiers and for the family to come to understand the true nature of Private Chen's death.

Military service is one of the most important contributions a citizen can make to our country. A vast, vast majority of those who serve bring honor to our nation and treat each other with the dignity that they deserve. It is critical that we remember that thousands of men and women in uniform share the genuine and unique solidarity that comes with serving together on our front lines.



TESTIMONY OF OCA-NY

DELIVERED BY KWONG ENG, OCA-NY BOARD MEMBER

City Council Hearing on Resolution 1188-2012

January 27th, 2012

Good morning. My name is Kwong Eng. I am a board member of OCA-NY. Founded in 1976, OCA-NY is a non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to advancing the political, social, and economic well being of Asian Americans. We are one of 80 chapters and affiliates nationwide of OCA. OCA-NY has been a community advocate on combating hate crimes, media accountability, voting rights, immigration reform, and language rights.

OCA-NY supports New York City Council Resolution 1188-2012 introduced by Councilwoman Margaret Chin.

OCA-NY is the lead advocacy organization seeking justice for Private Danny Chen, a 19 year old soldier. After being hazed, Danny died at his army base in Afghanistan on October 3, 2011. Starting with his funeral in Chinatown, OCA-NY has supported and accompanied Danny Chen's parents every step of the way. We initiated an online petition in English and Chinese demanding a transparent investigation. The petition has generated over 5,000 signatures. We created a Youtube video, titled "What Happened to Danny?," that has been seen by almost 40,000 viewers worldwide. And we led a march from the Army Recruitment Center in Chinatown to a vigil at Columbus Park with 36 co-sponsoring organizations and nearly 500 participants. Consequently, on December 21, 2011, the Army charged 8 superiors—including one Officer—with one or more charges ranging from dereliction of duty to involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide.

As a result of our united advocacy, a historic two hour meeting took place at the Pentagon between two top Army leaders and a contingency of local and national elected officials and Asian American community leaders. U.S. Representative Nydia Velazquez

and City Councilwoman Margaret Chin were present. We discussed the necessity for the following reforms:

No. 1-The Commanding Officer Must be Held Accountable.

It is the leadership at the top who must set the tone for a zero tolerance policy against hazing and other forms of harassment. It is important to establish clear and actionable guidelines to ensure that commanding officers are on notice that there will be consequences for these banned behaviors that take place on their watch, regardless if they were aware of the mistreatment.

No. 2- There must be Community Input into Enlistee and Officer Diversity Training.

Few Asian Americans enlist in the Army or enter the Academy. Knowledge of history, including contributions made by Asian American military personnel past and present, and interaction are key to developing mutual respect in the Army for soldiers who have diverse backgrounds. With extensive experience in diversity issues and combating hate crimes, we have offered to work with the Army to create an interactive video. This video would be mandatory for all members of the Army to view as part of its diversity training.

No. 3-There should be interventions at the Recruitment Stage of both Enlistees and Officers in the Academy.

There must be greater interventions at the recruitment stage to illicit information regarding the prospective recruit's attitudes toward diversity. If any member of the Army cannot treat a fellow American soldier with respect because of racial dislike, we believe he or she is not fit to be in that role.

OCA-NY supports Resolution 1188-2012. More effective and comprehensive training of military personnel in cultural awareness, diversity and sensitivity is needed. We support the resolution for the following reasons:

The present system that is in place fatally failed Danny Chen. Danny was mistreated from his enlistment in basic training to his deployment in Afghanistan. The racial taunting during training was noted in his letters home and in his diary. In Afghanistan, Army investigators found Danny had been subjected to daily abuse by his superiors for nearly six weeks prior to his death. The abuse consisted of physical hazing, excessive work detail and guard duty, racial taunting with names like "Gook," "Chink," and "Dragon Lady," and acts of humiliation, such as ordering him to give directions in Chinese to his fellow English-speaking soldiers. He had rocks thrown at his back while he was ordered to crawl over 100 meters. He had bruises and cuts on his back when a sergeant dragged him out of his bed over fifty meters of gravel. Investigators found evidence that both the platoon sergeant and leader were aware of this assault and chose not to report it.

OCA-NY has learned of numerous similar incidents. Three US marines are currently facing court martial for contributing to the death of 21-year-old US Lance Corporal Harry Lew. We have received complaints of military soldiers being hazed, retaliated against for filing complaints, racial taunting, and delayed action by the Inspector General.

OCA-NY has received an outpouring of support and offers to not only help seek justice for Private Danny Chen but also to stop hazing in the military. His case has generated interest from Beijing, England, and Australia to all over the country, including Alaska, North Carolina, Seattle, and California. We are advocating that everyone contact their local representatives to introduce and pass similar resolutions. We applaud the New York City Council for taking the lead and being a role model for the rest of the country to follow.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

SHELDON SILVER
Speaker of the Assembly

January 27, 2012

City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Speaker Quinn:

As the Assemblyman who represents Chinatown, I am writing to express the profound shock and sadness that our community experienced following the tragic death of Private Danny Chen. A native of Chinatown who grew up here and attended school on the Lower East Side, Danny Chen was a loving son, a friendly face in the neighborhood and a kind and compassionate friend to those who knew him.

The outpouring of grief that followed his death was a testament to the impact he had on those around him. When it became clear that Private Chen's death in Afghanistan was tied to persistent harassment and hazing that targeted his Chinese heritage, I and many others were outraged and demanded answers.

Eight soldiers have been charged in connection with Private Chen's death. Recently, the most serious charge against one of the accused was dropped. Private Chen's family and the rest of our community deserve more information about why the charge was dropped. As we continue to deeply mourn Private Chen's death, we are hopeful that this case will serve as an opportunity for the Armed Forces to improve conditions for Asian Americans - as well as other members of minority groups who are regularly targeted - within its ranks.

Danny Chen embodied the great spirit of our nation. He served selflessly and at great personal sacrifice and he deserved the support and the protection of the Army. It is essential that we make sure we are doing everything possible to protect the life and dignity of every American who serves in our military. The Army must improve its training programs in cultural diversity and awareness, while at the same time increasing efforts to identify discrimination and harassment so that they can be stopped before they get out of hand. By all accounts, Private Chen was victimized by repeated and long-term harassment. It is incumbent on Army officers to be vigilant about these situations and, if necessary, to intervene and protect soldiers from being bullied and becoming isolated.

As we grieve for Private Chen, we must not let his death be in vain. We have the opportunity to make important improvements that will help countless American soldiers who risk their lives for us each and every day. We owe them no less.

Sincerely,

SHELDON SILVER
Member of Assembly

Cc: Committee on Civil Rights, Chair, Deborah Rose
Committee on Veterans, Chair, Mathieu Eugene
Council member Margaret S. Chin

City Council Testimony in Support of Council Member Chin's Resolution on Hazing
Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez
January 27, 2012

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this vital topic. Let me commend Speaker Quinn and Council Members Chin, Eugene and Rose for authoring this resolution, which I urge the Council to adopt swiftly.

Following the tragic loss of Private Chen, all New Yorkers and, indeed, Americans everywhere are focused on ensuring our fighting men and women are protected from hazing and abuse. Private Chen's loss is a profound tragedy not only for his family, but for the entire Chinatown community and all of New York. We owe it to Danny's family and all those who knew him to ensure there are protections in place that prevent future incidents of hazing and abuse.

The loss of any soldier, due to inadequate hazing protections should be an outrage, but it is particularly disturbing when incidents of hazing are motivated by racial or ethnic prejudice. Immigrant and minority communities comprise a significant part of our fighting forces, with minorities making up 35% of active duty forces -- or 517,000 personnel. The United States Army was a pioneer in the 1950s in moving toward racial integration and, today, maintains a reputation as one of society's most diverse institutions. When young people from the minority community contemplate joining the service, they should have confidence that their background will not make them a target for harassment or unfair treatment. This is vital not only from the standpoint of fairness, but also to ensure our military continues drawing from as broad a pool of talent, as possible.

The resolution before the City Council correctly calls on the Department of Defense (DoD) to closely examine its policies surrounding cultural diversity and sensitivity to improve training in this area for military personnel. It is clear to me that the military needs a top-down review of its practices in this area. In that regard, I recently joined with Senator Gillibrand in writing to the Secretary of the Army. Our letter asked a series of important questions regarding the Army's policies toward hazing. Among other questions, we want to know whether the Army is tracking how many cases of hazing occur each year; when they last reviewed their hazing policies; and how anti-hazing training is emphasized in basic training. It is important all of us fully understand the Army's hazing policies so we can press for their improvement and see any gaps in these protocols closed.

The resolution before the Council would honor Danny Chen's memory by preventing future incidents of discriminatory hazing. I urge you to pass this resolution immediately. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to present my views.

Testimony of Thomas Krever, Executive Director, Hetrick-Martin Institute to the New York City Council on January 27, 2012.

I want to thank the City Council for the opportunity to testify before this committee on the vital issue of diversity in the armed forces. The Hetrick-Martin Institute, the nation's oldest and largest LGBTQ youth service organization serving over 2,500 young people from over 300 zip codes throughout the greater tri-state area knows the value of diversity.

Our nation, arguably the greatest nation this world has known, finds itself at a crossroads laden with challenges, but also ripe with opportunities - opportunities to embrace on an ever-deepening level, the mantra of "with liberty and justice for all," especially in the armed forces, whose members are charged with the critical task of protecting our inalienable rights.

In our work with LGBTQ youth from 12 to 24 years of age, HMI extols the values and virtues of embracing diversity – whether it be racial, religious, gender identity, sexual orientation, or the many other threads that come together to make our society the greatest and most diverse on the planet. We teach our young people that by embracing diversity their lives will be enriched, their opportunities increased, and their worlds expanded. I firmly believe that the same standards of diversity practiced at HMI can also be effectively realized in our armed services.

The Military Leadership Diversity Commission, established by the Department of Defense, defines diversity as "all the different characteristics and attributes of individuals that are consistent with Department of Defense core values, integral to mission readiness and accomplishment, and reflect the country we serve." This definition concisely captures two fundamental arguments for diversity in any organization or workplace.

First, there is the issue of fairness: in this country – we believe that it is wrong to discriminate. Second, diversity leads to improved performance and capability for groups and organizations, and certainly we want our armed forces to work at the highest levels of efficiency and effectiveness.

A study by Thompson & Gooler (1996) shows that when diversity is not managed effectively, it can actually reduce capability, most frequently through decreased communication and increased conflict. They also go on to write that "effective diverse teams just don't happen. Rather, they must be designed, implemented, and managed in order to maximize the potential advantages and minimize the potential disadvantages." And these potential disadvantages can be devastating and irreversible.

When first approached to come before you today and speak on the topic of diversity in the military, frankly I hoped that I would be able to offer this esteemed body some kernel of wisdom or knowledge. From my years in human services, I have seen up close the price that society pays when the respect for diversity is absent.

As a gang intervention expert, I learned firsthand how I could intervene effectively with even the most hardcore individuals whom society believed could never respect the diversity of those around them. I was able to alter their lives by first exposing them to diversity, and then teaching them the tools to become comfortable with – and finally embracing of – the diversity of their world and the people within it. These same types of lessons must be taught within our military as well.

Private Danny Chen lost his life because he was in an environment that did not teach its members the necessity and value of diversity, thereby allowing the most thuggish and dehumanizing of behaviors to become the accepted norm. Instead of seeking out and celebrating diversity and difference as we do at Hetrick-Martin, a lethal environment was created. I firmly believe that the military can truly learn from the best practices that HMI engages on a daily basis with a population struggling to overcome the effects of bullying and bias because of the very thing that makes them so unique – their diversity.

What we must do as a society is not just pay “lip service” to the ideals of diversity, but rather disseminate these proven interventions to as wide an audience as possible. This is more than a case of being “politically correct.” As we have seen far too often at HMI, and has been so recently demonstrated by the tragic case of Private Danny Chen, we cannot afford as a society not to enshrine diversity as an ideal that stands beside “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” For in a non-diverse society, there is no life, no liberty and no happiness for those whose differences are not celebrated.

After this convening, I will leave and once again greet the faces of thousands of young people who are perhaps the most diverse young people I will ever be blessed to encounter. I will look them in the eye and I will promise them that they will be safe – not only today in their adolescence, but tomorrow and the day after that, and in the years that will follow. I close by sharing with you two fervent hopes I have for the future of both my young people and our country.

First, may those young people who choose to serve in the armed forces discover the same respect for – and celebration of – diversity they knew at Hetrick-Martin. Second, may their

diversity -- which they learned to cherish as a source of strength at HMI -- be seen as a source of strength by our military as well.



January 27, 2012

Military Families Speak Out supports the Chen family, the Chinese American community, and joins the coalition to investigate Pfc. Chen's case. As family members of soldiers, our hearts break with Mr. Chen's family. We experience the terror that our loved ones may fall to the enemy. To have to worry about harm to our loved ones from fellow troops is completely intolerable.

We recently saw on TV the photograph of a soldier who died after 14 deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. On behalf of that fearless patriot, who responded to the call of a desperate military with selfless sacrifice, we must point out that although our soldiers have endured multiple deployments, some despite being incapacitated by Post traumatic stress or other injuries, the overwhelming majority of the 2 million soldiers would not murder or abuse a US soldier to suicide. Leaders such as General Colin Powell or General Eric Shinseki are examples of hard won racial equality in the military.

Peggy Coleman wrote, "When their most basic beliefs about right and wrong, conscience, compassion and humanity are shattered, they[soldiers] can be transformed in malignant ways. For some, the urge to destructive behavior will be directed outward.." Danny Chen's death was a terrible blow to American democracy.

The New York Times reported the military suicide and rape rate is at an all time high. If we care about our military and national security, we must care about Daniel Chen and crimes of omission or commission by privates or officers, and not let violent offenders into the service.

The original stated goals, Bin Laden's death and the destruction of Al Queda have already occurred. The American people are tired of war. Although according to *The Army Times*, 52% of US troops do not believe the war in Afghanistan will succeed, it is a tragedy that any soldiers victimized an American hero like Daniel Chen. Military Families Speak Out stands with you.

Sincerely,

Lionelle Hamanaka, for NY metro mfso

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INSURANCE, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

12TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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WOMEN'S ISSUES

CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

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CONGRESSIONAL
CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

City Council Testimony in Support of Council Member Chin's Resolution on Hazing Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez January 27, 2012

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The loss of any soldier, due to inadequate hazing protections should be an outrage, but it is particularly disturbing when incidents of hazing are motivated by racial or ethnic prejudice. Immigrant and minority communities comprise a significant part of our fighting forces, with minorities making up 35% of active duty forces -- or 517,000 personnel. The United States Army was a pioneer in the 1950s in moving toward racial integration and, today, maintains a reputation as one of society's most diverse institutions. When young people from the minority community contemplate joining the service, they should have confidence that their background will not make them a target for harassment or unfair treatment. This is vital not only from the standpoint of fairness, but also to ensure our military continues drawing from as broad a pool of talent, as possible.

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The resolution before the Council would honor Danny Chen's memory by preventing future incidents of discriminatory hazing. I urge you to pass this resolution immediately. Thank you, again, for the opportunity to present my views.

FOOTAGE RECORDS

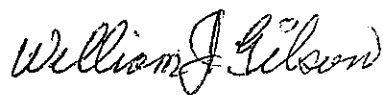
TO: New York City Council
RE: Resolution 1188
DATE: Jan. 27, 2012

Chapter 34 of NYC Veterans for Peace stands today in solidarity with the family of Pvt. Chen and the entire Chinese-American community in endorsing Resolution 1188, to be sent to the Dept. of Defense and the US Army.

It is especially sad to honor the beloved memory of Pvt. Danny Chen, one of the best of his community. For the better part of a year, I and other members of our chapter held a weekly vigil in front of ~~100~~¹²³ Chambers Street, the US Army Recruiting Center, urging the recruiters to be honest and truthful in advertising army careers. Today we call upon that same Department of the Army to revisit and change its deplorable attitudes on culture, racial, ethnic, sexual, and religious sensitivity towards its members.

Let us no longer accept the stock reply: "this is the result of a few bad apples." What we are dealing with is the systematic problem of many barrels of bad apples. This insensitivity starts at the very top and filters down. It is a culture of wanton disregard for individual human rights.

Veterans for Peace joins the outcry to end military abuse. Veterans for Peace demands justice and will settle for nothing less.



William J. Gilson, Vice President
Veterans for Peace Chapter 34 New York City
914 419 9728
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

SCOTT STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**Testimony of
Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
Before a joint session of the
Committee on Civil Rights and the Committee on Veterans
Resolution on Danny Chen**

January 27th, 2012

I would like to thank Councilmembers Rose and Eugene for the opportunity to testify today, and Councilmember Chin in particular for her courageous and invaluable leadership in the wake of this terrible tragedy. These hearings speak to the continued sense of loss and outrage felt in the aftermath of Private Danny Chen's death last October. In the wake of his family's loss, it is our duty to make sure his trauma will never be repeated.

The Army has made persistent and commendable efforts to eradicate racial inequity within its ranks. Under the No FEAR Act of 2002, members of the Armed Services undergo annual equal opportunity employment training. Additionally, while the Army allows verbal reprimands and "authorized physical exercise" as disciplinary measures, hazing has been prohibited for some time. However the racial epithets and physical abuse suffered by Private Chen suggest that in spite of the army's official position, abuse is still taking place. If the soldiers on trial for their role in Danny's death are brought to justice, it will go a long way towards restoring public confidence, particularly the confidence of those groups affected by hazing, in the implementation of these policies. However, justice in this case is not enough. Further steps must be taken to ensure that the U.S. Armed Forces are truly a model of diversity and opportunity for all. Though some have chosen to frame this case as an isolated incident, we are rightfully concerned that abuse is system wide.

Under the proposed resolution, military personnel would receive further training in the areas of cultural sensitivity and awareness. In a public statement released earlier this month, the Anti-Defamation League pointed to the success of anti-hazing programs in public school districts. If cultural sensitivity training is commonplace among children and adolescents, there is equal incentive to push the implementation of these programs in army stations abroad.

Asian Americans are a robust and growing part of our American family, and throughout our country young Asian Americans and many other youth of diverse backgrounds are enlisting in our armed services as an expression of their commitment to our nation and the values it represents. Private Chen has paid the ultimate sacrifice. Now, we must honor his memory by ensuring his loss will be the last of its kind.

Thank you.

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1/27/12

Members of NY City Council's Joint Hearing of the Committees on Civil Rights and Veterans

My name is Herb Ruben. I am the Project Director of the Veterans Mental Health Coalition of NYC. Our organization was co-founded in 2009 by MHA-NYC and NAMI-NYC METRO to promote the mental health and well-being of New York City service members, veterans and their families through education, information, collaboration and the promotion of a comprehensive array of services. The Coalition has established a sub-committee on advocacy called the Veterans' Action Committee of NYC, on whose behalf I am speaking today.

The tragic and untimely death of any Veteran fills us with sadness and mobilizes us to action. I am certain that it is in this spirit that Resolution No 1188 is being advanced. I am equally certain that the Department of Defense will want to recognize and embrace the intent and purpose of this resolution.

It is important to note that largely as a result of our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan all branches of our military have devoted increasing time to developing cultural training for operational readiness. Such training is primarily related to understanding the culture and customs of Muslims and the Arab world.. For example, US Army Intelligence at Fort Huachuca, Arizona has created an 80 hour program in cultural awareness for other military facilities

This focus is largely outward in knowing more about the culture of those with whom we're fighting. It is generally presumed that within our own ranks, we have Whites and Blacks and Latinos and Asians and Muslims who, if only out of necessity, have learned to live with one another, know one another and will cover each other's back. However, Military personnel sometimes can also be brutal in seizing upon a weakness they perceive in another member of their unit, and making life difficult, if not miserable, for that individual. While this may be played out with prejudicial comments, what is needed, I believe, is less related to cultural training but more related to addressing the power and "sport" of putting someone else down and of defining who is In and who is on the Outside of the unit. The person who is being victimized under these circumstances may be too afraid to bring his/her grievance within the chain of command. For his/her protection, something else is desperately needed- for example, an ombudsman attached to the Division to whom the victim can turn to in safety.

I also want to bring the attention of Committee members to a significant news release this past week. Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli at a Pentagon news conference announced that "suicides among soldiers in the active duty, Guard and Reserve totaled 278 last year, down 9% from 2010. I think we've at least arrested this problem and hopefully will start to push it down," Chiarelli said.

Chiarelli was releasing a 200 page report for commanders, health care providers and other military leaders meant to assess the physical and mental health condition of the force, disciplinary problems and any gaps in how the Army deals with them.

It follows up on a 2010 report that said the Army was failing some soldiers by missing signs of trouble or by looking the other way as commanders tried to keep up with tight deployment schedules needed to fight in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Chiarelli said commanders are now getting more troops into substance abuse programs, are kicking more out of service for misconduct and are barring others with alcohol and drug convictions from joining in the first place.

While Gen Chiarelli can speak only for the Army and not the other branches of military service, his statement reflects a sensitive and compassionate awareness of the issues inspiring Resolution No 1188. I urge members of the Committees on Civil Rights and Veterans to obtain a copy of Gen Chiarelli's 200 page report and to find some hope in the steps being taken so that the tragedy bringing us together today cannot occur again.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Herb Ruben, LCSW

Project Director, Veterans Mental Health Coalition of NYC

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Congresswoman Judy Chu, Chair • 1520 Longworth HOB • Washington, D.C. 20515 • Tel: 202.225.5464 • Fax:
202.225.5467

January 25, 2012

Speaker Christine C. Quinn
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

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Rep. Pete Stark
Rep. Lynn Woolsey

Dear Speaker Christine C. Quinn:

I write in strong support of Resolution 1188, introduced by Council Member Margaret Chin, in advance of your January 27, 2012, New York City Council Committees on Civil Rights and Veterans Affairs joint hearing.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), I am extremely concerned about the reports of racial discrimination in our military. The U.S. Armed Services have strived to be integrated and inclusive since 1948 when President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 that called for the "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services." Despite some considerable progress in this area, the lack of diversity in military leadership and recent high profile cases of racial discrimination and harassment at the lower levels of the services raise serious concerns about whether the military is effectively providing the equal treatment and opportunity that President Truman promised and that all volunteers in the U.S. military, regardless of background, deserve.

The recent tragic circumstances surrounding Army Private Danny Chen's death highlight the need for additional scrutiny and focus on preventing racial discrimination, hazing and harassment. I was shocked by the reports of the constant hazing, racial slurs, and other mistreatment by Chen's fellow soldiers and direct superiors.

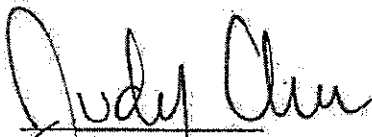
My own nephew, Lance Corporal Harry Lew, took his own life after enduring hazing and physical assault. I know firsthand the pain a family faces when hazing leads to the loss of a loved one, and it is something no family should have to endure.

Our men and women in uniform deserve to serve in a supportive environment from their fellow soldiers as they put their lives on the line for our country. Discrimination, hazing and harassment undermine the discipline that is fundamental to keeping America's military the best in the world.

Therefore, I strongly support the New York City Council's efforts to promote additional anti-harassment training geared towards enhancing and heightening cultural awareness, sensitivity, and diversity in all branches of the military. In the House of Representatives, I am similarly urging the Armed Services and Oversight and Government Affairs Committees to hold hearings on hazing, discrimination, and harassment in the military.

Thank you for your efforts on these issues and I look forward to working together with the New York City Council on promoting diversity and cultural understanding in our military services and throughout our nation in the future.

Sincerely,



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress
CAFAC Chairwoman

cc:

Committee on Civil Rights, Chair, Deborah Rose
Committee on Veterans, Chair, Mathieu Eugene
Council Member Margaret S. Chin

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1108

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: William J Gilson

Address: 280-9th Ave - Apt 7D

I represent: VETERANS FOR PEACE

Address: CHPT 34, NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 188-2612

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/27/2012

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KWONG ENG

Address: 30-12 150 STREET FLUSHING, NY

I represent: OCA-NY

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Banny Chen

Address: _____

I represent: Chen Family

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 0188

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HERB RUBEN

Address: 50 BROADWAY, NY

I represent: VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION OF NYC

Address: 50 BROADWAY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. 1188

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/27/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mr. Stacey Latimer

Address: 103 Macdonough St. Brooklyn, NY 11216

I represent: Love Alive International

Address: 20 New York Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11216

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 01/27/2012

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Y. Yang

Address: 739 Cypress Dr., Franklin Sq. NY, 11000

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1.27.12

Name: THOMAS KREVER (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: HETRICK - MARTIN INSTITUTE

I represent: 2 ASTOR PL. NYC 10003

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/27/2012

Name: Iris Quiñones Rep. Velázquez (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/27

Name: Lionelle Hamanaka (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 66 W 94 St NYC

I represent: Military Families Speak Out

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Banny Chen - cousin - speaking

Address: Ju Chen Chen

I represent: Yen-Tao Chen

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: OCA - NY

Address: _____

I represent: Mr. Kwong Eng

Address: Mr. Wah Lee

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 1/27/12

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Alec Schierenbeck

Address: _____

I represent: Manhattan Borough President

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms